

New!

**A once
in a lifetime
experience!**

The Silk Road, Beijing to Moscow

Ancient city of Beijing, across the Far East
& Russia to Moscow.



Journeys™
by **JERRY VAN DYKE**
Canadian Owned and Operated Since 1980

Rail Cruising enables you to reach very remote towns and villages
not accessible by road and sometimes not even by air!

September 24 – October 15, 2012



Highlights – Beijing, China • Xian, land of Terra Cotta Warriors

Tracing the Silk Route on the Shangri-La Express and Golden Eagle luxury trains

Gobi Desert & Dunhuang with the cave of a thousand Buddhas

‘Yurt’ lunch in the Tien Shen Mountains of Kazakhstan • Samarkand, ‘Rome of the East’

The Ark in the oasis city of Bukhara • Volgograd & Moscow, Russia

Khiva, Uzbekistan crossroads of Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia

The Silk Route – The 7000 mile network of interlinking trade routes that spanned China, Central Asia, Northern India, and the Parthian and Roman Empires. You have dreamed of it, now experience it!

China - Ancient attractions and traditions, Beijing & the Great Wall, Xian, Lanzhou, Turpan, Urumchi

Russia – A vast, beautiful country full of political, social, historic and geographic intrigue.
Volgograd, Moscow

Shangri La Express – Modern comfort in an ancient wilderness, the Shangri-La Express guarantees you good living even in the remotest of places.

The Golden Eagle – the only fully en-suite private train operating in Russia and possibly Europe’s finest luxury train. This private train brings unprecedented luxury to the world of rail travel.

Why do we encourage you to reserve now?

Traditionally, new journeys sell very quickly as our returning guests are anxious for new adventures.

Additionally, every year more and more guests bring their friends!

We expect this new journey to sell very quickly.

Contact us today. If you wait, you may be disappointed!

Reserve early and save \$300 per guest

Early Reservation Bonus expires February 26, 2012

Please note: This is a brand new journey for us as well! We have a valued and trusted relationship with the owner/operator of this train and travelled over 9 000km on board the *Shangri-La Express* through China and on to Tibet in September 2010 and thousands more on board the *Golden Eagle* on the Trans Siberian Express in July 2011. We were very impressed and are excited to be taking this journey of research for the first time.

Rather than go alone, we would like to encourage you to join us!

Your 22 day journey

1 Depart for Beijing

Enjoy our private car home pick up service. We greet you at the airport in Toronto and assist with your check in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow travellers and board your flights to Beijing.

2 Beijing, China

On arrival in Beijing, our local guide and driver take us to our hotel. Remainder of the day is at your leisure to relax. Join us for a casual welcome dinner this evening to meet your fellow guests. As the train is shared with other guests from around the world, this is an interesting way to begin our journey. (D)
Overnight Beijing, The Regent, 3 nights

Beijing

Beijing is one of the four ancient cities of China (together with Xian, Luoyang, Nanjing), the best preserved, and famous around the world. Beijing is also known as a cradle of humanity. As early as 700,000 years ago, Peking Man lived in the Zhoukoudian area of Beijing.

Beijing City was established over 3,000 years ago and was called Jin City in the Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century BC - 771 BC). Ever since Emperor Qin united China in 221 BC, Beijing has played an important role in north China. It was the capital city in the Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.

During these 800 years, 34 emperors lived and ruled here and the world renowned Forbidden City was built. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, World War I broke out and Beijing became the focus of invaders. The war disrupted the society and many residences of royal families were robbed and burned down.

After that, the entire country was reduced to the status of semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. It wasn't until October 1st, 1949 that the People's Republic of China was founded. Beijing is known as the capital city of the prosperous new country which has flared into importance in Asia.

Beijing is the essential centre of China and the nation's political, economic, cultural, educational and international trade and communication centre. It is close to the port city of Tianjin and partially surrounded by Hebei Province and is the most important transportation hub and port of entry in China.

3 Tian an Men Square, the Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven

We begin our day with a visit to the historic Tian An Men Square, the largest public square in the world. The five-star red flag is raised at dawn and lowered at sunset every day. It was here that Mao Tse Tung first raised the flag of the People's Republic. Our visit continues to the Forbidden City where, in earlier times, only members of the Emperor's family were permitted. It is the largest and best-preserved palace in the world. Just imagine walking the grounds where Emperors once received royal visitors and were entertained by their court!

