AUGUST 02, 2022 – AUGUST 15, 2022
PRE-TOUR: JULY 29, 2022 — AUGUST 04, 2022
POST-TOUR: AUGUST 15, 2022 — AUGUST 18, 2022

TRANSC-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

Embank upon an unparalleled journey through history on this 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.

Dear Spartans,

I'm pleased to invite you to join us 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.

Traveling by rail through the diverse eastern Siberian countryside is slow and rewarding, accented by a cultural cornucopia both on and off the train.

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 jewel: the Kremlin.

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. As the outside panorama glides by, take the opportunity to interact and engage with fellow travelers to discover respective cultures, partake in various vodka tastings and traditional toasts, and perhaps learn a bit of the Russian alphabet during language...
presentations. During city overnights, relax in the modern comforts of 4- and 5-star properties featuring luxurious amenities, restaurants, and common areas.

Availability is limited. With significant savings of more than $800 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. Be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with us.

Reserve online at msu.orbridge.com, by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Go Green,

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Office

PS: Orbridge and MSU take your health and wellness seriously. Visit orbridge.com/wellness to learn about our enhanced COVID-19 protocols.

Please note: The information contained in this document is current as of 3/25/2021
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 a special lunch in a Mongolian yurt.
- Delight in a variety of local musical performances throughout the program.
- Explore Lake Baikal—the largest freshwater reservoir in the world—during a boat excursion, followed by a picnic dinner on the shore (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.
- Join a local family in their home for a traditional meal, and learn more about their daily life and customs during this cultural immersion opportunity.
- Partake in a vodka tasting accompanied by traditional Russian snacks and red caviar while traversing the diverse eastern Siberian countryside.
- Celebrate with a champagne toast while crossing the border between two continents—Asia and Europe.
- While in Yekaterinburg, view the Church of All Saints—built to commemorate the lives of Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family who died in 1918.
- During a tour of Kazan, see the Tatar mosques and the most famous Russian Orthodox cathedral. Also tour Kazan’s Kremlin and learn about the turbulent history of the relationship between the Tatars, the Cossacks, and the Russians.
- Meet a local guide in Moscow to explore Red Square, the Kremlin, and Moscow City.

What’s Included: 5 nights hotel accommodations and 7 nights aboard the Tsar’s Gold; a welcome orientation, 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 10 dinners (including beer and wine while onboard the train); 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.
Itinerary:

Day 1: En Route from U.S.†
Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Day 2: Arrive Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Wednesday, August 3, 2022
Welcome to the diverse, sprawling capital of Mongolia—Ulaanbaatar. Not only is this culture-rich city Mongolia's industrial and financial heart, it's also the center of the country's road network and connected by rail to both the Trans-Siberian Railway in Russia and the Chinese railway system. World-class museums, traditional theatre, and international cuisine flourish in this vibrant location.

Transfer to your hotel to relax and settle in before joining fellow travelers for a welcome orientation this evening.

The Blue Sky Hotel & Tower

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar
Thursday, August 4, 2022
After breakfast, enjoy the city of Ulaanbaatar and its architectural contrasts. See structures with elements of historic influence existing along with modern high-rise buildings.

Set out on a guided city tour to see the Buddhist monastery, Choijin Lama Temple. This site in downtown Ulaanbaatar has five temples, but is no longer a place of worship. Now it’s a small museum that illustrates the area’s historic feudal lifestyle. Exhibiting artifacts from destroyed monasteries, the rich collection features masks and robes associated with the religious Tsam dance. Art lovers will appreciate the Buddhist artifacts, wonderful embroidery, and appliqués.

Afterward, visit Parliament Square and the imposing statue of Genghis Khan, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

This evening, attend a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts, including dancing, the other-worldly sounds of throat singing, and music from the horse-headed fiddle. This unique instrument, called morin khuur in the Mongolian language, has only two strings and has figured prominently in Mongolia’s nomad culture. Mongolian poet Tsedendorj Mishig celebrated the fiddle’s power by writing, “Only its two strings express / All the events of the
Day 4: Gandan Monastery / Mongolian Alps
Friday, August 5, 2022
Today visit the Gandan Monastery—the center of Mongolian Buddhism and the only working monastery during the entire communist period. The name of this Tibetan-style Buddhist structure means “the big place of complete joy,” and hundreds of monks live here. Also housed here is a high statue of Megjid-Janraiseg, a sage representing compassion who leads the men on the way of truth. Depending on arrival time, it may be possible to observe a traditional Buddhist religious ceremony.

Afterward, journey 90-minutes east of Ulaanbaatar to the Mongolian Alps. Take time to observe the stunning scenery in every direction, including the mountains’ majestic topography and bizarre rock formations. With rolling landscapes and grazing herds of animals watched over by men on horses, Mongolia to some looks and feels like Texas.

