



# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL COMPANY



"We regard each and every trip we organise as a trip of a lifetime."

## TS-B-04-SP | TRANS-MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

EASTBOUND • BEIJING TO ST PETERSBURG



★ ITINERARY PAGE 11

★ PRICING & INCLUSIONS PAGE 52



## CONTENTS

- 3 ..... Trip map
- 4 ..... Overview & itinerary in brief
- 11 ... Day by day Itinerary
- 52 ... Price guide
- 53 ... Trip inclusions & exclusions
- 58 ... About the trains
- 62 ... Essential information
- 67 ... Recommended reading

## ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Established as one of the UK's leading, independent and family owned Trans-Siberian and China tour specialist our focus is on well thought through private and tailor made rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on creating the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the Trans-Siberian as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

## ALL TOURS ARE FINANCIALLY PROTECTED

We are members of **ABTA** (Y1699) and our tours are **ATOL** protected (license 10287) giving you full peace of mind when booking with us both for monies paid to us as well as the code of conduct and high standards we are both delighted to and required to uphold.





BEIJING • KARAKORUM • ULAANBAATAR • IRKUTSK & OLKHON • EKATERINBURG • MOSCOW • ST PETERSBURG



Distances & times are approximate



THETRANSIBERIANTRAVELCOMPANY.COM | info@thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8925 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



**CLICK TO EMAIL US**

# STARTING BEIJING : TS-B-04-SP | TRANS-MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

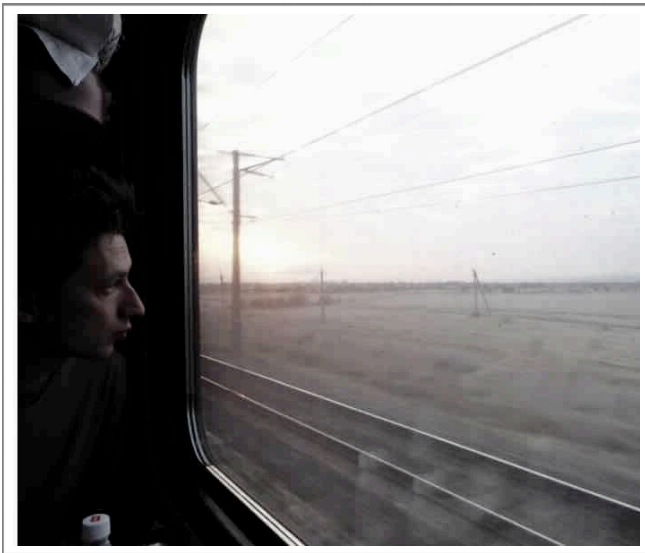
The Trans-Siberian Travel Company.

## THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL COMPANY

- [www.thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com](http://www.thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com)
- [info@thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com)

☎ +44 (0)20 8816 8925

- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287



## 26 Nights / 27 Days | This Trip Visits:

### ● BEIJING

China's Capital is an eclectic mix of Imperial splendour & 21st Century.

### ● ULAANBAATAR

Remote capital of Mongolia and the start of a steppe adventure.

### ● KARAKORUM

Ancient capital of the Khans & a superb Steppe adventure.

### ● IRKUTSK & OLKHON ISLAND

Forward looking Siberian city & gateway to Lake Baikal & Olkhon Island.

### ● EKATERINBURG

Historic city where Europe meets Asia & the Romanovs met their end.

### ● MOSCOW

Russia's vast and iconic capital & the start of this railway adventure.

### ● ST PETERSBURG

Beautiful & cultural city with a different feel to the rest of Russia.





## WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY - SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MUCH MORE



"Just returned from Trans-Siberian tour Moscow-Vladivostok with 7 city stops. Phenomenal! This company exceeded our our possible expectations and went above and beyond."

**Aleona Kalinovskaya & Family**



"I would absolutely recommend the Trans-Siberian Travel Company. You were so helpful in planning my trip through China, Mongolia and Russia This was a trip of a lifetime for me, and one I will not forget."

**Muriel Adamson**



"Unbelievably wonderful vacation! Everything organized perfectly and I had the experience of a lifetime. The tours and guides were amazing and this trip will be everything you are hoping for and more!"

**Christine Houck**



"Excellent service and communication with quick responses. The process of booking was really easy. Their knowledge and understanding of the Trans-Siberian and experiences along the way was clear and appreciated."

**Amy Wegerhoff**



"The booking process was very easy. Chris was patient, and a fountain of information during the planning stages, as we customised the journey. All in all, an unforgettable journey, which exceeded all of our expectations!"

**Mark & Jeannette Adams**



"Highly recommended, especially with the visa process and buying of all the different train tickets. The Trans-Siberian Travel Company made our trip easy and very memorable."

**E Adam Smith**



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE FEEDBACK ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



THETRANSIBERIANTRAVELCOMPANY.COM | [info@thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thetranssiberiantravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8925 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



[CLICK TO EMAIL US](#)

- 1


**BEIJING**

- Arrive in China's capital with time to relax at the hotel.

Overnight - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★
- 2


**BEIJING**

- Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City & Summer Palace.

Overnight - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★
- 3


**BEIJING**

- The Great Wall at Mutianyu & one of Beijing's Markets.

Overnight - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★
- 4



**MONGOLIA**

- Flight up to Mongolia's capital of Ulaanbaatar & evening Folk Show.

Overnight - Best Western Premiere ★★★★★
- 5


**MONGOLIA**

- Transfer to the Bayan Gobi Sand Dunes & visit camel herders.

Overnight - Bayan Gobi Ger Camp
- 6


**MONGOLIA**

- Karakorum & Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery & Lake Ugii.

Overnight - Ugiin Khishig Ger Camp
- 7



**MONGOLIA**

- Continue to Hustai National Park famous for it's Perzevalski wild horses.

Overnight - Mongol Nomadic Camp






**8**  **MONGOLIA**


- Travel to & explore Terelj National Park including the Genghis Khan Statue.

Overnight - Terelj Lodge Ger Camp

**9**  **MONGOLIA**

- Return to Ulaanbaatar for a tour of the city's highlights.

Overnight - Best Western Premiere ★★★★★

**10**  **ON THE TRAIN**


- Free time before a transfer to the station to depart for Russia.

Overnight - Krestovaya Pad ★★★

**11**  **IRKUTSK**

- Pass Ulan Ude & along the shores of Lake Baikal to Irkutsk.

Overnight - Irkutsk City Centre Hotel ★★★★★

**12**  **OLKHON**


- Transfer to Olkhon Island by Private Vehicle & Boat.

Overnight - Lada Resort ★★

**13**  **OLKHON**

- Explore the highlights and viewpoints of Olkhon by car.

Overnight - Lada Resort ★★

**14**  **IRKUTSK**

- Return to Irkutsk by boat and road with free time on arrival.

Overnight - Irkutsk City Centre Hotel ★★★★★



### 15 ON THE TRAIN

- Free time in Irkutsk before departing on your next train journey.

Overnight - train Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg

### 16 ON THE TRAIN

- Good scenery today passing Krasnoyarsk & onto Novosibirsk.

Overnight - train Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg

### 17 EKATERINBURG

- Your last day in Siberia before arrival in Ekaterinburg.

Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★

### 18 EKATERINBURG

- City tour, Romanov's secret graves & the Europe Asia border.

Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★

### 19 EKATERINBURG

- Full day tour into the rolling Ural countryside to visit a village.

Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★

### 20 ON THE TRAIN

- Departure Westbound to Russia's capital of Moscow.

Overnight - train Ekaterinburg to Moscow

### 21 MOSCOW

- Arrival in Russia's Capital & tour the Kremlin & Armoury, Metro & Red Square.

Overnight - National Hotel ★★★★★





### 22 MOSCOW

- Free day to explore Moscow independently & enjoy its many sights.

Overnight - National Hotel ★★★★★

### 23 ST PETERSBURG

- High-speed "Sapsan" train to beautiful St Petersburg.

Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★

### 24 ST PETERSBURG

- Tour of the city highlights including time spent in the Hermitage Museum.

Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★

### 25 ST PETERSBURG

- Private tour by car out of the city to Pushkin & Pavlosk palaces.

Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★

### 26 ST PETERSBURG

- A free day to further explore the city which has so much to offer.

Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★

### 27 END

- Depart Russia after your epic Trans-Mongolian adventure!

Overnight - N/A



# YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

The following pages detail your itinerary day by day. All our trips are tried and tested and, between us, we have visited all destinations and accommodation and travelled on all these trains. We like to offer our clients the greatest flexibility possible with their trip so if there is anything you would like to change please do not hesitate to contact us.

**JUST ASK US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES**





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 1 - Thursdays

### BEIJING

- Arrive in China's capital with time to relax at the hotel.

Welcome to Beijing, China's cultural and political capital and a real highlight with its extraordinary blend of ancient and modern sights. Your guide will greet you at the airport with a transfer by private car to your hotel.

The rest of the day is free to relax or start to explore the city with the help of your personalised and exclusive Trip Guidebook we send you before the trip. The area around your centrally located hotel is perfect for an introductory walk.

 **Meals Included:** None Today.



### YOUR EXCLUSIVE TRIP GUIDEBOOK

Tap into our knowledge with a copy of our exclusive guidebook personalised to your trip. These books are packed full of tips about the trains, what to take, currency, train timetables, destination guides and much more. The perfect way to prepare for your Trans-Siberian experience with us!

## OVERNIGHT

### RED WALL JINGSHAN GARDEN



Unbelievable location and good standards make this the perfect option in Beijing if you want a high quality hotel in the traditional style.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 2

### BEIJING

- Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City & Summer Palace.

Today you will see the main highlights of Beijing starting with the Temple of Heaven set in a beautiful park and considered by many to be the most beautiful building in China.

On to vast Tiananmen Square, home to the Mao Mausoleum (it may be possible to visit if open) and Monument to the People's Heroes before walking to the huge palace complex of the Forbidden City. We'll walk up the middle axis from South to North taking in the splendour of the most important central buildings before finishing in a small and ancient garden by the north gate.

The last stop today is at the Summer Palace to the west of Beijing. Dominated by Kunming lake it is as popular an escape from the city for today's Beijingers as it was for the Imperial court over the centuries.

Return to your hotel with the rest of the evening free or just ask us for suggestions of shows or cultural activities.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

## OVERNIGHT

### RED WALL JINGSHAN GARDEN



Unbelievable location and good standards make this the perfect option in Beijing if you want a high quality hotel in the traditional style.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked







Averages	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	2	4	11	20	26	30	31	30	26	19	10	3
Min temp °C	-10	-7	-1	7	13	18	22	20	14	7	-1	-7
Rainfall mm	3	6	9	26	29	71	176	182	49	19	6	2

FORBIDDEN CITY



THE GREAT WALL



PEKING OPERA



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 3

### BEIJING

- The Great Wall at Mutianyu & one of Beijing's Markets.

Today we will be showing you one of China's most famous sights - the Great Wall. We visit the dramatic and less crowded Mutianyu section 70km from Beijing set amongst spectacular mountain scenery. Dating back to the 6th Century and largely rebuilt in the 16th century during the Ming Dynasty it is one of the best preserved sections of the wall largely due to the high standard of construction. The tour includes cable car tickets cable up and down the Wall.

Also today, if you wish, we can take you to one of Beijing's many markets. Favourites are the Silk Market, Pearl Market and Panjiayuan antique market. If souvenir shopping isn't for you other options are the Hutong street of Nanluoguxiang, the 798 Dashanzhi contemporary art area or a quick look at the impressive 2008 Olympic Stadium. You can discuss which is right for you with us in advance or your guide on the day.

Return to your hotel for a free evening to enjoy Beijing further or ask us about cultural activities.

**NOTE:** Bring decent shoes, sunglasses and hat for the trip to the Wall and remember that it is always a good 5 degrees centigrade cooler at the Wall than in downtown Beijing.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

## OVERNIGHT

### RED WALL JINGSHAN GARDEN



Unbelievable location and good standards make this the perfect option in Beijing if you want a high quality hotel in the traditional style.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





# MAP OF THE GREAT WALL



- The Great Wall of China is estimated to be over 13,000 miles long (21,196 kilometres), including overlapping sections, making it the longest wall in the world and one of the most impressive architectural feats in history.

- Construction started in the 7th century BC, with various dynasties building and rebuilding it until the 17th century. The most famous sections were built during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).

- Originally built as a defensive structure to protect Chinese states and empires against raids and invasions from various nomadic groups, it also served for border controls and encouraged trade along the Silk Road.

- The wall was constructed using a variety of materials that were readily available in the different regions it traverses, including earth, wood, bricks, and stones. The method and materials used in construction varied significantly over time.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 4

### MONGOLIA

- Flight up to Mongolia's capital of Ulaanbaatar & evening Folk Show.

Transfer to the airport for your flight up to Mongolia's capital of Ulaanbaatar, a blend of modern life and nomadic traditions. Explore historic monasteries like Gandan Khiid, visit museums showcasing Mongolian heritage, and wander through bustling markets. The city serves as a gateway to the vast steppes, providing a unique cultural experience amid urban comforts.

Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar you will meet your guide and driver and taken to the hotel. Free time for the rest of the day until an evening folk show featuring throat singing, vibrant dances, and musicians playing traditional instruments like the morin khuur and yatga zither.

Return to your hotel to rest up for before you adventure into the Steppe tomorrow.

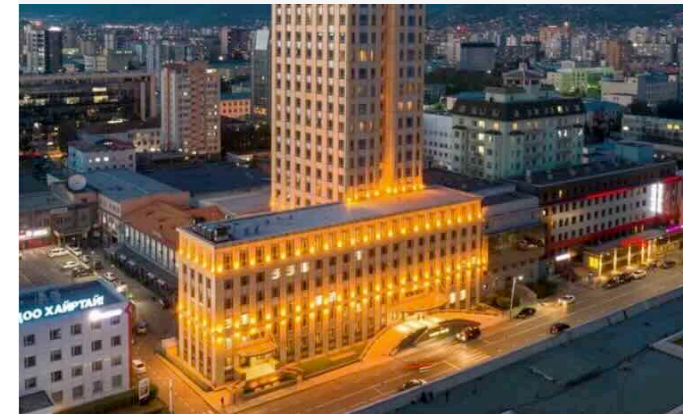
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### BEST WESTERN PREMIERE



A welcome addition to the hotel scene and probably one of the best mid-range options in the city now. Also known as the Tuushin Hotel.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked







### Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-14	-8	0	9	17	23	25	23	17	8	-4	-12
Min temp °C	-30	-26	-17	-8	0	7	11	8	0	-9	-20	-27
Rainfall mm	2	1	2	2	12	24	29	22	11	3	1	1

CHINGGIS KHAN STATUE



GRASSLANDS



SUKHBAATAR SQUARE



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 5

### MONGOLIA

- **Transfer to the Bayan Gobi Sand Dunes & visit camel herders.**

After breakfast meet up with your guide and driver for the 290 km (5 hours) to Bayan Gobi, an area of sand dunes, willow trees, streams and bushes with the appearance of a desert. This landscape is 80km long and the widest part of the sand dune is 10 km. Check-in and lunch at the Ger camp located near to the sand dunes.