This afternoon, witness the temple at which Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasty's worshipped heaven and prayed for good harvests. The Temple of Heaven is the largest of all existing temples in China. With 'Freedom of Choice Touring,' guests wishing to experience a different side of Beijing can choose modern architecture over the Temple of Heaven and visit the Olympic Village including the Bird's Nest stadium, the National Centre for Performing Arts, colloquially known as The Egg, the CCTV Tower and the National Museum. (B,L,D)

4 Walking the Great Wall

Today you may live out your childhood dreams and walk on the Great Wall. Built over two thousand years ago by Emperor Qin, it remains a Wonder of the Ancient and Modern Worlds as it stretches over five thousand kilometres across China. This afternoon, you have time to relax or join us for a rickshaw ride through the ancient Hutongs of Beijing. With our Peking Duck dinner in a famous local dining room, this is definitely a day to remember. (B,L,D)

5 Board the *Shangri-La Express*

Enjoy a morning at leisure before we transfer to the Beijing West Railway Station, which is reputedly the worlds largest to board the *Shangri-La Express*, our private train. This is only the beginning to a spectacular journey across the great storied landscape of Asia, following the mystical Silk Road. Dine on a delightful lunch on board. This afternoon, explore the train, relax in your compartment or join some guests in the bar car. (B,L,D)

6 Xian, land of Terra Cotta Warriors

Our adventures today take us to the Mausoleum of Emperor Qin, one of China's greatest rulers and the builder of the Great Wall. Discovered in 1974, the Mausoleum contains over six thousand life sized terra cotta warriors and horses, the imperial bodyguards to the emperor on his journey after death. We also visit the Xian National History Museum to experience the different Chinese Dynasties. With it's proximity to the Silk Road, Xian brought exotic wonders to the emperors' courts.

Alternatively, guests may choose to visit the Han Yangling Museum. This tomb, along with its adjoining museum, dates back 2,000 years and is one of China's finest undiscovered secrets. This evening, experience a local cultural show and dinner featuring Tang dancing, typical of imperial entertainment during the Tang Dynasty. (B,L,D)

7 Lanzhou, vital Silk Route city

This morning we arrive in Lanzhou, one of the more vital cities on the Silk Route due to its principal location in the crossing of the Yellow River. We visit the Gansu Provincial Museum which provides a dramatic display of the types of goods that moved to the East along the Silk Route. We also see the famous 'galloping horse,' which dates from the Eastern Han period and was found in a nearby tomb. Enjoy a delicious dinner on board this evening. (B,L,D)

8 Dunhuang & the cave of a thousand Buddhas in the Gobi Desert

Dunhuang, long ago referred to as 'Sha Zhou,' or beautiful desert oasis, was the hub of middle and eastern silk routes in ancient times. This ancient city is best known for the artificial Mogao caves in the Singing Sand Mountain. One of the most spiritually influential and interesting places in China, the Mogao caves are made up of over 500 caverns. The caverns range from simple living quarters to massive worship halls and are affectionately known as 'The Cave of a Thousand Buddha's.' Carved between 700 and 1,700 years ago, they are an amazing collection of sculptures and murals depicting the evolution of Buddhist religious art over a 1,000-year period. Over 2,000 statues and 45,000 murals still remain.

Local folk performers entertain us during lunch in a very magical setting. This afternoon, board a camel on the traditional Silk Route to one of the natural wonders of the Gobi Desert, Crescent Lake. Lying at the edge of the Echoing-Sand Mountain, Crescent Spring is truly a natural wonder in the Gobi Desert. It resembles a crescent fallen into the sands of the desert. Having been lying among the sand dunes for thousands of years and having been attacked by the relentless sandstorms, Crescent Spring still gurgles clear and remains worthy as the first spring in the desert. (B,L,D)

9 Turpan and Urumchi

Turpan means 'the lowest place' or 'fertile land' and also 'Huo Zhou' (a place as hot as fire). With a high degree of average sunshine, this is one of the finest areas in China to grow fruit, melon and grapes. The locals are quite fond of the ancient sand therapy where they lie or sit under sheds, burying their bodies in hot 50C sand! It is said to be a good way to treat rheumatism and skin ailments. With the Flaming Mountains as its backdrop, Turpan sits in a very intriguing setting. We visit the centuries old underground irrigation system that feeds the rich orchards and vineyards, and the fascinating deserted sand city of Jiaohe.

