**Sun Island**

Harbin's Sun Island Scenic Spot locates on the north bank of the Songhua River, covering an area of 4 million square meters. It is a famous summer resort for traveling and relaxing. In early 1920's, it was a white Russian's resort. After many times of reconstructions and renovations, it has become a place for sanatorium, leisure and amusement. On the island there are many kinds of villas reflecting different architectural features, the dense forest, the soft and tiny sand and the fragrant of grass and flowers can offer you endless enjoyment. In spring ice and snow begin to melt. Viewing ice rafts flouting on the river and smelling the fragrant of earth, you will really realize the beginning of the year. In summer all kinds of flowers blossom and densely wooded. People enjoy the beautiful and harmonious nature. They go boating on the clear wave or go swimming in the river. In autumn you can see different colors of flowers and leaves. Gusts of gentle breeze make you feel pleasant and cool. In winter the scenic spot is a world of ice and snow, everything is dressed in white skirt and silver coat. All embody the unique styles of northeast China.

**Saint Sophie Church**

Saint Sophie Church belongs to First Class Preserved Building. Being put into construction in September 1923 and completed on November 25th,1932. It locates at No.95 Toulong Street Dao Li District. The church reflects Byzantine architectural features with 721 square meters in area and 53.35 meters in height. It is the largest Orthodox Eastern church in Harbin. Russian style domes. Rome style arch high windows and many combinations of different architectural arts all embody the special fascination of the church. Now the church has become a bright spot in the architectural art sceneries of Harbin. In 1996 it was designated as Harbin Architectural Art Gallery.

**Northeast China tiger**

Living mainly in the forest depths in Heilongjiang and Jilin Provinces, the Northeast China tiger, which is one of the species on the brink of extinction, is the animal falling in the category of first-grade animals protected by our country. In order to exhibit and cultivate the famous beast, tiger gardens were established simultaneously in Harbin and Mudanjiang. And now in the tiger garden in Harbin, there are 400 tigers and other rarities like snow tiger and so on.
Weather

Harbin is infamous for its very cold winters - it is at the same latitude as Montreal, and winter temperatures as low as -38.1°C have been recorded. Bring more clothes than you will think you will need so that you can layer. Average daytime summer temperatures are in the mid 20s (°C) with a few weeks reaching low 30s, while the coldest part of winter averages a chilly -17°C.

The winter can become dreary if you are a long term resident, as the entire city uses coal for heat the air quality rapidly decreases during these months.

Harbin can be a great place to visit in the summer. The weather is cool and it seems to be perpetually breezy, and most of Harbin's streets are lined with trees. Because the city is so cold all winter, life almost explodes and people crowd the streets until late at night eating kabobs, playing poker, and drinking Hapi (Harbin Beer). This is a great escape from the heat of Beijing. A trip up to the border regions this time of year would be nice as well.

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