

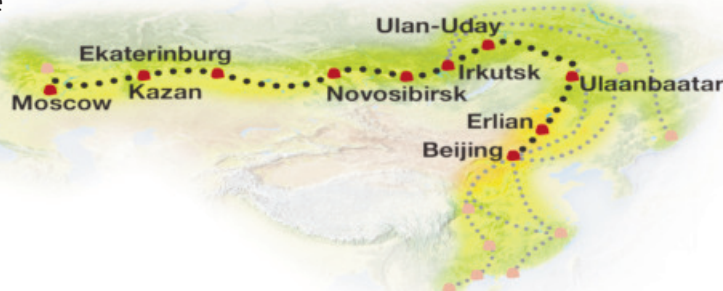


Experience Tsars Gold

Leaving from Beijing to Moscow

Along the way
Beijing
Erlan
Ulaanbaatar
Ulan-Uday
Lake Baikal
Irkutsk
Novosibirsk
Ekaterinburg
Kazan
Moscow

A journey on the iconic Trans-Siberian Railroad is one of the last great travel adventures. Take this journey of a lifetime on Tsars Gold and experience China, Mongolia and Russia while enjoying comfortable surroundings. This exciting journey delivers three of the world's largest countries directly to your compartment. Sit back and enjoy the dramatic changes of scenery as you savour Asia and Europe's superb and varied landscapes.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR

- Beijing:** Visit to the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall of China, Ming Tombs, Forbidden City
- Erlan:** Visit to the local market
- Ulaanbaatar:** Visit to the Lama temple, Gandan Monastery, Day trip to Mongolian countryside including horse-riding demonstration
- Ulan Uday:** City tour (a former "closed city" during Soviet times)
- Irkutsk:** City tour including visit to the market hall and open-air museum
- Lake Baikal:** Visit to a traditional Siberian Village followed by a boat trip on Lake Baikal
- Novosibirsk:** City tour and traditional Russian welcome ceremony with salt and bread
- Ekaterinburg:** City tour including The Church of the Ascension
- Kazan:** City tour including guided visit of the Kremlin
- Moscow:** Kremlin, Moscow by night tour, tour of the metro, city tour including Church of the Redeemer

OUR SERVICE YOUR BENEFIT

Dine in our relaxing restaurant wagons and enjoy the finest local cuisine with drinks served by courteous waiters. There are 41 meals included during the tour according to itinerary. More than 20 excursions and performances included, as well as all entrance fees. Professional local tour guides with expert knowledge of the region. A dedicated tour director, a proficient team of train guides. (maximum. 26 guests per group guide.) Sophisticated on-board programmes: Entertaining lectures on local culture, history and everyday life. Doctor on board (from the Chinese border to Moscow) Tsars Gold offers shower facilities for passengers travelling in all categories. With Bolshoi and Bolshoi Platinum clients these are en-suite. Luggage service included at all train stations.

In the know.....

Chinese cuisine varies enormously from region to region, and it's really truer to say that there are many different cuisines in China.

Genghis Khan's name is correctly spelt "Chinghiskhan", although his name at birth was Temujin.

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

Siberia lies entirely in Asia, and its native peoples are Asiatic it was the Russians who came as settlers. There are over 30 native Asiatic languages still spoken in Siberia to this day.

The Urals, forming a 1,500 km border between Europe and Asia.

The word "Kremlin" isn't Russian – it's from a medieval Tartar word meaning "fortress".



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.



Visa Requirements

Most visitors to China, Mongolia and Russia require visas. These must be obtained prior to departure. Please check your nationalities visa requirements in advance of your planned travel dates.

Visa processing times for these countries can be up to;

China	07 Working Days
Mongolia	06 Working Days
Russia	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

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

Casual clothing is usually worn on the train, including at mealtimes. Sturdy, comfortable shoes for the excursions are recommended. The months of May and September can be quite chilly. Warm clothes for cooler and rainy days, in addition to your summer clothes. During boat rides, especially you may well be exposed to chilly breezes, a light jacket or sweater is advisable. For those brave enough to take a dip in Lake Baikal shouldn't forget to bring along their swimsuits. Also, remember to bring something to cover your head to protect against the sun and to wear in Orthodox churches.

Climate and time – Average minimum/maximum Temperatures

	May	June	July	August	September
Beijing	13-26°C	18-30°C	22-31°C	20-30°C	15-26°C
Erlian	7-22°C	13-28°C	17-30°C	15-29°C	15-25°C
Ulaanbaatar	3-17°C	9-21°C	11-25°C	10-23°C	8-21°C
Ulan-Uday	8-22°C	12-26°C	11-25°C	8-22°C	7-21°C
Irkutsk	9-22°C	11-23°C	12-24°C	9-21°C	8-20°C
Lake Baikal	9-22°C	11-23°C	12-24°C	9-21°C	8-20°C
Novosibirsk	9-21°C	12-22°C	11-21°C	9-20°C	7-18°C
Ekaterinburg	6-16°C	11-23°C	13-24°C	10-20°C	5-15°C
Kazan	7-16°C	12-23°C	14-25°C	12-22°C	4-15°C
Moscow	8-18°C	13-22°C	14-23°C	13-21°C	15-16°C

Experience Tsars Gold

Itinerary – 15 days

DAY 01

On arrival to Beijing, your tour guide will welcome you at the airport and accompany you to the hotel. After check-in there will be time to relax before setting off on today's tour. Highlights include Beijing's most stunning sights including the Temple of Heaven and Tiananmen Square. Today concludes in a relaxed manner with drinks and dinner. This evening your overnight accommodation is in a first class hotel.

