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TRANSIT VISAS IN BEIJING

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Correct as of January 2017, 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, (with a few exceptions such as US passport holder or if you have a long-term visa for China the visa processing time is extended to two weeks for some nationalities).

Alternatively, the Russian **Transit** visa is still fairly easy to arrange yourselves in Beijing. Because of this we do not normally offer a Russian Transit Visa Service. We can offer a transit visa service if you book a tours and accommodation with us as well. A transit visa is valid for a maximum of **10 days** if you travel by train.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Take your tickets (or copies) for the whole route through Russia together with your passport to the Russian Embassy and apply for the transit visa. Once you have this visa apply for Mongolian and Belarus visas as necessary.

* Officially you are not allowed to get off along the route to Moscow. If you want to stop in Mongolia the Russian Embassy in Beijing may tell you to make the transit visa application in Ulaanbaatar. This embassy is notoriously difficult to deal with. If you have all tickets for the route, ULB-IRK-MOS-HEL for example, the Russian Embassy (at the time of writing were issuing visas).

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Your actual train tickets (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 as well.
- Your PASSPORT
- TWO PHOTOS 3.5 cm x 4.5 cm (1 for Russia and 1 for Mongolia)
- A PHOTOCOPY of your passport details for Russian Visa application
- Photocopy of valid MEDICAL INSURANCE for Schengen member states may be requested.

COSTS OF THE TRANSIT VISAS

RUSSIAN EMBASSY is open 09:30 to 12:00 Monday to Friday. Must apply before 11:00 a.m. for express visa. Pay in RMB

from ¥345 - Transit visa (6 working days), exact charge depends on your nationality

¥280- Urgent Visa (3 working days) available for some nationalities only

~¥ double - Express charge (1 working day)

MONGOLIAN EMBASSY is open from 09:00 to 11:00. Pay at Bank of China (+¥5) in local currency only.

¥256 - Transit visa standard charge (3 working day and will have express service in summer time)

WHEN THE DIRECT TRAINS LEAVE

Chinese train #3 departs Beijing every Wednesday at 08:05. 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

CITS Ticket Office 建国门国际饭店 International Hotel, Jianguomenwai.

Main Railway Station 北京火车站 Trans-Siberian trains leave from here!

Russian Embassy 俄罗斯大使馆 东直门北中街4号 North-west of Dongzhimen Subway

Mongolian Embassy 蒙古大使馆 秀水北街 2 号 South-east of Ritan Park, close to Jianguomen

Belarus Embassy 白俄罗斯大使馆 北京建国门外大街 East of Ritan Park.