

# Trans-Siberian Express Between Beijing & Moscow

BEIJING, MONGOLIA, SIBERIA, MOSCOW



Photo: Lucio Rossi/Lattitudelife.com

Horse-head fiddle soloist in a Mongolian orchestra

**S**tarting in Beijing, where the remnants of Imperial China sit shoulder-to-shoulder with thriving businesses and five star hotels, roll along a railway that ties together two of the world's biggest countries, China and Russia.

On the Westbound departures, traverse Mongolia from the Gobi Desert across the endless steppe, where Genghis Khan's armies once galloped, to the modern capital, UlaanBaatar. Continue up to the steep shores of ancient Lake Baikal, and on to the gleaming golden cupolas of Moscow. Three Eastbound Moscow to Beijing departures are also available.

**Days 1-3: Beijing** Explore the classic sites of Beijing, including the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, where 14 Ming and 10 Qing emperors ruled China. Travel outside the city to visit the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. Enjoy a special dinner of Peking duck before boarding the Chinese charter train for the one-night ride to the Mongolian border.

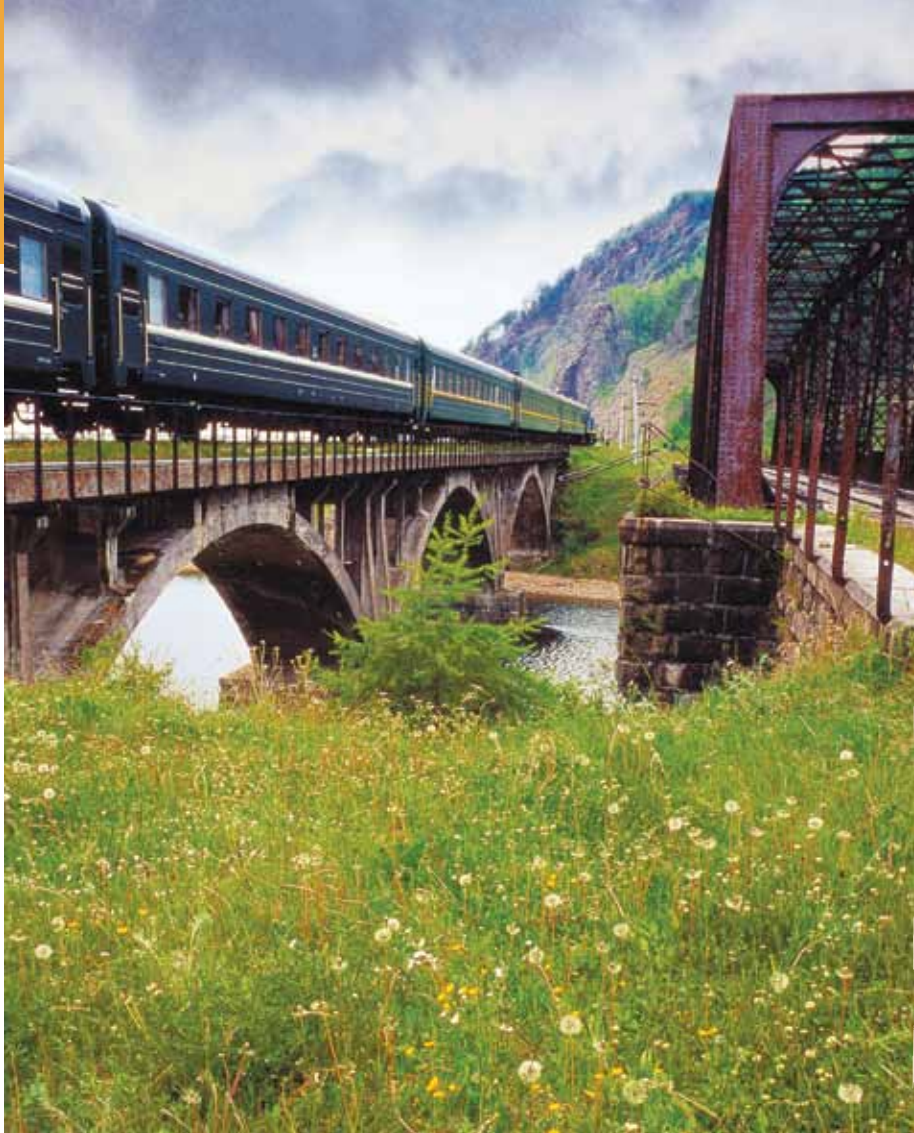
**Days 4-6: Gobi Desert, UlaanBaatar** Transfer to the *Tsar's Gold* private train at the Mongolian border, continuing through the great Gobi Desert and onto the open steppe of Mongolia. Spend a night at a hotel in UlaanBaatar and discover the imposing Gandan Buddhist Monastery and the Chojjin Lama Museum. A picnic lunch in a rural ger is followed by a display of Mongolian horsemanship and Mongolian-style wrestling.

**Days 7-10: Ulan Ude, Lake Baikal, Irkutsk** Reboard the train and continue into Russia. Spend some time in Ulan Ude, founded in 1666 by Cossacks as a winter encampment on the Selenga River. Take a short boat ride on UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, the deepest and oldest lake on Earth, and skirt its shore on the old Circumbaikal Railway, the original line used by the Trans-Siberian Railway before

the present-day route was completed. Transfer to a hotel for a night in Irkutsk, and get to know this important Siberian way station for expeditions and exiles. Wander the open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture, a collection of authentic Russian and native Buryat, Evenki and Tafalar houses and community buildings dating from the 17th to the early 20th century.



Sculpted marble pillars in multiples of nine at the Temple of Heaven



Old Circumbaikal Railway bridge

**Days 11-13: Novosibirsk, Ekaterinburg, Kazan** In Novosibirsk travelers are met with the traditional Russian bread and salt, and regaled with *balalaika* music. In Ekaterinburg, visit the Church on the Blood, built on the spot where the tsar and his family were killed in 1918. A tour of Kazan includes its UNESCO-listed kremlin, originally a fortress of the Golden Horde, and a boat ride on the Volga.

**Days 14-15: Moscow** Transfer to a centrally-located hotel and begin an exploration of Moscow, including a tour of the dignified Kremlin. An after-dinner walk through Red Square and a descent into some of the city's opulent subway stations bring this epic journey to an end.

ABOARD THE *TSAR'S GOLD PRIVATE TRAIN*  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRAIN,  
SEE PAGES 96-97

## TRANS-SIBERIAN PRIVATE RAIL JOURNEY

### 15 Days Westbound

### 16 Days Eastbound

5 or 6 nights hotels, 8 nights aboard the *Tsar's Gold* private train, 1 night aboard Chinese train between Beijing and Mongolian border

#### Rail Journey Land Tour

Per Person:

Standard Plus Class, twin share	\$8,795
Standard Plus Class, single	\$11,785
Standard Plus NEW Class, twin share	\$9,495
Standard Plus NEW Class, single	\$12,485
Nostalgic Comfort Class, twin share	\$11,495
Nostalgic Comfort Class, single	\$17,685
Bolshoi Class, twin share	\$15,695
Bolshoi Class, single	\$24,985
Bolshoi Platinum Class, twin share	\$18,495
Bolshoi Platinum Class, single	\$28,285

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

#### 2012 Land Tour Dates

##### Westbound: From Beijing to Moscow

May 14-28 • July 6-20 • July 30-August 13 •  
September 17-October 1

##### Eastbound: From Moscow to Beijing

May 6-21 • June 3-18 • July 22-August 6

photo: Lucio Rossi/latitudelife.com



Archery is a time-honored skill in Mongolia

