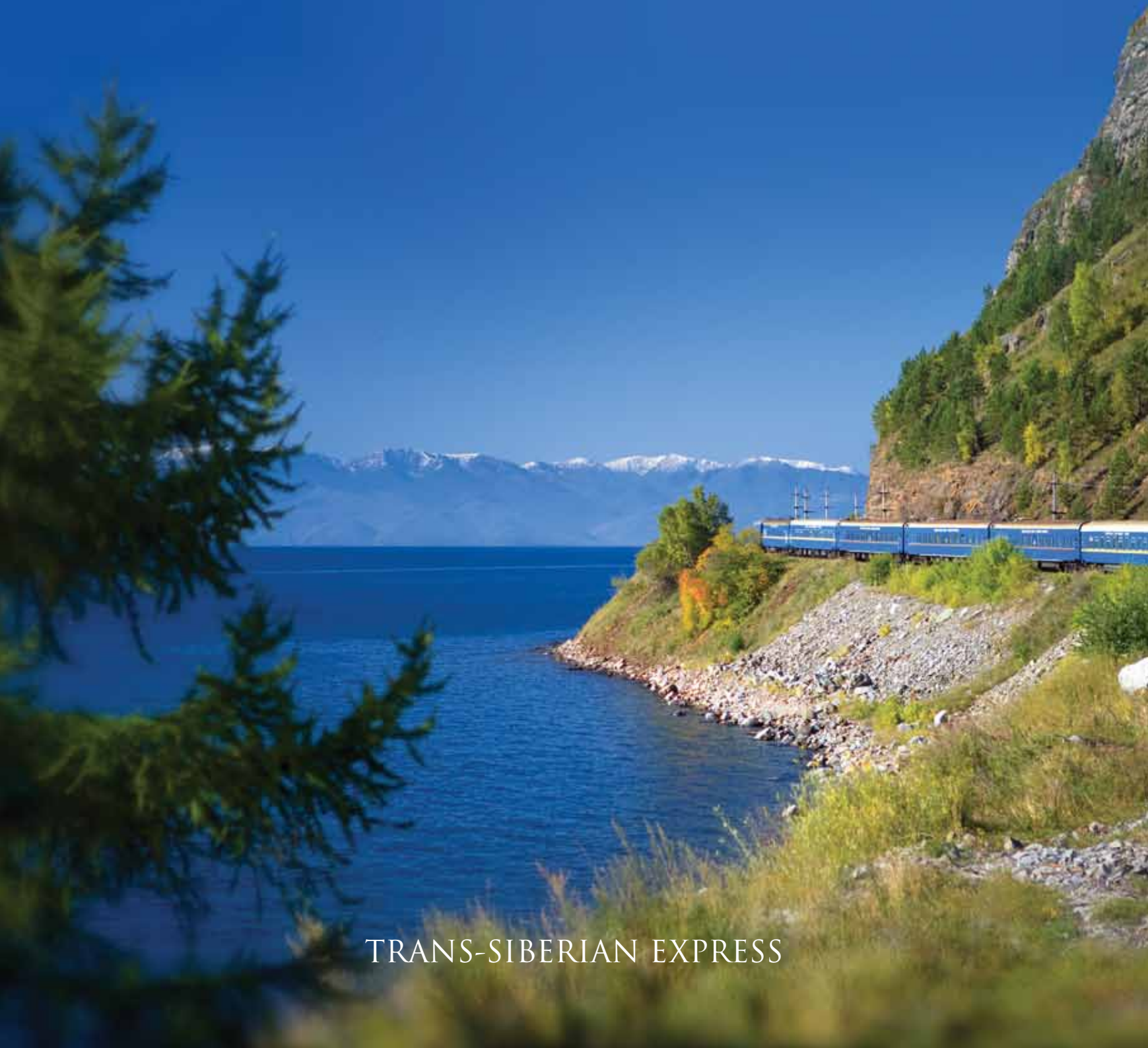




# GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS

VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN™



TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS









# GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

MOSCOW - KAZAN - YEKATERINBURG - NOVOSIBIRSK - IRKUTSK - LAKE BAIKAL  
ULAN UDE - ULAAN BAATAR - KHABAROVSK (WESTBOUND ONLY) - VLADIVOSTOK



Undoubtedly the world's greatest railway journey, the Trans-Siberian Railway runs like a steel ribbon across mysterious Russia connecting east and west from Moscow over the Urals, across the magnificent and endless steppe and alongside the shore of the world's largest freshwater lake. Opened in stages between 1891 and 1916, this extraordinary engineering achievement is a vital link for all the communities that live in close proximity to the line – and to travel along this route is by far the best way to experience the vastness and grandeur of Russia's rarely visited interior.

