

genghis khan

# go guide

don't leave home without it



## spotlight

### what you see

#### costsaver adventure:

- Moscow
- Trans-Siberian, Mongolian & Manchurian route
- Views of Siberian forest, Gobi Desert and Lake Baikal en route.
- Ulaan Baatar
- Beijing

#### classic adventure extras:

- As above
- Guided walk of Moscow's Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and surrounds
- Terelj National Park - unique granite rock formations
- Home and lifestyle of a nomadic family

Note: Entrance fees, Russian, Mongolian, Chinese visa fees not included. No meals aboard train.

### what you get

#### costsaver:

- 6 breakfasts
- 2 nights economy hotel Moscow
- 4 nights economy hotel Ulaan Baatar & return rail station transfers (no ger camp)
- Train journey: Moscow - Beijing (4 berth sleeper cabin)

#### classic:

- 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- 2 nights standard hotel Moscow and guided walk of Red Square, airport arrival transfer & departure transfer to Moscow rail station (not platform)
- 2 nights standard hotel Ulaan Baatar
- 2 nights ger (felt tent) camping at Terelj NP\* including a visit with a nomad family
- All transfers & local guide services applicable to itinerary



## on location

### Your guide to on the ground...

#### visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to China, Mongolia & 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 visas at least 6 weeks prior to departure. Further visa info is available online at [onthegotours.com](http://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 China, Mongolia & more info.

#### money

USD1 = RUB29 USD1 = MNT1250 USD1 = CNY6.6 (subject to fluctuation). The Russia Rouble - RUB, Mongolian Tugrik - MNT and Chinese Yuan - CNY. Exchange USD, GBP or Euro notes in pristine condition. ATMs exist in major cities in Russia and China and Ulaan Bataar. See A - Z for more info.

#### health requirements

Recommendations - Hep A, Diphtheria, Polio & Tetanus. Malarial risk - south-west China. Please contact your local health care provider for more information.

## how much?

- Can of coke, 330ml RUB30/TUG460/CNY3-5
- Mineral water RUB30/TUG350/CNY2-5
- Meal for 2 RUB1000-1500/TUG14000-17500/CNY120
- Beer (local brew) RUB50-80/TUG450-950/CNY4-10
- Chocolate bar RUB40-50/TUG250/CNY7

## final checklist

- Visa
- Ticket/tour voucher
- Travel Insurance
- Airline ticket/E ticket
- Reconfirm flight
- Passport
- Jabs
- Guide book
- Warm clothes
- 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.

## top experiences

- Stroll around Red Square in Moscow and spot brightly coloured St Basils and the Kremlin.
- Pay your respects to the wax-like Lenin (at his granite mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow).
- Get to know your neighbours aboard the train, and indulge in card and vodka get-togethers.
- Saddle up and take a horse ride through the Mongolian countryside
- Camp out in a traditional Mongolian Ger on the steppe
- Read Chairman Mao's famous little Red Book - full of quotations to his people for the 'Great Leap Forward'
- Hit Beijing's Silk Alley markets & grab some bargains.





## genghis khan: itinerary

### day 1 - classic itinerary

Sunday. Moscow - Welcome to Moscow! Arrival transfer from Moscow Sheremetyevo or Domodedovo airport to hotel (no arrival transfer if you have elected to take a costsaver deal). 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 only). You'll spot Moscow's bastion of power, the gold onion-domed Kremlin, 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 for your visit as visitors must store them (at own modest expense) before entry into Red Square (which is closed during opening times of the mausoleum) or for a visit inside the grounds of the Kremlin. Overnight - Moscow.

### day 3 - moscow

Moscow - Ulaan Baatar - breakfast. Free time in the capital. Moscow has a staggering array of art galleries, museums and shops as well as unique attractions such as famous Gorky Park. Tonight - an included transfer to Yaroslavl rail station for the train to Ulaan Baatar. Overnight - train.

### days 4 - 6 - train

Aboard train - Settle into life aboard the Trans-Mongolian Express as it winds its way east. The train actually follows well-worn ancient tea caravan routes. Back in those days, it took an arduous 40 days or more. Since the inception of the Trans-Mongolian route in the 1950s the journey has been considerably shortened! Overnight (3) - train

### day 7 - views of lake baikal

Aboard train - Via Irkutsk and skirting along the shores of breathtaking Lake Baikal, the journey continues via far Eastern Siberia. The train branches off the main Trans-Siberian line at a place called Zaudinsky, which lies just beyond Ulan Ude. Mongolia and China each

have their own kilometre markers. In Mongolia, 0 km is the Russian/Mongolian border town of Naushki. Once over the Chinese border, the markers measure the distance to Beijing, which is also 0 km. Overnight - train

### day 8 - mongolia

Ulaan Baatar (Outer Mongolia) - Morning arrival (subject to border formalities & inevitable delays) in Outer Mongolia. One of the most elevated countries in the world, Mongolia was also once one of the world's most powerful. At its height in the 13th century, Genghis Khan had by the time of his death in 1227, unified the Mongol people, organized a nearly invincible army of fearless nomadic warriors, and set into motion the first stage in the conquest of an enormous territory that would be completed by his sons and grandsons.

