Experience Tsars Gold

Leaving from Beijing to Moscow

A journey on the iconic Trans-Siberian Railroad is one of the last great travel adventures. Take this journey of a lifetime on Tsars Gold and experience China, Mongolia and Russia while enjoying comfortable surroundings. This exciting journey delivers three of the world’s largest countries directly to your compartment. Sit back and enjoy the dramatic changes of scenery as you savour Asia and Europe’s superb and varied landscapes.

Tour highlights

Beijing: Visit to the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall of China, Ming Tombs, Forbidden City
Erlian: Visit to the local market Ulaanbaatar: Visit to the Lama temple, Gandan Monastery, Day trip to Mongolian countryside including horse-riding demonstration
Ulan Uday: City tour (a former “closed city” during Soviet times)
Irkutsk: City tour including visit to the market hall and open-air museum
Lake Baikal: Visit to a traditional Siberian Village followed by a boat trip on Lake Baikal
Novosibirsk: City tour and traditional Russian welcome ceremony with salt and bread
Ekaterinburg: City tour including The Church of the Ascension Kazan: City tour including guided visit of the Kremlin
Moscow: Kremlin, Moscow by night tour, tour of the metro, city tour including Church of the Redeemer

What’s included

Dine in our relaxing restaurant wagons and enjoy the finest local cuisine with drinks served by courteous waiters. There are 41 meals included during the tour according to itinerary. More than 20 excursions and performances included, as well as all entrance fees. Professional local tour guides with expert knowledge of the region. A dedicated tour director, a proficient team of train guides. (maximum. 26 guests per group guide.) Sophisticated on-board programmes: Entertaining lectures on local culture, history and everyday life. Doctor on board (from the Chinese border to Moscow) Tsars Gold offers shower facilities for passengers travelling in all categories. With Bolshoi and Bolshoi Platinum clients these are en-suite. Luggage service included at all train stations.

Did you know?

Khrushchev’s “red tsars” were fond of their home comforts, and they liked to travel in style, too. The carriages produced especially for Brezhnev and his comrades – the carriages that now make up the Nostalgic Comfort Category on the Tsars Gold – clearly demonstrate this. The nostalgic style is maintained in the newly built carriages in our Category III, which have also been equipped with modern conveniences. You are thus travelling in an ambience in which Soviet top dogs would have felt at home – but with the comforts of the 21st century.
Most visitors to China, Mongolia and Russia 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:

- China: 07 Working Days
- Mongolia: 06 Working Days
- Russia: 20 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.

Climate and time – Average minimum/maximum Temperatures °C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>Sept</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>13-26°C</td>
<td>18-30°C</td>
<td>22-31°C</td>
<td>20-30°C</td>
<td>15-26°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erlian</td>
<td>7-22°C</td>
<td>13-28°C</td>
<td>17-30°C</td>
<td>15-29°C</td>
<td>15-25°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulaanbaatar</td>
<td>3-17°C</td>
<td>9-21°C</td>
<td>11-25°C</td>
<td>10-23°C</td>
<td>8-21°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulan-Uday</td>
<td>8-22°C</td>
<td>12-26°C</td>
<td>11-25°C</td>
<td>8-22°C</td>
<td>7-21°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irkutsk/Lake Baikal</td>
<td>9-22°C</td>
<td>11-23°C</td>
<td>12-24°C</td>
<td>9-21°C</td>
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<td>Novosibirsk</td>
<td>9-21°C</td>
<td>12-22°C</td>
<td>11-21°C</td>
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<td>7-18°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ekaterinburg/Kazan</td>
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<td>11-23°C</td>
<td>13-24°C</td>
<td>10-20°C</td>
<td>5-15°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>8-18°C</td>
<td>13-22°C</td>
<td>14-23°C</td>
<td>13-21°C</td>
<td>15-16°C</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

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.

