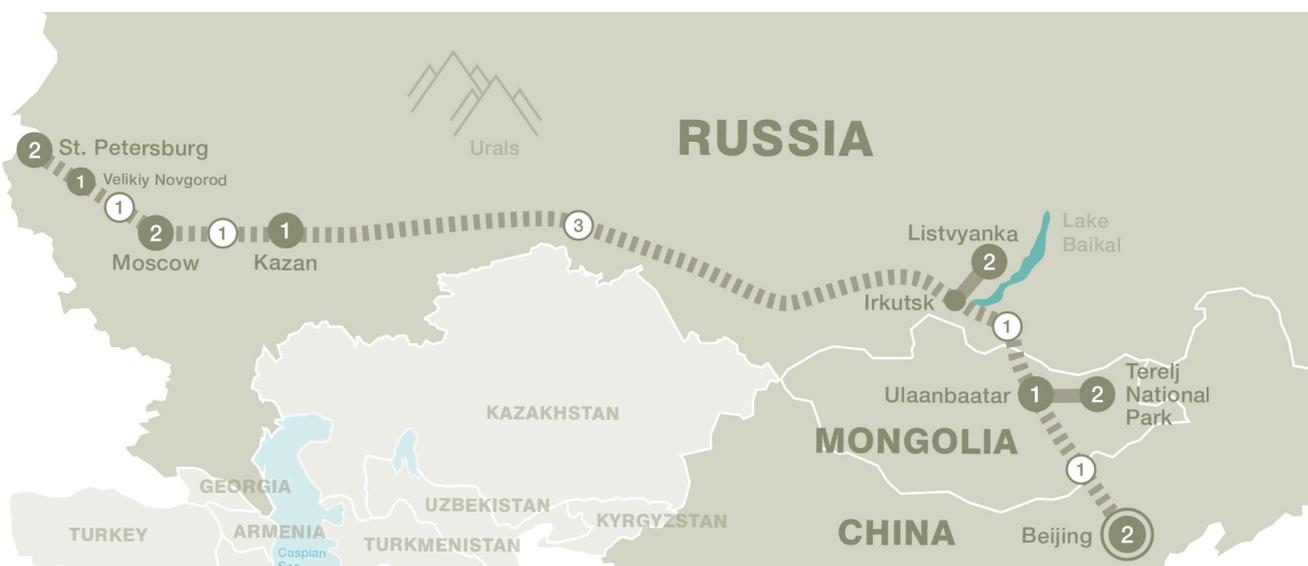




Trans Mongolian Discovery

Days	Westbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
21	Beijing to St. Petersburg	China + Mongolia + Russia	8,514km	●●●○○



Begin by walking the Great Wall of China. Then ride the rails north, far across the vast expanses of the Gobi Desert. Still farther on, we find a city where Islamic and Orthodox architecture stands side by side. In the distance, we discover Russia's two grandest cities.

"This is a trip of a lifetime that started off in Beijing enjoying the energy of the city & its people and climbing the Great Wall. The vastness of Mongolia & the Ger experience provided an understanding of the culture of the nomadic people. Russia is a magnificent country of culture and charm of its people broadens your horizons. What a stunning adventure. Made even better by our Tour Leader. We can do this all over again." Warwick & Bernadette, Sydney, Australia

Itinerary

Day 1: Beijing

Follow smoky, spicy aromas off Beijing's neon strips and get acquainted with the capital through its food and the people who gather to cook and eat it. After tasting contemporary culture, perhaps people watch in Tiananmen Square or slip back in time with a visit to the ancient Forbidden City.

Join your Tour Leader and fellow travellers this evening as final preparations are made for your departure. Please meet your Tour Leader at 5:00pm for your Welcome Meeting as detailed on your Joining Instructions.

Day 2: Beijing

Beyond the city we take an unforgettable walk on the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu.

Sightseeing - Excursion to the Great Wall at Mutianyu Optional activity: Evening cultural performance.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 3: Trans Mongolian Railway

Board an early morning train departing on the Trans Mongolian Railway and observe 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.

