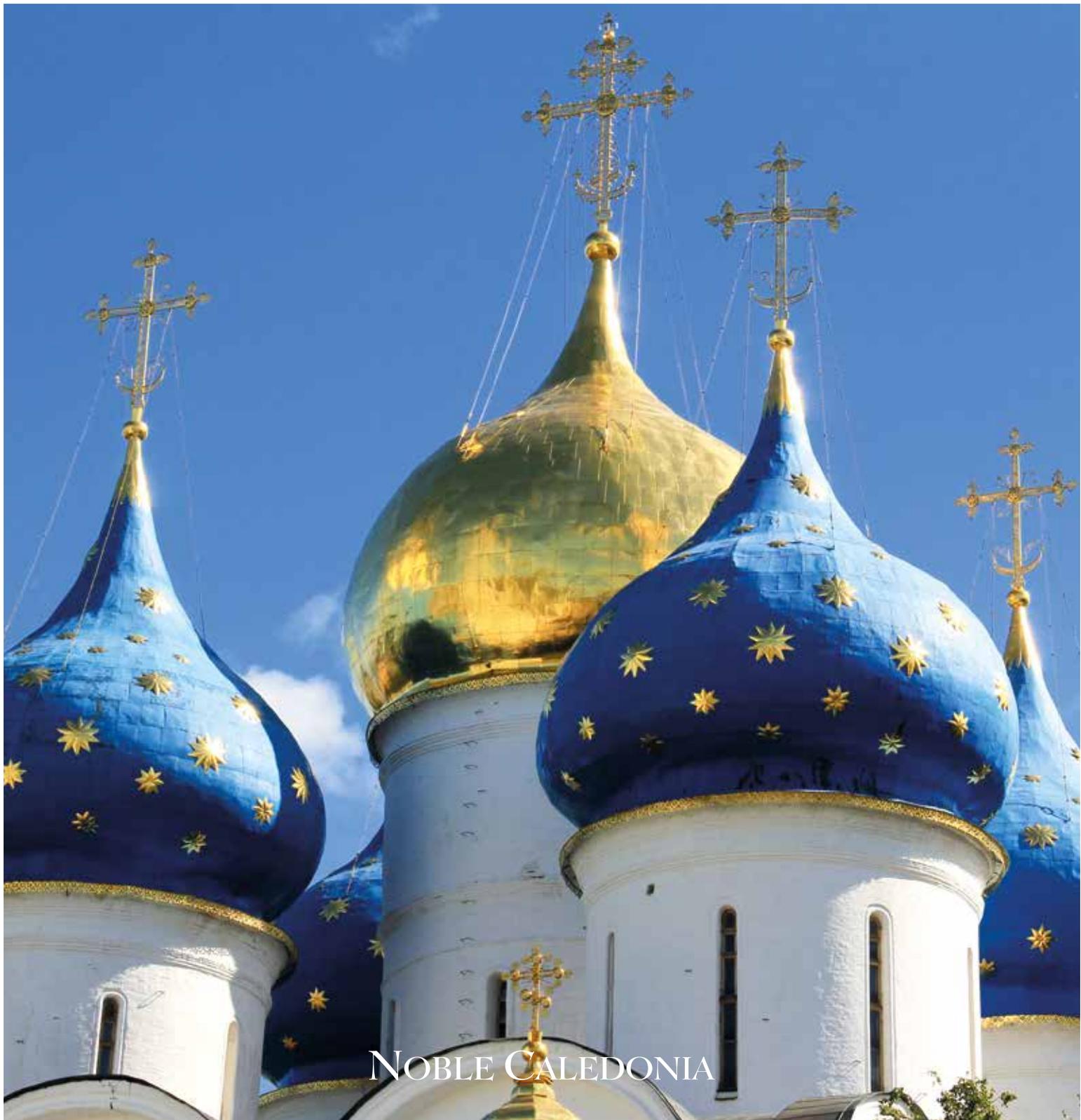


# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

A JOURNEY THROUGH RUSSIA BY PRIVATE TRAIN  
ABOARD THE **GOLDEN EAGLE**

3<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020



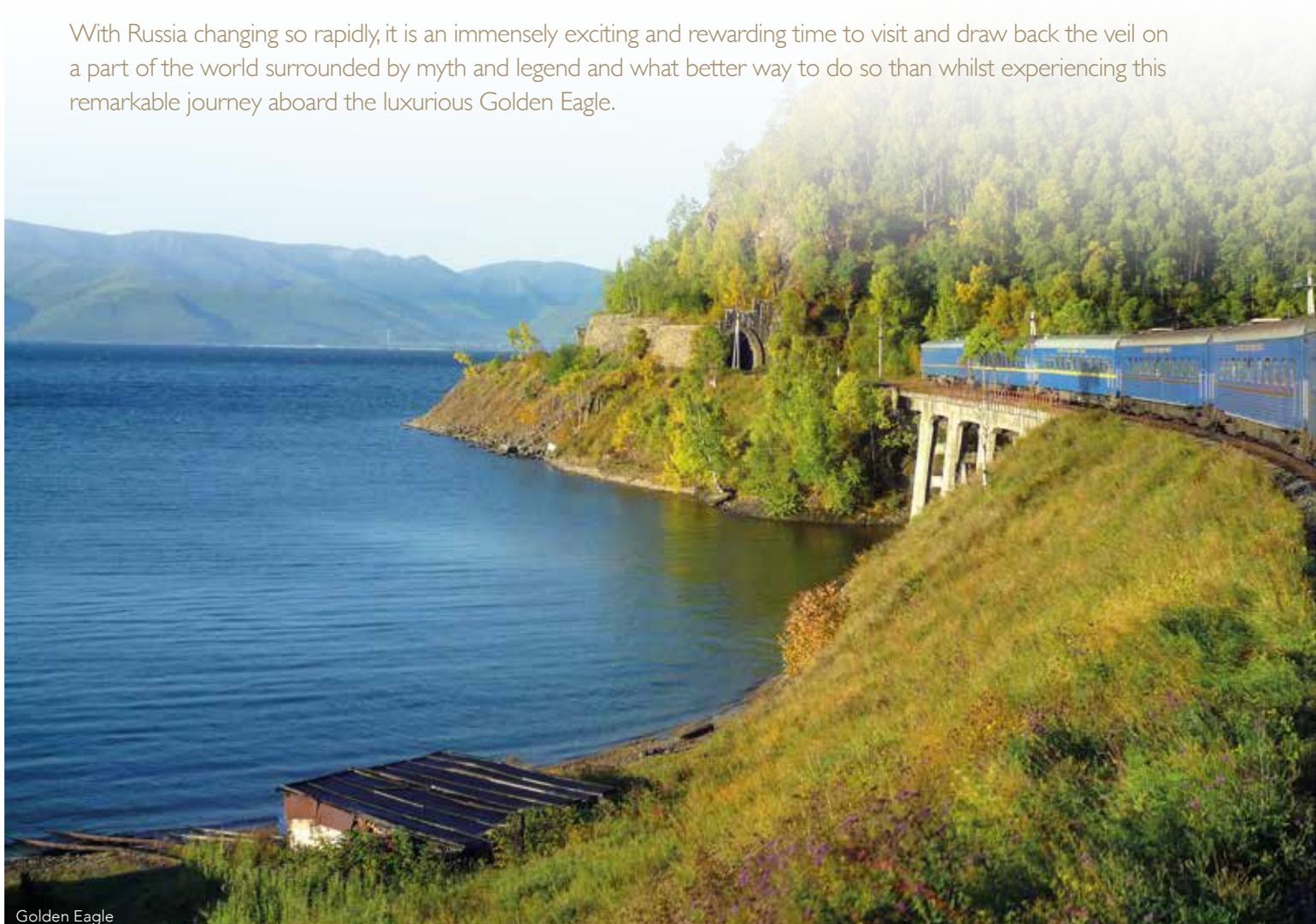
NOBLE CALEDONIA



We are delighted to have joined forces with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains to offer a selection of cabins for one of the most romantic journeys of all – Russia by private train, a remarkable 6500-mile journey from Moscow to Vladivostok. The world's longest railway line, the Trans-Siberian Express was completed in 1916 and runs like a steel ribbon connecting east and west from Moscow to the Urals, across the magnificent Russian steppes and alongside the shore of the world's largest freshwater lake.

