

The Trans-Siberian Railway crosses Russia from east to west. It's one of the longest railway lines in the world. It has connected Moscow with the Far East since 1912. Today it carries about 200 000 containers per year to Europe.

At first sight, when you see the train coming into the station, you won't be particularly impressed. The powerful engine, the green carriages, and the people at the window, all look a lot like the rolling stock and passengers of other trains. What is exceptional is the distance that the train covers: nine thousand kilometres in eight days, connecting Europe to the Pacific Ocean; from the city of Vladivostok, on the Sea of Japan.



Train entering a tunnel



Railway bridge near Perm

The importance of the railway for communication in Siberia is shown by the fact that, even today, the only cities in Siberia are those which have been built along the railway line over the last hundred years.

Punctuality is important, given the immense distances the train has to cover, and the heavy volume of traffic in goods and passengers that it carries. The line spans eight time zones. A trainload of containers can be taken from Beijing to Hamburg, via the Trans-Mongolian and Trans-Siberian lines in 15 days.

TRANSLATE:

1. Ich war besonders von der leistungsfähigen Lokomotive beeindruckt.
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2. Ist es die längste Eisenbahnlinie der Welt?
3. Kannst du die Leute am Fenster des grünen Wagens sehen.
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4. Pünktlichkeit ist wichtig.
5. Man kann mit dem Zug von Peking nach Hamburg reisen.
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6. Alle sibirischen Städte sind entlang der Bahnlinie gebaut worden.
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7. Der Zug befördert (=trägt) Passagiere und Waren.....
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8. Die Transsibirische Eisenbahn verbindet seit 1912 Moskau mit dem Fernen Osten.
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9. Der Zug von Moskau nach Wladiwostok braucht acht Tage.
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