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CHINA & THE HARBIN ICE FESTIVAL

11 Day Conducted Tour
for **\$3,895** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & levies

This is great value for a tour of China during the school holiday period, as it covers all of the following:

- Air fares from Sydney and Melbourne into Dalian and out of Harbin with China Eastern Airlines.
- 10 days in China during winter, mainly visiting the north east of the country, including Dalian, Shenyang, Changchun and a three night stay in Harbin, visiting the spectacular Ice Festival.
- A stay in Shanghai on the way over.
- A Maglev bullet train ride, a wonderful acrobatic show and a visit to the Siberian Tiger Park.
- Very good accommodation, mainly four star hotels with private facilities.
- All transfers and transport and entrance fees to many attractions.
- Most meals.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guide and drivers.
- Services of local tour guides, a national guide and if there are 14 or more participants, an Australian tour escort.



If you don't have anyone to share with but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra cost of \$720.

The Harbin Ice Festival takes place every winter and is the largest ice and snow festival in the world, attracting both international and domestic visitors alike. The festival includes the worlds biggest ice sculptures.

This will be a small group tour, with a maximum of about 22 passengers.

Tour departs Australia 6th January and returns 16th January 2020

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for China & the Harbin Ice Festival

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

06.01.20 Australia – Shanghai, China

Depart Sydney at 12 midday on flight MU 562, arriving in Shanghai at 7.20pm.
Depart Melbourne at 12 midday on flight MU 738, arriving in Shanghai at 7.20pm.
Upon arrival in Shanghai we will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel for a two night stay.
Accommodation: Shanghai Ambassador Hotel or similar

07.01.20 Shanghai

(B/L/D) This morning we will visit the traditional Yu Gardens, the Old Chinatown with its twisting alleyways, many shops and hawkers and of course the Bund. Then we have free time to explore Shanghai at our own pace. Later we visit a silk spinning mill and also the Pudong area with its modern architecture.
This evening enjoy an included dinner, followed by an exciting acrobatic show.
Accommodation: Shanghai Ambassador Hotel or similar

08.01.20 Shanghai – Dalian

(B/D) After breakfast we are transferred to the Maglev train station. We will get the opportunity to experience this high-speed wonder from Shanghai city to Shanghai Airport for our flight to Dalian. On arrival in Dalian we are met and taken on a sightseeing tour of the city, including some of the many Russian and Japanese style streets. Afterwards we have visits to BinHai Road, the North Giant Bridge, Tiger's Land and the Xin Hai Square City Sculpture or the People's Square. Following this we are transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. Dinner this evening is included.
Accommodation: Dalian New World Hotel or similar

09.01.20 Dalian - Shenyang

(B/L/D) This morning is at leisure in Dalian. You may wish to use this opportunity to purchase some warmer clothing at a nearby department store.
After an included lunch, we depart Dalian by bullet train to Shenyang. On arrival in Shenyang we enjoy an included dinner and are then transferred to our hotel for a two night stay. Dinner this evening is included.
Accommodation: Kempinski Hotel or similar

10.01.20 Shenyang

(B/L/D) The highlight for today in Shenyang is the renowned Old Forbidden City. Before the Qing Emperor defeated the peasant uprising army at the end of Ming dynasty and conquered Beijing, Shenyang was the capital city of the Qing Dynasty. Shenyang Old Forbidden City is one of only two large-scale palace complexes in China. Later we will visit the 918 Museum. This museum is dedicated to showing and explaining the many kinds of torture and killings that the Japanese inflicted on the local Chinese. For dinner this evening we enjoy a local Lao Bian Dumpling Feast.
Accommodation: Kempinski Hotel or similar

11.01.20 Shenyang - Changchun

(B/L/D)

After breakfast we will farewell Shenyang and travel by coach to Changchun, the capital city of Jilin Province. In Changchun we will visit the Imperial Palace, used by the last emperor Pu Yi of the Qing Dynasty. Lunch and dinner today are included. Accommodation: New Century Grand Hotel Changchun or similar

12.01.20 Changchun - Harbin

(B/L/D)

This morning we have a walk around South Park Lake, which is located in the south west of Changchun City and is the largest urban park in north east China. Here we will see a beautiful lake, weeping willow trees, winter flowers, singing birds and many traditional Chinese ancient buildings.

Afterwards we travel to Harbin by coach. Upon arrival we will check in to our hotel for a three night stay. Harbin is famous for its annual Ice festival and the city bears 'Ice World' as its main claim to fame. Lunch and dinner today are included.

Accommodation: Sheraton Harbin Xiangfang Hotel or similar

13.01.20 Harbin

(B/L/D)

This morning we have a visit to the famous Songhua River where we can see the local winter swimmers exercising. This is one of the features of Harbin's Ice and Snow Festival. After an included lunch we visit the St. Sophia Church, which was built in 1907. We then head to the Central Avenue of Harbin, where we will be able to take in the many Russian-style buildings. Lunch today is included.

This evening we have an included dinner at the Ice Palace, located within the Shangri-La Hotel.

Accommodation: Sheraton Harbin Xiangfang Hotel or similar

14.01.20 Harbin

(B/L/D)

Today we will visit the Siberian Tiger Park. The Siberian tiger is considered an endangered species and in the 1980's, it was listed as one of the first class national protected animals of China. After an included lunch we visit the Sun Island Snow Carving Exhibition. There will be time for us to wander around the riverbank area or participate in local amusement activities.

