



Ulan Ude, dancers

Tailor-made rail journeys

Not to be missed places to explore

You are going on a journey of a lifetime, so don't rush this trip and miss out on some of the most fascinating destinations on the way. These are just some of our suggested stopovers you may take to enrich your rail journey experience. And we can tailor-make your journey to include Shanghai, Xian, Harbin ... wherever you want.



Beijing, Tiananmen Square

Beijing

So much to see in the Imperial City - the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, and with more time - the Temple of Heaven, Great Wall and Ming Tombs.

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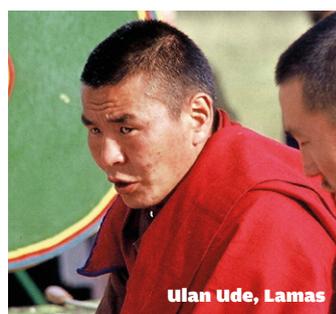
Please refer to tour options on page 41.



Vladivostok

Vladivostok

This Far Eastern naval port, with its ideal location on Golden Horn Bay, near the borders of China and North Korea, is Russia's largest harbour and was closed to foreigners during the Soviet era. Its railway station dates from the 17th century and you have the opportunity to visit the C-56 Submarine Museum.



Ulan Ude, Lamas

Ulan Ude

This attractive provincial town is known for its wooden merchants' houses, fashionable squares and the largest statue of Lenin in the world. A worthwhile excursion out of the city is the village of the Old Believers, that refused to accept the 1652 decree which changed the Russian Liturgy. They now live in isolated communities around the world.



Yekaterinburg, Railway Station

Yekaterinburg

The last Tsar, Nicholas II and his family were executed here. It lies on the border of Europe and Asia and was founded in 1723 and named after Tsar Peter the Great's wife Catherine I. The most important attraction is the Church on the Spilt Blood, which was the site of the Romanovs' execution.



Irkutsk

Irkutsk & Lake Baikal/Listvyanka

Founded in 1661, Irkutsk has preserved its late 19th century architecture from when it boomed as a gold mining town, attracting aristocratic exiles, missionaries and convicts. Today, the city is mainly known as the gateway to Lake Baikal, the world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake. We recommend you take our full day tour to Listvyanka to visit the biological museum and the beautiful open-air wooden architecture museum at Taltsy. For railway enthusiasts, the Circumbaikal Railway tour is a must, travelling along the shores of Lake Baikal, with opportunities for photo-stops.



Novosibirsk, Opera House

Novosibirsk

Novosibirsk is Russia's largest and most Soviet city. It owes its growth and importance to the Trans-Siberian Railway. Attractions include the Siberian Railway Museum, the world's largest opera house and the 19th century, golden-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.



Kazan

Kazan

Kazan is one of Russia's oldest cities and also the capital of the oil-rich region of Tatarstan. With over 50 percent of the population having descended from Central Asian tribes, the spires of many mosques dot the skyline. It is known for the centuries old Kazan Kremlin.