



# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL COMPANY



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

## TS-M-04-UB | TRANS-MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

EASTBOUND • MOSCOW TO ULAANBAATAR



 **ITINERARY PAGE 10**

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## ABOUT OUR COMPANY

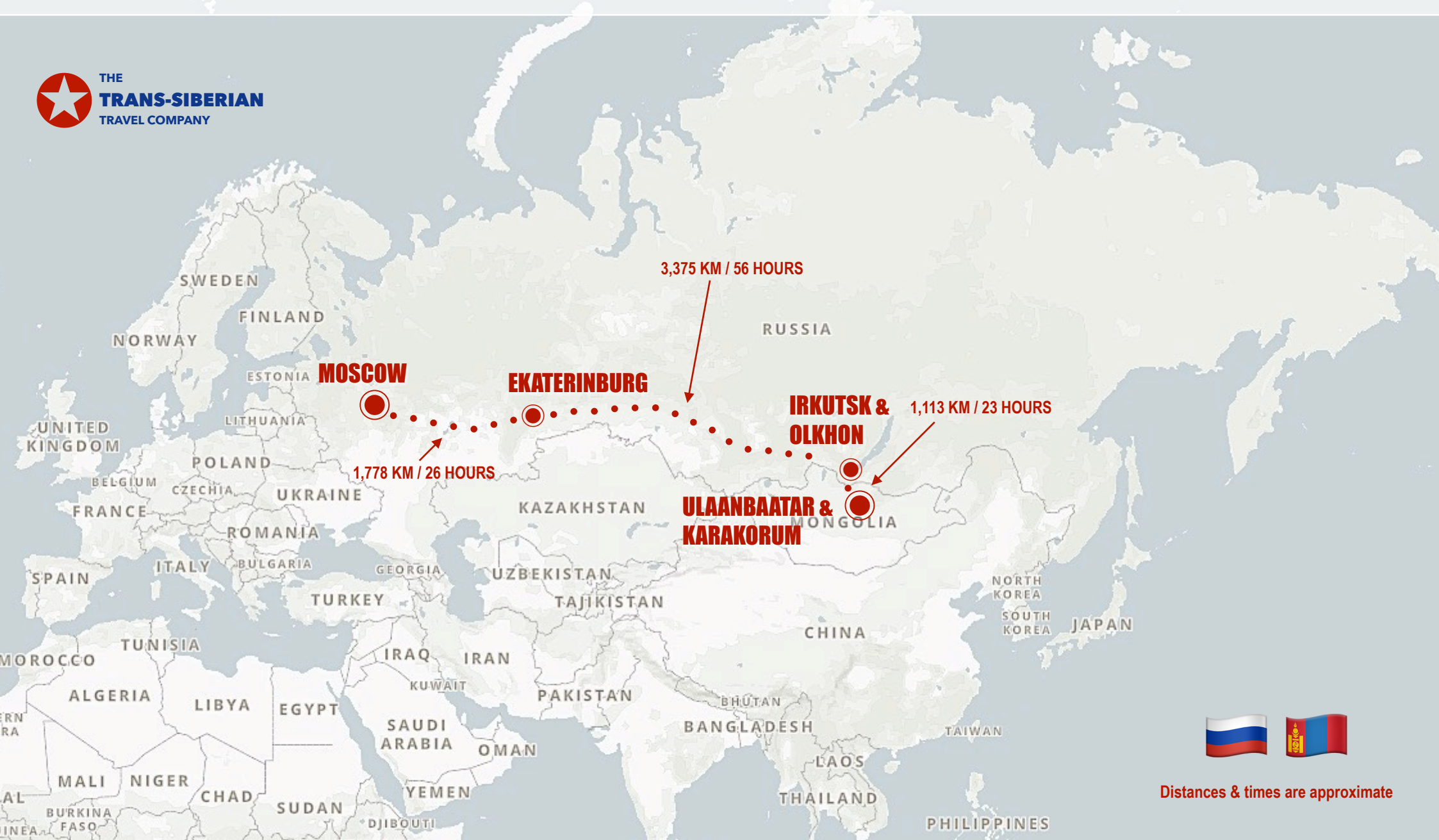
Established as one of the UK's leading, independent and family owned Trans-Siberian and China tour specialist our focus is on well thought through private and tailor made rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on creating the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the Trans-Siberian as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

## ALL TOURS ARE FINANCIALLY PROTECTED

We are members of **ABTA** (Y1699) and our tours are **ATOL** protected (license 10287) giving you full peace of mind when booking with us both for monies paid to us as well as the code of conduct and high standards we are both delighted to and required to uphold.



# MOSCOW • EKATERINBURG • IRKUTSK & OLKHON • ULAANBAATAR • KARAKORUM



Distances & times are approximate

# STARTING MOSCOW : TS-M-04-UB TRANS-MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

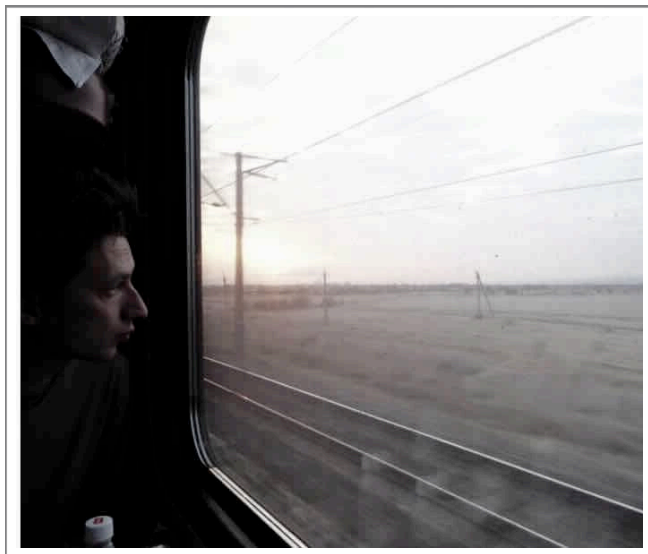
The Trans-Siberian Travel Company.

## THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL COMPANY

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- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287



## 17 Nights / 18 Days | This Trip Visits:

### ● MOSCOW

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

### ● EKATERINBURG

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

### ● IRKUTSK & OLKHON ISLAND

Forward looking Siberian city & gateway to Lake Baikal & Olkhon Island.

### ● ULAANBAATAR

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

### ● KARAKORUM

Ancient capital of the Khans & a superb Steppe adventure.



## WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY - SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MUCH MORE



"Just returned from Trans-Siberian tour Moscow-Vladivostok with 7 city stops. Phenomenal! This company exceeded our possible expectations and went above and beyond."

**Aleona Kalinovskaya & Family**



"I would absolutely recommend the Trans-Siberian Travel Company. You were so helpful in planning my trip through China, Mongolia and Russia This was a trip of a lifetime for me, and one I will not forget."

**Muriel Adamson**



"Unbelievably wonderful vacation! Everything organized perfectly and I had the experience of a lifetime. The tours and guides were amazing and this trip will be everything you are hoping for and more!"

**Christine Houck**



"Excellent service and communication with quick responses. The process of booking was really easy. Their knowledge and understanding of the Trans-Siberian and experiences along the way was clear and appreciated."

**Amy Wegerhoff**



"The booking process was very easy. Chris was patient, and a fountain of information during the planning stages, as we customised the journey. All in all, an unforgettable journey, which exceeded all of our expectations!"

**Mark & Jeannette Adams**



"Highly recommended, especially with the visa process and buying of all the different train tickets. The Trans-Siberian Travel Company made our trip easy and very memorable."

**E Adam Smith**


[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE FEEDBACK ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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[CLICK TO EMAIL US](#)

**1**  **MOSCOW**


- Arrival in Russia's Capital with a transfer to your hotel and free time.

Overnight - National Hotel ★★★★★

**2**  **MOSCOW**


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

Overnight - National Hotel ★★★★★

**3**  **ON THE TRAIN**


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

Overnight - Train Moscow to Ekaterinburg

**4**  **EKATERINBURG**


- Day on the train before an arrival in Ekaterinburg.

Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★

**5**  **EKATERINBURG**


- Full day tour into the rolling Ural countryside to visit a village.

Overnight - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★

**6**  **EKATERINBURG**

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


Overnight - Train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk

**7**  **ON THE TRAIN**

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

Overnight - Train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk



**8**  **ON THE TRAIN**

- Continue the journey to Irkutsk with increasingly scenic views.

Overnight - Train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk

**9**  **OLKHON**

- Arrive in Irkutsk with a transfer to Olkhon Island by car and boat.

Overnight - Lada Resort ★★

**10**  **OLKHON**


- Explore the highlights and viewpoints of Olkhon by car.

Overnight - Lada Resort ★★

**11**  **IRKUTSK**


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

Overnight - Irkutsk Hotel ★★★

**12**  **ON THE TRAIN**

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

Overnight - Train Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar

**13**  **MONGOLIA**

- Arrive in UB & transfer to the Bayan Gobi Sand Dunes & visit camel herders.

Overnight - Bayan Gobi Ger Camp

**14**  **MONGOLIA**

- Karakorum & Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery & Lake Ugi.

Overnight - Ugiin Khishig Ger Camp



## 15 MONGOLIA

- Continue to Hustai National Park famous for it's Perzevalski wild horses.

Overnight - Mongol Nomadic Camp

## 16 MONGOLIA

- Travel to & explore Terej National Park including the Genghis Khan Statue.

Overnight - Terej Lodge Ger Camp

## 17 MONGOLIA

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

Overnight - Kempinski Khan Palace ★★★★★

## 18 END

- Free time until a transfer to the airport for your flight out of Mongolia.

