

The Trans-Siberian Railway

Tsar's Gold Train: 16 Day Rail Journey from Moscow via Mongolia to Beijing

Moscow, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Lake Baikal, Ulan Bator, Beijing



Experience one of the last great travel adventures. Your journey along the Trans-Siberian Railway, one of the world's most fascinating and safest train routes, is even more interesting, comfortable, and entertaining with our privately chartered train. This grand private train journey from Moscow to Beijing via Lake Baikal and Mongolia is your chance to fulfil the dream of a lifetime.

Our trips are accompanied by an experienced multi-lingual tour director and a physician travelling on the train. A sophisticated on-board program complements a comprehensive excursion and sightseeing package to make your journey truly memorable. Take advantage of the extensive array of services offered by Europe's most experienced travel organiser on this route.

HIGHLIGHTS

- “City of Lights” evening tour through Moscow
- The Kremlin in Kazan
- Welcoming ceremony with bread and salt in Novosibirsk
- Siberian wooden houses in Irkutsk
- Panoramic train route directly alongside Lake Baikal
- Picnic on the shores of Lake Baikal (weather permitting)
- Mongolian horseback riding demonstration
- Beijing’s Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China
- Daily talks on the region’s culture and people
- Vodka tasting with traditional Russian snacks and red caviar

Day 1. Welcome to Moscow

You are greeted at the airport by your friendly tour director and accompanied to your hotel. Our “City of Lights” tour shows you around the exquisitely illuminated Russian capital. You notice that Moscow is clearly on a par with Europe’s other great metropolitan cities such as Madrid and Paris. You stroll across the famous Red Square with your travel director and take a short trip on the underground to view several of Moscow’s particularly beautiful metro stations.

Overnight: **InterContinental Tverskaya/ Radisson Royal Ukraina** (or similar). Meals included: dinner (D).

Day 2. Moscow from its most beautiful side

In the morning you take an informative tour of Moscow, including the imposing Kremlin grounds and its magnificent cathedral from tsarist times. Toward evening, you are greeted aboard your private train prior to departure. A relaxed get-together in the dining car offers the chance to meet your fellow travellers and learn more details about your private train.

Overnight on board. Meals included: breakfast (B), lunch (L), and dinner (D).

Day 3. Kazan

In the morning you arrive in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan. You take a tour of the Kazan Kremlin (UNESCO World Cultural Heritage) with its wonderful panoramic view over the Volga, where you learn about the turbulent history of the relationship between the Tatars, the Cossacks, and the Russians. Your train resumes its journey eastwards in the evening.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 4. Yekaterinburg

Your train stops around noon in Yekaterinburg, the historical capital of the Urals. The city is remembered as the place where the Russian tsar Nicholas II and his family were murdered in 1918. During a brief tour you see the Cathedral of the Saviour on the Spilled Blood, which was built in 2003 in commemoration of that tragic historic event, and the city centre so attractively restored in 2009. Back on board, you continue on your journey through the vast steppes of western Siberia.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 5. Novosibirsk

You arrive in Novosibirsk, the heart of Siberia, where you are welcomed in the traditional Russian fashion with bread and salt. During a short city tour, you experience the most Soviet of all cities during your journey. You see

the enormous Trans-Siberian Monument and the mighty Ob River.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 6. Trans-Siberia

Your train crosses the wide Yenisei River and rolls on through Siberia. The train's chefs once again demonstrate their skills as they serve the guests Russian specialties in a "tsar's feast". A vodka tasting accompanied by Russian snacks and clever toasts offers you a very enjoyable opportunity to combine pleasure and local hospitality. Your train passes by villages with their typical wooden houses and through birch forests set against a background of impressive mountainscapes and, hopefully, ample sunshine.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 7. Irkutsk

Today your train reaches Irkutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia in tsarist times. During your city tour you see, among other things, the picturesque Siberian wooden houses and a memorial to Tsar Alexander III (the initiator of the Trans-Siberian Railway), which was erected in 2003 where the Trans-Sib Obelisk previously stood. After lunch you take an excursion to an informative open-air museum with a focus on life and work in historical Siberia.

