

## Trip Info

**Group Size:** Min: 2 | Max: 30

**Transportation:** Train, Boat, Coach

**Tips:** Payable locally, allow approximately \$175 AUD pp

**Destinations Visited:** Beijing, Gobi Desert, Ulan Bator, Mongolian Alps, Ulan Ude, Lake Baikal, Irkutsk, Siberia Plains, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, Kazan & Moscow

**The Trans-Siberian really is a once-in-a-lifetime holiday experience and it's your opportunity to sit back and relax on one of the world's greatest rail journeys. Our tour starts in Beijing, one of Asia's greatest cities, and ends in magnificent Moscow, with a sensational journey in between!**



### Our Train - The Tsar's Gold

Our journey along the Trans-Siberian Railway is by private train. The Tsar's Gold is a Russian train especially built for long distance rail travel. You'll travel in comfort and style and be attended to by a professional bi-lingual Russian crew. All touring and onboard lectures and entertainment while travelling on the Tsar's Gold is arranged by the train company using professional bi-lingual guides.

### Your accommodation

Your accommodation on board is in Standard Plus category cabins. There are 9 compartments per carriage and each compartment sleeps 2 people. Beds are fold down bunks and are made daily by the carriage attendant. Combined toilet/wash basin compartments are located at each end of the carriage. There is a shower compartment in every second to fourth carriage.

Meals are served in the restaurant car.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1 Depart Australia**

### **Day 2 Arrive in Beijing**

Welcome to Beijing, the capital of China and one of the world's grandest cities. After a chance to freshen up we start our sightseeing with a visit to the Temple of Heaven and the enormous Tiananmen Square. In the evening we get together for group welcome dinner. [D]

### **Day 3 Beijing**

The Great Wall is one of the only monuments that can be seen from space and today is our chance to walk on and explore this wonder. We also visit the famous Ming Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the Sacred Way a boulevard lined with carved stone animals. This evening we are in for a real treat as we enjoy a traditional Peking Duck banquet. [B,L,D]

### **Day 4 Beijing**

We explore the impressive Forbidden City before commencing our rail journey on a special Chinese train. Due to the narrow rail gauge in China, we meet our private rail carriages in Mongolia. [B,L,D]

### **Day 5 Gobi Desert**

This morning our train journeys through the famous Gobi Desert which is unlike any other desert in the world due to its sheer size and desolation. During the journey there will be a chance to explore the colourful border market at Erlian, at the border we transfer from our Chinese train to our private train, the Tsar's Gold. [B,L,D]

### **Day 6 Ulan Bator**

Today our train pulls into the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator. Here we visit the interesting Choijin Lama Temple and have the chance to watch some traditional Mongolian music performances. Tonight we are in for a real treat as we get to enjoy the true peace and tranquility of the countryside as we overnight in a traditional Mongolian ger (felt-lined tent). [B,L,D]

### **Day 7 Mongolian Alps**

After breakfast we visit the Buddhist Gandan Monastery. This is followed by an authentic picnic lunch in a yurt where we will enjoy a demonstration of Mongolian horsemanship and a traditional wrestling match. Try some lamb in milk, a culinary specialty of Mongolia. Or, for the brave of heart, there's always kumys (fermented mare's milk), the beer of the nomads! Tonight our train heads for Siberia! [B,L,D]

### **Day 8 Ulan Ude**

Today we leave Mongolia and cross over into Russia where we meet the Trans-Siberian rail line. Here we spend time exploring Ulan Ude. [B,L,D]

### **Day 9 Lake Baikal**

A stunning day as we tour Lake Baikal on our train, which travels along original tracks now closed to public trains. Our private train stops to allow us to take in the majestic beauty of the lake and, weather permitting, to dine picnic-style by the water's edge. We also have the opportunity to take a dip in the lake or visit a Baikal village. Today is a real highlight of this tour. [B,L,D]

### **Day 10 Irkutsk**

We reach Irkutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia, where our tour includes lively market hall, the drama theatre, the newly erected statue of the Tsar and the excellent open-air museum the interesting open-air museum. Here we'll see the traditional architecture on the old Russian wooden houses and get a glimpse of life and work under the tsars' rule. [B,L,D]

### **Day 11 Across Siberia**

Our journey continues as we cross the immense Siberia Plains while sampling some good old-fashioned Russian hospitality in the form of vodka and caviar tastings. [B,L,D]

### **Day 12 Novosibirsk**

Today we reach Novosibirsk, Siberia's biggest city, and are greeted in the traditional Russian way: with bread, salt and balalaika music. Here we enjoy a wonderful city tour which includes a visit to the Trans-Siberian monument and the mighty Ob River [B,L,D]

