GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS
VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN™

ARCTIC EXPLORER
A QUEST TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
A QUEST TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
ARCTIC EXPLORER

ST PETERSBURG - KIRKENES (NORWAY) - MURMANSK
PETROZAVODSK - VLADIMIR - SUZDAL - MOSCOW

Renowned for its theatrical landscapes and dramatic climate, the Arctic Circle is one of the world’s most mystifying places to explore. Not only that, but its enviable geographical position means it is a prime location for seeing the spectacular Northern Lights at their best.

This compelling 12 day itinerary offers a unique contrast between two of Russia’s most majestic cities and the remote, yet charming communities deep within the Russian and Norwegian Arctic Circle. Commencing in St. Petersburg, we visit some of the city’s most prominent historical and cultural sites before embarking on this remarkable arctic adventure onboard the Golden Eagle.

Our quest to see the Aurora Borealis begins in the small mining town of Kirkenes in Norway, one of the greatest vantage points for seeing this incredible natural phenomenon. This two-night highlight combines our nightly guided Aurora searching with a fantastic daytime activity programme, including a visit to the extraordinary Snow Hotel and a magical husky dog-sledding tour across the striking arctic tundra and frozen fjords.

As our adventure continues, we experience the culture and lifestyle of those living in the harsh climates of the Russian Arctic Circle, and visit some of Russia’s oldest cities as we travel onwards to our final destination, Moscow.

UPGRADE TO THE SNOW HOTEL

For extreme arctic explorers, why not upgrade to stay a night in one of the incredible Snow Suites at the Kirkenes Snow Hotel? Please note spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment!

www.goldeneagleluxurytrains.com
To Book Call +44 (0)161 928 9410 or Call Your Travel Agent
A QUEST TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

ARCTIC EXPLORER

TOUR SCHEDULES
December 29, 2014 - January 9, 2015
February 12, 2015 - February 23, 2015
December 29, 2015 - January 9, 2016
February 11, 2016 - February 22, 2016

DAILY TOUR ITINERARIES

TOUR ITINERARY
Day 1  Arrive St Petersburg
Day 2  St Petersburg
Day 3  St Petersburg
Day 4  Onboard
Day 5  Kirkenes (Norway)
Day 6  Kirkenes (Norway)

Day 7  Onboard
Day 8  Murmansk
Day 9  Petrozavodsk
Day 10  Vladimir & Suzdal
Day 11  Moscow
Day 12  Depart Moscow

Alternatively, start the tour in Oslo. See p47 for details

ACCOMMODATION

2 nights in St Petersburg | 6 nights onboard the Golden Eagle |
2 nights in Kirkenes (Norway) | 1 night in Moscow

www.goldeneagleluxurytrains.com
WHAT’S INCLUDED

FINES RAIL ACCOMMODATION
- Private en-suite accommodation
- 24-hour cabin attendant service
- Evening turndown service
- Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled water in-cabin 24 hrs a day
- Robes, slippers and L'Occitane toiletries in-cabin
- Complimentary bottle of vodka in your cabin

OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS PROGRAMME
- Full guided off-train excursions programme
- Complimentary Siberian felt boots, hat and scarf
- Personal Headsets to hear the professional guide’s commentary
- Bottled water during excursions
- Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants with a generous drinks allowance, including international wines

GOLDEN EAGLE DIFFERENCE
- Experienced Tour Manager
- Onboard Doctor - English speaking
- Luggage porterage - from the time you are met at the airport until your departure
- No tipping policy
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Onboard Astronomer
- High quality Golden Eagle embroidered backpack
- Detailed Golden Eagle route map

ONBOARD INCLUSIONS
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily - starting with dinner on first day and finishing with breakfast on last day
- Generous drinks allowance, including international wine, with lunch and dinner
- Gala Caviar Dinner onboard the train
- In-cabin breakfast option to start the day
- Afternoon tea and cakes onboard the train
- In-suite dining option for Imperial Suite guests
- Inclusive drinks packages for Gold Class and Imperial Suite guests
- Tea, coffee, bottled water, soft drinks and local beer in the Bar Lounge Car
- Stimulating onboard talks
- Resident pianist in Bar Lounge Car
- Live musical performances

To Book Call +44 (0)161 928 9410 or Call Your Travel Agent
St Petersburg is a stunning city, crowded with splendid palaces, impressive historical monuments, wide boulevards, beautiful bridges and is renowned as the Ballet Capital of the World. We have a guided tour of Catherine’s Palace in Pushkin including the magnificently restored Amber Room and the Hermitage Museum, the former Winter Palace of the Tsars which houses the royal art collection of over three million works. It is one of the world’s largest and most impressive art museums. There is also a city tour featuring the key sights including St Isaac’s Cathedral and Nevsky Prospect. Make your evening in St Petersburg extra special by purchasing a ticket for a ballet or opera performance at one of the world-renowned St Petersburg theatres (subject to schedule and availability and pre-booked at least six weeks prior to departure).