Meals - Boxed breakfast

Day 4: Ulaanbaatar

The scenery as we approach Ulaanbaatar is impressive. The train winds around tight bends to provide excellent photo opportunities. Finally the capital appears, set amid endless grassy steppes.

Sightseeing - National History Museum and Sukhbaatar Square

Day 5: Ulaanbaatar and to Terelj National Park

After breakfast, we visit the Zaisan Memorial from which the entire city is visible, as well as the country's largest remaining monastery, Gaandan Khiid, where you can mingle with Buddhist monks.

Later in the day 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 two night stay in a ger – the traditional home of the Mongolian people.

Sightseeing - Gaandan Khiid Monastery and Zaisan Memorial

Meals - Breakfast & dinner

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 6: Terelj National Park

This morning we awake in a Mongolian nomad ger (felt tent), amongst spectacular rock formations and wild rolling hills. Living among nomadic families and their grazing livestock we can explore nearby valleys or just relax and enjoy the area.

Sightseeing - Excursion to Aryabal Monastery, Turtle Rock and visit a local nomadic family

Meals - Breakfast & dinner

Day 7: Ulaanbaatar and across Mongolia

We return to Ulaanbaatar and this afternoon we board our overnight train to Siberia.

Sightseeing - Chinggis Khaan Statue

Meals - Breakfast

Day 8: Arrive Irkutsk and to Lake Baikal

You find Irkutsk after your train trip north. It's a charming city with a history dating from the fur and tea trading days when it began as an isolated Cossack outpost. Aristocratic exiles from the west brought a touch of elegance with their ornately decorated wooden houses, while Asian traders from Mongolia and China introduced a touch of the Orient.

Your train rolls into Irkutsk station late afternoon. From here you will drive to the nearby lakeside village of Listvyanka, where you will spend the next two nights. This is a perfect spot to pause and relax.

Meals - Dinner

Day 9: Lake Baikal

Today we will enjoy our time in Listvyanka on the shores of the world's deepest freshwater lake, Baikal. Here we have time to explore the village with its traditional houses, Limnological Museum and spectacular landscapes.

Sightseeing - Limnological Museum

Meals - Breakfast

Day 10: Irkutsk and aboard the Trans Siberian Railway

Upon our return from Lake Baikal we will embark on a walking tour where you will discover the city's wonderful historic sights – 18th century churches, bright painted shutters and log houses decorated with intricate wooden lacework.

Late this evening we join the Trans Siberian Railway! We head west pausing briefly at stations - Novosibirsk, Omsk and Yekaterinburg among them – riding the rails of the world-famous Trans Siberian Railway en route for Kazan.

Sightseeing - Walking City Tour including Local History Museum

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 11: Trans Siberian Railway

Life on board is a destination in itself! Mingle, learn some new phrases, or practice those you have learned on the locals over the mandatory vodka.

Day 12: Trans Siberian Railway

When your train pulls into the many stations along the way hop off and sample the fresh local snacks from the Babushkas selling their homemade goodies and fresh produce from the platform.

Day 13: Welcome to Kazan

This afternoon we arrive in one of Russia's most progressive cities – the capital of the Tatarstan Republic within Russia, where orthodox and Islamic cultures meet.

Day 14: Kazan and on to Moscow

Built on the intersection of two rivers, Kazan has endured a tumultuous history. In 1553 Ivan the Terrible took it from the Golden Horde and the city underwent a process of Russification. Today Tatars, the descendants of the Golden Horde, make up about 43% of the population, maintain their own language as well as culture, and are very proud of their history.

Today you can soak in the history and culture of this wonderful city on a full day tour with a local guide including a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Kazan Kremlin before we board our overnight train to Moscow.

Sightseeing - City Tour including the Kazan Kremlin

Meals - Breakfast

Day 15: Hello Moscow!

Welcome to Moscow! This city will amaze you, its palaces and public buildings restored to their former glory. The echoing vastness of Red Square, the splendid twirled cupolas of St. Basil's across the cobblestones.

