

# WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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## The Trans Siberian Railway by Private Train from Beijing to Moscow aboard the *Tsar's Gold Trans-Siberian Express*

**17 DAYS/16 NIGHTS – August 2-18, 2014**

**Optional Post-Tour to St. Petersburg - August 18-21, 2014**

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a tour by pedicab through the hutongs and get a glimpse of what Beijing was like for hundreds of years.
- Stand under the largest Lenin head in the world in Ulan Ude, Siberia.
- Ride around the tip of UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal on the fantastically scenic Old Railway, the original alternative to ferrying the train cars and passengers across the lake.
- Experience four UNESCO World Heritage attractions off-train.
- Make a stop at Ekaterinburg, to visit the impressive memorial church built where the last czar and his family were executed.

*This epic journey carries you across far-flung and unfamiliar territory on a comfortable, self-contained private train, stopping in small towns and regional centers to sample an incredible variety of experiences in three fascinating countries. Board the Chinese train in Beijing and travel overnight through the Gobi Desert to Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, for an introduction to nomadic steppe culture. Aboard the Tsar's Gold, roll along the tracks of the world-famous Trans-Siberian Railway through Russia's vast taiga forest, skirting great Lake Baikal, the deepest and most ancient lake on earth, and ending in Moscow, center of Russian politics, power and prestige.*



### Days 1-4: Beijing

Explore the classic sites of Beijing, including the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, and discover the ancient alleyways, or *hutongs*, by pedicab. Travel outside the city to visit the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. Board the Chinese charter train for the one-night ride to the Mongolian border. (2B, 2L, 3D – Regent Beijing)

### Days 5-7: Gobi Desert

Ulaanbaatar Transfer to the Tsar's Gold private train at the Mongolian border, continuing through the great Gobi Desert and on to the open steppe of Mongolia. Spend a night at a hotel in Ulaanbaatar and survey the imposing Gandan Buddhist Monastery. Make a stop at the giant 131-foot stainless-steel-clad equestrian statue of Genghis Khan and enjoy a throat-singing

performance as well as a display of Mongolian horsemanship. (B, L, D – Ulaanbaatar Hotel)

### Days 8-10: Ulan Ude, Lake Baikal, Irkutsk

Reboard the train and continue into Russia. Spend some time in Ulan Ude, where the world's biggest Lenin head sits in the main square. Take a short boat ride on UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, the deepest and oldest lake on Earth, and skirt its shore on the old Circumbaikal Railway, the original line used by the Trans-Siberian Railway. Transfer to a hotel for a night in Irkutsk, and get to know this important Siberian way station for expeditions and exiles, enjoying a private concert at the Decembrists Museum. Wander the open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture, a collection of authentic wooden houses and community buildings dating from the 17th to the early 20th century. (B, L, D)

**Days 11-14: Aboard train, Novosibirsk, Ekaterinburg, Kazan**  
In Novosibirsk travelers are met with a traditional Russian bread and salt welcome, and regaled with balalaika music. In Ekaterinburg, visit the Church on the Blood, built on the spot where the tsar and his family were killed in 1918. A tour of Kazan includes its UNESCO-listed kremlin, originally a fortress of the Golden Horde. (B, L, D)

**Days 15-17: Moscow**

Transfer to a centrally-located hotel and begin an exploration of Moscow, including a tour of the dignified Kremlin. Visit the Space Exploration Museum and enjoy a short lecture from a cosmonaut before this epic journey comes to an end. (B, L, D – *Marriott Grand Hotel*)

**Study Leader: Lamar Cecil**



We are pleased to be joined by Lamar Cecil, the former William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of History at W&L, specializing in European and Russian history. Lamar is the author of numerous books and articles, including his award winning two-volume biography of Kaiser Wilhelm II. He has led a great many W&L Traveller programs in Europe, Russia, and the Mediterranean and is a veteran teacher of W&L's Alumni Colleges, lecturing on a variety of topics from 19th-century Europe to the history of Imperial Russia. Lamar and his wife, Geri, have recently escorted W&L Traveller programs on the Danube, Rhine, Moselle, Volga, and Elbe rivers and the Mediterranean and Baltic Seas.