This afternoon we drive to Urumchi, a graceful prairie city which lies in the lofty ice-capped Bogda Peak. To the east is a vast Salt Lake and to the south the rolling pine-covered Southern hill and the sand dunes of Zunggar Basin in the northwest. It is the largest city and one of the most spell binding in the western half of China. Our city tour this afternoon includes the renowned Mummies Exhibition in the Provincial Museum. (B,L,D)

10 Crossing into Kazakhstan

After breakfast this morning, we pass through dramatic mountain scenery and come to Druzhba, meaning 'friendship,' the border town between western China and Kazakhstan. On arrival in Alashankou, we experience the border formalities carried out by the local officials. This is a lengthy process of about five hours and patience is certainly a virtue! After our border formalities, we disembark the *Shangri-La Express* and board the *Golden Eagle* private train to continue our journey towards Moscow. (B,L,D)
Overnight on board the Golden Eagle, 10 nights

11 Almaty, Kazakhstan and 'yurt' lunch in the Tien Shen Mountains

We arrive in Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan, just after breakfast. During the tenth to fourteenth century, Almaty was one of the trade, craft and agricultural centers on the Silk Road and possessed an official mint. Today, Almaty is a vibrant city that played host to the 2011 Asian Winter Games. Set in a beautiful valley in the foothills of the Tien Shen Mountains, we have lunch in a traditional Kazak 'yurt', a dwelling place of the nomadic people of this region. After dinner this evening, join our resident pianist in the comfortable bar car and enjoy the company of your fellow guests. (B,L,D)

12 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Relax on board this morning as our rail journey continues. Enjoy reading or attending one of the interesting on board lectures or perhaps socialising with your fellow guests. After lunch we arrive in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. Located in the heart of Central Asia between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya Rivers, Uzbekistan has a long and interesting heritage. The leading cities of the famous Silk Road, Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, are found here and many well-known conquerors passed through this storied land.

Alexander the Great stopped near Samarkand on his way to India in 327 B.C. and married Roxanna, daughter of a local chieftain. Conquered by Muslim Arabs in the 8th century A.D., the indigenous Samanid dynasty established an empire in the 9th century. Genghis Khan and his Mongols overran its territory in 1220. In the 1300s, Timur, known in the west as Tamerlane, built an empire with its capital at Samarkand.

Today, it is a modern, Soviet style city completely rebuilt after a major earthquake in 1966. Tashkent was once the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union, though today it is difficult to picture this with sheep wandering the streets under the watchful eye of their turbaned shepherds. We spend the afternoon touring the city and visiting the Museum of Fine Arts which has a fine collection of the art of pre-Russian Turkestan, including Zoroastrian artefacts, serene 1000 year old Buddhist statues, and Sogdian murals. Dinner is on the train this evening as we depart for Samarkand. (B,L,D)

13 Samarkand, 'Rome of the East'

Many words have been used to describe this jewel of the Islamic world, 'the Paris of the Muslim World' and 'Rome of the East'. Its admirers include; Marco Polo, Tamerlane and Alexander the Great. Founded in the 6th century BC, its architecture gives an indication of its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia. We spend the day visiting the many fabulous buildings including the Bibi Kharum Mosque, the Ulag Beg observatory and the awe-inspiring Registan Square. Dinner is near the illuminated Registan Square, after which we return to the train for a late evening departure. (B,L,D)

14 The Ark in the oasis city of Bukhara

Traversing the Kyzylkum desert during the night we awake to the splendour of Uzbekistan's largest oasis city, Bukhara. Smaller than other cities in the country, it is perhaps just as, if not more, impressive as the larger Samarkand. Like Khiva UNESCO funded the renovation of much of the city for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999. The highlight of our tour includes a visit to The Ark, the fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara, rulers infamous for their cruelty, and who survived into Soviet times. Lunch is within one of the city's many medressehs (beautifully-tiled Islamic schools). We then travel out of the city to visit the Emir's Palace of the Moon and Stars. (B,L,D)

15 Merv, Turkmenistan, once the largest city in the world

Our coaches take us to the ancient oasis of Merv in the Karakum Desert. This was once one of the most important stops on the Silk Route and lies at the crossing point of the Amu Darya on the main east-west route to Bukhara and Samarkand. Once part of the empire of Alexander the Great, Merv has supported a series of urban centres since the 3rd millennium BC. Merv is the oldest and best-preserved of the oasis-cities along the Silk Route and contains a number of monuments from the last two millennia.

