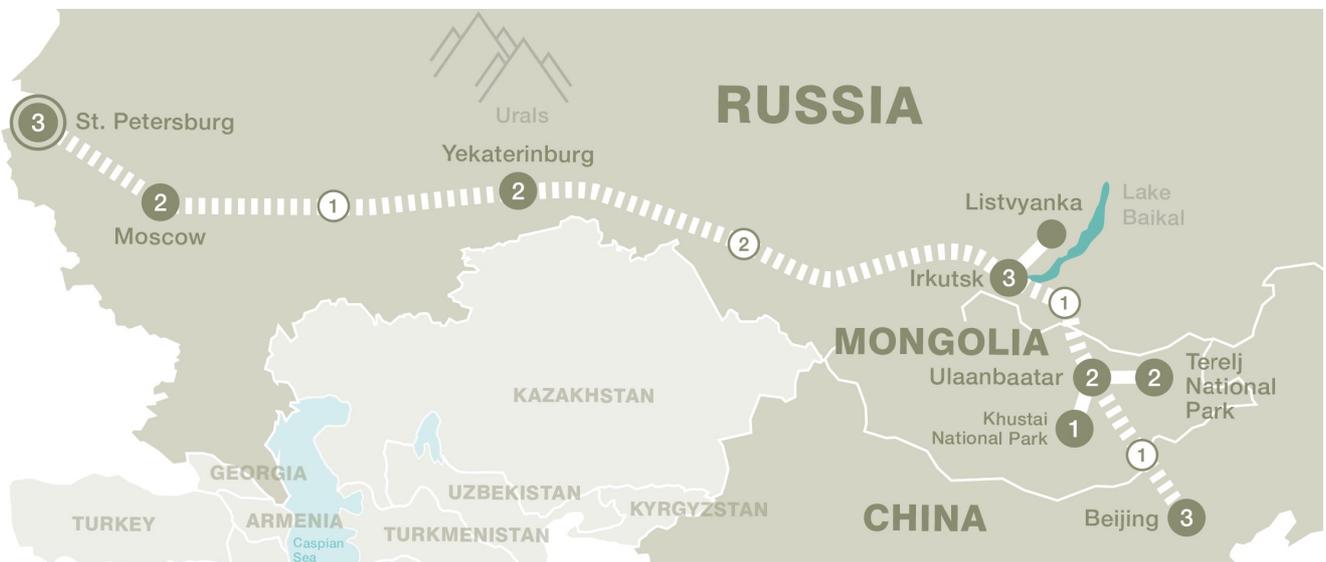




# Jewels of the Trans Mongolian - Independent

Days	Eastbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
29	St. Petersburg to Hong Kong	Russia + Mongolia + China	12,054 km	●●●○○



Ride the rails of the Trans Mongolian railway from St. Petersburg on the Baltic Sea, to Hong Kong on the South China Sea. On the way visit grand imperial cities that shaped history as well as vast expanses of nature that have untouched by modernity.

# Itinerary

---

## Days 1-3: St. Petersburg

Begin your epic journey in St. Petersburg with its reminders of the halcyon days of the tsars. 'The united magnificence of all the cities of Europe are but its equal.' – so said Voltaire. St. Petersburg is indeed a unique treasure house of 18th century architecture and the city that best displays the Russian genius for museums.

Visit The Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Isaac's Cathedral and the unequalled collections of the Hermitage.

Beyond the city, you can marvel at the fabulous summer palaces of the Tsars at Catherine Place and Petrodvorets (Peterhof).

Suggested sightseeing - Peter & Paul Fortress, St. Isaacs Cathedral, the Hermitage Museum, excursion to Peterhof.

Meals - Day 2-Breakfast, Day 3-Breakfast

## Days 4-5: St. Petersburg and onto Moscow

Your final morning in St. Petersburg is spent exploring at your leisure. Later in the day, you board your first train bound for Moscow arriving into the capital in the evening.

During your stay in Moscow you will have ample time to explore the wonderfully diverse monuments and spectacles on offer, above and below the ground; from the echoing vastness of Red Square, to the twirled cupolas of St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin itself – the fabled palace - fort of gilded domes, where you can go beyond the dominating brick walls to inspect the Armoury Chamber and marvel the exquisite collection of royal treasures held within its walls, which includes a collection of over fifty Faberge eggs.

Suggested sightseeing - Novodevichy Convent, Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral, Kremlin & Armoury Chamber, Zaryadye Park, Cosmonautics Museum, Kolomenskoye Estate.

Meals - Day 4-Breakfast

## Day 6: Moscow and to Yekaterinburg

Beneath the city lies the palatial metro rail system draped in chandeliers, mosaics and baroque bas-reliefs. Explore the exciting streets of Tverskaya Ulitsa (street) or Arbat Street, famous for its cafes and souvenirs and revisit some of the cities iconic sites before you embark on your journey towards Asia aboard your overnight train.

