# TRANS SIBERIAN TREASURE

# (Russia - Mongolia- China (Eastbound))

Travel on the world's finest railway from Russia to Mongolia. Come along on an awe-inspiring adventure traversing three great nations - Russia, Mongolia. From the opulence of Moscow to the grace of imperial China, travel along the most famous railway in the world through the heartland of Siberia and the vast grassy steppe of Mongolia - this trip showcases rail travel at its finest.

# Moscow – Yekaterinburg – Novosibirsk – Krasnoyarsk – Irkutsk – Lake Baikal – Ulan Ude – Ulaanbaatar.

#### Highlights:

- 6 nights' accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express Moscow Ulaanbaatar in the category booked.
- 1 night accommodation at 5\*hotel, Moscow.
- 1 night accommodation at 4\* hotel, Yekaterinburg.
- 1 night accommodation at 4\*hotel, Novosibirsk.
- 1 night accommodation at 4\*hotel, Irkutsk.
- 2 nights accommodation at 4\* hotel, Ulaanbaatar.
- Full board throughout the tour, starting with dinner on day 1

#### DAY WISE ITINERARY

# Day 1 Arrival Moscow

Arrival in Moscow. You will be met at Moscow airport and transferred to your hotel. Accommodation in Moscow.

# Day 2 Moscow (B, D)

A full day sightseeing tour shows you the magnificent Red Square, the Kremlin grounds and other highlights of Moscow. You will forget old stories about Moscow being grey and dark. It has become a vibrant city, full of life, comparable to Paris or Rome. In the afternoon transfer to the railway station where your private train Grand Trans-Siberian Express is ready for you to board for the first leg of the almost 8000 km long journey to Beijing. Welcome dinner and accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

#### Day 3 Full day on the train (B, L, D)

Today you enjoy a typical day on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Your private train passes through endless scenery of forests, lakes and small settlements, followed by the Ural Mountains. A day to relax, watch the landscape and listen to lectures about Russia and its people. In the evening you arrive in Yekaterinburg, the "Capital of the Ural Mountains".

Accommodation in Yekaterinburg.

# Day 4 Yekaterinburg (B,L, D)

Yekaterinburg – "Capital of the Ural Mountains". The city was founded in 1723 by Czar Peter I as the center of metallurgical industry. By the 20th century it had become one of the largest and the most important financial, industrial and cultural centers of Russia. Yekaterinburg is located at the geographical border defined by scientists between Europe and Asia.

In the morning a sightseeing tour shows you the city center and you visit a place of remarkable importance for Russian history: the "Cathedral on The Blood" which was built at the place where Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918.

In the afternoon an excursion into the Ural forests takes you to Ganina Yama, which today is considered by Russians as a "holy place". It is an assemble of small wooden chapels which were erected in the 1990's to honor the last Czar's family of the Romanov dynasty who were buried in Ganina Yama. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

# Day 5 Novosibirsk (B,L,D)

Again an almost full day of relaxation and lectures on the train, today you are passing through the plains of Western Siberia and reach Novosibirsk in the late afternoon. With 1,5 million inhabitants Russia's third largest city and the biggest of Siberia, it is widely regarded as the centre of Siberia. It was founded in 1893 as the future site of the Trans-Siberian railway bridge crossing the Siberian River Ob. Accommodation in Novosibirsk. 14

# Day 6 Novosibirsk (B, L, D)

In the morning a city sightseeing tour shows you some remarkable orthodox churches which have survived the Soviet period, and you see the famous Opera House which is the largest of Russia, situated in the centre of the city at Lenin Square. In the afternoon, an excursion takes you out of the city into the Taiga, the "real Siberian forest". About 30 km out of the city you have the opportunity of visiting the largest open air railway museum of Russia, a collection of more than 60 showpieces of steam, diesel and electric locomotives as well as several historical passenger cars – a perfect insight into the development of the trains on the Trans-Siberian Railway. On a boat tour on the River Ob you cruise under the mighty railway bridge of the Trans-Siberian railway.

Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

# Day 7 Krasnoyarsk (B, L, D)

Krasnoyarsk, like Yekaterinburg and Ulan-Ude used to be a "closed city" during Soviet times – closed to foreigners and also to most Soviet citizens at that time. It is located along the Yenissei River which is the greatest river system flowing to the Arctic Ocean. A sightseeing tour shows you several view points and the main shopping street which is fascinating as the local mayor decided to decorate it with palm trees in summer time – in the middle of Siberia!

Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

# Day 8 Irkutsk (B, L, D)

Irkutsk is famous for its trade with Mongolia and China and used to be called "Paris of Siberia" because of its colourful life style during the time of the Tsars. You visit the old town with its large quarters still consisting of wooden houses only, before invited to the cultural highlight of the tour, a private classical concert in a palace of historical background.

Accommodation in Irkutsk.

# Day 9 Lake Baikal (B, L, D)

Today one of the top highlights of the tour with the Grand Trans-Siberian Express will amaze you for the rest of the day. Lake Baikal holds the biggest fresh water reserves in the world. It stretches up to 26 miles from east to west and more than 370 miles from north to south. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake of the world, reaching 1.620 meters at its deepest part. The mountain ranges around Lake Baikal and the deep blue water of the lake, you will never forget.

In the morning a one hour bus drive takes you from the hotel to Lake Baikal. A walk through the village of Listvyanka shows you to St Nicholas church, a typical orthodox wooden build church beautifully renovated in the 1990's. On a great Siberian lunch you can taste the famous Omul fish which lives only in Lake Baikal. In the afternoon a boat takes you on a short cruise on Lake Baikal to the small village of Port Baikal where the private train is waiting for you.

Today the private train is running at low speed along the scenic Circum Baikal Railway line between Port Baikal and Sludyanka, which for many years has been used only by a few of local trains and tourist trains. A photo stop will be arranged at a small village where you can get off the train, put your feet into the clear and cold water of Lake Baikal and also visit the typical wooden houses of local people. A Baikal barbecue is also a part of the program.

Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

# Day 10 Ulan-Ude (B, L, D)

Ulan-Ude is the capital of the so-called "Buryat Autonomous Republic" of the Russian Federation. Buryats are an ethnic group close to Mongolians with an amazing mix of cultures and religions. Ulan-Ude is a meeting place between East and West. Like Irkutsk, the city still has large areas with typical Siberian wooden houses. Your sightseeing excursion goes to one of the villages of Orthodox "Old Believers" still practising their live like people did it centuries ago. You will be hosted for a typical Russian homemade lunch.

When leaving Ulan-Ude, the Grand Trans-Siberian Express switches from the Trans-Siberian mainline to the Trans Mongolian mainline on its way to Ulaanbaatar. In the evening the train reaches the Russian border station Naushki and the Mongolian border station Sukhbaatar. Russian and Mongolian immigration formalities will take place in the train. You may stay in your compartment and don't have to leave the train. Accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express.

# Day 11 Ulaanbaatar (B, L, D)

In the morning the Grand Trans-Siberian Express arrives in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. During a sightseeing tour you will visit the famous Ghandan Monastery, the central Sukhabaatar Square, the Bogd Khan Museum which used to be formerly the winter and sometimes also the summer palace of the Khans', as well as the Zaisan monument at a viewpoint high above the city. From there you will have an excellent view of the city which is surrounded by large areas of nomadic yurt settlements. An amazing cultural music and dance show will introduce Mongolian folk music and culture to you. In the evening you experience a traditional Mongolian Hot Pot dinner.

Accommodation in Ulaanbaatar.

# Day 12 Ulaanbaatar (B, L, D)

Today an unforgettable excursion will take you to the Terelj National Park which is famous for its nature. A stone formation called the "turtle" and the beautiful mountainous scenery will fascinate you. In the park area you will have the chance to meet a herder family inside their yurt. A Naadam show specially arranged for the participants of the Grand Trans-Siberian Express demonstrates 3 disciplines of the Mongolian National Naadam festival: Wrestling, Archery and Horseracing.

Accommodation in a \*\*\*\* hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

#### Day 13 Ulanbaatar Departure

Airport transfers are provided by our service team to connect with your flight departing Beijing.

# **OPTION 2:**

#### Option 2 is designed for those who wish to travel by train throughout from Moscow to Beijing.

Between Ulaanbaatar and Beijing you travel on a regular Mongolian train, build in China a few years ago. Only categories Standard Economy and Standard Plus are available on this section. The train crosses Gobi Desert during day time and is air conditioned.

#### Day 13 Ulaanbaatar

In the morning you leave Ulaanbaatar for a 30 hour journey on chartered standard cars attached to a regular train from Ulaanbaatar to Beijing. In the afternoon the train reaches the plains of Gobi Desert which is not a sand desert but a stone desert in this part of Mongolia. Temperatures can reach 35-40° C here in summer time. In the evening the train arrives at the Mongolian-Chinese border, where the bogies of the train are changed from Russian 1520 mm to Chinese 1435 mm bogies. Accommodation on board the train.