The official length of the Trans-Siberian line between Moscow and Vladivostok is 9,288 kilometres, making it the longest single-service railway in the world. As part of our itinerary we will also travel along the branch line at Lake Baikal and away from the main Trans-Siberian line when we head into Mongolia and its capital Ulaan Baatar.

Our classic Trans-Siberian Express tours onboard the *Golden Eagle* between Moscow and Vladivostok take a leisurely two weeks. By the time your journey ends we will have passed through eight time zones, a third of the world's total, and travelled an incredible distance of 6,500 miles (11,000 kilometres) through Russia and Mongolia.

As Eric Newby in his 1977 book *The Big Red Train Ride* succinctly stated, 'The Trans-Siberian is the big train ride. All the rest are peanuts.'

# GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS



## TOUR SCHEDULES

### EASTBOUND 2014

May 4 – 18  
June 1 – 15  
July 27 – August 10  
August 24 – September 7

### WESTBOUND 2014

May 17 – 31  
June 14 – 28  
August 9 – 23  
September 6 – 20

### EASTBOUND 2015

May 3 – 17  
May 31 – June 14  
July 26 – August 9  
August 23 – September 6

### WESTBOUND 2015

May 16 – 30  
June 13 – 27  
August 8 – 22  
September 5 – 19

## TOUR INCLUDES

1 night in Moscow | 12 nights onboard the *Golden Eagle* | 1 night in Vladivostok

## DAILY TOUR ITINERARIES

### EASTBOUND

Day 1 Arrive Moscow  
Day 2 Moscow  
Day 3 Kazan  
Day 4 Yekaterinburg  
Day 5 Novosibirsk  
Day 6 Onboard  
Day 7 Irkutsk  
Day 8 Lake Baikal  
Day 9 Ulan Ude  
Day 10 Ulaan Baatar  
Day 11 Onboard  
Day 12 Onboard  
Day 13 Onboard  
Day 14 Vladivostok  
Day 15 Depart Vladivostok

### WESTBOUND

Day 1 Arrive Vladivostok  
Day 2 Vladivostok  
Day 3 Khabarovsk  
Day 4 Onboard  
Day 5 Onboard  
Day 6 Ulaan Baatar  
Day 7 Ulan Ude  
Day 8 Lake Baikal  
Day 9 Irkutsk  
Day 10 Onboard  
Day 11 Novosibirsk  
Day 12 Yekaterinburg  
Day 13 Kazan  
Day 14 Moscow  
Day 15 Depart Moscow