This was briefly the largest city in the world in the twelfth century before it was left to 'die' in 1794 after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended upon for water. Our tour takes in one of the famous five walled cities of the area. (B,L,D)

16 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'

We arrive in the capital city of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat. Ashgabat is a relatively young city, growing out of a village of the same name established by Russian officers in 1881. It is not far from the site of Nisa, the ancient capital of the Parthian Empire, and it grew on the ruins of the Silk Road city of Konjikala. Ashgabat remained a part of Persia until 1881, when it was ceded to Tsarist Russia under the terms of Akhal Treaty.

Today, this significant city seems largely out of place in the middle of a vast desert. However, it is a culturally vibrant, modern city lying at the edge of the Kopet Dag, the large mountain range which marks the border between Turkmenistan and Iran. Some even consider it a modern folly, though officially it is a monument to the recently deceased President Sapamurat Turkmenbashi. (B,L,D)

17 Khiva, Uzbekistan crossroads of Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia

We cross back into Uzbekistan for our afternoon arrival in Urgench. Khiva was once one of the most important trading centres at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia. Its former wealth is evident in the fabulous buildings, mosques, bazaars and minarets that are within the walled city which have been restored with the support of UNESCO since 1991, when it celebrated its 2 500th anniversary. Enjoy lunch in the city and dinner on board the train. (B,L,D)

18 Kara Kum, Kazakhstan

Enjoy the incredible scenery and relax on board the *Golden Eagle* as we pass through Kazakhstan's Kara Kum desert. The remote villages we briefly stop at add to the mystery and beauty of this very remote landscape. Enjoy time with your fellow guests or attend the on board Russian language lessons. (B,L,D)

19 Volgograd, Russia

Founded in 1589, Volgograd, located on the bank of the lower Volga, is one of the largest cities in Russia. It stretches over 80 kilometres and is interwoven with approximately 50 different rivers. Formerly known as Stalingrad, the city is rich in history and culture and served as a fortress guarding the trade route along the Volga River and was one of the leading industrial centres in the Soviet Union prior to the start of the Great Patriotic War. A beautiful and productive city, it was virtually destroyed during the Battle of Stalingrad, one of the greatest battles of the Second World War. Lasting six months, it involved more than two million men, over two thousand tanks, twenty six thousand guns and two thousand airplanes. As the city of Stalingrad was pivotal to the outcome of the war, Russian soldiers had orders to 'Fight to the death, not one step back!'

Today Volgograd is a very modern city, boasting many monuments honouring the history of this great city. We visit the sobering Mamayev Kurgan war memorial, followed by the excellent diorama and museum. Join us for our farewell banquet this evening to celebrate an incredible journey and our last night on board the *Golden Eagle*. (B,L,D)

20 Moscow

Enjoy a relaxing day on board the *Golden Eagle*, reminiscing many of the highlights of our 11 226 kilometre rail journey from Beijing. This evening, relax at our luxurious hotel in the heart of the city. *Overnight Moscow, five-star Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel, 2 nights* (B,L,D)

Moscow

Although records show that the area was inhabited in Neolithic times, the first mention of Moscow (Moskva in Russian) was in 1147 when a fort was built beside the Moskva river. A city grew from the early trading post to become the most important in Russia and its Capital until 1712, when Peter the Great transferred it to his new city of Saint Petersburg. In 1918, after the civil war, Lenin transferred the capital back to Moscow. In September 1997, Moscow celebrated its 850th anniversary and huge amounts of energy and money were spent renovating a city that has now joined the ranks of the world's greatest.

With a population of 8.8 million (Greater Moscow is estimated to be closer to 14 million) and covering 340 square miles, Moscow is Russia's largest city. For most of this century, Moscow was not only the capital of Russia, but the centre of world Communism, as well as the political and economic centre of all the Soviet Union Republics.

