



# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL COMPANY



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

## TS-SP-02-B | TRANS-MONGOLIAN & CHINA

EASTBOUND • ST PETERSBURG TO SHANGHAI



 **ITINERARY PAGE 11**

 **PRICING & INCLUSIONS PAGE 54**



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## 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.



**ST PETERSBURG • MOSCOW • EKATERINBURG • IRKUTSK & LAKE BAIKAL • ULAANBAATAR • BEIJING • XIAN • SHANGHAI**



Distances & times are approximate

# STARTING ST PETERSBURG : TS-SP-02-B TRANS-MONGOLIAN & CHINA

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,

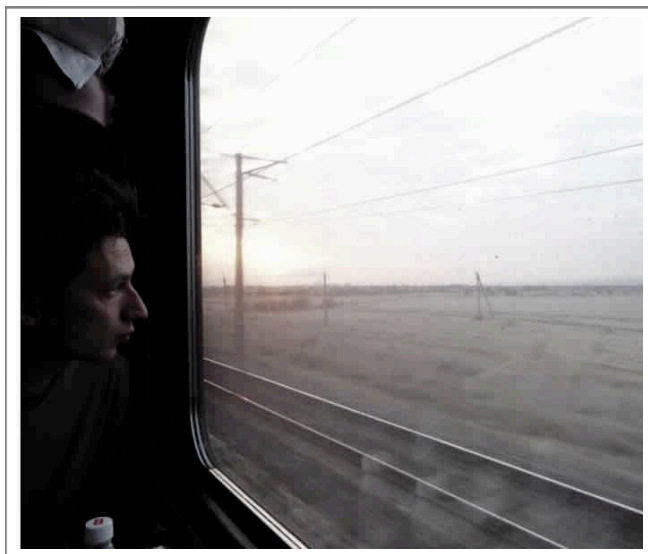
The Trans-Siberian Travel Company.

## 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



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

### ● ST PETERSBURG

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

### ● MOSCOW

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

### ● EKATERINBURG

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

### ● IRKUTSK & LAKE BAIKAL

Forward looking Siberian city & gateway to fabulous Lake Baikal.

### ● ULAANBAATAR

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

### ● BEIJING

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

### ● XIAN 西安

China's Tang Dynasty Capital & home to the extraordinary Terra Cotta Army.

### ● SHANGHAI 上海

China's financial capital is full of energy and a glimpse into the future.



## 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 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**  **ST PETERSBURG** • Arrival in St Petersburg with a private transfer to your hotel & free time.  
Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★


**2**  **ST PETERSBURG** • Tour of the city highlights including time spent in the Hermitage Museum.  
Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★

**3**  **ST PETERSBURG** • Private tour by car out of the city to Pushkin & Pavlosk palaces.  
Overnight - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★








**4**  **MOSCOW** • St Petersburg to Moscow by high speed train & evening Moskva river cruise.  
Overnight - National Hotel ★★★★★

**5**  **MOSCOW** • City tour including the Kremlin & Armoury, Metro & Red Square.  
Overnight - National Hotel ★★★★★

**6**  **ON THE TRAIN** • Free morning in the city before an afternoon departure Eastbound!  
Overnight - Train Moscow to Ekaterinburg

**7**  **EKATERINBURG** • Day on the train before an arrival in Ekaterinburg.  
Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★



- 
- 8**  **EKATERINBURG**
- Full day tour into the rolling Ural countryside to visit a village.
- Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★
- 
- 9**  **EKATERINBURG**
- City tour, Romanov's secret graves, Europe Asia border & departure.
- Overnight - Train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk
- 
- 10**  **ON THE TRAIN**
- Your first day in Siberia & the vastness of Central Russia.
- Overnight - Train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk
- 
- 11**  **ON THE TRAIN**
- Continue the journey to Irkutsk with increasingly scenic views.
- Overnight - Train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk
- 
- 12**  **LAKE BAIKAL**
- Arrive in Irkutsk with a transfer down to & tour at the village of Listvyanka.
- Overnight - Krestovaya Pad ★★★
- 
- 13**  **LAKE BAIKAL**
- Ferry to Port Baikal & walk along the Circum-Baikal Railway for a picnic.
- Overnight - Krestovaya Pad ★★★
- 
- 14**  **IRKUTSK**
- Drive back to Irkutsk for a city tour and free time.
- Overnight - Irkutsk Hotel ★★★
- 



## 15 ON THE TRAIN

- Journey along the shore of Baikal through Buryatia & cross into Mongolia.

Overnight - Train Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar

## 16 MONGOLIA

- Arrive in UB, Genghis Khan Statue, Kazakh family, Terelj National Park.

Overnight - Bugat Resort Terelj (your own ger with ensuite)

## 17 MONGOLIA

- A day exploring the beautiful Terelj National Park.

Overnight - Bugat Resort Terelj (your own ger with ensuite)

## 18 MONGOLIA

- Return to Ulaanbaatar for a city tour and folk show.

Overnight - Kempinski Khan Palace ★★★★★

## 19 BEIJING

- Free time until a transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing.

Overnight - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★

## 20 BEIJING

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

Overnight - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★

## 21 BEIJING

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

Overnight - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★





## 22 XIAN

- Bullet Train on to Xian & evening market and food tour.

Overnight - Xian Eastern House Boutique Hotel ★★★★★ on the train

## 23 XIAN

- Terra Cotta Warriors, Big Wild Goose Pagoda & Xian's mighty City Wall.

Overnight - Xian Eastern House Boutique Hotel ★★★★★

## 24 SHANGHAI

- Take a bullet train on to China's financial capital of Shanghai.

Overnight - SSAW Boutique Hotel Bund ★★★★★

## 25 SHANGHAI

- Yuyuan Garden, Old Shanghai, Antique Market, Bund, Skyscraper & Acrobats.

Overnight - SSAW Boutique Hotel Bund ★★★★★

## 26 END

- Depart China with a wealth of memories from this Trans-Mongolian & China trip!

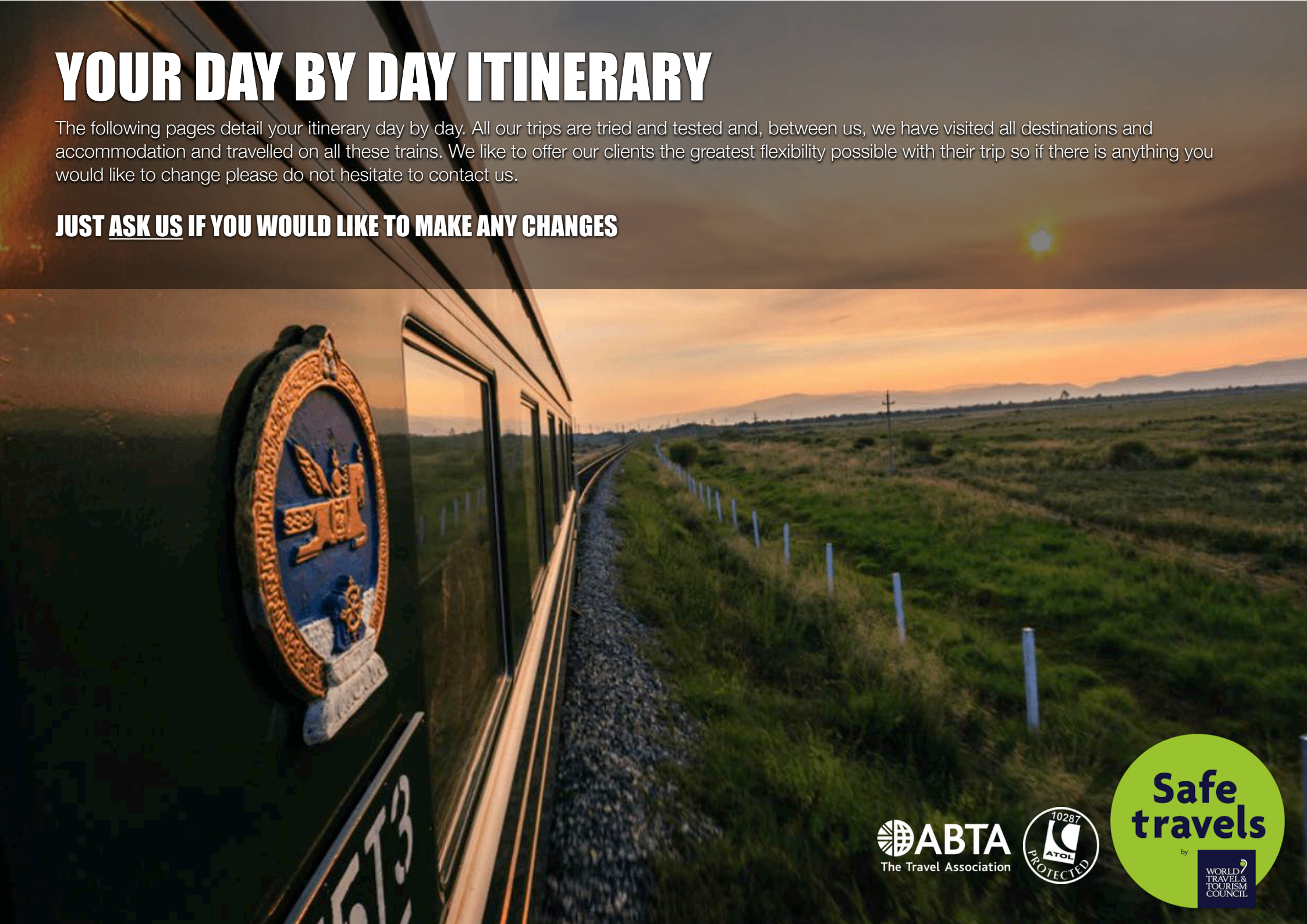
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# YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

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 - Fridays

### ST PETERSBURG

- Arrival in St Petersburg with a private transfer to your hotel & free time.

Welcome to St Petersburg, Russia's cultural centre and arguably one of the world's most beautiful cities - an architectural wonder often referred to as the "Venice of the North." St Petersburg is also home to the Hermitage Museum, one of the largest art museums in the world, and the Mariinsky Theatre and a hub for Russian culture, art, and history.

An English speaking driver will meet you for a transfer by private car to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to start exploring this stunning city.

 **Meals Included:** None Today.



### YOUR EXCLUSIVE TRIP GUIDEBOOK

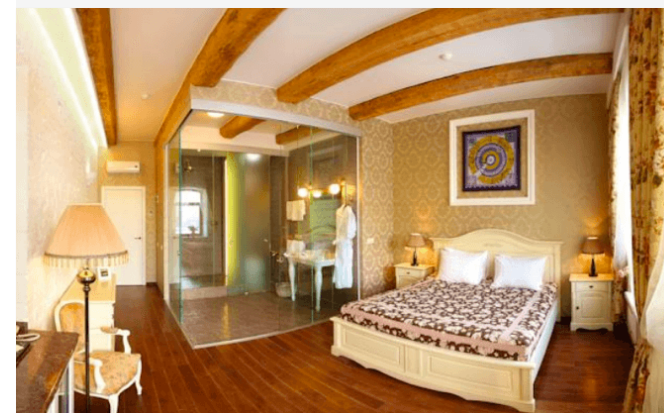
Tap into our knowledge with a copy of our exclusive guidebook personalised to your trip. These books are packed full of tips about the trains, what to take, currency, train timetables, destination guides and much more. The perfect way to prepare for your Trans-Siberian experience with us!

