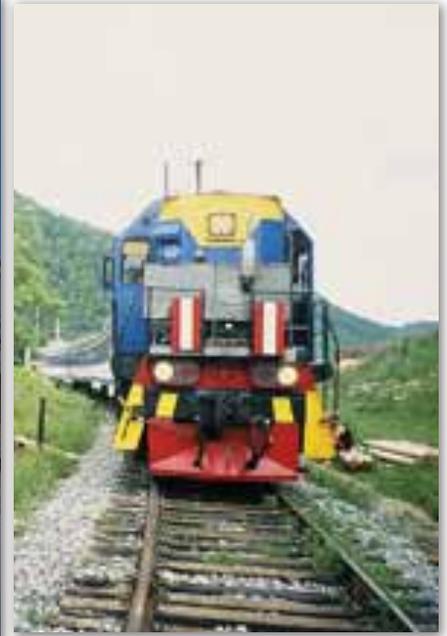




**The Trans-Siberian Express Classic Route
Vladivostok to Moscow
2020**



The Trans-Siberian Express via Classic Route

From Vladivostok to Moscow by Private Train

Aboard the *Golden Eagle* private train

Four departures in 2020 – Private Rail Journey – 15 Days

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

Russia was settled west to east, so a trip from Vladivostok to Moscow on the Trans-Siberian railway is a trip from the wild east to the civilized west. Watch the miles of wilderness give way to little villages, larger towns and industrial centers, and finally, the most energetic spot in Russia, Moscow. Join us on this epic journey across the world's largest country, experiencing four UNESCO attractions along the way.

Begin with an exploration of the Pacific Rim port city of Vladivostok, then board the luxury train and visit Khabarovsk, on the Amur River. Turn south to the open steppe of Mongolia, and then roll back up to Siberia and trace the shore of UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal on the original Old Railway. Tour the major Siberian cities of Irkutsk and Novosibirsk before enjoying the classic sites of Moscow, at the end of the line.

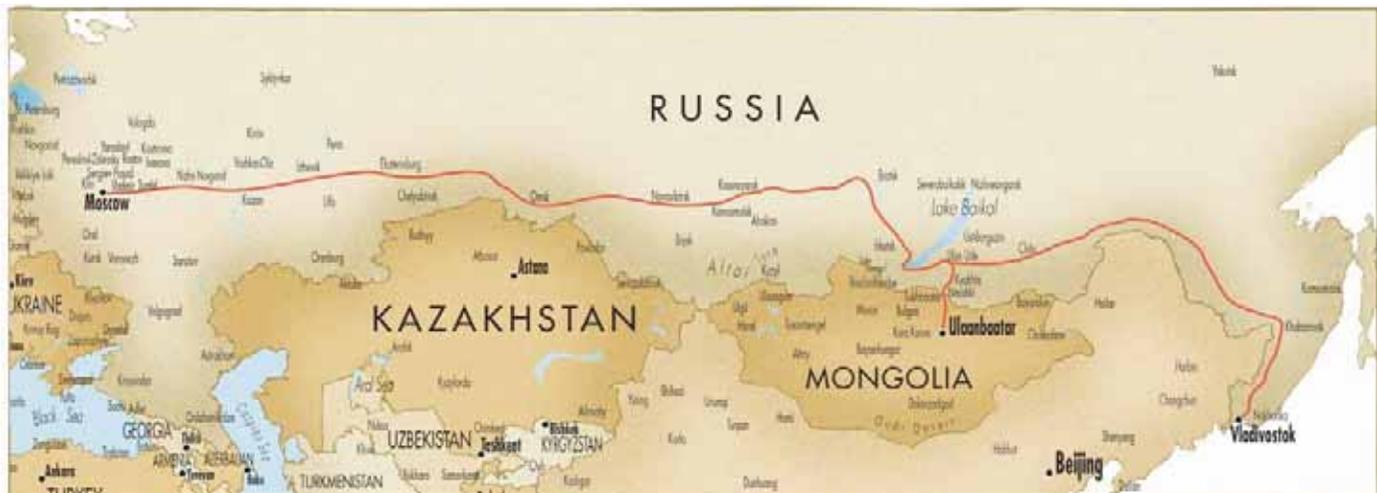


Daily Itinerary

Day 1	Arrive Vladivostok, Russia
Day 2	Vladivostok
Day 3	Khabarovsk
Day 4	Aboard train
Day 5	Aboard train
Day 6	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Day 7	Ulan Ude, Russia
Day 8	Lake Baikal
Day 9	Irkutsk
Day 10	Aboard train
Day 11	Novosibirsk
Day 12	Ekaterinburg
Day 13	Kazan
Day 14	Moscow
Day 15	Depart Moscow



Note: This train also runs in the reverse direction, from Moscow to Vladivostok; see page 12 for dates.



