

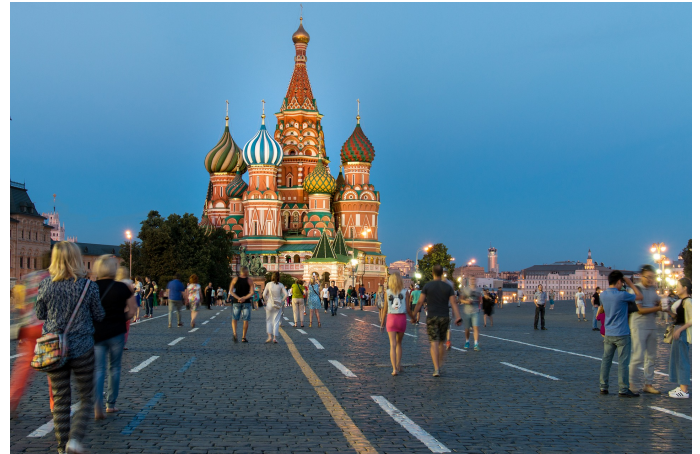


The Great Canadian Travel Group Inc.

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Trans-Siberian Luxury Rail Journey

****This rail program in Russia is currently on a “Stop Sell” basis.** Undoubtedly one of the world’s greatest railway journey, the Trans-Siberian Railway runs east from Moscow, over the Urals, across magnificent Russian Steppes and along the shores of the world’s largest freshwater lake and arrives at Vladivostok. The train then turns and heads westbound, returning back to Moscow. The one-way journey travels through eight time zones and covers over 6,000 miles, nearly 10,000 KM (one-third of the way around the world!).



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

15 days/14 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Moscow

Arrive at Moscow Airport, where you are met and transferred to a 5* hotel located in Moscow city centre and within walking distance of the Kremlin, Red Square and the Bolshoi Theatre. On your first evening in Moscow you are invited to a champagne drinks reception before our exclusive Welcome Dinner, complete with specially selected, international wines. Meet your fellow travellers and anticipate the epic 15-day voyage that you will share.

Why not extend your stay in Moscow with additional nights to explore more of the city at your leisure or have time to take in a performance at the world-renowned Bolshoi Theatre? *Tickets need to be pre-booked and are subject to schedule and availability.*

Day 2: Moscow

Our touring programme of Moscow principally takes us to the grandeur of the Kremlin – the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow – and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber. We will enjoy an exclusive private viewing before it opens to the public before, visiting Red Square. This iconic symbol of Russia’s former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil’s Cathedral’s magnificent onion-domed spires, the beautiful façade of the world famous GUM department store which was constructed in Tsarist times, is also the sombre and evocative site of Lenin’s tomb. We will have lunch in Café Pushkin, a legendary Moscow restaurant with a décor that revives the atmosphere of an early 19th century mansion and serves traditional Russian cuisine and end the day with a tour of the opulent and unique stations of the Moscow metro – showpieces of Socialist art furnished with statues, frescoes and mosaics, unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

If you have been to Moscow before we offer included *Freedom of Choice* touring where we show you other sights of Moscow such as the famous State Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Fine Art) or the Space Museum.

Upon arrival at Moscow Kazansky Station, you will be greeted in the magnificent Imperial Waiting Room with a cold glass of Russian Champagne and canapes as you mix with the other guests and are welcomed by the train staff. The excitement in the waiting room audibly mounts and, 30 minutes before departure, your car attendants will escort you to Platform 1 where the *Golden Eagle* awaits. This luxurious, private train offers well-appointed, en-suite cabins, fine dining and elegant surroundings. First-class service is included as standard, with a personal cabin attendant available at all times, to look after all your needs.

Day 3: Kazan

Situated on the River Volga, the picturesque and historic city of Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan. Here we have the opportunity to see for ourselves its rich tapestry of history and culture. One of the highlights of this city tour is our exploration of the Kremlin Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the walls of this ancient citadel we will



explore its stunning mosque and picture-perfect onion-domed cathedral.

As Kazan is the birthplace of one of Russia's most famous opera singers, Feodor Chaliapin (1873-1938), we honour his memory with a private concert of his music.