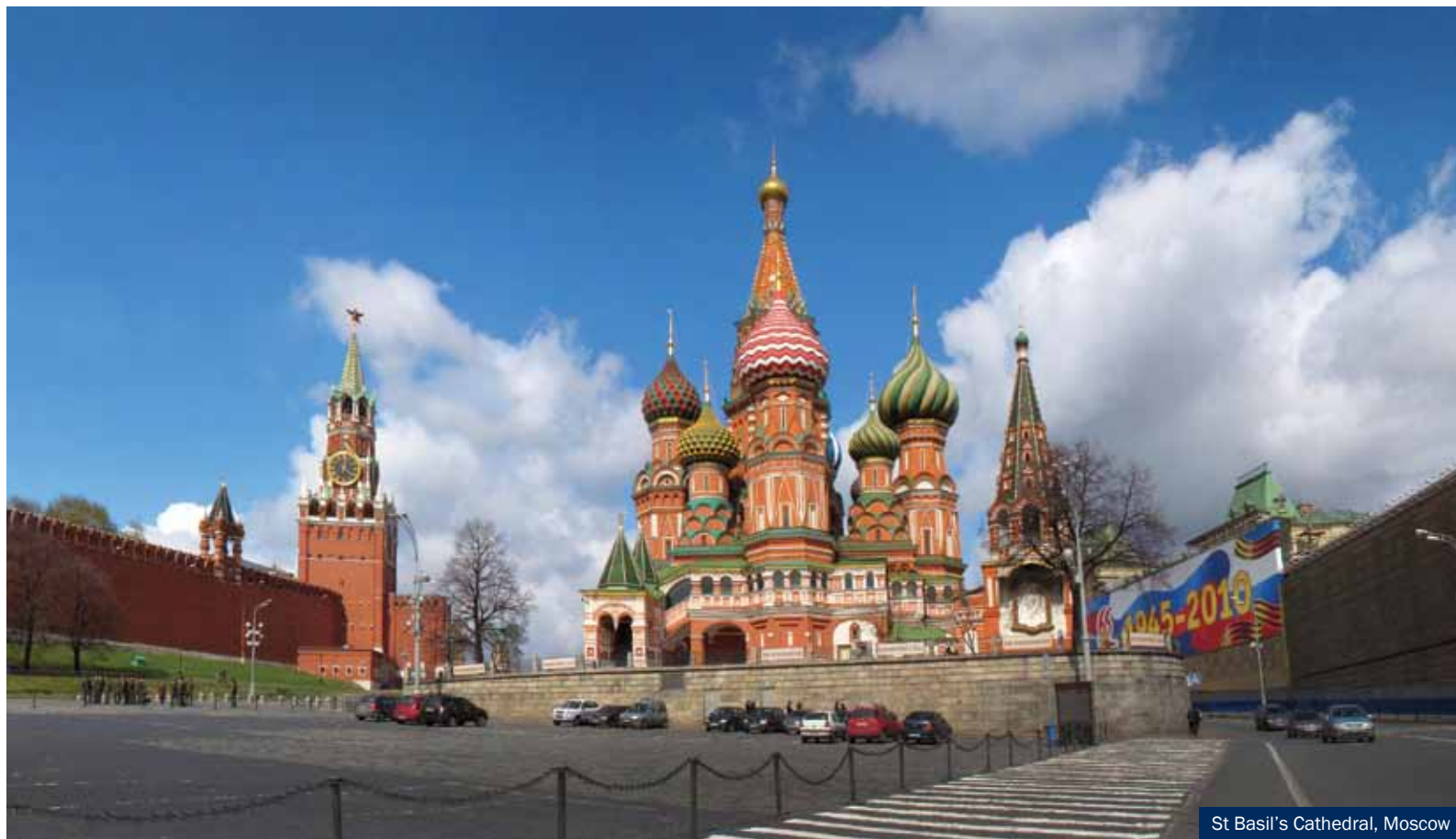
MOSCOW – KAZAN – YEKATERINBURG – NOVOSIBIRSK – IRKUTSK – LAKE BAIKAL  
ULAN UDE – ULAAN BAATAR – Khabarovsk (WESTBOUND ONLY) – VLADIVOSTOK



“  
*The tour was extremely well-organised, all the staff were outstanding and we were pleasantly surprised that the tour had many more inclusions and tours than advertised.*  
”



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow

### MOSCOW

0 KM | Москва

Time zone: Moscow time

Our touring programme of Moscow principally takes us to the grandeur of the Kremlin – the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow – and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber. We also visit Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil's Cathedral's magnificent onion-domed spires, the beautiful façade of the world famous GUM department store, constructed in Tsarist times, and the sombre and evocative site of Lenin's tomb.

With our *Freedom of Choice* touring options you may instead wish to travel out of the city centre to Sergiev Posad, home to one of the most beautiful monasteries in Russia and the historical and spiritual centre of the Russian Orthodox Church or visit the famous State Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Fine Art).

Our *Golden Eagle* train, on selected departures, will be hauled by a Russian steam locomotive for the first/last section of the journey. With the opportunity to photograph the locomotive in Moscow Kazansky Station it makes for an unforgettable way to start, or end, your journey onboard Russia's premier train, the *Golden Eagle*.

Included in our time spent in Moscow is one night at the five-star Marriott Royal Aurora, or similar. Located in Moscow city centre, and within walking distance of Red Square and the Bolshoi Theatre, this luxury hotel offers spacious accommodation with butler service for each guest room – the only hotel in Moscow to offer this fine service.

