



## Trans Mongolian Railway with Naadam Festival

29 days, 8514km, Fully Escorted Tour, Return Airfares, Premium Accommodation,  
2-Berth Rail & Comprehensive Sightseeing

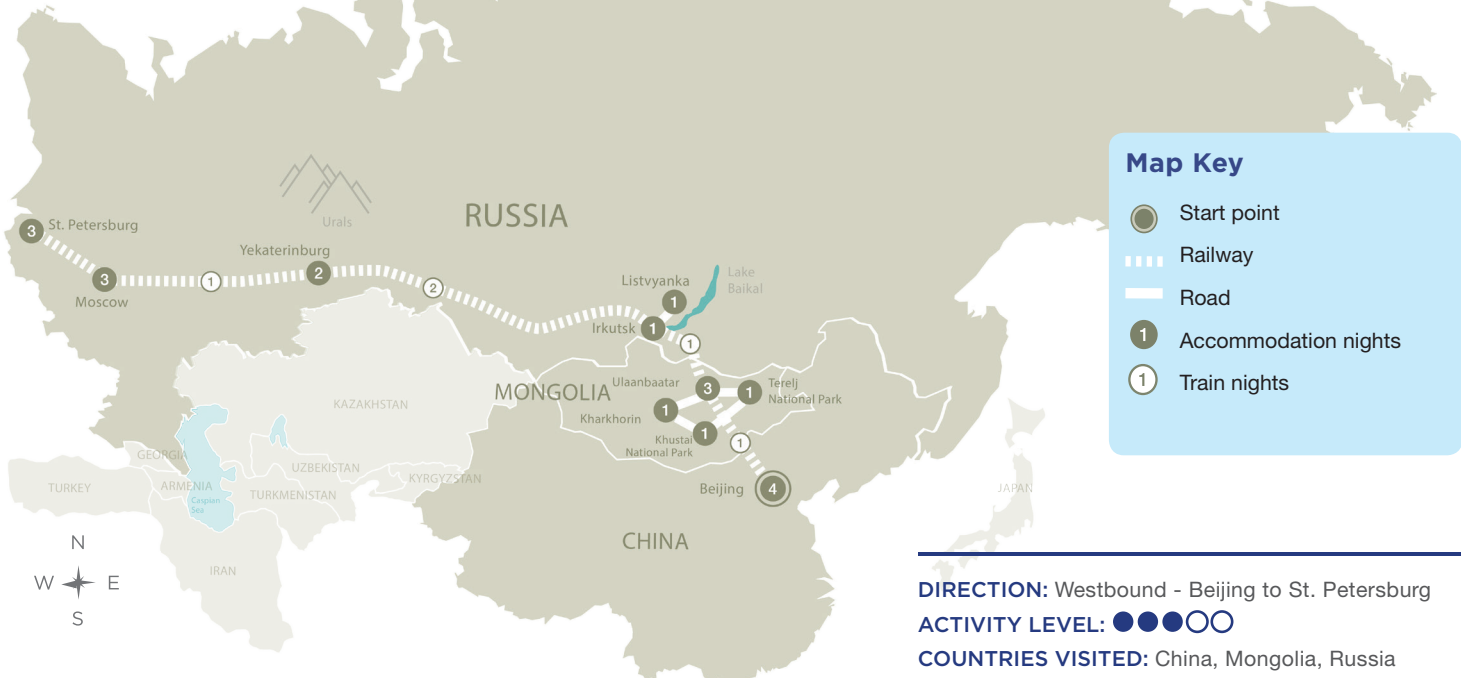
Beijing | Ulaanbaatar & Naadam Festival | Gobi Desert | Lake Baikal | Irkutsk | Yekaterinburg | Moscow | St. Petersburg



I'm Tracey Lynch from helloworld Nelson. I've been in travel for over 30 years and have experienced some amazing places. My next great adventure will traverse Asia; from the vibrant capital of China to the wild reaches of Mongolia before spanning Siberia and onwards to Russia's opulent cities.

You can experience the romance of the rails with me and discover a world of contrasts and contradictions through authentic interactions with local people and unique cultural events.

Naadam is a Mongolian sporting festival that combines art and athleticism in a colourful display of national prowess in archery, horse racing and wrestling. Nomadic families travel from all over the green and gold steppe to descend upon Ulaanbaatar for the annual soir e.



### Map Key

- Start point
- Railway
- Road
- Accommodation nights
- Train nights

**DIRECTION:** Westbound - Beijing to St. Petersburg

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** ●●●○○

**COUNTRIES VISITED:** China, Mongolia, Russia

**VISAS REQUIRED:** China, Mongolia, Russia

# Trans Mongolian Railway with Naadam Festival

Sundowners Overland, in partnership with helloworld Nelson, offer you an exclusive journey along the legendary Trans Mongolian and Trans Siberian railways. Drawing on over 50 years' experience in sharing Asia overland, this extraordinary adventure offers:

- A premium train experience that combines comfort and authenticity
- Historic and culturally significant destinations
- Maximum group size of 20 ensures a more intimate experience
- A comprehensive programme that expertly balances sightseeing and relaxation
- Fully escorted by helloworld Nelson manager, Tracey Lynch, as well as a professional Sundowners Overland Tour Leader and passionate Local Guides in each city.

