



Experience Trans-Mongolian Classic

Along the way
St. Petersburg
Moscow
Beijing

Leaving from St. Petersburg to Beijing

The Trans-Mongolian put Mongolia on the map – literally. Mongolia had thrown off Chinese rule in 1924, and once the fighting had died down the USSR made building a railway to Urga – now renamed Ulaanbaatar, “Red Hero” – a top priority in the first of its famous Five Year Plans. Even if you don’t stop (as you don’t, on this itinerary – but you can on others!) you still see some astonishing landscapes as you go thundering... well, alright, it’s nearer to “trundling”... through the Southern Gobi en-route to Beijing.



What’s included

FULL ON

Train

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

St. Petersburg

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

Moscow

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

NO FRILLS

Train

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

St. Petersburg

- > transfer on arrival to your hotel
- > 2 nights 1★ hotel, breakfast
- > 3 hour personalised walking tour with local expert

Moscow

- > transfer on arrival to your hotel
- > 2 nights 1★ hotel, breakfast

In the know...

As well as the famous Moscow Metro, there's a second "Secret Metro" in parallel with the official system. It was built to enable Party leaders to move around the city or go to the airport in secret. Its existence is still officially a secret, and the public are unable to see or visit it. Only some eccentric pedestrian subways and illogical station locations on the main system hint where the secret one is located.

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



No ordinary trip

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

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

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



Visa Requirements

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

Russia	25 Working Days
Mongolia	10 Working Days
China	10 Working Days

However fast track processing is possible.

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

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

Hints and Tips

TOP TIP! – This trip travels via Mongolia, although you need to obtain an entry visa, you will not disembark from the train. Why would you?

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

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

Travellers Checklist

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

Climate and time – Minimum/maximum Temperatures °C

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

Experience Trans-Mongolian Classic

full on itinerary – 12 days

Leaving from St. Petersburg
to Beijing

After spending two nights in St. Petersburg and two nights in Moscow you will then embark on a non-stop train journey through to Beijing. What this means is you will spend six nights/ seven days on board with no opportunity to disembark and visit any of the fascinating towns and regions you'll be passing through. We hope you consider strongly before booking this journey, our mantra at Russia Experience is "what makes these trips special is what's possible along the way in places that international airlines barely touch". The train journey might be interesting for completists – but you'll sail straight past "the good stuff" on this route!

DAY 01

"S Priezdom! Welcome to St. Petersburg!" Our driver will be there to meet you from whichever flight, train or boat you arrive. You'll then be transferred to your hotel. At check-in, (after 2pm) the hotel reception will advise you they will need your passport for visa registration. This process takes 1–2 hours. Your complimentary InfoPack is full of ideas for getting the most out of your free time. (Please note your train tickets to Moscow will be delivered to the hotel during your two night stay.)

No meals

DAY 02

After breakfast one of our local expert staff will meet you at the hotel to take you on a three hour walking tour round the highlights – you'll use public transport around the centre to avoid the traffic jams and get the hang of the system for when you come to use it independently. Our staffers are full of ideas for this walk but are flexible about other ideas if you have your own. Your walk ends in the city centre around lunchtime. If you haven't pre-booked any of our range of city excursions the rest of the day is your own to explore further.

Breakfast

DAY 03

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

opening times/days before setting off) The Hermitage Collection – Winter Palace. The canals and waterways of the "Northern Venice". The Russian Museum of Fine Art. The Peter & Paul Fortress and the Tombs of the Tsars inside the Fortress Cathedral. The Church on the Spilt Blood, nearby the Souvenir Bazaar.

Breakfast

DAY 04

Early morning arrival in Moscow. Our driver will meet you at the end of the platform and will be holding a meeting-board with your name on. You'll then be transferred to the Irbis 3★ Hotel. The facilities available at this hotel include a Restaurant, Lobby Bar, Lobby Wi-Fi access, Luggage Room, Safety deposit boxes and an ATM machine. At check-in, (after 2pm) the hotel reception will advise you they will need your passport for visa registration. This process takes 1–2 hours. Your complimentary InfoPack is full of ideas for getting the most out of your free time. (Please note your Trans-Siberian train tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your two night stay.)

No meals

DAY 05

After breakfast one of our local expert staff will meet you at the hotel to take you on a three hour walking tour round the highlights – you'll use public transport around the centre to avoid the traffic jams and get the hang of the system for when you come to use it independently. Our staffers are full of ideas for this walk but are flexible about other ideas if you have your own. Your walk ends in the city centre around lunchtime. If you haven't pre-booked any of our range of city excursions the rest of the day is your own to explore further. Some of our top suggestions (please check opening times/days before setting off) would include visiting the Moscow Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, or a boat trip along the Moskva River... perhaps locate some tickets for ballet, opera, circus or a concert this evening? As well as famous classical music traditions Moscow features on the touring schedules of world names in jazz, rock, pop and world music.

Breakfast

DAY 06

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your day is free until 8pm when a driver is scheduled to take you to the station. This morning you can continue sightseeing – the Lenin Mausoleum is only open in the mornings, and getting there early (it's in Red Square) helps beat the queues. Although there's a restaurant car service on board your train you may want to supplement this with some snacks, treats, and fresh fruit that you could buy today. Your transfer from the hotel to Yaroslavsky station is scheduled for 8pm, so please be at the hotel reception where your driver will meet you and will assist your boarding of the Beijing bound train.

Breakfast

DAY 07–11

On board The Trans-Sib... travelling towards Irkutsk. The dining car is the heart of social life on the train. It functions as bar, lounge, and take-out snack store, as well as a café serving reasonably priced meals. It is a great place to meet fellow travellers and locals alike, sharing your experiences of your journey so far with a few drinks, which no doubt will include some Vodka – and maybe smoked salmon and caviar too! Along the way you'll see astonishing Siberian scenery as the deciduous forests of the Ural Mountains slowly give way to Siberian pine forests. The major landmarks are the great rivers you cross, including the River Ob at Novosibirsk (one of the most famous bridges on the route), and the gigantic Enisei River (at Krasnoyarsk). Finally circumnavigate Lake Baikal before heading southwards after Ulan-Uday for the Mongolian border (border formalities during the night, a short stop). Cross Mongolia entirely north south, passing across the South Gobi Desert as you approach the Chinese border. Border halt whilst the wheels are changed to Chinese gauge. After completing border formalities your trip continues for Beijing, through spectacular countryside.

No meals

DAY 12

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

No meals

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.