Visit a typical ger camp for a wonderful front-row seat to nomadic Mongolian life that is integral to the culture. Gers, built with wooden boards held together with rope made from horses’ hair, can easily be moved around according to seasons and to follow cattle pastures. Gather around the ger’s centrally located stove where food is cooked and dairy products are produced for sale.

At a picnic lunch served in a yurt camp, sample classic Mongolian specialties with rice and vegetables and possibly even their famous fermented mare’s milk. Then attend a festival to view presentations on three national sports: wrestling, archery, and horse riding.

Next transfer to the train station to board Trans-Siberian Railway’s Tsar’s Gold. Get acquainted with your stateroom and unpack before dinner on board.
Overnight: Tsar’s Gold (B,L,D)

Day 5: Ulan Ude, Russia
Saturday, August 6, 2022
Awaken to the train’s steady hum and embrace the passing views of the Mongolian steppes. Travel through the valley of Mongolia’s largest river, the Selenga. It’s the most important of the 350-plus rivers that flow into biodiverse Lake Baikal, as it contributes almost 50% of Baikal’s water.

At Ulan Ude, one of Eastern Siberia’s most popular cities, the train reaches the main route of
the Trans-Siberian Railway. Disembark at the station for a guided city tour of Ulan Ude’s main square—home to the largest bust sculpture of Lenin in all of Russia. Weighing 42 tons, this unique monument was constructed in 1970 in honor of the centenary of Lenin’s birth. Also visit the local theatre, constructed during Stalin’s time.

*Overnight: Tsar’s Gold (B,L,D)*

**Day 6: Lake Baikal**

**Sunday, August 7, 2022**

Today, explore the remarkable natural phenomenon of UNESCO World Heritage Site Lake Baikal, the largest freshwater reservoir in the world. It holds around 20% of the world’s fresh surface water—more water than all of the North American Great Lakes combined. Lake Baikal represents the unspoiled beauty of Russia and is sometimes referred to as the “Sacred Sea.” Travel directly alongside Lake Baikal on the old route of the Trans-Siberian Railway. During two extended photography stops, wander the lakeside and capture its seemingly endless beauty. Famous for its crystal-clear water and unique wildlife, you might witness a nerpa, or Baikal seal. This is the only seal that lives entirely in freshwater, and can remain underwater for up to an hour.

At one stop, embark upon a brief boat excursion from Port Baikal out onto the lake where the Angara River flows. Afterward, visit the picturesque Baikal village of Listvyanka to stroll the market, and for those seeking an extra adventure—take a plunge in the chilly water. Legend has it that the colbalt-blue waters have magical healing powers which give its swimmers extra years of life. Join in the thrill of a quick and bracing dip or simply have fun watching others do so.

Tonight, delight in a fun barbecue picnic dinner along the shoreline (weather permitting).

*Overnight: Tsar’s Gold (B,L,D)*

**Day 7: Irkutsk**

**Monday, August 8, 2022**

Welcome to Irkutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia in Tsarist times. Amid the revived churches, 19th-century architecture, and classy eateries, join a local guide for a panoramic city tour. See the structurally impressive Okhlopkov Drama Theatre—the largest of its kind in Siberia—which opened in 1896, the new memorial to Tsar Alexander III, and the photogenic market hall—one of the main centers in the city selling fresh regional produce.

Then, visit the Taltsy Museum of Architecture and Ethnography—an open-air exhibition featuring the history and culture of the people of Eastern Siberia. The museum, located at a
picturesque site, is composed of more than 40 historical and architectural monuments and 8,000 exhibits that tell about the peculiarities of life, customs, and traditions of past residents of the Baikal region. View this impressive collection including two chapels, a church, a watermill, and the 17th-century Iliminsk Ostrog watchtower.

As an additional cultural immersion highlight today, join a local family in their home for a traditional meal with dessert, and learn more about their daily life and customs.

Overnight: Courtyard by Marriott Irkutsk City Center (B,L,D)

Day 8: Trans-Siberia
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
Back on board the Tsar’s Gold, the journey continues through many diverse landscapes of Eastern Siberia. Learn about the region through informational onboard lectures and partake in a vodka tasting with typical Russian snacks and red caviar. It’s a delicious opportunity to experience first-hand Russia’s festive customs of hospitality and clever toasts!

Overnight: Tsar’s Gold (B,L,D)

Day 9: Novosibirsk
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
Arrive midday in Novosibirsk—Russia’s third largest city and the principal cultural and educational center in Siberia. Locals will greet you with bread and salt in the customary Russian manner before the group sets out on a panoramic tour of the city, including the mighty Ob River, the town’s authentic and local Central Market, and the internationally renowned Opera and Ballet Theatre. Gaze upon the theatre’s dome, which is nearly 200 feet wide and more than 100 feet high, yet is supported by neither columns nor girders.