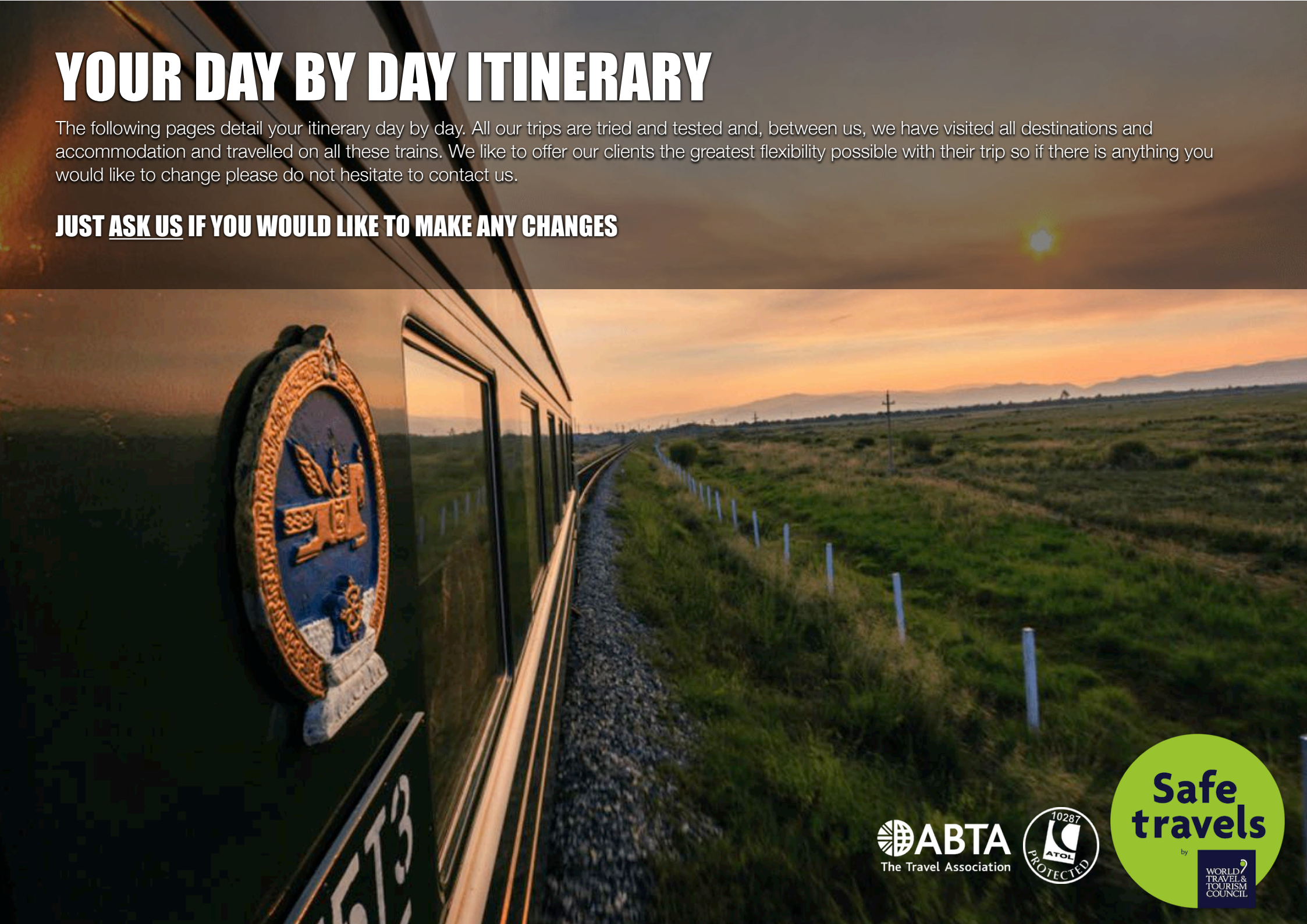
N/A



# YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

The following pages detail your itinerary day by day. All our trips are tried and tested and, between us, we have visited all destinations and accommodation and travelled on all these trains. We like to offer our clients the greatest flexibility possible with their trip so if there is anything you would like to change please do not hesitate to contact us.

**JUST ASK US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES**



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 1 - Mondays

### MOSCOW

- Arrival in Russia's capital a private transfer to your hotel & free time.

Welcome to Moscow, Russia's capital and its largest city with more than 12 million people. It is the political and economic centre of this vast country and has many of Russia's most famous sights, not least Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral.

With over 800 years of history there is also a wealth of architecture, museums and monuments to a colourful past. Transfer by private car with an English speaking driver to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to start exploring this stunning city.

 **Meals Included:** None Today.



### YOUR EXCLUSIVE TRIP GUIDEBOOK

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

## OVERNIGHT

### NATIONAL HOTEL



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



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





**Averages**

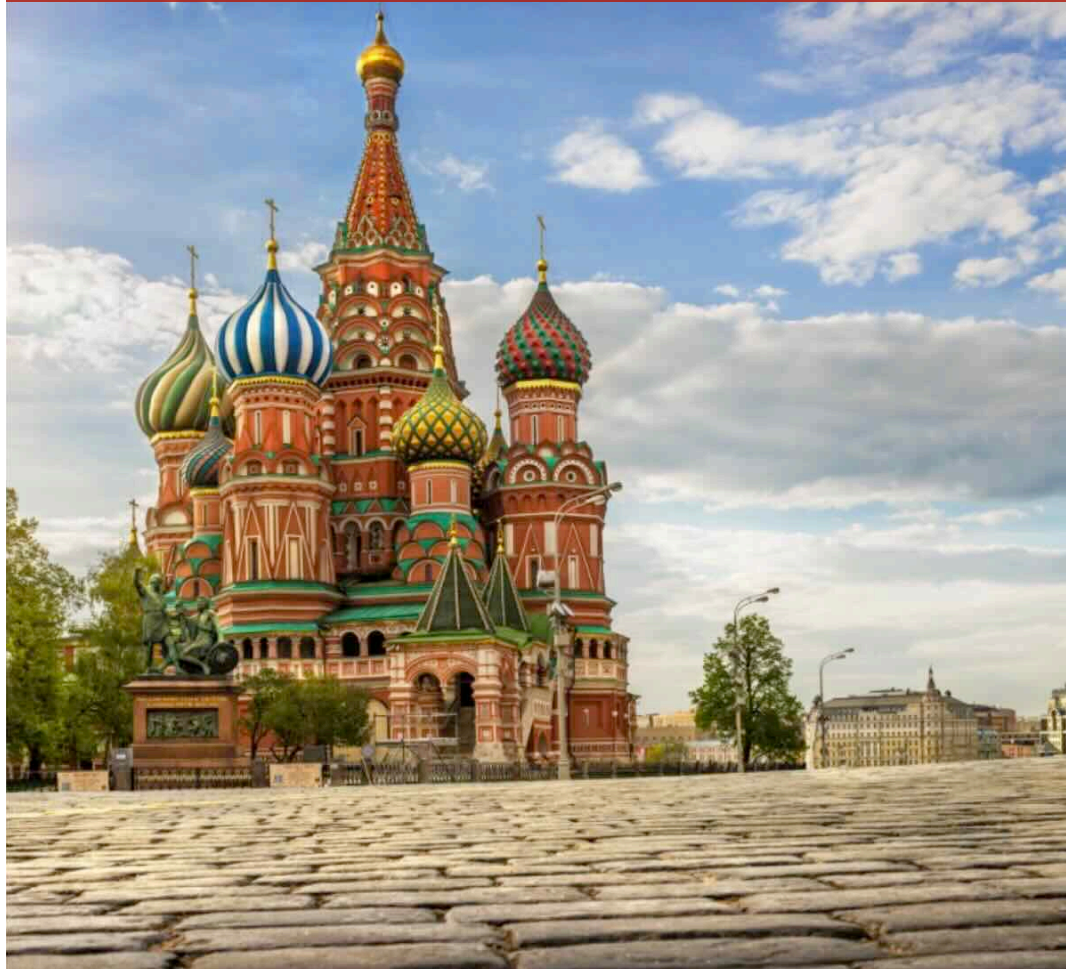
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-4	-4	3	11	17	22	24	22	15	8	0	-3
Min temp °C	-9	-11	-6	1	6	11	13	11	6	2	-5	-8
Rainfall mm	45	45	32	31	58	73	79	75	62	77	45	40

ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL



KREMLIN



BOLSHOI THEATRE



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 2

### MOSCOW

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

Today you have a full day tour of Moscow which begins with a visit to Red Square, where you'll see iconic sites like St. Basil's Cathedral and the Lenin Mausoleum. Next, head to the Kremlin for a guided tour of its historic cathedrals, palaces, and the Armoury Museum, showcasing royal treasures, Fabergé eggs, and ceremonial weaponry.

In the afternoon, dive into the architectural beauty of the Moscow Metro, known for its opulent, museum-like stations such as Komsomolskaya and Mayakovskaya. Conclude the day by strolling through Alexander Garden for a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, offering a fitting end to a day filled with Moscow's historic and cultural grandeur.

Return to your hotel to relax with the evening free.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### NATIONAL HOTEL



