



# Experience Dr Zhivago

**Along the way**  
St. Petersburg  
Moscow  
Perm  
Beijing

## Leaving from St. Petersburg to Beijing

Starting your trip in St. Petersburg gives you the opportunity to see the contrast between the imperial splendour and the soviet simplicity that existed both then and now.

One of the greatest Russian novels of the C20th – adapted repeatedly for both the big and small screens with all-star casts – is itself set on the Trans-Siberian line... Pasternak's "Dr Zhivago". All the action that takes place at Zhivago's old country house, and the town of "Yuriatin" near it, is in fact set around Perm, the real city fictionalised as "Yuriatin". This unique itinerary combines a classic Trans-Sib trip with some special Zhivago-related visits in and around Perm... the city where it's author lived and drafted the novel.



## What's included

### FULL ON

#### Train

- > 4-berth rail for complete journey (pre-assigned berths)
- > option to upgrade to 2-berth

#### St. Petersburg

- > transfer on arrival to your hotel
- > 2 nights 3★ hotel, breakfast
- > 3 hour personalised walking tour with local expert

#### Moscow

- > transfer on arrival to your hotel
- > 2 nights 3★ hotel, breakfast
- > 3 hour personalised walking tour with local expert
- > transfer to the station on departure

#### Perm

- > transfer on arrival to your hotel
- > 3 nights 3★ hotel, breakfast
- > excursions
- > transfer to the station on departure



## In the know...

Vodka is supposed to be 40 % proof. This was established by Lomonosov, who did his PhD topic on exactly this, and then founded Moscow University.

Dr Zhivago novel was banned from publication in Russia. The book was smuggled to Italy for publication in 1957.

The word Gulag makes you think of a concrete prison- the reality is horribly banal.

China has had multiple capitals in its turbulent history, including Nanjing and Xi'an. Beijing became capital in coup staged by the Manchu, who lived in the North of the country (Manchu-ria).



## No ordinary trip

At The Russia Experience we like to ditch the clichés, discard the puff and concentrate on what we do best – bringing to life the world's longest train route: the places visited, the encounters made and the realisation of a journey that is both engaging and rewarding.

We continually look at ways of enhancing the Trans Siberian experience, incorporating seasonal considerations (such as the Harbin Ice Festival), providing the historical context (pay a visit to the only remaining Soviet Gulag) or inviting you to savour the diverse cultural influences of indigenous people (sit down with a shaman, or enjoy the Siberian art of throat singing!).

We have no group departures, our advertised dates always operate (barring anything completely out of our control) and, above all, we will tell you it like it is – allowing you to make the right choice from a portfolio of journeys rich in variety and full of memorable experiences. Sorry! We couldn't resist at least one cliché!



## Visa Requirements

Visitors to Russia and China require visas. These must be obtained prior to departure. Visa processing times for these countries can be up to;

Russia	25 Working Days
China	10 Working Days

However fast track processing is possible.

Due to the support documents required by the Embassy of Russia (which we obtain), you will need to book your trip before starting to obtain visas.

For full information regarding visas, please refer to our web site.

## Hints and Tips

TOP TIP! – Take a copy of the iconic novel by Boris Pasternak to refer to!

Photocopy your passport including the visas issued pages, airline tickets and insurance policies.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months past the end of your travel dates.

## Travellers Checklist

Day pack, back pack, money belt, first aid kit, heat proof mug, instant coffee, tea bags, sun hat, lightweight jacket, flip flops, sun cream, warm jacket (Sep-Apr departures), warm waterproof walking boots, universal sink plug, bottle opener.

## Climate and time – Minimum/maximum Temperatures °C

	Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/Jun	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec
Moscow/						
St. Petersburg	-20/-10	-5/+12	+15/+22	+15/+30	+ 8/+24	-6/+10
Perm	-20/-09	-11/+09	+5/+20	+13/+20	+ 6/+14	-8/-2
Beijing	-20/-10	-6/+14	+15/+22	+24/+30	+ 8/+22	-10/+6



# Experience Dr Zhivago

full on itinerary – 16 days

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## DAY 01

“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. At check-in, (after 2pm) the hotel reception will advise you they will need your passport for visa registration. This process takes 1–2 hours. Your complimentary InfoPack is full of ideas for getting the most out of your free time. (Please note your train tickets to Moscow will be delivered to the hotel during your two night stay.)

No meals

## DAY 02

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. Our staffers are full of ideas for this walk but are flexible about other ideas if you have your own. 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.

Breakfast

## DAY 03

You’ll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your day is free until your evening departure to Moscow. Reception can book you a taxi to the station. Some of our top suggestions (please check opening times/days before setting off) 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.

Breakfast

## DAY 04

Early morning arrival in Moscow. Our driver will meet you at the end of the platform and will be holding a meeting-board with your name on. You’ll then be transferred to the Irbis 3★ Hotel. The facilities available at this hotel include a Restaurant, Lobby Bar, Lobby Wi-Fi access, Luggage Room, Safety deposit boxes and an ATM machine. One of our local expert staff will meet you at the hotel around 10am 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. Our staffers are full of ideas for this walk but are flexible about other ideas if you have your own. Your walk ends in the city centre around lunchtime. Check-in is after 2pm the hotel reception will advise you they will need your passport for visa registration. This process takes 1–2 hours. Your complimentary InfoPack is full of ideas for getting the most out of your free time. (Please note your Trans-Siberian train tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your two night stay.)