In the afternoon, we will visit a local camel herder family at their Ger and experience their nomadic way of life.

The sand dunes are the perfect place for Bactrian camel riding. After becoming familiar with the equipment and the basics of riding a camel, explore the sand dunes for 1 hour atop these beautiful animals (note that if there is no time today you will ride tomorrow morning). Mongolia is home to 70% of the world's population of the two-humped Bactrian camels.

You also have the opportunity to explore the sand dunes on foot before returning to the Ger camp for dinner and a free evening.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner at the Ger Camp.

## OVERNIGHT

### BAYAN GOBI GER CAMP

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

Stunningly designed boutique hotel located just to the east of the Forbidden City making for the perfect blend of design, comfort and location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 6

## MONGOLIA

### • Karakorum & Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery & Lake Ugii.

Following breakfast drive to 100 km to Mongolia's ancient capital of Karakorum founded by Chingis Khan in 1220. It quickly became a major trading hub on the silk road attracting merchants from across the Mongolian empire and beyond, prospering until Kublai Khan moved to the capital to modern day Beijing establishing what the Chinese refer to as the Yuan Dynasty. In 1379 much of Karakorum was badly damaged during an attack by the army of the Ming Dynasty.

After visit to the Museum of Karakorum, the symbolic ruins of the ancient city, we continue to visit the oldest Buddhist Monastery complex of Erdene Zuu which is surrounded by 108 stupas built in the 16th century. The monastery is still active, and there are temple museums and buildings where monks live and pray. Here you may hear monks chanting the Buddhist sutras.

In the afternoon, we make 60 km drive to Ugii Lake. This fresh water lake is 5km wide, 7km long and surrounded by steppe. The lake has many species of water birds and fish including perch and pike.

Relax at the camp with optional activities including hiking, swimming, kayaking and motor boat trips. Dinner and overnight at the Ger camp near to the shore of the lake.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner at the Ger Camp.

### OVERNIGHT

## UGIIN KHISHIG GER CAMP

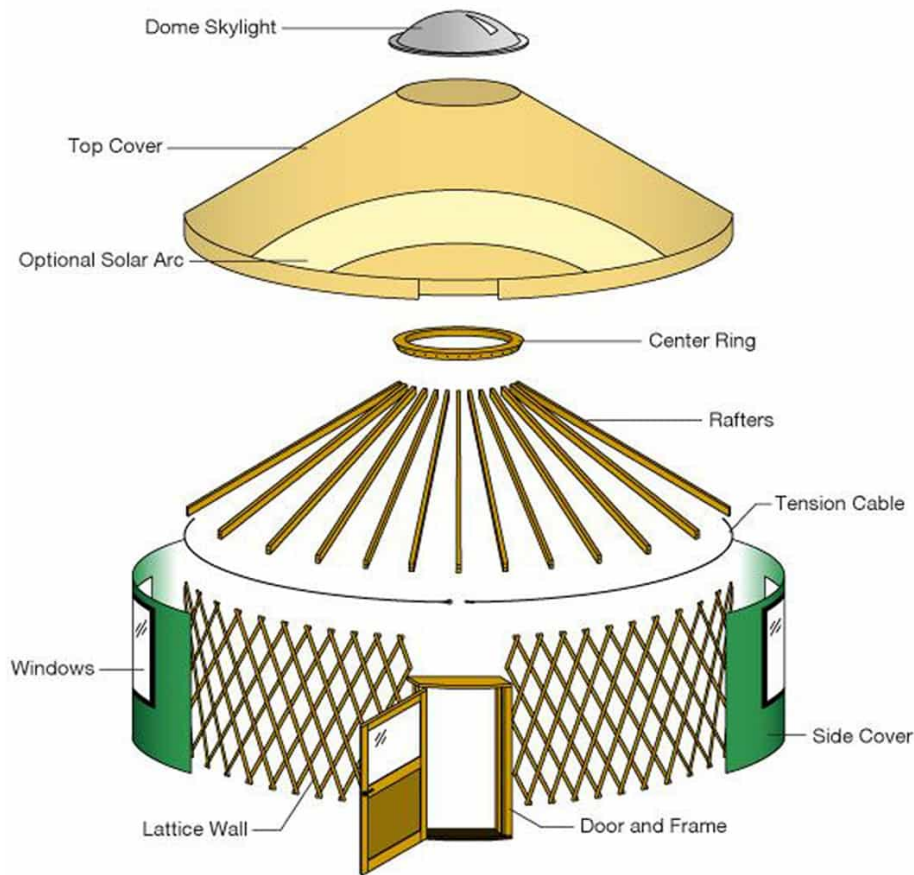
### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

Stunningly designed boutique hotel located just to the east of the Forbidden City making for the perfect blend of design, comfort and location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





Mongolian gers, also known as yurts, are traditional round, portable dwellings used by nomadic herders in Mongolia for centuries. Made from a wooden lattice framework covered with felt and canvas, gers are designed to withstand Mongolia's extreme weather, from hot summers to freezing winters. They are easy to assemble and transport, making them ideal for a nomadic lifestyle. The interior typically includes a stove in the centre, with the layout reflecting Mongolian customs and family life. Today, gers are also a symbol of Mongolian heritage.

## MONGOLIAN GERS - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The design of the ger (yurt) dates back over 3,000 years, making it one of the oldest continuously used types of dwellings in human history.
- A ger can be disassembled and reassembled within an hour, making it ideal for the nomadic lifestyle of Mongolian herders.
- Gers are built to withstand Mongolia's extreme climate, from hot summers to harsh winters with temperatures dropping to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Layers of felt insulate the structure during winter and can be removed in summer.
- The ger's structure is made of a wooden frame and covered with felt made from sheep's wool, reflecting Mongolia's resource-efficient and environmentally friendly approach.
- The circular design allows for even distribution of wind and snow, making it more stable in Mongolia's vast and windy steppes.
- The stove, or hearth, is placed in the centre of the ger, symbolising warmth and family unity. It also serves as a central cooking and heating source.
- Tradition dictates that the door of the ger always faces south, providing protection from cold northern winds and ensuring sunlight during the day.
- The interior of the ger is organized according to Mongolian customs. The right side is traditionally for men and tools, while the left side is for women and household items. The north side is reserved for the altar and important family possessions.
- The ger is central to Mongolian hospitality. Visitors are always offered a seat on the left side, facing the family's most honoured possessions.
- Although rooted in tradition, modern gers can include solar panels, satellite dishes, and modern amenities, blending ancient customs with contemporary comforts.





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 7

### MONGOLIA

- Continue to Hustai National Park famous for it's Perzevalski wild horses.

After and early breakfast depart for the 280 km (5 hour) journey to Hustai National Park. This area is home to Mongolia's wild horse known as the Perzevalski Horse. The national park features mountain and steppe and has 450 species of plants, 200 of which are medicinal.

Check-in and lunch at the Ger camp near to the park gate with some time to relax. Visit a small museum to learn about the national park, wild horses and how they were reintroduced some years ago from European zoos.

The best time to observe these wild horses in their natural habitat is the hours before sunset during which they come down from the mountains to drink. We take a short drive and hike to see the horses. for what should be a great opportunity to take photos.

Besides the horses the scenery is beautiful mountain and steppe. Return to the Ger camp for dinner and a free evening.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner at the Ger Camp.

## OVERNIGHT

### MONGOL NOMADIC GER CAMP

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

A highlight of Mongolia is to stay in a Ger Camp. Most ger camps around Mongolia offer a similar experience - just each with different scenery!



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 8

### MONGOLIA

- Travel to & explore Terelj National Park including the Genghis Khan Statue.

After breakfast we continue 230 km (4 hours) to Terelj National Park famous for its natural beauty of forested alpine mountains and unusual rock formations.

On the way, we stop at the Genghis Khan's Statue Complex in Tsonjin Boldog, which, at 40 meters, is the highest equestrian statue in the world. There are souvenir shops, a small museum and some other monuments in the base structure. From here, visitors can walk up by stairs or take an elevator to a deck on the horse's head for a panorama view over the complex area and surrounding steppe.

After lunch continue to Terelj National Park visiting Turtle Rock and a Buddhist meditation temple with 108 stairs and a wire bridge, called Temple of Ariyabal. This temple is surrounded by mountains with massive rock formations. From the top, you can enjoy the views across the park.

In the evening, we visit a local nomad family in their Ger to experience firsthand how people live in the steppe, a lifestyle which has not changed for centuries. You can talk with the family asking about their daily tasks to get an idea of how nomadic people live alongside their livestock. There is the opportunity to horseback ride also included before heading to the ger camp top overnight.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner at the Ger Camp.

## OVERNIGHT

### TERLJ LODGE GER CAMP

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

A highlight of Mongolia is to stay in a Ger Camp. Most ger camps around Mongolia offer a similar experience - just each with different scenery!



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 9

### MONGOLIA

- Return to Ulaanbaatar for a tour of the city's highlights.

After breakfast return to Ulaanbaatar for a city tour starting with a visit to Zaisan Memorial Hill located on the south side of the City beside the Bogd Khan Mountain. Here there are the best views over the city.

After lunch near to Zaisan, continue to visit "Gandan" Monastery, which is Mongolia's largest functioning Buddhist monastery including the Mongolian Buddhist University. The highlight of visiting to Gandan is 26 meter-high majestic gilded indoor statue of Megjid Janraisig.

Next we visit Sukhbaatar square which lies at the heart of the city surrounded by important buildings such as the government palace, banks and theatres and the central post office. There is a statue of national hero Sukhbaatar and a massive bronze statue of Genghis Khan and four warriors in front of Parliament House.

Finish the tour at your hotel and check-in with free time for the rest of the day.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast at the Ger Camp.

## OVERNIGHT

### BEST WESTERN PREMIERE



A welcome addition to the hotel scene and probably one of the best mid-range options in the city now. Also known as the Tuushin Hotel.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 10 - Saturdays

#### ON THE TRAIN

- Free time before a transfer to the station to depart for Russia.

This morning is free before an early afternoon transfer to the station for you train on into Russia. The rail journey from Ulaanbaatar to the Russian border offers a striking blend of Mongolia's diverse landscapes. You travel through vast steppes, dotted with grazing livestock and traditional ger tents, before transitioning into forested hills.

The journey is peaceful, showcasing Mongolia's expansive wilderness before reaching the bustling border town of Sukhe-Bator for customs clearance. The stops on each side are long but manageable as Mongolia's track is the same gauge as Russia so the bogies do not need to be changed.

**NOTE:** For the short rail section from Ulaanbaatar to the Russian border the train has no dining car so make sure you bring something for dinner on to the train with you.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT



#### TRAIN #305

##### ULAANBAATAR - IRKUTSK

Departs 15:22 Arrives 14:52 day 2  
1,113 km / 690 ml | 23 hr 30 m | Local times & subject to change

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRAINS](#)



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 11

#### IRKUTSK

- Pass Ulan Ude & along the shores of Lake Baikal to Irkutsk.

Today is usually the scenic highlight of the entire journey, a day of lake, forest and mountain views. Early in the morning you reach Ulan Ude before joining the main Trans-Siberian line on to Moscow. Later in the day the train rumbles around the Southern shore of stunning Lake Baikal often passing within a matter of meters of the lake and providing endlessly changing vistas.

Afternoon arrival in Irkutsk, regarded as the modern day cultural capital of Siberia, famed for its traditional wooden architecture.

Transfer to your hotel and once settled and once you've settled in, begin a leisurely two-hour walking tour of the city centre, exploring Irkutsk's rich history and architecture. Your tour will take you through the central park, where you can visit the War Memorial, a solemn tribute to fallen soldiers. Along the Angara River, admire several of the city's beautiful churches, showcasing Irkutsk's architectural diversity and spiritual heritage.

A highlight of the tour is a stop at the statue of Alexander III, the Russian tsar credited with the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which played a key role in connecting Siberia with the rest of Russia.

After the tour, return to your hotel, where you'll have the rest of the day. You can visit local cafés, discover nearby museums, or enjoy a peaceful evening walk along the riverside to soak in more of Irkutsk's unique atmosphere.

