



# Experience Grand Trans-Siberian

Leaving from Moscow to Beijing

Along the way  
 Moscow  
 Kazan  
 Ekaterinburg  
 Novosibirsk  
 Krasnoyarsk  
 Irkutsk,  
 Lake Baikal  
 Ulan-Uday  
 Ulaanbaatar  
 Gobi Desert  
 Beijing

This is not our usual working train but a privately owned train, totally private to your group. A very different way to experience this iconic journey. Experience the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway and the Trans Mongolian Railway on board a private charter train. Forget about any hassle of packing and unpacking every day. Your cabin is your "home on wheels" during the entire rail cruise journey.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR

- > Moscow, most vibrant and fast developing metropolitan of Europe
- > Kremlin, the centre of power in Russia
- > Siberia, a huge land of extreme dimensions
- > Lake Baikal, deepest lake and biggest freshwater reserve of Tthe world
- > Mongolian steppes, yurts and horses
- > Gobi Desert, one of the biggest deserts of the world
- >Great Wall of China, part of World Heritage
- > Beijing, Chinese capital and centre of the Central Kingdom
- > Boat cruise on the Europe's longest river, Volga
- > Boat cruise on Siberia's mighty River Yenissej
- > Private classic concert in the wooden house of former Duke Volkonsky
- > Folklore show of Mongolian artists
- > Mini Naadam show of Mongolian horse racing, wrestling, archery

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRAIN

- > Modern First Class sleeping cars with shared washing and toilet facilities
- > Modern Deluxe sleeping cars with private lavatory, toilet and shower en suite
- > Guaranteed double and single accommodation throughout the tour
- > All sleeping cars are newly built, average 2-4 years old only
- > 2 restaurant cars
- > A cosy bar with live piano music in the evening
- > Service car with shower cabins for First Class passengers
- > Conference car for lectures and on board entertainment

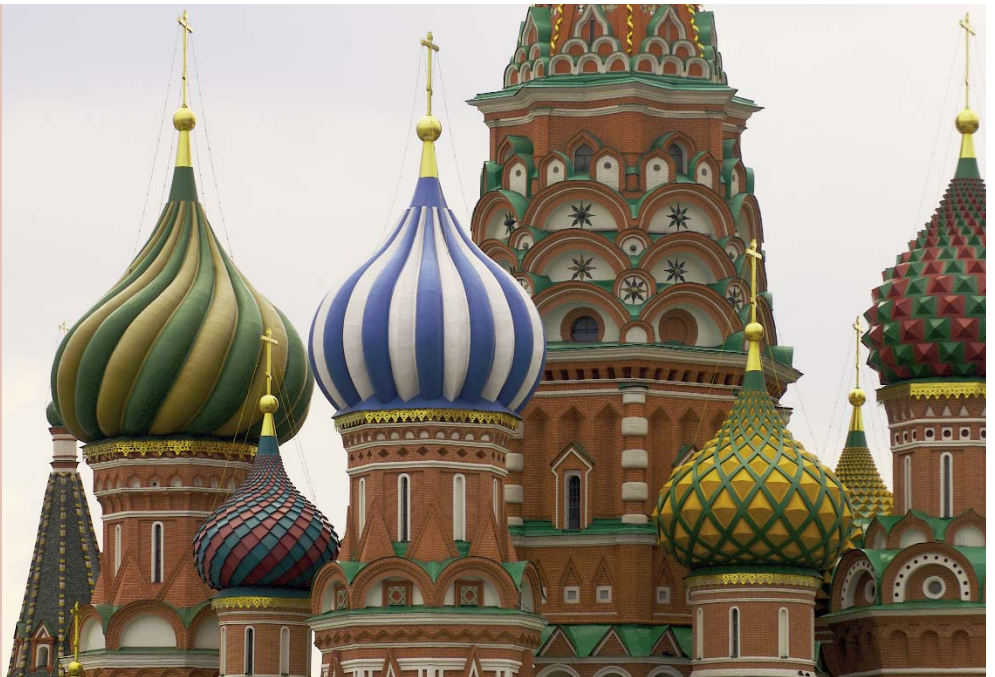
## In the know...

The word “Kremlin” isn’t Russian – it’s from a medieval Tartar word meaning “fortress”. There used to be kremlins all over Russia in the days when the Mongols were a threat. There’s even one in Siberia, at Tobolsk.

