July 12 - 25, 2020

Embark upon an unparalleled journey through history on this legendary network of rails. Enjoy modern amenities, comfortable lodging, and exciting excursions as you leisurely traverse two continents by private train during this epic adventure.

Day 1: En Route from U.S.
Day 2: Arrive Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Welcome to the diverse capital of Mongolia—Ulaanbaatar. Not only is this cultural-rich city Mongolia's industrial and financial heart, it's also the center of the country's road network and connected by rail to both the Trans-Siberian Railway in Russia and the Chinese railway system.

Transfer to your hotel to relax and settle in before joining fellow travelers for a welcome cocktail this evening. Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace Ulaanbaatar (R)

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar
After breakfast, set out on a guided city tour to see the Buddhist monastery, Choijin Lama Temple. This site, which features five temples, is no longer a place of worship, but rather a museum that demonstrates the area's historic feudal lifestyle. Also visit Parliament Square to see the statue of Genghis Khan, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. This evening, attend a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts, including throat singing, horse-headed fiddle playing, and dances. Overnight: Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace Ulaanbaatar (B,L,D)

Day 4: Gandan Monastery / Mongolian Alps
This morning features a visit to the Gandan Monastery—the center of Mongolian Buddhism and the only working monastery during the entire communist period. Depending on arrival time, it may be possible to observe a traditional Buddhist religious ceremony. Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace Ulaanbaatar (B,L,D)

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is: $9,995

- Land price from:
- The following services are included:
  - Transfers: Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times
  - Hotels: 5 nights’ accommodations in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges & 7 nights aboard the Tsar's Gold
  - Coaching: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
  - Meals: 12 Breakaths, 11 lunches, and 10 dinners
  - Guides: Tour director throughout program as well as expert on board guides
  - Expenses: Porterage of one large suitcase per person
  - Entrance: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Gratuities: All gratuities are included for Tour Director, on board guides, porters, house keeping staff and Tsar's Gold attendants

To make a reservation, please contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or vial email at guestservices@orbridge.com
Afterward, take a 90-minute drive east of Ulaanbaatar to the Mongolian Alps. Take time to observe the mountain's majestic topography and bizarre rock formations. After a picnic lunch of classic Mongolian specialties with rice and vegetables served in a yurt camp, attend a festival to view presentations on three national sports: wrestling, archery, and horse riding. Then transfer to the train station to board Trans-Siberian Railway’s Tsar's Gold. Get acquainted with your stateroom and unpack before dinner on board. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

**Day 5: Ulan Ude, Russia**

Awake to the train's steady hum and embrace the passing views of the Mongolian steppes. Travel through the valley of Mongolia’s largest river, the Selenga, which flows into Lake Baikal.

At Ulan Ude, the train reaches the main route of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Disembark at the station for a guided city tour of Ulan Ude's main square—home to the largest bust sculpture of Lenin in all of Russia. Also visit the local theater, constructed during Stalin’s time. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Lake Baikal**

Today, explore the remarkable natural phenomenon of Lake Baikal, the largest freshwater reservoir in the world. Travel directly alongside Lake Baikal, on the old route of the Trans-Siberian Railway. During two extended photography stops, wander the lakeside and capture its seemingly endless beauty.

At one stop, embark upon a brief boat excursion from Port Baikal out onto the lake where the Angara River flows. Afterward, visit the picturesque Baikal village of Listvyanka to stroll the market, and for those seeking an extra adventure—take a moment to dip a toe in the chilly water. Tonight, enjoy a special barbecue picnic dinner along the shoreline (weather permitting). Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

**Day 7: Irkutsk**

Welcome to Irkutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia in Tsarist times. Join a local guide for a panoramic city tour to see the architecturally impressive Okhlopkov Drama Theatre—the largest of its kind in Siberia—which opened in 1896, the new memorial to Tsar Alexander III, and the photogenic market hall—one of the main centers in the city selling fresh regional produce.

