



PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Single-Departure Journeys

Trans-Mongolian Express (Eastbound) / 12 nights Moscow-Ulaan Baatar

Tour Dates

2017: July 1-July 13

Price

Starting from \$15,895



Experience a truly unique trip along the Trans-Mongolian route as you visit remote locations that are genuinely gems on this planet. Such a stop is Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the world that holds an incredible variety of flora and fauna. After traveling through Russia, your journey comes to a grand conclusion with a three night stay in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia. Here, you will have a little-known opportunity to experience the Naadam Festival, a national holiday in Mongolia. This event in Mongolia is often called the world's second oldest Olympics, and it will stun you with its vibrancy and excitement. Traveling by the luxury Golden Eagle makes for an unforgettable adventure.

Price Details

Prices in US Dollars

Silver Class (Twin)	Silver Class (Single)	Gold Class (Twin)	Gold Class (Single)	Imperial Class (Twin)	Imperial Class (Single)
\$15,895	\$23,495	\$19,595	\$28,695	\$30,995	On Request

Itinerary

Day 1: Moscow

Arrive in Moscow where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Ritz-Carlton hotel, located at the heart of Moscow. With magnificent views of the Kremlin, Red Square, and St. Basil's Cathedral, and the indulgence of this outstanding accommodation, your adventure is steeped in extraordinary luxury from the beginning. The hotel features the 02 Lounge, a stylish rooftop terrace with panoramic views over the Red Square, and a spacious ESPA spa center with 14 treatment rooms in addition to a hot tub and indoor pool.

Meet your fellow travelers at a special welcome dinner at the hotel.

In Moscow, you may choose to attend a performance at the renowned Bolshoi Theatre. (Tickets must be pre-booked and are subject to schedule and availability) If you would like to extend your stay in Moscow, contact Palace Tours for the chance to explore more of the city.

Day 2: Moscow



Spend the day touring Moscow and its top destinations. You will visit the Kremlin, standing impressively along the Moscow River, and learn about its role as a spiritual, historical, and political heart of the city. Admire treasures of Tsars past in the Armoury Chamber: the Imperial Crown of Russia, the Orloff Diamond, and the ivory throne of Ivan the Terrible. Your tour also takes you to Red Square, which is framed by St Basil's Cathedral and its onion-domed spires, the elaborate façade of the GUM department store, and the poignancy of Lenin's tomb.

The *Freedom of Choice* touring option provides the opportunity to instead visit other sights such as the State Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Fine Art) or the Space Museum (subject to train schedule).

Day 3: Kazan

Your destination today is the capital of Tatarstan, Kazan. A picturesque and historic city along the Volga River, here we have the opportunity to see for ourselves its rich tapestry of history and culture. One of the top sites on the city tour is your exploration of the Kremlin Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This ancient citadel holds a stunning mosque and picture-perfect onion-domed cathedral.

Kazan is also the birthplace of one of Russia's most famous opera singers, Feodor Chaliapin (1873-1938). To honor his memory, you are privy to 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 city's atmosphere.

Day 4: Yekaterinburg



Enjoy a city tour of this city, taking you to its top attractions. Peter the Great founded this city in 1723. Yekaterinburg is the capital of the Urals. The Ural Mountains create the “Great Divide” between Europe and Asia, a natural border between these two continents. At this convergence, a rich convergence of European and Asian culture and architecture will fascinate you in this cosmopolitan center. On your tour, you will visit the site where the Bolsheviks executed the Romanov Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and his family in 1918. A church dedicated to their memory now sits on this site and gives a deep and poignant insight into the turbulence of the Russian Revolution.

The *Freedom of Choice* program provides a visit to the new Museum of Military Machinery. Here, you can see an incredible collection of military hardware. Tanks, aircrafts, boats, armored trains, and Russian civilian vehicles fill this building. This museum gives you a unique look into the Soviet past.

Day 5: Novosibirsk

Located in the heart of Russia, the city of Novosibirsk is a modern “Soviet” city and its on the banks of the River Ob. This city is a center for the arts and sciences, which will be seen on your city tour. The tour takes you to Lenin Square where you will see the architectural wonder of the Opera House. It houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is one of the largest opera houses in the world. An impressive, almost imposing, statue of Lenin stands at the front of the Opera House, and provides a perfect photograph opportunity.

