

Grand Trans Siberian Express China - Mongolia - Russia (westbound)



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Route: Beijing – Gobi Desert – Ulaanbaatar – Ulan Ude – Lake Baikal – Irkutsk – Krasnoyarsk – Novosibirsk – Ekaterinburg – Kazan – Moscow

Dates: Start on 7th July 2012 or 19th August 2012, 14 night duration

Introduction

Experience the legendary Trans Siberian Railway and the Trans Mongolian Railway onboard a private charter train. Forget about any hassle of packing and unpacking every day. Your cabin is your “home on wheels” during the entire rail journey. Our train offers a choice of First Class and Deluxe accommodation as well as restaurants, a bar, a service car with shower cabins and a conference car for lectures. Stops for land excursions at the most interesting places along the route are included every day. In Ulaanbaatar, the Capital of Mongolia, a night in a hotel is included as well as hotel nights are included in Moscow and Peking. Our rail cruises offer you to experience travelling remote areas of the world like Siberia and Gobi Desert and at the same time enjoying the comfort of a private charter train.

For the most part of the journey, in Mongolia and Russia you travel onboard the **Grand Trans Siberian Express**. On the Chinese section between Beijing and the border station of Erlian passengers start on a **Chinese Connecting Train** because of the different gauges of the railways in Russia and Mongolia (1.520 mm) and the railways in China (1.435 mm). The Chinese train consists of First Class Sleeping cars and restaurant cars only. Passengers of Deluxe Sleeping Cars travel on First Class Sleeping cars on this short section (1 night, about 16 hours) as there are no Deluxe Sleeping Cars available in China. The charter trains are air conditioned. Air condition is working only during the time the train is moving.

Route Map



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Highlights of the tour

- Peking, Chinese capital and centre of the Central Kingdom
- Great Wall of China, part of World Heritage
- Gobi Desert, one of the biggest deserts of the world
- Mini Naadam show of Mongolian horse racing, wrestling, archery Folklore show of Mongolian artists
- Mongolian steppes, yurts and horses
- Lake Baikal, deepest lake and biggest freshwater reserve of the world
- Siberia, a huge land of extreme dimensions
- Private classic concert in the wooden house of former Duke Volkonsky
- Boat cruise on Siberia's mighty River Yenisej
- Moscow, most vibrant and fast developing metropolitan of Europe
- Kremlin, the centre of power in Russia

Sightseeing Tours

- Peking
- Gobi Desert
- Ulaanbaatar
- Ulan Ude
- Irkutsk

Train Amenities

- Modern First Class sleeping cars with shared washing and toilet facilities
- Modern Deluxe sleeping cars with private lavatory, toilet and shower en suite
- Guaranteed double and single accommodation throughout the tour
- All sleeping cars are newly build, average 2-4 years old only
- 2 restaurant cars
- A cosy bar with live piano music in the evening
- Service car with shower cabins for First Class passengers
- Conference car for lectures and onboard entertainment

- Lake Baikal
- Krasnoyarsk
- Novosibirsk
- Yekaterinburg
- Kazan
- Moscow

At Your Service



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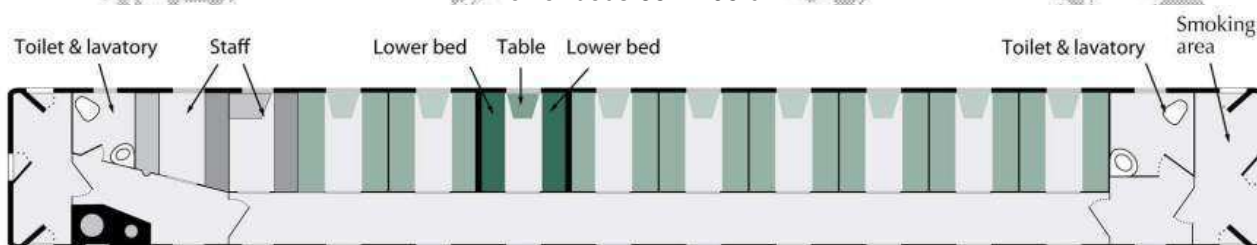
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Accommodation Options

First Class Sleeping Cars 1 or 2 persons per cabin

First Class sleeping cars offer 9 cabins for guests each. Each cabin is equipped with 2 lower beds. Toilets and lavatories are at both ends of the cars for the common use of maximum $9 \times 2 = 18$ passengers of each car. The cars are air conditioned (central control). Air condition is working only during the time the train is moving. Sockets for 220 V are in each cabin, capable for razors and loading mobile phones. First Class cabins may be booked for double or single use. Some of the cars offer additionally two upper beds and can be booked by families with children less than 16 years and sharing the compartment with their parents. This offer is limited and available on request only.

