

PREMIUM

15D13N TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

TOUR CODE: ENTSRS

The unique Trans-Siberian journey from Moscow to Beijing on the **Grand Trans-Siberian Express** combines the most fascinating destinations, **private train setting with full board**, and sense of adventure. Feel the imperial spirit of Russia's endless expanses, see the unique nature of Siberia, sound the depths of Lake Baikal, enjoy Mongolian hospitality and rich culture all in 15 unforgettable days.

RIVER OLKHA, RUSSIA



HIGHLIGHTS

MOSCOW

- Panoramic Tour of Moscow
- Kremlin
- Red Square
- Moscow Metro

YEKATERINBURG

- Panoramic Tour of Yekaterinburg
- Church on the Blood
- Ganina Yama

NOVOSIBIRSK

- Panoramic Tour of Novosibirsk
- Opera House
- Lenin Square
- Taiga – 'Real Siberian Forest'
- Boat Tour on River Ob

KRASNOYARSK

- Panoramic Tour of Krasnoyarsk
- Shopping Street

IRKUTSK

- Panoramic Tour of Irkutsk
- Old Town
- Classical Concert in Palace

BAIKAL LAKE (LISTVYANKA)

- Panoramic Tour of Listvyanka
- St Nicholas Church
- Cruise on Lake Baikal
- Port Baikal
- Baikal Barbeque Dinner

ULAN UDE

- Panoramic City tour of Ulan-ude
- Orthodox "Old Believers" Village
- Russian Homemade Lunch

ULAN BATOR

- Panoramic tour of Ulan Bator
- Gandan Monastery
- Sukhabaatar Square
- Bogdo Khan Museum
- Mongolian folk show
- Mongolian Hot Pot
- Naadam Show

TERELJ

- Terelj National Park
- Visit the house of a nomadic family
- Overnight in a Yurt

EXCLUSIVE

- Private Train Setting on Grand Trans-Siberian Express
- Overnight stay in Yurt
- Experiences of Concert, Cruises and Shows



DELICACIES

Meal Plan

- 13 Breakfasts, 11 Lunches, 12 Dinners
- Siberian Cuisine
 - Baikal BBQ
 - Mongolian Hot Pot
 - Homemade Russian Meal
 - Peking Duck

4-5★ HOTELS

- MOSCOW** Marriot
YEKATERINBURG Marriot Courtyard
NOVOSIBIRSK Marriot Courtyard
IRKUTSK Marriot Courtyard
ULAN BATOR Mongolian Yurt
BEIJING Westin

6 NIGHTS IN THE HOTEL
 1 NIGHT IN THE MONGOLIAN YURT
 6 NIGHTS ON THE TRAIN

**Note: Hotels subject to final confirmation. Should there be changes, customers will be offered accommodation similar to this list.

DAY 1

HOME ► MOSCOW

Assemble at the airport and depart for **Moscow**, the capital of Russia.

DAY 2

MOSCOW

Meals on board

Arrival in Moscow. You will be met with your tour guide at the Moscow airport and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 3

MOSCOW ► TRANS-SIBERIAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

A full day sightseeing tour will take you to the magnificent **Red Square**, the **Kremlin** grounds, Moscow Metro and other highlights of Moscow. You will forget old stories about Moscow being grey and dark. It has become a vibrant city, full of life. In the afternoon transfer to the railway station where your private train **Grand Trans-Siberian Express** will be ready for you to board for the first leg of the almost 8000 km long journey to Beijing. Welcome dinner and accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

DAY 4

TRANS SIBERIAN TRAIN ► YEKATERINBURG

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today you enjoy a typical day on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Your private train passes through endless scenery of forests,

15D13N TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY



lakes and small settlements, followed by the **Ural Mountains**. A day to relax, watch the landscape and listen to lectures about Russia and its people. In the evening you arrive in Yekaterinburg, the "Capital of the Ural Mountains". Accommodation in Yekaterinburg.

