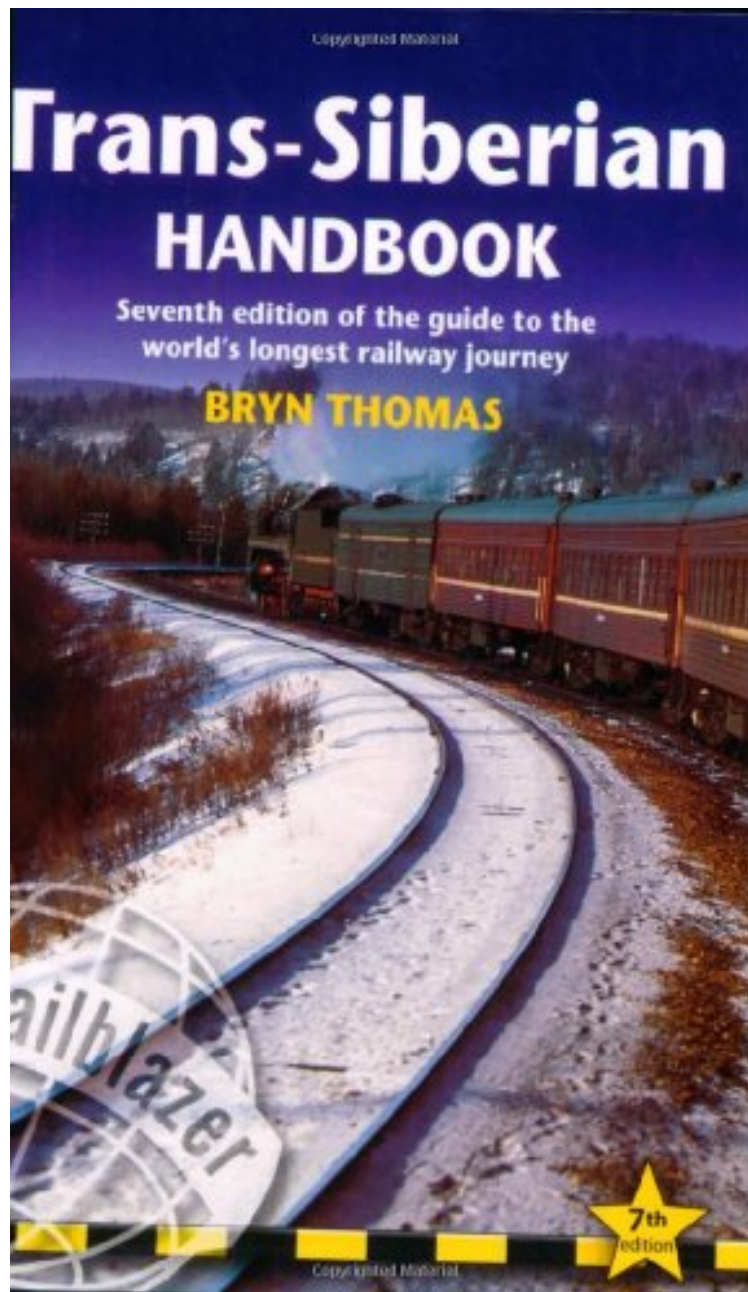


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Trans-Siberian Handbook: Seventh Edition of the Guide to the World's Longest Railway Journey (Trailblazer Guides)

