

READING TIME

The holiday of a lifetime

The Trans-Siberian Railway journey is one of the most amazing train journeys in the world. It is not only one of the most famous railways in the world but it is also the longest. It starts in Moscow and finishes in Vladivostock, on Russia's Pacific Coast, 6,500 miles (10,500 kilometres) away.



You travel from Europe into Asia, go through seven time zones and pass by 87 towns and cities. If you don't stop anywhere on the way, you can get to Vladivostock, on the Pacific Ocean, in six days. But that isn't a good idea. The train stops at thirteen different stations and there's so much to see.

First of all, you should go to Lake Baikal, the World's largest and oldest fresh water lake. Then there's the city of Novosibirsk, the capital of Siberia, with just over one and a half million people. It's a relaxed and interesting place with unusual museums and a great nightlife. And you really have to visit Yekaterinburg, Russia's fourth largest city, where the last Tsar of Russia and his family died in 1918. It's famous for its theatres and has over thirty museums for you to visit. There are of course, other things to do along the way, like visit the Kremlin or the Forbidden City. These make the trip more expensive but also make it the journey of a lifetime.

The train is very comfortable. It has two or four-bed compartments, with first-class as an option. Food and drink are sold both on the train and at each stop. There is also a dining car. For the best trip, try to travel in the spring or autumn because the weather is better then and look out for great offers. The cheapest ticket is around £300. But at the top end of the scale, if you have more money to spend, you can take a two-week guided tour from London for about £9,000. However you do it, you'll have a great trip!

1 The Trans-Siberian Railway ____.

- a)** *covers a total distance of 6,500 miles*
- b)** leaves from the Pacific Coast
- c)** has the best trains in the world

2 During the journey, the time changes ____.

- a)** thirteen times
- b)** six times
- c)** seven times

3 Lake Baikal is ____.

- a)** the second stop after you leave the capital
- b)** the best place to stop on the journey
- c)** the biggest area of fresh water on the planet

4 Novosibirsk has a population of ____.

- a)** nearly 1.5 million people
- b)** more than 1.5 million people
- c)** exactly 1.5 million people

5 The journey ____.

- a)** is more amazing if you stay on the train
- b)** costs more if you decide to take stops
- c)** takes you to visit the Tsar of Russia

6 The most expensive travel option is to ____.

- a)** travel with a guide for two weeks
- b)** travel alone from London
- c)** take a one-week guided tour from London

Read the article again. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

7 The capital of Siberia is Novosibirsk. ____

8 The last Russian Tsar died at Lake Baikal. ____

9 It's better to stop and visit different places on the journey. ____

10 It's a good idea to do the train journey in summer. ____

11 It's cheaper to take a guided tour. ____

LISTENING TIME

1 What time does Jim start work?

9.15	8.15	7.00
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a) b) c)

2 Who is visiting Steve for the weekend?

his sister	his brother	his cousin
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a) b) c)

3 What will the weather be like tomorrow?

wet	dry	hot
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a) b) c)

4 How long did the woman stay in New York?

2 days	3 days	4 days
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a) b) c)

5 How did the woman get to Washington?

By train	By car	By plane
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a) b) c)

6 What has the boy got?

headache	flu	stomachache
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a) b) c)

7 Where can Sheila eat her sandwiches?

office	staff room	park
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a) b) c)

8 What is there in the staffroom?

food	a cafe	a fridge
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a) b) c)

9 What did the woman lose?

purse	present	credit card
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a) b) c)