



## spotlight

### what you see

**costsaver adventure:**

- Moscow
- Trans-Siberian & Manchurian route
- Views of Siberian forest, the Gobi Desert and Lake Baikal en route
- Beijing

**classic adventure extras**

- As above plus guided walk of Moscow's Red Square, St Basil's Church, Lenin's Mausoleum & surrounds

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

### what you get

**costsaver:**

- 2 breakfasts
- 2 nights economy hotel in Moscow
- Train journey: Moscow - Beijing (4 berth sleeper cabin)

**classic extras:**

- 2 breakfasts
- Standard hotel in Moscow
- Guided walk - Moscow
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer to Moscow rail station (not platform)



## on location

**Your guide to on the ground...**

### visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to China & 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 for China & more info.

### money

USD1 = RUB29 USD1 = CNY6.6 (subject to fluctuation). The Rouble and Yuan are non-exportable and only available in their respective countries. Exchange USD, GBP or Euro notes in pristine condition. ATMs exist in Moscow & St Pete's and money can be withdrawn in either USD, Euros or Roubles. ATMs in China can be found in all major cities.

### 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/CNY3-5
- Mineral water RUB30/CNY2-5
- Meal for 2 RUB1000-1500/CNY120
- Beer (local brew) RUB50-80/CNY4-10
- Chocolate bar RUB40-50/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.

## top experiences

- Paying your respects to the wax-like Lenin at his mausoleum in Red Square.
- Stroll around Red Square in Moscow and spot brightly coloured St Basils and the Kremlin.
- Get to know your neighbours aboard, and indulge in card and vodka get-togethers
- Hit Silk Alley markets and snag a retail bargain.
- Enter the home of emperors - the Forbidden City,
- Read Chairman Mao's famous little Red Book - full of quotations to his people for the 'Great Leap Forward'





## red express: itinerary

### day 1 - classic itinerary

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. Former nerve centre of the evil empire. The big smoke - and the beginning or end of the line dependent on how you look at it! Moscow is the sprawling energetic capital of the former evil empire and a city that once kept Bond busy.

Today's Moscow is loud, brash and yet beautiful and the nerve centre of Russia's cut and thrust into the democratic world. The city is home to legendary Red Square, whimsical St Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum, not to mention the awesome gold-domed Kremlin, Russia's bastion of power. The incomparable Moscow Metro (a gift from Stalin to the good people), with its famous chandelier and mosaic be-decked ticket halls and platforms, it's an efficient and cheap way to get around this gargantuan city. Bursting at the seams with world-class galleries, museums, cafes, bars and restaurants, Moscow deserves a little of your time. On all our adventures ex Moscow, a 2 night stay is incorporated into the deal. Tack on a few extra days if you want. You won't be disappointed.

To legendary Red Square by Metro, for a guided walk of Moscow's highlights (classic only). The Moscow Metro is the easiest and quickest way to get around. A Stalinist gift to the people of Moscow, this is one Stalinist project Muscovites are proud of. Graffiti-free stations offer an air of elegance with many of the stations boasting chandeliers, huge mosaic freezes depicting the power of good Soviet workers banding together to help the state and strikingly elaborate sculptures cast in bronze offering a study of people from an age where collectivism was at the forefront of the Communism dream. Although St Petersburg has an equally fine Metro transportation system, as the city is more walker-friendly you'll be able to get to most inner-city sights often without the need to board the Metro.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Mind your purses and bags aboard the Metro. Pickpockets are as prevalent here as elsewhere.

If Lenin's Mausoleum (located on Red Square) is open today, you can pay your respects for free! The fascinating granite mausoleum located in Red Square is a Mecca for the curious. Lying in repose within this gargantuan tomb is the creator and sustainer of Russian Communism - Vladimir Illyich Lenin - better known as Lenin. There are continual calls for his proper interment. In the meantime, his wax-like cadaver lies peacefully in a dimly lit, almost macabre setting. Humourless guards ensure that visitors remain at all times respectful. Without stopping, you walk round three sides of a glass case in which Lenin lies in an almost surreal state. Behind the mausoleum is a memorial garden housing the remains of many more Soviet luminaries including Konstantin Chernenko, Yuri Andropov and Leonid Brezhnev. Due to necessary 'maintenance' of Lenin's heavily embalmed remains, coupled with Russian national holidays and limited opening hours, the mausoleum may sometimes be closed during your visit. NOTE: During opening hours of mausoleum, Red Square is closed to foot traffic, allowing access just to the tomb. It is re-opened when the mausoleum closes.

**FURTHER 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 - Beijing - breakfast. Free day to explore the sights of Moscow. Tonight an included transfer to the rail station for Train # 20 express to Beijing (no departure transfer if you have elected for a costsaver deal). Overnight - train.

### days 4 - 9 - aboard the train

Aboard train - Settle into life aboard the Trans-Manchurian Express as it plies its way across the Urals and large tracts of

Siberia. Via Irkutsk and along the shores of breathtaking Lake Baikal, the train heads east eventually branching off the main Trans-Siberian line at Tarskaya, 12km east of Karymskaya (6293km). On day 8 crossing the Chinese border, the train continues across the Manchurian Plain, edging closer to Beijing. Overnight (6) - train

### day 10 - beijing

Beijing - Early this morning, the train reaches Beijing.

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

### 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.





## red express: itinerary

### 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, and 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.

### your train is departing - life aboard

Leave the tux and party dress at home. Attire onboard the Trans-Sib is definitely informal. The Russian attire of choice is 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.

Crossing a huge chunk of the planet, the train makes many stops of varying duration - sometimes a few minutes, sometimes for up to 30 minutes. Travelling with local people, the journey can be a great way to meet people from all walks of life. Sort out a game of chess or cards, get to grips with a chunky novel, attempt to master the Russian language, sleep, enjoy a cuppa with newfound travelling chums and soak up the changing panorama from your cabin window.

### what's there to eat aboard?

Contrary to popular belief, you won't starve! All the main Trans-Siberian, Mongolian and Manchurian trains have a Buffet/Dining wagon. The service is provided by whichever country you are crossing. Food is café quality at reasonable prices, payable in local currency. Don't expect an extensive menu. Typical meals in the Russian Buffet/Dining wagon include ham and eggs for breakfast, schnitzel and potatoes for lunch or dinner, with soups and salads for starters. The Buffet/Dining wagon also sells beer, Russian champagne, vodka, chocolate and snacks, subject to availability - so bring your own supplies too! The Mongolian Buffet/Dining wagon will invariably offer rice and mutton based dishes. The Chinese Buffet/Dining wagon will offer Chinese staples - noodles and suchlike. During the peak season, the Buffet/Dining wagon can get very busy, so be sure to pack plenty of your own food supplies! You can also buy food from the many vendors on station platforms when the train stops.

\*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.

