

General Information

Harbin, Heilongjiang



Harbin, as the capital and transportation center of Heilongjiang Province, is the largest city in the north of Northeast China. It is located in the south of Heilongjiang Province, bordering Mudanjiang and Qitaihe to the east, Yichun and Jiamusi to the north, Suihua and Daqing to the west, Changchun of Jilin Province to the south. Harbin is a must-see place when you visit northeast China. The city's rich Russian-style buildings and the beautiful snow sceneries are two important factors to attract tourists. A great number of Russian, Baroque and Byzantine styles buildings are left due to special history and geographical location. In winter, Harbin turned into a breathtaking ice city when the huge ice sculptures scattered in the parks and scenic areas are illuminated by colorful lights. In addition, skating, skiing, snow carriage and other kinds of snow sports are definitely

worth experiencing. However, Harbin has more charm than that. All kinds of delicacies including Russian food, Northeast China stew, Harbin sausage and Harbin beer will satisfy your appetites.

The Russian influence was felt in the city of Harbin in the form of numerous Russian Orthodox churches, the most famous of which is the Saint Sophia Cathedral with its quintessentially Russian onion-shaped turrets (the onion-shaped turret of the typical Russian Orthodox church is a Byzantine inheritance, modified to its more sloping, onion shape in Russia in order to inhibit the accumulation of snow, of which there was no lack during a typical Russian winter, as both Napoleon and Hitler would bitterly come to realize). The imposingly stately Saint Sophia Cathedral remains Harbin's architectural landmark.

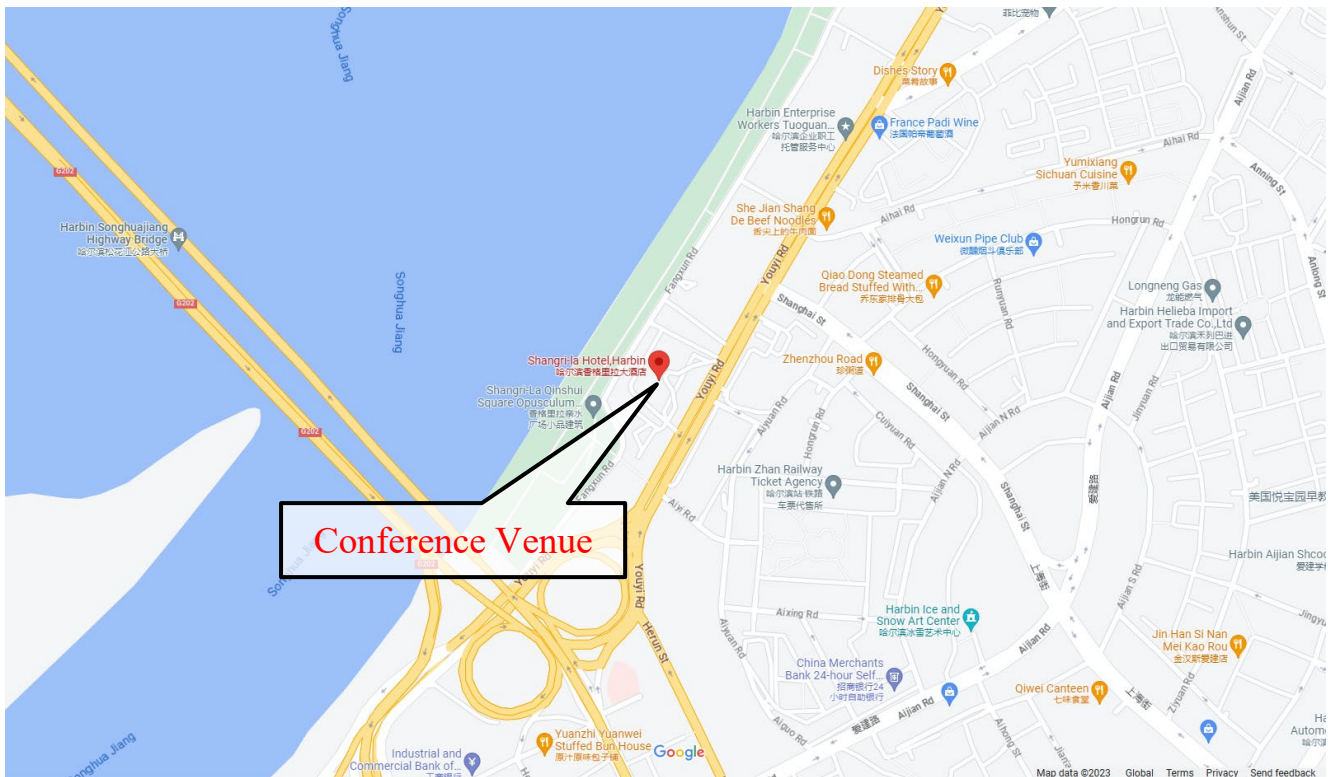
Harbin is now a large, open city, influenced deeply by Russia, Europe, and Japan in its culture, architecture, and lifestyle. Also called “the Ice City”, Harbin is one of the most popular destinations for winter tours, hosting the world's biggest ice and snow festival. It is our sincere wish that you will make the best of your time here and we believe you will bring home more than what you expect.

