

Trans Mongolian Explorer

Independent rail journey

20 days / 19 nights

Day 1: Beijing

Arrive Beijing. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Beijing.

Day 2: Beijing

This morning you have a full day trip to China's major tourist attraction, the Great Wall – over 2,000 years old and stretching 7,200 kms. You will also visit the Ming Tombs. Overnight Beijing.

Day 3: Beijing

Today you will visit the Forbidden City, a maze of ancient buildings built in 1417-1420 and the emperor's residence. You will also see the Temple of Heaven, China's finest example of Ming architecture, and the Summer Palace with Kunming Lake. Overnight Beijing.

Day 4: Beijing to Ulaanbaatar

You will be transferred to the station for your early morning departure for Ulaanbaatar. Overnight on train.

Day 5: Ulaanbaatar

Early afternoon arrival Ulaanbaatar. At the Mongolian border your train's bogies are changed to the wider gauge used in Mongolia and Russia. You will be met on the platform and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

Day 6: Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar was first established in 1639 as a nomadic encampment. This morning you have a guided tour of the major sights of Mongolia's capital. The city streets reveal a fascinating mix of people, Buddhist monks, students, businessmen and herdsmen on horseback. Overnight Ulaanbaatar. **B**

Days 7-8: Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk

Full day at leisure. You will be transferred to the rail station for your evening departure to Irkutsk. 2 nights on train. **B**

Day 9: Irkutsk

Morning arrival Irkutsk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Settle in, then commence your full day excursion of Irkutsk and Lake Baikal. One of the oldest Siberian cities, Irkutsk is famous for its traditional wooden houses and a gateway to Lake Baikal. The Baikal Museum provides information about the lake and its unique flora and fauna. Overnight Irkutsk.

Day 10: Irkutsk

Free day for independent exploration. Overnight Irkutsk. **B**



Mongolian horseman

Days 11-13: Irkutsk to Moscow

Morning at leisure for independent exploring. Late afternoon transfer to your train to Moscow. 3 nights on train. **B**

Day 14: Moscow

Arrive Moscow in the late afternoon. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 15: Moscow

Your morning city tour introduces you to the major sights of Moscow – Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral, the Bolshoi Theatre and a panoramic view of Moscow from Sparrows' Hills. A guided tour of the Moscow metro

Inclusions

- ① 12 nights accommodation with breakfast
- ① 7 nights 2nd class 4 berth-rail (Soft class Beijing-Ulan Bator)
- ① Arrival/departure transfers in each city
- ① Beijing – Scheduled coach tours of Great Wall & Ming Tombs, Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City & Summer Palace
- ① Ulaanbaatar – City tour
- ① Irkutsk – City tour & Lake Baikal excursion
- ① Moscow – City tour & metro, Kremlin and Armoury
- ① St Petersburg – City tour, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum & choice of Peterhof or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

system follows with an amazing display of marble, mosaics and chandeliers. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 16: Moscow to St Petersburg

After breakfast tour the Kremlin grounds. Visit the State Armoury Museum, housing a unique collection of crown jewels, Faberge Eggs, costumes, carriages and much more. Afternoon free. You will be transferred to the rail station for your late night train to St Petersburg. Overnight on train. **B**

Day 17: St Petersburg

Early morning arrival St Petersburg. You will be met on the platform and transferred

Your hotels

TOURIST

- ⓐ BEIJING – Don Fang Hotel
- ⓐ ULAANBAATAR – Undrूल
- ⓐ IRKUTSK – Victoria (standard room)
- ⓐ MOSCOW – Cosmos (renovated room)
- ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Asteria

SUPERIOR

- ⓐ BEIJING – Qianmen
 - ⓐ ULAANBAATAR – Bajongol
 - ⓐ IRKUTSK – Victoria (renovated room)
 - ⓐ MOSCOW – Marriott Tverskaya
 - ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Pushka Inn
- Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

to your hotel. After check in, start your city tour of this beautiful northern city. Drive along fashionable Nevsky Prospect, the main thoroughfare, lined with shops, cafes, restaurants and 18th century palaces. Continue with a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress, burial place of the Romanovs and the site chosen by Peter the Great in 1703 as the foundation of St Petersburg. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight St Petersburg.

Day 18: St Petersburg

After breakfast, visit the Hermitage Museum. Housed in five buildings on the Neva embankment, including the Winter Palace, it is home to a collection of more than three million items. Afternoon free. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 19: St Petersburg

Travel out of town today to one of the Tsars' summer palaces. You may choose between Peterhof (Petrodvorets) on the Gulf of Finland, or head south to the town of Pushkin, known as Tsars' Village until 1917. Peterhof was commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. In summer months the grounds feature cascading fountains and gilded statues. In Pushkin, the residence of the tsars from the beginning of the 18th century, visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 20: St Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Sunday departures Jan-Dec 2010.

| | Twn | Sgl |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| TOURIST | | |
| 7 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-31 Dec | 5823 | 7830 |
| 1-21 May, 1 Jul-30 Sep | 5904 | 7878 |
| 22 May-30 Jun | 6005 | 7972 |

SUPERIOR

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------|
| 1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Nov-31 Dec | 6403 | 9199 |
| 1-31 May, 1 Jul-31 Oct | 6957 | 10306 |
| 1-30 Jun | 7124 | 10638 |

Upgrade to 2-berth rail \$1244.

■ Train #3 Beijing – Ulaanbaatar operates on Wednesday all year round. There may also be a train on Tuesday and Saturday.

■ Itineraries are based on current schedules and prices which are subject to change. Final prices will be advised upon confirmation.

■ This itinerary is flexible and may be taken in reverse.

■ Sightseeing in Mongolia and Russia is by car and on foot with your own English-speaking guide. In China sightseeing is by coach with English-speaking guide.

Visa: Single entry Chinese, Mongolian & Russian visas are required.