Overnight: Tsar’s Gold (B,L,D)

Day 10: Yekaterinburg
Thursday, August 11, 2022
Toast with champagne while entering into Yekaterinburg, the capital of the Ural Federal District and the frontier between the Asian and European continents. This city is rich in history, being known as the home of over 600 historical and cultural monuments, Russia’s first President, and the place where the Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family were murdered in 1918. On a panoramic tour, view the Church of all Saints which was built in 2003 to commemorate this tragic and historic event.

Back on board, the passing landscape of the Ural Mountains unfolds as the journey continues across the European continent. The Urals rise like a long and narrow spine, forming a natural
divide between Europe and Asia. The mountain range is considered to be one of the most ancient on Earth and measures over 1,250 miles. More than 1,000 types of minerals can be found here.

*Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)*

**Day 11: Kazan**
Friday, August 12, 2022
After breakfast, arrive in Kazan, the Tatar capital on the banks of the Volga River. Russia is a multi-ethnic and multi-faith country, and here during a guided city tour, see Tatar mosques and the famous Russian Orthodox Cathedral. Venture into Kazan’s Kremlin to learn about the turbulent history of the relationship between the Tatars, the Cossacks, and the Russians. Hear a legend involving one of the city’s most famous landmarks, Söyembikä Tower—a tragic story of unrequited love between Ivan the Terrible and a Tatar princess.

*Overnight: Tsar's Gold (B,L,D)*

**Day 12: Moscow**
Saturday, August 13, 2022
Bid the *Tsar's Gold* staff a fond farewell as you disembark in Russia's capital, Moscow, and meet a local expert guide for an exciting day of exploration. Join fellow travelers for a welcome lunch followed by a panoramic tour of Moscow City, the Novodevichy Convent, the Lubyanka (the former KGB headquarters), and other meaningful landmarks.

Dinner is on your own this evening with leisure time to see Red Square enchantingly illuminated at night. Did you know the name of Red Square comes from the Russian word “krasnyi,” meaning “beautiful,” and is not related to the color of the buildings? The buildings actually used to be white until late into the 19th century.

*Overnight: Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow (B,L)*

**Day 13: Moscow**
Sunday, August 14, 2022
Today arrive at a centerpiece of Red Square—the iconic Kremlin. This large fortress contains five palaces, four cathedrals and 20 towers. It’s where you can find the world’s largest bell and the world’s largest cannon by caliber, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*. Discover its armory chamber—a museum of items that had been preserved for centuries in the tsars' treasury and the patriarchal vestry. See displays of uniforms and regalia, coronation dresses, ceremonial armor, and the largest collection of gold and silverware made by Russian craftsmen.
Enjoy lunch before continuing the tour to see the world-famous, attractive underground Metro and bustling Arbat Street, which has existed since at least the 15th century, making it one of the oldest surviving streets of the Russian capital.

Tonight, join fellow travelers for a farewell dinner to reflect on the past two weeks of this phenomenal, enriching journey. 
*Overnight: Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow (B,L,D)*

**Day 14: Moscow / Depart for U.S.**
Monday, August 15, 2022
After breakfast, guests with flights departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

Guests continuing on the optional post-tour will transfer to St. Petersburg. *(B)*

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

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

(Itinerary subject to change.)

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**Activity Level:**

**Moderate**

Guests should be comfortable boarding and disembarking trains without assistance, walking between cars while the train is in motion, and accessing upper bunk beds via a ladder (in stateroom categories where applicable). All hallways are narrow and have handrails, but train travel can be unpredictable and some unexpected movement may occur. 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 are limited.

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**What's Included:**
• 5 nights hotel accommodations and 7 nights aboard the *Tsar's Gold*

• A welcome orientation, 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 10 dinners (including beer and wine while onboard the train)

• 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
Your Guide(s):

Orbridge Travel Director

Every departure is accompanied by one of our premier Travel Directors, all of whom have extensive knowledge and experience as guides. Enriched by their accompaniment and enthusiasm, enjoy the cultures and locations you explore with added confidence, understanding, and appreciation.
The Blue Sky Hotel and Tower – Ulaanbaatar

August 3 - August 4

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.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, floor-to-ceiling windows featuring city views, writing desk and chair, coffee table, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, and en suite bathroom L’Occitane sundries and hair dryer.*

Tsar’s Gold Train

August 5 - August 7, August 9 - August 12

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. You are traveling in an ambience in which Soviet VIPs would have felt at home, but with the comforts of the 21st century.

The *Tsar’s Gold* offers pleasant accommodations, thoughtful service, beautiful views, and fresh cuisine designed by onboard chefs using locally sourced ingredients. Guests will also receive complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with meals aboard the train.
NOTE: There is no internet access on the train. However, you can bring a personal laptop and use the internet via your mobile phone or satellite, but only while the train is stopped at a station (mobile usage fees vary, depending on your provider, and can be relatively high).

STATEROOM CATEGORIES (all dimensions are approximate and may vary according to different technical constructions of cars and staterooms)

**Superior Plus:**
Centrally controlled climate for each car, 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 the other end of the car.