Tour Features

- Enjoy the comfort and efficiency of your own private en suite cabin on the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express* luxury train.
- Pack and unpack your bags only at the beginning and the end of your epic journey.
- Survey a series of fascinating cities along the rail line.
- Get a true picture of the scale and scope of the countries you are traversing.
- Join travelers from around the world to enjoy the casual and relaxed atmosphere aboard the private train, enjoying top quality meals and chatting over drinks in the lounge.
- Relax deeply as you are carried into another land, a world away from home.

Tour Highlights

Vladivostok	Waterfront, the <i>Krasny Vypel</i> steamboat, S-56 submarine, Eagle's Nest observation platform
Khabarovsk	Gracious Amur River embankment
Ulaanbaatar	National History Museum, lunch in a nomadic ger
Ulan Ude	Russian Old Believers or Trans-Baikal <i>Semeiskie</i> (included on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity), largest statue of Lenin's head
Lake Baikal	World's deepest and oldest lake with unique flora and fauna (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
Circumbaikal Railway	The most scenic stretch of the original Trans-Siberian Railway
Irkutsk	Decembrist Museum, classic wooden architecture
Novosibirsk	Russia's largest Opera House
Ekaterinburg	Church on the Blood
Kazan	Capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan Kremlin (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Qol Sharif Mosque
Moscow	Moscow Kremlin and Red Square (UNESCO World Heritage Site), St. Basil's Cathedral or Tretyakov Gallery

Itinerary

Day One

Arrive Vladivostok, Russia

Passengers are met at Vladivostok airport and transferred to the four star Hotel Hyundai or other leading hotel for a one-night stay. In 1860, the Russian Empire annexed an important piece of land from China – a slice of Pacific seacoast from the Amur River down to Korea. Count Muravyev-Amurskii, exploring the coastline in the steamer *Amerika*, chose Golden Horn Bay to be the new Pacific port. The place was named Vladivostok, meaning “Ruler of the East.” It turned out to be an ideal deepwater harbor with an average of 295 ice-free days a year. **Welcome reception and dinner** this evening.

Meals: D – *Hotel Hyundai or similar*



Day Two
Vladivostok

A **tour of Vladivostok** includes the railway station, built in 1912 and decorated with Socialist-Realist artwork; the embankment along Korabelno-Naberezhna, including the Pacific Navy War Memorial with the S-56 submarine, the Monument to the First Settlers and the *Krasny Vympel* steamboat. This afternoon, **board the private Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express luxury train** and depart to the west.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Three
Khabarovsk

Morning arrival in Khabarovsk, the **easternmost point of the journey**; stop here for a short city tour. Founded in 1858 by Cossacks of the 13th Siberian Battalion, Khabarovsk was originally a military outpost guarding the Chinese border. Built on three hills overlooking the Amur River just beyond its confluence with the Ussuri, the city has a long and pleasant waterfront. Re-boarding the train, trace the Chinese border and enjoy the relaxed pace aboard the exclusive train.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Four
Aboard Train

The **changing landscape unrolls** during a full day spent on the train. Settle into your comfortable cabin and enjoy the onboard services.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Five
Aboard Train

Relax onboard today as the train leaves the *taiga* and turns south onto the **Mongolian steppe**.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Six
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Dipping down into Mongolia, make a stop in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital. Learn about the nomadic life at the **National History Museum** and have lunch in a traditional Mongolian-style ger

restaurant. Re-board the train in time for dinner as it returns to Russia.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train



Day Seven

Ulan Ude, Russia

This afternoon, arrive in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic. Visit a village of **Old Believers**, who treat you to a **concert featuring local musicians and dancers**. Rebelling against Patriarch Nikon's 1652 reforms of the Orthodox liturgy and ritual, the Old Believers fled or were exiled to Eastern Europe and then to Siberia. In their isolated Siberian villages, these groups have been able to preserve their 17th century traditions, clothing, architecture, language and style of singing. In 2001, UNESCO included the culture and unique choral music of the Trans-Baikal *Semeiskie* – as they are called in Siberia – on its “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.”



Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Eight

Lake Baikal

A spectacular part of the journey today is spent **winding through tunnels and around cliffs along the shoreline of Lake Baikal**, the world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake. Baikal's great age and isolation have produced one of the richest and most unusual ecosystems on earth. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lake Baikal holds twenty percent of the world's unfrozen fresh water.

Weather permitting, stop en route for a barbecue at the lake's edge and an opportunity to sample smoked fish prepared by the onboard chefs. For the more adventurous, there is time to take a quick dip in the crystal clear – but very cold – waters. This afternoon enjoy time to explore the **village of Listvyanka**, a small lakeside settlement on the shores of Lake Baikal.

Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train



Day Nine

Irkutsk

Morning arrival in **Irkutsk**, the “capital” of Siberia. A tour today includes the major sights and museums of this cultured little city, including examples of the **classic wooden architecture** for which the area is known. A highlight is a tour of the **Decembrist House Museum**. The Decembrists were a group of young officers who had served abroad during the War of 1812 and become advocates of democratic reform. In December 1825, they tried to force the Senate to sign a manifesto abolishing serfdom and instituting reforms. Their rebellion was quickly put down, and five of the leaders hanged. The rest were sentenced to forced labor in Siberia. Many of them, with their wives, settled in Irkutsk after their terms were over, and brought with them education and culture. The House Museum of the Decembrists is in the former home of Sergei Volkonsky and his wife, Maria. **Enjoy a private concert** here before returning to the train for dinner.

Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train



Day Ten
Aboard Train

Rolling through the vast **Siberian taiga**, spend the day relaxing onboard the private train. As the train passes **Krasnoyarsk** on the Yenesei River, balance for a moment at the geographic center of Russia.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train



Day Eleven
Novosibirsk

Today's stop in Novosibirsk allows time to explore the central part of the city, including a visit to Lenin Square, home to **Russia's largest Opera House**. With a population of roughly 1.6 million, Novosibirsk is the largest city in Siberia, and its industrial and scientific center. Novosibirsk did not exist before the Trans-Siberian railway was built, growing up around the place chosen for the rail line's Ob River crossing. Nikita Khrushchev relocated his best scientists 30 km from here in 1959, in a special town built expressly for scientific research, called Academgorodok, or Academy City.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Twelve
Ekaterinburg



Cross from Asia into Europe at Ekaterinburg. The cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilizations come together here, in one of Russia's largest cities. Founded in 1723 and named after Catherine I, Ekaterinburg is where the last czar, Nicholas II, and his family were placed under house arrest for months before the Bolsheviks executed them in July of 1918. Today, the off-train tour takes you to the **Church on the Blood**, standing over the spot where Czar Nicholas II and his family were killed.
Meals: B, L, D – Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Thirteen
Kazan

On the last full day on the train, stop in Kazan, the beautiful capital of the Republic of Tatarstan on the Volga River. The Tatars, who make up a majority of the population, are Turkic Muslims with an ethnic makeup similar to that of early Bulgarians. Leo Tolstoy spent five or six years here in Kazan, where Orthodox churches and Muslim mosques were both accepted.



The **UNESCO-listed Kazan Kremlin** is the highlight of the city tour. Originally a fortress of the Golden Horde during the time of the Kazan Khanate, little of the original remains. It is considered to be the only surviving Tatar fortress in Russia. Ivan the Terrible conquered Kazan in 1552 and built new walls on top of the older ones, adding the Annunciation Cathedral and razing the original Qol Sharif Mosque, now rebuilt. The entire ensemble shows the synthesis of the Tatar and Russian cultures.

Meals: B, L, D – *Aboard Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train*

Day Fourteen

Moscow

Mid-day arrival in Moscow, founded in 1147. Eclipsed for 200 years by St. Petersburg, Moscow was restored as a political center after the October Revolution in 1917 and served as the capital of the Soviet Union until 1991. Moscow today is a booming metropolis, dignified yet dynamic, where ancient churches sit shoulder to shoulder with 21st century financial institutions, and where the new high-rise commercial district of Moscow-City is changing the face of the city forever.

Tour the classic sights of this 850-year-old capital city, including the **Kremlin**, expansive **UNESCO-listed Red Square** with its imaginatively decorated **St. Basil's Cathedral**, or choose to explore the **Tretyakov Gallery** instead. Transfer to a five star hotel, and gather one last time to celebrate the journey at a farewell dinner.

