



GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS

VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN™

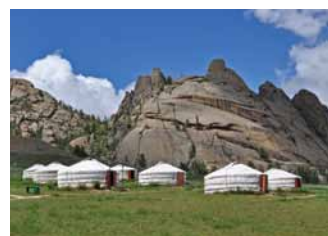


GOLDEN EAGLE
TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS



GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

MOSCOW - KAZAN - YEKATERINBURG - NOVOSIBIRSK - IRKUTSK - LAKE BAIKAL
ULAN UDE - ULAAN BAATAR - Khabarovsk (WESTBOUND ONLY) - VLADIVOSTOK



Undoubtedly the world's greatest railway journey, the Trans-Siberian Railway runs like a steel ribbon across mysterious Russia connecting East and West from Moscow over the Urals, across the magnificent and endless Steppe and alongside the shore of the world's largest freshwater lake. Opened in stages between 1891 and 1916, this extraordinary engineering achievement is a vital link for all the communities that live in close proximity to the line – and to travel along this route is by far the best way to experience the vastness and grandeur of Russia's rarely visited interior.

The official length of the Trans-Siberian line between Moscow and Vladivostok is 9,288 kilometres, making it the longest single-service railway in the world. As part of our itinerary we will also travel along the branch line at Lake Baikal and away from the main Trans-Siberian line when we head into Mongolia and its capital Ulaan Baatar.

Our classic Trans-Siberian Express tours onboard the *Golden Eagle* between Moscow and Vladivostok take a leisurely two weeks. By the time your journey ends we will have passed through eight time zones, a third of the world's total, and travelled an incredible distance of 6,500 miles (11,000 kilometres) through Russia and Mongolia.

As Eric Newby in his 1977 book *The Big Red Train Ride* succinctly stated, 'The Trans-Siberian is the big train ride. All the rest are peanuts.'



To Book Call **+44 (0)161 928 9410** or Call Your Travel Agent

GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS



TOUR SCHEDULES

EASTBOUND 2015

May 5 - 19
June 5 - June 19
July 1 - July 13 (Trans-Mongolian - see p49)
July 26 - August 9
August 22 - September 5

WESTBOUND 2015

May 18 - June 1
June 18 - July 2
July 10 - July 22 (Trans-Mongolian - see p49)
August 8 - 22
September 4 - 18

EASTBOUND 2016

May 5 - 19
June 05 - June 19
July 1 - July 13 (Trans-Mongolian - see p49)
July 26 - August 9
August 22 - September 5

WESTBOUND 2016

May 18 - June 1
June 18 - July 2
July 10 - July 22 (Trans-Mongolian - see p49)
August 8 - 22
September 4 - 18

For Winter Trans-Siberian dates please see p32

ACCOMMODATION

1 night in Moscow | 12 nights onboard the *Golden Eagle* |
1 night in Vladivostok

DAILY TOUR ITINERARIES

EASTBOUND

Day 1 Arrive Moscow
Day 2 Moscow
Day 3 Kazan
Day 4 Yekaterinburg
Day 5 Novosibirsk
Day 6 Onboard
Day 7 Irkutsk
Day 8 Lake Baikal
Day 9 Ulan Ude
Day 10 Ulaan Baatar
Day 11 Onboard
Day 12 Onboard
Day 13 Onboard
Day 14 Vladivostok
Day 15 Depart Vladivostok

WESTBOUND

Day 1 Arrive Vladivostok
Day 2 Vladivostok
Day 3 Khabarovsk
Day 4 Onboard
Day 5 Onboard
Day 6 Ulaan Baatar
Day 7 Ulan Ude
Day 8 Lake Baikal
Day 9 Irkutsk
Day 10 Onboard
Day 11 Novosibirsk
Day 12 Yekaterinburg
Day 13 Kazan
Day 14 Moscow
Day 15 Depart Moscow

MOSCOW - KAZAN - YEKATERINBURG - NOVOSIBIRSK - IRKUTSK - LAKE BAIKAL
ULAN UDE - ULAAN BAATAR - Khabarovsk (WESTBOUND ONLY) - VLADIVOSTOK



WHAT'S INCLUDED



FINEST RAIL ACCOMMODATION

- ✿ Private en-suite accommodation
- ✿ 24-hour cabin attendant service
- ✿ Evening turndown service
- ✿ Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled water in-cabin 24 hrs a day
- ✿ Robes, slippers and L'Occitane toiletries in-cabin
- ✿ Complimentary bottle of vodka in your *Golden Eagle* cabin

OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS PROGRAMME

- ✿ Full guided off-train excursions programme
- ✿ Fully included *Freedom of Choice* touring options which may vary due to final train times
- ✿ Personal Headsets to hear the professional guide's commentary
- ✿ Bottled water during excursions
- ✿ Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants with a generous drinks allowance, including international wines

