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MORE THAN TRAVEL
TAILOR- MADE TOURS TO RUSSIA

Your personal Consultant:

+61 2831 0 7667
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SPECIAL OFFER

Trans Mongolian Explorer

Ulaanbaatar to St. Petersburg

21 Days

5 June – 25 June 2019
4 September - 24 September 2019

This package is available either
Group Tour (scheduled departures)
or
Private Tour (flexible dates)

ULAANBAATAR - TERELJ NATIONAL PARK - IRKUTSK - LAKE BAIKAL - EKATERINBURG - KAZAN - NIZHNY NOVGOROD - MOSCOW - ST. PETERSBURG

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1 Safe.

- *Australian-owned company*

2 Secure.

- *Over 10 years experience in Russia*

3 Reliable.

- *24/7 support in Australia and Russia*

Russian, Mongolian and Chinese visas

- *Get personal Visa Support Letters (VSL)*
- *Fill in Visa Application forms*
- *Send Application, passport, photo and VSL to the Embassies or Visa Centres*
- *Get visas delivered by mail*
- *Express services are available at the Embassies for last-minute bookings*
- *Check with Discovery Russia travel specialist if you are eligible for visa free entry*

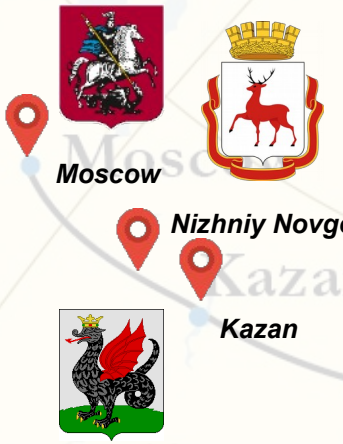
Happy Travelers

In 2018 we have hosted over a thousand travelers and we hope all of them not only enjoyed it but truly discovered Russia! Please have a look at our reviews and feedbacks below from people that have travelled with us.

If you're hesitating about going to Russia, you may find these reviews useful:

- ***Trustpilot https://www.trustpilot.com/review/www.discoveryrussia.com.au***
- ***Facebook https://www.facebook.com/DiscoveryRussiaTravel/reviews/***

Itinerary



Day 1-2 – Ulaanbaatar-Terelj National Park
Day 3 – Ulaanbaatar-Irkutsk, Russia
Day 4-5 – Listvyanka (Lake Baikal)
Day 6-8 – Irkutsk and departure for Ekaterinburg
Day 9 – Ekaterinburg
Day 10 – Ekaterinburg-Kazan
Day 11-12 – Kazan
Day 13-14 – Nizhny Novgorod
Day 15-17 – Moscow
Day 18-21 – St. Petersburg

ITINERARY

DAY 1

- Arrival in Ulaanbaatar
- Transfer to Terelj National Park (80km)
- Turtle Rock
- Temple of Aryavalokiteshvara and Aryabal Monastery
- Other Rock Formation: Praying Lama Rock/Old Man reading a Book - in the distance
- Dinner
- Overnight at Terelj National Park

DAY 2

- Breakfast
- Terelj NP-Explore landscape
- Lunch with nomadic family
- Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex and Bronze age/13th Century Museum
- Transfer to Ulaanbaatar
- Zaisan Memorial
- Buddha Garden
- evening 6 pm-Tumen Ekh-traditional folklore concert
- Dinner at hotel restaurant
- Overnight in the hotel

DAY 3

- Breakfast
- Gandan Monastery
- National History Museum and Sukhebaatar Square
- Lunch
- Transfer to railway station , departure for Irkutsk

DAY 4

- Arrival in Irkutsk
- Transfer to Listvyanka village at Lake Baikal shores (65 km)
- On the way stop near Shaman rock
- Stop for lunch, try local Buryat cuisine

DAY 5

- Breakfast
- Baikal Museum of Limnology
- Baikal Seal Aquarium
- Chersky Stone observation point (Cable car)
- St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
- Visit local souvenir market