Meals: B, L, D – *Baltschug Kempinski, Ritz-Carlton or similar*

Day Fifteen

Moscow

After breakfast at the hotel, **free time in the Russian capital** brings the tour to an end. Transfer to the airport for international flights.

Meals: B



About The Golden Eagle Train

Train Accommodations

Three styles of accommodation are available on board the luxury *Golden Eagle*: Imperial Suites, Gold Class and Silver Class, each with private en suite facilities. Imperial Suites feature a king size bed, while Gold and Silver Class cabins are furnished with an upper/lower berth configuration.

Imperial Suites

Imperial Suite cabins are the most beautiful and spacious cabins available onboard the *Golden Eagle*. Measuring a surprising 120 sq ft (11.1 sq meters), they are furnished with a luxurious king size bed, dedicated seating area, dressing table and private en suite facilities with full power shower and under floor heating. Individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD screen and two large picture windows make the cabin a pleasant retreat. Imperial Class guests also enjoy butler service, a selection of complimentary drinks from the premium bar list, laundry service and room upgrades at hotels. Limited availability.

Imperial Suite Cabin information:

- 120 sq ft (11.1 sq meter)
- Sleeps 2 in king size bed
- Sitting area
- In cabin dining options
- Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Dressing table
- Personal safe
- Minibar
- Private en suite bathroom with full power shower and under floor heating
- Bathrobes, slippers and toiletries
- DVD/CD player with LCD screens
- Towels and linens changed daily
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water available at all times
- Dedicated butler service
- Drinks from the Bar Car included from the Standard and Premium Bar List (excluding Premium Wine List)
- Laundry service included
- Hotel room upgrade to next available category
- 1 cabin per carriage (plus 3 Gold cabins)

Note: cabin configurations and decor may vary from samples depicted

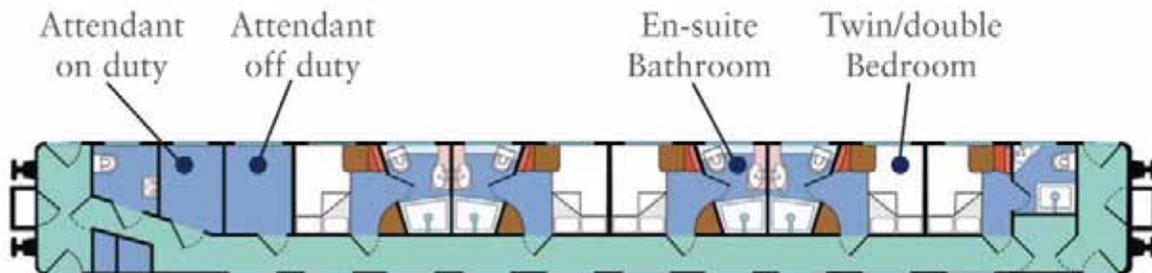


Gold Class

Gold Class cabins are well-proportioned and feature modern en suite amenities including power showers, under floor heating, a DVD/CD player, LCD screen, remote-controlled air-conditioning/heating, recessed lighting, a wardrobe and a personal safe. Each cabin is configured with upper/lower berths and can accommodate double, twin or single occupancy.

Gold Class Cabins:

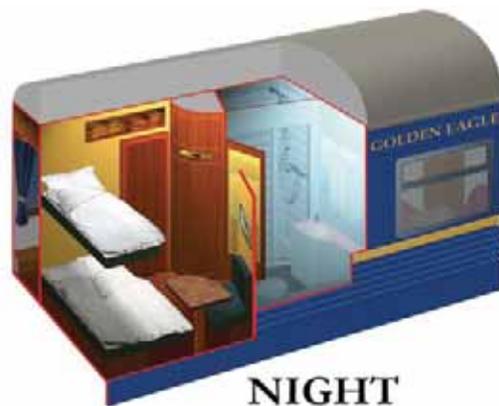
- 77 sq ft (7 sq meters)
- Sleeps 2 in either lower standard (4' 6") double bed or bunk style
- Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Personal safe
- Private en suite bathroom with full power shower and under floor heating
- DVD/CD player with LCD screens
- Towels and linens changed regularly
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Drinks from the Bar Car included from the Standard Bar List
- Laundry service available for a fee
- 5 cabins per carriage (Note: The 5th compartment is of a slightly different layout, (68 sq ft) and will normally be allocated to single guests.)



