

Trans-Siberian Experience



2008/2009

The Russia Experience





Trans-Siberian Experience 2008/2009

Contents

Your complete guide

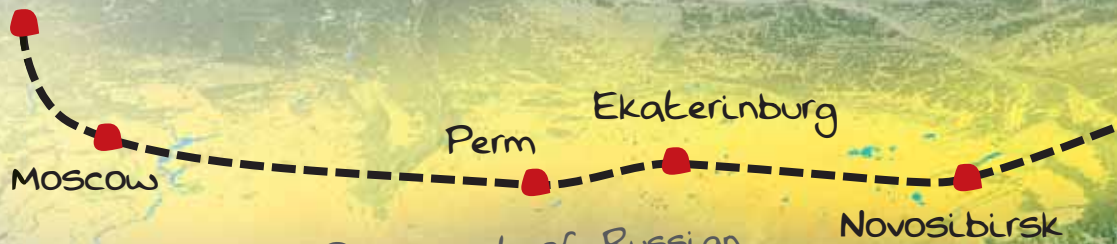
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The journey spans eight time zones!

Russia has actively negotiated and financed the rebuilding of the railway between North and South Korea. The plan is to reopen the Vladivostok-Pyongyang section (currently suspended) and offer a direct freight route from Seoul to Moscow. This may later be expanded to carry passenger traffic too.

St Petersburg

The train carries about 20,000 containers per year to Europe



Around 30 per cent of Russian exports travel on the line



Rudolf Nureyev was born on the Trans-Siberian near Irkutsk in Siberia, while his mother Farida was travelling to Vladivostok, where his father Hamat, a Red Army political commissar was stationed.

The Trans-Siberian is longer than the Great Wall of China and US Route 66





Ulan-Uday

The route to Vladivostok was built between 1891 and 1916. The "first rivet" was ceremonially hammered home by the future Nicholas II, the last Tsar. Under communist rule he would later be placed under House Arrest as a prisoner on board the Trans-Siberian.

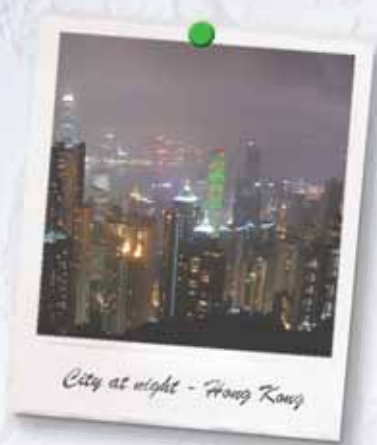


Port - Vladivostok



Forbidden City - Beijing

At 9,216 km (Moscow-Vladivostok) it is the longest direct rail route in the world, and entirely within Russia. The Moscow-Beijing route is shorter, at 9001 km.



City at night - Hong Kong

The original Trans-Siberian railway was built from Moscow to Vladivostok on the orders of Tsar Alexander III





Epic Trans-Sib

If there are two don't-miss things to do between Moscow and Beijing, they are almost certainly Siberia's Lake Baikal, and a visit to Mongolia. Although some people might prefer a "little taster" of more destinations, this trip is for people who want to direct their attention and energy at these two star attractions.

Apart from those two endlessly fascinating cities, this is a trip spanning thousands of kilometres and numerous time zones. You will visit Irkutsk - gateway city to Lake Baikal, the largest in the world - imagine a national park that stretched from London to Edinburgh?

And no less enormous are the distances in Mongolia's Gobi Desert, whose lifestyle and ecosystem you'll share with native herders. At the far end of this expanse is the Imperial sumptuousness of Beijing and thousands of years of Chinese cultural heritage.

This is a trip that's 100% main-course, with no starters or desserts to divert your attention or appetite! It isn't called "the epic" for nothing!



Mini Trek

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, evening transfer to station
- 4 Through the Urals aboard the Trans-Sib
- 5 On board into Siberia, crossing the River Ob at Novosibirsk
- 6 On board - across central Siberia and crossing the Yenisei
- 7-9 Arrive Irkutsk, CHOOSE EITHER: Siberian Village, with mini-trek, scuba, walking options OR Adventure Trek
- 10 Return to Irkutsk, free time to explore, then eve depart by train
- 11 On board, around Lake Baikal then southwards to Mongolia
- 12 Ulaanbaatar city walk, depart to Bayan Gobi, nomad stay
- 13 Onwards to Karakorum site, overnight stay with nomads
- 14 Sightseeing in Bayan Gobi, arrive to Elstei Ger Lodge
- 15 Free day at Elstei for walking, optional riding, or just relaxing
- 16 Return to Ulaanbaatar, free time to explore, and overnight
- 17 Depart to Beijing by train, midnight border crossing
- 18 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Lunch!



Mongolian Herdsman

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Epic Trans-Sib 18 days full on | £1,625 | £1,425 | £1,325 |
| Epic Trans-Sib 19 days full on | £1,670 | £1,455 | £1,355 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £449 | £449 | £449 |

Dates

17 NIGHTS / 18 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
MAY 06, 20, 28 • JUNE 04, 10, 18, 24 • JULY 02, 08, 16, 22
AUGUST 06, 12, 20, 26 • SEPTEMBER 02, 10, 16, 24, 30

17 NIGHTS / 18 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
MAY 12, 26 • JUNE 02, 16, 30

18 NIGHTS / 19 DAYS ITINERARY* 2008:
MAY 12, 26 • JUNE 02, 10, 16, 24, 30 • JULY 08, 14, 22, 28
AUGUST 04, 12, 18, 26 • SEPTEMBER 02

18 NIGHTS / 19 DAYS ITINERARY* 2009:
MAY 04, 18 • JUNE 08, 22

* Extra night for Siberian Village Listvyanka Village, Extra night for Adventure Trek Irkutsk City

Mammoth Trans-Sib



There is a land of wonders between the two great former Imperial capitals of Moscow and Beijing. Taking the Trans-Sib puts them within your grasp.

How about savouring a whole Asiatic culture located in Siberia with its own language and ancient Buddhist temples? Or the **Mongolian Gobi Desert**, a sandy plain where you might even get a few vultures tailing your jeep as you head towards a few days sharing the life of nomadic herders?

“It’s a whole Asiatic culture located in Siberia, with its own language, Buddhist temples”

Framing this stunning confection are the throbbing cities of **Moscow** and **Beijing**. Where else can you see the dizzy extravagances of Soviet excess in the morning, the best collection of French Impressionists outside Paris in the afternoon, and dine on spicy bean cutlets, flatbreads and Georgian shashliks in the evening?



Confused guard



Elstei Ger Lodge

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, afternoon transfer to station
- 4 By train through Ural Mts, eve arrive Ekaterinburg & accom
- 5 Walking tour of Ekaterinburg & free time to explore
- 6 Your choice of Ekaterinburg/Urals activities (see trip dossiers)
- 7 Onwards by Trans-Siberian via Novosibirsk, cross River Ob
- 8 Onwards by Trans-Sib via Krasnoyarsk, cross River Yenisei
- 9/10 EITHER Siberian Village Stay (options for scuba, mini-trek, walking) OR Adventure Trek (camping)
- 11 Car return to Irkutsk, free time to explore, dep to station
- 12 Arrival Ulan-Uday, fam stay, Buddhist Monastery & Buryat Village
- 13 Visit Ivolginsky Buddhist Datsan and Tarbagatay, home to “The Old Believers”
- 14 Depart by train towards Mongolian Border (midnight crossing)
- 15 Ulaanbaatar city walk, depart and overnight with nomads
- 16 Trip into Bayan-Gobi, picnic en-route, stay with nomads
- 17 Onwards to Karakorum site, ger-tent stay with local nomads
- 18 Scenic desert drive back, arrive at Elstei Ger Lodge
- 19 Free day at Elstei-relax, walk, activities, optional horse-riding
- 20 Return to Ulaanbaatar, free time to explore, overnight
- 21 Depart by train to Beijing, across the Southern Gobi desert
- 22 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Mammoth Trans-Sib 22 days full on | £2,300 | £1,999 | £1,900 |
| Mammoth Trans-Sib 23 days full on | £2,345 | £2,030 | £1,930 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Ulan-Uday (per night) | £50 | £35 | £35 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £500 | £500 | £500 |

Dates:

21 NIGHTS / 22 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
MAY 02, 16, 24 • JUNE 06, 14, 20, 28 • JULY 04, 12, 18, 26
AUGUST 02, 08, 16, 22 • SEPTEMBER 06

21 NIGHTS / 22 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
MAY 08, 22 • JUNE 12, 26

22 NIGHTS / 23 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:*
MAY 08, 22 • JUNE 06, 12, 20, 26 • JULY 04, 10, 18, 24
AUGUST 08, 14, 22, 28 • SEPTEMBER 04

22 NIGHTS / 23 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
MAY 14, 28 • JUNE 04, 18

* Extra night for Siberian Village Listvyanka, Extra night for Adventure Trek Irkutsk City







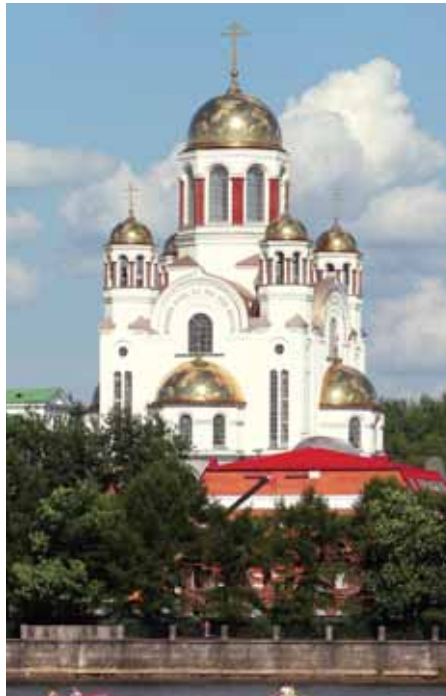
Ultimate Trans-Sib

Yes, we know our trip names are sometimes a bit over-the-top, but when you're dealing with **the largest country** on earth (Russia), **the longest railway** (the Trans-Sib), **the biggest lake** (Baikal), **the biggest desert** (the Gobi)... well, when else would superlatives be more apt?

“If you think of the Trans-Sib as a necklace of “jewels”, stretching from Europe to Asia, then this is the Crown Jewels!”

And this is the trip which has it all! We purposely sat down to try to work every single side trip and exotic activity into one stupendous itinerary – and this is it! If you think of the Trans-Sib as a necklace of “jewels”, stretching from Europe to Asia, then this is the Crown Jewels!

You came on the trip for the train – but what remains afterwards is interactive content with remote communities located far away from the railroad, whose lives still remain little changed by the “progress” it brought.



Ekaterinburg



Siberian Village resident

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, afternoon departure to the station
- 4 By train through Ural Mountains, evening arrive Ekaterinburg & accommodation
- 5 Your choice of Ekaterinburg/Urals activities
- 6 Onwards by train through Southern Siberia
- 7 By road from Barnaul into the High Altai Mts (picnic en-route)
- 8 Visit ancient cave painting site, optional horse riding
- 9 Cast off on Altai river rafting trip, overnight camping
- 10 Second half of rafting, return to Altai Village B&B, sauna
- 11 By road to Novosibirsk, picnic lunch, evening free in Novosibirsk
- 12 Sightseeing in Novosibirsk, free time and evening train depart
- 13 On board Trans-Sib eastwards, cross the Yenisei River Bridge
- 14&15 EITHER Siberian Village Stay (options for scuba, mini-trek, walking) OR Adventure Trek (camping)
- 16 Free time in Irkutsk for exploring, evening train departure
- 17 Arrive Ulan-Uday, Buddhist monastery & Buryat Village trip
- 18 Visit Ivolginsky Buddhist Datsan and Tarbagatay, home to “The Old Believers”
- 19 Early depart by train, en-route for Mongolian border
- 20 Ulaanbaatar city walk, departure to Bayan-Gobi, nomad stay
- 21 To Karakorum site, stay in gers with local nomads
- 22 Scenic desert route back to UB, stay at Elstei Ger Lodge
- 23 Free day at Elstei for walking, activities, optional horseriding
- 24 Return to Ulaanbaatar, central hotel, free time for exploring
- 25 Depart by train to Beijing, across the Southern Gobi desert
- 26 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

Trip price:

| | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| Ultimate Trans-Sib 26 days full on | 2 people £2,890 | 3-9 people £2,790 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | 2 people £50 | 3-9 people £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Ulan-Uday (per night) | £35 | £35 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £500 | £500 |

Dates:

25 NIGHTS / 26 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
JUNE 02, 10, 16, 24 • JULY 08, 14, 22 • AUGUST 04, 12, 18

25 NIGHTS / 26 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
JUNE 08, 22

Outer and Inner Mongolia



Everyone's heard of "Outer Mongolia". But "Inner Mongolia"? The names come from Imperial China. When they conquered Mongolia they realised ruling it would be impossible. So the grassland part nearest to Beijing (the "Inner" part) they ruled like the rest of China, but they gave up once the Gobi was in the way, and the "Outer" part was ruled by martial law. "Outer Mongolia" is now the independent country of Mongolia - one of the world's least-visited.

Inner Mongolia's cultural heritage is little-visited – this trip is for the inquisitive and adventurous

The outstanding feature of this trip, however (well, except for Lake Baikal, which we haven't left out!) is Huhhot, the Inner Mongolian capital – simultaneously a part of China, yet retaining much of its Mongol heritage, including a spectacular "thousand-Buddha" pagoda.

This trip is for the inquisitive and adventurous!



Inner Mongolia, Wuta Si Pagoda

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, evening transfer to station
- 4 On board through Kazan and Ekaterinburg
- 5 On board across River Ob at Novosibirsk
- 6 On board across Eastern Siberia and across the river Yenisei
- 7 Arrive Irkutsk, by road to Lake Baikal & Listvyanka Village stay
- 8 YOUR CHOICE: options at Listvyanka include walking, scuba and quad biking
- 9 Back to Irkutsk for a home stay
- 10 Early morning transfer to the station where you will board the Ulaanbaatar bound train
- 11 Morning arrival to Ulaanbaatar, walking tour to include the Gandan Monastery then to the Bayan Gobi
- 12 On to Karakorum, overnight with Gobi nomads
- 13 Day with Nomad family and overnight
- 14 Sightseeing in the Gobi, arrival to Elstei Ger Lodge
- 15 Additional free day at Elstei
- 16 Return to Ulaanbaatar, free time to explore, overnight stay
- 17 Free time, evening transfer to station for train to Huhhot
- 18 Evening arrival to Huhhot, transfer to hotel
- 19 Guided full day of Huhhot – capital of Inner Mongolia
- 20 Free time to explore, evening departure by train
- 21 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Mongolian Herdsmen

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Outer & Inner Mongolia 21 days full on | £1,799 | £1,499 | £1,399 |
| Outer & Inner Mongolia 22 days full on | £1,844 | £1,529 | £1,429 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £449 | £449 | £449 |

Dates:

20 NIGHTS / 21 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
MAY 10, 24 • JUNE 14, 28 • JULY 12, 26 • AUG 02, 16, 30 • SEPT 06

20 NIGHTS / 21 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
MAY 02, 16, 30 • JUNE 06, 20

21 NIGHTS / 22 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
MAY 02, 16, 30 • JUNE 06, 20 • JULY 04, 18 • AUG 08, 22

21 NIGHTS / 22 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
MAY 08, 22 • JUNE 12, 26

* Extra night for Siberian village in Irkutsk City.

No ordinary trip, no ordinary travel company



Mongolian nomad couple



Gobi and Gulag



Here's a Trans-Sib itinerary that surprised even us with its success! At its heart is one of our classic Mongolia programs – and places where the majority of the population continue to live as herders, living in gers (the wood-framed camel-felt tent) and tending their animals.

As a counterbalance to Mongolia's poise and tranquillity, this trip includes a two-day mini-expedition to the last remaining Soviet gulag, not far from Perm. Gulags were always built in remote areas (obviously) and we leverage double value by heading into the uninhabited Urals and returning by raft.

“If you're looking for the real life of Mongolia, you need to reset your mental coordinates”

This isn't frenzied white-water, but a leisurely float down the Usva, through amazing scenery inaccessible by road – with camping along the way, as you're miles from any inhabited locations in the middle of the Ural Mountains!



Watch Tower

- The trip:**
- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
 - 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
 - 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, evening transfer to station
 - 4 By train eastwards, mid-evening arrival in Perm & accom
 - 5 Kungur Ice Caves, commence rafting trip
 - 6 Full-day leisurely raft on the Usva River, camp overnight
 - 7 Gulag Museum visit, return to Perm by road
 - 8 Free day in Perm, evening transfer to station, depart eastbound
 - 9 On board Trans-Sib eastwards via Novosibirsk
 - 10 On board Trans-Sib eastwards via Krasnoyarsk
 - 11 On board Trans-Sib via Irkutsk & Lake Baikal, border crossing
 - 12 Arrival Ulaanbaatar, city tour, transfer to Elstei Ger Lodge
 - 13 Free day at Elstei Ger Camp to ride, walk or relax
 - 14 Return to Ulaanbaatar, free day to explore & overnight
 - 15 Departure to China, by train across the Southern Gobi
 - 16 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing
- For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Road to Elstei



Trendy locals

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Gobi & Gulag 16 days full on | £1,470 | £1,270 | £1,170 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £349 | £349 | £349 |

Dates:

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 MAY 15, 22, 29 • JUNE 05, 12, 19, 26 • JULY 03, 10, 17, 24, 31
 AUG 07, 14, 21, 28 • SEPT 04

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 MAY 07, 14, 21, 28 • JUNE 04, 11, 18, 25

Dr Zhivago



Is there anyone whose mental picture of Russian trains isn't shaped by Strelnikov's train roaring past in the snow, flags flying? If there's one film famous in the "West" about Russia, it's Doctor Zhivago. Yet few realise the Nobel prize-winning work was based on a soviet-era banned novel by poet Boris Pasternak

The majority of the action of the book takes place on and along the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

“Is there anyone whose mental picture of Russian trains isn't shaped by Strelnikov's train roaring past in the snow, flags flying?”