“Siberia” means “the sleeping land” and isn’t a Russian word – it comes from the Tartar name for the area, “Sibir”.

Lake Baikal is the world’s largest, and has more statistics than any other lake.

Genghis Khan’s name is correctly spelt “Chinghiskhan”, although his name at birth was Temujin. Despite his reputation for ferocity, the oldest annals of Mongolian history reveal he was frightened of dogs.



## Visa Requirements

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

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Russia   | 10 Working Days |
| Mongolia | 06 Working Days |
| China    | 07 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

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, sun hat, mosquito repellent, lightweight jacket, flip flops, swim wear, sun cream.

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

|                | May/Jun | Jul/Aug |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Moscow/        |         |         |
| St. Petersburg | +15/+22 | +15/+30 |
| Irkutsk        | +8/+22  | +26/+38 |
| Ulaanbaatar    | +15/+24 | +26/+42 |
| Beijing        | +15/+22 | +24/+30 |

# Experience Grand Trans-Siberian

full on itinerary – 15 days

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## DAY 01

“S Priezdom! Welcome to Moscow!” You meet your tour guides at Moscow airport and they will transfer you to the hotel. After dinner there’s a Moscow-by-night excursion that highlights the bright lights and glittering nightlife of Europe’s second-largest city. Accommodation in a 4★ hotel in Moscow.

Supper

No meals

## DAY 02

A full day sightseeing tour shows you the magnificence of Red Square, the worldfamous Moscow Kremlin, and other highlights of Moscow. In the evening transfer to the railway station where your private special train – the Grand Trans-Siberian Express - is awaiting you to board for the first leg of the almost 6000 miles long journey to Beijing. Welcome dinner and accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 03

Sightseeing in Kazan starts with a comprehensive tour of the city. Kazan has a beautiful citadel, (aka Kremlin), which was declared a World Heritage Site in 2000. It is surrounded by towers and walls, erected in the 16th and 17th centuries. Within the Kazan Kremlin walls are the huge Qol-arif mosque and the Palace of the City Governor. This afternoon you will enjoy a boat cruise on the River Volga. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 04

Region. It was founded in 1723 by Czar Peter I as a metal-working and foundry city – nowadays it is a major financial and administrative centre, only outstripped by Moscow and St Petersburg. Just outside the city limits is the official border between Europe and Asia. In the center of the city, you will visit the Cathedral on The Spilt Blood which was built in 2004 to commemorate the exact spot where Tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 05

After passing through the plains of Western Siberia the Grand Trans-Siberian Express stops in Novosibirsk. With 1,5 million inhabitants Russia’s fourth largest city and the biggest of Siberia, it is widely regarded as the geographical centre of Siberia. It was founded in 1893 as the future site of the Trans Siberian railway bridge crossing the Siberian River Ob. During a sightseeing tour you will see the Opera House – bigger even than the Bolshoi - at Lenin Square as well as some remarkable orthodox churches which have survived the Soviet period. The open air railway museum located about 20 km outside the city centre shows a unique selection of locomotives and cars of all periods of the Trans Siberian Railway. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 06

used to be a “closed city” during Soviet times. It is located along Yenissei River which is the greatest river system flowing to the Arctic Ocean. A sightseeing tour shows several view points and the main shopping street which is fascinating as the local mayor decided to decorate it with palm trees in summer time – in the middle of Siberia! During a boat cruise on the Yenissei River you will have a great view on the city and the huge railway bridge crossing the river. Accommodation on board the Grand-Trans Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 07

Irkutsk is famous for its trade with Mongolia and China and used to be called “Paris of Siberia” because of its colourful live. You visit the old town with its large quarters still consisting of wooden houses only, before invited to the cultural highlight of the tour, a private classical concert in the wooden house of Prince Volkonsky – one of the first Siberian exiles. In the evening you rejoin the private train. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 08