## The Journey

### Capital of the North

Our journey begins in China's great capital. One of the earliest civilisations, Beijing flourished across eras, each leaving its distinctive mark.

Wander down the laneways of the protected Hutong district, and explore the narrow alleys and courtyard residences. Established during Kublai Khan's Yuan Dynasty, you'll feel like you've stepped back in time.

Follow intriguing aromas off neon strips and get acquainted with the city through its eight national cuisines. Try Peking Duck at the source or sample unconventional street snacks in one of the many food markets.

Your days will be filled exploring imperial palaces, enduring temples and the rambling Great Wall. Your nights could include Chinese Opera or an exhilarating acrobatic show - speak to us about securing tickets in advance.



### Trans Mongolian Railway

All aboard for your first taste of life on the rails as we head northwest towards Mongolia. Wake up in a new country and take in the changing landscapes from the Gobi Desert to the verdant steppe. Arrive in Ulaanbaatar and experience a pulsating knot of contrasts. A soviet-influenced metropolis dotted with Buddhist monasteries, modern bars and ringed by ger suburbs. The city will be buzzing with life as people from all over the country arrive for Naadam.

### Mongolia's Naadam Festival

Witness the colourful Opening Ceremony at the National Sports Stadium. This unique spectacle will include athletes, monks and local celebrities in a vibrant display of national pride. Enjoy a demonstration by skilled archers, wrestlers and jockeys while you soak up the atmosphere in the stadium.

The next day we'll head out to the open grasslands to visit the site of Genghis Khan's 13th century trading centre. Discover Erdene Zuu Khiid Monastery, a working monastery built from the remains of the original city. Further into the wilds of Mongolia, we'll visit two protected National Parks and stay in traditional ger camps under a blazing blanket of stars.



### Lake Baikal and the Siberian Shamans

After crossing the border into Russia, glide along the Trans Siberian Railway to Irkutsk and on to Lake Baikal - where the indigenous Buryats continue the ancient practice of Shamanism.

Quite possibly Russia's most breathtaking natural landmark, the lake holds four world records as the world's largest, deepest, clearest and oldest lake. It's no surprise this triumph of nature is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Relax around its shores and sample Omul fished fresh from its waters. If you're brave enough, take a refreshing dip - you might just discover it's also the coldest lake in the world.

Back in Irkutsk, we explore the cultural centre of Siberia. Originally a fur trade frontier, the winter outpost became the saving grace of countless rebels exiled here after the Decembrist Revolt against Tsar Nicholas I. Discover its churches, museums and intricate wooden architecture.

#### Yekaterinburg and across the Ural Mountains

Sit back and relax as we span Siberia. Life on board is a great social occasion for our Russian hosts, they'll be curious about your experience so make sure to say hello in the dining car. Once in Yekaterinburg, discover a vibrant city rich in minerals and history. In the foothills of the Ural mountains and 40kms from the Europe/Asia boundary, an impressive collection of museums and historic monuments awaits. Uncover the story of the Romanovs and visit the impressive byzantine-style church, built on the site of the fateful execution of the last Tsar of Russia.

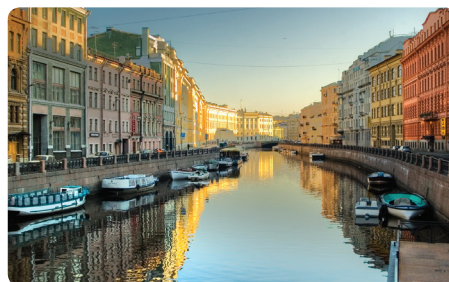
#### Moscow and St. Petersburg

Arriving in Moscow you will have ample time to explore a city dripping in history. The twirled cupolas of St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin fortress set the backdrop to your Red Square encounter. Go beyond the red walls to marvel at the exquisite collection of royal treasures in the stunning Armoury Chamber. The epicentre of Russia's political, historical and architectural might, the city of 10 million offers world class dining and entertainment – none more so than the revered Bolshoi Ballet.

"The united magnificence of all of the cities of Europe are but its equal", said Voltaire of St. Petersburg; a fitting end to a magnificent journey. St. Petersburg is an opulent treasure trove of 18th century architecture and classical art. The Peter and Paul Fortress, Palace Square and the mesmerising collections inside the Hermitage Museum are not to be missed. This fine city is undergoing its fourth revolution where a distinctive culture is blossoming; soak it up in one of the many coffee houses and eateries. Before you say your goodbyes, we'll venture outside the city to take in the fabulous summer palaces and gardens of the Tsars. Peterhof is known as 'the Versailles of Russia' although many travellers say the grandeur of this Baroque estate is unmatched. Experience the palaces, gardens and fountains to decide for yourself.