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

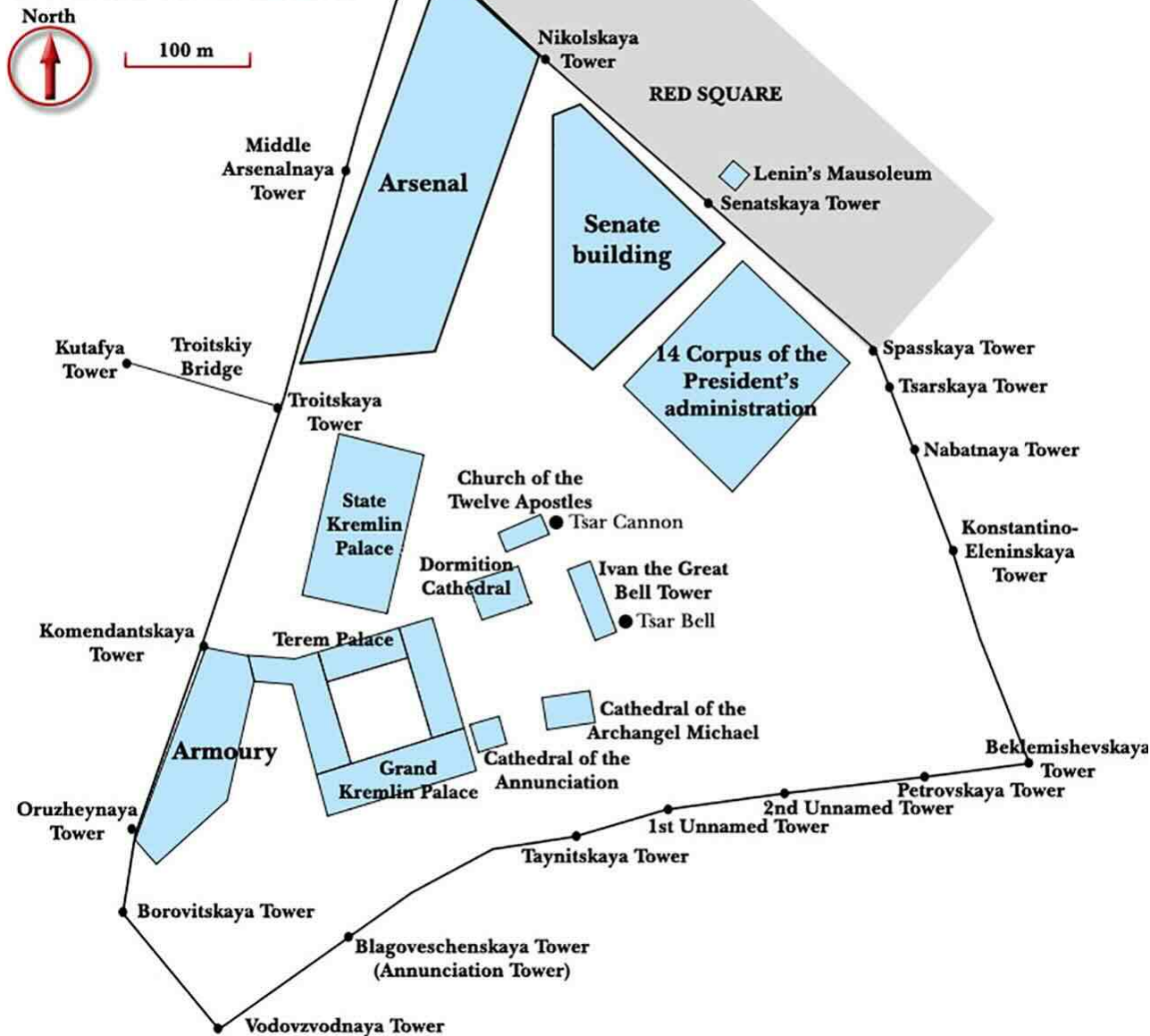


Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# MOSCOW'S KREMLIN

## The Moscow KREMLIN



### MOSCOW'S KREMLIN - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Kremlin is the oldest part of Moscow, with origins dating back to 1156, when it was a wooden fortress built by Prince Yuri Dolgorukiy. It has been rebuilt and expanded multiple times throughout its history.
- Covering an area of 27.5 hectares (68 acres), the Moscow Kremlin is the largest medieval fortress still in use today. Its walls stretch for 2.25 kilometres (1.4 miles), and it includes several palaces, cathedrals, and government buildings.
- The Kremlin walls are over 6 meters (20 feet) thick in places and contain 20 towers, each with its unique history. The Spasskaya Tower, added in 1491, is the most famous, featuring a clock and often seen as the main entrance to the Kremlin.
- Although not inside the Kremlin walls, Lenin's Mausoleum on Red Square is closely associated with the Kremlin. It houses the embalmed body of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution.
- There are numerous secret tunnels and rooms beneath the Kremlin. Some of these were built for military defence, while others were intended as escape routes for the tsars and Soviet leaders.
- The Kremlin has served as the political and spiritual heart of Russia for centuries. It was the residence of the tsars, the seat of Soviet power, and today, it houses the official residence of the President of Russia.

# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 3

### MOSCOW

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

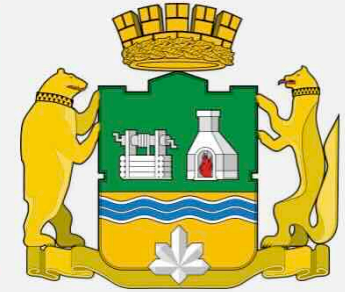
Free time to explore Moscow before your departure on the Trans-Mongolian train. The city has much to offer whatever the weather from the famous museums such as Pushkin Fine Arts and Tretyakov Art Gallery to more outdoor areas including the Park of the Fallen Idols and Novodevitchy Convent.

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

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

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #056M

#### MOSCOW - EKATERINBURG

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

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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 4

### EKATERINBURG

- Day on the train before an arrival in Ekaterinburg.

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

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

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

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

 **Meals Included:** None today.

## OVERNIGHT

### ONEGIN HOTEL



Good standard 4 star hotel well located and decorated in the Imperial Russian style inside. comfortable rooms and good restaurant and bar.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





### Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

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

ROMANOV'S GRAVE SITE



EUROPE ASIA BORDER



EKATERINBURG CITY



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 5

### EKATERINBURG

- Full day tour into the rolling Ural countryside to visit a village.

Today we drive out of the city to one of the photogenic country villages that are scattered across the rolling scenery of the Ural mountains. Here we see a traditional Siberian “izba” house - a style suited to the often extreme environment - that can be seen right across Siberia.

We also visit the local museum to learn about everyday life in this part of Russia and listen to a concert of local folk music. There will be time to explore the village with your guide and you will also enjoy a traditional Siberian homestyle lunch often using locally produced and seasonal ingredients.

Return to Ekaterinburg late afternoon with a free evening.

**NOTE:** Depending on the day of your visit this trip will be to either Koptelovo, Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha or Mironovo village all approximately 150 km from Ekaterinburg.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### ONEGIN HOTEL



Good standard 4 star hotel well located and decorated in the Imperial Russian style inside. comfortable rooms and good restaurant and bar.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





The Romanov dynasty ruled Russia for over 300 years, from 1613 to 1917, beginning with Mikhail Romanov and ending with Nicholas II. The family came to power during a time of unrest known as the Time of Troubles, and Mikhail Romanov was elected Tsar in 1613, restoring stability to the country.

Over the centuries, the Romanovs expanded Russia into a vast empire. Under rulers like Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, the empire modernised, engaged with Europe, and grew in power. Peter introduced Western reforms and established St. Petersburg, while Catherine expanded Russia's territory and promoted culture.

The last Romanov tsar, Nicholas II, ascended the throne in 1894. His reign saw significant challenges, including the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), Bloody Sunday (1905), and the Russian Revolution of 1905. Despite efforts at reform, discontent grew. The Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 led to Nicholas abdicating the throne.

In 1918, the Bolsheviks executed Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children, ending the Romanov dynasty. The family's downfall was due to political unrest, social inequality, and failure to adapt to the changing political climate, marking the end of imperial Russia.

## THE ROMANOVS IN EKATERINBURG - A TIMELINE

- April 30, 1918: The Romanov family—Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra, and their five children—arrived in Ekaterinburg after being transferred from Tobolsk by the Bolsheviks.
- They were imprisoned in the Ipatiev House, also known as the “House of Special Purpose.” The house was heavily guarded, and the family's movements were restricted.
- The Romanovs were confined to two rooms. Their personal freedoms and comforts gradually diminished; they were forbidden from interacting with guards and could only go outside for limited walks.
- Heightened Security: In June 1918, the Bolsheviks increased the security around Ipatiev House. Windows were boarded up, and outside communications were cut off, signalling the impending end.
- Bolshevik leaders feared a possible rescue attempt by the advancing White Army, which prompted them to consider the execution of the Romanov family to prevent their liberation.
- July 16, 1918: The Bolsheviks received orders from Moscow to execute the Romanov family, concerned over White Army movements in the region.
- The bodies were initially buried in a shallow grave in the Koptyaki Forest, near Ekaterinburg. The burial site remained a secret for decades.
- In 1991, the Romanov family's remains were discovered, identified through DNA testing, and reburied in St. Petersburg in 1998.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 6

### EKATERINBURG

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

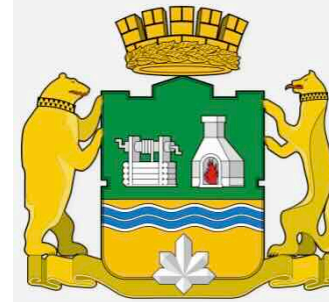
This morning your guide will take you on a 3 hour walking tour of the city's highlights. Stop at the central square and see statues of Ekaterinburg's founders and leaders and learn local stories, legends (and a few jokes!) related to them. Continue to the 1905 Revolution square before the most compelling story will be told at the beautiful Church of Spilled Blood located at the Romanovs' Death Site and Chapel of St Elizabeth. See views from the Hill of Ascension and visit the powerful Afghanistan memorial at the Square of the Red Army.

After lunch (own arrangement) drive 15 km north-west to a monastery dedicated to the Romanov's family located on the spot where the Bolsheviks tried to hide the corpses of the Tsar and his family in a secret grave. Continue on to the continental border of Europe and Asia 20 km west of the city. On the way we make a short stop at the Memorial of Victims of the GULAGs. The Main Obelisk "Between Europe & Asia" allows you to straddle the continental divide and you also get a Certificate with a glass of sparkling wine!

Return to the city with some free time before an evening transfer to the station for your onward train. From this point on you have entered Siberia!

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #0704

#### EKATERINBURG - IRKUTSK

Departs 21:42 Arrives 08:24 day 4  
3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 7h 42m | Local times & subject to change

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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 7

### ON THE TRAIN

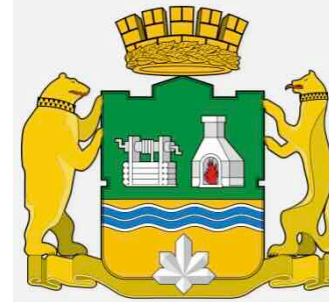
- Your first day in Siberia & the vastness of Central Russia.