**Optional St. Petersburg Post Tour**

**Days 17-20: St. Petersburg and environs**

Spend three nights in Peter the Great's visionary city, the World Heritage Site of St. Petersburg, admiring the art and artifacts in the world-class Hermitage Museum, cruising the city's canals, visiting Peter's favorite residence, Monplaisir, at the gorgeous country estate of Peterhof, and appreciating the luminous Amber Room at Catherine's Palace. (4B, 2L, 2 D – *Helvetia Hotel*)



**FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:**

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## The Trans Siberian Railway

aboard the *Tsar's Gold Private Train*

**August 2-18, 2014**

(depart from US and program end date)

**Cost Per Person Double Occupancy**

Standard Superior Plus - \$12,795

Nostalgic Comfort - \$13,995

Bolshoi - \$17,895

Bolshoi Platinum - \$20,495

**Single Supplement**

Standard Superior Plus - \$3,590

Nostalgic Comfort - \$5,790

Bolshoi - \$7,990

Bolshoi Platinum - \$8,690

**Deposit - \$1,000**

**Estimated Airfare**

Economy to/from Washington DC - approximately \$1,600, subject to change

**Cost Includes:** All accommodation, hotel taxes; Meals per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner); Group arrival/departure transfers for passengers arriving/departing on scheduled start/end days; All land transportation per itinerary; Special cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees; Welcome and farewell receptions; Services of a tour manager throughout the land program; Gratuities to tour manager, guides and drivers; Comprehensive pre-departure packet

**Not Included:** International airfare; air taxes or fuel surcharges; gratuities to the train staff, and car attendants; pre- or post-tour services; visa or passport fees; medical and trip interruption insurance; evacuation costs; food or beverages not included in group meals; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included; On board *Tsar's Gold* train, drinks in the bar, and food and beverages in the cabins (except water) are for cash payment only.

**Cancellation Policy**

All cancellations must be made in writing to Washington & Lee University and the following cancellation charges will apply: Cancellations received 91 or more days before departure, deposits paid or due in full of \$1,000 per person; those received 61 days to 90 days before departure, 50% of land tour cost per person; those received 60 days or less before departure, no refund. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the full tour for any reason at all.





## About The Trains

### One night aboard Chinese Train (from Beijing to Erlian border with Mongolia)

For the approximately 16-hour overnight journey between Beijing and Erlian (Chinese/ Mongolian border where the rail gauge changes), guests travel aboard a chartered Chinese train. All cabins are similar to the Standard Plus category and accommodate two passengers. There are no Bolshoi, Bolshoi Platinum or Nostalgic Comfort type cabins on the Chinese train. The number of cabins available for single occupancy is limited; therefore single occupancy for travelers booked in Standard Plus, Standard Plus NEW or Nostalgic Comfort Class, is not guaranteed for this overnight travel segment.

### The Tsar's Gold Private Train (from Mongolian border to Moscow)

The *Tsar's Gold* train is a comfortable, though not luxurious, private train, which can accommodate up to 200 passengers. Average group sizes can range from 120-180 passengers.

## Train Accommodations

Seven styles of accommodation are available aboard the *Tsar's Gold* for the journey between Erlian and Moscow: Bolshoi Platinum Class (en suite), Bolshoi Class (en suite), Nostalgic Comfort Class (shower for every two cabins), Superior Plus Class (shared facilities), and Superior and Classic (not offered).

### Bolshoi & Bolshoi Platinum Class

Bolshoi Platinum Class cabins are the most comfortable option available on the *Tsar's Gold* private train. There are 5 cabins in each Bolshoi Platinum carriage. Each cabin is outfitted with a shower, WC and washbasin. Cabins are equipped with two convertible upper/lower berths and a window-table.