No meals

## DAY 05

If you haven’t pre-booked any of our range of city excursions the rest of the day is your own to explore further. Some of our top suggestions (please check opening times/days before setting off) would include visiting the Moscow Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, or a boat trip along the Moskva River... perhaps locate some tickets for ballet, opera, circus or a concert this evening? As well as famous classical music traditions Moscow features on the touring schedules of world names in jazz, rock, pop and world music.

Breakfast



## DAY 06

You’ll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your day is free until 4pm when a driver is scheduled to take you to the station. This morning you can continue sightseeing – the Lenin Mausoleum is only open in the mornings, and getting there early (it’s in Red Square) helps beat the queues. Although there’s a restaurant car service on board your train, you may want to supplement this with some snacks, treats, and fresh fruit that you could buy today. Your transfer from the hotel to Yaroslavsky station is scheduled for 4pm, so please be at the hotel reception where your driver will meet you and will assist your boarding of the Perm bound train.

Breakfast

## DAY 07

Your first full day on board the Trans-Sib... There will be plenty of time to meet fellow travellers and hang out in the dining car which serves a variety of meals and snacks reasonably priced. Evening arrive in Perm where our driver will meet you at the end of the platform and will be holding a meeting-board with your name on. Transfer to the Hotel Ural, which is located in the cultural and historical centre of Perm. This property is close to Perm State Art Gallery, Regional History museum, Perm State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, and the Kama River embankment.

No meals

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## DAY 08

### SPECIAL WALKING TOUR OF YURI ZHIVAGO'S "YURYATIN" (Perm).

We start at the Pushkin Library, which was the Public Reading Room where Yuri and Lara first meet in the book. In the novel we hear that it was behind the "Giant" cinema; it's actually behind the "Triumph" cinema. Across the street is the city's leafy Central Square, where you can easily imagine Yuri and Lara must have gone after they first met and sat on a park bench opposite the Opera House. Nearby



the nightmare realities of Zhivago's time interrupt our dreams – the small former hotel where Tsar Nicholas II's brother was staying on his way to Ekaterinburg, where the Royal Family were imprisoned in 1918. In fact Grand Prince Mikhail was the last Tsar of all but he never knew. Our tour reveals the bizarre secret, and its British connection. Nearby is a small wooden two-storey house which is "Lara's house". In fact it is just another private house (ie you can't visit) in the city, but carefully reading of the book identifies the exact location, opposite the imposing C19th palace across the road. A few blocks from the mansion is the hospital where Lara works in the novel.

There's a chance to see some imposing houses built by wealthy C19th merchants. You can imagine Komarovskiy must have had friends to stay with here. There's also a monument to Boris Pasternak. Not far away is the River Pier district. Before the Trans-Siberian Railway was built, travellers to Siberia would come by boat from Moscow this far and disembark, and the Great Siberian Tract (the old Post Road) began from this point. Chain-ganged convicts would be brought here at night, for fear of frightening local people with their terrible fate and force marched to Siberia on foot. The Old Razvilje Railway Station was then built here. It was from here that the Trans-Siberian Railway originally departed (it was only later linked back as far as Moscow), and this is where Komarovskiy's private "Government train" waited for him. The Siberian convicts had to march for months to their destination – you, however, only have another ten minutes walk to get to the new "Dr Zhivago" Restaurant... for lunch. Afternoon free to explore Perm's shops and extensive museums and galleries (Perm is a major location for fossil-hunters, the Permian period takes its name from the city, and there's lots in the museums). Evening free – there might even be a performance of the opera "Dr Zhivago" (yes, there really is one..) at the Opera Theatre. Remainder of the day free to explore more of Perm.

Breakfast

## DAY 09

Full day excursion to the Gulag Museum, housed in the only surviving\* soviet-era Gulag now visit able in Russia. En-route we pass small villages which must have been the inspiration for the one where Yuri & Larissa hid out from the Secret Police. Evening return to Perm.

Breakfast

\*There is one other, but it's on the Russian Arctic Pacific coast, 900 miles from any rail stop, and only accessible by chartered helicopter.

## DAY 10

Free day in Perm to explore the rest of this pleasant Urals city then evening transfer to the station where you will board the Beijing bound train.

Breakfast

## DAY 11–15

On board The Trans-Sib... travelling eastwards via the Chinese Manchurian frontier with Russia. (This is the route by which Komarovskiy kidnaps Lara in the book, in a private train) The dining car is a great place to meet fellow travellers and locals alike, sharing your experiences of your journey so far with a few drinks, which no doubt will include some Vodka!

No meals

## DAY 16

Early morning arrival at Beijing Central Station. For services in China and beyond please refer to our web site or brochure.

No meals