Covering eleven time zones, Russia, the largest country in the world, stretches from the Baltic to the Pacific and from the Arctic to the deserts bordering the Caspian Sea. To put its vastness into perspective, as the sun rises in Moscow it has already set on the lands bordering the Bering Sea. The country is steeped in cultural heritage, wonderful architecture and dramatic history with prominent figures including Peter the Great, Catherine the Great and the stringent communist regime leaders, Lenin and Stalin to name just a few. During our journey east across this vast country, we will enjoy ever changing landscapes of countryside and city, of towns and villages, passing small hamlets of wooden houses, fabulous kremlins and glorious cathedrals.

With Russia changing so rapidly, it is an immensely exciting and rewarding time to visit and draw back the veil on a part of the world surrounded by myth and legend and what better way to do so than whilst experiencing this remarkable journey aboard the luxurious Golden Eagle.





St Basil's Cathedral



Church on the Blood, Yekaterinburg



Opera House, Novosibirsk



Kul Sharif Mosque, Kazan

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Moscow, Russia.

Fly by scheduled flight. Upon arrival transfer to the five-star Four Seasons Hotel, located in the historic building of Moskva Hotel in the heart of Moscow. This evening enjoy a champagne drinks reception followed by a welcome dinner.

**Day 2 Moscow.** Today's tour of Russia's capital takes us to the Kremlin – the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow – and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber where we will enjoy an exclusive private viewing. Our exploration of the city continues with a visit to Red Square, the iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture. Here we visit the ornate St Basil's Cathedral's magnificent onion-domed spires and marvel at the beautiful façade of the world-famous GUM department store which was constructed in Tsarist times. Lunch is served in Café Pushkin, a legendary Moscow restaurant with a décor that revives the atmosphere of an early 19th century mansion and serves traditional Russian cuisine. We will also take a tour of the opulent and unique stations of the Moscow metro - showpieces of Socialist art furnished with statues, frescoes and mosaics. If you have been to Moscow before, the Freedom of Choice programme allows for you to visit other sites such as the famous State Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Fine Art) or the Space Museum. In the late afternoon, we transfer to Moscow Kazansky Station where we board our private train, the Golden Eagle.

**Day 3 Kazan.** Situated on the River Volga, the picturesque and historic city of Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan. Here we see for ourselves its rich tapestry of history and

culture. One of the highlights of this city tour is our exploration of the Kremlin Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the walls of this ancient citadel we will explore the stunning mosque and picture-perfect onion-domed cathedral. As Kazan is the birthplace of one of Russia's most famous opera singers, Feodor Chaliapin (1873-1938), we honour his memory with a private concert of his music. You will also have time to wander through the main pedestrian area of Kazan and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the city.

**Day 4 Yekaterinburg.** Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, Yekaterinburg is the capital of the Urals. Known as the Great Divide, the Ural Mountains create the natural border between Europe and Asia so that the cultural and architectural influences of European and Asian civilisations come together in this fascinating and cosmopolitan landscape. Our city tour takes us to the poignant site where the Romanov, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, was executed with his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918 following 78 days of imprisonment. Now a church dedicated to their memory, this site provides us with a powerful insight into the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. We will also drive to the obelisk marking the geographical border where we can drink a glass of champagne with one foot in Europe and the other in Asia. Time permitting, the Freedom of Choice programme will feature a visit to the recently opened Museum of Military Machinery. The museum houses an amazing collection of different types of military hardware including tanks, aircraft, boats and even armoured trains. Alternatively, we will make a short stop at the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Centre, recently opened in Yekaterinburg, which is dedicated to the contemporary

political history of Russia and its first president.

