



Credit: Helge Pedersen

**The Trans-Siberian Express Mongolian Route
with Naadam Festival
Moscow to Ulaanbaatar
2020**



The Trans-Siberian Express via Mongolian Route

**From Moscow to Ulaanbaatar, featuring the Naadam Festival
Aboard the *Golden Eagle* private train**

One eastbound departure in 2020 – Private Rail Journey – 13 Days

July 1-13, 2020

From the Moscow Kremlin to the Siberian taiga and the Mongolian steppe, this private train journey celebrates three different cultures: that of the modern Muscovite, hailing a taxi in front of an 800-year-old palace; the Baikal Siberian, proud heir of Cossacks, indigenous Buryats and czarist political exiles; and the Mongolian nomad, drawn to the capital, Ulaanbaatar, for the country's favorite celebration, Naadam. Visit four UNESCO World Heritage treasures along the way and join the crowd singing the praises of Mongolia's best in wrestling, archery and horse racing.

In Moscow, board the luxury Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express private train on its way east into Siberia. Along the far-flung tracks, visit Ekaterinburg, where the last czar was killed, multiethnic Kazan on the Volga River, sprawling Novosibirsk with its enormous Opera House, Irkutsk, where the Decembrists were exiled, UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal and a community of Old Believers near Ulan Ude, before turning south into vast Mongolia.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Wednesday, July 1	Arrive Moscow, Russia
Day 2, Thursday, July 2	Moscow
Day 3, Friday, July 3	Kazan
Day 4, Saturday, July 4	Ekaterinburg
Day 5, Sunday, July 5	Novosibirsk
Day 6, Monday, July 6	Aboard train
Day 7, Tuesday, July 7	Irkutsk
Day 8, Wednesday, July 8	Lake Baikal
Day 9, Thursday, July 9	Ulan Ude
Day 10, Friday, July 10	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Day 11, Saturday, July 11	Ulaanbaatar
Day 12, Sunday, July 12	Ulaanbaatar
Day 13, Monday, July 13	Depart Ulaanbaatar



photo: Helge Pedersen

Note: This train also runs in the reverse direction, from Ulaanbaatar to Moscow
2020 westbound departure dates are:
July 10-22, 2020



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, dining in luxury and chatting over drinks in the lounge.
- Relax deeply as you are carried into another land, a world away from home.

Tour Highlights

Moscow	Moscow Kremlin and Red Square (UNESCO World Heritage Site), St. Basil's Cathedral
Kazan	Capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan Kremlin (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Qol Sharif Mosque
Ekaterinburg	Europe/Asia Obelisk, Church on the Blood
Novosibirsk	Russia's largest Opera House
Irkutsk	Decembrist Museum, classic wooden architecture, private concert
Lake Baikal	Oldest and deepest lake on earth (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
Circumbaikal Railway	The most scenic stretch of the original Trans-Siberian Railway
Ulan Ude	Russian Old Believers or Trans-Baikal Semeiskie (included on UNESCO's "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity")
Ulaanbaatar	The incomparable Naadam Festival, National History Museum, lunch in a nomadic ger.

Itinerary

Day One, Wednesday, July 1

Arrive Moscow, Russia

Passengers are met at the Moscow airport and transferred to the five star Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel, located in the heart of Moscow, for a one-night stay. The Soviet flag flew for the last time on 25 December 1991, and since then central Moscow has been transformed. 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. Meet fellow passengers at the **welcome reception and dinner** this evening. Meals: D – *Baltschug Kempinsky, Ritz-Carlton or similar*

Day Two, Thursday, July 2

Moscow

Today, if you choose, tour the classic sights of this 870-year-old capital city, including expansive **UNESCO-listed Red Square** with its imaginatively decorated **St. Basil's Cathedral and the venerable Kremlin** with its imperial palaces. If you have "been there, done that," you may choose to explore the **wonderful Tretyakov Gallery**, encompassing Russian art pieces from the 11th century to the present. This afternoon depart aboard the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express* private train. After



settling in to a comfortable cabin, enjoy dinner in one of the beautifully designed restaurant cars as the rail adventure to the east begins.