GOLDEN EAGLE DIFFERENCE

- ✿ Experienced Tour Manager
- ✿ Onboard Doctor - English speaking
- ✿ Luggage portage - from the time you are met at the airport until your departure
- ✿ No tipping policy
- ✿ Arrival and departure transfers
- ✿ Commemorative DVD with photos of your tour and tour information
- ✿ High quality *Golden Eagle* embroidered backpack
- ✿ Detailed *Golden Eagle* route map
- ✿ Illustrated *Golden Eagle* tour brochure

ONBOARD INCLUSIONS

- ✿ Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily - starting with dinner on first day and finishing with breakfast on last day
- ✿ Generous drinks allowance, including international wine, with lunch and dinner
- ✿ Gala Caviar Dinner onboard the *Golden Eagle*
- ✿ In-cabin breakfast option to start the day
- ✿ Afternoon tea and cakes onboard the *Golden Eagle*
- ✿ In-suite dining option for Imperial Suite guests
- ✿ Inclusive drinks packages for Gold Class and Imperial Suite guests
- ✿ Tea, coffee, bottled water, soft drinks and local beer in the Bar Lounge Car
- ✿ Stimulating onboard talks
- ✿ Resident pianist in Bar Lounge Car
- ✿ Onboard Russian language lessons
- ✿ Live musical performances

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Old Believers Village, Ulan Ude



GUM department store, Moscow



Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Mongolia

MOSCOW

0 KM | Москва

Time zone: Moscow time

Our touring programme of Moscow principally takes us to the grandeur of the Kremlin – the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow – and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber. We will enjoy an exclusive private viewing before it opens to the public before visiting Red Square. This iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil's Cathedral's magnificent onion-domed spires, the beautiful façade of the world famous GUM department store which was constructed in Tsarist times, is also the sombre and evocative site of Lenin's tomb.

We will have lunch in Café Pushkin, a legendary Moscow restaurant with a décor that revives the atmosphere of an early 19th century mansion and serves traditional Russian cuisine, and end the day with a tour of the opulent and unique stations of the Moscow metro - showpieces of Socialist art furnished with statues, frescoes and mosaics, unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

With our included *Freedom of Choice* touring options you may instead wish to visit the famous State Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Fine Art) or travel out of the city centre to Sergiev Posad (available on Eastbound tours only), home to one of the most beautiful monasteries in Russia and the historical and spiritual centre of the Russian Orthodox Church.

During your first evening in Moscow you will be invited to a champagne drinks reception before our exclusive welcome dinner (or farewell dinner if

you are travelling on the Westbound tours). Specially selected international wines are included with dinner, as with all meals during the tour.

Included in our time spent in Moscow is one night at the five-star Marriott Royal Aurora. Located in Moscow city centre, and within walking distance of Red Square and the Bolshoi Theatre, this luxury hotel offers spacious accommodation with butler service – the only hotel in Moscow to offer this fine service.

Why not extend your stay in Moscow with additional nights to explore more of the city at your leisure or have time to take in a performance at the world-renowned Bolshoi Theatre? *Tickets need to be pre-booked and are subject to schedule and availability.*

KAZAN

820 KM | Казань

Time zone: Moscow time

Situated on the River Volga, the picturesque and historic city of Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan. Here we have the opportunity to see for ourselves its rich tapestry of history and culture. One of the highlights of this city tour is our exploration of the Kremlin Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the walls of this ancient citadel we will explore its stunning mosque and picture-perfect onion-domed cathedral.

You will also have time to wander through the main pedestrian area of Kazan and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the city.

YEKATERINBURG

1816 KM | Екатеринбург

Time zone: Moscow time + 2 hours

Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, Yekaterinburg is the capital of the Urals. Known as the Great Divide, the Ural Mountains create the natural border between Europe and Asia so that the cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilisations come together in this fascinating and cosmopolitan landscape. Our city tour takes us to the poignant site where the Romanov, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, was executed with his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918 following 78 days of imprisonment. Now a church dedicated to their memory, this site provides us with a powerful insight into the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. We will also drive to the obelisk marking the geographical border and we can drink a glass of champagne with one foot in Europe and the other in Asia.

Our *Freedom of Choice* programme will also offer activities such as a walking tour of the city, or explore the intriguing Soviet military past in a visit to Yekaterinburg Military Museum which displays fragments of the U2 American spy-plane flown by Gary Powers that was shot down in this area in 1960 during the Cold War.

NOVOSIBIRSK

3336 KM | Новосибирск

Time zone: Moscow time + 3 hours

A modern 'Soviet' city, we experience the life and character of Novosibirsk's rich culture where the arts and science predominate. The city is located in the heart of Russia and is situated on both banks of the River Ob. Our city tour takes us to Lenin Square where the imposing Opera House is located. An architectural marvel, it houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is one of the largest opera houses in the world. In front of the Opera House, we visit an impressive statue of Lenin – a marvellous opportunity to have your photograph taken with this iconic political leader.