You will also have time to wander through the main pedestrian area of Kazan and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the city.

Day 4: Yekaterinburg

Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, Yekaterinburg, is the capital of the Urals. Known as the Great Divide, the Ural Mountains create the natural border between Europe and Asia so that the cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilisations come together in this fascinating and cosmopolitan landscape. Our city tour takes us to the poignant site where the Romanov, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, was executed with his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918 following 78 days of imprisonment. Now a church dedicated to their memory, this site provides us with a powerful insight into the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. We will also drive to the obelisk marking the geographical border and we can drink a glass of champagne with one foot in Europe and the other in Asia.

Our *Freedom of Choice* programme features a visit to the recently opened Museum of Military Machinery. The museum houses an amazing collection of different types of military hardware including tanks, aircraft, boats and even armoured trains. You will also see a wide range of civilian vehicles (particularly Russian models). The museum is a real treat for anyone with an interest in the Soviet past, unparalleled by anything else along the route.

Day 5: Novosibirsk

A modern 'Soviet' city, we experience the life and character of Novosibirsk's rich culture where the arts and science predominate. The city is located in the heart of Russia and is situated on both banks of the River Ob. Our city tour takes us to Lenin Square where the imposing Opera House is located. An architectural marvel, it houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is one of the largest opera houses in the world. In front of the Opera House, we visit an impressive statue of Lenin – a marvellous opportunity to have your photograph taken with this iconic political leader.

Alternatively, south of the city you could visit Novosibirsk's excellent Railway Museum on our *Freedom of Choice* tour. The museum displays locomotives and rolling stock from the late 1800s, including carriages of the Tsars, through to the Soviet era. Or choose to go to the Mineralogical Centre with its fine display of Siberian minerals.

Day 6: On-board

The relaxing day on board the train offers the perfect opportunity to practice your improving Russian or watch a DVD as you watch the world pass by. For those who like to socialize, the Bar Lounge Car is the perfect place to enjoy a chat with your fellow passengers as you listen to our resident musician.

Day 7: Irkutsk

Our visit to Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', takes in the most significant sites and museums in this fascinating city, including an exploration of the classic wooden architecture with its intricately carved lace-like decorations that has given many of this region's buildings such a distinctive and unique appearance. We also visit the Volkonsky House Museum, which is dedicated to the memory of the aristocrats who were exiled to this remote outpost after the failed Decembrists uprising of 1825, and we recreate the atmosphere of that time with a champagne reception and private concert.

You could learn to cook some traditional Russian dishes with a local chef and prepare your own lunch with our *Freedom of Choice* option. Or you might also wish to visit a traditional Russian Dacha (summer house) or an urban apartment to get an insight into the everyday life of an average Russian family.

Please note: Freedom of Choice touring options may be subject to variations dependent on finalised train timings and local weather conditions.

Day 8: Lake Baikal

Few natural sights can surpass the beauty and grandeur of Lake Baikal and is a major highlight on our Trans-Siberian journey. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and holds 20 per cent of the world's freshwater. Also known as the 'Pearl of Siberia' it is home to a unique breed of freshwater seal and over 50 species of fish including omul. For five hours we wind our way through tunnels along cliff hugging tracks above the lake with a vista of snow capped peaks along the far shore forming a picture-perfect backdrop.

To add to the grandeur of the day our Golden Eagle train will be hauled by a Soviet era steam locomotive on this beautiful section of the line. There will be plenty of opportunities for photographs as the train winds its way along the lake. This will be an unforgettable part of our journey.



Weather permitting, we stop in an extremely picturesque location by the lake for photographic opportunities and for the brave hearted there is time for a refreshing swim in the crystal clear and ice-cold waters of Baikal. Travelling onwards to the end of the Baikal branch line, we leave the train and travel by boat on the lake to Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement nestling at the base of the surrounding hills and visit the Lake Baikal Museum and Aquarium where you can learn about the flora and fauna of the lake.

We will enjoy a delicious barbecue, including freshly smoked omul fish, prepared by our own chefs on the shore of Lake Baikal to complete a memorable day. As part of our *Freedom of Choice* excursion programme you can choose a hiking opportunity that offers some spectacular and panoramic hillside views of the lake below.