Dinner

DAY 02

The Great Wall of China is the 8th Wonder of the World; this is your chance to experience it up close. On your way there you stop at a pearl farm as well as at the famous Ming Tombs (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Sacred Way, a boulevard lined with carved stone animals. Wrapping up the day is a feast featuring what is surely the world's best-known Chinese delicacy, Peking Duck, at one of the city's most famous restaurants.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 03

For centuries the doors to the former Emperor's Palaces were closed to the public. The glorious halls and temples of the Forbidden City are open to everyone and today will include a tour through the grounds and interiors. This evening your rail journey begins. A modern Chinese train will pull out from Beijing's station; en route to Mongolia, for this 16-hour journey. (Nostalgic Comfort and Bolshoi cars are not available for this one night). Meanwhile, China's busy rural life unfolds outside your window.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 04

At noon you arrive at the Chinese-Mongolian border town Erlian and change to Tsars Gold private train. Formalities are swift and you will soon be settled in your compartment. In Erlian you can explore the colourful border market. Then travelling onwards Tsars Gold takes you through the vast expanse of the Gobi desert, then through the great green steppes of Mongolia.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 05

Morning arrival in Ulaanbaatar the Mongolian capital. Major luggage can be left on the train while you check into the centrally located standard hotel and then enjoy a tour of the city. You will see the Chojin Lama temple. This evening you will have the unique opportunity to watch a traditional Mongolian music performance. For a real Mongolian experience we highly recommend you take the opportunity to overnight in a Yurt, located on the Mongolian Steppe. Please contact us for details.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 06

After breakfast you will visit the Buddhist Gandan Monastery and undertake an excursion to a mountainous area with stunning rock formations. (About 90 minutes east of Ulaanbaatar). Along the way, an open-air railroad museum puts the Mongolian railway in context. A picnic lunch in a yurt is followed by a demonstration of Mongolian horsemanship and a traditional wrestling match. Try some lamb in milk, a culinary speciality of Mongolia. Or, for the brave of heart, there's always "kumys" (fermented mare's milk), the beer of the nomads.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 07

Bid farewell to the Mongolian steppes as the train rolls on through the valley of Selenga and beside the river, one of the longest in Mongolia. In Ulan-Uday your train joins the main route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Here you can stroll through the city streets or join the guided tour of the city.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 08

The entire day is dedicated to Lake Baikal. Before noon you will arrive at the old station of Port Baikal, located directly on the shore. During two long photo stops on the ancient tracks running parallel to the shore you will have the chance to capture the beauty of the lake and explore the wonderful scenery. Take a moment to have a dip in the lake or visit a picturesque Baikal village. You will also enjoy a short boat ride on the lake. If the night is warm, your dinner will be served as a picnic on the shores of the spectacular lake before re-boarding the train.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 09

This morning you will check into a centrally located standard hotel in Irkutsk. You can safely leave your bags on the train. A tour of the city includes the lively market hall, the drama theatre and a rather spectacular oddity, a newly erected statue of the Alexander III. This afternoon features an excursion to an open-air museum displaying Siberian life in the old days. Spend the night at your centrally located hotel in Irkutsk.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10

After breakfast the train takes you through the landscapes of Eastern Siberia with its mountains, crystal-clear rivers and verdant slopes. On board the train enjoy entertaining lectures about Siberia. A social get-together complete with caviar and vodka tasting makes a pleasurable way familiarising yourself with Russian hospitality.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Leaving from Beijing to Moscow

DAY 11

Noontime arrival in Novosibirsk, Siberia's biggest city, and greeted in the traditional Russian way: with bread and salt. Your city tour includes views of the mighty Ob River. After dinner, the train continues its journey westwards.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12

This afternoon the train makes a scheduled stop in the capital of the Urals. Ekaterinburg borders both Asia and Europe. You will enjoy a short tour of the city centre which was restored in 2009. In the course of the city tour you will see the newly built Cathedral-on-the-blood, a memorial erected to mark the assassination of The Romanov Family in 1918. From now on your train is on European ground.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13

This morning you arrive in Kazan, the old Tartar capital on the banks of the Volga. This historic city tour includes Kazan's Kremlin where you will learn about the wild and often bloody relations of the Tartars, Cossacks, and Russians. This evening offers you one last chance to be pampered in the on board restaurant.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14

Late morning arrival in Moscow, Russia's capital, one of the world's richest and most dynamic cities. After the long rail journey, your first class hotel offers comfort and convenience. At noon, your first stop is the Kremlin with its glorious cathedrals. You can also check out the interiors of some of the buildings. After dinner you go on a magical evening trip through the city. This special tour includes a stop at Red Square as well as a subway ride between two of the beautiful old stations.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 15

After breakfast at your hotel you go on a guided tour of Moscow to see the reconstructed Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Lomonossov University, the New Virgin Monastery and Red Square with its colourful St. Basil's Cathedral. Then onto the notorious former KGB headquarters and the White House. Bid your fantastic journey farewell before your departure to the airport.