### **Day 13 Yekaterinburg**

This afternoon we make a stop in the historic city of Yekaterinburg - famous as the place where the last tsar, Nicholas II, and his family met their untimely end. We take a tour of the city and see the newly erected Cathedral-on-the-blood. [B,L,D]

### **Day 14 Kazan**

Welcome to Europe where our first stop is Kazan, the old Tartar capital on the banks of the Volga. Plenty of history here: on a guided tour of the Kremlin we learn about the wild and often bloody relations of the Tartars, Cossacks, and Russians. Later we enjoy a boat ride and have lunch on the Volga. [B,L,D]

### **Day 15 Moscow**

Congratulations! We have now completed one of the world's great rail journeys. On arrival in Moscow, one of the world's oldest and richest cities, we depart our private train. This afternoon we start our sightseeing with a visit to the famous Kremlin then this evening we enjoy Moscow by night including a stop at Red Square and a subway ride with a visit of 2 beautiful old stations. [B,L,D]

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## Day 16 Moscow

Our touring of Moscow continues this morning including Red Square with its colourful St. Basil's Cathedral, the reconstructed Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Lomonossov University and the notorious former KGB headquarters. The afternoon is at leisure to further explore or do some shopping. Make sure you pick up a Matryoshka doll (also known in the west as a Babushka doll). [B]

## Day 17 Moscow

Today you will have the whole at leisure. [B]

## Day 18 Depart Moscow

Enjoy a final morning at leisure before we transfer to the airport. [B]

## Day 19 Arrive in Australia

## Inclusions

### Travel

- Economy class flights between Australia, Beijing and Moscow
- Airport transfers on the first and last day of tour
- Travel by modern Chinese train from Beijing to the Chinese border and from the Chinese border to Moscow on our private train, the Tsar's Gold
- All touring conducted in air-conditioned coach

### Accommodation & Meals

- 6 nights in good quality hotels (4-star)
- 1 night in a traditional Mongolian Ger (felt-lined tent) with shared facilities
- 8 nights on board the Tsar's Gold private train in a 2-berth Category II Standard Plus sleeper cabin (with shared facilities), 1 night on board a Chinese train in a 4 berth sleeper cabin (with shared facilities)
- 16 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners, including group welcome and farewell dinners as well as 3 specialty dinners including a Peking Duck banquet in Beijing, a Tsar's Feast on board the train and a picnic dinner on the shores of Lake Baikal (weather permitting)

### Sightseeing

- On-board talks about the culture, countryside and people, including a special caviar and vodka tasting session
- English-speaking tour director and expert English-speaking local guides

### *Extensive tour of Beijing*

- Visit the unbelievable Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Temple of Heaven and enjoy a full day visit to the Great Wall and Ming Tombs, the necropolis of the Ming Dynasty

### *Stunning scenery in Mongolia*

- Journey across the incredible Gobi Desert, a rain shadow desert formed by the Himalaya range blocking rain-carrying clouds
- Enjoy a city tour of the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator
- Spend the day touring the highland region of Mongolia where the rugged mountain scenery is home to nomadic herdsman, horses and shaggy yaks. We visit a local village and see a demonstration of local horseback riding skills.

### *Explore Lake Baikal and its spectacular surrounds*

- Incredible day of touring around Lake Baikal on our private train and by boat. We stop the train at two particularly beautiful spots so we can get out and admire the scenery. We enjoy a boat trip on the lake and visit a local village.
- City tour of Ulan Ude where the legendary Trans-Mongolian and Trans-Siberian railway lines meet

### *Discover the isolated beauty of Siberia*

- Travel through the vast birch forests and lonely mountain steppes of Siberia
- Overnight stay in the Siberian city of Irkutsk where our sightseeing includes the excellent open-air museum Life and Work in the Time of the Tsars
- City tour of Novosibirsk, the heart of Siberia, where we are given a traditional welcome of bread and salt.
- City tour of Yekaterinburg, famous as the city where the last tsar, Nicholas II, and his family met their untimely end
- City tour of Kazan, including a guided tour of the Kremlin and a boat trip on the mighty Volga River

### *Magnificent Moscow*

- Spend 3 unforgettable days in Moscow with extensive touring of Red Square, Saint Basil's, the Kremlin, the Underground and a Moscow-by-night tour



## Trans-Siberian Railway Beijing to Moscow

www.bunniktours.com.au

Call us on 1300 664 170

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### Dates & Prices

Start Date	End Date	Total Cost*	Status
05-Jul	22-Jul	\$11,488	On Request
16-Sep	03-Oct	\$11,388	On Request

**Price Valid From:** Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & Perth

**Other Cities:** Clients ex Adelaide require day use in Singapore. This will be at your own expense, please contact our office for details.