DAY



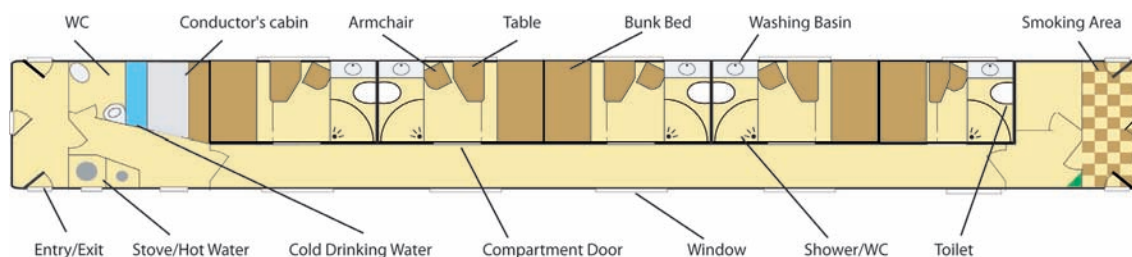
NIGHT



DAY

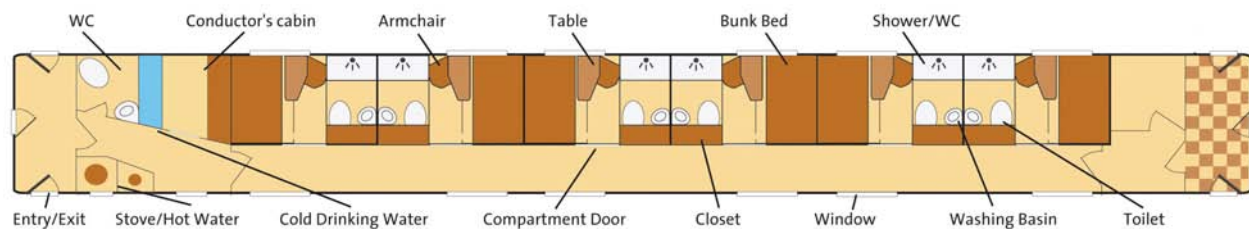
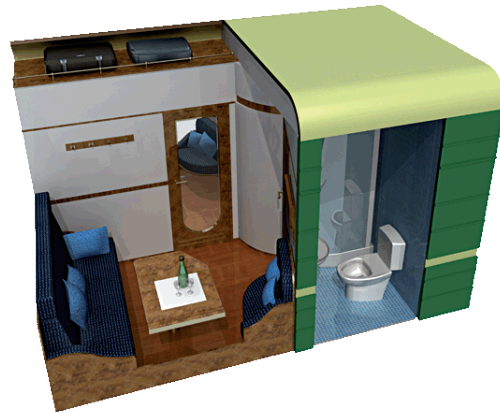


NIGHT



Bolshoi Class cabins feature the same modern en suite amenities as Bolshoi Platinum, but in a smaller space. There are 6 cabins in each Bolshoi carriage. Bolshoi Class cabins are smaller than Bolshoi Platinum cabins but still have en suite facilities, though with a smaller shower area.

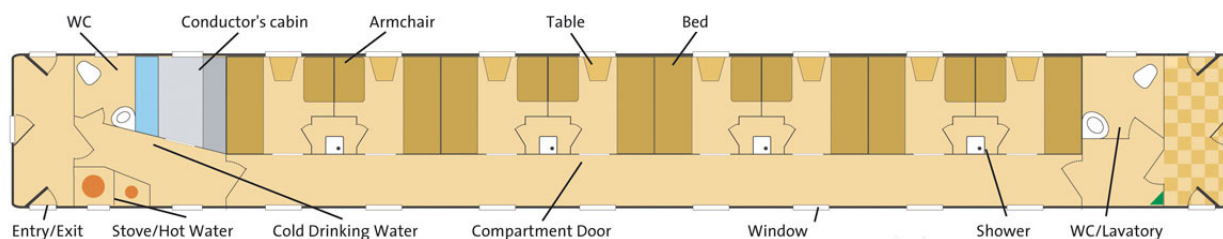
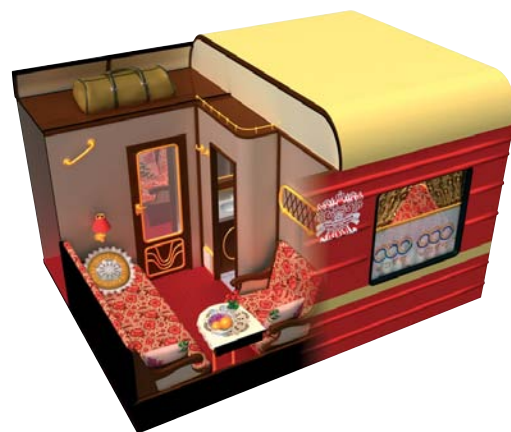
## Bolshoi Class



## Nostalgic Comfort Class

Nostalgic Comfort Class cabins are aboard new cars retrofitted with furnishings reminiscent of the special sleeping cars used by Communist Party leaders in the 1950s. Cabins include convertible upper and lower berths, a comfortable armchair and storage space above the door. A small, basic hand-held shower is shared between each two compartments and a WC is found at each end of the car.

