Trans-Siberia by Rail

AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM VLADIVOSTOK TO MOSCOW

June 16 to July 2, 2017
Get ready for the ride of your life on this epic, 6,000-mile-long journey aboard the luxurious, modern Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express train, traversing the world’s largest country—from her deepwater Pacific seaport of Vladivostok to her cosmopolitan capital, Moscow. We’ll travel through endless miles of Siberian taiga (subarctic evergreen forest); dip down onto the vast Mongolian steppe; view Lake Baikal, the world’s largest body of fresh water; visit the majestic kremlin in the exotic city of Kazan; and end our incredible journey marveling at the iconic façade of St. Basil’s Cathedral on Red Square in Moscow. Along the way, we’ll delve into Russia’s long history, fascinating cultures, politics and economy, and meet her modern-day peoples. All aboard for a fabulous adventure!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

LISTEN to the UNESCO-recognized 17th-century songs of Russia’s Old Believers in a village near Ulan Ude.

EXPLORE the kremlin of Kazan, capital of Tatarstan, with its mix of Orthodox churches and Muslim mosques.

ENJOY a private concert and champagne reception in Irkutsk at the Decembrist House-Museum, home of a once-imprisoned Decembrist activist.

RIDE in modern comfort on the tracks of the czarist-era Old Railway line along the shore of Lake Baikal, the world’s deepest and oldest freshwater lake.

COVER: QOL SHARIF MOSQUE, KAZAN

VILLAGE OF LISTVYANKA, LAKE BAIKAL
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Vladivostok on Saturday. Upon arrival, transfer to our four-star hotel in Vladivostok’s historic center. Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner this evening.  

**Hotel Hyundai (6/17: D)**

**Sunday, June 18**  
**Vladivostok / Embark Trans-Siberian Express**

Due to its strategic importance, Vladivostok was declared off limits to foreigners and most Russians from the post-World War II era until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1992. Visit the Socialist-Realist railway station, the Pacific navy War Memorial, the Fortress Museum and the eagle’s nest observation point. Learn about the city’s original indigenous population at the Arsenyev Regional Museum.

**Trans-Siberian Express** (B,L,D)

**Monday, June 19**  
**Khabarovsk**

Arrive in Khabarovsk, the easternmost point of our journey. Founded by Cossacks in 1685, Khabarovsk was originally a military outpost guarding Russia’s border with China. Visit lively Muravyov-Amursky Street with its 19th-century buildings and the war memorial in Glory Square, dedicated to Russian Far Easterners who were awarded medals for heroism during “The Great Patriotic War” (WWII). At the Natural History Museum, view its collection of indigenous peoples’ artifacts and exhibits about the region’s plants and animals. **Trans-Siberian Express** (B,L,D)

**Tuesday & Wednesday, June 20 & 21**  
**Aboard the Trans-Siberian Express**

Spend two full days onboard our luxury train, reading, relaxing, attending lectures and watching the changing landscape as we skirt the Chinese border and travel toward the Mongolian steppe. **Trans-Siberian Express** (B,L,D—both days)

**Thursday, June 22**  
**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Today visit the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar. Learn about the traditional, and disappearing, nomadic life of the country’s inhabitants at the National History Museum, and at the Museum of Natural History view prehistoric fossils found in the Gobi Desert. Travel outside the city to marvel at the striking mountain scenery of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. **Trans-Siberian Express** (B,L,D)

**Friday, June 23**  
**Ulan Ude, Russia**

Arrive in Ulan Ude, capital of the Republic of Buryatia. Founded by Cossacks in 1666 as a winter encampment, the outpost became a strategic trading center linking Russia with China and Mongolia. Visit the city’s most significant sites, which reflect the unique culture and spiritual beliefs of the Buryat people. Also tour a village of Old Believers, who have preserved their 17th-century clothing, architecture, language and traditions, including their distinctive style of singing. Enjoy a concert of this music, which UNESCO has added to its “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.” **Trans-Siberian Express** (B,L,D)