**Taxes:** Total cost includes air taxes of \$748

**Single Supplement:** From \$3,490 (subject to seasonality)

**Day/Date Variations:** Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival and departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

**\*Taxes & Fuel Costs:** Taxes & fuel surcharges change regularly so above levies shown as guide only.

**Please Note:** Price Based on 2 berth cabin with shared toilet & shower facilities.  
Chinese train has no shower facilities.

All prices shown are per person based on twin-share and include airfares and all taxes. Prices and itineraries correct at current time but are subject to change. Please call for more details. View our [full terms & conditions here](#)

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## Accommodation

Hotels listed are subject to change and the below list should be used as a guide only. Every effort is made to avoid any hotel changes however if a change becomes necessary then a hotel of a similar standard will be used.

### **Renaissance Hotel, Moscow**

Renaissance Hotel Moscow is a stunning newly redesigned 5 star property just 15 minutes from the Kremlin and other famous attractions. It is one of the most luxurious hotels in Moscow and offers 475 comfortable, tastefully decorated rooms. Each room has air conditioning, private bathrooms, direct dial telephone, satellite TV, hair dryer, coffee and tea making facilities, in room safe and mini bar. The hotel also has 24 hour room service, fitness centre with indoor swimming pool, 2 saunas, 2 solariums, massage, state of the art gym equipment, a beauty salon, and restaurants and bars.



### **Capital Hotel, Beijing**

The Capital Hotel is a 5 star property located in the heart of Beijing, in the well-known Wang Fujung shopping and scenic downtown area, and is within walking distance to historical sites including Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, and Temple of Heaven. The hotel was also a member of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Official Accommodation Network. It boasts close to 600 guest rooms and suites, consisting of facilities such as satellite TV, broadband internet, in room safe, mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities, and hairdryer just to name a few. For dining options, choose from the variety of different restaurants in the hotel, and get a taste of various types of cuisine.



### **Tsars Gold Train, Mongolia-Moscow (or V.V)**

The Tsar's Gold train is a comfortable, private train, which can accommodate up to 200 passengers. On board there are four styles of cabin; Bolshoi Platinum Class (en-suite), Bolshoi Class (en-suite), Nostalgic Comfort Class (shower for every two cabins) and Standard Plus Class (shared facilities). The Standard Plus Class (pictured) offers comfortable accommodation with twin-birth compartments featuring two lower berths that convert into comfortable sofas for daytime travel. Storage space is available under the beds as well as above the door in each cabin. A WC is found at each end of the car and there is a shower located in every other Standard Plus car.



### **Hotel Irkutsk, Irkutsk**

The Irkutsk Hotel was built in 1978 and is the largest hotel in Irkutsk. It is situated in the center of the city, on the bank of the Angara River. The hotel offers the worthy conditions of service and accommodation.



## Weather

The most popular times for travel to Russia are during the summer months of June, July and August when the temperatures are warmer. Although late spring and early autumn are also nice times to visit when the climate is also very comfortable.

The most popular times for travel to China are spring (March - May) and autumn (September - November).

<b>Beijing</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	1	4	11	21	27	31	31	30	26	20	9	3
<b>Ave Min C</b>	-10	-8	-1	7	13	18	21	20	14	6	-2	-8
<b>Rainy Days</b>	3	3	3	4	6	8	13	11	7	3	2	2
<b>Moscow</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	-5	-4	2	11	18	22	24	22	15	8	0	-4
<b>Ave Min C</b>	-8	-9	-5	2	8	12	14	12	8	3	-3	-8
<b>Rainy Days</b>	2	2	3	5	7	7	7	7	6	9	7	2
<b>Irkutsk</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	-16	-12	-4	6	13	20	21	20	14	5	-7	-16
<b>Ave Min C</b>	-26	-25	-17	-7	1	7	10	9	2	-6	-17	-24
<b>Rainy Days</b>	3	3	2	4	8	7	9	11	8	6	4	4

## Currency

### **In China:**

Renminbi (RMB), usually called the "Yuan". 10 Jiao make up 1 Yuan and 10 Fen make up 1 Jiao.

Notes are in denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao. Coins are in denominations of 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen.

### **In Mongolia:**

Tugrik (MNT; symbol ₮).

Notes are in denominations of ₮20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 1,000, 500, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1. Coins are in denominations of ₮500, 200, 100, 50 and 20.

### **In Russia:**

Rouble (RUB; symbol руб) = 100 kopeks.

Notes are in denominations of руб5,000, 1,000, 500, 100, 50 and 10.

Coins are in denominations of руб10, 5, 2 and 1, and 50, 10, 5 and 1 kopeks.

## Travel Stories

## Disclaimer

Prices shown are per person based on twin-share. Prices and itineraries are correct at time of downloading from the website but are subject to change. Taxes and fuel surcharges change regularly so levies shown as a guide only. For full terms and conditions please visit our website or call 1300 664 170 for details.