Experience Tsars Gold Winter Magic

Leaving from Moscow to Beijing

Look forward to a fairy tale journey through Siberia and its magical winter landscapes! Enjoy a ride in a troika sleigh, the morning light reflecting off the frost in the taiga birch woods, the crisp, clear winter sun and stunning Lake Baikal – just a few of the memorable moments on a journey through a Winter Wonderland in perfectly-heated carriages – unlike the Summer programmes this trip uses private carriages that are attached to the local rolling stock in the main as this is a much smaller group. Exceptional highlight: Spend a night in a nomads’ camp in Mongolia in totally unspoilt surroundings. This is a real Russian Experience!

Highlights of the tour

- The Tsars Gold private carriages, of which there will be between 2-3 will travel as far as Ulaanbaatar for 7 nights in the category booked – these are attached to local trains. It is not the entire train that operates high season. Travellers that continue to Beijing will use a Chinese train for the last sector.
- Travel through the magical Siberian Winter Wonderland in your sleeping car compartment.
- On board meals – these will be taken in the restaurant car of the locomotive your carriages are coupled to as far as Ulaanbaatar there is no private dining car on this trip due to the small size of the group. However all the group meals will have been pre ordered you dine together.
- Entertaining and varied on-board programme.
- 1 night in a first-class hotel in Moscow, 1 night in a hotel in Listvyanka, 1 night in a premium mid-class hotel in Irkutsk, 2 nights in Ulaanbatar in a good mid-range centrally located hotel.
- During the train journey, fascinating on-board talks ranging from "Life in the Siberian winter" and "The Cossacks conquer Siberia" to "From fur traders to energy suppliers".
- Experienced tour manager from Moscow to Ulaanbatar throughout.
- All transfers in the area of your destination.
- Excursions and sightseeing with local English-speaking guides.
- New Year’s celebrations (New Year’s journey only).
- Panoramic tour of Moscow featuring the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the old and new centres, the Gazprom and KGB headquarters as well as lunch in a restaurant themed on Russian history.
- Guided walk across the Red Square with its famous illuminations.
- The Cathedral on the Blood, the new symbol of Ekaterinburg.
- Cable lift to a panoramic viewing point above Lake Baikal (providing lift is operational).
- Visit to Baikal Museum, dedicated to the area’s special ecosystem.
- Ulaanbaatar: Visit to the famous Choijin Lama Temple and the Gandan Monastery.
- A ride in a genuine horse-drawn troika sleigh.
- Stunning views across Lake Baikal.
- City tour of Irkutsk including the Museum of Architecture and Ethnography, the Trans-Siberian monument, Drama Theatre and bazaar.
- Irkutsk, East Siberia’s capital, with its classic winter bazaar.
- Vodka tasting with classic Russian snacks.
- Relax in a Russian banja sauna.
- Three speciality meals.
In the know......
The word “Kremlin” isn’t Russian – it’s from a medieval Tartar word meaning “fortress”.

The Ural, forming a 1,500 km border between Europe and Asia.

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.

Lake Baikal is the world’s largest, and has more statistics than any other lake.

Genghis Khan’s name is correctly spelt “Chinghiskhan”, although his name at birth was Temujin.

Chinese cuisine varies enormously from region to region, and it’s really truer to say that there are many different cuisines in China.

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.

Visa Requirements
Most visitors to Russia, Mongolia and China require visas. These must be obtained prior to departure. Please check your nationalities visa requirements in advance of your planned travel dates. Visa processing times for these countries can be up to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Processing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>10 Working Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>06 Working Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>07 Working Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.

Coffee, tea, mineral water, beer and snacks are available for a small charge from your conductor.

After dinner, a bar service is provided in the restaurant cars. They are open until midnight. You will then pay your tab in cash at the end of the trip.

Climate and time – Average minimum/maximum Temperatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>-10/+3</td>
<td>-20/-10</td>
<td>-20/-10</td>
<td>-5/+12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekaterinburg</td>
<td>-11/+2</td>
<td>-20/-10</td>
<td>-20/-10</td>
<td>-5/+12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krasnoyarsk</td>
<td>-12/-1</td>
<td>-25/-13</td>
<td>-25/-13</td>
<td>-7/+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irkutsk</td>
<td>-15/-2</td>
<td>-40/-15</td>
<td>-40/-15</td>
<td>-10/+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Baikal</td>
<td>-15/-2</td>
<td>-40/-15</td>
<td>-40/-15</td>
<td>-10/+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulaanbaatar</td>
<td>-15/+5</td>
<td>-35/-22</td>
<td>-35/-22</td>
<td>-10/+12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>-10/+6</td>
<td>-20/-10</td>
<td>-20/-10</td>
<td>-6/+14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travellers Checklist
Casual clothing is usually worn on the train, including at mealtimes. Sturdy, comfortable, warm boots for the excursions are recommended.

