

TRAVELER INFORMATION

Planning Your Trip with MIR

Give us a call at 1-800-424-7289; our specialists are here to answer your questions about these dynamic destinations, discuss your airfare options, visa requirements, pre- and post-tour possibilities and special requests; and help you plan every detail of your perfect adventure.

Reservations

The quickest way to reserve is to call us at 1-800-424-7289 and place a non-refundable deposit by Visa, MasterCard or Amex over the phone. Early reservations are recommended, as space on all scheduled tours is limited. To finalize your booking, complete the Reservation Form and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement (at the back of this catalog and available at www.mircorp.com) and mail to MIR with a photocopy of your passport.

Once we receive the signed and completed Reservation Form and Release, we will send you a comprehensive confirmation packet which includes a descriptive daily itinerary, our Touring with MIR handbook containing general information and travel tips for the countries you'll visit, suggested reading list, insurance details, a preliminary invoice, and suggested travel gear. Visa kits for applicable trips are generally sent out about 3-4 months prior to departure. A final update packet with air tickets, luggage tags, travel journal, an updated itinerary and contact information is generally sent 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Booking Conditions

Travelers' Responsibilities & Eligibility

Travelers are responsible for selecting an appropriate tour that matches their interests and physical abilities and for preparing for the tour by studying the Descriptive Daily Itinerary and additional trip information sent by MIR Corporation.

Travelers must be 18 years of age or older (or traveling with a legal guardian) and in good health to join one of our tours. Reservations are subject to our review and acceptance of your completed Reservation Form and signed Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement. We reserve the right to request additional information or medical clearance, or to refuse to accept any traveler on any tour, for any reason, at our sole discretion.

Payment Schedules

At the time of reservation, a non-refundable per person deposit is due per chart below. The balance is due upon receipt of invoice or latest by date noted below.

	Deposit amount:	Final payment due by:
-Scheduled Small Group Tours	\$500	60 days prior to departure
-Flexible Essential Private Trips	\$500	60 days prior to departure
-Special Tours	\$1,500	95 days prior to departure
-Rail Journeys by Private Train, Imperial Suites	\$4,000	95 days prior to departure
-Rail Journeys by Private Train, Gold Class	\$2,000	95 days prior to departure
-Rail Journeys by Private Train, all other classes	\$1,500	95 days prior to departure
-Custom & Private Journeys - for individuals	\$700	60 days prior to departure
-Custom & Private Journeys - for groups		see reservation form/itinerary

For reservations made directly with MIR, land tour payments are accepted by check, wire transfer, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard or Amex). If booking through a travel agent, please contact your agent to find out what form of payment the agent accepts. MIR can accept final payment from travel agents by agency check only. Please also note that all communications on bookings made through agents (updates, confirmation packet, invoice, final documents) will be through your agent.

Full payment for land tours is due at the time of booking for reservations made at or within final payment deadlines, as MIR may be required to pay for services and accommodations immediately, and in full at time of reservation, on your behalf.

Transfers on Scheduled Small Group Tours

Travelers may transfer land payments from one scheduled Small Group Tour to another scheduled to depart in the same calendar year, up to 91 days prior to departure, subject to availability. Within 90 days, travelers are subject to our cancellation policy. *Transfer policy not applicable from/to any Rail Journey by Private Train, Special Tours, Flexible Essential Private Trip or Custom or Private Journey.*

Insurance

We strongly recommend that travelers purchase cancellation/interruption, medical and evacuation insurance. Contact MIR for our insurance rates and details. Please note that it is a condition of booking any Rail Journey by Private Train that you are adequately insured with cancellation/interruption, medical and evacuation insurance. We can arrange for your purchase of these coverages through us, in which case the pre-existing medical condition exclusion will be waived if the premium is paid when you make your tour deposit.

Should you seek your own insurance, please supply us with the name of your insurer, policy number and the insurer's 24-hour emergency telephone number. We reserve the right to decline to accept a booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance (at our sole discretion) is not provided to us upon request.

Cancellations

Should you need to cancel your travel plans, please notify us immediately by email or by fax. At the time we receive written notification of cancellation, the following charges will apply:

Scheduled Small Group Tours, Flexible Essential Private Trips and Custom & Private Journeys for Individuals:

<u>If received up to 61 days or more prior to departure</u>	deposit due or paid in full of \$500 or \$700
31-60 days prior to departure	50% of the land tour cost
30 days prior to departure or after trip departure	no refund

Scheduled Rail Journeys by Private Train & Special Tours:

<u>95 or more days prior to departure</u>	deposit due or paid in full of \$1,500, \$2,000 or \$4,000
65-94 days prior to departure	50% of the land tour cost
64 days prior to departure or after trip departure	no refund

Custom & Private Group Journeys:

Please refer to your tour itinerary/reservation form for details

Air Tickets:

Refunds for unused air tickets are subject to the rules of the respective air carrier(s) and to a MIR service fee of a minimum of \$75/ticket.

Please note that no partial refunds are available for any missed days of a tour or any whole or part of a tour, accommodation, meal or any other service not utilized by the participant during the tour.

