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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Lake Baikal & Olkhon Island
- Two nights in Mongolia
- See Russia from East to West on the iconic Trans – Siberian
- See the vast steppes and taiga forests of Siberia
- Ekaterinburg in the Urals
- Kazan – capital of Tatarstan

21 DAYS Trans-Siberian Railway Beijing - Ulaanbaatar - Moscow



Jump aboard for the world's ultimate train ride - the Trans - Siberian on our 21 days adventure!

Hop on at Beijing, ride the rails with stops in Ulaanbaatar - Mongolia, Ulan Ude - Russia's bastion of Buddhism, Irkutsk - a Siberian exile point, Lake Baikal - the world's deepest lake, Olkhon Island, Ekaterinburg - last home of the Romanov Tsars, Kazan, before disembarking at Moscow.

An incredible journey across 11 time zones and 3 countries, connecting the Far East with Moscow, through remote and ever-changing landscapes, from the rugged Ural mountains in Siberia to end of the line at Moscow, encountering fascinating people and sights en route. You will encounter Russia in all its glory with sights few foreigners get to see.



Day 1 (07 Sep, Mon)	Arrive Beijing, China (1N)	(-/-/-)
Arrive in Beijing to begin your Trans – Siberian adventure. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel. Free at leisure Pentahotel 4* or similar		
Day 2 (08 Sep, Tue)	Depart Beijing by train	(B/-/-)
Transfer to Beijing Main Station for departure to Ulaanbaatar on Train #23 at 07:27am . Observe the extraordinary spectacle of the trains changing wheels from Chinese size to Mongolian size at the border. Overnight Train.		
Day 3 (09 Sep, Wed)	Arrive Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2N)	(-/-/D)
Arrive Ulaanbaatar , capital of Mongolia at 14:35pm . Transfer to hotel before enjoying a cultural show and Mongolian BBQ dinner . Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel 5* or similar		
Day 4 (10 Sep, Thu)	Terelj National Park	(B/L/D)
After breakfast, City tour of Ulaanbaatar includes Gandan Monastery, Sukhbaatar Square and National History Museum . Travel to Terelj National Park, visiting Chinggis Khan Monument on the way . Explore the valley with your guide, hiking to the Aryabala meditation temple (or alternative) to enjoy the view of Terelj valley. Staying overnight at the fabulous Red Rocks Resort. Red Rocks Resort – Ger Accommodation or similar		
Day 5 (11 Sep, Fri)	Depart Ulaanbaatar by train	(B/L/-)
Free time in the morning before transfer to train station for departure to Ulan Ude, Russia on Train #5 at 15:22pm Overnight Train.		
Day 6 (12 Sep, Sat)	Arrive Ulan Ude, Russia (1N)	(B/L/-)
Arrive Ulan Ude at 06:20am . Ulan Ude is the capital of Russia's Buryatia Republic and it has a unique mix of the Buryat and Russian people with their culture of Buddhist and Orthodox religion. It also has the world's largest Lenin head! Day tour to Ivolginsky Datsun and local area and visit an Old Believer's Village. Enjoy lunch with a local family. Baikal Plaza Hotel 4* or similar		
Day 7 (13 Sep, Sun)	Depart Ulan Ude by Train – Irkutsk (1N)	(B/-/D)
Transfer to train station for departure to Irkutsk on Train #69 at 07:47am . Travel along the southern shores of Lake Baikal. Arrive Irkutsk at 15:59pm . Transfer to hotel. Irkutsk is a cross between Western Russia and Siberia, Buryatia and Mongolia. It is also the stopping point for Lake Baikal. Courtyard by Courtyard Marriott Irkutsk 4* or similar		
Day 8 (14 Sep, Mon)	Irkutsk – Olkhon Island, Lake Baikal (3N)	(B/-/D)
Minibus drive (and ferry) to Olkhon Island on Lake Baikal. Lake Baikal is one of the must see stops on any Trans-Siberian trip. It is a totally unique destination and geographically in a position which makes it rarely visited unless you travel on the Trans-Siberian and take time to stop. It contains one fifth of all fresh water reserves of our planet and the water is so transparent that you can see to a depth of 40m. Lada Guesthouse or similar 3*		
Day 9 (15 Sep, Tue)	Okhon Island	(B/L/D)
After breakfast, you will head off to explore Olkhon Island with your guide. Olkhon Island is the largest island in Lake Baikal. The island is renowned for its archaeological landmarks and diverse ecology, including taiga forest, steppe and a small desert.		
Day 10 (16 Sep, Wed)	Okhon Island	(B/L/D)
Join a group excursion to Khoboi Cape at the north end of the island near the settlement of Khuzir, visiting Shaman Rock.		

Day 11 (17 Sep, Thu)	Olkhon Island – Irkutsk	(B/L/D)
<p>Return to Irkutsk by ferry and mini bus. After checking in hotel, free time at leisure. Courtyard by Courtyard Marriott Irkutsk 4* or similar</p>		
Day 12 (18 Sep, Fri)	Depart Irkutsk by train	(B/-/-)
<p>City tour of Irkutsk before transfer to train station for departure on Train #69 at 16:39pm for Ekaterinburg Overnight Train</p>		
Day 13 (19 Sep, Sat)	On board train, crossing Siberia	(-/-/-)
<p>Sit back and relax. Watch as the vast Siberian steppe passing by or make new friends or imbibe in the national Russian drink of Vodka. Overnight Train</p>		
Day 14 (20 Sep, Sun)	Arrive Ekaterinburg (2N)	(-/-/-)
<p>Ekaterinburg is on the slopes of the Ural Mountain (so actually it is in Asia). It was founded by Peter the Great and is infamous for the murder of the Russian Royal Family. It was closed to foreigners until opening its doors in 1991. Arrive in Ekaterinburg at 21:55pm. Transfer to hotel for check in. Four Elements Hotel Ekaterinburg 4* or similar</p>		
Day 15 (21 Sep, Mon)	Ekaterinburg	(B/L/D)
<p>Enjoy an excursion to the Romanov Monastery and Military Museum.</p>		
Day 16 (22 Sep, Tue)	Depart Ekaterinburg by train – Kazan (1N)	(B/-/-)
<p>Transfer to train station for departure to Kazan on Train #15 at 10:12am. Arrive in Kazan at 21:25pm and transfer to hotel. Park Inn 4* or similar</p>		
Day 17 (23 Sep, Wed)	Depart Kazan by Train	(B/L/D)
<p>Kazan, capital of Tartarstan – a region where Russian and Central Asian cultures overlap. Meet your guide for excursion to the Kremlin and Kazan City tour. After lunch, visit Raif Monastery. Raifskii Bogorodizikii monastery territory and cathedrals is a charming and remarkable place - a designated National Park where you can clearly see the spirituality and mystery of Orthodox belief. There is an important spring with “magic life water” and making this monastery famous all over Russia. After dinner, transfer to Train #1 for departure to Moscow at 20:20pm</p>		
Day 18 (24 Sep, Thu)	Moscow (2N)	(-/L/D)
<p>Arrive Moscow at 07:10am. Transfer to hotel for rest before lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of Moscow City. Two nights stay in centrally located hotel in Moscow. Peter I Hotel Moscow 5* or similar</p>		
Day 19 (25 Sep, Fri)	Moscow	(B/L/-)
<p>Visit the Kremlin and Armoury. In the afternoon, take a tour of Moscow’s beautiful Underground Metro.</p>		
Day 20 (26 Sep, Sat)	Depart Moscow	(B/-/-)
<p>Morning at leisure. Depart Moscow with incredible memories of your Trans – Siberian Adventure.</p>		
Day 21 (27 Sep, Wed)	Home	

