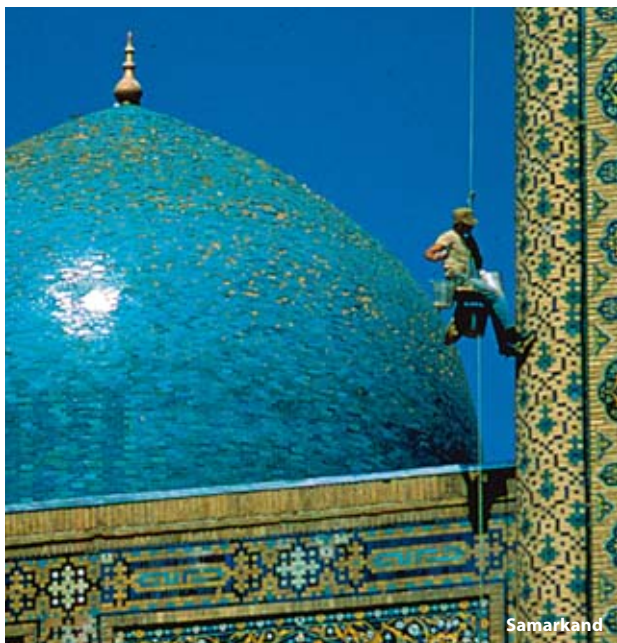


Independent Rail journeys

Schedules



Samarkand

ABOUT YOUR TRAINS...

Travelling by rail independently through Russia, Central Asia and China is a rewarding experience for travellers with an open mind and adventurous spirit. You may take one of our tailor-made itineraries or design your own. If you decide to design your own itinerary, then we strongly recommend that you have an arrival transfer pre-booked in each city. 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. In the 4-berth compartments you could be sharing with fellow tourists or locals. The 1st class carriage with 2-berth compartments tends to be occupied mostly by tourists. There is no segregation of the sexes in the sleeping compartments so you may find yourself sharing with members of the opposite sex.

In Russia and Central Asia the 1st class compartments are 2-berth – generally with a small table between the beds. 2nd class sleepers are 4-berth – 2 up and 2 down. The upper

berths can be folded away during the day to allow the lower berths to be used for seating. Bed linen is provided. Luggage should be light and kept to a minimum, preferably a backpack or small suitcase and can be stored underneath the bottom bunks, or over the door if not too bulky.

The trains are heated during the winter and cooled by ventilation in the summer.

Meals are not included, but with the odd exception (e.g. Ulaan Baatar – Irkutsk) there is a restaurant car where you can purchase inexpensive meals and drinks and socialise. Unlimited hot water is available from your carriage attendant free of charge, so it is advisable to bring your own supply of coffee, tea, instant soups and noodles. There are plenty of “whistle stops” along the way where you can buy supplies from the local traders lined up on the platforms and stretch your legs.

Rail schedules and fares are subject to change without notice.

RAIL SCHEDULES

Route	Train #	Operates	Dep	Arr	Approx. cost AUD	
					2nd cl	1st cl
Beijing – Ulaanbaatar	3	Wed	07:45	13:20+1	976	1579
	23	Tue (Jan-May)/Sat (Jun-Oct)	07:45	13:20+1	480	687
Beijing – Irkutsk	3	Wed	07:45	15:40+2	976	1579
Beijing – Xian	19	Daily	21:18	08:19+1	195	338
Beijing – Moscow	3	Wed	07:45	14:28+5	1410	2584
Ekaterinburg – Moscow	15	Daily	09:20	09:23+1	465	827
Ekaterinburg – Irkutsk	2	Even dates	01:29	06:14+2	846	1420
	82	Odd dates	20:03	03:31 + 2	846	1420
Irkutsk – Moscow	81	Even dates	23:10	04:41+3	675	1027
	1	Odd dates	17:50	17:58+3	675	1027
Irkutsk – Novosibirsk	81	Even dates	23:10	04:21+1	497	832
	1	Odd dates	17:50	22:12+1	497	832
Irkutsk – Ekaterinburg	81	Even dates	23:10	01:49+2	846	1420
	1	Odd dates	17:50	17:35+2	846	1420
Irkutsk – Vladivostok	8	Even dates	06:39	06:23+3	1008	1695
	2	Odd dates	06:39	06:23+3	1008	1695
Irkutsk – Ulaanbaatar	362	Daily	21:50	06:10+2	306	506
	4/6	Sat/Sun/Mon	05:13	07:30+1	306	506
Irkutsk – Beijing	4	Sat (via Mongolia)	05:13	14:04+2	610	959
	20	Tue (via Manchuria)	08:39	05:31+3	687	1109
Moscow – Ekaterinburg	16	Daily	16:06	19:45+1	405	824
Moscow – Irkutsk	10	Even dates	23:25	09:07+4	851	1577
	2	Odd dates	21:25	06:14+4	969	1695
Moscow – Vladivostok	2	Odd dates	21:25	06:48+7	1234	2160
Moscow – Tashkent	6	Mon/Wed/Fri	23:25	20:00+2	926	1133
Moscow – Ulaanbaatar	4 or 6	Tue/Wed/Thu	21:35	07:00+5	817	1234
Moscow – Beijing	4	Tue	21:35	14:04+6	1379	2064
Novosibirsk – Moscow	25	Even dates	10:10	06:30+2	844	1420
Novosibirsk – Irkutsk	2/8	Odd/Even dates	22:33	06:03+2	497	832
Tashkent – Moscow	5	Tue/Fri/Sun	20:00	14:10+3	926	1133
Ulaanbaatar – Beijing	24	Thu (all year)/ Fri or Sat (Summer)	08:05	14:31+1	325	591
Ulaanbaatar – Beijing	4	Sun (all year)	08:05	14:04+1	374	1104
Ulaanbaatar – Irkutsk	361	Daily	21:10	07:31+2	253	n/a
Ulaanbaatar – Moscow	5	Fri, Tue	13:50	14:28+4	627	1013
Urumqi – Almaty	9795	Sat	23:58	07:40+2	357	714
Urumqi – Xian	1044	Daily	23:46	09:53+2	205	n/a
Vladivostok – Irkutsk	1/7	Even/Odd dates	22:00	17:26+3	1008	1695
Vladivostok – Moscow	1	Even dates	21:52	17:58+6	1432	2411
Xian – Urumqi	1043	Daily	21:25	07:00+2	205	n/a
Xian – Beijing	20	Daily	20:16	07:17+1	195	n/a

■ Rail schedules and fares are subject to change without notice. Prices are expected to increase from Jun 2010.

