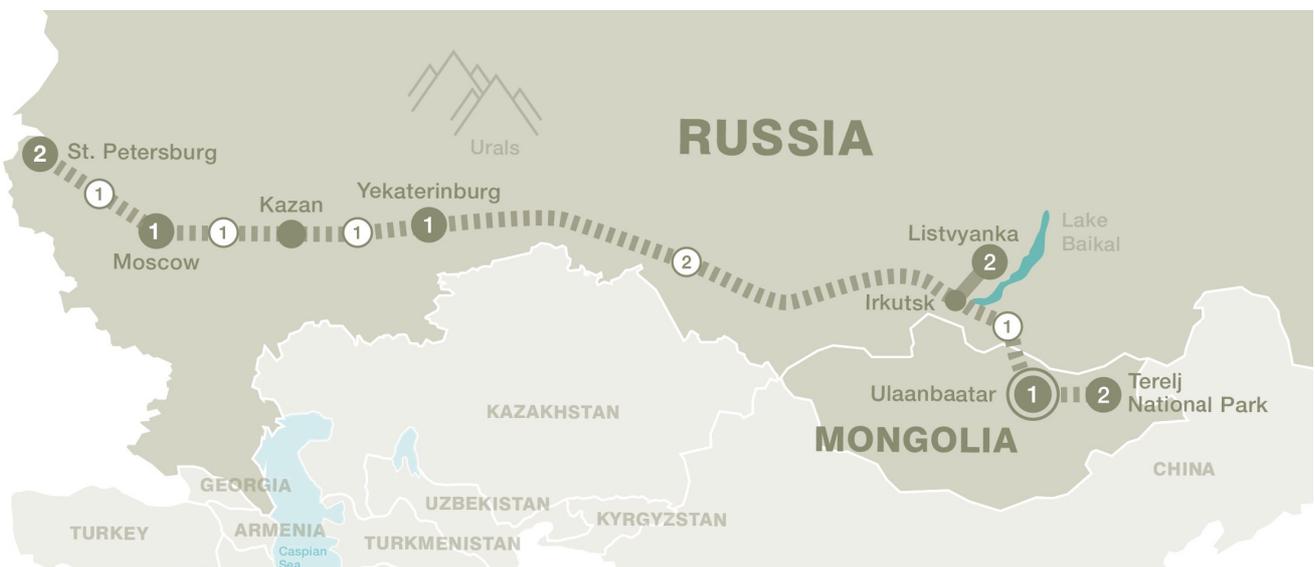




Tsars and Tsarinas

| Days | Westbound | Countries | Distance | Activity level |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| 16 | Ulaanbaatar to St. Petersburg | Mongolia + Russia | 7,098 km | ●●○○○ |



Wind your way from the endless rolling steppe of Mongolia into Russia – first stop Siberia's Lake Baikal, then on to Yekaterinburg, where Tsarist Russia came to a tragic end. We conclude our journey in the royal, city of St. Petersburg, home of the Tsars and Tsarinas.

Itinerary

Day 1: Ulaanbaatar

We begin our adventure in Ulaanbaatar and join your Tour Leader and fellow travellers at 5:00pm for your Welcome Meeting.

Explore the capital Ulaanbaatar and take some time to visit the Zaisan Memorial to admire the panoramic views or gain an insight into countries past at the National History Museum.

Day 2: Terelj National Park and ger camp

After mingling with monks at one of the country's largest and most significant monasteries, Gandan Khiid, we travel out across the grasslands to Terelj National Park. Here, we spend the night in a Mongolian ger - a traditional felt and wood frame house used by nomadic herdsman for centuries.

Sightseeing - Gandan Khiid Monastery

Meals - Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3: Terelj National Park and ger camp

We awake in our cozy gers, set amongst spectacular rock formations and wild rolling hills. Alongside nomadic families and their grazing livestock we can explore nearby valleys or just relax and enjoy the area.

Sightseeing - Turtle Rock, Meditation Centre and visit a nomadic family

Meals - Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4: Return to Ulaanbaatar and Trans Mongolian Railway

Return to Ulaanbaatar to meet your onward train and begin your journey into Russia.

Leaving Mongolia at Sukhbaatar and continuing beyond the Russian border town of Ulan Ude, you will soon find yourself skirting along the shores of breathtaking Lake Baikal before following the well-worn ancient tea and trade route onto Irkutsk

Sightseeing - Genghis Khan Statue

Meals - Breakfast

Days 5: Lake Baikal

An afternoon arrival into Irkutsk and we transfer to Lake Baikal where we will spend the next two nights and relax in the lakeside guesthouse taking in the local port and picturesque Siberian village of Listvyanka.