The Soviet flag flew for the last time on 25th December 1991 and since then Moscow has been transformed. Beautiful pre-Revolutionary buildings that had been allowed to fall into disrepair under the Soviet system are being lovingly restored to their former glory.

It is easy to forget that only a few short years ago, Russians would always carry an empty shopping bag in case they came across something, anything, they could buy with their almost useless Rubles.

Russia today, as always, is a paradox and demands enormous patience from the traveller outside the main cities. We will encounter the Russian strange combination of rudeness and charm, gloom and euphoria, secrecy and complete openness, a country that in some ways has changed little in outlook since Churchill described it as 'a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma'.

21 Red Square, Moscow and 'freedom of choice touring'

Moscow is considered by many to be one of the most intriguing, yet mystifying cities in the world. Our tour today takes us to Red Square, an iconic symbol of the might of the former USSR. Many visitors imagine the stony faced leaders of the USSR as they watched their parades of military might and high stepping soldiers march past their viewing stands atop Stalin's Mausoleum.

Rail Cruising - The Silk Road, Beijing to Moscow

Framed by the ornate St. Basil's Cathedral with its glorious onion domes and the expansive facade of the world-famous GUM department store, Red Square is, and deserves to be, the requisite first stop for any visitor to Moscow.

With freedom of choice touring, you may wish to visit, as an example, the Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Russian Fine Art). Enjoy the comraderie of your travelling companions at our farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 22 Home

We depart for the airport and board our flights home. (B)

All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at www.jerryvandyke.com or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.

The order of visits may change due to limited group sizes in some venues.

Take advantage of our Early Reservation Bonus

Save \$600 per couple and earn a chance to win \$1,000 off each journey you reserve.

Win \$1 000 - you have the chance to win \$1,000 off every journey you reserve that year using our Early Reservation Bonus.

Avoid disappointment - our journeys fill very quickly, many 8 - 14 months in advance.

Peace of mind - your journey price will not increase. (All journeys are subject to supplier fuel surcharges, should they arise.)

Best Choice - any benefits of cabin selection, departure times, flights, etc. are provided to those who reserve earliest.

How does it work?

Pay for 95% of your journey (by cash or cheque) at time of reservation* and we will:

- Deduct \$300 per guest off your journey
- Enter your name in our draw to win \$1,000 off each journey you reserve that year.

* For your convenience, the 5% final payment may be paid by credit card on the final payment date.

Early Reservation Bonus expires January 28, 2012

PS – we believe this journey will sell out long before the Early Reservation Bonus expires.

Reserve today!

Your Journey Includes

Outstanding Accommodation

- Regent Hotel, Beijing, 3 nights
- 4 star *Shangri-La Express* train, 5 nights
- 4 star *Golden Eagle* train, 10 nights
- Marriott Moscow Royal Aurora, 2 nights

Air Travel

- Airfare from Toronto to Beijing, Moscow to Toronto. Travel around the world!
- Other gateways available. Please contact our friendly office staff.

Discover, Learn & Experience on private tours and shore excursions

- Tian An Men Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, walk the Great Wall
- Xian, land of Terra Cotta Warriors
- Xian National History Museum
- Han Yangling Museum
- Gansu Provincial Museum in Lanzhou
- Gobi Desert & Crescent Lake
- Dunhuang & the cave of a thousand Buddhas
- Turpan and its underground irrigation system
- Spell binding city of Urumchi
- Yurt lunch in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan, land of Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan
- Samarkand, 'Rome of the East'
- Bibi Kharum Mosque & the Ulag Beg Observatory
- The Ark in the oasis city of Bukhara
- Lunch in a Bukhara medresseh
- Merv, Turkmenistan, once the largest city in the world
- Ashgabat, the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'
- Khiva, Uzbekistan crossroads of Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia
- Kara Kum Desert
- Mamayev Kurgan war memorial in Volgograd, Russia
- Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow

Necessities – know the full cost of your journey before you leave home

- All taxes on all incl. items; PST, HST, VAT
- Visas for China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan & Russia with round trip secure courier service from your door to ours
- Private car home pick up service
- Gratuities on all included items, to all train staff, Jerry Van Dyke Journey Managers, local guides, coach drivers, porters, attraction guides, waiters
- Entrance fees during sightseeing
- Services of a professional Journey Manager from Canada to Canada
- Services of a dedicated Train Manager
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water from the car attendant 24 hours a day
- A generous allowance of wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Services of local guides in each city
- Services of English speaking local interpreters
- Deluxe overnight carry-on bag
- Porterage for one piece of baggage
- Full pre trip information and assistance
- All sightseeing as listed
- On board doctor
- 24 hr on board cabin attendant

Fares from Toronto in Canadian dollars per guest

	CAD \$ Twin	Single
Silver Class	\$22 490	\$30 238
Gold Class	\$27 190	\$37 890

Fuel Surcharges - these journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional charges may apply at final payment date.