Bryn Thomas

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Bryn Thomas : Trans-Siberian Handbook: Seventh Edition of the Guide to the World's Longest Railway Journey (Trailblazer Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trans-Siberian Handbook: Seventh Edition of the Guide to the World's Longest Railway Journey (Trailblazer Guides):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A critical companion for the TranssibBy lenin1991I had this guide along for a 3-week, Vladivostok-to-Moscow trip in summer 2011, and it was the best travel book I've ever used. The coverage depth of every city town along the way as well as many sidetrips is just right. Lonely Planet finds a way to make even the most gritty, barren town sound like an interesting experience, while this book is a bit more straightforward about the types of places that are likely not worth your time when there's so much else. As many others have said, the KM-by-KM guide is an outstanding feature, pointing out sights from the major to the comically minor ("two lovely church ruins"). Even making several stops along the way, you're on the train for some pretty substantial blocks of time, and pressing your face against the glass to see the KM markers whizz by as you count down to the next point of interest is a welcome distraction. The timing was unfortunate being just at the end of the lifespan of this edition -- this led to a few befuddling instances of looking for lodgings gone long ago! 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Good overviews of sights, useful maps, quite handy for the trainBy James ChoI recently used this on a three-week trans-siberian trip. It attempts to cover the major cities along 10,000 km of Russian rail, as well as prepare the reader for the ride experience. It explains how to get a visa, how to buy train tickets and get by on the train, and details the sights of Siberia. Like any travel guide, numerous details on locations are outdated (addresses off by a number, hotel costs), but that's unavoidable. There's a section devoted to buying a ticket in Russian by handwriting your request, which proved invaluable at the stations. The maps were extremely convenient for the different cities, though the multipaged one for Moscow is a bit tricky. The brief Russian phrase section was surprisingly helpful for ordering food at restaurants. Some minor complaints... The book doesn't mention the official Russian rail website [...], which shows the complete train schedules in English. This lets you request a specific train at a specific time, instead of attempting a QA with the ticket cashiers (very difficult unless you're fluent in Russian). There's not enough winter tourist information. For shoes, "sturdy trainers" should actually be "lightweight, waterproof, hiking boots," unless you like trenchfoot. Frozen-over Lake Baikal can be amazing. There aren't enough pictures. How do platskartny, kupe car classes etc. differ? Not enough information on flying into Russia. Flying to or from Moscow is obvious (DME airport), but departing from Siberia can be cheaper taking a local airline (S7) back to Moscow, rather than leaving from Vladivostok to the US. Various notes... Contrary to what the guide says, amateur photography in the Moscow Metro IS allowed according to the official Metro website: [...] (scroll to the bottom). Long-distance train tickets were considerably more expensive than what the guide mentions (I did it in the off-season, but my tickets were for trains just days in advance), costing more than a plane ticket for the same distance (though they are sleeping cars). I also recommend going east-to-west (Vladivostok to Moscow). It's easier to adjust to the days getting longer, and the smaller cities you visit on the way will prepare you for the grey bazaar that is Moscow. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THE authority on Trans-Siberian Railway JourneysBy NomadWhile planning for my Trans-Siberian Railway trip, I looked at several guidebooks and websites to help me prepare for the journey. Numerous reviews pointed to Bryn Thomas' book as the most authoritative on the subject. I read the book cover to cover and have to agree that it's all I could have hoped for and more. Thomas covers not only the details and need-to-know information for the train routes, but also covers Russian history, essential trip items, and info on the towns along the route(s) (including in Mongolia and China). I particularly liked his reference to the kilometer posts and noteworthy things to see along the route. All info in the book is surprisingly accurate and conveys an intimate level of knowledge that can only be gained by having ridden the railroad numerous times. For anyone considering a Trans-Siberian trip, this book is a must read.

With over 90,000 copies now sold, this is the most popular Trans-Siberian guidebook. A trip across Siberia on the longest continuous railway track in the world is undoubtedly the journey of a lifetime. It's also a convenient way to reach China, Mongolia, or Japan. Tickets are not expensive or difficult to arrange. Readers can now travel almost anywhere they want in Siberia: we tell them how to organize a trip, where to get tickets, and where to go.>Kilometer-by-kilometer route guide -- covering the entire routes of the Trans-Siberian, Trans-Manchurian, and Trans-Mongolian railways with thirty-eight strip maps in English, Russian, and Chinese: readers can see where they are as they travel>Siberia and the railway -- the detailed history of Siberia, the construction of the railway and the running of the Trans-Siberian today are of great interest not only to visitors but also to armchair travelers>City guides with maps -- the best sights, places to stay, and restaurants for all budgets: Moscow, St Petersburg, Ulan Bator, Beijing, and twenty-three towns in Siberia>Nutshell information on Minsk, Berlin, Baltic Republics, Helsinki, Hong Kong, and Tokyo>Rail fares and timetables>Seventh edition includes seventy maps>Plus Russian and Chinese phrases

"Definitive guide."-- Conde Nast Traveler (USA)"The best specialist guidebook is The Trans-Siberian Handbook."--
The Independent (UK)"The Trans-Siberian Handbook ...is a must."-- The Sunday Times (UK)