 **Meals Included:** None today - however the train should have a dining car.

### OVERNIGHT

#### IRKUTSK CITY CENTRE



Regarded as the best hotel in Irkutsk the former Marriott is an ideal treat. All you would expect from a good solid 4 star hotel.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





### Averages

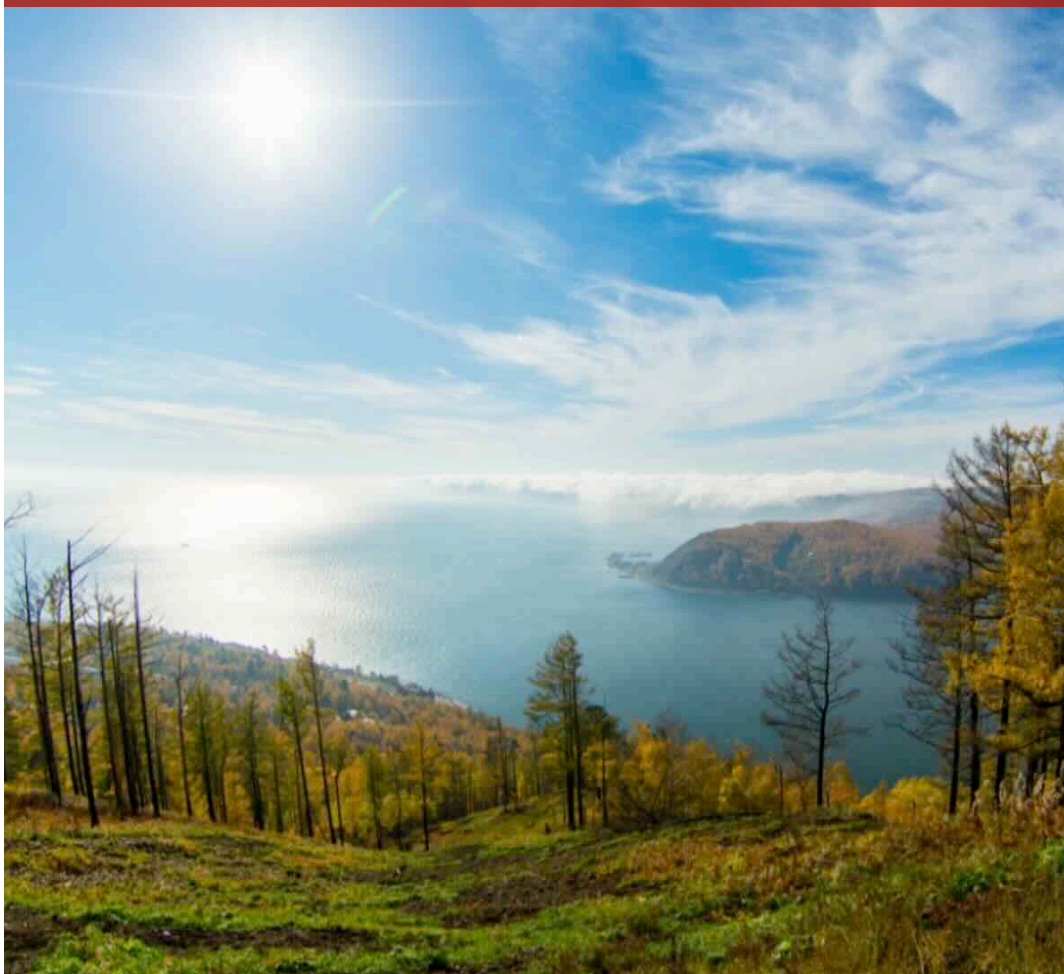
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-14	-8	0	8	17	22	24	22	15	7	-4	-12
Min temp °C	-25	-22	-15	-5	2	8	12	9	2	-5	-16	-22
Rainfall mm	2	2	1	4	4	9	21	37	20	3	6	5

### LAKE BAIKAL



### IRKUTSK CITY



### OMUL FISH





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 12

#### OLKHON ISLAND

- **Transfer to Olkhon Island by Private Vehicle & Boat.**

After breakfast a guide will meet at the hotel to take you to Olkhon island by private car or minibus finishing the journey with a short boat trip to reach the island itself. Note that in the summer months there can be a queue for the ferry and it is not possible to pre-book a place on it in advance.

Transport on to Khuzhir village, the island's main settlement with a population of 1,500 people and check-in to the hotel before seeing the sunset at Shaman cape - note it is also possible to organise a 2 hour boat trip to see the sunset from the lake for an additional local payment.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THIS OLKHON ISLAND STOPOVER**

Accommodation on Olkhon is in the traditional Siberian style of log cabins, separate, outside buildings for drop (not flush) toilets and a Russian banya (sauna) for washing. For most choosing to come here this is all part of the experience and feedback is overwhelmingly positive. However, if it feels a bit too basic for you we can offer more comfortable stopover options - just not on Olkhon Island.

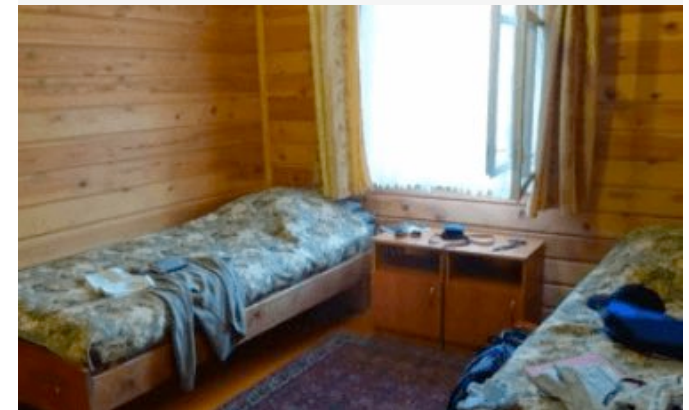
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Dinner.

### OVERNIGHT

#### LADA RESORT

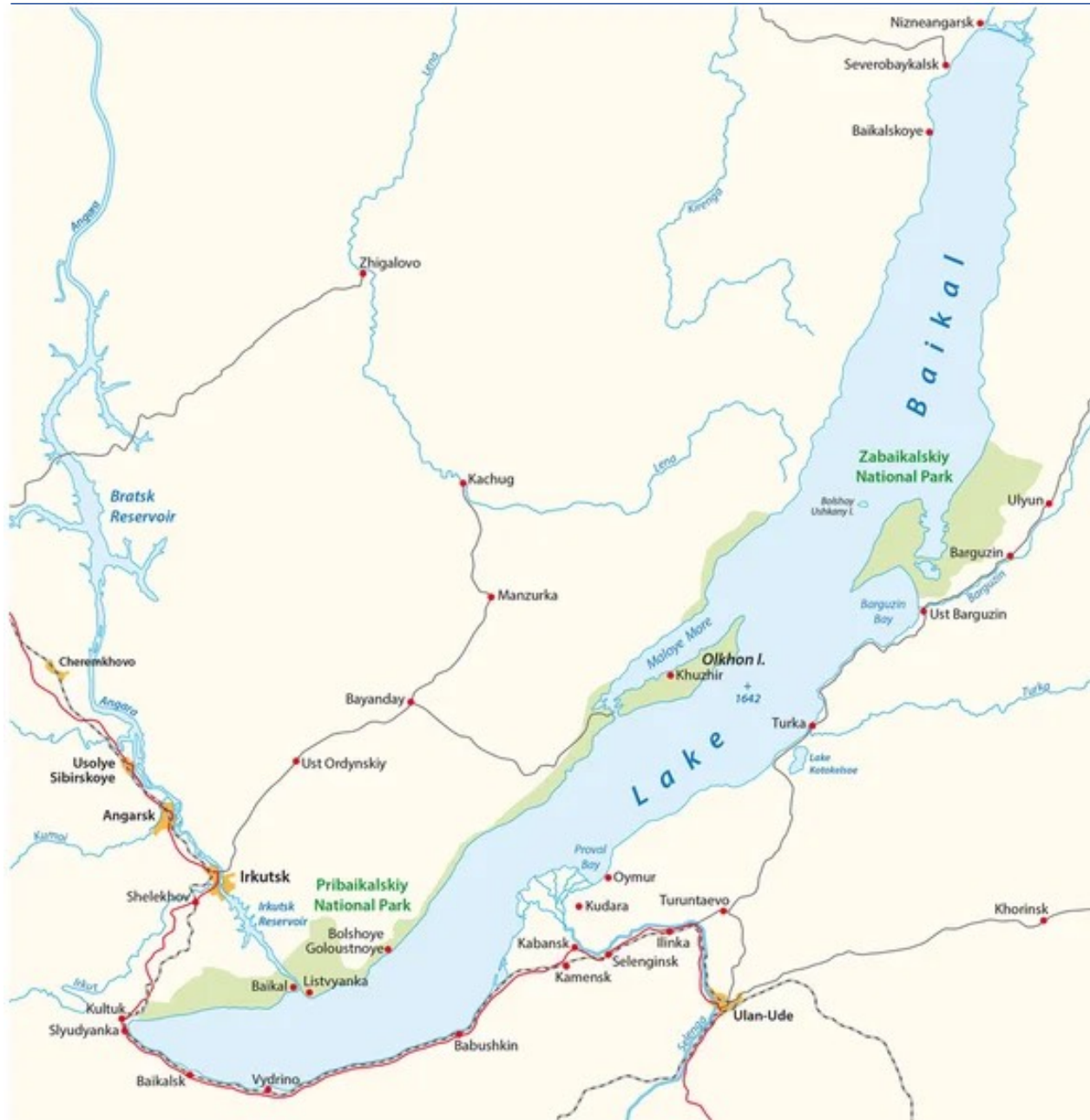


Traditional Russian style wooden hotel full of character and one of the best of the options in Khuzhir making an ideal base to explore.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





## LAKE BAIKAL - DID YOU KNOW ?

- Lake Baikal is the world's oldest freshwater lake, estimated to be around 25-30 million years old. Its age makes it a unique natural laboratory for studying evolution and geological processes.
- With a depth of 1,642 meters (5,387 feet), Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world, holding about 20% of the world's unfrozen freshwater supply.
- The lake hosts over 3,700 species of plants and animals, two-thirds of which are endemic, meaning they can't be found anywhere else. The most famous is the Baikal seal (nerpa), the only freshwater seal species in the world.
- The water in Lake Baikal is incredibly clear, especially during winter. In some areas, you can see up to 40 meters (131 feet) down into the lake.
- Lake Baikal is a rift lake, formed due to tectonic plate movements. It's still expanding, at a rate of about 2 cm (0.8 inches) per year, meaning it could eventually become an ocean over millions of years.
- During the winter, the lake freezes over, and its ice can reach up to 1.5 meters thick. The ice is so transparent that people can see fish and plant life beneath it.
- For centuries, Lake Baikal has been considered sacred by indigenous people, especially the Buryat population.



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 13

#### OLKHON

- Explore the highlights and viewpoints of Olkhon by car.

Today, we venture out to explore Olkhon Island, the largest island in Lake Baikal, by private car, allowing for a personalised and immersive experience of this magical place. Stretching 72 kilometres in length, Olkhon offers some of the best vantage points to appreciate the vast, serene beauty of Lake Baikal, the world's deepest freshwater lake.

The island's diverse scenery ranges from golden sandy beaches and dense forests to dramatic, jagged cliffs, such as those at the iconic Choboi Cape, a stunning spot that offers panoramic views of the lake's pristine waters.

Olkhon holds deep spiritual significance for the indigenous Buryat people, who revere it as one of the five poles of Shamanic energy. Ancient rituals and legends infuse the air with an otherworldly quality, adding a sense of mystique and reverence.

Visitors often feel this spiritual aura, making Olkhon a place not only of natural beauty but of deep cultural and sacred resonance. Whether marvelling at sacred rock formations or walking along tranquil shores, the island offers a profound connection to the heritage and spiritual traditions of Lake Baikal.

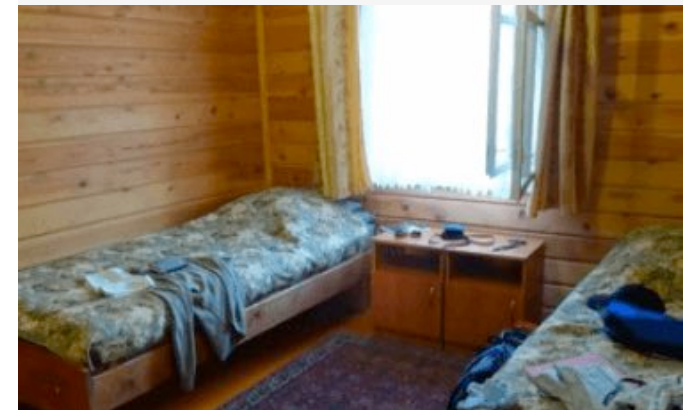
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Dinner.

### OVERNIGHT

#### LADA RESORT



Traditional Russian style wooden hotel full of character and one of the best of the options in Khuzhir making an ideal base to explore.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 14

#### IRKUTSK

- Return to Irkutsk by boat and road with free time on arrival.

After breakfast we make our way back to Irkutsk by boat and private mini-bus or car arriving in the afternoon.

The journey from Olkhon Island to Irkutsk offers a captivating transition from natural serenity to city life. You depart by ferry across Lake Baikal's expansive waters before traveling through rolling hills and forests, passing small villages and open steppe landscapes.

The route highlights Siberia's rural charm, with glimpses of traditional wooden houses and grazing livestock, culminating in the vibrant, historic city of Irkutsk, a gateway to Baikal's wonders.

**NOTE:** The arrival time back in Irkutsk can be anytime from mid-afternoon to the evening depending on demand for the boat from Olkhon Island to the mainland which does not operate a reservations system and is first come first served. This is why we include another night in Irkutsk to cover this.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast at the Resort.

### OVERNIGHT

#### IRKUTSK CITY CENTRE



Regarded as the best hotel in Irkutsk the former Marriott is an ideal treat. All you would expect from a good solid 4 star hotel.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 15

#### ON THE TRAIN

- Free time in Irkutsk before departing on your next train journey.

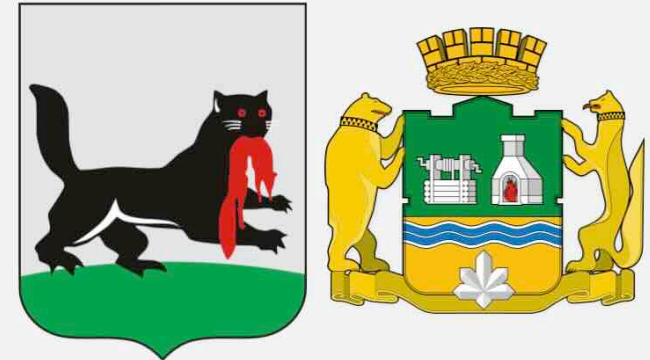
Free time in the this morning before a transfer to the station the afternoon to catch a train Westbound.

The train journey from Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg is an epic adventure across Siberia, offering breathtaking views of vast taiga forests, the Ural Mountains, and charming Russian villages. Traveling along the historic Trans-Siberian Railway, the multi-day ride allows for cultural immersion, encounters with local travellers, and a deep connection with Russia's expansive landscapes, blending history, scenery, and camaraderie.

Key stops between Irkutsk and Ekaterinburg include Krasnoyarsk, a vibrant Siberian city along the Yenisei River; Novosibirsk, Russia's third-largest city and a scientific hub; and Omsk, rich in Cossack history. The journey showcases Russia's vast and diverse landscapes, with each stop revealing distinct architecture, culture, and regional traditions.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT



#### TRAIN #009H

##### IRKUTSK - EKATERINBURG

Departs 15:50 Arrives 16:40 day 3

3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 3h 47m | Local times & subject to change

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRAINS](#)





**Introduction:** Dining on the Trans-Siberian Railway is a blend of onboard meals, platform food, and self-prepared options.

**Dining Car:** The dining car offers traditional Russian dishes like borscht, pelmeni, and kotleti, along with simpler fare like salads and sandwiches. Travellers can enjoy hearty, filling meals in a cozy setting while sipping tea, often served in the classic podstakannik (metal holders).

**Stations:** At station stops, passengers can buy food from local vendors. These vendors sell regional delicacies such as pirozhki (stuffed buns), smoked fish, and fresh fruit, providing a chance to taste the flavours of Russia's vast regions as you pass through.

**Supermarkets:** Many passengers prefer to bring their own provisions from supermarkets before boarding. Items like instant noodles, bread, cheese, and sausage are popular, with boiling water available on the train to make quick meals. This option is especially convenient for longer stretches between stops.