**Day 5 Novosibirsk.** A modern 'Soviet' city, we experience the life and character of Novosibirsk's rich culture where the arts and science predominate. The city is located in the heart of Russia and is situated on both banks of the River Ob. Our city tour takes us to Lenin Square where the imposing Opera House is located. An architectural marvel, it houses two permanent ballet and opera companies and is one of the largest opera houses in the world. Time permitting, south of the city we will visit Novosibirsk's excellent Railway Museum. The museum displays locomotives and rolling stock from the late 1800s, including carriages of the Tsars, through to the Soviet era. Alternatively, as part of the Freedom of Choice programme, you may choose to visit the Mineralogical Centre with its fine display of Siberian minerals.

**Day 6 On Board.** Relax on board and enjoy the ever-changing landscape outside your window as it unfolds.

**Day 7 Irkutsk.** Our visit to Irkutsk, the 'Paris of Siberia', takes in the most significant sites and museums in this fascinating city, including an exploration of the classic wooden architecture with its intricately carved lace-like decorations that has given many of this region's buildings such a distinctive and unique appearance. We also visit the Volkonsky House Museum, which is dedicated to the memory of the aristocrats who were exiled to this remote outpost after the failed Decembrists uprising of 1825 and recreate the atmosphere of that time with a champagne reception and private concert. With the Freedom of Choice programme, you could learn to cook some traditional Russian dishes with a

local chef and prepare your own lunch or you may wish to visit a traditional Russian Dacha (summer house) to get an insight into the everyday life of an average Russian family.

**Day 8 Lake Baikal.** Few natural sights can surpass the beauty and grandeur of Lake Baikal, a major highlight on our Trans-Siberian journey. Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and holds 20 per cent of the world's freshwater. Also known as the 'Pearl of Siberia', it is home to a unique breed of freshwater seal and over 50 species of fish including omul. For five hours we wind our way through tunnels along cliff-hugging tracks above the lake. With a vista of snow-capped peaks along the far shore forming a picture-perfect backdrop, we gain a full appreciation of the engineering achievement which produced this part of the railway in the early twentieth century. To add to the grandeur of the day, the Golden Eagle train will be hauled by a Soviet Era steam locomotive on this beautiful section of the line. Weather permitting, we will stop in an extremely picturesque location by the lake for photographic opportunities and, for the brave hearted, there is time for a refreshing swim in the crystal clear and ice-cold waters of Baikal. Travelling onwards to the end of the Baikal branch line, we leave the train and travel by boat on the lake to Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement nestling at the base of the surrounding hills. Here we visit the Lake Baikal Museum and Aquarium where you can learn about the flora and fauna of the lake. We will enjoy a delicious barbecue prepared by the onboard chefs, including freshly smoked omul fish, in the delightful covered dining area on the shore of Lake Baikal. As part of the Freedom of Choice programme, you can choose to hike up Chersky Mount or to take the chairlift, which offers some spectacular and panoramic hillside views of the lake below.



**Day 9 Ulan Ude.** The ethnic and cultural diversity of Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic, offers a unique insight into its heritage. As we tour the area you will notice the different faces of the welcoming Buryat people. During our exploration of the Old Believers' Village, we have the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of these religious people as we are treated to a concert featuring local traditions and folk singing.

**Day 10 Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia.** Our Trans-Siberian adventure takes us into Mongolia and a visit to its capital, Ulaan Baatar. Mongolia, once the very centre of an enormous empire led by Genghis Khan, is a country of beautiful landscapes and nomadic people, rich in culture and history. Mongolia is famous for its endless green Steppes, grazing livestock and white, nomadic Gers (Yurts) dotted across the countryside. We start our tour at Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia's most important Buddhist Monasteries housing a community of over 500 monks. At Chinggis Square (formerly Sukhbaatar Square) we can see the central monument to Genghis Khan, undoubtedly the most feared and revered Mongol. We then drive out of the city to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park and enjoy the beautiful scenery of wild Mongolia, having the opportunity to visit a traditional Ger and meet a nomadic family or try our hand at horse-riding. Alternatively, there is an option to stay in the city as part of the Freedom of Choice touring. After Gandan Monastery and Chinggis Square, we visit the National Museum where we learn about the country's intriguing history. We will also see Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum, the winter residences