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

Day Three, Friday, July 3

Kazan

Today make a stop in Kazan, the beautiful capital of Tatarstan on the Volga. 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 remains from this time. It is 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 Four, Saturday, July 4

Ekaterinburg

Cross from Europe into Asia for a stop at Ekaterinburg. The **cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilizations come together here**. 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 Five, Sunday, July 5

Novosibirsk

Today's stop in **Novosibirsk** allows time to explore the central part of the city, including a stop on **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 the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train

Day Six, Monday, July 6

Aboard Train

Enjoy a **relaxing day onboard the train** as it heads east through the Sayan Mountains.

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

Day Seven, Tuesday, July 7

Irkutsk

Arrive in Irkutsk today. A tour includes examples of the classic wooden architecture for which the area is known. A highlight is a visit to the **Decembrist House Museum**. The Decembrists were a group of young officers who had served abroad during the War of 1812 and became 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. Enjoy a **private concert at the museum** before returning to the train this evening.

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

Day Eight, Wednesday, July 8

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 the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Train





Day Nine, Thursday, July 9

Ulan Ude

Arriving in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic, pay a visit to a village of Old Believers for a traditional meal and a concert featuring local singers and musicians. 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** added the culture and unique choral music of the Trans-Baikal Semeiskie – as they are called in

Siberia – to the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

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

Day Ten, Friday, July 10

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Dipping down onto the steppe of Mongolia, **disembark the private train in Ulaanbaatar**, the country's capital. Check in to one of the city's leading hotels (Ramada City Center, Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace or Genghis Khan Hotel, for example), for a three-night stay.

Begin an exploration of Ulaanbaatar, the political, industrial and cultural heart of Mongolia. Passing the central monument to Genghis Khan, the country's famed ancestor, learn about the nomadic life and customs at the **National History Museum**, followed by lunch in a traditional ger restaurant.

Meals: B, L, D – *Ramada City Center or similar*

Day Eleven, Saturday, July 11

Ulaanbaatar

Today is the beginning of the **incomparable Naadam Festival**. A celebration of Mongolia's land and traditions, the festival spotlights **the nation's three most popular sports**: archery, horse racing and wrestling. For centuries Naadam has served as a test of the courage and strength of nomadic people and attracts people from all corners of the country as well as from abroad. Attend the celebratory opening ceremony and the long-distance horse race.

Meals: B, L, D – *Ramada City Center or similar*



Day Twelve, Sunday, July 12

Ulaanbaatar

Naadam competitions continue today. This morning, **attend the archery and wrestling tournaments.**



Time may also permit learning about nomadic life and customs at the **National History Museum**, followed by a celebration of the epic journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway with a **toast and a farewell dinner.**

Meals: B, L, D – *Ramada City Center or similar*

Day Thirteen, Monday, July 13

Depart Ulaanbaatar

The journey comes to an end today with transfers to the airport for departure.

Meals: B

Special Note on Hotel Accommodation in Ulaanbaatar

Due to the popularity of the Naadam Festival, travelers on this program are accommodated at a number of the best hotels in Ulaanbaatar, including the Ramada City Center and the Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace, among others. Please note, we cannot guarantee your preferred choice of hotel.



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 large 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 Cabins:

- 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 screen
- 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

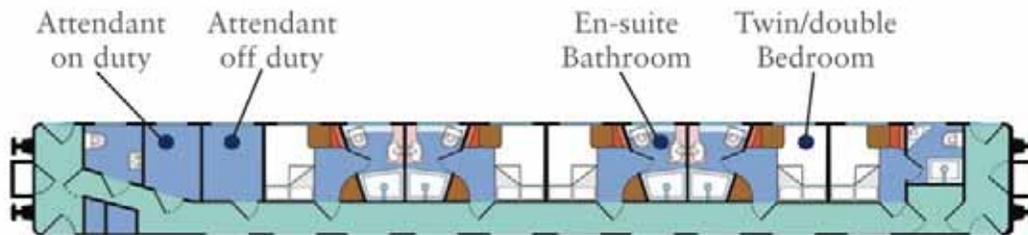


Gold Class

Gold Class cabins are well-proportioned and feature modern en suite amenities including power showers, under floor heating, a DVD/CD player with 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 Cabin Dimensions:

- 77 sq ft (7 sq meters)
- Sleeps 2 in either lower standard (4ft 6in) 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

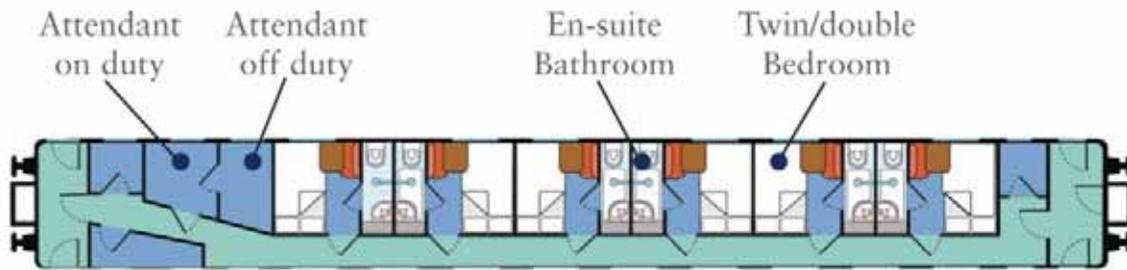


Silver Class

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 Cabin Dimensions:

- 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 screen
- 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.

July 1-13, 2020

Note: This train also runs in the reverse direction, from Ulaanbaatar to Moscow. 2020 Westbound dates are:

July 10-22, 2020

2020 Package Prices

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 Moscow and 3 in Ulaanbaatar).
- All meals starting with dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on final tour day, including a generous, though not unlimited, allowance of wine or local beer, soft drinks and water with all lunches and dinners.
- 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.
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water round the clock from your car attendant while on board the train.
- 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 rates. 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 in the bar car and outside of meal times.
- 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 1.877.709.5596.

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.

July 1-13, 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 2021 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.

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.

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

Mongolia, Siberia, and the Trans-Siberian train routes can be traveled at any time of year. **Ulaanbaatar** experiences hot summers and cold winters. July high temperatures average around 71 degrees Fahrenheit but can peak in the 90s. Lows in Ulaanbaatar in July should be in the low 50s. **Siberia** in July is warm as well, with lows in the 50s and highs in the 70s-80s, with **Moscow** temperatures about the same. Keep in mind, the weather at any time of year in these areas is rather unpredictable. Rain is not likely, but definitely possible.

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 from the U.S. to 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 **single-entry** Russian visa is required for this tour. If your return flights route through Moscow, a **double-entry** visa will be required instead. 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.

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 Pre-Tour

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 czars Peter and Catherine.

MIR will customize your St. Petersburg stay to be as many days as you would like. Transport by train or air to Moscow connects with the tour. For a comprehensive exploration of the city, ask for MIR's "Essential St. Petersburg" private suggested seven-day tour.

Suggested Accommodations at the *Hotel Astoria* or *Grand Hotel Europe*

One of the oldest hotels in St. Petersburg, **the five star Astoria** was opened in 1912 in honor of the House of Romanov's 300th anniversary. Its location across the street from the landmark St. Isaac's Cathedral and just a ten-minute walk from the Hermitage makes it a perfect starting point for roaming the city. The Astoria offers all the amenities of a five star property in a historic setting.

The **five star Grand Hotel Europe** was built in 1824, making it the oldest hotel in St. Petersburg. Renovated in 1991 and 2006, it may be the most luxurious hotel in the city. With beautiful facilities for



business and leisure, the hotel enjoys a great location on Nevsky Prospekt near the Russian Museum, the Hermitage, and the Cathedral of the Savior on the Spilled Blood.

Other accommodation options in the three to four star range are also available. 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 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 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:

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

65-94 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.

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