

Itinerary & Inclusions

16 days Vladivostok to Moscow *Essentials*



Destination	Vladivostok to Moscow (Year-Round)
Travel Dates	16 Days – Starts Wed, Fri, Sun from Vladivostok



Vladivostok (“Ruler-Of-The-East”) was historically Russia’s principle Pacific-Coast port. Before the days of the Trans-Sib, there was almost no communication between the European and Asian ends of Russia, and the only transportation was by ship through the Arctic in summer. Vladivostok is a small but charming city with a slightly non-Russian atmosphere – the “sea-side” location, pleasant climate, and proximity to Japan and Korea lend it a cheerfully cosmopolitan character. It is, however, a small town, and sightseeing is fairly limited. Nightlife and eating-out is not, though – the city prefers its pleasures in large portions!

Airport to Hotel

Arrive Vladivostok

On arrival at Vladivostok Airport a local representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall. Private car transfer to your accommodation.

Primorye Hotel



1 x Standard Room with breakfast, includes late check out

Check In: Day 1
Check Out: Day 2

Day 2

Vladivostok City Tour

Walking - 3 hours

Start: 10:00am



You will be met in the hotel reception by your English-speaking guide. Enjoy a 3-hour guided city tour. Highlights include Vladivostok Railway Station, Central Square, Svetlanskaya Street, Eagles Nest Mount lookout and entrance to the c-56 Submarine Museum.

**Please make your own way to Vladivostok Station for your departure train.
Walking directions enclosed.**



Vladivostok to Irkutsk – Rossiya Train, 2 or 4 berth

Departure: Day 2 @ 7:10pm

Arrival: Day 5 @ 3:51pm

Day 5

Listvyanka

Irkutsk Station to Listvyanka

Irkutsk Station to Listvyanka

On arrival at Irkutsk Railway Station a local representative will be waiting for you on the platform. Shared vehicle transfer to your accommodation in Listvyanka village on the shores of Lake Baikal.



Baikal is the world's largest stretch of fresh water, and the largest lake on the planet. Formed by plate tectonic movements of the earth's molten crust, it's a unique environment where species long extinct elsewhere have their strange existence. Baikal has the only freshwater seals in the world – nerpa nerpa – stranded here thousands of miles from the sea. Still odder is the strange golomka, which lives at such depths – Baikal is the world's deepest lake, over a mile to the bottom – that it explodes due to pressure-change if netted and dragged to the surface. Some of the animals, fish, algae and plants found in Lake Baikal are unique – and as you gaze over this vast expanse of water you sense it may contain much more than has so far been discovered. Lake Baikal was the biggest problem that faced the Trans-Siberian Railway builders – its huge size (40 miles across) lay directly in the path of the railroad. Their first solution was a steamer accommodating the entire train, and ferrying it safely to the other side – but winter temperatures forced them to lay tracks directly over the pack-ice when the Lake wasn't navigable. Having lost several locos through holes in the ice (there are a few warm springs down there..) the Circum-Baikal Line was built.

Baikal Chalet

1 x Twin with breakfast



Check In: Day 5

Check Out: Day 7

 Enjoy a Day at Leisure

 Listvyanka to Irkutsk
Hotel

Listvyanka to Irkutsk Hotel

A local representative will collect you from your accommodation. Shared shuttle minibus transfer to Irkutsk Hotel.



The ‘Paris of Siberia’, For most visitors, Irkutsk is principally the gateway to nearby Lake Baikal. However, its charming streets with old wooden houses suggest an era when the journey here was not cosy nights in the starched sheets of a sleeper-wagon – but over a month of frost-bitten misery, desperate conditions, and nights in flea-bitten roadside taverns... and Irkutsk the welcoming comfort of a substantial city after the hideous journey.

Victoria Hotel

1 x Standard Room with breakfast



Check In: Day 7

Check Out: Day 8

 Enjoy a Day at Leisure

Hotel to Station

Depart Irkutsk

Pick Up: 3:00pm

You will be met in the hotel reception by a local representative and transferred by private car to Irkutsk Railway Station for your departing train.



Irkutsk to Ekaterinburg - Train, 4 berth share or buy out

Departure: Day 8 @ 5:00pm

Arrival: Day 10 @ 10:05pm

Day 10

Ekaterinburg



Including Ekaterinburg in a holiday itinerary would have been an impossibility in the not too distant past – hidden away in the heart of the Urals, it has been the backdrop for things which Russia wanted to keep quiet – including some very dark moments in Russia’s history. Now of course you can travel there by train, and discover this fascinating city on your great Russian adventure.