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

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

 **Meals Included:** None Today.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #0704

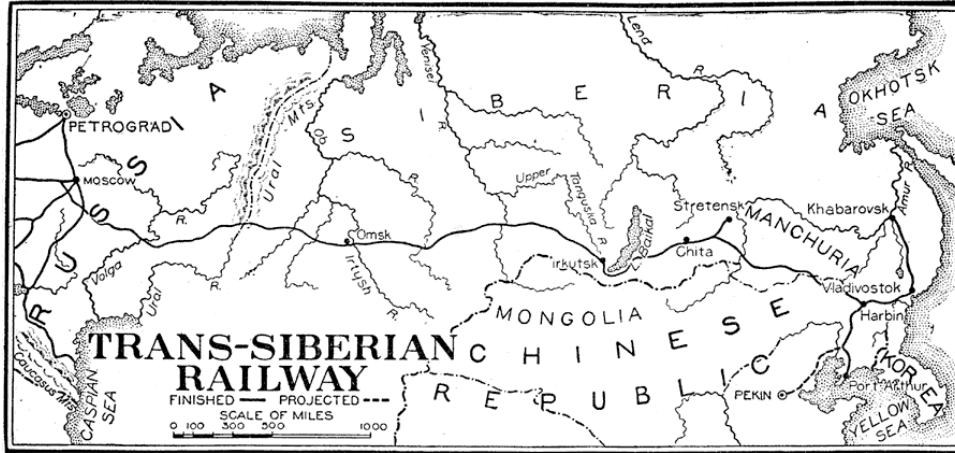
#### EKATERINBURG - IRKUTSK

Departs 21:42 Arrives 08:24 day 4  
3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 7h 42m | Local times & subject to change

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



# THE BUILDING OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN



## CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railway line in the world, stretching over 9,289 kilometres (5,772 miles) from Moscow to Vladivostok. It crosses eight time zones.
- Construction of the railway began in 1891 under the rule of Tsar Alexander III. His son, Nicholas II, who would later become Russia's last tsar, was tasked with overseeing the project.
- The railway was constructed in phases, with work starting in both the west (near Moscow) and the east (near Vladivostok). Different sections were completed at various times, and the entire line was finished in 1916.
- The construction faced numerous geographical challenges, including crossing mountains, forests, and swamps. For example, engineers had to build bridges across major rivers like the Ob and Amur, and deal with the extreme cold of Siberian winters.
- Before the railway line around Lake Baikal was completed, trains had to be loaded onto ferries to cross the lake. A special icebreaker ferry, the Baikal, was built to operate in winter when the lake froze.
- The Amur Bridge near Khabarovsk, completed in 1916, was the final piece of the Trans-Siberian puzzle, linking the entire route without interruption. It spans 2.6 kilometres (1.6 miles) and was one of the most challenging engineering feats of the project.
- The construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway was extremely expensive and was partly funded by international loans, especially from France. The railway was seen as a crucial strategic asset to expand Russian influence in the Far East.
- The Trans-Siberian Railway has been continually modernised. The electrification of the railway started in 1929 and was completed in 2002, allowing for faster and more efficient trains to operate on the line.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 8

### ON THE TRAIN

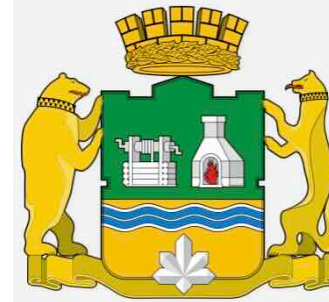
- Continue the journey to Irkutsk with increasingly scenic views.

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

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

 **Meals Included:** None Today.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #0704

#### EKATERINBURG - IRKUTSK

Departs 21:42 Arrives 08:24 day 4  
3,375 km / 2,097 ml | 2d 7h 42m | Local times & subject to change

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



# TRANS-SIBERIAN DINING OPTIONS



## TYPICAL RUSSIAN DINING CAR DISHES

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

**Introduction:** Dining on the Trans-Siberian Railway is a blend of onboard meals, platform food, and self-prepared options.

**Dining Car:** The dining car offers traditional Russian dishes like borscht, pelmeni, and kotleti, along with simpler fare like salads and sandwiches. Travellers can enjoy hearty, filling meals in a cozy setting while sipping tea, often served in the classic podstakannik (metal holders).

**Stations:** At station stops, passengers can buy food from local vendors. These vendors sell regional delicacies such as pirozhki (stuffed buns), smoked fish, and fresh fruit, providing a chance to taste the flavours of Russia's vast regions as you pass through.

**Supermarkets:** Many passengers prefer to bring their own provisions from supermarkets before boarding. Items like instant noodles, bread, cheese, and sausage are popular, with boiling water available on the train to make quick meals. This option is especially convenient for longer stretches between stops.

The combination of onboard dining, platform food, and self-prepared snacks ensures a varied and flexible eating experience, catering to both adventurous and budget-conscious travellers.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 9

### OLKHON

- Arrive in Irkutsk with a transfer to Olkhon Island by car and boat.

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

First we go for a good breakfast to set you up for today's journey. After breakfast start the trip to Olkhon island by private car or minibus finishing the journey with a short boat trip to reach the island itself. Note that in the summer months there can be a queue for the ferry and it is not possible to pre-book a place on it in advance.

Transport on to Khuzhir village, the island's main settlement with a population of 1,500 people and check-in to the hotel before seeing the sunset at Shaman cape - note it is also possible to organise a 2 hour boat trip to see the sunset from the lake for an additional local payment.

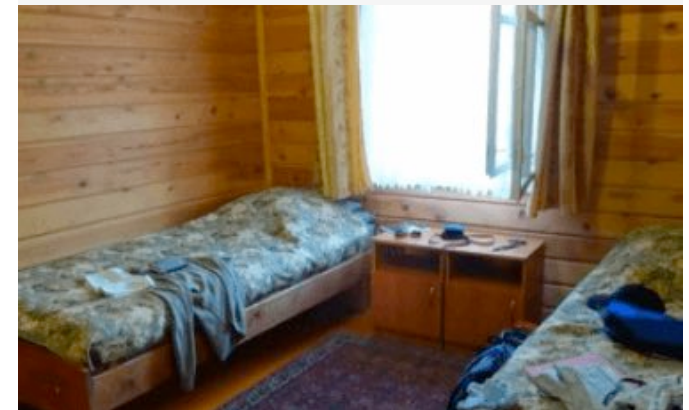
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Dinner.

## OVERNIGHT

### LADA RESORT



Traditional Russian style wooden hotel full of character and one of the best of the options in Khuzhir making an ideal base to explore.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





### Averages

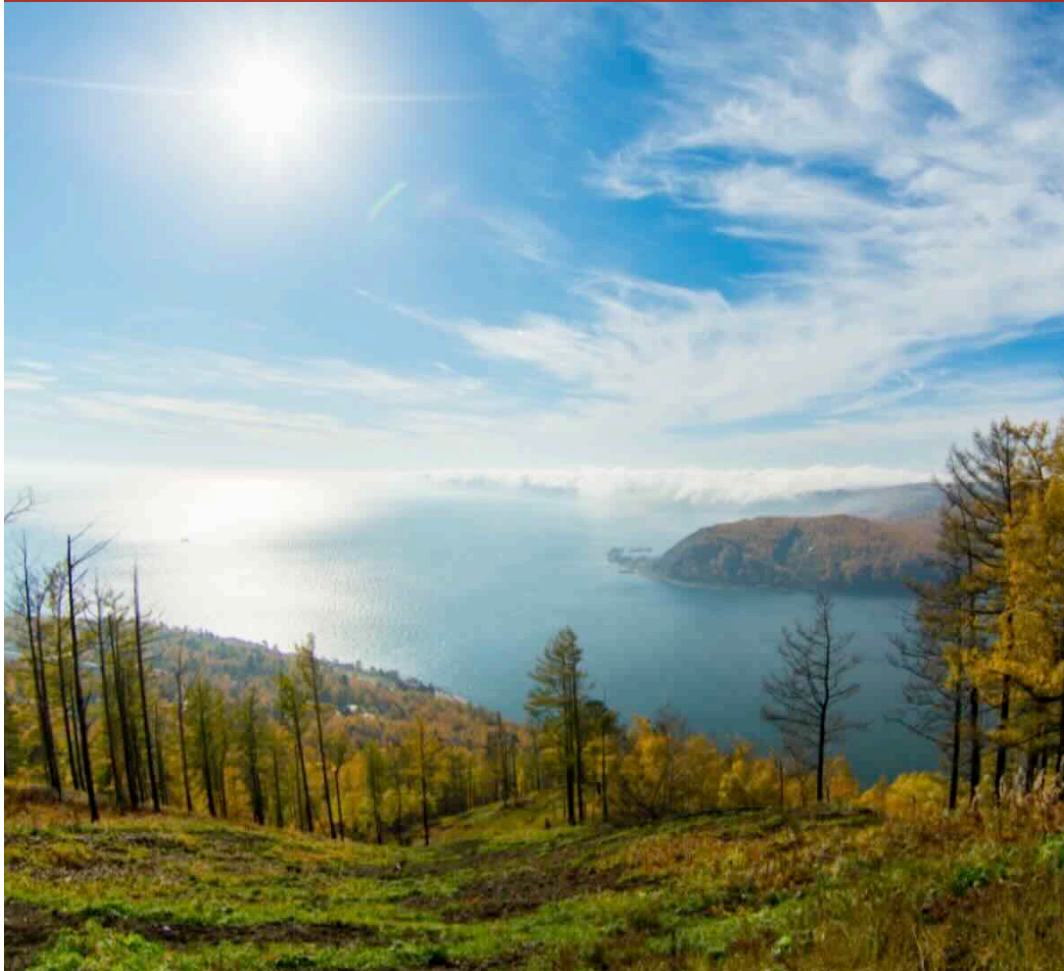
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

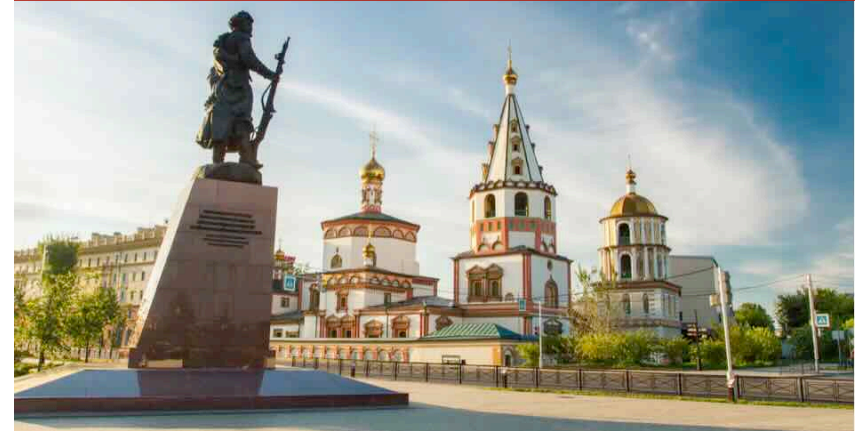
Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-14	-8	0	8	17	22	24	22	15	7	-4	-12
Min temp °C	-25	-22	-15	-5	2	8	12	9	2	-5	-16	-22
Rainfall mm	2	2	1	4	4	9	21	37	20	3	6	5

## LAKE BAIKAL



## IRKUTSK CITY



## OMUL FISH



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 10

### **OLKHON**

- Explore the highlights and viewpoints of Olkhon by car.

