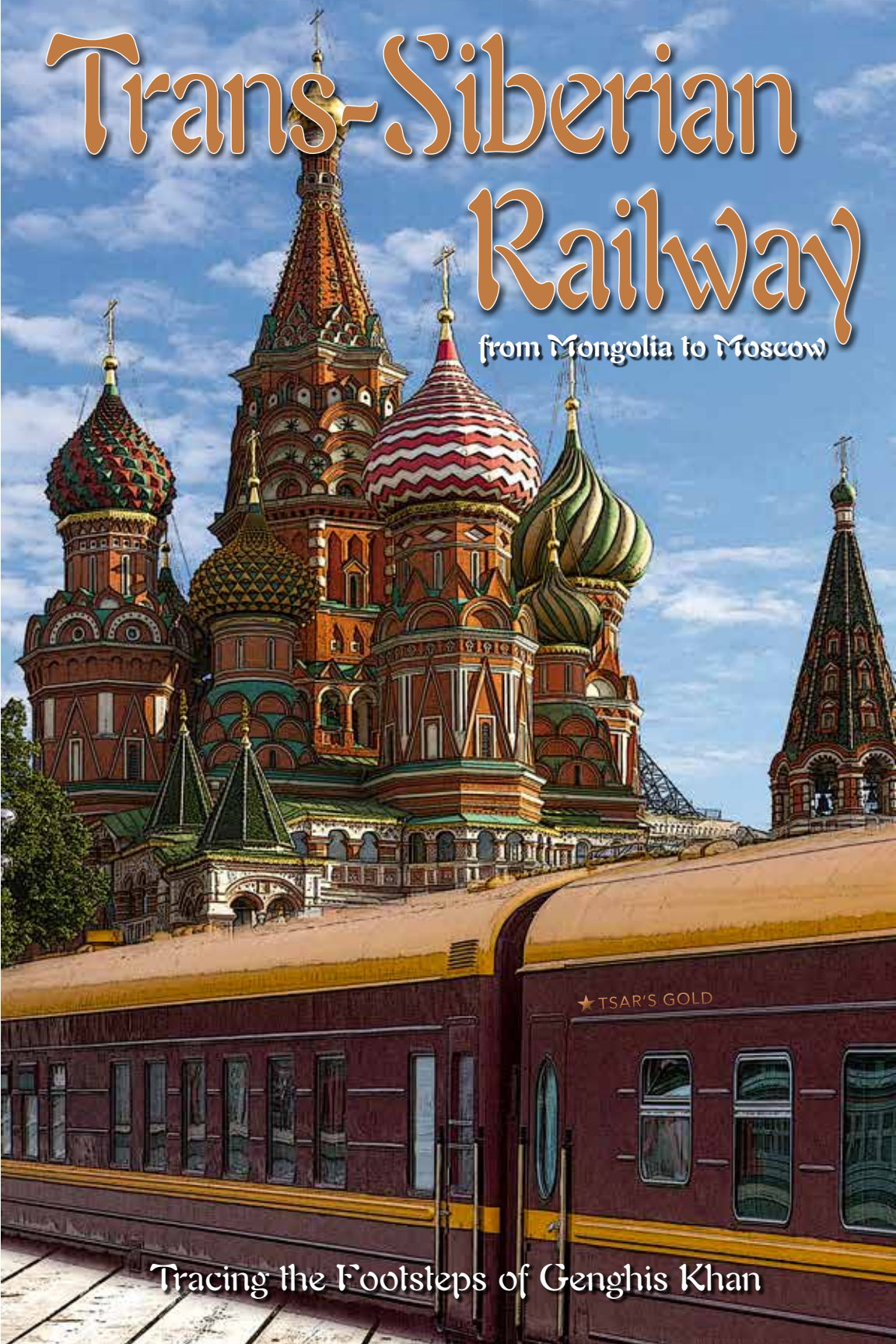
TEXAS EXES®
FLYING LONGHORNS

AUGUST 4-17, 2020

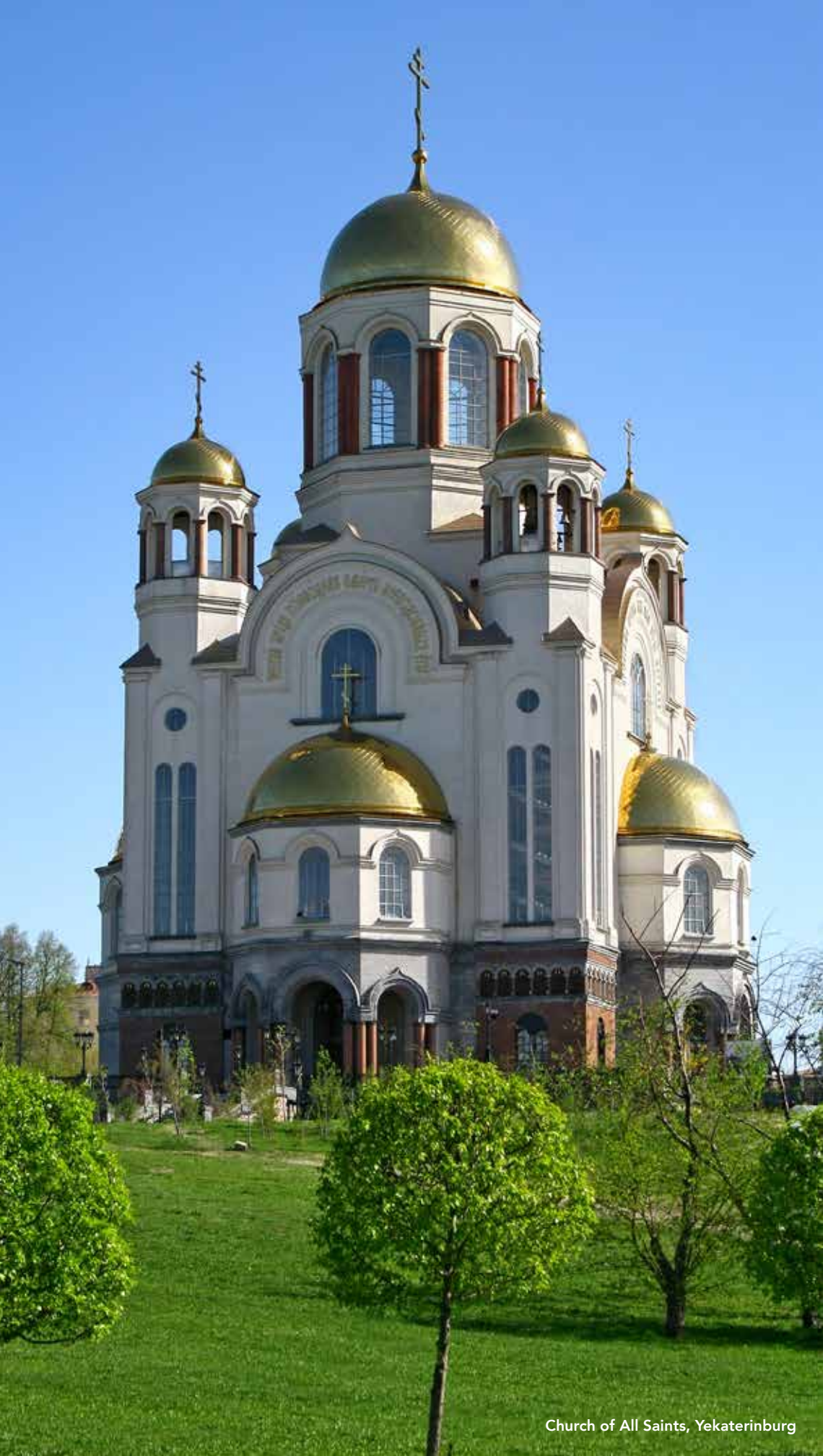
with optional
BEIJING PRE-TOUR &
ST. PETERSBURG POST-TOUR

# Trans-Siberian Railway

## from Mongolia to Moscow




Tracing the Footsteps of Genghis Khan



Church of All Saints, Yekaterinburg

TEXAS EXES
FLYING LONGHORNS

Dear Texas Ex,

Join fellow alumni and friends for an unparalleled journey through history on the Trans-Siberian Railway—a legendary network of rails. Enjoy modern amenities, comfortable lodging, and exciting excursions as you leisurely traverse two continents by private train during this epic adventure—through the Mongolian steppes, along the remote shores of Lake Baikal, and deep into Russia.