MIR Corporation reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, in which case a refund of the land tour payment will constitute full settlement. In the event of cancellation, MIR is not responsible for any expenses incurred by travelers in preparation for the trip (e.g. non-refundable airline tickets, visa fees, etc.).

Visas & Passports

A valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required for participation. Travelers are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas prior to departure. MIR cannot guarantee visa approval by foreign governments, and cannot assume responsibility for incorrect or improperly issued visa or passport documentation, nor for any costs associated with a traveler's refused visa issuance or refused entry into a country due to incorrect or incomplete documentation. It is the traveler's responsibility to check visas and passports for accuracy.



Itinerary & Price Changes

Published itineraries are subject to change due to changing conditions in the field. As trips are priced more than a year in advance, we reserve the right to change the land cost if we are faced with significant increased costs over which we have no control, including (but not limited to) changes in internal airfares, fuel surcharges and currency fluctuations.

Single Travelers

If you prefer single accommodations, the single supplement fee/single occupancy rate is payable. Single accommodations are not always available as some nights may be spent in yurts/gers, tents, lodges, guesthouses, aboard regularly-scheduled rail service or in private homes and are subject to the availability of rooms and/or camping space. A partial single supplement is available on tours that employ non-hotel accommodation for some nights.

We are happy to attempt a same gender roommate match for solo travelers who request it on small group tours. Should no one be available with whom you can share, you will be assessed the single supplement fee/single occupancy rate at the time of invoicing. In the event of a last-minute cancellation or roommate incompatibility resulting in assignment of a single room, the single supplement fee/single occupancy rate will be assessed.

Special Accommodation Note for Select Tours

A selection of our Explorer Series trips (Mongolia to Moscow-pg 34, Pamir Highway-pg 63, Chinese Turkestan & Central Asia-pg 64, and Silk Route Odyssey-pg 66) as specified in the detailed daily itinerary documentation, make use of yurts, gers, overnight trains or other non-hotel accommodations. In these particular cases, travelers may be asked to share sleeping quarters with multiple other group members for those nights. Land Tour inclusions and details of accommodation for each scheduled Small Group Tour are outlined in the Descriptive Daily Itinerary. Please contact us with any questions.

Air Reservations

MIR's in-house, full-service air department will gladly assist with your air travel needs. Payment for air tickets that are not part of the land tour is due upon confirmation and may be made by credit card or check according to the acceptance policies of the carrier. Fares, taxes and fuel surcharges remain subject to change until ticketed. Should you decide to take on the responsibility of making your own arrangements (including mileage-based reservations), please supply MIR with a copy of your air itinerary showing arrival and departure flights at the time of final payment for your land tour.

Land Tour Cost

Prices listed in this catalog are per person in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy. Land Tour inclusions for each scheduled Small Group Tour, Rail Journey by Private Train, Special Tour or Flexible Essential Private Trip are outlined in the Descriptive Daily Itinerary. For Custom & Private Journeys, inclusions are detailed in the custom trip proposal. In all cases, the quoted price represents a package price for the services offered and an itemization of individual component costs will not be provided.

Prices do not include international or internal airfare and related taxes and fuel surcharges, airport departure fees, visa fees, passport expenses, cost increases of internal airfares, customary end-of-group-tour gratuities to tour managers, some meals on some trips, alcoholic beverages, insurance (required on all Rail Journeys by Private Train), single supplement (by choice or circumstance), excess baggage fees, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls/email; or expenses arising from the delay, extension or modification of a tour due to bad weather, flight delays, sickness or medical emergency, government action, or any other cause beyond our control.

MIR reserves the right to add staff or invited guests to any of our group departures even if such addition exceeds the advertised group maximum size.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before and during your tour:

- **Descriptive Daily Itinerary** — detailed information on tour features and inclusions is available for every program
- **Complete pre-departure information** — reading list, insurance details and suggested travel gear, Touring with MIR handbook with country-specific information, area maps, and travel tips based on over 25 years of experience
- **Personalized custom pre- and post-tour travel arrangements** if desired
- **Assistance booking your custom flight arrangements** if desired
- **Customized visa application and instruction kit**, for applicable trips
- **Final document packet** including a travel journal, luggage tags, final reminders, air tickets and air itinerary, final tour itinerary and hotel contact list
- **Well-located accommodations** as described in the itinerary
- **Services of experienced, English-speaking tour managers* and guides** as described in the itinerary
- **Most meals** on group tours as described in the itinerary
- **Bottled water** at group meals
- **Ground/surface transportation** per itinerary (trains, coaches, jeeps, boats/hydrofoils as applicable)
- **Entrance/conservation fees/permits** to museums and national parks
- **Special events and excursions** as described in the itinerary
- **Group arrival/departure transfers** for travelers arriving on the start/end group tour dates in the start/end cities (whether we make your airfare arrangements or not)
- **Baggage handling*** where available
- **Restaurant tips** for any included meals on your itinerary
- **Gratuities to local guides and drivers*** (and train staff/tour managers on Rail Journeys by Private Train)

**not included on Flexible Essential Private Trips or Custom Private Journeys*