



Heilóngjiāng

POP 38.3 MILLION

Includes ➔

Hǎ'ěrbīn	333
Mǔdǎnjiāng	340
Around Mǔdǎnjiāng	342
Wǔdàlián Chí	342
Russian Borderlands	345

Best Landscapes

- ➔ Lǎohēi Shān (p343)
- ➔ Běijīcūn (p345)
- ➔ Jīngpò Hú (p342)

Best Activities

- ➔ Ice and Snow Festival (p336)
- ➔ Skiing (p341)
- ➔ Hiking in Wǔdàlián Chí (p342)

Why Go?

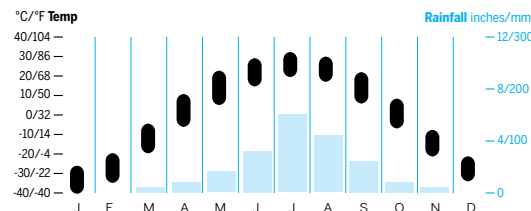
Hēilóngjiāng (黑龙江) means Black Dragon River, and this particular coiling dragon is the separating line between China and Russia. Across the province a neighbourly influence is evident in architecture, food and even souvenirs. Capital Hǎ'ěrbīn's famed cobblestoned streets and European-style facades is ground zero for this hybrid experience.

Of course, it gets cold in China's northernmost province, sub-Arctic cold – but that frigid weather is put to good use in winter, the peak tourist season. Hǎ'ěrbīn hosts a world-renowned ice sculpture festival and the region has some of China's finest ski runs. It gets busy but it's worth swaddling yourself in layers and joining the crowds.

Outside the cities, Hēilóngjiāng is a rugged, beautiful landscape of forests, lakes, mountains and dormant volcanoes. From Mòhé, China's most northerly city, you can access the remote Běijīcūn and Běihóngcūn for bragging rights to say you have stood at the very top of the Middle Kingdom.

When to Go

Hǎ'ěrbīn



Jan Hǎ'ěrbīn hosts the Ice and Snow Festival.

Jun Mòhé holds the Northern Lights Festival.

Dec–Mar Ski season at Yàbùlì and Wǔdàlián Chí.



Heilóngjiāng Highlights

1 Explore China's northernmost village of **Mòhé** (p345) while hoping to catch the elusive but spectacular aurora borealis

2 Brave the cold and join the crowds who flock to Hā'ěrbīn's world-famous **Ice and Snow Festival** (p336)

3 Walk the brick-lined streets of the historic **Dàoqiū district** (p335) and explore Hā'ěrbīn's Russian and Jewish past

4 Hike to the top of a dormant volcano and through the lava fields of **Wūdàlián Chǐ** (p342)

5 Ski and snowboard at **Yabùlǐ** (p341), one of China's finest ski resorts

6 Go on the search for **rare cranes** (p344) in nature reserves across the north