#### Day 14 Beijing

Before lunch time the regular train arrives in Beijing.

In the afternoon you visit the Imperial Palace ("Forbidden City") and the huge TianAn Men Square. In one of the famous Beijing Roast Duck restaurants you will taste what many believe is the most typical Chinese meal.

Accommodation in Beijing.

#### Day 15 Beijing & Departure

Airport transfers are provided by our service team to connect with your flight departing Beijing.

Prices 2019 Mosco	w – Ulaanbaat	ar (Option 1)			
Moscow – Ulaanbaa	atar (13 days, :	12 nights) – Al	l Rates are i	n EURO,	per person.
Option 1 Category	Standard Economy	Standard Economy	Standard Plus	Silver	Gold
Passengers per cabin	4	3	2	2	2
Price per person EUR	4970	5890	7090	11170	13370
Single Supplement Train & Hotel	n/a	n/a	2970	6120	7220
High Season Supplement I	240	240	240	240	240
High Season Supplement II	160	160	160	160	160

Moscow – Beijing (15 days, 14 nights). All Rates are in EURO, per person.									
Option 2 (train	Standard	Standard	Standard	Silver	Gold				
throughout)	Economy	Economy	Plus						
Category									
Passengers per	4	3	2	2	2				
cabin									
Price per person	6500	7500	8640	13320	15520				
EUR									
Single	n/a	n/a	4570	7820	8920				
Supplement Train									
& Hotel									
High Season	240	240	240	240	240				
Supplement I									
High Season	160	160	160	160	160				
Supplement II									

# Services included in the tour price:

- $\checkmark$  6 nights' accommodation on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express Moscow Ulaanbaatar in the category booked
- ✓ 1 night accommodation at \*\*\*\* hotel, Moscow
- ✓ 1 night accommodation at \*\*\*\* hotel, Yekaterinburg
- ✓ 1 night accommodation at \*\*\*\* hotel, Novosibirsk
- ✓ 1 night accommodation at \*\*\*\* hotel, Irkutsk
- ✓ 2 nights' accommodation at \*\*\*\* hotel, Ulaanbaatar
- ✓ Full board throughout the tour, starting with dinner on day 1 and terminating with breakfast on day 15
- $\checkmark$  Shower facilities in hotel day rooms in Krasnoyarsk and Ulan-Ude for guests travelling in categories Standard Economy and Standard Plus
- √ Transfer shuttle service airport hotel v.v. in Moscow on day 1 and in Beijing on day 13
- √ Sightseeing tours in Moscow, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk, Lake Baikal, Ulan-Ude, Ulaanbaatar
- ✓ Lectures on board, Introductory Russian language course, Russian Vodka Tasting
- ✓ Private classic concert in Irkutsk
- ✓ Cultural events as mentioned in the programme
- ✓ English, Spanish, Portuguese speaking tour guides (other languages on request)
- ✓ English Speaking Tour Director throughout the tour

#### TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: -

- # International Airfare
- # Services Not Included
- Flights to Moscow and from **Ulaanbaatar**
- Visa Russia per person INR3500, Mongolia Visa INR1000
- Gratuities (EUR 200 / USD 250 tipping budget recommended)
- # Anything not specifically mentioned in "Tour Price includes" section.

Optional Booking: Available for maximum 1 month Minimum number of tour participants: 80 persons on board the charter private train

#### PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

#### **Payment Conditions**

Deposit Category Standard Economy & Standard plus EUR 750 per person at the time of booking Category Deluxe Silver & Deluxe Gold EUR 1.500 per person at the time of booking Balance 60 days before departure

#### **CANCELLATIONS -**

As we book services in advance and are bound to honor the commitments as to payment to the suppliers, cancellation of services earmarked results in the Company losing money depending upon the time of communication of cancellation to the supplier and therefore, the cancellation schedule, which is based on the above amongst other factors becomes applicable on cancellation. A. All scheduled Citius Travel Solutions' Group tours and Individual tours, if circumstances make you cancel your tour, the cancellation must be intimated to us in writing. As per the Booking Conditions of the Tour we are constrained to levy the following Cancellation Charges.

#### **Cancellation Conditions**

Up to 91 days before the tour Deposit 90-61 days before the tour 25 % 60-31 days before the tour 50 % 30-15 days before the tour 75 % 14-01 days before the tour 90 % No Show 100%