

TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPLORED

The Trans-Siberian line all the way from Moscow to Vladivostok with the highlight stops of Ekaterinburg full of history on the border of Europe and Asia and Irkutsk for stunning Lake Baikal & the Siberian countryside.



Departure Dates:

Daily departures year round

Tour Highlights:

- An "All-Rail" holiday
- Historical Ekaterinburg on the border with Europe & Asia
- Spectacular Siberian Scenery & Lake Baikal
- The once forbidden port city of Vladivostok
- High quality hotels
- Tours in Moscow, Irkutsk & Lake Baikal and Vladivostok
- Your own cabin cabin on the trains from Moscow to Vladivostok



Tour Itinerary:

Day 1:

Welcome to Moscow, Russia's capital and its largest city with more than 12 million people. It is the political and economic centre of this vast country and has many of Russia's most famous sights, not least Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral. With over 800 years of history there is also a wealth of architecture, museums and monuments to a colourful past. Transfer by private car with an English speaking driver to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to start exploring this stunning city.

No meals included today

Day 2:

Moscow's Kremlin is Russia's political center and of huge importance for anyone interested in the history of both of the early Tsars and of the 20th Century Communist State. The large site contains architectural monuments from 6 centuries including Palaces, Cathedrals (two of which we will enter) and the famous Ivan the Terrible Bell Tower.

This tour also visits the Armoury, a treasure house of ancient Russian regalia, ceremonial tsar's dresses, church hierarchs' vestments, gold and silverware by Russian, European and Eastern masters, arms and armors, royal carriages and ceremonial horse harnesses. The visit includes the exhibit of the Cap of Monomakh, the Tsars' crown that was passed from generation to generation.

The rest of the day is free to further explore Moscow.

Breakfast is included

Day 3:

Free time this morning to explore Moscow before your departure on the Trans-Siberian train. The city has much to offer whatever the weather. Mid-Afternoon transfer to the station for the train to Ekaterinburg. Settle into your cabin which will become your home for the coming days.

Breakfast is included

Day 4:

With luck the gentle rhythm of the train led to a good night's sleep! A full day on the train through a region of farms, small towns and villages interspersed with birch forests. Towards the end of the day you cross the Europe-Asia continental border arriving in Ekaterinburg a short time afterwards. Ekaterinburg is a more representative experience of a Russian city than, say, Moscow and has a rich and fascinating history. It is surrounded by beautiful, rolling countryside dotted with traditional Siberian villages. Transfer to your hotel to overnight.



No meals included today - the train does have a dining car though

Day 5:

Today we drive 145 km to the beautiful and photogenic 300 year old Koptelovo village. Here we see a traditional Siberian “izba” house - a style suited to the often extreme environment that can be seen right across Siberia. We also visit the local museum to learn about everyday life in this part of Russia and listen to a concert of local folk music. To round the day off take a horse carriage (sledge in winter) ride, the traditional way people moved around these remote villages. Return to Ekaterinburg late afternoon with a free evening.

Breakfast and lunch are included

Day 6:

This morning your guide will take you on a 3 hour walking tour of the city’s highlights. Stop at the central square and see statues of Ekaterinburg’s founders and leaders and learn local stories, legends (and a few jokes!) related to them. Continue to the 1905 Revolution square before the most compelling story will be told at the beautiful Church of Spilled Blood located at the Romanovs’ Death Site and Chapel of St Elizabeth. We also see views of the city from the Hill of Ascension and visit the powerful Afghanistan memorial at the Square of the Red Army. Ekaterinburg also has plenty of architecture including the impressive 19th Century villas of the Ural’s “gold merchants” and monumental buildings in “Stalin’s neoclassicism” style. The tour also includes a visit to the Ural Museum of Minerals, one of the best private collections of minerals and gems in the world.

After lunch (own arrangement) drive 15 km north-west to a monastery dedicated to the Romanov’s family located on the spot where the Bolsheviks tried to hide the corpses of the Tsar and his family in a secret grave. Today this is a Russian Orthodox pilgrimage site including a grave and seven wooden churches. Continue on to the continental border of Europe and Asia 20 km west of the city. On the way we make a short stop at the Memorial of Victims of the GULAGs. The Main Obelisk “Between Europe & Asia” allows you to straddle the continental divide and you also get a Certificate with a glass of sparkling wine!

Evening transfer to the station for your onward train to Irkutsk. From this point on you have entered Siberia!

Breakfast is included

Day 7:

The scenery today is flat, often swampy or forested and with few large settlements. The major city is Omsk but there are also a few other large stops. This is a day for relaxing, socializing and getting into a good book!



No meals included today - the train does have a dining car though

Day 8:

The last full day on the train in this section of the trip passing prosperous Krasnoyarsk after which the scenery is particularly pleasant consisting of gently rolling hills and dense forests of larch, pine and, of course, birch trees. There are many rivers and ponds and if it hasn't happened before now you will start to comprehend just how vast and untouched this part of Russia is as the sun sets on the endless taiga of Siberia.