Why not extend your stay in Moscow with additional nights to explore more of the city at your leisure or have time to take in a performance at the world-renowned Bolshoi Theatre? *Tickets need to be pre-booked and are subject to schedule and availability.*

## KAZAN

820 KM | Казань

Time zone: Moscow time

Situated on the River Volga, the picturesque and historic city of Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan. Here we have the opportunity to see for ourselves its rich tapestry of history and culture. One of the highlights of this city tour is our exploration of the Kremlin Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the walls of this ancient citadel we will explore its stunning mosque and picture-perfect onion-domed cathedral.

As Kazan is the birthplace of one of Russia's most famous opera singers, Feodor Chaliapin (1873-1938), we honour his memory with a private concert of his music.

You will also have time to wander through the main pedestrian area of Kazan and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the city.

## YEKATERINBURG

1814 KM | Екатеринбург

Time zone: Moscow time + 2 hours

Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, Yekaterinburg, is the capital of the Urals. Known as the Great Divide, the Ural Mountains create the natural border between Europe and Asia so that the cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilisations come together in this fascinating and cosmopolitan landscape. Our city tour takes us to the poignant site where the Romanov, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, was executed with his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918 following 78 days of imprisonment. Now a church dedicated to their memory, this site provides us with a powerful insight into the turmoil of the Russian Revolution.

Our *Freedom of Choice* programme will also offer activities such as a walking tour of the city, or explore the intriguing Soviet military past in a visit to Yekaterinburg Military Museum which displays fragments of the U2 American spy-plane flown by Gary Powers that was shot down in this area in 1960 during the Cold War.

## NOVOSIBIRSK

3336 KM | Новосибирск

Time zone: Moscow time + 3 hours

A modern 'Soviet' city, we experience the life and character of Novosibirsk's rich culture where the arts and science predominate. The city is located in the heart of Russia and is situated on both banks of the River Ob. Our city tour takes us to Lenin Square where



Classic wooden architecture, Irkutsk

the imposing Opera House is located. An architectural marvel, it houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is one of the largest opera houses in the world. In front of the Opera House, we visit an impressive statue of Lenin – a marvellous opportunity to have your photograph taken with this iconic political leader.

Alternatively, south of the city you could visit Novosibirsk's excellent Railway Museum on our *Freedom of Choice* tour. The museum displays locomotives and rolling stock from the late 1800s, including carriages of the Tsars, through to the Soviet era. Or choose to go to the Mineralogical Centre with its fine display of Siberian minerals.

For those interested in art there is also the *Freedom of Choice* option to visit the State Art Museum with an extensive collection including icons, Siberian art and numerous distinctive mountainscapes by celebrated spiritual Russian painter Nicholas Roerich. It also displays temporary art and photography exhibitions by local and international artists.

## IRKUTSK

5185 KM | Иркутск

Time zone: Moscow time + 5 hours

Our visit to Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', takes in the most significant sites and museums in this fascinating city, including an exploration of the classic wooden architecture with its intricately carved lace-like decorations that has given many of this region's buildings such a distinctive and unique appearance. We also visit the Volkonsky House Museum, which is dedicated to the memory of the aristocrats who were exiled to this remote outpost after the failed Decembrists uprising of 1825, and we recreate the atmosphere of that time with a champagne reception and private concert.

You could learn to cook some traditional Russian dishes with a local chef and prepare your own lunch with our *Freedom of Choice* option. Or you might also wish to visit a traditional Russian Dacha (summer house) or an urban apartment to get an insight into the everyday life of an average Russian family.



## SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

- 🦅 Champagne reception and military brass band playing at the station on departure
- 🦅 Private concert in Irkutsk
- 🦅 Barbecue on the shore of Lake Baikal
- 🦅 Swim in the ice-cold waters of Lake Baikal
- 🦅 Visit a nomadic family in a Mongolian ger

## LAKE BAIKAL

### Озеро Байкал

Time zone: Moscow time + 5 hours

Few natural sights can surpass the beauty and grandeur of Lake Baikal and is a major highlight on our Trans-Siberian journey. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and holds 20 per cent of the world's freshwater. Also known as the 'Pearl of Siberia' it is home to a unique breed of freshwater seal and over 50 species of fish including omul. For five hours we wind our way through tunnels along cliff hugging tracks above the lake with a vista of snow capped peaks along the far shore forming a picture-perfect backdrop.