With this trip we've taken the standard Trans-Siberian routing and switched the centre of interest round to Perm (a major halt in the Urals). This city is the novel's setting. Pasternak himself lived in the city for a while and most of the book's locations are real places we'll show you on the city tour.

Our trip then heads for Mongolia and finally to Beijing.



St. Basil's Cathedral

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Morning free, afternoon transfer to Yaroslavsky station for Perm bound train
- 4 By train across the Urals, early evening arrival, transfer to hotel
- 5 Special walking tour of Yuri Zhivago's Yuratin (Perm)
- 6 Full day excursion to the Gulag museum, housed in the only surviving soviet era Gulag you can visit in Russia
- 7 Free day in Perm to explore the rest of this pleasant Urals city-evening transfer to the station.
- 8-12 On board the Trans-Siberian... travelling Eastwards via the Chinese Manchurian frontier with Russia
- 13 Early morning arrival to Beijing Central station

If you would like to travel from Perm **via Mongolia** to China, we can re-plan your routing... it needs different departure dates from Moscow for the connections to work, and the trip is longer due to the Mongolia stopover. (Yuri's daughter is born in Mongolia in the book Lara was pregnant when kidnapped by Komarovsky) A full itinerary version including Mongolia is on our website.

It's also possible to take **only the Moscow & Perm sections and then return to Moscow by train** (without going to Mongolia or China) this is possible too – itinerary version on our website.



Excursion to the Gulag



Stopping for lunch

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Dr Zhivago 13 days full on | £1,095 | £999 | £899 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £349 | £349 | £349 |

Dates:

12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 JAN 06, 13, 20, 27 • FEB 03, 10, 17, 24 • MARCH 02, 09, 16, 23, 30
 APRIL 06, 13, 20, 27 • MAY 04, 11, 18, 25 • JUNE 01, 08, 15, 22, 29
 JULY 06, 13, 20, 27 • AUG 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 • SEPT 07, 14, 21, 28
 OCT 05, 12, 19, 26 • NOV 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 • DEC 07, 14, 21, 28

12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 JAN 04, 11, 18, 25 • FEB 01, 08, 15, 22 • MARCH 01, 08, 15, 22, 29
 APRIL 05, 12, 19, 26 • MAY 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 • JUNE 07, 14, 21, 28

* Extra night for Siberian village in Irkutsk City. Extra night for Adventure Trek in Listvyanka.







Big Trans-Sib

Long ago when our managing director still had hair, this was our biggest itinerary. Although we now have trips more than double its duration, the winning formula keeps its popularity running strong. It starts in **Moscow** and ends in **Beijing** – so you get the full experience of the second-largest city in Europe and the pulsating excitement of Asia’s new Olympic city.

There’s no Siberian city more emblematic than **Irkutsk** and it’s also the gateway to Lake Baikal. By way of complete contrast, the other side-trip on this winning itinerary is Mongolia, where there’s a great balance between the landscape and life of the Mongolian steppe at the Elstei Ger Lodge, and a chance to explore the unique capital on the steppes – Ulaanbaatar, where Buddhism meets broadband in a charming mixture that’s uniquely Mongolian.



Ulaanbaatar

- ### The trip:
- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
 - 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
 - 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, evening transfer to station
 - 4 On board the Trans-Sib, through the Ural Mountains
 - 5 On board-into Siberia, crossing the River Ob at Novosibirsk
 - 6 On board-across Eastern Siberia and across the river Yenisei
 - 7&8 EITHER: arrival Irkutsk & transfer for Siberian Village OR: arrival to Irkutsk for Fishermens’ Cape
 - 9 Return to Irkutsk, day to explore, family stay (or hotel upgrade)
 - 10 Depart by train to Mongolia-midnight border crossing
 - 11 Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, walking tour, transfer to Elstei Ger Lodge
 - 12 Free day at Elstei Ger Lodge walk, optional riding, just relax?
 - 13 Return to Ulaanbaatar, overnight stay
 - 14 Depart to Beijing by train across the Southern Gobi
 - 15 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing
- For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Diving at Lake Baikal



Elstei Ger Lodge

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Big Trans-Sib 15 days full on | £1,255 | £1,155 | £1,055 |
| Big Trans-Sib 16 days full on | £1,300 | £1,185 | £1,085 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £399 | £399 | £399 |
| Big Trans-Sib 15 days no frills | £1,155 | £1,055 | £955 |
| Big Trans-Sib 16 days no frills | £1,180 | £1,080 | £980 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow - Beijing | £399 | £399 | £399 |

Dates:

14 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 JAN 04, 18 • FEB 08, 22 • MARCH 14, 28 • APRIL 04, 18 • MAY 02, 16, 30
 JUNE 06, 14, 20, 28 • JULY 04, 12, 18, 26 • AUG 02, 08, 16, 22
 SEPT 06, 12, 20, 26 • OCT 04, 10, 24 • NOV 14, 28 • DEC 12, 26

14 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 JAN 02, 16, 30 • FEB 06, 20 • MARCH 06, 20 • APRIL 10, 24 • MAY 08, 22
 JUNE 12, 26

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS ITINERARY* 2008:
 JAN 10, 24 • FEB 14, 28 • MARCH 06, 20 • APRIL 10, 24 • MAY 08, 22
 JUNE 06, 12, 20, 26 • JULY 04, 10, 18, 24 • AUG 08, 14, 22, 28
 SEPT 04, 12, 18, 26 • OCT 02, 10, 16, 30 • NOV 06, 20 • DEC 04, 18

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS ITINERARY* 2009:
 JAN 08, 22 • FEB 12, 26 • MARCH 12, 26 • APRIL 02, 16, 30
 MAY 14, 28 • JUNE 04, 18

* Extra night for Siberian Village in Listvyanka Village. Extra night for Fishermens Cape in Irkutsk City

Super Trans-Sib



As a contrast to some of our trips showcasing culture, history and traditions, this one is more adventure-driven and packed with outdoor activity! It even operates year round, including husky dog sledding in the Winter and hiking at Lake Baikal in Summer (or snowmobiles in Winter). And there's always a little shot of vodka on hand to warm you up!

The Lake usually freezes several metres deep in winter, and even truck-drivers use it as a short-cut

This itinerary is neatly balanced, spreading the three en-route side trips quite evenly throughout the journey, so that you don't have long unbroken sections on board the train... well, they might be long in British terms but they're just the twinkling of an eye here!

Once the glamour of big cities like Moscow, Ekaterinburg and Beijing is factored in, it's a great blend of action and urban sophistication in one neatly planned itinerary.



Herdsman



Gobi desert

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, afternoon departure to the station
- 4 By train through Ural Mountains, eve arrive Ekaterinburg & accom
- 5 Walking tour of Ekaterinburg & free time to explore
- 6 Your choice of Ekaterinburg/Urals activities
- 7 On board Trans-Sib eastwards, via Novosibirsk
- 8 On board Trans-Sib eastwards, via Krasnoyarsk
- 9/10 EITHER: Siberian Village Stay with walk, mini-trek or scuba options, or in the winter, Snow Mobile OR: Fishermen's Cape of Lake Baikal trip with mini-trek
- 11 Free time Listvyanka Village
- 12 Free time to explore Irkutsk city evening departure to Ulaanbaatar
- 13 On board, around Lake Baikal then southwards to Mongolia
- 14 Arrive Ulaanbaatar then a walking tour and later transfer to Elstei Ger Lodge
- 15 Free day at Elstei Ger Camp, optional riding or just relax?
- 16 Return to Ulaanbaatar, free time to explore, overnight stay
- 17 Depart by train to Beijing, across Southern Gobi desert
- 18 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Super Trans-Sib 18 days full on | £1700 | £1600 | £1500 |
| Super Trans-Sib 19 days full on | £1745 | £1630 | £1530 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £500 | £500 | £500 |
| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
| Super Trans-Sib 18 days no frills | £1390 | £1290 | £1190 |
| Super Trans-Sib 19 days no frills | £1415 | £1315 | £1215 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £500 | £500 | £500 |

Dates:

17 NIGHTS / 18 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 JAN 08, 22 • FEB 12, 26 • MARCH 04, 18 • APRIL 08, 22 • MAY 06, 20
 JUNE 04, 10, 18, 24 • JULY 02, 08, 16, 22 • AUG 06, 12, 20, 26
 SEPT 02, 10, 16, 24, 30 • OCT 08, 14, 28 • NOV 04, 18 • DEC 02, 16

17 NIGHTS / 18 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 JAN 06, 20 • FEB 10, 24 • MARCH 10, 24 • APRIL 14, 28 • MAY 12, 26
 JUNE 02, 16, 30

18 NIGHTS / 19 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 JAN 14, 28 • FEB 04, 18 • MARCH 10, 24 • APRIL 14, 28 • MAY 12, 26
 JUNE 02, 10, 16, 24, 30 • JULY 08, 14, 22, 28 • AUG 04, 12, 18, 26
 SEPT 02, 08, 16, 22 • OCT 06, 20 • NOVEMBER 10, 24 • DEC 08, 22

18 NIGHTS / 19 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 JAN 12, 26 • FEB 02, 16 • MARCH 02, 16 • APRIL 06, 20 • MAY 04, 18
 JUNE 08, 22

Extra night Siberian Village in Irkutsk City Extra night Fishermens Cape in Irkutsk City



Nomad Gers on the Mongolian Steppe





Three Capitals

The Trans-Mongolian rail route takes in the Trans-Siberian (the Trans-Sib, remember, is the part between the Ural Mountains and Ulan-Uday only... one of the great misunderstood elements of this rail route!) and then dives southwards to catch Ulaanbaatar along the way to Beijing.

It was the rail route which “built” Ulaanbaatar as we know it today – before the railway, the Mongolian capital wasn’t even fixed in one place, but followed the Royal Court and its retinue in ger tents around a calendar route of Mongolia’s Buddhist monasteries. The most important of the monasteries, Gandantegchinlen (or just “Gandan” in everyday speech) was where the Royal Court spent the long, snow-bound winters, and a ger encampment became settled around the Gandan – the settlement of Urga (not really a “city” in the modern sense – the sunscorched pasture of Mongolia couldn’t support cities that remained in one place for long). In fact when Mongolian hero Sukhebaatar wanted to enlist Lenin’s help in overthrowing the Chinese, he had to ride to Moscow by horse in person (his heroic ride took just seven days and nights) to do so. The USSR built a railway to its new Asian ally (the second country in the world to join the “great experiment in socialism”) – a rail route which still links up the **three capitals** of Moscow, Ulaanbaatar and Beijing.

Ulaanbaatar makes a charming contrast to the huge megapolises that frame the ends of the route

This route is ideal for those who have limited time but still want to take the rail route and see something of Mongolia along the way. Ulaanbaatar makes a charming contrast to the huge megapolises that frame the ends of the route – being around one-tenth the size of Beijing or Moscow.



Young Chinese Lady!

The trip:

- 1 Arrival in Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Local expert assisted walking tour in Moscow, free time
- 3 Free day to explore Moscow, evening train departure
- 4 On board the Trans-Sib via the Ural Mountains
- 5 On board the Trans-Sib via Central Siberia
- 6 On board the Trans-Sib, crossing the Yenisei River
- 7 Past and around Lake Baikal and on to Mongolia
- 8 Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, walking tour, transfer to Elstei Ger Lodge
- 9 Free day at Elstei; walk, relax, optional riding, stay in gers
- 10 Return to Ulaanbaatar. Free time.
- 11 Depart to Beijing by train across the Southern Gobi
- 12 Passing through paddy fields and gorges, arrive to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Dinner on board

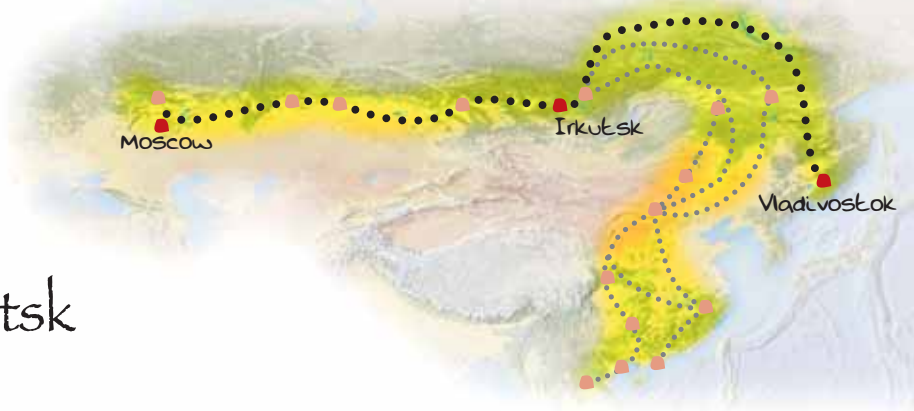
Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Three Capitals 12 days full on | £1019 | £919 | £819 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £349 | £349 | £349 |
| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
| Three Capitals 12 days no frills | £919 | £819 | £719 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £349 | £349 | £349 |

Dates:

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 JAN 07, 14, 21, 28 • FEB 04, 11, 18, 25 • MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 APRIL 07, 14, 21, 28 • MAY 05, 12, 19, 26 • JUNE 02, 09, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30
 JULY 01, 07, 08, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 • AUG 04, 05, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
 SEPT 01, 02, 08, 09, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 • OCT 06, 07, 13, 14, 20, 27
 NOV 03, 10, 17, 24 • DEC 01, 08, 15, 22, 29

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 JAN 05, 12, 19, 26 • FEB 02, 09, 16, 23 • MARCH 02, 09, 16, 23
 APRIL 06, 13, 20, 27 • MAY 04, 11, 18, 25 • JUNE 01, 08, 15, 22, 29



Original Trans-Sib via Irkutsk

There's a strange quirk that the longest international train route in the world – the Trans-Manchurian Railway from Moscow to Beijing – is still 260km shorter than the longest domestic train route in the world... the one taken by the "Rossiya" from Moscow to Vladivostok. And why was it built because of the British Empire?

Strange as it may sound, it was "Great Game" rivalry with Britain that caused the Russian railway barons to build the Trans-Siberian rail route. Their plan was simple – to outmanoeuvre the English merchants in China and India, by offering an express route that would rush even perishable goods from Asia to Europe in just over a week, catering to the developing tastes in Europe for not just silks and spices, but tropical fruits and other exotica.

However, it wasn't sold to His Majesty, Tsar Alexander III, like that – instead it was touted as a way of joining European Russia to its Pacific cities, with which there was only communication for half the year whilst the Arctic waters remained open to shipping. As a result laws passed in St Petersburg a year earlier hadn't even been heard of in the distant port city of Vladivostok. To symbolise his approval in granting a Royal Patent for the railway, Alexander despatched his son – the future Nicholas II – to Vladivostok on a miserable journey that would take him three months by land, to hammer in the "first rivet" in the first sleeper.

We offer the Moscow-Vladivostok routing direct non-stop for train buffs and completists – or with an en-route layover at Lake Baikal for those determined to see something of Siberia on the way! In fact it was at Irkutsk that the rail-laying from both directions finally met – so it's the most Trans-Sib-related city in Siberia!



Travel writer and presenter Simon Calder

The trip:

- 1 Arrival in Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Local expert assisted walking tour in Moscow
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, evening transfer to station
- 4 On board, through Kazan and Ekaterinburg
- 5 On board into Siberia through Novosibirsk
- 6 On board across the River Enisei, at Krasnoyarsk
- 7 Arrival in Irkutsk, transfer to Listvyanka Village
- 8 Option to choose one activity for example quad biking or boat trip
- 9 Day at leisure in Listvyanka
- 10 Transfer to Irkutsk city, day at leisure
- 11 Early morning transfer to station, train to Vladivostok
- 12 On board... travelling via Ulan Uday
- 13 On board... travelling through Khabarovsk
- 14 Morning arrival to Vladivostok

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Tickets for the train

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Original Trans-Sib via Irkutsk | £1,050 | £950 | £930 |
| 14 days full on | | | |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Extra night Vladivostok (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel Upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel Upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Vladivostok | £399 | £399 | £399 |
| 14 days no frills | £950 | £850 | £830 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| Extra night Vladivostok (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Vladivostok | £399 | £399 | £399 |

Dates

14-DAY ITINERARY 2008 & 2009:
 Departures on odd numbered days of the month.
 Few rare exceptions - please confirm with us.







Trans-Manchurian Classic

This is the one for the real train fans – straight through from Moscow to Beijing non-stop, via Manchuria... the longest international train journey in the world (although Moscow-Vladivostok, which isn't international, is still longer!). This is more of a "land cruise on rails", and although none of the stops are longer than twenty minutes, you still sense the way that Europe slowly ebbs into Asia, rather than an abrupt change that happens at a border.

