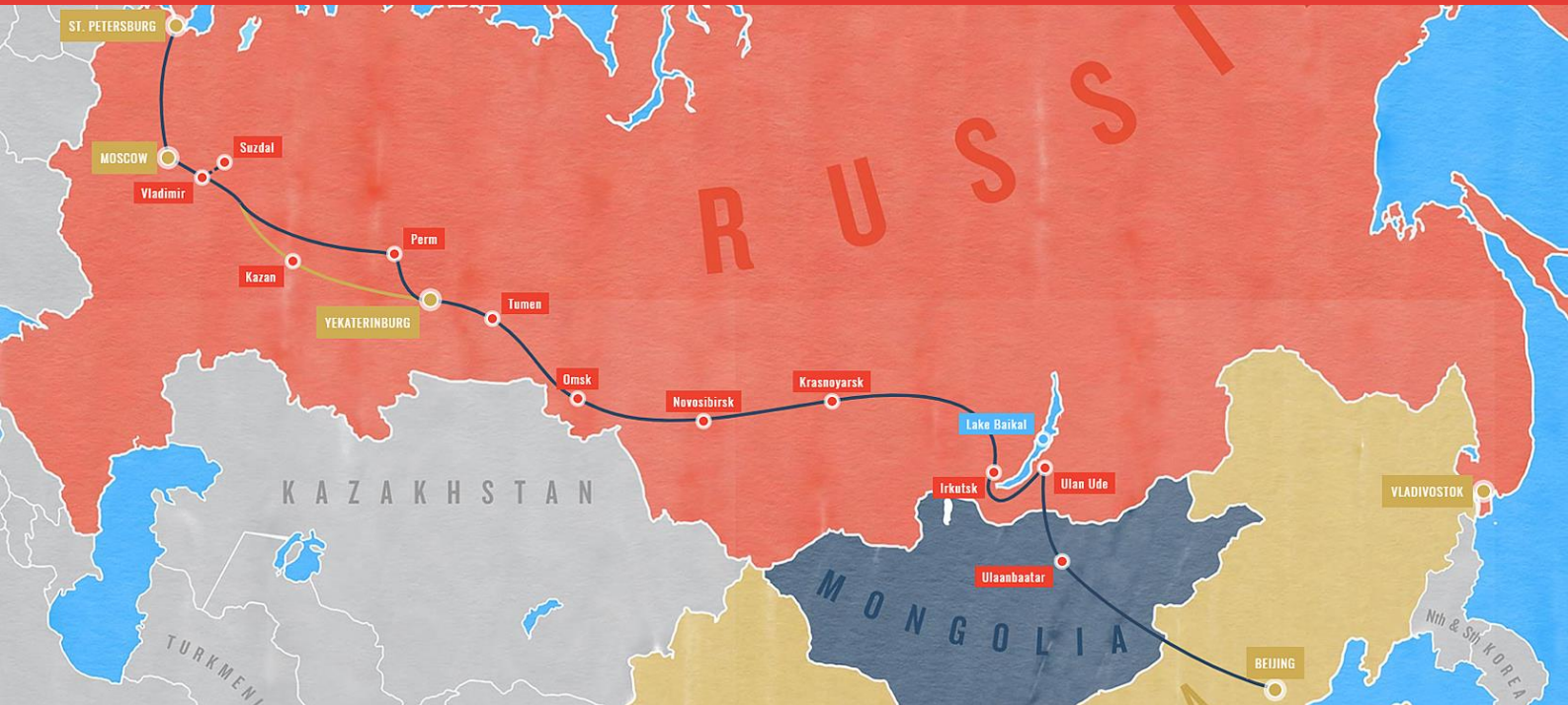




# The Romanoff Trans Mongolian Journey



WEST TO EAST



## Welcome to St Petersburg

**NIGHTS: 3**

Arrive St Petersburg. Transfer to accommodation for three nights. Choice of homestay, hostel or budget hotel.

Depending upon your arrival time your walking guide will meet you for a 3-hour introductory walking tour. If your arrival does not suit an immediate start, then this will take place the next day. This tour will orientate you with regard to where you are staying, how to reach the main sightseeing area and the public transport system.

Days 2-3. Remaining two days are free for optional sightseeing.

St Petersburg is where modern Russia was born under the guidance of the Czar known as Peter the Great, and remained capital of the Russian empire up to the Soviet era. The city was established upon a swamp and is now rightly considered one of the gems of Europe. This is where you can see such grandiose palaces such as the Peterhof (summer palace), The Hermitage (winter palace) and the country estate and parkland of Catherine the Great –

Catherine Palace. For history buffs there are many sites associated with the 1917 Revolution.

## Depart St Petersburg for Moscow

**NIGHTS: 4**

Day 4. Self transfer to Moskovsky Station to depart for Moscow by fast train – afternoon departure. Departures are frequent throughout the day. You will be met next morning and transferred to accommodation. Choice of homestay, hostel or budget hotel.

Days 5-7. Three-hour introductory walking tour of central Moscow, next two days free for optional sightseeing in or around Moscow.

Your three-hour introductory walking tour may include the reconstructed Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Lomonosov University, the New Virgin Monastery and Red Square with its colourful St. Basil's Cathedral. As well there are the notorious former KGB headquarters and the White House.

