Presented by
GLP Worldwide for Western University Alumni and Friends

TSAR’S GOLD
TRANS-SIBERIAN ADVENTURE
SEP 5 – 22, 2019 (18 DAYS)

ESCORTED BY A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR!
SIGN UP FOR THE INFO SESSION TODAY TO LEARN MORE
Dear Alumni & Friends,

Stretching from Moscow to Russia’s easternmost regions, the 9,000-kilometre Trans-Siberian is both the world’s longest railway and the most storied in modern history. Join us for a one-of-a-kind train trip from Moscow to Beijing, with stops in remote Siberian villages, Mongolia, and the unforgettable Gobi Desert.

Among the many highlights of this trip are visits to Moscow’s imposing Kremlin grounds and Cathedral Square, along with historic landmarks in Kazan, Yekaterinburg, and Novosibirsk. Siberia boasts remote villages and awe-inspiring views of rivers, birch forests, and mountain peaks, as well as the seemingly endless shores of Lake Baikal. You’ll have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Mongolia, with its rugged landscapes, traditional yurt settlements, nomadic herdsmen, and horses. Finally, cross the shapeshifting Gobi Desert before ending your trip with three days in China’s magnificent capital.

This is the train journey of a lifetime, in a region where natural wonders, fascinating cultures, and history collide. Your adventure takes place on private chartered trains equipped with luxury sleeping cars, experienced chefs, and panoramic views.

For more information or to make a reservation, please contact GLP Worldwide at 1.866.760.1987 or alumni@glpworldwide.com.

Sincerely,

Susan Henderson, BMusA’77
Western Alumni Discover the World
800-258-6986 or 519-661-2111 ext 85871
discoverthetworld@uwo.ca

Your privacy is important to Western. Your personal information is never released to our travel partners. If you prefer not to receive future mailings, either call 1-800-258-6896 or email advser@uwo.ca or send a note to Advancement Services, Westminster Hall, Suite 260, Western University, London ON N6A 3K7.
ITINERARY

DAY 1 | SEP 5 | POINT OF DEPARTURE
Board your flight to Moscow, Russia, to begin your adventure.

DAY 2 | SEP 6 | MOSCOW (D)
Welcome to Moscow, the capital of Russia, and the world’s northernmost metropolis. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure. Enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 3 | SEP 7 | MOSCOW (B, L, D)
Explore Moscow with a full-day sightseeing tour that features the remarkable sights of this bustling city. The morning tour focuses on the rich history of Moscow, with visits to Vorobyovy Gory, or Sparrow Hills, affording you an incredible panorama of the city; Poklonnaya Hill, a place of great importance in the city’s military history; and the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the world’s tallest Orthodox Christian church. First built in the 19th century following the retreat of Napoleon’s army, the Cathedral was destroyed in 1931 as mandated by the Stalin government; and rebuilt and completed in 2000. Walk along the famous Red Square to see the stunning Saint Basil’s Cathedral and the GUM department store, formerly the Soviet State Department Store. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

Discover the “underground palace” which is the Moscow Metro transit system. Learn about its fascinating history and visit some of the beautiful stations. With over 150 stations throughout the city all breathtaking in their architecture, sculptures, frescoes, and mosaics the Moscow Metro is a must-see for visitors.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel, accompanied by a presentation from your train guides.

DAY 4 | SEP 8 | MOSCOW | BOARD THE TSAR’S GOLD (B, L, D)
This morning, visit the imposing Kremlin grounds and Cathedral Square with its magnificent cathedrals dating back to Tsarist times. In the evening, board your private train, and meet your fellow travellers in the dining car to learn more about the train.

DAY 5 | SEP 9 | KAZAN (B, L, D)
Wake up in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan. Tour the Kazan Kremlin, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site with its panoramic view over the Volga River, Europe’s longest river. Learn about the tumultuous history between the Tatars, the Cossacks, and the Russians. Your train continues eastward in the evening.

DAY 6 | SEP 10 | YEKATERINBURG (B, L, D)
Arrive in Yekaterinburg, historical capital of the Urals and perhaps best-known for being the site of the 1918 brutal execution of Tsar Nicholas and the Romanov family following the February Revolution. During a brief tour, see the Church of All Saints built in commemoration of this tragic event, and explore the attractive city centre. Back on board, continue your journey through the vast steppes of western Siberia.