GOLD CLASS FLOOR PLAN



DAY



NIGHT

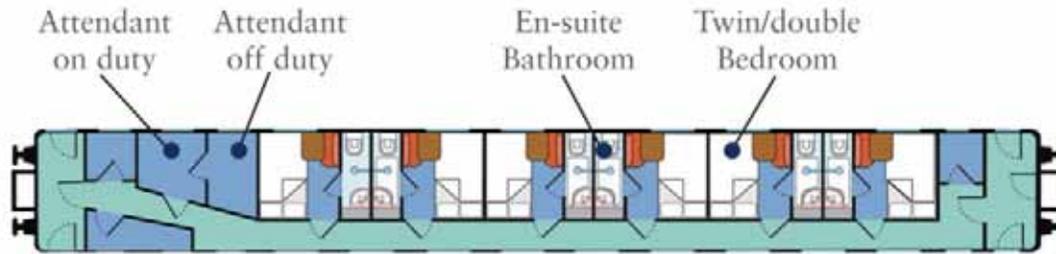


Silver Class

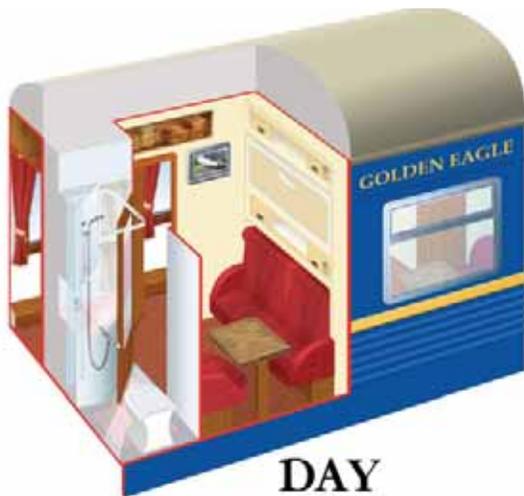
Silver Class cabins are smaller than Gold Class cabins but still have en suite facilities, though with a smaller shower area. Silver Class cabins feature the same amenities as Gold Class cabins but in a smaller space. Each Silver Class Sleeping Car has six two-bedded cabins, accommodating a maximum of 12 passengers per car.

Silver Class Cabins:

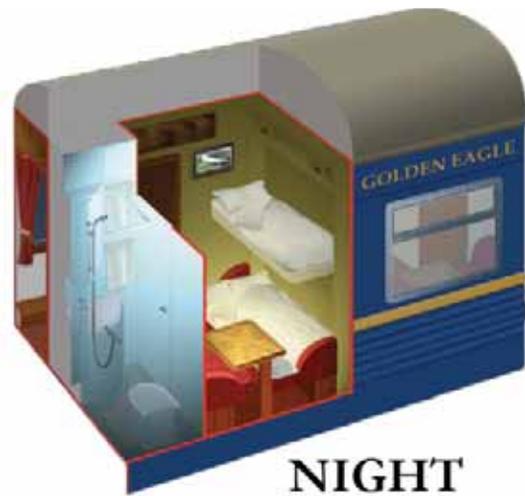
- 60 sq ft (5.5 sq meters)
- Sleeps 2 in lower small double bed (4ft) or bunk style
- Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Personal safe
- Private en suite bathroom with “wet-room” style shower and toilet
- DVD/CD player with LCD screens
- Towels and linens changed regularly
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry service available for a fee
- 6 cabins per carriage



SILVER CLASS FLOOR PLAN



DAY



NIGHT



Dates for 2020 – Private Rail Journey

The land itinerary is scheduled to operate on the following dates. Please note that you need to depart the U.S. at least one day prior to the tour start date, due to airline flight schedules.

May 16-30, 2020
June 13-27, 2020
August 8-22, 2020
September 5-19, 2020

Note: This train also runs eastbound from Moscow to Vladivostok. 2020 Eastbound tour dates are:

May 3-17, 2020
May 31-June 14, 2020
July 26-August 9, 2020
August 23-September 6, 2020

2020 Package Prices

Land Tour Cost – Per Person:

Silver Class, twin share \$18,195
Silver Class, single \$26,695

Gold Class, twin share \$21,995
Gold Class, single \$33,195

Imperial Suite, twin share \$38,195
Imperial Suite, single \$76,295

Please note: the May and June 2020 departures will operate at a special price.