Stateroom size: approx. 24 sq. ft.
Bed size (L x W): 72.8” x 26.7”
Space between beds: 13.4”
Luggage compartment (above door) (L x D x W): 12” x 21” x 58”

**Nostalgic Comfort:**
Climate control, view window, upper and lower bunk 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”
Luggage storage under the lower bed

**Bolshoi:**
Climate control, view window, upper and lower bunk beds, table and armchair, two wardrobes, and small private en suite bathroom with combination shower/toilet.

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): 18.1” x 33.5” x 13.8”
Wardrobe 2 (H x D x W): 65” x 33.5” x 13.8”
Luggage compartment (above door) (H x D x W): 8.7” x 17.7” x 46.5”

**Bolshoi Platinum:**
Climate control, view window, upper and lower bunk beds, table and armchair, two wardrobes, and private en suite bathroom with shower.

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): 19.7” x 33.5” x 24”
Wardrobe 2 (H x D x W): 61.4” x 33.5” x 24”
Luggage compartment (above door) (H x D x W): 8.7” x 17.7” x 46.5”

**Bathroom Amenities:** Shower towels provided on board are smaller than what Westerners are used to and are not replaced daily. The train does not provide hand towels or washcloths. Guests are encouraged to bring bathroom linens from home.
Hair dryers are not available on board.

**Superior Plus**
Stateroom Layout

**Nostalgic Comfort**
Stateroom Layout

**Bolshoi**
Stateroom Layout

**Bolshoi Platinum**
Stateroom Layout

**Car Layout**

**Courtyard Irkutsk City Center**
August 8

Ideally situated in central Irkutsk, this well-appointed hotel provides convenient access to local sites, 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.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, writing desk and chair, cable/satellite TV, Wi-Fi (additional fee), phone, coffee and tea maker, mini-fridge, iron and ironing board, safe, and en suite bathroom with hair dryer.*

**Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow**

August 13 - August 14

Enjoy the five-star luxuries and ideal location of Ararat Park Hyatt, a quick five-minute walk to the Kremlin and Red Square. The property features world-class amenities, including 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.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, writing desk and chair, wide screen TV, Wi-Fi (additional fee), phone, clock radio, minibar, microwave, coffee and tea maker, bathrobes and slippers, safe, and en suite bathroom with hair dryer.*

*(Accommodations subject to change.)*
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.

Itinerary:

*The itinerary for land touring is determined daily by the guide based on weather and crowd levels. The itinerary below is a general listing of sites and stops for this program.*

**Day +1: En Route from U.S.†**
Friday, July 29, 2022

**Day +2: Arrive in Beijing, China**
Saturday, July 30, 2022
Take time to settle into your centrally located hotel to relax and refresh at leisure. Meet your local guide for a brief orientation of what’s coming ahead for your time in Beijing.
*Overnight: Capital Hotel*

**Day +3: Beijing**
Sunday, July 31, 2022
Following breakfast, set out to explore Beijing at leisure, as the hotel is within walking
distance of the Palace Museum, Qianmen, and Wangfujing shopping district.

This afternoon, meet a local guide for a panoramic city tour, including a stop at the Temple of Heaven.

Later, retreat to the hotel for a lovely champagne welcome toast and dinner with fellow travelers.
Overnight: Capital Hotel (B,D)

Day +4: Beijing
Monday, August 1, 2022
Today’s exciting highlight includes a visit to the Great Wall of China—the world's largest piece of ancient architecture. Admire the legendary scenery, and enjoy time to explore.

Afterward, stop at the iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Ming Tombs, built by the emperors of China, and the stone memorial archway into the Sacred Way necropolis.

This evening, relish a dinner of traditional Peking Duck to celebrate an unforgettable day.
Overnight: Capital Hotel (B,L,D)

Day +5: Forbidden City / Gobi Desert
Tuesday, August 2, 2022
After breakfast, join a local guide to see the infamous Tiananmen Square before visiting the Forbidden City—one of most renowned palaces on Earth. For centuries, the glorious, ancient halls and temples were all but inaccessible. The day is yours to explore this amazing area at leisure.

In the evening, board a special private Chinese train in Beijing and begin the journey to Mongolia. On the way, take in the fascinating landscapes of rural China and the surreal, sweeping sands of the Gobi Desert.
Overnight: Onboard Chinese train (B,L,D)

Day +6: Gobi Desert / Mongolia
Wednesday, August 3, 2022
Arrive midday at the Mongolian border. At the city of Erlian, stop for lunch before transferring to the Tsar’s Gold private train for the journey to Ulaanbaatar.