DAY 6

- Breakfast
- Transfer to Irkutsk
- Visit Taltsy Museum
- Guided tour in Irkutsk
- St. Epiphany Cathedral
- Kirov Square
- Board the train to Yekaterinburg, departure in the evening

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DAY 7

- Train ride continues

2 days and 5 hours

DAY 8

- Arrival in Yekaterinburg in the evening
- Meet and greet at railway station
- Transfer to hotel
- Check-in

DAY 9

- Breakfast
- City tour
- Museum of Minerals
- Cathedral on the Blood
- Europe-Asia Border
- Pyzhma military museum

DAY 10

- Breakfast
- Transfer to railway station
- Board the train to Kazan, morning departure
- Arrival in Kazan in the evening
- Meet and greet at the train station
- Transfer to the hotel and check-in

DAY 11

- Breakfast
- Guided tour in Kazan

DAY 12

- Breakfast
- Guided tour in Kazan
- Board the train to Nizhny Novgorod in the evening

DAY 13

- Arrival in Nizhny Novgorod in the morning
- Check-in
- Guided tour to Gorodets, exploring Central Russia

DAY 14

- Breakfast
- Guided tour in Nizhny Novgorod
- Board high-speed train to Moscow
- Transfer to hotel and check-in

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DAY 15

- Breakfast
- A visit to the Moscow Kremlin including Armoury and to the Red Square
- Moscow Metro tour, city tour & excursion in Novodevichy Convent and Sparrow Hills

DAY 16

- Breakfast
- Tretyakov State Art Gallery
- Stalin's skyscrapers
- The VDNKh & Museum of Cosmonautics

DAY 17

- Breakfast
- Transfer to railway station, board high speed bullet train for 4 hours journey to St. Petersburg
- Meet and greet at St Petersburg railway station
- Transfer to your hotel in the downtown
- Night boat tour: drawing bridges

DAY 18

- Breakfast
- Visiting the Winter Palace and the Hermitage
- Visiting Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, visiting the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood

DAY 19

- Breakfast
  Visiting the royal Peterhof Palace
  Guided tour
- Faberge Museum

DAY 20

- Breakfast
- Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo
- Catherine's palace
- Free time in the park

DAY 21

- Breakfast
- Check out from the hotel
- Transfer to the airport for departure flight

Day 1: Welcome to Mongolia!

- *Arrival in Ulaanbaatar*
- *Transfer to Terelj National Park (80km)*
- *Other Rock Formation: Praying Lama Rock / Old Man reading a Book - in the distance*
- *Temple of Aryavalokiteshvara and Aryabal Monastery*
- *Turtle Rock*
- *Dinner*
- *Overnight at Terelj National Park*

