

# 哈尔滨

## 一路向北与雪相遇

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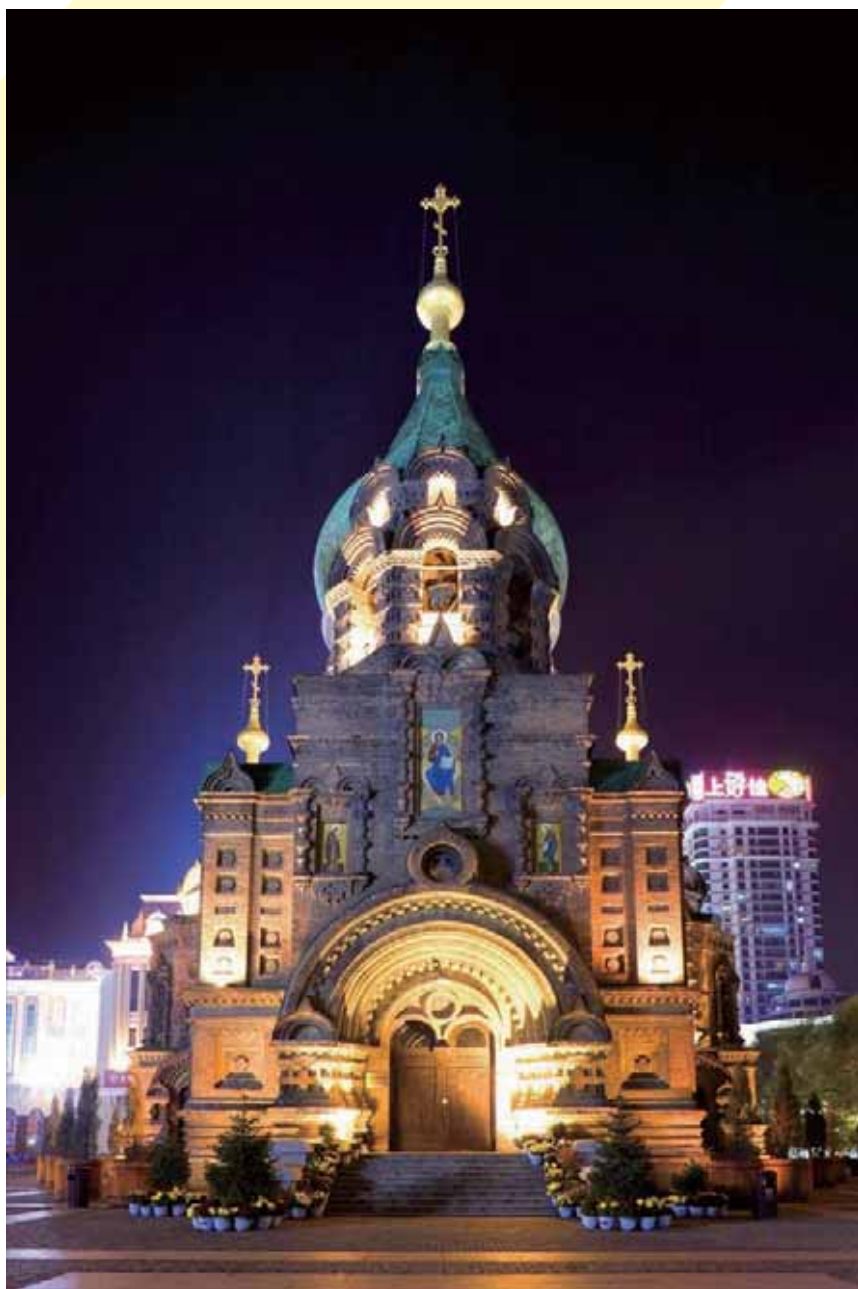


相较于繁华的上海、北京，作为中国最北端省会城市的哈尔滨更加的安静、淡定、从容。有着“东方小巴黎”之称的哈尔滨一年之中的降雪时段甚至可横跨6-8个月，早一点的月份——九月份，便可见到第一场雪；有时直到次年四、五月份丁香花将开的时候，雪花也会调皮的光顾。而在哈尔滨，春节的气息似乎随着第一场雪的到来，也跟着降临在这片黑土地。

