Harbin Ice Festival 11 days

Enjoy Christmas and 5 star New Year's eve climbing the Great Wall, sightseeing in Beijing, tackling terracotta warriors & throwing snowballs at Harbin's Ice Sculpture festival!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Beijing
- Departs: 23 December 2013
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:10, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 4
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 5 star
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

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Day 1:

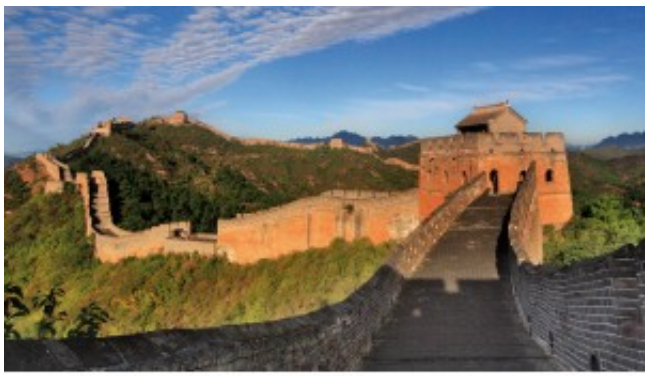
23 December 2013. Welcome to China and the start of your holiday! Arrive Beijing Airport and included transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day offers free time. Overnight - Beijing

Day 2:

This morning, we explore the centre of Beijing, including massive Tiananmen Square and the sprawling Forbidden City. Boasting some 9999 rooms, the city within a city was once the sole preserve of the Chinese emperors. This afternoon we take rickshaws to the Hutongs areas of Beijing. As our trusty rickshaw driver peddles us through the network of alleys, old back lanes, traditional courtyards and compact houses, we gain a fascinating snapshot into the city's traditional way of life. There is time to meet a local family and take a peek inside their home, before returning to our hotel. Tonight, we enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a city restaurant Overnight - Beijing

Day 3:

Merry Christmas. Today, we drive beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we can walk a section of the famous Great Wall. Climbing the Great Wall on Xmas day, now that's something special. The wall is a little steep in sections, but the photo opportunities are worth a million dollars! Afterwards we visit a cloisonne workshop. Tonight, Xmas dinner (Chinese banquet style) and choreographed acrobatic show. Overnight - Beijing



Day 4:

Today we start with a sightseeing tour of the Summer Palace, set on Kunming Lake. The lake may be frozen solid but there is no chance of ice skating on it. This afternoon we visit the famed Silk Alley markets, boasting more than 1000 stores and every souvenir imaginable. Later this evening we travel by overnight train to Luoyang. En route we'll get an opportunity to view the Beijing 2008 Olympic Stadium – commonly referred to as the 'Bird's Nest' and Aquatic Centre. Overnight - Soft Sleeper Train to Luoyang

Day 5:

Arrive Luoyang and transfer to our hotel. Later we explore the UNESCO World Heritage listed Longman Caves. Carved into the cliffs along the Yi River, the 1300 caves (grottoes) were hollowed out during the Northern Wei Dynasty. Creating temples within the caves they then sculpted and decorated the interior with 100,000 statues and images of Buddha and his disciples. Experts consider the Longman Caves to be the artistic triumph of all Buddhist stone carvings. Later this afternoon we tour the stunning White Horse Temple, the first Buddhist temple in China. Overnight - Luoyang

Day 6:

Early this morning we walk to Peony Square to witness and maybe even partake in a little local exercise. Hundreds of local people enjoy their daily exercise by practising ballroom dancing, performing tai chi, sword fighting and play sports like badminton and hacky sack in the early hours of the morning. It's a marvel to watch! After some free time we board the new high speed express train to Xi'an, evening at leisure. Overnight - Xi'an

Day 7:

Today, we visit the Terracotta Warrior archaeological site where some 7,000 warriors stand in battle ready position and a factory that shows how the terracotta figurines were crafted. Tonight, optional Tang Dynasty Bolt-on, with dinner and performance. Overnight - Xi'an