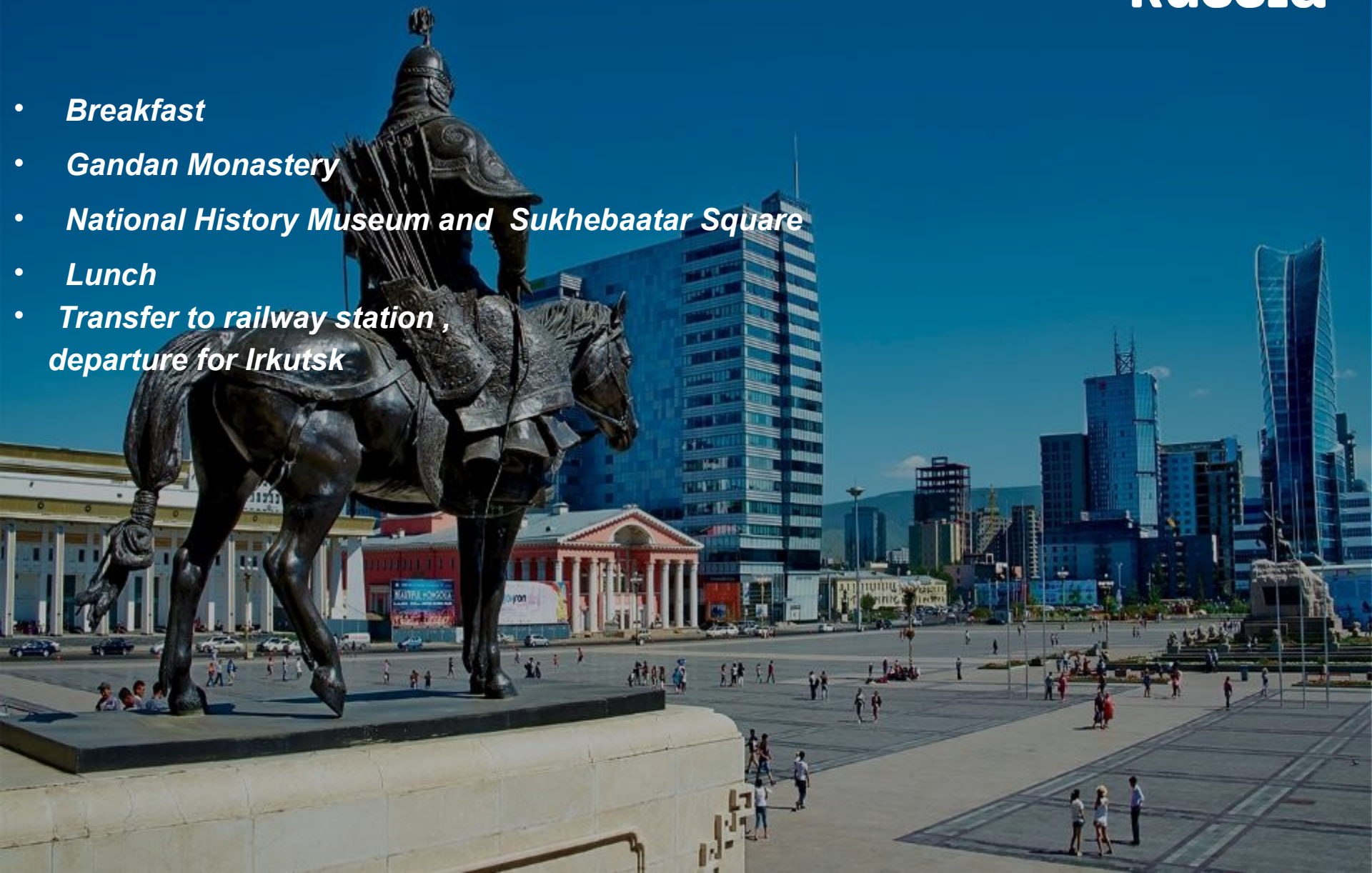
Terelj National Park is the most popular destination and the third biggest protected area in Mongolia . Visitors can take leisurely strolls on meadows carpeted with edelweiss and a dazzling variety of other wild flowers, view fascinating rock formations against a backdrop of pine covered mountains and wander along the wooded banks of a mountain stream.

Day 2: Discover Ulaan Bataar

- Breakfast
- Terelj NP-Explore landscape
- Lunch with nomadic family
- Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex and Bronz age/13th Century Museum
- Transfer to Ulaanbaatar
- Zaisan Memorial
  Buddha Garden
- evening 6 pm-Tumen Ekh-traditional folklore concert
- Dinner at hotel restaurant
- Overnight in the hotel

Day 3: Discover Mongolia

- Breakfast
- Gandan Monastery
- National History Museum and Sukhebaatar Square
- Lunch
- Transfer to railway station , departure for Irkutsk



Day 4: Arrival to Baikal shores

- Arrival in Irkutsk
- Transfer to Listvyanka village at Lake Baikal shores (65 km)
- On the way stop near Shaman rock
- Stop for lunch, try local Buryat cuisine