Today we explore the island by private car. At 72 km long, Olkhon is the largest island in Lake Baikal and one of the best places from which to appreciate the serene vastness of the lake. It has varied scenery ranging from sandy beaches to the jagged cliffs of Choboi Cape.

The island is also considered one of the five poles of Shamanic energy by the Buryat people and there is certainly something spiritual about this jewel of Baikal.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THIS OLKHON ISLAND STOPOVER**

Accommodation on Olkhon is in the traditional Siberian style of log cabins, separate, outside buildings for drop (not flush) toilets and a Russian banya (sauna) for washing. For most choosing to come here this is all part of the experience and feedback is overwhelmingly positive. However, if it feels a bit too basic for you we can offer more comfortable stopover options - just not on Olkhon Island.

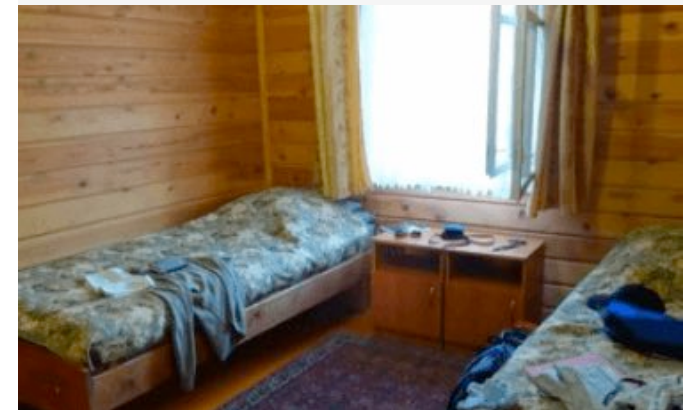
 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Dinner.

## OVERNIGHT

### **LADA RESORT**

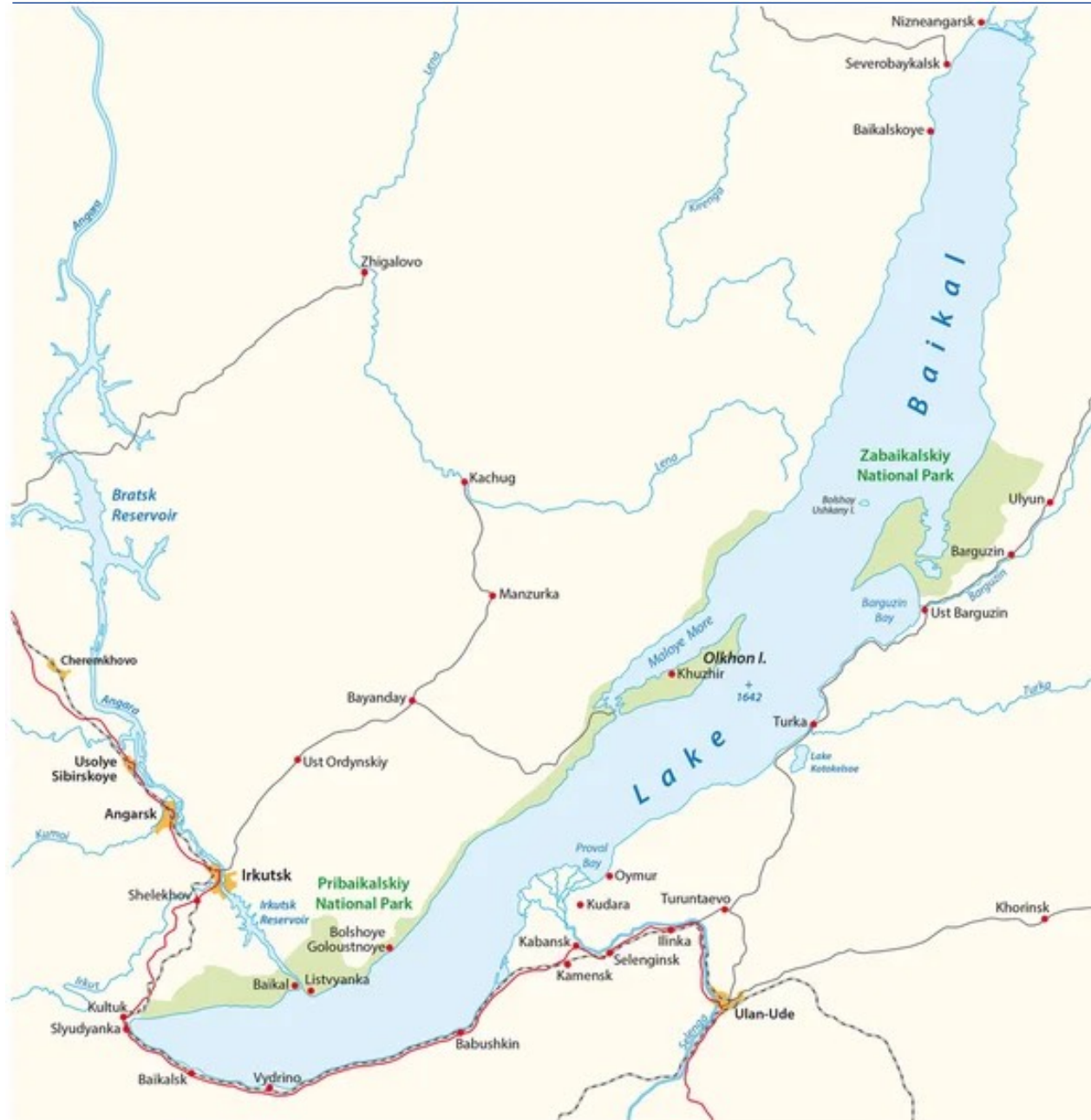


Traditional Russian style wooden hotel full of character and one of the best of the options in Khuzhir making an ideal base to explore.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





## LAKE BAIKAL - DID YOU KNOW ?

- Lake Baikal is the world's oldest freshwater lake, estimated to be around 25-30 million years old. Its age makes it a unique natural laboratory for studying evolution and geological processes.
- With a depth of 1,642 meters (5,387 feet), Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world, holding about 20% of the world's unfrozen freshwater supply.
- The lake hosts over 3,700 species of plants and animals, two-thirds of which are endemic, meaning they can't be found anywhere else. The most famous is the Baikal seal (nerpa), the only freshwater seal species in the world.
- The water in Lake Baikal is incredibly clear, especially during winter. In some areas, you can see up to 40 meters (131 feet) down into the lake.
- Lake Baikal is a rift lake, formed due to tectonic plate movements. It's still expanding, at a rate of about 2 cm (0.8 inches) per year, meaning it could eventually become an ocean over millions of years.
- During the winter, the lake freezes over, and its ice can reach up to 1.5 meters thick. The ice is so transparent that people can see fish and plant life beneath it.
- For centuries, Lake Baikal has been considered sacred by indigenous people, especially the Buryat population.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 11

### IRKUTSK

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

After breakfast we make our way back to Irkutsk by boat and private mini-bus or car arriving in the afternoon at your hotel.

Once settled in you will have a 2 hour walking tour of the city centre including the park and War Memorial, some of the beautiful churches along the Angara river, the main city centre streets and the statue of Alexander III - the Tzar responsible for the Trans-Siberian railway. Return to your hotel with free time for the rest of the day.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### HOTEL IRKUTSK



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



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 12 - Fridays

### ON THE TRAIN

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

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

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

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

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT



### TRAIN #305

#### ULAANBAATAR - IRKUTSK

Departs 15:22 Arrives 14:52 day 2  
1,113 km / 690 mi | 23 hr 30 m | Local times & subject to change

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



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 13

### MONGOLIA

- Arrive in UB & transfer to the Bayan Gobi Sand Dunes & visit camel herders.

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia and a truly unique destination that is for many a real highlight of the trip. Your guide and driver will pick you up from the train station and to drive the 290 km (5 hours) to Bayan Gobi, an area of sand dunes, willow trees, streams and bushes with the appearance of a desert. This landscape is 80km long and the widest part of the sand dune is 10 km. Check-in and lunch at the Ger camp located near to the sand dunes.

In the afternoon, we will visit a local camel herder family at their Ger and experience their nomadic way of life.

The sand dunes are the perfect place for Bactrian camel riding. After becoming familiar with the equipment and the basics of riding a camel, explore the sand dunes for 1 hour atop these beautiful animals (note that if there is no time today you will ride tomorrow morning). Mongolia is home to 70% of the world's population of the two-humped Bactrian camels.

You also have the opportunity to explore the sand dunes on foot before returning to the Ger camp for dinner and a free evening.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### BAYAN GOBI GER CAMP

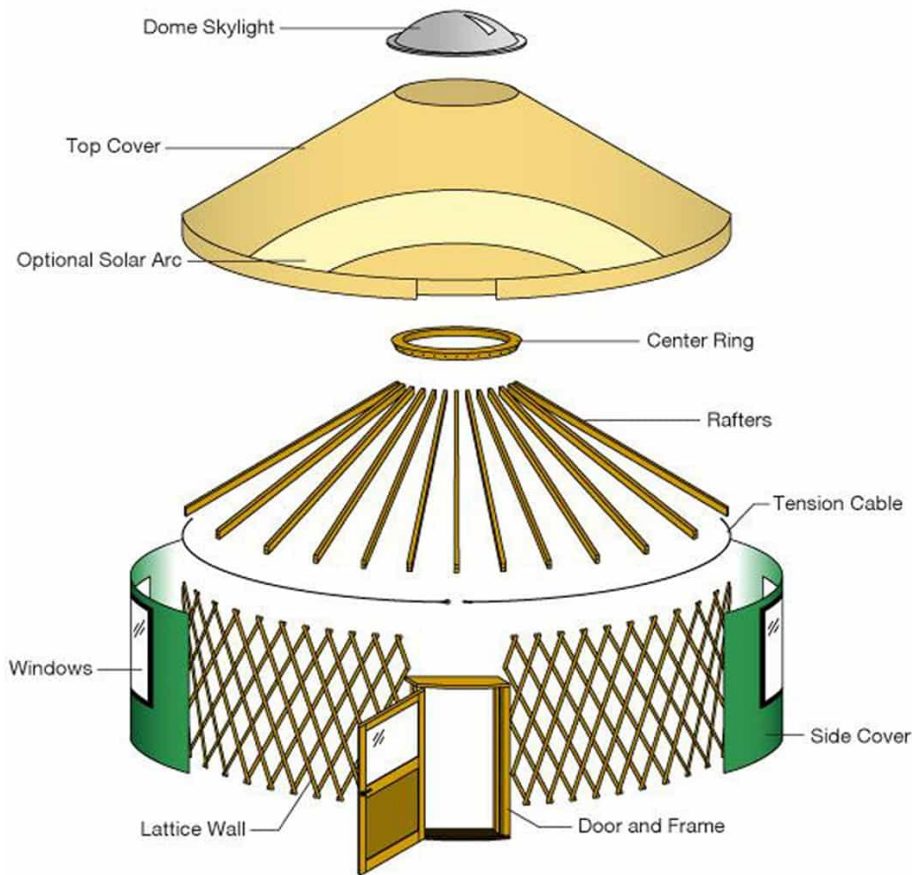
#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

