

## Harbin Ice Festival Oriental Express

**8 Days**  
(Jan 21-28, 2012)



### China Oriental Express Private Train\*

A remarkable 8-day journey onboard at the China Orient Express Private Train (China Harbin Ice Festival Orient Express Train). The China Oriental Express is a comfortable hotel-on-wheels with bar car, restaurant car and sleeping cars.

The "China Harbin Ice Festival Oriental Express" is an exclusively chartered vintage train through the Northeast part of China. Dining on board the China Orient Express is an unforgettable delight. All dishes are freshly prepared on the train by skilled Chinese chefs. In addition, it is air-conditioned throughout. The deluxe and cozy train cabins, sumptuous cuisine and attentive personal service make the China Harbin Ice Festival Orient Express Private Train tour one of the finest travel experiences in the world, full of unforgettable moments.

China Harbin Ice Festival tour by the luxury train will surely be a unique and unusual way to experience ever-changing scenes, along with the Northeast part of China in its great view in the winter.

- Porters: There are porters at each of the hotels and at the station to help you get your luggage on and off the train.

### Day 1 (Jan 21): Arrive in Beijing

**Beijing Shangri-La or same class**

Upon arrival in Beijing, you will check into a luxury hotel with five-star accommodations.

### Day 2 (Jan 22): Beijing – Shenyang

**(B/L/D)**

**Overnight on the train**

**(options of 2/3/4 people per compartment)**

The first stop will be Tiananmen Square, a famous landmark and the place that holds distinction for being the world's largest public square. You will continue your visit to the Forbidden City. After lunch, you will visit the National Centre for the Performing Arts, or always joked by Beijingers, the Boiled Egg. Our train to Shenyang will leave 9:00pm from Beijing. \*

- Roast duck (Peking duck) feast for lunch and hotpot for dinner on the train.

### Day 3 (Jan 23): Shenyang – Jilin

**by train (B/L/D)**

**The Empire Garden Hotel – Jilin**

#### **First Day of Chinese Luna New Year**

Our train will arrive in Shenyang around 5:30am.\* Shenyang, literally meaning "the city to the north of Shen River. It is the birthplace of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), and has many cultural relics which symbolize the prosperity and subsequent decline of China's last feudal dynasty. Today you will visit the most famous Shenyang Imperial Palace, which is of great historic and artistic significance and second

Note:

\*Train schedule subject to change without prior notice.

only to the Forbidden City in Beijing. You will then visit the former residence museum of Zhang Xueliang .

- Chinese dumplings will be served for lunch, which is a tradition to have during the first day of Chinese new year. Our train will leave Shenyang at 3:32pm and arrive in Jilin later today at 10:45pm.\* You will have your dinner onboard.

#### **Day 4 (Jan 24): Jilin – Changchun by train (B/L/D) Changchun Shangri-La or same class**

Today you will have one day tour to visit Jilin City. Jilin City is a popular destination for tourists to come each winter to view the magnificent rime ice on trees along the banks of the Songhua River. The rime ice is a natural phenomenon that occurs every year. (this phenomenon does not happen every day). You will then visit the Longtan Mountain Deer Farm to see the lovely spotted deer. In the afternoon, you will have an option to go skiing at Beidahu Skiing Resort, the largest in skiing resort in the country. At the end of the day, our train will leave Jilin at 5:10pm and arrive in Changchun at 7:04pm before you are checked into your hotel in Changchun.\*

#### **Day 5 (Jan 25): Changchun by bus (B/L/D) Changchun Shangri-La or same class**

In the morning, you will visit the former Imperial Palace which is now the Museum of the Manchu State Imperial Palace. From 1931 to 1945, China's last emperor Pu Yi once resided in this palace. In the afternoon, you will visit the Sculpture Park, followed by a photo stop of Residence of Minister of the State of Manchurian.

- Welcome dinner party at the hotel, formal dress code advised.

#### **Day 6 (Jan 26): Changchun – Harbin by train (B/L/D) Harbin Shangri-La or same class**

Our train will leave Changchun at 9:00am after breakfast and arrive in Harbin at 11:30am.\* After lunch, you will visit the Ice and Snow World, the dragon-head brand of the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival. Later today after dinner, you will attend the Harbin Ice Lantern Festival at Zhaolin Park, which is also the largest event of its kind.

#### **Day 7 (Jan 27): Harbin by bus (B/L/D) Harbin Shangri-La or same class**

Today you will attend the Sun Island International Snow Sculpture Art Expo and Saint Sofia Church Plaza.

#### **Day 8 (Jan 28): Harbin (B)**

You will leave the Harbin for your sweet home in the United States

**\$1199 (4 ppl/compartment)**

**\$1659 (2 ppl/compartment)**

#### INCLUDES:

Oriental Express luxury compartment;  
English-speaking guide;  
Five-star hotel accommodations;  
Spacious coach bus;  
Admission tickets to all attractions listed;  
And more...

Note:

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## Trip Highlights

### Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival



The Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival has been held annually since 1985. Although the official start date is January 5 each year, in practice, many of the sculptures can be seen before. While there are ice sculptures throughout the city, there are two main exhibition areas: Enormous snow sculptures at Sun Island (a recreational area on the opposite side of the Songhua River from the city) and the separate "Ice and Snow World" that operates each night. Ice and Snow World features illuminated full size buildings made from blocks of ice. Winter activities in the festival include Yabuli Alpine Skiing, winter-swimming in Songhua River, and the ice-lantern exhibition in Zhaolin Garden. Snow carving and ice and snow recreations are world famous.

The "Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival" is one of the world's four largest ice and snow festivals, along with Japan's Sapporo Snow Festival, Canada's Quebec City Winter Carnival, and Norway's Ski Festival.

### Jilin Rime

Rime, also known as "snow willow," "tree hanging" and "ice flower," is a natural phenomenon where winter fog condenses on tree branches and leaves to form individual white ice crystals, according to meteorologists. Together with the Mountains and Water of Guilin, Stone Forest of Yunnan and Three Gorges of the Yangtze River, Jilin Rime is regarded as one of the Four Natural Wonders of China. Freezing temperatures and warm water in Jilin contribute to the unique phenomenon. But this unique phenomenon does not happen every day. According to weather station records, Jinlin Rime usually appears from late November to early March. There are 23.5 days on average with the rime phenomenon in winter, and it is most frequently seen in January.



### Shenyang Imperial Palace



The Shenyang Imperial Palace, located at No. 171, Shenyang Road, Shenhe District in Shenyang City, is the only existing royal palace in China outside of the Beijing's Forbidden City. The main structure of the palace was built in 1625 when Nurhachi was in power. It was finished in 1636 by his son Abahai (Huangtaiji). Nurhachi and Abahai were both founding emperors of the Qing Dynasty. Besides the Forbidden City in Beijing, the Shenyang Imperial Palace is the only other existing palace complex in China. Within its mysterious walls, much is revealed about the early Qing Dynasty. It was listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 2004 as an extension of the Forbidden City and is now the most popular and renowned tourist attraction in Shenyang.

### The Harbin Jewish Community:

Over a century ago when Harbin was only a small fishing village, with the construction of the Middle East Railway, a group of Jewish people, came to this city for a new life by following other European immigrants. They made indelible contribution to the development of Harbin. Surviving from dramatic changes in the recent one hundred years, many cultural relics related to their daily life have been luckily retained, such as the Jewish Community, Harbin New Synagogue, Harbin Jewish History and Culture Exhibition and Huangshan Jewish Cemetery.

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