Sightseeing - City Tour including Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral. Optional activity: Cultural evening performance

Day 16: Moscow

Today we can explore the Kremlin itself, where we go behind its walls to visit the Armoury Chamber with its vast array of treasures.

Sightseeing - Kremlin excursion including the Armoury Chambers, City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 17: Moscow and to Velikiy Novgorod

Enjoy the day in Moscow exploring the city. Head underground to see the palatial, chandelier-draped metro, people watch on Arbat Street or wander the recently opened Zaryadye Park and take in the breathtaking views of the Kremlin. Returning to the station late in the evening, we board our train to Velikiy Novgorod.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

Day 18: Velikiy Novgorod

Welcome to Veliky Novgorod, one of Russia's most important historical cities. Novgorod lies along the Volkhov River which once featured as the main waterway for medieval trade between the Varangians and the Greeks.

As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city boasts a number of great sights to visit and unique architecture. Visit the stone Cathedral of St. Sophia which was built by Vladimir of Novgorod in the 11th century and view its impressive 5 domes at 38 metres high. See Russia's oldest palace, bell tower and clock tower which are located within the Novgorod Kremlin. The entire city acts as a museum, offering plenty of opportunity to delve into Russia's history.

Sightseeing - Kremlin Complex including St Sophia Cathedral & Museum of Wooden Architecture Vitoslavitsy

Day 19: Welcome to St. Petersburg!

This morning we depart on the final leg of our epic journey to St Petersburg.

It is the city on the water, the 'Venice of the North', standing resplendent on the delta of the Neva River. Our city tour will reveal the city's other great secrets including St. Isaac's Cathedral and the enormous Palace Square.

Sightseeing - Half Day Tour including Peter and Paul Cathedral Day, City Exploring and free time.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 20: St. Petersburg

Further explore this luxurious city with richly filled palaces and museums, wide boulevards and Venice-like canals, and the greatest art collection of all, at the Hermitage.

Sightseeing - City Tour including Hermitage Museum and Palace Square, City Exploring and free time. Optional Activity: Cultural evening performance

Meals - Breakfast

Day 21: St. Petersburg

Our adventure has drawn to a close. Say farewell to your travelling companions and tour leader before departing your hotel this morning.

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Journey Summary

Day 1	Beijing - journey begins	
Day 2	Beijing	
Day 3	Depart to Ulaanbaatar	Early morning departure
Day 4	Arrive Ulaanbaatar	Afternoon arrival
Day 5	Ulaanbaatar and to Terelj National Park	
Day 6	Terelj National Park	
Day 7	Return to Ulaanbaatar and depart to Irkutsk	Afternoon departure
Day 8	Arrive Irkutsk and to Lake Baikal	Afternoon arrival
Day 9	Lake Baikal	
Day 10	Return to Irkutsk and depart to Kazan	Late evening departure
Day 11	Onboard train	
Day 12	Onboard train	
Day 13	Arrive Kazan	Afternoon arrival
Day 14	Kazan and depart to Moscow	Evening departure
Day 15	Arrive Moscow	Morning arrival
Day 16	Moscow	
Day 17	Moscow and depart to Velikiy Novgorod	Late evening departure
Day 18	Velikiy Novgorod	Morning arrival
Day 19	To St Petersburg	Morning train
Day 20	St Petersburg	
Day 21	St Petersburg - journey concludes	

Itinerary (cont.)

Alternate itinerary: 30 March, 11 May, 09 November 2020

Please note that departures on these 3 dates will run with 1 night less in Mongolia (ger stay) and 1 additional night in Kazan (hotel stay).

What's included



Group size

15 maximum



Meals

13 breakfasts
2 dinners



Transfers

All transfers including to and from the airport.



Accommodation

10 hotel (twin share)
2 Siberian guesthouse (twin share)
2 Mongolian ger (shared)
7 train (shared 4-berth)

Optional single supplement available for hotel stays

– prices available on request.



Sightseeing

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.

Contact Us

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