25-DAY OF GRAND TRAIN JOURNEY TRANS-SIBERIAN & TRANS-MONGOLIAN RUSSIA-MONGOLIA-CHINA

MOSCOW→KAZAN→EKATERIMBURG→NOVOSIBIRSK→KRASNOYARSK→IRKUTSK→ ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA→ BEIJING, CHINA

KEY INFORMATION:

TOUR DURATION: 25 days/ 24 nights

TOUR CODE: SMT-RUSSIAMONGOLIACHINATRAIN-25D

MINIMUM GROUP SIZE: 2/8 adults or more participants.

STARTS IN: Moscow, Russia (*International flights not included).

ENDS IN: Beijing, China (*International flights not included).

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B-Breakfast**, L**-Lunch

Day 1 (Friday). ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Arrival in Moscow **(*flights not included**). Meet and greet and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the specified hotel.

Day 2 (Saturday). MOSCOW
Breakfast. During the panoramic tour of Moscow, the Russian capital, we will see many points of interest: Red Square—one of the largest squares in the world, situated at the foot of the ancient Kremlin walls and famous for Lenin's Mausoleum and St. Basil's Cathedral. You will enjoy a magnificent view from the observation deck at Moscow University. We will also visit the famous Moscow Metro, considered the most beautiful in the world. For the first time in history, an entire underground railway system was designed as a unified architectural ensemble. The metro stations are adorned with statues, reliefs, paintings, mosaics, and stained glass. **Lunch.** Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 3 (Sunday). MOSCOW
Breakfast. Visit to the walled Kremlin complex, where you can view and enter some of the cathedrals—the Assumption, the Annunciation, and the Archangel Michael—that make up Cathedral Square. **Lunch.** Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 4 (Monday). MOSCOW/KAZAN
Breakfast. In the afternoon, transfer to the train station for the overnight train to Kazan (scheduled **train No. 024M, 23:08–10:45, or similar**). Overnight on the train. **(B)**

Day 5 (Tuesday). ARRIVAL IN KAZAN
Arrival in Kazan—a city in the Russian Federation located on the banks of the Volga River and the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan. The visit begins with a panoramic tour, allowing you to admire the beauty of the Kazan Kremlin, built by order of Ivan the Terrible on the ruins of the Khans' fortress. In 2000, the Kazan Kremlin was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It encompasses monuments such as the Cathedral of the Annunciation (1561–1562) and the leaning Suyumbike Tower—named after the last queen of Kazan and considered the city's symbol. Your guide will also show you the Qol-Sharif Mosque, Freedom Square, various Orthodox cathedrals and churches, and the Palace of the President of Tatarstan. **Lunch at a restaurant serving Tatar cuisine.** Transfer to the hotel for **check-in**. Free time in the afternoon. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(L)**

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Day 6. (Wednesday). KAZAN/YEKATERINBURG
Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out. Full-day excursion to Sviyazhsk Island. The city's history began on May 24, 1551, when Ivan the Terrible decided to build a wooden fortress on the island. Within just four weeks, Sviyazhsk became a staging base for Russian troops in the war against the Kazan Khanate. The island features historical and cultural monuments such as the Assumption Monastery, Sviyazhsk Cathedral, and the John the Baptist Monastery—which houses the Church of the Trinity, the only remaining building from the original wooden Sviyazhsk. **Lunch.** Transfer to the train station for the overnight train to Yekaterinburg (scheduled **train No. 278, 23:59–16:06, or similar**). Overnight on the train. **(B)(L)**

Day 7. (Thursday). ARRIVAL IN YEKATERINBURG
Arrival in Yekaterinburg. It is a major city in central Russia, situated on the eastern side of the Ural Mountains, which are considered the natural boundary between Europe and Asia. The city was founded on November 7, 1723, by Vasily Tatishchev; its name honors Saint Catherine, the patron saint of Tsar Peter the Great's wife. Yekaterinburg became a key industrial center for the country. Following the Russian Revolution, on July 17, 1918, Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their children—Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia, and the heir to the Russian throne, Alexei—were executed by the Bolsheviks at the Ipatiev House, located near the city. **Lunch at a local restaurant serving Russian cuisine.** Transfer to the hotel and **check-in**. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(B)**

Day 8. (Friday). YEKATERINBURG / NOVOSIBIRSK
Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out. Continuation of the Yekaterinburg tour. Lunch featuring Russian cuisine. We visit the geological museum—home to the largest meteorite collection in the Urals, including specimens from the Moon and Mars—as well as "Ganina Yama," the abandoned mine where the remains of the Russian imperial family were hidden following their assassination; we also enjoy a panoramic view from the Vysotsky Building. Free time to purchase snacks and drinks for the overnight train to Novosibirsk (scheduled **train No. 118/92/70, 21:13–21:08, or similar**). Overnight on the train. **(B)(L)**