## OVERNIGHT

### 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





**Averages**

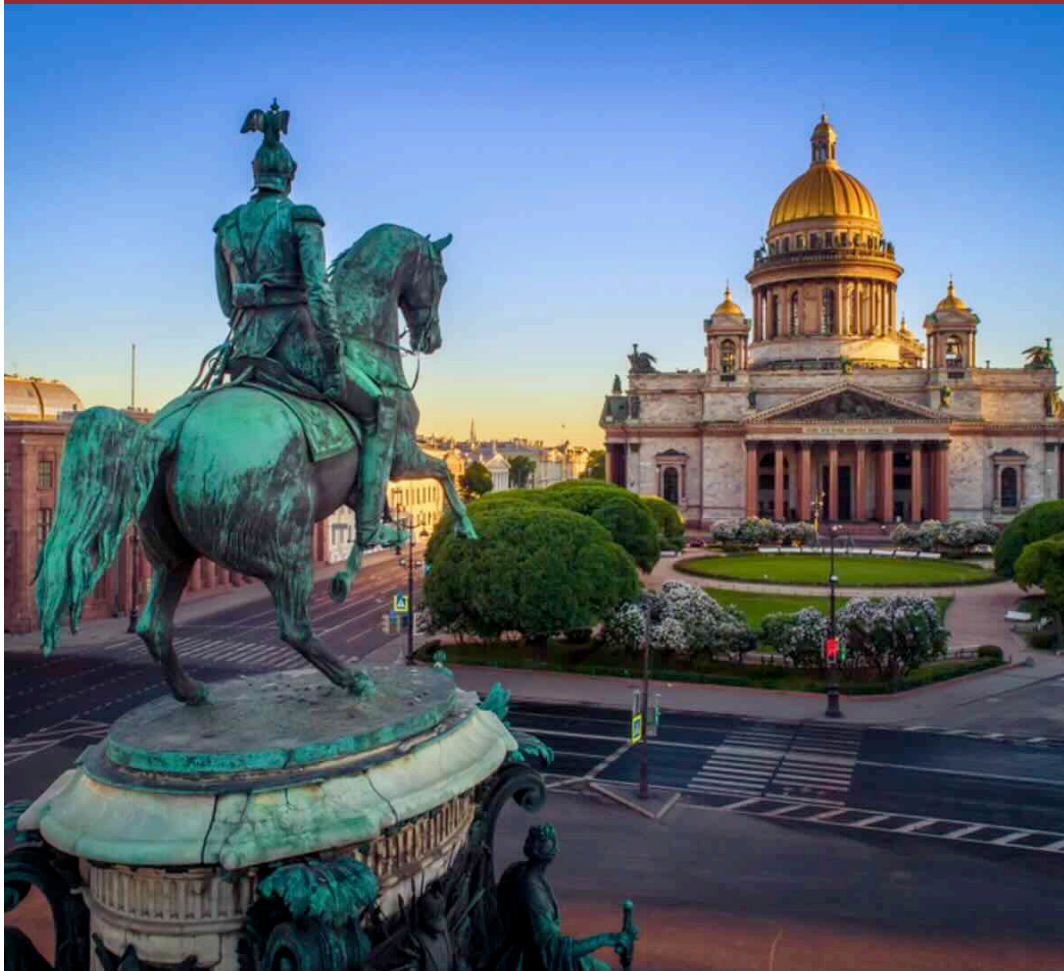
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

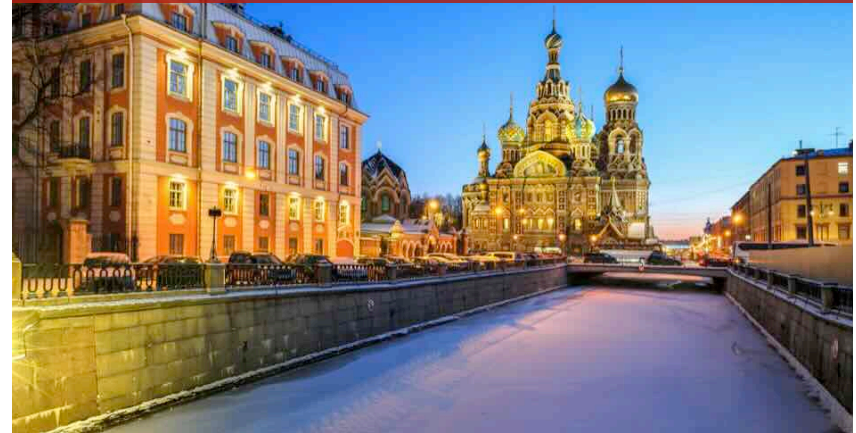
Rainfall mm

	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

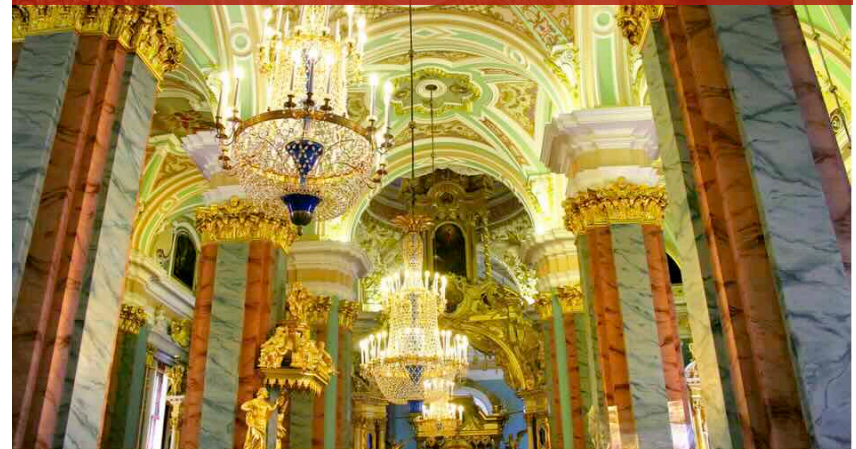
ST ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL



CHURCH OF SPILLED BLOOD



PETER & PAUL CATHEDRAL



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 2

### 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



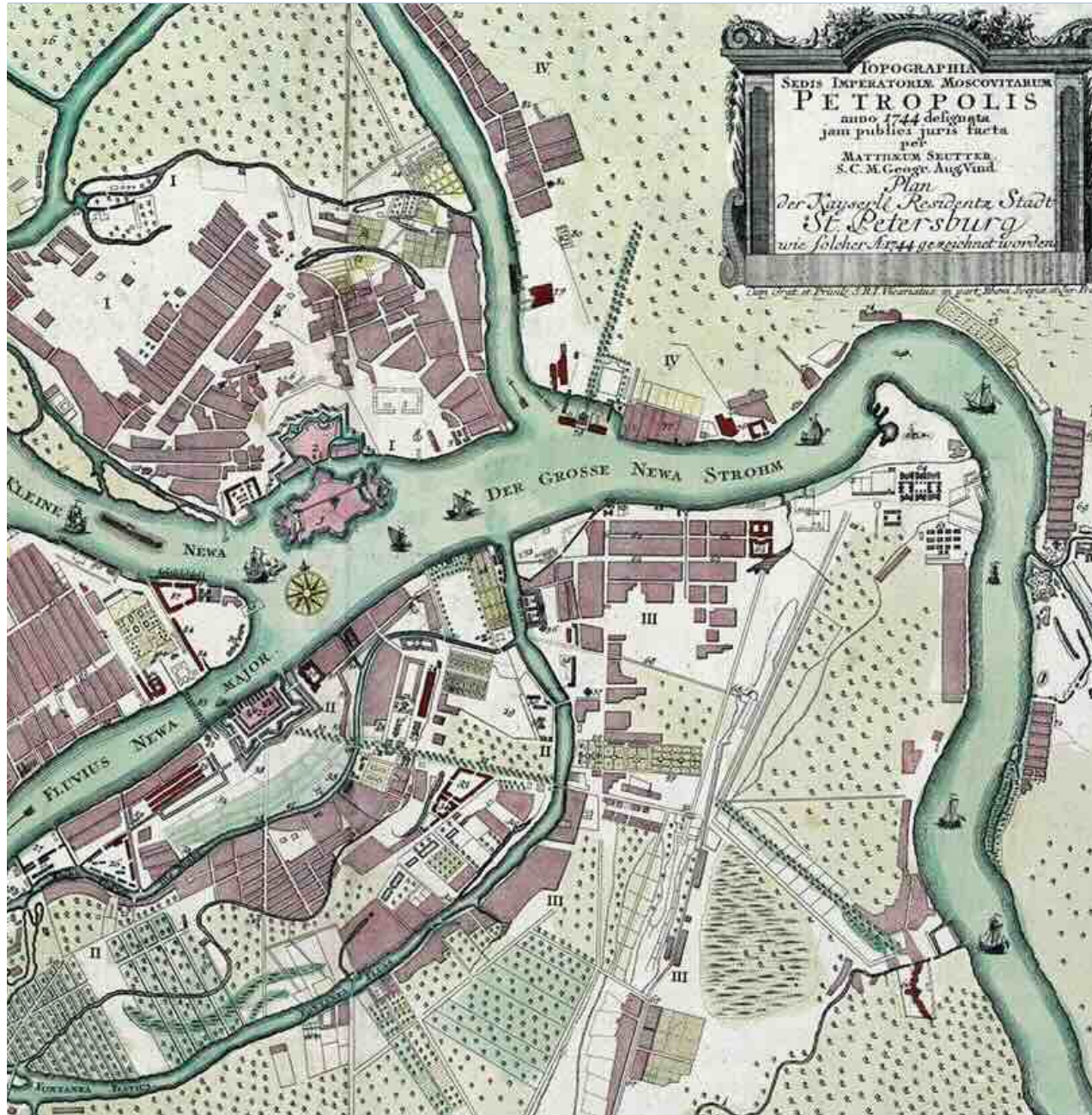
A 4\* option full of character with great rooms that blend the historic nature of the building with modern touches as well as a superb location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# 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 3

### 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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 4

### MOSCOW

- St Petersburg to Moscow by high speed train & evening Moskva river cruise.

Free time before a late morning transfer by private car with an English speaking driver to the “Sapsan” train to Moscow. The journey takes just 4 hours with an early evening arrival in Moscow, the political and economic centre of this vast country.