The Trans-Manchurian is the original rail routing to China, built once again by Russian merchants who saw the commercial prospects for a reliable and fast way of moving Asian goods to Europe for the retail industry (which, strangely, is exactly the way the Russian Government now views the future of the Trans-Siberian as air-freight becomes more expensive and discredited on environmental grounds). The route also played an important role in the final days of the Chinese Empire, as China fractured into two – the communists in Beijing, with the Empire and a Japanese-financed rival Government in Manchuria.



Sightseeing Beijing style

The trip:

- 1 Arrival to Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Local expert assisted walking tour in Moscow
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow
- 4-9 On board the Trans-Siberian
- 10 Thundering across China, morning arrival to Beijing

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Russian Vodka



Onwards, ever onwards

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Trans-Manchurian Classic 10 days full on | £669 | £639 | £609 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £299 | £299 | £299 |
| Trans-Manchurian Classic 10 days no frills | £569 | £539 | £509 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £299 | £299 | £299 |

Dates:

9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
 JAN 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 • FEB 06, 13, 20, 27 • MARCH 05, 12, 19, 26
 APRIL 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 • MAY 07, 14, 21, 28 • JUNE 04, 11, 18, 25
 JULY 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 • AUG 06, 13, 20, 27 • SEPT 03, 10, 17, 24
 OCT 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 • NOV 05, 12, 19, 26 • DEC 03, 10, 17, 24, 31

9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
 JAN 07, 14, 21, 28 • FEB 04, 11, 18, 25 • MARCH 04, 11, 18, 25
 APRIL 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 • MAY 06, 13, 20, 27 • JUNE 03, 10, 17, 24



Snow Train

You think of Siberia, and you think of snow (although the summers are scorching hot) – so why not go in winter? On top of which there are some special attractions at this time of year.

The Trans-Sib routes operates throughout the winter and to schedule! Equip yourself with some warm outer wear and thermal insoles and you're ready to enjoy the Russian Winter – a season the locals look forward to all year!

This trip features traditional Russian husky-dog sledding in the Ural Mountains, while the annual Harbin Ice Festival is a world famous event starting on January 1 and continuing until Chinese New Year.

Ice sculptors from around the world build incredible huge structures and the best time to visit is in the evening when everything is magically lit with multi-coloured lanterns and projectors.

If you end up putting on weight, you may just have to buy new clothes – and you'll be in the right place as Harbin has the very best of China's world famous garment industry.



Snow Train

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Moscow, transfer to accommodation
- 2 Moscow winter sightseeing with local expert
- 3 Day for sightseeing in Moscow, afternoon transfer to the station
- 4 On board the Trans-Sib via the Ural Mountains and arrive Ekaterinburg
- 5 Three hour walking tour of Ekaterinburg
- 6 WINTER MIXTURE: choose ice-fishing, snow walk or husky dog sledding!
- 7 On board the Trans-Sib via Central Siberia
- 8 On board the Trans-Sib, crossing the Yenisei River
- 9 On board the Trans-Sib, circumnavigating Lake Baikal
- 10 On board the Trans-Sib, eastwards across Buryatia
- 11 Arrival in China to Harbin, hotel accom opposite station
- 12 Opportunity to visit the Harbin Ice & Lanterns Festival
- 13 Free day to explore Harbin, overnight train to Beijing
- 14 Arrival in Beijing and end of itinerary

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Waiting to board



Siberian husky dog sledding

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 12 days full on | £1220 | £1120 | £1020 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 |
| Extra night Harbin (per night) | £60 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £375 | £375 | £375 |
| 12 days no frills | £1120 | £1020 | £980 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £30 | £30 |
| Extra night Harbin (per night) | £60 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Moscow-Beijing | £375 | £375 | £375 |

Dates:

13 NIGHTS / 14 DAYS - 2008 START DATES:
DECEMBER 29

13 NIGHTS / 14 DAYS - 2009 START DATES:
JANUARY 05, 12, 19, 26 • DECEMBER 28







Westbound Departures (Big Trans-Siberian)

Most of our itinerary models originating in Moscow have Westbound alternatives. Here we are showing the journey originating in Beijing for the Big Trans-Sib. Please note that train timetables run with some differences (days & times) going West-East. In August 2008 we anticipate some schedule alterations due to the Beijing Olympics. So please check our web site at www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call for details



Mares being milked



Beijing



On board

- The trip:**
- 1 Arrival to Beijing hotel (independently), free time in Beijing
 - 2 Own travel to Beijing Central Station, early departure to Ulaanbaatar
 - 3 Across Gobi steppes, arrival Ulaanbaatar, transfer to Ger Camp.
 - 4 Free day at Elstei Ger Lodge walk, optional horse riding, or just relax
 - 5 Return to Ulaanbaatar, free time to explore the city
 - 6 Morning walking tour of the capital, evening departure to Russia
 - 7 On board the Trans-Siberian en-route for Irkutsk
 - 8&9 EITHER: 2-day Siberian Village stay (scuba or mini-trek choices) OR: 2-day Fishermen's Cape of Lake Baikal (more remote)
 - 10 Return to Irkutsk, free time then transfer to the station
 - 11 On board Trans-Siberian bound for Moscow
 - 12 Across Eastern Siberia, cross the River Yenisei at Krasnoyarsk
 - 13 Trundling on to arrive at Moscow early evening
 - 14 Local expert assisted expert walking tour of Moscow, free time to explore
 - 15 End of itinerary-why not continue now to St Petersburg?
- For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008
It will not have escaped your notice that the Olympic Games are being held in Beijing in 2008. As you can imagine, every hotel room has already been pre-booked for visitors, press and participants in the Games. **During this time this trip option price will not be available.** Please contact us to see if we have hotel rates for the Beijing stay but be aware they will be a great deal more than usual. We anticipate a 300-500% increase.

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| 15 days full on | £1215 | £1115 | £1015 |
| 16 days full on | £1260 | £1145 | £1045 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Beijing-Moscow | £399 | £399 | £399 |

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 15 days no frills | £1115 | £1015 | £915 |
| 16 days no frills | £1140 | £1040 | £940 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £45 | £40 | £40 |
| 2-berth upgrade Beijing-Moscow | £399 | £399 | £399 |

Dates:

14 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
JAN 14 • FEB 04, 18, 25 • MARCH 10, 31 • APRIL 14, 28 • MAY 12
JUNE 06, 16, 20, 30 • JULY 04, 14, 18, 25 • AUG 04, 08, 18, 25, 29
SEPT 08, 12, 22, 26 • OCT 10, 31 • NOV 14, 28 • DEC 12

14 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
JAN 02, 16, 23 • FEB 06, 20 • MARCH 06, 20, 27 • APRIL 10, 24

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
JAN 07, 28 • FEB 11 • MARCH 03, 17, 24 • APRIL 07, 21 • MAY 05, 19
JUNE 09, 13, 23, 27 • JULY 07, 11, 28 • AUG 01, 11, 15, 22
SEPT 01, 05, 15, 19, 29 • OCT 03, 17, 24 • NOV 07, 21 • DEC 05, 19, 26

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS ITINERARY 2009:
JAN 09, 30 • FEB 13, 27 • MARCH 13 • APRIL 03, 17

* Extra night for Siberian village in Listvyanka Village. Extra night for Fishermen's Cape in Irkutsk City

Westbound Departures

(Mammoth Trans-Siberian)



Most of our itinerary models originating in Moscow have Westbound alternatives. Here we are showing the journey originating in Beijing for the Mammoth Trans-Sib. Please note that train timetables run with some differences (days & times) going West-East. In August 2008 we anticipate some schedule alterations due to the Beijing Olympics. So please check our web site at www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call for details

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008
It will not have escaped your notice that the Olympic Games are being held in Beijing in 2008. As you can imagine, every hotel room has already been pre-booked for visitors, press and participants in the Games. **During this time this trip option price will not be available.** Please contact us to see if we have hotel rates for the Beijing stay but be aware they will be a great deal more than usual. We anticipate a 300-500% increase.



Altai region



Your train

- ### The trip:
- 1 Arrival to Beijing hotel (independently), free time
 - 2 Own travel to Beijing Central Station, early departure to Ulaanbaatar
 - 3 Across the Gobi steppes, arrival to Ulaanbaatar then a walking tour and later transfer to Elstei Ger Lodge
 - 4 Free time to relax, optional horse riding and time to chill
 - 5 Transfer to Bayangobi region, over night with Nomads
 - 6 Day trip through Ovorkhangai Province towards Harhorin, over night with Nomads
 - 7 Return to Ulaanbaatar, balance of day free to explore
 - 8 Time for last minute shopping and transfer to Ulan-Uday bound train
 - 9 Late evening arrival to Ulan Uday, over night with host family
 - 10 Morning trip to Atsagatsky Buddhist Lamasery and lunch with Buryat family, overnight
 - 11 Excursion to Tarbagatay, a traditional village and evening transfer to Irkutsk bound train
 - 12&13 EITHER: Siberian Village stay or Adventure Trek
 - 14 Transfer to Irkutsk
 - 15 Onboard towards Ekaterinburg
 - 16 Arrival to Ekaterinburg, walking tour
 - 17 Free day trip options to include trekking or mountain biking
 - 18 Morning transfer to Moscow bound train
 - 19 Early morning arrival to the capital, hotel stay
 - 20 Walking tour of the city
 - 21 End of itinerary - why not continue to St Petersburg?
- For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| 21 days full on | £2300 | £1999 | £1900 |
| 22 days full on | £2345 | £2029 | £1930 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 |
| Extra night Moscow (per night) | £60 | £50 | £50 |
| Hotel upgrade Ulan-Uday (per night) | £50 | £35 | £35 |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City (per night) | £40 | £30 | £30 |
| 2-berth upgrade Beijing-Moscow | £500 | £500 | £500 |

Dates:

18 NIGHTS / 19 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
MAY 12, 19 • JUNE 06, 16, 20, 30 • JULY 04, 14, 21, 25
AUG 04, 08, 25, 29 • SEPT 08, 12, 22

19 NIGHTS / 20 DAYS ITINERARY* 2008:
MAY 05, 26 • JUNE 09, 13, 23, 27 • JULY 07, 11, 18, 28
AUG 01, 11, 15, 18, 22 • SEPT 01, 05, 15

* Extra night for Siberian village in Listvyanka Village. Extra night for Adventure Trek in Irkutsk City.







Mongolian Adventures (I)

These Mongolia trips can be operated as stand alone itineraries (for people arriving by air from Beijing, air fare not included or by train from Beijing) or can be swapped into many of our Trans-Siberian itineraries with some date adjustments that our staff will be happy to advise on. Please bear in mind that Mongolia was never a “city-based” civilisation until the “collectivisation” that came with 1920’s. Communism made it so. To see the real Mongolia you have to leave the city behind you! This isn’t to say that Ulaanbaatar is unimportant, and a day is included there in all the programmes (more days can be added at your request). However, our advice is to adjust your eurocentric viewpoint, because cities were never part of a culture that was fully nomadic for thousands of years, and remains at least half-nomadic even today.

Camel Trekking in the Southern Gobi **6 nights / 7 days**

The Southern Gobi is one of the most extreme climates on earth – but locals have mastered the art of surviving and moving around in it. The Silk Route depended on the ability to cross the Gobi by camel caravan, and on this trip you experience three days of camel trekking. You’ll stop and make camp for two nights during the trek period, and of course you will take all your supplies with you. We don’t send you unprepared, however – there is a whole day given over to training and practice before you start. Along the way you will visit the Khamar Buddhist Monastery, and an area in which you should be able to find some petrified wood, and even perhaps a few dinosaur remains. The training day, and relaxation after the trek will be at the Tavan-Dokhio Ger Camp, 18km from Sainshand (from where this trip begins). At the end of the trip you take an overnight train ride to Ulaanbaatar, where you have a half-day sightseeing tour and an overnight stay before the trip ends. No experience with camels is needed, but moderate fitness is required, and some suppleness of the leg and calf muscles will give you an easier time on the trek. All equipment is provided, but you will need to bring suitable clothing (long-sleeved cotton tops, hat, sunglasses, light cotton trousers etc) for the trekking section of the trip. Follow in the steps of Sven Hedin or Aurel Stein and head off by camel into the Gobi...



Hamar Buddhist Monastery (Red Hat Sect), South Gobi



Turtle Statue from Genghis Khan's Court, Erdenezuu

Tengri's Sky Kingdom - Orkhon Valley & Erdenezuu **6 nights / 7 days**

Before Buddhism was brought to Mongolia, the ancient Mongolians worshipped Tengri – the spirit of the blue horizon. Mountains and high places were sacred - because it was there you could be closest to Tengri's sky kingdom. On this trip we head 400km away from Ulaanbaatar and 1200 years back in time, to the Orkhon Valley – where ancient memorials dedicated to C8th Mongolian Khan Bilghe. The area is associated with all of Mongolia's great Khans, including Genghis Khan – because it's overlooked by the peak of Mount Ötüken, where Tengri had his celestial encampment. Your week-long stay in Mongolia begins from Ulaanbaatar at the Elstei Ger Lodge. From there you head by road into the Bayan-Gobi (“rich-Gobi” – the part which can sustain herding) and spend two nights with Mongolian herders, sharing a lifestyle which Genghis would easily recognise himself. On into mesmerising landscape of the Orkhon Valley, with time to absorb its vastness (and have a picnic). Erdenezuu Monastery is one of the Gobi's greatest treasures, where Buddhist monks have contemplated philosophical matters and decorated their temples since its founding in 1585. Surrounded by 108 stupas, there are many temples on the monastery's grounds – but less than half the number before the Communist purges. High peaks overlook the monastery, and as you'll already have guessed... a site “in the sky” near to Tengri would have royal associations. In this case they are where Genghis Khan himself summoned his Great Kuriltai (“clan-gathering”), and the single turtle statue is the only remaining relic known certainly to be connected to Genghis. You come back to Ulaanbaatar for the final evening. (Supplementary days can be added in Ulaanbaatar to see the capital).

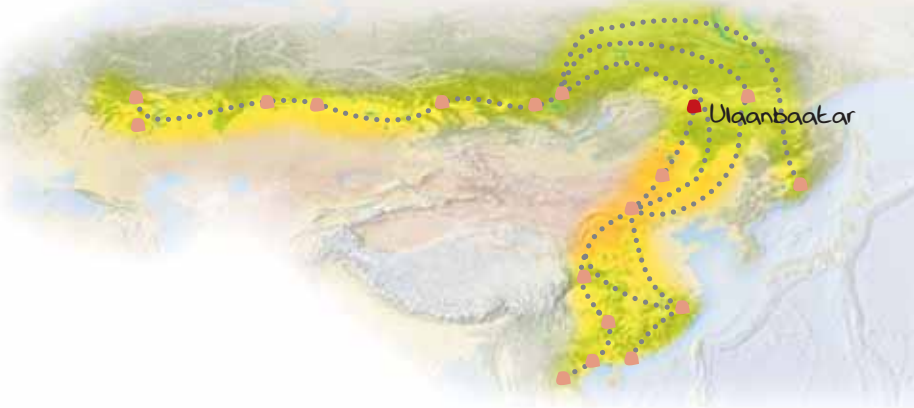
Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Camel Trekking in the Southern Gobi | £599 | £499 | £499 |
| Tengri's Sky Kingdom | £599 | £499 | £499 |
| Train ticket Beijing to Ulaanbaatar return | £160 | £160 | £160 |
| 2-berth upgrade (return) | £200 | £200 | £200 |
| Extra nights hotel Ulaanbaatar | £80 | £40 | £40 |

Dates:

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:
All these Mongolian Adventures start any Weds between July and September.

Mongolian Adventures (II)



Mongolian Warrior Training Course

6 nights / 7 days

Lightly armed and without excess baggage, the Mongolian Warriors swept through Europe at devastating speed – the Europeans in their heavy armour on battle-chargers couldn't compete. Learn the skills of the Mongolian Warriors in this week-long practical course! Prior to arrival we'll need your body measurements, as a traditional del gown will have been made-to-measure for you on arrival. To show you the standards you must measure up to, the first day is based in Ulaanbaatar, and you visit the Military Museum. After that you'll go out into the countryside, and begin your training. Archery is the most important, and you'll learn to shoot with the traditional Mongolian bow, until you are fit for battle. But how to get to the battle? Horsemanship is included every day, to take even first-timers through to a level of good competency. You'll learn how to look after your horse too, and even how to guard it from your enemies by night. The Mongolian soldiers looked after themselves, without slowing their battle-divisions down with armourers or cooks – so learning to look after your gear and cook your camp food is an essential part of the training. Once you have the core skills, you put them into practice on manoeuvres. You will make two different rides to strategic spots, where you will stay overnight in ger tents, putting all your new skills into practice. And of course, all warriors will take part in the feast that celebrates your achievements at the end!



