

Siberia & Mongolia: Spirits & Nomads

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



photo: Helge Pedersen

Mongol warrior at Naadam

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 Ulan Ude.

Days 5-8: Ulan Ude, Ust-Barguzin, Lake Baikal Disembark in Ulan Ude to tour its important Buddhist monastery. Visit a village of Old Believers, descendants of 17th century Orthodox Christians exiled by Catherine the Great. Wind your way through the remote Barguzin Valley to homestays in rural Ust-Barguzin, and search for elusive freshwater seals around Baikal's Ushkaniye Islands.

Days 9-12: Listvyanka, Irkutsk Hydrofoil across the lake to Listvyanka and relax in a delightful Siberian lakeshore lodge. Hug the shore of Lake Baikal aboard the spectacular old Circumbaikal Railway. Admire the traditional wooden houses of Irkutsk, home to early political exiles, and later hop a short flight to UlaanBaatar.

Days 13-15: UlaanBaatar, Gobi Desert From UlaanBaatar, fly to the fabled Gobi Desert. Experience traditional ger living and walk in the footsteps of legendary explorer, Roy Chapman Andrews.

Days 16-19: UlaanBaatar, Gorkhi-Terelj, Naadam Festival Explore the museums and monasteries of UlaanBaatar. Enjoy the pageantry of the Naadam opening ceremony plus the traditional archery, wrestling and horse racing competitions. Take a day trip to the grasslands of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, mingling with nomads along the way, and then toast the journey at a farewell dinner.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



19 Days

Cultural Series Land Tour

\$8,395 per person, double occupancy

Plus internal air \$600

(economy class, subject to change)

Partial single supplement \$1,295 (see page 103)

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

Group Size 6-16 travelers

2012 Land Tour Dates

June 25-July 13

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.



photo: Michel Behar

Buryat greeting with ceremonial kahta

MIR Signature Experiences

- Hydrofoil over beautiful Lake Baikal's clear waters and experience a homestay with a rural family
- Enjoy dinner and an evening concert with a family of Old Believers
- Join the cheering crowds lauding the winning Naadam wrestler, whose title means "Lion"