Station to Hotel

Arrive Ekaterinburg

On arrival at Ekaterinburg Railway Station a local representative will be waiting for you on the platform. Private car transfer to your centrally located hotel.

Chekhov Hotel

1 x Standard room with breakfast, Double

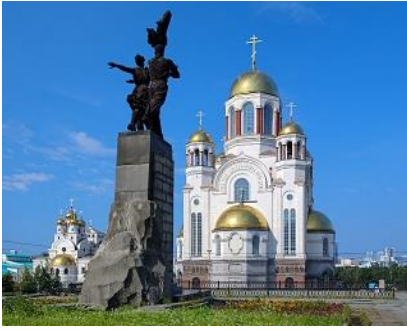
Check In: Day 10

Check Out: Day 13



City Tour of Ekaterinburg

Walking - 3 hours



You will be met in the hotel reception by an English-speaking guide. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Ekaterinburg. On this tour your guide will lead you through the historical center of the city. You will see statues of Ekaterinburg's founders and communist leaders, and the guide will tell you some local stories, legends and jokes, related to them. On the 1905 Revolution square you will view all the history of the city on the ancient pictures shown by our guide. There will be an opportunity to visit splendid Church of Spilled Blood at the Romanovs' Death Site and the Chapel of St. Elizabeth. You will observe beautiful views of Ekaterinburg and the City Pond from an embankment and from the Hill of Ascension. The sorrowful Afghanistan memorial at the Square of Red Army, gorgeous villas of Urals "gold merchants" of 19th century and monumental buildings in "Stalin's neoclassicism" style are to survey, too.

Enjoy a Day at Leisure

Hotel to Station

Depart Ekaterinburg

You will be met in the hotel reception by a local representative and transferred by private car to Ekaterinburg Railway Station for your departing train.



Ekaterinburg to Moscow - Overnight Train, 2 or 4 berth

Departure: Day 13 @ 10:12am**Arrival:** Day 14 @ 9:23am



Moscow took over the role of Russia's capital when the Mongols razed Kiev to the ground in the Middle Ages... its famous gold onion-domes have the image of Russia you'll barely in St Petersburg. Much of Moscow still bears witness to those early days. The Kremlin is a huge 15th century citadel built when marauding Mongolian troops were still a real menace. Its enormous fortified walls guard the ancient Kremlin Cathedrals within, once the centrepiece of the Russian Orthodox Church – and now once again restored to religious use. The colossal Treasure of the Russian Tsars is now on view within the Kremlin too, securely displayed in the former Armoury Chamber. Muscovites are addicted to pleasure, and the city overflows with stupendous restaurants, bars, clubs, & coffee-shops. Winter was always the holiday-time in Russia (too cold to work outdoors on building or farming) and with that came theatres – Russians love a show, and the Bolshoi Theatre is world famous (opera & ballet, on their "No 2" stage whilst the main theatre's being rebuilt). Come in winter to see Russians at play (theatres shut in summer here!), or in summer take a stroll in the Botanical Gardens? Muscovites love to party, and the wild nightclubs or chic bars open until very late, year-round.

Station to Hotel

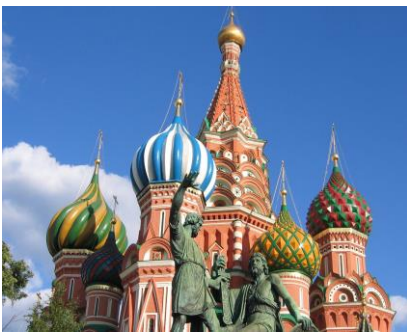
Arrive Moscow

On arrival at Moscow Railway Station a local representative will be waiting for you on the platform. Private car transfer to your centrally located hotel.

Walking Tour

Moscow - 3 hours

Start: 11:00am



You will be met in the hotel reception by your English-speaking guide. Enjoy a 3-hour guided walk around the city centre. Highlights include Red Square, GUM Department Store and the Bolshoi Theatre. Entrance fees payable direct.

Assambleya Nikitskaya Hotel

1 x Standard with breakfast, Double



Check In: Day 14
Check Out: Day 16

Day 15

Moscow

Enjoy a Day at Leisure

Day 16

Please make your own way to the airport for departure flight.