Suitable coats, hats and thermal layers for underneath for building up the layers. Good sunglasses that provide protection from snow glare. Also ladies remember to bring something to cover your head in Orthodox churches.
# Experience Tsars Gold Winter Magic

## Itinerary - 13 - 16 days

### DAY 01
On arrival to Moscow, your tour guide will welcome you at the airport and accompany you to the hotel. After settling in, take a guided walk to discover the magic of Moscow’s legendary Red Square and enjoy its stunning illuminations. This evening your overnight accommodation is at a first class hotel.

**Dinner**

### DAY 02
Explore Europe’s most dynamic city on a panorama city tour with its contrast of traditional onion-shaped golden domes decorating small churches and cathedrals and the power centres of the new mega-rich companies such as Gazprom. Afterwards, relax over lunch in a restaurant themed on Russian history before joining your special carriage to depart from the impressive backdrop of one of Moscow’s major stations. On board, enjoy a delicious welcome dinner.

**Dinner**

### DAY 03
This morning, take in the landscape of rolling steppes in old Russia’s heartlands and cross the impressive bridges over the rivers Volga and Kama before starting the climb to the Ural Mountains – usually a magical snowy landscape at this time of year. Enjoy insights into Russian life with entertaining on-board talks on the Cossacks and winter life in Siberia, as well as a film on Russia’s last tsar.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 04
Ekaterinburg, the historical capital of the Ural region. Ekaterinburg has gone down in history as the place where Tsar Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia, was murdered with his family in 1918. A short city tour includes the attractive city centre, restored in 2009, as well as the commemorative Cathedral on the Blood, built in 2003 on the site of the tsar’s execution. Back on board, your train continues across the rolling steppes of western Siberia.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 05
The vastness of Siberia Your train, by now a home from home, continues across Siberia. Relax and enjoy the magical winter views of snowy birch and larch woods in the sunshine! A vodka tasting with classic Russian snacks in the restaurant car explores some of the less familiar aspects of Russian customs associated with food and drink. An entertaining film offers a fascinating insight into Russian culture.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 06
This morning arrive in Krasnoyarsk — according to writer Anton Chekhov, the most beautiful city in Siberia. The short city tour focuses on an overview of Krasnoyarsk’s captivating history. The mix of old and new streets vividly illustrates how the city has grown and changed down the years. Enjoy a view of Peace Square, the city’s oldest square, and the stunning vistas across the Yenisei river. Naturally, there is also a stop at the beautiful Paraskeva Pyatnitsa Chapel, the symbol of Krasnoyarsk. Back on board, your train continues on to Irkutsk.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 07
The train pulls into Irkutsk station. Leaving your main luggage safely on board, a transfer takes you to your hotel at the Baikal village of Listvyanka. After time to settle in, a visit to the local open-air museum offers a vivid insight into the history of the region, and traditional life and lifestyles in old Siberia. The traditional lifestyle theme continues in the evening with a chance to visit a banja, the original Russian sauna.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 08
What could be more romantic than a horse-drawn troika sledge ride — the next highlight on your programme! From February, this is followed by an exhilarating motorised sledge ride on the frozen Lake Baikal. Afterwards, it is onwards and upwards by cable car (if already in operation) to a special vantage point with stunning views out across Lake Baikal. This vantage point is also renowned for its cold temperatures – so this may be the place to experience the lowest temperatures you have ever known! Subsequently, a visit to a local family includes a tasty traditional Russian meal. The final stop around the lake is the Baikal Museum, which showcases this area’s special ecosystem and the lake itself, the world’s largest fresh water reservoir. The day ends in Irkutsk in your centrally located hotel.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 09
Today’s guided walking tour includes the fascinating Museum of Architecture and Ethnography, the Trans-Siberian Memorial to Tsar Alexander III, the Drama Theatre and the vibrant and bustling covered market — just the place to find a few souvenirs! A city tour takes you to one of East Siberia’s largest monastery complexes and to the House of Europe. Back on board in the evening, your train pulls out of Irkutsk station heading for Ulaanbatar.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 10
After the intensive and varied programme of the last days, a day on board offers an ideal chance to relax and recharge the batteries! The entertaining on-board talks focus on winter travels during the age of the tsars and the Mongol invasions.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 11
Over breakfast, watch the taiga mountain landscape of northern Mongolia slide by with its scattered nomad settlements. As your train pulls into the Mongolian capital city of Ulaanbaatar this morning, porters are already waiting to help with your luggage. Your mid-class hotel is conveniently located in the centre of the city. This first night in Ulaanbaatar also offers the chance to stay in a (preheated) nomad felt tent in unspoilt — and probably very frosty! — surroundings (advance booking required). Sleeping in a traditional felt tent under the stars in the majestic quiet of nature — a truly unique experience! This afternoon is dedicated to a visit to the National Museum of Mongolia. Those taking hotel accommodation can enjoy an evening programme of Mongolian folklore with throat singing, music performed on the traditional bowed string instrument, the morin khuur, national costumes, myths and dance. The nomad felt tent option includes traditional Mongolian tales around an open fire.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 12
Today’s programme offers such impressive sights as the Buddhist Gandan monastery and the quirky architectural masterpiece of Choijin Lama Temple. The temple architecture is unique worldwide for its dramatic depictions of the torments of hell for those leaving the path of righteousness. This afternoon excursion visits a family of cattle breeders just outside the city.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### DAY 13
While Ulaanbaatar marks the journey’s end for some guests, we offer the option to continue on to Beijing. The scheduled Chinese train leaves Ulaanbaatar for Beijing in the morning. The journey to China’s capital city takes around 35 hours in total, and crosses the vast Gobi desert. An experienced guide is on hand to assist, for example, with arranging meals on the train. Evening brings the last night in a sleeping car on this journey.

