

Dear Traveller:

Thank you for your inquiry about our upcoming Trans-Siberian tour, of which a detailed itinerary is following.

We are very excited about making a tour to this beautiful and very special country available, and are encouraged by the great amount of interest this tour has generated.

A tourist visa for China and Russia will be necessary for this tour. Your passport will need to be valid for at least six months beyond the tour's return date and there needs to be four blank pages in your passport. Your passport cannot be frayed, torn, separated or altered in any other way. You will have to provide two colour passport size photographs.

The approximate cost of the Chinese visa is \$150.00 + \$80.00 Visa fee.

The approximate cost of the Russian visa is \$186.00 = \$80.00 Visa fee.

The courier fees are additional.

Because of participants' busy schedules and the complex nature of the various visa procedures, Pauwels Travel has decided to outsource all visa inquiries and assistance to a company specialized in providing this service. A link to CIBT visa services can be found on the bottom left corner of our Pauwels Travel home page on our website www.pauwelstravel.com. Or you can contact CIBT at www.cibtvisas.ca or call customer service at 888-665-9956.

I hope you will be able to join us on this exciting tour.

Sincerely,

Pauwels Travel

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.
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“TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS FROM MOSCOW TO BEIJING”

A 20-day tour, from Friday, August 18, to Wednesday, September 6, 2017

*Ride the legendary Trans-Siberian railway from Moscow all the way to Beijing, a total of approximately 8,000 kilometres, with stops (and overnights in hotels) en route in **Kazan**, the Tatar city on the Volga; **Ekaterinburg**, where the last Czar and his family were assassinated; **Lake Baikal**, “Pearl of Siberia”, Asia’s largest freshwater lake and deepest in the world; **Ulan Ude**, capital of Siberia’s Buryat People; **Mongolia**, the land of Genghis and Kublai Khan; and **Beijing** with the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. This tour is escorted by Jacques R. Pauwels, PhD, who will give background lectures on the history of Russia, Siberia, Mongolia, the Silk Road, and China.*

*****Please note*** space on this tour is available only as long as accommodation on the train remains available. August is a busy season and we are not allowed to hang on to a block of cabins to sell later on.**

Tour cost from Toronto, based on double occupancy: \$7,750 including all airport taxes & fees.

“Land only,” from Moscow to Beijing: \$6,135 - Single room supplement, in hotels only: \$875

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

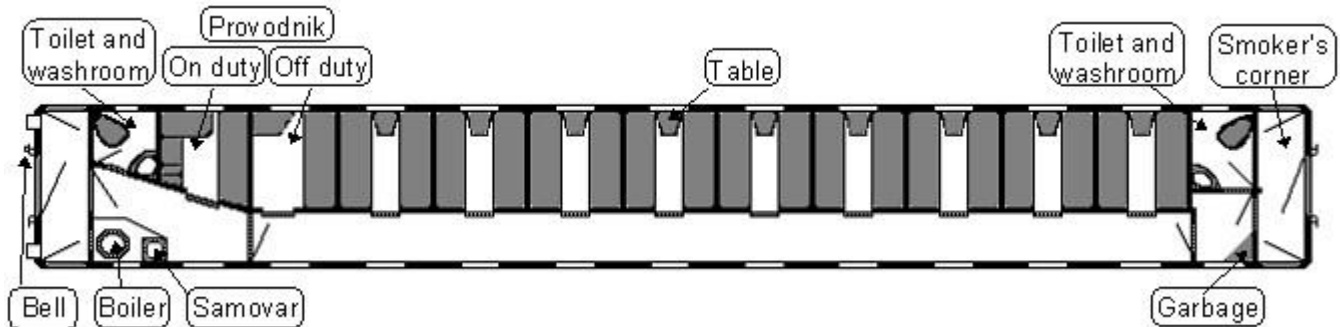
Please note that changes are possible, as train timetables for August 2017 are not yet 100% confirmed; an adjusted program will be made available ASAP!

Day 1 – Friday, August 18: Evening departure 6PM from Toronto for Paris, with Air France.

Day 2 – Saturday, August 19: Morning arrival in Paris and connecting flight to Moscow, arriving in the evening, around 6PM. Transfer to the centrally located 4-star Hotel Arbat Residence (or similar). Dinner in the hotel.