Stunningly designed boutique hotel located just to the east of the Forbidden City making for the perfect blend of design, comfort and location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





Mongolian gers, also known as yurts, are traditional round, portable dwellings used by nomadic herders in Mongolia for centuries. Made from a wooden lattice framework covered with felt and canvas, gers are designed to withstand Mongolia's extreme weather, from hot summers to freezing winters. They are easy to assemble and transport, making them ideal for a nomadic lifestyle. The interior typically includes a stove in the centre, with the layout reflecting Mongolian customs and family life. Today, gers are also a symbol of Mongolian heritage.

## MONGOLIAN GERS - DID YOU KNOW ?

- The design of the ger (yurt) dates back over 3,000 years, making it one of the oldest continuously used types of dwellings in human history.
- A ger can be disassembled and reassembled within an hour, making it ideal for the nomadic lifestyle of Mongolian herders.
- Gers are built to withstand Mongolia's extreme climate, from hot summers to harsh winters with temperatures dropping to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Layers of felt insulate the structure during winter and can be removed in summer.
- The ger's structure is made of a wooden frame and covered with felt made from sheep's wool, reflecting Mongolia's resource-efficient and environmentally friendly approach.
- The circular design allows for even distribution of wind and snow, making it more stable in Mongolia's vast and windy steppes.
- The stove, or hearth, is placed in the centre of the ger, symbolising warmth and family unity. It also serves as a central cooking and heating source.
- Tradition dictates that the door of the ger always faces south, providing protection from cold northern winds and ensuring sunlight during the day.
- The interior of the ger is organized according to Mongolian customs. The right side is traditionally for men and tools, while the left side is for women and household items. The north side is reserved for the altar and important family possessions.
- The ger is central to Mongolian hospitality. Visitors are always offered a seat on the left side, facing the family's most honoured possessions.
- Although rooted in tradition, modern gers can include solar panels, satellite dishes, and modern amenities, blending ancient customs with contemporary comforts.



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 14

### MONGOLIA

- **Karakorum & Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery & Lake Ugi.**

Following breakfast drive to 100 km to Mongolia's ancient capital of Karakorum founded by Chingis Khan in 1220. It quickly became a major trading hub on the silk road attracting merchants from across the Mongolian empire and beyond, prospering until Kublai Khan moved to the capital to modern day Beijing establishing what the Chinese refer to as the Yuan Dynasty. In 1379 much of Karakorum was badly damaged during an attack by the army of the Ming Dynasty.

After visit to the Museum of Karakorum, the symbolic ruins of the ancient city, we continue to visit the oldest Buddhist Monastery complex of Erdene Zuu which is surrounded by 108 stupas built in the 16th century. The monastery is still active, and there are temple museums and buildings where monks live and pray. Here you may hear monks chanting the Buddhist sutras.

In the afternoon, we make 60 km drive to Ugi Lake. This fresh water lake is 5km wide, 7km long and surrounded by steppe. The lake has many species of water birds and fish including perch and pike.

Relax at the camp with optional activities including hiking, swimming, kayaking and motor boat trips. Dinner and overnight at the Ger camp near to the shore of the lake.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### UGIIN KHISHIG GER CAMP

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

Stunningly designed boutique hotel located just to the east of the Forbidden City making for the perfect blend of design, comfort and location.



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 15

### MONGOLIA

- Continue to Hustai National Park famous for it's Perzevalski wild horses.

After and early breakfast depart for the 280 km (5 hour) journey to Hustai National Park. This area is home to Mongolia's wild horse known as the Perzevalski Horse. The national park features mountain and steppe and has 450 species of plants, 200 of which are medicinal.

Check-in and lunch at the Ger camp near to the park gate with some time to relax. Visit a small museum to learn about the national park, wild horses and how they were reintroduced some years ago from European zoos.

The best time to observe these wild horses in their natural habitat is the hours before sunset during which they come down from the mountains to drink. We take a short drive and hike to see the horses. for what should be a great opportunity to take photos.

Besides the horses the scenery is beautiful mountain and steppe. Return to the Ger camp for dinner and a free evening.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### MONGOL NOMADIC GER CAMP

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

A highlight of Mongolia is to stay in a Ger Camp. Most ger camps around Mongolia offer a similar experience - just each with different scenery!



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





Averages	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-14	-8	0	9	17	23	25	23	17	8	-4	-12
Min temp °C	-30	-26	-17	-8	0	7	11	8	0	-9	-20	-27
Rainfall mm	2	1	2	2	12	24	29	22	11	3	1	1

CHINGGIS KHAN STATUE



GRASSLANDS



SUKHBAATAR SQUARE



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 16

### MONGOLIA

- Travel to & explore Terelj National Park including the Genghis Khan Statue.

After breakfast we continue 230 km (4 hours) to Terelj National Park famous for its natural beauty of forested alpine mountains and unusual rock formations.

On the way, we stop at the Genghis Khan's Statue Complex in Tsonjin Boldog, which, at 40 meters, is the highest equestrian statue in the world. There are souvenir shops, a small museum and some other monuments in the base structure. From here, visitors can walk up by stairs or take an elevator to a deck on the horse's head for a panorama view over the complex area and surrounding steppe.

After lunch continue to Terelj National Park visiting Turtle Rock and a Buddhist mediation temple with 108 stairs and a wire bridge, called Temple of Ariyabal. This temple is surrounded by mountains with massive rock formations. From the top, you can enjoy the views across the park.

In the evening, we visit a local nomad family in their Ger to experience firsthand how people live in the steppe, a lifestyle which has not changed for centuries. You can talk with the family asking about their daily tasks to get an idea of how nomadic people live alongside their livestock. There is the opportunity to horseback ride also included before heading to the ger camp top overnight.

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

## OVERNIGHT

### TERLJ LODGE GER CAMP

#### LEARN ABOUT GER CAMPS

A highlight of Mongolia is to stay in a Ger Camp. Most ger camps around Mongolia offer a similar experience - just each with different scenery!



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 17

### MONGOLIA

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

After breakfast return to Ulaanbaatar for a city tour starting with a visit to Zaisan Memorial Hill located on the south side of the City beside the Bogd Khan Mountain. Here there are the best views over the city.

After lunch near to Zaisan, continue to visit “Gandan” Monastery, which is Mongolia’s largest functioning Buddhist monastery including the Mongolian Buddhist University. The highlight of visiting to Gandan is 26 meter-high majestic gilded indoor statue of Megjid Janraisig.

Next we visit Sukhbaatar square which lies at the heart of the city surrounded by important buildings such as the government palace, banks and theatres and the central post office. There is a statue of national hero Sukhbaatar and a massive bronze statue of Genghis Khan and four warriors in front of Parliament House.

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

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

## OVERNIGHT

### KEMPINSKI KHAN PALACE



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



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



## YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 18

## 🇲🇳 END

- Free time until a transfer to the airport for your flight out of Mongolia.

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

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

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.



# CHINA TOURS

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

### VIEW MORE FEEDBACK



"I want to thank you for my terrific, well organized, seamlessly smooth running Trans Siberian journey! Your organization was without doubt exceptional. I am working on my trip-diary, which already now brings back very special memories. Thank you so much, Ute."



- **Guide Price\* per person based on 2 people travelling: UK £ 6,920 / US\$ 9,330**

Prices vary by date, availability and the number of people in your party. The price is based on travelling in your own two berth first class or sole occupancy of a four berth second class cabin on overnight trains which do not have two berth cabins (see inclusions for more details). A full list of what is included in this price can be seen on the following pages. Note that this does not include any international flights or visas.

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- **Booking and payment terms:**

Once we receive completed booking forms we will book and confirm services for you and send an invoice for the deposit payment of 20% per person (plus any international flights we are booking) with full payment due 60 days before departure. All payments to us are protected under our ATOL or ABTA licenses and we accept payment by Credit Card, Debit Card or bank transfer.

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- **Our pricing policy:**

We believe that the the pricing for this tour offers excellent value for the services and standards we operate and we frequently check our pricing against that of other operators. If you feel you have a similar quote that is of a lower price we are happy to reconsider our pricing for you if you can forward the other quote so we can fairly compare. We would add that in our experience we usually find some differences that, although they may appear subtle, make both a significant difference to the price and, more importantly, the quality of the trip experience.



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

Here you will find the inclusions and exclusions for this itinerary. We guarantee you will receive the services below although on very rare occasions one service may need to be replaced with another similar one as there are a lot of complex logistical elements to a trip like this.