Don't miss our suggestions for optional sightseeing in Moscow at [www.russiantravelcentre.com/](http://www.russiantravelcentre.com/)

## THE ROMANOFF TRANS MONGOLIAN JOURNEY

Time to experience the famed centre of Soviet-era Russia. This is where central control was wielded. Moscow is now a changed city, but its many surviving examples of architecture complement its thriving theatre and arts and for those so disposed, Moscow has museums to satisfy any interest!

### Train from Moscow to Yekaterinburg

#### NIGHTS: 1

Day 8. Evening train departure for Yekaterinburg. See Timetables at [www.transsiberian.com.au](http://www.transsiberian.com.au)

### Welcome to Yekaterinburg

#### NIGHTS: 2

Day 9. Part of this day sees you winding your way East through the Ural Mountains to cross the geographic demarcation between Europe and Asia. On arrival, you are met and transferred to your accommodation.

Yekaterinburg (or Ekaterinburg) is a city where one might choose to stay longer and explore the famed natural beauty of the Urals region. The city has undergone some admirable redevelopment and has many modern areas complementing its historic interest.

Yekaterinburg is famed as the location of the brutal July 1918 murder of the last Czar and his family, and the 1960 Soviet propaganda event which followed the shooting down of a U.S. spy plane and the subsequent show trial of the hapless pilot, Gary Powers. These two disparate events are immortalised in stunning roof mosaics at the railway station.

For motorbike enthusiasts this is the home of the famed Ural motorbike and yes you can get to ride one!

Day 10. Guided vehicle tour of Romanoff history points of interest and the Asia/Europe monument, both of which are outside the city proper.

### By train across Siberia, from Yekaterinburg to Irkutsk

#### NIGHTS: 4

Day 11. Train from Yekaterinburg to Irkutsk, arriving on the fourth day. See Timetables at [www.transsiberian.com.au](http://www.transsiberian.com.au).

## WEST TO EAST

The Trans Siberian route opens up great visual swathes of Siberia. You will see and thus feel, the immensity of this geographic region, passing sparsely populated village enclaves, interspersed with an occasional large city.

Break out that copy of *Dr Zhivago* or *War and Peace*, or set up a travel chess set! Expect to share a vodka with your Russian fellow travellers, too.

### Two nights at Lake Baikal, followed by one at Irkutsk

#### NIGHTS: 3

Day 14. Arrive at Irkutsk and transfer to Lake Baikal for two nights accommodation in the village of Lysvyanka. Other options are available to extend your stay in this region.

Day 15. Free day for own activities, or additional organised programmes. Lakeside activities can include local hikes, short ferry trips and in the winter ice skating and ice fishing.

Day 16. Transfer back to Irkutsk for one night's accommodation. Irkutsk offers a range of sightseeing options. Perhaps a suburb with its characteristically Siberian wooden houses, or the Decembrist Museum to see how exiled nobility fared in the 19th century! For those with a technical bent there is the museum featuring the old Lake Baikal Ice Breaker.

### By train from Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar

#### NIGHTS: 4

Day 17. Transfer to railway station for early departure to Ulaanbaatar on Day 18. (See Timetables at [www.transsiberian.com.au](http://www.transsiberian.com.au))

Train timetables between Irkutsk and Ulaanbaatar (both directions) have changed significantly from December 2017. There are now no daily departures.

From Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar your options are:

#306 MON/WED/FRI dep at 03:08 Moscow time (08:08 local time. No two-berth available)

#Nr 6 SUN dep at 03:08 Moscow time.

#Nr 4 SAT dep at 03:08 Moscow time

Therefore, depending upon the start date (=day) of the complete programme we may need to adjust your stopover period for Irkutsk and Lake Baikal.

### Discovering Mongolia

#### NIGHTS: 3

Day 19. Arrive early at Ulaanbaatar where you are met and transferred to a ger (yurt) camp for two nights, within the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park which is about 70km out of the city. Sample the traditionally nomadic Mongol way of life with Grassland Pursuits' including optional activities such as horse or camel riding, archery and hiking, to be paid for locally.

Day 20. 'Grassland pursuits' continue. There are many hiking trails around the ger camp and quite stunning scenery.

Day 21. Transfer back to Ulaanbaatar for one night. Balance of the day free to explore more of the capital of the independent Republic of Mongolia (bordered by the Chinese province of Inner Mongolia, further south).

Originally a centre for Buddhist nomads and lamas, Ulaanbaatar became a permanent townsite in the eighteenth century. Since the 1990 overthrow of Soviet Russian-inspired communism, Mongolian Buddhism has experienced a resurgence.

A vibrant conjunction of traditional and twenty-first century lifestyles typifies modern Ulaanbaatar. The city now bears little resemblance to the windswept and provincial Soviet-style outpost encountered by travellers some thirty years ago.

We also offer a wider selection of stopover options to help you explore Ulaanbaatar or venture further afield.

### From Ulaanbaatar across the Gobi Desert to Beijing

#### NIGHTS: 2

Day 22. Transfer to rail station for train to Beijing. Departure times can change each year, or seasonally. We can confirm the time when booking. See Timetables at [www.transsiberian.com.au](http://www.transsiberian.com.au).

Day 23. Arrive Beijing. End of arrangements.

For more information about touring China, including extra services for Beijing, please visit our China pages at [www.russiantravelcentre.com](http://www.russiantravelcentre.com).