4D3N ST PETERSBURG OPTIONAL

Day 20 (26 Sep, Sat)	Moscow – St. Petersburg	(B/-/-)
Free morning in Moscow. Transfer to station for high speed train “Saspan” #768 at 13:30pm to St Petersburg. Arrive St Petersburg at 17:25pm. Novotel Hotel 4* or similar		
Day 21 (27 Sep, Sun)	St Petersburg	(B/L/-)
Morning city sightseeing includes Peter & Paul Fortress, St Isaacs’s Cathedral and Church of Spilled Blood. Afternoon excursion to Peterhof Palace.		
Day 22 (28 Sep, Mon)	St Petersburg	(B/L/-)
Morning guided tour of the Hermitage Museum (priority entrance). After lunch, visit Catherine Palace.		
Day 23 (29 Sep, Tue)	Depart St Petersburg	(B/-/-)
Depart St Petersburg for home.		
Day 24 (30 Sep, Wed)	Home	

Important reminder: The Trans – Siberian train schedule and prices is subject to change. First class tickets cannot be reserved and only issue 45 days before departure. There is a limited supply of first class tickets (1 or 2 carriages) and if we cannot confirm first class tickets, we will issue two berths in second class (base on twin share). There are no extra charges in this case despite costs being more expensive.

Date

07 Sep 2020

Tour Fare (Beijing to Moscow)

- 1. Second class cabins – RM24,999/ Pax**
Base on 4pax to a cabin
Start Ulaanbaatar – deduct RM1,500
- 2. Upgrade to First class cabins – add on RM3,300/ Pax**
Base on 2 pax to a cabin
Start Ulaanbaatar – deduct RM550pp
- 3. 4D3N St Petersburg optional – from RM4,800/ Pax**

Included: Train Fare / Hotel / Entrance Fees / Meals as indicated / Russian and China Visa / Gratuities / Services of Malaysian Tour Manager and local English speaking guides

Excluded: Flights / Travel Insurance

Deposit: Non refundable deposit of RM5,000pp required at time of booking together with passport copy.



Train class and standard

The itinerary is based on standard second class travel in four berth cabins. Keep in mind that some trains carry first class carriages whereas others offer second class only.

Optional upgrade to first class or private cabin

RM3,500 - Upgrade to first class or private cabin on the following train journeys

✓ first class berth on train #23 from Beijing to Ulaanbaatar

✓ first class berth on train #5 Ulaanbaatar to Ulan Ude

X no first class berth on train #69 day trip from Ulan Ude to Irkutsk / will book whole cabin

X no first class berth on train #69 from Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg

✓ first class berth on train #15/59 from Ekaterinburg to Kazan

✓ first class berth on train #1 from Kazan to Moscow

NOTE: In the event that First class cabins cannot be secured, we will book out whole second class cabin.

First / Second Class options

Travelling in standard second class you have four comfortable berths per cabin, two upper berths and two lower berths and a small window table. There are berths for up to 36 people in each carriage. In first class there are only two berths per cabin, usually two lower berths and a small window table (there are first class cabins on select trains with one upper and one lower berth and a small table and sofa chair instead). There are berths for up to 18 people in each carriage with similar toilet facilities as in second class on most trains.

During the day all four people in second class will generally sit on the lower berths so as to enjoy the view or prepare meals at the small table. On most carriages there are also small fold-down seats in the corridor. Though it is a little disturbing to constantly shift place to let passengers pass along the corridor, these seats do provide a means of escaping the confines of your cabin, capturing the view on the other side of the train, or make for adequate support if charging electronic devices using the electric sockets in the corridor. If you have an upper berth you can lie down and rest in 'semi-privacy' but cannot see the view. It tends to be very social with cabin doors left open during the day and people chatting in the corridors. In first class there is a little more space in the cabin and so you tend to keep the door closed. Apart from the extra privacy, especially for couples, the advantage of first class is having less of a queue for the toilet in the morning. First class carriages are generally closer to the dining carriage. In addition, travelling in the summer heat of July and August, first class is considerably cooler and less stuffy. Second class can heat up, especially when the train is in station. Keep in mind that where some trains do not have first class carriages (eg. train #69 between Ulan-Ude and Irkutsk - this is only a day trip though) we are happy to buy up the extra berths in a second class compartment to give you a cabin to yourself; you would still have more people in the carriage overall than in a first class carriage, though you would have the privacy of your own compartment.