Day 9: Ulan Ude

The ethnic and cultural diversity of Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic, offers a unique insight into its heritage. As we tour the area you will notice the different faces of these welcoming Buryat people. During our exploration of the Old Believers' Village we have the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of these religious people as we are treated to a concert featuring local traditions and folk singing.

Day 10: Ulaan Baatar

Our Trans-Siberian adventure takes us into Mongolia and a visit to its capital, Ulaan Baatar. Mongolia, once the very centre of an enormous empire led by Genghis Khan, is a country of beautiful landscapes, nomadic people and rich in culture and history. Mongolia is famous for its endless green Steppes, grazing livestock and white, nomadic Gers (Yurts) dotted all across the countryside.

We start the tour at Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia's most important Buddhist Monasteries housing a community of over 500 monks. The full name, Gandantegchinlen, translates as 'the great place of complete joy'. At Chinggis Square (formerly Sukhbaatar Square) we can see the central monument to Genghis Khan, undoubtedly the most feared and revered Mongol. We then drive out of the city to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park for a unique opportunity to experience a taste of the traditional Naadam Festival, with a spectacular display of horse-riding, wrestling and archery, the three games of the festival, performed by members of the local community. We will meet a nomadic family in a traditional Ger and learn more about their historic culture and customs.

Alternatively, there is an option to stay in the city as part of our *Freedom of Choice* touring. After Gandan Monastery and Chinggis Square we visit the National Museum where we learn about the country's intriguing history. We will also see Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum, the winter residences of Bogd Khan, the last Mongolian emperor, built between 1893 and 1903.

We can also explore the city and have some free time for shopping for Mongolian souvenirs, and their speciality cashmere. We will also enjoy a performance of traditional Mongolian throat singing and contortionists.

Day 11 & 12: On-board

Enjoy a more leisurely pace today as we travel through the beautiful landscape of the Russian Far East. You may wish to attend one of the interesting lectures or Russian language lessons. It's the perfect opportunity to practice your Russian or simply relax as our journey today follows the Shilka and Amur rivers, close to the Chinese border. Enjoy Russia at its most dramatic and remote, as the *Golden Eagle* eats up the miles on our way to Vladivostok.

Day 13: On-board

Passing directly north of Seoul, Darwin and Osaka, we spend our last full day on board the *Golden Eagle* today as the most easterly point of this mammoth journey is reached passing through Khabarovsk, where we cross the River Amur.

Tonight we enjoy our final dinner on board our private train that has been our home for the last twelve days as we approach our final destination on this unforgettable journey.

Day 14: Vladivostok

After travelling through 8 time zones and covering a staggering 6,600 miles (10,600kms) along this iconic railway, the *Golden Eagle* pulls into its final destination, Vladivostok.

Vladivostok is a military port, located on the western shores of the Sea of Japan and is home to the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet. Due to its military importance, the city was closed to foreigners between 1930 and 1992. Vladivostok (literally translated as 'Ruler of the East') offers visitors an interesting opportunity to explore its principal military attractions including a visit to a preserved World War Two submarine. Our city tour will also take us to the iconic suspension bridge over Golden Horn Bay, one of the largest of its kind worldwide, which opened in 2012 for the APEC conference.

Our hotel in Vladivostok, where we stay for one night, is the 5* Lotte Hotel Vladivostock.

Day 15: Vladivostok

Following breakfast, spend the remaining time in Vladivostock at your leisure, followed by your transfer which will take



you to the airport to begin your return home.

The one-way, westbound journey begins in Vladivostock and travels back to Moscow.

Certain stops may differ depending on your direction of travel. For example, on the westbound journey beginning in Vladivostock, a stop is made in Khabarovsk on Day 3. Full, detailed itineraries are available for each journey and date of operation along with full pricing, which we are happy to provide to you for your chosen trip.

