



Join TravelQuest and *Sky & Telescope* to witness the awe-inspiring total solar eclipse on August 1, 2008, outside the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. Rekindle the adventurous spirit of early explorers traveling cross-country by rail on the legendary Trans-Siberian Express train.

Our exclusive Trans-Siberian Express private train programs provide the highest standard of comfort available, combining the elegance of fine old-world rail travel with modern amenities and superb cuisine. Along the way, we'll disembark for outstanding cultural excursions at fascinating locations.

Itinerary Overview

Day 1	Sun, Jul 27	Arrive Moscow
Day 2	Mon, Jul 28	Moscow • depart on the Trans-Siberian
Day 3	Tue, Jul 29	Yaroslavl
Day 4	Wed, Jul 30	Ekaterinburg
Day 5	Thu, Jul 31	Novosibirsk
Day 6	Fri, Aug 1	Novosibirsk • Total Eclipse Day
Day 7	Sat, Aug 2	Onboard the Trans-Siberian
Day 8	Sun, Aug 3	Irkutsk
Day 9	Mon, Aug 4	Lake Baikal
Day 10	Tue, Aug 5	Ulan Ude
Day 11	Wed, Aug 6	Onboard the Trans-Siberian
Day 12	Thu, Aug 7	Onboard the Trans-Siberian
Day 13	Fri, Aug 8	Onboard the Trans-Siberian
Day 14	Sat, Aug 9	Vladivostok
Day 15	Sun, Aug 10	Depart Vladivostok

ITINERARY *Grand Passage, through Siberia Total Eclipse*

Day 1 Sunday, July 27, 2008

Dinner

Arrive Moscow

Upon arrival at Moscow International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. (Optional pre-tour packages to Moscow and St. Petersburg will be offered in Fall 2007.) Your accommodations at the Hotel Metropol offer five-star luxury in a historic setting, perfectly situated across from the famous Bolshoi Theater and just a short walk from Red Square and the Kremlin. The beautiful rooms are decorated with antiques and equipped with state-of-the-art electronics and security systems. Join us this evening for a welcome dinner.

Day 2 Mon, July 28

B/L/D

Moscow: Novodevichy Convent, The Kremlin, Armory Museum, Trans-Siberian Express

Following breakfast we will depart on a full day orientation of Moscow, the economic and political center of Russia. Founded in 1147 by Yuri Dolgoruky (literally “Yuri of the Long Arms”), Moscow rose to prominence during Mongol domination and eventually became the Russian capital. Eclipsed for 200 years by St. Petersburg, Moscow was restored as the Russian political center after the October Revolution in 1917.

We’ll begin our orientation with a drive to Moscow State University to enjoy panoramic views of the city and continue on to the beautiful grounds of Novodevichy Convent, founded in 1524. We will also stop at the huge memorial complex of Victory Park, with its many fountains and monuments. Our tour will continue with a drive back to the city center, past the Bolshoi Theater and the notorious Lubyanka Prison.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, our tour will take us to the Kremlin and Armory Museum. The Moscow Kremlin reminds modern-day Russia of its medieval past. In the mid-14th century, the Russian princes, ruling from the Kremlin, became so powerful that Moscow was named the center of the Russian Orthodox Church. Today, the Kremlin remains the center of Moscow and Russian politics. Inside the fortress walls are palaces, cathedrals and government buildings and the Armory Museum, which now houses Russia’s national treasures such as religious icons, Faberge eggs, a bejeweled chalice belonging to Prince Yuri, and Catherine the Great’s ball gowns and shoes.

This evening we will board the Trans-Siberian Express to begin our cross-country journey to the Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan. Tonight, we’ll enjoy our first sumptuous meal onboard the train.

Overnight: Onboard the Trans-Siberian (12 nights)

Day 3 Tue, July 29

B/L/D

Yaroslavl

Traveling northeast of Moscow, we will pause in Yaroslavl. In 1010, Kiev’s Grand Duke Yaroslavl the Wise founded this town at the confluence of the Volga River and one of its tributaries, the Kotorosl. Our driving tour will take us along the riverbank and through the city with its white and green onion-domed churches. We’ll stop at the massive Volga Bastion, built in 1660, and the 17th-century former Metropolitan’s Palace that now houses one of Yaroslavl’s art museums. In the Old Town are examples of the red brick churches with decorative ceramic tiles crafted by members of Yaroslavl’s renowned posad, an artist and craftsmen’s settlement.