Day 9. (Saturday). ARRIVAL IN NOVOSIBIRSK
Arrival in Novosibirsk. It is Russia's third-largest city, after Moscow and St. Petersburg. With a population of 1,511,000 (according to the 2012 census), it is located in the southwestern part of the Siberian Federal District on the banks of the Ob River. It boasts the largest railway station along the Trans-Siberian Railway route. Its name means "New City of Siberia." Between 1893 and 1925, it was known as Novonikolayevsk, named in honor of Tsar Nicholas II. Today, Novosibirsk is a major scientific hub. Transfer to the hotel and **check-in**. Free time in the afternoon. Accommodation at the specified hotel.

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Day 10. (Sunday). NOVOSIBIRSK/KRASNOYARSK
Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out. Visit to Akademgorodok ("Academic Town"), a district featuring 14 research centers, a university, and public buildings, including a visit to the Railway Technology Museum (where locomotives and railcars from various eras are on display). **Lunch at a restaurant featuring taiga cuisine.** The tour continues with a panoramic sightseeing trip, during which you will see Red Street, Lenin Square, and Russia's largest opera and ballet theater (surpassing even Moscow's famous Bolshoi Theatre). You will also visit the Chapel of St. Nicholas—once the symbolic center of the Russian Empire—and St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, considered one of the finest examples of Russian Orthodox church architecture, as well as Siberia's largest library. Free time. At the scheduled time, transfer to the train station for the overnight train to Krasnoyarsk (scheduled **train No. 082, 19:43–07:21; No. 070, 21:48–10:50; or similar**). Overnight on the train. **(B)(L)**

Day 11 (Monday). ARRIVAL IN KRASNOYARSK
Morning arrival in Krasnoyarsk. We begin with a visit to the Stolby Nature Reserve. The trail is approximately 3 km long, offering the chance to enjoy panoramic views and hear stories from the guide about the reserve—a source of pride for Krasnoyarsk**. Lunch at a local restaurant.** In the afternoon, we continue along the forest path to the "Tsar Fish" (Zar Pez) viewpoint. Afterward, we stop at the Divnogorsk embankment and near the Krasnoyarsk Hydroelectric Power Station, the second-largest in Russia. Transfer to the hotel and **check-in**. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(L)**

Day 12. (Tuesday). KRASNOYARSK / IRKUTSK
Breakfast at the hotel. We take a panoramic tour of Krasnoyarsk, including Mira Square—offering an exceptional view of the Yenisei River—the monument to Andrew Dubenskoy, and Karaulnaya Hill, which provides a view of the entire city. We also visit the Paraskeva Pyatnitsa Chapel and stroll through the old streets before being transferred to the train station to continue the journey to Irkutsk (scheduled **train No. 070, 12:36–08:24, or similar**). Overnight on the train. **(B)**

Day 13. (Wednesday). ARRIVAL IN IRKUTSK
Arrival in Irkutsk. Panoramic city tour featuring the historic center, the monument to the explorers of Siberia, the Church of the Apparition of the Virgin, Irkutsk's main street, the monument to Alexander III, and a walk along the Angara River embankment. **Lunch at a local restaurant serving Russian cuisine.** After lunch, a visit to the tourist district known for its traditional wooden houses. Transfer to the hotel, **check-in**, and free time in the afternoon. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(L)**

Day 14. (Thursday). IRKUTSK
Breakfast at the hotel. Excursion to the village of Listvyanka, located on the shores of Lake Baikal, approximately 70 km from Irkutsk. En route, we visit the open-air museum of wooden architecture. Arrival in Listvyanka. **Lunch featuring Lake Baikal fish.** Panoramic tour of the village, including the Shaman Stone (the source of the Angara River), a chairlift ride to the observation point, the Lake Baikal Museum, and the souvenir and fish market. Return to Irkutsk and overnight stay. Accommodation at the specified hotel. **(B)(D)**