Weather

Famed as the 'Ice City', Harbin has four distinct seasons with long cold winters and short cool summers.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High Temp(°F)	9	19	36	57	70	79	82	79	70	54	32	16
Average Low Temp(°F)	-11	-4	14	32	46	59	64	61	48	32	14	-4
Average High Temp(°C)	-13	-7	2	14	21	26	28	26	21	12	0	-9
Average Low Temp(°C)	-24	-20	-10	0	8	15	18	16	9	0	-10	-20

The map of the Conference Venue



All the registrants should make their own local transportation in the city. Travel by taxi is the most convenient and fastest option for the journey. Harbin is not only famous for charming natural scenery but also for large numbers of taxis and the cheapest taxis cost: RMB2.00 per km with base price RMB8.00! Please prepare some changes in advance for taxi fee or city bus cost in the staying in Harbin.

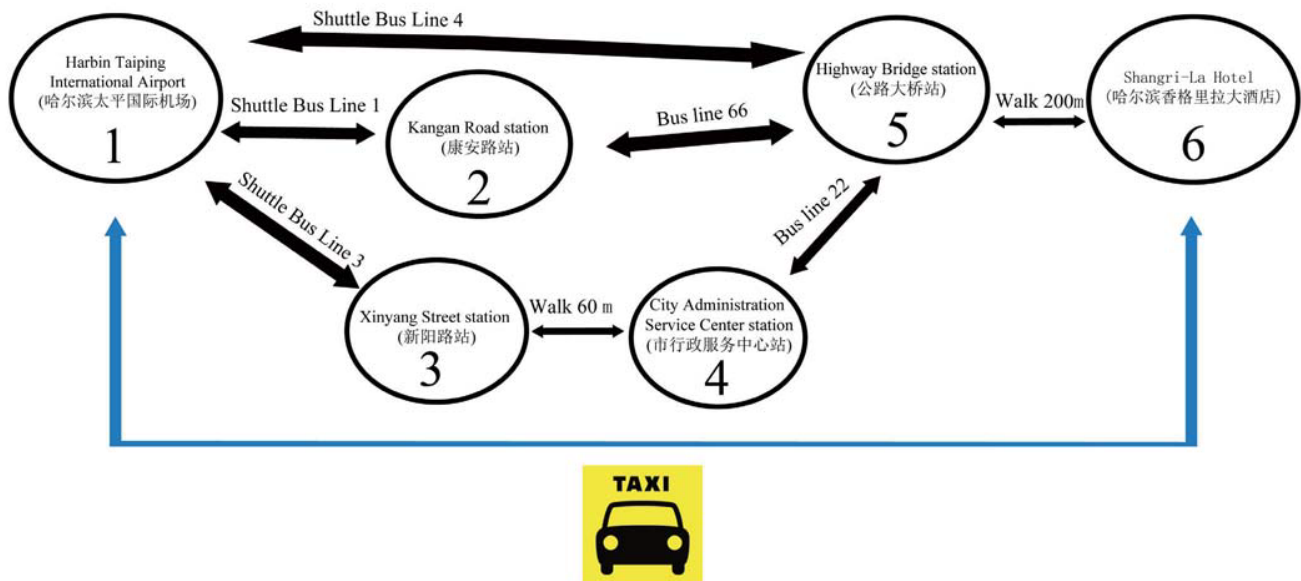
It takes about 40 minutes by taxi from Harbin Taiping International Airport to Shangri-La Hotel for