This evening, we’ll dine in style aboard the train, heading over the Ural Mountains and crossing from Europe into Asia.

July 27 - August 10, 2008



Day 4 Wed, July 30
Ekaterinburg

B/L/D

This morning we'll awaken to find ourselves arriving in Ekaterinburg. Founded in 1721 and named after Catherine I, Ekaterinburg is best known as the place where the last czar, Nicholas II, and his family were imprisoned and executed by the Bolsheviks.

The city is also where Boris Yeltsin was born and attended university, and where US pilot Gary Powers was shot down in his U2 spy plane in 1960. Known as Sverdlovsk during the Soviet era, the city is markedly different from other Siberian towns due to its rich mining industry, developed before the revolution, and because of its many defense plants, which caused Sverdlovsk to be closed to foreigners until 1990.

Our city tour will include a stop at the Soviet Army Square with its unusual Black Tulip monument, commemorating the tragic loss of life in the various Soviet military campaigns, most notably Afghanistan. We will also visit the small but interesting Mineralogical Museum, the History & Local Studies Museum and the Military History Museum, as well as the impressive Church on the Blood, which stands over the spot where Czar Nicholas II and his family were killed in 1918.

Day 5 Thu, July 31
Novosibirsk

B/L/D

With a population of 1.6 million, Novosibirsk is the largest city in Siberia, and its industrial and scientific center. Novosibirsk did not exist before the Trans-Siberian railway was built, growing up around the place chosen for the rail line's Ob River crossing.

Today we'll explore this thriving Siberian city with a visit to the Novosibirsk Art Museum, which displays mainly 19th and 20th-century Russian art, and includes an extensive collection of mystic/artist Nikolai Roerich's representations of the Altai Mountains south of the city. Our next stop will be the Novosibirsk State Museum of Regional Studies, whose task has been to collect original artifacts and information about Siberia's many indigenous peoples, most of who were still living in the old ways in 1920 when the museum was founded. Today, fourteen of the Siberian indigenous nations are represented here, as well as the early Slavic settlers in the area.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll continue on to Akademgorodok (Academy City), founded in 1959 by Nikita Khrushchev when he relocated the USSR's top scientists to this special town built expressly for scientific research. Akademgorodok continues today as perhaps the most renowned world-class research campus.

ITINERARY *Grand Passage, through Siberia Total Eclipse*

Day 6 Fri, Aug 1

B/L/D

Novosibirsk: Eclipse Day!

Today we will have the opportunity to experience the total eclipse of the Sun as few people in the world will – from the center of the path in the middle of Siberia! After fourth contact, we'll return to the city for dinner and to share our eclipse experiences.



Local eclipse contact times (approx).

First contact (eclipse begins):	16:41
Second contact (totality begins):	17:44
Third contact (totality ends):	17:46
Fourth contact (eclipse ends):	18:45
Duration of totality	2m 20s



Novosibirsk Eclipse Day Weather

by Eclipse Meteorologist Jay Anderson

Russia's fourth-largest city provides ready access to the eclipse track and to the most favourable area for viewing outside of China. Novosibirsk lies within a small region of south central Siberia that has a notable sunny microclimate. Lying in the midst of the world's largest landmass, the city is well-removed from oceanic moisture sources. The immense Altai Mountains and the Gobi Desert to the south block monsoon flows that invade Asia at this time of year.

Southern Siberia experiences the same types of weather systems typical of the northern Great Plains, with periodic low-pressure disturbances and generous thunderstorms. Temperatures are pleasantly warm and humidities typically low. Cooling associated with the eclipse will tend to dissipate smaller cloud elements and the higher angle of the Sun when compared to Chinese locations will make viewing more certain in a partly-cloudy sky.

July 27 - August 10, 2008

Day 7 Sat, Aug 2

B/L/D

Onboard the Trans-Siberian

Visit with friends and relax onboard as the private train rolls through the endless Russian taiga, the immense forest of pine, larch, spruce and fir. There will be a few brief stops at small towns, where local folks may have snacks and homemade trinkets to sell.

