Yale Educational Travel

July 9-23, 2019

Trans-Mongolian Railway
with Naadam Festival Aboard the Golden Eagle

Paul Bracken '82 PhD
Professor of Management and Political Science
Join us on a spectacular tour aboard the luxury Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express private train, barreling from Mongolia’s capital city, Ulaanbaatar, through the heart of Siberia, and on to Moscow. Traveling on a portion of the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway, the train rolls across thousands of miles of taiga, steppe, and mountain, pausing in places that bring travelers face-to-face with the fascinating cultures of Mongolia and Russia.

For centuries, Mongolia’s remote location kept this rugged and beautiful land isolated from much of the world. As the country launches headlong into the 21st century, ancient nomadic traditions continue to thrive at the renowned Naadam Festival, a celebration of courage, strength, dexterity, and marksmanship dating back to the time of Genghis Khan. Join the crowds singing the praises of Mongolia’s best at this extraordinary event before boarding the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express on its westward journey.

Make the first stop in Siberia’s Ulan Ude, where descendants of 17th century Old Believers have made their homes, retaining their traditions, costumes, cuisine, and music. Skirt UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal on the Old Railway, the most scenic leg of the journey, and visit Irkutsk, home to early political exiles. Tour sprawling Novosibirsk, which grew up around the Ob River crossing built for the Trans-Siberian Railway. Discover the place in Ekaterinburg where the last czar was killed, and explore the UNESCO-listed Kremlin in Kazan, originally a fortress of the Golden Horde.

The final stop is magnificent Moscow, Russia’s booming, 870-year-old capital city, where ancient churches stand shoulder-to-shoulder with 21st century high rises. Discover the city’s momentous and often turbulent history through an exploration of its classic sites, including Red Square and the Kremlin, the heart of Russia and Russian politics.

A compelling survey of diverse cultures, incredible landscapes, warm people, and intriguing history, this adventure along one of the world’s greatest train routes is unlike any other on the planet. We’d love to have you join us.

Lauren Summers
Senior Director of Lifelong Learning and Travel
Association of Yale Alumni

Dear Yale Traveler

yaleedtravel.org/transmongolia19
Paul Bracken '82 PhD is a professor of management and political science at Yale University. He is a respected thought leader in global competition and the strategic application of technology in business and defense. His research and teaching focus on solutions for senior management as it deals with a changing strategic environment and conditions of intense uncertainty. He is a leading teacher in executive education and has run many programs for companies in finance, technology, retail, and health care. He is also a frequent teacher at One Day University on topics such as Problem Framing in Business, the Future of the Corporation, Big Business and Democracy, and the Second Nuclear Age.

Professor Bracken is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is included in Princeton Review’s book on The Best 300 Professors in the United States. He consults with several private equity firms, sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies, banks, and technology companies, and to the RAND Corporation. He has been a visiting scholar at the CIA and Beijing University and is the author of six books on global business, warning and risk, national security and world order and has written for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Newsweek, and Foreign Affairs.

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Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010
Reservations: 203.432.1952 edtravel@yale.edu

Yale Study Leader

Upcoming Trips

Undiscovered Greek Islands
Aboard Sea Cloud
07/21/2019 – 07/29/2019

Pearls of Dalmatia:
Croatia & Slovenia
09/14/2019 – 09/28/2019

Vietnam, Cambodia &
The Mekong River
11/04/2019 – 11/17/2019

Historic South and
Golden Isles Cruise
Aboard Independence
11/16/2019 – 11/24/2019
ITINERARY  
JULY 9-23, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL  
Tuesday, June 28 (tentative)  
Join the group at 4PM Eastern for the pre-trip welcome call with professor Bracken in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

DEPART USA/ARRIVE ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA  
Tuesday-Wednesday, July 9-10  
Depart USA on international flights bound for Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival, transfer to a five-star hotel in the city center and enjoy a group welcome dinner. (In flight, 1D; Shangri-La Hotel)

ULAANBAATAR • NAADAM FESTIVAL  
Thursday-Friday, July 11-12  
The first two days will be spent attending the exciting Naadam Festival, a celebration of Mongolia’s independence and nomadic traditions, showcasing the nation’s most popular sports. Watch the colorful Naadam Opening Ceremony, and cheer for the athletes at the long-distance horse racing event and the archery and wrestling competitions. (2B, 2L, 2D; Shangri-La Hotel)

ULAANBAATAR • BOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE PRIVATE TRAIN  
Saturday, July 13  
Continue exploring Mongolia’s capital with a visit to Gandan Monastery, built in 1840, as well as a walk through the fascinating dinosaur fossils and exhibits at the Paleontology Museum. Drive outside the city to beautiful Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, and pause at the giant stainless-steel equestrian statue of Genghis Khan for panoramic views of the steppe. Return to Ulaanbaatar this evening for a traditional music and dance performance, then board the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express bound for Siberia. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

ULAN UDE  
Sunday, July 14  
Today, stop in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic and the Buddhist region of Russia. Pay a visit to a village of Old Believers for a concert featuring local singers and musicians. Exiled to isolated Siberian villages, these groups have been able to preserve their 17th-century traditions, clothing, architecture, language and songs. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

IRKUTSK  
Tuesday, July 16  
In Irkutsk, the “capital” of Siberia, admire the major sights and museums of this cultured city, including examples of the classic wooden architecture for which the area is known. Highlights are a meeting with a bell ringer and a private bell ringing performance on top of a church bell tower, as well as a visit to the Decembrist House Museum, the former home of exile Sergei Volkonsky and his wife, Maria. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