under US\$20-25, depending upon the traffic. Whenever you arrive at the airport, there are always many taxis waiting at the airport to pick up passengers. We suggest you wait for a taxi at the airport designated taxi station. Please ask for a receipt from the taxi.

Ps: Traffic information about the Harbin Taiping International Airport (哈尔滨太平国际机场) to Shangri-La Hotel (哈尔滨香格里拉大酒店) can refer Appendix.

Transportations from/to the Airport

From/to Harbin Taiping International Airport (哈尔滨太平国际机场) to/from Shangri-La Hotel (哈尔滨香格里拉大酒店).



Route 1: You will take a taxi. The distance is about 40km and you need to pay about 140RMB (①-⑥).

Route 2: You will take Shuttle Bus Line 4 from/to Harbin Taiping International Airport (哈尔滨太平国际机场) to/from Highway Bridge station (公路大桥站). You can walk to Shangri-La Hotel (哈尔滨香格里拉大酒店). (①-⑤-⑥).

Ps: The Shuttle Bus Line 4 runs two shifts every day, departure time: AM 9:00 / PM 1:50. The fee is about 20 RMB.

Attractions

- **St. Sophia Church**

Saint Sophia Cathedral or St Sophia Cathedral, located in the Sophia Square of Harbin, is the largest Eastern Orthodox church in the far east with more than 112 year's history. It is also the most finely protected Byzantine architecture in China. Although it is no longer served as a church but Harbin Architecture Art Gallery, it still attracts many visitors with its beautiful exotic architecture. While the main dome and bell tower are the traditional "green onion head" tent roofs of Russia, and the walls are all made of red bricks, Saint Sophia Cathedral is a highly unusual looking building to non-Russians. The 53.3-metre-high cathedral covers an area of 721 square meters and is the perfect example of Neo-Byzantine architecture. Under the bright sun, the church and the square look like Moscow's Red Square. The view of St. Sophia Cathedral during the day and at night are two different kinds of beauty. As night falls and lights begin to shine, St. Sophia's Church appears to be covered with a mysterious veil, presenting a fantastic picture.



- **Zhongyang Pedestrian Street**

Zhongyang (central in English) Pedestrian Street, as its name implies, is a pedestrian street located centrally in Harbin City. Here tourists will find beautiful cobble-stoned streets and an amazing amount of old European-style buildings, some of them are in Renaissance style, some are in Baroque... Apart from the architecture, it is also interesting to find dazzling Russian style western restaurants, ice cream shops and souvenir stores selling goods from Russia taking up about half of the stores lined along both sides of the street. Therefore, when stroll this 1.5-kilometer-long street, you sometimes feel you are in China and sometimes as though somewhere in Russia. If you don't know what to do during your free hours in Harbin or want to buy some souvenirs home, this is certainly the place to be, both day and night! And if you happen to visit this street during the Ice and Snow Festival, you will be surprised to see the street full of ice sculptures too!



- **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 the early 1920s, it was a white Russian 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 fragrance of grass and flowers can offer you endless enjoyment. In spring ice and snow begin to melt. Viewing ice rafts floating on the river and smelling the fragrance of the 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.

- **Siberian Tiger Park**

Siberian Tigers are the largest of all tigers. Renowned for their power and strength, they are also widely known as the king of the forest. However, as the natural environment becomes worse, these kings are under an ominous threat. The numbers of wild Siberian Tigers even dwindle below 500. To protect this endangered species, the Siberian Tiger Park was in place in 1996. And under the efforts of the staff in the park, about 800 Siberian tigers can live happily and healthily there now.