## Nostalgic Comfort Class

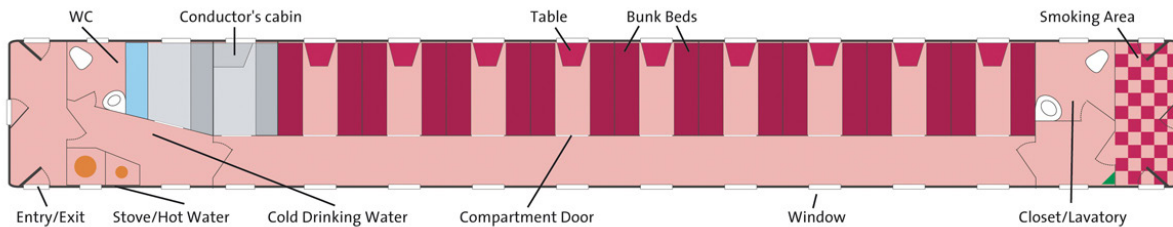
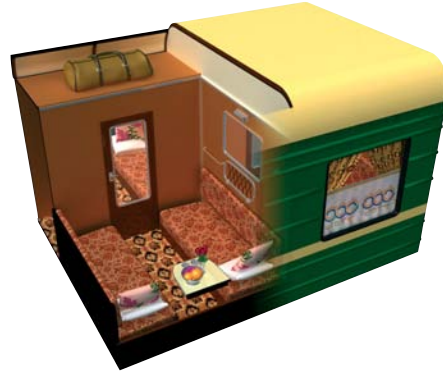




## Superior Plus Class

Superior Plus Class cabins offer comfortable accommodation with twin-berth compartments featuring two lower berths. Beds convert to comfortable sofas for daytime travel and there is storage space under the bunks and above the door in each cabin. A WC is found at each end of the car, and every other car has a shared shower compartment at one end.

### Superior Plus (9th cabin converted to a shower/washroom)



*Please note that a variety of cabin styles are in use aboard the Tsar's Gold train. As not all cars are configured identically, décor and layout of dining and accommodation cars on your journey may differ from the sample images depicted in our catalogs/websites. The train configuration is not fixed and varies depending on the group size.*

## Life Aboard the Train

Travelers from around the world join these tours to experience the legendary rail ride. The majority of travelers aboard the Tsar's Gold train are from German and French speaking European countries such as Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland, contributing to the multi-lingual on board atmosphere. English-speaking guides are provided for English-speaking travelers from the UK, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Canada, the U.S., etc. Enjoy the relaxed and casual environment on and off the train; with no need to wear formal attire on excursions or while dining.

## Dining Cars

Four Dining Cars featuring traditional Russian cuisine can serve up to 200 passengers traveling aboard the Tsar's Gold train. Several of the restaurant cars operate as a bar/lounge after dinner. Water, tea and coffee are included with your meals. A selection of soft drinks, wine, beer and spirits is available for purchase. Please note that not all dining cars may be included in the formation of every departure.

Each sleeping car has two attendants who make up and turn down the beds daily. Drinking water is provided in your cabins, and tea or coffee may be purchased from your cabin attendant for delivery to your cabin on request.

Please return to:

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## The Trans Siberian Railway by Private Train

### WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY • RESERVATION FORM

August 2-18, 2014 (depart from U.S & program end date)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on the August 2-18, 2014 *Tsar's Gold* train.

Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name for Name Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name for Name Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations: ☐ Double ☐ Single

Category

☐ I need assistance in securing a roommate.

☐ Bolshoi Platinum

☐ Please contact me about arranging air travel.

☐ Bolshoi

☐ I/We are Smokers Non-Smokers.

☐ Nostalgic Comfort

☐ Superior Plus

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ 1,000 (per person) payable to MIR Corporation-Trust

Charge my deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,000 per person) to my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_