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## Winter Scenery in China

In China, there are ten popular spots to enjoy the beauty of winter, such as Harbin, known as the 'Hometown of Snow', or the misty Huangshan Mountains.

### 1. Harbin Snow Village

Harbin Snow Village is known as a 'fairy tale village', where people can experience the cold of winter. It is in the Snow Country National Forest Park, which spans Harbin, Meili, and Mudanjiang. The area is 500 hectares and is located 1,200 meters above sea level. The snowy season in Harbin lasts for seven months, from October to the following May. This area experiences the heaviest snowfall in China.~~~~~

The average annual snowfall is two meters there. It is one of the top ten most beautiful villages in China. To experience the most stunning snowy views, I recommend visiting from December to March. Not only can you enjoy romantic snowy surroundings, but you can also experience skiing, ice skating, sledding, and making snowmen, which you can enjoy only in snowy countries.



### 2. Harbin Ice Festival

Harbin Ice Festival is the largest ice festival in China. Ice carving is very popular in the northeastern region, particularly around Harbin. The first 'Harbin Ice Festival' was in 1885, and in 1999, the 'Ice and Snow World' was added. People typically start preparing for ice carving in late December. The festival now runs annually from January 5th to February. For winter lovers, it is a beautiful snowy paradise. 'Ice and Snow World', 'Bing xue da shi jie' in local language, means both an ice-snow event and creating world-famous buildings. In January, the coldest month, the highest temperature is -13°C and the lowest is -23°C. Toward the end of December, ice is cut from 'Songhua Jiang' (a river in northeastern China), and people can watch the process.

Using natural ice, domestic and international artists carve massive ice sculptures and ice buildings, which are then exhibited in a vast space of 810,000 square meters. People enjoy exciting new activities, such as ice skating, snow football, and ice cycling. Especially at nighttime, colorful illumination creates a romantic space.

You might feel like you have wandered into a fairy tale land. It is said that this is one of the world's four major ice festivals. (Sapporo Snow Festival in Hokkaido, Quebec Winter Carnival in Canada, and Oslo Ski Festival in Norway).

The displays are at three locations: Taiyojima Park, Chorin Park, and a special venue.

If you have a chance, please see them.



### 3. Snow Country

There is a small village located 280km away from Harbin, famous for its snowy scenery as well. It snows for seven months a year there, and they have four meters of snowfall. The 'Snow Curtains' hanging from the roofs are as smooth as cream and create a beautiful scenery like paradise. You can enjoy dog sledding, horse sledding, and watching the sun rise from the top of the hill. People can experience the local culture and engage in various activities.

### 4. Huangshan Mountains

This is a perfect place to enjoy the snowy scenery. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it is the place where natural beauty and unique cultural heritage merge. Ancient pine trees covered in snow and distinctive rock formations, known as Feiyueyan, create a mysterious landscape.

Winter is the best season to enjoy the beauty of Huangshan. At dawn and dusk, the magnificent scenery of sea clouds and the light, with tall pine trees and calm space, is breathtaking. When you watch high mountain peaks covered with pure white snow, you would feel as if you have stepped into a winter paradise.



### 5. Forbidden City in Beijing

The Forbidden City Imperial Palace is another place people want to visit the most to enjoy the snow in China. In winter, pure white snow gently covers the golden *tiles* of the roof and the crimson walls, creating a magnificent and calm scene. In a tranquil space, the Forbidden City is absolutely charming, and you may feel as if you have traveled back in time.

*Tile*: boards for covering roofs.

### 6. Jiuzhaigou

This area, located in northern Sichuan Province, is characterized by beautiful mountains and valleys, featuring an emerald-green lake and waterfalls. Rich forests spread, and rare wild animals, such as giant pandas, inhabit there. The autumn foliage season is wonderful, but the place is also famous for its winter scenery, known as the 'Valley of Nine Villages.' From November to February, the mountains and forests are covered with a lot of snow, and when the sunlight hits the area, it becomes even more magnificent. By experiencing the fresh air and nature, winter and nature lovers can have unforgettable experiences.

## 7. Zhangjiajie

This city is a *nature reserve* in Hunan. We can see a unique landscape of thousands of towering rock pillars over 200 meters high, with limestone caves and stalagmites. Zhangjiajie National Forest Park is renowned for its fame. People have a very long summer and a very short, bitterly cold winter there. In December, this area is completely covered with snow. More than 3,000 massive rock pillars and silver snow make up the 'icicle' phenomenon, which is almost like an *ink painting* and is truly stunning. A cable car ride through the snowfields will leave you even more amazed by the beauty. This is another ideal spot to enjoy the beauty of nature.

*Nature reserve*: a place that values nature

*Ink painting*: a painting drawn with only ink and water



## 8. Meili Snow Mountains

This mountain range, located in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan, is called 'Snow Prince'. The highest peak is 6,740 meters above sea level. Tibetan people believe that witnessing a beautiful sunrise brings happiness. Not only for its pure white snow scenery, but also this place is famous as the spot where you can watch one of the most beautiful 'sunrises' in the world.



## 9. Feng Haung Ancient Town

This is a stunningly preserved historic town in Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Hunan Province. It is a very famous tourist spot for enjoying the beautiful old townscapes. The distinctive stilted house, Diaojiaolou, is an attractive spot, where you can see the charm of the minority culture. From December to February, people can enjoy the tranquil and fascinating snowy scenery. Ancient tiled roofs, bridges, and alleys are covered with snow creating a lovely scenic backdrop. An emerald-green river, Tou jiang (one of the tributaries of the Yangtze River) rises in white snow. People enjoy eating hot shrimp dumplings, strolling through old town, relaxing in tea houses, and watching people's daily lives.

## 10. The Great Wall

The Great Wall is a magnificent wall stretching approximately 20,000 kilometers, constructed during the Spring and Autumn Warring States Period (around 770 BC-221 BC). The mountain view is shrouded in white snow from the top of the Great Wall, and the mystical scenery of the ancient capital melts into winter silence. It is said that a winter trip to China is not complete without viewing the snow scenery at The Great Wall.

Please find your best winter scenery and enjoy yourself!



# Information from Nerima City Regional Promotion Section

## <Welcome to Information Desk at Cultural Exchange Square>

We provide all sorts of useful information in some languages for your daily life, including Japanese language classes and so on.

【Venue】 3-1-1, Hikarigaoka, Nerima City

【Telephone number】 03-3975-1252

【Open】 Weekday 10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Saturday, Sunday, holidays 1:00-4:00p.m.

※Closed: When Culture Exchange Square is closed, and the end of year and new year holidays.

【Languages】 English : Tue. Thu. Sat. Chinese: Wed. Fri. Sun.

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## <Please visit the Information Desk at Nerima City Office>

Counseling service in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog and Japanese is available at Nerima City Regional Promotion Section. Counseling on phone is also available.

【Venue】 Regional Promotion Office, 9<sup>th</sup> floor of Nerima City Main Building

6-12-1, Toyotamakita, Nerima City

【Telephone Number】 03-5984-4333

【Open】 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

【Languages】 English : Mon.~Fri. Chinese : Mon.~Fri. Korean : Fri. Tagalog : Mon.

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### For more information

【Nerima City Official HP】

<https://www.city.nerima.tokyo.jp/gaikokunohitomuke/bunka.html>

【QR】



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