The combination of onboard dining, platform food, and self-prepared snacks ensures a varied and flexible eating experience, catering to both adventurous and budget-conscious travellers.

## TYPICAL RUSSIAN DINING CAR DISHES

- **Solyanka Солянка:** A hearty and sour soup with a mix of meat, pickles, and spices.
- **Shchi Щи:** A cabbage-based soup, often served with sour cream.
- **Pirozhki Пирожки:** Small baked or fried buns filled with meat, potatoes, cabbage, or sweet fillings like jam.
- **Borscht Борщ:** A traditional beet soup served hot, often with sour cream and sometimes accompanied by bread or a meat cutlet.
- **Pelmeni Пельмени:** Russian dumplings filled with meat, usually served with sour cream or butter.
- **Kasha Каша:** A type of porridge made from grains like buckwheat or oats, often served for breakfast.
- **Blini Блинны:** Thin Russian pancakes, often served with fillings like jam, sour cream, or caviar.
- **Kotleti Котлеты:** Meat patties made from minced beef or chicken, typically served with mashed potatoes or rice.
- **Russian Tea & Sweets Русский чай и сладости:** Hot tea served in podstakannik (a metal tea glass holder), typically accompanied by cookies, chocolates, or small cakes.





## DAY 16

### ON THE TRAIN

- **Good scenery today passing Krasnoyarsk & onto Novosibirsk.**

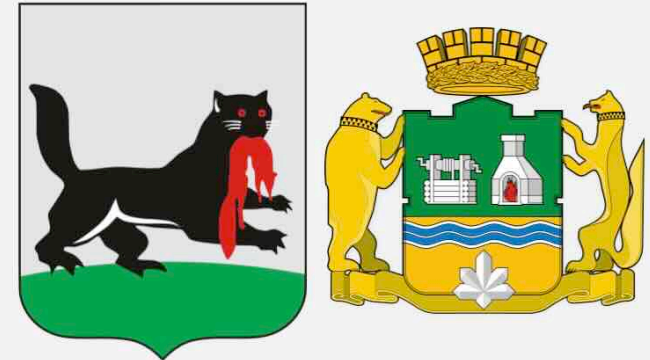
Today's journey offers beautiful scenery characterised by gently rolling hills and expansive forests dominated by larch, pine, and birch trees. The landscape, dotted with numerous rivers, streams, and ponds, showcases Russia's immense natural beauty and gives a sense of its vast, often untouched wilderness. As you travel through Siberia, the changing views offer an appreciation of the country's sweeping, unspoiled terrain.

You will pass the picturesque city of Krasnoyarsk, known for its striking location along the Yenisei River and its blend of traditional Siberian charm and modern vibrancy. Continuing onward, you reach Novosibirsk, Siberia's largest city and a major cultural, scientific, and industrial hub.

Arriving in the evening, Novosibirsk greets visitors with grand Soviet-era architecture, bustling streets, and a lively cityscape—a stark contrast to the serene countryside vistas experienced throughout the day. This segment of your journey reveals Siberia's incredible diversity and timeless allure.

 **Meals Included:** None today - however the train should have a dining car.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #009H

#### IRKUTSK - EKATERINBURG

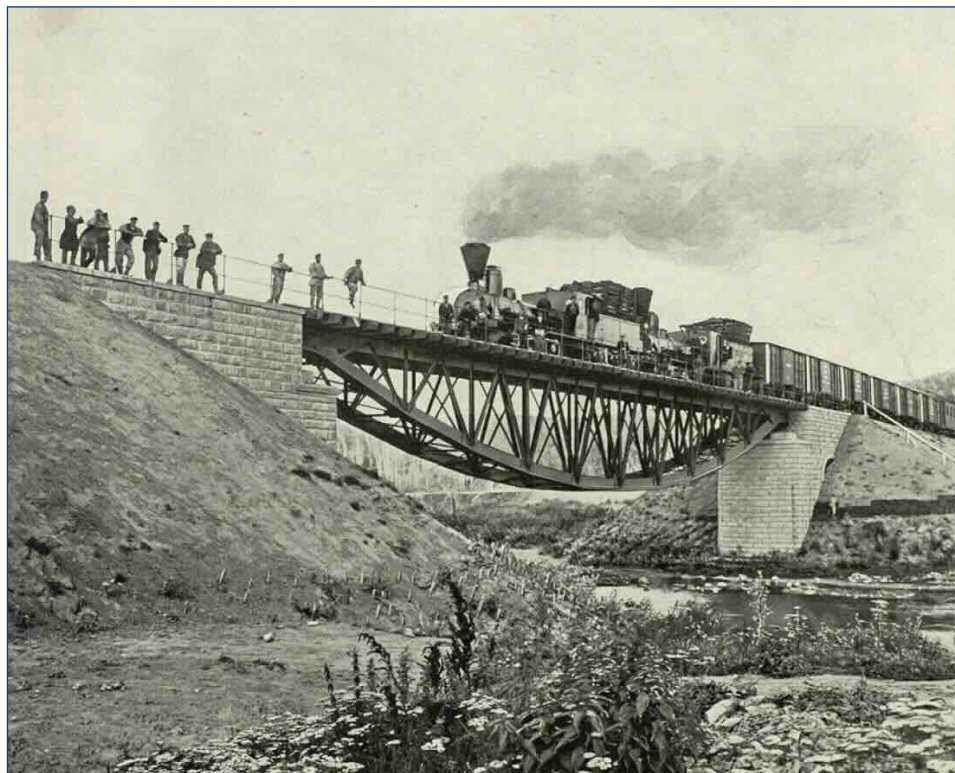
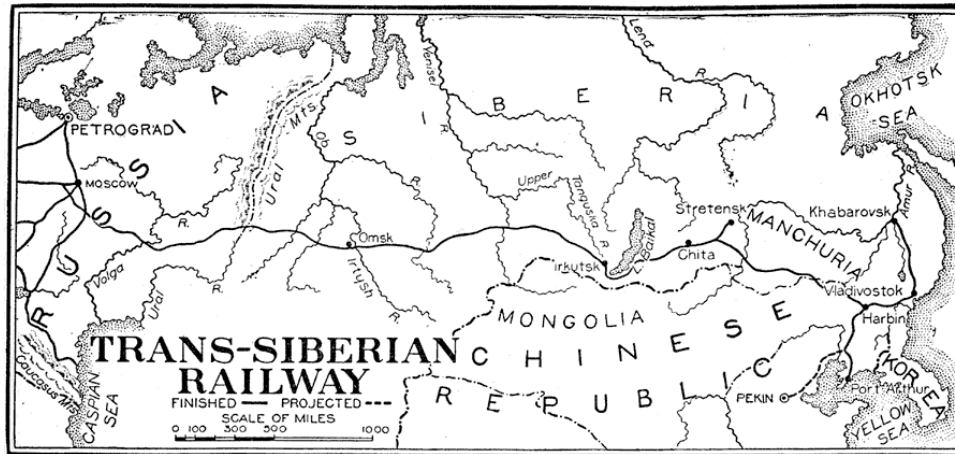
Departs 15:50 Arrives 16:40 day 3

3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 3h 47m | Local times & subject to change

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRAINS](#)



# THE BUILDING OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN



## CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railway line in the world, stretching over 9,289 kilometres (5,772 miles) from Moscow to Vladivostok. It crosses eight time zones.
- Construction of the railway began in 1891 under the rule of Tsar Alexander III. His son, Nicholas II, who would later become Russia's last tsar, was tasked with overseeing the project.
- The railway was constructed in phases, with work starting in both the west (near Moscow) and the east (near Vladivostok). Different sections were completed at various times, and the entire line was finished in 1916.
- The construction faced numerous geographical challenges, including crossing mountains, forests, rivers, and swamps. For example, engineers had to build bridges across major rivers like the Ob and Amur, and deal with the extreme cold of Siberian winters.
- Before the railway line around Lake Baikal was completed, trains had to be loaded onto ferries to cross the lake. A special icebreaker ferry, the Baikal, was built to operate in winter when the lake froze.
- The Amur Bridge near Khabarovsk, completed in 1916, was the final piece of the Trans-Siberian puzzle, linking the entire route without interruption. It spans 2.6 kilometres (1.6 miles) and was one of the most challenging engineering feats of the project.
- The construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway was extremely expensive and was partly funded by international loans, especially from France. The railway was seen as a crucial strategic asset to expand Russian influence in the Far East.
- The Trans-Siberian Railway has been continually modernised. The electrification of the railway started in 1929 and was completed in 2002, allowing for faster and more efficient trains to operate on the line.



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 17

## EKATERINBURG

- Your last day in Siberia before arrival in Ekaterinburg.

Today's scenery offers a captivating journey through Russia's diverse landscapes. For much of the day, the view remains flat, often giving way to vast, swampy expanses and stretches of dense forest. The sparsely populated region creates a serene atmosphere, interrupted occasionally by small settlements. Omsk stands out as the primary major city along this route, offering glimpses of its rich cultural heritage, striking architecture, and history as a key Cossack stronghold.

As the day progresses, the flat terrain transforms into the rolling hills of the Ural Mountains, a significant geographical marker and gateway between Europe and Asia. The Ural region, rich in minerals, has historically been a hub of economic and cultural activity.

Arriving in Ekaterinburg, the historic capital of this region, you are greeted by a city steeped in history—from the Romanov legacy to its vibrant present. Surrounded by rolling countryside and traditional Siberian villages, Ekaterinburg offers a blend of cultural significance and natural beauty. Transfer by private car to your hotel for an overnight stay, ready to explore more of this intriguing area.

 **Meals Included:** None today - however the train should have a dining car.

### OVERNIGHT

#### ONEGIN HOTEL



Good standard 4 star hotel well located and decorated in the Imperial Russian style inside. comfortable rooms and good restaurant and bar.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked







# EKATERINBURG HIGHLIGHTS

# ROMANOV HISTORY & THE URALS



## Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-9	-7	1	9	17	22	24	20	14	7	-3	-8
Min temp °C	-18	-17	-10	-2	4	10	12	10	4	-1	-10	-16
Rainfall mm	15	14	12	17	30	46	79	53	30	28	22	20

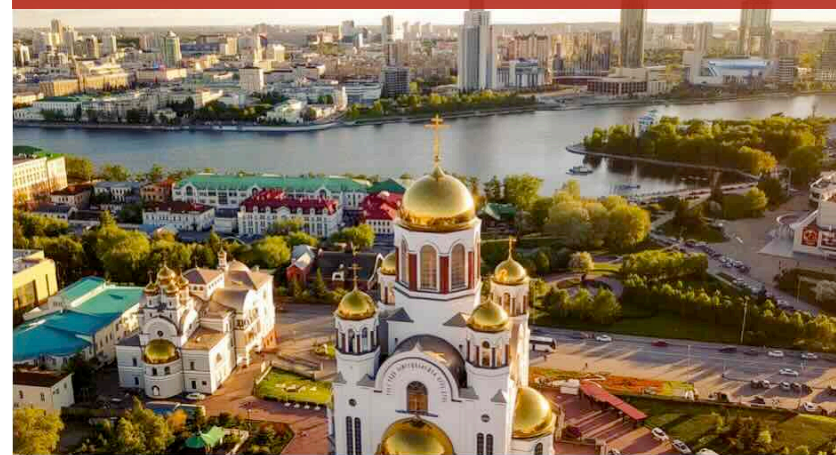
## ROMANOV GRAVE SITE



## EUROPE ASIA BORDER



## EKATERINBURG CITY





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 18

## EKATERINBURG

- City tour, Romanov's secret graves & the Europe Asia border.

This morning your guide will take you on a 3 hour walking tour of the city's highlights. Stop at the central square and see statues of Ekaterinburg's founders and leaders and learn local stories, legends (and a few jokes!) related to them. Continue to the 1905 Revolution square before the most compelling story will be told at the beautiful Church of Spilled Blood located at the Romanovs' Death Site and Chapel of St Elizabeth. See views from the Hill of Ascension and visit the powerful Afghanistan memorial at the Square of the Red Army.

After lunch (own arrangement) drive 15 km north-west to a monastery dedicated to the Romanov's family located on the spot where the Bolsheviks tried to hide the corpses of the Tsar and his family in a secret grave.

Continue on to the continental border of Europe and Asia 20 km west of the city. On the way we make a short stop at the Memorial of Victims of the GULAGs. The Main Obelisk "Between Europe & Asia" allows you to straddle the continental divide and you also get a Certificate with a glass of sparkling wine!

Return to the city with free time for the rest of the day.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT

#### ONEGIN HOTEL



Good standard 4 star hotel well located and decorated in the Imperial Russian style inside. comfortable rooms and good restaurant and bar.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





The Romanov dynasty ruled Russia for over 300 years, from 1613 to 1917, beginning with Mikhail Romanov and ending with Nicholas II. The family came to power during a time of unrest known as the Time of Troubles, and Mikhail Romanov was elected Tsar in 1613, restoring stability to the country.

Over the centuries, the Romanovs expanded Russia into a vast empire. Under rulers like Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, the empire modernised, engaged with Europe, and grew in power. Peter introduced Western reforms and established St. Petersburg, while Catherine expanded Russia's territory and promoted culture.

The last Romanov tsar, Nicholas II, ascended the throne in 1894. His reign saw significant challenges, including the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), Bloody Sunday (1905), and the Russian Revolution of 1905. Despite efforts at reform, discontent grew. The Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 led to Nicholas abdicating the throne.

In 1918, the Bolsheviks executed Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children, ending the Romanov dynasty. The family's downfall was due to political unrest, social inequality, and failure to adapt to the changing political climate, marking the end of imperial Russia.

## THE ROMANOVS IN EKATERINBURG - A TIMELINE

- April 30, 1918: The Romanov family—Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra, and their five children—arrived in Ekaterinburg after being transferred from Tobolsk by the Bolsheviks.
- They were imprisoned in the Ipatiev House, also known as the “House of Special Purpose.” The house was heavily guarded, and the family's movements were restricted.
- The Romanovs were confined to two rooms. Their personal freedoms and comforts gradually diminished; they were forbidden from interacting with guards and could only go outside for limited walks.
- Heightened Security: In June 1918, the Bolsheviks increased the security around Ipatiev House. Windows were boarded up, and outside communications were cut off, signalling the impending end.
- Bolshevik leaders feared a possible rescue attempt by the advancing White Army, which prompted them to consider the execution of the Romanov family to prevent their liberation.
- July 16, 1918: The Bolsheviks received orders from Moscow to execute the Romanov family, concerned over White Army movements in the region.
- The bodies were initially buried in a shallow grave in the Koptiyaki Forest, near Ekaterinburg. The burial site remained a secret for decades.
- In 1991, the Romanov family's remains were discovered, identified through DNA testing, and reburied in St. Petersburg in 1998.





