

Москва

COUNTRY: Russia
LENGTH: 5,772 miles (9,289 kilometers)
MAIN STOPS: Moscow, Vladivostok
BUILT: 1891-1916
FAMOUS FOR: being the longest train route in the world

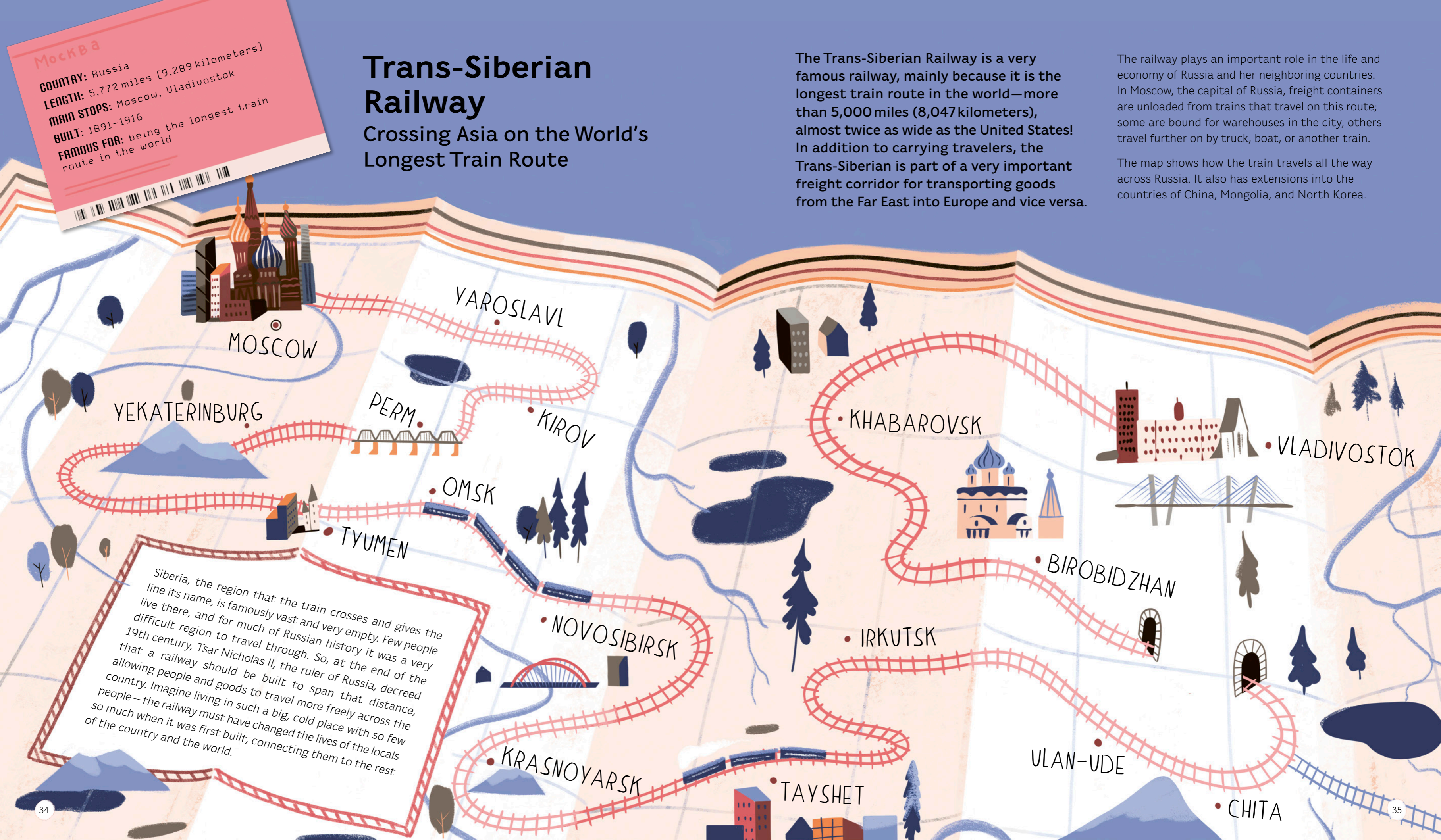
Trans-Siberian Railway

Crossing Asia on the World's Longest Train Route

The Trans-Siberian Railway is a very famous railway, mainly because it is the longest train route in the world—more than 5,000 miles (8,047 kilometers), almost twice as wide as the United States! In addition to carrying travelers, the Trans-Siberian is part of a very important freight corridor for transporting goods from the Far East into Europe and vice versa.

The railway plays an important role in the life and economy of Russia and her neighboring countries. In Moscow, the capital of Russia, freight containers are unloaded from trains that travel on this route; some are bound for warehouses in the city, others travel further on by truck, boat, or another train.

The map shows how the train travels all the way across Russia. It also has extensions into the countries of China, Mongolia, and North Korea.



Siberia, the region that the train crosses and gives the line its name, is famously vast and very empty. Few people live there, and for much of Russian history it was a very difficult region to travel through. So, at the end of the 19th century, Tsar Nicholas II, the ruler of Russia, decreed that a railway should be built to span that distance, allowing people and goods to travel more freely across the country. Imagine living in such a big, cold place with so few people—the railway must have changed the lives of the locals so much when it was first built, connecting them to the rest of the country and the world.