DAY 5 YEKATERINBURG ▶ TRANS-SIBERIAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Yekaterinburg – "Capital of the Ural Mountains". The city was founded in 1723 by Czar Peter I as the center of metallurgical industry. By the 20th century it had become one of the largest and the most important financial, industrial and cultural centers of Russia. In the morning a sightseeing tour will take you to the city center and a place of remarkable importance for Russian history: the "**Cathedral on The Blood**" which was built at the place where Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. In the afternoon an excursion into the Ural forests takes you to **Ganina Yama**, which today is considered by Russians as a "holy place". It is an assembly of small wooden chapels which were erected in the 1990's to honor the last Czar's family of the Romanov dynasty who were buried in Ganina Yama. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

DAY 6 TRANS SIBERIAN ▶ NOVOSIBIRSK

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

A full day of relaxation and lectures on the train, today you will pass through the plains of Western Siberia and reach **Novosibirsk** in the late afternoon. With 1.5 million inhabitants, it is Russia's third largest city and the biggest of its kind in 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. Accommodation in Novosibirsk.

DAY 7 NOVOSIBIRSK ▶ TRANS SIBERIAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

In the morning a city sightseeing tour shows you some remarkable orthodox churches which have survived the Soviet period, and you see the famous **Opera House** which is the largest of Russia, situated in the centre of the city at **Lenin Square**. In the afternoon, an excursion takes you out of the city into the **Taiga**, the "real Siberian forest". About 30 km out of the city you have the opportunity of visiting the largest open air railway museum of Russia, a collection of more than 60 showpieces of steam, diesel and electric locomotives as well as several historical passenger cars – a perfect insight

into the development of the trains on the Trans-Siberian Railway. On a **boat tour on the River Ob** you cruise under the mighty railway bridge of the Trans-Siberian railway. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

DAY 8 KRASNOYARSK ▶ TRANS SIBERIAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Krasnoyarsk, like Yekaterinburg and Ulan-Ude used to be a "closed city" during Soviet times – closed to foreigners and also to most Soviet citizens at that time. It is located along the Yenisei River which is the greatest river system flowing to the Arctic Ocean. A sightseeing tour shows you 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! Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

DAY 9 IRKUTSK

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Irkutsk is famous for its trade with Mongolia and China and used to be called "Paris of Siberia" because of its colourful life style during the time of the Tsars. You visit the old town with its

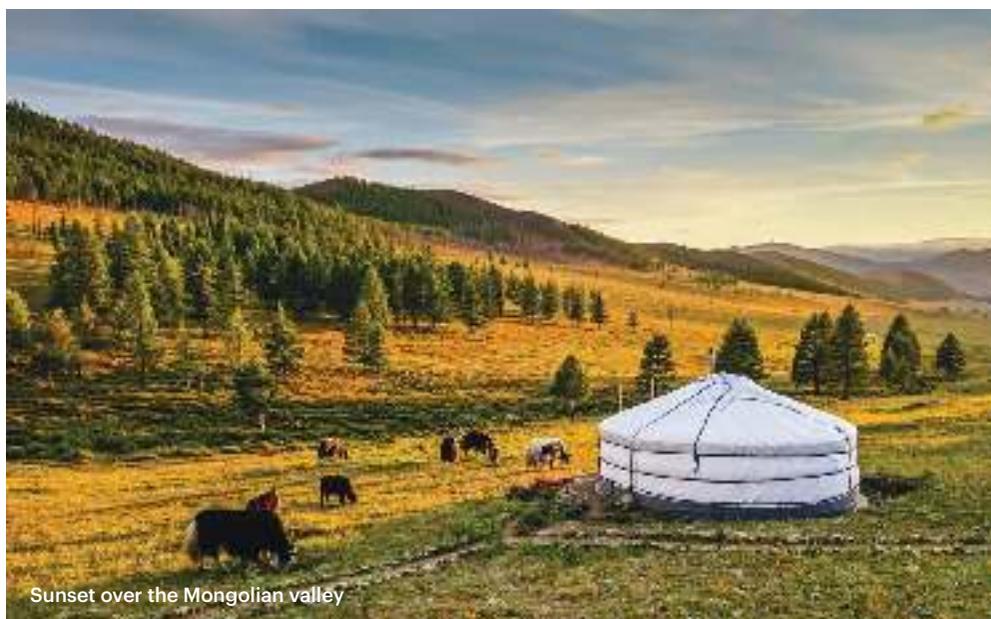
large quarters still consisting of wooden houses only, before invited to the cultural highlight of the tour, a private classical concert in a palace of historical background. Accommodation in Irkutsk.

