

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES LTD

RLUS is a non-profit-making company limited by guarantee. Company No. 2867380 Registered Charity No. 1028482
Web site: www.rlus.co.uk

RUSSIAN TRAINS

There are two types of trains: local commuter trains пригородные поезда (also known as электричка) and long distance trains: поезда дальнего следования.

Пригородные поезда (электричка)

You purchase a single or return ticket from the appropriate ticket office or from the ticket machine. At mainline stations you will have to insert the bar code on the ticket into a machine to get access to the platform. There are no reserved seats and only one travel class.

Пригородные поезда (ласточка)

These are faster local trains that do not stop at every station. They will cost more than the электричка.

Поезда дальнего следования

Most long distance trains are sleepers. There are three travel classes:

Плацкартный

This is the cheapest form of travel. The open carriage has a series of bunk beds

Купейный

The carriage has compartments, each with 4 beds: two top and two bottom bunks. There are not normally single sex compartments

Люкс

This is the same as above, except that there are only two bunks in the compartment.

Sometimes you can opt to pay extra in Купейный and Люкс for a meal served in the compartment.

A few trains (e.g. the train to Yaroslavl, confusingly known as электричка, and the daytime Сапсан trains between Moscow and St Petersburg) have normal long distance carriages, not sleeping carriages.

To book a ticket you go to the appropriate ticket office and book a reserved seat on the train. You will need to show your passport. Your name is printed on the ticket, which are not transferable. You can also book a ticket at a number of agencies in Russia. They will charge you a commission.

You can also book online, using the Russian railway website: www.rzd.ru, or www.tutu.ru. You can also book in the UK at www.realrussia.co.uk. Real Russia will charge you a commission. You can use both sites to look up the timetable, without having to book a ticket. All the sites will e-mail you your ticket. For many trains this acts as an e-ticket. Some trains don't have this facility and you will have to go to a mainline station to claim your ticket, before getting on the train.

You must get on the train at the carriage number specified on your ticket. The conductor (проводник) will check your ticket and will normally ask to see your passport.