With local guides at each stop, explore city highlights like the Choijin Lama Temple and Gandan Monastery, the Okhlopkov Drama Theatre and Taltsy Museum, and Russia's crown jewels: the Kremlin plus a private opening at St. Basil's Cathedral.

Your rail accommodations for this journey are on board the private *Tsar's Gold*, likely the most comfortable way to travel on the Trans-Siberian Railway. During city overnights, relax in the modern comforts of 4- and 5-star properties featuring luxurious amenities, restaurants, and common areas.

This outstanding itinerary is brought to you by the Texas Exes Flying Longhorns travel program, which supports the association's mission of promoting and protecting The University of Texas at Austin and uniting its alumni around the world. While you do not have to be an alumnus of UT to travel with us, we do ask that all Flying Longhorns travelers have an active membership in the Texas Exes. Memberships start at just $60.

The association is a huge proponent of continuing education and there is no better classroom than our world. Experience stunning natural beauty and rich culture in the company of your fellow Longhorns! Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? We're standing by to answer all of your questions and/or take your reservation. Capacity is limited on this popular program and it may sell out quickly.

To secure your spot, contact Shelley Norton at shelley.norton@texasexes.org, 512-840-5628, or 1-800-594-3938. You may fax the included reservation form to her at 512-672-6134.

Best regards,

Shelley Norton
Director of Travel
Flying Longhorns

Janice Garcia
Travel Coordinator
Flying Longhorns

## Free Expedition Library

AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by **October 11, 2019** to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we've assembled for this program.

*This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.*

*Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Starting in 2019, we will annually plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an on-going initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts.*

## *Your 14-Day Itinerary* *(subject to change)*

**Day 1:** En Route from U.S.

**Day 2:** Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (R)
Welcome reception
Overnight: The Blue Sky Hotel and Tower – Ulaanbaatar

**Day 3:** Ulaanbaatar (B,L,D)
Panoramic city tour, Choijin Lama Temple, traditional folk performance
Overnight: The Blue Sky Hotel and Tower – Ulaanbaatar

**Day 4:** Gandan Monastery / Mongolian Alps / Board Trans-Siberian Railway's *Tsar's Gold* (B,L,D)
Buddhist monastery visit, afternoon Yurt picnic, Mongolian horse-riding demonstration, embarkation
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day 5:** Ulan Ude, Russia (B,L,D)
Travel through Selenga River valley, Ulan Ude guided city tour
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day 6:** Lake Baikal (B,L,D)
Photography opportunities, boat excursion, leisure time, lakeside barbecue picnic dinner (weather permitting)
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day 7:** Irkutsk (B,L,D)
Guided tour, Okhlopkov Drama Theatre, Tsar Alexander III memorial, Siberian open air museum
Overnight: Courtyard Irkutsk City Center

**Day 8:** Trans-Siberia (B,L,D)
Travel through eastern Siberia, vodka and caviar tasting on board
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

(R=Reception, B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

**Day 9:** Novosibirsk (B,L,D)
Customary bread and salt welcome, guided city tour
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day 10:** Yekaterinburg (B,L,D)
Panoramic city center tour, Church of All Saints, obelisk monument bordering the Asian and European continents
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day 11:** Kazan (B,L,D)
Tartar mosques, Russian Orthodox cathedral, inside tour of Kazan's Kremlin
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day 12:** Moscow (B,L)
Disembarkation, welcome apertif, Empire Tower inside visit
Overnight: Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow

**Day 13:** Moscow (B,L,D)
Private St. Basil's Cathedral tour, Kremlin visit, Arbat Street, farewell dinner
Overnight: Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow

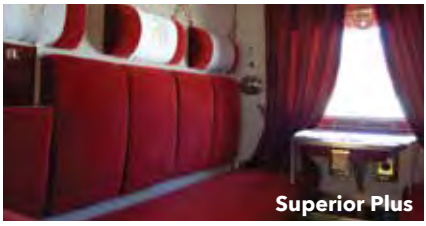
**Day 14:** Moscow / Depart for U.S. (B)

**Activity Level:** Guests should be comfortable boarding and disembarking trains without assistance, walking and moving between cars while train is in motion and navigating steep, narrow stairs to the upper level of the observation car. All hallways are narrow and have handrails, but train travel can be unpredictable and some unexpected movement may occur. Outside activities are generally not very strenuous, however, we expect that guests can enjoy two hours or more of walking, are sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for the disabled may be limited.

Moscow

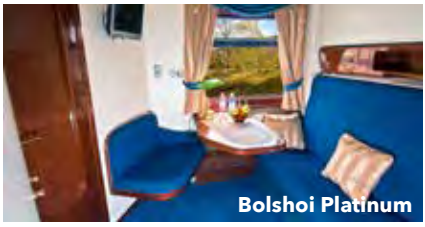
## Program Highlights

- During a city tour of Ulaanbaatar, visit the Choijin Lama Temple before experiencing a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts.
- Travel to the Mongolian Alps to wonder at the majestic landscape and otherworldly rock formations.
- Enjoy an extensive city tour through Ulan Ude.
- Explore Lake Baikal—the largest freshwater reservoir in the world—during a boat excursion followed by a traditional Russian barbecue (weather permitting).
- In Irkutsk, see the Okhlopkov Drama Theatre, the new memorial to Tsar Alexander III, and the market hall during a panoramic city tour.
- Partake in a vodka tasting accompanied by traditional Russian snacks and red caviar while traversing the diverse eastern Siberian countryside.
- While in Yekaterinburg, view the Church of All Saints—built to commemorate the lives lost of Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family in 1918.
- During a tour of Kazan, see the Tartar mosques and the most famous Russian Orthodox cathedral. Also tour Kazan's Kremlin and learn about the turbulent history of the relationship between the Tartars, the Cossacks, and the Russians.
- Meet a local guide in Moscow to explore Red Square, the Kremlin, and the Empire Tower. Also enjoy a private opening at St. Basil's Cathedral before a special lunch at Grand Café Dr. Zhivago.
- **What's Included:** 5 nights hotel accommodations and 7 nights aboard the *Tsar's Gold*; a welcome reception, 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 10 dinners; full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director as well as expert local guides; admission to all activities and tours as described in the 14-day itinerary; private motor coach transportation for sightseeing tours; gratuities for Orbridge Travel Director, onboard guides, drivers, porters, housekeeping staff, *Tsar's Gold* attendants, and wait staff for included meals; airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.


Superior Plus

Bolshoi

Nostalgic Comfort


Bolshoi Platinum

## *Tsar's Gold*

Welcome to a journey full of exciting experiences on board the *Tsar's Gold*.

This private train trip is the most comfortable way to travel on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Khrushchev's "red tsars" were fond of their home comforts, and they liked to travel in style, too. The nostalgic style is maintained while providing guests with modern conveniences.

The *Tsar's Gold* offers pleasant accommodations, thoughtful service, beautiful views, and fresh cuisine designed by onboard chefs using locally sourced ingredients.

*NOTE: There is no internet access on the train.*

**STATEROOM CATEGORIES & CARRIAGE PLANS**

Each stateroom offers individual climate control and a view window. (All dimensions are approximate and may vary according to different technical constructions of cars and staterooms.)

**Superior Plus:** Climate control, view window, two lower beds, and a table. Luggage storage above door. One shared bathroom with toilet and sink located at each end of the Superior Plus car. One shared facility with shower and sink located at one end of the car.

