

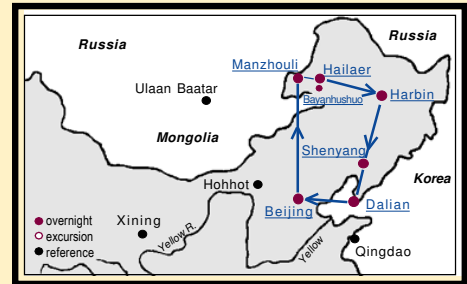
Hulunbeier & Manchuria

Manchuria is a region of China that has been coveted through the ages by myriad powers for its rich natural resources. See the influence of Russian, Mongolian, Korean, and Japanese cultures on this crossroads of North Asia – China-Russia border town & market • Mongolian Yurt Camp • Horse Back Riding • Harbin Russian Architecture • Manchu & Korean Communities • Shenyang Imperial Palace & Tombs • Port Arthur & Dalian Beaches

12 Days (Tour Code–AHM)

Arrive	Jun15	Jul06	Aug10	Sep07
Return	Jun26	Jul17	Aug21	Sep18
Land Price in USD	3,950	3,950	3,950	3,950
Single Supplement	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290

- Land prices are per person, double occupancy in deluxe or best available hotels. Prices include coach class intra-China airfare, ground transportation, all transfers, all sightseeing admissions, cultural events, most meals, and visa processing.
- Land price does not include cost for international flights. For assistance on international airfare to China, please contact us by dialing 1-800-788-1399.
- This tour is fully escorted (for a group of 6 or more travelers) within mainland China by an English-speaking professional tour manager and is guided by an English-speaking local tour guide in each city.



Day 1 Beijing

Upon arrival at Beijing Capital Airport, you are met and transferred to your hotel in downtown to recuperate. Get a briefing from ACT representative and meet fellow travelers at the Group Reception this evening.

<Reception>

Grand Hotel Beijing

Later in the afternoon, take a **walking tour** of the city center and enjoy an **Evening Dinner Show**.

The night life in Manzhouli is exciting and active. Shops, pubs, and restaurants stay open late into the night.

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Manzhouli International Hotel

Day 2 Beijing → Manzhouli

Early rise this morning and transfer to the airport for a two and a half hour flight north to Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The city sits at 50 degrees latitude right on the border between China and Russia.

You are met by your local guide at the airport and begin your exploration with a drive through the grasslands to huge **Hulun Lake** (or *Dalai Nor* in Mongolian). Next visit the nearby **Baerhu Grassland** and see Mongolian nomads herding their livestock. Take a stroll on the lakeshore and enjoy a special lunch featuring fresh fish caught from the pristine lake.

Transfer to the city and check into your hotel. Manzhouli (*Manjuur* in Mongolian) is an exotic place with an interesting blend of Chinese Han, Mongolian, and Russian flavor in its architecture, cultural atmosphere, and population. After lunch visit the **City Museum** to learn the history of this young city which evolved from a Tsarist Russian outpost to China's largest inland trading port.

Next, go to the **Sino-Russian Border** for a glimpse of the rail trade along the Trans-Siberian railroad and the bustling markets set up by vendors from both countries.

Day 3 Manzhouli → Bayanhushuo

Travel by private vehicle to Hailaer through the vast Inner Mongolian grasslands. Stop by **Hohenor Lake** for a scenic view of water, grasslands and hills. Continue the pleasant journey and arrive in Hailaer for lunch.

In the afternoon, visit a **Japanese Tunnel** built during their occupation in the Second World War, the **Hailaer Forest Park** for an endemic local species of pine tree



New Chinese-Russian style monument in a Manzhouli public square, Hulunbeier



Hulunbeier grassland, Inner Mongolia

“Zhangzिसong”, and the very interesting **Museum of Ewenke Ethnic Culture**.