This evening after dinner we will be transferred to the Ice and Snow World. After exploring the attractions and sculpture we will be transferred back to the hotel.

Accommodation: Sheraton Harbin Xiangfang Hotel or similar

15.01.20 Harbin – Shanghai - Australia

(B/L)

This morning is at leisure in Harbin. We will have the use of our hotel rooms until the usual check out time. At noon we are transferred to a local restaurant for lunch. Following this we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.

Depart Harbin at 5.00pm on MU 5614, arriving in Shanghai at 8.15pm.

16.01.20 Shanghai – Australia

Sydney passengers depart Shanghai at 00.05am on MU 735, arriving in Sydney at 1.35pm.

Melbourne passengers depart Shanghai at 00.20am on MU 739, arriving in Melbourne at 2.05pm.

Note: The Harbin Ice Festival is made possible due to its location in north eastern China, receiving cold winter winds from Siberia. As such the temperatures during this period will be very cold, reaching lows of -30 degrees Celsius, plus wind-chill.





Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness, however there are others that are quite challenging. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Tour Difficulty Level 4

This tour rating typically involves an above average level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, boarding trains quickly, walking distances of up to 2 kilometres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets and being capable of doing this with your own luggage. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as some early departures. The extreme weather can make this tour considerably more difficult than what you may expect. Unfortunately this tour rating is not recommended for individuals who cannot walk unaided or who are unsteady on their feet.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE TOUR

The tour will take place during winter and the weather will be extremely cold. So cold in fact, that regular cold weather clothes will be insufficient to adequately protect you from the extreme temperatures. It is important that passengers pack appropriately for this extreme weather. We suggest at least a 'Down' warm coat, UGG boots, thermals and warm socks, gloves, scarves, beanies etc. On the tour you will likely encounter deep, wet snow which can be slippery in parts. You may wish to bring walking sticks suitable for navigating through snow and slippery conditions.

It should be possible to buy extra warm clothing whilst on the tour, but it is important for you not to rely on this and bring sufficient warm clothing. During the night the temperatures can range from -20 to -30 degrees Celsius.

Pack a Warm Coat

Harbiners who are used to brutal winters wear coats made of fur, wool, or other insulating materials. Unfortunately, these coats can be bulky, heavy, and expensive. You may be better off purchasing a good quality 'Down' coat that can be flattened to fit into your luggage. Any coat you do buy should be longer than waist length and windproof. To pack a down jacket (or other coat), find a large sealable bag. After placing the coat in the bag, press all of the air out and seal the bag. This will save you space in your suitcase.

Don't Forget a Hat

The traditional Chinese Northeastern-style fur hat complete with ear flaps doesn't only represent a funny stereotype. These hats are designed to protect the wearer's head and ears from the bitter cold weather. Some sort of head covering will be essential for winter travel to Harbin. Choose a hat or beanie for its practical qualities. You may find that the traditional style hat, or a version of it, offers both protection and style.

Wear Snow Boots or Waterproof Shoes

A pair of warm, comfortable boots is very important to take with you when you travel to Harbin. The coldest months in Harbin can see heavy snowfall. Whether wet or dry, the snow can be deep and may not melt off until spring. Make sure the boots you take cover the ankle so that you don't get wet feet while trudging around in the snow.

Boots or shoes are best purchased well before traveling to Harbin during the winter so that they can be broken in. They should be comfortable enough to walk in and able to accommodate your feet and thick socks.

Gloves

One-size-fits all gloves that cost a few dollars won't keep your fingers from freezing as you visit the parks in Harbin. Purchase well-insulated gloves made of quality materials that fit well and cover the wrists.

Scarf

A woolen scarf tucked into your coat can protect your neck and throat and block chilly winds. However it is better to have a coat with a high collar than to depend upon a scarf to protect your neck from the cold. If you don't have a coat with a high collar, bring along a scarf that is long and warm enough to be useful against the weather.

Layers

Harbin uses a centralised heating system to heat residential buildings, so despite bitter winters, the temperature can be quite hot indoors. While you'll need to wear warm clothing when going outside, you'll want to be comfortable inside. The best way to insure that you don't freeze while outside and don't boil inside is to wear sweaters that can be removed if opening the windows doesn't cool off the room enough for comfort's sake. We usually do not return to the hotel prior to dinner so you will not need to pack much evening wear. A couple of lighter tops for flights and hotel stays will be useful.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's China & the Harbin Ice Festival

Deposits and Payments: A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable 8 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel often has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable.

Refunds and Cancellations: Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance: Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for all Australian passport holders to China. Chinese Visa Application Service Centre (CVASC) charge Australian passport holders \$60 visa fee plus application service fee of \$71.50 and we charge \$30 per person for processing. Different visa fees apply to non Australian passport holders. Please note that visas prices of set by the Chinese Consulate and are subject to change.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in Air taxes and Fuel Levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa / MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2.75% surcharge for American Express.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$195 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions, as airfare seasonality may be affected.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Passport Nationality _____ Preferred Name: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE

Special Dietary Requests – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

Any existing medical conditions? Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details and severity: _____
2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No
If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____
9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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If yes, please provide details: _____
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
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If yes, please provide details: _____
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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____