Day 8 Sun, August 3

B/L/D

Irkutsk

We will pull in to Irkutsk today and disembark to explore. Irkutsk began as a wooden fortress founded by Cossacks in 1661. Fortified and armed to a greater degree than other Siberian settlements, Irkutsk became a staging area for trade convoys and exploring expeditions, and by the early 18th century, settlers had already built 13 churches.

Our city tour will include a visit to the Gagarin embankment (named after the first man in space), the Cathedral of the Epiphany, built in 1724, the Church of Our Saviour, and the Trubetskoi House and Volkonsky House, two mansions occupied by exiled Decembrists. We will tour the Museum of Wooden Architecture and an area of old wooden houses, many with the intricate fretwork surrounding brightly painted window frames typical of local Siberian architecture. We will also visit the Museum of Baikal Navigation, housed in the icebreaker Angara, which was built in England and shipped in pieces to Irkutsk by train. It was used to ferry passengers across the lake until completion of the Circumbaikal line in 1904.

Day 9 Mon, August 4

B/L/D

Lake Baikal

A spectacular part of our journey, today will be spent winding our way through tunnels and around cliffs along the shoreline of Lake Baikal, the world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake, containing more water than North America's Great Lakes combined. We will stop for a barbeque at the lake's edge en route to the village of Listvyanka, where we will explore the Limnological Museum, highlighting the complex ecosystem of the lake, and will have the opportunity to see a nerpa, Baikal's unique freshwater seal.

Day 10 Tue, August 5

B/L/D

Ulan Ude

Today we will arrive in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic. Our driving tour will take us through the city, with a stop at the world's largest Lenin head – a photo op not to be missed. We'll continue on to the fascinating Buddhist monastery at nearby Ivolginsk and enjoy a meal at a village of Old Believers who will also treat us to a concert featuring local dancers and musicians.

Day 11 Wed, August 6

B/L/D

Onboard the Trans-Siberian Express

Our journey will continue through Siberia at its most remote and mysterious as we enter the region of permafrost, traveling through the remote city of Chita. The next few days traversing the great wilderness will be spent relaxing, enjoying in astronomical, cultural and historic presentations, or quietly watching the landscape unfold before us.

ITINERARY *Grand Passage, through Siberia Total Eclipse*

Day 12 Thu, August 7

B/L/D

Onboard the Trans-Siberian Express

Following along the Shilka and Amur Rivers, we will never be far from the Chinese border as we approach the Russian Far East.

Day 13 Fri, August 8

B/L/D

Onboard the Trans-Siberian Express

This will be our last full day on board the Trans-Siberian Express. Today we will reach the most easterly point of the journey passing through Khabarovsk, where we will cross the mighty Amur River and head south, hugging the Manchurian border, to our final destination. Tonight we will enjoy our final dinner on board the train.

Day 14 Sat, August 9

B/L/D

Vladivostok

As we arrive in Vladivostok, we will spot the obelisk marking the official end of the Trans-Siberian line. Over the years, Vladivostok, capital of the Russian Far East, has grown from a naval outpost to a thriving city. Due to its importance as a border zone city, Vladivostok was declared off-limits to foreigners and most Russians following WWII. On January 1, 1992, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the city was declared officially open, and began to welcome travelers. We'll disembark the train to begin our city tour which will include the principal military attractions of this once 'closed' Russian town.

After lunch, we'll check into our hotel where our luggage will be awaiting us. Join us this evening for a farewell dinner.

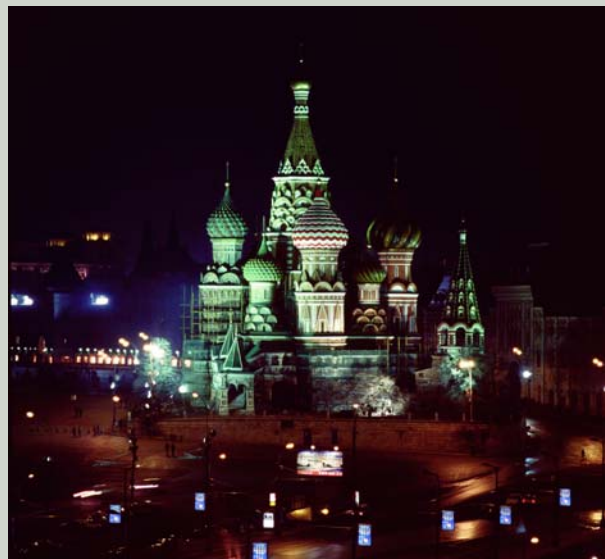
Overnight: Hyundai Hotel

Day 15 Sun, August 10

B

Depart Vladivostok

After breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer to the airport according to our flight schedules for international flight departures.