Day 3 – Sunday, August 20: After breakfast, panoramic coach tour of the Russian capital, with as highlights the Kremlin and Red Square. Lunch of traditional Russian culinary specialties, followed by some free time to explore on your own and/or to shop for supplies to take with you on the train, such as bottled water, wet wipes, or some fine food available at the Eliseevsky delicatessen in Moscow. Late-afternoon transfer to the railway station and evening departure on the first leg of our Trans-Siberian adventure, the night train from Moscow to Kazan, capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, situated on the Volga River; covering the distance of approximately 800 km will take 11 hours. Dinner will be served in the dining car.

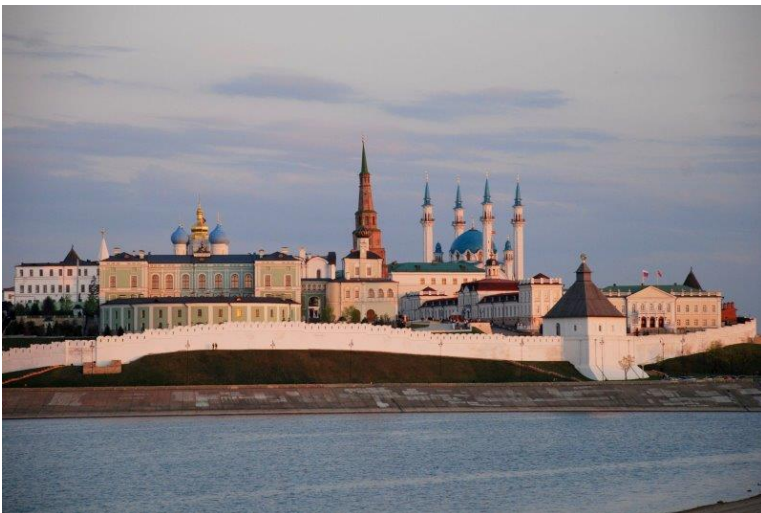
On this and other legs of the train journey to Beijing, accommodation, based on double occupancy, will be provided in simple but comfortable and clean compartments (“suites”) of the second-class category, not to be confused with the very basic third-class arrangements or with the extremely expensive first-class cabins. There are toilets and washrooms at the end of each carriage with western-style toilets and a sink with hot and cold water.



Electricity: On the trains there is normally a plug on the corridor and in first class there may be a plug in your cabin. Electricity is 220 v AC voltage. You will need a European type power plug with two round pins, similar to the two pin round plug in China as well. Often the power on the train is switched off.

The dining cars serve traditional Russian, Mongolian, and Chinese meals. Beer, bottled water, fruit, fresh bread, smoked meats, chocolate, etc. can also occasionally be bought from platform kiosks during stops along the way. The dining cars are usually well stocked and, contrary to popular belief, don't run out of food. Fruit is available most of the year and bottled water is as common as vodka. You may want to bring your own wine or whiskey or other foreign alcohol, but vodka is readily available!

Day 4 - Monday, August 21: Arrival in Kazan at 8 AM. Transfer to a local café for breakfast, followed by a city tour, with the Kazan Kremlin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/980>) Kul-Sharif Mosque, and the pedestrian shopping area of Bauman Street. Then we check into a 4-star hotel and enjoy



some free time before visiting the Soviet Lifestyle Museum. Dinner of regional culinary specialties in restaurant “House of Tatar Cuisine.”

< *Kazan’s ancient Kremlin*

Day 5 – Tuesday, August 22: After an early breakfast, transfer to the railway station. Shortly before 6PM, departure on the deluxe train bound for Ekaterinburg, a scenic ride of about 950 km covered in 17-hours. En route we will enjoy magnificent scenery as we cross from Europe into Asia via the

Ural Mountains. Accommodation as on the train to Kazan. Lunch will be served in the dining car. Arrival around 8PM, and transfer to the 4-star Hotel Renomee or similar (<http://en.renome-hotel.ru>). Dinner in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Day 6 – Wednesday, August 23: After breakfast, sightseeing tour of Ekaterinburg, named after Catherine the Great and known as Sverdlovsk in the Soviet era, a city situated in a landscape of taiga and lakes in the eastern foothills of the Urals. Historically most interesting is of course the monastery built on the site where on July 17, 1918, the last czar, Nicholas, and the members of his family were executed; the Russian Orthodox Church as canonized Nicholas and turned this site into a major centre of pilgrimage, featuring seven traditional wooden churches. Also visit to the Boris Yeltsin Center and the local History Museum. We also inspect the obelisk, marking the border between Asia and Europe. Group dinner in our hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Day 7 – Thursday, August 24: Early morning transfer to the railway station and departure around 4AM on the Rossiya"-express train linking Moscow to Vladivostok train. Our destination is the city of Ulan Ude, situated about 3,800 km further east, in Siberia! The trip will take two days and eight hours, with brief stops in cities such as Omsk, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk, so this will be our quintessential Trans-Siberian Railway experience! Accommodation in comfortable compartments; breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served on board.

