Lernidee Trains & Cruises is Europe’s most creative organiser of private train journeys and charter cruises. Lernidee is your perfect tour operator for extraordinary travels on rails and rivers to the world’s most fascinating destinations.
Lernidee Trains & Cruises organises extraordinary trips to fascinating locations. Our more than 100 different train journeys, ship cruises and experience tours are aimed at people who love to discover new or classic destinations from wholly new perspectives. Lernidee's success story started back in 1986 when the company’s founder Hans Engberding organised a Russian language course on the Trans-Siberian railway. The course soon became a hit and earned Lernidee its prestigious reputation. Lernidee's philosophy is based on combining travel and discovering new places (or classic places anew) with fascinating experiences and cultural and historical insights. We provide:

- Opportunities to discover routes and destinations off the beaten track
- Journeys organised by an experienced tour operator with an eye for details
- Authentic experiences and encounters
- Personalised attention, planning and supervision

We draw on the creativity, experience and know-how of our team’s more than 50 staff members to develop our unique tours and to implement them in cooperation with reliable partners. Lernidee founder and owner Hans Engberding travels around the world in a constant quest for inspiring and fresh ideas for new tours. Year after year he joins several of our tours inspecting their quality and getting to know the likes and dislikes of our guests.
The Full Programme

Train Journeys • River Cruises • Experience Tours
Our guests are sophisticated and discerning. They relish new experiences and like to return home with new insights and broadened minds. Our journeys are genuine experience tours for adventurous spirits and explorers at heart, who like to travel in comfort and style. We take our guests to natural wonders and significant cultural sites and provide them with the authentic flavours of local life.

On our exclusive tours, fascinating lectures, exciting excursions and delicious local dishes allow our guests to get a genuine impression of the travelled regions. Guests receive professional, personalised attention from highly qualified tour guides.

The following pages provide more detailed information on our tour programmes.

- Train journeys
- River cruises
- Experience tours

The Lernidee Portfolio:
Exclusive journeys on some of the world’s most famous train routes, exciting ship cruises all over the globe, and unique expeditions on all continents
Train Journeys
Explore Foreign Countries in Comfort and Style
You’re sure to find the perfect railroad adventure from among our comprehensive range of train journeys – whether our guests prefer travelling in authentic local trains or on one of our rail tours in an exclusively chartered private train, whether they rather travel on their own or as part of an organised group with excellent tour guides and often even with an on-board doctor.

Our most popular tours include:

- Trans-Siberian by Private Train – exclusive charter train journey on the world’s most famous railroad
- Rovos Rail – on safari with Africa’s noblest train
- Desert Express – exploring the natural wonders of Namibia
- Aboard the famous Orient-Express to Europe’s most romantic cities
- Europe’s beautiful railroad routes: Slovak Paradise, Turkey and Georgia, Swiss Alps
- Legendary Silk Road: Discovering Asia with the Orient Silk Road Express
- Maharaja’s Express: India’s highlights and UNESCO heritage sites
- Transcontinental train journeys through Canada
- Andes Adventure – a railroad journey through Argentina, Bolivia and Peru
River Cruises

Discover the World’s Wonders on Exotic Waters
We offer river cruises all over the world and we’re especially innovative and experienced on Southeast Asia’s, Russia’s and Latin America’s rivers and seas. For trips on the Mekong river through Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China we even have our own fleet of three charming river vessels made of teak and mahogany. Their warm and inviting atmosphere is characteristic of all our exclusively chartered cruise ships.

A selection of our cruises on rivers, lakes and seas:

- Boutique river vessel journey on the Mekong through Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China
- River cruises on the mighty Volga between Moscow and St. Petersburg or to the spectacular Volga Delta
- Through Siberian landscapes and to the Arctic Ocean on the Lena river
- Cruises on Lake Baikal, the Siberian Sea
- Discovery cruises in the Amazon rainforest
- River cruises on the Irrawaddy in Myanmar
- Travelling India on Ganges and Brahmaputra
- Cruising the Desert: On the Senegal river through West Africa

*Our river cruises lead down legendary rivers and across exotic seas and lakes to spectacular wonders of the world. Our guests enjoy first-class service and breathtaking views from the comfort of their cabins, heading for scenic and cultural attractions.*
Experience Tours
We Turn Holiday Dreams into Dream Holidays!
Alongside our train journeys and river cruises, we offer exciting experience tours to classic or yet undiscovered destinations around the world.

The choice ranges from fascinating city tours to extensive journeys and breathtaking wildlife adventures – for individual travellers or small groups.

Our expeditions present classic destinations from a new perspective and venture off the beaten tracks into less familiar terrain. Most of our journeys are tailor-made for small groups, private tour groups and individual travellers, ensuring truly memorable experiences.

The great strength and passion of our team lies in creating and organising our one-of-a-kind journeys. We take great delight and pride in tailoring travel plans to suit the wishes of our guests and devising unique dream tours. And this is available starting from one individual traveller! Here are some examples:

Classic destinations – seen from new perspectives:
- South America – from the Andes to the Atlantic
- Russia’s great writers – at home with Tolstoy and Chekhov
- Individual rental car tours: Namibian and South African safaris

Extraordinary expeditions off the beaten track:
- In the volcanos’ shadows – exploring Java
- Expeditions to the architectural wonders of Kazakhstan
- On the tracks of Alaskan gold miners
Innovative Tours, Excellent Guides, Authentic Experiences, Satisfied Customers
Customer satisfaction is so important to us that we have it checked regularly by the German Technical Inspection Association.

Determined to raise our already excellent test score, we constantly strive to make our tours even more innovative, to deliver the very best in service and to offer our guests truly memorable, authentic experiences.

We add exciting new tours to our programme each season. Our experienced product developers travel all over the world to research and develop innovative journeys. As part of our ongoing mission to optimise the quality of our service, our employees and tour guides regularly attend seminars and training sessions.

Due to this continued training, they are constantly expanding their knowledge and honing their organisational skills.

In addition to our own group tour leaders and guides, we hire local guides to accompany our guests on excursions and visits during our exclusive charter tours. They are familiar with their region, the countryside and the locals and offer our guests fascinating and authentic insights into everyday life.
More Experiences • More Comfort • More Sustainability
For guests who would like to experience more of their destination, we offer pre- and post-tour extensions, including exciting city stays, relaxing beach retreats and experience tours that give insights into everyday life.

On request, private guides accompany our guests through the region. This option is also available for guests who like to venture out on their own during our train or cruise journeys. For guests who like to enjoy the greatest possible comfort and luxury, we are happy to add an extra star where possible and arrange their stay in select luxury hotels and resorts.

To neutralise the CO₂ emissions of our flights, we manage the cultivation of two plots of rainforest (of around 3,000 hectares each) in the upper Mekong region.

Since 2005 we are supporting an orphanage in Ulan Bator that provides a loving home for Mongolian children.

Thanks to our guests’ donations of guests on our journeys through African, we are able to support a nursery school in Cape Town continually. We also regularly support the work of Médecins Sans Frontières by donating money for specific projects.

Our experience tours are harmonious compositions, nevertheless we are always happy to add personal tuning.

At Lernidee Trains & Cruises, we feel a responsibility for our key regions and work closely with local organisations to support social and ecological projects.