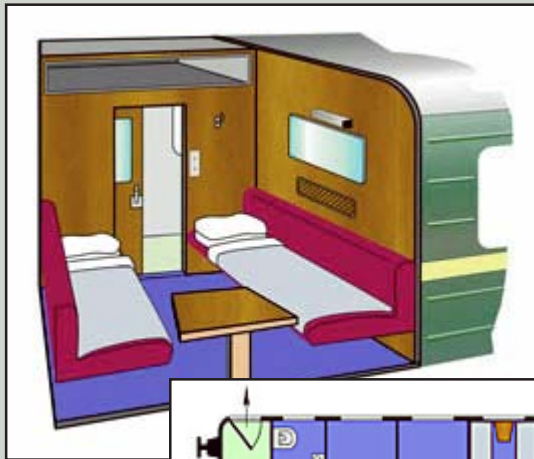


Trans-Siberian Express Packages

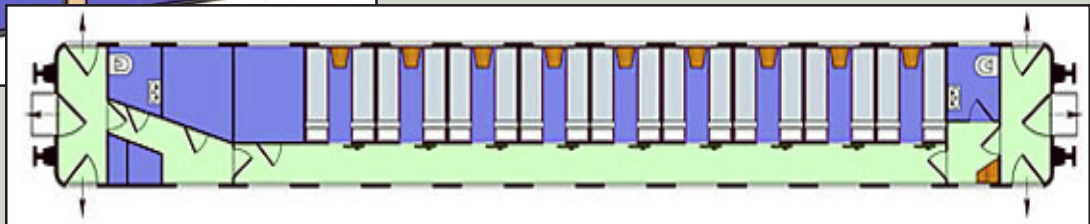
Trans-Siberian Express:

Privately chartered for our group, we will spend three days traveling through scenic countryside between Moscow and Novosibirsk on the historic Trans-Siberian Express in Heritage Class cars. Each sleeping carriage has nine private cabins. There is a bathroom with toilet and sink at both ends of the carriage. There is a separate shower car with individual compartments, each containing a shower and changing area.

Heritage Class Cars:



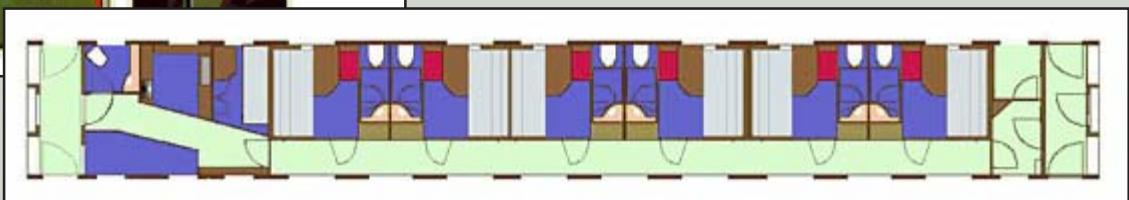
Heritage Class Cars offer comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned cars with twin-berth compartments, all fitted with lower berths. Beds convert to comfortable sofas for daytime travel and there is ample storage space in each cabin. The cars are well appointed with all amenities provided to make your trip as comfortable as possible. A washroom/toilet is located at each end of each sleeping car and there is a separate shower car in the formation.



Silver Class Cars:

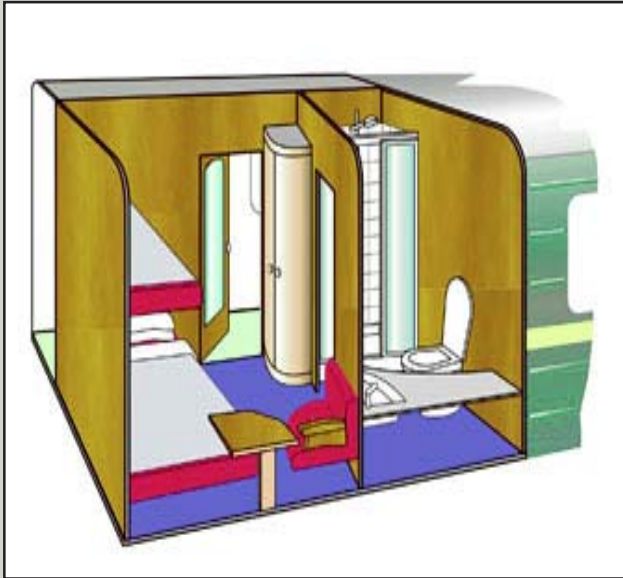


Silver Class Cars offer luxurious accommodation that equals or surpasses the best luxury trains in the world today. Each Silver Class car has six sleeping compartments, which can be configured for double, twin or single occupancy. Every cabin has its own en-suite shower and WC, an audio system, a DVD/VCR with the latest flat-screen plasma television, air-conditioning with individual climate control, a wardrobe for clothes and space for luggage storage. Each carriage has its own highly qualified attendants who keep the cabins immaculate, providing bed turndown service, plus tea and coffee 24 hours a day.

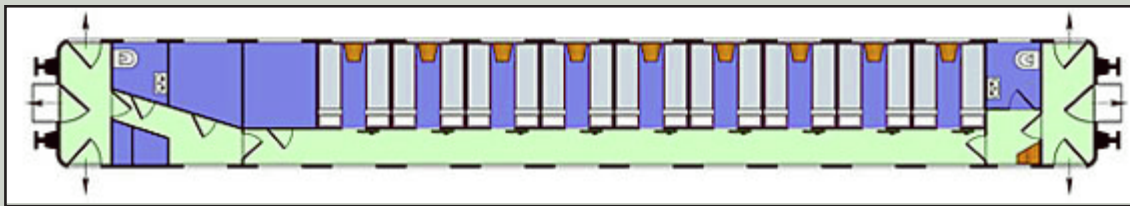


Trans-Siberian Express Packages

Gold Class Cars:



Gold Class Cars, larger in cabin and bathroom size than Silver, offer luxurious accommodation that equals or surpasses the best luxury trains in the world today. Each car has four or five compartments, which can be configured for double, twin or single occupancy. Every cabin has its own en-suite shower and WC, an audio system, a DVD/VCR with the latest flat-screen plasma television, air-conditioning with individual climate control, a wardrobe for clothes and space for luggage storage. Each carriage has its own highly qualified attendants who keep the cabins immaculate, providing bed turndown service, plus tea and coffee 24 hours a day.



Train Formation:

A typical train formation includes sleeping cars, restaurant and bar cars, lecture car, Heritage Class shower cars, staff, generator and office cars. Our restaurant cars provide both international and local cuisine, serving three meals per day if on the train. Some meals are provided in the city stops at local restaurants.



A total eclipse of the Sun has to be seen, and heard, and felt to be believed.

Sensory Overload

Much of the time, astronomical observing involves straining to perceive something at the limit of detectability, such as a faint galaxy, a dim double-star companion, or a tiny festoon in Jupiter's clouds. The more you look the more you see, so the key to really enjoying backyard astronomy is to spend lots of time doing it. It also helps if you take the trouble to learn as much as you can about what you're looking for, because even when you find it you may not be terribly impressed with the view. As I've written before (S&T: January 2005, page 8), most celestial objects are small, faint, or both, so they're best appreciated with the mind rather than the eye.

Among the relatively few exceptions to this rule, the most extreme is a total eclipse of the Sun. You don't have to use averted vision or special filters or other tricks to experience totality. You just have to put yourself in the right place at the right time and hope for clear skies. When the Moon's shadow arrives, it hits you over the head — big time!

I like to use the phrase "experience totality" rather than "see totality," because a total solar eclipse is the only celestial phenomenon I can think of that truly overwhelms the senses, so much so that it's virtually impossible for a single observer to take in everything that happens. You can't look up in the sky at the last sliver of Sun at the same time you're looking down at the ground for shadow bands. You can't admire the pretty sunset colors around the horizon or scan the sky for bright stars and planets while you're examining coronal streamers in your telescope. And you can't watch the "diamond ring" glitter at the end of totality while you're using a diffraction grating to watch for chromospheric emission lines to flash into view.