Day 8 – Friday, August 25: A full day on the train, enjoying the Siberian scenery and getting out during stops to stretch legs and buy souvenirs, food, vodka, etc. from local vendors. There will also be several lectures Russian/Soviet history and culture c/o our Russian hostess, Irina Malenko, and your own tour guide.

Day 9 – Saturday, August 26: Morning arrival in Ulan-Ude, capital of the Siberian Republic of Buryatia, situated along the eastern shore of Lake Baikal; the city was founded in 1666 by Russian Cossacks as a frontier fortress, but is named after the nomadic, mostly Buddhist Buryat Mongols (www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQqMeebGLjg). Breakfast in a local café, followed by a city tour, with sights such as the world's largest Lenin Head, the historical merchants' mansions, Odigitrievsky Cathedral, and a visit to the Ethnographic Museum of Transbaikalia. Group lunch. On to the village of Gremyachinsk on the shores of Lake Baikal, where we will stay in the comfortable Hotel Baikal Riviera (<http://baikalriviera.ru/eng/index.wbp>) Dinner in the hotel.

Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world, and is featured on UNESCO's list of natural World Heritage Sites (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754>) The 3.15-million-ha lake contains 20% of the world's unfrozen freshwater reserve. (For more information on the region, see <http://waytorussia.net/Baikal/Destinations/Buryatia.html>)



< Scenery along the shores of Lake Baikal

Day 10 – Sunday, August 27: A full day of sightseeing along the rugged shores of Lake Baikal and on beautiful Olkhon Island, including a boat tour on the lake and an opportunity to taste local fish. We will learn about the flora and fauna of this part of Siberia, sometimes referred to as Russia's Galapagos, so look out for the unique species of flora and fauna found here, including a freshwater seal and the famous Baikal teal, a rare kind of duck (<http://waytorussia.net/Baikal/Destinations/Olkhon.html>). Afterwards there will be free time to relax and/or check out the local souvenir shops,

cafés, and bars. Dinner in the hotel or in a typical restaurant.

Day 11 – Monday, August 28: This morning we motor back to Ulan-Ude, where today’s program will focus on the famous shamanistic traditions of Siberia in general and Buryatia in particular. The absolute highlight will be a session with shamans, involving dances, libations, animal sound mimesis, conversations with spirits, removal of curses, etc. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamanism_in_Siberia and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JPKkV8cCf0>) Dinner and overnight in the 3-star Hotel Odon (<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/russia/ulan-ude/hotels/odon-hotel/a/lod/273ead66-8484-496a-a952-9f612a60eb58/360534>)



17th-century illustration of a Siberian shaman

Day 12 – Tuesday, August 29: After breakfast, transfer to the Buryat village of Atsagat and visit to Ivolginsky Datsan Buddhist Monastery, the most important Buddhist monastery in Russia, featuring the preserved “incorruptible body” of the Khambo Lama, who died in 1927 and is still sitting upright in the lotus position! (<http://siberiantimes.com/business/investment/news/putin-in-siberia-to-salute-buddhism-and-the-religions-important-role-in-russian-history>) After a Tibetan-style lunch, we return to Ulan-Ude, where it will hopefully be possible to attend an *optional* demonstration of traditional singing and dancing at the Buryat State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater before or after dinner in a typical restaurant such as ‘Tengis’ or ‘Kitchen of the native land.’

Day 13 – Wednesday, August 30: Morning visit to the community of Old Believers, an offshoot of the Russian Orthodox Church, whose members settled here in the 17th century and are famous for maintaining ancient liturgical practices (<http://www.baikalnature.com/info/86609>). On to the Buddhist sanctuary Bald Mountain, known for its Buryat-Tibetan rituals. Dinner in the restaurant on top of the mountain, with a stunning view of the city below.

Day 14 – Thursday, August 31: Today we travel by private coach to Ulan Bator, Mongolia, a distance of 585 km. En route, visit to the historic town of Naushki, formerly a thriving station on the “Tea Road” from China to Russia (<http://siberiantimes.com/other/others/news/n0312-new-tourist-route-follows-the-great-tea-road>)! Evening arrival, and dinner and overnight in the first-class/4-star Hotel Bayangol. (<https://bayangolhotel.mn/#/?k=n3q27f>).