Then, visit the Taltsy Museum—an open-air exhibition featuring the history and culture of the people of Eastern Siberia. The museum is composed of more than 40 historical and architectural monuments, and 8,000 exhibits that tell about the peculiarities of life, customs, and traditions of past residents of the Baikal region. A final highlight for today: join a local family in their home for a traditional meal with dessert, and learn more about their daily life and customs. Overnight: Courtyard Irkutsk City Center (B,L,D)

**Day 8: Trans-Siberia**

Back on board the Tsar's Gold, the journey continues through many diverse landscapes of Eastern Siberia. Join the informational onboard lectures about the region and partake in a vodka tasting with typical Russian snacks and red caviar—a unique opportunity to experience first-hand Russia's festive customs of hospitality and clever toasts. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

**Day 9: Novosibirsk**

Arrive midday in Novosibirsk—Russia's third largest city. Locals will greet you with bread and salt in the customary Russian manner before setting out on a panoramic tour of the city, including the mighty Ob River, the town's Central Market and Opera and Ballet Theatre. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

**Day 10: Yekaterinburg**

Today's highlight includes time in Yekaterinburg, the capital of the Ural Federal District and the frontier between the European and the Asian continent—designated by an obelisk monument. The city is known as the place where the Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family were murdered in 1918. While touring town, view the Church of All Saints, which was built in 2003 to commemorate the tragic and historic event.

Back on board, the passing landscape of the Ural Mountains unfolds as the journey continues across the European continent. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

**Day 11: Kazan**

After breakfast, arrive in Kazan, the Tartar capital on the banks of the Volga River. During a guided city tour, see Tartar mosques and the famous Russian Orthodox Cathedral. Venture into Kazan’s Kremlin to learn about the turbulent history of the relationship between the Tartars, the Cossacks, and the Russians. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)
Day 12: Moscow
Bid the Tsar's Gold staff a fond farewell as you disembark in Russia's capital, Moscow, and join a local expert guide for an exciting day of exploration. Join fellow travelers on Moscow's Red Square for a welcome aperitif. In the afternoon, ascend Moscow's Empire Tower for unparalleled views over the metropolis.
Overnight: Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow (B,L)

Day 13: Moscow
Today's special highlight features a private opening at St. Basil’s Cathedral—a wildly colorful building of shapes and spires that is unique to Russian architecture. Arrive at the Kremlin with time to walk the grounds and cathedrals and discover its armory chamber—a museum of items that had been preserved for centuries in the tsars' treasury and the patriarch’s vestry. Displays feature uniforms and regalia, coronation dresses, ceremonial armor, and the largest collection of gold and silverware made by Russian craftsmen. Enjoy a special lunch at Grand Café Dr. Zhivago before continuing the tour to see the world-famous Metro and bustling Arbat Street, which has existed since at least the 15th century, making it one of the oldest surviving streets of the Russian capital.
Tonight, join fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at Café Pushkin—one of the city’s best-known restaurants—to reflect on the past two weeks of this phenomenal journey. Overnight: Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow (B,L,D)

Day 14: Moscow / Depart for U.S.
After breakfast, guests with flights departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.
Guests continuing on the optional post-tour will transfer to St. Petersburg. (B)

Program Highlights
- During a city tour of Ulaanbaatar, visit the Choijin Lama Temple before experiencing a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts.
- Travel to the Mongolian Alps to wonder at the majestic landscape and otherworldly rock formations.
- Enjoy an extensive city tour through Ulan Ude.
- Explore Lake Baikal—the largest freshwater reservoir in the world—during a boat excursion, followed by a picnic dinner on the shore (weather permitting).
- In Irkutsk, see the Okhlopkov Drama Theatre, the new memorial to Tsar Alexander III, and the market hall during a panoramic city tour.
- Partake in a vodka tasting accompanied by traditional Russian snacks and red caviar while traversing the diverse eastern Siberian countryside.
- While in Yekaterinburg, view the Church of All Saints—built to commemorate the lives lost of Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family in 1918.
- During a tour of Kazan, see the Tartar mosques and the most famous Russian Orthodox cathedral. Also tour Kazan’s Kremlin and learn about the turbulent history of the relationship between the Tartars, the Cossacks, and the Russians.
- Meet a local guide in Moscow to explore Red Square, the Kremlin, and the Empire Tower. Also enjoy a private opening at St. Basil's Cathedral before a special lunch at Grand Café Dr. Zhivago.