Freedom of Choice Optional Touring

Freedom of Choice Optional Add-ons:

- Siberian Mineralogical Centre
- Walking tour of Yekaterinburg
- Russian monastery in Serviev Posad
- Museum visits such as: Mongolian National Museum; Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum; Novosibirsk Railway Museum; Yekaterinburg Military Museum; State Tretyakov Picture Gallery (National Museum of Fine Arts)

Train Information

These special rail cruise itineraries are planned and operated exclusively by Golden Eagle Luxury Trains. They are dedicated to never losing sight of the little things that really matter to you, the valued guest, so that you can experience these Voyages of a Lifetime in a relaxed and informal manner. The Golden Eagle is your luxurious hotel-on-wheels. Unpack just once and settle into your well appointed and comfortable en-suite cabin as you begin this adventure by rail. One of your cabin attendants, available at all times, will be on hand to look after all of your needs.

Golden Eagle Luxury Train

Aboard your luxurious private train, you can expect well-appointed en-suite cabins, fine dining and elegant surroundings – no matter where you choose to explore. First-class service is included as standard, with a personal cabin attendant service, available at all times, to look after all of your needs. The Golden Eagle has been carefully designed with emphasis on your comfort, relaxation and enjoyment. In addition to our private en-suite sleeping cabins, we offer a beautifully appointed Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars. Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by as you get to know fellow passengers in the social heart of the Golden Eagle, the Bar Lounge Car. The perfect location to relax and unwind as you watch the ever changing scenery pass by. Reminisce the day's adventures with fellow passengers over afternoon tea or perhaps challenge your friends to a game of cards before dinner. Throughout your journey the Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars will host a variety of entertaining and enriching activities such as Russian language lessons and engaging lectures on local history and culture from expert guest speakers. It is also here that our Tour Manager will organise a programme of activities for the journey ahead. Daily itineraries detailing train arrival and departure timings and information on the following day's excursions and activities will be provided, plus useful weather forecast and time zone information. As evening falls, enjoy the sounds of the resident pianist playing on the baby grand piano in the Bar Lounge Car. Each night the bar stays open until the last person leaves. Floor plans of each cabin class are available on request.

Details

Trip Code:

002297-W20

INCLUDED

- Arrival and departure transfers
- Hotel accommodation in Moscow and Vladivostock
- Accommodation aboard the luxurious Golden Eagle train
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner daily throughout the journey
- Generous drinks allowance with lunch and dinner
- Gold Class passengers, drinks from the Standard Drinks List in the Bar Lounge Car
- Imperial Suite passengers, drinks from both the Standard and Premium Bar Lists (except some premium wines) in the Bar Lounge Car
- The services of a tour manager throughout the tour
- Russian Interpreters able to speak English, German, French and Italian
- Porterage services
- Comprehensive off-train sightseeing program as detailed in the itinerary
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- On-board services throughout your journey, 24 hours a day
- Housekeeping and turn down services
- Tea, coffee and bottled water in your cabin 24 hours a day



- Freedom of Choice touring - customize your journey and select from an array of touring options
- Personal headsets for off-board excursions
- On-board doctor and medical facilities
- All gratuities

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare to start and end points
- Drinks from the Bar Lounge Car, if not included in your cabin category
- Travel insurance
- Passport and visa fees, vaccinations as required
- Laundry services
- Taxes, fees and surcharges
- Items of a personal natures

TOUR NOTES

Other Golden Eagle luxury rail journey options:

Trans-Mongolian Express & the Naadam Festival (Eastbound), 13 days/12 nights (itinerary Days 1-10 as above, Days 11 & 12 in Ulaan Baatar, departure on Day 13)

2020 and 2021 Dates: July 1

The Naadam Festival & Trans-Mongolian Express (Westbound), 13 days/12 nights (reverse of Eastbound itinerary, beginning in Ulaan Baatar, ending in Moscow)

2020 and 2021 Dates: July 10

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP



GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN
ROUTE MAP



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Prices listed on our website are stated in Canadian Dollars unless otherwise indicated. Tour details, inclusions and prices were valid at the time of publication but are subject to change without notice due to currency fluctuations, tax increases and at the discretion of the supplier(s). Current prices will be re-quoted for you at the time of booking. By air, land or sea, we can take you anywhere – contact us for your quote today!