



spotlight

what you see

costsaver adventure:

- Moscow • Trans-Siberian route
- Yekaterinburg - city and homestay
- Views of Siberian forest and Lake Baikal
- Irkutsk - former Cossack garrison & trading centre
- Ulan Ude - indigenous region, Tibetan/Buddhist temples
- Vladivostok (Russian Pacific coast) - end of the line

classic adventure extras:

- As above
- Moscow - guided walk of Moscow's Red Square, St Basil's Church and surrounds
- Europe/Asia borderline, Route of the Romanovs Tour
- Listvyanka & Lake Baikal - walking tour and museum
- Ivolginsky Datsan Temple and Ethnographical museum
- Vladivostok submarine museum and choice of Fortress or Oceanarium

what you get

costsaver:

- Breakfast: 12 Dinner: 7
- 2 nights economy hotel Moscow
- 2 nights homestay in Yekaterinburg 3 nights homestay Irkutsk, 1 homestay night Ulan Ude, 2 nights economy hotel Vladivostok - all including rail station transfers
- Train journey: Moscow - Vladivostok (4 berth sleeper)

classic extras:

- Breakfast: 12 Lunch: 3 Dinner: 7
- 2 nights standard hotel Moscow, Guided walk, airport arrival transfer & departure transfers to rail station (not platform)
- 2 nights homestay Yekaterinburg city tour inc. Route of the Romanovs & Europe/Asia border tour
- 1 night Irkutsk/ 2 nights Listvyanka home-stay including banya
- 1 night homestay Ulan Ude & city tour
- 2 nights Vladivostok city tour inc. port & Sub-marine S-56 museum & choice of Vladivostok Fortress or Oceanarium
- Local guide services



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to Russia. If you book at on the go tour we can obtain the letter of invitation for you which is required for Russia visas. If you are a resident of the UK, we'll supply all visa forms & can arrange visa procurement. If you are a resident overseas, please contact a specialist visa company to procure visa forms and to arrange visa issue. It is your responsibility to ensure you procure

your visa in a timely fashion and visa fees are at your own expense. We recommend that you apply for your visa at least 4 weeks prior to departure. Further visa info is available online at onthegotours.com.

climate & time

Russia - Continental, with distinct periods of warm & very cold weather. Summer from mid-May - early Sept is warm with long days. Autumn is brief. By end Nov, temps plummet & snow arrives. Spring brings the great thaw in Mar & Apr. Winter visits - wear very warm attire inc. a hat, gloves, long coat & sensible shoes. See A-Z guide (provided upon booking) for more info.

money

GBP 1=RUB 48 USD 1=RUB 30 AUD 1=RUB 27 (subject to fluctuation). The Russia Rouble is non-exportable and only available in Russia. Exchange USD, GBP or Euro notes in pristine condition. ATMs exist in major cities in Russia. See A - Z for more info.

health requirements

Diphtheria, Polio and Tetanus. If visiting Yekaterinburg and doing outdoor activities between May-August, a vaccination for tick-borne Encephalitis is recommended. Please check with your local health provider.

how much?

- Mineral water (500ml or 1L) RUB 30
- Can of coke RUB 30
- Beer (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) RUB 50-80
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local beer) RUB 1500-2000

final checklist

- Visa Passport
- Ticket/tour voucher Jobs
- Travel Insurance Guide book
- Airline ticket/E ticket Warm clothes
- Reconfirm flight USD cash for exchange

things to bring

- Slippers & comfortable clothes for the train.
- A mug, spoon, instant coffee, tea bags & cup a soup.
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Bring USD cash for exchange. Pristine notes only.
- A guidebook especially if on a costsaver adventure
- A phrasebook and practice Mandarin & Russian.
- Books, magazines, cards & a padlock.
- A photocopy of your passport data pages.

optional activities

Those on the classic adventure can choose one of the optional activities below at each stopover:

lake baikal

- Summer trek and camp
- Snow mobile
- Summer lake diving
- Cross country ski
- Year round fun

yekaterinburg

- Summer lake and village
- Siberian country style
- Summer rafting
- Khaski dog sledding
- Skiing
- Falcon hunting

Note: For further details and costs, please refer to the brochure/website or call us. Please specify your preference at time of booking.





destination vladivostok: itinerary

day 1 - classic itinerary

Monday - Welcome to Moscow! Arrival transfer from Moscow Sheremetyevo or Domodedovo airport to hotel (no arrival transfer if you have elected to take a costsaver adventure). Overnight - Moscow.

day 2 - red square

Moscow - breakfast. The capital that spawned dozens of spy novels. Catch the Metro to Red Square, from where you'll enjoy a guided walk (classic adventure only). You'll spot Moscow's bastion of power, the gold onion-domed Kremlin, brightly coloured St Basils Cathedral, the glitzy GUM Department store and more. Rest of day free. Lenin's fascinating granite mausoleum located in Red Square is a Mecca for the curious and worth a look, if open. NOTE: If visiting Lenin's Mausoleum or planning to make an optional visit to the Kremlin, please don't carry gigantic day - packs/rucksacks, as visitors must store them (at their own modest expense) before entry into Red Square or for a visit inside the grounds of the Kremlin. Overnight - Moscow.