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Day 15. (Friday). IRKUTSK/ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA
You will be provided with a breakfast box. Check-out from the hotel. Transfer to the train station. Departure by train to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, at **06:58 AM.** The train journey to Ulaanbaatar takes approximately 23 hours and 40 minutes, covering a distance of between 517 and 1,113 km, depending on the specific route. You will arrive at the Russian border around **19:57.** Border formalities take approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes; simply remain in your cabin. Immigration and customs officers will come to handle the border-crossing process. **Restrooms will remain closed during these crossings.** Afterward, the train will proceed to the Mongolian side and arrive at the Mongolian border after 40 minutes. The procedure is repeated on the Mongolian side (Sukhbaatar): remain in your cabin while inspections are carried out (another hour and 50 minutes). You will receive the Mongolian customs arrival card in advance. Overnight on board the train. **(B)**

Day 16. (Saturday). ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR
The train from Irkutsk (Russia) arrives at the Ulaanbaatar train station **early in the morning, at 06:38 AM**. Meet the **Samar Magic Tours team** at the Ulaanbaatar train station. Currency exchange during the transfer. Transfer from the station to the hotel (approx. 1 hour, depending on traffic). **Early check-in with breakfast are included. 10:00 AM** – Panoramic tour of Ulaanbaatar: visit Gandan, Mongolia's most important Buddhist monastery, which houses a 25-meter-tall Buddha statue. Gandan Monastery was founded in 1809 as the "Yellow Temple." It also houses a library containing the *Gandjuur* Buddhist scriptures (8 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other texts inscribed using nine types of precious stones. It was declared a State Heritage Site in 1994. Continue the tour with visits to the National Museum of History, featuring a rich collection of historical and cultural artifacts ranging from the Stone Age to the present day; the central Sukhbaatar Square; and the Genghis Khan monument complex—built in 2006 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Mongol State (or Mongol Empire) by Genghis Khan (1206–2006)—located facing the Parliament and the seat of the Mongolian government. **01:00 PM** – **Welcome lunch included at a traditional local restaurant. 05:00 PM** – Enjoy a Mongolian folk song and dance performance. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay at the 5-star Holiday Inn or similar. **Dinner not included (at your own expense). (B)(L)**

Day 17 (Sunday). ULAANBAATAR / GENGHIS KHAN EQUESTRIAN STATUE / GORKHI-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK
Breakfast at the hotel. 09:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours team** at the hotel reception. Depart northeast for the 40-meter (approx. 133.3 ft) Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue (55 km/34.2 miles; 2-hour drive, depending on traffic). The statue symbolically points east toward his birthplace. It sits atop the Genghis Khan Statue Complex—a 10-meter (32 ft 10 in) high visitor center featuring 36 columns representing the 36 khans from Genghis to Ligdan Khan. Visitors can walk up through the horse's chest and neck to its head for a panoramic view. Near the statue, there are opportunities for beautiful photos with Kazakhs and their golden eagles, Bactrian camel rides, Mongolian horseback riding across the steppes, and archery (*additional fee payable on-site). Afterward, depart for Gorkhi-Terelj National Park (50 km/31.1 miles; 1-hour drive). Located northeast at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level, the park features towering Mesozoic granite rock formations, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and unique rock shapes—such as Turtle Rock—dating back to the Mesozoic era. It is situated at the foothills of the Khentii Mountains, the region where Genghis Khan was born. It was declared a National Park in 1993 and covers an area of 300,000 hectares. Next, depart for the Great Turtle Rock. There will be a stop for photos, souvenir shopping, and a walk to

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the turtle-shaped rock formation—the symbol of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Lunch included at the Mongolian Cultural Park restaurant. 3:00 PM:** Nomadic performance at the Mongolian Cultural Park. Accommodation at a tourist complex in **Deluxe Gers equipped with an en-suite sink, shower, and toilet.** Dinner is not included (at your own expense). **(B)(L)**

Day 18. (Monday). GORKHI-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / ULAANBAATAR
Breakfast. Free time for independent hiking. **12:00 M** – **Check-out.** Afterward, return to Ulaanbaatar (70 km/44 miles; travel time 2+ hours, depending on traffic upon arrival). **Lunch included at a local restaurant in Ulaanbaatar.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay at the selected and confirmed hotel. Dinner not included (on your own). **(B)(L)**

Day 19. (Tuesday). ULAANBAATAR / AUTHENTIC MONGOLIAN NOMADIC SHOW / ULAANBAATAR
Breakfast at the hotel. 7:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours team** at the hotel reception. Afterward, depart heading west to attend an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show (35 km/22 miles; travel time 2+ hours, depending on traffic upon departure), running from **10:00 AM to 12:00 M**. The Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads, including the herding and use of five types of livestock while migrating from place to place using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. **Traditional Mongolian lunch included at the camp.** Return to Ulaanbaatar (approx. 35 km/22 miles; travel time 2+ hours, depending on traffic upon arrival). Overnight stay at the selected and confirmed hotel. Dinner not included (on your own). **(B)(L)**