Day 5: Discover Baikal

- Breakfast
- Baikal Museum of Limnology
- Baikal Seal Aquarium
- Chersky Stone observation point (Cable car)
- St. Nicolas Russian Orthodox Church
- Visit local souvenir market

Visit Baikal Museum and the aquarium, where you will see Baikal fish and freshwater seals—nerpas, Shaman Rock, St. Nicholas church and a Fish Market.
Shaman Rock is a natural boundary between the deepest lake in the world and the only river that flows out of the lake—the Angara river. Locals have thousands of legends about this place, which is believed to be the house of one of the Buryat gods
You will be surrounded by amazing landscapes of the world's largest, oldest and deepest freshwaterlake, Baikal

Day 6: Discover Irkutsk

- *Breakfast*
- *Transfer to Irkutsk*
- *Visit Taltsy Museum*
- *Guided tour in Irkutsk*
- *St. Epiphany Cathedral*
- *Kirov Square*

- *Board the train to Yekaterinburg, evening departure*

Around 1900, the city was nicknamed the "Paris of Siberia" due to its wide streets and ornate, continental architecture but travellers today will find little resemblance with Paris

Day 7 -8: On board

- Train ride continues
2 days and 5 hours

Day 8: Arrival in Yekaterinburg

- *Arrival inYekaterinburg in the evening*
- *Meet and greet at railway station*
- *Transfer to hotel*
- *Check-in*

Day 9: Discover Yekaterinburg

- *Breakfast*
- *Ganina Yama Monastery*
- *Museum of Minerals*
- *Cathedral on the Blood*
- *7 wooden Churches*
- *Europe-Asia Border*

Yekaterinburg is the official border between Europe and Asia. You can even travel several times from Europe to Asia and back and of course take a photo standing in two parts of the world simultaneously!