Sharing the journey with Russian travellers is half the fun! You'll appreciate this remarkable century-old feat of engineering as the train clatters over countless steel bridges straddling vast rivers, and crosses the Ural Mountains that divide Europe and Asia, and onto Yekaterinburg.

Suggested sightseeing - Moscow Metro, Arbat Street

## Days 7-8: Yekaterinburg - Welcome to Asia!

Yekaterinburg, a city founded by Peter the Great in 1723, is situated just 40 kilometers inside of Asia. Infamous as the site of the brutal murders of the Romanovs. Here you will embark on a city tour where we will take in the history and intrigue surrounding the murder of the Romanov family, a significant event that changed Russia forever and ushered in the Communist era in 1918. This city has a much brighter side to its tragic history. Today Yekaterinburg is rich in architectural monuments, museums and theatres and on our final day you are free to explore all that is on offer before we board our train that will carry us into Siberia.

Suggested sightseeing - Red Line Walking Tour, Romanov's Church & memorial and Asia/Europe border.

Meals - Day 8-Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

---

### Days 9-10 : Aboard the Trans Siberian Railway and Trans Siberian Railway

Watch the endless silvers and greens of Siberia's Taiga forest flicker past your window as you traverse the Great Eurasian Plateau, crossing the mighty Ob River at Novosibirsk and continuing towards the very heartland of Siberia, Irkutsk.

Meals - Day 9 - Breakfast

### Days 11-13. Irkutsk and Lake Baikal

Evening arrival into Irkutsk. Founded over 350 years ago it prospered as a market town on the 'Tea Route' between China and Europe. The city today is proud of its place in Russian history, and is always a highlight of any Trans Mongolian rail journey.

The next day you are off for the day to the lakeside village of Listvyanka on the shores of Lake Baikal. You will marvel at the vastness of this inland 'sea'. Over 600 kilometres in length and up to 80 kilometres in width, Baikal contains one-fifth of the earth's fresh water and is home to many unique species. Here you have the opportunity to visit the Limnological Museum where you can gain an insight into the traditional lives of Siberian people and the lakes inhabitants, enjoy a picnic by the lake, walk along the shore and for the adventurous – a swim!

Back in Irkutsk, old buildings and timeworn mansions that were once the home of the revolutionary Decembrists, lend a beauty to this remote but flourishing city, sometimes called "The Paris of Siberia".

Founded over 350 years ago it prospered as a market town on the 'Tea Route' between China and Europe. The city today is proud of its place in Russian history, and is always a highlight of any Trans Mongolian rail journey. Visit the central market, cathedrals and many of the old buildings embellished with intricate wooden lacework, and learn the history of the Decembrists and their exile to Irkutsk in the 1860's.

Suggested sightseeing - Limnological Museum, Museum of Wooden Architecture, hike along the lake, Irkutsk Local History Museum, Decembrist Museum, Green Line Walking Tour.

Meals - Day 12-Breakfast, Day 13-Breakfast

### Day 14: Aboard the Trans Mongolian Railway

Leaving Siberia settle into life on board, enjoying the company of fellow passengers as you make your way south towards Ulaanbaatar.

Meals - Day 14 - Breakfast

### Day 15: Welcome to Mongolia!

You awake to the stunning visual of the south Gobi, the horse and ger dotted steppe seems to stretch forever, the occasional nomad encampment appears mirage-like through the carriage window. Early this morning you will arrive into Ulaanbaatar, the modern capital of Mongolia allowing ample time to explore the city and take in the sights. Perhaps take in the wonderful panoramic views from the Zaisan Memorial, see the treasures in the Winter Palace of Bogd Khan or visit the National History Museum. Make some time to see a cultural performance where you will hear the unique Mongolian throat singing – quite a spectacle to experience!

Suggested sightseeing - National History Museum, Sukhbaatar Square, Cultural performance, Zaisan Memorial, Bogd Khan Winter Palace.

## Itinerary (cont.)

---

### Day 16: To Khustai National Park

The Mongolia of Genghis Khan lies beyond the city, the land of the nomad. We travel out across the endless green steppe to Khustai National Park – home to the last breed of wild horses, the Przewalski horse or Takhi in Mongolian.

Suggested sightseeing - Gandan Khiid, Zaisan Memorial, Khustai National Park.

Meals - Dinner

### Days 17-18: To Terelj National Park

Today you continue your journey to the countryside retreat of Terelj National Park for a two night stay in a ger – the traditional home of the Mongolian people set amid stunning mountainous scenery.

