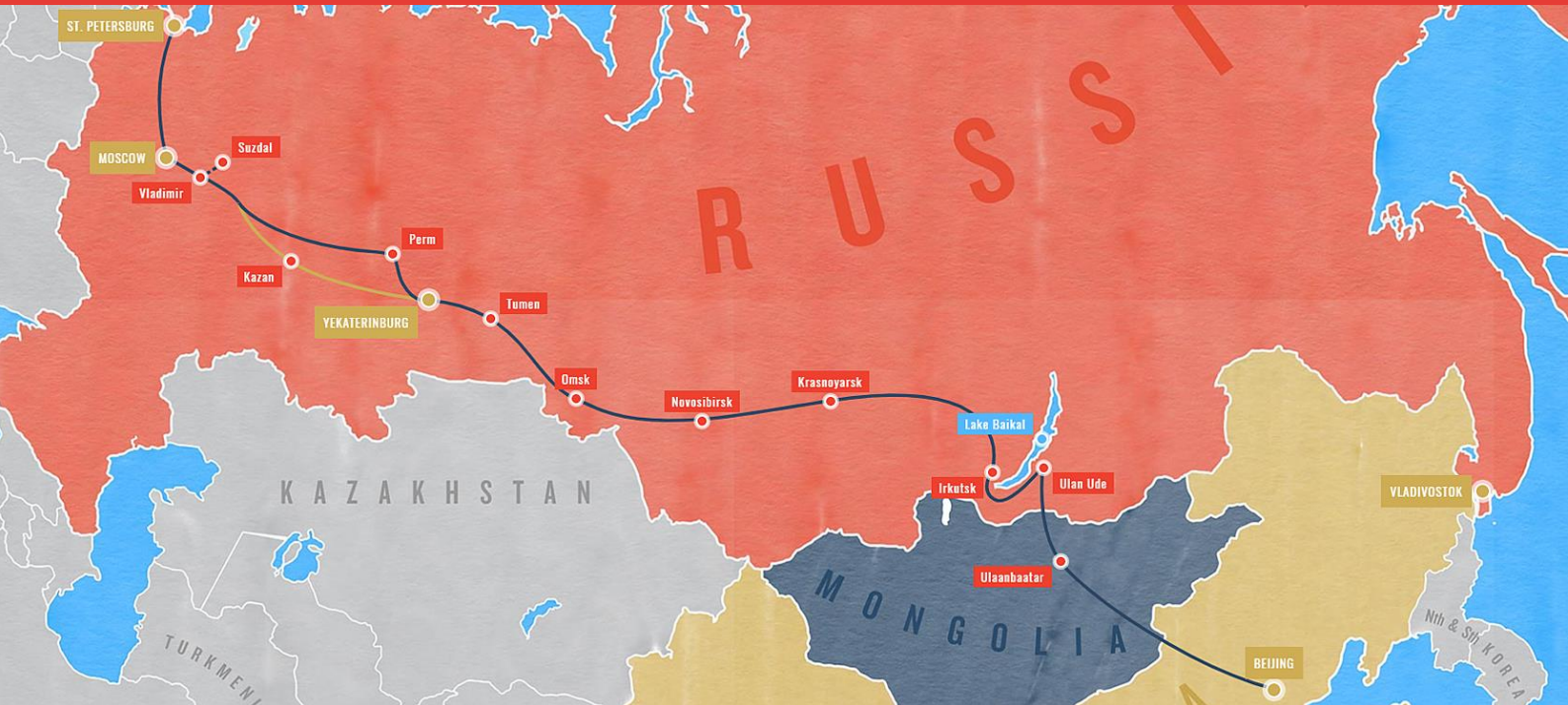




Trans Mongolian Classic Journey



EAST TO WEST



From Beijing across the Gobi Desert to Ulaanbaatar NIGHTS: 2

Sample the wonders Beijing has to offer as you walk the cobbled pathways of the Forbidden Palace, climb the Great Wall of China and wander where ancient armies marched. For more information about touring China, including extra services for Beijing, please visit our China pages at www.russiantravelcentre.com.

Make your own way to Beijing Station. Yes, we can get you a hotel nearby.

Independent departures 2 times a week on winter timetable and 3 times per week on summer timetable aboard Mongolian and Chinese Trains No. 23. Chinese International Train No. 3 to Moscow departs once per week all year. Departure times may change each year, or seasonally. We can confirm the time when booking.

On arrival in Ulaanbaatar, transfer to homestay for one night. Balance of day is free to explore the city.

Discovering Mongolia NIGHTS: 3

Transfer to a *ger* (yurt) camp for two nights, approx. 70km out of Ulaanbaatar, to sample the traditionally

nomadic Mongol way of life. Free time for 'Grassland Pursuits' including optional activities such as horse or camel riding, archery and hiking.

On day three, transfer back to the city homestay for one further night. Balance of the day free to explore more of the Mongolian capital.

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

Overnight Train to Irkutsk NIGHTS: 1

Day free for further sightseeing around Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to station for train to Irkutsk. (Four berth, see Timetables).

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

Russian border procedures are carried out on board train.

TRANS MONGOLIAN CLASSIC JOURNEY

Two nights at Lake Baikal, followed by one at Irkutsk NIGHTS: 3

Arrive Irkutsk and transfer to Lake Baikal for two nights accommodation in local village. Our costs are based on using our own chalet/lodge accommodation. If you prefer a dedicated homestay please request – no change to cost. If our chalet was full you would be accommodated with a homestay. Return to Irkutsk homestay on the third day.

From Irkutsk across Siberia to Moscow NIGHTS: 4

Transfer to rail station for train – see Timetables at www.transsiberian.com.au – to Moscow.

Break out that large novel – *War and Peace*, *Dr Zhivago* – or travel chess set! Expect to share a vodka or two with your Russian fellow travellers.

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.

Arrive Moscow on the fourth day. Meet and transfer to accommodation for three nights. Three-hour introductory walking tour.

Sightseeing in Moscow NIGHTS: 3

Optional sightseeing in or around Moscow.

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.

Don't miss our suggestions for optional sightseeing in Moscow at www.russiantravelcentre.com!

Overnight Train to St Petersburg NIGHTS: 3

On your 4th day in Moscow, make your own way to Leningradsky Station. Depart Moscow on late afternoon fast train.

EAST TO WEST

On arrival in St Petersburg you are met and transferred from the station to your accommodation for three nights.

A three-hour introductory walking tour is included. Suggestions for optional sightseeing are at www.russiantravelcentre.com

Depart St Petersburg NIGHTS: 1

End of arrangements. Well, we can extend your stay, or perhaps a train to Helsinki or the Baltic States?