## Tour itinerary

1. Meet your Tour Leader in Beijing
2. Beijing
3. Beijing
4. Beijing
5. Departure to Ulaanbaatar
6. Arrive Ulaanbaatar
7. Ulaanbaatar - Naadam Festival
8. Ulaanbaatar and to Kharkhorin
9. Kharkhorin to Khustai National Park
10. Khustai National Park to Terej National Park
11. Return to Ulaanbaatar
12. Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk
13. Irkutsk and to Lake Baikal
14. Lake Baikal and to Irkutsk
15. Depart for Yekaterinburg
16. Trans Siberian Railway
17. Yekaterinburg
18. Yekaterinburg
19. Depart for Moscow
20. Moscow
21. Moscow
22. Moscow
23. Moscow and to St. Petersburg
24. St Petersburg
25. St Petersburg
26. St Petersburg



## Comprehensive sightseeing

Included and accompanied by specialist Local Guides:

**Beijing:** City tour including Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace and Imperial Garden, Hutong Tour, the Great Wall, and Ming Tombs.

**Ulaanbaatar:** City Tour including National Museum, Gaandan Khiid, Zaisan Memorial and Naadam Opening Ceremony.

**Rural Mongolia:** Erdene Zuu Khiid, wild horses of Khustai and Terej National Park.

**Irkutsk:** City tour including Regional Museum of Wooden Architecture and the Limnological Museum of Lake Baikal.

**Yekaterinburg:** City Tour, Ganina Yama Monastery, Asia/Europe border.

**Moscow:** City tour, Kremlin and Armoury Chamber tour, Red Square, St. Basils Cathedral, Metro tour and Novodevichy Convent.

**St. Petersburg:** City tour, State Hermitage and Winter Palace, St Isaac's Cathedral, Peter and Paul Fortress and Peterhof.

## Highlights and inclusions

- 2 berth rail upgrade included between Beijing and Moscow
- 4 star hotel accommodation
- Return flights and all transfers
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Naadam Festival
- Nomadic ger camp experience
- Evening cultural performances
- Professional Tour Leader and Local Guides

FROM

**\$19,478**

Per person, twin/double share  
Departing NZ, 04 July - 02 August 2019

## Why Sundowners Overland?

- Over 50 years' experience crafting overland journeys
- Trans Mongolian specialists
- Full visa support before you go
- 24 hour support on the ground
- Professional Tour Leaders and passionate Local Guides to show you the world through the eyes of a local



## Accommodation

Carefully selected accommodation will ensure a comfortable rest after a thrilling day exploring.

A special highlight of the journey is a stay in a Mongolian ger. The traditional home of the nomads will immerse you in local culture.

- Hotels: 16 nights (twin share)
- Guesthouse: 1 night (twin share)
- Ger camp: 3 nights (twin share)
- Train: 5 nights (2 berth) - Beijing to Ulaanbaatar (1), Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk (1), Irkutsk to Yekaterinburg (2), Yekaterinburg to Moscow (1)



## Meals

- 20 Breakfasts
- 7 Lunches
- 10 Dinners

Meal times add another layer of cultural intrigue through local flavours customary to each region.

On board, the dining car offers a range of food and drinks. Make sure to hop off at platforms to sample tasty fare from babushkas.



## Transport

- 2 berth train compartments
- All transfers

## People

The true value of travel comes from the people you meet along the way. Exceptional Tour Leaders and Local Guides will keep your journey on track so you can sit back, relax and forge friendships as you unlock the wonders of the world together.



## Terms and conditions

- Minimum group size of 16 required for tour to depart at this price.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$8,500 per person is due within 7 days of booking. Second deposit of \$5500 pp due by 26/10/18. Final payment of \$5478 pp due no later than 23/03/19.
- All tours & prices are subject to availability.
- Prices include flights, taxes & charges as of the 22/01/2018 & are subject to change. Quoted price is based on July 2019 departure from New Zealand.
- Flights and airfares are subject to airline T&Cs
- Prices, itinerary, & inclusions are subject to change without notice.
- All Sundowners Overland and helloworld booking conditions apply. Full T&Cs available upon request.
- Comprehensive travel insurance is compulsory.
- You will require a valid passport and visas for China, Russia and Mongolia.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a suitable level of health and fitness to undertake this journey.

## Airfares

Economy airfares are included, however, don't forget to ask us about Business or First Class options.

## Travel insurance

It's compulsory for all group tours. Cover should include cancellations, healthcare, and personal property.

## Is this your next adventure?

Call the team at helloworld Nelson on 03 548 3300 to reserve your place on this incredible journey.

## Extend your journey

Experience more of China before you embark. Visit the Terracotta Warriors in Xian, pandas in Chengdu, and vibrant city scenes in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Alternatively, keep exploring after your journey for cultural contrasts in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Travel is easy by rail, speak to us about what's possible.



helloworld

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