



# Visa Service

[www.monkeyshrine.com/visas](http://www.monkeyshrine.com/visas)

You will need Chinese, Mongolian and Russian visas for this trip and may need a Belarus Transit visa if travelling overland from/to Europe.

## OUR SERVICE

If you are living in China we offer a postal visa service in our **Beijing office**. The Mongolian visa application is very straight forward, but the Russian Embassy in Beijing is very busy and is very strict. Applicants must be living in China on an official residence visa or 'Z' visa (a Tourist 'L' or Business 'F' visa is not sufficient).

We offer a postal visa service through our **Hong Kong office** for the Russian and Mongolian visas only. If you plan to visit Hong Kong before your trans-siberian trip, our office can help arrange the Chinese, Mongolian and Russian visas.

We also have an arrangement with Travcour UK if you wish to use a visa agent in England.

## APPLY YOURSELF

You can make the visa applications yourself at your local embassy if practical. We can supply the necessary visa support documents for the Russian visa application. You do not normally require any additional paperwork for the Chinese or Mongolian visa applications. You can apply for a Belarus transit visa once you have the Russian visa.

## OUR HONG KONG VISA SERVICE

We offer a postal visa service through our Hong Kong office which is practical if you are living in Asia and do not want to visit the embassies yourself. If you will be visiting Hong Kong in person our office can also help arrange the necessary visas. We offer a visa service for the Mongolian and Russian visas only. For some nationalities we can apply for a paper Chinese visa in advance, or can help with the Chinese visa if you visit Hong Kong in person.

You will need to prepare the following items:

- ✓ Your PASSPORT
- ✓ FOUR passport PHOTOS
- ✓ TWO COPIES of your passport details
- ✓ Copy of valid MEDICAL INSURANCE (for Shengen Countries)
- ✓ Mongolian visa form - <http://www.monkeyshrine.com/booking/download-forms.php#visahongkong>
- ✓ Supplementary Russian Application form for all US Citizens - we complete other nationalities for you. <http://www.monkeyshrine.com/download/RV-HKforUS.doc>
- ✓ A RETURN ADDRESS (In Chinese if applicable)
- ✓ The LATEST DATE you need the passport returned

Delivery to and from Hong Kong takes 2 to 3 days in each direction + a non-express application takes 6 working days (2 days for express service). You should prepare to be separated from your passport for two or three weeks based on normal service! Our visa service is only available if you have booked a trans-siberian trip with us and we will only make the visa applications once you have a confirmed and paid for itinerary.

## OUR BEIJING VISA SERVICE

If you are living in China on an official residence visa or 'Z' visa (note Tourist 'L' or Business 'F' visas are not sufficient) we offer a postal visa service in our Beijing office.

If you are living in other parts of Asia, or in Beijing without the correct Chinese visa, we offer a postal visa service through our Hong Kong office. If you plan to visit Hong Kong before your trans-siberian trip, our office can help arrange the Chinese, Mongolian and Russian visas. This is a good place to pick up necessary visas. We also have an arrangement with Travcour UK if you wish to use a visa agent in England. See more details about this below.

## TRAVCOUR (UK) VISA SERVICE

We have a relationship with Travcour Visa Agency ([www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com)) in London, and they will be able to process the Russian visa applications for you (and Chinese and Mongolian if necessary). You will need to send your passports by courier to London, together with the following documents for the visa application. You can contact Amanda if you have any direct questions, [amanda@travcour.com](mailto:amanda@travcour.com)

- ✓ Passport

- ✓ Completed visa application forms ([www.rusemblon.co.uk](http://www.rusemblon.co.uk)).
- ✓ One photo per visa application,
- ✓ Visa Support Documents (we supply these)
- ✓ Copy of valid travel insurance (for European nationalities except UK)
- ✓ Return address

The visa application takes just over one week to issue from the embassy plus a few days for postage in each direction.

There is also an express visa application available if necessary.

Travcour service fees for non-express applications, click the links for more details:

£40.00, Russia - <http://www.travcour.com/original-countries/russia.html>

£25.00, Mongolia - <http://www.travcour.com/original-countries/mongolia.html>

£20.00, China - <http://www.travcour.com/original-countries/china.html>

+ visa fees and return postage (Travcour can advise more fully exactly what that would be in your case).

### **APPLY FOR VISAS YOURSELF IN THE UK**

All the Embassies are represented in England in London and elsewhere. The Russian Embassy is always very busy, especially in the summer and the queues to gain entry start very early in the morning - there are some small agents across the street that offer a visa service - for a price. Officially the Embassy only accepts visa applications three months in advance of travel.

The Chinese and Mongolian visas should be very easy. There are always queues at the Chinese Embassy in Portland road, so be there early. The Mongolian Embassy in High Street Kensington is very friendly and they can often accept the visa application more than three months ahead which is quite useful if you will be travelling elsewhere before starting your trans-siberian trip. You do not normally need any supporting paperwork for Chinese and Mongolian tourist visa applications but we can provide these if you do. Some of the embassies offer a postal visa service.

China - <http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/>

Mongolia - <http://www.embassyofmongolia.co.uk/>

Russia - <http://www.great-britain.mid.ru/>

Please ask us for relevant visa information if you plan to make the visa applications yourself in another Country.

### **IMPORTANT VISA NOTES**

- Your passport must have at least one empty page for the Mongolian visa and TWO FACING blank pages for the Russian visa as well as being in good condition and valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date you enter Russia or Mongolia.
- Chinese, Russian and Mongolian visas are fixed into your passport by the embassy and so we need your passport if we apply for the visa.
- We MUST be notified of any change in your passport, or replacement of your passport. If your visa is already issued, it may no longer be valid and we will have to change it or apply for a new one.
- You will need to obtain a Belarus Visa for overland travel into Eastern Europe (except Baltic States or Finland) as well as other necessary visas.
- We DO NOT offer a Chinese visa service in Beijing as you must apply for this visa before entering China. The application is straight forward in Hong Kong, but you must be there in person to make the application as the consulate checks for a HK entry stamp in your passport. For some nationalities we can offer a 'Paper Chinese visa' service through our Hong Kong office which we can arrange for you in advance - we still need your passport however.
- In theory you can not travel around China without your passport (unless you have a China 'Green Card' - residency or work permit) as the law states that you need your passport to check into hotels. In reality we have heard many foreigners travel with a passport copy and a copy of their visa (with entry stamp) and encounter few problems. You will not be able to take internal flights or visit sensitive areas such as Tibet.
- The Russian Consulate in Hong Kong states that visa applications are only accepted from people already in Hong Kong, unless there is a good reason why you can not make the application where you are currently residing. If you use our postal visa service the consulate may choose to decline the application if it is not found, however, it is not common for our applications to be rejected in Hong Kong
- Visas and passports are always the responsibility of the passport holder, even when we apply on your behalf or if you use the postal visa service.
- The Russian Visa has fixed entry and exit dates and so it is preferable to apply as late as possible in case of any late changes to your booking.
- Before we start the visa process we need all your booking details and deposit as outlined under 'booking conditions'.