Alternatively, south of the city you could visit Novosibirsk's excellent Railway Museum on our *Freedom of Choice* tour. The museum displays locomotives and rolling stock from the late 1800s, including carriages of the Tsars, through to the Soviet era. Or choose to go to the Mineralogical Centre with its fine display of Siberian minerals.

There is also the *Freedom of Choice* option to visit a local family living in a Soviet-era apartment building, who will serve you tea and traditional Russian snacks and will be happy to answer your questions about life in modern-day Russia.



Classic wooden architecture, Irkutsk

IRKUTSK

5185 KM | Иркутск

Time zone: Moscow time + 5 hours

Our visit to Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', takes in the most significant sites and museums in this fascinating city, including an exploration of the classic wooden architecture with its intricately carved lace-like decorations that has given many of this region's buildings such a distinctive and unique appearance. We also visit the Volkonsky House Museum, which is dedicated to the memory of the aristocrats who were exiled to this remote outpost after the failed Decembrists uprising of 1825.

You could learn to cook some traditional Russian dishes with a local chef and prepare your own lunch with our *Freedom of Choice* option. Or you might also wish to visit a traditional Russian Dacha (summer house) to get an insight into the everyday life of an average Russian family.



Novosibirsk Railway Museum



LAKE BAIKAL

Озеро Байкал

Time zone: Moscow time + 5 hours

Few natural sights can surpass the beauty and grandeur of Lake Baikal and is a major highlight on our Trans-Siberian journey. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and holds 20 per cent of the world's freshwater. Also known as the 'Pearl of Siberia' it is home to a unique breed of freshwater seal and over 50 species of fish including omul. For five hours we wind our way through tunnels along cliff hugging tracks above the lake with a vista of snow capped peaks along the far shore forming a picture-perfect backdrop, with a full appreciation of the engineering achievement which produced this part of the railway in the early 20th century.

To add to the grandeur of the day our *Golden Eagle* train will be hauled by a Soviet era steam locomotive on this beautiful section of line. There will be plenty of opportunities to take photographs as the train winds its way along the lake. This will be an unforgettable part of your journey. For a preview of this beautiful section, our new video is available to view on our website: www.goldeneagleluxurytrains.com

Weather permitting, we stop in an extremely picturesque location by the lake for photographic opportunities and for the brave hearted there is time for a refreshing swim in the crystal clear and ice-cold waters of Baikal. Travelling onwards to the end of the Baikal branch line, we leave the

train and travel by boat on the lake to Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement nestling at the base of the surrounding hills and visit the Lake Baikal Museum and Aquarium where you can learn about the flora and fauna of the lake.

We will enjoy a delicious barbecue prepared by our own chefs, including freshly smoked omul fish, in the delightful covered dining area on the shore of Lake Baikal to complete a memorable day.

As part of our *Freedom of Choice* excursion programme you can choose a hiking opportunity up Chersky Mount, or you can choose to take the chair lift, which offers some spectacular and panoramic hillside views of the grandeur of the lake below.



SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

- ✪ Riding the Trans-Siberian – the longest railway in the world
- ✪ Private viewing of the Kremlin Armoury
- ✪ Champagne reception and military brass band playing at the station on departure
- ✪ Being hauled by a Soviet era steam locomotive on the beautiful Lake Baikal section
- ✪ Local family visit in Irkutsk
- ✪ Barbecue on the shore of Lake Baikal and swim in its ice-cold water
- ✪ Visit a nomadic family in a Mongolian ger
- ✪ Private folk performance in an Old Believers Village





Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Mongolia

ULAN UDE

5640 KM | Улан-Удэ

Time zone: Moscow time +5 hours

The ethnic and cultural diversity of Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic, offers a unique insight into its heritage. As we tour the area you will notice the different faces of these welcoming Buryat people. During our exploration of the Old Believers Village we have the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of these religious people as we are treated to a concert featuring local traditions and folk singing.

ULAAN BAATAR, MONGOLIA

Улан Батор

Time zone: Moscow time +4 hours

Our Trans-Siberian adventure takes us into Mongolia and a visit to its capital, Ulaan Baatar. Mongolia, once the very centre of an enormous empire led by Genghis Khan, is a country of beautiful landscapes, nomadic people and rich in culture and history. Mongolia is famous for its endless green Steppes, grazing livestock and white, nomadic Gers (Yurts) dotted all across the countryside.

We start the tour at Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia's most important Buddhist Monasteries housing a community of over 500 monks. The full name, Gandantegchinlen, translates as 'the great place of complete joy'. At Sukhbaatar Square we can see the central monument to Genghis Khan, undoubtedly the most feared and revered Mongol. We then drive out of the city to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park and enjoy the beautiful scenery of wild Mongolia, having the opportunity to visit a traditional Ger and meet a nomadic family or try our hand at horse-riding, an intrinsic part of Mongolian life.