Land Tour Cost – Per Person – May & June 2020 departures only:

Silver Class, twin share \$16,995
Silver Class, single \$25,195

Gold Class, twin share \$20,995
Gold Class, single \$30,595

Imperial Suite, twin share \$34,695
Imperial Suite, single \$69,295

Private Train Tour Deposits – Per person:

Silver Class deposit \$2,500
Gold Class deposit \$3,000
Imperial Suite deposit \$5,500

A non-refundable deposit and completed reservation form/signed release are required to hold space.

Land Tour Includes

- Accommodation aboard the *Golden Eagle* private train.
- Hotel accommodation per the itinerary (1 night in Vladivostok and 1 night in Moscow)



- All meals starting with dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on final tour day.
- A generous allowance of wine or local beer, soft drinks and water with all lunches and dinners.
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water round the clock from your car attendant while on board the train.
- Complimentary draft beer in the Bar Car for all passengers.
- Arrival/departure transfers, provided you arrive and depart on the tour start/end dates and in the tour start/end cities.
- All guided off-train tours per itinerary.
- The services of an experienced Train Tour Manager, with local guides for scheduled off-train touring.
- All gratuities.
- Baggage handling.

Not Included

- International airfare or surface transport to the point of joining/leaving the tour. MIR is able to arrange your air itinerary in economy or business class. If you wish to obtain an air quote, please contact us for details.
- Items of a purely personal nature (laundry, telephone, bar account, photography at museums, etc.)
- Optional pre- or post-tour extensions.
- Drinks, beyond draft beer in the Bar Car, and beer and wine at set meals
- Visa fees, any excess baggage charges, airport departure taxes, vaccination or medical costs.
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance.

Interested in travel insurance?

To learn more about all the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit www.travelguard.com/mircorp or contact Travel Guard at 1.877.509.5596.

Rail Journey by Private Train

Private Train tours are in a class of their own, offering the opportunity to experience remote destinations in unparalleled style. These all-inclusive, overview tours aboard the fully-chartered *Golden Eagle* luxury private train bring together passengers from around the world. Group sizes are flexible and can be more than 100 passengers.



Start Planning Next Year Now

Dates for 2021 – Rail Journey by Private Train

At the time of writing, the land itinerary for this program next year is projected to be generally as depicted for this year. Next year's dates are shown below – please call if you're ready to book now.

May 15-29, 2021
June 12-26, 2021
August 7-21, 2021
September 4-18, 2021

Package Prices – 2021

Golden Eagle 2021 programs can be booked at the 2020 price (see pricing section above) until December 31, 2019. Please call to book!

Note: 2020 price lock is applicable to bookings secured with **non-refundable tour deposit and signed, completed Tour Reservation Form** prior to December 31, 2019. Subject to availability at the time of booking. Not combinable with other special offers. Offer subject to change without notice. Call for details.

Important Notes: Is This Trip Right For You?

- This trip is moderately active, and rated **moderate to rigorous** touring due to the daily walking involved and the overall shortcomings of the tourism infrastructure. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day, keeping up with fellow travelers. Flexibility, a sense of humor and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are essential components to the enjoyment of this trip.
- This itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Many streets and sidewalks are uneven, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases. Museums generally do not have elevators.
- On the train, restaurant and bar cars may be some distance from your sleeping car. Although portage is provided where possible, you may have to carry your baggage for short distances.
- Passengers may encounter problems getting on and off trains; there may be low platforms, steep steps and/or gaps between the platform and the train.
- In true expedition style, some delays or changes in the itinerary are likely.

MINIMUM PASSENGER REQUIREMENTS All *Golden Eagle* rail tours require a minimum number of passengers to operate. Should this not be reached, *Golden Eagle* will run a modified service of carriages attached to regular service trains to accommodate a smaller group or offer an alternative tour. If no alternative is suitable a full refund of land payments made (exclusive of payments made for air tickets, visa fees or other expenses) will be offered. Reduced numbers mean smaller and more intimate groups, and a shorter train, as unfilled cars are left behind. On a number of tours Russian Railways will be combining *Golden Eagle* carriages with regular trains departing at similar times. The on-board experience and off-train tours will be unaffected and, as there will be no connection with the regular trains, the *Golden*



Eagle carriages will remain totally private and you will not notice any difference to the quality, comfort and enjoyment of your trip.

Are You Prepared?

