

Ruskeala Express

"Ruskeala Express" is a fast [branded retro train](#) No. 921/922 and No. 923/924, running along the route [Sortavala](#) - [Ruskeala Mountain Park](#) - [Sortavala](#) . Today it is the only daily [steam](#) train in [Russia](#) . The last daily passenger train on steam locomotive traction in Russia ran in the early 80s of the XX century .

Route and rolling stock

The train runs from [June 1, 2019](#) , the average train speed is 40-60 km / h, and the travel time is 1 hour. The train got its official name "Ruskeala Express" at its destination - the [mountain park "Ruskeala"](#) . The train is docked according to the schedule with the high-speed [electric train "Lastochka" St. Petersburg](#) - Sortavala.

The carriages of the train are painted blue and bear identification inscriptions in English and Russian.

The train consists of five cars - four [compartments](#) with 172 seats and a [dining car](#) , the capacity of the retro train, thus, corresponds to the number of passenger seats in Lastochka ^[1] .

The interior of the train and the uniform of the train workers are decorated in the style of the [late 19th](#) - [early 20th](#) centuries ^[2] .

The historical design of the cars was carried out at the [Voronezh Carriage Repair Plant](#) .

History and perspectives

The Ruskeala Express departed for its maiden voyage [on June 1, 2019](#) . In honor of this event, [the Sortavala station](#) decided to recreate the historical era. The first passengers were greeted by "people from the past" in authentic costumes of the late [19th](#) - early [20th](#) centuries .

The launch of a direct train to one of the main attractions of Karelia became possible after renovation. "To organize locomotive traffic on the [Sortavala - Ruskeala Mountain Park](#) section, we have restored almost 2.5 km of track, repaired the platform of the Sortavala station and the [turntable of the former rolling locomotive depot](#) , reconstructed engineering communications to supply the [locomotive](#) with water and maintain it. A temporary platform was built near the park to receive a retro train, "said [Dmitry Pegov](#), Deputy Director General of [Russian Railways](#) ^[1] .

The launch of the Ruskeala Express, which brings tourists directly to the [Marble Canyon](#) , allows to increase the tourist flow by 20% ^[3] . In the first month of the express operation, 3600 passengers used it ^[4] .

In August 2019, the [Troika](#) card was issued for the [Railway Worker's Day](#) , which depicts the Ruskeala Express. A total of three hundred copies were produced, some of which went on sale at the box office of the [Moscow Metro](#) ^[5] . On the November holidays of 2019, students of the Karelian College of Culture and Arts played an immersive performance on the Ruskeala Express ^[6] .

By the summer of 2020, it was planned to extend the line by 1 km from the temporary station in the park to the marble railway station, which has survived from the beginning of the 20th century, but this idea was later abandoned.

On December 26, 2020, a grand opening of a turning circle for steam locomotives took place in Ruskeala, which allows using one steam locomotive for Ruskeala Express instead of two.

The railway workers are sure that the very process of changing the direction of a steam locomotive at the terminal station, filling it with water and other services will attract tourists who will be able to see the entire technical process with their own eyes ^[3] .

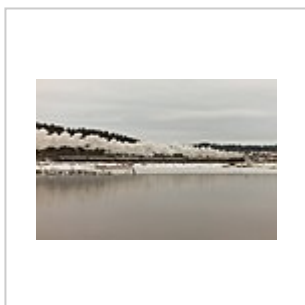
Train No. 921/922 and 923/924 "Ruskeala Express"



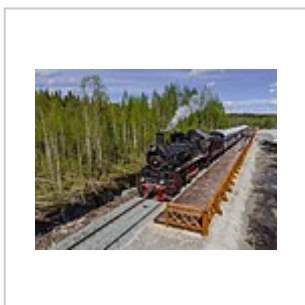
Basic data

Category	retro train
Manufacturer	Carriage Works "Ammendorf"
Company	JSC "Russian Railways" Directorate of high-speed traffic (DOSS)
Route	Sortavala - Ruskala Mountain Park / Ruskala Mountain Park - Sortavala
Number of stops	express
Travel time	1 h / 1 h

Gallery



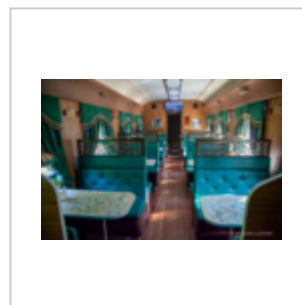
Express crosses [Vakkolahti Bay](#) in [Sortavala](#)



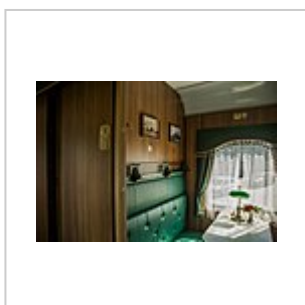
Express summer 2019



With a steam locomotive [P36](#)




Restaurant car "Ruskeala Express"



Compartment in the "Ruskeala Express"

Notes (edit)

- [Russian Railways will increase the number of retro train flights to the Ruskeala mountain park in Karelia \(https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/59752\)](https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/59752) . Interfax TOURISM (June 9, 2019). Date of treatment: July 3, 2019.

Length	40 km
Periodicity	all year round, daily
Technical details	
 Media files on Wikisource	

2. [A retro train to the Ruskeala mountain park was launched in Karelia \(https://tass.ru/v-strane/6497918\)](https://tass.ru/v-strane/6497918) . TASS (June 1, 2019). Date of treatment: July 3, 2019.
3. [On a retro train to Ruskealu \(https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/reports/picture_story/59857\)](https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/reports/picture_story/59857) . Interfax TOURISM (June 14, 2019). Date of treatment: July 3, 2019.
4. [More than 3,600 passengers took the retro train to Ruskeala \(http://rk.karelia.ru/social/bolee-3600-passazhirov-vospolzovalis-retro-poezdom-do-sortavalvy/\)](http://rk.karelia.ru/social/bolee-3600-passazhirov-vospolzovalis-retro-poezdom-do-sortavalvy/) . Respublika is an information and analytical portal of Karelia. (July 2, 2019). Date of treatment: July 6, 2019.
5. ["Ruskeala Express" has transported more than 15 thousand passengers since June 1 \(https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/61945/\)](https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/61945/) . Interfax TOURISM (August 21, 2019).
6. [More than 500 people became spectators of the theatrical performance on the Ruskeala Express train \(https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/63774\)](https://tourism.interfax.ru/ru/news/articles/63774) . Interfax TOURISM (November 3, 2019).

Links

- [With a breeze on a steam locomotive: Ruskeala Express. Zen.yandex.ru \(https://zen.yandex.ru/media/zhzhitel/s-veterkom-na-parovoze-ruskealskii-ekspres-5cfb51dc7839c500ae766bc0\)](https://zen.yandex.ru/media/zhzhitel/s-veterkom-na-parovoze-ruskealskii-ekspres-5cfb51dc7839c500ae766bc0)
 - [Launch of the "Ruskeala Express" Vesti Karelia \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8zNBm4Baws\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8zNBm4Baws)
 - ["Ruskeala Express" Vesti Arktiki \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj-9dQ6zQU4\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj-9dQ6zQU4)
 - [Retro train with a steam locomotive Blog of the company Tutu.ru on Habré \(https://habr.com/ru/company/tuturu/blog/474688/\)](https://habr.com/ru/company/tuturu/blog/474688/)
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