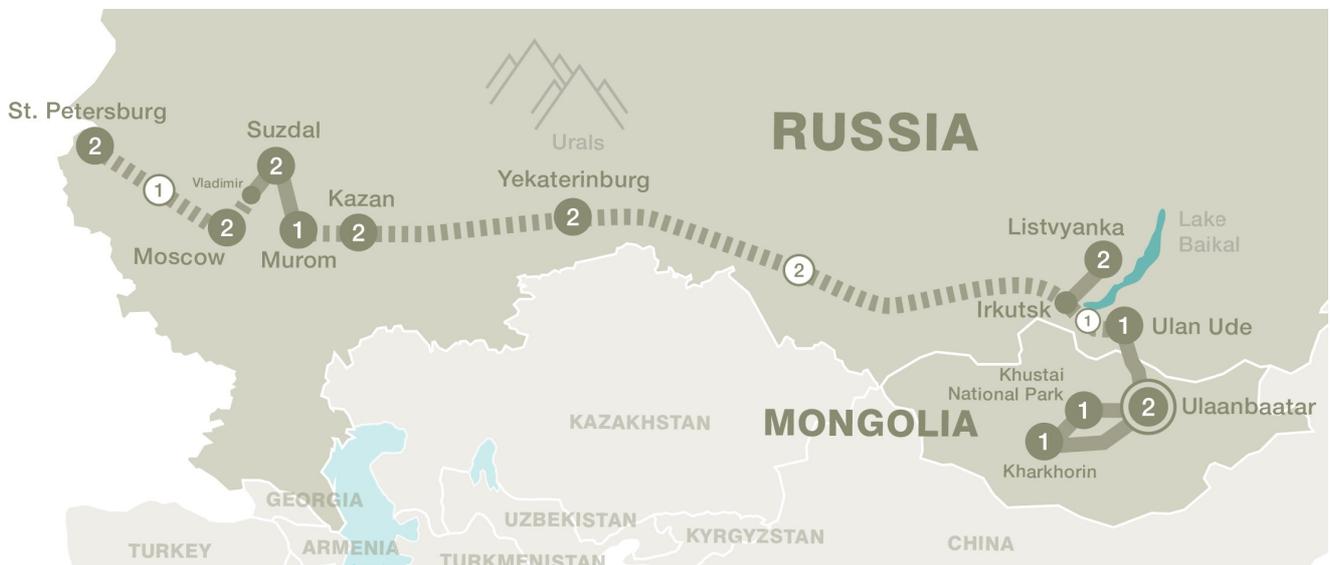




# Trans Mongolian Explorer - Departing Ulaanbaatar

Days	Westbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
23	Ulaanbaatar to St. Petersburg	Mongolia + Russia	7,509 km	●●●●○



Enjoy fascinating interludes in Mongolia, Siberia, and Russia's Golden Ring on this exciting overland journey using iconic rail services between Ulaanbaatar, Moscow and St. Petersburg.

# Itinerary

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## Day 1: Welcome to Mongolia!

This quirky city is a clash of the old and new, where modern life comfortably co-exists with traditional culture. A night in Ulaanbaatar will allow you to sample some of the country's most intriguing cuisine and perhaps take in a performance showcasing the traditional Horse and Hair Fiddle.

Join your Tour Leader and fellow travellers at 5:00pm for your Welcome Meeting as detailed on your Joining Instructions.

Sightseeing - No scheduled sightseeing, optional activity: evening performance

## Day 2: To Kharkhorin

We spend the next two nights beyond the city amongst what was once the homeland of the brilliant, tough, well-drilled horsemen who, for over 500 years in the 13th century, plundered and occupied lands from the Yellow River to the Danube. Here you can enjoy aspects of Mongolian nomadic life whilst staying at our ger camp.

Venture out into the countryside to visit the ancient capital of Kharkhorin. Here you will find the Erdene Zuu Monastery, built in 1586, this was the first Buddhist centre in Mongolia and today is still considered by many to be the country's most significant. Over 100 temples were constructed, but most were destroyed during the Soviet era, nevertheless, Erdene Zuu retains much of its former glory and is a remarkable sight to visit.



Sightseeing - Bogd Khan Winter Palace, Kharkhorin and Erdene Zuu

Meals - Breakfast & Dinner

## Day 3: Khustai National Park

Continue across the wild desolate countryside to Khustai National Park, to see the last remaining breed of wild horse and overnight in a ger camp.

Sightseeing - Khustai National Park

Meals - Breakfast & Dinner

## Day 4: Return to Ulaanbaatar

This morning we catch a glimpse of day to day life in traditional Mongolian culture with a demonstration at our ger camp. Then, returning to Ulaanbaatar, there is time to see more of the capital on our City Tour, including the fascinating National History Museum, before we spend our final evening in this quirky city.

Sightseeing - Cultural Demonstration, City Tour including National History Museum & Sukhbaatar Square

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 5: Ulan Ude

This morning we travel by road into the Buryatia region. Reminiscent of old Siberia, Ulan Ude is a melting pot of Buddhism, native Siberian and European culture, located in the middle of the vast Siberian steppe.

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 6: Ulan Ude and to Irkutsk

Today during our city tour, we will have the privilege of observing monks going about their daily lives at Ivolginsky Datsan, a centre of Buddhism in Russia. This evening we join the Trans Siberian Railway and continue deeper into Siberia towards Irkutsk.

Sightseeing - City Tour including Ivolginsk Monastery, City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 7: Arrive Irkutsk and Lake Baikal

Arriving into Irkutsk early this morning we continue our journey out to Lake Baikal, reputedly the world's deepest lake, where you will be amazed by its vastness – being over 600kms long and almost 80kms wide. A stay at the local holiday village of Listvyanka, is an ideal way to relax by the lakeshore and take in the local museums.