A Travel Guard travel insurance plan can help cover your vacation investment, offset expenses from travel mishaps and provide you with emergency travel assistance. To learn more about all of the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit www.travelguard.com/mircorp

If you are not already enrolled in STEP, Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, a free service to enroll your trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, please consider enrolling. For more information: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Please read the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory on travel to Russia here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/russia-travel-advisory.html>

Please read the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory on travel to Mongolia here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mongolia-travel-advisory.html>

Weather

The climate of **Western Russia** is a rather severe **continental climate**, cold in winter and hot in summer. As with traveling anywhere, it is best to bring layers of different weights and thickness to keep you comfortable. In the heat of a Moscow summer, shorts are acceptable anywhere but in church and the theater or a formal restaurant. Women will be happy they brought a skirt or dress, and a long-sleeved shirt or blouse is great to slip on whenever you feel underdressed. In the winter and spring months, a warm coat, hat and gloves will come in handy, and a pair of boots that will withstand wet snow or rain. You can carry a light windbreaker in your daypack or bag in case a sunny day turns chilly.

Siberia and the Russian Far East encompass an enormous area that includes arctic tundra, alpine tundra, *taiga* and continental and maritime forests. These regions are typified by a wide variety of climatic conditions.

Siberia has a **continental climate** that can be summarized as hot in the summer and frigid in the winter. The arctic tundra (northern Siberia) is the coldest part of the region and has a short but vigorous summer. The summer is cool and the winter is extremely cold. In southern Siberia, summers can be hot with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Being continental, Siberian winters are quite cold.

The **Russian Far East** is moderated by its **maritime climate**. This leads to warmer temperatures in the winter and cooler temperatures in the summer, with the effect most prevalent near the coast. Inland, the climate becomes more typically continental.

In the summer, throughout Siberia and the Russian Far East, expect a wide variety of weather conditions and be prepared for the heat or cold rainy days, perhaps even snow in the north. Rain is always possible and tends to fall in quick, powerful storms rather than extended light rain. The best advice for dressing in summer is to use layers in order to accommodate the wide variety of weather conditions. In winter, even along the coast, dress for extreme cold.



International Airfare

MIR's in-house, full-service air department is available to assist with your air travel needs. Check with MIR before booking air on your own, as we are happy to research and compare the best published fares available. Airfare varies depending on a wide variety of factors, such as dates of travel, seat availability, special airline promotions, how restrictive ticket changes are, how long the fares can be held without purchase, routing considerations such as stopovers, and more. Tour dates are based on the land tour only. Our preferred carrier for this tour is Aeroflot, as they offer convenient itineraries and competitive rates between Los Angeles, New York, and Washington D.C. and Western Russia.

Please call us at 800-424-7289 to discuss air options and routings for this program, and to request a quote for your specific plans and dates of travel. We will be happy to put together a no-obligation suggested air itinerary and estimate for you at your request.

Visas

A **double-entry** Russian visa is required for this tour. An estimate of current visa costs for U.S. passport holders, based on standard processing time, is \$312. Your exact visa fees may differ as visa costs can depend on a number of factors, such as state of residence, processing time, and return shipping. Visa fees are always subject to change. At the time of writing, the Russian Embassy is offering U.S. passport-holders three-year multiple-entry visas at the same price as single- or double-entry visas (the \$312 estimated above). Travelers who need to expedite their processing may not have the same option of getting the multi-entry visa at the single-entry visa cost. Please call for information.

Standard visa processing in the Russian visa section is ten to fifteen days for this tour. Travelers should prepare to be without their passports for that amount of time. If you plan to travel extensively in the time leading up to your MIR tour, you may need to obtain a second valid passport or use expedited processing, depending on your plans. Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding the timeline for visa processing.

Please note: non-U.S. passport holders usually **require a Mongolian visa** in addition to the double-entry Russian visa. Please call MIR for details.

In the past some travelers have made their own visa arrangements instead of using MIR's preferred provider for their visa processing; either using their own visas service or attempting to process directly with the embassies/consulates. We strongly recommend you discuss it with us before choosing an alternate visa processing method, to help avoid difficulties and visa problems. **In the event that you plan to process visas without going through MIR's preferred provider, please contact us first so we can pass you detailed instructions with critical trip-specific information.**

Pre- and Post-Tour Extensions

MIR can arrange for an extended program in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Eastern or Central Europe before or after your tour. Suggested extensions include:

St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg is often described as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Its miles of canals, laced together with graceful bridges set amidst 18th century buildings, have earned it the name "Venice of the North." Explore the Hermitage Museum and the grand estates of Peter and Catherine.