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.

Your English speaking driver will be waiting for you at the front of the train for your transfer from the station by private car to your hotel.

This evening you have a cruise along the Moskva River with stunning views of Moscow’s iconic landmarks, including the Kremlin, St. Basil’s Cathedral, and the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. As the city’s skyline illuminates at night, the tranquil ride provides a unique perspective on Moscow’s mix of historic and modern architecture.

 **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**

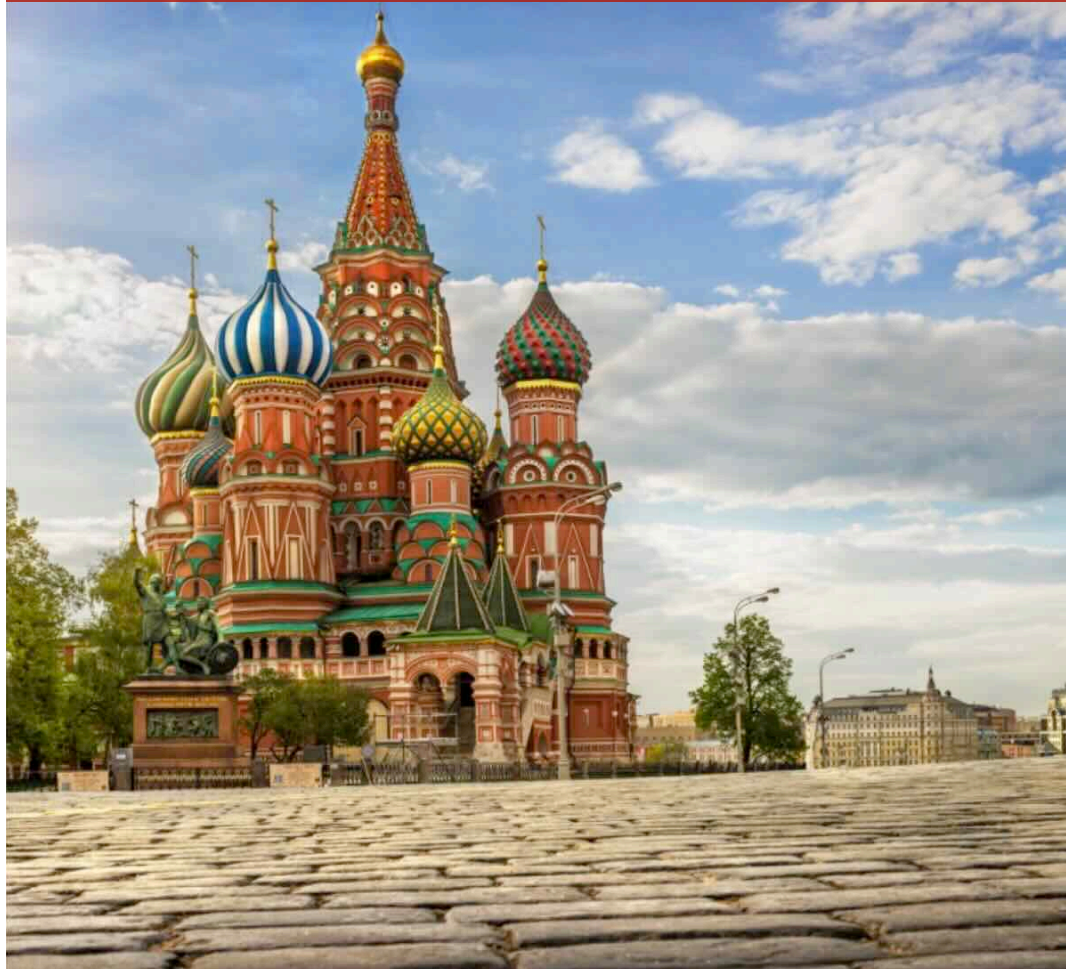
Max temp °C

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

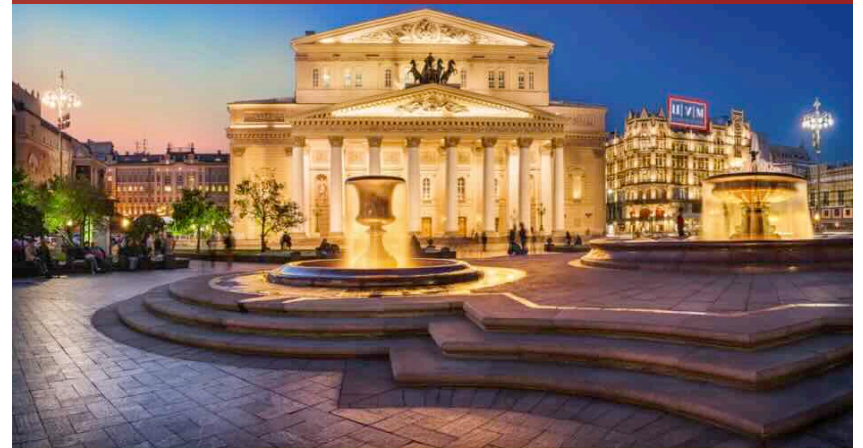
ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL



KREMLIN



BOLSHOI THEATRE



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 5

### MOSCOW

- City tour including the Kremlin & Armoury, Metro & Red Square.

Today you have a full day 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 relax with the evening free.

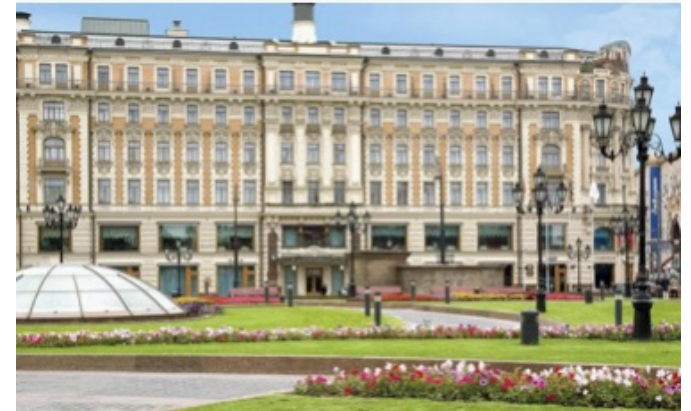
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### NATIONAL HOTEL



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

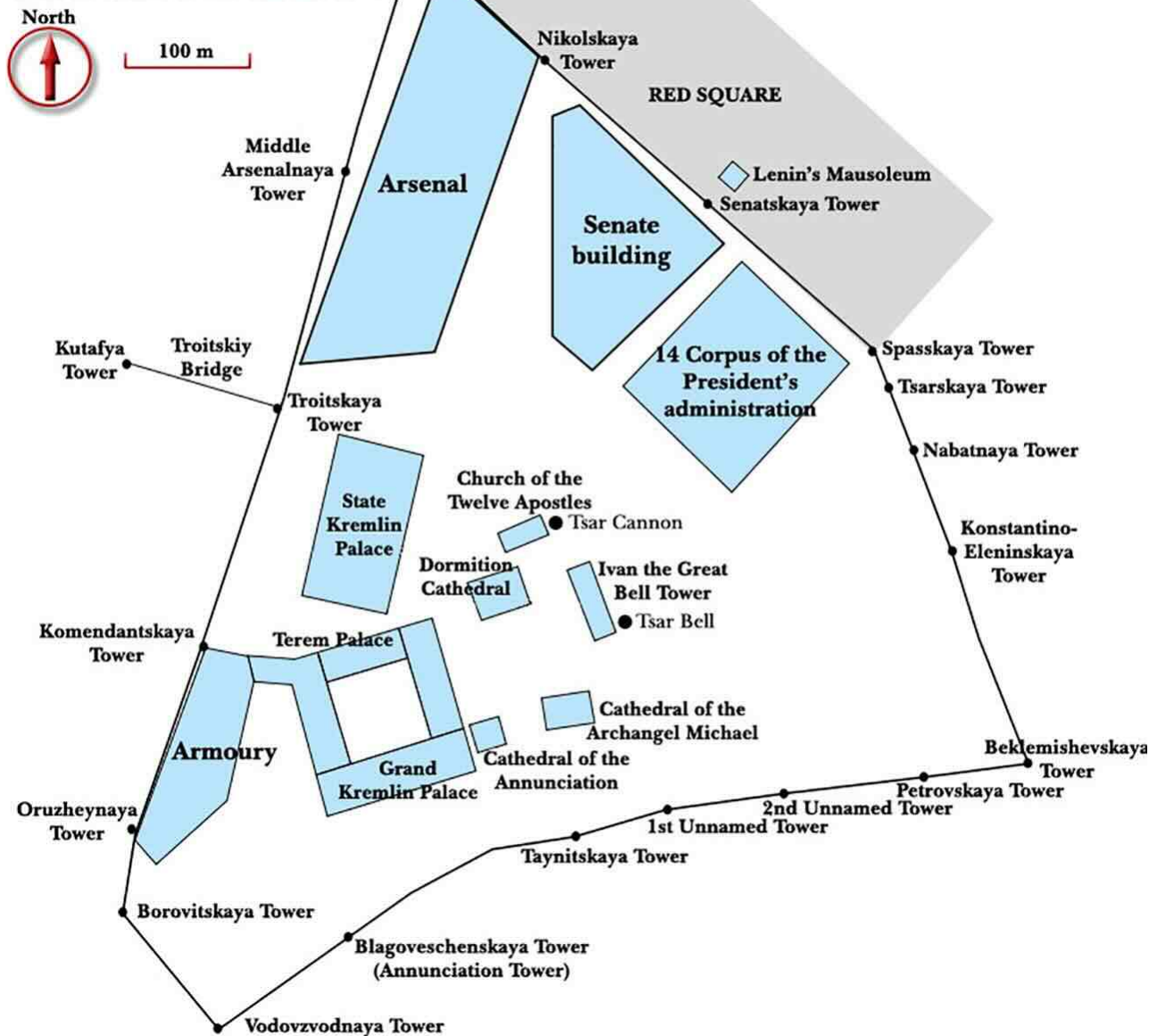


Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# 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 6

### MOSCOW

- Free morning in the city before an afternoon departure Eastbound!

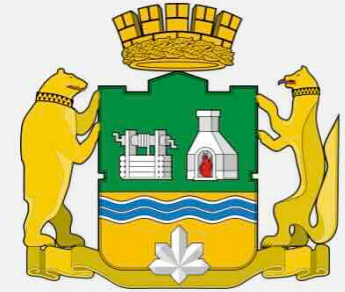
Free time to explore Moscow before your departure on the Trans-Mongolian train. The city has much to offer whatever the weather from the famous museums such as Pushkin Fine Arts and Tretyakov Art Gallery to more outdoor areas including the Park of the Fallen Idols and Novodevitchy Convent.