- INTERNATIONAL PLANE TICKETS: Tickets for flights the start and finish of the above trip

**Flight tickets to the start and finish of this trip are NOT included in this itinerary. We CAN arrange these for you.**

- TRAIN TICKETS: [Click here to learn more about the trains](#)

**The trains used below are subject to change and dependent on availability at the time the ticket is issued which is usually 90 days before the travel date. \*First class 2 berth cabins can be very difficult to obtain and are not always added to many trains. When first class is not available we buyout a second class 4 berth cabin to give sole occupancy (based on 2 people travelling).**

- ✓ Moscow to Ekaterinburg - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 56 - Your own cabin (ticket given in Moscow)
- ✓ Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk - Second class BUYOUT - train 70 - Your own cabin (ticket given in Moscow)
- ✓ Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar - First class or second class BUYOUT - train 306 - Your own cabin (ticket given in Irkutsk)

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

- ✓ 2 nights Moscow - National Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night on train Moscow to Ekaterinburg (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 2 nights Ekaterinburg - Onegin Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 3 nights on train Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 2 nights Olkhon Island - Lada Resort ★★ (twin rooms shared Siberian style toilet & sauna)
- ✓ 1 night Irkutsk - Irkutsk Hotel ★★★★★ (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night on the train Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar (see cabin class in the train tickets section above)
- ✓ 1 night Bayan Gobi - Bayan Gobi Ger Camp (your own ger)



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

- ✓ 1 night Ugii Lake - Ugiin Khishig Ger Camp (your own ger)
- ✓ 1 night Hustai Park - Mongol Nomadic Camp (your own ger)
- ✓ 1 night Terelj - Terelj Lodge Ger Camp (your own ger)
- ✓ 1 night Ulaanbaatar - Kempinski Khan Palace hotel ★★★★★ (deluxe room with breakfast)

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

- ✓ Moscow - Airport to Hotel (English speaking driver only)
- ✓ Moscow - Hotel to Train Station (English speaking driver only)
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Irkutsk - Train Station to Accommodation on Olkhon Island
- ✓ Olkhon Island - Accommodation on Olkhon Island to Hotel in Irkutsk
- ✓ Irkutsk - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Mongolia & Karakorum - All transfers associated with the tour and included in the itinerary
- ✓ Ulaanbaatar - Hotel in Ulaanbaatar to Airport

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

- ✓ Moscow - Full day private tour of the Kremlin including the Armoury, Red Square & Moscow Metro as described.
- ✓ Ekaterinburg - 2 night private stopover including Countryside Village Trip, City Tour, Romanovs Graves & Europe Asia Border as described.
- ✓ Irkutsk - 3 night private tour including city tour, fully guided 2 night trip to Olkhon Island and 1 night in Irkutsk as described.
- ✓ Mongolia - 5 night private stopover Bayan Gobi, Ugii Lake, Karakorum, Terelj & Ulaanbaatar private tour with guide as described.

### ■ OTHER INCLUSIONS: Also included in this trip

- ✓ Meals - As indicated in the itinerary.



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

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- ✓ Visa Paperwork - Confirmation documentation you need in order to get the visas.
- ✓ Support - Emergency numbers and contacts for each destination.
- ✓ Guidebook - Our exclusive Trip Guidebook personalised to your trip.
- ✓ Financial Peace of Mind - All monies paid to us are legally protected under UK law.

### ■ NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

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

### ■ END

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## WHY BOOK WITH US ?

### INDEPENDENT

As a family run company your business is important to us so we go to greater lengths to ensure you have the best possible experience.

### PROTECTED

You are fully financially protected through our ABTA membership and ATOL bonding so you can book with us in confidence.

### FLEXIBLE

We understand no two trips are the same and design a bespoke itinerary to meet your specific needs and requirements.

### SUPPORT

All our trips come with 24 hour emergency assistance so you are looked after from start to finish & many clients rebook with us.

### RESPONSIBLE

We strive to have a positive impact on the cultures and communities we send our customers to & prepare you for this.



## WHY TAKE THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ?

### CULTURE

Traverse vast landscapes, from the Ural Mountains to Siberian forests and Lake Baikal, witnessing the incredible diversity of Russia's natural beauty from the comfort of the train.

### SCENERY

Experience the diverse cultures of Russia, Mongolia, and China by interacting with locals and fellow travellers, offering a unique cultural exchange across three countries on a single journey.

### HISTORY

Follow a legendary route over 100 years old, tracing the Trans-Siberian Railway's historic path, which played a crucial role in connecting distant parts of Russia with Europe and Asia.

### DESTINATIONS

Visit remarkable stops along the way, like Moscow, the heart of Russia; Irkutsk, near Lake Baikal; and Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, each offering a glimpse of unique regional cultures.

### SLOW TRAVEL

The train offers a slow-paced, immersive travel experience with comfortable sleeper cabins, dining cars, and scenic views, providing the perfect opportunity to relax and unwind over long distances.



# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAINS

A Trans-Siberian trip is all about the trains and they are the hardest bit to get right. It takes years of experience and having actually tried and tested the trains to know which are the best options for each section of your trip. For the most part standards of rolling stock are good along all the rail routes. Life on board these trains is, as you would expect, a highlight of these trips and rarely disappoints. As a travel experience we think there is nothing quite like it.



## CLASSES

We book 2 berth first class and 4 berth second class cabins.

## SAFETY

A top priority for us & trains are well policed, safe & secure.

## FOOD

Most trains have dining cars or you can bring on board.

## FACILITIES

Each carriage has to washrooms which are functional but clean.

## TIMINGS

We use the best timed options for each trip segment.

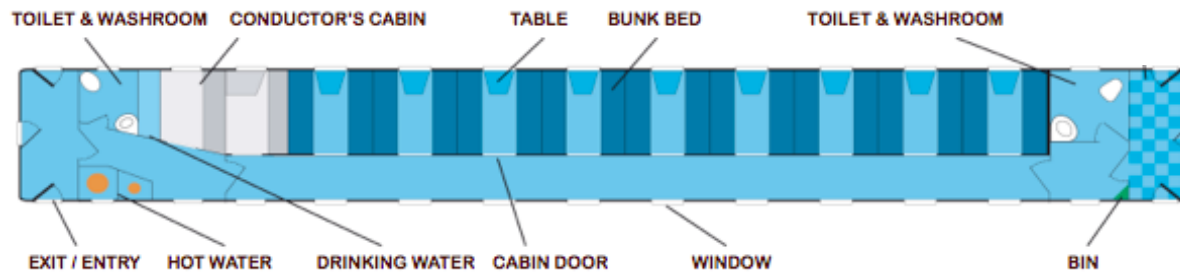
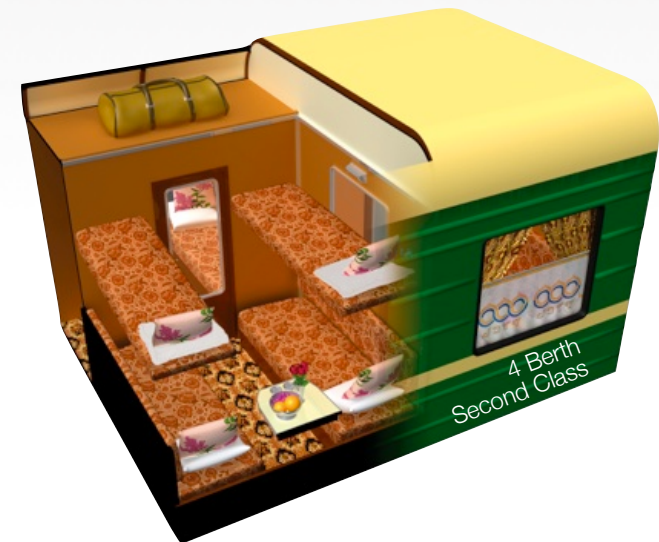
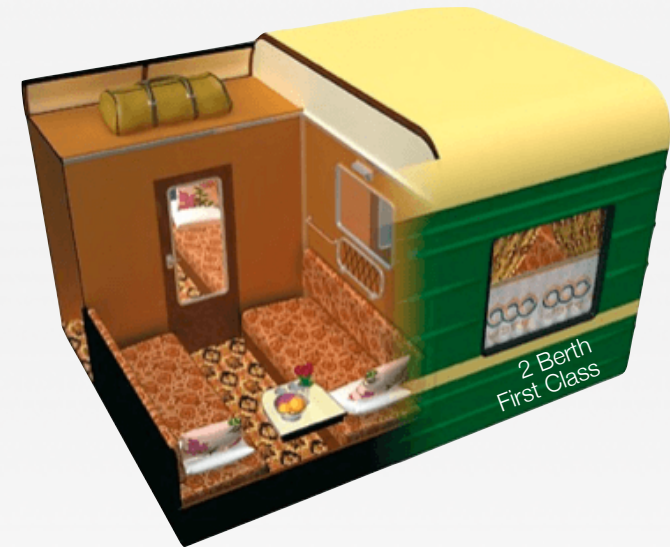
We use a large number of trains across our trips aiming to use the best possible option for each leg of the journey taking into account reliability of the timetable and obtaining tickets, the best and most practical departure and arrival times as well as safety and comfort. Between us we have travelled on almost all the trains we offer in all classes whether they be Russian, Mongolian or Chinese services.

Almost every train has a dining car and the trains we use are safe and secure with each carriage staffed by two Provodniks / Provodnitsa (conductors). We book both first class 2 berth and second class 4 berth compartments that are comfortable and have lockable doors and a large window for the fabulous views along the way.

**Click here to visit the trains section of our website for much more information.**

*“We had first class transport for all but one leg of the journey. The trains were clean and easy to sleep on.”*

**Seanna Keeley**







## QUICK FACTS

Land Area: 17,098,242 sq km  
Coastline: Approximately 37,653 km  
Lowest Point: Caspian Sea at -28 m  
Highest Point: Mt Elbrus 5,642 m  
Time Zones: GMT +2 to +12 hours

Population: 146,000,000  
Life Expectancy Male: 66.5 years  
Life Expectancy Female: 77.1 years  
Airports: 1,218  
Railways: 87,157 km  
Highways: Around 1,529,000 km

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are generally not required for entry into Russia, but it is recommended to be up-to-date on routine vaccines like MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, and influenza. Additional vaccines to consider based on your activities and areas of travel include Hepatitis A (for food and water safety), Hepatitis B, Rabies (especially for rural areas), and Tick-borne Encephalitis if you plan to hike or camp in forested regions during the spring or summer.

## VISAS

Citizens from the United States, Canada, the UK, and EU, typically need a tourist visa to visit Russia. The visa application process requires an invitation letter (also known as a visa support document), a completed visa application form, a valid passport (with at least six months remaining after the visa expires), a passport-sized photo, and proof of travel insurance. Processing can take from a few days to several weeks, depending on the country and service chosen. This [Wikipedia link](#) is useful.