On board, behold the dramatic expanses of the Gobi Desert and the epic green steppes of
Mongolia.
*Overnight: Tsar’s Gold (B,L,D)*

**Day +7: Ulaanbaatar / Main Program**
Thursday, August 4, 2022
After breakfast on board, transfer to the Blue Sky Hotel and Tower Ulaanbaatar to join fellow travelers on the main program for a guided city tour. *(B)*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

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

NOTE: Guests on the Beijing pre-tour will join guests on Day 3 of the main program.

*This pre-tour is not escorted by an Orbridge Travel Director. Included sightseeing is accompanied by a local guide. Space is limited and not solely exclusive to Orbridge guests, so it’s recommended to reserve early for best availability.*

(Itinerary subject to change.)

**Activity Level:**
**Moderate**

Guests should be comfortable boarding and disembarking trains without assistance, and walking between cars while the train is in motion. We expect that guests can enjoy three 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 are limited.
Accommodations:

**Capital Hotel**

July 30 - August 1

Conveniently located in the central downtown area of Beijing, this hotel is within walking distance to many scenic spots, including Qianmen and Tiananmen Square. Its many distinctive restaurants serve a wide variety of Asian and Western food.

During leisure time, relax among the splendid gardens or take a dip in the indoor pool.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, flat screen TV, phone, complimentary internet access, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.*

**Chinese Train**

August 2

Accommodations aboard this train include private double cabins with two lower beds, spacious shared washrooms *(no showers)* at both ends of the cabin carriage corridor, and breakfast served in the restaurant car. Coffee for breakfast is not typical in China and will not be available on this train.

**Tsar’s Gold**
August 3

Please see the full Tsar's Gold accommodations details and descriptions under the main program section.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

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
- 5 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
- Guided tour to the Forbidden City
- Train transport with private compartment between China and Mongolia
- Porter service while transferring between the Chinese train and the Tsar's Gold
- Airport transfer for guests arriving during the suggested times
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, such as contemporary art exhibits, music festivals, and theater performances. St. Petersburg is a bucket-list location for anyone interested in Russian history, culture, and sightseeing.

Itinerary:

Day 14: Depart Moscow / Arrive St. Petersburg
Monday, August 15, 2022
After breakfast, board a high-speed train for St. Petersburg. Enjoy Business Class seating with lunch as you watch the passing landscape, traveling upwards of 155 miles per hour during this approximately five-hour journey.

In St. Petersburg, transfer to an ideally situated hotel with time to settle in and enjoy a leisurely evening.
Overnight: Hotel Astoria (L)

Day 15: St. Petersburg
Tuesday, August 16, 2022
Today is highlighted by a private tour of the State Hermitage Museum with a local guide. This world-renowned, priceless collection occupies five historic buildings that contain more than three million exhibits, including the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and other famous masters. See the city's most precious monuments—rich with storied history and original architecture—at sites such as Nevsky Prospekt, Kazan Cathedral, the Winter Palace, Vasilyevsky Island, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and Peter and Paul Fortress.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure. Perhaps relax in a traditional Russian Banya (bath house) or dine at a restaurant overlooking the stunning Moyka River.
Overnight: Hotel Astoria (B,L)

Day 16: St. Petersburg / Tsarskoe Selo / Pushkin
Wednesday, August 17, 2022
After a leisurely breakfast, depart for the charming town of Tsarskoe Selo, the site of the Summer Palace—the previous residence of the imperial family.

Adjourn to a log cabin for a special lunch before continuing to Pavlovsk, a municipal town that was the former residence of the Emperor Paul I. Visit the classical-style Emperor’s palace, dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and stroll through the stunning park—the entire site of which is a UNESCO World Heritage attraction.
Overnight: Hotel Astoria (B,L)

Day 17: Depart St. Petersburg
Thursday, August 18, 2022
After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times transfer to St. Petersburg’s Pulkovo International Airport for flights home. (B)

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch

This post-tour is not escorted by an Orbridge Travel Director. Included sightseeing is accompanied by a local guide. Space is limited, so it's recommended to reserve early for best availability.

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:
Moderate

We expect that guests can enjoy three 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 are limited.
Accommodations:

Hotel Astoria

August 15 - August 17

Experience genuine Russian hospitality at this grand property, directly across from St. Isaac’s Cathedral and a short walk from Nevsky Prospekt, Palace Square, and the Mariinsky Theatre. During free time, sip afternoon tea in the Rotunda Lounge, indulge in a service at the tranquil spa (additional fees apply), or enjoy retail therapy within the hotel’s glamorous shopping arcade.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, courtyard view, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, phone, safe, bathrobes and slippers, and en suite marble bathroom with Ferragamo sundries and hair dryer.*

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What’s Included:

- High-speed train transfer in Business Class with lunch from Moscow to St. Petersburg
- 3 nights accommodations at Hotel Astoria (or similar) with breakfast each morning
- 3 breakfasts and 3 lunches, with 1 lunch served in a log cabin
- Private guided tour of the State Hermitage Museum
- Outside visit of the Summer Palace
- Inside visit to Pavlovsk Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Airport transfer for guests departing during the suggested times
Trans-Siberian Railway
AUGUST 02, 2022 — AUGUST 15, 2022
PRE-TOUR: JULY 29, 2022 — AUGUST 04, 2022
POST-TOUR: AUGUST 15, 2022 — AUGUST 18, 2022