For tourists visiting this park inside Sun Island, you could encounter about 100 of 800 Siberian tigers. Also, you could enjoy the thrilling experience of being chased by these kings of the forest under the protection of a van with a stick fence.

Useful Information

- **Language:** Official language is Mandarin and most people also use their local dialect. The standard spoken Chinese is Putonghua. English can be understood by many young people and is used in hotels and big restaurants. In all tourist hotels, staff can speak in English, Japanese and other languages. They can also write down addresses or instructions in Chinese for taxi drivers or others. In addition, roads in major cities are signposted in Pinyin, the official Romanization system of the Chinese characters, which makes it quite easy to get around with the help of a map.
- **Currency:** Renminbi (RMB) is the only currency to be used in China. RMB is also called Chinese Yuan. The unit of Renminbi is yuan and with smaller denominations called jiao and fen. The conversion among the three is: 1 yuan = 10 jiao = 100 fen. Paper notes are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan; 1, 2 and 5 jiao; and 1, 2 and 5 fen. Coins are issued in denominations of 1 yuan; 5 jiao; and 1, 2 and 5 fen. Money exchanges by cash or traveler's cheques can be made at the branches of Bank of China at Harbin International Airport, hotels and tourist stores. Please remember to keep the receipt to exchange back to foreign currency when leaving China.
- **Credit Cards:** Visa, Master Card and American Express are the most commonly used in China. Cards can be used in most middle to top-range hotels and department stores, but they cannot be used to finance your transportation costs.
- **Time:** GMT + 8 hours (the whole of China is set to Beijing time)
- **Electricity:** Electricity is 220 Volts, 50 AC; plugs can be three-pronged angled, three-pronged round, two flat pins or two narrow round pins.
- **Water:** Bottled mineral water can easily be bought in all stores and street kiosks for RMB 3. And sometimes hotels provide it free of charge. Furthermore, potable water is only available in a few 4 to 5 star hotels, while water in thermos flasks in rooms is usually non-potable tap water.
- **Measurement:** In the Metric system.
- **Tipping:** Tipping is not customary outside of foreign joint-venture hotels and is officially discouraged. But hotel bellboys usually expect RMB 5-10 per bag.
- **Attention:** Smoking is prohibited in public places in Harbin, such as hospitals, office buildings, theatres, cinemas, museums, planes, and trains.
- **Hotlines:** 110 - Police 119 – Fire 120 – Ambulance

Conference Information

Conference Venue

IEEE ICMA 2023 will be held in the city of Harbin, at Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin, which serves as both the official conference hotel and the venue for the technical program. Being the first and only international 5 star hotel, Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin, Harbin sits downtown by the scenic Songhua River and overlooks the Central Business District. Surrounded by spectacular landscape, the Hotel features elegantly-appointed rooms, a 24-hour business Centre, modern meeting facilities and the finest dining in Harbin. Guests can also pamper themselves in the Health Club, completing its range of impeccable service.