With extraordinary speed and devastating ruthlessness the Mongols created the world's largest empire, stretching at its greatest extent from Korea to Hungary. After decades of suppression under the Soviets, Mongolia is emerging as a cutting-edge destination. Endless steppe, nomadic tribes people, stunning Terelj National Park, double-humped (Bactrian) camels that are a cinch to ride in comparison to their single-humped cousins and the vast expanse of the Gobi Desert.

On arrival, transfer to nearby Terelj National Park. Elevated Terelj is cool and the scenic alpine surrounds spectacular. The protected area is host to diverse flora and fauna, and is famous for its unique granite rock formations. Opportunities for outdoor pursuits abound. The Mongolian ger is a sturdy wood and felt type tent. Ger means 'home' and it's your home for the next two nights on the steppe (level grassy unforested plains characteristic of Mongolia). Lunch, dinner and overnight - ger camp\*.

\*Please note: Due to extreme weather, clients undertaking a classic adventure during the winter can decide upon arrival, whether to be accommodated in permanent accommodation or a Mongolian ger.

Also note: Costsaver travellers spend days 8 & 9 at leisure in Ulaan Baatar (not ger camping in Terelj NP).

### day 9 - terelj national park

Terelj NP - breakfast. Get in touch with nature. Hike, horse ride (at additional cost), climb some rocks, the choice is yours. Lunch, dinner and overnight - ger camp\*.

### days 10 & 11 - ulaan baatar

Terelj NP - Ulaan Baatar - breakfast. Transfer back to Ulaan Baatar on day 10 with a visit to a nomadic family. Despite the prominence of grim, utilitarian Soviet architecture, Ulaan Baatar (otherwise known as UB to ex-pats) is a laid-back provincial capital set in the rolling foothills of the Bogd mountain range, on the banks of the Tuul River. You'll have 2 days to explore Ulaan Baatar your way.

The city hubbub is Sükhbaatar Square. Off the square is the Museum of Natural History. If dinosaurs are your passion, opt for a visit. The Gobi Desert is famous for its archaeological finds from the Mesozoic Era. Most of Mongolia's Buddhist temples and monasteries, were destroyed during the Stalinist purges of the late 1930s. However, Gandantegchinlen Khiid survived as the communists kept it as a showcase to impress foreigners. It's worth a look, as is the Winter Palace of Bogd Khaan. It's where Mongolia's 8th Bogd Khaan (Living Buddha) and last king lived for 20 years. Upon his demise in 1924, the Soviet-led Communist government of Mongolia prohibited any future incarnations. Dinner - (1) Overnight - (2) hotel.

### day 12 - train

Ulaan Baatar - China - breakfast. Transfer to rail station for onward train to China. Beyond Ulaan Baatar, the landscape becomes a 180° panorama of uninterrupted steppe. The occasional camel, nomad and ger dot the landscape. Continuing south, the train enters original Gobi country: flat, dry and sparsely populated by nomadic herders and sheep looking for grass. Onwards to the border, where after formalities and the usual delays, the train crosses over into Chinese territory. Overnight - train.





## genghis khan: itinerary

### day 13 - beijing

Friday. Beijing - On the final leg of our momentous journey we pass through Shaanxi province as we head to the nations capital. Arrival scheduled for mid-afternoon into Beijing. Arrival scheduled for mid-afternoon into Beijing.

Note: Chinese and Mongolian Railways do change their schedules from time to time, which could alter the itinerary. Please check with us at time of booking.

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

### naadam festival - 11 to 13 July

Travel on our 03 July 2011 Genghis Khan departure and you can attend Mongolia's most popular event - the annual Naadam Festival! During the festival, which takes place between 11 and 13th July, watch local contestants in Ulaan Baatar compete in archery, horse racing and wrestling - the "3 games of men".

### Classic Journey - Change of itinerary

03 Jul 2011 departure - In order to spend a full day at the Naadam Festival (day 10 - 12th July) travel directly from Terelj National Park to Ulaan Baatar with a local guide, who will escort you to the Naadam Festival and give you a brief introduction to the games before leaving you to independently explore and watch this exciting event. Please note: given the time constraints you will not be stopping to visit a nomadic family en route.

### train upgrades

If you are a solo traveller wishing to upgrade to a 2 berth exclusively (or wanting to share with another member of the public) or party of 3 wishing to exclusively occupy a 4 berth cabin, please contact us for rates. 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, during period 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.

### train schedules

Chinese & Mongolian Railways operate the service from Ulaan Bataar to Beijing in turn and do change their schedules from time to time, which could alter the itinerary. 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 you'll spend a lot of time on the train) 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. All timetables, station and train clocks and announcements are Moscow Time. 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.

### 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, in particular, the United States.

### 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.

### luggage stowage

Train cabins offer a surprising amount of storage space for luggage. The 2 bottom bunks can be lifted to provide access to storage compartments. In addition, there is storage space near the ceiling for luggage. It's a good idea to keep money, cameras and other valuable on one's person when the cabin is empty, and luggage should be locked at all times. As trains are used by local people including Chinese, Mongolian and Russian traders, they like to use up a vast degree of available luggage space for their contraband stock. However, you are entitled to enough space to store what is yours. Sometimes, a sharp gesticulation does the trick. You'll only have to find a home for your luggage when you first board. From that point, your main luggage will stay in storage within your cabin until you disembark.

\*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

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