**Breakfast**

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These dossiers are designed to provide you with a guide to our trips, the places visited, accommodation used and to give you a flavour of your daily itinerary. You will be travelling in parts of the world where the unanticipated and the unusual are all part of the experience and, as a result, the unexpected can happen and we may on occasions need to vary your plans. These dossiers do not form part of any contract.
### Optional Beijing 3-day Extension

**DAY 14**
The train pulls into Beijing this afternoon. After settling into your centrally located first-class hotel, there is still enough time to get a first impression of this fascinating city.  
*Breakfast, Dinner*

**DAY 15**
Start the day with an extensive guided tour of the legendary Forbidden City. Afterwards, join the city tour for such sights as the magnificent Temple of Heaven. This evening, enjoy a delicious speciality dinner in one of Beijing’s top Peking Duck restaurants.  
*Breakfast, Dinner*

**DAY 16**
Breakfast in the hotel is followed by a transfer to the airport and the flight home.  
*Breakfast*

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Experience Tsars Gold

Categories of travel on-board

The Bolshoi Category measures 60 sq. ft. (5.57 m²). Two beds per cabin; 1 lower bed (184x120cm) and one upper bed (174x80cm). The compartment’s exclusive en suite bathroom contains a wash basin, WC and shower. (“wet room” style with shower curtain) The “Bolshoi” category benefits include; remote controlled air conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD and a seating bench for that special view of the changing landscapes. Passengers of this category dine in exclusive on-board dining cars, with a choice of two menus. Each wagon of the Bolshoi category contains just six of these exclusive compartments. Early booking for this category is highly recommended.

Tsars Gold Winter Magic price per person:
- single £9,057
- twin £5,836

3-day Beijing extension
- single £672
- twin £580

The Standard Classic Category has two berths per cabin, sized (190x70 cm) and arranged facing each other. Each compartment measures 35.5 sq. ft. (3.3 m²) The “Standard Classic” category benefits include; centrally controlled air conditioning, a table under the window, and luggage storage is provided above the door. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of this categories car. In every second to third car there is a shower compartment.

Tsars Gold Winter Magic price per person:
- single £5,394
- twin £4,049

3-day Beijing extension
- single £672
- twin £580

The Standard Category has four berths per cabin. 2 lower, and 2 upper (190x70cm) arranged in bunk bed format. Each unisex compartment measures 36 sq. ft. (3.3 m²). “Standard” category benefits include; centrally controlled air conditioning, a table under the window, and luggage storage is provided above the door. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of this categories car. In every second to third car there is a shower compartment. Solo passengers will travel on-board in a 4-berth unisex sleeper and will be allocated single room during hotel stays. This class is also available when 3 passengers book together. On-board the Tsars Gold your small group will have sole occupancy of the 4-berth compartment. When accommodated at hotels one twin room, plus one single room will be allocated for your smal group of 3 people.

Tsars Gold Winter Magic price per person:
- 1 person £3,871
- 2 people £2,955
- 3 people £3,340

3-day Beijing extension
- 1 person £672
- 2 people £580
- 3 people £610

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