Mongolian Warrior Training

Traditional Mongolian Naadam Festival in South Gobi

6 nights / 7 days

"Naadam" is the biggest holiday of the Mongolian calendar – the annual festival of "three manly sports" (wrestling, archery, and horsemanship). Under Communism Naadam was severely adapted and the version now seen in Ulaanbaatar is a modern adaptation. A more traditional Naadam can be seen (on the same date) instead at Sainshand in the Southern Gobi. The trip begins at **Sainshand** station (on the main Trans-Mongolian line, closer to the Chinese border) and you stay in a Ger Camp 18km away. Before the Naadam opening there are 2 days to see the Southern Gobi – the Khamar Buddhist Monastery (incl Yellow-Hat and Red-Hat Temples), sand-dunes, visit some camel breeders, and a unique visit to the saksaul trees that can survive the desert heat... also find some petrified wood and the remains of Gobi dinosaurs. One final Gobi visit is to the Meditation Caves, where lamas would be voluntarily walled-up in the desert to perfect their meditation – or die in the attempt. The Naadam festivities include a more traditional interpretation of the usual events – away from the big city where such activities are really alien. The entire Naadam takes place over two days, including the opening ceremony, wrestling, archery, horsemanship... and the unusual sport of target-shooting with anklebones. There's time to visit two local museums, completing the background of the life and culture of the South Gobi, after which you take an overnight train to Ulaanbaatar. There's a day at the Elstei Ger Lodge to relax, and on the following day you drive into the city. In the capital for a half-day walking tour and the balance of the day to explore by yourself. **This program only operates at Naadam, and begins in Sainshand on 9th July 2008.**

Przewalski's Horses – the Hustai National Park

7 days / 6 nights

This trip is especially for those interested in the native wildlife of Mongolia. The Hustai National Park is the largest in Mongolia, and covers a huge area. The Park is located two hours from Ulaanbaatar, and is the only place in Mongolia where Przewalski's Horse – named after the Russian explorer and naturalist Colonel Przewalski, whose expedition in the 1880's confirmed that such wild horses still existed in Mongolia... the only place in the world where horses still live in the wild. The Hustai National Park was established as a reserve where the horses – at that time believed to be close to extinction – could have a secure environment, and the stock was built up from a tiny number from foreign zoos. The herd is now stable and self-sustaining. There is Ger Camp accommodation adjacent to the National Park entrance, although no overnight camping is allowed inside the Park itself. However, the Park's own Ger-Camp (where they have their offices too – and a small restaurant) makes an ideal base for trips into the Park (you'll go with our staff and a vehicle – the distances involved are too great to cover on foot). We can't promise that you will see the horses, because they really are wild – but we will consult with the Rangers and do our best to locate them! There's also a full-day excursion to a spot where ancient stone sculptures are found (unlike the horses, these don't move-around) and semi-precious stones can be seen. The Hustai visit is the centrepiece of this trip, but there is a lot more too – including two nights at the Elstei Ger Lodge at the start of the trip, and a day's visit to Ulaanbaatar at the end (including an overnight stay in Bayangol Hotel 3*).

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|--|----------|----------|------------|
| Mongolian Warrior 7 days full on | £1099 | £999 | £999 |
| Traditional Mongolian Naadam Festival | £599 | £499 | £499 |
| Przewalski's Horses | £599 | £499 | £499 |
| Train ticket Beijing to Ulaanbaatar return | £160 | £160 | £160 |
| 2-berth upgrade (return) | £200 | £200 | £200 |
| Extra nights hotel Ulaanbaatar | £80 | £40 | £40 |

Dates:

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS ITINERARY 2008:

The Naadam Festival starts 9 July 2008 only one date for this trip.

All other Mongolian Adventures start any Weds between July and September.



The Kremlin, Moscow





St. Petersburg
Moscow

City Day Trip Options

Moscow

Metro Museum

The Moscow Metro is legendary for the extraordinary grandeur and over-the-top Stalin-era decoration which went into the original generation of stations. The Metro Museum gives the history of how and why the system was built, and how latest technology (monorail systems etc) are being added to its future.

1 person price £40pp • 2 people or more £25pp
Duration 1.5 hrs to inc 30 minutes travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

The Anti-KGB Museum – (Andrei Sakharov Museum)

The limitless power and viciousness of the Stalin-era KGB became infamous throughout the world. One of its most famous victims was Andrei Sakharov, the physicist who developed the USSR's nuclear programme, but refused to make his work available for military applications. This museum tells not only Sakharov's story, but the history or political repression during the USSR period.

1 person price £40pp • 2 people or more £25pp
Duration 2 hrs to inc 30 minutes travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Vodka Museum

It is quite symbolic that the museum is now situated in Moscow, which is the historical centre this famous drink originates from, 15th century being the starting point of its history. The museum appeared within the precincts of the Kremlin in Izmailovo, which is a unique historical and architectural complex, for tourists and locals.

1 person price £40pp • 2 people or more £25pp
Duration 1 hr to inc 30 minutes travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Buran Space Shuttle

The "Buran" (Whirlwind) was the Soviet Space Program's version of the Space Shuttle (and looks very similar). However, early setbacks meant that it was withdrawn from use, and the USSR changed its space policy away from manned missions. One of the Buran ships now stands on the banks of the Moscova River and can be visited. There is short film about the Buran's history.

1 person price £50pp • 2 people or more £35pp
Duration 1.5 hrs to inc 30 minutes travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Basic Russian

Kak dela? Pick up some handy conversational Russian for your trip in an intensive lesson over a cup of Russky chai. From please and thank you to asking the way (and understanding the answer...) one lesson might not make you a bol'tushka (chatterbox) but you'll be well on the way to becoming kilovaya chuvikha (cool chick!)

1 person price £130pp • 2 people or more £80pp
Duration 3 hrs. Includes snacks but no transportation.

Stalin's Bunker

The secret underground control-room from which Stalin planned to run the USSR in the event of nuclear war. Please note this is not open to the general public and is strictly a private tour, and the price they charge reflects the exclusive nature of this VIP trip.

1 person price £130 • 2 people or more £80pp
Duration 2 hrs to inc 3 mins travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

St Petersburg

Siege of Leningrad Museum

For 900 days in WW2 the city of Leningrad (present day St Petersburg) was cut off from the rest of Russia by German tank divisions and the artillery battalions. Conditions in the besieged city were appalling – hundreds of thousands died from famine and contagion. This tiny museum is located in the gatehouse of the War Cemetery where the civilian dead from the siege were buried. Although it may be grim, its "essential" to understand the splendour of the modern city.

1 person price £40pp • 2 or more people £25pp
Duration 1.5 hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Tea in a Russian Home

Russians are at their happiest when sitting and drinking tea, eating cake and having a natter. There's even a verb in Russian, chaigonyat, to describe drinking a lot of tea like this! Enter the private world of Russian home home life for a short while.

1 person price £40pp • 2 or more people £25pp
Duration 2hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Museum Of The Political Police

Russia's secret police are legendary, but they weren't merely a soviet-era invention... they date back to the oprichniks (the deadly secret agents of the Russian Tsars from the C17th onwards) and beyond. Even famous Russian authors like Dostoyevsky (who wrote "Crime and Punishment" here in St Petersburg) fell foul of the terrifying "midnight doorknock". This museum offers an un glossed history.

1 person price £40pp • 2 people or more £25pp
Duration 2.5 hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Yusupov Palace & Rasputin Chambers

The Yusupov family were the wealthiest family in Russia-wealthier even than the Tsars themselves, and their influence ran everywhere. So when young Felix Yusupov and his university friends decided Rasputin's influence had become too great, they decided to "deal with him" privately, by inviting him to a poisoned supper at their magnificent palace...

1 person price £60 • 2 people or more £30pp
Duration 2.5 hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time.
No transportation costs included.

Russian Cookery Lesson with a family

Learn how to cook traditional Russian dishes under the watchful eye of a master of the genre! You'll have to eat the results of your efforts later, so make sure you pay attention! All the ingredients, tuition and a shot of something to wash it down with are included.

1 person price £80pp • 2 people or more £40pp
Duration 4 hrs to inc 1 hour travelling time.
No transportation costs are included.





Starting Your Trans-Sib Trip in St. Petersburg...

Russia's "alternative capital" is a bizarre fairyland concoction of *rococo* palaces, opulent cathedrals, stately boulevards, and Dutch-style canals, surreally moored on Russia's Baltic Coast as though somehow out of time and place.

With the entire cultural legacy of Imperial Russia on your doorstep, the difficulty will be what to include on a "don't-miss" list.

Will it be the Winter Palace – not only the city residence of the Tsars but home to the Hermitage Collection? Or the unrivalled displays in the Russian Museum? How could you skip the Peter & Paul Fortress - the city's original bastion - or the unrivalled views from St Isaac's Cathedral.

Then there's The Cathedral On The Spilt Blood – commemorating the spot where Alexander II was assassinated? You will have remembered to visit the Yusupov Palace, whose owners were richer than the Tsars...and who decided one evening to bump-off Rasputin? Meanwhile you will have picked up your tickets for the ballet or a concert in a former 18th century palace?



Church on the Spilt Blood

The trip:

- 1 "S Priezdom! Welcome to St. Petersburg!" Our driver will be there to meet you from whichever flight, train or boat you arrive. You'll then be transferred to your hotel.
- 2 After breakfast one of our local expert staff will meet you at the hotel to take you on a three hour walking tour round the highlights – you'll use public transport around the centre to avoid the traffic jams and get the hang of the system for when you come to use it independently. Your walk ends in the city centre around lunchtime. If you haven't pre-booked any of our range of city excursions the rest of the day is your own to explore further.
- 3 You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service. Your day is free until your evening departure to Moscow. Reception can book you a taxi to the station. Some of our top suggestions

The Hermitage Collection - Winter Palace. "The canals and waterways of the "Northern Venice". The Russian Museum of Fine Art. The Peter & Paul Fortress-and the Tombs of the Tsars inside the Fortress Cathedral. The Church on the Spilt Blood, nearby the Souvenir Bazaar.

- 4 Arrival in Moscow early morning.

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



White nights in St. Petersburg

Trip price:

Hotel Options: For a full hotel description please refer to Russian Cities on our website

| | Meal Basis | 1 Person | Additional Night (per person) | 2 or more People (per person) | Additional Night (per person) |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DYNASTY HOTEL* | BB | £325 | £85 | £225 | £60 |
| HOTEL VESTA 3* | BB | £325 | £85 | £215 | £60 |
| HOTEL ENGECON 2*+ | BB | £260 | £75 | £210 | £65 |
| HOTEL ENGECON 1 | BB | £210 | £35 | £160 | £30 |

(without en-suite facilities)

WHITE NIGHTS FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF JUNE. TO SECURE A ROOM AT THIS TIME ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE NOTE A SEASONAL SUPPLEMENT OF £10 PER PERSON IS APPLICABLE 01 MAY-30 SEP.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 2-berth St.Petersburg-Moscow | £75 |
| Additional services of guide 3 hours | £50 |
| Additional services of guide 6 hours | £90 |



Within the Kremlin







Simply Beijing

Exactly what the name says – a short stay in Beijing, ideal at the end of a Trans-Sib trip (or before beginning one) to give you a base to head for once you've arrived? You can add extra nights if you like – Beijing's rich cultural history (and throbbing nightlife) probably deserves some detailed exploration!

The trip:

This trip is available to start any day of the year

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel.
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Morning check out of Hotel. A chance to spend some time in Beijing at the end of your Trans-Siberian Itinerary before returning home or continuing on through China.

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply.

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Relaxing in Beijing!

Day trip options

FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

The well-preserved sections of the Great Wall in Beijing are China's most famous tourist site. These sections are mainly the remains from the Ming Dynasty, an era of tremendous construction. This area of the Wall is to the North of Beijing around 70 kms from the city centre. Here you will see a small section to include several passes and lookout towers. Lunch. This afternoon you will visit the Ming tombs. The general name given to the Mausoleums of 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1664). The Mausoleums have been perfectly preserved and the site has a high cultural and historic value.

English speaking guide.

**Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am.
Expect to return 5pm.
£45 per person**

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

A full day look into the lives of the Emperors. The Forbidden City lies at the heart of Beijing - it was the Imperial enclave of the city, entrance was "forbidden" to common citizens. Within this enormous city-within-a-city are museums, temples, and even, ehem, Starbucks.

After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

**Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am.
Expect to return 5pm.
£52 per person**



Great Wall

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £120 | £60 | £60 | No frills | £70 | £35 | £35 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

It will not have escaped your notice that the Olympic Games are being held in Beijing in 2008. As you can imagine, every hotel room in Beijing has already been pre-booked for visitors, press and participants in the Games. **During this time we will not be offering this trip option.** Please contact us to see if we have any hotel rates for this period but be aware they will be a great deal more than usual. We anticipate a 300-500% increase.

Beijing to Hong Kong



This handy China module fits perfectly onto the end of Trans-Sib trips, giving you a luscious dose of Imperial China's potent cultural legacy before whisking you along modern China's most prestigious rail project to the shopping mecca and dining hedonism of Hong Kong.

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Check out of Hotel. Own taxi to station for lunch time departure to Hong Kong. Overnight on board.
- 4 Early afternoon arrival into Hong Kong.

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply.

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

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Beijing



Sightseeing in Tiananmen

Day trip options

FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

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English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am.

Expect to return 5pm.

£45 per person

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

A full day look into the lives of the Emperors. The Forbidden City lies at the heart of Beijing - it was the Imperial enclave of the city, entrance was "forbidden" to common citizens. Within this enormous city-within-a-city are museums, temples, and even, ehem, Starbucks.

After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am.

Expect to return 5pm.

£55 per person

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £265 | £205 | £205 | No frills | £200 | £170 | £170 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |
| Deluxe class upgrade Beijing-Hong Kong | £40 | £40 | £40 | Deluxe class upgrade Beijing-Hong Kong | £40 | £40 | £40 |





Great Chinese Route



China is almost a continent in itself – the diversity and range of traditions within just one country are hard to get your head around! This trip includes all the must-see things in China in one itinerary... the throbbing pace of Beijing, the majesty of China's medieval capital Xi'an, the bustling Cantonese sights and sounds of Guangzhou, and the shopping paradise of Hong Kong.

“All the must-see things in China in one itinerary”

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel.
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Morning check out of Hotel. Own transfer for early evening departure to Xi'an.
- 4 Morning arrival. Check into your Hotel. Free time to explore this historic city.
- 5 Full day excursion to Terracotta Army (transport, lunch, tickets and guide included).
- 6 Early morning check out of Hotel. Own transfer to station for departure to Guangzhou.
- 7 Morning arrival. Own transfer. Check into your Hotel.
- 8 Morning check out of the Hotel. Own transfer. For afternoon departure from Nanhhaigang Harbour to Hong Kong.

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply.

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

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LiYuan, Guangzhou



Hong Kong

Day trip options

FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

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English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £45 per person

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

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After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

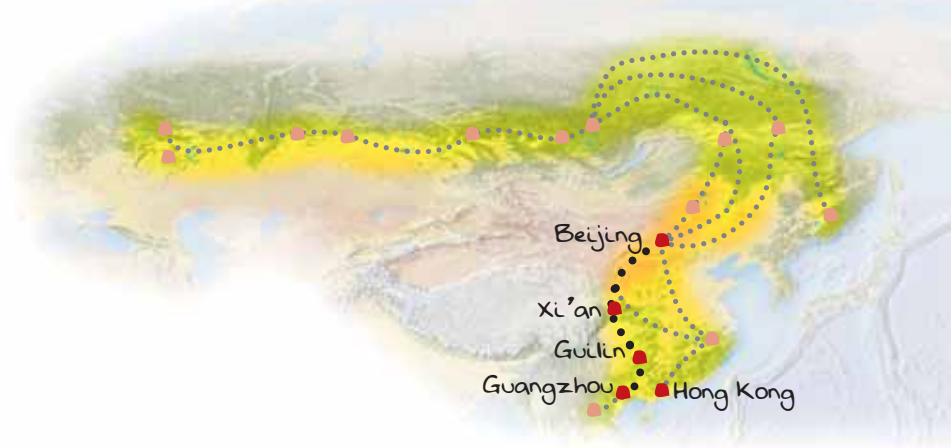
Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £55 per person

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £500 | £410 | £410 | No frills | £375 | £285 | £285 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |
| 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Xi'an-Guangzhou | £145 | £145 | £145 | 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Xi'an-Guangzhou | £145 | £145 | £145 |
| Extra night Xi'an | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Xi'an | £35 | £25 | £25 |

Canton Fair Supplement: 15-30 April and 15-20 October in Guangzhou surcharge: £50pp/pn

Scenic Chinese Route



The "scenic" is basically the "Great Chinese" with the inclusion of Guilin... a place most famous for the outstandingly beautiful landscapes which surround it, and the option to take a cruise down the River Li (frankly this is really unmissable!). The whole thing adds up to an astounding experience of China – by rail and river.

The cruise down the River Li is really unmissable!

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel.
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Morning check out of Hotel. Own transfer for early evening departure to Xi'an.
- 4 Morning arrival. Check into your Hotel. Free time to explore this historic city.
- 5 Full day excursion to Terracotta Army (transport, lunch, tickets and guide included).
- 6 Morning check out of Hotel. Own transfer for evening departure to Guilin.
- 7 Late evening arrival. Own transfer. Check into your Hotel. Overnight.
- 8 Free time to explore, and maybe take a boat trip up the River Li?
- 9 Morning check out of Hotel. Own transfer for evening departure to Guangzhou.
- 10 Early morning arrival. Own transfer. Check into your Hotel.
- 11 Morning check out of the Hotel. Afternoon departure by Hydrofoil to Hong Kong.

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply.

For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

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Terracotta Army

Day trip options FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

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Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £45 per person

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

A full day look into the lives of the Emperors. The Forbidden City lies at the heart of Beijing -

it was the Imperial enclave of the city, entrance was "forbidden" to common citizens. Within this enormous city-within-a-city are museums, temples, and even, ehem, Starbucks.