So you end up seeing some things that others miss, and missing some things that others see. But you also feel the eclipse, as the temperature drops and the wind changes. And you hear it, too, when you and your fellow eclipse-chasers holler with excitement as the event unfolds. (In Mexico in 1991 and in the Caribbean in 1998, observers enjoyed the taste of totality too, thanks to Corona beer and Eclipse Barbados rum!)

I experienced my sixth total eclipse last March 29th in the Libyan desert, with a sizable Sky & Telescope/TravelQuest International tour group that had sailed to Libya from Italy aboard the MSC Sinfonia. Afterward, as we shared with each other what we saw, heard, and felt, I realized that this eclipse had featured almost every phenomenon I'd ever heard of in connection with totality — though as usual I hadn't seen every one of them myself. About the only thing missing was a surprise sungrazing comet.

If you've never experienced totality but spend your clear nights straining at the eyepiece to check off faint fuzzies on the Messier, Caldwell, or Hershel lists, I urge you to think about traveling to totality at the next opportunity. You really owe it to yourself to check off the one celestial target that eclipses all others.

Rick Fienberg
Editor in Chief

SKY & TELESCOPE

PRICING *Grand Passage, through Siberia Total Eclipse*

Trip Cost: (select your train class accommodations)

Heritage Class - \$8,995 per person, double occupancy. Add \$2,500 per person, single occupancy.

Silver Class - \$11,695 per person, double occupancy. Add \$3,200 per person, single occupancy.

Gold Class - \$13,895 per person, double occupancy. Add \$4,500 per person, single occupancy.

Trip Includes:

- All accommodations per the itinerary with breakfast daily, local service charge and tax;
- Moscow (1 night); Trans-Siberian Express from Moscow to Vladivostok (12); Vladivostok (1)
- Private airport/hotel transfers in Russia on the start and end days of the tour
- All sightseeing and excursions, per the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfers for those arriving and departing the dates of the tour.
- Local English speaking guides throughout itinerary
- Services of a bi-lingual Tour Manager throughout the tour
- Meals per the itinerary, breakfast daily; 13 lunches; 14 dinners
- Beverages – a generous though not unlimited allowance of wine or local beer, soft drinks and water with all lunches and dinners
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water round the clock from your car attendant while onboard the train
- Gratuities to the Tour Manager, all local guides and drivers
- Baggage handling
- Russian visa invitation

Not Included:

- International airfare and taxes (Air pricing will be offered in Fall 2007)
- Russian visa support and processing (currently \$163 per person for support and processing).
- All items not expressly listed above - including but not limited to: food or beverages not included in group meals; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcoholic beverages, telephone expense, excess baggage fees; increases in airline taxes or fuel surcharges.
- Travel Insurance to cover cancellation, emergency medical, evacuation costs, trip interruption, etc.

Payments and Terms:

A \$1000 per person advance payment (payable by check drawn on a US bank or using MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express cards), along with a completed reservation form, confirms your space. A second advance payment of \$2500 is due September 25, 2007. The balance is due March 15, 2008.

July 27 - August 10, 2008

Payments and Terms: *(continued)*

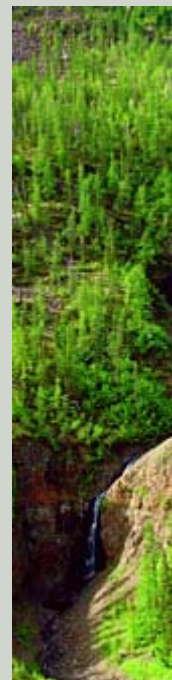
All advance payments, less a \$250 per person service fee, are refundable until July 25, 2007. From July 26 to September 25, 2007, there will be a \$1500 per person cancellation fee. From September 26 to March 15, 2008, there will be a \$4000 per person cancellation fee. There are no refunds after March 15, 2008. Air cancellation terms are additional.

What to expect:

Weather: The average July/August temperatures in Moscow are about 71°F/22°C by day and 55°F/13°C at night. In the inland city of Novosibirsk (our eclipse viewing area), average temperatures are near 80°F/27°C by day and near 68°F/20°C at night. Keep in mind that these are averages, and extreme conditions could change these temperatures, and it would not be unusual for it to be significantly cooler or hotter with humidity (our private train and motorcoaches are air-conditioned). Throughout the trip, rain is possible. It is each traveler's responsibility to be prepared for any type of weather.