### 当第一场雪降临， 人们便开始了对春节的期盼

当第一场雪降临，人们便开始了对过春节的期盼。肥沃的黑土地使得这里的人们即便一年只能完成一次耕种，也可以在冬季的时候安享一年的成果。一入冬，闲暇下来的人们开始走亲访友、与邻居共话家常，这是长久以来的务农传统使得这里的人们养成了这样的习惯，即便现在依旧如此，当然这样的氛围在哈尔滨的城市周边及其下属村庄会更加强烈一些。

渐渐地，年终的脚步近了，春节的气氛也跟着浓烈了起来。大街上开始张灯结彩，各种冰雪艺术雕塑也早早的被摆上了道路街头两旁，城市处处洋溢着喜庆的氛围。各种只在哈尔滨冬天或只在快过年的时候才可见的场景也纷纷出现：商贩们将冰棍整箱整箱地摆在外面供人选择，路边开始出现“春卷”“虾片”等哈尔滨人过春节必备的年货，而“冻梨”“冻柿子”等中国东北特有的冻货也被整箱地抬回家……



## 等到小年节， 人们便开始真正的“忙年”

等到农历12月23日（或24日）小年节，人们便开始真正的“忙年”：扫房屋、洗头沐浴、准备年节器具等。中国人将庆祝春节俗称“过年”。节庆虽定在农历1月1日，但庆祝活动却并不限于这一天。节前十天左右，人们就开始忙于采购年货，鸡鸭鱼肉、茶酒油酱、糖果炒货……都要准备充足，还要准备一些过年时走亲访友时赠送的礼品，小孩子要添置新衣新帽，准备过年时穿。

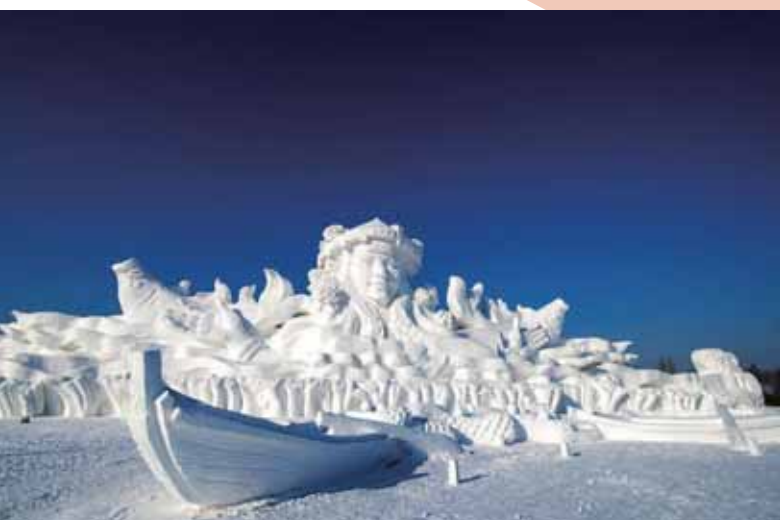
## 农历1月1日前一晚时起， 整个城市及其乡村便已开始响起此起彼伏的鞭炮声

哈尔滨的习俗，在过年前的一天或当天一早，要贴春联、贴福字、贴窗花，大红灯笼会在门前高高的挂起，即便是在有些楼房中，人们也会在阳台上悬挂一盏灯笼，灯笼要到农历1月16日之后才会收起。农历1月1日前一晚时起，整个城市及其乡村便已开始响起此起彼伏的鞭炮声，一大家子人都会聚在一起吃团圆饭——通常为饺子。饺子讲究褶子多为好，子时煮饺子，有的里边

包上铜钱或硬币，吃到者有好运。

吃过团圆饭后，从农历1月1日到7、8日人们会选择一家人待在一起，一起拜访亲戚或者走上街头欣赏冰雪中迷人的哈尔滨。冰雪雕塑的城堡、冰雪雕塑的火车，路边还有各种小朋友堆的雪人；而圣索菲亚大教堂、中华巴洛克风情街、犹太新教堂、斯大林公园等充满异域风情的建筑也在白雪的覆盖下显得更加美丽。到了夜晚，满城的冰雪与节日喜庆的灯火装点下的哈尔滨显得冷艳且妖娆。

