



The Genghis Khan (eastbound)

Days	Eastbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
15	Moscow to Ulaanbaatar	Russia + Mongolia	6,580 km	●●●●○



Want to do it all but short on time? With this journey, you khan.

Discover Moscow's lively nightlife and ice-cream cone domes dripping in history. Chat to passionate locals as you meander through the Ural Mountains and dense forests of Siberia. Stay in a traditional ger camp in the Mongolian wilderness and venture deep into the endless grassy steppe before returning the hustle and bustle of the unique capital, Ulaanbaatar.

Itinerary

Day 1-2: Moscow

Arrive in Moscow and meet your fellow travellers at 5pm for your Welcome Meeting. Explore Russia's fascinating capital and take in the patchwork of Soviet, Imperial and modern architecture. Take the opportunity to visit Red Square and marvel at the iconic sights of St. Basils Cathedral and the Kremlin. Hop on the beautiful metro (yes, apparently public transport can be a work of art) to the many sights within this vibrant city of 10 million.

Wander in art galleries and parklands, then party like a local with a synonymous serving of vodka and pickles. Try some local fare such as Borsch before hitting a lively venue for late night shenanigans. Whatever you're into, live music, sweaty underground dance parties, luxury cocktails with a view, or something altogether more casual, you'll find it in Russia's capital.

Day 3-6: Trans Siberian Railway: Moscow to Irkutsk

Sit back and relax as you span Siberia. Settle into life on board as you watch the stunning scenery transform outside your window. Get to know your group and experiment with new language skills on unsuspecting locals; with a little inventive sign language, you'll all be laughing in no time. The train will make minor stops along the way, ask how long it's staying before you hop off, stretch your legs and restock on supplies from the platform kiosk.

Days 7-8: Lake Baikal and Irkutsk

Welcome to Russia and onto Siberia's natural wonder. Settle into your shore-side home at Lake Baikal, and soak up the scenery as you take a stroll around the water's edge. As the largest freshwater lake in the world, it holds 20% of the planet's freshwater and seems to stretch on to an infinite horizon. Take a 'refreshing' dip if you're feeling brave, and taste the local cuisine. Sample the locally caught fish, you can eat it raw, smoked or roasted on a BBQ. Ask your honcho about lake activities; they vary throughout the year from ice driving to kayaking or something more relaxing.

You'll feel relaxed and revitalised after your day at the lake, and ready for some city exploring. A town of two tales, Irkutsk began life as a trading outpost and underwent its own revolution when nobility from St. Petersburg were exiled here for their part in the Decembrist Revolt of 1825. The influx of artists, academics and elites created a thriving cultural and educational hub. Today, it's a bustling uni town with a unique style of wooden architecture, well worth a look before climbing back on board the train.

Day 9: Trans Mongolian Railway: Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar

All aboard the Trans Mongolian line, leaving behind the silvery taiga for the vast white steppe. Keep cosy on board and mingle with locals in the dining car.

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 10: Arrive Ulaanbaatar and to Kharkhorin

Arrive into Ulaanbaatar early this morning and head out to visit the ground where Genghis Khan was chosen as the next great leader, you could walk in his actual footsteps. One of the biggest drawcards to the region is the earliest surviving Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia. Erdene Zuu was constructed in 1585 after a meeting with the 3rd Dalai Lama, beginning a declaration of Tibetan Buddhism as the state religion. Between Mongol wars and Soviet purges, it's a shadow of its former self, yet still an impressive sight.

Enjoy a night in a ger camp, and perhaps learn how to build one yourself. Mongols are a roving race and may move their homes up to four times a year, in search of greener pastures for their animals. With a collection of wood, felt and tarp, you'll have it up in no time.

Day 11: Orkhon Valley

We delve further into the steppe to Orkhon waterfall, set in a beautiful location in the Khangai Mountains in the picturesque Orkhon Valley. Established by Zanabazar, the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia and great sculptor, as a place of solitude it soon grew as a significant monastery and place of pilgrimage after his death.

Day 12-13: Bayangobi

Already feeling like true nomads you will have another couple of nights in a ger as we travel out to the Gobi Desert. Settle into your ger camp and enjoy the twinkling canopy of stars. Surrounded by mountains, rivers and grasslands, keep your eyes peeled for foxes, deer, wolves and eagles as you hike part of the Mongol Els, an 80km stretch of colossal dunes. Ask your Honcho about hiring a few camels to go further afield.

Days 14-15: Ulaanbaatar

Heading back to the city, you have a final night to explore Mongolia before your journey concludes. Back in town, get into the spirit of things with a feast of local cuisine and a tasty brew, like Crazy Shaman IPA at Hop & Rocks Brewery – Mongolia's first ever producer of craft beer. Night owls will find plenty to keep them up; from live music venues, beer gardens and chill bars, to pulsing clubs and luxury lounges.

Itinerary (cont.)

Journey Summary

Day 1	Moscow - journey begins	
Day 2	Moscow	
Day 3	Moscow and depart to Irkutsk	Early afternoon departure
Day 4	Onboard train	
Day 5	Onboard train	
Day 6	Onboard train	
Day 7	Arrive Irkutsk and to Lake Baikal	Early morning arrival
Day 8	Return to Irkutsk	
Day 9	Depart to Ulaanbaatar	Morning departure
Day 10	Arrive Ulaanbaatar and to Kharkhorin	Early morning arrival
Day 11	To Orkhon Valley	
Day 12	To Bayangobi	
Day 13	Bayangobi	
Day 14	To Ulaanbaatar	
Day 15	Ulaanbaatar - journey concludes	

WHAT'S INCLUDED



Group size

12 people maximum. Big enough to form a posse, small enough to give you space.



Accommodation nights

4 hostels (shared), 4 ger camp (shared), 5 train (4-berth).



Tickets and transfers

All train tickets are included. Once you have joined the group, most arrival transfers are included.



Sightseeing

With no pre-arranged sightseeing, you have complete freedom to roam. Stay with your group or explore on your own.



Expertise

Our friendly bunch of specialist Travel Advisors are hand to support you with all the essentials, such as travel insurance, flights, Visa applications and destination information.

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