Sightseeing - Excursion to Limnological Museum and visit to church

Meals - Dinner

### Day 8: 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 - Village Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 9: Irkutsk and to Yekaterinburg

Irkutsk made its fame as a stopping place on the caravan route from China and for many years was a place of exile. We take in the sights on a walking tour before we bid farewell to Siberia and board the Trans Siberian Railway for Yekaterinburg.

Life on board is a great social occasion for our Russian hosts and we have the opportunity to share our experiences with them on our way to Yekaterinburg.

Sightseeing - Walking City Tour including Local History Museum, City Exploring and free time,

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 10: Irkutsk and to Yekaterinburg

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 11: Arrive Yekaterinburg

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 20<sup>th</sup> century Yekaterinburg became one of Russia's largest and most important financial, industrial and cultural centres.

### Days 12: Yekaterinburg

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 pay our respects at the church recently built on the site, and see the obelisk which marks the spot where Europe and Asia meet.

Sightseeing - Full Day City Tour including Romanov Church & Memorial and Europe/Asia Obelisk

Meals - Breakfast & lunch

### Day 13: To Kazan

This morning we travel beyond the Urals Mountains by train to the capital of Tatarstan - Kazan.

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.



Meals - Breakfast

### Day 14: To Kazan

During our stay, we 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.

Sightseeing - City Tour including the Kazan Kremlin

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 15: To Murom

After a morning to further wander the city, we make our way back to the station to meet our onward train to Murom the gateway to Russia's Golden Ring.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 16: Suzdal

Awake to the picturesque ancient city of Murom. Once home to two of Russia's most beloved saints, Prince Peter and his wife Fevronia, as well as the birthplace of Russia's most infamous hero, Ilya Muromets, on this morning's city tour we witness the impressive monuments dedicated to the Russian icons.

We continue to the tranquil, medieval town of Suzdal.

Sightseeing - Half Day Murom City Tour including Monument of Peter and Fevronia, Trinity Convent and Ilya Muromets monument

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 17: Suzdal

At the core of Suzdal is the town's Kremlin, its north and south gates crafted by a unique fire-gold technique, representing some of the best-preserved examples of ancient Russian architecture.

Sightseeing - City tour including Wooden Architecture museum, Kremlin, Monastery and local market

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 18: Suzdal and on to Moscow via Vladimir

Leaving Suzdal early this morning you transfer for a brief stop in Vladimir before continuing onto Russia's capital. Vladimir's heyday was during the 12th century under the reign of Prince Andrey Bogolubsky who strengthened its defences and welcomed architects, icon painters and jewellers. It was during this time the Golden Gates and the Assumption Cathedral were built to announce Vladimir's claim as the capital of medieval Rus. Today both these historic sites are UNESCO World Heritage Listed.

Sightseeing - Vladimir sightseeing including the Golden Gate and the Holy Assumption Cathedral.

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 19: Moscow

Our penultimate stop is Moscow; here you will have ample time to explore the echoing vastness of Red Square, the splendid twirled cupolas of St. Basil's across the cobblestones, and the Kremlin itself visiting the Armoury Chamber with its incredible collection of amazing pieces including over fifty Faberge eggs!

Sightseeing - Full Day Moscow City Tour including Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

### Day 20: Moscow and to St. Petersburg

Late evening on Day 24 we board our final train bound for the stunning 'Venice of the North', St. Petersburg.

Sightseeing - Half Day Tour including Kremlin and Armoury Chamber, City Exploring and free time, Optional activity: evening performance.

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 21: St. Petersburg

Welcome to a treasure trove of wonders for you to take in during the final days of your journey. A luxurious city with richly filled palaces and museums, wide boulevards and canals. The gilded halls of the Hermitage Museum, housed in the Winter Palace, are hung with the works of Da Vinci, Rembrandt and many of the other great masters, an incredible collection to witness and a fitting end to your great overland journey.

Sightseeing - Half Day City Tour including the Peter and Paul Fortress, City Exploring and free time,

Meals - No meals

### Day 22: 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 - Half Day Excursion to Hermitage Museum & Palace Square, City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 23: St. Petersburg – Journey Concludes

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

Meals - Breakfast

### Journey Summary

Day 1	Ulaanbaatar - journey begins	
Day 2	To Kharkorin and Erdene Zuu	
Day 3	To Khustai National Park	
Day 4	Return to Ulaanbaatar	
Day 5	Bus to Ulan Ude	Full day onboard bus
Day 6	Ulan Ude and depart to Irkutsk	Late evening departure

## Itinerary (cont.)

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Day 7	Arrive Irkutsk and transfer to Lake Baikal	
Day 8	Lake Baikal	
Day 9	Return to Irkutsk and depart to Yekaterinburg	Late afternoon departure
Day 10	Onboard train	
Day 11	Arrive Yekaterinburg	Late evening arrival
Day 12	Yekaterinburg	
Day 13	Depart to Kazan	All day onboard train
Day 14	Kazan	
Day 15	Kazan to Murom	Afternoon onboard train
Day 16	Transfer to Suzdal	
Day 17	Suzdal	
Day 18	To Moscow via Vladimir	Afternoon arrival
Day 19	Moscow	
Day 20	Moscow and depart to St Petersburg	Late evening departure
Day 21	Arrive St Petersburg	Morning arrival
Day 22	St Petersburg	
Day 23	St Petersburg - Tour concludes	

## What's included

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### Group size

15 maximum



### Meals

18 breakfasts  
1 lunch  
3 dinners



### Transfers

All transfers including  
to and from the airport.



### Accommodation

13 hotel (twin share)  
2 guesthouse (twin share)  
2 nights Mongolian ger (shared)  
5 train (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.

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## Contact Us

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### Client enquiries and reservations

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