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 19

#### EKATERINBURG

- Full day tour into the rolling Ural countryside to visit a village.

Today we drive out of the city to one of the photogenic country villages that are scattered across the rolling scenery of the Ural mountains. Here we see a traditional Siberian “izba” house - a style suited to the often extreme environment - that can be seen right across Siberia.

We also visit the local museum to learn about everyday life in this part of Russia and listen to a concert of local folk music. There will be time to explore the village with your guide and you will also enjoy a traditional Siberian homestyle lunch often using locally produced and seasonal ingredients.

Return to Ekaterinburg late afternoon with a free evening.

**NOTE:** Depending on the day of your visit this trip will be to either Koptelovo, Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha or Mironovo village all approximately 150 km from Ekaterinburg.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT

#### ONEGIN HOTEL



Good standard 4 star hotel well located and decorated in the Imperial Russian style inside. comfortable rooms and good restaurant and bar.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 20

### ON THE TRAIN

- **Departure Westbound to Russia's capital of Moscow.**

Begin your journey with a transfer to the station. As your train departs, you soon cross the symbolic Europe-Asia continental border, an exciting milestone highlighting the diversity of Russia's vast lands.

This stretch of your journey reveals a more densely populated region compared to the remote expanses of Siberia. Rolling past fields of farmland, you'll catch sight of small towns and charming villages that are integral to rural Russian life.

The landscape here is interspersed with dense birch forests, their white trunks and vibrant green leaves forming picturesque natural backdrops. The train ride provides a window into the everyday lives of locals, as you witness bustling town markets, quiet rural paths, and traditional Russian wooden homes.

The blend of scenic countryside and modern settlements offers a glimpse into the heart of European Russia West of the Urals and where most people live.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #059E (Tyumen)

#### EKATERINBURG - MOSCOW

Departs 10:22 Arrives 09:40 day 2

1,668 km / 1,036 ml | 1d 1h 18m | Local times & subject to change

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRAINS](#)



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 21

### MOSCOW

- **Arrival in Russia's Capital & tour the Kremlin & Armoury, Metro & Red Square.**

Morning arrival at Moscow's large Yaroslavsky station where a driver will be meeting you to transfer you to the hotel to meet your guide. It is unlikely you can check in this early but your luggage will be stored.

Moscow, founded in 1147, grew from a small medieval town to the political and cultural heart of Russia. It became the capital in 1547 under Ivan the Terrible, survived invasions like Napoleon's in 1812, and transformed into a global power hub during Soviet rule, retaining its status today as Russia's capital.

Start a tour of Moscow which begins with a visit to Red Square, where you'll see iconic sites like St. Basil's Cathedral and the Lenin Mausoleum. Next, head to the Kremlin for a guided tour of its historic cathedrals, palaces, and the Armoury Museum, showcasing royal treasures, Fabergé eggs, and ceremonial weaponry.

In the afternoon, dive into the architectural beauty of the Moscow Metro, known for its opulent, museum-like stations such as Komsomolskaya and Mayakovskaya. Conclude the day by strolling through Alexander Garden for a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, offering a fitting end to a day filled with Moscow's historic and cultural grandeur.

Return to your hotel to check-in and relax with the evening free.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### NATIONAL HOTEL



An historic luxury landmark, opulent rooms, stunning Kremlin views, exquisite dining, blending classic Russian elegance with modern amenities.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked







## Averages

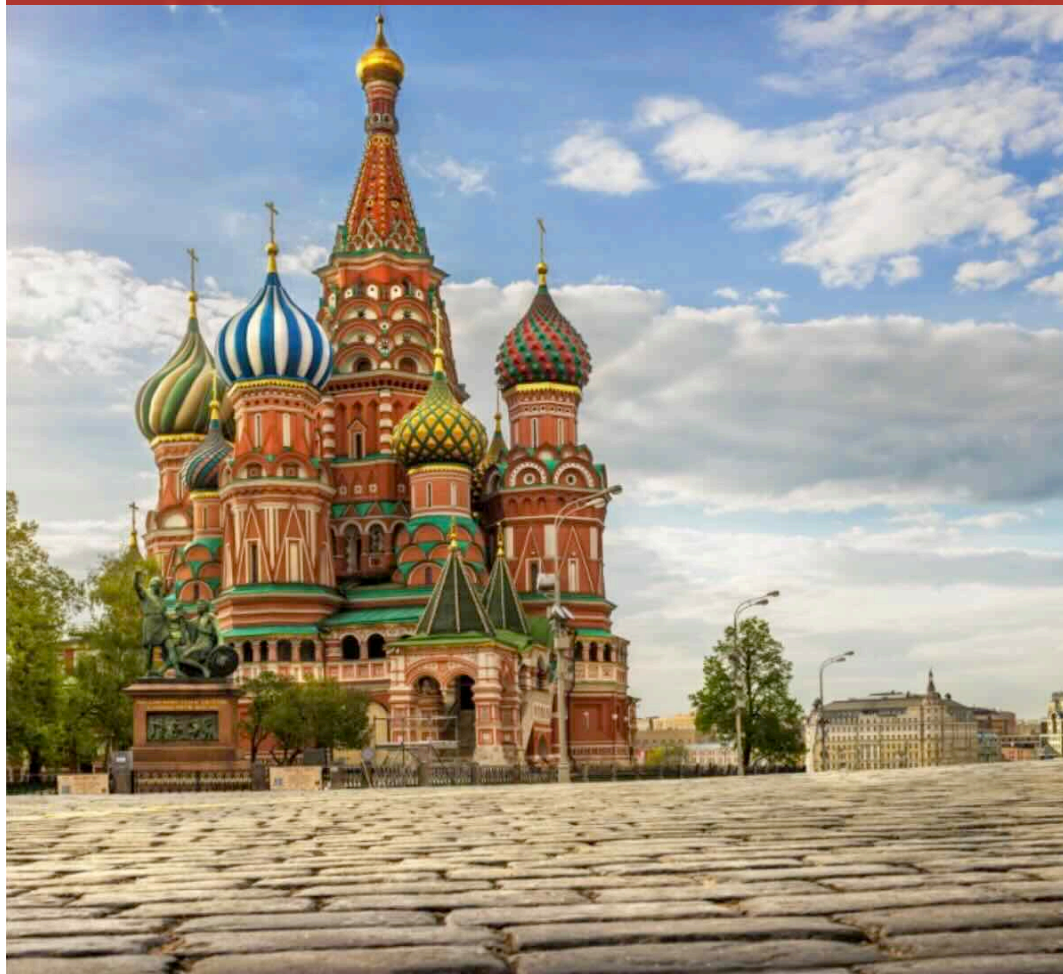
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

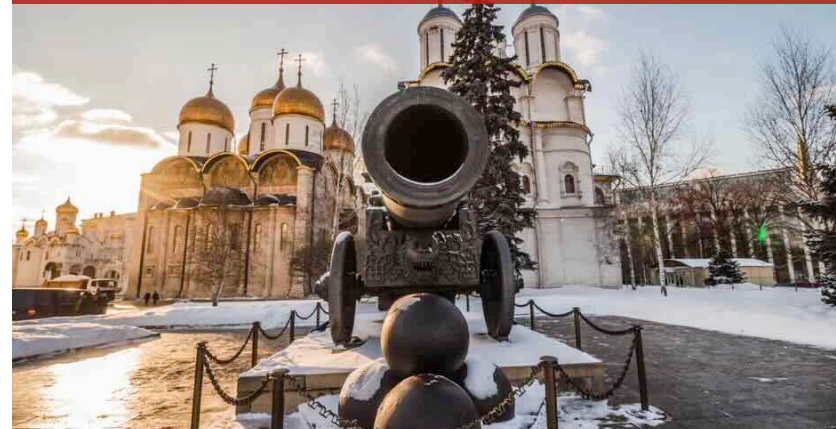
Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-4	-4	3	11	17	22	24	22	15	8	0	-3
Min temp °C	-9	-11	-6	1	6	11	13	11	6	2	-5	-8
Rainfall mm	45	45	32	31	58	73	79	75	62	77	45	40

ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL



KREMLIN



BOLSHOI THEATRE



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 22

### MOSCOW

- Free day to explore Moscow independently & enjoy its many sights.

Spend a free day exploring Moscow, a city rich in culture, history, and breathtaking architecture, with attractions to suit all interests and weather conditions. Art lovers can lose themselves in the vast collections at the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, home to a broad array of European masterpieces, or admire the extensive display of Russian art at the Tretyakov Gallery. For those who relish outdoor experiences, Gorky Park provides an energetic atmosphere ideal for walking, cycling, or simply relaxing amidst nature, with its manicured gardens, riverside views, and vibrant street performers.

Take time to explore the intriguing Park of the Fallen Idols, where Soviet-era monuments and statues are displayed in a unique outdoor museum, offering a fascinating glimpse into the nation's past. The historic Novodevichy Convent, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, invites peaceful reflection amid its picturesque grounds, historic buildings, and iconic cemetery.

If the weather turns inclement, seek refuge in the trendy Red October district, which offers a mix of chic bars, contemporary art galleries, and inviting cafes. Moscow's eclectic blend of tradition and modernity ensures an unforgettable day of exploration and discovery.

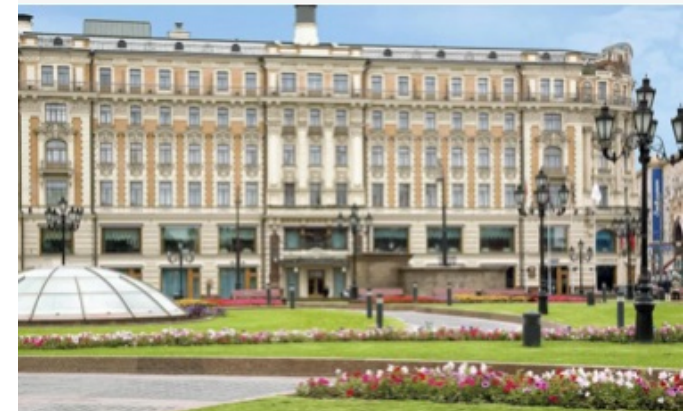
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### NATIONAL HOTEL



An historic luxury landmark, opulent rooms, stunning Kremlin views, exquisite dining, blending classic Russian elegance with modern amenities.



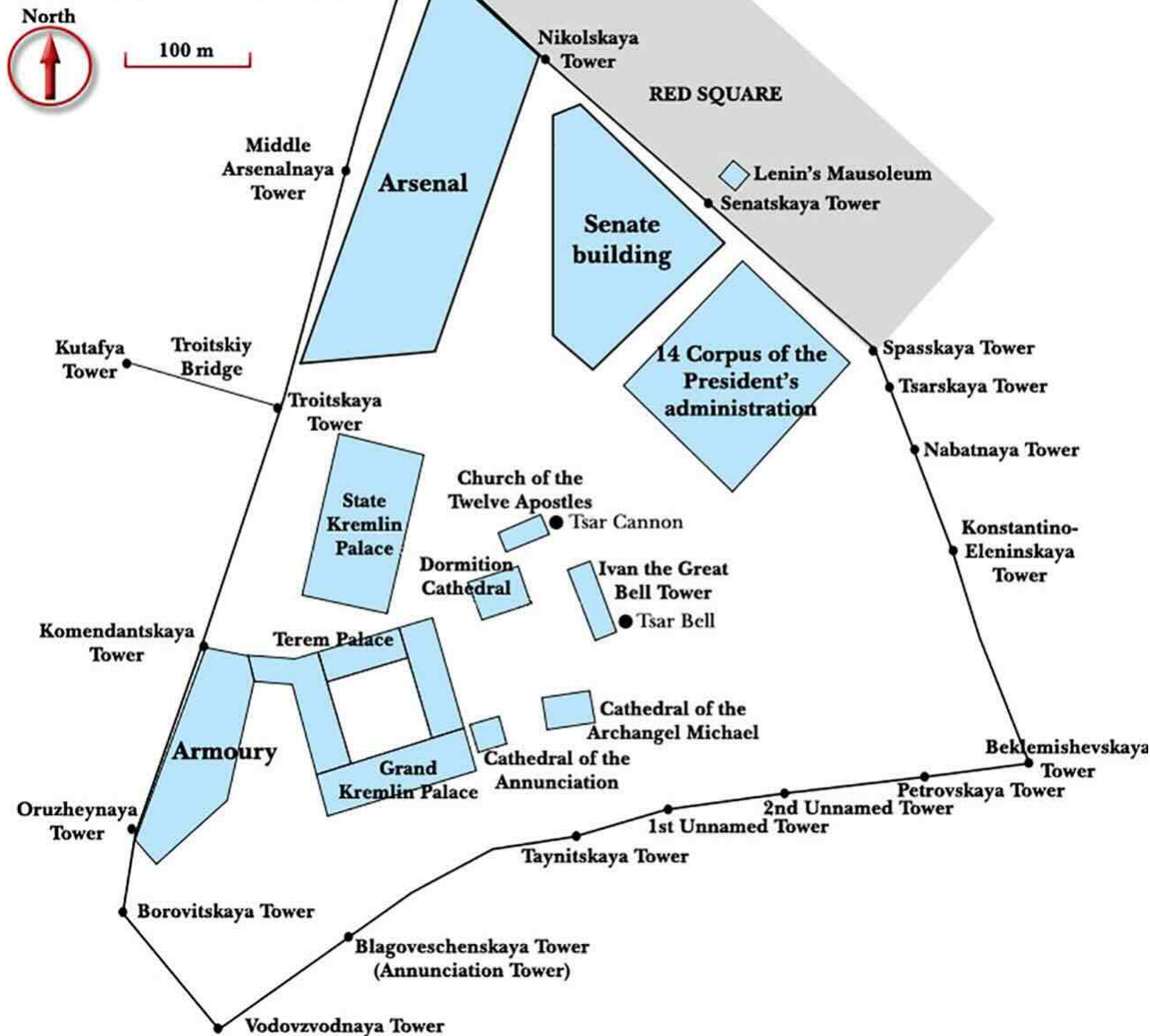
Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





# MOSCOW'S KREMLIN

## The Moscow KREMLIN



## MOSCOW'S KREMLIN - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Kremlin is the oldest part of Moscow, with origins dating back to 1156, when it was a wooden fortress built by Prince Yuri Dolgorukiy. It has been rebuilt and expanded multiple times throughout its history.
- Covering an area of 27.5 hectares (68 acres), the Moscow Kremlin is the largest medieval fortress still in use today. Its walls stretch for 2.25 kilometres (1.4 miles), and it includes several palaces, cathedrals, and government buildings.
- The Kremlin walls are over 6 meters (20 feet) thick in places and contain 20 towers, each with its unique history. The Spasskaya Tower, added in 1491, is the most famous, featuring a clock and often seen as the main entrance to the Kremlin.
- Although not inside the Kremlin walls, Lenin's Mausoleum on Red Square is closely associated with the Kremlin. It houses the embalmed body of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution.
- There are numerous secret tunnels and rooms beneath the Kremlin. Some of these were built for military defence, while others were intended as escape routes for the tsars and Soviet leaders.
- The Kremlin has served as the political and spiritual heart of Russia for centuries. It was the residence of the tsars, the seat of Soviet power, and today, it houses the official residence of the President of Russia.