day 3 - moscow

Moscow - Yekaterinburg - breakfast. Free time for you to make the most of your time in Moscow. Perhaps jump aboard the Stalinist era Metro and see the beautifully decorated stations. This afternoon there is an included transfer to rail station. Overnight - train.

days 4 & 5 - yekaterinburg

Yekaterinburg - breakfast (day 5). On the evening of day 4 the train pulls into Yekaterinburg. Transfer to homestay accommodation. On day 5 after breakfast, enjoy a city tour (classic adventure only). It was in Yekaterinburg that Tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed in 1918, visit the new monastery that marks the murder site and Ganina Yama - a beautiful, rural monastic complex built on the site where the family's remains were dumped and later found. Then travel on to the Europe/Asia border marker - where you can stand with a foot on either side of the boundary marker! Rest of the day free. Breakfast (1), dinner and overnight (2) - Yekaterinburg homestay.

day 6 - optional activity

Yekaterinburg - breakfast. Spend the day at leisure exploring Yekaterinburg. Alternatively classic adventure travellers can choose one of the exciting options available (must be booked in advance, see brochure/website for details). This evening enjoy dinner and relaxation at the homestay, before transferring to the train station shortly after midnight. Dinner and overnight - train.

days 7 & 8 - train

Yekaterinburg - Irkutsk - packed breakfast (1). The train departs in the very early hours of the morning on day 7 for your onward journey to Irkutsk. Relax on board and enjoy the views! Overnight (2) - train.

days 9 & 10 - lake baikal

Irkutsk - Listvyanka - breakfast (day 10). Arrive in Irkutsk - a town with Asiatic influences of nearby Mongolia and china and curious architecture - a legacy of Siberia's aristocratic exiles. Classic adventure travellers transfer to Listvyanka village, which offers stunning views of Baikal - Siberia's inland sea. Spend the next two at leisure by beautiful Lake Baikal or perhaps choose one of the optional activities available (must be booked in advance, see brochure/website for details). Siberian banya (sauna), lunch (1), dinner and overnight (2) - Listvyanka homestay.

Please note: Costsaver travellers spend days 9 - 11 at leisure in Irkutsk (not at Lake Baikal).

day 11 - irkutsk

Listvyanka - Irkutsk - breakfast. Classic travellers depart Listvyanka shortly after midday, stop for lunch and transfer back to Irkutsk. The remains of the day is free to explore Irkutsk. Lunch, dinner and overnight Irkutsk homestay

day 12 - train

Irkutsk - Ulan Ude - breakfast. Spend the day at leisure exploring Irkutsk. Evening departure to Ulan Ude, Overnight - train.

days 13 & 14 - ulan ude

Ulan Ude - breakfast. Very early morning arrival. Transfer to homestay. Later, enjoy a city tour (classic adventure only). Thanks to it's proximity to Mongolia and China, the indigenous people of the region - the Buryats, clung on to their Tibetan-Buddhist faith through the Communist era. Visit Ivolginsky Datsan - a Buddhist temple and a museum which is dedicated to the lives of local people. Tonight enjoy a tasty traditional Buryat dinner.

On day 14, breakfast, then free time until afternoon transfer to rail station for the train to Ulaan Baatar. Dinner (1) and overnight (1) - Ulan Ude homestay (1) - train

days 15 & 16 - on the train

Aboard train - Settle into life aboard the train as it plies it's way east across the Chita Oblast, where the taiga gives way to rolling meadows and woodland. Passing rivers, towns and a variety of countryside, the train enters Russia's Far East region between Chitinskaya and Amur Oblasts. This also where Siberia officially ends and the Russian Far East begins. Via Khabarovsk, the train pushes on, sometimes within 10km of the Chinese border. Overnight - train

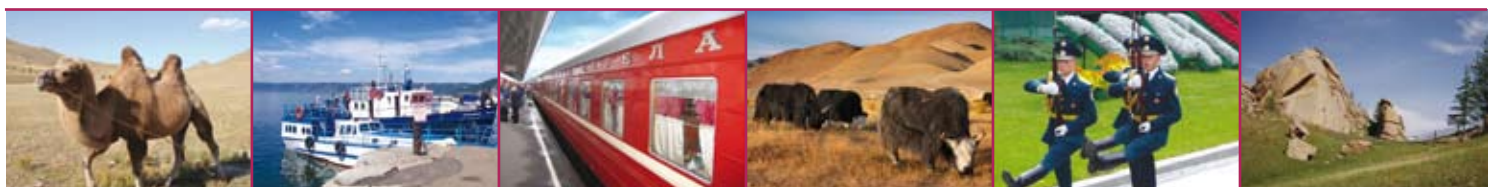
days 17 & 18 - vladivostok

Vladivostok. Welcome to the end of the Trans-Siberian line! Checking into your hotel, enjoy a city tour of Russia's Far East Pacific port with lunch and visit to Vladivostok port and a decommissioned submarine, the S-56, which sank 10 enemy ships in its day! On Day 18, enjoy breakfast and an excursion to Vladivostok Fortress, where every day at noon, a giant gun is fired or the Oceanarium, dedicated to interesting local species. Breakfast (1) Lunch (1) and overnight (2) - hotel.

day 19 - vladivostok

Vladivostok - breakfast. The trip ends after breakfast. Included transfer to the train station or airport.

