



Western Siberia

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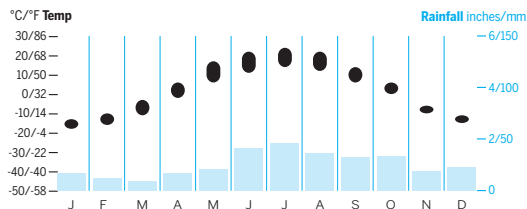
Why Go?

From unforgettable lakes to underground cafés, the west of this colossal region has much more to offer than snow and ice. In fact, if you come in the summer, you won't even see any of that, with temperatures regularly topping 30°C. But the weather isn't the only surprise waiting for you in Western Siberia (Западная Сибирь).

Expect contrast and extremes, from urban chaos to remote areas where an encounter with a fellow traveller is a real event. An at times surreal mix of Soviet legacies and stunning landscapes, Western Siberia is not the easiest place in which to travel. Visitors need a willingness to rough it, and be able to speak at least rudimentary Russian. But those who make the effort will be rewarded with an insight into the Siberian way of life and – perhaps more importantly – receive a dose of the locals' legendary hospitality.

When to Go

Novosibirsk



Best Places to Eat

- » Yermolaev (p455)
- » Romanov Restaurant (p457)
- » Tamada (p459)
- » Perchini (p461)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Vostok (p453)
- » Hotel Sibir (p457)
- » Avenue (p461)
- » Toyon (p468)

May-Jun Grand WWII Victory Day celebrations in Novosibirsk.

Jul-Sep Travel across the Altai in glorious sunshine.

Dec-Jan Tramp through Tomsk's winter wonderland and greet the New Year, Russian style.

Western Siberia Highlights

- 1 Explore the dishevelled old town in **Tobolsk** (p456), Siberia's former capital
- 2 Take a stroll through the student city of **Tomsk** (p464) and its picturesque wooden homes
- 3 Chill out at placid **Lake Teletskoe**, Western Siberia's answer to Lake Baikal (p479)
- 4 Drive towards the Mongolian border along the spectacular **Chuy sky Trakt** (p484)
- 5 Pay your respects at the monuments to Soviet worker heroes in **Novokuznetsk** (p488)
- 6 Check out the ski resort at **Sheregesh**, popular with Russia's skiers and snowboarders (p490)