Day 15 – Friday, September 1: A full day of sightseeing in the Mongolian Capital, with attractions such as the statue of Genghis Kan, and including a visit to the National History Museum. Also free time for shopping along Seoul Street and in the State Department Store. Folk dance concert at 6:00 PM, including a demonstration of the incredible Mongolian throat singing, followed by dinner in a traditional Mongolian BBQ restaurant.

*Traditional “ger” in the Mongolian steppe
(Wikimedia Commons photo by Adagioy) >*

Day 16 – Saturday, September 2: Full-day excursion to Gorkhi Terelj National Park, situated in the mountains to the east of Ulan Bator, also including a visit to a Nomadic camp of gers. Lunch is included. Return to Ulan Bator and free evening.



Day 17 – Sunday, September 3: Early morning transfer to the station and 7:15 departure for Beijing. Accommodation as before, in compartments for two persons. Lunch and dinner on board.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Ian Frazier, *Travels in Siberia*

Deborah Manley, *The Trans-Siberian Railway: A Traveller's Anthology*

Arno Mayer, *The Furies: Violence and Terror in the French and Russian Revolutions*

Alan Wood, *Russia's Frozen Frontier: A History of Siberia and the Russian Far East 1581-1991*

WEBSITES WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KAZAN, SIBERIA, MONGOLIA, ETC:

Trans-Siberian Railway: www.geographia.com/russia/trasib01.htm

Kazan: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazan>

Ekaterinburg: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekaterinburg>

Lake Baikal: www.geographia.com/russia/baikal01.htm

Ulan-Ude: http://wikitravel.org/en/Ulan_Ude

Mongolia: www.mongoliatourism.gov.mn

Trans-Siberian Railway picture gallery: <http://www.seat61.com/Trans-Siberian-pictures.htm>

Day 18 – Monday, September 4: Having entered China, we continue through “Inner Mongolia” into the Chinese heartland, which is reached at the Great Wall. From here it is only a short ride to the Chinese capital, Beijing. Arrival in Beijing around 2PM, and transfer to the first-class/4-star Hotel Howard Johnson Paragon, situated just across the street from the railway station (www.reservations.com/hotel/howard-johnson-paragon-hotel-beijing?rmcid=rcc3). After some free time to freshen up, visit to Forbidden City, the former imperial residence, Houhai Lake and tour by rickshaw of Old Beijing's Hutongs District with their traditional courtyard residences, followed by some free time to shop there. In the evening, we attend a spectacular acrobat show!

China's Great Wall >

Day 19 – Tuesday, September 5: Morning excursion to the Great Wall at Mutiayuyi, followed by lunch in a typical restaurant. Also visit to the Ming Dynasty Palace. Returning to Beijing, we visit Tianmen Square and the Forbidden City before our final group dinner in an excellent restaurant in Beijing, featuring a world-famous local specialty, Beijing-style duck!

Day 20 – Wednesday, September 6: After breakfast, transfer to the airport and 11AM departure for Toronto via Amsterdam with KLM, arriving around 8PM.



**Tour cost from Toronto, based on double occupancy: \$7,750 – “Land only”: \$6,135
Single room supplement, in hotels only: \$875**

Included in the tour cost:

- Flights from Toronto to Moscow and back from Beijing, with Air France/KLM, via Paris & Amsterdam, INCLUDING all airport taxes/security fees/fuel surcharges;
- Accommodation, based on double occupancy, in (1) comfortable second-class train compartments and (2) mostly 4- but sometimes 3-star hotels - the single room supplement, is \$875;
- Meals: breakfast daily, many lunches, and most dinners, as shown in the above itinerary;
- Overland transportation basically by train but sometimes by coach and/or minibuses, depending on circumstances;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned.

Not included:

- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Some gratuities for local guides and drivers, totaling approximately \$50;
- Visa fees for Russia \$186.00 and China \$149.00. (Does not include processing fees of \$80.00 per visa)
- Travel insurance, please call office for rates.

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Ont. Reg. #1034992

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$1000 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. February necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the "Tran Siberian Express" departing August 18 – September 6, 2017.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$1000 per person, plus insurance premium if taken.)
Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or Land Only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1500.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 6 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)
Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____
Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____
If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____
Postal Code: _____

PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM IN HOTELS ONLY REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so **please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.** We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ \$ _____ Non-medical Package _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ **(Signature)(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

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