

Discover the essence of Chinese history & culture and one of the world's most ancient civilizations.

China has one of the busiest and largest rail networks in the world. Experience one of the many highlights that include the Great Wall or take a train to Xian which is renowned for its buried army of Terracotta Warriors with a remarkable history of 2000 years.

Trains in China are safe, comfortable and offer an inexpensive way to travel around this remarkable country.

Late bookings: Due to operational reasons, unfortunately no new bookings can be accepted within 5 working days prior to the train's departure date.

Trains departing Shenzhen or Tianjin are not bookable until further notice.

Please note: We are not able to book travel between China and Mongolia.

General Information

TRAVEL CLASSES:

G Train (High speed)

Business Seats

- Most luxurious seats on high-speed trains
- Fully-reclining seat that can recline to a complete flat position
- VIP lounge available in some stations
- 3 seats in a row (2+1)

First Class Seats

- Partially reclining, spacious seats with pillow and footrest
- 4 seats per row (2+2)
- Small foldable table in the arm of each seat
- Power outlet available

Second Class Seats

- 5 seats in a row (3+2)
- Power outlet available

Luggage:

Luggage on the Bullet train can be stored in the overhead storage racks or at the end of each carriage.

Luggage space is limited on these trains. Please note that Chinese railways will assume no responsibility for any luggage in the case of lost or stolen goods.

Classes on all other trains in China are as follows:

Hard Seat

Hard seats are for the budget traveller. Each row has 5 seats and ideal for shorter trips. We do not recommend

these seats for long distance travelling.

Soft Seat

Soft seats have been categorised into First Class soft seat and Second Class soft seat.

First Class soft seats: 3 seats in each row which recline

Second Class soft seats: 4 seats in each row.

Please note, soft seats are only available for selected route of train.

Hard Sleeper

Each cabin contains 6 berths. Three berths are on each side with a very small walkway in between featuring a bed, sheet and pillow. There is no door for each cabin. The washbasin and restrooms are conveniently located at the end of each carriage. Please note that the size of the cabin itself is typically the same size as a Soft Sleeper cabin.

Soft Sleeper

Each cabin contains 4 berths. It typically has 2 upper and 2 lower berths featuring a bed, sheet, pillow and wall light. This cabin has a secure door that locks. The washbasin and restrooms are located at the end of each carriage and shared by others staying in the soft sleeper carriage.

Deluxe Sleeper

Each cabin contains 2 beds. It typically has 1 upper and 1 lower berth featuring a bed, sheet, pillow and wall light. This cabin has a secure door that locks. The deluxe cabin also has private toilet and washbasin in the cabin.

Luggage

There are luggage restrictions on the trains. The sum of the three dimensions (length + width + height) of each luggage must not exceed 160 cm. The maximum length of the stick-shaped luggage must not exceed 200 cm. The weight is limited to 20kg. The majority of trains have overhead storage racks. Please note that Chinese railways will assume no responsibility for any luggage in the case of lost or stolen goods.

Timetables

Timetable information:

- Trains run daily in China.
- Timetables change frequently.
- For exact times please contact us through the below contact form.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I buy my tickets before I travel?

Yes, it's important to purchase tickets prior to your departure from Australia so you can avoid trains being fully occupied. This is quite common during the peak season.

How far in advance can I book?

Reservations for trains in China open 30 days prior to departure.

When are the busy travel periods?

Rail tickets are in high demand in China, especially around several festivals, such as Chinese New Year and National Day, school holidays. Peak seasons include: January, February, end of April to early of May, end of September to early of October, and end of December. We highly recommend that you purchase your tickets prior to your departure.

When do I get my seat numbers?

Once you receive your ticket, seat numbers are printed on your ticket where applicable. Rail Europe cannot advise seat numbers as passenger's pick up the tickets locally.

Are there luggage restrictions on trains?

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Can I get off the train for a few hours, and then get back on later that day with another train?

No, you can't get on a different train with the same ticket. Each ticket is unique. It has the train route, train number, departure and arrival times.

Can you book me to sit with my friends who have already got their tickets?

No, tickets cannot be purchased separately if you prefer to sit with your friends.

Is there a non-smoking section on the train?

Smoking is prohibited in the carriage. There is a smoking zone at the end of each carriage.

Are dining cars available on all trains?

Dining cars are available on most long distance trains. Normally, you can just walk into the dining car, sit down,

and eat without a reservation. Most train services also offer mobile trolley services offering box lunches of local specialty Chinese food as well as snacks and drinks.

Can I pay for my meals/snacks/beverages with EFTPOS or credit card?

EFTPOS and ATM facilities are NOT available on the train. You must board the train with sufficient cash on hand for required purchases during the journey ahead. The train only accepts the local currency.

Where can I get railway assistance in China?

The best option is to contact our local office for assistance. Contact details will be provided before the departure.

What type of facilities can I find at a train station?

Most stations are located conveniently in the heart of the city offering easy access to hotels and sightseeing as well as a range of services including restaurants, gift shops, telephones, post offices, book stores and information. Please note that there may be more than one train station available in some of the municipalities or provincial cities, such as in Beijing.

Are lockers and luggage storage available at all major train stations?

Most major train stations have lockers or luggage storage for a minimal charge.

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Payment & Ticketing

Conditions:

- Full payment is required prior to confirmation.
- Passport details are required at time of booking.
- Travel insurance providing appropriate cover is strongly recommended.
- [Click here for Rail Europe terms & conditions](#)
- A non refundable booking fee applies per sector (Booking Fee varies).
- **For domestic trains:** Rail Europe will issue a voucher you need to exchange for actual tickets at a ticket window at the train station. You must arrive at the train station at least 2 hours prior to the train's departure. Queues for the ticket window can be long and ticket collection closes within 30 minutes of the train's departure.
- **For international trains (including to/from Hong Kong):** A delivery fee applies for each delivery. Documents are sent directly to your pre-departure hotel. Please note: Higher delivery costs apply if you require delivery to the airport. Rail Europe will issue a voucher which will need to be exchanged for actual tickets upon check in to your hotel.

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We also recommend that you take out suitable travel insurance to cover (as a minimum) the costs incurred if you cancel your trip.

Cancellation & Amendments

Conditions:

- Tickets are non-refundable and non-changeable.

China by Rail Fact Sheet

www.railplus.com.au/index.cfm?event=factsheet&page=china-by-rail§ion=asia-by-rail