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 23

## ST PETERSBURG

- High-speed "Sapsan" train to beautiful St Petersburg.

Free time before your transfer to the "Sapsan" high-speed train for a comfortable and journey to St. Petersburg, taking just four hours. As you glide through Russia's picturesque countryside, you'll have a chance to relax and anticipate your next destination.

Arriving in the afternoon, you are welcomed into St. Petersburg, Russia's cultural jewel and one of the world's most stunning cities, renowned for its breathtaking architecture, grand palaces, and intricate canals. Often dubbed the "Venice of the North," it seamlessly combines imperial grandeur with vibrant contemporary life.

Upon arrival at the station, you'll be met by a private car and an English-speaking driver for your transfer to the hotel, ensuring a smooth and pleasant experience. With the rest of the day at your leisure, you have ample opportunity to begin exploring St. Petersburg's enchanting streets, dine at a riverside café, or simply unwind and absorb the city's rich atmosphere.

**NOTE:** Your train ticket to St Petersburg will be at the reception of the hotel in Moscow. On arrival in St Petersburg your driver will be waiting for you at the front of the train.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT

## ROSSI HOTEL



A 4\* option full of character with great rooms that blend the historic nature of the building with modern touches as well as a superb location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 24

## ST PETERSBURG

- **Tour of the city highlights including time spent in the Hermitage Museum.**

Today you have a tour of St. Petersburg's highlights which begins with a visit to the iconic Hermitage Museum, one of the world's largest and most prestigious art museums. Spend the morning exploring the Winter Palace and its vast collections, including masterpieces by Rembrandt, Da Vinci, and Michelangelo.

Next, take a leisurely walk along the Palace Square, admiring its neoclassical architecture, the Alexander Column, and the grandeur of the surrounding buildings. From there, stroll to the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, a stunning example of Russian Orthodox architecture with its colourful onion domes and intricate mosaics.

This afternoon, visit the St. Isaac's Cathedral, famous for its massive gold dome and impressive views of the city from its colonnade. The tour continues with a peaceful boat ride along the Neva River and the city's picturesque canals, offering scenic views of St. Petersburg's elegant bridges and palaces.

End the day with a visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the birthplace of the city and home to the tombs of Russian tsars, including Peter the Great, before heading back to the heart of St. Petersburg. This tour provides a comprehensive glimpse into the cultural and historical treasures of the city.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT

#### ROSSI HOTEL



A 4\* option full of character with great rooms that blend the historic nature of the building with modern touches as well as a superb location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked







# ST PETERSBURG HIGHLIGHTS

## RUSSIA'S CULTURAL GEM



### Averages

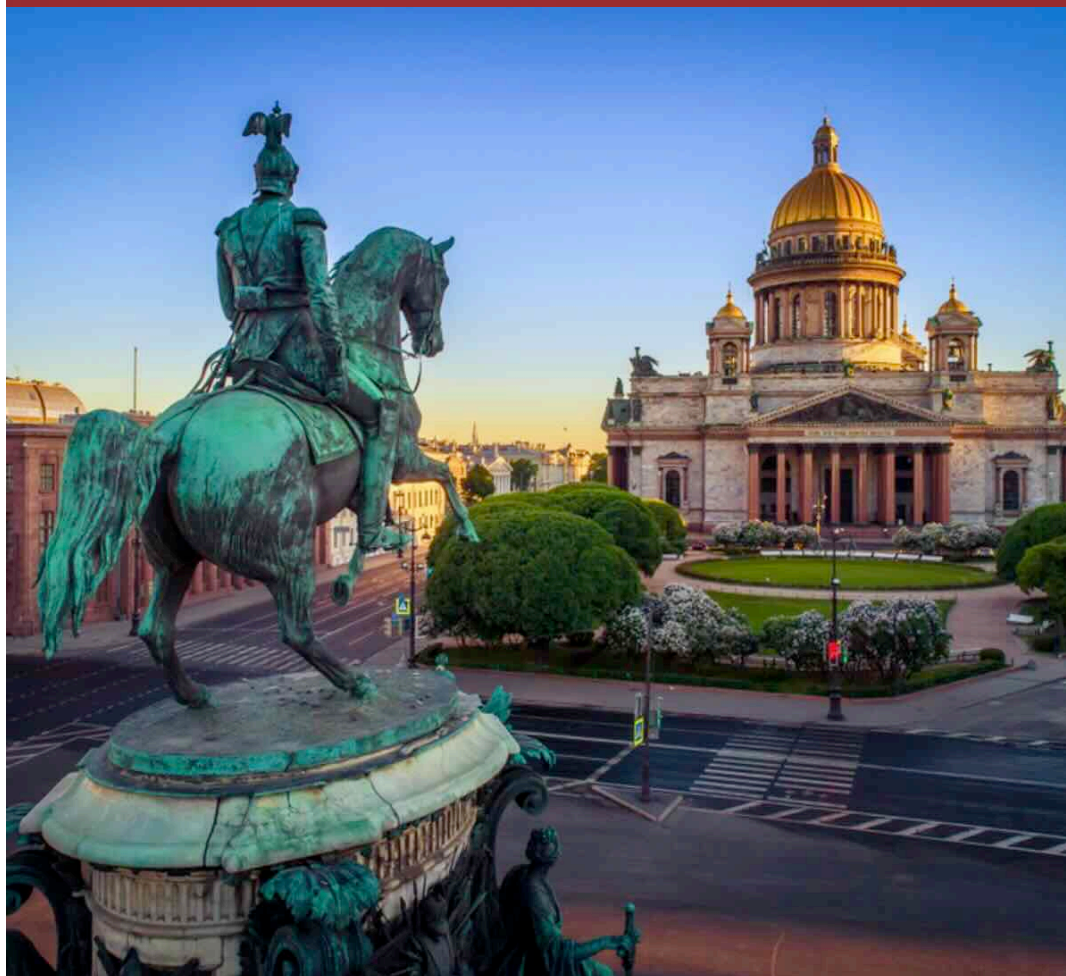
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

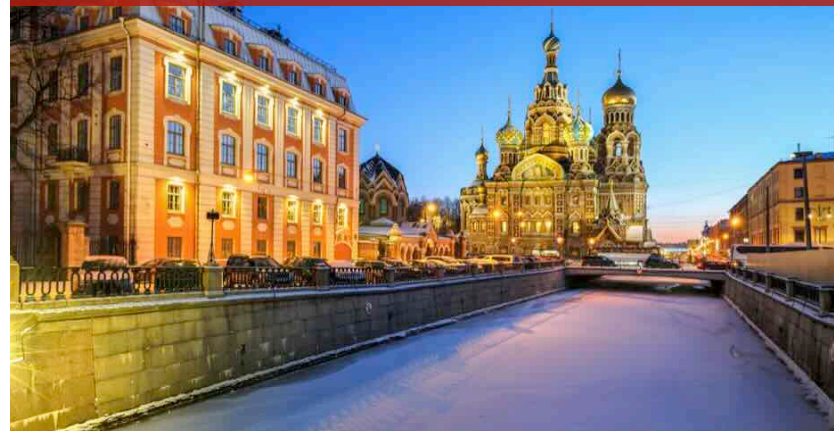
Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-2	-2	3	10	16	20	23	21	15	9	2	-1
Min temp °C	-8	-10	-6	0	5	10	13	11	7	2	-3	-7
Rainfall mm	50	45	51	35	52	92	92	100	54	149	72	63

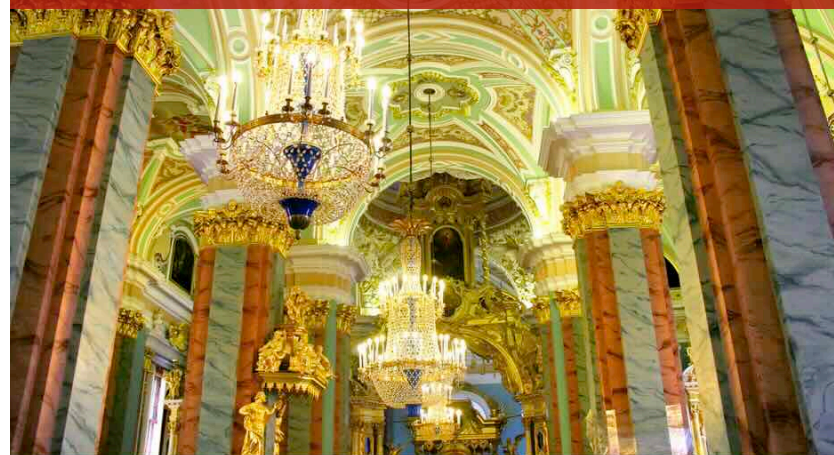
ST ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL



CHURCH OF SPILLED BLOOD



PETER & PAUL CATHEDRAL





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 25

## ST PETERSBURG

- Private tour by car out of the city to Pushkin & Pavlosk palaces.

Today you have a private tour by car to Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo) and Pavlovsk Palaces offering an intimate and luxurious journey into Russia's imperial past. Begin your day with a comfortable drive from St. Petersburg to the Catherine Palace in Pushkin, known for its breathtaking Baroque architecture and the stunning Amber Room, a masterpiece of amber panels, gold leaf, and mirrors. Enjoy a guided tour of the palace's opulent interiors, including the lavish Grand Hall, followed by a peaceful walk through the surrounding Catherine Park with its elegant pavilions and ornamental lakes.

Afterward, a short drive takes you to Pavlovsk Palace, the former residence of Emperor Paul I. This neoclassical masterpiece offers a more intimate yet equally fascinating experience. Explore the palace's art-filled rooms, including the beautiful State Rooms and the emperor's private chambers.

Following your palace tour, take a leisurely stroll through the Pavlovsk Park, one of Europe's largest landscaped parks, with charming rivers, bridges, and pavilions. Your private guide will share the rich history of both estates, providing exclusive insights into the lives of Russian royalty. Afterward return you to your hotel in St. Petersburg, completing a day of imperial elegance and personal discovery.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### OVERNIGHT

#### ROSSI HOTEL



A 4\* option full of character with great rooms that blend the historic nature of the building with modern touches as well as a superb location.

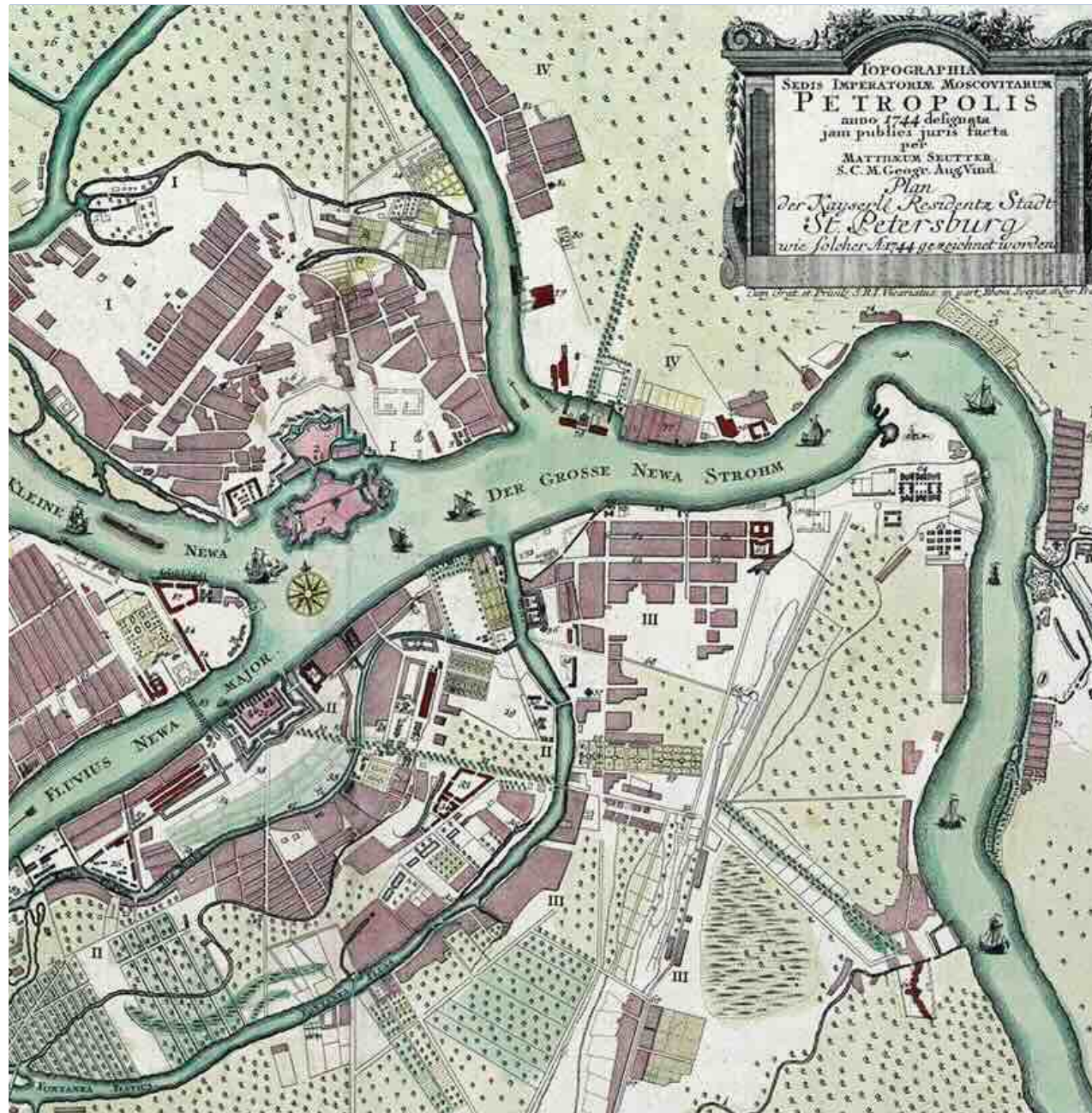


Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





# THE BUILDING OF ST PETERSBURG



## ST PETERSBURG - DID YOU KNOW ?

- St. Petersburg was founded by Tsar Peter the Great in 1703 as part of his vision to modernise Russia and open a “window to the West.” He chose the site along the Neva River for its strategic access to the Baltic Sea.
- The city was constructed on swampy land in the delta of the Neva River. This meant extensive groundwork was needed, and workers had to drain swamps and lay massive wooden foundations for stability, making construction extremely difficult and dangerous.
- The site of St. Petersburg was originally part of Sweden until Peter the Great seized it during the Great Northern War (1700–1721). The city was built partly as a military base to secure Russia’s presence on the Baltic Sea.
- Peter the Great sought to model the city after Western European capitals like Amsterdam and Venice, emphasising canals, grand boulevards, and baroque architecture. He hired architects from Italy, France, and other parts of Europe to design the city.
- To ensure enough stone was available for St. Petersburg’s construction, Peter the Great banned the use of stone for new building projects in other parts of Russia. Only St. Petersburg could use stone during its early years.





