

4 Days Harbin Tour to Ice and Lantern World and Ski Resort

Tour Code: LCT - Harbin - 4D - 01

Duration: 4 days

Attractions: Ice Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park, Sun Island Snow Sculpture Art Expo, Siberian Tiger Park, Ice and Snow World, Jihua Skiing Resort

Overview: Located in the northeast of China, Harbin is one of China's coldest cities during winter. However, it also turns the city into an ice wonderland during the annual Ice and Lantern Festival. This tour will take you to experience the warmth of Harbin people in cold winter, marvel at the fine ice and snow sculptures created by artists from all over the world, observe the fierce Siberian Tiger, and ski in a local skiing resort.

Highlights:

1. Explore the largest Ice and Snow Festival in the world and have fun in all kinds of ice activities.
2. Enjoy a glamouring evening Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park.
3. Marvel at the sophisticated work of snow sculptures in Sun Island Snow Sculpture Art Expo.
4. Meet the real Siberian Tiger.
5. Ski at one of the best skiing resorts in China.
6. Watch the local darers go winter swimming.

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Harbin, Ice Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park

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Upon your arrival in Harbin, your local guide and driver will take you to your hotel and help you to check-in. In the evening, your guide and driver will pick you up and take you to the Ice Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park. Starting from Jan.5 and ending in late February, the Ice Lantern Fair is an annual event in Zhaolin Park. When the evening closes in, Zhaolin Park is lit up, and the ice sculptures become ever glamorous.

Day 2: St. Sophia Church, Central Street, Sun Island Snow Sculpture Art Expo, Siberian Tiger Park, Ice and Snow World

After breakfast, your first sight will be the St.Sophia Church. It's an Orthodox Eastern Church in Byzantine style and the iconic building of Harbin. Built in 1907, St.Sophia Church was the largest church of its kind in the far east area, and it's the best-preserved Byzantine architecture in China. The green onion-shaped top is quite remarkable. There is a big square in front of the church where you can see flocks of pigeons seeking food. Today, the church has lost its original function but acts as a museum to show the history of Harbin city.

Afterward, you will walk on Central Street, a street that hosts many stylish European buildings like the architectures of Renaissance, Baroque, eclecticism, and modernism. It's a wonderful place to experience the architectural charm.

Your afternoon will get started from the Sun Island Snow Sculpture Art Expo. It's also an annual event in Harbin with a different theme every year. Here, you will get close to snow and feel the "warmth" of the snow in different themes. Besides, there are also activities like snow sliding, ice arena, snow dodgem, snowboarding, etc., making it an ideal place for a family vacation.

Next, we will leave for the Siberian Tiger Park, the largest of its kind globally. There are over 1000 tigers here, including the Siberian tigers, white tigers, snow tigers, white lions, jaguars, African lions, etc.. Besides observing the tigers from the tourist bus, you can also feed them meats.

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At last, we will cover the Ice and Snow World in the evening. It's the very highlight of the tour. You will marvel at the tallest, longest, and largest ice and snow landscape on earth. You are about to see many world-famous buildings and cartoons made of ice and snow, European style performances, and ice sports. It's like walking in a fairyland of ice lanterns.

Day 3: Jihua Skiing Resort

After breakfast, we will head for Jihua Skiing Resort and spend the whole day there.

Jihua Skiing Resort is a perfect skiing place as it's surrounded by mountains on three sides, prolonging the snowfall period to 150 days a year. There are different 15 trails built here, including the trails for beginners, intermediate and senior skiers and children. The longest snow trail is 2,300m long. The skiing resort is also facilitated with all kinds of equipment. You can find whatever you need here for skiing.

Day 4: Winter Swimming Watching, Departure Harbin

Today, you will see many brave locals winter swimming, and you can try if you dare. But we don't recommend as the winter of Harbin is extremely cold, colder than many places. You may get sick. Your guide and driver will then take you to the airport, and your wonderful ice tour ends here!

What's Important:

What's included:

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Air-conditioned vehicle with an experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sights mentioned.

Bottled water.

What's not included:

Personal expenses or private entertainment items at sights.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job (recommended)

Accommodation

What to take: smile and a relaxed and enthusiastic attitude.

Good to know:

1. It will be extremely cold in Harbin; please prepare enough clothes.
2. Skiing time is totally up to you. If you don't ski, you can ask your guide to take you somewhere else on day 3.
3. As our customer, your time is precious to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
4. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food at a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.

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5. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours at the standard rate of 100 RMB per hour.
6. The tour we provide you is based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 hours to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
7. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at any time. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
8. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will only be with your families or friends. No other people are joining your tour.

FAQ:

1. What time does the tour begin every day?

The day tour starts at 9:00 a.m usually. You can also set a different starting time with your guide.

2. When are the Ice Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park and Ice and Snow World available every year?

The Ice Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park starts on Jan.5 every year and is available until the end of February. During the opening, you will be charged 150RMB for the ticket, and the business hour is 17:30 - 21:00.

The Ice and Snow World begins on Dec.23 and closes on Feb.28 (the year 2020). The operating hour is from 11:00 to 22:00, and the entrance ticket is 330 RMB/pax.

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3. Where is the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival held?

There are three great ice and snow events in Harbin, namely the Ice Lantern Fair in Zhaolin Park, Sun Island Snow Sculpture Art Expo, and Ice and Snow World. They are largely similar but with different themes. On tour, we will take you to experience all of them to decide on your own, which one is the best.

4. What is the purpose of the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival?

In the 1980s, Harbin ice lanterns were quite famous. Many important winter sports were also held in Harbin. The local government began to take the ice and snow culture seriously. In 1985, the first Ice Lantern Fair was launched, and it was a huge success. Since then, the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival is available annually so that people can admire the charm of ice and snow.

5. Why is Harbin so cold?

Located in northeast China, Harbin has a mid-temperate zone continental monsoon climate characterized by four distinct seasons with relatively long and cold winter and short and hot summer. The winter starts in late November and ends in late February. The coldest month of Harbin is January when the average temperature reaches -15 centigrade, frigid for most people. There are often snows in winter, and sometimes, there are even storm snows.

6. How cold is Harbin in winter?

Harbin in winter is very often below zero centigrade. Hotels are equipped with heaters. Therefore, you are well and sound indoors. However, the outside can be freezing. Do please wear as much as

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you need.

7. How far is Harbin from Beijing?

Harbin is about 1240km from Beijing. You can take either flight or train to Harbin. Many planes are flying between those two cities, and it only takes about 2 hours. Many regular trains and high-speed trains are running between the cities. We recommend you take the high-speed train, which costs you about 7.5hours and 300 RMB.

8. Does Harbin Snow in December?

In usual cases, it begins to snow in November, sometimes even in later October. When you visit in December, there will be a lot of snow already.

9. How many Siberian tigers are left in the world?

There are about 4,000 wild tigers globally nowadays, and only 30 wild Siberian tigers live in northeast China's forests. However, the captive-bred Siberian tigers are growing significantly. Only in the Harbin Siberian Tiger Park, there are about 1,300 Siberian tigers.

10. How much does it cost to ski in the Jihua skiing resort?

For 2 hours, it's 180 RMB/pax. For 3 hours, it's 220 RMB/pax. For 4 hours, it's 240 RMB/pax. For the whole day, it's 320 RMB. If you need the equipment, you will pay an extra charge.

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