Cabin dimensions:
Cabin 2,00 x 2,00 m = 4,0 sqm
Lower beds 65 x 195 cm



First class sleeping car



First class cabin by day



First class cabin ready for evening

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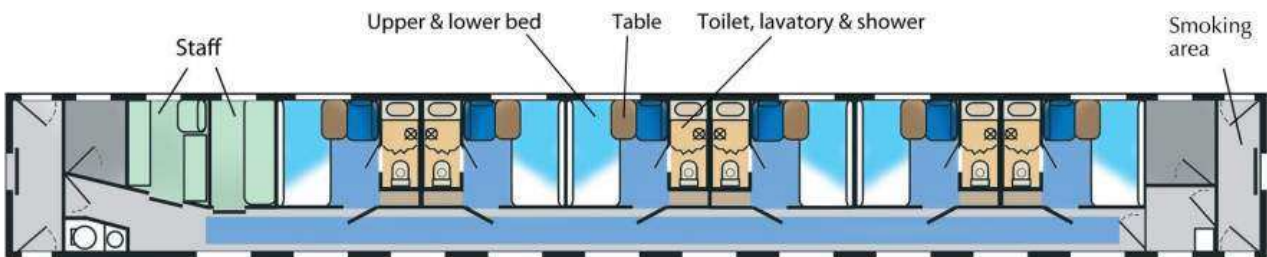


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Deluxe Sleeping Cars 1 or 2 persons per cabin

Deluxe sleeping cars offer 6 cabins each. Each cabin offers 1 lower and 1 upper bed. A private toilet, lavatory and shower are en suite. The cars are air conditioned (individual control). Air condition is working only during the time the train is moving. Euro-Sockets for 220 V are in each cabin, capable for razors and loading mobile phones and notebooks. Deluxe cabins may be booked for double or single use.

Cabin dimensions:
Cabin 2,00 x 2,70 m = 5,4 sqm
Lower bed 120 x 190 cm
Upper bed 85 x 190 cm



Deluxe class sleeping car



Day Position



Night Position



Private Bathroom with toilet and shower

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Day to Day Itinerary

Day 1 Arrival Beijing

Morning arrival in Peking. You will meet your guides at Peking airport and they will transfer you to the hotel. Accommodation in a **** Hotel in Peking.

Day 2 Beijing

Today you will visit the Great Wall of China, which often is called "8th world wonder". The 6000 km the wall stretches from East to West. On the way there are the Ming Tombs. A welcome dinner will be hold in one the famous Peking duck restaurants. Accommodation in a **** Hotel in Peking.

Day 3 Beijing

A full day city sightseeing tour will show the Imperial Palace ("Forbidden City") and the huge Tian An Men Square in the morning and the Temple of Heaven in the afternoon. In the evening departure from Peking by special Chinese train to the border city of Erlian. Accommodation onboard the Chinese special train.

Day 4 Erlian

In Erlian railway station the Russian railway gauge system ("broad gauge" 1520 mm wide) meets the China railway gauge system ("standard gauge" 1435 mm wide). The Grand Trans Siberian Express therefore welcomes you here in Erlian. The connecting Chinese special train from Peking will arrive on the same platform. While you luggage will be transferred by service staff to the Grand Trans Siberian Express, you will enjoy a quick tour to the bazaar style local market and a traditional Chinese lunch. In the afternoon the Grand Trans Siberian Express will pass the Chinese-Mongolian border. The Chinese and Mongolian immigration formalities will take place in the train, you may just stay in your compartment. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

Day 5 Ulaanbaatar

In the morning the Grand Trans Siberian Express arrives in Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia. During a sightseeing tour you will visit the famous Ghandan Monastery, the central Sukhabaatar Square, the Bogd Khan Museum which used to be formerly the winter and sometimes also the summer palace of the Khan's, as well as the Zaisan monument at a viewpoint high above the city. From there you will have an excellent view of the city which is surrounded by large areas of yurt settlements. Accommodation in a *** hotel in Ulaan Baatar.

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Day 6 Ulaanbaatar

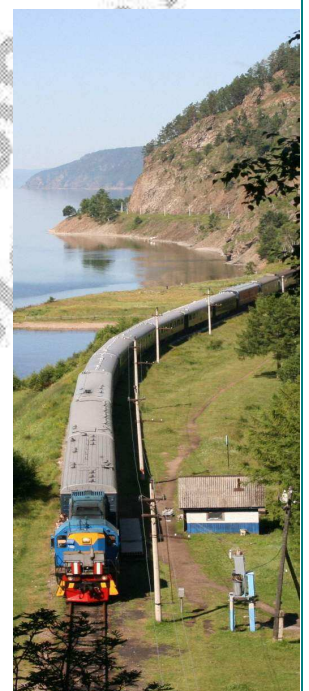
Today an unforgettable excursion will take you to the Terelj National Park which is famous for its scenery which reminds you of locations in Switzerland, Europe. A stone formation called "turtle" and other holy places will fascinate you. In the Terelj National Park area you will have the chance to meet a herder family inside their yurt. Enjoy the rest of the day viewing the wonderful scenery of Mongolia with yurts, nomads, horses passing by from time to time. A show specially arranged for the participants of the Grand Trans Siberian Express demonstrates 2 disciplines of the Mongolian National Naadam festival: Wrestling and Archery. An amazing cultural music and dance show will introduce Mongolian folk music and culture to you. In the evening the train leaves for Russia. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