DAY 7 | SEP 11 | NOVOSIBIRSK (B, L, D)
Welcome to Novosibirsk, the third-most populous city in Russia and the heart of Siberia. Here you are greeted with bread and salt, the traditional welcome of Russia. During a short city tour, experience the most Soviet of all cities and take in awe-inspiring sights such as the enormous monument to the builders of the Trans-Siberian line and the mighty Ob River.

DAY 8 | SEP 12 | ABOARD THE TSAR’S GOLD (B, L, D)
Cross the wide Yenisei River and Siberia. The train’s chefs once again demonstrate their skills as they serve Russian specialties in a feast fit for a tsar. A vodka tasting accompanied by Russian snacks offers an opportunity to relax and enjoy local hospitality. Take in spectacular views as the train passes by villages and through birch forests set against a background of soaring mountains.

Included meals: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner
DAY 9 | SEP 13 | IRKUTSK (B, L, D)
Your train reaches Irkutsk, capital of Eastern Siberia in Tsarist times. Sights include picturesque Siberian wooden houses and a memorial to Tsar Alexander III (initiator of the Tran-Siberian Railway). After lunch, visit an open-air museum that examines life and work in Siberia through the ages. Enjoy a night off the train with accommodation in Irkutsk.

DAY 10 | SEP 14 | LAKE BAIKAL (B, L, D)
Experience picturesque Listvyanka, a Siberian village on the shores of Lake Baikal, the largest reservoir of non-frozen freshwater in the world. A bus takes you from Irkutsk to the village for a boat ride across the lake to Port Baikal, where your private train is waiting. Travel alongside Lake Baikal on the original route of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Your train halts for several hours at a scenic spot to truly enjoy this natural wonder. Dinner is served as a picnic on the shores of Lake Baikal, weather permitting.

DAY 11 | SEP 15 | LAKE BAIKAL – ULAN UDE – MONGOLIA (B, L, D)
Savour the breathtaking sights as you continue along the banks of the seemingly endless Lake Baikal, through the splendid Selenga Valley, and into the wild solitude of eastern Siberia’s steppes. At our stop in Ulan-Ude, explore this interesting city closed to foreigners until 1991. Border formalities at the Russian-Mongolian border are a simple matter carried out onboard.

DAY 12 | SEP 16 | ULAN BATOR (B, L, D)
Wake up early to appreciate the spectacular scenery that is central Mongolia, with its mountain landscapes dotted with colourful yurt camps, and inhabited by solitary riders on horseback, before arriving to its capital, Ulan Bator. Highlights of the city tour include the impressive Gandan Buddhist monastery and the peculiar Choijin Lama Temple. Celebrate Mongolian culture with a performance of traditional Mongolian folk arts that includes throat singing, fiddle playing, and dancing. Spend the night in Ulan Bator, or make the most of your Mongolian adventure by opting into alternative yurt lodging in the gorgeous landscape of the Mongolian Alps.

DAY 13 | SEP 17 | ULAN BATOR (B, L, D)
Go off the beaten path with a visit to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park located just east of Ulan Bator. Observe nomadic herdsmen’s settlements of traditional tents, herds of horses, and scraggly yaks. In these stunning surroundings, observe an exclusive Mongolian horse-riding demonstration followed by a picnic lunch. In the evening, continue your trip towards China.

DAY 14 | SEP 18 | CROSSING THE GOBI DESERT (B, L, D)
Transfer to your chartered Chinese train at the Mongolian-Chinese border, where an overnight train trip eventually brings you to Beijing, China’s capital. Enjoy the time to relax and prepare yourself for the vibrant sights of Beijing.
DAY 15 | SEP 19 | BEIJING *(B, L)*
Beijing greets you in the morning with all its colourful activities. Transfer to your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure to rest or explore this magnificent city.

DAY 16 | SEP 20 | BEIJING *(B, L)*
Take in the stunning sights on our city tour. Visit the Temple of Heaven and its beautiful park. Experience Tiananmen Square and feel the weight of its historical significance. Gaze at some of the city’s contemporary architectural achievements, such as the Bird’s Nest (the 2008 Olympic stadium) and several futuristic skyscrapers. Enter the Forbidden City, the former imperial palace and be awed by its numerous temples and halls.

DAY 17 | SEP 21 | BEIJING *(B, L)*
Spend your last day in Beijing at the Great Wall of China, one of the world’s wonders. Walk along this historic wall which extends for more than 6000 kilometres through the countryside. On the way, visit the Ming Tombs, the burial site of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors, with its striking and beautiful spirit way. Enjoy a farewell dinner featuring the world-renowned delicacy, Peking duck.