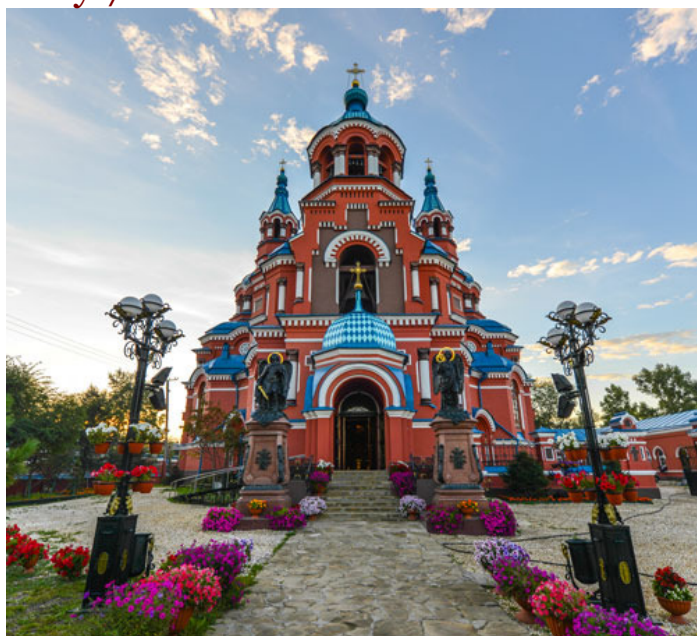
The *Freedom of Choice* option takes you to the city’s south to the Railway Museum where you will see locomotives and rolling stock from the 1800s through the Soviet Era. Another option takes you to the Mineralogical Centre with an impressive array of Siberian minerals.

Alternatively, you can visit the State Art Museum which houses a collection of icons, Siberian art, and mountainous landscapes by the spiritual painter Nicholas Roerich. Other exhibits include rotating art and photography from local and international artists.

Day 6: On Board

Watch the ever-changing landscape outside your window from your private cabin, or venture out into the social heart of the Golden Eagle: the Bar Car. A day to relax, you can spend your time reflecting on your journey so far or attend one of the scheduled activities on board.

Day 7: Irkutsk



Today you will visit Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', and take in the most significant sites and museums of 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. You also visit the Decembrist House museum which is dedicated to the memory of the aristocrats who were exiled to this remote outpost after the failed uprising of 1825, and we recreate the atmosphere of that time with a champagne reception and private concert.

With the *Freedom of Choice* option, you may also choose to cook traditional Russian dishes with a local chef and prepare your own lunch. You also have the chance to visit a traditional

Russian Dacha (summer house) or urban apartment to understand the daily life of an average Russian family.

Day 8: Lake Baikal



A full day at one of the most magnificent sights in the world lies ahead of you. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and holds an astounding 20 percent of the world's freshwater. The lake is alive with unique life, ranging from a unique breed of freshwater seal and over 50 species of fish, including omul—an endangered delicacy. Your day begins with an impressive five hours of winding your way through tunnels along cliff hugging tracks above the lake with a picture-perfect background of snow-capped peaks.

Even more impressively, a Soviet era steam locomotive will haul the Golden Eagle on this section of rail, and you will have ample opportunities for photographs along this memorable part of the journey. If the weather permits, you will stop at a scenic location by the lake for photograph opportunities. Add another spark of adventure in your day and take a refreshing swim in the lake—crystal clear but ice cold, this is sure to be an unforgettable moment.

After continuing to the end of the Baikal branch line, you will meet up with a boat and travel to Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement tucked at the base of the hills. Here, you will visit the Lake Baikal Museum and Aquarium where you will learn about the flora and fauna of this incredible ecosystem.

To conclude this incredible excursion you will enjoy a delicious barbeque on the shore of Lake Baikal. This meal includes freshly smoked omul fish, prepared by our own chefs. A *Freedom of Choice* opportunity allows you to take a hiking trip up Chersky Mount for spectacular views of the lake and hillside.

Day 9: Ulan Ude

Today you will visit Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic, and experience a unique insight into its heritage, and ethnic and cultural diversity. 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

The final stop on your Trans-Siberian adventure takes you into Mongolia for a three night stay in its capital, Ulaan Baatar. Mongolia was once the very center of an enormous empire led by Genghis Khan, and is known for its beautiful landscapes, nomadic people and richness of culture and history. Endless green Steppes, grazing livestock and white, nomadic Gers (Yurts) scatter all across the countryside.