Overnight: Irkutsk (or similar). (BLD)

Day 8. Lake Baikal

Today you drive by bus to Listvyanka, a Siberian village on the shores of Lake Baikal, the largest reservoir of non-frozen freshwater in the world. From the village, a boat brings you across the lake's deep waters to Port Baikal, where your private train is waiting. You then travel for several hours directly alongside Lake Baikal, on the original route of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Your train halts for several hours at a particularly scenic spot, for you to truly enjoy the majestic calm of this unique natural wonder. Dinner is served as a picnic on the shores of Lake Baikal, weather permitting.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 9. From Lake Baikal to Ulan Ude and on to Mongolia

The journey continues along the banks of the seemingly endless Lake Baikal and then through the splendid Selenga Valley and the wild solitude of eastern Siberia's mountainous steppes. You take a tour of Ulan Ude during an intermediate stop there. Border formalities at the Russian-Mongolian border are an easy matter carried out on board.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 10. Ulan Bator

Today, early-risers are treated to central Mongolia's spectacular scenery, set in a mountain landscape dotted with colourful yurt camps and inhabited by solitary riders on horseback. In the morning you arrive in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia. As always, you can leave your large luggage safely in your compartment. During your city tour you see the impressive Gandan Buddhist Monastery and the odd Choijin Lama Temple, among other things. Afterwards, you have the unique chance to attend a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts including throat singing, horse-headed fiddle playing, national costumes, and dances (tickets are € 14/ \$ 15, to be paid on site).

Overnight: Ramada Hotel (or similar). (BLD)

On request, we can organise alternative lodging in a yurt in the beautiful landscape of the Mongolian Alps (supplement of € 35/ \$ 40, please let us know upon booking). This is a rare experience and a dream come true for nature lovers.

Day 11. Ulan Bator and the Mongolian Alps

After breakfast a bus brings you to Terelj National Park, east of Ulan Bator. Here you get to see the nomadic herdsman's exotic settlements of traditional tents, horse herds, and scraggly yaks, a type of wild Tibetan cattle. A small Mongolian horse-riding demonstration is put on especially for you and you enjoy a picnic lunch served in these splendid surroundings. In the evening you continue aboard your train towards China.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 12. Crossing the Gobi Desert

Around noon, you arrive at the Mongolian-Chinese border, where your chartered Chinese train is waiting. The Russian private train cannot continue towards Beijing because of the different track gauge in China. Your train reaches the Chinese capital in approximately 16 hours. The Chinese train does not include wagons in the Nostalgic Comfort or Bolshoi categories.

Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 13. Beijing

You arrive in the hustle and bustle of Beijing in the morning. After transferring to your hotel, the rest of the day is yours to do with as you please.

Overnight: Capital Hotel (or similar). (BL)

Day 14. Temple of Heaven and Tiananmen Square

A tour lasting several hours takes you to Beijing's most beautiful and important sights, including the photogenic Temple of Heaven with its park, the huge Tiananmen Square, and some of the city's contemporary architectural achievements, such as the new "Bird's Nest" Olympic stadium and several futuristic sky scrapers. In the afternoon, you are able to enter the Forbidden City, the former imperial palace, and view its numerous temples and halls.

Overnight: Capital Hotel (or similar). (BL)

Day 15. The Great Wall of China and Peking Duck

Your tour today takes you to the Great Wall, the eighth wonder of the world. The giant wall extends for more than 6000 km through the countryside. On the way you visit the Ming Tombs, the burial site of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors, with its impressive Spirit Way. In the evening you enjoy a farewell dinner of world-renowned Peking Duck.