PROGRAM RATES*
Superior Plus: $9,995
Nostalgic Comfort: $13,495
Bolshoi: $16,495
Bolshoi Platinum: $17,995
Single (Superior Plus): $16,995

PRE-TOUR RATE**
Double: $1,995
Single: $2,895

POST-TOUR RATE***
Double: $2,995
Single: $3,895

Reserve by Credit Card:
Online: msu.orbridge.com
Phone: (866) 639-0079
Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:
Made payable to Orbridge, LLC
Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 10339
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Office. For more information, contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or you may call the MSU Alumni Office at (888) 697-2863.

GUEST INFORMATION:
Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation):
Email: __________________________ Class Year: __________
Home Phone: __________________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: _____ Zip: __________
Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation):
Email: __________________________ Class Year: __________
Home Phone: __________________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:
☐ Check  ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House)  ☐ MasterCard/Visa  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover
Card #: __________________________ Exp. Date: _______ CVV: _______
Name (as printed on card): __________________________
Billing Address (if different from above): __________________________
City: __________________________ State: _____ Zip: __________

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:
Category Preference: 1st choice __________________________ 2nd choice __________________________
# _______ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) +
# _______ guests joining program ($2,500/person) +
# _______ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $ __________

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and the COVID-19 Acknowledgement at orbridge.com/wellness; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Terms and Conditions

THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021, AND APPLY TO NEW RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BY ORBRIDGE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021.

Note: Travel credits and transfers are subject to the Terms and Conditions agreed upon at the time of the original reservation.

**ORBRIDGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

This Agreement includes contractual terms and conditions and releases Orbridge, LLC from liability. Any payment to Orbridge, including but not limited to deposits or full payments, constitutes your acknowledgement of, and agreement to, this Terms and Conditions, Release and Binding Arbitration Agreement Orbridge set forth below and in subsequent tour documents.

Limitation of Responsibility. Orbridge LLC, its shareholders, directors, officers, employees and affiliates (collectively, “Orbridge”), does not own or operate any entity that provides goods or services for your trip including, for example, ownership or control over hotels or other lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, van or other transportation companies, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions or equipment used thereon, food service or entertainment providers, etc., even if they use the “Orbridge LLC” or “Orbridge” name. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Orbridge is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, or of any other third party. Without limitation, Orbridge is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property, death, delay or inconvenience (collectively, “losses”) in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, acts of government, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, or the threat thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or other defective conditions in hotels or other lodging or vessel facilities, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely, dangers associated with or bites from animals, pests or insects, marine life or vegetation of any sort, dangers incident to recreational activities such as scuba diving, snorkeling, paddle boarding, surfing, swimming, kayaking, sailing, canoeing, rafting, hiking, bicycling, rock climbing, etc., sanitation problems, food poisoning, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, illness, epidemics, pandemics or the threat thereof or for any other cause beyond the direct control of Orbridge. In addition, I release Orbridge from its own negligence and assume all risk thereof.

Rates. Program rates are based on minimum participation levels, current fares and costs (air, water, land, rail), tariffs and currency values. While Orbridge does everything possible to maintain the listed program rates, they are subject to change effective immediately upon posting otherwise specified by Orbridge. In the case of invoicing errors, we reserve the right to re-invoice with the correct pricing.

Reservations, Deposits and Final Payment. To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: (1) $850 per person per program and $500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour except for programs noted in (2) and (3); (2) $2,500 per person for Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway and $500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour; (3) a non-refundable $1,500 per person is due for Tanzania Wildlife Safari’s Rwanda pre-tour. Deposits are payable by check, automated clearing house (“ACH”), wire transfer or major credit card.

Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s) fees and optional electives, is payable by check, ACH or wire transfer, and is due for: (1) all programs except Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway—no later than 90 days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date; (2) Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway—no later than 150 days prior to the program’s scheduled 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, optional excursion(s) fees and optional electives, is due at the time of registration, payable by check, ACH or wire transfer.

Final payments made by credit card for departures in 2021 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.

Reservation Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be processed as follows:

(a) For all programs except those noted in (b) and (c), if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge more than 90 calendar days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date, all monies paid to Orbridge for the main program and for any pre-tour and/or post-tour will be refunded in full. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 90 and 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 59 and 30 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 29 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour.

(b) For Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway, if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge more than 180 calendar days prior to the scheduled departure date, all monies paid to Orbridge for the main program and for any pre-tour and/or post-tour will be refunded in full. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 180 and 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 149 and 120 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 119 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour.
For U.S. citizens, valid passports are required for travel to foreign destinations and some countries require specific visas prior to entry. Please direct any questions in respect to visa required by foreign countries being visited. Orbridge is not responsible for invalid travel documents and repercussions thereof.