In late afternoon, we travel south through the huge grasslands for about an hour and arrive at **Bayanhushuo Yurt Camp**. Here the meandering Yimin River runs through the undulating meadows with lush trees and bushes dotting the river banks, an ideal location for an overnight in nature. You will sleep in traditional style Mongolian Yurts (Ghers), dwellings of nomadic Mongols. Enjoy Mongolian dance and music by bonfires after dinner under the stars at the camp.

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Bayanhushuo Yurt Camp

Day 4 Bayanhushuo → Hailaer

Get up early to enjoy the sunrise. The **Bayanhushuo Grassland** is covered with verdant grass and colorful flowers. Beside the Yimin River, the **Bayan Huxu Aobao** mountain towers in the distance. Join the other tourists and local Mongolians for a traditional **Aobao Ceremony** in which mother nature is praised and prayers for peace and good rains are offered.

Immerse yourself in this primordial setting and enjoy a full array of activities such as horse riding, archery, hiking along the river, and visiting families of herdsmen.

Return to Hailaer City in the afternoon and check into your hotel. Take part in a **walking tour** of the city center and markets. Balance of the day is free for your own leisure. In the evening, enjoy a Local Cuisine Dinner.

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Hailaer Guofu Hotel

Day 5 Hailaer → Harbin

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and fly to Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang (Black Dragon River) Province in Manchuria. Start your exploration in this charming city after checking into your hotel.

Situated on the Songhua River, Harbin has unique examples of buildings influenced by the architectural styles of Tsarist Russia, featuring onion domes and spires.

There are several Russian orthodox church buildings still standing. Harbin was also the city which had the second largest **Jewish population** in early 20th century China.

Take a walking tour in **Daoli District** that has the best examples of Russian-European style architecture with spires, cupolas, and scalloped turrets. The **St. Sophia Church** is the most impressive and imposing structure amongst them. Thirteen buildings in this district have special cultural preservation status.

You also explore some of Harbin’s fascinating **Bomb-Shelters-Turned-Markets**. These bomb shelters were built during the cold war era when China’s relation with the Soviet Union rapidly deteriorated. Unknown to the rest of the West, in 1969 China and the Soviet Union tottered on the brink of a nuclear war. Finish the afternoon with a visit to a **local family** for a glimpse of daily life of Harbin residents.

Enjoy a special Local Cuisine Dinner tonight.

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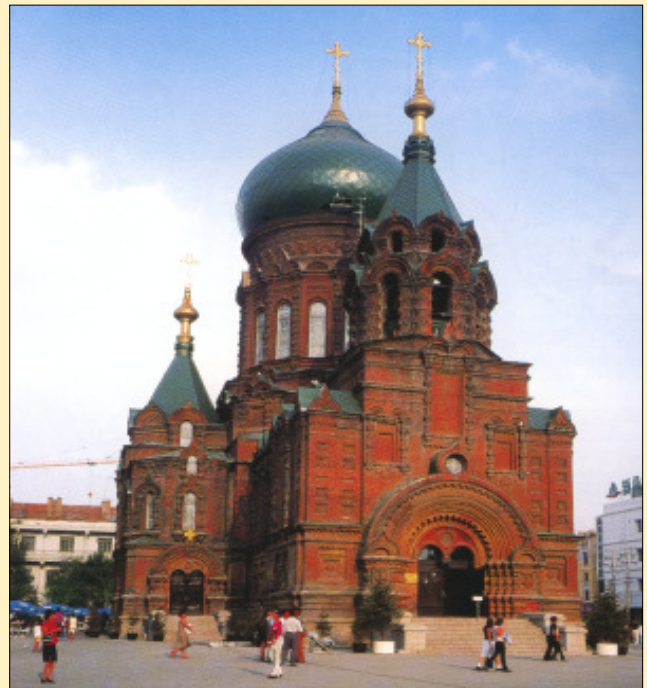
Holiday Inn Harbin City Center

Day 6 Harbin

After breakfast in the luxurious Shangri-La Hotel, visit the **Seven-Tiered Buddhist Pagoda**, built in 1924. When wind blows, the air resonates with the sound of wind chimes and makes for a peaceful retreat.

