



Experience Classic Original Trans-Siberian

Along the way
Vladivostok
Moscow
St. Petersburg

Leaving from Vladivostok to St. Petersburg

The Moscow-Vladivostok route appeals to train fans, completists and historians. You don't pass through Mongolia on this route! Other Siberian destinations (Ekaterinburg, Irkutsk and Ulan-Uday) could potentially be added – contact us if you would like a sample price and itinerary for doing so.



What's included

FULL ON

Train
> 4-berth rail for complete journey (pre-assigned berths)
> option to upgrade to 2-berth

Vladivostok
> 1 night 3★ hotel

Moscow
> transfer on arrival to your hotel
> 2 nights 3★ hotel, breakfast
> 3 hour personalised walking tour with local expert

St. Petersburg
> transfer on arrival to your hotel
> 2 nights 3★ hotel, breakfast
> 3 hour personalised walking tour with local expert

NO FRILLS

Train
> 4-berth rail for complete journey (pre-assigned berths)
> option to upgrade to 2-berth

Vladivostok
> 1 night 1★ hotel

Moscow
> transfer on arrival to your hotel
> 2 nights 1★ hotel, breakfast

St. Petersburg
> transfer on arrival to your hotel
> 2 nights 1★ hotel, breakfast
> 3 hour personalised walking tour with local expert

In the know

In WW2 Stalin had an idea to invade Japan – by tunnel. He gave orders to build tunnels for troop trains from the Russian mainland, via Sakhalin Island, to Japan. It's estimated over 30,000 men – mostly convict labour – died on the project, which never got further than 8km. On the day Stalin died the workers killed their guards and escaped.

As well as the famous Moscow Metro, there's a second "Secret Metro" in parallel with the official system. It was built to enable Party leaders to move around the city or go to the airport in secret. Its existence is still officially a secret, and the public are unable to see or visit it. Only some eccentric pedestrian subways and illogical station locations on the main system hint where the secret one is located.

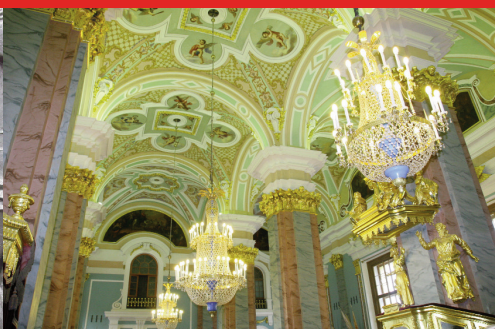


No ordinary trip

At The Russia Experience we like to ditch the clichés, discard the puff and concentrate on what we do best – bringing to life the world's longest train route: the places visited, the encounters made and the realisation of a journey that is both engaging and rewarding.

We continually look at ways of enhancing the Trans Siberian experience, incorporating seasonal considerations (such as the Harbin Ice Festival), providing the historical context (pay a visit to the only remaining Soviet Gulag) or inviting you to savour the diverse cultural influences of indigenous people (sit down with a shaman, or enjoy the Siberian art of throat singing!).

We have no group departures, our advertised dates always operate (barring anything completely out of our control) and, above all, we will tell you it like it is – allowing you to make the right choice from a portfolio of journeys rich in variety and full of memorable experiences. Sorry! We couldn't resist at least one cliché!



Visa Requirements

Most visitors to Russia are required to obtain a visa prior to departure. Visa processing times can be up to:

Russia	10 Working Days
--------	-----------------

However fast track processing is possible.

Due to the support documents required by the Embassy of Russia (which we obtain), you will need to book your trip before starting to obtain visas.

For full information regarding visas, please refer to our web site.

Hints and Tips

TOP TIP! – How are you getting to Vladivostok? There are very few options.

Photocopy your passport including the visas issued pages, airline tickets and insurance policies.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months past the end of your travel dates.