After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £55 per person

Guilin day trip

The Li River is the connecting water way between Guilin and Yangshuo and is one of the main tourist attractions of the area. The River forms a green belt with the mountains on either side. You will cruise the 83 km stretch between the towns on a tourist pleasure boat.

Water buffalo patrol the fields, school kids and fishermen float by on bamboo rafts. With its breathtaking scenery and taste of a life far removed from the concrete metropolis.

A very relaxing day.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 08.20am. Expect to return 5pm. £70 per person

Trip price:

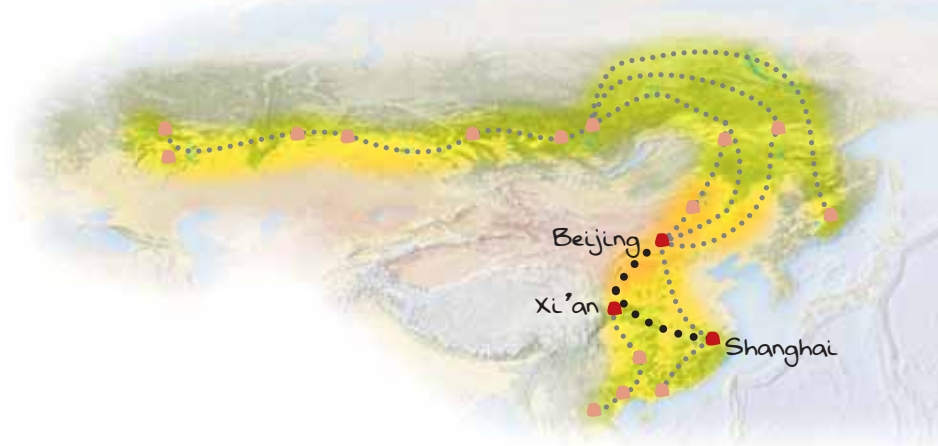
| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £600 | £510 | £510 | No frills | £540 | £450 | £450 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |
| 2-berth "buy out" | £270 | £270 | £270 | 2-berth "buy out" | £270 | £270 | £270 |
| Beijing-Xi'an-Guilin-Guangzhou | | | | Beijing-Xi'an-Guilin-Guangzhou | | | |
| Extra night Xi'an (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Xi'an (per night) | £35 | £25 | £25 |
| Guilin day trip River Li | £70 | £70 | £70 | Guilin day trip River Li | £70 | £70 | £70 |

Canton Fair Supplement: 15-30 April and 15-20 October in Guangzhou surcharge: £50pp/ppn





Terracotta Trail



Break the Beijing-Shanghai journey by going instead via Xi'an, the ancient capital of China – it's hard to disguise our sneaking favouritism to this multi-faceted city... yes, yes, the Terracotta Army, we know, and you shouldn't miss it... but did you know about the massive medieval city walls... the astounding pagodas... the ancient mosque... and the bazaar area with its street-food stalls, buskers, and the hilariously fake "antiques" on sale? And that's just the start...

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel.
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Morning check out of Hotel. Own transfer for early evening departure to Xi'an.
- 4 Morning arrival. Check into your Hotel. Free time to explore this historic city.
- 5 Full day excursion to Terracotta Army (transport, lunch, tickets and guide included).
- 6 Morning check out of hotel. Own transfer for evening departure to Shanghai.
- 7 Morning arrival to Shanghai. Hotel rates can be found below.

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply.

For extended trip dossier, please visit

www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Terracotta Army

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

It will not have escaped your notice that the Olympic Games are being held in Beijing in 2008. As you can imagine, every hotel room has already been pre-booked for visitors, press and participants in the Games. **During this time this trip option price will not be available.** Please contact us to see if we have hotel rates for the Beijing stay but be aware they will be a great deal more than usual. We anticipate a 300-500% increase.

Day trip options

FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

The well-preserved sections of the Great Wall in Beijing are China's most famous tourist site. These sections are mainly the remains from the Ming Dynasty, an era of tremendous construction. This area of the Wall is to the North of Beijing around 70 kms from the city centre. Here you will see a small section to include several passes and lookout towers. Lunch. This afternoon you will visit the Ming tombs. The general name given to the Mausoleums of 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1664). The Mausoleums have been perfectly preserved and the site has a high cultural and historic value.

English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £45 per person

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

A full day look into the lives of the Emperors. The Forbidden City lies at the heart of Beijing - it was the Imperial enclave of the city, entrance was "forbidden" to common citizens. Within this enormous city-within-a-city are museums, temples, and even, ehem, Starbucks.

After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £55 per person



Shanghai

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £390 | £300 | £300 | No frills | £290 | £200 | £200 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |
| 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Xi'an-Shanghai | £130 | £130 | £130 | 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Xi'an-Shanghai | £130 | £130 | £130 |
| Extra night Xi'an (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Xi'an (per night) | £35 | £25 | £25 |
| | Single | Twin | | | Single | Twin | |
| Hotel Zhao An Hotel 3* Shanghai | £45 | £25 | | Hotel Zhao An Hotel 3* Shanghai | £45 | £25 | |
| Hotel Panorama 4*Shanghai | £85 | £45 | | | | | |

Beijing to Shanghai



Ride the rails between China's two greatest cities, to see a city whose glamour and scandal fascinated the world in the 1920s and 1930s... Noel Coward wrote "Private Lives" whilst staying at the Colonial Hotel in Shanghai, but hopefully you won't just stay in your hotel room like he did. Although Shanghai might even be the place you begin your own best-seller?

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel.
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Check out of Hotel. Free time. Own taxi to station for evening departure to Shanghai. Overnight on board
- 4 Early morning arrival into Shanghai. Hotel rates can be found below.

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply. For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846



Beijing

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

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Forbidden City

Day trip options

FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

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English speaking guide.

**Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am.
Expect to return 5pm.
£45 per person**

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

A full day look into the lives of the Emperors. The Forbidden City lies at the heart of Beijing - it was the Imperial enclave of the city, entrance was "forbidden" to common citizens. Within this enormous city-within-a-city are museums, temples, and even, ehem, Starbucks.

After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

**Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am.
Expect to return 5pm.
£55 per person**

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £200 | £150 | £150 | No frills | £150 | £115 | £115 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |
| 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Shanghai | £70 | £70 | £70 | 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Shanghai | £70 | £70 | £70 |
| | Single | Twin | | | Single | Twin | |
| Hotel Zhao An Hotel 3* Shanghai | £45 | £25 | | Hotel Zhao An Hotel 3* Shanghai | £45 | £25 | |
| Hotel Panorama 4* Shanghai | £85 | £45 | | | | | |





Beijing to Hanoi



This one is for true individualists-the rail route from Beijing to Hanoi takes in some of the most spectacular scenery in South- East Asia. This is an ideal way to push on into Asia for passengers on Round the World tickets or exploring more of Asia.

The trip:

- 1 Arrive Beijing. Transfer* from Beijing Central Station to your Hotel.
- 2 Free day in Beijing. For day trip options see opposite.
- 3 Check out of Hotel. Free time. Own taxi to station for afternoon departure to Hanoi. Overnight on board.
- 4 On board.
- 5 Arrive into Hanoi early morning. After your stay in Beijing you will take a two night soft class sleeper train down to Hanoi, in Northern Vietnam

* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a surcharge of £20 pp will apply. For extended trip dossier, please visit www.trans-siberian.co.uk or call 020 8566 8846

BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

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Beijing



Tiananmen Square

Day trip options

FROM BEIJING

Great Wall

Includes: Ming Tombs

The well-preserved sections of the Great Wall in Beijing are China's most famous tourist site. These sections are mainly the remains from the Ming Dynasty, an era of tremendous construction. This area of the Wall is to the North of Beijing around 70 kms from the city centre. Here you will see a small section to include several passes and lookout towers. Lunch. This afternoon you will visit the Ming tombs. The general name given to the Mausoleums of 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1664). The Mausoleums have been perfectly preserved and the site has a high cultural and historic value.

English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £45 per person

The Forbidden City

Also includes: Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.

A full day look into the lives of the Emperors. The Forbidden City lies at the heart of Beijing - it was the Imperial enclave of the city, entrance was "forbidden" to common citizens. Within this enormous city-within-a-city are museums, temples, and even, ehem, Starbucks.

After lunch (included) the tour continues to the Temple of Heaven, a Daoist temple where the Emperors prayed for good fortune for their people. Finally we visit the Summer Palace, laid out in oriental gardens around a huge lake. The Gardens represent the high point of their kind, and are recognised by UNESCO.

English speaking guide.

Coach pick up from your hotel at 8am. Expect to return 5pm. £55 per person

Trip price:

| | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people | | 1 person | 2 people | 3-9 people |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Full on | £275 | £215 | £215 | No frills | £220 | £185 | £185 |
| Extra night Beijing (per night) | £50 | £25 | £25 | Extra night Beijing (per night) | £35 | £18 | £18 |
| Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 | Supplement for airport transfer | £20 | £20 | £20 |
| Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 | Great Wall, Ming Tombs day trip | £45 | £45 | £45 |
| Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 | Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace day trip | £35 | £35 | £35 |
| 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Hanoi | £140 | £140 | £140 | 2-berth "buy out" Beijing-Hanoi | £140 | £140 | £140 |

Frequently Asked Questions

HOW SAFE IS IT TO BOOK WITH US?

We are a fully bonded tour operator, registered in the UK, where EU law requires us to protect your travel funds. We are full members of the Travel Trust Association (TTA) www.traveltrust.co.uk - your travel funds are held frozen in a Trust Account until your trip is complete, and only then released to us by the TTA's approved Trustee. The Russia Experience Ltd is a member of AITO (www.aito.co.uk) - the Association of Independent Tour Operators, a government-regulated professional body of more than 150 tour operators. Between them AITO members take over 1,400,000 satisfied people on holidays throughout the world every year. We are mandated to uphold the high professional standards and stringent financial safeguards which is implicit in membership of the TTA and AITO.

AREN'T VISAS A NIGHTMARE THAT TAKES WEEKS?

Needn't be! We do the whole thing for you. Russian visas need proof of booking from a Russian registered outfit-we do all of this behind the scenes. Get your booking form into us at least six weeks prior to departure, and you'll avoid express visa costs. If you do book less than six weeks prior to departure you still will be able to go, if the trip is available but you will need to pay express fees, please check with us how much these will be as they are dependent on what passport you hold and how much time we have. We'll also need the original of your passport to get your visas and this must be the same as the passport number you gave us when you completed the original booking form.

DO I NEED INSURANCE? DO I NEED VACCINATIONS?

We do require you to have Travel insurance to take any of our trips. For rates please contact our reservations department. Which policy you purchase is your own choice. The Russian Consulate also requires you to have Travel Insurance to obtain a visa. No vaccinations are mandatory but you would be well advised to get informed advice on this (not every GP may be as well informed on the latest health developments in these locations). Particular concerns are Cholera, Typhoid, Hepatitis B, Tetanus and Diphtheria. Tick-borne encephalitis is a small risk on some Siberian trekking routes there is a vaccine available. But the risk is VERY small and our leaders observe safety procedures. We also suggest you take a First Aid kit, to include a Sterile Surgical kit.



WHY IS IT EXPENSIVE TO MAKE EN-ROUTE STOPS?

A Trans-sib secret that no guidebooks seemed to have grasped goes like this... non-stop international tickets are still priced accordingly to old bilateral agreements dating back to the Soviet era which cannot be broken, even now! But if you introduce stops into the your trip these sectors are priced commercially by Russian Railways...so you only get the benefit of state subsidised fares for part of your journey.

CAN I STAY EXTRA NIGHTS?

In Moscow and St Petersburg, yes! But the train schedules on some of the less than frequent routes make altering the stays almost impossible. Adding or removing odd days will almost never work. We always include two nights in Moscow prior to your Trans-Siberian journey and two in St Petersburg is the standard if you buy a St Petersburg add on-but "there is stacks to see, and I wish I had stayed longer!" is always the feedback we get!

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY WILL I NEED?

This depends on what lifestyle you plan pursuing on your trip! The information pack we provide will give you an idea of current costs. Eating and drinking are very similar to most European cities, although Ulaanbaatar and Beijing have upscale versions if you have cash to flash! When itineraries take you far from the shops or cafes we often include meals. Russian souvenirs tend to be fun and low priced so you will be able to stash your pack full of Russian goodies!



FAMILY STAYS:

What should I expect? Some of our trips feature options staying with local families. Although sometimes this is for practical reasons (e.g. no other kind of accommodation is available-nomad stays in the Gobi for example) it also broadens the trip experience, two way interaction with the places and the people that live there. We're not promising luxury we're promising a slice of life! People who live in harsh climates and terrains are naturally gregarious, and you will learn and experience more with them than you could ever absorb in a month staying in a sterile Western style Hotel.

SPECIAL DIETS:

Meat features strongly in the national cuisine of most of our destinations. As a team the Russia Experience employs several vegetarians and we have never starved! But for when you are off the train you must advise us prior to departure if you have any special dietary requirements. If you have anything more complicated than a lacto-vegetarian diet consider that in some of the remote places you are to travel this could be a considerable problem-and stock up accordingly.

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN;

There are no serious downsides, and the infrastructure of travel and accommodation works well if you're taking children along. However, Communist-era thinking very much treated children as small adults, with little or no provisions or amenities. So priming your children is essential if they are not going to get bored. Take supplies of books and fresh comics secreted in your suitcase English reading material is unavailable for both children and adults alike.

The journey is however the most fantastic introduction to a world they will have never known and they will meet many local children along the way, who will be very curious about their lives so take photos of home! Child prices are on application.



HOW MUCH PRIVACY DO YOU GET ON BOARD THE TRAIN?

All our standard trips are based on 2nd Class Rail in Russia which is 4-berth compartments. You'll be sharing with any travelling companions who book with you, of course plus other train passengers. It's possible to buy yourself more privacy than that with an upgrade to 1st Class (2-berth compartments) BUT this is in very short supply and some trains don't have it at all. An alternative is a "buyout" of a four-berth compartment-which could be for one, two, or three travelling companions, prices on request.

ARE THERE SHOWERS ON BOARD?

Most of the main long distance (24 hrs+) on Russian Railways (but not on Mongolian or Chinese) now have a pay-to-use shower. You have to go to the "Special Services" wagon. One use is R50-90pp (prices are set by the varying train operators). No towel or soap is included in the price, we hope you have your own!

WILL I MEET OTHER TRAVELLERS?

Very likely-especially in the Summer months. There is only one train a week for instance between Mongolia and Beijing (incredible, but true) so a bit of bunching is inevitable for the last section.

DOWNSIDES:

There are no serious downsides or dangers in visiting our destinations, and there is no need for woman travellers to worry in fact the men get the worry as Russia has an old take on a new annoyance sexual harassment by aggressive ladies of the night. A firm nyet should get rid of them! Dressing-down is recommended for both sexes anyhow the lure of conspicuous wealth is the biggest draw for unwelcome attention. Also remember that it is law to have your documents on you at all times in Russia-spot-checks are routine. The cops know this and if you don't have them on you, will march you down to the Station to waste half a day of your trip and cost you a lot of roubles.

WANT TO CUSTOMISE YOUR TRIP?

All the trips in the brochure have a pre-arranged schedule however if you would like to customise your journey with longer stays, or special requests for instance, please check with us and we will see what's possible. Note that no alterations will be possible once your trip has commenced. Why not email one of our experts?

