Trans Mongolian Railway Adventure

Days	Westbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
24	Kuala Lumpur to Ulaanbaatar	Malaysia + Thailand + Laos + China + Mongolia	7030 km	●●●○○

Journey along the Malay Peninsula discovering Malaysia, Thailand and Laos before entering China and the ancient capital of Xian. Join the Trans Mongolian Railway to take you into Mongolia

and discover the wilderness of the steppe on this unique journey.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Kuala Lumpur

Start in the bustling city of Kuala Lumpur. Transfer to your hotel before meeting with your Tour Leader and group for a Welcome Meeting and dinner.

Meals - D

Day 2: To Butterworth and Ferry to Penang

This morning we travel from Kuala Lumpur to Butterworth by train before taking the ferry to Georgetown. There is time to relax by the beach before taking in some of the culinary delights of Penang.

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3: Penang

Today we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town with fascinating street art, temples and wonderful views from Penang Hill.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Georgetown tour

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4: Overnight to Bangkok

We continue our journey up the Malay peninsula through lush tropical forest and plantations to the Thai border at Padang Besar where we join the overnight sleeper service to Bangkok.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 5: Arrive Bangkok

With just a short stay in Thailand's colourful & flamboyant capital today our local guide will share some of the classic highlights as well as some less well known aspects of this amazing city. Today we escape the city to explore the calm and cool gardens and private collections of the Prasart Museum.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Prasart Museum

Meals - Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 6: Bangkok

Today we venture to Ayutthaya about 80 kms north of Bangkok. Founded c. 1350, Ayutthaya became the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai. Ayutthaya is now an archaeological ruin, characterized by the remains of tall *prang* (reliquary towers) and Buddhist monasteries of monumental proportions, which give an idea of the city's past size and the splendor of its architecture.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Ayutthaya

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7: Bangkok and to Laos

A day in the city visiting Wat Arun, Wat Pho where you will also be treated to a massage before joining our overnight train to Nongkhai and the Laos border.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Wat Arun, Wat Pho (including optional traditonal Thai massage)

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8: Vientiane

Tree-lined boulevards blend Buddhist temples with French colonial era architecture. Our sightseeing includes the 16th century Pha That Luang. We also visit the imposing Patuxai Victory Monument, commemorating independence from France and often called the 'Arc de Triomphe' of Vientiane. This evening enjoy a sunset stroll along the banks of the Mekong River.

Sightseeing and Tipping - City Tour including Wat Si Saket, Patuxai and That Luang Stupa

Meals - Dinner

Day 9: Vientiane

A day to further explore Vientiane from the unique Buddha Park with its multitude of Buddhist and Hindu statues, Wat Si Muang and COPE Visitor Centre.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Buddha Park, Wat Si Muang and COPE Visitor Centre.

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 10: To Luang Prabang

This morning we rejoin the train north to the beautiful UNESCO city of Luang Prabang. Today we explore the city taking in views from Phousi Hill, as well as the Ok Pop Tok Living Crafts Centre. Set in lush gardens and located on the banks of the Mekong, the Living Crafts Centre is the perfect place to learn more about the fascinating world of Lao textiles. This afternoon we visit the Kuang Si waterfalls.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Kuang Si waterfall, optional walk to Ban Thapene, Ock Pop Tock Living Craft Centre and City Viewpoint at Phousi Hill

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 11: Luang Prabang

Wake up as the sun rises, we will prepare to join the most sacred tradition of Laos, the daily morning alms giving then visit the temporary morning market. We visit the Royal Palace Museum, Mekong River Cruise to Pak Ou Caves, Ban Xanghai village to observe rice wine, Wat Sene, Wat Xieng Thong, Heuan Chan, Wat Prabath for sunset (weather permitting) and, if interested and time permits, Night Market

Sightseeing and Tipping - Royal Palace Museum, Mekong River Cruise to Pak Ou Caves, Ban Xanghai village, Wat Sene, Wat Xieng Thong, Heuan Chan, Wat Prabath for sunset (weather permitting)

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Day 12: To Kunming

This morning we board the train for the recently completed 750km rail link from Luang Prabang to Kunming, China. The journey will take us through the incredible scenery of northern Laos and southern Yunnan Province.

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 13: Kunming

The climate and relaxed ambience of Kunming is perfectly suited to a leisurely walk, and our sightseeing today will take us through the old alleys to Cuihu Park, with its many bridges and pagodas, and nearby the Yuantong Buddhist Temple.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Cuihu Park, Yuantong Buddhist Temple

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 14: Kunming

Beyond the city we visit the enchanting 'Stone Forest' - these unusual and unique karst stone formations are a highlight of Yunnan Province.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Stone Forest

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Day 15: To Chengdu

Back aboard the train enjoy some stunning scenery as we travel to Chengdu (Sichuan Province) famous spicy food.

