

Custom Travel Planner:

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY



The train stops along the shoreline of Lake Baikal

In 1891 – twenty-two years after the First Trans-Continental Railroad from Omaha to Sacramento was finished – Czar Alexander III authorized a rail line across Russia. His son, the soon-to-be-czar Nicholas II, dug the first spade-full of dirt at the eastern terminus, Vladivostok. At the time, a cross-country journey from Moscow to the Pacific coast took months of arduous travel by carriage, riverboat and sleigh, with winter snow or summer mud slowing the trip even further. The increased trade and connections between Russia's administrative centers and its vast center and east has had a profound effect on the economy and culture of Siberia. The small town of Novonikolaevsk, located on the rail line, became Siberia's "capital," Novosibirsk, and grew rapidly until, in 1970, it became the youngest city to reach a population of one million, and countless other settlements sprang up in previously uninhabited places.

Today, the **Trans-Siberian Railway** rolls briskly across eight time zones and 5,772 miles of *taiga*, steppe and mountain, pausing along the way in places that can bring the traveler face to face with the fascinating cultures of Russia.



**22 Years of
Experience & Expertise
Available to You**

We have 22 years of specialized travel planning experience under our belts, focusing exclusively on the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Our reliable in-country connections are dedicated to delivering in-depth, educational travel experiences. We combine specialized information about geography and infrastructure, history and art, language and culture, with the expertise and depth of knowledge gained from 22 years of experience in this area. That's why major museums and alumni organizations from universities across the country rely on MIR for travel programs they sponsor along the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Call for references from past guests to learn why they are glad they chose MIR as their travel partner. MIR has twice been rated one of the "Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth" by *National Geographic Adventure Magazine*, in 2008 and 2009.