Email info@trans-siberian.co.uk

Booking Conditions

- Your contract is with The Russia Experience Ltd. The Russia Experience Ltd is a fully bonded tour operator, registered in the UK, where EU law requires us to protect your travel funds. We are full members of the Travel Trust Association (TTA) -www.traveltrust.co.uk – and your travel funds are held frozen in an account until your trip is complete or you cancel, and only then released to us by the TTA's approved trustee. The Russia Experience Ltd is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO -www.aito.co.uk) – a professional body of more than 150 tour operators. We are mandated to uphold the highest professional standards and stringent financial safeguards which are implicit in membership of both these organisations.
 - All bookings are accepted on a request basis only. Acceptance of a booking form does not imply availability of a trip.
 - No booking will be accepted without a completed booking form and either a deposit or - according to the payment schedule applicable - full payment. Deposits are non refundable except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions. When we are in a position to do so, we will confirm your booking by issuing a confirmation invoice. At this point a binding contract between us will come into existence. You must check your confirmation invoice and all other documents we send you as soon as you receive them and let us know immediately if any information appears to be incorrect as it may not be possible to make changes later.
 - The trip balance must be received by us no later than 60 days before your trip. Late or no payment may/will cause cancellation of all or part of your trip, with the cancellation charges shown in clause 9 below being payable depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled by you.
 - No travel documents will be issued until full payment has been made.
 - We accept payment by cash, travellers' cheque and bankers' drafts and credit cards. We accept personal cheques subject to clearance, for which 10 days must be allowed.
 - The responsibility for obtaining and carrying correct visas, passports and other travel documents remains with the passenger. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation. If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country(ies) to or through which you are intending to travel.
 - If we have to cancel or make a significant change to your trip before departure, you will be offered the choice - where there is time to do so and any significant change is not acceptable to you - of a full refund of all funds paid over to us, or a suitable alternative trip of substantially equal or better quality where available. We will in addition, if appropriate and subject to the following exceptions, pay you reasonable compensation depending on the circumstances. Compensation will not be payable and no liability beyond offering the above mentioned choices can be accepted where (1) we are forced to make a change or cancel as a result of unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which we could not have avoided even with all due care or (2) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your trip has not been reached - in this case we will notify you by the deadline specified [in the details of the trip in question]. No compensation will be payable and the above options will not be available if we cancel as a result of your failure to comply with any requirement of these booking conditions entitling us to cancel (such as paying on time) or where any change is minor. See clause 13.
 - If you wish to cancel your trip, we require written notice from you and will apply cancellation charges in accordance with the table below.
- IF YOU CANCEL YOUR TRIP:
- | NUMBER OF DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE WHEN WE RECEIVE YOUR CANCELLATION. SHOWN AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TOTAL TRIP PRICE*. | Deposit only |
|---|--------------|
| Over 60 days before commencement | |
| 59-40 days before commencement | 50% |
| 39-14 days before commencement | 90% |
| 14 days or no show | 100% |
- * The trip price does not include visas, visa processing fees, travel insurance or guidebooks, which shall be 100% forfeit in all cases.
- We consider adequate travel insurance to be essential. You must ensure you take out a policy which includes appropriate cover for medical expenses and for your repatriation to the UK in the event of medical need and for loss or damage of belongings. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on trip. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs.
 - We have made it clear in all sales materials that it is common and accepted practice for transport methods employed on our trips to run with delays, or to run below operational standards that would be regarded as normal in Western Europe. We cannot accept any claim of any nature which relates to any failure of transport operators to conform either to timetables supplied by us or to their own timetables or arises from deviations from operational standards by transport operators whose services form part of our itineraries (whether original or amended).
 - We cannot be responsible for the safety of passengers or their belongings. All belongings are at all times at your risk and you must ensure you look after them appropriately.
 - If circumstances force us to amend your itinerary or any contracted services, we shall notify you in writing as soon as possible. If the change arises during your trip, our representatives will make every effort to contact you personally. We reserve the right to substitute alternative transport or accommodation in the interests of the safety or comfort of our passengers and/or the successful completion of the itinerary.
 - If you require us to change your booked itinerary, we will do everything reasonably possible to facilitate this, subject to your agreement to meet the costs which may be incurred. An estimate of these costs, in writing, will be provided before proceeding.
 - Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any personal injury, damage or loss of any description as a result of "force majeure". In these booking conditions, "force majeure" means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not - even with all due care - foresee or avoid. Such events may include war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity or actual threatened terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.
 - In the event of your suffering any personal injury, damage or loss as a result of force majeure, we shall provide all reasonable help. Our assistance does not replace the assistance to be expected from travel insurance up to the limits of cover of the policy recommended by us, nor shall it replace the assistance of the consul responsible for you whilst abroad.
 - We promise to make sure that the arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury or your contracted arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted arrangements. Please note it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example loss of enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from (1) the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or (2) the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not connected with the provision of your trip and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or (3) "force majeure" as defined in clause 9 above
 - We limit the maximum amount we may have to pay you for any claims you may make against us. Where we are found liable for loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions (including money), the maximum amount we will have to pay you is £250 per person affected unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under this clause or clause 19 below. For all other claims which do not involve death or personal injury, if we are found liable to you on any basis the maximum amount we will have to pay you is twice the price (excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 19 below. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.
 - Where any claim or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any rail, sea or road carrier or any stay in a hotel, the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you will be limited. The most we will have to pay you for that claim or that part of a claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier or hotel keeper concerned would have to pay under the international convention or regulation which applies to the travel arrangements or hotel stay in question (for example, COTIF, The Convention Concerning International Carriage by Rail and the Athens Convention for international travel by sea). Please note: Where a carrier or hotel would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable International Convention or Regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport operator or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question. Copies of the applicable International Conventions and Regulations are available from us on request.
 - Claims for compensation will be accepted in writing only, and must be received by us (with all relevant details) within 30 days of the end of the final included service. You must notify our local representatives and the supplier of the service(s) concerned as soon as you become aware of any problem. We are unable to consider any claim where the assistance or advice of our local representatives has been unsought, rejected or ignored.
 - Passengers who fail to join the trip by the means or at the time and date they previously advised us by at least 14 days' notice shall forfeit all subsequent services up to such time as they can be reasonably rejoined. Any re-scheduling so caused shall be at the passenger's own expense. Departure without notification from the itinerary may result in forfeiture of subsequent services. "No-show" passengers shall forfeit all subsequent services if they fail to notify us of intention to rejoin their itinerary within 72 hours of their original arrival date. Expenses arising from your departure from the itinerary cannot be recovered from us.
 - Tariffs shown in our leaflets were accurate based on prices and exchange rates at the time of printing. We reserve the right to make changes to and correct errors in advertised prices at any time before your holiday is confirmed. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the then applicable price at the time of booking.
Once the price of your chosen holiday has been confirmed at the time of booking, we will only increase or decrease it in the following circumstances. A surcharge or refund (as applicable) will be payable, subject to the conditions set out in this clause, if our costs increase or decrease due to changes in transportation costs or in dues, taxes or fees payable for services such as embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports or in the exchange rates which have been used to calculate the cost of your holiday. Even in the above cases, only if the amount of the increase in our costs exceeds 2% of the total cost of your trip (excluding insurance premiums and any amendment charges), will we levy a surcharge. If any surcharge is greater than 10% of the cost of your trip (excluding insurance premiums and any amendment charges), you will be entitled to cancel your booking and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us (except for any amendment charges) or alternatively purchase another holiday from us as referred to in clause 8. You have 14 days from the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice to tell us if you want to cancel or purchase another trip as set out in clause 8. If you do not tell us that you wish to choose either of these options within this period of time, we are entitled to assume that you do not wish to do so and will pay the surcharge. Any surcharge must be paid with the balance of the cost of the trip or within 14 days of the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice, whichever is the later. Please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place. A refund will only be payable if the decrease in our costs exceeds 2% as set out above. Where a refund is due, we will pay you the full amount of the decrease in our costs. We promise not to levy a surcharge within 30 days of departure.
 - With the exception of diving none of our activities require special training or above-average levels of fitness or mobility. If you are in any doubt about whether you should undertake them, you should consult your medical adviser. We are unable to refund any money in respect of services from which you withdraw after arrival. With reasonable notice, alternative versions of most of our activities can be organised for those of you who have special needs, and a section on our booking form invites information to enable us to plan for your needs in this case.
 - If you have any special request, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability.
If any passenger has any medical condition or disability which may affect your trip, please tell us before you confirm your booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. If we reasonably feel unable to properly accommodate the particular needs of the person concerned, we must reserve the right to decline their reservation or, if full details are not given at the time of booking, cancel when we become aware of these details.
 - At all times passengers are bound by local law and jurisdiction in their chosen destinations. Passengers who depart from the selected itinerary, either geographically or chronologically, are advised that they may be breaking local immigration regulations, which at best will result in delay and inconvenience, and at worst may result in arrest and imprisonment, in neither of which cases are we able to assist in any material way. Passengers are advised that local duties and levies are frequently introduced, amended or increased without warning, and whilst we do our best to inform passengers of what local costs are likely to incur, we cannot guarantee that further costs will not be imposed or increased subsequent to our recent information. Such costs remain the passenger's responsibility.
 - We do not organise air travel to or from our destinations. Passengers are advised to ensure that agencies with which they organise such services are properly bonded and certified to conduct such business. On request we can provide details with a recommended agent for many localities.
 - The Russia Experience will not accept responsibility for any additional or alternative travel arrangements (including the use of local guides and the purchase of services and excursions) that are made independently by its clients and that are separate, or in addition, to the booked and ticketed itinerary.
 - We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to our contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (except as set out below). We both also agree that any dispute, claim or other matter of any description (and whether or not involving any personal injury) which arises between us must be dealt with by the AITO Arbitration Scheme (if available for the claim in question - details available on request) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

Trans-Siberian Experience Booking Form 2008/2009

fax (020) 8566 8843

| Passenger | Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms | *First name | *Surname | *Date of birth | *Nationality | *Passport number | Special dietary Requirements |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | |

*This information must conform with the details on your passport.

IN ALL CASES, WE ISSUE ONE SET OF DOCUMENTS TO THE LEAD PASSENGER. (PASSENGER 1)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Home address: Post code | Work Tel: Mobile Tel: | Home Tel: e-mail address: |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|

ST. PETERSBURG

| 1st choice Hotel | 2nd choice Hotel | Start date | No of additional nights | 1st class upgrade | City Excursion | Arrival flight/train no | Arrival time | Arriving from |
|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | |

TRANS-SIBERIAN

| Trip Name | Start date | No of additional nights Moscow | 2 berth upgrade | Arrival flight/train number | Arrival time | Arrival airport Moscow <small>*Please delete as appropriate</small> | Arriving from |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|---------------|
| | | | YES/NO | | | Domodedovo/ Sheremetyevo | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Your day trip choice for Ekaterinburg (one only) | Pre booked city excursion name: |
| Hotel upgrade Irkutsk City YES/NO | In Siberia, Siberian Village/Fishermens Cape/Adventure Trek - please choose |
| Hotel upgrade Ulan-Uday YES/NO | Please choose your day trip option for Siberian Village from trip dossier list |
| Hotel upgrade Listvyanka Village YES/NO | |

CHINA

| Trip Name | Start date | No of additional nights Beijing/Harbin/Shanghai/Xi'an | Day trip option | Airport transfer |
|-----------|------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| | | | | |

MONGOLIAN ADVENTURES

| Trip Name | Start date | No of additional nights Ulaanbaatar | Arrival flight / Train number | Arrival time | Arriving from |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | | | | |

VISAS

| RUSSIA | Y/N | MONGOLIA | Y/N | CHINA | Y/N | INSURANCE |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|
| Free Visa handling service (15 working days to Process) | Y/N | Please organise my Mongolian Visa (5 working days to process) | Y/N | Please organise my Chinese Visa (5 working days to process) | Y/N | Do you wish to take out travel insurance with your agent? Y/N |
| I will organise my own Russian Visa with my local consulate | Y/N | I will organise my own Mongolian Visa with my local consulate | Y/N | I will organise my own Chinese Visa with my local Consulate | Y/N | If not you MUST provide details of alternative cover: Company _____ Policy number _____ |

PAYMENT

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| I authorise the Russia Experience Ltd to charge my Visa/MasterCard/Switch/Maestro: <input type="checkbox"/> £250.00 per person deposit. I understand the balance is payable 60 days prior to departure. <input type="checkbox"/> If departure date is due within 60 days. The full trip price, including visa fees. | SECURITY CODE | Card holder signature _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Please automatically take full payment from my card 60 days prior to departure <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by cheque: Please make cheques payable to The Russia Experience Ltd Trust Account. |
| CARD NUMBER | | |
| EXPIRY DATE | ISSUE NUMBER | |

Where did you hear of The Russia Experience? _____

| DECLARATION | |
|---|---|
| I have read the Russia Experience brochure and would now like to book my trip, by signing the booking form or paying the deposit, I declare I have read the booking conditions and accept them on behalf of all members of my party listed above. I have also read and understood the following: That local conditions in my destination may differ from those in my country of resident in terms of infrastructure, attitude to foreign visitors, stability of local economy and restrictions on foreign exchange. I understand my visit is governed by regulations imposed by the elected Government, and that these regulations-concerning | availability of entry visas, registration of aliens, local taxes etc-are subject to revision without prior notice. I understand I must submit by passport for the purposes of obtaining visas for an uninterrupted period of 25 days. (Or pay an express fee for quicker processing) Signed _____ Date _____ |

BEETROOT EXPERIENCE

THE ORIGINAL BUDGET TRIPS FOR RUSSIA



BEETROOT EXPERIENCE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY DESTINATION EXPERTS:

The Russia Experience



BEETROOT EXPERIENCE

STEP FORWARD FOR A CURTAIN CALL - OUR ALL-STAR CAST OF DESTINATIONS



THIS WAY TO THE TRIPS

MOSCOW

Russian capital; fast, frenetic and fun, and Europe's fastest-growing city – "medieval citadel meets Gotham City"! See the Kremlin, Moscow's C15th fortress, the ceremonial centre of Red Square, hang out on Kuznetsky Most, haggle a bargain on Arbat St, wander up to the flea market, bop 'til you drop in clubs that stay open 'til 6am, marvel at the magic of the Bol'shoi Theatre, check your email in Europe's funkier net-café, then flit home on Europe's most opulent Metro...



ST PETERSBURG

Imperial-era capital with a street plan designed in person by Tsar Peter I, in homage to Amsterdam, Paris and Venice. Shop Nevsky Prospekt, swoon at the artworks in the Hermitage Collection (housed in the Winter Palace of the Tsars), cruise the rivers and canals, chill-out at the Jazz Philharmonia, take a picnic to the country palaces of the former nobility, boogie the night away at Fish Fabrique or in a converted bomb-shelter at Club Giboyedov.

NOVGOROD

Birthplace of the Russian State and Russia's oldest city, founded by warlord Rurik in 862ad. Visit Russia's oldest Kremlin, see the country's oldest ikons, take a river trip on the Volkhov, get a glimpse of life in the past at the Open-Air Village Museum, maybe dine in the medieval Kremlin itself?



TRIP INGREDIENTS

No Artificial Additives:

All our trips are the real deal, with no hokum tourist-trap stuff.

Content Rich:

Our itineraries are packed with the very best Russia can offer, the things you really want to see and do... you won't miss a thing.

Low Fat:

We don't bulk-out our itineraries with nothing-to-do destinations that others include because they're cheap. Your time is precious – so there's no cheap added starch in our trips.

Freshest Ingredients:

Tired old tourist clichés are banned from our trips. Find the cutting-edge activities, cafes, bars and clubs, we give you the latest listings – for free.

Best-By Date:

The trip-dates for each itinerary are optimised for weather and convenience, and we have lots of departures at times when you're free to travel – public holidays, school holidays etc.

Safety-wrapped:

We're a fully bonded Tour Operator, for your complete financial protection, see facing page for full details.

Not Tested On Animals:

These trips are not suitable for anyone who likes to go around in herds

Minimum Packaging:

No compulsory activities, lots of free time (with suggestions!), make your own lunch and supper choices (more suggestions!), pay for attraction admissions locally, extend your stay at either end of your trip (please advise prior to departure).

Guaranteed Contents:

Quality budget accommodation in good location; breakfast; friendly, local young Russian Buddies leading every trip; walking tours for the inside scoop; visa-guarantee; Beetroot Bible; guaranteed departures (we never cancel, we'll even run a trip with two people).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM VEGGIES TO VISAS

RUSSIAN VISA

The prices below are based on standard processing times (15 working days). If you are booking last-minute we can almost always get you a visa, but there'll be a Rush Fee to pay at the Consulate (on a sliding scale). These prices include secure delivery back to your Travel Agent. If you have booked directly with us, your passport (with visa inside it) will be secure-delivered to your daytime address, where someone must be able to sign for it. For security reasons we cannot deliver to "no-signature-available" addresses.

PRICES

Most visas now are £60 regardless of nationality but always check with us if you are unsure.

YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

We are a fully bonded tour operator, registered in the UK, where EU law requires us to protect your travel funds. We are full members of the Travel Trust Association (TTA) www.traveltrust.co.uk - your travel funds are held frozen in a Trust Account until your trip is complete, and only then released to us by the TTA's approved Trustee. The Russia Experience Ltd is a member of AITO (www.aito.co.uk) - the Association of Independent Tour Operators, a government-regulated professional body of more than 150 tour operators. Between them AITO members take over 1,400,000 satisfied people on holidays throughout the world every year. We are mandated to uphold the high professional standards and stringent financial safeguards which is implicit in membership of the TTA and AITO.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS

RUSSIA, BRRR, BETTER BRING THE THERMAL UNDERWEAR, THEN?

Well, yes - but only in winter! We get average temperatures down to around -12C in Russia between November and March, with occasional lows of -25C, for the classic snow-dusted photos of Russian Christmas and New Year. But in summer (June-August) it's often blazingly hot, from 25-30C every day. We get an "Indian Summer" too, in September.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING, AREN'T THERE QUEUES FOR BREAD THERE?

You can get as much bread here as you like without queuing - bring your own if you like, Customs Officers already think foreign tourists are pretty eccentric anyhow! But a better use of your rucksack space will be for: robust shoes (the pavements and footpaths can be a bit pot-holed), and ridge-sole warm boots for winter; t-shirts, shorts, sandals and sun-cream in summer... and mosquito cream. Our Beetroot Bible of detailed destination info, sent free with your booking confirmation has full details!

WHAT'S THE GO FOR VEGGIES - OF OTHERS WITH SPECIAL DIETS?

Although Russia's not a paradise for vegetarians, Moscow and St Petersburg are easy enough, and both have veggie eateries these days (although not many). The backroads destinations are a little more basic - but you're not

there for long. As a company with 3+ vegetarians on the staff, we take this seriously. Vegans will find things a lot tougher, being honest.

I HEARD RUSSIAN VISAS WERE MORE LIKE RUSSIAN ROULETTE?

We are the experts, with a 12+ year unbroken history of flawlessly getting Russian visas for every client on our trips. Yes, there are lots of stories on the internet of people who've been let down by others - but we're so confident of our visa service that we can offer a cast-iron visa guarantee: "ALL YOUR MONEY BACK, IF YOU DON'T GET A RUSSIAN VISA". The only conditions for the Guarantee are: (i) you have to complete the Visa Form correctly and send your application and photo to us no later than 15 working days before travel, we'll need that period to process it (ii) you can't apply more than 90 days before arrival (iii) you're ineligible for the Visa Guarantee if your passport shows you have been forcibly deported from Russia, or any other country (you can still apply - but without the Guarantee).