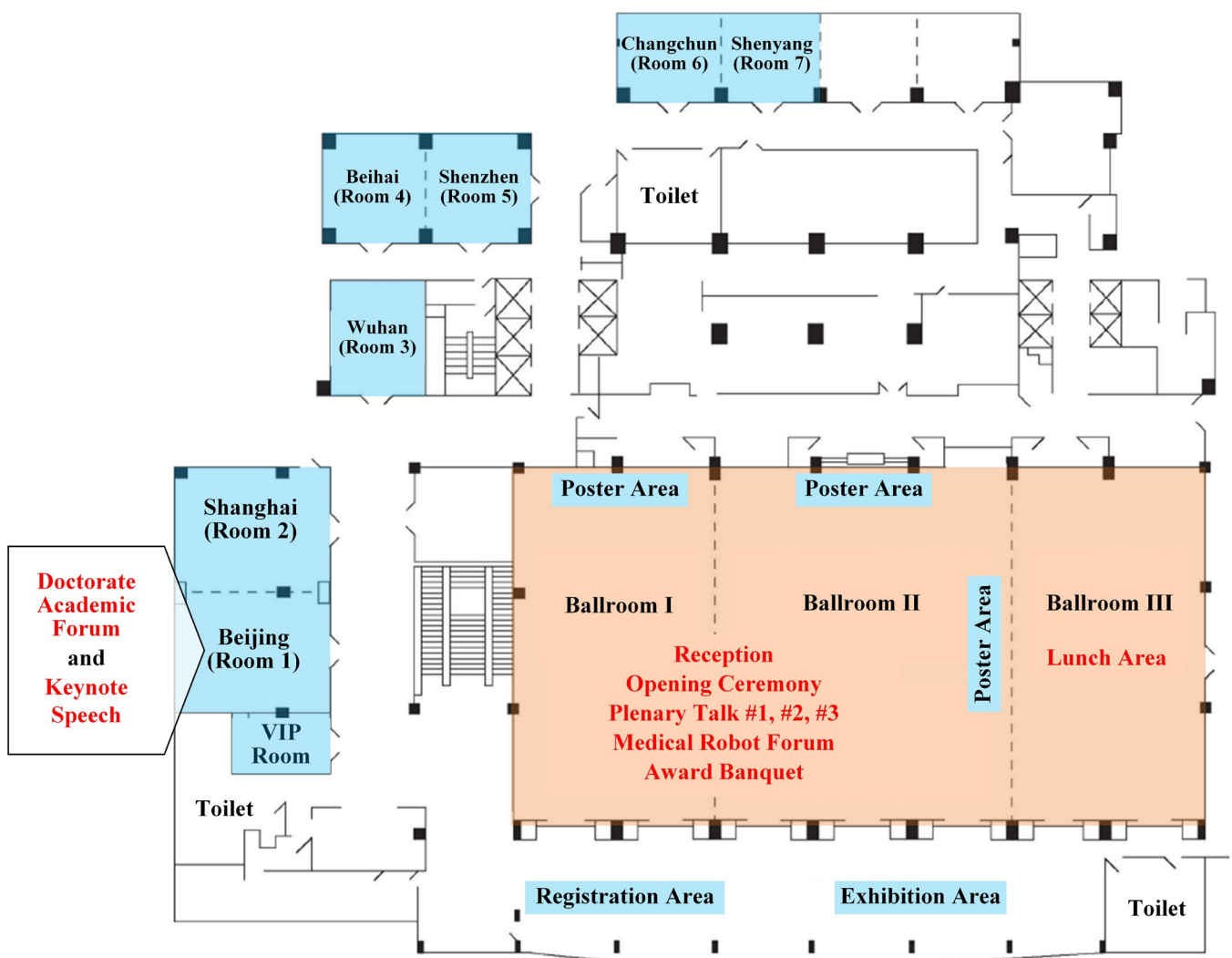
Conference Registration

A conference registration desk will be set up and opened from UTC+8 (Beijing Time): 13:00 on August 6 to 12:00 on August 9 at [Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin](#).

Floor Map of Conference Rooms

2F, Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin, Heilongjiang, China

Conference Room 1-7, Ballroom I-III



2F, Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin, Heilongjiang, China

Social Events

The social events organized by the IEEE ICMA 2023 include the conference reception, world premium workshops on robotics, the awards banquet, the conference registration, the farewell party, etc.

Conference Reception

The Conference Reception will be held from 17:30 to 18:30 on August 6, 2023 at Ballroom II, 2F, Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin. All the conference participants are welcome to join this event.

Doctorate Academic Forum on Robotics

The Doctorate Academic Forum on Robotics will be held from 13:00 to 15:30 on August 6, 2023 at Conference Room 1(Beijing Room), 2F, Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin. All the conference participants are welcome to join this event.

Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet will be held from 18:30 to 21:00 on August 8, 2023 at Ballroom II, Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin. All the conference participants are welcome to join this event.

Farewell Party and Lunch Place:

The Farewell Party will be held from UTC+8 (Beijing Time): 12:00 to 13:30 on August 9, 2023 at Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin. The IEEE ICMA 2023 Lunch will be held on from 11:30 to 13:30 on August 7, 8, and 9 at Shangri-La Hotel, Harbin. All the conference participants are welcome to join this event.