Alternatively there is an option to stay in the city as part of our *Freedom of Choice* touring. After Gandan Monastery and Sukhbaatar Square we visit the National Museum where we learn about the country's intriguing history. We will also see Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum, the winter residences of Bogd Khan, the last Mongolian emperor, built between 1893 and 1903. We can also explore the city and have some free time for shopping for Mongolian souvenirs, and their speciality cashmere.

KHABAROVSK

8523 KM | Хабаровск

Time zone: Moscow time +7 hours

WESTBOUND ONLY

Located 15 miles (25 kilometres) from the border with China, Khabarovsk stretches along the banks of the Amur River. Khabarovsk was founded as a military post in 1858, but the region had been populated by several indigenous peoples of the Far East for many centuries. It is now a busy city with tree-lined streets. We will visit the memorial to Yerofey Pavlovich Khabarov, the Far East explorer the city is named after, and the impressive World War Two memorial to the fallen soldiers. We will also have time at the Regional Museum where the local history has been well-preserved with a rich collection of artefacts describing the cultural and natural history of the region.

VLADIVOSTOK

9288 KM | Владивосток

Time zone: Moscow time +7 hours

Vladivostok is a military port, located on the western shores of the Sea of Japan and is home to the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet. Due to its military importance, the city was closed to foreigners between 1930 and 1992. Vladivostok (literally translated as 'Ruler of the East') offers visitors an interesting opportunity to explore its principal military attractions including a visit to a preserved World War Two submarine. Our city tour will also take us to the iconic suspension bridge over Golden Horn Bay, one of the largest of its kind worldwide, which opened in 2012 for the APEC conference.

This evening you are invited to our farewell dinner (or welcome dinner if you are travelling on the Westbound tours). Specially selected international wines are included with dinner, as with all meals during the tour. Our hotel in Vladivostok, where we stay for one night, is the four-star Hotel Hyundai.

DAYS ONBOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE

Each Trans-Siberian departure has a number of days onboard the *Golden Eagle*. These days offer the opportunity to unwind and reflect on the many sights and sounds we have experienced or are about to experience on our rail journey so far.

Chat to your fellow passengers, take a Russian language class, listen to a talk on Soviet or Russian history or local culture, learn about the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway or simply relax and enjoy the ever-changing landscape outside your window as it unfolds.



Gandan Monastery, Ulaan Baatar





WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

As far as possible our tours are all-inclusive with no hidden extras. What follows are all those elements which are included in the tour price. The only extra items you may need to budget for include personal expenses such as International and Internal flights that are not included in the itineraries, visa costs, insurance, selected drinks from the Bar Lounge Car and laundry.

EXPERIENCED TOUR MANAGERS

Our experienced Tour Managers are selected for their travel knowledge, and their linguistic and organisational abilities allowing you to relax and enjoy your rail cruise. We receive exceptional passenger comments about our Tour Managers and their aim is to ensure you enjoy every minute of your holiday.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure transfers are included.

HOTEL AND ONBOARD ACCOMMODATION

Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train's public areas, you will find your cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of five-star standard, or the best available.

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER DAILY

All meals are included, starting with dinner on the first day and ending with breakfast on the last day. All departures feature one or two uniquely designed Restaurant Cars where you can enjoy the excellent waiter-served food and wine. Several times during the tour we will also sample authentic local cuisine with wine and a selection of drinks off the train, which is also included in the tour price.

DRINKS WITH MEALS

A generous drinks allowance, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, is included with lunch and dinner on and off the train.

ONBOARD SERVICE

You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide 24-hour housekeeping and bedding turndown services, with one attendant always on duty to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day.

GUIDED OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS

The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides. All our tours include a wide-ranging sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train and bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. We believe it is the special little touches that help create magical memories.

PERSONAL HEADSETS

On all the off-train excursions, to enhance your enjoyment and insights into the places you visit, you will be provided with a lightweight personal headset on which to listen to your tour guide as you take in the sights. The range of the headset means that you do not need to worry about missing any of the guide's commentary on your excursion, even if you prefer to wander away from the group.

ONBOARD DOCTOR AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

To give you peace of mind our tours are accompanied by a doctor who travels with us for the entire journey; so you can rest assured that medical assistance is always available. On call 24 hours a day, the doctor is on hand to give primary care as required. In almost every case, the doctor will be English-speaking and registered with the General Medical Council in the UK.

PORTERAGE

As you only have to unpack once your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey but, wherever necessary, porterage is included between the hotels and stations.

ALL GRATUITIES

You will not have to worry about tipping on or off the train on your rail journey with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains as all gratuities are included in the tour price.