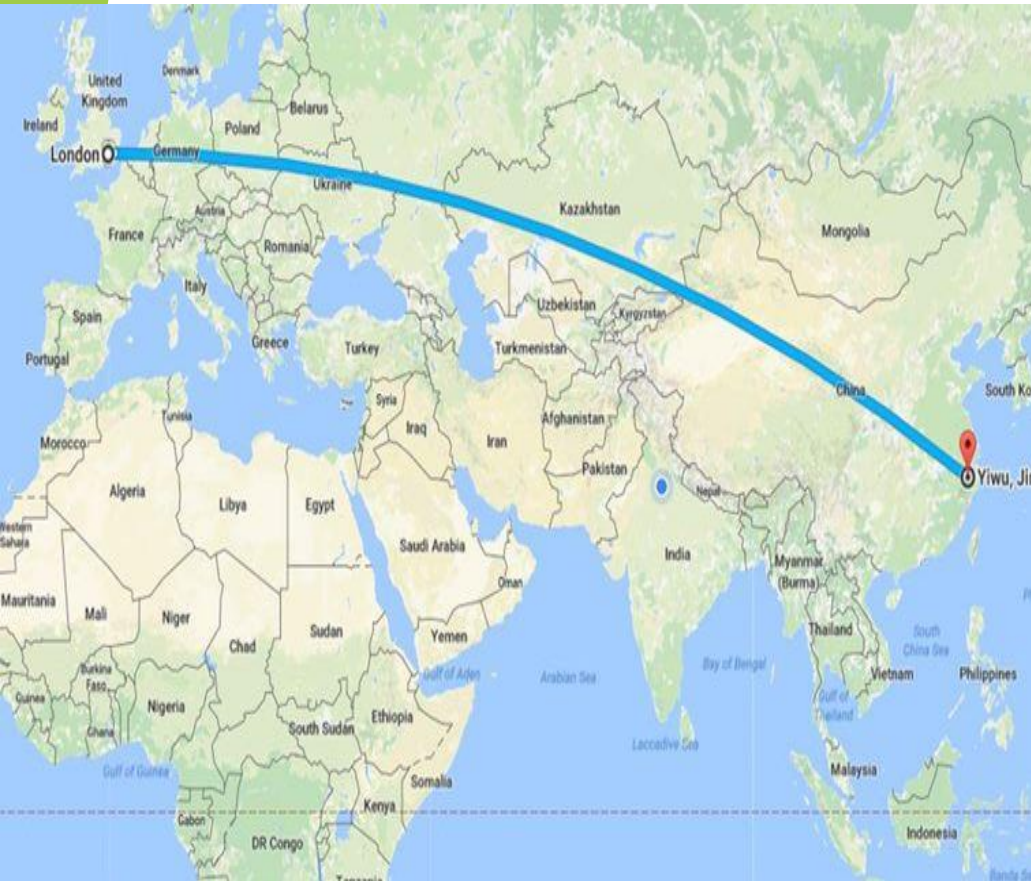


China's freight train to London



Journey Details

- ▶ The first freight train from China to the U.K. rolled into London it took more than two weeks after it left the Chinese port city of Yiwu.
- ▶ The journey covered nearly 8,000 plus miles.

THE LONGEST RAILWAY IN THE WORLD

The China-Europe Block Train is the longest rail route in the world, surpassing the Trans-Siberian Railway and the Moscow-to-Beijing direct route. The world's longest railway also crosses through the greatest number of countries, going through China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, and France before ending in Spain.





- ▶ The China Railway Express train [left Yiwu](#) on Jan. 1.
- ▶ It passed through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France over the course of its 18-day trip before entering the U.K. through the Channel Tunnel.
- ▶ Previous rail routes already connected China to Germany; this railway now included Spain and France as well.
- ▶ .

- ▶ The railway cuts transport time between the two cities in half. To send a container of goods from Yiwu to Madrid which is currently the longest rail journey in the world.
- ▶ The train was packed with 34 containers carrying clothes, shoes, suitcases and other goods made in China.

Route of service from China to the UK



Source: Project Cargo Network

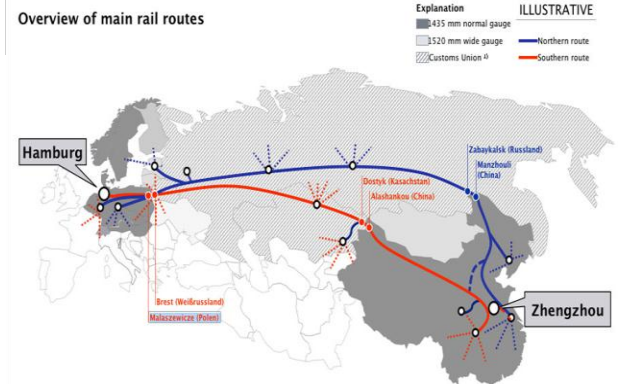
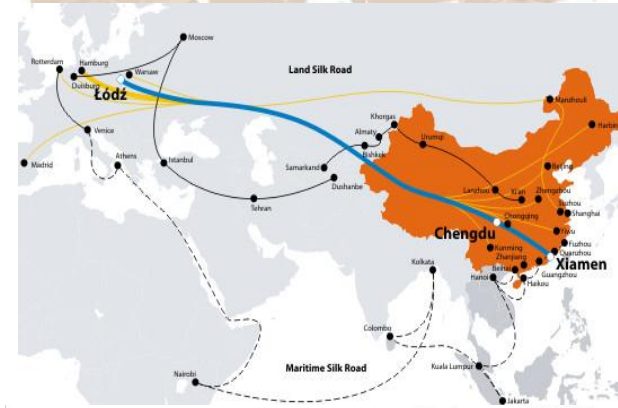
Train to London vs Previous Trains

- ▶ Earlier goods arrive in the port of Valencia, to be taken either by train or road to Madrid.
- ▶ while travel was roughly 35 to 40 days, whereas the new freight train only takes 21 days.
- ▶ The new route is cheaper than air, and faster than sea transport.
- ▶ The rail route is also safer than shipping, as a ship has to go past the Horn of Africa and the Malacca Straits, which are dangerous areas.



Seventh Rail road from China to Europe

- ▶ The Yiwu-Madrid freight route is the seventh rail road connecting China to Europe.
- ▶ The first one is the Chongqing - Duisberg, which opened in 2011 and connects Chongqing to Duisberg in Germany.
- ▶ This was followed by routes connecting Wuhan to the Czech Republic (Pardubice),
- ▶ Chengdo to Poland (Lodz),
- ▶ Zhengzhou - Germany (Hamburg),
- ▶ Suzhou - Poland (Warsaw)
- ▶ and Hefei-Germany.
- ▶ Most of these routes go through Xinjiang province and Kazakhstan.



Why Yiwu ??????

- ▶ Yiwu is the smallest city With just over a million inhabitants with a direct rail link to Europe.
- ▶ Located in central Zhejiang, Yiwu has the largest wholesale market of small goods in the world, according to a report jointly issued by the UN, the World Bank and Morgan Stanley.
- ▶ The Yiwu International Trade Market spans an area of four million square meters.
- ▶ It is also the wealthiest county-level city in China, according to Forbes.
- ▶ The city is one of the major sourcing centers for products ranging from toys and textiles to electronics and spare car parts.
- ▶ According to Xinhua, 60 percent of all Christmas trinkets are from Yiwu.



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