*Stateroom size:* approx. 24 sq. ft.

*Bed size (L x W):* 72.8" x 26.7"

**Stateroom Layout**

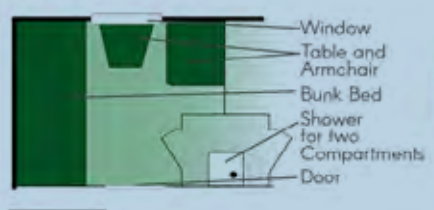
**Car Layout**

**Nostalgic Comfort:** Climate control, view window, upper and lower beds, and a table and armchair. Luggage storage under lower bed. One shared sink and shower between two staterooms. One toilet and sink located at each end of the Nostalgic Comfort car.

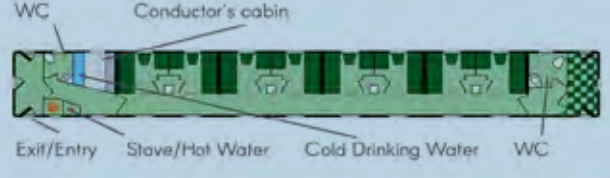
*Stateroom size:* approx. 42 sq. ft.

*Bed size (L x W):* 73.6" x 31.4"

**Stateroom Layout**




**Car Layout**



# *Hotel Accommodations* *(subject to change)*

## THE BLUE SKY HOTEL AND TOWER – ULAANBAATAR

This elegant, luxury hotel offers spacious and exquisitely designed guest rooms with dramatic city views, delectable dining options from Asian to Western, and inviting common areas. Located in the bustling Sukhbaatar District, this property is in the heart of Ulaanbaatar's leading shopping and business area.

## COURTYARD IRKUTSK CITY CENTER

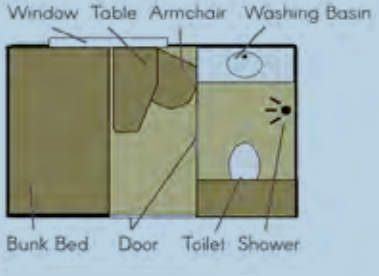
Ideally situated in central Irkutsk, this well-appointed hotel provides convenient access to local sights, and it's just 40 minutes from Lake Baikal. Sip an end-of-day cocktail at the laid back Cedar Bar, and enjoy on-site dining at Mesto Vstrechi, which features Siberian cuisine.

## ARARAT PARK HYATT MOSCOW

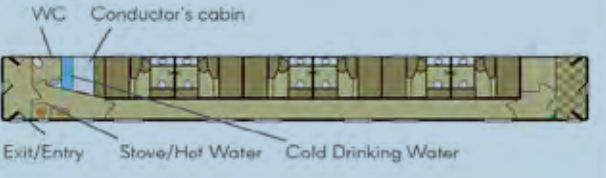
Enjoy the 5-star luxuries and ideal location of Ararat Park Hyatt. The property's world-class facilities include a heated indoor pool, well equipped fitness room, spa, and Roman steam baths. Stop at the Conservatory Lounge and Bar during leisure time to glimpse the amazing views over the city.

**Bolshoi:** Climate control, view window, upper and lower beds, table and armchair, two wardrobes, and small private en suite bathroom with combination shower/toilet. Luggage storage above door.
*Stateroom size:* approx. 60 sq. ft.
*Bed 1 size (L x W):* 72.4" x 47.2" / *Bed 2 size (L x W):* 68.5" x 31.4"
*Wardrobe 1 (H x D x W):* 18.11" x 33.46" x 13.77" / *Wardrobe 2 (H x D x W):* 64.96" x 33.46" x 13.77"