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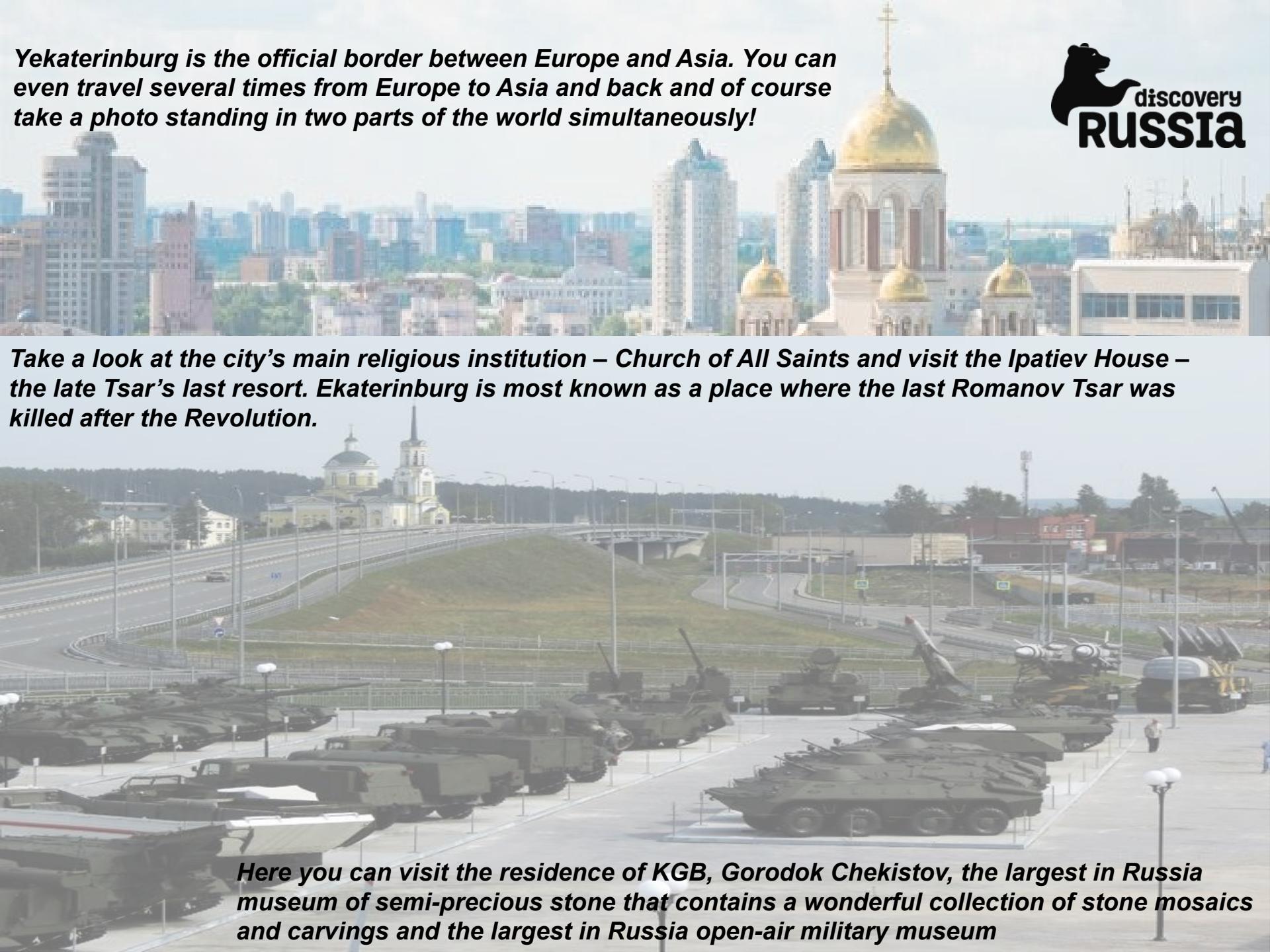
Take a look at the city's main religious institution – Church of All Saints and visit the Ipatiev House – the late Tsar's last resort. Ekaterinburg is most known as a place where the last Romanov Tsar was killed after the Revolution.



Here you can visit the residence of KGB, Gorodok Chekistov, the largest in Russia museum of semi-precious stone that contains a wonderful collection of stone mosaics and carvings and the largest in Russia open-air military museum

DAY 10: Transfer to Kazan

- *Yekaterinburg–Kazan train*
  Check in

DAY 11: Discover Kazan

- *Breakfast*
- *Guided tour in Kazan, day 1*

Guided tour to UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kremlin of Kazan. Built by Ivan the Terrible on the ruins of the palace of the Kazan Khanate that he destroyed, the Kremlin of Kazan reflects the ethnic mix of Tatars and Russians, Muslims and Christians, that merged into one nation centuries ago.

During our 2 days tour in Kazan you will visit also: Kazan Arena, Millennium Bridge, Tatar Sloboda, Mardzhani Mosque,Kaban Lake, Bogoroditsky Monastery, National Museum, Peter and Paul Cathedral, Bauman Street, Freedom Square.

DAY 12: Discover Kazan

- *Breakfast*
- *Guided tour in Kazan, day 2*
- *Board the train to Nizhny Novgorod in the evening*

DAY 13: Discover Central Russia

- *Arrival in Nizhny Novgorod in the morning*
- *Guaranteed early check-in, breakfast, time to refresh*
- *Full day tour to Gorodets*

Nizhny Novgorod - one of the hidden gems on the Russian touristic map. Nizhniy Novgorod is lucky to host one of the most beautiful provincial Kremlins built on high Volga river banks

Full day tour to Gorodets - neat little town, famous for its distinct style of folk art. At the time of the schism in the Russian Orthodox Church (1660), Gorodets became home to a population of Old Believers seeking religious sanctuary. They became skillful craftsmen, artists and wealthy tradesmen

