



Russia by Private Train On board The Trans Siberian Express – Golden Eagle Winter Wonderland Westbound

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

Days 1-2, Vladivostok

Arrive at Vladivostok Airport where you are met and transferred to the four-star Hotel Hyundai located for a one-night stay. You spend the following morning in Vladivostok. This once 'closed' Russian port offers visitors an opportunity to unravel its mysteries as you explore its principal military attractions including a tour of a restored submarine before boarding the *Golden Eagle* Trans-Siberian Express. Tonight you enjoy dinner as your rail adventure to Moscow begins.

Day 3, Onboard

Passing directly north of Seoul, Darwin and Osaka, you spend your first full day on board the *Golden Eagle* as the most easterly point of your journey is reached passing through Khabarovsk, where you cross the River Amur.

Days 4-5, Onboard

Enjoy a leisurely pace today as you travel through the beautiful Russian landscape of this vast and varied country.

Day 6, Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia

Your Trans-Siberian adventure takes you to Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia. Passing the central monument to Genghis Khan, undoubtedly the most feared and infamous Mongol, you also visit the National Museum where you explore the country's intriguing history. Lunch is taken Mongol style in a traditional Ger (Yurt) where you experience an authentic local meal and entertainment providing a unique opportunity to encounter this time-honored nomadic way of life.

Day 7, Ulan Ude

Today you arrive in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic. The ethnic and cultural diversity of this area offers a unique insight into its Mongol heritage. As you tour the area you will notice the different faces and dress styles of these welcoming people. During the exploration of the Old Believer's Village you have the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of these communities as we are treated to a traditional meal and enjoy a concert featuring local dancers and musicians.

Day 8, Lake Baikal

Today offers a real highlight of traveling through Siberia in winter. Few natural sights can surpass the beauty and grandeur of Lake Baikal. For five hours you wind your way through tunnels along cliff hugging tracks above the frozen lake with snow-capped peaks along the far shore forming a picture-perfect backdrop. Completely frozen in winter, Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and at this time of year you will visit the shoreside Ice Festival to look at the many intricate works of ice art. You are taken in a hovercraft across the lake for 30 minutes to the place where the ice fishing, dog sledges and snowmobiles are situated and you will enjoy the perfect vantage point to appreciate the magnificence of this unspoiled location. There is also the opportunity to watch the under-ice fishing and try the freshly caught fish which have been smoked in a mobile smokehouse and served warm with ice-cold vodka. Delicious! This is truly a unique day of activities and adventure to experience!

Day 9, Irkutsk

You arrive in Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', and take in the most significant sites and museums in this city, including an exploration of the classic wooden architecture that has given many of this region's buildings such a distinctive and unique appearance. Next, you 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. You will enjoy a private concert before leaving for the enchanting wooded encampment of Zaimka (Hunters Lodge) where you will be met by local women dressed in traditional costume. You have the opportunity to explore a Banya (Russian Sauna) in one of the region's authentic wooden houses. Drinks and traditional food can be enjoyed within a series of the cozy timber houses.

Day 10, Onboard

Today you relax onboard as your train travels through the Sayan Mountains. In comfort, enjoy the ever changing views as sweeping panoramas of natural beauty unfold before us. Time and weather permitting, you may stop at Abakan located at the confluence of the Yenisei and Abakan rivers.

Day 11, Novosibirsk

A modern 'Soviet' city, you will experience the life and character of Novosibirsk's rich cultural city. Your tour takes you to the Novosibirsk Opera House. An architectural marvel, it houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is the largest opera house in the world. In front of the Opera House, you will visit an imposing statue of Lenin – a marvelous opportunity to have your photograph taken with this iconic political leader.

Day 12, Yekaterinburg

Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, Yekaterinburg is Russia's third largest city and is also the capital of the Urals. The cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilisations fuse in this cosmopolitan landscape, making it a unique experience. Your tour takes you to the execution site where Tsar Nicholas II was executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Now a church dedicated to their memory, this site offers a powerful insight into the turmoil of the Russian Revolution.

Day 13, Vladimir & Suzdal

Today you visit the historic city of Vladimir. Founded in 990, it is one of the Russia's oldest communities with an architectural wealth and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your tour takes in Uspensky Cathedral, built between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. It is considered one of the most important and beautiful of Russian cathedrals, where many of the prominent Russian Tsars were crowned. Your excursion moves on to the pastoral town of Suzdal, one of Russia's most perfectly preserved walled cities dating back to 1024. Here you visit the atmospheric St Euthymius Monastery to witness an enchanting choral performance by the resident monks. No Russian winter experience would be complete without a Troika Sledge Ride. Enjoy the stunning scenery as your open horse drawn sleigh takes you on a captivating journey around Suzdal.

Days 14-15, Moscow

After traveling along this epic route to the end of the Trans-Siberian line, you arrive in Moscow by mid-morning. Your city tour of Moscow principally takes you to Red Square. Here you see a mix of fascinating architecture, such as St Basil's Cathedral with its magnificent onion-domed spires and the sombre and evocative site of Lenin's tomb. With our Freedom of Choice touring options you may instead wish to visit, for example, the Tretyakov Gallery or the Museum of the KGB. At the conclusion of your city tour, you will be transferred to the five-star Marriott Royal Aurora hotel (or similar). Your final evening is spent saying your goodbyes to your travelling companions at the Farewell Dinner. The following morning you will be transferred to Moscow airport to begin your journey home.

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 Vladivostok to Moscow. Air-fare is not included.

Prices are subject to change until deposit is received.

Westbound: Vladivostok to Moscow (2012)

March 1 - 15

General Information:

A full passport with at least six months validity from the start of the tour is required along with a double entry 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.

The Trans-Siberian Express Train Tour Price Includes:

Accommodations:

Vladivostok

One (1) night at the Hotel Hyundai or similar; Buffet Breakfast and tax included daily.

Golden Eagle, Trans Siberian Express

One Silver or Gold Class Cabin or Imperial Suite for Twelve (12) nights on board the Golden Eagle Trans Siberian Express. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included daily.

Moscow

One (1) night at the Marriott Aurora or similar; Buffet Breakfast and tax included daily.

Imperial Suites:

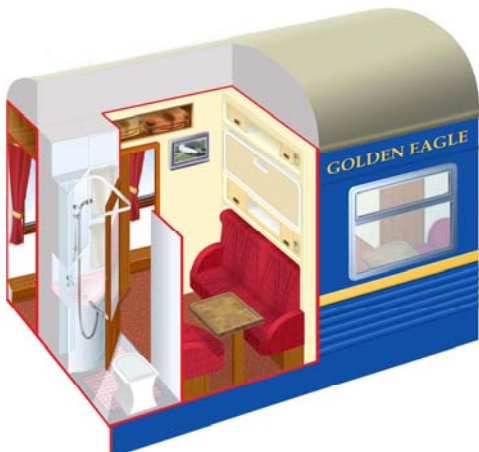
The Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available onboard the *Golden Eagle* measuring 120 square feet and benefit from their own large and luxurious fixed double bed as well as a dedicated lounge area with dressing table. Suite facilities include private en-suite facilities with power shower 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.

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