

# Trans Siberian Explorer

## Independent rail journey

20 days / 19 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 half day tour of Irkutsk. 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. Overnight Irkutsk. **B**

### Day 8: Irkutsk

Today you travel through the picturesque Taiga to Listvyanka village, located on the western shore of Lake Baikal. Explore the village or sample the local delicacy – smoked omul. Choose between a visit of the Museum of Lake Baikal or the Museum of Wooden Architecture. Lunch in a local restaurant is included in the tour. Overnight Irkutsk. **BL**

### Day 9-10: Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg

Morning transfer to the rail station to continue your journey to Ekaterinburg. 2 nights on train. **B**

### Day 11: Ekaterinburg

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

### Day 12: Ekaterinburg

Ekaterinburg is the historic and the administrative centre of the Urals. Tsar Nicholas II and his family spent their last days here. They were executed soon after



Lake Baikal, church

the end of the Russian Revolution. Your tour takes you through the old streets which were built during the "Golden Age" by Ekaterinburg's merchants. Visit the monument of the founders of the city, Lenin's Square, the Christian temple as well as St. Elizaveta Chapel. Overnight Ekaterinburg. **B**

### Day 13: Ekaterinburg to Moscow

Early morning transfer to the rail station for your overnight train to Moscow. **B**

### Day 14: Moscow

Early morning arrival in Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. **B**

### Day 15: 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**

## Inclusions

- ① 12 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 tour with lunch
- ① Ekaterinburg – City tour
- ① Moscow – City tour & Metro, Kremlin & Armoury
- ① St Petersburg – City tour, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum & choice of Peterhof or Pushkin

### Day 16: 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**

### Day 17: 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 18: St Petersburg

Morning visit to the Hermitage Museum.

## Your hotels

### TOURIST

- Ⓜ VLADIVOSTOK – Primorye
  - Ⓜ IRKUTSK – Victoria (standard rooms)
  - Ⓜ EKATERINBURG – Iset
  - Ⓜ MOSCOW – Budapest
  - Ⓜ ST PETERSBURG – Nevsky Grand
- ### SUPERIOR
- Ⓜ VLADIVOSTOK – Hyundai
  - Ⓜ IRKUTSK – Baikal Business Centre
  - Ⓜ EKATERINBURG – Iset
  - Ⓜ MOSCOW – Peter I
  - Ⓜ ST PETERSBURG – Pushka Inn

■ Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

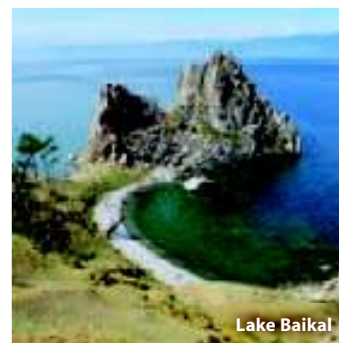
Housed in five buildings on the Neva Embankment, including the Winter Palace, the Hermitage boasts a collection of over 3 million items. Afternoon free. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

### Day 19: 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 20: St Petersburg

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



Lake Baikal

## Tour prices and departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.  
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2011.

	Tw'n	Sgl
<b>TOURIST</b>		
1 Jan-31 Dec	4646	6680
<b>SUPERIOR</b>		
1 Jan-31 Dec	5670	8583
Upgrade to 2-berth rail \$1395		

- Train Irkutsk – Ekaterinburg operates on odd dates only.
- Itineraries are based on current schedules and prices which are subject to change. Final prices will be advised upon confirmation. Sightseeing tours are operated by car and on foot with your own English speaking guide.
- This itinerary is flexible, can be taken in reverse or tailor-made to your requirements. Please refer to pages 41-43 for extension programs.

## EXCLUSIVE TOURS BY PRIVATE TRAIN

Ask your Travel Agent for details about our all-inclusive Rail Tours by Private Train. On these exclusive tours, you will enjoy gourmet dining and fine wine, private facilities and elite rail personnel to look after your every need.

# Trans Mongolian Explorer

## Independent rail journey

22 days / 21 nights

### Day 1: Beijing

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

### 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. **B**

### 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. **B**

### Day 4: Beijing to Ulaanbaatar

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

### 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. **B**

### 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 herders 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 in Irkutsk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Settle in, and then commence your half day tour of the city. One of the oldest Siberian cities, founded in 1661, Irkutsk is famous for its traditional wooden houses. The classical architecture dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the city boomed as a gold town and attracted aristocratic exiles, missionaries and convicts. Overnight Irkutsk. **B**

### Day 10: Irkutsk

Today you travel through the picturesque Taiga to Listvyanka village, located on the western shore of Lake Baikal. Explore the village or sample the local delicacy – smoked



omul. Choose between a visit of the Museum of Lake Baikal or the Museum of Wooden Architecture. Lunch in a local restaurant is included in the tour. Overnight Irkutsk. **BL**

### Days 11-12: Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg

Morning transfer to the rail station to continue your journey to Ekaterinburg. 2 nights on train. **B**

### Day 13: Ekaterinburg

Afternoon arrival in Ekaterinburg. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Ekaterinburg. **B**

### Day 14: Ekaterinburg

Ekaterinburg is the historic and the administrative centre of the Urals. Tsar Nicholas II and his family spent their last days here, executed soon after the end of the Russian Revolution. Your tour takes you through the old streets which were built during the "Golden Age" by Ekaterinburg's merchants. Visit the monument of the founders of the city, Lenin's Square, the Christian temple as well as St. Elizaveta Chapel. Overnight Ekaterinburg. **B**

### Inclusions

- ① 14 nights accommodation with breakfast
- ① 7 nights 2nd class 4-berth rail (Soft class Beijing-Ulaanbaatar)
- ① Arrival/departure transfers in each city
- ① Beijing – Great Wall and Ming Tombs with lunch, Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City & Summer Palace tour with lunch
- ① Ulaanbaatar – City tour
- ① Ekaterinburg – City tour
- ① Irkutsk – City tour, Lake Baikal tour with lunch
- 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

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

### Day 15: Ekaterinburg to Moscow

Early morning transfer to the rail station for your overnight train to Moscow. **B**

### Day 16: Moscow

Early morning arrival in Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. **B**

### Day 17: 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 system follows with an amazing display of marble, mosaics and chandeliers. Your afternoon is at leisure to explore independently. Overnight Moscow. **B**

### Day 18: 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 19: St Petersburg

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

### Day 20: 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 21: 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 22: 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 2011

	Tw'n	Sgl
<b>TOURIST</b>		
1 Jan-31 Dec	5610	8067
<b>SUPERIOR</b>		
1 Jan-31 Dec	6678	9995
Upgrade to 2-berth rail \$1219		

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

■ **Train Irkutsk – Ekaterinburg operates on odd dates only.**

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

■ **Sightseeing tours are operated by car and on foot with your own English speaking guide.**

■ **This itinerary is flexible, can be taken in reverse or tailor-made to your requirements. Please refer to pages 41-43 for additional stopover options.**