

Trans Siberian Explorer

Independent rail journey

17 days / 16 nights

Day 1: Vladivostok

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

Day 2: Vladivostok

Morning city tour by car. With the largest harbour in the Far East, Vladivostok is Russia's only ice-free port. It was previously closed to foreigners. Overnight Vladivostok. **B**

Days 3-5: Vladivostok to Irkutsk

Morning free for independent exploration. Evening departure for Irkutsk. You will be transferred to the rail station. 3 nights on train. **B**

Day 6: Irkutsk

Afternoon arrival Irkutsk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Irkutsk.

Day 7: Irkutsk

Today you have a full day tour of Irkutsk and Lake Baikal. One of the oldest Siberian cities, founded in 1661, Irkutsk is famous for its traditional wooden houses. The classical architecture dates from the 19th century, when the city boomed as a gold town and attracted aristocratic exiles, missionaries and convicts. Lake Baikal is the deepest fresh water lake in the world and home to unique flora and fauna. Overnight Irkutsk. **B**

Days 8-10: Irkutsk to Moscow

Late afternoon transfer to the rail station to continue your journey to Moscow. 3 nights on train. **B**

Day 11: Moscow

Afternoon arrival Moscow. You will be met on the platform and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 12: Moscow

This morning's highlights include Red Square with St Basil's Cathedral, the reconstructed Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Bolshoi Theatre and a panoramic view of Moscow from Sparrows' Hills. A guided tour of the Moscow metro follows. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 13: Moscow to St Petersburg

After breakfast tour the Kremlin and grounds and enter one of the Kremlin cathedrals. Continue on to the State Armoury, Russia's oldest Museum. It houses a unique collection of crown jewels, gems, thrones, carriages, Faberge eggs and more. Late evening transfer to the rail station. Overnight on train. **B**



Lake Baikal, church



Lake Baikal

Day 14: St Petersburg

Early morning arrival St Petersburg. You will be met on the platform and transferred to your hotel. This morning's sightseeing covers the major landmarks. Drive along Nevsky Prospekt, lined with 18th century palaces, restaurants, cafes and fashionable shops. See Palace Square and the Summer

Gardens. Visit Peter & Paul Fortress, the site chosen by Peter the Great as the foundation of St Petersburg. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 15: St Petersburg

Morning visit to the Hermitage Museum. Housed in five buildings on the Neva

Inclusions

- ① 9 nights accommodation with breakfast
- ① 7 nights in 2nd class 4-berth rail
- ① Arrival/departure transfers throughout
- ① Vladivostok – City tour
- ① Irkutsk – City tour & Lake Baikal excursion
- ① Moscow – City tour & Metro, Kremlin & Armoury
- ① St Petersburg – City tour, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum & choice of Peterhof or Pushkin

Your hotels

TOURIST

- ⓐ VLADIVOSTOK – Vladivostok
- ⓐ IRKUTSK – Victoria (standard room)
- ⓐ MOSCOW – Cosmos (renovated room)
- ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Asteria

SUPERIOR

- ⓐ VLADIVOSTOK – Versailles
- ⓐ IRKUTSK – Victoria (renovated room)
- ⓐ MOSCOW – Marriott Tverskaya
- ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Pushka Inn

■ Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



Train conductor

Embankment, including the Winter Palace, the Hermitage boasts a collection of over 3 million items. Afternoon free. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 16: St Petersburg

Today you visit one of the Tsars' Summer Palaces. Choose either Peterhof (Petrodvorets) or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin. Peterhof was commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. In summer months the grounds feature cascading fountains and gilded statues. At Pushkin, the residence of the tsars from the beginning of the 18th century you will visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 17: St Petersburg

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

Tour price & departures

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

| | Twn | Sgl |
|--------------------------------|------|------|
| TOURIST | | |
| 1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-31 Dec | 4541 | 6362 |
| 1-21 May, 1 Jul-30 Sep | 4621 | 6410 |
| 22 May-30 Jun | 4723 | 6504 |
| SUPERIOR | | |
| 1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Nov-31 Dec | 5228 | 7548 |
| 1-31 May, 1 Jul-31 Oct | 5782 | 8654 |
| 1-30 Jun | 5948 | 8987 |
| Upgrade to 2-berth rail \$1321 | | |

■ Itineraries are based on current schedules and prices which are subject to change. Final prices will be advised upon confirmation. Sightseeing in Russia is by car and on foot with your own English-speaking guide.

■ Itinerary is flexible, can be taken in reverse or tailor-made to your requirements.