Airfare: International air travel is not included in this program. Flights within Russia required by your itinerary are included in your tour price. In Fall of 2007, we will provide you with contact information for a ticketing agency familiar with your tour. They will assist you with your travel needs at that time, or you may book your flights on your own.

Optional trip cancellation/medical insurance is highly recommended. Application informational will be provided with initial invoice. You can also get information on our website at www.tq-international.com and you may sign-up online.



Reservations Grand Passage, through Siberia Total Eclipse

Please fill out this form (both pages) and mail it to TravelQuest International at; 305 Double D Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86303. You may fax this form to TravelQuest at 928-445-8771. You may also fill out this form online at www.tq-international.com.

Traveler 1 Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Traveler 2 Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

For additional travelers, please provide above information for each person on a separate sheet and attach to this form.

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Evening Phone Number: _____

Day/Work Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Name/Relationship: _____

Emergency Phone Number: _____

Payment Amount: _____ Enter Amount. (\$1000 USD per Person)

Payment by Check:

(Drawn on US Funds. Payable to TravelQuest, 305 Double D Dr., Prescott, AZ 86303)

Payment by Credit Card: American Express Master Card Visa Discover

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card Verification Number: _____

Please Sign Here: _____

IMPORTANT: By submitting this form and making this payment your party agrees to our Consumer Disclosure Notice (last page), and the Payment and Cancellation Terms of this tour.

PLEASE CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE

July 27 - August 10, 2008

PLEASE RESERVE:

- Heritage Class** \$8,995USD per person, double occupancy. Add \$2,500 for single occ.
- Silver Class** \$11,695 USD per person, double occupancy. Add \$3,200 for single occ.
- Gold Class** \$13,895 USD per person, double occupancy. Add \$4,500 for single occ.

I am traveling alone and would like to share a double room,
(Roommate not guaranteed):

YES NO

I am traveling alone and would prefer a single room
with single supplement

YES NO

How did you find us? _____



Mail this form to:

TravelQuest International
305 Double D Drive
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Fax this form to:

928-445-8771

For further information please visit our website at: www.tq-international.com

Or call us at: **800-830-1998** US and Canada Only **928-445-7754** All other



Disclosure Notice Grand Passage, through Siberia Total Eclipse

VERY IMPORTANT CONSUMER DISCLOSURE NOTICE

Please read this notice. It constitutes part of your contract for travel-related services.

Event Horizon LLC, doing business as TravelQuest International, and hereafter referred to as TravelQuest, its agents (collective) and sponsoring organizations act only as an independent contractor for the suppliers of transportation, accommodations, food and other goods and services provided to the participant. All arrangements to transport, accommodate and other services are made upon the express condition that TravelQuest and its agents shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, or loss to person or property, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond our control, including without limitation, any act or negligence or breach of contract of any third party, such as an airline, cruise line, train, hotel, restaurant, ground handler, etc., who is to or does supply any goods or services to the tour.

Without limiting the foregoing, TravelQuest and its agents are not responsible for any loss or expenses due to delay or change in schedule, overbooking of accommodations, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, quarantine, theft, criminal activity or for any other cause beyond our control.

TravelQuest reserves the right to change the itinerary of this tour without prior notice. If the tour is canceled by TravelQuest due to low enrollment, TravelQuest shall incur no liability beyond the refund of all tour participants' payments received. However, if TravelQuest must cancel for reasons beyond its control, including but not limited to weather, disease, strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism or war, TravelQuest's liability shall be limited to a refund of only those portions of the tour cost TravelQuest is able to recover from suppliers.

TravelQuest may increase the tour cost if there are cost increases. If any tour member chooses not to participate in any included activity or meal, there will be no refund for that unused portion of the tour. If any tour member leaves or is removed from the tour, a refund only for refundable unused services shall be made. This tour may be sold in conjunction with the services of any airline. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger. Carriers are not responsible for any act or omission or events during the time tour participants are not aboard their conveyances.

Any litigation concerning this tour shall be brought in Yavapai County, in the State of Arizona, pursuant to the laws of Arizona. Changes in this Responsibility Clause can be made only in writing and signed by an officer of TravelQuest. Deposits paid by tour participant indicate acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