Casual clothing is usually worn on the train, including at mealtimes. Sturdy, comfortable shoes for the excursions are recommended. The months of May and September can be quite chilly. Warm clothes for cooler and rainy days, in addition to your summer clothes. During boat rides, especially you may well be exposed to chilly breezes, a light jacket or sweater is advisable. For those brave enough to take a dip in Lake Baikal shouldn’t forget to bring along their swimsuits. Also, remember to bring something to cover your head to protect against the sun and to wear in Orthodox churches.
Experience Tsars Gold

Itinerary – 15 days

DAY 01
On arrival to Beijing, your tour guide will welcome you at the airport and will accompany you to the hotel. After check-in there will be time to relax before setting off on today’s tour. Highlights include Beijing’s most stunning sights including the Temple of Heaven and Tiananmen Square. Today concludes in a relaxed manner with drinks and dinner. This evening your overnight accommodation is in a first class hotel.
Dinner
DAY 02
Today you visit the Great Wall, the eighth wonder of the world. The giant wall extends for more than 6000 km through the countryside. On the way you visit a pearl cultivation farm and the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Ming Tombs and the Spirit Way. In the evening you dine on the well-known delicacy of Peking Duck. Overnight: Capital Hotel (or similar).
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 03
For centuries the doors to the former Emperor’s Palaces were closed to the public. The glorious halls and temples of the Forbidden City are open to everyone and today will include a tour through the grounds and interiors. This evening your rail journey begins. A modern Chinese train will pull out from Beijing’s station; en route to Mongolia, for this 16-hour journey. (Nostalgic Comfort and Bolshevik cars are not available for this one night). Meanwhile, China’s busy rural life unfolds outside your window. Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 04
At noon you arrive at the Chinese-Mongolian border town Erlian and change to Tsars Gold private train. Formalities are swift and you will soon be settled in your compartment. In Erlian you can explore the colourful border market. Then travelling onwards Tsars Gold takes you through the vast expanse of the Gobi desert, then through the green steppes of Mongolia. Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 05
Early-risers are treated to central Mongolia’s spectacular scenery. In the morning you arrive in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia. You can leave your large luggage securely in your compartment. During your city tour you see the impressive Gandan Buddhist Monastery and the odd Choijin Lama Temple, among other things. In the evening you have the unique chance to attend a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts, including throat singing, horse-headed fiddle playing, national costumes, and dances (tickets are 14/ $ 15, to be paid on site). Overnight: Ramada Hotel (or similar). On request, we can organise alternative lodging in a local yurt in the beautiful landscape of the Mongolian Alps. This is a rare experience and a dream come true for nature lovers
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 06
After breakfast you visit the Gandan Monastery, where it is possible to observe a Buddhist religious ceremony. Your bus then takes you to the Mongolian Alps, located some 90 minutes east of Ulan Bator, with their majestic scenery and bizarre rock formations. After a picnic lunch in a yurt camp, you watch a small Mongolian horse-riding demonstration and a traditional wrestling match. Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 07
Bid farewell to the Mongolian steppes as the train rolls on through the valley of Selenga and beside the river, one of the longest in Mongolia. In Ulan- Uday your train joins the main route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Here you can stroll through the city streets or join the guided tour of the city. Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 08
Today is spent exploring the remarkable natural phenomenon of Lake Baikal, the largest reservoir of freshwater in the world. In the morning your train travels directly alongside Lake Baikal, on the old route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. During two extended photo-stops, you have a chance to explore and record the beauty of the lake and its setting. A short boat excursion from Port Baikal takes you out onto the lake. Take a swim in the lake, if you wish, and visit a picturesque Baikal village. Dinner is a Baikal-style picnic on the lakeshore with a view of the incredible natural surroundings (weather permitting).
Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 09
This morning you will check into a centrally located standard hotel in Irkutsk. You can safely leave your bags on the train. A tour of the city includes the lively market hall, the drama theatre and a rather spectacular oddity, a newly erected statue of the Alexander III. This afternoon features an excursion to an open-air museum displaying Siberian life with the focus on life and work in historical Siberia. Spend the night at your centrally located hotel in Irkutsk.
Overnight: Hotel Irkutsk (or similar)
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10
After breakfast the train takes you through the landscapes of Eastern Siberia with its mountains, crystal-clear rivers and verdant slopes. On board the train enjoy entertaining lectures about Siberia. A social get-together complete with red caviar and vodka tasting makes a pleasurable way familiarising yourself with Russian hospitality. Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11
Noontime arrival in Novosibirsk, Siberia’s biggest city, and greeted in the traditional Russian way: with bread and salt. Your tour includes views of the mighty Ob River with possibility to see the market and the opera house. After dinner, the train continues its journey westwards.
Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12
This afternoon the train makes a scheduled stop in the capital of the Urals. Ekaterinburg borders both Asia and Europe. You will enjoy a short tour of the city centre which was restored in 2009. In the course of the city tour you will see the newly built Cathedral-on-the-blood, a memorial erected to mark the assassination of The Romanov Family in 1918. From now on your train is on European ground. Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13
This morning you arrive in Kazan, the old Tartar capital on the banks of the Volga. This historic city tour includes Kazan’s Kremlin where you will learn about the wild and often bloody relations of the Tartars, Cossacks, and Russians. This evening offers you one last chance to be pampered in the on board restaurant.
Overnight on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14
Late morning arrival in Moscow, Russia’s capital, one of the world’s richest and most dynamic cities. After the long rail journey, your first class hotel offers comfort and convenience. At noon, your first stop is the Kremlin with its glorious cathedrals. You can also check out the interiors of some of the buildings. After dinner you go on a magical evening trip through the city. This special tour includes a stop at Red Square as well as a subway ride between two of the beautiful old metro stations.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 15
After breakfast at your hotel you go on a guided tour of Moscow to see the reconstructed Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Lomonosov University, the New Virgin Monastery and Red Square with its colourful St. Basil’s Cathedral. Then onto the notorious former KGB headquarters and the White House. Bid your fantastic journey farewell before your departure to the airport.
Breakfast