Here you can explore nearby valleys taking in a local monastery and Turtle Rock or just relax and enjoy the area. Wake to a morning on the Mongolian steppe where the lives of the Mongolian people have changed little in 500 years. Among nomadic families and their grazing livestock, you have the opportunity to try horse riding within the rolling hills of the National Park.

Suggested sightseeing - Turtle Rock and excursion to meet a local Nomadic family.

Meals - Day 17 - Breakfast & Dinner. Day 18 - Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 19: Return to Ulaanbaatar

This morning we return to the world's most remote capital – Ulaanbaatar where we will enjoy our final day in Mongolia soaking up this fascinating culture and dynamic city.

Suggested sightseeing - Genghis Khan Statue

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 20: Across the Gobi to Beijing

Feeling refreshed we reboard the train and travel over the steppe-lands of Mongolia, south across the fringes of the Gobi Desert towards the Chinese frontier, at the border town of Erlian change train bogies and glide on into China!

### Days 21-23: Beijing

Arrive into China's capital around midday, a thriving city which is the country's political, economic and cultural centre. Visit Beijing's many wonderful sights – the magnificent Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and Mao's Mausoleum. Set in beautiful parklands discover the fascinating history and significance of the serene Temple of Heaven and wander Beijing's traditional Hutong neighbourhoods that date back to the Yuan Dynasty.

Be sure to make time to visit one of China's most popular destinations, the Great Wall of China. Built to defend the civilised world from the fierce and capable Mongol horsemen, the Wall stretches 10,000 Li across China's mountainous northern frontier.

Suggested sightseeing - Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven, The Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Summer Palace, Wangfujing Snack Street and Hutong Tour.

Meals - Day 22 - Breakfast Day 23 - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

---

### Day 24: To Xian

After a final morning of exploring Beijing, you return to the railway station to begin your journey to the remarkable Silk Road city of Xian arriving in later the same evening.

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 25: Xian

The city still captures the romance of its rich imperial past and the glories of the Silk Road. Beyond the city the highlight of our stay is the entombed Terracotta Warriors – over 6,000 life-sized figures. Spend a day exploring the old city walls, the Bell and Drum towers and the Little Goose Pagoda before continuing your journey further south.

Suggested sightseeing - Terracotta Warriors Excursion, Little Goose Pagoda, City Walls and the Silk Road Monument.

Meals - Day 25-Breakfast

### Days 26-27: To Guangzhou

It is time to continue your journey as you make your way through the ever-changing landscapes of southern China to the bright lights and big city of Guangzhou.

Founded in 214BC China's third largest city boasts a long, colourful history spanning legends and Silk Road trade. A mesmerising concoction of glitz and flashing lights, between pockets of an old city that retains its character from yesteryear. Today, Guangzhou is renowned as one of China's top food destinations.

Suggested sightseeing - Chen's Temple, Foodie Walking Tour, Canton Tower, Redtory, Baiyun Mountain, Night Pearl River Cruise, Yuexiu Park, Qing Ping Medicine Market.

Meals - Day 26 – Breakfast, Day 27 - Breakfast

### Day 28-29: Depart to Hong Kong

This morning we board our final train with over 12,000 kilometres behind us along one of the world's greatest rail journeys, you travel to Hong Kong where you spend the night before your epic Trans Siberian Railway journey concludes.

Suggested sightseeing - City Tour, Victoria Peak, Temple Street Night Market, Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade, Harbour Cruise including Symphony of Lights, Tai O Fishing Village, Lantau Island.

## What's included

---



### Group size

Entirely up to you!



### Meals

24 breakfasts

7 lunches

12 dinners



### Transfers

All arrival transfers



### Accommodation

18 hotel (twin share)

3 Mongolian ger (twin share)

2 Siberian guesthouse (twin share)

5 train nights (shared 2-berth)

*Optional single supplement is available for hotel stays - prices available on request.*



### Sightseeing

Organise your sightseeing locally or with us in advance.



### Expertise

Our Travel Advisors can help you create the perfect independent journey. If you choose to travel at a Classic service level, City Ambassadors are included at certain cities to enhance your experience with local knowledge.

---

## Contact Us

---

### Client enquiries and reservations

Australia: 1300 559 860

New Zealand: 0800 770 156

UK: 0208 877 7657

Europe: +44 208 877 7657

Worldwide: +61 3 9672 5386

travel@sundownersoverland.com

### Travel agent enquiries and reservations

Australia: 1300 559 860

New Zealand: 0800 770 156

UK: 0208 877 7657

Europe: +44 208 877 7657

Worldwide: +61 3 9672 5386

agentsales@sundownersoverland.com

### Client enquiries and reservations

Level 1, 51 Queen Street,  
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

Australia

T: +61 3 9672 5300

www.sundownersoverland.com