On your first evening you are invited to a champagne drinks reception with the opportunity to meet your fellow travellers before our exclusive welcome dinner. Specially selected international wines are included with dinner, as with all meals during the tour. Included in our time spent in St Petersburg is two nights in the luxurious Grand Hotel Europe, or similar. At the start of your adventure why not extend your stay in St Petersburg with pre-tour nights to explore more of the city at your leisure?

After our tour of St Petersburg we transfer to the station to board Russia’s premier train, the Golden Eagle, and settle into our modern, stylish cabins to embark upon our rail adventure to the Arctic Circle. We are welcomed onboard with a signature Gala Caviar Dinner in the beautifully designed restaurant car and enjoy after dinner drinks and musical entertainment. On our December tour tonight is New Year’s Eve and on our February tour it’s Valentine’s Day. Celebrate in style with us onboard the Golden Eagle!
DECEMBER TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

**Day 1 & 2 (St Petersburg)**
Enjoy the lively atmosphere of the Christmas markets and ice skating on the outdoor rink in the central square.

**Day 3 (onboard) *NEW YEAR’S EVE***
Attend an unforgettable New Year’s Eve Party onboard.

**Day 9 (Petrozavodsk) *RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS EVE***
Enjoy a traditional Christmas meal and celebrate Russian-style.

**Day 11 & 12 (Moscow)**
The city is beautifully decorated for Rozhdestvo (Russian Christmas) celebrated in Russia on January 7.

FEBRUARY TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

**Day 3 (onboard) VALENTINE’S DAY**
Attend a special Valentine’s Dinner onboard.

**Day 9 (Petrozavodsk)**
Visit Kizhi Island on Lake Onega (weather permitting) and explore its beautiful open-air museum of wooden architecture.
We leave our train with an overnight bag at the border station of Nikel and we transfer by bus (90 minutes drive) across the Russian/Norwegian border to Kirkenes for a two-night stay at the Thon Hotel (or similar). We will visit the magical Snow Hotel just 15 km outside Kirkenes. We will have a welcome drink in the snow bar and a tour of the Snow Hotel with its ice sculptures and snow painting by local and international artists.

After a traditional meal in the Snow Hotel’s warm lodge restaurant we will take an evening bus tour in search of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). If the sky is clear our guest astronomer will be on hand to advise us during star-gazing and will bring the night sky to life with his extensive knowledge.

The next day we join a tour of Kirkenes Village or travel back to the site of the Snow Hotel to see the resident reindeers and visit the biggest husky dog farm in eastern Finnmark. After lunch we will take a magical excursion by husky dog sledge to the arctic tundra and the frozen fjords. Each sledge is pulled by a team of eight dogs, and can seat two people and a driver called
For a really memorable experience why not choose the ‘coolest’ hotel check-in around and stay overnight at the Snow Hotel?

Upgrades to the Snow Hotel are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. The Snow Hotel stays at a constant minus five degrees centigrade and thermal sleeping bags are provided. Showers, toilets and a Scandinavian sauna are provided in a building adjacent to the Snow Hotel.

Optional activities in Kirkenes: You may like to book some additional optional activities such as a Snowmobile Tour (two hours), Cross Country Skiing (two hours) or a Snow Shoe Walking Tour (two hours) – please contact us for prices. These activities have limited places and should be requested at the time of booking the tour.
We cross the border back into Russia and re-join our train which is waiting for us in Nikel. We will spend the afternoon onboard travelling through arctic Russia. Relax and enjoy the ever-changing winter landscape outside your window, chat to fellow passengers or listen to a lecture by our guest astronomer. Afternoon tea with freshly baked Russian cookies will be served in our welcoming Bar Lounge Car.

Murmansk is a city halfway between Moscow and the North Pole, and 120 miles (193 km) north of the Arctic Circle. As the main city of the Kola Peninsula, it started as a tiny settlement and Arctic trading post. In 1916, under pressure from the British to establish a supply port, Murmansk was founded. Thanks to the influence of the Gulf Stream, the port is ice-free year-round. Homeport of Russia’s nuclear-powered icebreakers, we visit the Nuclear Icebreaker Museum Ship.

The historic city of Vladimir was founded in 990 and is one of Russia’s oldest communities. With an architectural wealth, it has been decreed a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our tour takes in Uspensky Cathedral, built between the 12th and 15th centuries. It is considered one of the most important and beautiful of Russian cathedrals, where many of the prominent Russian Tsars were crowned. From Vladimir we travel to Suzdal, one of Russia’s most perfectly preserved walled cities dating back to 1024, located 35 kilometres from Vladimir. Here we visit the atmospheric St. Euthymius Monastery to witness an enchanting choral performance by the resident monks. No Russian winter experience would be complete either without the horse-drawn sleigh ride through this stunning location.

Petrozavodsk stretches along the western shore of Lake Onega - the second largest lake in Europe. It is one of the major cultural and industrial centres of the north-west of Russia. We take a city tour of this capital of the Republic of Karelia.

