

TRANSIT VISAS IN BEIJING

☺ All Info supplied by the friendly people at **Monkey Business Infocenter in Beijing!** ☺

Correct in Spring 2010, we accept no responsibility if the rules change, which they often do!

The Russian embassy in BEIJING have very strict visa application restrictions. They only issue Russian Tourist visas if you have an official *residence visa* for China. If you do not have residency in China we can offer a postal visa service in our Hong Kong office if you book a package with stopovers in Mongolia and or Russia with us.

Alternatively, the Russian Transit visa is still fairly easy to arrange yourselves in Beijing. Because of this we do not offer a Russian Transit Visa Service.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Go to the **CITS Ticket office and purchase a train ticket direct** from Beijing to Moscow. **Take this ticket with your passport to the Russian Embassy** and apply for the transit visa. Once you have this visa **apply for Mongolian and Belarus visas** if necessary.

Note that you are not allowed to get off along the route to Moscow. If you want to stop in Mongolia the Russian Embassy in Beijing will tell you to make the transit visa application in Ulanbaatar. This embassy is notoriously difficult to deal with.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Your **actual train ticket** (not a ticket reservation) **and a copy** of this ticket. They normally also ask for a copy or proof of the onward ticket out Russia and a visa for the third country (Belarus for example) if required.
- Your **PASSPORT** (see note¹)
- **TWO PHOTOS** passport sized (1 for Russia and 1 for Mongolia)
- A **PHOTOCOPY** of your passport details for Russian Visa application
- Photocopy of valid **MEDICAL INSURANCE** for Shengen Countries (see note²) may be requested.

COSTS OF THE TRANSIT VISAS

RUSSIAN EMBASSY is open 09:30 to 12:00. Must apply before 10:30 for express visa. Pay in RMB at their fixed exchange rates.

- from US\$ 50 ~ 100 - Transit visa (6 working days), exact charge depends on your nationality
- US\$ 35 - Urgent Visa (3 working days) available for some nationalities only
- US\$ 70 - Express charge (1 working day)

MONGOLIAN EMBASSY is open 09:00 to 11:00. Pay on application in local currency only.

- ¥ 315 - Transit visa standard charge (next working day)
- ¥ 0 - Mongolian Visa not required for US passports

WHEN THE DIRECT TRAINS LEAVE

Chinese train #3 departs Beijing every Wednesday at 07:40. Arrives Moscow Monday at 14:18. Travel via Mongolia and a Mongolian transit visa is required.

Russian train #19 departs Beijing every Saturday at 22:56. Arrives Moscow Friday at 18:13. Travel via Harbin and Manchuria and no Mongolian visa required.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

<u>CITS Ticket Office</u>	建国门国际饭店	International Hotel, Jianguomenwai.
<u>Main Railway Station</u>	北京火车站	All Trans-siberian trains leave from here!
<u>Russian Embassy</u>	俄罗斯 白中街 4 号	Near Dongzhimen Subway.
<u>Mongolian Embassy</u>	蒙古 秀水北街 2 号	Near Jianguomen Friendship Store.
<u>Belarus Embassy</u>	白俄罗斯 北京建国门外大街	East of Ritan Park.

NOTES

¹ Your passport must have at least one empty page each for the Mongolian and Belarus 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.

² Medicare Insurance is Compulsory for citizens of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, France, Israel, Finland, Norway and Estonia.

MOONSKY STAR Limited

11th floor, Flat D, Liberty Mansion,
26E Jordan Road, (Entrance at Temple Street)
Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon, HONG KONG
Tel:(+852)2723 1376 - Fax:(+852)2723 6653
eMail: hongkong@monkeyshrine.com
Open: Mon to Sat from 10am to 6pm.

MONKEY BUSINESS infocenter

* NEW * Room 201, Youyi / Poachers Inn
43 Beisanlitun Nan, Off Sanlitun Bar Street
Chao Yang District, 100027 Beijing, P.R.CHINA
Tel:(+8610)6591 6519 - Fax(+8610)6591 6517
eMail: beijing@monkeyshrine.com
Open: Mon to Sat from 10am to 6pm.