LAKE BAikal  
Monday, July 15  
A spectacular part of the journey is spent winding through tunnels and around cliffs along the shoreline of UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, the world’s deepest and oldest freshwater lake. Stop en route for a barbecue at the lake’s edge and an opportunity to sample smoked fish prepared by the onboard chefs. For the more adventurous, there is time to take a dip in the crystal clear, but very cold, waters. In the nearby village of Listvyanka, visit the Baikal Limnological Museum, dedicated to the study of the lake’s unique ecosystem. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

NOVOSIBIRSK  
Thursday, July 18  
Disembark in Novosibirsk, Siberia’s largest city and its industrial and scientific center. Explore the city yaleedtravel.org/transmongolia19

Discover the extraordinary cultures along the railway between Mongolia and Moscow, and celebrate Mongolia’s ageless traditions at the Naadam Festival.
center including Lenin Square, and enjoy a specially arranged tour inside Russia’s largest Opera House. Time permitting, visit the open-air Trans-Siberian Railway Museum to wander among the old steam and diesel engines and rail cars. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

EKATERINBURG
Friday, July 19
Cross from Asia into Europe at Ekaterinburg, where the last czar, Nicholas II, and his family were placed under house arrest before the Bolsheviks executed them in July of 1918. Today, the Church on the Blood stands over the spot where the czar and his family were killed. Schedules permitting, stop at the obelisk marking the border between Europe and Asia before re-boarding the train for departure in the evening. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

KAZAN
Saturday, July 19
Stop in Kazan, the beautiful capital of the Republic of Tatarstan on the Volga River. The highlight is the UNESCO-listed Kazan Kremlin, said to be the only surviving Tatar fortress in Russia, where mosques stand shoulder-to-shoulder with onion-domed Orthodox churches. Take a boat ride on the Volga River and enjoy the unique opportunity to visit the Kazan Conservatory. Meet with instructors and students, and attend a privately arranged concert performed by the young musicians. (1B, 1L, 1D; Aboard the train)

MOSCOW
Sunday-Monday, July 21-22
Arrive in Moscow, Russia’s capital city, and get to know the classic sites of this world-class destination. Drive by the Duma building, where Russia’s governing body meets; the Bolshoi Theater; and the UNESCO-listed Novodevichy Convent, where such luminaries as Gogol, Chekhov and Boris Yeltsin are buried. Take a leisurely walk through Red Square, which, along with St. Basil’s Cathedral, is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of Russia. Tour the venerable Moscow Kremlin and the Armory Museum, housing Russia’s national treasures. Toast the end of an epic journey at a festive farewell dinner. (1B, 1L, 1D; Baltschug Kempinski Hotel)

DEPART MOSCOW
Tuesday, July 23
The tour concludes this morning with transfers to the airport for international departures. (1B; In flight)

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

What is Included:

- All accommodation based on double occupancy per itinerary with breakfast daily, local service charge and tax: UlaanBaatar (3 nights); on board the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express private train (8 nights); Moscow (2 nights)
- Arrival and departure airport transfers for those arriving and departing on the land tour start and end dates
- Private coach for all tours and off-train excursions
- All sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees per itinerary
- Local English speaking guides throughout itinerary
- Special cultural features as stated in the itinerary
- Services of an experienced professional MIR tour manager throughout the land program
- Special welcome and farewell dinners including beer and wine
- Meals as listed in itinerary
- Beverages with included lunches and dinners: bottled water, choice of non-alcoholic drinks, tea, coffee, wine and beer
- Bottled water on buses on tour days
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, tour manager, and staff on the private train
- Baggage handling at hotels and railway stations
- Destination preparation information packet

What is Not Included:

- International airfare between the U.S. and the tour start and end cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; visa or passport fees; medical and trip interruption insurance; evacuation costs; food or beverages not included in group meals; baggage handling at airports where porter services are not available; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.
**Silver Class cabinets** offer compact (60 sq ft) but comfortable accommodations onboard the *Golden Eagle*. Modern en suite amenities include a private shower, a DVD/CD player, remote-controlled air-conditioning/heating, wardrobe, personal safe and a large picture window.

**Gold Class cabins** are well-proportioned and feature the same amenities as Silver Class cabins, but in a larger space (77 sq ft), and include a full power shower and under-floor heating in every bathroom. Each cabin is configured with upper and lower berths, and can accommodate double, twin or single occupancy.

**Imperial Suites** are the most beautiful and spacious cabins onboard the *Golden Eagle*. Measuring a generous 120 sq ft (11.2 sq meters), they are furnished with a luxurious king size bed, dedicated seating area, dressing table and private en suite facilities with large power shower and under floor heating. Individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player and two large picture windows.

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**Program Cost**

*Silver Class Cabin:* $17,595 per person double occupancy
$24,190 single occupancy

*Gold Class Cabin:* $20,795 per person double occupancy
$28,790 single occupancy

*Imperial Suite:* $30,750 per person double occupancy
*limited availability*

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.

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**Reserve Your Trans-Mongolian Railway Trip Today**

Book online: yaleedtravel.org/transmongolia19
MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
YET must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development/promotional expenses; and loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to YET, and are subject to the following cancellation policy. At the time YET receives written notification of cancellation, the following charges will apply: cancellations received more than 91 days prior to departure forfeit the non-refundable $1,000 deposit. No refunds will be given for cancellations received within 90 days of departure.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A non-refundable deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to MIR Corporation is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952. Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “MIR Corporation” to Yale Educational Travel, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

TRANSMONGOLIAN RAILWAY
July 9-23, 2019

yaleedtravel.org/transmongolia19

Terms and Conditions
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Photo Credit: Helge Pedersen, Bill Adams, Richard Fejfar, MIR Corporation
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Embark on a spectacular journey along the Trans-Mongolian Railway, heading from Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, through Siberia to metropolitan Moscow. Attend the remarkable Naadam Festival. Trace the shores of UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal and pause at fascinating stops along the line to experience surprisingly diverse cultures.