DAY 18 | SEP 22 | DEPART BEIJING *(B)*
Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.
We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation or comprehensive travel insurance at the time of booking. Please contact GLP Worldwide for a quotation.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. The above rates include economy airfare from Toronto. Please contact GLP Worldwide for add-on rates from other cities in Canada.

### PRICING & TERMS

#### PRICING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compartment Category</th>
<th>Twin Occupancy</th>
<th>Single Occupancy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat.II / Classic</td>
<td>CAD $12,280 per person</td>
<td>CAD $15,560 per person</td>
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<td>Cat.II / Superior</td>
<td>CAD $12,710 per person</td>
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<td>Cat.II+ / Superior Plus</td>
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<td>CAD $16,880 per person</td>
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<td>Cat.III / Nostalgic Comfort</td>
<td>CAD $15,550 per person</td>
<td>CAD $21,390 per person</td>
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<td>Cat.IV / Bolshoi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat.V / Bolshoi Platinum</td>
<td>CAD $21,920 per person</td>
<td>CAD $31,510 per person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. The above rates include economy airfare from Toronto. Please contact GLP Worldwide for add-on rates from other cities in Canada.

#### INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip international airfare and air taxes for flights from Toronto – Moscow, and return Beijing – Toronto.
- All gratuities for train conductor and crew, and for local guides and drivers for included land and train excursions
- Chinese Visa fee to obtain visa prior to departure
- Russian Visa fee to obtain visa prior to departure
- Meals included only as indicated in itinerary

#### INCLUSIONS

**TRAIN PROGRAM**

- Journey with guaranteed lodging in the booked category aboard the Tsar’s Gold
- Accommodation in a 2- or 4-bed compartment in a chartered Chinese train between Erlian and Beijing between Moscow and Erlian
- Tour director with pertinent knowledge of the travelled route throughout the journey
- Experienced local tour guides
- All transfers / bus trips according to itinerary
- All excursions and sightseeing according to itinerary including all entry fees (except optional tours)
- Meals onboard include water and tea/coffee
- Porter service at all railway stations
- Vodka tasting with traditional Russian snacks
- Informational talks on the Trans-Siberian Railway, regional geography, culture, and history of the countries along the route
- A physician on board the train (Moscow – Chinese border)
- Shower facilities on board
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in Moscow with daily breakfast and porterage
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Irkutsk with breakfast
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Ulan Bator with breakfast
- 3 nights hotel accommodation in Beijing with daily breakfast

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS**

- **First Deposits:**
  - $2,500 per each confirmed passenger at the time of booking
- **Second Deposits:**
  - $2,500 per each confirmed passenger, due at 180 days prior to departure
- **Final Payment:**
  - balance due on 121 days prior to departure

**CANCELLATION CHARGES ON LAND/TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS**

- From time of booking to 181 days prior to departure: $2,500 per person
- 180-121 days prior to departure: $5,000 per person
- 120 days or less prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

**AIR CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE SUBJECT TO AIRLINE REGULATIONS**

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation or comprehensive travel insurance at the time of booking. Please contact GLP Worldwide for a quotation.

Prices above are in Canadian Dollars. The program and all related travel services described herein are subject to the detailed terms & conditions of GLP Worldwide which are available at any time upon request and which will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Western University is not the Tour Operator and is not responsible for the operation of the tour; the Tour Operator is GLP Worldwide. Refer to the General Terms and Conditions established by the Tour Operator with respect to participating in this tour.

### SPECIAL INCLUSIONS FOR ALUMNI

- Champagne reception and concert in Irkutsk
- Snacks and drinks at Panorama point Krasnoyarsk (no one features this)
- Private concert Kasan at the music conservatorium
- Overnight in a Yurt in Mongolia
- Visit at a herder’s family with Testimonial Talk (Mongolia)

### EXCLUSION

- Optional travel, health, accident or other insurance
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
TRAIN INFORMATION

TSAR’S GOLD
Your Tsar’s Gold private train makes it easy to travel the world’s most fascinating railroad safely and comfortably. Benefit from its 30 years of experience on the Trans-Siberian, with over 750 successful tours.

Culinary enjoyment is provided by the train’s much-praised restaurants offering local specialties. After dinner, the restaurant car with its bar service is an ideal place to enjoy a drinks marvelling at the vast Russian and Mongolian scenery, or socialising with your fellow travellers.
UPCOMING WEBINAR INFO SESSION
CALL IN TODAY TO REGISTER NOW
1-866-760-1987