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Day 8:

Xi'an - Harbin. This morning we bike ride (solo or tandem) on top of the amazing old City Wall, offering unique views of the city and residents going about their daily lives. Visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, the Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque, with time to explore. Evening flight to Beijing and onward connecting flight to Harbin. Overnight - Shangri La Hotel - 5 star

Day 9:

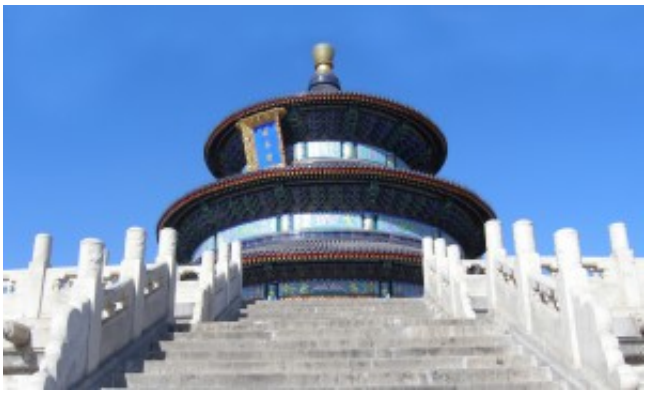
Today, we hit Sun Island Park for the Harbin Ice Festival. The festival is open to visitors from 20 Dec, (though the official festival opening occurs on 05 Jan). This is a wonderful time to visit as sculptors will still be adding final touches to their masterpieces. This evening we head out to Zhaolin Park for the enchanting Ice Lantern Garden Party. Ice blocks standing some 8 metres tall, resembling giant ice lollies are sculpted into the most unusual designs; a rooster, a dragon boat, a pair of cupids fluttering in the heavens and a cavalry about to do battle. Each is lit up with hundreds of Traditional Chinese lanterns and a multitude of neon creating the most spectacular photo opportunities. Before the stroke of midnight we will take a prized position our hotel bar. Ring in the new year with plenty of lights, ice and 'local Maitai firewater spirit'. Before the stroke of midnight we will take a prized position in our hotel bar. Ring in the New Year with plenty of lights, ice and local 'Dragon Fire - Spirit'. Overnight - Shangri La Hotel - 5 star

Day 10:

Harbin - Beijing. Happy New Year. We spend the day at leisure enjoying the festivities at the Harbin Snow and Ice World. Imagine sliding down a 100m ice luge resembling the Great Wall of China. You can pick up some serious speed if wearing a slick winter coat. Climbing to the top of a replica of the Emperor's Summer Palace in Beijing, complete with towers, guard house, moat and seven ached bridge or sail away on Empress Dowager Cixi's ice marble boat. Living up to its name the 'Ice World' is totally beyond imagination, unusual, enchanting, inspiring and down right bizarre. What will be on offer this year is anyone's guess. Later this evening we bid farewell to Harbin boarding our overnight sleeper train to Beijing. Overnight - Soft Sleeper Train to Beijing

Day 11:

Wednesday 02 January 2013. Arrival into Beijing, hotel breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport. We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year tour in China! Note: Onward flights should be booked for departure after 2pm.



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not

included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- BEIJING - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO listed Emperor's Summer Palace, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory, Hutong area of Beijing, Chinese Acrobatic Show
- BADALING - UNESCO listed Great Wall of China
- LUOYANG – UNESCO listed Longman Caves and stone carvings, White Horse Buddhist Temple, Peony Square activities
- XI'AN - UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors, Clay warrior workshop, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride, Muslim Quarter, Great Mosque and market.
- HARBIN – Harbin Ice Lantern Festival, Harbin Snow and Ice World, Zhoalin Park and Sun Island Park

What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- 2 nights 5 star hotel in Harbin, 6 nights 3-4 star hotels
- 2 overnight trains - Beijing - Luoyang, Harbin - Beijing (soft sleeper cabin)
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijing's Hutongs
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Economy class flight - Xi'an – Harbin
- Touring of Beijing, Luoyang, Xi'an and Harbin
- Tour leader escorted for groups of 6 travellers or more
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 11

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD$3 - 5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: $198 USD
- Tipping Kitty: $65 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Tang Dynasty Dinner Show - USD $89

The Tang Dynasty Show is a performance of Chang'an music and dance that originated during the time of the illustrious Tang Dynasty. Colourfully choreographed according to various historical records of the ancient arts with a host of singing, dancing and musical instrument playing performers, coupled with simple backdrops and props, this is entertainment that was once fit for a Tang emperor!