灯光与冰雪，是哈尔滨的灵魂。春节期间的哈尔滨则上演着一曲冰雪与节庆的焰火之歌。





# Harbin:

## All the Way up North, Encounter the Snow

Compared to the metropolitan cities like Shanghai and Beijing, as China's most northern capital city, Harbin is more of a peaceful, calm, and quiet city. Nicknamed the "Little Paris of the East," Harbin can be covered in snow for 6-8 months out of the year. For Harbin winter seems to come a little earlier than most. In earlier years, the snowfall would often start in September, and would last until April or May, dropping down on the newly blossomed lilacs. In Harbin, the atmosphere of the Spring Festival seems to come as a package with the first snowfall.

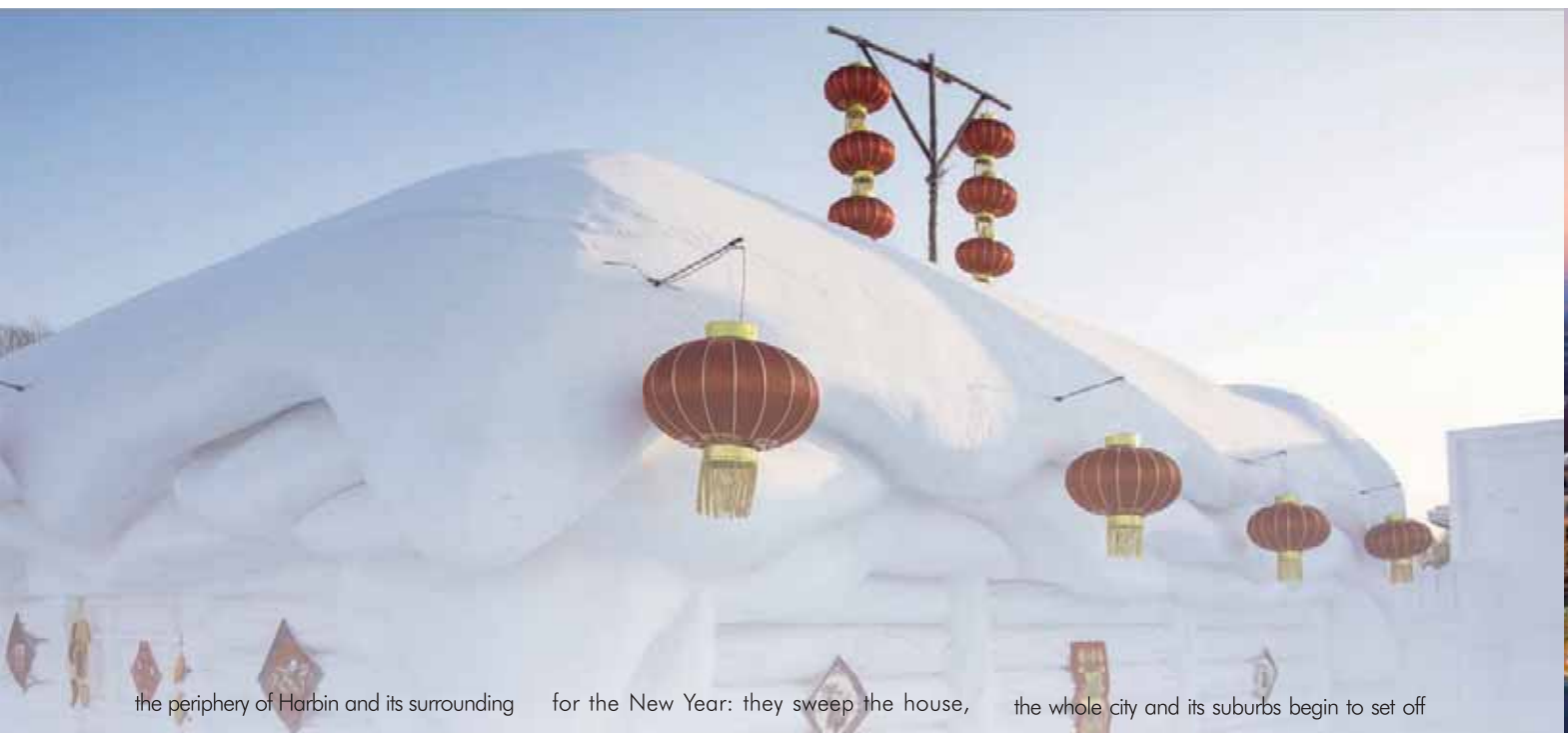
### *At the Sight of the First Snowfall, Everyone Begins to Anticipate the Spring Festival.*