Of course, if the weather is not so good Moscow is one of the few cities where a day spent on the metro is a tourist attraction with many beautiful stations to visit and all for the price of a single ticket! For relaxing we recommend the bars, galleries and cafes of the Red October district or the fabulous Gorky Park.

Transfer to the station for a early afternoon departure from Moscow's Kazanskaya station. Settle into your compartment as the suburbs of Moscow are replaced by forest and countryside.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #056M

#### MOSCOW - EKATERINBURG

Departs 13:15 Arrives 15:14 day 2  
1,668 km / 1,036 ml | 1d 0h 9m | Local times & subject to change

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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 7

### EKATERINBURG

- Day on the train before an arrival in Ekaterinburg.

With luck the gentle rhythm of the train led to a good night's sleep! A full day on the train through a region of farms, small towns and villages interspersed with birch forests.

Towards the end of the day you cross the Europe-Asia continental border arriving in Ekaterinburg a short time afterwards.

Ekaterinburg is a more representative experience of a Russian city than, say, Moscow and has a rich and fascinating history including the last days of the Romanovs. It is surrounded by beautiful, rolling countryside dotted with traditional Siberian villages.

Transfer to your hotel to overnight and rest up before tomorrow's tour.

 **Meals Included:** None today.

## 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.



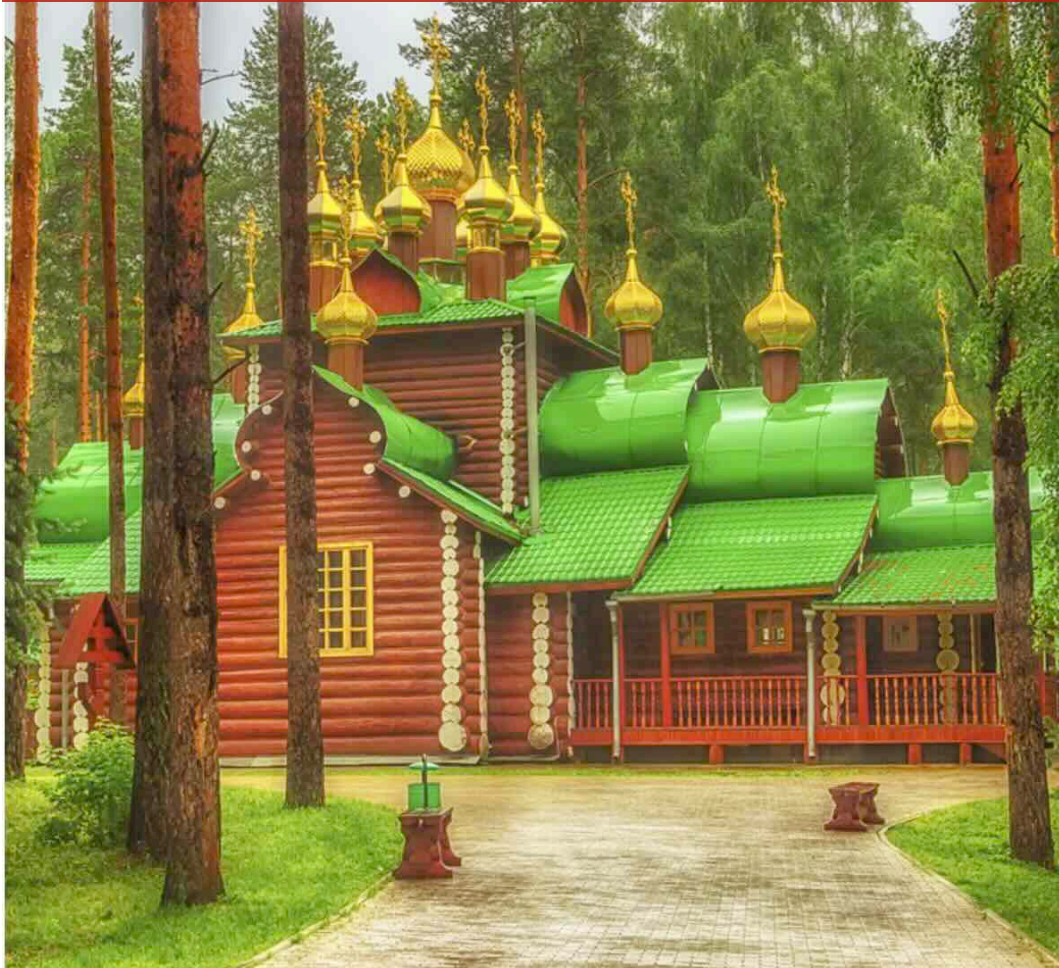
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Averages	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-9	-7	1	9	17	22	24	20	14	7	-3	-8
Min temp °C	-18	-17	-10	-2	4	10	12	10	4	-1	-10	-16
Rainfall mm	15	14	12	17	30	46	79	53	30	28	22	20

ROMANOV'S GRAVE SITE



EUROPE ASIA BORDER



EKATERINBURG CITY



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 8

### 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





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 Koptyaki 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 9

### EKATERINBURG

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

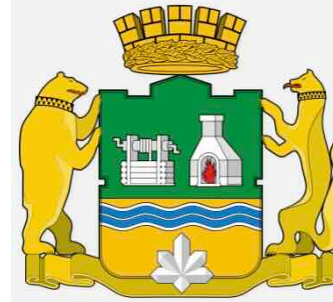
This morning your guide will take you on a 3 hour walking tour of the city's highlights. Stop at the central square and see statues of Ekaterinburg's founders and leaders and learn local stories, legends (and a few jokes!) related to them. Continue to the 1905 Revolution square before the most compelling 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 some free time before an evening transfer to the station for your onward train. From this point on you have entered Siberia!

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #0704

#### EKATERINBURG - IRKUTSK

Departs 21:42 Arrives 08:24 day 4

3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 7h 42m | Local times & subject to change

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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 10

### ON THE TRAIN

- Your first day in Siberia & the vastness of Central Russia.

The scenery today is flat, often swampy or forested and with few large settlements. The major city is Omsk but there are also a few other large stops. This is a day for relaxing, socialising and getting into a good book!

**Did you Know?** Siberia covers about 77% of Russia's land area, making it larger than the entire country of Canada. Despite its size, it is sparsely populated. Siberia experiences some of the most extreme temperatures on Earth. The village of Oymyakon holds the record for the coldest inhabited place, with temperatures as low as -67.7°C (-89.9°F).

 **Meals Included:** None Today.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #0704

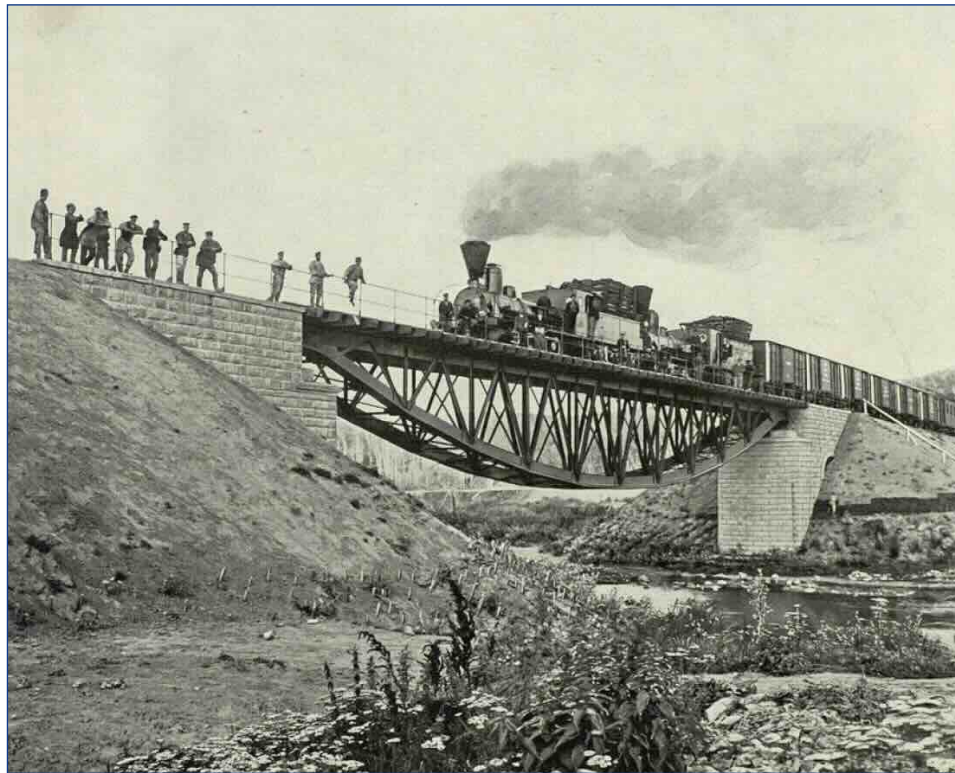
#### EKATERINBURG - IRKUTSK

Departs 21:42 Arrives 08:24 day 4  
3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 7h 42m | 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, 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 11

### ON THE TRAIN

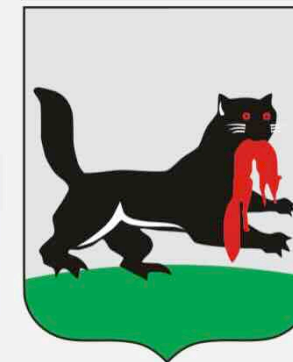
- Continue the journey to Irkutsk with increasingly scenic views.

The last full day on the train in this section of the trip passing prosperous Krasnoyarsk after which the scenery is particularly pleasant consisting of gently rolling hills and dense forests of larch, pine and, of course, birch trees.

There are many rivers and ponds and if it hasn't happened before now you will start to comprehend just how vast and untouched this part of Russia is as the sun sets on the endless taiga of Siberia.

 **Meals Included:** None Today.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #0704

#### EKATERINBURG - IRKUTSK

Departs 21:42 Arrives 08:24 day 4

3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 7h 42m | Local times & subject to change

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



# TRANS-SIBERIAN DINING OPTIONS



## TYPICAL RUSSIAN DINING CAR DISHES

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

**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.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 12

### LAKE BAIKAL

- Arrive in Irkutsk with a transfer down to & tour at the village of Listvyanka.

Arrival in Irkutsk, regarded as the modern day cultural capital of Siberia, famed for its traditional wooden architecture, complimented by a cafe and restaurant culture.

Transfer from the station the 1 hour drive following the route of the Angara River down to the village of Listvyanka located close to where the river meets beautiful Lake Baikal. The lake is among the deepest in the world at 1,642 meters and has exceptionally clear water.

Breakfast and time to settle in to your accommodation before your guide will take you on a 4 hour walking tour including the beautiful church and Limnological Museum to learn about the Lake itself and its unique flora and fauna. We also take chairlift up to a view point for some of the best lake vistas. If time we can also visit the local fish market before a free evening.