We arrive at Moscow Yaroslavski station and transfer to the centrally located five-star Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel, or similar, for a one-night stay.

We visit the Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia’s former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil’s Cathedral’s magnificent onion-domed spires, the beautiful façade of the world famous GUM Department store, constructed in Tsarist times, and the sombre and evocative site of Lenin’s tomb. Our touring programme also takes us to the grandeur of the Kremlin - the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber.

Breakfast in the hotel the next day brings the tour to a close and airport transfers are provided for your departure flights. Why not extend your stay in Moscow to explore more of the city at your leisure?

Note for December departure: The Kremlin is closed on Thursdays so we will visit it on Day 12. We will have an exclusive private viewing before it opens to the public. Flights on this day should be booked to depart after 3pm if possible to enable you to sample the excursion to the Kremlin.
ARCTIC EXPLORER
ALTERNATIVE TOUR

OSLO (NORWAY) • KIRKENES (NORWAY) • MURMANSK • PETROZAVODSK
VLADIMIR • SUZDAL • MOSCOW • ST PETERSBURG

Spend two nights including New Year’s Eve or Valentine’s Day in Oslo before flying to Kirkenes to join with the group who have travelled from St Petersburg.

TOUR SCHEDULE
February 14, 2015 – February 25, 2015

HOTEL AND ONBOARD ACCOMMODATION:
2 nights in Oslo | 2 nights in Kirkenes (Norway) | 4 nights onboard the Golden Eagle | 1 night in Moscow | 2 nights in St Petersburg

Day 1  Flight arrivals into Oslo. Transfer to the luxurious Grand Hotel Oslo, for a two-night stay.
Day 2  Oslo - Relax at the hotel and explore Oslo at your leisure, or join our half day city tour.
Day 3  Fly to Kirkenes to meet the main group - Stay two nights in Kirkenes then travel on the Golden Eagle through Northern Russia to Moscow.
Day 4  Kirkenes (with the main group)
Day 5  Onboard (with the main group)
Day 6  Murmansk (with the main group)
Day 7  Petrozavodsk (with the main group)
Day 8  Vladimir & Suzdal (with the main group)
Day 9  Moscow (with the main group)
Day 10 This afternoon take the Sapsan scheduled high-speed train with first class accommodation from Moscow to St Petersburg, a four hour journey. Transfer to the five star Grand Hotel Europe, for a two-night stay.
Day 11 St Petersburg - touring to Catherine’s Palace in Pushkin and the Hermitage Museum.
Day 12 St Petersburg departures - Airport transfers after breakfast

To Book Call +44 (0)161 928 9410 or Call Your Travel Agent
WHAT’S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

As far as possible our tours are all-inclusive with no hidden extras. What follows are all those elements which are included in the tour price. The only extra items you may need to budget for include personal expenses such as International and Internal flights that are not included in the itineraries, visa costs, insurance, selected drinks from the Bar Lounge Car and laundry.

EXPERIENCED TOUR MANAGERS
Our experienced Tour Managers are selected for their travel knowledge, and their linguistic and organisational abilities allowing you to relax and enjoy your rail cruise. We receive exceptional passenger comments about our Tour Managers and their aim is to ensure you enjoy every minute of your holiday.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT TRANSFERS
Arrival and departure transfers are included.

HOTEL AND ONBOARD ACCOMMODATION
Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train’s public areas, you will find your cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of five-star standard, or the best available.

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER DAILY
All meals are included, starting with dinner on the first day and ending with breakfast on the last day. All departures feature one or two uniquely designed Restaurant Cars where you can enjoy the excellent waiter-served food and wine. Several times during the tour we will also sample authentic local cuisine with wine and a selection of drinks off the train, which is also included in the tour price.

DRINKS WITH MEALS
A generous drinks allowance, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, is included with lunch and dinner on and off the train.

ONBOARD SERVICE
You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide 24-hour housekeeping and bedding turndown services, with one attendant always on duty to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day.

GUIDED OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS
The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides. All our tours include a wide-ranging sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train and bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. We believe it is the special little touches that help create magical memories.

PERSONAL HEADSETS
On all the off–train excursions, to enhance your enjoyment and insights into the places you visit, you will be provided with a lightweight personal headset on which to listen to your tour guide as you take in the sights. The range of the headset means that you do not need to worry about missing any of the guide’s commentary on your excursion, even if you prefer to wander away from the group.

ONBOARD DOCTOR AND MEDICAL FACILITIES
To give you peace of mind our tours are accompanied by a doctor who travels with us for the entire journey; so you can rest assured that medical assistance is always available. On call 24 hours a day, the doctor is on hand to give primary care as required. In almost every case, the doctor will be English-speaking and registered with the General Medical Council in the UK.

PORTERAGE
As you only have to unpack once your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey but, wherever necessary, porterage is included between the hotels and stations.

ALL GRATUITIES
You will not have to worry about tipping on or off the train on your rail journey with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains as all gratuities are included in the tour price.

To Book Call +44 (0)161 928 9410 or Call Your Travel Agent