

The ice and Snow festival



The temperatures in Harbin are often enough to minus 40°C and remain over a half year under the freezing point. This city is appropriate for approx. 450 km in Chinese Manchuria, northwest from Wladiwostok in Siberia. Here one can converse in the winter best by a "open air festival"!

The inhabitants of Harbin a match with snow and ice sculptures organize each year. It is a competition around the most beautiful buildings.





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Art, special customer and patience

A proof of the architecture





The building of snow and ice sculptures has its origin already in the Mandschu time, the first exhibition was only 1963. The annual festival dates however starting from 1985. Since then the festival grew to a mass Event, to which millions tourists come from all over the world. Thus the sculptures became more beautiful and more artistic each year; this bear is a small part 50 meters is enough for wall sculpture.





Each part realized by individual competitors. Each team receives a Snowblock of 3 x 3 m, from which it makes its figures.

These teams come from all sides: Russia, Japan, Canada, France and even of South Africa.





Скульптура
"Роза"
А.А. Гусев, 1988 г.

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Here one sees a sunset behind the entrance sculpture. The Festival area goes up to the open area north the river into Harbin: Songhua Jiang.





- I was surprised at a sculpture of a Indian native of North America and in the northeast of China. The figure was built by a Canadian team.





- The evening brought still more beautiful, now could the "correct" Ice festival begin.









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- The Ice festival goes over a few kilometer. Neon lights strengthen the effect still more and from the background hear one quiet music.





- Here an overview of the Ice festival. One could think, one is in Disneyland. Everywhere feeding and drinks stands are developed. The only difference the deep temperatures are and that everything is built from ice.





- A palace in the Russian style





- This wall is also an ice-skating rink, on which one can slip with high speed down.









- A ship (a Dschunke), completely from ice built, with passengers on board.





The most popular activity with the festival is climbing on the large ice wall. The entire ice comes from china. the Songhua Jiang, a tributary of the Russian Amur.





- The Snow festival is a name for art, while the Ice festival is a mirror for architecture.













- One could see this Thai temple in the Disney film "Wonders OF China".







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