Gold Class guests receive two standard compartments on the *Shangri-La Express* and a Gold Class compartment on the *Golden Eagle*.

Other air gateways available, please contact our office

Your Accommodation

'Hotels and trains should be part of the experience, not just a place to sleep' ...*Jerry Van Dyke*

The Regent Beijing

Located in the historical centre of China's capital, Beijing, the Regent Beijing hotel boasts 500 luxuriously appointed guest rooms in the very centre of the city. The Regent is minutes from the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Wangfujing shopping, the Oriental Plaza and many other attractions in Beijing.

Hotel amenities include five restaurants and lounges, a full service spa, fitness centre and an indoor pool, making the Regent one of the best Luxury Beijing Hotels.



5 star Marriott Moscow Royal Aurora

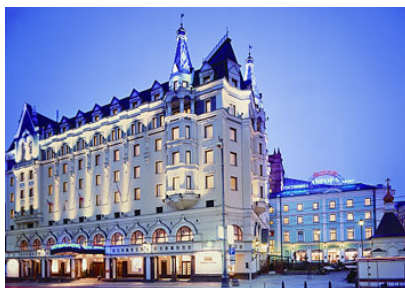
Experience a wonderful mix of traditional and modern Moscow hotels at the exquisite Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel. This Moscow luxury hotel pampers the most discerning travelers. Located in Moscow city centre, within walking distance of Red Square and the Bolshoi Theatre, Marriott Moscow Royal Aurora offers spacious accommodations with Butler service for each guest room.

Other guest room amenities include

The Polo Club Restaurant features a wonderful selection of steaks and international wines and Aurora offers a la carte lunch and dinner and an extravagant breakfast buffet under a 5-story atrium. After sightseeing, rejuvenate your body and spirit at our 24-hour fitness gym and indoor pool. The health club features a superb indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna and steam room.

Guest Room Features

26sqm /280sqft, Air-conditioned, Living/sitting area, Windows are soundproofed and can be opened, High ceilings, Evening turndown service, Butler service, in-room safe, mini-bar, WI FI Internet access, and DVD player.



Shangri-La Express

Modern comfort in an ancient wilderness, the *Shangri-La Express* guarantees you good living even in the remotest places.

Our twin-berth cabins are the perfect private retreat, comfortably furnished and traditionally decorated with the varnished wood and brass reminiscent of a different age. Each includes a 'Pullman' table and deep armchair alongside a large picture window; a perfect place from which to take in China's ever-changing scenery. A state of the art shower car complements the two washrooms in every sleeping carriage.

The *Shangri-La Express* features a 'Heineken Shower Car' – probably the best shower car in the world. Features include shower, dressing vestibule area, mirror with lighting, hairdryers and shaving plug sockets therefore offering passengers the chance to freshen up in a spacious area and comfort whilst travelling.

Meals are served in the train's spacious restaurant cars, where dedicated chefs serve a western breakfast followed by a wide range of authentic Chinese specialities at lunch and dinner, using only the finest local ingredients. As well as soft drinks, tea and coffee, meals are accompanied by a selection of wines from around the world. Enjoy complimentary 24hr coffee, tea and mineral water on board.

Equally special is the unique ambience of the piano bar car, where the resident pianist is always happy to take requests. Staying open until the last person leaves, the bar is the perfect place to get to know your fellow passengers, or simply while away some time, reading or taking in the scenery while enjoying your favourite drink.

Gold Class - the *Shangri-La* has one compartment category. Guests reserving Gold Class will receive two adjoining compartments on the *Shangri-La* and a Gold Class compartment on board the *Golden Eagle*.



