



# Experience Classic Siberian Experience

Along the way  
Beijing  
Irkutsk  
Moscow

Leaving from Beijing to Moscow

This trip breaks up the non-stop Beijing–Moscow trip on the Trans-Manchurian routing with a side-trip at Lake Baikal, based out of Irkutsk. The Trans-Manchurian is the “original” rail routing from China, predating the Trans-Mongolian by a quarter of a century and at 9001km (how did they find that spare single kilometre? Even the train itself is that long!) it is the longest international rail journey in the world!



## What's included

### FULL ON

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

**Beijing**  
> 1 night 4★ hotel

**Irkutsk**  
**Siberian Village**  
> all transportation  
> 2 nights 3★ hotel, Listvyanka Village, breakfast  
> excursion option

**Moscow**  
> 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

**Beijing**  
> 1 night 1★ hotel

**Irkutsk (city based stay)**  
> transfer on arrival  
> 3 night home-stay Irkutsk City, breakfast  
> transfer to the station on departure

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

## In the know

China has had multiple capitals in its turbulent history, including Nanjing and Xi'an. Beijing became capital in a coup staged by the Manchu, who lived in the North of the country (Manchu-ria).

Reserves of gas and oil found in Siberia are believed to exceed the entire production of Saudi Arabia. Lake Baikal is the world's largest, and has more statistics than any other lake. Siberia lies entirely in Asia, and its native peoples are Asiatic – it was the Russians who came as settlers. There are over 30 native Asiatic languages still spoken in Siberia to this day.

The Kremlin isn't a nuclear bunker or a military installation – it's the medieval citadel of Moscow.

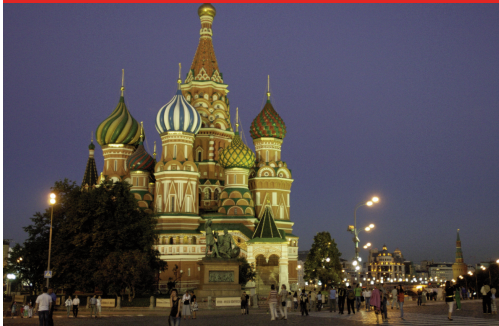


## No ordinary trip

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 China and Russia require visas. These must be obtained prior to departure. Visa processing times for these countries can be up to;

China	07 Working Days
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! – if you chose to book the no frills trip, you will miss Lake Baikal and why would you?

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
Beijing	-20/-10	-6/+14	+15/+22	+24/+30	+8/+22	-10/+6
Irkutsk	-40/-20	-10/+5	+8/+22	+26/+38	+10/+24	-15/+8
Moscow	-20/-10	- 5/+12	+15/+22	+15/+30	+8/+24	-6/+10

# Experience Classic Siberian Experience

full on itinerary – 12 days

Leaving from Beijing  
to Moscow

## DAY 01

On arrival in Beijing you make your own way to the hotel – any taxi driver will quickly find the address. The convenient location of the hotel positions you to get the most of this legendary Imperial city, where the rich traditions of Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism meet with the opulence of the Chinese Emperors and the vibrant realism of contemporary China. Chinese hotels cope badly with the idea of foreigners who haven't yet arrived so we'll have your onward rail tickets delivered once you have checked in, with user hint and, directions to the station. The hotel is in the heart of the golden area of the capital, surrounded by major business centres, tourist attractions and only minutes away from the Wangfujing Street, Tiannamen Square and the Forbidden City.

**No meals**

## DAY 02

Make your own way to the station giving yourself at least one hour on arrival to complete security (metal-detectors are now in force and there can be queues to use them) and find your train and platform. And then you're heading off, along the most famous railway in the world!

**Breakfast**

## DAY 03-04

On board the Trans-Sib... heading across Manchuria, (this is a region of north east Asia) which historically has been inhabited by Jurchen people, otherwise known as the Manchu. This route lies east of Greater Mongolia in the north east of China, and is the historic rail route from Beijing to Moscow as well as being the longest international rail route in the world.

**No meals**



## DAY 05

Evening arrival in Irkutsk. Our driver will meet you at the end of the platform, holding a meeting-board displaying "Russia Experience". Transfer to "Krestovaya Pad 3★ Hotel" situated in Listvyanka Village travelling by road through the forest, (70km) The Krestovaya Pad Hotel is set just 50 metres from the shores of Lake Baikal. Hotel facilities include; sun terrace, sauna (local charge) Laundry and Ironing service, restaurant and bar. All rooms have private bathrooms, tea and coffee facilities and a minibar. Wi-Fi is free of charge in public areas. The nearest ATM-machine in the Baikal Hotel (Listvyanka remains a village, and doesn't have the range of banking services you could expect in a city). Time to relax and enjoy your lakeside surroundings.