**NOTE:** Hotel check-in time is 12 noon so we can't guarantee a room will be available when you arrive, particularly in the busy summer season.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### KRESTOVAYA PAD



A good position with views overlooking the village and valley and good standard rooms. Some rooms have lake views and a good restaurant and deck.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





### Averages

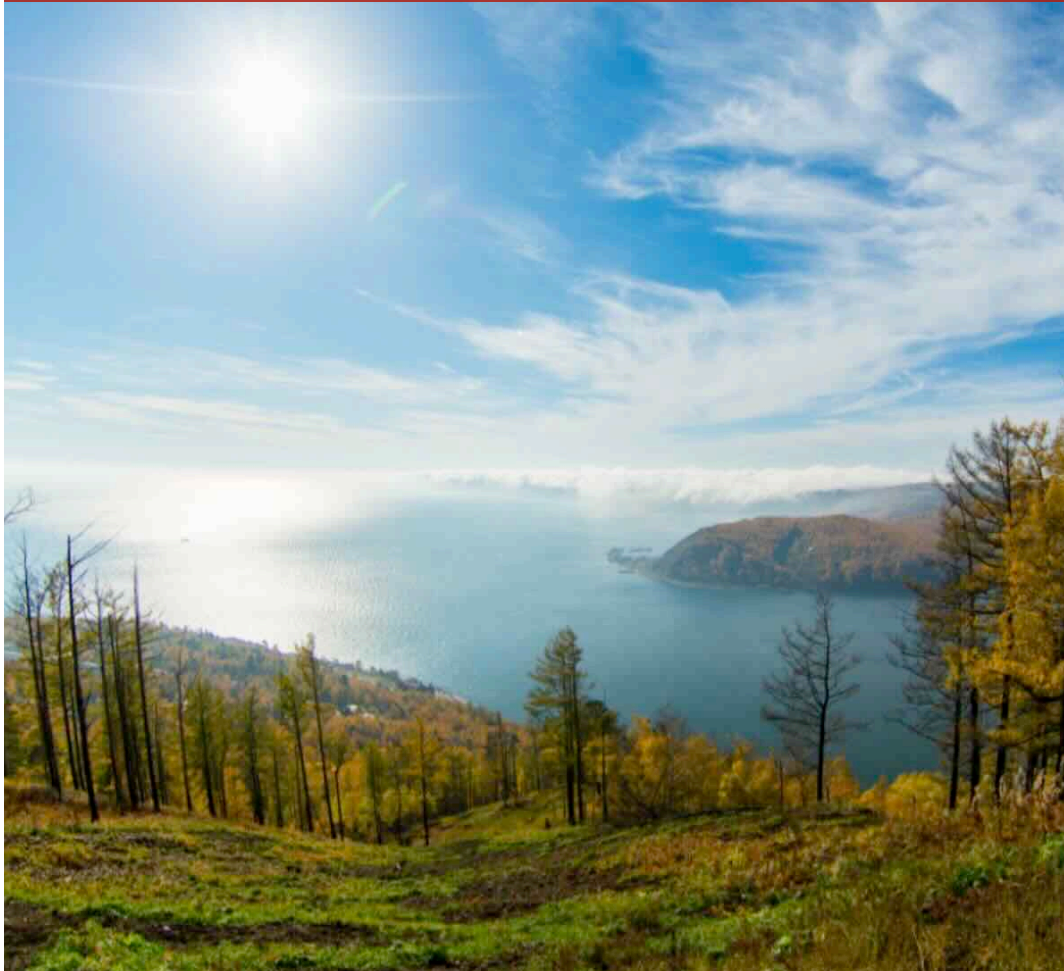
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

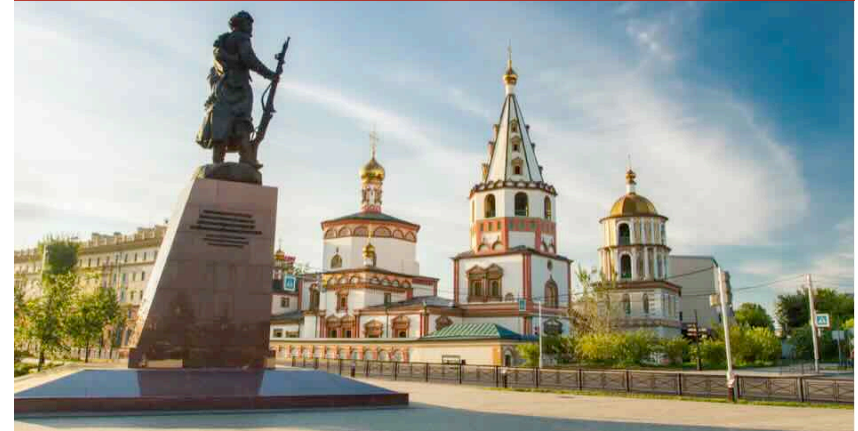
Rainfall mm

	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 13

### LAKE BAIKAL

- Ferry to Port Baikol & walk along the Circum-Baikol Railway for a picnic.

After breakfast your guide will meet you at your accommodation and you head to Listvyanka wharf to take a short, 10 minute, ferry ride to nearby Port Baikol. From here walk about 40 minutes along the old Circum-Baikol rail track to where we stop for a picnic lunch with plenty of time to relax and take in the scenery before catching the ferry back to Listvyanka.

The Circum-Baikol Railway is a historic and scenic railway that hugs the southern shore of Lake Baikol in Siberia. Constructed between 1899 and 1905, it was originally part of the Trans-Siberian Railway and is renowned for its remarkable engineering, featuring 39 tunnels, 47 bridges, and numerous stone galleries. Often referred to as a “museum of railway architecture,” this picturesque route offers travellers stunning views of Lake Baikol’s crystal-clear waters, surrounding mountains, and dense forests, making it a popular destination for railway enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

Free time in the evening to relax after today’s exertions. We recommend arranging a Banya (Russian Sauna) in the village as the best way to achieve this!

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

## OVERNIGHT

### KRESTOVAYA PAD



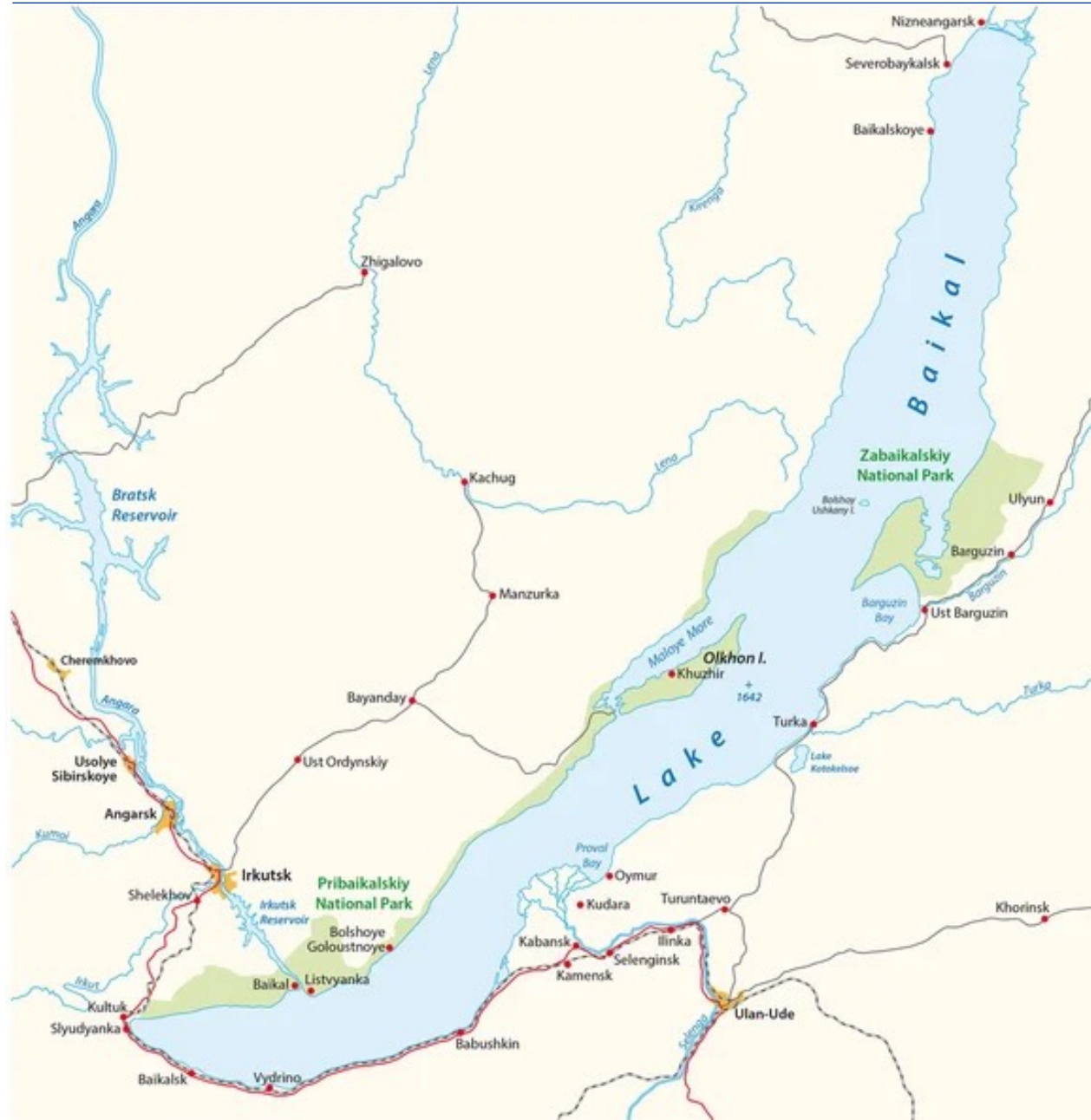
A good position with views overlooking the village and valley and good standard rooms. Some rooms have lake views and a good restaurant and deck.



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 14

### IRKUTSK

- Drive back to Irkutsk for a city tour and free time.

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive, approximately one hour, back to Irkutsk, where you'll head to your hotel for a short rest and check-in. Once you've settled in, you'll 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.

As you stroll through the main city streets, you'll experience the vibrant atmosphere of Irkutsk, with its blend of modern life and historic charm. 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. The guide will share interesting insights into the significance of this monument and the impact of the railway on the region.

After the walking tour, return to your hotel, where you'll have the rest of the day free to relax or explore at your own pace. 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:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### HOTEL IRKUTSK



For Irkutsk this is of a high standard with good rooms (some with river views) and a central location. One of the city's better options.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 15 - Fridays

### ON THE TRAIN

- Journey along the shore of Baikal through Buryatia & cross into Mongolia.

