

Siberia & Mongolia: Spirits & Nomads

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, LAKE BAIKAL, THE GOBI, NAADAM FESTIVAL



Opening parade at the Naadam Festival

Let the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway carry you through the taiga's unbroken forest to Siberia's deep UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, teeming with unusual wildlife, and south to the immense sky of the vast Mongolian desert and grasslands, where nomads celebrate the annual Naadam Festival.

Days 1-4: Vladivostok, Aboard the Trans-Siberian This epic two-country sojourn begins with a tour of the Russian port city of Vladivostok. Board the celebrated train on its most remote and scenic leg towards Irkutsk.

Days 5-7: Irkutsk, Listvyanka Explore the traditional wooden houses of Irkutsk, home to early political exiles. Spend a day aboard the spectacular old Circumbaikal Railway that hugs the shore of Lake Baikal. Relax in an enchanting Siberian lakeshore lodge in Listvyanka.

Days 8-9: Lake Baikal, Ust Barguzin Hydrofoil across the lake to homestays in rural Ust Barguzin, and search for elusive freshwater seals in the Ushkaniye Islands.

Days 10-12: Ulan Ude Drive to Ulan Ude, an important outpost on the tea route from China. Ulan Ude hosts the largest Buddhist monastery in Russia. Visit a village of Old Believers, descendants of 17th century Orthodox Christians exiled by Catherine the Great.

Day 13: UlaanBaatar, Terelj An overnight train delivers you to UlaanBaatar, and beyond the capital to the grasslands of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, mingling with nomads along the way.

Days 14-16: UlaanBaatar, Naadam Festival Enjoy the pageantry of the opening ceremony plus the traditional Naadam archery, wrestling and horse racing competitions.

Days 17-19: Gobi Desert, UlaanBaatar Fly to the fabled Gobi Desert. Experience traditional ger living and walk in the footsteps of legendary explorer, Roy Chapman Andrews. Toast the journey back in UlaanBaatar.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



19 Days

1 departure in 2010

June 28-July 16

Land Tour Cost

6-16 travelers	\$7,695**
Partial Single Supplement	\$995*

*See page 93 for Partial Single Supplement details.

**Land tour cost includes internal flight costs which are subject to change; see the Descriptive Daily Itinerary for details.

Stay a little longer... Come early and visit the Amur Tiger reserve outside Vladivostok; or extend your travels in Mongolia to visit Kara Korum. Contact us for details.



Siberian Buddhist monastery

MIR Signature Features

- Hydrofoil over beautiful Lake Baikal's clear waters
- Enjoy dinner and an evening folk concert with a family of Old Believers
- Witness the pageantry of Mongolia's Naadaam Festival