Return to Nizhny Novgorod and rest

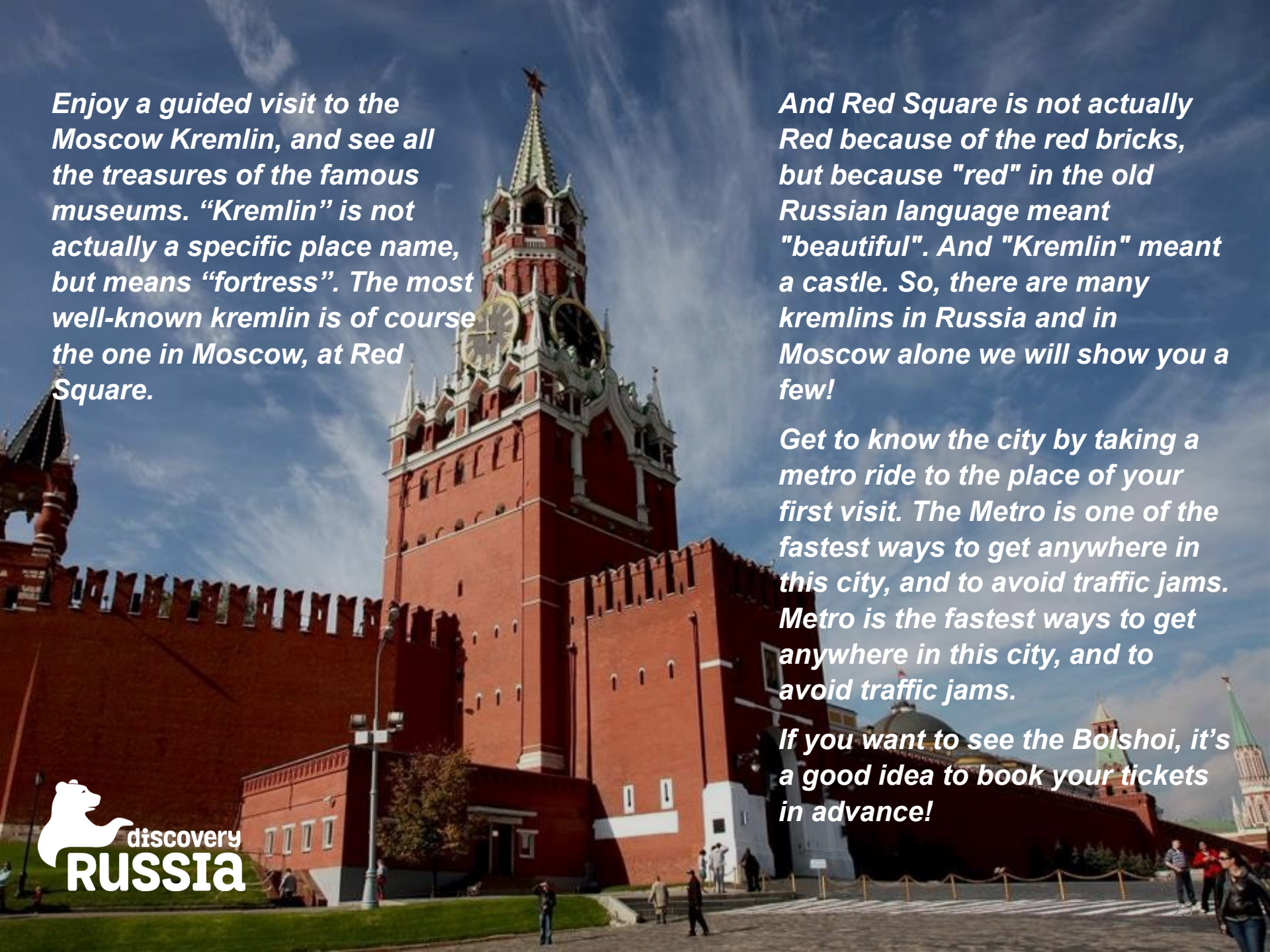
DAY 14: Discover Nizhny Novgorod

- Breakfast
- Guided tour in Nizhny Novgorod
- Evening express train to Moscow, transfer to your hotel and check-in