Early morning transfer to the station to catch your onward train. Today is usually the scenic highlight of the journey - a day of lake, forest and mountain views. After Irkutsk the train rumbles around the Southern shore of the stunning Lake Baikal often passing within a matter of meters of the lake and providing endlessly changing vistas. You will also notice a change in the people with many more Asian faces as you enter Buryatia which has strong cultural ties to Mongolia. This is a remote and pretty section of the trip with a hint of an old Asian culture ever present. Eventually you arrive at the Russia-Mongolia border at Naushki passing through the border formalities before continuing into the grasslands of Mongolia.

**NOTE:** The border crossing is slow and the your carriage will be detached from the Russian engine and join a Mongolian train. Whilst the train is stationary the toilets are locked! However, you can get off once the border formalities are complete and visit the facilities in the station building.

There is usually no dining car from the Mongolian border to Ulaanbaatar as the distance is short and through the night so make sure you have some provisions with you for any midnight munchies!

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #306

#### IRKUTSK - ULAANBAATAR

Departs 08:05 Arrives 06:38 day 2

1,113 km / 690 ml | 0d 22 hr 33 m | Local times & subject to change

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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 16

### MONGOLIA

- Arrive in UB, Genghis Khan Statue, Kazakh family, Terelj National Park.

Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, you will meet your guide and driver and taken for breakfast in the city. Afterwards, set off for Terelj National Park. Along the way, you'll visit the impressive Genghis Khan Statue Complex, the tallest equestrian statue in the world at 40 meters high. You can ascend to the horse's head for panoramic views of the vast steppe beyond.

En route, you'll also stop in Nalaikh to meet a Kazakh family, where you'll learn about their unique lifestyle. Their traditional Kazakh Gers are known for vibrant, decorative interiors featuring colourful wall-hangings.

Upon reaching Terelj National Park, you'll check into your ger camp, enjoy a local lunch, and visit a traditional Ovoo, a sacred stone cairn used for spiritual offerings. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and appreciate the stunning surroundings before dinner and overnighting in your cozy ger accommodation.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### BUGAT RESORT TERELJ

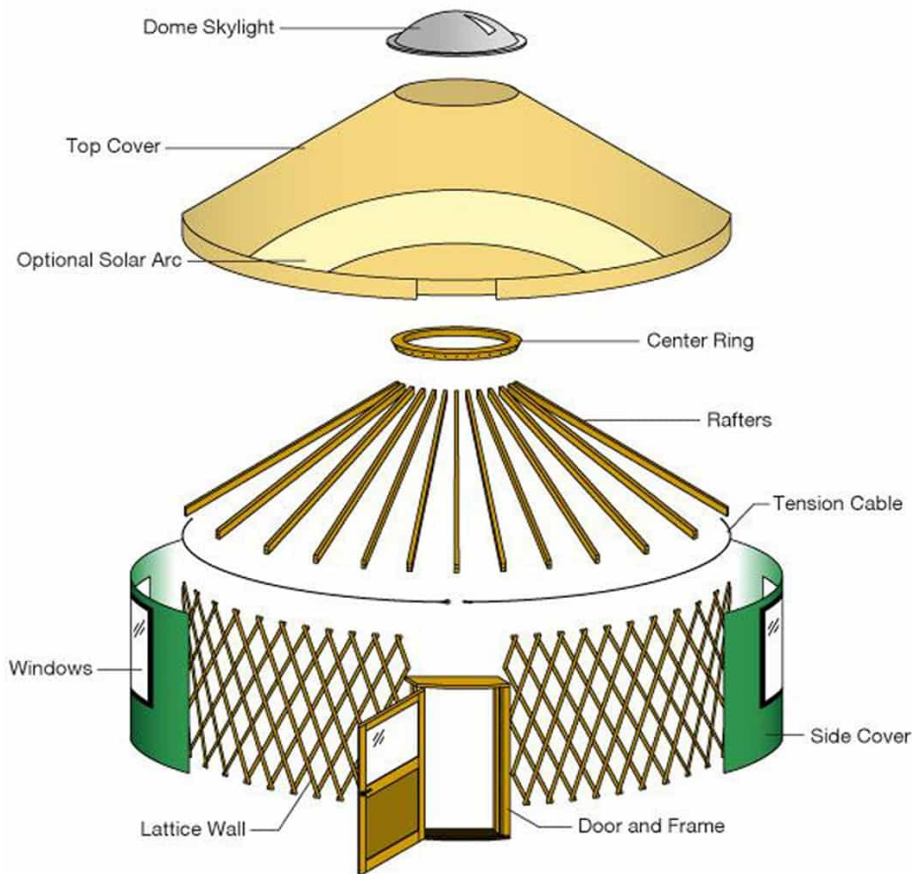
#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

Bugat resort is a tourist camp located within the Gorkhi-Terelj national park, 80km to the east from the capital Ulaanbaatar.



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 17

### MONGOLIA

- A day exploring the beautiful Terelj National Park.

This morning we discover the beautiful landscape of the Terelj National park. First we visit Turtle Rock, an interesting rock formation looking, with a little imagination, like a turtle and with good views over the park.

After this a hike to Ariyabal meditation temple surrounded by scenic mountains with massive rock formations. This short but strenuous hike is seen as a ritual to cleanse one's sins. From the top there are breathtaking views overlooking Terelj National Park.

Return to camp for lunch before further exploring the area this afternoon visiting a local nomad family to learn about their lifestyle and, if you wish, to try some of the famous fermented mare's milk and other homemade dairy products that are an important part of the local people's diet. It is also possible to arrange horse riding (local payment required if you wish to do this).

Dinner back at the camp and a free evening under the vast Mongolian starlit sky.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### BUGAT RESORT TEREJ

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

Bugat resort is a tourist camp located within the Gorkhi-Terelj national park, 80km to the east from the capital Ulaanbaatar.



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	-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 18

### MONGOLIA

- Return to Ulaanbaatar for a city tour and folk show.

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 before finishing your time in Mongolia with a folk show showcasing traditional performances by singers, dancers and contortionists. It’s a unique chance to hear Khöömii (throat singing) and see the various national dresses of Mongolia. Return to the hotel to overnight.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### KEMPINSKI KHAN PALACE



Located a little out of the centre 2km from the main square this is a comfortable hotel and one of Ulaanbaatar's best high end options.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 19

### BEIJING

- Free time until a transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing.

Today is free for any last minute shopping, sightseeing or souvenirs hunting before a transfer to your the airport for your flight on to Beijing.

Afternoon arrival in China's capital. Beijing has it all - history, imperial majesty, modern masterpieces, delicious cuisine, and a vibrant local culture. Your guide will meet you at the station exit and transfer you 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.

**Why a flight to Beijing?** Unfortunately the direct Ulaanbaatar to Beijing train has not restarted since Covid so most trips now need to fly this section. However, there is another route that involves an overnight train to Hohot in China's Inner Mongolia, a night there and then a bullet train to Beijing. If you prefer this to a flight jet let us know.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## 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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 20

### 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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 21

### 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.



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# 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 22

### XIAN

- **Bullet Train on to Xian & evening market and food tour.**

This morning a transfer to the station to catch a bullet train. Reaching speeds of over 300 km/hour the overall trip is on a par with flying with the added bonuses of views from the window and being able to stretch your legs.

Early afternoon arrival in Xian, China's Tang Dynasty Capital and terminus of the Silk Road with a transfer to your hotel. Free time to relax this afternoon before a two-hour gourmet evening tour in Xian, delving into the city's rich culinary heritage.

Begin in the bustling Muslim Quarter, where your guide will lead you through vibrant street markets brimming with aromas. Sample local delicacies such as spicy lamb kebabs, freshly made dumplings, and the famous Xian pita bread sandwiches (roujiamo).

Enjoy watching skilled vendors prepare biangbiang noodles, a local favourite. Along the way, learn about the history and cultural significance of each dish. This tour offers a delightful fusion of flavours and insights, providing an authentic taste of Xian's night-time culinary scene.

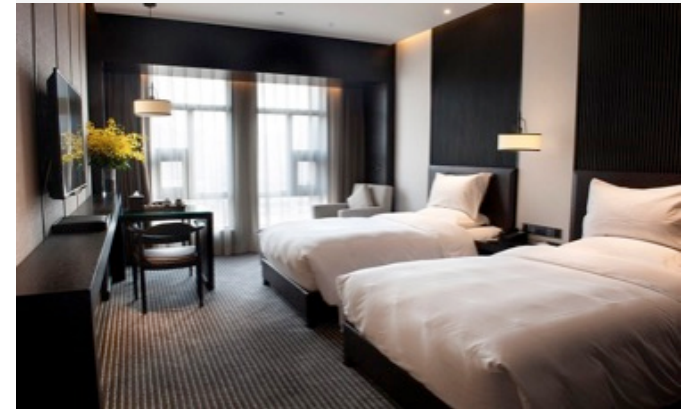
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Tastings with Food Tour.

## OVERNIGHT

### XIAN EASTERN HOUSE



With a very decent reputation, this centrally located hotel has comfortable rooms and friendly staff who do a great job to make guests feel comfortable.