of Bogd Khan, the last Mongolian emperor, built between 1893 and 1903. We can also explore the city and have some free time shopping for Mongolian souvenirs and their speciality cashmere. We will also enjoy a performance of traditional Mongolian throat singing and contortionists. *Please note that, depending on final timings provided by the railway authorities, we may substitute the railway journey from Russia into Ulaan Baatar with a private jet charter from Irkutsk or Ulan Ude. This information will be advised to you in your final documentation.*

**Day 11 On Board.** Enjoy a more leisurely pace today as we travel through the beautiful landscape of the Russian Far East. You may wish to attend one of the interesting lectures or Russian language lessons.

**Day 12 On Board.** Today is the perfect opportunity to practice your Russian or simply relax as our journey today follows the Shilka and Amur rivers, close to the Chinese border. Enjoy Russia at its most dramatic and remote, as the Golden Eagle journeys towards Vladivostok.

**Day 13 On Board.** Passing directly north of Seoul, Darwin and Osaka, we spend our last full day on board the Golden Eagle today as the most easterly point of this mammoth journey is reached passing through Khabarovsk, where we cross the River Amur. Tonight we enjoy our final dinner on board our private train that has been our home for the last twelve days as we approach our final destination on this unforgettable journey.

**Day 14 Vladivostok, Russia.** Vladivostok is a military port located on the western shores of the Sea of Japan and is home to the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet. Due to its military importance, the city was

closed to foreigners between 1930 and 1992. Vladivostok (literally translated as 'Ruler of the East') offers visitors an interesting opportunity to explore its principal military attractions including a visit to a preserved World War II submarine. Our city tour will also take us to the iconic suspension bridge over Golden Horn Bay, one of the largest of its kind worldwide, which opened in 2012 for the APEC conference. Transfer to the five-star Lotte Hotel Vladivostok for an overnight

stay and enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

**Day 15 Vladivostok to Seoul, South Korea.** After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Seoul. Upon arrival, transfer to the Grand Hyatt Incheon Hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

**Day 16 Seoul to London.** After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE TOURING

In select locations, in addition to the main excursions, it is possible to choose from a range of activities or tours at no extra cost. Please note that these options are subject to availability, minimum numbers, local conditions and timings.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

CATEGORY	PRICE
Silver Class	£13995
Gold Class	£16995
Imperial Suite	£27695
Silver Class for sole use	£20395

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Moscow • 12 nights aboard the Golden Eagle • Overnight hotel accommodation in Vladivostok • Overnight hotel accommodation in Seoul • Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily except lunch & dinner on days 15 & 16 • Wine with lunch and dinner • Excursions • Train Tour Manager • Onboard Doctor • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Portage.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, lunch & dinner on days 15 & 16.

**Please note:** A 20% deposit is required when booking this tour. Please also note that a visa is required for Russia. Golden Eagle Luxury Trains will provide all supporting documentation needed although the process to apply for the visa cannot be started until three months before departure and in some instances can take up to six weeks. To obtain a Russian visa it will be necessary for passengers to attend application centres in London, Manchester or Edinburgh. This information is correct at the time of printing and should the information change, we will be in touch with booked passengers with updated guidelines.



Golden Eagle, Lake Baikal

## THE GOLDEN EAGLE

In 2007 HRH Prince Michael of Kent unveiled the Golden Eagle, a private train that brings unprecedented luxury to the world's greatest railway journey. The Golden Eagle has been carefully designed with comfort and enjoyment in mind and, for twelve nights, provides the ideal base from which to explore this fascinating region.

### Your Accommodation

The full train comprises of three categories of sleeping cars which feature state of the art amenities, all with en-suite facilities and luxury toiletries. All of the cabins and communal carriages were refurbished in 2018 to the highest of standards and the accommodation has been cleverly designed to maximise the available space as cabins convert from a sitting area by day into a cosy sleeping area by night. All cabin categories benefit from an evening turndown service and a cabin attendant is on hand 24 hours a day.