DAY 10 **BAIKAL LAKE (LISTVIANKA) ► TRANS SIBERIAN**

Breakfast, Lunch - Siberian, Dinner – Baikal BBQ
In the morning, a bus will take you from the hotel to **Lake Baikal**. A walk through the village of **Listvyanka** shows you to **St Nicholas church**, a typical orthodox wooden church beautifully renovated in the 1990's. Indulge in a Siberian lunch and taste the famous Omul fish which lives only in Lake Baikal. In the afternoon a boat takes you on a short **cruise on Lake Baikal** to the small village of Port Baikal where the private train will wait for you. Today the private train will run along the scenic Circum Baikal Railway line between **Port Baikal** and Sludyanka, which for many years has been used only by a few 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 barbecue is also a part of the program. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

DAY 11 **ULAN-UDE ► TRANS-SIBERIAN**

Breakfast, Lunch – Russian Homemade, Dinner Ulan-Ude is the capital of the so-called "Buryat Autonomous Republic" of the Russian Federation. Buryats are an ethnic group close to Mongolians with an amazing mix of cultures and religions. Ulan-Ude is a meeting place between East and West. Like Irkutsk, the city still has large areas with typical Siberian wooden houses. Your sightseeing excursion goes to one of the villages of **Orthodox "Old Believers"** still practising a traditional way of life like people did centuries ago. You will be hosted for a typical Russian homemade lunch. When leaving Ulan-Ude, the Grand Trans-Siberian Express switches from the Trans-Siberian mainline to the Trans Mongolian mainline on its way to Ulaanbaatar. In the evening the train reaches the Russian border station Naushki and the Mongolian border station Sukhbaatar. Russian and Mongolian immigration formalities will take place in the train. You may stay in your



Sunset over the Mongolian valley

compartment and do not have to leave the train. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

DAY 12 **ULAN BATOR**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner – Mongolian Hot Pot
In the morning the Grand Trans-Siberian Express arrives in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. During a sightseeing tour you will visit the famous **Ghandan Monastery**, the central **Sukhbaatar Square**, the **Bogd Khan Museum** which used to be formerly the winter and sometimes also the summer palace of the Khans', 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 nomadic yurt settlements. An amazing cultural **music and dance show** will introduce Mongolian folk music and culture to you. In the evening you will experience a traditional **Mongolian Hot Pot** dinner. Accommodation in Ulaanbaatar.

DAY 13 **ULAN BATOR**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Today an unforgettable excursion will take you to the **Terelj National Park** which is famous for its nature. A stone formation called the "turtle" and the beautiful mountainous scenery will fascinate you. In the park area you will have the chance to meet a herder family inside their yurt. A **Naadam show** specially arranged demonstrates 3 disciplines of the Mongolian National Naadam festival: wrestling, archery and horseracing. Accommodation in a Yurt.



Temple of the Pure Land in the Ivolginsky Datsan (buddhist monastery), Buryatia, Russia

DAY 14 **ULAN BATOR ► BEIJING**

Breakfast, Dinner – Peking Duck.
Today, take a flight into Beijing, the capital of China. Dine together and savour the famous Beijing Peking Duck. Accommodation in Beijing.

DAY 15 **BEIJING ► HOME**

Breakfast
You will transfer to the airport and depart for your flight back home. We hope you enjoyed your vacation with our company. We look forward to seeing you again for your next trip.

Tipping and Train Gratuities: (based on 15D13N)
• €275 per person

Note:

- A minimum group size of 10 passengers is required for a confirmed departure.
- The sequence of the itinerary, flight schedules and hotels are subject to change without prior notice in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- All activities are subject to weather conditions.
- During major events and festivals, accommodation may be re-located to outside of the city or in another city without prior notice.
- No triple sharing is allowed.