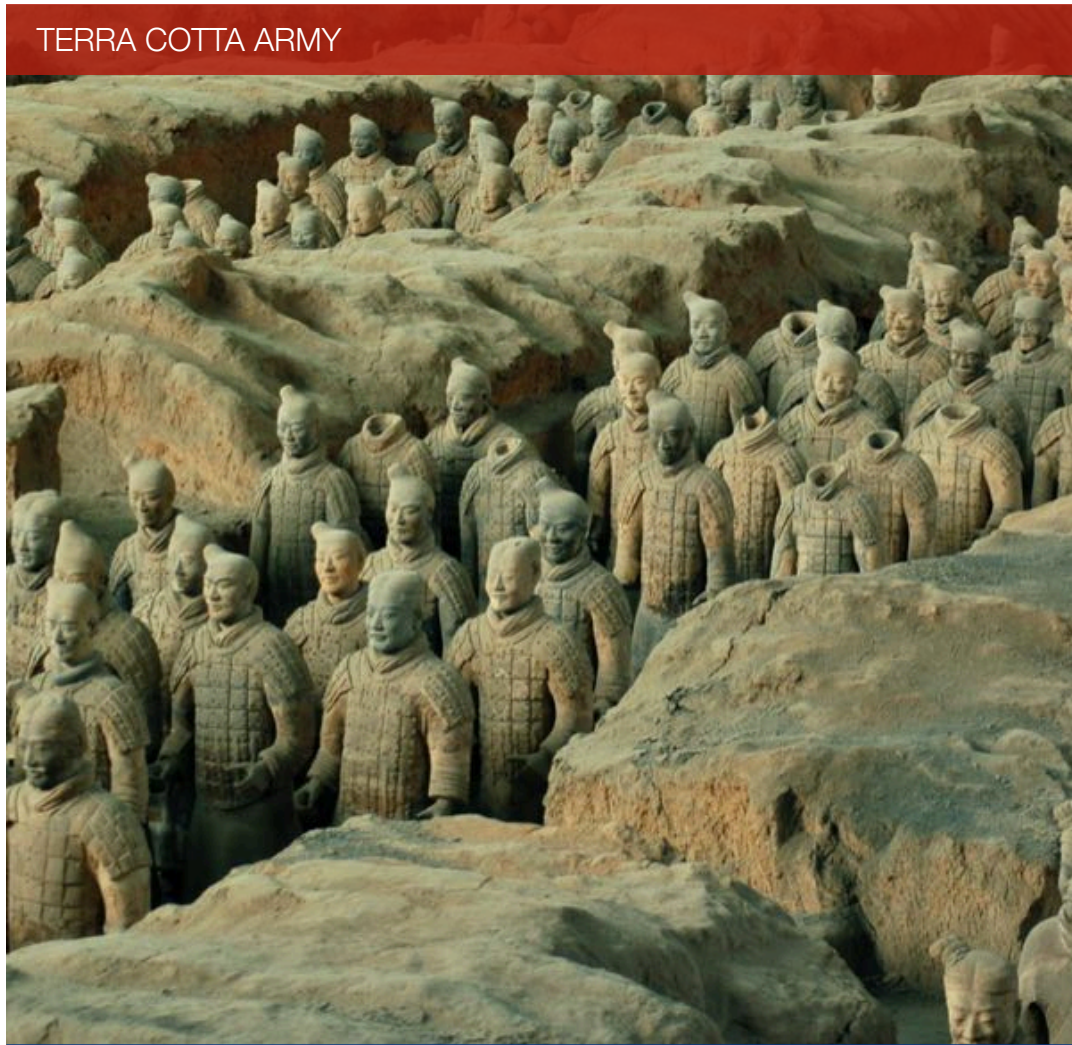


Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





Averages	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	5	8	14	21	26	31	32	31	25	20	12	6
Min temp °C	-4	-1	4	10	14	19	22	21	16	10	3	-3
Rainfall mm	7	10	29	43	60	54	99	71	92	60	24	6



TERRA COTTA ARMY



CITY WALLS



NIGHT MARKET

# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 23

### XIAN

- Terra Cotta Warriors, Big Wild Goose Pagoda & Xian's mighty City Wall.

Today, you'll visit the Terracotta Army, one of China's most extraordinary archaeological discoveries. Built in 246 BC by Emperor Qin Shi Huang, it was intended to protect him in the afterlife. Thousands of life-sized terracotta soldiers, each with distinct facial features, are displayed in battle formation. The site consists of three pits, showcasing soldiers, horses, chariots, and military ranks, all intricately crafted with attention to detail.

The scale and uniqueness of the figures make the Terra Cotta Army an awe-inspiring spectacle, representing the grand ambitions and military power of China's first emperor.

We also visit a relic of the Tang Dynasty, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, home to some of the most famous Buddhist scriptures in China. It is possible to climb the pagoda - you will need to buy a ticket locally if you wish to do this - for views over Xian.

Continue to the 14 km Ming Dynasty City Walls which are up to 18 meters thick at the base and 12 meters in height. It is possible to hire bicycles and ride some sections of the wall - local rental payment required.

Return to the hotel with the evening free or ask up about booking a show.

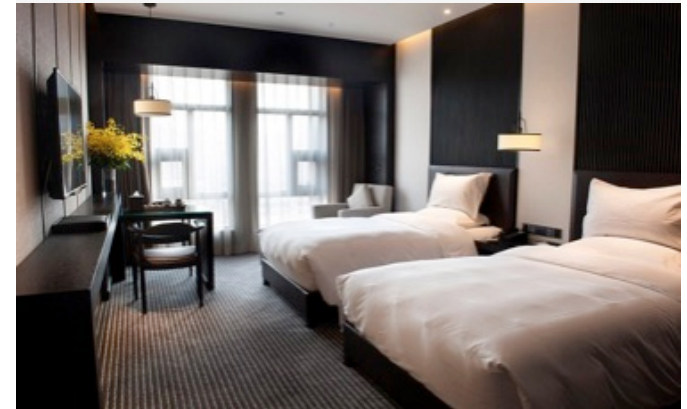
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### XIAN EASTERN HOUSE



With a very decent reputation, this centrally located hotel has comfortable rooms and friendly staff who do a great job to make guests feel comfortable.

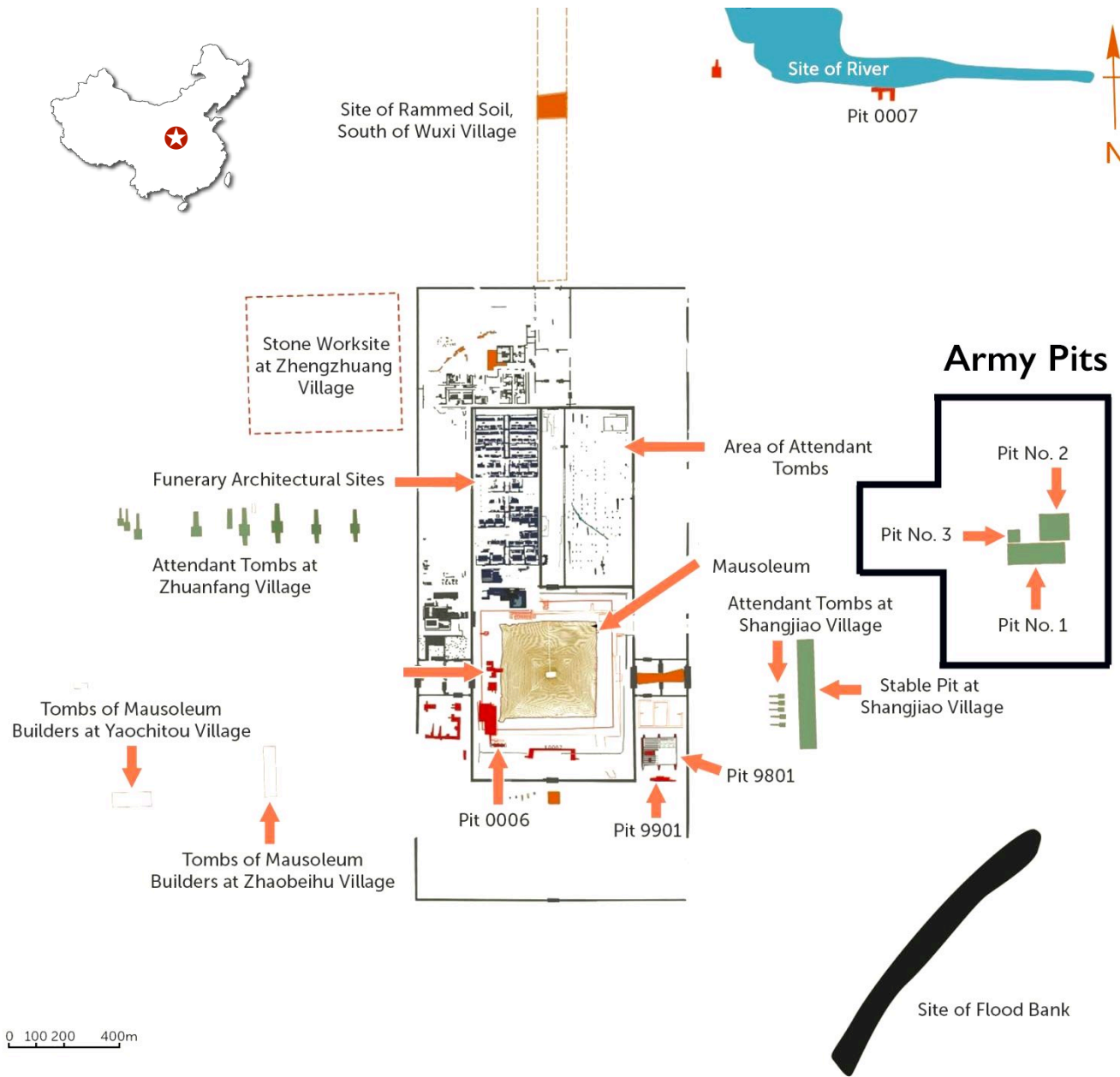


Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





# MAP OF THE TERRA COTTA ARMY



## TERRA COTTA ARMY - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Terracotta Army was discovered in 1974 by local farmers drilling a water well east of Xian, Shaanxi province, China.
- This vast clay army was buried with Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China, believed to protect him in the afterlife. He founded the Qin dynasty in 221 BC.
- The site contains over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses, and 150 cavalry horses, making it one of the largest burial sites in the world.
- Each soldier has a unique facial expression and features, suggesting they were modelled after real individuals.
- The army was crafted around 210-209 BC, with incredible detail in the soldiers' uniforms, weapons, and hairstyles, reflecting the ranks and roles within the army.
- Many of the clay soldiers were found with real weapons, including swords, spears, and crossbows, which were highly sophisticated and well-preserved due to chrome plating technology.
- Originally, the figures were painted with bright colours, though most of the paint has faded or flaked off after exposure to air.
- Archaeologists believe the Terracotta Army is just part of a larger necropolis. Emperor Qin Shi Huang's actual tomb remains un-excavated and is rumoured to be booby-trapped.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 24

### SHANGHAI

- Take a bullet train on to China's financial capital of Shanghai.

After breakfast a transfer to the station for a bullet train to Shanghai. This journey from Xian to Shanghai covers approximately 1,500 kilometres in about 6-7 hours. Passing through picturesque landscapes, the ride offers smooth, high-speed comfort at up to 300 km/h. Modern amenities, spacious seating, and stunning views of China's countryside make this a convenient and scenic experience.

Late afternoon arrival in Shanghai, China's exciting and futuristic financial capital and living testament to China's phenomenal growth. Your guide and driver will meet and transfer you to your hotel.

The rest of the evening is free to start exploring the city with the Bund along the Huangpu River looking particularly impressive at night.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### SSAW BOUTIQUE BUND



Located on Renmin Road near to some of Shanghai's main attractions this is a welcome addition to the boutique hotels of Shanghai.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



上海 SHANGHAI HIGHLIGHTS



Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	8	8	13	19	24	27	32	32	27	22	17	11
Min temp °C	1	2	5	11	16	20	25	25	21	15	9	2
Rainfall mm	7	9	11	13	15	15	18	16	16	13	8	34

PUDONG SKYLINE



YU GARDENS



TRENDY BACKSTREETS



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 25

### SHANGHAI

- Yuyuan Garden, Old Shanghai, Antique Market, Bund, Skyscraper & Acrobats.

Today you will have a full day private tour of some of Shanghai's highlights starting with the classical Yuyuan Garden that dates back to 1577. Surrounding the garden is Old Shanghai, an area that has been a vibrant commercial centre for over a century. Here we visit Fuyou Road antique market, one of the best places for souvenir hunting and a fascinating experience even if not shopping.

The tour continues with a walk down the Bund along which the Huangpu River runs and where some of Asia's finest colonial architecture is located.