See 'what you get' for content of a costsaver adventure.





destination vladivostok: itinerary

train upgrades: If you are a solo traveller wishing to upgrade to a 1st class 2 berth cabin exclusively (or wanting to share with another member of the public), or a party of 3 wishing to exclusively occupy a 4 berth cabin, please contact us for rates and availability. Upgrades to 1st class cabins are subject to route and availability. Some trains may only be configured with one 1st class 2 berth cabin wagon (containing 9 cabins or 18 seats in total).

On services between Irkutsk and Ulan Ude, there are no 2 berth cabins available, and on the once-weekly service between Beijing and Ulaan Baatar seats are offered on a per person basis, so we cannot provide for a 'buy-out' of a 4 berth cabin to be occupied by 2 passengers, if a 2 berth cabin isn't available on that route. Moreover, from May - October, all routes get particularly busy, and it may prove more difficult to successfully obtain an upgrade to a 2 berth cabin on routes that would normally be easier to second such a cabin under normal circumstances. **on the go** will advise on an individual basis, the status of upgrade possibility.

hotels: In Russia on the go use 3 star accommodation as classified by the Russian Ministry of Tourism. However, please be aware that the 3 star standards throughout Russia vary greatly and cannot be compared to hotels of a similar standard in Western Europe or, and in particular, the United States.

train schedules: Chinese & Mongolian Railways operate the service from Ulaan Baatar to Beijing in turn. Please understand that different departure dates could alter the advertised journey slightly. Usually, this would entail an additional night or two in Mongolia or in the case of alternate trips, perhaps an additional night somewhere up the line. Please check with us at time of booking.

time: One of the most disorienting aspects of the Trans-Siberian trip is working out what time it really is! Having gotten used to Russian Time where everything works to what is known as Moscow Time, when you hit Mongolia or China, the time will change again. Mongolia has 2 time zones, though you'll only pass through one, and China has 3 time zones, though only Beijing Time is used for all Chinese trains). All long-distance Russian trains run on Moskovskaya Vremya or Moscow Time in Russia, the abbreviation for which is MB in Cyrillic or MV in English. Mongolia is 8 hours ahead of GMT. China is 8 hours ahead of GMT and operates in one time zone, so clocks are set according to Beijing time, meaning, given the size of the country, sunset and sunrise can occur at peculiar times! Pack a travel alarm clock.

luggage: A frameless backpack/ rucksack in favour of an unwieldy suitcase is recommended for your Trans-Siberian journey, as complimentary portage is not offered anywhere. Suitcase wheels get mired in the snow making it difficult to wheel your luggage, there are also often lots of stairs to climb and rigid cases are also hard to store in the cabin.

homestays: Homestays do vary, in that you may be staying with a local family, couple or single person. In some cases the home owner may actually move out so that you have the home to yourself. The local homes we use are generally very simple and basic with shared bathroom facilities. Please note that if you are travelling in a larger group it may be necessary for you to stay in separate houses because most homes are small and only have room for one or two guests.

accommodation upgrades

We understand that some travellers may prefer their own privacy. As such, we offer accommodation upgrades.

Classic adventure travellers have the opportunity to upgrade from homestays to hotel accommodation (at an additional cost) in Yekaterinburg, Listvyanka, Irkutsk and Ulan Ude.

On our costsaver adventure we offer travellers the option to switch from homestay accommodation to a hostel in Yekaterinburg and upgrade to budget hotels in Irkutsk and Ulan Ude (at an additional cost).

Perhaps consider a combination of homestays and hotels - the choice is yours!

Please note - if choosing to upgrade, hotels and hostels are on a bed and breakfast basis and dinner is not provided. If choosing to upgrade to a hotel in Listvyanka, the banya will not be included.

Upgrades are subject to availability. Please visit our website - www.onthegotours.com or contact us for details and prices.

your train is departing - life aboard

Leave the tux and party dress at home. Attire onboard the Trans-Sib is definitely informal. The Chinese, Russian and indeed Mongolian attire of choice is generally a jogging ensemble and slippers. You'll want to be similarly comfortable as you stretch out for the journey ahead. Temperatures are regulated regardless of season. Generally, each train is around 15 wagons long. At the end of each wagon is a WC/wash basin. A wagon attendant mans each wagon. All main Trans-Sib trains have a buffet/dining wagon. In addition to serving a variety of meals and snacks, it's a good place to relax away from your cabin with a drink.

*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



68 north end road, west kensington, london, W14 9EP • 020 7371 1113 • info@onthegotours.com
3/690 brunswick street, new farm, brisbane, QLD, australia 4005 • 1300 855 684 • aus-info@onthegotours.com

updated April 2010