Overnight: Capital Hotel (or similar). (BLD)

Day 16. Departure from Beijing for home

After breakfast, you transfer to the airport. (B)

***** Return home with wonderful memories *****

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| Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: From US\$ 11,130 pp Single supplement: From US\$ 7250 pp |
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Inclusions

- Journey with guaranteed lodging in the booked category aboard the exclusively chartered train to the Chinese border (Erlian). From Erlian to Beijing (ca. 16 hours) accommodation in a 2- or 4-bed compartment in a Chinese sleeping car. The Chinese train does not include wagons in the Nostalgic Comfort or Bolshoi categories.
- Travel for several hours along the Trans-Siberian Railway panoramic route directly on the shores of Lake Baikal, with photo-stops
- Tour director with pertinent knowledge of the travelled route throughout the journey
- Freedom of choice program: flexible excursions and sightseeing
- Competent tour guides for each group of no more than 26 guests throughout the tour
- Experienced local tour guides
- All transfers / bus trips according to itinerary
- All excursions and sightseeing according to itinerary, including all entry fees
- All meals according to itinerary
- Drinks (except premium beverages) during meal times on board the train for guests travelling in categories Bolshoi and Bolshoi Platinum
- Porter service at all railway stations
- Vodka tasting with traditional Russian snacks
- Concise informational talks on the Trans-Siberian Railway, regional geography, culture, and history of the countries along the route
- A physician on board the train (Moscow – Chinese border)
- Shower facilities on board
- Informational booklet on the region and private train for each compartment reserved
- 1 overnight in a first-class hotel in Moscow
- 1 overnight in Irkutsk in middle-class hotel
- 1 overnight in Ulan Bator in a good, centrally located middle-class hotel
- 3 overnights in a first-class hotel in Beijing

Not included:

- Visa fees & Insurance
 - Gratuities
 - International flights
 - Personal expenses
 - Optional evening performance in Ulan Bator (Day 10): tickets are € 14/ \$ 15 (to be paid on site)
 - Optional overnight in a yurt in the Mongolian Alps (Day 10): supplement of € 35 / \$ 40 (upon request, please let us know upon booking)
 - Services of an Odyssey Tour escort
 - 5% GST
 - Anything not mentioned under inclusions
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- ***We regret that due to the intricate logistics of this tour, itinerary changes are sometimes unavoidable.***
 - ***This journey is generally not for guests with limited mobility or who depend on CPAP machines. Please contact us for more information about your specific requirements before booking.***

MAP



Dates 2019

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 4-May-19 | 24-May-19 |
| 1-Jun-19 | 16-Jun-19 |
| 27-Jun-19 | 12-Jul-19 |
| 20-Jul-19 | 4-Aug-19 |
| 15-Aug-19 | 30-Aug-19 |
| 7-Sep-19 | 27-Sep-19 |

Dates 2020

| Departure | Arrival |
|-----------|-----------|
| 9-May-20 | 24-May-20 |
| 6-Jun-20 | 21-Jun-20 |
| 2-Jul-20 | 17-Jul-20 |
| 25-Jul-20 | 9-Aug-20 |
| 20-Aug-20 | 4-Sep-20 |
| 12-Sep-20 | 27-Sep-20 |

Payment Terms

- A non refundable deposit of 15% of the cost is payable on confirmation.
- The Balance is payable 60 days prior to departure

Cancellation Terms

- Up to 92 days prior to departure: 15% of total price
- Between 91 and 42 days prior to departure: 45% of total price
- Between 41 and 11 days prior to departure: 80% of total price
- 10 or fewer days prior to departure or no-show: 90% of total price

About the Train

Our expertise: More than 30,000 satisfied guests have travelled with us on over 750 successful tours. The know-how from more than 30 years of operating trains on the Trans-Siberian makes us Europe's most experienced tour operator on the legendary route.

Life on board: The Tsar's Gold private train is your comfortable home on an unforgettable journey. Our attentive staff provides professional service, mouth-watering meals and bar service are offered in the restaurant cars. There is even a doctor on call 24/7.

