



Ulan Ude, dancers

Tailor-made Rail Journeys

Travelling by rail independently

Introduction

Travelling by rail independently through Russia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China is a rewarding experience for travellers with an open mind and adventurous spirit. You will need to have a sense of humour, patience and a degree of tenacity. Rail schedules are constantly subject to change and you will need to reconfirm all onward timings when collecting your tickets from local operators. Many seasoned travellers opt for the flexibility and security of pre-booked travel arrangements. You may take one of our suggested itineraries or ask us to tailor one to your requirements. Travelling independently on a tailor-made pre-booked itinerary offers a unique opportunity to meet the locals and experience their culture. Foreign tourists on these trains are usually in the minority, and are guaranteed to attract the curiosity and hospitality of the locals.



Mongolia, camels



Mongolia



Mongolia, Naadam Festival

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About your trains

On board facilities are basic but adequate. Each carriage has a toilet with a wash basin at either end. Showers on board are the exception rather than the rule. There is no segregation of the sexes, so you may find yourself sharing a compartment with fellow tourists or locals of the opposite sex. Sole occupation of your compartment can be secured by paying for all the berths.

1st class compartments consist of 2 lower berths with a small table separating the bunks (Chinese trains may have an upper and lower berth). 2nd class sleepers are 4-berth - 2 up and 2 down, the upper berths fold up during the day. It is recommended that luggage should be light and kept to a minimum, as luggage storage is below the bottom bunks or above the door.

The trains are heated during winter and cooled by ventilation during the summer months. Meals are not included, but with the odd exception (e.g. Ulaanbaatar-Ulan Ude) there is a restaurant car on board. Unlimited hot water is available from your carriage attendant free of charge, so you can self-cater by bringing your own supply of tea, coffee, instant soup and noodles.



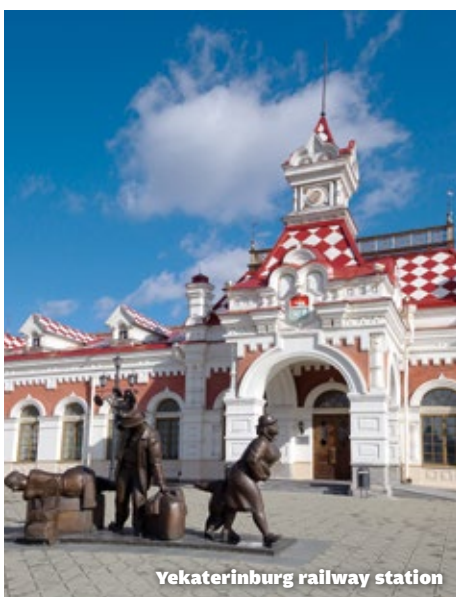
Dining car



2-berth compartment



4-berth compartment



Yekaterinburg railway station



Ulaanbaatar, railway station