Travel Documents. Additional fees on luggage exceeding such limitations or restrictions. All such fees are your sole cost and responsibility. In addition and regardless of location or transportation used, all guests are responsible for possessing and maintaining necessary travel documents. These documents shall be valid under state and federal law and as required by foreign countries being visited. Orbridge is not responsible for invalid travel documents and repercussions thereof.

Program Cancellations or Postponements. All programs are subject to cancellation or postponement by Orbridge prior to the scheduled departure date for reasons such as, but not limited to, insufficient participation, or logistical problems that, in Orbridge’s sole judgment, may impede program operations or represent conditions or events that may expose program guests and/or Orbridge to undue risk of harm, injury, damage or inconvenience. In the event of program cancellation or postponement by Orbridge, Orbridge may offer you alternative arrangements such as the option to join the same tour on a different date or a different variant tour. If the price of your alternative booking is lower than your original booking price, Orbridge will refund the difference within 30 days of the alternative program’s departure date. If it is higher than your original booking price, Orbridge will invoice you the difference and you will be responsible therefor. Transferred guests are subject to the terms of the original tour. Except for force majeure, if a program is cancelled or postponed by Orbridge, Orbridge will refund all payments made within 30 calendar days of notice of program cancellation or postponement if an alternative arrangement is not offered.

Itineraries. Accommodations, the itinerary, travel directors or expedition leaders, lecturers, hosts, faculty or organization representative, and arranged excursions are subject to change or substitution at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Orbridge’s control. Reasonable efforts will be made to operate programs as planned, however adjustments, substitutions and changes may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, withdraw a program or any part of it, make such alterations or substitutions to the itinerary or program inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable, and pass on to program participants any expenditures or additional costs caused by any such adjustments, or by delays or events beyond its reasonable control.

Not Included. Unless otherwise specifically noted in the itinerary, program prices do not include the following expenses, which if applicable are your sole responsibility to pay and satisfy: trip cancellation insurance and passenger travel protection plan; domestic, international, and internal airfares except as indicated in program inclusions; transfers and luggage handling fees except in connection with scheduled group flights; costs associated with obtaining passports or entry visas; aircraft departure taxes; airline ticketing fees; airport transfers when arriving/departing on other than scheduled group dates; excess baggage charges; any new value added taxes or other taxes added to program costs by applicable governmental authorities; gratuities to drivers, guides, or ship’s crew not specified; meals and beverages other than those specified as being included in the itinerary; sightseeing not included in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, communication charges and optional activities (which are subject to availability); ship, air, or transportation fuel surcharges, if applicable; any items not on the “included” list of the tour documents.

Health and Fitness to Travel. Through your participation in your tour, you assume responsibility for your own health, safety, and welfare and acknowledge that Orbridge cannot absolutely guarantee your safety or health. Your physician can provide guidance on your personal health risk and precautions to take while traveling. Some programs include physical active elements. To enjoy these programs as intended, a minimum level of fitness is required and Orbridge will require all guests to follow local, state, national and/or World Health Organization health and safety mandates. Accordingly, you must be in good physical and mental condition to participate. You represent that you have no physical, mental or other condition, impairment or disability that may or will cause or create a risk of injury or other hazard to yourself or others in respect to any aspect of the program you have selected. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, limit, restrict or prohibit from participation in any aspect of any program any individual that it considers in its sole discretion to be impaired or unsuitable due to fitness level. In addition, Orbridge may, in its sole discretion and at the participant’s sole expense, remove the guest from the program, or restrict the program-related activities of any individual whose physical or mental condition may or is likely to cause a hazard to himself/herself or others, or otherwise impair the enjoyment of other program participants. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported in writing to Orbridge at the time a program reservation is made. Should you have any questions or need any clarification about a specific program, please ask for details at the time of registration. Orbridge will try to accommodate your situation if possible.

Accessibility. Orbridge cannot guarantee that the transportation, lodging, and entertainment/sightseeing accommodations will be accessible to all persons regardless of their physical and mental condition. In addition, many of the activities involved in each program include walking or the like for some distance on uneven ground or pavement or moving water that is too deep to walk up and down or move across without assistance. Should any individuals seeking to participate in a travel opportunity need special accommodations to ensure their enjoyment of the trip, kindly provide notice at the time the reservation is submitted, and we will see if your participation is feasible. Please understand that the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside the United States.

At the time of reservation, Orbridge needs to be notified to determine if the special needs of an individual traveler can be met through special arrangements. It is possible that minor modifications to the services can be provided, but only if Orbridge is made specifically aware of anticipated needs. This notification should be made in writing no less than two weeks prior to the planned travel. Neither Orbridge nor any of the providers of transportation, lodging, or other services can provide special accommodations without this advance notice.