**Stateroom Layout**

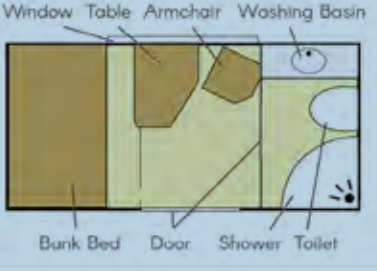



**Car Layout**

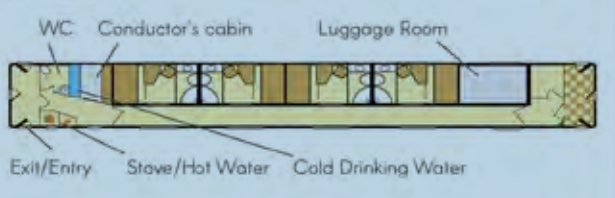



**Bolshoi Platinum:** Climate control, view window, upper and lower beds, table and armchair, two wardrobes, and private en suite bathroom with shower facilities. Luggage storage above door.
*Stateroom size:* approx. 77 sq. ft.
*Bed 1 size (L x W):* 72.4" x 47.2" / Bed 2 size (L x W): 68.5" x 32.2"
*Wardrobe 1 (H x D x W):* 19.68" x 33.46" x 24.01" / *Wardrobe 2 (H x D x W):* 61.41" x 33.46" x 24.01"

**Stateroom Layout**




**Car Layout**



## Optional Pre-Tour: *Beijing*

Visit the political and cultural heart of China—Beijing, an area that blends rich history with modern lifestyles. Embrace the dynamic panorama featuring UNESCO World Heritage Sites, innovative architecture, and an array of impressive cuisine that will pique any palate.

### *Pre-Tour Itinerary* *(subject to change)*

**Day +1:** En Route from U.S.†

**Day +2:** Arrive in Beijing, China
Evening at leisure
Overnight: Capital Hotel

**Day +3:** Beijing (D)
Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square
Overnight: Capital Hotel

**Day +4:** Beijing (B,L,D)
Great Wall of China, Ming Tombs, Sacred Way necropolis
Overnight: Capital Hotel

**Day +5:** Forbidden City / Gobi Desert (B,L,D)
Leisurely exploration, train to Mongolia
Overnight: Onboard Chinese Train

**Day +6:** Gobi Desert / Mongolia (B,L,D)
Border crossing, travel through Gobi Desert and Mongolian steppes
Overnight: *Tsar's Gold*

**Day +7:** Ulaanbaatar / Main Program (B)
After breakfast, join guests on the main program

### *What's Included*

- 3 nights accommodations at Capital Hotel (or similar), 1 night aboard a Chinese train, and 1 night aboard the *Tsar's Gold*
- 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 4 dinners
- Guided Beijing city tour including Tiananmen Square
- Admission to Great Wall of China
- Visit to Ming Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Train transport with lodging between China and Mongolia
- Porter service while transferring between the Chinese Train and the *Tsar's Gold*
- Group airport transfer for guests arriving during the suggested times

*†NOTE: Travel time from the U.S. may take up to two days depending on flight schedules.*

## Optional Post-Tour: *St. Petersburg*

Extend your adventure to explore St. Petersburg, referred to as *the Venice of the North* with its more than 300 bridges. This cultural capital of Russia seamlessly blends past and present—the UNESCO World Heritage Site of its historic city center, rich with untouched 18th and 19th century architecture, provides an unrivaled backdrop for modern events like contemporary art exhibits, music festivals, and theater performances. St. Petersburg is a bucket-list location for anyone interested in Russian history, culture, and sightseeing.

### *Post-Tour Itinerary* *(subject to change)*

**Day 14:** Depart Moscow / Arrive in St. Petersburg
Afternoon at leisure, Russian Vodka Museum
Overnight: Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

**Day 15:** St. Petersburg (B)
Exclusive State Hermitage tour, Nevsky Prospekt, Kazan Cathedral, the Winter Palace, Vasilievsky Island, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Peter and Paul Fortress, leisure time
Overnight: Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

**Day 16:** St. Petersburg / Tsarskoe Selo / Pushkin (B,L)
Summer Palace, Pavlovsk, optional Matryoshka painting excursion (additional fee)
Overnight: Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