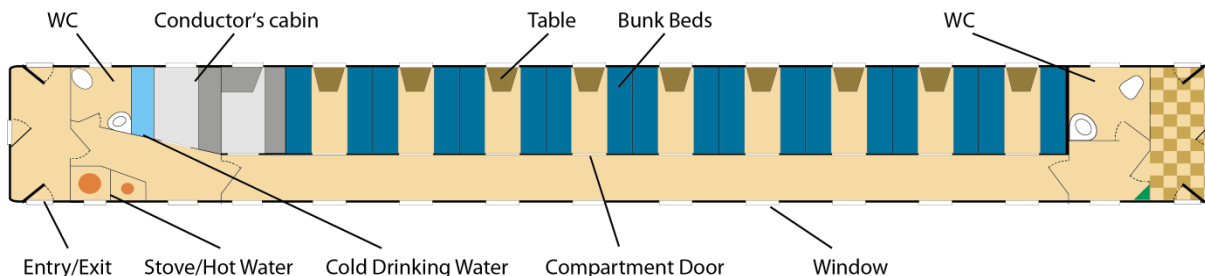
Infotainment: Our sophisticated onboard programme and the comprehensive sightseeing package provide profound insights into the countries and cities on your route. Enjoy entertaining lectures on board including a Vodka tasting session with traditional toasts and customs, a Russian tea ceremony and a short introduction to the Russian language and the Cyrillic alphabet.

Your Compartments: The Tsar's Gold private train offers the biggest choice of compartments available on the Trans-Siberian. Choose from six different categories according to your personal requirements. All of these compartments are a lot larger than those in an average European sleeping car.

The original Trans-Siberian private train travels between Moscow and the Chinese border (Erlian), with six different compartment types to choose from, ranging from the **Standard Category** and the popular **Classic** and **Superior Categories** to the stylish **Nostalgic Comfort Category** and the premium **Bolshoi** and **Bolshoi Platinum Categories** featuring private lavatories with WCs and showers:

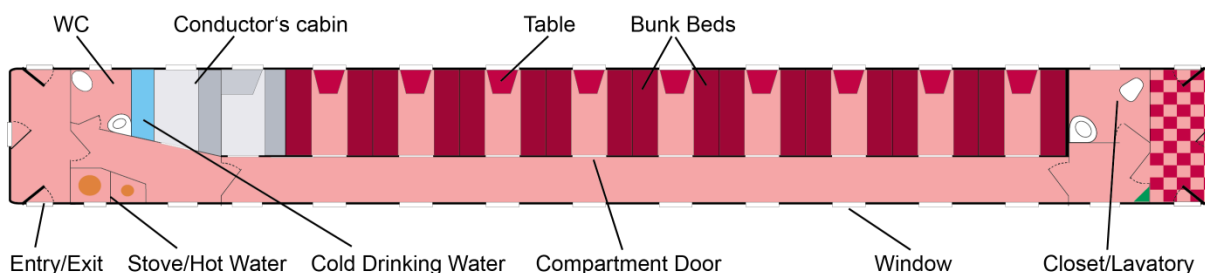
Standard

Standard compartments offer space for four passengers. On both sides there are upper and lower berths measuring ca. 26.7 x 73.6 in. (68 x 187 cm), with a table in the middle below the window. Each car has nine compartments, with combined washing and toilet facilities at both ends. For a surcharge, an occupation with only 3 guests is available.



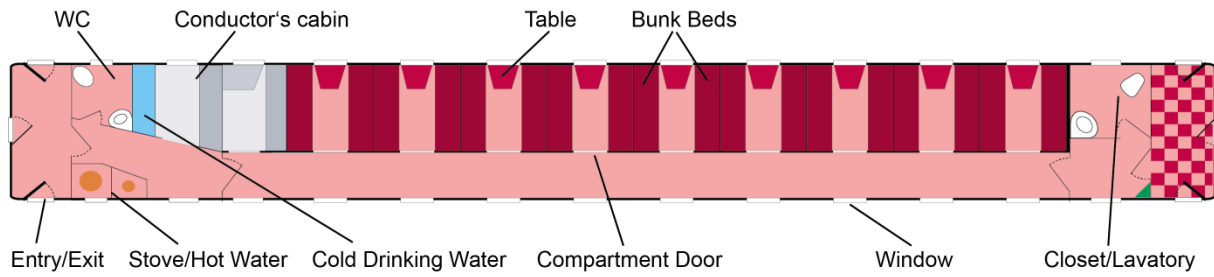
Classic

Compartments in the Classic Category offer considerably more space as they are shared by only two guests, with two lower beds measuring ca. 26.7 x 73.6 in. (68 x 187 cm), one on each side of the compartment. There are nine compartments per car, with combined toilet and washing facilities at both ends. Depending on the train configuration, a shower facility is shared by guests from one or maximum two sleeping cars