**Saturday, June 24**  
**Lake Baikal**

Ride through tunnels and around cliffs along the scenic shoreline of Lake Baikal, the world’s deepest and oldest freshwater lake. Have a barbeque at the lake’s edge, and for the adventurous, take a quick dip in its chilling crystalline water. Stop at the lakeside village of Listvyanka and visit a local family’s private home. **Trans-Siberian Express** (B,L,D)

**Sunday, June 25**  
**Irkutsk**

Today admire the classic wooden architecture of the small and cultured city of Irkutsk, a place of exile from the time of Genghis Khan through the Soviet period. At the Decembrist House-Museum, once the home of...
Decembrist Sergei Volkonsky, learn about the history of the unsuccessful 19th-century movement to abolish serfdom and institute reforms. Conclude our time here with a classical music concert and a glass of champagne in Volkonsky’s former drawing room. TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 26
ABOARD THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS
Watch the vast Siberian taiga, or subarctic coniferous forest, pass by from the comfort of our train as we continue our journey across North Asia. TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 27
NOVOSIBIRSK
Stop today at Novosibirsk, a population center that didn’t exist until the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway and has since become Russia’s third-largest city. Visit Lenin Square, site of Novosibirsk’s State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, the largest opera house in Russia and nicknamed the “Siberian Coliseum.” View artifacts of Siberia’s many indigenous peoples at Novosibirsk’s State Museum of Regional Studies. TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28
EKATERINBURG
Transit from Asia to Europe today and arrive at Ekaterinburg, formerly known as Sverdlovsk. Ekaterinburg is perhaps most famed for being the city where the last czar, Nicholas II, and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Visit the Church on the Blood, built between 2000 and 2003 over the site where the czar and his family were murdered. The church was designed in the early-20th-century Russian/Byzantine style favored by the ill-fated czar. TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 29
KAZAN
Explore historic Kazan, capital of the Republic of Tatarstan and a former khanate (principality) of the Mongol Empire. Visit the Kazan kremlin, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is home to both Orthodox churches and Muslim mosques. Tour the Annunciation Cathedral, built by Ivan the Terrible, and the beautifully reconstructed Qol Sharif Mosque, a remarkable synthesis of Tatar and Russian cultures. TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 30
MOSCOW / DISEMBARK
Upon our arrival in Moscow, tour several classic sites of Russia’s capital city, such as Red Square with its colorful St. Basil’s Cathedral and the Novodevichy Convent Cemetery where many Russian dignitaries are buried. Drive by the Bolshoi Theater and the Lubyanka Prison before checking in to our hotel. HOTEL BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JULY 1
MOSCOW
Today we visit the renowned Moscow Kremlin and its Armory Museum. Built in the 16th century as a warehouse for the Kremlin’s weaponry, the Armory now houses Russia’s national treasures, including a collection of Fabergé eggs, the coronation dress of Catherine the Great and the throne of Ivan the Terrible. After lunch, admire the Tretyakov Gallery’s superb collection of Russian fine art. Celebrate the end of our journey at a farewell reception and dinner this evening. HOTEL BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JULY 2
MOSCOW / U.S.
Transfer to the airport this morning for return flights to the U.S. (B)

Post-trip Extension
ST. PETERSBURG
JULY 2 TO 5, 2017 (3 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
Take an express train to St. Petersburg, whose miles of canals have earned this imperial city the nickname, “the Venice of the North.” Visit Catherine’s Palace with its magnificent Amber Room, and Alexander’s Palace, where Czar Nicholas II and his family were under house arrest before being exiled to Siberia. Also explore the magnificent Hermitage Museum, home to one of the largest collections of art in the world.

Details and a full itinerary will be sent to confirmed participants.
Golden Eagle
Trans-Siberian Express

Silver Class Cabins
Silver Class cabins feature modern en suite amenities including power showers and under-floor heating, a DVD/CD player, LCD screen, audio system, individual air conditioning, recessed lighting and wardrobe space. Size: 60 sq. ft., measuring 6’7” x 9’, including the bathroom. Lower berth is 4’ wide; upper berth is 2’9” wide.