Day 7 Ulan Ude

Early morning the Mongolian border station Sucho Baatar and the Russian border station Naushki will be reached. The Mongolian and Russian immigration formalities will again take place in the train. You may stay in your compartment and don't have to leave the train. In the afternoon the Grand Trans Siberian Express arrives at Ulan Ude, the capital of the so-called "Buryat Autonomous Republic" of the Russian Federation. With Buryats being an ethnic group close to Mongolians it is an amazing mix of cultures and a meeting place between east and west. Like Irkutsk, the city still has large areas with typical Siberian wooden houses. An excursion will bring you to the Ivolginsky Monastery which is the centre of Buddhism in Russia. In Ulan Ude the Grand Trans Siberian Express switches from the Trans Mongolian mainline to the traditional Trans Siberian mainline on its way to Moscow. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

Day 8 Lake Baikal

Today one of the top highlights of the tour with the Grand Trans Siberian Express will amaze you for the rest of the day. Lake Baikal holds the biggest fresh water reserves in the world. It stretches up to 26 miles from east to west and more than 370 miles from north to south. With 1,620 meters it is the deepest lake of the world. The mountain ranges around Lake Baikal and the deep blue water of the lake, you will never forget. Today the private train is running at low speed along the scenic Circum Baikal Railway line between Sludyanka and Port Baikal, which for many years has seen only a couple of local trains and tourist trains. A photo stop will be arranged at a small village where you can get off the train, put your feet into the clear and cold water of Lake Baikal and also visit the typical wooden houses of local people. A Baikal picnic is also a part of the program. At Port Baikal a boat takes you on a short cruise on Lake Baikal to the small village Listvyanka. A walk through the village shows you to St Nicholas church, a typical orthodox wooden built church beautiful renovated in the 1990's. On a great Siberian lunch you can taste the famous Omul fish which is living only in Lake Baikal. In the afternoon the private train will run back to the mainline, a second time giving the opportunity of enjoying wonderful views on Lake Baikal. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.



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Day 9 Irkutsk



Irkutsk is famous for its trade with Mongolia and China and used to be called “Paris of Siberia” because of its colourful live. You visit the old town with its large quarters still consisting of wooden houses only, before invited to the cultural highlight of the tour, a private classical concert in the wooden house of Duke Volkonsky. In the evening you rejoin the private train. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

Day 10 Krasnoyarsk

Krasnoyarsk, like Yekaterinburg and Ulan Ude used to be a “closed city” during Soviet times. It is located along Yenissei River which is the greatest river system flowing to the Arctic Ocean. A sightseeing tour shows several view points and the main shopping street which is fascinating as the local mayor decided to decorate it with palm trees in summer time – in the middle of Siberia! During a boat cruise on the Yenissei River you will have a great view on the city and the huge railway bridge crossing the river. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

Day 11 Novosibirsk

In the morning the Grand Trans Siberian Express stops in Novosibirsk. With 1,5 million inhabitants Russia’s third largest city and the biggest of Siberia, it is widely regarded as the centre of Siberia. It was founded in 1893 as the future site of the Trans Siberian railway bridge crossing the Siberian River Ob. During a sightseeing tour you will see the Opera House which is the biggest of Russia at Lenin Square as well as some remarkable orthodox churches which have survived the Soviet period. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

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Day 12 Yekaterinburg

Short stop in Yekaterinburg, capital of the Ural Mountains. It was founded in 1723 by Czar Peter I as the metallurgical factory and by the 20th century it had become one of the largest and the most important financial, industrial and cultural centres. Yekaterinburg is the geographical border defined by scientists between Europe and Asia. In the center of the city, you will visit the 2004 completed Cathedral on The Blood which was built at the place where Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express

Day 13 Kazan

Sightseeing in Kazan starts with a comprehensive tour of the city. Kazan has a beautiful citadel, called Kremlin, which was declared a World Heritage Site in 2000. It is surrounded by towers and walls, erected in the 16th and 17th centuries. On the Kazan Kremlin grounds there are the huge Qol-Şarif mosque and the Palace of the local Governor. Accommodation onboard the Grand Trans Siberian Express.

Day 14 Moscow

Today the almost 6,000 miles long journey from Peking to Moscow terminates. A full day sightseeing tour shows you the magnificent Red Square, the Kremlin grounds and other highlights of Moscow. After dinner a tour of Moscow by night through the beautiful illuminated city will make you to forget old stories of Russia being grey and dark. Moscow has become a vibrant city, comparable to Paris or Rome and full of life. Accommodation in a **** Hotel in Moscow.

Day 15 Moscow

Morning at leisure in Moscow. Airport transfers are provided by our service team to connect with your flight departing Moscow.



More Information

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