No meals included today - the train does have a dining car though

Day 9:

Arrival in Irkutsk, regarded as the modern day cultural capital of Siberia, famed for its traditional wooden architecture, complimented by a vibrant cafe and restaurant culture.

Transfer from the station the 1 hour drive following the route of the Angara River down to the village of Listvyanka located close to where the river meets beautiful Lake Baikal. The lake is among the deepest in the world at 1,642 meters and has exceptionally clear water.

Breakfast and time to settle in to your accommodation before your guide will take you on a 4 hour walking tour including the beautiful church and Limnological Museum to learn about the Lake itself and its unique flora and fauna. We also take chairlift up to a view point for some of the best lake vistas. If time we can also visit the local fish market before a free evening.

Breakfast is included

Day 10:

A free day in Listvyanka to further explore the village and the surrounding forests and view points. It may also be possible to take a ferry over to Port Baikal or perhaps just relax and take it all in at your accommodation. The village also has a banya (Russian sauna) you can arrange to visit and which we heartily recommend as the quintessential Siberian experience!

Breakfast is included

Day 11:

After breakfast drive the 1 hour back to Irkutsk for a 2 hour walking tour of the city centre including the park and War Memorial, some of the beautiful churches along the Angara river, the main city centre streets and the statue of Alexander III - the Tzar responsible for the Trans-Siberian railway. Evening transfer to the station for your onward train to Vladivostok.



Breakfast is included

Day 12:

Overnight you passed Ulan Ude and from now you will also notice a change in the people with many more Asian faces as you pass through and on from Buryatia and its strong cultural ties to Mongolia. This is a remote and pretty section of the trip with a hint of an older Asian culture ever present.

No meals included today - the train does have a dining car though

Day 13:

A day of many stops as the Trans-Siberian rumbles on towards Vladivostok. Much of the route is close to the Chinese border and you can feel the proximity to China from the faces on the platforms at many of the stops.

No meals included today - the train does have a dining car though

Day 14:

Early this morning you pass vibrant Khabarovsk with its 2.6km bridge which crosses the Amur river just before the lengthy stop in this pleasant city. The rest of the day feels slow as there are many stops on this final section before reaching Vladivostok's attractive station and the satisfaction of knowing you have completed the longest single train journey in the world - you have finally arrived! Transfer to your hotel to overnight.

No meals included today - the train does have a dining car though

Day 15:

A full day tour of Vladivostok today covering the main attractions and more including Vladivostok Railway Station - always worth a pre-look - and the C-56 submarine as well as passing many historic, cultural and architectural landmarks and view points. After lunch (own arrangement) we delve into Vladivostok's military history visiting its Fortress including two of the old batteries which now serve as museums. We also visit the Voroshilovskaya Battery located inside a real military base on Russky Island. This 80 year old building is a fantastic example of military architecture with it's rational organisation and efficient functioning. We also see the Pacific Navy warships stationed in the heart of the city which demonstrate the continuing importance of this port to Russia.

Breakfast and lunch are included

Day 16:



Free time today until a transfer to the airport, station or ferry terminal for your onward travel from Vladivostok and the end of your trip across Russia!

No meals included today



Hotel Information:

Moscow - Peter 1 Hotel 4*

Great location and easily walkable to Red Square and the Kremlin make this hotel one of the more reasonable lower end 5* options in Moscow.

Ekaterinburg - Chekhov Hotel 3*

Our hotel of choice in Ekaterinburg offering good comfort and excellent service with some character which is missing from most options in this city.

Listvyanka / Lake Baikal - Krestovaya Pad 3*

A good position with views overlooking the village and valley and good standard rooms. Some rooms have lake views and there is a good restaurant and deck.

Vladivostok - Hyundai Hotel 4*

This Korean built hotel is considered the best hotel in Vladivostok located in the centre of the city and with a good range of facilities including a swimming pool!

Train Information:

Train 16 or 60 Moscow to Ekaterinburg

Good fast service for opening part of the Trans-Siberian from Moscow to Ekaterinburg via Kazan and is considered one of the better trains in Russia.



Train 70 / 80 Ekaterinburg to Irkutsk

Running from Moscow to Irkutsk and beyond. The standard is good and although it does not have first class carriages, we can buyout additional berths.

Train 2 or 8 Irkutsk to Vladivostok

The only options along this remote part of the route but both are comfortable and maintain good standards.

Whats included - based on 2 people travelling?

8 nights' hotels as listed above (subject to availability)

Rail travel, as described based on your own sleeper cabins (subject to availability and based on 2 people)

All tours and excursions as detailed

Meals as listed in the itinerary

Whats NOT included

International Airfare to / from the start / finish of your trip

The Russian, Mongolian and Chinese visas

Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment

Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides

