



The Naadam Festival  
On board  
The Trans Siberian Express – Golden Eagle

A Private, Historical and Cultural Tour from  
Ulaan Baatar to Moscow with your personal English-speaking guides

The Naadam Festival is the one and only Big Event in Mongolia – a lively national festival, held every year in July. Naadam means “three manly games” and is often referred to as the world’s second-oldest Olympics, it celebrates the definition of civilisation in the Steppes eight centuries ago; archery, wrestling and horse riding. The competitors in the riding events are all children aged between five and twelve, many of whom have been in the saddle since the age of one. As they race along the plains for 20kms, thousands of spectators line the remote track to watch up to 650 children sitting confidently astride their small but sturdy Mongolian steeds. It is claimed that such equestrian skills won Genghis Khan an empire that stretched from the Sea of Japan all the way to Europe.

In recent times, women have been allowed to enter and they now compete in two of the three events, horse racing and archery. Once a religious ceremony, the festival now formally commemorates the 1921 revolution when Mongolia declared itself a free country.

This is a unique opportunity to be among the few non-Mongolians to experience this spectacular but little known festival and soak up the exciting atmosphere of this national holiday. The journey combines the Naadam Festival with an amazing overland journey to Moscow on board the *Golden Eagle* Trans-Siberian Express private train.

**Day 1**

**July 10**

**Saturday**

*Ulaan Baatar*

Arrival in Ulaan Baatar. Your driver will meet you outside of customs and baggage claim and transfer you to the Kempinski (or similar), for a three night stay. This evening enjoy a welcome reception dinner at your hotel, whilst you meet your fellow travelers and anticipate the epic 13 day voyage that lies ahead.

## Day 2

**July 11**                      **Sunday**

*Ulaan Baatar*

Today you will spend a full day at the Naadam Festival. You will be able to observe the elaborate opening ceremony which consists of local dancers, athletes, horse riders and musicians, before watching the national horse race.

## Day 3

**July 12**                      **Monday**

*Ulaan Baatar*

This is the day for all main competitions. In the morning you will attend archery, wrestling & a sheep ankle bone flick competition. In the afternoon you will visit Genghis Khan's '13<sup>th</sup> Century National Park' -a celebration of the great kings of Mongolia.

## Day 4

**July 13**                      **Tuesday**

*Ulaan Baatar*

Transfer to the station for boarding of the luxurious *Golden Eagle* Trans-Siberian Express.

## Day 5

**July 14**                      **Wednesday**

*Ulan Ude*

This afternoon the train arrives in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic. The ethnic and cultural diversity of this area offers a unique insight into its heritage. As you tour the area you will notice the different faces and dress styles of these welcoming people. During your exploration of the Old Believers Village you will have the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of these religious people as you enjoy a traditional meal and concert featuring local dancers and musicians.

## Day 6

**July 15**                      **Thursday**

*Lake Baikal*

Few natural sights can surpass the beauty and grandeur of Lake Baikal. For five hours the train will wind its way through tunnels and along cliff hugging tracks above the lake with a vista of snow capped peaks along the far shore forming a picture-perfect backdrop. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and holds 20% of the world's freshwater. Also known as the 'Pearl of Siberia' it is home to a unique breed of freshwater seal and over fifty species of fish including omul which will be served in the dining car for some meals.

Weather permitting, the train will stop at one of Baikal's picturesque and secluded bays to enjoy a delicious BBQ of freshly smoked fish prepared by the train's own chefs. For the brave hearted, there is even time for a refreshing swim in the crystal clear waters. You will also visit Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement nestling at the base of the surrounding hills.

## Day 7

**July 16**

**Friday**

*Irkutsk*

Arrival in Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', where today's visit is of the most significant sites and museums in this fascinating city includes an exploration of the classic wooden architecture that has given many of this region's buildings such a distinctive and unique appearance. Next, you will visit the Decembrist House museum which is dedicated to the memory of the exiled aristocrats who were forced to flee to this remote outpost after the failed revolution of 1825. Here you can enjoy a private concert before returning to the train for dinner.

## Day 8

**July 17**

**Saturday**

*Onboard the Golden Eagle*

A day to unwind and reflect on the sights you have experienced on the journey so far. Take the time to chat with your fellow passengers, perhaps learn a few words of Russian or simply enjoy the ever changing landscape outside your window as it unfolds.

## Day 9

**July 18**

**Sunday**

*Novosibirsk*

This morning the Golden Eagle arrives in the modern 'Soviet' city of Novosibirsk where you will have the opportunity to experience the life and character of the city's rich culture where the arts, science and literature predominate. Your city tour will include the exterior of the Opera House, an architectural marvel which houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is the largest opera house in the world. In front of the Opera House, there is an imposing statue of Lenin – a marvelous opportunity to have your photograph taken with this iconic political leader.

## Day 10

**July 19**

**Monday**

*Yekaterinburg*

Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, the third largest Russian city is also the capital of the Urals. The cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilizations come together in this fascinating and cosmopolitan landscape. Your guide will take you on a city tour which includes the site where Tsar Nicholas II was executed with his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Now a church dedicated to their memory, this site provides a powerful insight into the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. This afternoon the train will cross the Europe/Asia divide after we leave the historic city of Yekaterinburg.

## Day 11

**July 20**

**Tuesday**

*Kazan*

You spend your last full day on board the *Golden Eagle* today. Arrival at the picturesque and historic city of Kazan by mid-morning. Situated on the River Volga, Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan. You will have the opportunity to this city's rich tapestry of history and culture. One of the highlights of this city tour is an exploration of the Kremlin Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the walls of this ancient citadel you will explore its stunning mosque and onion-domed cathedral.

## Day 12

**July 21**

**Wednesday**

*Moscow*

After traveling along this epic route we arrive in Moscow. Your city tour of Moscow takes you to Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might. Here you will see an eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil's Cathedral with its magnificent onion-domed spires, the grandeur of The Kremlin and the somber and evocative site of Lenin's tomb. After your tour, you will be transferred to the luxurious five-star Marriott Aurora (or similar) located in the heart of this vibrant city. Your final evening is spent saying goodbye to your fellow traveling companions and friends at the farewell dinner.

## Day 13

**July 22**

**Thursday**

*Moscow*

Today your driver will meet you at the hotel and transfer you to the airport for departure on your onward flight.

**Price:**

Silver Class

\$13,795.00 per person, double occupancy.  
\$19,995.00 single occupancy

Gold Class

\$17,195.00 per person, double occupancy  
\$24,395.00 single occupancy

Imperial Suite

\$26,795.00 per person, double occupancy  
\$37,995.00 single occupancy.

Prices are per person for the fully inclusive tour Ulaan Baatar to Moscow. Air-fare is not included.

Prices are subject to change until deposit is received.

**Naadam Festival: Ulaan Baatar to Moscow (2012)**

July 10-22

**General Information:**

A full passport with at least six months validity from the start of the tour is required along with a Russian Visa. Non-US citizens are required to obtain a Mongolian visa.

Subject to bookings, this tour may also be operated in the reverse direction on the same dates or cancelled.

A deposit in the amount of \$2,500.00 per person is required on all Silver Class cabins, a deposit in the amount of \$3,000.00 per person is required on all Gold Class bookings and a deposit in the amount of \$5,000.00 per person is required on all Imperial Suite bookings.

Your itinerary includes...

*Accommodations :*

**Ulaan Baatar**

**Three (3) nights** at the Kempinski (or similar); Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

**Golden Eagle, Trans Siberian Express**

**One Silver or Gold Class Cabin or Imperial Suite for Eight (8) nights** on board the Golden Eagle Trans Siberian Express.

**Moscow**

**One (1) night** at the Marriott Aurora; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

### **Imperial Suites:**

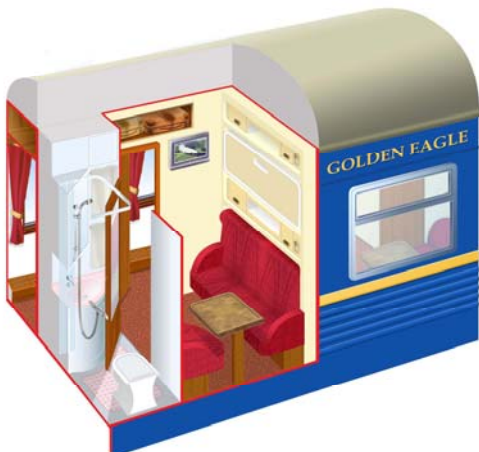
The Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available onboard the *Golden Eagle* measuring 120 square feet and benefit from their own large and luxurious fixed double bed as well as a dedicated lounge area with dressing table. Suite facilities include private en-suite facilities with power shower and underfloor heating, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD screen and two large picture windows. Guests will also benefit from a dedicated butler service, a selection of complimentary drinks from the premium bar list, included laundry service and room upgrades to the next available category at our selected hotels as per the itinerary.

### **Gold Class Cabins:**



Gold Class Cars are purpose-built, new carriages designed for the 21st century to offer top-class comfort and service, which equals the best luxury trains in the world today. Each carriage has five twin compartments, all fitted with one upper berth and one lower berth that converts to a sofa seating for daytime travel. Each compartment offers 77 square feet of space and features its own private shower and toilet facilities and has a wardrobe, audio system, DVD/VCR with the latest flat, plasma screens and air conditioning with individual climate control by remote handset.

### **Silver Class Cabins:**



The Silver Class Carriage provides complete comfort for our passengers. These newly added cabins are slightly smaller than Gold Class Cabins offering 60 square feet, but still

have modern en-suite facilities with a smaller shower area. The sleepers are modern air conditioned cars built in Germany. They are cozy and comfortable, and provide an ideal method of transport for the remote areas of Russia that you will visit. Each car has six twin compartments, all fitted with one upper berth and one lower berth that converts to a sofa seating for daytime travel.

There is ample space for luggage storage and for suitcases in a recess above the corridor area. Clothes hangers are provided and the cars are well appointed with mirrors, bedside table, reading lamps and space for the storage of small items.

**The Tour Includes:**

- \*All meals.
- \*Wine, beer and soft drinks provided with Lunch and Dinner.
- \*Experienced tour representatives throughout the tour.
- \*Russian Interpreters able to speak English, German, French and Italian.
- \*Comprehensive off-train sightseeing program as detailed in the itinerary. Please note that all touring is with fellow-passengers at all times.
- \*A doctor who travels with the train throughout the tour.
- \*Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water throughout the tour from your car attendant.

**The Tour Does Not Include:**

- \*Travel cancellation insurance.
- \*Charges of a personal nature on the train or at the hotels (laundry, telephone, bar account, etc.)
- \*Visas (as required) or Excess Baggage Charges, Airport Departure Taxes, Vaccination or Medical Costs.

**Options and Extensions:**

Please contact Exeter International for tour extensions and options in Russia. All tour extensions are on a private customized basis.

**Exeter International**

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