

Photo project “Russia through the Train Window”



Russia through the Train Window is the title of an exhibition organized by Russian Railways, OAO together with Anton Lange, the renowned photographer. The project presents an image of contemporary Russia through the camera of a photo-artist who travels along the railways of Russia. Taken by the route, these pictures compose a strikingly vivid image of the unique country.

Russia through the Train Window is a part of the series of Lange's photo exhibitions that have the same theme and logically continue one another, aimed at show-

ing the 21st century Russia in different aspects through the camera lens – looking at life and society of the country, taking a new angle when looking at the country's geography, and showing an unique Russian cultural heritage and daily life of its citizens.

When considering the project's scale and territories shown, one could be certain that Russia through the Train Window is an unprecedented project in the history of domestic photography. The photos virtually show the whole Russia – from its south borders to the Arctic Circle.



From November 2006 to November 2009, the photographer collected materials for this exhibition, travelling across the most expressive and unique areas of Russia – Central Belt, the North-West, Lake Baikal, Russian Far East and Sakhalin Island, Siberia, the Urals, the Black-Sea coast and the North Caucasus, Volga Region, the Baikal-Amur Main Line, the Golden Ring, the Kola Peninsula, the Kaliningrad Region, etc.

The photo story about Russia particularly helps to broaden one's mental image of Russia and show it as not only a country with unique social and geographic features, but also a great power. The Russia through the Train Window project became the first step aimed at reviving one's pride for the country and the desire to preserve its distinctive character and cultural heritage.

The Volga

When running from Astrakhan to Lake Baskunchak, a train plunges into waves of mat-grass. A poetic symbol of vast spaces and freedom – mat-grass – also serves as an indicator of steppe. Out of a train's window, one can see abrupt transformations of steppe into desert, which is a distinctive feature of the Low Volga landscapes.

The Urals

These ancient mountains are virtually enveloped with the oldest Russian railroad network. Following the landscapes, the Urals railways climb up, go down and turn around rocks. The Urals Main Line is connecting the European and Asian parts of Russia, called the Sverdlovsk railway, a part of the Trans-Siberian Main Line. The Sverdlovsk railway has the country's third carriage park and runs 130 passenger trains daily, not counting freights. In the Urals, the railroad network always had been much more advanced than the highways.

Lake Baikal

Letting off a column of steam and smoke higher than the Baikal hills, the locomotive pulls the tourist train across this picturesque arched bridge. In its time connecting the Trans-Siberian main line into a single unit, the Krugobaikal Railway has lost its strategic significance and turned into a historical and architectural monument, into an exhibition of engineering masterpieces, harmoniously melding itself into the landscape which surrounds the lake.