Day 20. (Wednesday). GRAND TOUR OF ULAANBAATAR / LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING
Breakfast at the hotel. 10:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours team** at the hotel reception. Next, we will visit the new Genghis (Chinggis) Khaan Museum, which finally opened its doors on October 11, 2022. The museum is designed to showcase the history of Mongol rulers, spanning from the reign of the Xiongnu (Hunnu) leader Modun Shanyu to the abdication of the Eighth Jebtsundamba. The Genghis (Chinggis) Khaan National Museum has been named one of the "20 Must-Visit Museums" by National Geographic; this "Best of the World" list is compiled annually by National Geographic editors. Afterward, we will visit a shop at a pure Mongolian cashmere factory for some last-minute shopping. Next, we will visit the Zaisan Memorial, a monument located south of the capital, Ulaanbaatar. We will also visit the Golden Buddha Statue—standing 75 feet (23 meters) tall—located at the base of the Zaisan Memorial. **01:00 PM** – **Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Time for some Mongolian souvenir shopping at the main department store (State Department Store). Transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay at the selected and confirmed hotel. Dinner not included (on your own). **(B)(L)**

Day 21. (Thursday). ULAANBAATAR / BEIJING
Picnic-style breakfast (to go). 06:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours team** at the hotel reception. Transfer to the Ulaanbaatar train station. **Train departure at 07:30 AM.** The train journey from Ulaanbaatar to Beijing typically takes about 31 hours. The direct K24 service operates weekly (***departing from Ulaanbaatar on Thursdays**) and covers a distance of approximately 1,500 km, crossing the Mongolia-China border at Zamyn-Uud/Erlian and offering the classic Trans-Mongolian experience. Overnight on board the train. **(D)**

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Day 22. (Friday). ARRIVAL IN BEIJING, CHINA
Arrival at the Beijing train station at **12:15 PM**. Meet and greet, followed by a transfer to the hotel. Time to rest. Overnight stay at the 5-star Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel or similar.

Day 23. (Saturday). GRAND TOUR OF BEIJING
Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, we will visit the Summer Palace—the former summer retreat of the Qing Dynasty imperial family—and a pearl workshop. Next, we will stop at the Olympic Park to view the main stadiums from the 2008 Olympic Games (exterior view only; no entry into the venues), such as the "Bird's Nest" (main stadium) and the "Water Cube" (aquatic center). **Lunch included.** In the afternoon, we will visit the Great Wall of China (Juyongguan Pass)—one of the oldest and most magnificent man-made structures in the world—located 70 km from Beijing. Return to the hotel. Overnight stay at the 5-star Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel or similar. Dinner not included (on your own). **(B)(L)**

Day 24. (Sunday). GRAND TOUR OF BEIJING
Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will visit: Tiananmen Square, one of the largest squares in the world; the Imperial Palace, known as the "Forbidden City"; the Temple of Heaven, built in 1420 and covering an area of 267 hectares; and a Chinese tea house. **Lunch included.** Before returning to the hotel, we will enjoy a foot massage to relieve travel fatigue. Return to the hotel. Overnight stay at the 5-star Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel or similar. Dinner not included (on your own). **(D)(A)**

Day 25 (Monday). DEPARTURE FROM CHINA OR POST TOUR
Breakfast at the hotel. **Rooms must be vacated by 12:00 M on the day of departure.** Transfer to the airport (*__flights excluded__). **End of services or trip extension (*upon request and with sufficient advance notice).**

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN RUSSIA?

Accommodation in a double or single room:
Moscow (**3** nights), **Kazan** (**1** night), **Yekaterinburg** (**1** night), **Novosibirsk** (**1** night), **Krasnoyarsk** (**1** night), **Irkutsk** (**2** nights).
Local Spanish/English-speaking guide in each city.
Transportation services for sightseeing tours and transfers (car/minivan/minibus).
9 breakfasts as per the itinerary.
10 lunches as per the itinerary.
Overnight train tickets (**economy class**) between cities (**4-berth cabin**).
Sightseeing tours as per the itinerary, including the following entrance fees:
Moscow: Kremlin.
Kazan: Kremlin, Sviyazhsk.
Yekaterinburg: Ganina Yama, Geological Museum, panoramic view from the Vysotsky Building; glass of champagne at the geographical border between Europe and Asia.
Krasnoyarsk: Stolby National Park.
Novosibirsk: Museum of Railway Technology.

