

General Visa Info

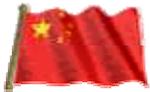


Belarus



A **transit visa** is required when travelling by train from Russia to most European destinations such as: Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, etc. To obtain a transit visa for Belarus, you will have to spend more time in Beijing, Moscow, or St Petersburg. Please note there is a surcharge for US citizens of around US\$100!!

China



Most nationalities will need a Chinese visa, exceptions are Japan and a few other Asian countries. The 30 day tourist visa is very easy to arrange at your local embassy and you do not normally require any visa paperwork, regardless of the official regulations that may be posted in the embassy. If you do need an official invitation we can supply the documents for you. Hong Kong is a good place to apply for the Chinese visa and it is both cheap and quick. If you travel from China to Mongolia and back to China you will need a double-entry Chinese visa. If you will be travelling from mainland China to Hong Kong and back you will need a double entry Chinese visa or apply for a new visa in Hong Kong. Be aware the 'group visa' you receive in Kathmandu if you are travelling to China via Tibet has limitations – it is normally only valid for 15 days and is very difficult to extend.

Mongolia



You will most likely need a Mongolian visa for your trans-siberian trip. A **transit** Mongolian visa is required when travelling by train directly from China to Russia and is valid for 48 hours in transit, you are not allowed to get off the train at all. A **tourist** visa required if you are stopping in the Gobi Desert or Ulanbaatar for anytime and is valid for 30 days in most cases.

You **do not** need a Mongolian visa if:

- You are taking the Trans-Manchurian route - the train travels from Russia to China via Harbin.
- You have US, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Laos, Israel, Cuba or Philippines passport.

Russia



Everybody needs a visa for Russia. The Russian tourist visa is issued against supporting documents confirming a pre-booked itinerary and tour confirmation and has fixed entry and exit dates, the visa has a fixed length, depending on the tour itinerary and for a maximum of 30 days. Once you have booked a tour with us we can supply these documents as an email attachment so you can make the visa application at your local embassy. The official regulations for visa application are very strict but each Embassy enforces these regulations to a different degree.

Officially you can only apply for a Russian visa from your country of **residence**. This is strictly enforced at the embassies in Beijing, Hanoi and Paris, for example. Other embassies around the world, including Hong Kong, Bangkok, London and Berlin are less strict. However these embassies tend to be very busy and it is often more practical to use a visa agent to help with the visa application.

Medical Insurance is required for citizens of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, France, Israel, Finland, Norway and Estonia. It is necessary that the Insurance Company (local or worldwide) has an agreement with the relevant Russian insurance company (Ingosstrakh or "Rosno"). Citizens of these countries must send us a copy of their insurance document if we are obtaining the Russian visa for you either in Beijing or Hong Kong.

See more on our website at <http://www.monkeyshrine.com/visas/>