**Day 17:** St. Petersburg / Depart for U.S. (B)
After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to Pulkovo International Airport for flights home

### *What's Included*

- High-speed train transfer in Business Class from Moscow to St. Petersburg
- Three nights accommodations at Belmond Grand Hotel Europe (or similar) with breakfast each morning
- Special log cabin lunch
- Guided tour and tasting at the Russian Vodka Museum
- Private guided tour of the State Hermitage
- Visit to the Summer Palace as well as Pavlovsk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Group transfers for guests departing during the suggested times

TEXAS EXES
FLYING LONGHORNS

# Trans-Siberian Railway

**AUGUST 4-17, 2020**

Beijing Pre-Tour: July 31 - August 6, 2020

St. Petersburg Post-Tour: August 17-20, 2020

Please contact Shelley Norton with your questions or to make a reservation: shelley.norton@texasexes.org, 512-840-5628, or 1-800-594-3938. Or you may fax the enclosed reservation form to her at 512-672-6134.

| Stateroom Category | Standard Rate | Special Rate* |
|---|---|---|
| Superior Plus | ~~$10,399~~ | $ 9,995 |
| Nostalgic Comfort | ~~$13,399~~ | $12,995 |
| Bolshoi | ~~$16,399~~ | $15,995 |
| Bolshoi Platinum | ~~$18,399~~ | $17,995 |
| Single (Superior Plus) | ~~$17,399~~ | $16,995 |

**Beijing Pre-Tour:** $1,995* / Single $2,895

**St. Petersburg Post-Tour:** $2,995* / Single $3,895

## GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Name (as preferred on badge): _____

Email: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Name (as preferred on badge): _____

Email: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

## DEPOSIT:

# _____ guests joining program ($2,500/person) **+**

# _____ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) **+**

# _____ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: $** _____

CUT HERE

## DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Card Type ❑ Online Check/ACH ❑ MasterCard/Visa ❑ American Express ❑ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

**I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and detailed in program documents; and that Orbridge LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.**

Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, that is, on or before May 6, 2020.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Mail or fax reservation form and deposit to:** Texas Exes
P.O. Box 7278, Austin, TX 78713
512-672-6134

Additional information about Flying Longhorns trips may be found at www.TexasExes.org/Travel.

**Registration, Deposits and Final Payment.** To secure your reservation, a deposit of $2,500 per person plus $500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour, payable by check, ACH, money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card, is due at the time of registration. Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour and optional excursion(s) fee(s), is payable by check, ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, and is due no later than 150 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the program's scheduled departure date, the full cost of the program, plus any pre-tour and/or post-tour and optional excursion(s) fee(s), is due at the time of registration, payable by check, money order, ACH or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds. Final payments made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund.
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**Cancellations and Refunds.** All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a Cancellation Fee as follows: if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 305 or more calendar days prior to the scheduled departure date, all deposits will be fully refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 304 and 245 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $500 per person per program and $300 per person per program for any pre-tour and/or post-tour. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 244 days prior to the scheduled departure date and the day before the final payment due date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full deposit per person per program including any pre-tour and/or post-tour. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge on the final payment due date or closer to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full program price. In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, of any Payments in excess of the aggregate Cancellation Fee shall be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.

For complete Terms & Conditions, visit terms.orbridge.com | Copyright © 2019 Orbridge, LLC | www.orbridge.com | (866) 639-0079

*Special group rates; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

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# Trans-Siberian Railway

AUGUST 4-17, 2020

Special Alumni Rate: **Save more than $800**
per couple

**FREE ORBRIDGE**
EXPEDITION LIBRARY

When you reserve
by October 11, 2019**

Texas Exes alumni travelers on Orbridge's *National Parks & Lodges of the Old West 2018*.

Membership in The Texas Exes is a requirement for all participants in the Flying Longhorns travel program. Alumni, friends of the University, UT faculty and staff, and parents of current UT students are welcome to join. Our dues are 80% tax-deductible and memberships start at just $60.

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Texas Exes
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