From here we cross the River by ferry to Shanghai's ultra modern Pudong Financial district for a bird's eye view of the city from the top of one of the stunning skyscrapers.

There is no better way to round off this Shanghai experience than with a visit to the world famous Chinese Acrobats for a show filled with colour and excitement.

Return to your hotel or head out to sample Shanghai's vibrant nightlife.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### SSAW BOUTIQUE BUND



Located on Renmin Road near to some of Shanghai's main attractions this is a welcome addition to the boutique hotels of Shanghai.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 26

## 🇨🇳 END OF TOUR

- Depart China with a wealth of memories from this Trans-Mongolian trip!

Free time for any final sightseeing or last minute shopping for souvenirs if time. Your local guide will have arranged a time to meet you in the hotel lobby for a transfer to the airport in good time for your flight out of China.

We sincerely hope that you have had a fantastic Trans-Siberian experience!

🍴 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.



# CHINA TOURS

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR RANGE OF CHINA OPTIONS](#)

### VIEW MORE FEEDBACK



"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 £ 8,110 / US\$ 10,405**

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.

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- **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.

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- **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.**

→ Ulaanbaatar to Beijing 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).**

- ✓ St Petersburg to Moscow - Business class seat on the "Sapsan" bullet train (4 hours)
- ✓ Moscow to Ekaterinburg - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 56 - Your own cabin
- ✓ Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 70 - Your own cabin
- ✓ Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 306 - Your own cabin
- ✓ Beijing to Xian first class bullet train (5 hour trip)
- ✓ Xian to Shanghai first class bullet train (7 hour trip)

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

- ✓ 3 nights St Petersburg - Rossi Hotel ★★★★★ (deluxe room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Moscow - National Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night on train Moscow to Ekaterinburg (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

- ✓ 2 nights Ekaterinburg - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 3 nights on train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 2 nights Listvyanka - Krestovaya Pad ★★★ (studio room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Irkutsk - Irkutsk Hotel ★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night on the train Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 2 nights Mongolian Steppe - Bugat Resort Terelj (your own ger with ensuite)
- ✓ 1 night Ulaanbaatar - Kempinski Khan Palace hotel ★★★★★
- ✓ 3 nights Beijing - Red Wall Jingshan Garden ★★★★★ (courtyard view room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Xian - Xian Eastern House Boutique Hotel ★★★★★ (classic room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Shanghai - SSAW Boutique Hotel Bund ★★★★★ (deluxe room with breakfast)

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

- ✓ St Petersburg - Airport to Hotel (English speaking driver only)
- ✓ St Petersburg - Hotel to Train Station (English speaking driver only)
- ✓ Moscow - Train Station to Hotel (English speaking driver only)
- ✓ Moscow - Hotel to Train Station (English speaking driver only)
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Irkutsk - Train Station to Hotel in Listvyanka
- ✓ Irkutsk - Listvyanka to Hotel in Irkutsk
- ✓ Irkutsk - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Mongolia - Train Station to Ger Camp
- ✓ Mongolia - Ger Camp to Hotel in Ulaanbaatar
- ✓ Mongolia - Hotel in Ulaanbaatar to Airport
- ✓ Beijing - Airport to Hotel
- ✓ Beijing - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Xian - Bullet Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Xian - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Shanghai - Bullet Train Station to Hotel





## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

✓ Shanghai - Hotel to Airport

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

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Moscow - Full day private tour of the Kremlin including the Armoury, Red Square & Moscow Metro as described.
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - 2 night private tour including Countryside Village Trip, City Tour, Romanovs Graves & Europe Asia Border as described.
- ✓ Irkutsk - 3 night private tour including the village of Listvyanka & Irkutsk city tour as described.
- ✓ Mongolia - 3 night private tour including Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue and 2 nights Terelj National Park, Ulaanbaatar to city tour, folk & concert as described.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Xian - Private Evening Food & Market Tour in the Muslim Quarter.
- ✓ Xian - Full day private tour to the Terra cotta Warriors, Wild Goose Pagoda & City Walls.
- ✓ Shanghai - Full day private tour to the Yuyuan gardens, Old City, Fuyou Road Antique Market, The Bund, Huangpu River and Skyscraper. Evening trip to the Chinese Acrobats including transfers.

### ■ 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

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### ■ NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

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

### ■ END

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## 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.

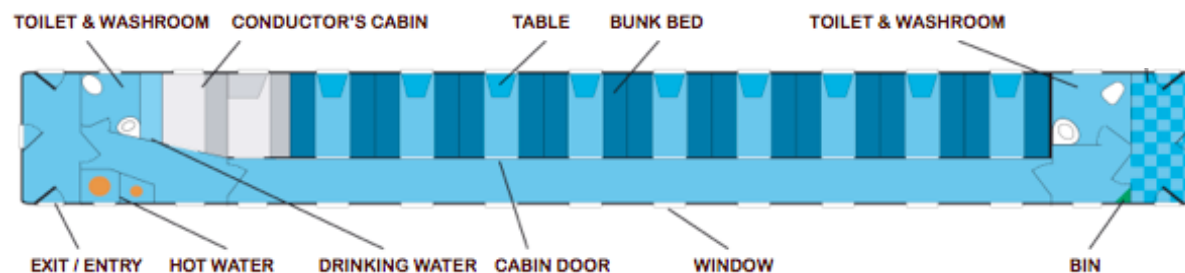
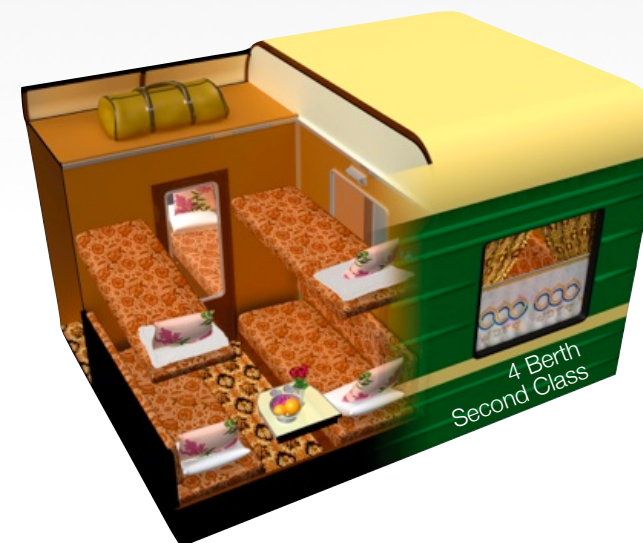
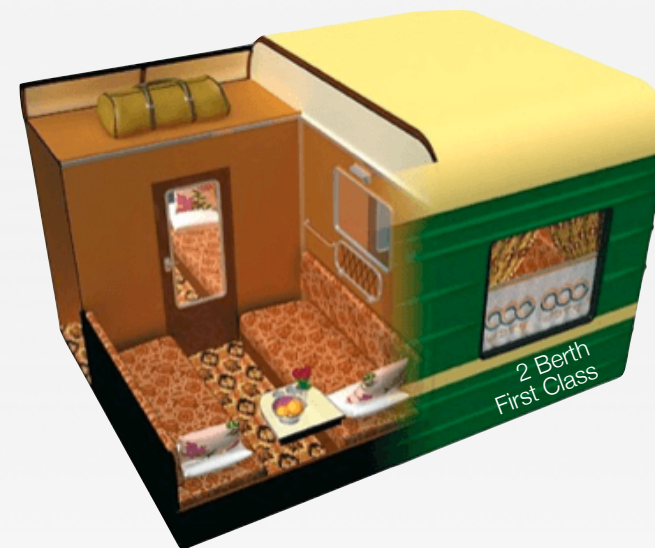
We use a large number of trains across our trips aiming to use the best possible option for each leg of the journey taking into account reliability of the timetable and obtaining tickets, the best and most practical departure and arrival times as well as safety and comfort. Between us we have travelled 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: 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.





## 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

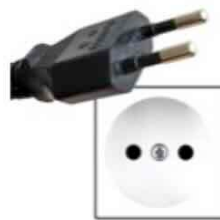
Mongolia allows citizens of 62 countries, including the U.S., Canada, and EU nations, to visit visa-free for 14 to 90 days depending on nationality. Travellers from other countries must obtain a 30-day tourist visa, which can be extended in Mongolia. Visas are available at Mongolian embassies and consulates. 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: 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.



## 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.





## 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 good 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.

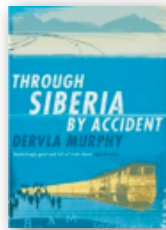
## DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS?

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

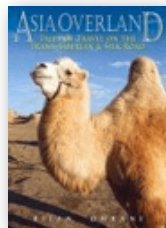
Excellent account of Siberia and in particular the remote and rarely traveled Baikal Amur Line (BAM). Well researched and full of character this book brings Siberia alive through the descriptions of the characters she meets along the way.



### TRAVELS IN SIBERIA

IAN FRAZIER

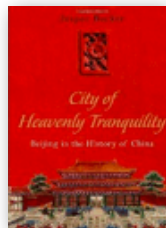
Frazier reveals Siberia's role in history, its science, economics, and politics. Traveling by car rather than train from St Petersburg to Vladivostok in five weeks in one of the most humorous, informative and hugely entertaining of Trans-Siberian books.



### ASIA OVERLAND

BIJAN OMRANI

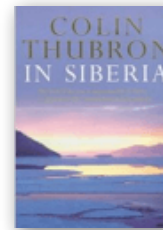
Tales of Travel on the Trans-Siberian and Silk Road. This title offers a travel companion and historical travelogue. It is resourced from travel luminaries: George Kennan to Anton Chekhov, Fa Xian to Marco Polo and Matteo Ricci.



### THE CITY OF HEAVENLY TRANQUILITY

JASPER BECKER

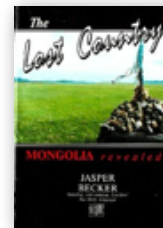
One of the best books devoted to Beijing and an entertaining historical account of the city that will give some real insight into what makes Beijing tick. The range is almost up to the modern day which gives the reader a good idea of what Beijing has been through.



### IN SIBERIA

COLIN THUBRON

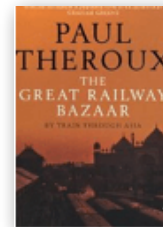
One of the books about Siberia as Thubron delves far deeper than the average travel writer trying to understand the essence of the people that live there and the land they live in. Quite a dark read but perhaps essential to understand.



### THE LOST COUNTRY: MONGOLIA REVEALED

JASPER BECKER

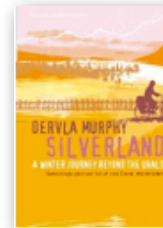
Another Becker offering covering the history of Mongolia through his travels there in the early 90's. It is full of anecdotes and historical stories of the strange and bizarre and offers a good grounding in Mongolia up until the early years after the fall of the Soviet Union.



### 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.