Vladivostok



Take a day trip outside Vladivostok to visit a family of endangered Siberian tigers living at the Amur Tiger Rehabilitation Center, a small, privately-run establishment created by scientist Victor Yudin, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The five-acre enclosure is located within their native habitat, about 155 miles from the city of Vladivostok.

Contact us for pricing and more details.

Also Nearby...

For more tours to this region, you may want to check out:

Flexible Essential Trips – Classic Private Journeys

Essential Russia, 7 days. A compact and compelling survey of Russia’s political capital, Moscow, and its cultural capital, St. Petersburg, this tour communicates the character of Western Russia in a succinct and meaningful series of experiences.

Essential St. Petersburg, 7 days. St. Petersburg, home of the czars and their courts, is a rich repository of extravagant palaces, brilliant museums and renowned theaters overflowing with music and dance. Its fashionable boulevards and serene canals glisten in the “White Nights” of summer and dazzle on sunny winter days.

Essential Poland, 6 days. On this focused tour, visit four Polish UNESCO sites in six days – Warsaw’s Old Town, Krakow’s Historic Center, the Auschwitz/Birkenau camp and the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

Essential Balkans, 14 days. Visit seven Balkan countries in 14 days on this compact overland journey through history. A remarkably complex region, the mountainous Balkan Peninsula is fascinating, diverse and incredibly beautiful.

Essential Caucasus, 10 days. Armenia’s intricate stone *khachkar* crosses, the bounteous wines of Georgia and the ancient petroglyphs of Azerbaijan are icons of these three intertwined Caucasus countries, where you can experience five UNESCO masterpieces in ten days.

Essential Ukraine, 8 days. Ukraine is the new borderland between Europe and Russia. Explore this resilient region influenced by Polish princes, Cossack *hetmen*, Turkish khans, Russian communists and Ukrainian poets and nationalists.

Conditions of Participation

Your participation on a MIR Corporation trip is subject to the conditions contained in the 2020 Tour Reservation Form and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement. Please read this document carefully and contact us with any questions.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Please note that no partial refunds are available for any missed days of a tour or any whole or part of a tour, accommodation, meal or any other service not utilized by the participant during the tour. The quoted price represents a package price for the services offered and an itemization of individual component costs will not be provided. Please understand there will be no exceptions to our cancellation policies regardless of your situation. Should you need to cancel your travel plans, please notify us in



writing immediately. At the time we receive written notification of cancellation, the following charges apply:

Scheduled Rail Journeys by Private Train:

121 or more days prior to departure-----deposit due or paid in full of \$2,500, \$3,000 or \$5,500

65-120 days prior to departure-----50% of the land tour cost

64 days prior to departure or after trip departure----no refund

References

We encourage you to speak directly with satisfied past travelers. Please request a list of references.

Why MIR?

Regional knowledge is crucial to the success of any trip to our corner of the world. MIR combines detailed information about geography and infrastructure, history and art, language and culture, with the depth of knowledge that comes only from decades of regional experience. You may wonder how we differ from other tour operators...

Destination Specialization

MIR focuses exclusively on the exceptional region at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. This area has been our overriding passion since 1986; we don't do the rest of the world. Our hard-earned expertise gained over the last three decades can take you from end to end of the largest country in the world – Russia – and to all of its neighbors. We specialize in travel to Siberia, the Silk Route, St. Petersburg & Beyond. Our destinations include: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Turkey, Mongolia, China, Tibet, and Central/East Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia).

30 Years of Experience

A travel company doesn't last more than 30 years in the business without a solid track record. MIR has helped thousands of individuals achieve their travel goals. Our dedication and experience have earned us their trust and the trust of many well-respected institutions. Today MIR is the preferred tour operator for museum, alumni and special interest organizations across the country.





Recommended & Respected

MIR has twice been rated one of the “Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth” by *National Geographic Adventure*. Several of our tours have won awards in top travel publications, such as *Outside* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*. Our trips have been featured in books like *Riding the Hula Hula to the Arctic Ocean* and *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.

More Questions?

Please feel free to call us with questions at 1-800-424-7289, 8:30am-5:30pm Pacific Time.

MIR Corporation
 85 South Washington Street, Suite 210
 Seattle, WA 98104
 800-424-7289, 206-624-7289
 Fax 206-624-7360
 info@mircorp.com
 www.mircorp.com

Sellers of Travel: Washington #601-099-932, California# 2082306-40

© Photos: MIR Corporation, GW Travel, Helge Pedersen, Martin Klimenta, Bill Adams

MIR and the MIR logo  are trademarks of MIR Corporation.

