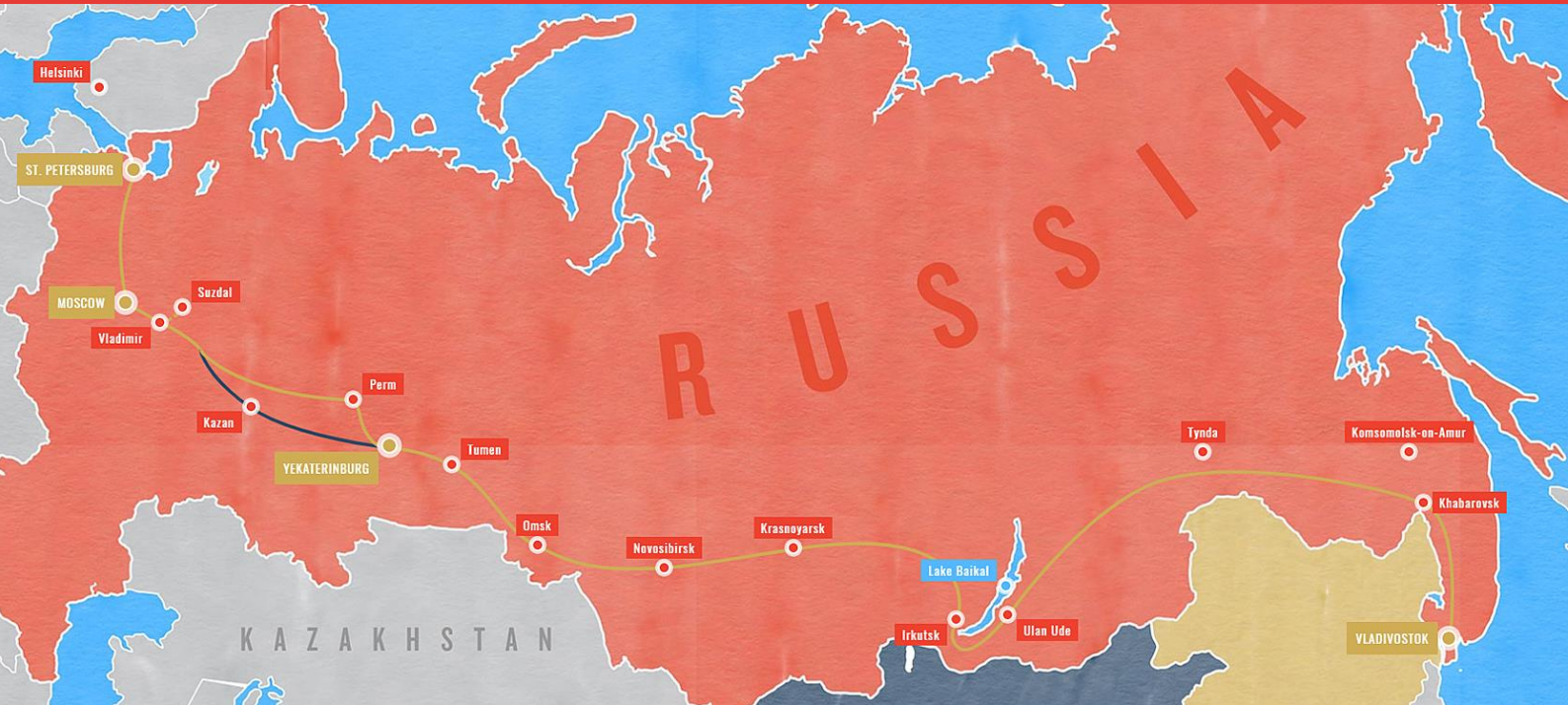




# Trans Siberian Classic Vladivostok to Moscow and More

WEST TO EAST



## Arrival and sightseeing in St Petersburg NIGHTS: 1

Arrive St Petersburg. Transfer to accommodation for three nights. Three-hour walking tour.

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.

## Sightseeing in St Petersburg, until departure for Moscow

**NIGHTS: 3**

In St Petersburg. If time of arrival on day 1 does not permit, the walking tour will be undertaken this morning.

On Day 4, depart St Petersburg Moskovsky Station between 2300 and 2355 for overnight train to Moscow.

## Arrival and sightseeing in Moscow NIGHTS: 3

Day 5. Arrive Moscow around 0800. Meet and transfer to homestay for three nights. Three-hour walking tour. 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](http://www.russiantravelcentre.com)!

## Eastbound from Moscow, across Siberia to Irkutsk

**NIGHTS: 4**

Day 8. Train from Moscow to Irkutsk (see Timetables). Four nights aboard the train.

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

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.

### Irkutsk and Lake Baikal

#### NIGHTS: 3

Day 12. Arrive Irkutsk and transfer to Lake Baikal for two nights, with a further night in Irkutsk.

In both Irkutsk and at the lake we often use homestay accommodation. This allows you the chance to experience contemporary Russian life, and by using homestays we gain access to a true village environment.

From Irkutsk it is a short drive to Lake Baikal, where you are based for the next two nights.

Lake Baikal, the largest freshwater lake in the world, will astound you with both its wilderness and immensity. You can enjoy the natural wonder of this gigantic lake and partake in some walking or simple relaxation. Back to Irkutsk for a final night before boarding the train.

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.

### Eastbound across Siberia, from Irkutsk to Vladivostok

#### NIGHTS: 3

Day 15. Transfer to Irkutsk station for train to Vladivostok.

See Timetables at [www.transsiberian.com.au](http://www.transsiberian.com.au) for details. (Three nights or more precisely 69 hrs 20 mins aboard the train).

Vladivostok is one of the great harbour cities of the world and during Soviet times was closed to all foreigners. When you finally reach Vladivostok you will

struggle to compare the experiences you now have with the what you saw in St Petersburg!

### Arrival in Vladivostok

#### NIGHTS: 1

Day 17. Arrive Vladivostok. Meet and transfer to homestay for one night.

End of arrangements next day.