Travellers Checklist

Day pack, back pack, money belt, first aid kit, heat proof mug, instant coffee, tea bags, sun hat, lightweight jacket, flip flops, sun cream, warm jacket (Sep-Apr departures), ski clothing. (for those participating), warm waterproof walking boots, universal sink plug, bottle opener.

Climate and time – Minimum/maximum Temperatures °C

	Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/Jun	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec
Vladivostok	-15/-02	+03/+12	+18/+23	+24/+30	+12/+22	-15/+4
St. Petersburg/ Moscow	-20/-10	- 5/+12	+15/+22	+15/+30	+8/+24	-6/+10

Experience Classic Original Trans-Siberian

full on itinerary – 12 days

Leaving from Vladivostok
to St. Petersburg

After spending one night in Vladivostok you will then embark on a non-stop train journey through to Moscow. What this means is you will spend six nights/ seven days on board with no opportunity to disembark and visit any of the fascinating towns and regions you'll be passing through. We hope you consider strongly before booking this journey, our mantra at Russia Experience is "what makes these trips special is what's possible along the way in places that international airlines barely touch". The train journey might be interesting for completists – but you'll sail straight past "the good stuff" on this route!

DAY 01

On arrival in Vladivostok you're free to make your own way to the hotel. Any taxi driver will quickly find the address. (Please note your Trans-Siberian train tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your stay.)

No meals

DAY 02

Your time is free until your train departs. Hotel Reception can pre-order you a taxi. Transfer to the station where you will board the Moscow bound train.

No meals

DAY 03–07

On board The Trans-Sib... The dining car is the heart of social life on the train. It functions as bar, lounge, and take-out snack store, as well as a café serving reasonably priced meals. It is a great place to meet fellow travellers and locals alike, sharing your experiences of your journey so far with a few drinks, which no doubt will include some Vodka – and maybe smoked salmon and caviar too!

No meals

DAY 08

"S Priezdom! Welcome to Moscow!" Very early morning arrival. Our driver will be there to meet you at the end of the platform, and will hold a meeting-board with your name on. You'll then be transferred to the Panorama 3★ Hotel. The facilities available at this hotel include a Restaurant, Lobby Bar, Lobby Wi-Fi access, Luggage Room, Safety deposit boxes and an ATM machine. Your room will be allocated on arrival. At check-in, the hotel reception will advise you they will need your passport for visa registration. This process takes 1–2 hours. After breakfast one of our local expert staff will meet you at the hotel to take you on a three hour walking tour round the highlights – you'll use public transport around the centre to avoid the traffic jams and get the hang of the system for when you come to use it independently. Our staffers are full of ideas for this walk but are flexible about other ideas if you have your own. Your walk ends in the city centre around lunchtime. Your complimentary InfoPack is full of ideas for getting the most out of your free time.

Breakfast

DAY 09

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today. A full day for you to pack in the rest! Own transfer this evening to Leningradsky Station where you will board the St. Petersburg bound train

Breakfast

DAY 10

Early morning arrival in St. Petersburg. Our driver will be there to meet you at the end of the platform, and will hold a meeting-board with your name on. You'll then be transferred to the hotel. Your guide will meet you at the hotel and introduce you to the city's highlights – a good basis for starting your own explorations. Although the public transport (used on today's excursion) is similar to Moscow's, there are a few quirks that your guide will show you. After lunchtime you're on your own to explore further.

No meals

DAY 11

Free day for you to pack in the best of the rest! Perhaps you have pre-booked one of our city based excursions for today. Some of our top suggestions (please check opening times/days before setting off) o The Hermitage Collection – Winter Palace. The canals and waterways of the "Northern Venice". The Russian Museum of Fine Art. The Peter & Paul Fortress-and the Tombs of the Tsars inside the Fortress Cathedral. The Church on the Spilt Blood, nearby the Souvenir Bazaar.

Breakfast

DAY 12

Check out of your room by 12 noon. Own transfer on departure.

Breakfast