Timeline of the Trans-Siberian Railway

Orange: Trans-Siberian route between Moscow-Beijing, includes the Trans-Mongolian route between Moscow-Ulaanbaatar
Green: Trans-Manchurian route from Chita to Harbin
Purple: The classic Trans-Siberian route between Ulan Ude-Vladivostok
Black: BAM Route between Bratsk and Khabarovsk
Timeline of the Trans-Siberian Railway

1. 1891 Czarevich Nicholas lays cornerstone of Vladivostok Station, empties a wheelbarrow of dirt onto the planned railway embankment
2. 1892 Railway from Moscow over the Urals arrives in Chelyabinsk
3. 1894 Railway reaches Omsk
4. 1895 Railway reaches the Ob River at Novosibirsk
5. 1897 Ussuri railway from Khabarovsk to Vladivostok is completed
6. 1898 Trans-Siberian train leaves Moscow for first time
7. 1898 Trans-Siberian rails reach Irkutsk
8. 1899 Construction of the Circumbaikal Railway begins
9. 1899 Icebreaker train ferry Baikal launched to carry trains and passengers from one side of Lake Baikal to the other
10. 1900 Travelers ride to Irkutsk by train, ferry across Lake Baikal, reboard the train from Mysovaya to Sretensk, take river steamers to Khabarovsk.
11. 1901 Manchurian Railway shortcut complete, Ulan Ude to Harbin, China
12. 1905 Circumbaikal line brought into permanent operation
13. 1916 Amur railway complete, with last spike driven on the 8,500-foot Amur River Bridge at Khabarovsk
14. 1950 Irkutsk-Kultuk shortcut complete, replacing the Circumbaikal Railway
15. 1950 Mongolian line from Russian border to Ulaanbaatar completed
16. 1955 Ulaanbaatar to Chinese border completed
17. 1991 BAM completed, with detour around Severomuysky Tunnel
18. 2003 Severomuysky Tunnel on the BAM line finished

Three Hundred-year Anniversaries Celebrated

The Trans-Siberian was built in sections.

2001: 100th anniversary of the completion of the Manchurian Railway; traffic from one side of Russia to the other commenced
2005: The 100th anniversary of the Circumbaikal Railway, the “Golden Buckle on the Steel Belt of the Trans-Siberian”
2016: 100th anniversary of the line reaching its full length, running exclusively through Russian territory, with the completion of the Amur River Bridge