NOTE: Please be aware that the tour operator in Russia reserves the right to change the order of visits within Russia.

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WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?

Train tickets from Ulaanbaatar to Beijing, based on accommodation in a **2- or 4-berth sleeper compartment.**
4 nights' accommodation in Ulaanbaatar at the 5-star Holiday Inn or 4-star Premium Palace Hotel (**standard** double/twin room **with breakfast**).
1 night's accommodation at the **Deluxe** Gers Resort (**with private bathroom for 2 or more adults, *subject to your request)** with breakfast, in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park.
Early check-in upon arrival in Ulaanbaatar by train from Irkutsk **with breakfast included.**
Welcome lunch at a traditional local restaurant.
Meals as specified (**6** breakfasts, **5** lunches) with **1** bottle of mineral water per day. All private transfers via tourist bus, tourist van, or similar vehicle (*depending on confirmed group size), with fuel included. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle based on the number of participants; under no circumstances will claims be accepted or refunds issued for this reason.
Spanish/English-speaking local guide throughout the trip.
All entrance fees for the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, as well as monuments, museums, and monasteries.
Admission to a folklore show featuring the fascinating sounds of *khoomi* (throat singing) and Mongolian dances.
Nomad Show at the Mongol Cultural Park.
Authentic Mongolian Nomad Show showcasing the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads: the herding and use of five types of livestock, as well as their migration from place to place using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses.
Service rates include 10% VAT, the 2% Ulaanbaatar municipal tax, and a 5% service charge at hotels in the city of Ulaanbaatar.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TRIP TO CHINA?

3 nights' accommodation at the 5-star Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel (or similar) in a double or triple room, **with breakfast included.**
Meals as specified: **3** breakfasts and **2** lunches at local restaurants.
Transfers and sightseeing tours on a shared-group basis as specified, with service in Spanish.
A complimentary foot massage in Beijing.

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WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN RUSSIA?

International and domestic flights.
Unfortunately, we cannot offer pricing for two-berth sleeping compartments on the trains included in our current quote, as not all of them offer this type of accommodation.
Early hotel check-in.
Late hotel check-out.
Meals and drinks on trains.
Rescue costs or expenses related to early departure.
Change of departure date.
Tips/gratuities.
Insurance.
Personal expenses.
Any item not mentioned in the itinerary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?

Flights.
Occasional flight delays or cancellations.
Early hotel check-in.
Late hotel check-out.
Single supplement for hotels.
Single supplement for *Ger* accommodation.
Excess baggage in our vehicles.
Visa.
Meals and drinks on the Ulaanbaatar-Beijing train.
Rescue costs or expenses related to early departure.
Change of departure date from Ulaanbaatar.
The traveler is responsible for having the proper travel documentation, such as a valid passport and the required passport photos.
Travel insurance.
Personal expenses such as tips for hotel porters, telephone charges, laundry, drinks, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.
Circumstances beyond our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.

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WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN CHINA?

International flights.
Occasional flight delays or cancellations.
Visa fees and processing (if required).
Single accommodation.
Early hotel check-in.
Late hotel check-out.
Meals and drinks on the Ulaanbaatar-Beijing train.
Drinks during lunch.
Personal expenses and gratuities.
Travel insurance.
Gratuities in Beijing.
Rescue or early departure costs.
Circumstances beyond our control, such as quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS IN MONGOLIA:

Listen to the fascinating sounds of *khoomi* throat singing during a traditional dance performance.
Visit the massive equestrian statue of Genghis Khan.
Visit Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, located northeast of the capital at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level; the park features towering Mesozoic granite cliffs, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and unique rock formations—such as Turtle Rock—dating back to the Mesozoic era.
Attend a nomadic culture show at the Mongol Cultural Park.
Attend an authentic Mongolian nomadic performance showcasing the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads, including the herding and use of five types of livestock while migrating between locations using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses.
Visit the new Genghis Khan ("Chinggis" Khaan) Museum, which finally opened its doors on October 11, 2022. The museum is designed to showcase the history of Mongol rulers, spanning from the reign of the Xiongnu (Hunnu) leader Modun Shanyu to the abdication of the Eighth Jebtsundamba. The Genghis (Chinggis) Khaan National Museum has been named one of the "20 Must-Visit Museums" by National Geographic in its "Best of the World" list.