Gold Class Cabins
Although they feature the same amenities and en suite facilities as Silver Class cabins, Gold Class Cabins are more spacious and have a larger shower area. Size: 77 sq. ft., measuring 6’7” x 11’8”, including the bathroom. Lower berth is 4’5” wide and can be used as a double bed; upper berth is 2’9” wide.

Imperial Suite
The two Imperial Suites onboard are the equivalent of two Gold Class cabins. A special non-refundable deposit is required to hold an Imperial Suite and special cancellation fees apply. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information please contact Stanford Travel/Study.

Each sleeping car has its own dedicated attendants who provide turn-down service, tea, coffee and mineral water. Towels, bathrobes, slippers and toiletries are provided and onboard laundry service is also available.

The train formation includes sleeping cars and restaurant cars, plus a kitchen, bar, staff, generator and office car. The restaurant cars provide both international and local cuisine, serving three meals a day when passengers are onboard; during some city stops, meals are provided at local restaurants.

Program Cost*

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* Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
** Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.
Information

D A T E S
June 16 to July 2, 2017 (17 days)

S I Z E
This program can accommodate up to 40 Stanford participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability. Please note that the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express can accommodate up to 100 passengers and Stanford Travel/Study will occupy a portion of the cabins onboard. Lectures, select excursions and some special programming will be exclusive to Stanford participants.

I N C L U D E D
3 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations  ■  12-night train journey aboard the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express  ■  15 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 15 dinners  ■  Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions  ■  Gratuities to guides, drivers and train crew for all group activities  ■  All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary  ■  Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days  ■  Train fees and embarkation taxes  ■  Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance  ■  Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information  ■  Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

N O T I N C L U D E D
International and U.S. domestic airfare  ■  Passport and visa fees  ■  Immunization costs  ■  Meals and beverages other than those specified as included  ■  Independent and private transfers  ■  Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance  ■  Excess-baggage charges  ■  Personal items such as internet access, telephone and faxes, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Information on recommended flight itineraries to Vladivostok, Russia, and return from Moscow will be sent to confirmed participants by our designated agent.

W H A T T O E X E P T
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous with many fully scheduled days. Train travel, as well as touring in Russia and Mongolia, can be quite difficult. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, sometimes over cobblestones or on unpaved terrain. Some sites do not allow motor coaches to pull directly in front, thus requiring a several-minutes’ walk to reach the entrance. Train stations and guided tours may require climbing up and down flights of stairs where steps may be steep, uneven and/or without handrails, and elevators are generally unavailable. The train can be very bumpy and noisy; participants should feel comfortable walking without assistance between train cars while the train is moving. Medical care and treatment are not always available or up to U.S. standards. Participants on this program should be fit, active and in excellent health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. A $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?trip=siberia2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid more than the members’ price.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in October 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
KATHRYN STONER, a senior fellow at Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, was on the faculty at Princeton University for nine years prior to coming to Stanford in 2004. She has held fellowships at Harvard University as well as at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. Her main research interests include comparative state building and effective governance, Russian domestic and international politics, and political economy of developing countries. She is currently working on a book titled Resurrected? Russia’s Return as a Global Power, due to be out in early 2018. During our program, Dr. Stoner, who has visited Russia dozens of time in the last 20 years, will discuss the politics and economics of present-day Russia, while drawing upon the country’s rich history.

— At Stanford: senior fellow, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; faculty director, Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies
— Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, and the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.
— BA and MA, political science, University of Toronto
— PhD, government, Harvard University

“I waited 50 years for a trip to Russia. This trip made the long wait worth it.”

GLENN FOWLER, RUSSIAN RIVERS, 2015

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?siberia2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093

KAZAN KREMLIN
Trans-Siberia by Rail

AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM VLADIVOSTOK TO MOSCOW

June 16 to July 2, 2017

alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy

“I keep thinking I’ve been on the best Stanford Travel/Study trip ever, and then the next one turns out to be even better.”

HENRY MULLER, ’68

STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

THE KREMLIN AND THE MOSCOW RIVER, MOSCOW