HOW STRICT ARE THE VISA RULES?

They only issue visas for the exact period of your stay, plus a day either side to allow for arrivals by long-distance surface transport. If you want to book extra nights before or after your trip, you must do so at the time of booking - so that you'll be sure these dates are counted into the visa validity! You need a full clear page in your passport for the visa, and your passport must be valid for at least 6+ months at the date you cross the border.

WHY DON'T YOU OFFER THE RUSSIAN BALLET, OPERA OR CIRCUS ON YOUR TRIPS?

Russian ballet and opera are world-famous - but that still doesn't mean everyone wants to see them! But there's another reason - the opera and ballet season runs from October to June, and over the peak season for travel (July-September)

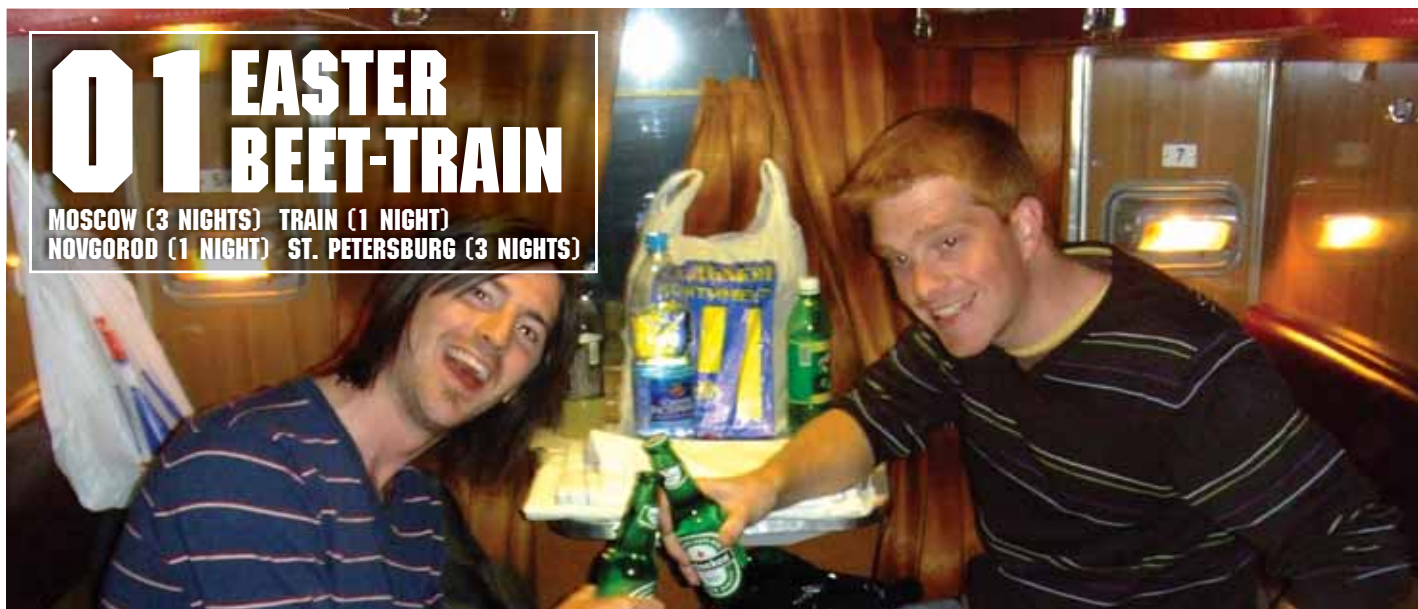
Russian ballet and opera stars are busy touring to foreign festivals, trying to earn some extra money. There are often some summer-season shows anyhow, often from touring companies - your Beetroot Buddy can help you find some tickets. The Bol'shoi and Mariinsky theatres let you book online, and you get the best price that way too.

DOES A SINGLE SUPPLEMENT APPLY?

No, if you are travelling with Beetroot Backpacker we don't surcharge you if you travel alone. However you must be prepared to share a room with a new friend of the same sex. This also applies to extra night rates - If you would like more privacy single room rates are available on request.

01 EASTER BEET-TRAIN

MOSCOW (3 NIGHTS) TRAIN (1 NIGHT)
NOVGOROD (1 NIGHT) ST. PETERSBURG (3 NIGHTS)



HIGHLIGHTS

- Medieval Moscow
- Imperial St Petes
- Novgorod - where Russia was founded
- night-train trip - like those Russian novels
- free Beetroot Bible
- visa service
- great local Beetroot Buddy service

DID YOU KNOW?

Novgorod is Russia's oldest city - it's where the country came into being! And it survived the medieval Mongolian raids (unlike Moscow), so its Kremlin is 300 years older than Moscow's.

HOW TO SAY: LET'S HAVE SOME MEAD!
"Da-vai, med-o-vo-oh!!"

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Moscow, with our usual guarantee to meet any flight, train or boat.

DAY 2: Sightseeing walk of Moscow - Red Sq, St Basil's and more - then free time afternoon and evening.

DAY 3: Visit the Kremlin*, we help in getting tickets. Afternoon is free, so much to see! Been to Arbat Street yet? Hang out on Kuznetsky Most, see the French Impressionists at the Pushkin Arts Museum, fix-up your evening plans... dance till dawn in Europe's wildest clubs... or let others dance for you - at the ballet?

DAY 4: Full day free in Moscow! The shops, museums, sights and markets are all at your disposal. Early evening bus to the station for

our night-train departure (4-berth unisex sleeper cabins) to Novgorod.

DAY 5: Very early arrival to Novgorod - luckily our bus is waiting to whisk us to the hotel. Walking tour of Russia's oldest city - so wealthy it was made a Lord! See the C13th Kremlin. Afternoon trip to the outdoor Village Museum. Lots of options for supper tonight!

DAY 6: Depart to St Petersburg (3-4hrs). Sightseeing walk of Petersburg this afternoon including Palace Square, the canals, bridges, palaces, cathedrals. Free evening to explore the extensive nightlife!

DAY 7: We help you get tickets for the **Hermitage Collection** - the legendary art collection

displayed in the Winter Palace of Tsars. Afternoon free to shop, explore, send a few emails to your friends...

DAY 8: Full day in the Imperial City - buying those last-minute presents at the Souvenir Bazaar, catch up on the sights, get in some vodka to take home (£2 a bottle), and plan your farewell evening!

DAY 9: All too soon it's the last day! Own transfer to airport or station.

* We assist you with obtaining entry to the Kremlin. Tickets purchased locally approx. US\$18.

No activities on Beetroot are compulsory - you buy only the tickets you want, at face value - leaving you in control of your spending & time!



EASTER BEET-TRAIN:

£399

Exclusive of flights and insurance. Visas for Russia (see pg 3 for fees)

TRIP CODE: BBT

TRAVELLING ALONE? NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SAME SEX SHARE
PRE/POST TOUR NIGHTS £30 PER PERSON PER NIGHT

DATES 2008

20 MAR - 28 MAR



BEETROOT EXPRESS 02

MOSCOW (3 NIGHTS) TRAIN (1 NIGHT) ST. PETERSBURG (3 NIGHTS)



HIGHLIGHTS

- Moscow & St P, ready to go
- perfect if you're short on time
- free Beetroot Bible
- visa service
- great local Beetroot buddy service
- six or more travelling?
Choose your own departure date.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even a quick flit into Russia needs a visa - and all that red tape. But Beetroot Backpackers do the footwork for you!

**HOW TO SAY:
ANOTHER BEER PLEASE!
"Ye-sho od-no pivo!"**

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Moscow, with our usual guarantee to meet any flight, train or boat. Transfer to your hotel.

DAY 2: Sightseeing walk of Moscow - Red Square, Arbat Street, and all the famous sights. This afternoon's your own to explore Moscow further - good day for the Flea Market? Free evening - maybe grab some tickets for the circus or Russian Ballet?

DAY 3: Visit the Moscow Kremlin* - we help you get your tickets. Afternoon - free time to explore Moscow some more... maybe cruise Kuznetsky Most, or haggle the souvenir stalls along Arbat Street?

DAY 4: The whole day's free - and so much to see! Maybe book an excursion or call in to see Uncle Lenin at his Mausoleum? Late evening transfer to the train station, and overnight train (in 4-berth sleeper compartments) northwards to St Petersburg!

DAY 5: Early morning arrival in St. Petersburg, meet-up with your St. Pete's Buddy and transfer to the hotel. Morning sightseeing walk around St. Petersburg - Nevsky Prospekt (the city's main avenue), Griboyedov Canal, Church on the Spilt Blood, Admiralty, St Isaac's and more! Afternoon free to explore some more. Evening free.

DAY 6: Come along to the **Hermitage Collection** - one of the world's most famous art collections - on view within the Winter Palace, the former Royal Palace (tickets at own expense). Free afternoon to explore - maybe take a boat trip along the rivers and canals of the city they call the "Northern Venice"? Evening free.

DAY 7: Your last day in St. Petersburg is completely free for you to do whatever you like! Last minute presents for the family or souvenirs? Then perhaps an evening farewell with new friends.

DAY 8: It's all over too soon - Don't forget to swap email addresses with your new friends. Own transport to the station or airport.

* We assist you with obtaining entry to the Kremlin. Tickets purchased locally approx US\$18.

No activities on Beetroot are compulsory - you buy only the tickets you want, at face value - leaving you in control of your spending & time!



BEETROOT EXPRESS:

£349

Exclusive of flights and insurance. Visas for Russia (see pg 3 for fees)

TRIP CODE: BBE

**TRAVELLING ALONE? NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SAME SEX SHARE
PRE/POST TOUR NIGHTS £30 PER PERSON PER NIGHT**

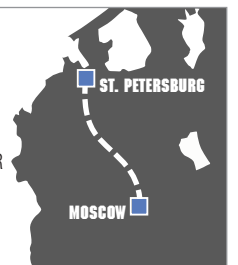
DATES 2008

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 26 JAN - 02 FEB | 21 MAR - 28 MAR | 24 MAY - 31 MAY |
| 09 FEB - 16 FEB | 05 APR - 12 APR | 14 JUN - 21 JUN |
| 16 FEB - 23 FEB | 19 APR - 26 APR | 28 JUN - 05 JUL |
| 08 MAR - 15 MAR | 03 MAY - 10 MAY | 12 JUL - 19 JUL |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 26 JUL - 02 AUG | 04 OCT - 11 OCT |
| 09 AUG - 16 AUG | 25 OCT - 01 NOV |
| 16 AUG - 23 AUG | 08 NOV - 15 NOV |
| 06 SEP - 13 SEP | 29 NOV - 06 DEC |
| 27 SEP - 04 OCT | 06 DEC - 13 DEC |

DATES 2009

| |
|-----------------|
| 31 JAN - 07 FEB |
| 21 FEB - 28 FEB |
| 21 MAR - 28 MAR |



MOSCOW & ST PETERSBURG

CITY EXCURSIONS



MOSCOW



METRO MUSEUM The Moscow Metro is legendary for the extraordinary grandeur and over the top Stalin-era decoration which went into the original generation of stations. The Metro Museum gives the history of how and why the system was built, and how latest technology (monorail systems etc) are being added to its future.
 1 person price £40pp •
 2 people or more £25pp
 Duration 1.5 hrs to inc 30 minutes travelling time. No transportation costs included.

THE ANTI-KGB MUSEUM – (ANDREI SAKHAROV MUSEUM) The limitless power and viciousness of the Stalin-era KGB became infamous throughout the world. One of its most famous victims was Andrei Sakharov, the physicist who developed the USSR's nuclear programme, but refused to make his work available for military applications. This museum tells not only Sakharov's story, but the history or political repression during the USSR period.
 1 person price £40pp •
 2 people or more £25pp
 Duration 2 hrs to inc 30 minutes travelling time. No transportation costs included.

VODKA MUSEUM It is quite symbolic that the museum is now situated in Moscow, which is the historical centre this famous drink originates from, 15th century being the starting point of its history. The museum appeared within the precincts of the Kremlin in Izmailovo, which is a unique historical and architectural complex, for tourists and locals.
 1 person price £40pp •
 2 people or more £25pp
 Duration 1 hr to inc 30 minutes travelling time. No transportation costs included.

BURAN SPACE SHUTTLE The "Buran" (Whirlwind) was the Soviet Space Program's version of the Space Shuttle (and looks very similar). However, early setbacks meant that it was withdrawn from use, and the USSR changed its space policy away from manned missions. One of the Buran ships now stands on the banks of the Moscova River and can be visited. There is short film about the Buran's history.
 1 person price £50pp •
 2 people or more £35pp
 Duration 1.5 hrs to inc 30 minutes travelling time. No transportation costs included.



BASIC RUSSIAN Kak dela? Pick up some handy conversational Russian for your trip in an intensive lesson over a cup of Russky chai. From please and thank you to asking the way (and understanding the answer..) one lesson might not make you a bol'tushka (chatterbox) but you'll be well on the way to becoming kilovaya chuvikha (cool chick!)
 1 person price £130pp •
 2 people or more £80pp
 Duration 3 hrs. Includes snacks but no transportation.

STALIN'S BUNKER The secret underground control-room from which Stalin planned to run the USSR in the event of nuclear war. Please note this is not open to the general public and is strictly a private tour, and the price they charge reflects the exclusive nature of this VIP trip.
 1 person price £130 •
 2 people or more £80pp
 Duration 2 hrs to inc 3 mins travelling time. No transportation costs included.





ST PETERSBURG

SIEGE OF LENINGRAD MUSEUM

For 900 days in WW2 the city of Leningrad (present day St Petersburg) was cut off from the rest of Russia by German tank divisions and the artillery battalions. Conditions in the besieged city were appalling – hundreds of thousands died from famine and contagion. This tiny museum is located in the gatehouse of the War Cemetery where the civilian dead from the siege were buried. Although it may be grim, its “essential” to understand the splendour of the modern city.

1 person price £40pp •
2 or more people £25pp
Duration 1.5 hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time. No transportation costs included.



MUSEUM OF THE POLITICAL POLICE

Russia’s secret police are legendary, but they weren’t merely a soviet-era invention... they date back to the oprichniks (the deadly secret agents of the Russian Tsars from the C17th onwards) and beyond. Even famous Russian authors like Dostoyevsky (who wrote “Crime and Punishment” here in St Petersburg) fell foul of the terrifying “midnight doorknock”. This museum offers an un glossed history.

1 person price £40pp •
2 people or more £25pp
Duration 2.5 hrs to include 30 mins travelling time. No transportation costs included.

YUSUPOV PALACE & RASPUTIN CHAMBERS

The Yusupov family were the wealthiest family in Russia – wealthier even than the Tsars themselves, and their influence ran everywhere. So when young Felix Yusupov and his university friends decided Rasputin’s influence had become too great, they decided to “deal with him” privately, by inviting him to a poisoned supper at their magnificent palace...

1 person price £60 •
2 people or more £30pp
Duration 2.5 hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time. No transportation costs included.

RUSSIAN COOKERY LESSON WITH A FAMILY

Learn how to cook traditional Russian dishes under the watchful eye of a master of the genre! You’ll have to at the results of your efforts later, so make sure you pay attention! All the ingredients, tuition and a shot of something to wash it down with are included.

1 person price £80pp •
2 people or more £40pp
Duration 4 hrs to 1 hour travelling time. No transportation costs are included.

TEA IN A RUSSIAN HOME

Russians are at their happiest when sitting and drinking tea, eating cake and having a natter. There’s even a verb in Russian, chaigonyat, to describe drinking a lot of tea like this! Enter the private world of Russian home home life for a short while.

1 person price £40pp •
2 or more people £25pp
Duration 2hrs to inc 30 mins travelling time. No transportation costs included.



03 CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

MOSCOW (2 NIGHTS) TRAIN (1 NIGHT)
ST PETERSBURG (2 NIGHTS)



HIGHLIGHTS

- full sightseeing in Moscow and St Petes
- free Beetroot bible
- visa service
- great local Beetroot buddy service
- these trips attract larger groups – so we increase our staffing on them accordingly!
- four-course russian banquet
- visit from Santa

DID YOU KNOW?

Russian Christmas isn't until Jan 6th – so nothing is shut down when you come on Dec 25th, all the sights, shops & markets are open as usual!

HOW TO SAY:
OUCH, WHAT A HANGOVER...
“oi, pokh-mel-iye...”

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival to Moscow with our usual guarantee to meet any flight or train.



DAY 2: Sightseeing walk of Moscow Red sq, St Basil's and more, then free time to explore on your own the rest of the day.

DAY 3: Meet your buddy for an optional Kremlin tour. The rest of the day is free time for more sightseeing or souvenir shopping. Late evening transfer to the train station, then overnight train (in 4-berth sleeper compartments) Northwards to St Petersburg.

DAY 4: Early (Christmas!!) morning arrival to St Petersburg. Check in, then morning walking tour of the city. We then depart for Christmas dinner. Remember that this is not a holiday in Russia so you can continue with your partying later, as everywhere is open!!!!



DAY 5: Your last day in St Petersburg. Free for you to do whatever you like. Maybe see the Hermitage Collection-on view within the Winter Palace. A great city for walking and drinking up the atmosphere and maybe an evening farewell with your new friends.

