

highway to china

go guide

don't leave home without it



spotlight on adventure

what you see

costsaver adventure:

- Moscow • Trans-Siberian & Mongolian route
- Irkutsk - former Cossack garrison & trading centre
- Views of Siberian forest, Gobi Desert and Lake Baikal en route.
- Ulaan Baatar - set on banks of the Tuul River
- Beijing

classic adventure extras:

- As above
- Guided walk of Moscow's Red Square, St Basil's Church and surrounds
- Listvyanka and Lake Baikal - walking tour and museum
- Terelj National Park - unique granite rock formations
- Home and lifestyle of a nomadic family

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

what you get

costsaver:

- 8 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- 2 nights economy hotel Moscow
- 3 nights homestay in Irkutsk & rail station transfers
- 3 nights economy hotel Ulaan Baatar & return rail station transfers
- Train journey: Moscow - Beijing (4 berth sleeper cabin)

classic:

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners
- 2 nights standard hotel Moscow
- Moscow guided walk, airport arrival transfer & transfer to Moscow rail station (not platform)
- 2 nights Listvyanka homestay & banya
- 1 night Irkutsk homestay
- 1 night standard hotel Ulaan Baatar
- 2 nights ger camping at Terelj NP incl. nomad family visit
- 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.

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

money

USD1 = RUB29 USD1 = MNT1390 USD1 = CNY6.8 (subject to fluctuation). The Rouble, Tugrik and Yuan are non-exportable and only available in their respective countries. 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 candy 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 phrase book and practice Mandarin & Russian.
- Books, magazines, cards & a padlock.
- A photocopy of your passport data pages.

optional activities in lake baikal

Those on the classic adventure can pick an option below:

- Summer trek and camp (summer option) - free
- Cross country ski (winter option) - free
- Lake Baikal at leisure (available year round) - free
- Year round fun (available year round)
- Summer lake diving (summer option)
- Snow mobile Baikal (winter option)

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





highway to china: itinerary

day 1 - classic itinerary

Friday. 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 plan 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. Rest of day free. Overnight - Moscow.

day 3 - moscow

Moscow - Irkutsk - breakfast. A free day for you to explore the capital. Perhaps jump aboard the Stalinist metro and see the beautifully decorated stations. Tonight - included transfer to rail station for train departure. Overnight - train.

days 4 & 6 - train to siberia

Aboard train - Settle into life aboard the train as it plies its way across the Urals and large tracts of Siberia. Enjoy the views of the changing landscape, relax and get to know your fellow passengers. Overnight (3) - train

days 7 & 8 - lake baikal

Irkutsk - Listvyanka - breakfast (day 8). 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 7 - 8 at leisure in Irkutsk (not at Lake Baikal).

day 9 - 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 10 - train to mongolia

Irkutsk - Ulaan Baatar - breakfast. Transfer to the rail station to continue your momentous journey, into the heart of Mongolia. Overnight - train.

days 11 & 12 - terelj np

Ulaan Baatar (Outer Mongolia) - Terelj NP - breakfast (day 12). Morning arrival on day 11 (subject to border formalities & inevitable delays) in Outer Mongolia. One of the most elevated countries in the world with 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 on the steppe (level grassy unforested plains characteristic of Mongolia) for the next two nights.

On day 12, breakfast and free day to get in touch with nature. Hike, horse ride (at additional cost), climb some rocks, the choice is yours. Lunch, dinner and overnight (2) - ger camp*.

*Due to extreme weather, clients undertaking a classic adventure during the winter can decide upon arrival whether to stay in permanent accommodation or a Mongolian ger.

Please note: Costsaver travellers spend days 11 & 12 at leisure in Ulaan Baatar (not ger camping in Terelj NP).

day 13 - ulaan baatar

Terelj NP - Ulaan Baatar - breakfast. Transfer back to Ulaan Baatar stopping en route to visit a nomadic family. Enjoy free time exploring the sights on and just off Sükhbaatar Square. 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. Due to its high elevation, located 1350 metres above sea level, Ulaan Baatar is the coldest capital in the world, so make sure you wrap up warm! Dinner and overnight - Ulaan Baatar hotel.

day 14 - train

Ulaan Baatar - Beijing. Morning transfer to rail station for your onward train. Overnight - train.

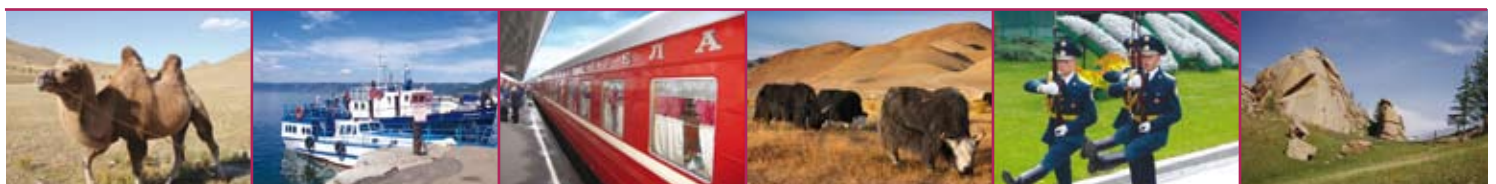
day 15 - beijing

Friday. 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.

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

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





highway to china: itinerary

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.

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.

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) Listvyanka and Irkutsk.

On our costsaver adventure we offer travellers the option to switch from homestay accommodation to upgrade to a budget hotel in Irkutsk (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.

*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.