At the sight of the first snowfall, everyone begins to anticipate the Spring Festival. The black soil is so fertile that even though the people of Harbin can only cultivate the fertile black soil once a year, the fruitful harvest would still be enough for them to pass through the whole winter. As soon as winter arrives, the people of Harbin find themselves with more time to relax and begin to visit relatives, friends, and



neighbors, striking up casual conversations. The long tradition of farming has made it possible for people here to develop such habits and continue preserving them until today. Admittedly, this kind of atmosphere around





the periphery of Harbin and its surrounding villages is a little more intense.

Gradually, as the end of the year approaches, the atmosphere of the Spring Festival arises. People begin to decorate the streets and a variety of snow and ice sculptures are also placed along the streets, allowing everywhere to be filled with a festive atmosphere. All kinds of scenery only visible during the winter or the New Year in Harbin also begin to appear: Vendors drag ice boxes full of popsicles outside for people to choose from, vending stalls pop up on the side of the street selling all kinds of products needed to prepare for the Spring Festival such as "spring rolls" and "shrimp chips." Furthermore, other unique frozen products of Northeast China such as "frozen pears" and "frozen persimmons" are also sold in huge boxes.

### ***December 23 (or 24) of the Lunar Calendar, People Start Busily Preparing for the New Year.***

On December 23 (or 24) of the lunar calendar, people start busily preparing

for the New Year: they sweep the house, shampoo their hair and bathe, and prepare the items needed for the celebration. The Spring Festival is commonly known as the "New Year." Although the festival is set as January 1 on the lunar calendar, the celebrations are not restricted to this one day. About ten days before the festival, people begin to shop for items such as meat (chicken, duck, and fish), liquids (tea, wine, and sauce), and snacks (candy, roasted seeds, and nuts)... All the preparations should be fully completed, including the preparation of gifts needed for when one visits their friends and relatives and the purchasing of new clothes for their children to wear on New Year's Day.

On the evening before January 1 of the lunar calendar, the whole city and its suburbs begin to set off firecrackers.

According to customs, on the day before the New Year or the early morning of, people must put up Spring Festival couplets, the character for fortune, paper cuttings, and red lanterns high above the front of their door. People who live in an apartment building will hang a lantern on the balcony instead; lanterns are kept out until January 16 of the lunar calendar. On the evening before January 1 of the lunar calendar,

the whole city and its suburbs begin to set off firecrackers, afterwards the entire family gather together to eat at reunion dinners - usually dumplings. The more folds a dumpling has, the better they are. Boiled dumplings between 11 pm and 1 am are the norm, some of them have coins inside and will bring those who eat them good luck.

After the reunion dinner, from January 1 to the 7 or 8, people will continue to stay with their family members, whom they will visit relatives together with, or take to the streets to enjoy the glamorous city of Harbin covered in ice and snow. The ice sculptures of the castle and train, as well as the variety of snowman made by children lining the roads are all beautiful sights. Furthermore, architecture heavily influenced by foreign style such as the Saint Sophia Cathedral, Laodaowai Baroque District, the Harbin New Synagogue, and Stalin Park are even more beautiful when covered in snow. In the evening, the city's ice sculptures and festive lights give Harbin a glamorous and enchanting aura.

Lights and ice sculptures are the pure essence of Harbin. During the Spring Festival, Harbin plays a song of fire and ice, the celebratory fireworks and ice sculptures making the holidays enchanting for all.