


# Amazing Journeys - RUSSIA, CHINA





# the Trans Manchurian Railway Journey

For those who travel for the pleasure of the journey, those who believe that getting there is as much fun as being there, Russia's Trans-Manchurian Railway has long been an almost mythic experience.

A great part of the pleasure of such a trip is simply sitting back and watching the world go by. However, most travellers on the Trans-Siberian find that interaction with other passengers, both Russians and tourists, is what makes the trip an unforgettable experience. The fabled Trans-Siberia rail journey itself takes seven nights and ends eight time zones away from its beginning. To bring real perspective, consider that this is the longest continuous rail line on earth, each run clattering along in an epic journey of almost 10,000 kilometers...stretching across more than one third of the globe. This journey is a unique opportunity to travel to a place far from your daily world. You will learn a lot about the Russian soul, Manchurian history and Chinese culture. 

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## 14 Days 13 Nights



### Day 01 Arrive Moscow

Having arrived in Moscow by air, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the evening is at leisure.

### Day 02 Moscow (B. L.)

Enjoy a city tour of Moscow, visiting Red Square, the requisite first stop for any visitor to Moscow (with views of Lenin's Mausoleum, the world-famous GUM department store and St. Basil's Cathedral). The tour also includes Maim streets, city views from Lenin's Hill and an outside view of the New Maiden Convention Centre. After lunch, a tour of the Kremlin, including the Armoury Chamber.

### Day 03 Moscow – Trans-manchurian Express (B. L. D.)

Enjoy a tour to the Metro and Old Arbat Street for souvenir shopping. In the evening, a transfer to the Moscow Railway Station to board the Moscow-Irkutsk train... You will be ensconced in a First Class 2-berth compartment.

### Day 04 Vladimir - Nizhny Novgorod – Kirov- Perm

In the early hours the train stops briefly at Vladimir, a city in Russia's 'Golden Ring'. Before dawn a short stop at Nizhny Novgorod (Russia's third largest city after Moscow and St. Petersburg). You head off for a mid-morning stop at

Kirov, (located on the Vyatka River. Industrial city founded in 1174 by Novgorod colonists). Mid- afternoon, a short stop at Perm (Founded in 1568, capital of Perm Province...near Ural Mountains...the region's cultural and industrial centre, lying along both sides of the Kama river).

### Day 05 Yekaterinaburg – Tumen – Omsk

In the early hours, a short stop at Yekaterinburg (where the last Czar, Nicholas II and his unfortunate family were murdered by the Bolsheviks on 16 July 1918). Through Tumen (a town in a vast Tumen area that divides Russia into the European part to the west, and the Asian part to the east.). On to short stop at Omsk (2,700 kms from Moscow...Russia's second-largest city east of the Ural Mountains. In imperial times, Omsk was the seat of the Governor General of Western Siberia, and later of the Governor General of the Steppes. For a brief period during the Russian Civil War in 1918–1920, it served as the capital of the anti-Bolshevik Russian State and held the imperial gold reserves).

### Day 06 Novosibirsk – Rasnoyarsk – Taishet

A late-night stop at Novosibirsk, (the largest city of Siberia. Founded in 1893

at the future site of a Trans-Siberian Railway bridge crossing the great Siberian river of Ob and was named Novonikolayevsk in honour of both Saint Nicholas and of the reigning tsar, Nicholas II). On to Krasnoyarsk (on the Yenisei River in central Russia... the third largest city in Siberia, ...an important junction of the Trans-Siberian Railway and one of Russia's largest producers of aluminium.). This evening a short stop at Taishet (meaning 'cold river' . Here the Baikal Amur Mainline begins, branching northeast from the Trans-Siberian Railway).

#### Day 07

##### Arrive Irkutsk (Lake Baikal) – Lisvyanka (B. L. D.)

On arrival, disembark from the Trans-Siberia Express, and you board a coach for a half-day sightseeing tour in Irkutsk, including the Decembrist Museum. After lunch, a transfer to Listvyanka, located to the southwest of Lake Baikal. Russian pioneers came to this spot in the middle of the 17th century, and a hundred years later there was a stage-post here. The settlement grew along with the development of navigation on Lake Baikal. Dinner at the hotel with the famous Omul fish dish.

#### Day 08 Listvyanka (B. L. D.)

Enjoy a full-day tour that includes a visit to Listvyanka Village, and the Limnological Museum. You'll see the famous cliff called Shaman Rock in the middle of the Angara River outlet...visible from the Museum. See Saint Nicholas Church, situated on the brink of Lake Baikal. This afternoon, visit the Wooden Architecture Open Air Museum. Later transfer back to Irkutsk.

#### Day 09 Irkutsk – Beijing Train (B.)

This morning a transfer to the station to board the Irkutsk – Beijing train Number 20. You will occupy a First Class, 2-berth compartment. Depart 09h02. This afternoon at 16h05 arrive in Ulan-Ude (capital of the Buryat Republic, Russia...is located about 100km south-east of Lake Baikal on the Uda River at its confluence with the Selenga).

#### Day 10 Chita – Zabaikalsk – Manchuria

An early hours (01h48) arrival in Chita, (administrative centre of Zabaykalsky Krai in eastern Siberia...). At 13h12 arrive in Zabaikalsk, stopping for about six hours for the train to be regauged from the wide Russian gauge to the standard Chinese gauge. (Zabaikalsk is the final stop on the Russian side of the Russia-China border on the Trans-Manchurian route from Moscow to Beijing). At 19h30, arrive in Manchuria, stopping for about six hours.

#### Day 11 Harbin – Shenyang

Around 12h50, a short stop in Harbin (also called "Ice City" for its long and cold winter). This city is most famous for its beautiful display of ice sculptures in winter and is known as China's gateway to trade with Russia.). At 19h10, a short stop at Shenyang (the capital of Liaoning province in north-east China...is China's fourth largest city and the leading manufacturing hub in a highly industrialized area).

#### Day 12 Arrive Beijing (B. D.)


The train is due in Beijing around 05h30. On arrival, you are met and transferred to the hotel. After breakfast, enjoy a tour commencing in Tiananmen Square, the world's largest square, featuring Chairman Mao's Mausoleum, the Monument to the People's Heroes, and the Great Hall of the People, Walk on to the main entrance of the Forbidden City...China's most magnificent architectural complex, completed in 1420.



#### Day 13 Beijing (B. L. D.)

Enjoy a full-day excursion to the Great Wall of China at Simatai, about 120kms from Beijing. This is a completely different experience from the usual Great Wall excursion which takes place much nearer the city. Tonight, enjoy a Peking Duck dinner at Quanjude Restaurant.

#### Day 14 Depart Beijing (B.)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel and the day is free for independent sightseeing or shopping. Later a transfer to the airport for your outgoing flight. 

#### Travel tips:

- A Russian visa is required for SA passport holders.
- The Russian currency is Ruble. 1 USD = 29 Rubles.
- The best time of the year doing this trip is from May to October.

Cost from USD 4,940 per person sharing, USD 420 additional for single room supplement

Included: Land only & Rail Tickets (first-class 2-berth compartment)

Category: Standard

Departure dates: From May till October month