



spotlight

what you see

costsaver adventure:

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

classic adventure extras

- Moscow
- Beijing - The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and Badling to walk the Great Wall - including lunch

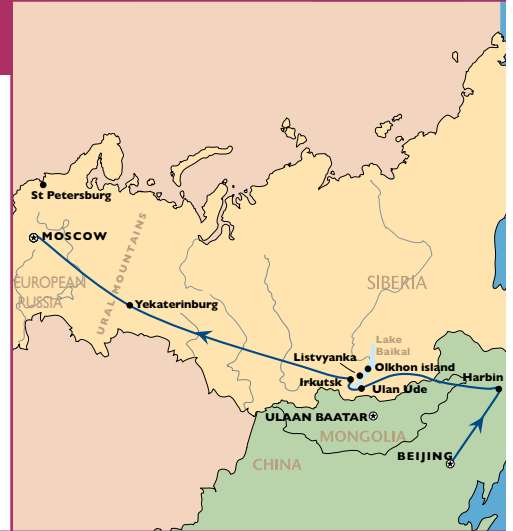
what you get

costsaver:

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

classic:

- 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- 2 nights standard hotel Beijing
- Beijing - Excursion to the Great Wall, guided tour of the Forbidden City & Tiananmen Square -
- Airport arrival transfer & departure transfer to Beijing station (not platform)
- Train journey: Beijing - Moscow (4-berth sleeper cabin)



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

In all, China has a great diversity of climates. Beijing experiences hot summers and at its peak the weather can get quite humid. The winters are very cold often getting below zero for lengths of time. Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry. Nov - Mar are the coldest months. During Apr-May the weather is at its best in Beijing. See A-Z guide (provided upon booking) for Russia & more info.

money

USD1 = RUB29 USD1 = CNY6.8 (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 ATMs exist in Moscow & St Pete's and money can be withdrawn in either Euros or Roubles.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
- Jobs
- 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, multi-tool & padlock.
- A photocopy of your passport data pages.

top experiences

- Enter the home of emperors - the Forbidden City.
- Hit Silk Alley markets and snag a retail bargain.
- Get to know your neighbours on board, and indulge in card and vodka get-togethers
- Reading Chairman Mao's famous little Red Book - full of quotations to his people for the 'Great Leap Forward'
- Strolling along Red Square and spotting St Basil's and the Kremlin
- Paying your respects to the wax-like Lenin (at his granite mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow).





trans express: itinerary

day 1 - classic itinerary

Beijing - Welcome to Beijing! Arrival transfer from Beijing airport to hotel (no arrival transfer if you have elected to take a costsaver deal). Overnight - Beijing.

day 2 - the great wall

Beijing - breakfast. Good Morning, Beijing! Capital of the People's Republic, Beijing is China's political, economic and cultural centre. With an awesome history, Beijing was established in 1045 BC and for 800 years served as the capital of several dynasties.

Travelling out of Beijing, your stay will get off to an exciting start with a visit to the Badaling section of the awesome Great Wall (classic trips only). An enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius, the UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure. Although the present wall dates mainly from the Ming dynasty, some 20 states and dynasties were involved in its immense construction over a period of 2,000 years and followed different routes and building extensions as required. Snaking some 6700 kms across barren hills, deserts, mountains and plateaux, the now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches east from the Bohai Gulf to Jiayuguan in the country's far north-west. At one time the wall was garrisoned by nearly 1 million soldiers and featured over 1,000 fortified passes and 10,000 beacon towers. Today, a visit offers a healthy, if steep and vertiginous walk (and almost a climb on some sections) on perhaps one of the world's most legendary attractions.

Back in Beijing, enjoy a stroll across historical Tiananmen Square. Tiananmen is the largest public square in the world, and where Chairman Mao proclaimed the People's Republic in 1949. The square plays hosts to Chairman Mao's great mausoleum, various stoic monuments and humankind out strolling, flying kites and eating ice creams. Dissecting it from the Forbidden City is Chang'an Avenue, the main centre thoroughfare. Staring out across Tiananmen from above the Gate of Heavenly Peace is the famous technicolour portrait of Mao. It is through these gates that you'll enter the Forbidden City. A 720,000 sq m concoction dominated by vast gates, temples, halls and palaces replete with protective moat, the Forbidden City was built between 1406 and 1420, served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties and is said to contain 9999 rooms.

A vision in grandeur with it's imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden City was once the focal point of the Chinese empire, and forbidden to all except those on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was turfed off his throne. A city within a city, enjoy a guided tour

through what was once the innermost sanctum of the city. Lunch and overnight - Beijing.

day 3 - free day in beijing

Beijing - Moscow - breakfast. A free day to enjoy Beijing your way. Located in an area between Wanfujing and the east wall of the Forbidden City, perhaps head to the hutongs, where the hire of a rickshaw will take you through Beijing's old back lanes that are lined with courtyard homes and offer a fascinating snapshot of the city's traditional domesticity. In the Qianmen area, south of Tiananmen Square, you'll find many shops with original facades, selling Mongolian hot pots, silks and other items, not to mention Chinese apothecaries offering a selection of traditional medicines comprising deer antler, fungus and other unusual ingredients. Check out also Wanfujing Street, one of the busiest retail streets in the city. At Silk Alley, why not take the chance to splash some cash in a retail haven that is a Beijing institution. Some bling jewellery for the lady and perhaps a genuine copy Rolex watch for the gent? Tonight an included transfer to Beijing rail station for the train to Moscow. Overnight - train.

days 4 - 8 - aboard the train

Aboard train - Settle into life aboard the Trans-Manchurian Express as it plies it's way past sections of the Great Wall and across the Manchurian Plains to the Russian border. The train heads west eventually reaching the main Trans-Siberian line at Tarskaya. The train crosses the border into Russia in the early hours of the morning on day 5. Along the shores of Lake Baikal, the train continues across large tracts of Siberia and the Urals to Moscow. Overnight (5) - train

day 9 - moscow

Moscow - Late this afternoon, the train reaches Moscow.

SPECIAL NOTE: Schedules dictate a late afternoon arrival in Moscow on day 9. We strongly urge you to stay at least one night in Moscow to avoid the risk of missing your onward international flight. Please contact us for Moscow stopover rates.

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

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 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.

train schedules

Trans-Siberian Railways do change their schedules from time to time, which could alter the itinerary. 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! On Chinese trains, everything works to what is known as Beijing Time (even though China has 3 time zones). China is 8 hours ahead of GMT and operates in one time zone, so train and station clocks are set according to Beijing time, meaning, given the size of the country, sunset and sunrise can occur at peculiar times! Having gotten used to Chinese Time, when you hit Mongolia or Russia, the time will change again to Ulaan Baatar or Moscow Time. Mongolia is 8 hours ahead of GMT. 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. Pack a travel alarm clock!

luggage - suitcase or backpack?

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 and rigid cases are also hard to store in the cabin.

*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.



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