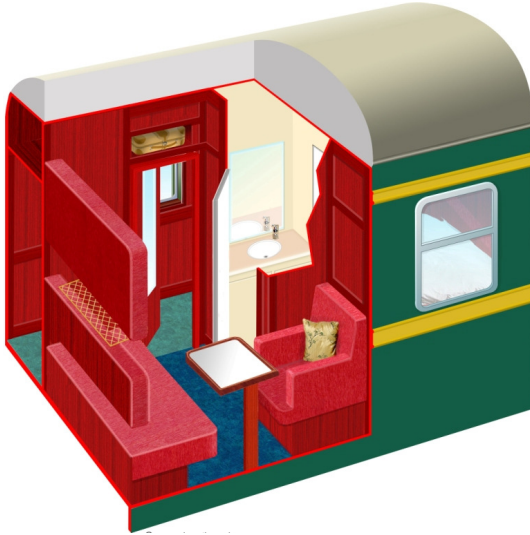
Rail Cruising - The Silk Road, Beijing to Moscow

Cabin dimensions

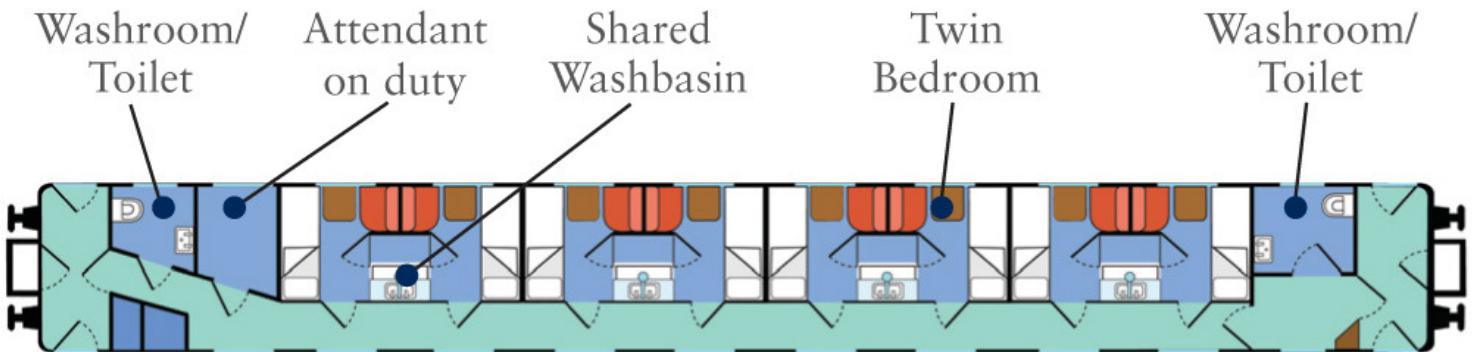
Cabin area – 38' 4" sq ft (3.6sqm)
 Cabin length – 6' 7" (2m)
 Cabin width – 6' 2" (1.9m)
 Lower bed width – 2' 5" (0.75m)
 Upper bed width – 2' 3" (0.7m)
 Bed Length – 6' 2" (1.9m)
 Cabins per car: 8



Day



Night



THE SHANGRI-LA EXPRESS Carriage floor plan

Rail Cruising - The Silk Road, Beijing to Moscow



The Golden Eagle

On 26 April 2007 HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO unveiled the *Golden Eagle*, a new train that brings unprecedented luxury to many of the world's greatest railway journeys.

A particular delight of the *Golden Eagle* are the beautifully appointed restaurant cars, the perfect venue for our chefs to serve carefully prepared meals using, wherever possible, only local ingredients. Whether it is the world-renowned 'Borscht' or Omul – a fish unique to Lake Baikal – we offer a culinary experience representing the very essence of Russia. Our meals are complemented by wines from around the world.

The social heart of the train is the bar car, a great place to relax and settle into the unhurried pace of life on board. Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by as you get to know your fellow passengers. Enjoy the sounds of the pianist playing in the evenings. The bar remains open till the last guest departs.

The 12 new, fully en-suite sleeping cars feature state of the art amenities. Gold Class cabins are well-proportioned and have everything from power showers and under floor heating to a DVD/CD player, LCD screen and individual air-conditioning. Silver Class cabins are more compact and have similar facilities. The new Heritage Class cabins, while not en-suite, provide comfortable surroundings in which to enjoy this legendary journey.