Day 6: Lake Baikal

Today we have time to explore the village with its traditional houses, and spectacular landscapes.

Sightseeing - Baikal Museum

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 7: Return to Irkutsk and depart on Trans Siberian

Late afternoon we bid farewell to Siberia as we board the Trans Siberian Railway to Yekaterinburg. There's plenty of time to enjoy the company of Russian travellers on board, as we head towards Europe, crossing the great Ob River at Novosibirsk, passing through Omsk and towards Yekaterinburg.

Sightseeing - Irkutsk Walking City Tour, City Exploring

Meals - Breakfast

Day 8: Aboard the 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 9: Arrive Yekaterinburg

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.

This evening we arrive into Yekaterinburg.

Day 10: Yekaterinburg and depart to Kazan

Yekaterinburg, the city founded by Peter the Great in 1723, is situated outside Siberia and some 40 kilometres on the Asian side of the Ural Mountains. By the 20th century Yekaterinburg became one of Russia's largest and most important financial, industrial and cultural centres.

The city is infamous as the brutal murder site of the Romanov family, which brought tsarist rule to an end, and ushered in the Communist era in 1918

We re-board the train this evening, continuing westward.

Sightseeing - Yekaterinburg city tour

Meals - Breakfast

Day 11: Kazan and depart to Moscow

Today we disembark in Kazan, the picturesque and historic city that is the capital of Tatarstan. The afternoon is yours to get to know this quirky city. You might take a stroll down Baumann street, also known as Kazansky Arbat.

Later this evening an overnight train will whisk you off to Russia's capital – Moscow.

Sightseeing - Kazan city tour including Kremlin

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 12: Arrive 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.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 13: Moscow and to St. Petersburg

You'll soon see that Moscow has shed its Soviet veil to become a vibrant and dynamic city. The Christ the Saviour Cathedral, built after the collapse of the Soviet Union, now dominates Moscow's skyline and is sure to take your breath away. Beneath the city lies the palatial metro rail system draped in chandeliers, mosaics and baroque bas-reliefs. Nearby, you'll find the cobblestone streets and discover Red Square surrounded by the State History Museum, as well as the iconic swirled cupolas of St. Basil's Cathedral, now a museum.

This evening we board our final train to the imperial city of St. Petersburg – home of Tsar's and Tsarina's.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and Free time

Meals - Breakfast

Day 14: Welcome to St. Petersburg!

St. Petersburg with its beautiful canals, manicured parks, and graceful 18th century architecture is a fitting city to end our Tsars and Tsarinas adventure. On our city tour we discover the world's largest collection of paintings housed within the gilded halls of the Hermitage Museum, where works by Botticelli and Rembrandt to Van Gogh to Picasso are hung.

Sightseeing - City exploring

Meals - Breakfast

Day 15: St. Petersburg

It is the city on the water, the 'Venice of the North', standing resplendent on the delta of the Neva River.

Use your free time to reveal the city's other great secrets.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and Free time

Meals - Breakfast

Day 16: St. Petersburg

The time has come to farewell your new friends as our epic journey across this vast continent comes to an end.

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Journey Summary

| | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Day 1 | Ulaanbaatar - journey begins | |
| Day 2 | To Terelj National Park | |
| Day 3 | Terelj National Park | |
| Day 4 | Return to Ulaanbaatar and depart to Irkutsk | Afternoon departure |
| Day 5 | Arrive Irkutsk and to Listvyanka | Afternoon arrival |
| Day 6 | Listvyanka - Lake Baikal | |
| Day 7 | Return to Irkutsk and depart to Yekaterinburg | Late afternoon departure |
| Day 8 | Onboard train | |
| Day 9 | Arrive Yekaterinburg | Late evening arrival |
| Day 10 | Yekaterinburg and to depart to Kazan | Late evening departure |
| Day 11 | Arrive Kazan and depart to Moscow | Midday arrival and evening departure |
| Day 12 | Arrive Moscow | Morning arrival |
| Day 13 | Moscow and depart to St Petersburg | Late evening departure |
| Day 14 | Arrive St Petersburg | Morning arrival |
| Day 15 | St Petersburg | |
| Day 16 | St Petersburg - journey concludes | |

What's included



Group size

15 maximum



Meals

9 breakfasts
2 dinners



Transfers

All transfers once on tour (excludes airport).



Accommodation

5 hotel (twin share)
2 Mongolian ger (shared)
2 Siberian guesthouse (twin share)
6 train nights (shared 4-berth)



Sightseeing

Visit the iconic sights with your Tour Leader, and enjoy plenty of free time to explore independently.



Expertise

An experienced Tour Leader accompanies the whole journey to keep your adventure on track. 24/7 support is available in the office and on the ground.

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

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