DAY 6: It's all over so soon – but you still have a last chance to swap email addresses with your new friends, since we run a free shuttle to the airport today (you're welcome to stay longer... we have extra night prices, but transfer to the airport is not included after them).



CHRISTMAS CRACKER:

£350

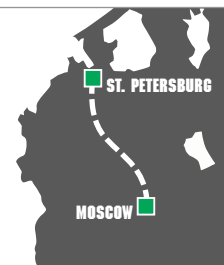
Exclusive of flights and insurance. Visas for Russia (see pg 3 for fees)

TRIP CODE: BBC

TRAVELLING ALONE? NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SAME SEX SHARE
PRE/POST TOUR NIGHTS £30 PER PERSON PER NIGHT

DATES 2008

22 DEC - 27 DEC
Dept Moscow





NEW YEAR'S PARTY 04

ST. PETERSBURG (2 NIGHTS) TRAIN (1 NIGHT) MOSCOW (2 NIGHTS)



HIGHLIGHTS

- New Year's Eve party in Moscow
- all the goodies you get on the Beetroot Express with full sightseeing in Moscow & St Petes
- free Beetroot Bible
- visa service
- great local Beetroot Buddy service

TRIP FACT

These trips attract larger groups - so we increase our staffing on them accordingly!

DID YOU KNOW?

New Year is the mother of all parties in Russia - they go beserk! Though most places will be shut on 01-02 January, our itinerary steers you around all that!

HOW TO SAY: HAPPY NEW YEAR!
"S novym godom!"

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in St. Petersburg, with our usual guarantee to meet any flight, train.



DAY 2: After breakfast, meet-up with your St Pete's buddy, morning sightseeing walk around St Petersburg - Nevsky Prospekt (the city's main avenue), Griboyedov Canal, Church on the Spilt Blood, Admiralty, St Isaac's and more. Evening free.



DAY 3: After breakfast come along to the Hermitage Collection - one of the world's most famous art collections on view within the Winter Palace, the former Royal Palace (tickets at own expense). Free afternoon to explore - maybe take a boat trip along the rivers and canals of the city they call the "Northern Venice"? Transfer to the station for late evening departure to Moscow. (4-berth compartments).

DAY 4: Early morning arrival in Moscow, transfer to your hotel.

Sightseeing walk of Moscow - Red Square, Arbat Street, and all the famous sights. This afternoon's your own to explore Moscow further and an ideal opportunity to book one of our city excursions (see page 6).



DAY 5: Conserve your energy with a lie-in. Optional afternoon visit to the Moscow Kremlin*.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY in a Moscow restaurant - a 3 course meal. Then head to Red Square for midnight (independent return to your hotel whenever you choose, metro stays open till 4.00am for you to straggle home!)

DAY 6: 1st January: "Happy New Year" Wake up and consider how you may feel? Extra nights can be booked for as little as £30 per person per night! Consider this when you are booking! If not transfers on departure day to your chosen airport train station or boat!

* We assist you with obtaining entry to the Kremlin. Tickets purchased locally approx US\$18.

No activities on Beetroot are compulsory - you buy only the tickets you want, at face value - leaving you in control of your spending & time!



NEW YEAR'S PARTY:

£350

Exclusive of flights and insurance. Visas for Russia (see pg 3 for fees)

TRIP CODE: **BNY**

TRAVELLING ALONE? **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SAME SEX SHARE**
PRE/POST TOUR NIGHTS **£30 PER PERSON PER NIGHT**

DATES 2008

27 DEC - 01 JAN 09



05 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S COMBO

ST PETERSBURG (3 NIGHTS) NOVGOROD (1 NIGHT) TRAIN (1 NIGHT) MOSCOW (3 NIGHTS)

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT BOOK EARLY!



HIGHLIGHTS

- Festive Christmas Dinner in St Petes
- Russian New Year Blow-Out in Moscow
- Full sightseeing in Moscow, St P & Novgorod
- and all the usual Beetroot goodies!
- free Beetroot Bible
- visa service
- great local Beetroot buddy service

TRIP FACT

These trips attract larger groups - so we increase our staffing on them accordingly!

DID YOU KNOW?

Russian Christmas comes on Jan 6th, but things close-down for New Year - so we've planned the perfect itinerary to include both festivals without unusable time!

HOW TO SAY: HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
"S praz-dnik-om!"

ITINERARY

DAY 01 24th December:

Arrival in St. Petersburg with our usual guarantee to meet any flight, train or boat. We will then transfer you to your hotel. Where on arrival you will have a welcome drink and meet your Beetroot Buddy, also giving you the opportunity to make friends, then maybe join some of your fellow travellers for supper this evening?

DAY 02 25th December:

Merry Christmas. Today after breakfast we will take you on a walking tour which will include Palace Square, The Canals and Cathedrals. Then a midday departure from your hotel to a local village for a three course lunch and a folklore show and sledding (weather permitting). Transfer back to your hotel and the rest of the evening is free for more partying. All clubs and bars are open.



DAY 03 26th December:

After breakfast maybe dash off to the Hermitage for a quick burst of culture? The rest of the day is at leisure to shop or maybe go to the ballet? St. Pete's nightlife rocks, so you won't be short of opportunities to enjoy yourself.

DAY 04 27th December:

After breakfast we will depart to the Medieval Citadel of Novgorod. This journey is approximately four hours. After checking into our 3* hotel, the balance of the day is free. How about booking supper in Kremlin Medieval restaurant? Fantastic food, great atmosphere it's also super value for money.



DAY 05 28th December:

After breakfast this morning you will take a one hour walking tour of the city with a local guide, which includes the inside of the local Kremlin. You will then take a short bus ride to the outdoor village museum. (Wrap up warmly this morning) Transfer this evening at 21.00 hours for your Moscow bound train.

Why not stock up on a few treats at the station before departure!

On board your cosy home for the night is a 4-berth sleeper cabin... sweet dreams!



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S COMBO:

£525

Exclusive of flights and insurance. Visas for Russia (see pg 3 for fees)

TRIP CODE: CNC

TRAVELLING ALONE? NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SAME SEX SHARE
PRE/POST TOUR NIGHTS £30 PER PERSON PER NIGHT

DATES 2008

24 DEC - 01 JAN 09





DAY 06 29th December:

Very early morning arrival to Moscow. Transfer to your hotel. There will be enough time to catch a few zzz's. Around midday your beetroot buddy will meet you at the hotel to depart on 3-hour walking tour of the city using public transport. This will help to familiarise you with the city centre and help smooth your path while taking the main highlights; Red Square, Lenin's Tomb, St. Basil's and much more... This evening is your own to discover the best of what Moscow has to offer - check out your beetroot bible for tips!

DAY 07 30th December:

This morning your buddy will travel with you to the Kremlin* and assist you with the purchasing of entrance tickets. Balance of the day is your own why not check out Arbat Street for a little shopping? Have you been to Pushkin Square? Perhaps you have booked one of our City Excursions for this afternoon? Why not visit a local family for a traditional Russian Tea?



DAY 08 31st December:

"New Years Eve - Paint the town red, let the party begin!" Day free to gather your strength then early evening transfer to the restaurant for New Year's Eve dinner in the city. After dinner wrap up warmly and go to Red Square for the fireworks and see the President wish you "Happy New Year" on the big screen. (Metro stays open till 4.00am for you to straggle home)

DAY 09 1st January:

"Happy New Year" Wake up and consider how you feel? Extra nights can be booked for as little as £30 per person per night! Consider this when you are booking! If not transfers on departure day to your chosen airport train station or boat!

* We assist you with obtaining entry to the Kremlin. Tickets purchased locally approx. US\$18.

No activities on Beetroot are compulsory - you buy only the tickets you want, at face value - leaving you in control of your spending & time!



BOOKING CONDITIONS

- Your contract is with The Russia Experience Ltd. The Russia Experience Ltd is a fully bonded tour operator, registered in the UK, where EU law requires us to protect your travel funds. We are full members of the Travel Trust Association (TTA) - www.traveltrust.co.uk - and your travel funds are held frozen in an account until your trip is complete or you cancel, and only then released to us by the TTA's approved trustee. The Russia Experience Ltd is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO - www.aito.co.uk) - a professional body of more than 150 tour operators. We are mandated to uphold the highest professional standards and stringent financial safeguards which are implicit in membership of both these organisations.
 - All bookings are accepted on a request basis only. Acceptance of a booking form does not imply availability of a trip.
 - No booking will be accepted without a completed booking form and either a deposit or - according to the payment schedule applicable - full payment. Deposits are non refundable except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions. When we are in a position to do so, we will confirm your booking by issuing a confirmation invoice. At this point a binding contract between us will come into existence. You must check your confirmation invoice and all other documents we send you as soon as you receive them and let us know immediately if any information appears to be incorrect as it may not be possible to make changes later.
 - The trip balance must be received by us no later than 60 days before your trip. Late or no payment may/will cause cancellation of all or part of your trip, with the cancellation charges shown in clause 9 below being payable depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled by you.
 - No travel documents will be issued until full payment has been made.
 - We accept payment by cash, travellers' cheque and bankers' drafts and credit cards. We accept personal cheques subject to clearance, for which 10 days must be allowed.
 - The responsibility for obtaining and carrying correct visas, passports and other travel documents remains with the passenger. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation. If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country(ies) to or through which you are intending to travel.
 - If we have to cancel or make a significant change to your trip before departure, you will be offered the choice - where there is time to do so and any significant change is not acceptable to you - of a full refund of all funds paid over to us, or a suitable alternative trip of substantially equal or better quality where available. We will in addition, if appropriate and subject to the following exceptions, pay you reasonable compensation depending on the circumstances. Compensation will not be payable and no liability beyond offering the above mentioned choices can be accepted where (1) we are forced to make a change or cancel as a result of unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which we could not have avoided even with all due care or (2) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your trip has not been reached - in this case we will notify you by the deadline specified [in the details of the trip in question]. No compensation will be payable and the above options will not be available if we cancel as a result of your failure to comply with any requirement of these booking conditions entitling us to cancel (such as paying on time) or where any change is minor. See clause 13.
 - If you wish to cancel your trip, we require written notice from you and will apply cancellation charges in accordance with the table below.
- IF YOU CANCEL YOUR TRIP:
NUMBER OF DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE WHEN WE RECEIVE YOUR CANCELLATION. SHOWN AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TOTAL TRIP PRICE*.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Over 60 days before commencement | Deposit only |
| 59-40 days before commencement | 50% |
| 39-14 days before commencement | 90% |
| 14 days or no show | 100% |
- * The trip price does not include visas, visa processing fees, travel insurance or guidebooks, which shall be 100% forfeit in all cases.
- We consider adequate travel insurance to be essential. You must ensure you take out a policy which includes appropriate cover for medical expenses and for your repatriation to the UK in the event of medical need and for loss or damage of belongings. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on trip. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs.
 - We have made it clear in all sales materials that it is common and accepted practice for transport methods employed on our trips to run with delays, or to run below operational standards that would be regarded as normal in Western Europe. We cannot accept any claim of any nature which relates to any failure of transport operators to conform either to timetables supplied by us or to their own timetables or arises from deviations from operational standards by transport operators whose services form part of our itineraries (whether original or amended).
 - We cannot be responsible for the safety of passengers or their belongings. All belongings are at all times at your risk and you must ensure you look after them appropriately.
 - If circumstances force us to amend your itinerary or any contracted services, we shall notify you in writing as soon as possible. If the change arises during your trip, our representatives will make every effort to contact you personally. We reserve the right to substitute alternative transport or accommodation in the interests of the safety or comfort of our passengers and/or the successful completion of the itinerary.
 - If you require us to change your booked itinerary, we will do everything reasonably possible to facilitate this, subject to your agreement to meet the costs which may be incurred. An estimate of these costs, in writing, will be provided before proceeding.
 - Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any personal injury, damage or loss of any description as a result of "force majeure". In these booking conditions, "force majeure" means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not - even with all due care - foresee or avoid. Such events may include war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity or actual threatened terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.
 - In the event of your suffering any personal injury, damage or loss as a result of force majeure, we shall provide all reasonable help. Our assistance does not replace the assistance to be expected from travel insurance up to the limits of cover of the policy recommended by us, nor shall it replace the assistance of the consul responsible for you whilst abroad.
 - We promise to make sure that the arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury or your contracted arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted arrangements. Please note it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example loss of enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from (1) the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or (2) the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not connected with the provision of your trip and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or (3) "force majeure" as defined in clause 9 above
- We limit the maximum amount we may have to pay you for any claims you may make against us. Where we are found liable for loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions (including money), the maximum amount we will have to pay you is £250 per person affected unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under this clause or clause 19 below. For all other claims which do not involve death or personal injury, if we are found liable to you on any basis the maximum amount we will have to pay you is twice the price (excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 19 below. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.
 - Where any claim or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any rail, sea or road carrier or any stay in a hotel, the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you will be limited. The most we will have to pay you for that claim or that part of a claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier or hotel keeper concerned would have to pay under the international convention or regulation which applies to the travel arrangements or hotel stay in question (for example, COTIF, The Convention Concerning International Carriage by Rail and the Athens Convention for international travel by sea). Please note: Where a carrier or hotel would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable International Convention or Regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport operator or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question. Copies of the applicable International Conventions and Regulations are available from us on request.
 - Claims for compensation will be accepted in writing only, and must be received by us (with all relevant details) within 30 days of the end of the final included service. You must notify our local representatives and the supplier of the service(s) concerned as soon as you become aware of any problem. We are unable to consider any claim where the assistance or advice of our local representatives has been unsought, rejected or ignored.
 - Passengers who fail to join the trip by the means or at the time and date they previously advised us by at least 14 days' notice shall forfeit all subsequent services up to such time as they can be reasonably rejoined. Any re-scheduling so caused shall be at the passenger's own expense. Departure without notification from the itinerary may result in forfeiture of subsequent services. "No-show" passengers shall forfeit all subsequent services if they fail to notify us of intention to rejoin their itinerary within 72 hours of their original arrival date. Expenses arising from your departure from the itinerary cannot be recovered from us.
 - Tariffs shown in our leaflets were accurate based on prices and exchange rates at the time of printing. We reserve the right to make changes to and correct errors in advertised prices at any time before your holiday is confirmed. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the then applicable price at the time of booking. Once the price of your chosen holiday has been confirmed at the time of booking, we will only increase or decrease it in the following circumstances. A surcharge or refund (as applicable) will be payable, subject to the conditions set out in this clause, if our costs increase or decrease due to changes in transportation costs or in dues, taxes or fees payable for services such as embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports or in the exchange rates which have been used to calculate the cost of your holiday. Even in the above cases, only if the amount of the increase in our costs exceeds 2% of the total cost of your trip (excluding insurance premiums and any amendment charges), will we levy a surcharge. If any surcharge is greater than 10% of the cost of your trip (excluding insurance premiums and any amendment charges), you will be entitled to cancel your booking and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us (except for any amendment charges) or alternatively purchase another holiday from us as referred to in clause 8. You have 14 days from the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice to tell us if you want to cancel or purchase another trip as set out in clause 8. If you do not tell us that you wish to choose either of these options within this period of time, we are entitled to assume that you do not wish to do so and will pay the surcharge. Any surcharge must be paid with the balance of the cost of the trip or within 14 days of the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice, whichever is the later. Please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place. A refund will only be payable if the decrease in our costs exceeds 2% as set out above. Where a refund is due, we will pay you the full amount of the decrease in our costs. We promise not to levy a surcharge within 30 days of departure.
 - With the exception of diving none of our activities require special training or above-average levels of fitness or mobility. If you are in any doubt about whether you should undertake them, you should consult your medical adviser. We are unable to refund any money in respect of services from which you withdraw after arrival. With reasonable notice, alternative versions of most of our activities can be organised for those of you who have special needs, and a section on our booking form invites information to enable us to plan for your needs in this case.
 - If you have any special request, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. If any passenger has any medical condition or disability which may affect your trip, please tell us before you confirm your booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. If we reasonably feel unable to properly accommodate the particular needs of the person concerned, we must reserve the right to decline their reservation or, if full details are not given at the time of booking, cancel when we become aware of these details.
 - At all times passengers are bound by local law and jurisdiction in their chosen destinations. Passengers who depart from the selected itinerary, either geographically or chronologically, are advised that they may be breaking local immigration regulations, which at best will result in delay and inconvenience, and at worst may result in arrest and imprisonment, in neither of which cases are we able to assist in any material way. Passengers are advised that local duties and levies are frequently introduced, amended or increased without warning, and whilst we do our best to inform passengers of what local costs are likely to incur, we cannot guarantee that further costs will not be imposed or increased subsequent to our recent information. Such costs remain the passenger's responsibility.
 - We do not organise air travel to or from our destinations. Passengers are advised to ensure that agencies with which they organise such services are properly bonded and certified to conduct such business. On request we can provide details with a recommended agent for many localities.
 - The Russia Experience will not accept responsibility for any additional or alternative travel arrangements (including the use of local guides and the purchase of services and excursions) that are made independently by its clients and that are separate, or in addition, to the booked and ticketed itinerary.
 - We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to our contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (except as set out below). We both also agree that any dispute, claim or other matter of any description (and whether or not involving any personal injury) which arises between us must be dealt with by the AITO Arbitration Scheme (if available for the claim in question - details available on request) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