## WHEN TO VISIT

The best time to travel the Trans-Siberian Railway is late spring (May) or early autumn (September), when temperatures are mild, and landscapes are at their most scenic, with blooming flowers or vibrant fall colours. These months avoid the extreme cold of winter and the summer tourist season. June to August is also pleasant but busier, while winter (December to February) offers a magical snow-covered journey, though temperatures can drop below -20°C.

## ELECTRICITY & PLUGS

Russia uses 220V, 50Hz electricity. Plugs are Type C (European) and Type F, both with two round pins. These are standard in most European countries.



Type C



Type F

## MONEY TO TAKE

When visiting Russia, it's useful to carry Russian rubles (RUB) for smaller purchases, especially in rural areas. Major cities like Moscow and Saint Petersburg widely accept credit and debit cards. ATMs are readily available for cash withdrawals, and Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted cards. It's advisable to exchange some currency before arrival or use ATMs for rubles. Inform your bank about your trip to avoid card issues abroad.



## QUICK FACTS



Land area: 1,564,116 sq km  
Coastline: 0 km  
Lowest point: Khüiten Lake +518 m  
Highest point: Khüiten Peak 4,374 m  
Time Zone: GMT +8 hours  
Population: 3,400,000  
Life expectancy male: 66.9 years  
Life expectancy female: 75.8 years  
Airports: 13 paved  
Railways: 1,815 km  
Highways: 15,000 km paved

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are not required for entry into Mongolia, but it's recommended to be up-to-date on routine vaccines like MMR, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, and influenza. Vaccines for Hepatitis A and Typhoid are advised due to potential food and water risks. Hepatitis B is recommended for extended stays, while Rabies and Tick-borne Encephalitis are recommended for rural travel. Consult your healthcare provider for personalised advice based on your itinerary and health needs before visiting Mongolia.

## VISAS

Mongolia allows citizens of 62 countries, including the U.S., Canada, and EU nations, to visit visa-free for 14 to 90 days depending on nationality. Travellers from other countries must obtain a 30-day tourist visa, which can be extended in Mongolia. Visas are available at Mongolian embassies and consulates. Check specific requirements before traveling, as policies vary based on nationality and travel purpose. This [Wikipedia link](#) is useful.

## WHEN TO VISIT

The best time to visit Mongolia is from June to September, with warm weather ideal for exploring the Gobi Desert, trekking, and camping. July is popular for the Naadam Festival, showcasing Mongolian culture. Temperatures range from 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F). For cooler weather and fewer crowds, late August to early September is ideal, as the landscapes remain lush and travel conditions are optimal for outdoor activities.

## ELECTRICITY & PLUGS

Mongolia uses 230V, 50Hz electricity, with Type C and Type E plugs, which are common in Europe. Ensure your devices are compatible.



Type C

Type E

## MONEY TO TAKE

It's advisable to carry some Mongolian Tugriks (MNT), especially for use in rural areas where cash is preferred. In larger cities like Ulaanbaatar, credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops. ATMs are available in urban areas for withdrawing local currency. It's recommended to exchange money at banks or official exchange counters, as foreign currencies are not typically accepted. Always carry some cash in remote regions.





## HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK?

The Trans-Siberian can be quite a complex trip with a definite peak season when tickets and good hotel rooms can become scarce so we recommend booking as far in advance as possible if you are travelling from June to the end of September. Outside of this period we still recommend booking at least 2 months in advance to allow plenty of time to obtain the visas.

## CAN YOU OBTAIN THE VISAS FOR US?

We have a partnership with the visa agents [CIBT Visa Central](#) who will guide you through the visa application process. As you are likely to be obtaining more than one visa for a Trans-Siberian trip it makes sense to make use of a specialised visa agent who will do the leg work running between the various embassies.

## IS IT SAFE TO BOOK WITH YOU?

In a word, Yes! We members of ABTA and ATOL Bonded so any payments made to us are fully protected in the unlikely event of our financial failure. Our ABTA membership number is [Y1699](#) and our ATOL license number is [10287](#).

## WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO TRAVEL?

The summer months from June to the end of August are generally considered the best and are certainly the busiest. However, catching the Autumn colours from early September is probably our favourite time to visit Russia although Mongolia can already be cold. China tends to be best in September and October although do try and avoid the week long National Day holiday during the 1st week of October. Don't forget that Siberia looks stunning in winter!

## DO YOU HAVE FINANCIAL PROTECTION?

In a word, Yes! We members of ABTA and ATOL Bonded so any payments made to us are fully protected in the unlikely event of our financial failure. Our ABTA membership number is [Y1699](#) and our ATOL license number is [10287](#).

## BEYOND THE TRANS-SIBERIAN?

Yes, we can book flight or train tickets to onward destinations and we are also specialist China tour operators through our sister tour operator, [THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY](#).

## IS IT WORTH TRAVELLING IN WINTER?

Oh Yes! Siberia looks amazing, a ger stay in Mongolia is the definition of cosy and Beijing is cold but dry and sunny. All three countries are very used to dealing with winter making the experience more comfortable than you might think.

## DO THE TRAINS HAVE PLUGS FOR RECHARGING?

As a rule, yes although if there are 4 of you in a cabin you will need to take turns - or bring an extension plug! You can also ask your provodnitsas nicely if you can use her plugs but that will depend on the individual and they may expect a tip for this.

## IS TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVEL SAFE?

Yes! In recent years we hear of very few problems either on the stops or the trains and there is no reason why you should not feel as safe if not safer than if travelling in your home country. This applies to men or women traveling alone and exercising reasonable common sense.





## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FIRST & SECOND CLASS?

First and second class cabins are the same size and tend to have similar facilities with the only real but big difference being that 2nd class cabins have 4 berths and first class 2 berths. So a couple get privacy and space in first class. A first class carriage will also have less competition for bathroom although this is not usually a big issue or a particular reason to go first class. Second class is arguably more social.

## WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE MAKE A BOOKING?

On taking a booking we will confirm as many of the services as can be at that point and then ask you for a non-refundable deposit of 20% per person plus any international flights we are booking with the final balance payment due 60 days before your trip start date with us. On booking we will also offer advice about obtaining the visas and about 1 month before your trip with us starts we will send you our exclusive Trip Guidebook tailored to your specific trip with us.

## CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ?

Yes, as we hold an ATOL license (number 10287) we are permitted by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK to book flights on behalf of our clients. We are a British Airways preferred operator but also book with other airlines to get the best deals and routes for our clients.

## WILL MY PHONE WORK ?

Yes and you will find coverage is surprisingly good all the way along the train routes and in cities. If you buy a SIM card make sure you are buying for the right phone system as some mobile companies in Mongolia, for example, operate on GSM (same as UK, Europe) and others CDMA (North America and Japan). You should also check what roaming charges will be with your mobile provider.

## WHY SHOULD WE BOOK A TRIP WITH YOU

We took our first Trans-Siberian trip in 1997 and between us have taken many trips since. We have been to all destinations we offer, often many times, and are passionate about sharing our knowledge and providing you with the best possible travel experience of these destinations which we love to visit ourselves. Add to this the back up we offer from financial protection of your payments to us to the 24 hour emergency numbers we give you before your trip and we think we are the full package for quality, service and reliability.

## HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED TO TAKE WITH ME?

The bulk of your costs are taken care of when booking with us so you will only be spending on day to day expenses such as additional meals, drinks, souvenirs and any entrance fees on free days. Russia is expensive and it is easy to go through £50 a day in Moscow although less elsewhere. Mongolia is likely to be cheapest as there isn't that much to spend money on in the countryside. China is between the two with spending from about £30 a day upwards as an approximate guide. On the train it would be difficult to spend more than £20 a day.

## DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS?

As long as we are informed at the time of making your booking we can cater for almost all dietary requirements.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD BE ASKING?

Almost certainly! We fully expect you will have many more questions and we are here to answer them so please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) - that is what we are here for!





### THROUGH SIBERIA BY ACCIDENT

DERVLA MURPHY

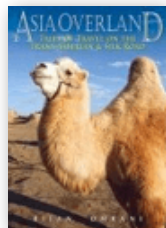
Excellent account of Siberia and in particular the remote and rarely traveled Baikal Amur Line (BAM). Well researched and full of character this book brings Siberia alive through the descriptions of the characters she meets along the way.



### TRAVELS IN SIBERIA

IAN FRAZIER

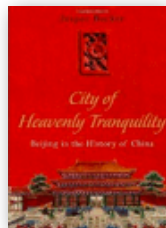
Frazier reveals Siberia's role in history, its science, economics, and politics. Traveling by car rather than train from St Petersburg to Vladivostok in five weeks in one of the most humorous, informative and hugely entertaining of Trans-Siberian books.



### ASIA OVERLAND

BIJAN OMRANI

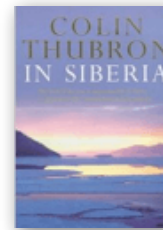
Tales of Travel on the Trans-Siberian and Silk Road. This title offers a travel companion and historical travelogue. It is resourced from travel luminaries: George Kennan to Anton Chekhov, Fa Xian to Marco Polo and Matteo Ricci.



### THE CITY OF HEAVENLY TRANQUILITY

JASPER BECKER

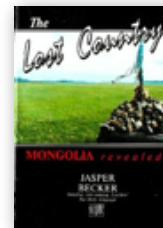
One of the best books devoted to Beijing and an entertaining historical account of the city that will give some real insight into what makes Beijing tick. The range is almost up to the modern day which gives the reader a good idea of what Beijing has been through.



### IN SIBERIA

COLIN THUBRON

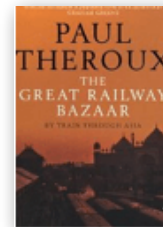
One of the books about Siberia as Thubron delves far deeper than the average travel writer trying to understand the essence of the people that live there and the land they live in. Quite a dark read but perhaps essential to understand.



### THE LOST COUNTRY: MONGOLIA REVEALED

JASPER BECKER

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



### THE GREAT RAILWAY BAZAAR

PAUL THEROUX

One of the classic travel books about the Trans-Siberian. If you like this Riding the Iron Rooster and the more recent Ghost Train to the Eastern Star are superb, the latter revisiting the travel of The Great Railway Bazaar some 30 years later.



### SILVERLAND

DERVLA MURPHY

Extraordinary expedition in winter beyond Siberia to the furthest corners of Russia. Here she discovers a strange world of lynx and elks, indigenous tribes and shamanism, reindeer broth and taiga-berry pie.