HIGHLIGHTS IN CHINA:

Visit the Summer Palace—once a summer retreat for the Qing Dynasty imperial family—and a pearl workshop. Visit to the Olympic Park to see the main venues of the 2008 Olympics from the outside—such as the "Bird's Nest" (the main Olympic stadium) and the "Water Cube" (the swimming venue).
Visit to the Great Wall of China (Juyongguan Pass), one of the world's oldest and most magnificent man-made structures, located 70 km from Beijing.
Visit to Tiananmen Square, one of the largest squares in the world.
Visit to the Imperial Palace, known as the "Forbidden City."
Visit to the Temple of Heaven, a complex built in 1420 covering an area of 267 hectares.
Visit to a Chinese tea house.
A foot massage to relieve travel fatigue.

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PLANNED 4-STAR HOTELS IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW: Safmar Suschevsky Hotel 4*

KAZAN: Grand Kazan Hotel 4*, Bilyar Palace Hotel 4*

YEKATERINBURG: Novotel Center Hotel 4*, Onegin Hotel 4*

NOVOSIBIRSK: Domina Hotel 4*, Cosmos Hotel 4*

KRASNOYARSK: Dom Hotel 4*, Metelitsa Hotel 4*

IRKUTSK: Irkutsk City Center Hotel 4* (formerly Courtyard by Marriott) or similar

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CONTRACTED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

HOTELS	ROOM	LOCATION
HOTEL HOLIDAY INN 5*	**STANDART TWIN ROOM**	**Holiday Inn Hotel 5★** Located a 20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's most important Buddhist monastery, and 1.2 km from Ulaanbaatar's central Sukhbaatar Square. The hotel offers 20 floors, 2 elevators, a restaurant, Wi-Fi, a café on the ground floor, and parking. **Check-in: from 14:00** **Check-out: by 12:00 noon**
PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4*	**STANDART TWIN ROOM**	**Premium Palace Hotel 4 ★** The is located 20 minutes on foot from the Gandan Monastery, the most important in Mongolia, and 2.3 km from Sukhbaatar Central Square. The Premium offers 192 rooms, 2 elevators, 2 restaurants: Yu Long Chinese and buffet breakfast, number of floors: 20, Wi-Fi, gym, CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area. **Check-in: from 14:00** **Check-out: by 12:00 noon**

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ABOUT CABIN ACCOMMODATION IN REGULAR RUSSIAN TRAINS:

4 berths cabin accommodate **4** pax per cabin.
2 Toilets for each carriage, shared among the passengers in **8** cabins
No attached toilet in the cabin.
We will not use the same train for the whole journey.
There is no restaurant wagon on the train between Irkutsk and Ulaanbaatar.
Free flow drinking boiled water in the train, and there is also a microwave in the attendant room. You can ask the attendant to use microwave to heat your food.
There are 2 – 4 power sockets with 220V output in each cabin.
Train cabin usually set at room temperature (Air conditioned).

A 4-bed cabin (Kupe/Second Class) on the Moscow to Ulaanbaatar train offers a budget-friendly, authentic experience with two upper and two lower bunks, a small table, storage, and shared carriage facilities like a toilet, sink, and Samovar for hot water; while not luxurious, it's clean, provides bedding, and allows for social interaction, with the option to book all four bunks for more privacy.

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Cabin Features (Second Class/Kupe)

Bunks: Four berths (two lower, two upper) with ladders to reach the top bunks.
Space: Enough room for luggage under lower bunks and in overhead racks, plus a small table by the window.
Bedding: Clean sheets, pillows, duvets, and blankets are provided.
Privacy: A lockable door secures the compartment, though it's shared with three strangers unless you buy all four berths.
Power: Charging points are usually available near the window.

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Carriage Amenities

Toilet & Sink: A shared toilet and sink are located at the end of each carriage.
Samovar: A constant supply of hot water for tea and coffee is available in the carriage.
Attendants (Provodnik/Provodnitsa): Staff keep the carriage clean and help with services.
Experience & Tips
Social Atmosphere: Sharing with others creates opportunities for conversation and making friends.
Privacy Option: You can book all four berths in a Second-Class cabin for sole occupancy and privacy, similar to a First-Class cabin but potentially cheaper.
Bunk Choice: Lower bunks offer more headroom and are easier to access, while upper bunks give you more personal space during the day.
Amenities: Some trains may lack air conditioning or Wi-Fi, contributing to a "simpler time" feel.

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SECURITY & SAFETY ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN/TRANS-MONGOLIAN TRAIN

Is the trans-Siberian safe to travel?
Russia in particular still has a bit of an image problem with regards to personal safety.
However, once in Russia, and particularly on the trains, most quickly realize that a Trans-Siberian trip is no more 'dangerous' than any rail trip in Europe or North America.