Breakfast

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.

Experience Tsars Gold

Categories of travel on-board

The Bolshoi Platinum Category is the highest possible comfort on the Tsars Gold. Each compartment measures 77 sq. ft. (7.1 m²). Two beds per cabin; 1 lower bed (185x120cm) and one upper bed (174x120cm). The compartment's exclusive en suite bathroom contains a wash basin, WC and shower cabin. "**Bolshoi Platinum**" category benefits include; remote controlled air conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD, in cabin safe, and a seating bench for that special view of the changing landscapes. Passengers of this category dine in exclusive on-board dining cars, with a choice of two menus. Each wagon of Bolshoi Platinum contains just five of these exclusive cabins. Early booking for this category is highly recommended.

price per person:

single £15,283 twin £10,119 pp



The Bolshoi Category is slightly smaller in size than the Bolshoi category. Each compartment measures 60 sq. ft. (5.57 m²). Two beds per cabin; 1 lower bed (184x120cm) and one upper bed (174x80cm). The compartment's exclusive en suite bathroom contains a wash basin, WC and shower. ("wet room" style with shower curtain) "**Bolshoi**" category benefits include; remote controlled air conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD and a seating bench for that special view of the changing landscapes. Passengers of this category dine in exclusive on-board dining cars, with a choice of two menus. Each wagon of the Bolshoi category contains just six of these exclusive compartments. Early booking for this category is highly recommended.

price per person:

single £13,187 twin £8,264 pp



The Nostalgic Comfort Category has newly built cars which are nostalgically furnished, and provide modern amenities. Each compartment measures 43 sq. ft. (4 m²). Two beds per cabin; 1 lower, (187x120cm) 1 upper (187x80cm). Two compartments share one shower ("wet room style") and a washbasin; this is located between the compartments. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of the car. "**Nostalgic Comfort**" category benefits include; air conditioning, which can be controlled from within the cabin, DVD/CD player with LCD, and a seating bench, for that special view of the changing landscapes. Luggage storage is provided above the door.

price per person:

single £9,015 twin £6,022 pp



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Categories of travel on-board

The Standard Superior Plus Category has two berths per cabin, sized (190x70 cm) and are arranged facing each other. Each compartment measures 35.5 sq. ft. (3.3 m²) “**Standard Superior Plus**” category benefits include; centrally controlled air conditioning, a table under the window, and luggage storage is provided above the door. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of this categories car. Passengers of “**Standard Superior Plus**” benefit from the exclusive shower cabin for this category. Limited availability of this category so early booking is highly recommended.

price per person:

single £6,753 twin £5,100 pp



The Standard Superior Category has two berths per cabin, sized (190x70 cm) and arranged facing each other. Each compartment measures 35.5 sq. ft. (3.3 m²) “**Standard Superior**” category benefits include; centrally controlled air conditioning, a table under the window, and luggage storage is provided above the door. “**Standard Superior**” has recently been refurbished and has an enhanced interior to that of the “Standard Classic” category. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of this categories car. In every second to third car there is a shower compartment.

price per person:

single £6,410 twin £4,757pp



The Standard Classic Category has two berths per cabin, sized (190x70 cm) and arranged facing each other. Each compartment measures 35.5 sq. ft. (3.3 m²) “**Standard Classic**” category benefits include; centrally controlled air conditioning, a table under the window, and luggage storage is provided above the door. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of this categories car. In every second to third car there is a shower compartment.

price per person:

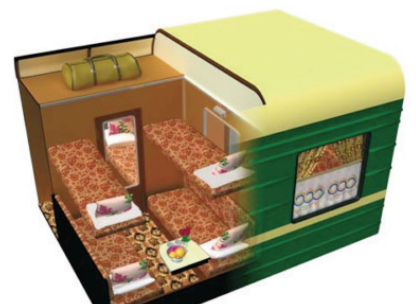
single £5,972 twin £4,455 pp



The Standard Category has four berths per cabin. 2 lower, and 2 upper (190x70 cm) arranged in bunk bed format. Each unisex compartment measures 36 sq. ft. (3.3 m²). “**Standard**” category benefits include; centrally controlled air conditioning, a table under the window, and luggage storage is provided above the door. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of this categories car. In every second to third car there is a shower compartment. Solo passengers will travel on-board in a 4-berth unisex sleeper and will be allocated single room during hotel stays.

price per person:

single £3,582 twin £3,184 pp



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