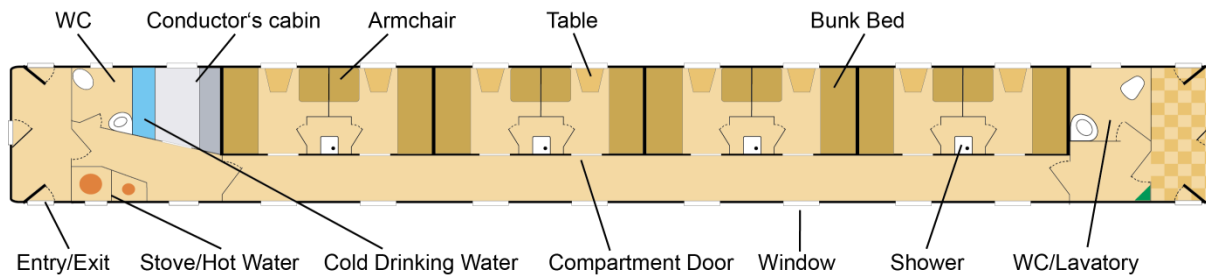
Superior

This newly refurbished category now features interior design in a nostalgic look. The compartments have two lower beds, one on each side, measuring ca. 26.7 x 72.8 in. (68 cm x 185 cm). The nine compartments per wagon share two combined washing and toilet facilities located at its ends. Depending on the train configuration, a shower facility in each sleeping car is shared by guests.



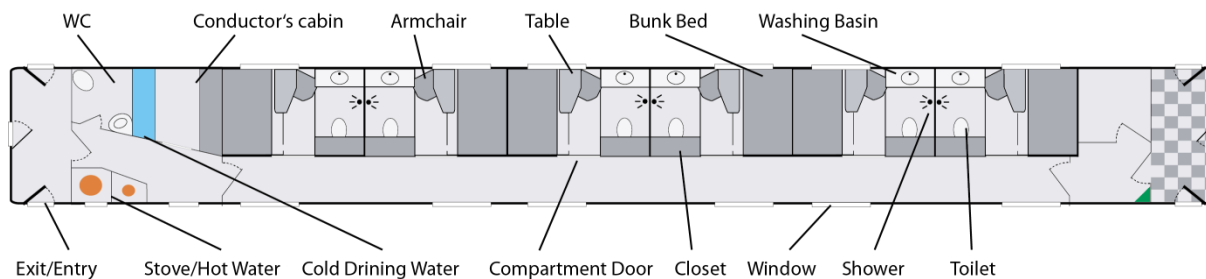
Nostalgic Comfort

This category offers the opportunity to truly travel in the style of the red tsars, in a nostalgic ambience that would even make past Soviet leaders feel at home — but with the 21st century’s modern amenities. Each of these rolling hotel rooms offers not only two comfortable beds measuring ca. 31.5 x 72.8 in. (80 x 185 cm), placed one above the other, but also an armchair to enjoy the passing landscape in comfort. Two neighbouring compartments share a semi-private washroom with washing basin and simple shower located between them. Combined toilet and washing facilities are located at both ends of the cars.



Bolshoi

This category offers 60 sq ft (5.57 m²) of space. It has two beds, with the upper measuring 31.5 x 68.5 in. (80 x 174 cm) and the lower measuring 43.3 x 72.4 in. (110 x 184 cm). This compartment also offers comfortable seating, a table and a small wardrobe. The Bolshoi category has its own lavatory equipped with toilet, washing basin, and integrated shower with shower curtain. This category has only six compartments per car.



Bolshoi Platinum

The Bolshoi Platinum compartment provides almost 77 sq ft (7.15 m²) of space, even more than the Bolshoi compartment. The lower bed measures ca. 47.2 x 72.4 in. (120 x 184 cm), the upper measures ca. 32.3 x 68.5 in. (82 x 174 cm). Each compartment has a spacious wardrobe and its own lavatory outfitted with a separate shower cabin. This category, offering the highest level of comfort available on the Trans-Siberian Railway, contains only five compartments per car for a maximum of just 10 guests.