### Imperial Suites

The Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available, measuring 120 square feet and benefiting from a large and luxurious king size bed, lounge area with dressing table and two large picture windows. The facilities include private en-suite bathroom with power shower and underfloor heating, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe and a DVD/CD player with LCD screen. Bathrobes, slippers and toiletries are also provided. Guests will also benefit from a complimentary fully stocked minibar, included drinks from the standard and premium bar list from the Bar Car (excluding premium wine list), included laundry service, the option of in-suite dining and hotel room upgrades.



### Gold Class

At 77 square feet, Gold Class cabins are well proportioned and have everything from a private bathroom with power shower and underfloor heating to a DVD/ CD player with LCD screen. The cabins also feature individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, large picture window and a double lower bed or the option to use the upper bunk bed. Bathrobes, slippers and toiletries are also provided. Guests in Gold Class enjoy included drinks from the standard bar list from the Bar Car.



### Silver Class

Silver Class cabins are more compact at 60 square feet but have similar facilities to those of Gold Class. The Silver Class cabins have their own en-suite wet room with washbasin, toilet and shower. The cabins feature a small double lower bed and single upper bed as well as DVD/CD player with LCD screen, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe and large picture window. Bathrobes, slippers and toiletries are also provided.





Bar Lounge Car



Restaurant Car

### Your Space

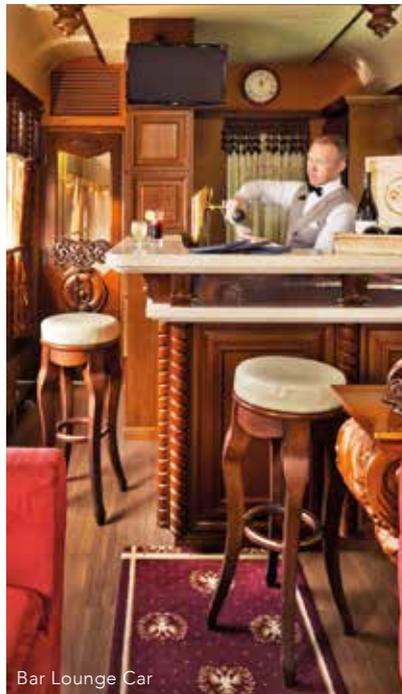
The Bar Lounge Car is the perfect location to relax and unwind as you watch the ever-changing scenery pass by. Reminisce about the day's adventures with fellow passengers over afternoon tea or perhaps challenge your friends to a game of cards before dinner. As evening falls, enjoy the sounds of the resident pianist playing on the baby grand piano in the Bar Lounge Car.

### Your Dining

Each morning, enjoy a bountiful breakfast buffet in the beautifully appointed Restaurant Car, offering a fresh selection of fruit, cereals, cold plates and freshly squeezed orange juice. For something more substantial enjoy a breakfast cooked to order by the onboard Chef. At lunch and dinner you will enjoy a delightful culinary experience inspired by the countries we venture through. All meals are skillfully prepared by the Executive Chef and his onboard team, using the very best ingredients and locally sourced wherever possible. Attentive service and an excellent choice of wines accompany lunch and dinner, in addition to bottled mineral water, draught beer and soft drinks. Expect a relaxed and convivial atmosphere at meal times with the freedom to dine wherever, and with whomever, you please in a single sitting.

### Life On Board

Throughout the journey, you can expect a service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide 24-hour housekeeping and bedding turndown services and the Train Tour Manager is there to co-ordinate all of the elements and to assist you as required. There is a Wi-Fi service on board though coverage is limited and will usually only be available as we pass through larger cities and towns. However, the aim is to provide internet access in a local hotel or restaurant for guests at least every other day.



Bar Lounge Car



Cabin attendant



Golden Eagle being hauled by steam locomotive



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE  
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | noble-caledonia.co.uk



Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
 Cover image: Kazan.