

Trans-Siberian Winter Wonder Land Route

BETWEEN MOSCOW AND VLADIVOSTOK BY PRIVATE TRAIN



Dogsled on frozen Lake Baikal

Russia is fantastic in the winter. The country is at its most beautiful, the crackling air burnished by a fresh snowfall. Across Siberia, the far-away lights of the Trans-Siberian flash through the darkness like a moving beacon.

Days 1-2: Moscow Spend a night in a five star Moscow hotel and tour iconic Red Square and the Kremlin, or opt for a tour of the Tretyakov Gallery before boarding the distinctive private train on its way across seven time zones.

Day 3: Vladimir, Suzdal Visit Vladimir and Suzdal, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and two of Russia's oldest cities. Their brilliant snow-tipped onion domes crown some of the first churches and monasteries of the Kievan Rus. Attend a choral performance in 14th century St. Euphinius Monastery, and enjoy an exhilarating sleigh ride through the snowy countryside.

Days 4-6: Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk Cross the Europe/Asia divide just outside of Ekaterinburg, and tour the site where the last czar, Nicholas II, and his family were held prisoner and then executed by the Bolsheviks. In Novosibirsk, Siberia's most important city, explore the country's biggest Opera and Ballet Theater.

Days 7-8: Irkutsk, Lake Baikal Tour cultured Irkutsk, including a neighborhood of classic Siberian wooden architecture, and enjoy a private concert of top-drawer classical musicians at the 19th century Decembrist House Museum. Take an opportunity to explore an authentic Russian *banya*, or steam-bath, at a forest resort. Later,

the train winds along the majestic frozen shores of UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, where the ice is often transparent. Board a hovercraft that crosses the lake to a spot where you can join in with locals ice-fishing, riding snowmobiles and running dogsleds.

Day 9: Ulan Ude Stop in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic, a small city with a multiethnic background. Spend some time visiting with Orthodox Old Believers at a nearby village. Savor a home-cooked meal, and hear their marvelous chants, lyric songs and folk prayers, transmitted intact from the 16th and 17th centuries.



A snowy siding



Siberian Buddhist Temple

Days 10-13: UlaanBaatar, onboard train Dipping down onto the Mongolian steppe, make a day-long visit to the capital, UlaanBaatar. Investigate its National History Museum, providing a look into the steppe nomads' history and culture, ranging from the dawn of humanity through the incredible empire of Genghis Khan and on to the present day. Relax onboard the comfortable train as it barrels back up to Russia and east across the mighty Amur River.

Days 14-15: Vladivostok At the end of the momentous journey, explore the Pacific Rim naval port of Vladivostok, including a tour of a restored submarine, before transferring to a four star hotel for a final night and a festive farewell dinner.

ABOARD THE LUXURY *GOLDEN EAGLE*
TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS
 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRAIN,
 SEE PAGES 94-95

TRANS-SIBERIAN PRIVATE RAIL JOURNEY

15 Days

2 nights hotels, 12 nights aboard the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express*

Rail Journey Land Tour

Per Person:

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|----------------------------|----------|
| Silver Class, twin share | \$13,795 |
| Silver Class, single | \$19,995 |
| Gold Class, twin share | \$17,195 |
| Gold Class, single | \$24,395 |
| Imperial Suite, twin share | \$26,795 |
| Imperial Suite, single | \$37,995 |

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

2012-2013 Land Tour Dates

Eastbound: From Moscow to Vladivostok
 February 22-March 8, 2013

Westbound: From Vladivostok to Moscow
 March 1-15, 2012 • March 6-20, 2013

Stay a little longer... Extend your stay in either Western or Eastern Russia or both. Contact us for details.



photo: Heige Pedersen

Private concert at the Decembrist Museum