The Golden Eagle features a generous allowance of drinks with lunch & dinner, on board doctor & 24 hr on board cabin attendant, one or two lovingly designed restaurant cars and a spacious bar car. So, as well as enjoying the excellent food and wine served on board, you can sit with a drink while enjoying the good company and conversation of fellow travellers and watch the changing landscapes unfold.

The train's schedule includes a wide ranging sightseeing program to make the most of the time we have off the train.

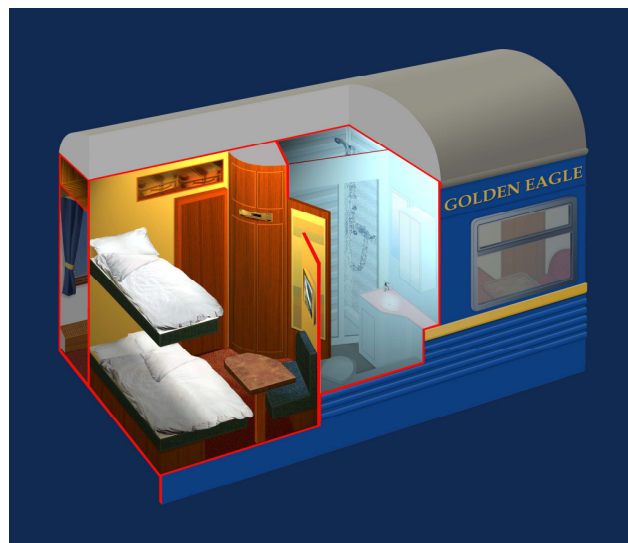


Rail Cruising - The Silk Road, Beijing to Moscow

Golden Eagle Cabins

The Golden Eagle boasts some of the finest accommodation available in luxury train travel today, offering a high level of comfort particularly important in the cabins, which will be your 'hotel room' on wheels.

Gold Class



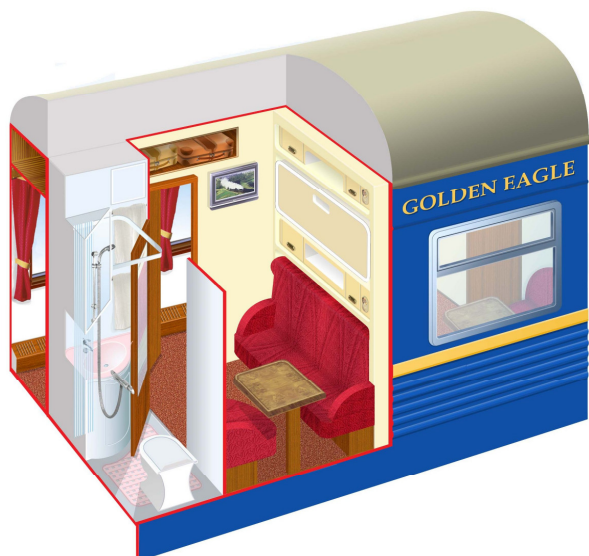
Cabin area – 77 sq ft (7sqm) Cabin length – 6' 7" (2m) Cabin width – 11' 8" (3.6m)
Lower bed width – 4' 5" (1.35m) Upper bed width – 2' 9" (85cm) or double bed (limited)
Bed Length – 6' 3" (1.9m) Cabins per car: 5
Private en-suite bathroom with full power shower and underfloor heating
Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating, Recessed lighting and wardrobe,
Personal safe, DVD/CD player with LCD screens, Towels and Linens changed regularly.



Gold Class - the *Shangri-La* has one category of compartment, Heritage Class. Guests reserving Gold Class will receive two adjoining compartments on the *Shangri-La* and a Gold Class compartment on board the *Golden Eagle*.

Rail Cruising - The Silk Road, Beijing to Moscow

Silver Class



Cabin area - 60 sq ft (5.5sqm) Cabin length – 6' 7" (2m) Cabin width – 9' (2.7m)

Lower bed width – 4' (1.2m) Upper bed width – 2' 9" (85cm)

Bed length (upper & lower) – 6' 3" (1.9m) Cabins per car: 6

Facilities – private with sink, toilet & shower combined in a wet room style.

Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating, Recessed lighting and wardrobe, Personal safe

DVD/CD player with LCD screens, Towels and Linens changed regularly, Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin, Laundry service available for a fee