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 26

### ST PETERSBURG

- A free day to further explore the city which has so much to offer.

A free day to explore St Petersburg. This city has so much to offer so it is a good idea to plan a little in advance if there are specific places you want to visit. However, this is also a fantastic city to aimlessly wander, exploring side streets, canals and the beautiful parks that feature across the city.

For a unique and less crowded experience in St. Petersburg, consider exploring some off-the-beaten-path sights. Head to Yelagin Island and Palace for a tranquil escape with picturesque gardens and a beautifully restored neoclassical palace. Visit Kronstadt, a historical naval fortress town on Kotlin Island, known for its fascinating military history and stunning Naval Cathedral.

For something quirky, check out the Museum of Soviet Arcade Machines, offering nostalgic fun with vintage Soviet-era games. Art enthusiasts can explore the revitalized industrial space at Sevkabel Port, featuring galleries, creative spaces, and views of the Gulf of Finland.

Pay respects to renowned Russian artists, writers, and composers at Alexander Nevsky Lavra Cemetery, or wander the eastern edge of Vasilyevsky Island with its warehouses-turned-galleries and boutique museums.

Don't miss the striking, Gothic Revival-style Chesme Church or the Loft Project Etagi, a creative hub with exhibitions, rooftop views, and unique shops. These spots reveal a captivating, authentic side of St. Petersburg's multifaceted charm.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### ROSSI HOTEL



A 4\* option full of character with great rooms that blend the historic nature of the building with modern touches as well as a superb location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 27

## 🇷🇺 END

- Depart Russia after your epic Trans-Mongolian adventure!

Today is a free until a transfer to your onward travel from Russia. We sincerely hope that you will have enjoyed your epic journey as much as we have many times already and we look forward to welcoming you back on another one of our trips!

🍴 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

### VIEW MORE FEEDBACK



Ute Wilson

"I want to thank you for my terrific, well organized, seamlessly smooth running Trans Siberian journey! Your organization was without doubt exceptional. I am working on my trip-diary, which already now brings back very special memories. Thank you so much, Ute."



- **Guide Price\* per person based on 2 people travelling: UK £ 8,430 / US\$ 10,815**

Prices vary by date, availability and the number of people in your party. The price is based on travelling in your own two berth first class or sole occupancy of a four berth second class cabin on overnight trains which do not have two berth cabins (see inclusions for more details). A full list of what is included in this price can be seen on the following pages. Note that this does not include any international flights or visas.

---

- **Booking and payment terms:**

Once we receive completed booking forms we will book and confirm services for you and send an invoice for the deposit payment of 20% per person (plus any international flights we are booking) with full payment due 60 days before departure. All payments to us are protected under our ATOL or ABTA licenses and we accept payment by Credit Card, Debit Card or bank transfer.

---

- **Our pricing policy:**

We believe that the the pricing for this tour offers excellent value for the services and standards we operate and we frequently check our pricing against that of other operators. If you feel you have a similar quote that is of a lower price we are happy to reconsider our pricing for you if you can forward the other quote so we can fairly compare. We would add that in our experience we usually find some differences that, although they may appear subtle, make both a significant difference to the price and, more importantly, the quality of the trip experience.



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

Here you will find the inclusions and exclusions for this itinerary. We guarantee you will receive the services below although on very rare occasions one service may need to be replaced with another similar one as there are a lot of complex logistical elements to a trip like this.

- INTERNATIONAL PLANE TICKETS: Tickets for flights the start and finish of the above trip

**Flight tickets to the start and finish of this trip are NOT included in this itinerary. We CAN arrange these for you.**

→ Beijing to Ulaanbaatar economy class

- TRAIN TICKETS: Click here to learn more about the trains

**The trains used below are subject to change and dependent on availability at the time the ticket is issued which is usually 90 days before the travel date. \*First class 2 berth cabins can be very difficult to obtain and are not always added to many trains. When first class is not available we buyout a second class 4 berth cabin to give sole occupancy (based on 2 people travelling).**

- ✓ Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 306 - Your own cabin
- ✓ Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 009H - Your own cabin
- ✓ Ekaterinburg to Moscow - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 56 - Your own cabin
- ✓ Moscow to St Petersburg - Business class seat on the "Sapsan" bullet train (4 hours)

- ACCOMMODATION: Let us know if you have your own hotel preferences or wish to upgrade

- ✓ 3 nights Beijing - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★ (courtyard view room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Ulaanbaatar - Best Western Premiere ★★★★★ (deluxe room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Bayan Gobi - Bayan Gobi Ger Camp (your own ger)
- ✓ 1 night Ugii Lake - Ugiin Khishig Ger Camp (your own ger)
- ✓ 1 night Hustai Park - Mongol Nomadic Camp (your own ger)





## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

- ✓ 1 night Terelj - Terelj Lodge Ger Camp (your own ger)
- ✓ 1 night Ulaanbaatar - Best Western Premiere ★★★★★ (deluxe room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night on the train Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 1 night Irkutsk - Irkutsk City Centre Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Olkhon Island - Lada Resort ★★ (twin rooms shared Siberian style toilet & sauna)
- ✓ 1 night Irkutsk - Irkutsk City Centre Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights on train Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 3 nights Ekaterinburg - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night on train Ekaterinburg to Moscow (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 2 nights Moscow - National Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 4 nights St Petersburg - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★ (deluxe room with breakfast)

■ TRANSFERS: Private with driver and an English speaking guide (except where stated)

- ✓ Beijing - Airport to Hotel
- ✓ Beijing - Hotel to Airport
- ✓ Mongolia - Airport to Hotel in Ulaanbaatar
- ✓ Mongolia - Ulaanbaatar to Ger Camp
- ✓ Mongolia & Karakorum - All transfers associated with the tour and included in the itinerary
- ✓ Mongolia - Hotel in Ulaanbaatar to Train Station
- ✓ Irkutsk - Train Station to Hotel in Irkutsk
- ✓ Irkutsk - Hotel to Accommodation on Olkhon Island
- ✓ Olkhon Island - Accommodation on Olkhon Island to Hotel in Irkutsk
- ✓ Irkutsk - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Moscow - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Moscow - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ St Petersburg - Train Station to Hotel



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

✓ St Petersburg - Hotel to Airport

### ■ TOURS: All our tours include entrance fees and use professional, licensed guides

- ✓ Beijing - Full day private tour to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace as described.
- ✓ Beijing - Full day private tour to the Great Wall at Mutianyu including cable car up and down and a visit to one of Beijing's markets as described.
- ✓ Mongolia - 6 night private stopover Bayan Gobi, Ugii Lake, Karakorum, Terelj & Ulaanbaatar private tour with guide as described.
- ✓ Irkutsk - 3 night private tour including city tour, fully guided 2 night trip to Olkhon Island and 1 night in Irkutsk as described.
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - 3 night private stopover including Countryside Village Trip, City Tour, Romanovs Graves & Europe Asia Border as described.
- ✓ Moscow - Full day private tour of the Kremlin including the Armoury, Red Square & Moscow Metro as described.
- ✓ St Petersburg - Full day private tour of Central St Petersburg including the Hermitage as described.
- ✓ St Petersburg - Full day private tour to Pushkin & Pavlovsk Palaces as described.

### ■ OTHER INCLUSIONS: Also included in this trip

- ✓ Meals - As indicated in the itinerary.
- ✓ Visa Paperwork - Confirmation documentation you need in order to get the visas.
- ✓ Support - Emergency numbers and contacts for each destination.
- ✓ Guidebook - Our exclusive Trip Guidebook personalised to your trip.
- ✓ Financial Peace of Mind - All monies paid to us are legally protected under UK law.



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

---

### ■ NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

- ✗ International Airfare to / from the start / finish of your trip - we can book these flights on request.
- ✗ The [Chinese](#), [Mongolian](#) & [Russian](#) visas - we can advise and partner with [VisaCentral](#).
- ✗ Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment.
- ✗ Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides.

### ■ END

---





## WHY BOOK WITH US ?

### INDEPENDENT

As a family run company your business is important to us so we go to greater lengths to ensure you have the best possible experience.

### PROTECTED

You are fully financially protected through our ABTA membership and ATOL bonding so you can book with us in confidence.

### FLEXIBLE

We understand no two trips are the same and design a bespoke itinerary to meet your specific needs and requirements.

### SUPPORT

All our trips come with 24 hour emergency assistance so you are looked after from start to finish & many clients rebook with us.

### RESPONSIBLE

We strive to have a positive impact on the cultures and communities we send our customers to & prepare you for this.



## WHY TAKE THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ?

### CULTURE

Traverse vast landscapes, from the Ural Mountains to Siberian forests and Lake Baikal, witnessing the incredible diversity of Russia's natural beauty from the comfort of the train.

### SCENERY

Experience the diverse cultures of Russia, Mongolia, and China by interacting with locals and fellow travellers, offering a unique cultural exchange across three countries on a single journey.

### HISTORY

Follow a legendary route over 100 years old, tracing the Trans-Siberian Railway's historic path, which played a crucial role in connecting distant parts of Russia with Europe and Asia.

### DESTINATIONS

Visit remarkable stops along the way, like Moscow, the heart of Russia; Irkutsk, near Lake Baikal; and Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, each offering a glimpse of unique regional cultures.

### SLOW TRAVEL

The train offers a slow-paced, immersive travel experience with comfortable sleeper cabins, dining cars, and scenic views, providing the perfect opportunity to relax and unwind over long distances.



# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAINS

A Trans-Siberian trip is all about the trains and they are the hardest bit to get right. It takes years of experience and having actually tried and tested the trains to know which are the best options for each section of your trip. For the most part standards of rolling stock are good along all the rail routes. Life on board these trains is, as you would expect, a highlight of these trips and rarely disappoints. As a travel experience we think there is nothing quite like it.



## CLASSES

We book 2 berth first class and 4 berth second class cabins.

## SAFETY

A top priority for us & trains are well policed, safe & secure.

## FOOD

Most trains have dining cars or you can bring on board.

## FACILITIES

Each carriage has to washrooms which are functional but clean.

## TIMINGS

We use the best timed options for each trip segment.

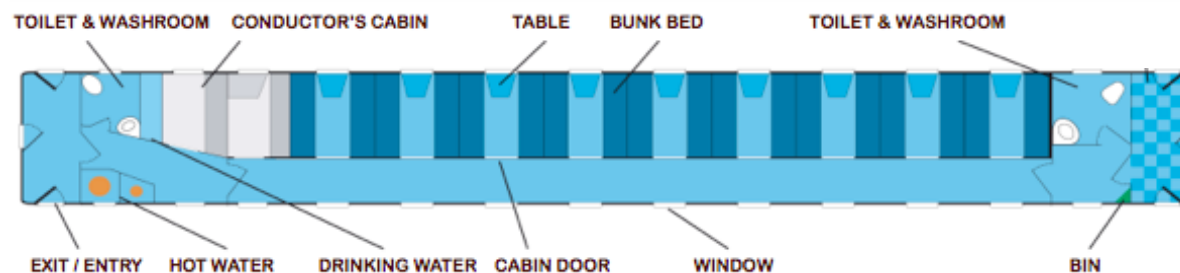
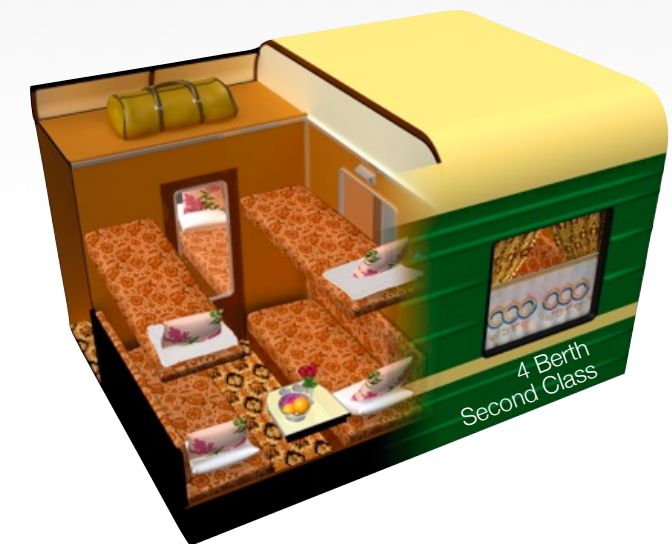
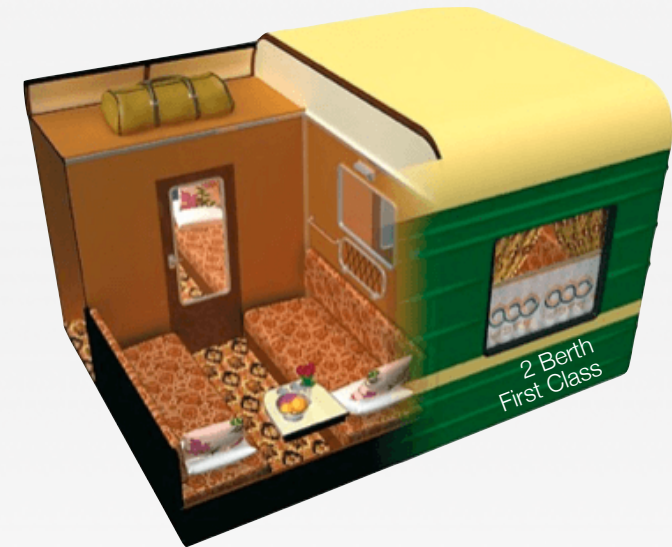
We use a large number of trains across our trips aiming to use the best possible option for each leg of the journey taking into account reliability of the timetable and obtaining tickets, the best and most practical departure and arrival times as well as safety and comfort. Between us we have travelled on almost all the trains we offer in all classes whether they be Russian, Mongolian or Chinese services.