What's Included:
- 5 nights hotel accommodations and 7 nights aboard the Tsar's Gold;
- Welcome reception, 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 10 dinners;
- Full guiding services of an Expert Travel Director as well as expert onboard guides; admission to all activities and tours as described in the 14-day itinerary;
- Deluxe motor coach transportation for sightseeing tours;
- Gratuities for Travel Director, onboard guides, drivers, porters, housekeeping staff, Tsar's Gold attendants, and wait staff for included meals;
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

Optional Beijing pre-tour -$1,995 and optional St. Petersburg post-tour -$2,895
Optional Pre-Tour: Beijing

Visit the political and cultural heart of China—Beijing, an area that blends rich history with modern lifestyles. Embrace the dynamic panorama featuring UNESCO World Heritage Sites, innovative architecture, and an array of impressive cuisine that will pique any palate.

Day +1: En Route from U.S.

Day +2: Arrive in Beijing, China
Take time to settle into your centrally located hotel.
Overnight: Capital Hotel

Day +3: Beijing
This afternoon, meet a local guide for a panoramic city tour including stops at the Temple of Heaven and the infamous Tiananmen Square. Later, retreat to the hotel for a lovely welcome dinner with fellow travelers. Overnight: Capital Hotel (D)

Day +4: Beijing
Today's exciting highlight includes a visit to the Great Wall of China—the world's largest piece of ancient architecture. Admire the legendary scenery and enjoy time to explore. Afterward, stop at the iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Ming Tombs, built by the emperors of China, and the stone memorial archway into the Sacred Way necropolis. This evening, relish a dinner of traditional Peking Duck to celebrate an unforgettable day. Overnight: Capital Hotel (B,L,D)

Day +5: Forbidden City / Gobi Desert
As the former Chinese imperial palace, the Forbidden City is one of most renowned palaces on Earth. For centuries, the glorious, ancient halls and temples were all but inaccessible. Today it is yours to explore this amazing area at leisure.

In the evening, board a special Chinese train in Beijing and begin the journey to Mongolia. On the way, take in the fascinating landscapes of rural China and the surreal, sweeping sands of the Gobi Desert.
Overnight: Onboard Chinese Train (B,L,D)

Day +6: Gobi Desert / Mongolia
Arrive midday at the Mongolian border. At the city of Erlian, enjoy a brief visit to a local market and a stop for lunch before transferring to the Tsar's Gold private train for the journey to Ulaanbaatar. On board, behold the dramatic expanses of the Gobi Desert and the epic green steppes of Mongolia. Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)

Day +7: Ulaanbaatar / Main Program
After breakfast on board, transfer to the Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace in Ulaanbaatar to join fellow travelers on the main program for a guided city tour. (B)

Optional Post-Tour: St. Petersburg

Day 14: Depart Moscow / Arrive St. Petersburg
After breakfast, board a high-speed train for St. Petersburg. Enjoy Business Class seating and watch the passing landscape. As you travel upwards of 155 miles per hour during this approximately 5-hour journey. In St. Petersburg, transfer to the hotel with time to settle in and enjoy a leisurely afternoon. Tonight visit the Russian Vodka Museum for a guided tour and tasting, and to learn the close link between the Russian State and this potent libation. This museum provides a fascinating insight into Russian dining and drinking traditions.

Day 15: St. Petersburg
Today is highlighted by a private, special-access tour of the State Hermitage with a local art historian. This world-renowned museum's priceless collection occupies five historical buildings that contain more than three million exhibits including the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael, and other famous masters. See the city's most precious monuments—rich with storied history and original architecture, carefully preserved as the world cultural heritage—at sites such as Nevsky Prospekt, Kazan Cathedral, the Winter Palace, Vasilievsky Island, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and Peter and Paul Fortress. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Perhaps relax in a traditional Russian Banya (bath house) or dine at a restaurant overlooking the stunning Moika River.

Day 16: St. Petersburg / Tsarskoe Selo / Pushkin
After a leisurely breakfast, depart for the charming town of Tsarskoe Selo, featuring the Summer Palace—the previous residence of the imperial family. Almost everything inside the palace is a result of a painstaking restoration after suffering severe damage during World War II. Adjourn to a log cabin for a special lunch before continuing to Pavlovsk, a municipal town that was the former residence of the Emperor Paul I. Visit the classical-style Emperor’s palace dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and stroll through the stunning park—the entire site of which is a UNESCO World Heritage attraction.

Day 17: Depart St. Petersburg
After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested time transfer to St. Petersburg's Pulkovo International Airport for flights home. (B)