A tour begins at Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia's most important Buddhist Monasteries, which houses a community of over 500 monks. The full name, Gandantegchinlen, translates as 'the great place of complete joy.' At Chinggis Square (formerly Sukhbaatar Square) an imposing central monument to Genghis Khan, undoubtedly the most feared and revered Mongol, sits proudly.

Day 11: Ulaan Baatar

Today is the first day of the Naadam Festival. Observe the amazing opening ceremony complete with local dancers, athletes, horse riders and musicians. Then, travel outside of the main city to watch the national horse race. The competitors in this race are children between the ages of five and twelve, and many have been on the saddle since the age of one. Watch, among thousands of spectators, the nearly 1,000 children race on their small but sturdy Mongolian steeds. Many say that these equestrian skills won Genghis Khan his immense empire, stretching from the Sea of Japan all the way to Europe.



In the evening, relax after this eventful day and enjoy a performance of traditional Mongolian throat singing and contortionists.

Day 12: Ulaan Baatar



The second day of the Naadam Festival begins, and you are picked up in the whirlwind of excitement, vibrant culture, and spectacular events. Very few non-Mongolians experience this festival, so your time in this national holiday is truly special. This festival used to be a religious ceremony, but now formally commemorates the 1921 revolution when Mongolia declared itself a free country. Recently, women have been able to enter and they can compete in two of the three events, horse racing and archery.

Today is the day for all the main competitions and you will attend the archery, wrestling and ankle-bone shooting events.

Please note: due to the popularity of the period around the Naadam Festival we reserve accommodation for our guests at a number of the best hotels in Ulaan Baatar, including the Kempinski and Ramada. However, we cannot guarantee your preferred choice of hotel due to this busy time of year.

Day 13: Ulaan Baatar

Wake to your final day in Ulaan Baatar. After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departures.

PALACE TOURS

Trans-Mongolian Express (Westbound) / 14 nights

Ulaan Baatar-Moscow

Tour Dates

2017: July 10-July 22

Price

2017: Starting from \$15,895



The Westbound journey of the Trans-Mongolian Express follows the daily activities of the Eastbound journey without significant changes. Starting in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia, you will enjoy a unique experience at the Naadam Festival, the world's second oldest Olympics. Most people do not have the chance to see this festival. You stop at other special locations along your journey on the Golden Eagle Luxury Train, such as the world's deepest lake (Lake Baikal), Yekaterinburg, and Moscow. Veiled in indulgent luxury, your adventure through Mongolia and Russia will be unforgettable.

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Price Details

Prices in US Dollars

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Itinerary

Day 1: Ulaan Baatar	Arrive at Ulaan Baatar Airport and transfer to your hotel. Possible hotels include the Kempinski and Ramada, but preferred choice of hotel cannot be guaranteed due to the popularity of this time of year. Enjoy a welcome reception at the hotel.
Day 2: Ulaan Baatar	Enjoy the first day of the Naadam Festival, including the opening ceremony.
Day 3: Ulaan Baatar	Experience the second day of the festival (archery, wrestling, and ankle-bone shooting events)
Day 4: Ulaan Baatar	Tour the city, visiting the Gandan Monastery and Chinggis Square.
Day 5: Ulan Ude	Tour the city, experiencing its cultural and ethnic diversity.
Day 6: Lake Baikal	Spend a unique day on this incredible lake.
Day 7: Irkutsk	Tour the "Paris of Siberia."
Day 8: On Board	Relax on the train.
Day 9: Novosibirsk	Tour the city. Popular sites include the Opera House, Railway Museum, and the State Art Museum.
Day 10: Yekaterinburg	Learn about the history of the Russian Revolution in this city.
Day 11: Kazan	Tour this picturesque city, visit sites like the Kremlin Fortress.
Day 12: Moscow	Tour this impressive city. Top destinations include the Kremlin, Red Square, and St Basil's Cathedral. Stay at the five-star Ritz-Carlton
Day 13: Moscow	Transfer to the Moscow Airport after breakfast. If you would like to extend your stay in Moscow, contact Palace Tours.