In Russia: On the trains your safety is a top priority for the Provodnik & Provodnitsas who look after your carriage and also for security staff who travel on the trains. If you keep your common-sense hat on you should not have any issues with theft.

Cabins can be locked from the inside by you or from the outside by the conductors on request. At train station stops you are usually only allowed to board the carriage you have a ticket for.

Perhaps the biggest risk is at the start or end of a train journey at the train stations – particularly arriving at stations. Do keep a good eye on your bags and pockets and this applies as much (if not more) to Ulaanbaatar station and all the big stations in Russia where large crowds are the norm.

In Mongolia: **Mongolia is a safe place for tourism**; there are no drugs, assaults, or weapons. However, as anywhere in the world, one must be cautious with pickpockets. It is recommended that upon arrival at the hotel you immediately place in the hotel safe (in the room or at reception): passport, visas, money, documents, valuables, etc., before going out for visits in Ulaanbaatar. Be careful in restaurants, pizzerias, cafés, markets, the central post office, and monasteries, where there are pickpockets.

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MONEY & PAYMENTS ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN/TRANS-MONGOLIAN TRAINS

1. With regard to money on trains there are the following general rules to take into account:

- Only count on being able to use local currency on the train and at stations – it is rare you can pay in USD or Euros these days.
- Don't count on finding any ATMs at the stations even if told they exist - they also currently won't take Western issued cards such as Visa and MasterCard.
- Bring enough money on to the train with you to get you to your next destination.
- Bring a little more than you think you will need!
- You can change money at the borders if you need to.
- You can change or obtain Russian Rubles or Tugriks in Mongolia.

2. Can I pay by card on the Trans-Siberian/Trans-Mongolian Trains?

Inside Russia it is now possible to pay by card on some trains and you can't currently use Western issued cards such as Visa and MasterCard in Russia.

However, as this is a new development there can be a reluctance to take a card payment – particularly from foreigners. For whatever reasons, cash is still insisted on. As payment by card becomes more commonplace, we hope this will change. As ever, if you are going to use a card make sure you let your bank know in advance where you will be travelling or they may put a block on your card.

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PAYMENT TERMS FOR THE GREAT TRAIN JOURNEYS

PRICE: Prices are calculated based on **double standard occupancy** per person at specified hotels or similar, and based on accommodation in a **4**-berth sleeper compartment by trains in Russia. Prices and rates are quoted in in EUROS or in USD and are subject to change.

PLEASE NOTE: A **Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **July 1 to July 20 (Peak Season in Mongolia)**, **when all services and accommodations are fully booked.**

RESERVATION FORM DETAILS:
FULL NAME(S) AND SURNAME(S) (AS WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT):
CITIZENSHIP:
VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:
GENDER:
DATE OF ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND ARRIVAL TIME:
DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM BEIJING, CHINA, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND DEPARTURE TIME:
SELECTED TOUR CODE: SMT-RUSSIAMONGOLIACHINATRAIN-25D

PAYMENT TERMS FOR THE GREAT TRAIN JOURNEYS

- Upon booking the tour package, a **reservation deposit** of 1,000.00€ / US$1,135.00 per person **must be paid immediately via bank transfer**; this must be done at least **185 business days prior to arrival in Moscow.**
- **The final balance** for the trip must be paid via bank transfer at least **125** business days **prior to arrival in Moscow.**
- **Banks in Mongolia do not operate** on **Saturdays, Sundays, or public holidays** such as **March 8, June 1**, or during the **Naadam Festival (July 1–15).**
- Bank transfers take **5** business days to be received.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: If payments **are not made on the indicated dates,** we cannot guarantee the requested services. In such cases, you will need to check the new rates and availability in other hotels.

CANCELLATION POLICY:
245–156 days before arrival: the reservation guarantee is non-refundable.
155–65 days before arrival: 50% refund.
64-0 business days before arrival: 100% cancellation fee – **NO REFUND**.

For air and train ticket cancellations: separate conditions apply. International and domestic air and train fares are subject to modification depending on availability at the time of booking. Air and train fares are only guaranteed once tickets are issued and fully paid. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be cancelled on the same day of issuance.

HOTELS: Rooms may be used from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival and must be vacated before **12:00 noon** on the day of departure.