You will get the complete set of Russia's attractions in Nizhny Novgorod: the Kremlin, the State Art Museum with a collection of icons and national crafts dated back to XIV century, wooden architecture on streets and an open-air museum of traditional wooden architecture and cultures, beautiful churches, ancient monasteries, great traditional Russian food and heartily people

Day 15: Discover Moscow

- *Breakfast*
- *A visit to the Moscow Kremlin including Armory and to the Red Square*
- *Moscow Metro tour, excursion in Novodevichy Convent*
- *and Sparrow Hills*



Enjoy a guided visit to the Moscow Kremlin, and see all the treasures of the famous museums. “Kremlin” is not actually a specific place name, but means “fortress”. The most well-known kremlin is of course the one in Moscow, at Red Square.

And Red Square is not actually Red because of the red bricks, but because "red" in the old Russian language meant "beautiful". And "Kremlin" meant a castle. So, there are many kremlins in Russia and in Moscow alone we will show you a few!

Get to know the city by taking a metro ride to the place of your first visit. The Metro is one of the fastest ways to get anywhere in this city, and to avoid traffic jams. Metro is the fastest ways to get anywhere in this city, and to avoid traffic jams.

If you want to see the Bolshoi, it’s a good idea to book your tickets in advance!

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DAY 16: Discover Moscow

- *Breakfast*
- *The Tretyakov State Art Gallery*
- *Stalin's skyscrapers*
- *The VDNKh & Museum of Cosmonautics*

***The VDNKh** ("Vystavka Dostizheniy Narodnogo Khozyaystva"—the "All-Russia Exhibition Centre") complex was built to be an exhibition centre of the entire USSR.*

Today it is a remarkable place to visit with lots of museums, amazing buildings, the modern art exhibition centre and the Museum of Cosmonautics

A remarkable feature of Stalin's era are the so-called "Stalin's skyscrapers", each built in different areas of the city, following common principles of design, but all very different from each other. One of them is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, another is a hotel, a third the Moscow State University, etc! Every building has its own story— and its own famous residents. Private car at disposal for this day.

DAY 17: Transfer to St. Petersburg

- *Breakfast*
- *Transfer to railway station, board high speed bullet train for 4 hours journey to St.Petersburg*
- *Meet and greet at St Petersburg railway station*
- *Transfer to your hotel in the downtown*
- *Night boat tour: drawing bridges*

Enjoy a romantic cruise down the canals of St. Petersburg, and see some of the city's monuments on the banks of the River Neva, all beautifully illuminated for the evening. Experience the thrilling spectacle of the drawbridges in full operation.

DAY 18: Discover St. Petersburg

- *Breakfast*
- *Visiting the royal Peterhof Palace*
- *Guided tour*
- *Faberge Museum*

Guided tour to the royal Peterhof Palace, located near the seashore of the Gulf of Finland, 60 kilometres away from the city. We take a boat to get there and will return by the intercity bus - great local experience itself!

Gardens and Parks are spread over more than four hundred hectares, and include thirty-one amazing museums and beautiful Versailles-style gardens. In summer, the Peterhof is especially good thanks to its famous fountains which run naturally.
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DAY 19: Discover St. Petersburg

- *Breakfast*
- *Visiting the Winter Palace and the Hermitage*
- *Visiting Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, visiting the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood*

Morning: Walking trip <u>to the Winter Palace and the Hermitage</u> guided tour.

We force you to make it on foot. Why? Because there is no other way to understand and feel the city's soul than to explore its secret walking trails. Let us surprise you with unusual homes, architecture, perspectives and stunning views.

Today, you visit one of the most important sites in Russian history and heritage, the world-famous palace of the Hermitage, the former residence of the Royal Family.