**No meals**

# Experience

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## DAY 06

Choose one activity from the list, it's all included in the trip price! You'll need to inform us of your choice before commencing your journey, so that we can have the right staff on hand for when you arrive (please note the Siberian weather puts seasonal limits on some activities – details below).

**A. SIBERIAN TREK** through the Taiga Forest with a local guide who will explain the wildlife, with a local guide who will explain the eco system and lore of the Taiga. The trek is 4-5 hours long, includes a picnic style lunch and a good level of fitness is required. (May-Oct)

**B. CIRCUM BAIKAL PICNIC** Take the Ferry from Listvyanka to Port Baikal which takes around 15 minutes. Walk around Port Baikal, where you will see the train station of the old Circumbaikal rail line. Then you will walk along the rail line to the nearest tunnel (2-3 km). Stopping for a picnic lunch on the shore of Lake Baikal. Return to Port Baikal, ferry back to Listvyanka. The excursion is around 5 hours duration. (Jun-Sep)

**C. TALTSY WOODEN MUSEUM** A two hour trip which includes a return transfer by car, and entrance fees to the Taltsy open air wooden museum which is situated on the shore of the Angara river. On arrival you are free to explore independently and there is a tea house here where afterwards you can have a cup of tea and traditional Russian snack (pencakes, pirodzki, etc) This picturesque area shows how life was and has been sympathetically restored as a tourist attraction where you can buy authentic souvenirs. (Year round)

**D. PORT BAIKAL** A day trip to Port Baikal with a local guide taking a ferry from Listvyanka. On arrival visit the Circumbaikal Railway Museum located at the train station then an uphill hike to the White stone viewpoint and to see the old lighthouse. Followed by a visit to a Russian Orthodox Church, lunch and free time walking back to the village. Return by ferry. Duration 5 hours. (May–August)

**E. SNOW MOBILE TRIP** with a local guide through the forest, or even out over the deep frozen lake! The excursion is around 2 hours 30 minutes duration. (Dec–Apr)

**F. DOG SLEDDING** trip for a distance of 10km 1 dog sled for each client. The excursion is around 1 hour 30 minutes duration. (Dec-Mar)

This afternoon set off on your walking tour around Listvyanka Village. This will include a visit to the Limnological Museum (this is an exhibition about the Lake, its formation, wildlife etc. - it includes multimedia presentations, information about the creatures which live in the darkest depths, and also an aquarium with living aquatic species, including the unique freshwater Baikal seals) and also a small wooden village Russian Orthodox Church dating back to the C18th. You return to your hotel at the end of the walk, with time to relax and enjoy your lakeside surroundings, maybe experience real Siberian "banya" (sauna – local charge).

**Breakfast**

## DAY 07

After breakfast transfer back to Irkutsk city. (Where you will have the option to leave your bags at our local office.) Our local staff will provide a map and some recommendations of interesting places to visit. Some of our top suggestions (please check opening times/days before setting off) Decembrist Museum, Volkonsky House and The Epiphany Cathedral. Early evening transfer to the station where you will board the Moscow bound train

**Breakfast**

*There are two train options for the next leg of your journey. We use Tr#69/79 as the standard option and this train fare is included in the trip price. We also offer Tr#1 for the next leg of your journey for a supplement. Tr#1 is a faster train and the rolling stock is newer, hence the higher fare for this section. (Please note Tr#69/79 = 87 hours travelling time, Tr#1 = 76 hours travelling time). Should you wish to book this option please contact our reservations team.*

## DAY 08–10

On board The Trans-Sib... travelling towards Moscow. 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 11

"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 be holding 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. At check-in, the hotel reception will advise you they will need your passport for visa registration. This process takes 1–2 hours. Your complimentary InfoPack is full of ideas for getting the most out of your free time. Around 10am 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. If you haven't prebooked any of our range of city excursions the rest of the day is your own to explore further. Some of our top suggestions (please check opening times/days before setting off) would include visiting the Moscow Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, or a boat trip along the Moskva River ... perhaps locate some tickets for ballet, opera, circus or a concert this evening? As well as famous classical music traditions Moscow features on the touring schedules of world names in jazz, rock, pop and world music.

**Breakfast**

## DAY 12

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today. For services we offer in St. Petersburg please refer to our web site.

**Breakfast**