Weather permitting, we stop in an extremely picturesque location by the lake for photographic opportunities and for the brave hearted there is time for a refreshing swim in the crystal clear and ice-cold





waters of Baikal. Travelling onwards to the end of the Baikal branch line, we leave the train and travel by boat on the lake to Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement nestling at the base of the surrounding hills and visit the Lake Baikal Museum and Aquarium where you can learn about the flora and fauna of the lake.

We will enjoy a delicious barbecue, including freshly smoked omul fish, prepared by our own chefs on the shore of Lake Baikal to complete a memorable day.

As part of our *Freedom of Choice* excursion programme you can choose a hiking opportunity that offers some spectacular and panoramic hillside views of the lake below.







## ULAN UDE

5640 KM | Улан-Удэ

Time zone: Moscow time + 5 hours

The ethnic and cultural diversity of Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic, offers a unique insight into its heritage. As we tour the area you will notice the different faces of these welcoming Buryat people. During our exploration of the Old Believers' Village we have the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of these religious people as we are treated to a concert featuring local traditions and folk singing.

## ULAAN BAATAR, MONGOLIA

Улан Батор

Time zone: Moscow time + 4 hours

Our Trans-Siberian adventure takes us into Mongolia and a visit to its capital, Ulaan Baatar. Mongolia, once the very centre of an enormous empire led by Genghis Khan, is a country of beautiful landscapes, nomadic people and rich in culture and history. Mongolia is famous for its endless green Steppes, grazing livestock and white, nomadic Gers (Yurts) dotted all across the countryside.

We start the tour at Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia's most important Buddhist Monasteries housing a community of over 500 monks. The full name, Gandantegchinlen, translates as 'the great place of complete joy'. At Sukhbaatar Square we can see the central monument to Genghis Khan, undoubtedly the most feared and revered Mongol. We then drive out of the city to Gorkhi-Terelj National

Park and enjoy the beautiful scenery of wild Mongolia, having the opportunity to visit a traditional Ger and meet a nomadic family or try our hand at horse-riding, an intrinsic part of Mongolian life.

Alternatively there is an option to stay in the city as part of our *Freedom of Choice* touring. After Gandan Monastery and Sukhbaatar Square we visit the National Museum where we learn about the country's intriguing history. We'll also see Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum, the winter residences of Bogd Khan, the last Mongolian emperor, built between 1893 and 1903. We can also explore the city and have some free time for shopping for Mongolian souvenirs, and their speciality cashmere.

We will also enjoy a performance of traditional Mongolian throat singing and contortionists.

## DAYS ONBOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE

Each Trans-Siberian departure has a number of days onboard the *Golden Eagle*. These days offer the opportunity to unwind and reflect on the many sights and sounds we have experienced or are about to experience on our rail journey so far.

Chat to your fellow passengers, take a Russian language class, listen to a talk on Soviet or Russian history, learn about the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway or simply relax and enjoy the ever-changing landscape outside your window as it unfolds.



## KHABAROVSK

WESTBOUND ONLY

**8523 KM | Хабаровск**

Time zone: Moscow time + 7 hours

Located 15 miles (25 kilometres) from the border with China, Khabarovsk stretches along the banks of the Amur River. Khabarovsk was founded as a military post in 1858, but the region had been populated by several indigenous peoples of the Far East for many centuries. It is now a busy city with tree-lined streets.

We'll visit the memorial to Yerofey Pavlovich Khabarov, the Far East explorer the city is named after, and the impressive World War Two memorial to the fallen soldiers. We will also have time at the Regional Museum where the local history has been well-preserved with a rich collection of artefacts describing the cultural and natural history of the region.

## VLADIVOSTOK

**9288 KM | Владивосток**

Time zone: Moscow time + 7 hours

Vladivostok is a military port, located on the western shores of the Sea of Japan and is home to the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet. Due to its military importance, the city was closed to foreigners between 1930 and 1992. Vladivostok (literally translated as 'Ruler of the East') offers visitors an interesting opportunity to explore its principal military attractions including a visit to a preserved World War Two submarine. Our city tour will also take us to the iconic suspension bridge over Golden Horn Bay, one of the largest of its kind worldwide, which opened in 2012 for the APEC conference.

Our hotel in Vladivostok, where we stay for one night, is the four-star Hotel Hyundai.



Siberia