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CLIMATE CHANGES: Not included in our services. These are external conditions. In such cases, we will do everything possible to find the best available solution. However, no claims will be accepted for the consequences of weather changes, and no refunds will be made.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS: Mongolia is a country where tourist infrastructure is almost non-existent and still in development. Distances are vast, requiring many hours of travel and involving significant fuel costs. The journey is carried out mostly on dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, travellers may spend many hours on the road. A large part of the Mongolian population is still nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their Gers and herds. An occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. To enjoy the trip, travellers must accept these conditions in advance, let go of preconceived notions about how things "should" be, and remain open to what this country has to offer.

FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS: While it is our absolute desire to carry out the trip as detailed in the program, on occasion there may be force majeure circumstances that require modifications. **Samar Magic Tours** is not legally responsible for those force majeure situations beyond the organization's control that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances include possible security risks for travellers, political instability or violence, rebellions or the threat of rebellion, strikes, riots and violent actions, decisions by governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transport, changes in flight or road schedules or routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, and any other circumstances beyond the control of **Samar Magic Tours.**

If, due to exceptional circumstances of force majeure, it becomes necessary to cancel the trip, there is no obligation of compensation. I have read and understood the section on Obligations and Responsibility detailed above in the form, as well as the General Information and Special Booking Conditions set out in the tour information materials, and I accept them on behalf of myself and my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.

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FACT SHEET – MONGOLIA

Currency: The official currency in Mongolia is the Tugrik or Tugrug (T). It comes in banknotes of 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000 Tugrik. It is advisable to bring EUROS or USD and exchange them progressively. Currency exchange can be done at banks and hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

Climate: Known as the land of the blue sky, but its climate is extreme and severe. Siberian winters cover the Gobi Desert with snow until April and keep lakes frozen until May. The rainy season is short, from mid-July to September, with brief and light showers. Nights are cool even in summer.

Approximate temperatures in Mongolia:

Spring:	**May**	[around 14°C daytime, 6º °C nighttime. Occasional rain, generally cool.]
Summer:	**June-August**	[28–30 °C daytime, 18 °C nighttime. Mostly dry with occasional rain.]
Autumn:	**September**.	[21–16 °C daytime, 0 °C nighttime. Dry anc cold.]

Luggage: The lighter the luggage, the better. A soft backpack or travel bag is recommended, plus a small daypack for essentials during the day (camera, skin and lip cream, binoculars, canteen, and flashlight). A raincoat or poncho and a good parka, warm clothes for high places, light cotton clothes, sunglasses, and a cap for midday heat, as well as comfortable footwear, are recommended. Clients are advised to bring binoculars.

Small first-aid kit: mosquito repellent, saline solution, gauze, aspirin, paracetamol.

Electricity: 220V, 50Hz. European round plug.

Clothing: No special requirements regarding dress, just respect local customs.

Photography: The country is one of the most photogenic in the world, with its landscapes, wildlife, culture, and people. Entrance fees to museums, National Parks, and Monasteries are included in the trip according to the program, but photography is not. In many monasteries and temples, photos are not allowed unless you pay the set fee. Always check before taking photos, as notices are written in Cyrillic or Mongolian, often unintelligible for us; once you take a picture, payment is immediate.

Food: The basis of food in Mongolia is meat. Lamb and flour form the base of most meals. The Mongolian diet also includes horse meat. Milk and yogurt have an exquisite though strong flavor. Cow and goat cheese are common.

Milk may not be pasteurized, and some dairy products can therefore be unsafe. It should be boiled, and foods should preferably be consumed cooked. This is the health guideline, but in reality, once you stop at a Ger, guests are always invited to enter and offered aromatic *airag* (fermented mare's milk) and goat, yak, or sheep cheese, all acidic and dry. Refusing would not be polite.

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Shopping: Bargaining is not common in Mongolia. Even bargaining, you won't usually pay less than 70% of the asking price. Some shops offer handicrafts, postcards, and clothing. Also available are carpets, leather and fur products, as well as cashmere and camel hair items. Wooden toys, puzzles, and games, along with oil paintings and watercolors. In the capital's stores, European products are available—expensive, especially in the State Department Store and other new shopping centers—which carry almost anything you may want, both Mongolian and foreign.

Precautions: **Mongolia is a safe place for tourism**; there are no drugs, assaults, or weapons. However, as anywhere in the world, one must be cautious with pickpockets. It is recommended that upon arrival at the hotel you immediately place in the hotel safe (in the room or at reception): passport, visas, money, documents, valuables, etc., before going out for visits in Ulaanbaatar. Be careful in restaurants, pizzerias, cafés, markets, the central post office, and monasteries, where there are pickpockets.

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