Datong - 4 days - USD $599

Datong is an ancient cultural city dating back more than 2,000 years, the region's biggest attraction is the UNESCO-listed Yungang Caves. Built more than 1,500 years ago, the 53 caves are a treasure trove of ancient Buddhist art comprising a fine collection of carved-sandstone Buddhist figures. The 'Hanging Temple' also located outside of Datong was constructed some 1,500 years on a precipitous rockface. Literally hugging the cliff, the temple is a total spectacle.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $2,149

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
23 DEC - 02 JAN	USD $2,149	USD $679

2014

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
23 DEC - 02 JAN	USD $2,149	USD $679

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Beijing - Pre-tour accommodation	USD $55	USD $54
Beijing - Post-tour accommodation	USD $55	USD $54

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

Hi Tomika, Safely home after a really great trip. Great travelling companions, although our guide Feng had the odd problem or two. I raelly must commend her, she was concerned about each and every one of us and went out of her way to ensure that we were safe and

happy, even as we stood waiting for our departure aircraft. A truely wonderful and thoughtful guide. I would have no hesitation in recommending this trip to my friends.

Keith Aggett , Jan 2012

It was a very good itinerary and the tour was very well organised, despite the road congestion level everywhere in China. As it was the first time for us to visit China, it was a real eye-opener to us. Friendliness of our tour leader, Feng, was helpful, too. All in all, the tour was a jolly good winter holiday.

Dr Noriko Box, Jan 2011

Tim- Back in OZ now, what an incredible trip! Certainly the coldest New Year I've ever experience especially coming from Brisbane! The Harbin festival rocks and every one should experience it at least once. Thanks for such an awesome Chinese New Year! Cheers, Mark

Mark Ellingham, Dec 2009

Richard was an excellent guide throughout the trip. His knowledge of the various sites, cities, hotels etc. was exceptional! He was incredibly friendly and helpful and made the trip stress-free and most enjoyable. Feng was very funny and charming and his guiding around the sites in Beijing was excellent. Jeff in Luoyang was incredibly passionate about his city and was an amazing guide. Overall the trip was excellent. The itinerary was very good - I would love to spend more time in Luoyang - it is a great city. I'm really pleased I had an opportunity to visit Harbin - unique experience. Great staff, wonderfull country, brilliant trip! Thank you!

Murray Waugh, Dec 2009

I thought spending Christmas day the the Great Wall was brilliant but the most extraordinary sight had to be the ice sculptures at the Harbin Festival. I could have filmed for hours - it's phenomenal right down to the last detail. Well worth seeing and an experience I will dine out on for years! Dan

Daniel Rossiter, Dec 2009

From start to finish we have been looked after very well. Our tour guide made sure we had a fun and safe time. China is a fabulous place to visit. I felt able to enjoy its full potential during winter which I couldn't have been able to do if I had organized the tour myself.The pace of our tour was just perfect, I never felt rushed and we had something amazing to do every day! Big thanks to On the Go!

Joanna, Dec 2009

Hi I just wanted to let you know how fantastic the Chinese New Year holiday was that I undertook 22nd Dec - 2nd Jan. Words cannot describe what an awesome experience the whole holiday was. I think the highlight was walking the Great Wall on Christmas Day followed by the spectacular visit to Harbin Ice Festival on New Years Eve. I would definately look to book again with your company and am interested in the Golden triangle and Goa trip for later in 2009. With kind regards

Karen, Dec 2008