<u>The Hermitage today</u> is one of the largest museums in the world, founded in 1764; its collection includes over 2.7 mln items. Our experienced guide will bring the museum to life to her knowledge.

Your guide will take you for a lunch in a local bistro, "stolovaya" where you can try traditional Russian food.

Then, take a tour to see the city's iconic landmark: Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, and visit the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood — one of the most powerful constructions in Russian Orthodox Christian architecture; an absolutely enthralling must-see and a place where Alexander II was fatally wounded by anarchists in 1881.

DAY 20: Discover St. Petersburg

- *Breakfast*
- *Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo*
- *Catherine's palace*
- *Free time in the park*

Catherine's palace - the most famous palaces of the countryside. You will see renowned palaces of the Romanov imperial family Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Private car at disposal for this day

The world-famous "Amber Room", known as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World', is here in Catherine's palace.

DAY 21: Farewell

- Breakfast
- Check out from the hotel
- Transfer to the airport for departure flight

Group Tour

***Rate per person** (3* hotels, 1st / 2nd Class train, sharing 1 twin/double room)* **6,635 / 5,705 AUD**

***Rate per person** (4* hotels, 1st / 2nd Class train, sharing 1 twin/double room)* **7,770 / 6,840 AUD**

Starting dates for 2019: 5 June, 4 September

Private Tour, 2 persons

***Rate per person** (3* hotels, 1st / 2nd Class train, sharing 1 twin/double room)* **8,925 / 8,050 AUD**

***Rate per person** (4* hotels, 1st / 2nd Class train, sharing 1 twin/double room)* **9,490 / 8,595 AUD**

INCLUSIONS:

- *Accommodation in hotels with daily breakfast, central locations:*
  - *2 nights Mongolia*
  - *2 nights Lake Baikal/Irkutsk*
  - *2 nights Ekaterinburg*
  - *2 nights Kazan*
  - *2 nights Nizhny Novgorod*
  - *3 nights Moscow*
  - *4 nights St Petersburg*
  - *5 nights on board the trains*
- *Breakfast, lunch, dinner as per itinerary in Mongolia (daily);*
- *Transfers in all places as per program: airport-hotel, hotel-train station, train station– hotel, hotel–airport;*
- *Dedicated local English-speaking guide in all places as per program.*
- *Train tickets:*
  - *Ulaqn Bataar – Irkutsk,*
  - *Irkutsk- Ekaterinburg,*
  - *Ekaterinburg- Kazan,*
  - *Kazan- Nizhny Novgorod,*
  - *Nizhny Novgorod-Moscow,*
  - *Moscow- St Petersburg in the chosen class*

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INCLUSIONS: Continued,

Note: In case the train does not have 1st class carriage, 4 berths in 2nd class compartments can be bought out (1 full compartment of 4 berths).

Note 1: 1st class compartment in China is subject to availability;

Note 2: Train schedule might change, tickets are subject of availability; in case the train schedule changes, Discovery Russia will use another trains and rearrange the tour without deterioration of the program.

- *All guided Tour as per program*
- *Mongolia tours as specified;*
- *Irkutsk and Listvyanka tours as specified;*
- *Ekaterinburg, Kazan and Nizhniy Novgorod tours*
- *as specified;*
- *Moscow and St. Petersburg sightseeing tours as specified;*

Note3: Night boat tour in St. Petersburg drawing bridges and speed boat to Peterhof are seasonal activity

- *Full metro/public transport passes in Moscow and St. Petersburg;*
- *Russian, Mongolian and Chinese visa supporting documents;*
- *Russian local sim card with data*
- *24/7 English-speaking support line in Russia.*
- *For group tours only: bilingual English-Russian speaking travel coordinator throughout the tour, welcome and farewell group dinner*

NOT INCLUDED:

- *International flights*
- *Visa fee*
- *Extras of Personal nature*
- *Lunches and dinners*

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