Almost every train has a dining car and the trains we use are safe and secure with each carriage staffed by two Provodniks / Provodnitsa (conductors). We book both first class 2 berth and second class 4 berth compartments that are comfortable and have lockable doors and a large window for the fabulous views along the way.

**Click here to visit the trains section of our website for much more information.**

*"We had first class transport for all but one leg of the journey. The trains were clean and easy to sleep on."*

Seanna Keeley











## QUICK FACTS



Land area: 9,326,410 sq km  
 Coastline: 14,500 km  
 Lowest point: Turpan -154 m  
 Highest point: Mt Everest 8,850 m  
 Time Zone: GMT +8 hours  
 Population: 1,412,000,000  
 Life expectancy male: 78.08 years  
 Life expectancy female: 79.41 years  
 Airports: 248  
 Railways: 155,000 km  
 Highways: 169,000 km

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are not typically required for entry into China, but we do recommend to be up-to-date on routine vaccines. Additionally, vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Typhoid Japanese Encephalitis, Rabies, and Yellow Fever may also be recommended but are not usually necessary for the usual places visited. Always consult a healthcare provider for personalised health advice before traveling, based on your itinerary and health history.

## VISAS

Visas are generally required for travellers entering China. Most visitors, including those from the UK, US, Canada, and European countries, must obtain a visa prior to arrival for tourism. There are a few exceptions, such as the 24-72 hour visa-free transit policy in certain cities for travellers from 53 countries but they usually don't apply to our tours. Always check the latest visa requirements with the Chinese embassy or consulate and [this Wikipedia link](#) is useful.

## WHEN TO VISIT

The best time to visit China largely depends on the region due to its vast size and varied climate. Generally, spring (April to May) and autumn (September to October) are ideal across most of the country, offering mild temperatures and minimal rainfall. These seasons are perfect for exploring both the urban cities and the countryside. However, for specific attractions like the Harbin Ice Festival, winter is the best time, despite the cold temperatures.

## ELECTRICITY & PLUGS

In China, the standard voltage is 220V with a frequency of 50Hz. The country uses types A, C, and I plug sockets, so travellers may need adapters.



Type A



Type C

## MONEY TO TAKE

When visiting China, it's wise to carry both cash and a card. While major cities accept credit cards, cash is essential in smaller towns and for local vendors. ATMs are widespread, but not all accept international cards. WeChat Pay and Alipay dominate digital payments, yet access requires a Chinese bank account or a difficult link to your bank. Carrying yuan (RMB) is recommended, especially for everyday transactions. Inform your bank prior to travel to avoid card issues.





## QUICK FACTS



Land area: 1,564,116 sq km  
Coastline: 0 km  
Lowest point: Khüiten Lake +518 m  
Highest point: Khüiten Peak 4,374 m  
Time Zone: GMT +8 hours  
Population: 3,400,000  
Life expectancy male: 66.9 years  
Life expectancy female: 75.8 years  
Airports: 13 paved  
Railways: 1,815 km  
Highways: 15,000 km paved

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are not required for entry into Mongolia, but it's recommended to be up-to-date on routine vaccines like MMR, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, and influenza. Vaccines for Hepatitis A and Typhoid are advised due to potential food and water risks. Hepatitis B is recommended for extended stays, while Rabies and Tick-borne Encephalitis are recommended for rural travel. Consult your healthcare provider for personalised advice based on your itinerary and health needs before visiting Mongolia.

## VISAS

Mongolia allows citizens of 62 countries, including the U.S., Canada, and EU nations, to visit visa-free for 14 to 90 days depending on nationality. Travellers from other countries must obtain a 30-day tourist visa, which can be extended in Mongolia. Visas are available at Mongolian embassies and consulates. Check specific requirements before traveling, as policies vary based on nationality and travel purpose. This [Wikipedia link](#) is useful.

## WHEN TO VISIT

The best time to visit Mongolia is from June to September, with warm weather ideal for exploring the Gobi Desert, trekking, and camping. July is popular for the Naadam Festival, showcasing Mongolian culture. Temperatures range from 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F). For cooler weather and fewer crowds, late August to early September is ideal, as the landscapes remain lush and travel conditions are optimal for outdoor activities.

## ELECTRICITY & PLUGS

Mongolia uses 230V, 50Hz electricity, with Type C and Type E plugs, which are common in Europe. Ensure your devices are compatible.



Type C

Type E

## MONEY TO TAKE

It's advisable to carry some Mongolian Tugriks (MNT), especially for use in rural areas where cash is preferred. In larger cities like Ulaanbaatar, credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops. ATMs are available in urban areas for withdrawing local currency. It's recommended to exchange money at banks or official exchange counters, as foreign currencies are not typically accepted. Always carry some cash in remote regions.



## QUICK FACTS

Land Area: 17,098,242 sq km  
Coastline: Approximately 37,653 km  
Lowest Point: Caspian Sea at -28 m  
Highest Point: Mt Elbrus 5,642 m  
Time Zones: GMT +2 to +12 hours

Population: 146,000,000  
Life Expectancy Male: 66.5 years  
Life Expectancy Female: 77.1 years  
Airports: 1,218  
Railways: 87,157 km  
Highways: Around 1,529,000 km

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are generally not required for entry into Russia, but it is recommended to be up-to-date on routine vaccines like MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, and influenza. Additional vaccines to consider based on your activities and areas of travel include Hepatitis A (for food and water safety), Hepatitis B, Rabies (especially for rural areas), and Tick-borne Encephalitis if you plan to hike or camp in forested regions during the spring or summer.

## VISAS

Citizens from the United States, Canada, the UK, and EU, typically need a tourist visa to visit Russia. The visa application process requires an invitation letter (also known as a visa support document), a completed visa application form, a valid passport (with at least six months remaining after the visa expires), a passport-sized photo, and proof of travel insurance. Processing can take from a few days to several weeks, depending on the country and service chosen. This [Wikipedia link](#) is useful.

## WHEN TO VISIT

The best time to travel the Trans-Siberian Railway is late spring (May) or early autumn (September), when temperatures are mild, and landscapes are at their most scenic, with blooming flowers or vibrant fall colours. These months avoid the extreme cold of winter and the summer tourist season. June to August is also pleasant but busier, while winter (December to February) offers a magical snow-covered journey, though temperatures can drop below -20°C.

## ELECTRICITY & PLUGS

Russia uses 220V, 50Hz electricity. Plugs are Type C (European) and Type F, both with two round pins. These are standard in most European countries.



Type C



Type F

## MONEY TO TAKE

When visiting Russia, it's useful to carry Russian rubles (RUB) for smaller purchases, especially in rural areas. Major cities like Moscow and Saint Petersburg widely accept credit and debit cards. ATMs are readily available for cash withdrawals, and Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted cards. It's advisable to exchange some currency before arrival or use ATMs for rubles. Inform your bank about your trip to avoid card issues abroad.



# ESSENTIAL TRANS-SIBERIAN INFORMATION, TIPS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK?

The Trans-Siberian can be quite a complex trip with a definite peak season when tickets and good hotel rooms can become scarce so we recommend booking as far in advance as possible if you are travelling from June to the end of September. Outside of this period we still recommend booking at least 2 months in advance to allow plenty of time to obtain the visas.

## CAN YOU OBTAIN THE VISAS FOR US?

We have a partnership with the visa agents [CIBT Visa Central](#) who will guide you through the visa application process. As you are likely to be obtaining more than one visa for a Trans-Siberian trip it makes sense to make use of a specialised visa agent who will do the leg work running between the various embassies.

## IS IT SAFE TO BOOK WITH YOU?

In a word, Yes! We members of ABTA and ATOL Bonded so any payments made to us are fully protected in the unlikely event of our financial failure. Our ABTA membership number is [Y1699](#) and our ATOL license number is [10287](#).

## WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO TRAVEL?

The summer months from June to the end of August are generally considered the best and are certainly the busiest. However, catching the Autumn colours from early September is probably our favourite time to visit Russia although Mongolia can already be cold. China tends to be best in September and October although do try and avoid the week long National Day holiday during the 1st week of October. Don't forget that Siberia looks stunning in winter!

## DO YOU HAVE FINANCIAL PROTECTION?

In a word, Yes! We members of ABTA and ATOL Bonded so any payments made to us are fully protected in the unlikely event of our financial failure. Our ABTA membership number is Y1699 and our ATOL license number is 10287.

## BEYOND THE TRANS-SIBERIAN?

Yes, we can book flight or train tickets to onward destinations and we are also specialist China tour operators through our sister tour operator, [THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY](#).

## IS IT WORTH TRAVELLING IN WINTER?

Oh Yes! Siberia looks amazing, a ger stay in Mongolia is the definition of cosy and Beijing is cold but dry and sunny. All three countries are very used to dealing with winter making the experience more comfortable than you might think.

## DO THE TRAINS HAVE PLUGS FOR RECHARGING?

As a rule, yes although if there are 4 of you in a cabin you will need to take turns - or bring an extension plug! You can also ask your provodnitsas nicely if you can use her plugs but that will depend on the individual and they may expect a tip for this.

## IS TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL SAFE?

Yes! In recent years we hear of very few problems either on the stops or the trains and there is no reason why you should not feel as safe if not safer than if travelling in your home country. This applies to men or women traveling alone and exercising reasonable common sense.





# ESSENTIAL TRANS-SIBERIAN INFORMATION, TIPS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FIRST & SECOND CLASS?

First and second class cabins are the same size and tend to have similar facilities with the only real but big difference being that 2nd class cabins have 4 berths and first class 2 berths. So a couple get privacy and space in first class. A first class carriage will also have less competition for bathroom although this is not usually a big issue or a particular reason to go first class. Second class is arguably more social.

## WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE MAKE A BOOKING?

On taking a booking we will confirm as many of the services as can be at that point and then ask you for a non-refundable deposit of 20% per person plus any international flights we are booking with the final balance payment due 60 days before your trip start date with us. On booking we will also offer advice about obtaining the visas and about 1 month before your trip with us starts we will send you our exclusive Trip Guidebook tailored to your specific trip with us.

## CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ?

Yes, as we hold an ATOL license (number 10287) we are permitted by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK to book flights on behalf of our clients. We are a British Airways preferred operator but also book with other airlines to get the best deals and routes for our clients.

## WILL MY PHONE WORK ?

Yes and you will find coverage is surprisingly could all the way along the train routes and in cities. If you buy a SIM card make sure you are buying for the right phone system as some mobile companies in Mongolia, for example, operate on GSM (same as UK, Europe) and others CDMA (North America and Japan). You should also check what roaming charges will be with your mobile provider.

## WHY SHOULD WE BOOK A TRIP WITH YOU

We took our first Trans-Siberian trip in 1997 and between us have taken many trips since. We have been to all destinations we offer, often many times, and are passionate about sharing our knowledge and providing you with the best possible travel experience of these destinations which we love to visit ourselves. Add to this the back up we offer from financial protection of your payments to us to the 24 hour emergency numbers we give you before your trip and we think we are the full package for quality, service and reliability.

## HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED TO TAKE WITH ME?

The bulk of your costs are taken care of when booking with us so you will only be spending on day to day expenses such as additional meals, drinks, souvenirs and any entrance fees on free days. Russia is expensive and it is easy to go through £50 a day in Moscow although less elsewhere. Mongolia is likely to be cheapest as there isn't that much to spend money on in the countryside. China is between the two with spending from about £30 a day upwards as an approximate guide. On the train it would be difficult to spend more than £20 a day.

## DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS?

As long as we are informed at the time of making your booking we can cater for almost all dietary requirements.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD BE ASKING?

Almost certainly! We fully expect you will have many more questions and we are here to answer them so please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) - that is what we are here for!





### THROUGH SIBERIA BY ACCIDENT

DERVLA MURPHY

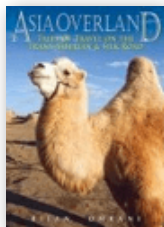
Excellent account of Siberia and in particular the remote and rarely traveled Baikal Amur Line (BAM). Well researched and full of character this book brings Siberia alive through the descriptions of the characters she meets along the way.



### TRAVELS IN SIBERIA

IAN FRAZIER

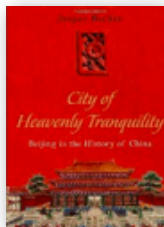
Frazier reveals Siberia's role in history, its science, economics, and politics. Traveling by car rather than train from St Petersburg to Vladivostok in five weeks in one of the most humorous, informative and hugely entertaining of Trans-Siberian books.



### ASIA OVERLAND

BIJAN OMRANI

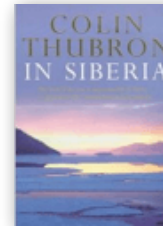
Tales of Travel on the Trans-Siberian and Silk Road. This title offers a travel companion and historical travelogue. It is resourced from travel luminaries: George Kennan to Anton Chekhov, Fa Xian to Marco Polo and Matteo Ricci.



### THE CITY OF HEAVENLY TRANQUILITY

JASPER BECKER

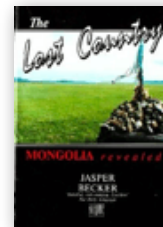
One of the best books devoted to Beijing and an entertaining historical account of the city that will give some real insight into what makes Beijing tick. The range is almost up to the modern day which gives the reader a good idea of what Beijing has been through.



### IN SIBERIA

COLIN THUBRON

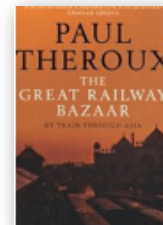
One of the books about Siberia as Thubron delves far deeper than the average travel writer trying to understand the essence of the people that live there and the land they live in. Quite a dark read but perhaps essential to understand.



### THE LOST COUNTRY: MONGOLIA REVEALED

JASPER BECKER

Another Becker offering covering the history of Mongolia through his travels there in the early 90's. It is full of anecdotes and historical stories of the strange and bizarre and offers a good grounding in Mongolia up until the early years after the fall of the Soviet Union.



### THE GREAT RAILWAY BAZAAR

PAUL THEROUX

One of the classic travel books about the Trans-Siberian. If you like this Riding the Iron Rooster and the more recent Ghost Train to the Eastern Star are superb, the latter revisiting the travel of The Great Railway Bazaar some 30 years later.



### SILVERLAND

DERVLA MURPHY

Extraordinary expedition in winter beyond Siberia to the furthest corners of Russia. Here she discovers a strange world of lynx and elks, indigenous tribes and shamanism, reindeer broth and taiga-berry pie.