Today’s programme is undoubtedly one of the greatest natural wonders on Earth. Lake Baikal holds the biggest fresh water reserves in the world. It stretches up to 26 miles from east to west and more than 370 miles from north to south – further than London to Edinburgh. At 1,620 metres it’s the deepest lake in the world. The surrounding mountains and translucent water make Baikal an unforgettable impression on your journey. Today the private train is running at low speed along the scenic Circum Baikal Railway line between Sludyanka and Port Baikal (a historic part of the original Trans-Sib line that’s now operated as a tourist railway). A photo stop will be arranged at a small village where you can get off the train, put your feet into the clear and cold water of Lake Baikal and also visit the typical wooden houses of local people. A Baikal picnic is also a part of the program. At Port Baikal a boat takes you on a short cruise on Lake Baikal to the small village Listvyanka. A walk through the village shows you to St Nicholas church, a typical orthodox wooden build church beautiful renovated in the 1990’s. At a great Siberian lunch you can taste the famous Omul fish that’s found only here at Lake Baikal. In the afternoon the private train will run back to the mainline, a second time giving the opportunity of enjoying wonderful views on Lake Baikal. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 09

Ulan Uday is the capital of the so-called “Buryat Autonomous Republic” of the Russian Federation. With Buryats being an ethnic group close to Mongolians it is an amazing mix of cultures and a meeting place between east and west. An excursion out of the city will bring you to the Ivolginsky Monastery which is the centre of Buddhism in Russia – brought from Tibet to Siberia. When leaving Ulan Uday the Grand Trans-Siberian Express switches from the Trans-Siberian mainline to the Trans Mongolian mainline on its way to Ulaanbaatar. In the evening the train reaches the Russian border station Naushki and the Mongolian border station Sucheabaatar. Russian and Mongolian immigration formalities will take place in the train. You may stay in your compartment and don’t have to leave the train. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

These dossiers are designed to provide you with a guide to our trips, the places visited, accommodation used and to give you a flavour of your daily itinerary. You will be travelling in parts of the world where the unanticipated and the unusual are all part of the experience and, as a result, the unexpected can happen and we may on occasions need to vary your plans. These dossiers do not form part of any contract.

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## DAY 10

This morning the Grand Trans-Siberian Express arrives in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. During a sightseeing tour you will visit the famous Gandan Monastery, the central Sukhebaatar Square, the Bogd-Khan Museum which used to be formerly the winter palace and sometimes also the summer palace of the Khan's, as well as the Zaisan monument at a viewpoint high above the city. From there you will have an excellent view of the city which is surrounded by large areas of yurt settlements. An amazing cultural music and dance show will introduce Mongolian folk music and culture to you. Accommodation in a 4★ Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 11

Today an unforgettable excursion will take you to the Terej National Park which is famous for its natural beauty. A stone formation called "turtle" and other holy places will fascinate you. In the park area you will have the chance to meet a herder family inside their ger tent. In the evening the train leaves Ulaanbaatar for China. A show specially arranged for the participants of the Grand Trans-Siberian Express demonstrates two disciplines of the Mongolian National Naadaam festival: Wrestling and Archery. Enjoy the rest of the day viewing the wonderful scenery of Mongolia with yurts, nomads, horses passing by the window of the special train. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 12

Gobi Desert! In the morning the train arrives at the Mongolian-Chinese border, in the middle of Gobi Desert. Temperatures can reach 30° centigrade in summer time. Mongolian and Chinese immigration formalities will take place onboard the train. You may stay in your compartment and don't have to leave the train. In Erlian railway station the Russian railway gauge system ("broad gauge" 1520 mm wide) meets the China railway gauge system ("standard gauge" 1435 mm wide). The Grand Trans-Siberian Express therefore terminates in Erlian. A connecting Chinese special train will be waiting on the same platform. While your luggage will be transferred by service staff to the Chinese private train, you will enjoy a quick tour to the local bazaar style market and a first traditional Chinese lunch. In the afternoon the Chinese train will pass through southern parts of Gobi Desert on its way to Beijing. Accommodation on board the Chinese special train.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 13

A full day city sightseeing tour will show you the Imperial Palace ("Forbidden City"), the huge Tian An Men Square and the Temple of Heaven. Accommodation in a 4★ Hotel in Beijing.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 14

Today you will visit the Great Wall of China, which often is called "8th world wonder". The 6000 km the wall stretches from East to West. On the way there are the Ming Tombs. A farewell dinner will be held in one of the famous Peking duck restaurants. Accommodation in a 4★ Hotel in Beijing.

Breakfast, Lunch, Supper

## DAY 15

Airport transfers are provided by our service team to connect with your flight departing Beijing.

Breakfast,