Where an individual with certain specific needs will be traveling with a group, it is necessary for other members of that person’s group to be available to assist as necessary. Neither employees of Orbridge nor any suppliers of services can allow any of their employees to provide physical assistance to any guests.

Travel Advisories. The State Department and the Centers for Disease Control periodically issue statements and advisories about risks to travelers. These statements are country specific and contain important information. The State Department information can be found at www.travel.state.gov, and the CDC statements can be found at http://www.cdc.gov. Orbridge highly recommends everyone to review these sites.

Children. Orbridge welcomes the participation of children in most of its programs. However, in the event you do include your children or other minors for whom you serve as legal guardian (“Dependents”) in your travel plans, you hereby agree that you are and shall be at all times solely responsible for their care, actions, safety and protection during the program and any pre-tour and/or post-tour. Should you have any questions whether a particular program or inclusion is possible or suitable for your Dependents(s), please contact us.

Baggage. Program rates include the price of one piece of policy-compliant baggage per person during the land, cruise or rail portion of the program only unless specified in the itinerary. Air carriers and motor coaches often impose significant other restrictions or limitations on the number of pieces, size and weight of luggage and may reject or impose additional fees on luggage exceeding such limitations or restrictions. All such fees are your sole cost and responsibility. In addition and regardless of location or transportation method, your baggage and personal effects are and shall at all times be at your sole risk throughout the entire program. Please check with your air carrier for other applicable baggage restrictions and limitations.

Travel Documents. All guests are responsible for possessing and maintaining necessary travel documents. These documents shall be valid under state and federal law and as required by foreign countries being visited. Orbridge is not responsible for invalid travel documents and repercussions thereof.

For U.S. citizens, valid passports are required for travel to foreign destinations and some countries require specific visas prior to entry. Please direct any questions in respect to visa
requirements to Orbridge, which shall use commercially reasonable efforts to provide answers as a courtesy, provided that it shall remain your sole responsibility and obligation to obtain and verify that you have all required travel documents, including visas, necessary and appropriate for the program location(s) and sufficient blank pages in your passport for visas and immigration stamps. In addition, some countries require your passport to have an expiry date of not less than six months after your anticipated return to the United States. Orbridge disclaims all liability for any expenses or costs you may incur due to your prohibition or restriction from entering a country on the program itinerary or reentering the United States at the conclusion of the program. If travel documents fail to meet these requirements, boarding of aircraft or ship to any international destination may be denied and entry into such countries may be denied.

Photos and Videos. Orbridge may take photographs and/or video of its trips and participant grants Orbridge permission to do so and for it to use such for promotional or commercial use without payment of any compensation to participant. In addition, Orbridge may use, without compensation, any photographs or video taken by tour participants and submitted to Orbridge or to SmugMug without payment of any compensation. In submitting any such photographs or videos to Orbridge or SmugMug, participant warrants that he or she took the image and that the dissemination of same does not violate the copyright rights of any person.

Data Rights, Permissions. Data collected and/or derived by Orbridge resulting from your use of the Website is the sole and exclusive property of Orbridge and may be used in any manner consistent with its Privacy Policy located on Orbridge’s website. By submitting to Orbridge a digital or hard copy form that includes your personal contact information, including without limitation, your email address and telephone number(s), you give Orbridge and any other entity identified on the form permission to use that information to contact you and as otherwise may be described on the form and/or in the Privacy Policy.

Other. Dates, program details and costs are based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, but are subject to change at any time. While we do not anticipate material revisions of the itinerary or its included features, we do reserve the right to substitute accommodations or modes of transportation and to make any changes in the itinerary Orbridge, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and in that case any additional expense or cost will be paid by the individual guest. Your baggage and personal effects are your sole responsibility at all times. It is prohibited by federal law and Orbridge policy to bring illegal drugs, firearms, or other contraband (including marijuana for medical or recreational purposes) on any program.

Orbridge may at any time and without notice modify these terms and conditions, and any modification so made will be effective for all reservations made from and after the posted Effective Date.

In the event any term in these terms and conditions is deemed unenforceable the unenforceable clause shall be interpreted to give effect to the parties’ intentions to the greatest enforceable extent, and all other provisions hereof shall remain fully enforceable according to their terms.

I agree that any dispute concerning, relating, or referring to this contract, the brochure, or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in Seattle, Washington, either according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Washington law. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. By agreeing to these terms and conditions, both parties are waiving their right to a trial by jury. Any arbitration commenced against Orbridge must be on behalf of only the individual(s) to this Agreement and his or her immediate family members travelling with them, such as a spouse or child. Under no circumstances can participant be part of a class or other joint action.

Acceptance of Contract. ANY PAYMENT TO ORBRIDGE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DEPOSITS OR FULL PAYMENTS, CONSTITUTES YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AND AGREEMENT TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE AND IN MORE SPECIFIC TOUR DOCUMENTS.

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