Next, tour **Helongjiang Provincial Museum**, which has displays of archaeological finds of subarctic hunter-ethnic minorities in the region and exhibitions on dinosaurs.

Finally, take an excursion to the **Manchurian Tiger Park** located north of the city. The Manchurian (or Siberian) tiger is one of the rarest and most endangered species on earth with fewer than 1000 living in the wild. Here you get an upclose look at the magnificent tigers as you drive



St. Sophia Cathedral, Harbin

safari-style through the fenced-off fields. The goal of this park is to study, breed, release, and ultimately save the Manchurian tiger from extinction. Afternoon is free for your own exploration of cosmopolitan Harbin.

<B-L> **Holiday Inn Harbin City Center**

Day 7 Harbin → Shenyang

Fly to Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province. Met by guide upon arrival and transfer to city for hotel check-in.

In 1625, **Nurhachi**, founder of the Latter Jin (former name of Qing Dynasty), moved his capital to Shenyang, which later became the capital of the Manchus (who called the city Mukden) before they took control of the rest of China.

Begin your exploration in the afternoon by visiting **Liaoning Provincial Museum**, which, among other artifacts, displays ancient fragments of polished bone inscribed with characters and used for divination.

Later, take a **walking tour** in the downtown area and the ethnic **Korean neighborhood** to get a different slice of the diverse city. In the evening, enjoy a Local Cuisine Dinner.

<B-D> **Kempinski Hotel Shenyang**

Day 8 Shenyang

Start the day with a visit to the **Former Imperial Palace** of the early Qing era. Built in 1625 for Nurhachi, and inherited by his son Abahai (Huang Taiji), the palace in Shenyang is one of two royal complexes existing in China today. Though much smaller than the Forbidden City, the distinct architectural style of the palace is very charming and most halls are still in fine conditions.

The **East Tomb**, surrounded by river and hills, is the resting place for Nurhachi and his wife Yahenala, but his son got a better grave at the **North Tomb**. The well-preserved complex is decorated with pavilions, statues of camels, elephants, horses, and lions.

Stop by the **Pagoda of Buddhist Ashes**, a thirteen-storey, fifty-meter-high (164 feet) hollow brick structure built in 1044 AD during the Liao Dynasty. It has survived many earthquakes. Also visit the **Shenyang Steam Locomotive Exhibition Park**, where sixteen antiquated steam trains



Xinghai Square by the ocean, Dalian



The Throne in Shenyang Imperial Palace Museum

from America, Japan, Soviet, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany, and China are on display.

<B-L-D> **Kempinski Hotel Shenyang**

Day 9 Shenyang → Dalian

On your way to Shenyang Airport this morning, visit **Shiyunshan Manchu Village and Folk Museum** for a better understanding of Manchu history, culture and customs. Fly to Dalian (called "*Port Arthur*" in the old days by Europeans and Americans) and arrive in early afternoon.

Dalian is located on the southern tip of the Liaodong Peninsula, surrounded by ocean on three sides. It is one of Manchuria's best sightseeing and holiday destinations.

Enjoy a **walking tour** of the city center and followed by dinner in a seafood restaurant.

<B-D> **Shangri-la Hotel Dalian**

Day 10 Dalian

Today Dalian is most famous for its beaches, city squares, and fashion. Take a **scenic drive** along the coastal road. **Bangchui Island Scenic Area** is one of the more attractive beaches in Dalian.

Dalian is a modern city, with a cosmopolitan attitude and atmosphere, embodied in the streets around **Zhongshan Square** that have a strong international flavor, dotted with **Japanese and Russian buildings**. The city squares are particularly charming in the evenings, when locals gather to watch street performances.

Tonight, enjoy a Special Farewell Dinner.

<B-L> **Shangri-la Hotel Dalian**

Day 11 Dalian → Beijing

After breakfast, travel to Beijing by air this morning. Upon arrival, met and transfer to hotel and the rest of the day is free for your own exploration and relaxation.

 Grand Hotel Beijing

Day 12 Return Home

Transfer to the airport and fly home.

