Join a University of Chicago featured trip scholar on a cross-cultural journey to Siberia and Mongolia, worlds away from the beaten path, to discover the lands, traditions and history of the fascinating people who call this region home. Trace the shores of UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, ride a section of the fabled Trans-Siberian Railway, and witness Mongolia’s strong cultural heritage at a local Naadam celebration in the South Gobi Desert.

**Overview**

**Days 1-2:** Depart USA  
**Days 3-4:** Ulan Ude, Russia  
**Day 5:** Trans-Siberian Railway • Irkutsk  
**Days 6-8:** Olkhon Island  
**Days 9-10:** Listvyanka • Irkutsk  
**Days 11-13:** UlaanBaatar, Mongolia  
**Days 14-16:** South Gobi • UlaanBaatar  
**Day 17:** Depart UlaanBaatar

**Program Highlights**

- Hear the centuries-old songs of the Old Believers and learn about their unique traditions.  
- Ride two segments of the famous Trans-Siberian Railway: the Circumbaikal Railway and the route from Ulan Ude to Irkutsk.  
- Explore the beauty of Olkhon Island, the largest island in the world’s deepest and oldest lake, Lake Baikal.  
- Spend three nights at the award-winning Three Camel Lodge in a traditional nomadic-style ger, with the vast expanse of the Gobi at your doorstep.  
- Witness a local country Naadam celebration, a tribute to strength, dexterity and marksmanship.

**Siberia & Mongolia with Olkhon & Country Naadam**  
**Ulan Ude • Irkutsk • Olkhon Island • Listvyanka • UlaanBaatar • Gobi**  
**June 3–19, 2017**
University of Chicago: Siberia & Mongolia
Day by Day Itinerary

Days 1-4                  Depart USA • Arrive Ulan Ude, Russia
Upon arrival in Ulan Ude, explore the major sights, including the original merchant center; the city’s first stone Orthodox church and the largest Lenin head in the world. Visit the Ivolginsk Datsan Buddhist Monastery in time to hear the monks during their morning chant, and venture outside the city to a village of Old Believers for a concert featuring local singers and musicians.

Days 5-8                  Irkutsk • Olkhon Island
Ride along a scenic stretch of the Trans-Siberian Railway to Irkutsk, once home to early political exiles. Take an introductory city tour, and enjoy a concert of chimes by a master church bell ringer. Depart for UNESCO-listed Lake Baikal, the world’s oldest and deepest freshwater lake, and ferry to its largest island, Olkhon Island, for a two-night stay. Attend a special shaman ceremony at Olkhon’s Shaman Rock and explore rugged Pribaikalsky National Park before returning to Irkutsk.

Days 9-10                 Listvyanka • Irkutsk
Ride around the tip of Lake Baikal on the fantastically scenic Old Railway, the original alternative to ferrying across the lake. At Port Baikal, disembark for a short ferry ride to charming Listvyanka, to tour the fish market and local training center for Siberian Huskies. Back in Irkutsk, drop in at an exclusive private concert at the Trubetskoy Mansion, built by Decembrist exile Sergei Trubetskoy.

Days 11-13                UlaanBaatar, Mongolia
In UlaanBaatar, admire Gandan Monastery, showcasing a 20-ton gilded statue of “the Lord Who Looks in Every Direction,” and the Zanabazar Museum, containing a large collection of art from the Paleolithic Age to the early 20th century. Outside the city, discover the giant stainless-steel-clad equestrian statue of Genghis Khan and the wild steppe of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. Listen to the otherworldly sounds of throat singing at a traditional performance.

Days 14-17                South Gobi • UlaanBaatar
Arriving in the South Gobi Desert, explore the open landscapes of the Moltosg Els Sand Dunes and Yolyn Am Canyon, home to wild Bactrian camels, Argali mountain sheep and goitered gazelles. Join the locals as they celebrate a more intimate version of UlaanBaatar’s annual Naadam Festival, and witness wrestling, horseracing, archery competitions, and lasso-catching contests. Drive to Togrogiin Shiree, and discover the Flaming Cliffs, where Roy Chapman Andrews found the world’s first nest of dinosaur eggs in 1922. Toast the end of the journey at a festive farewell dinner back in UlaanBaatar.

Siberia & Mongolia 17 Days
June 3-19, 2017
From $8,995 per person, double occupancy
Single supplement: $1,950

Included
• All accommodations based on double occupancy
• Included meals per itinerary
• Group arrival / departure transfers for passengers arriving to Ulan Ude on Jun 5 / departing from UlaanBaatar on Jun 17
• All internal air, train tickets and land transportation by private coach per itinerary
• Cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees
• Special welcome and farewell dinners
• Services of a tour manager throughout the land program
• Gratuities to tour manager, local guides, drivers and baggage handlers
• Comprehensive pre-departure packet.

Not Included
• Travel insurance
• Roundtrip airfare from / to your home city; MIR can assist you with reservations
• Passport and visa fees; US passport holders require visas for Russia
• Personal items such as telephone calls, alcohol, laundry, excess baggage fees; items not expressly listed as included
• Single supplement

Air Arrangements
Program rates do not include international airfare. Because there are a number of flight options available, there is no group flight for this program. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.