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 16: Chengdu

This morning we enjoy a tour of the city. The afternoon is at leisure allowing time for you to visit other sites such as the panda research base should you wish to do so. Sichuan cuisine is renowned in China and internationally, we sample some of its classic dishes this evening before boarding the overnight train to Xining, Qinghai Province - high on the Tibetan Plateau (2275m).

Sightseeing and Tipping - City Tour

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 17: Chengdu to Xian

A high speed train takes us to Xian, ancient Chang'an. Once this was the glittering capital of Cathay. Old pagodas, city walls and watchtowers remain.

We explore the city to see the Small Wild Goose Pagoda, Grand Mosque, walk the Muslim quarter and the food streets.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Small Wild Goose Pagoda, Grand Mosque, Muslim quarter

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 18: Xian

The city still captures the romance of its rich imperial past and the glories of the Silk Road. There is so much to explore in this city, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, and the Shaanxi History Museum being some of the highlights.

NB: For journeys operating outside of July and August we will be including a tour of the Terracotta Warriors. In July and August free time will be available should you wish to arrange a visit there. Our experience is that it is incredibly crowded during those months and therefore it is not included at that time.

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Sightseeing and Tipping - Terracotta Warriors & Horses, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Xian Museum

Day 19: Xian

We have more time today to perhaps walk the city walls or wander the laneways of Xian.

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Day 20: To Beijing

We journey north to Beijing, the vibrant capital city of China. We arrive by train in the evening.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 21: Trans Mongolian Railway

We join our international train that will take us onwards towards Mongolia.

Sightseeing and Tipping - City Tour

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 22: Trans Mongolian Railway

Our train rumbles along the Trans Mongolian Railway. The villages and fields of northern China slip away as we head north. As the sun sets we'll cross the Gobi Desert bound for the Mongolian border and its quirky yet friendly capital of Ulaanbaatar.

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 23: Arrive Ulaanbaatar and to Terelj

We arrive in the morning into the capital and we travel out across the grasslands, through the countryside that was once the home to Genghis Khan and his Golden Horde, to the pristine Terelj National Park for a night stay in a ger – the traditional home of the Mongolian people.

Meals - Lunch and Dinner

Day 24: To Ulaanbaatar - Tour Concludes

This morning we return to the city via the giant statue to Genghis Khan. We then bid farewell after an epic adventure with tales to tell on our return home.

Meals - Breakfast

Journey Summary

Day 1	Kuala Lumpur - Journey begins	
Day 2	To Kuala Lumpur to Penang	
Day 3	Penang	
Day 4	Penang to Bangkok	Overnight train
Day 5	Bangkok	
Day 6	Bangkok	
Day 7	Bangkok and depart to Laos	Overnight train
Day 8	Arrive Vientiane	
Day 9	Vientiane	
Day 10	Vientiane to Luang Prabang	

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 11	Luang Prabang	
Day 12	Luang Prabang to Kunming	
Day 13	Kunming	
Day 14	Kunming	
Day 15	Kunming to Chengdu	
Day 16	Chengdu	
Day 17	Chengdu and to Xian	
Day 18	Xian	
Day 19	Xian	
Day 20	Xian to Hohhot	
Day 21	Hohhot to Erlian	Overnight train
Day 22	Erlian to Ulaanbaatar	Overnight train
Day 23	Ulaanbaatar to Terelj National Park	
Day 24	Ulaanbaatar - Tour concludes	

What's included

Group size

15 maximum

Meals

19 breakfasts
9 lunches
13 dinners

Transfers

All transfers including to and from the airport.

Accommodation

18 hotel / guesthouse (twin share)

4 train

1 Mongolian ger

Optional single supplement is available for this journey - prices available on request

Sightseeing and Tipping

Comprehensive schedule of sightseeing with certified Local Guides. You'll have a generous sprinkling of free time to relax or explore on your own.

Expertise

An experienced Tour Leader accompanies the whole journey to keep your adventure on track. Local Guides are native to each destination and as certified professionals will share their immense knowledge with you. 24/7 support is available in the office and on the ground.

Transport

For rail sectors on this journey, where possible and available, two-berth or sole use of a four-berth compartment, or the equivalent dependent on the country of travel, will be provided.

Contact Us

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