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.
Experience
Tsars Gold

Categories of travel on-board

**Bolshoi Platinum Category** is the highest possible comfort on the Tsars Gold. Each compartment measures 77 sq. ft. (7.1 m²). Two beds per cabin; 1 lower bed (185x120cm) and one upper bed (174x120cm). The compartment’s exclusive en suite bathroom contains a wash basin, WC and shower cabin. “Bolshoi Platinum” category benefits include; remote controlled air conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD, in cabin safe, 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 Bolshoi Platinum contains just five of these exclusive cabins. Early booking for this category is highly recommended.

**Nostalgic Comfort Category** has newly built cars which are nostalgically furnished, and provide modern amenities. Each compartment measures 43 sq. ft. (4 m²). Two beds per cabin; 1 lower, (187x120cm) 1 upper (187x80cm). Two compartments share one shower (“wet room style”) and a washbasin; this is located between the compartments. Unisex toilet facilities are located at the end of the car. “Nostalgic Comfort” category benefits include; air conditioning, which can be controlled from within the cabin, DVD/CD player with LCD, and a seating bench, for that special view of the changing landscapes. Luggage storage is provided above the door.

**Bolshoi Category** is slightly smaller in size than the Bolshoi Platinum category. Each compartment 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) “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.
Experience Tsars Gold

Categories of travel on-board

**Standard Superior Plus** Category has two berths per cabin, sized (190x70 cm) and are arranged facing each other. Each compartment measures 35.5 sq. ft. (3.3 m²) “Standard Superior Plus” 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. Passengers of “Standard Superior Plus” benefit from the exclusive shower cabin for this category. Limited availability of this category so early booking is highly recommended.

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

**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) “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.

**Standard** Category has four berths per cabin. 2 lower, and 2 upper (190x70 cm) 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.