

5th World Reindeer Herders' Congress, July 24 – 29, 2013 – General Information

In 2008, Aoluguya Ewenki joined World Reindeer Herder's Association, and attended the 4th World Reindeer Herder's Congress held at Kautokeino in Norway in 2009. At the Congress, Aoluguya Ewenki was elected as host of 5th World Reindeer Herders' Congress. With the preparation during the past 5 years, the 5th Congress will be held during the 24th to 29th of July 2013 at Genhe, Hulunbeier, China. We welcome all to visit Congress at Genhe who are interested in world reindeer herding.

Check also the information made by Mr. Sa, Secretary General of the Communist Party in Genhe and also the chair of the local organizing committee.

Local hosts of the 5th World Reindeer Herders' Congress

The local hosts are Genhe City and the Evenki Research Centre. The theme of the Congress is "People, Reindeer and Nature; the Sustainable Development". The Congress has also a sub-title: "The 10th Anniversary of Aoluguya Evenki Township Relocation".

Travelling to and from Aoluguya/Genhe

The easiest way to travel to Aoluguya is to go by plane to Beijing. From Beijing there are several flights during a day to Hailar city, which has the nearest airport (Hailar Dongshan airport) to Aoluguya and Genhe. There are several plane companies that do the flights to/from Hailar. We recommend to book plane tickets through a travel agency.

NEW INFORMATION REGARDING BOOKING OF TICKETS AND HOTEL IN CHINA

The local organizers has made an agreement with a local travel service providers; Bofeng Airservice, to help the Congress' participants with booking domestic flights and hotels in China. If anyone wants to stay few days for vacation in Beijing after the Congress, this company can help with bookings.

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Both are English speaking.

From Hailar city to Aoluguya/Genhe the distance is 240 km. The local hosts will organize transport from Hailar to Aoluguya/Genhe and at departure from Aoluguya/Genhe to Hailar airport.

For participants coming from Russia:

It is planned that participants from Russia will cross the border to China at the town of Belagoshensk and continues to Genhe with buses. Information on this is to be found at www.5WRHC.org.

It is of great importance that participants going to the Congress, register themselves in order for the local hosts to organize transport.

Registration

We ask those, who will participate in the Congress to register themselves as soon as possible. This regards also appointed delegates from the regions.

The registration form and how to register online is to be found at <http://reindeerherding.org/projects/5-wrhc/register/>.

Based on the information given in the registration form, the local hosts will send by email a personal invitation to use for applying visa. Due to limitations for the local hosts in regard to the number of invitations of foreign participants, the personal invitations will be used for appointed delegates from the different regions. It is thus important to fill out information if you are an official delegate, official guest or an ordinary participant to the Congress. It is also of importance to fill in information on passport number, date of issue and date of expiry.

Due to the limitations in invitations of foreign guests, many of the participants will have to apply for tourist visa, which usually requires confirmation on booked hotel during the stay in China. The local hosts will send by email a confirmation on booked hotel room in Genhe to those who apply for tourist visa.

WRH's Board has set rules for registration, which can be found at www.5WRHC.org.

Visa

Kindly check with the Chinese Embassy in your country what documents are needed for applying visa. Kindly inform about this on the registration form.

Accommodation in Aoluguya/Genhe

In general the participants to the Congress will be staying at Genhe city hotel and at Aoluguya Resort hotel.

Kindly inform on the registration form if you want the local hosts to pre-book hotel for you. The local host or the hotel where reservation is done, will confirm hotel room for the period given in the registration form, to use when applying tourist visa. It is thus important to fill out as much information as possible.

Prices:

The local hosts have estimated the following prices:

Plane ticket round-trip Beijing-Hailar: approximately 250 Euros

Hotel room (single): approximately 100 Euros per night. The price includes hotel room including 3 meals per day.

Hotel room (family): approximately 150 Euro per night, including 3 meals per day.

Transport to/from Hailar and transport in regard to the Congress' venues is estimated to be free.

Minibank/bankomat/ATM – cash withdraw:

The local hosts will check what kind of credit cards can be used at the hotels in Genhe. They are also checking if there is possible to have a minibank/bankomat/ATM where the participants have possibility to withdraw cash from their bank account, or a specific office where it will be possible to change money. In any way we recommend the participants to change into local currency before arriving Genhe/Aoluguya.

About Genhe and Aoluguya

The vast territory of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region is located in the northern frontier of China and neighbors with Mongolia and Russia. It is China's largest autonomous region in terms of longitude. The majorities of its population are Mongolian and Han, living together with Korean, Hui, Manchu, Daur, Ewenki, Oroqen and other nationalities. The Aoluguya village is under the jurisdiction of the Genhe City, which is located in the northern part of Inner and is one of the most northern cities of this region. The Genhe river is "Gegen golei" in Mongolian, which means "crystal clear river."

Brief of Aoluguya Evenki people, Hulunbeier, China

In Northern China lives an ancient hunting tribe at the region between Eerguna and the upper stream of Helongjiang River, hunting around Northwestern Daxing Anling since 300 years ago. In 1965, the hunting tribe resided at riverside of Aoluguya. This tribe is named as "Ewenki Riding with Reindeers" because this is the only tribe in China that use reindeer for transportation. Internationally they are recognized also as "Aoluguya Evenki". Now Aoluguya Evenki is a tribe with 244 people. Since 2003, there has been a ban for hunting all over the area, and the Aoluguya Evenki makes living of reindeer husbandry. With the development of Chinese tourism industry, some of Aoluguya Evenki start devoting into tourism service business which is now one of their income sources.

Weather in Aoluguya/Genhe in July

At this time of the year the average temperatures is approximately + 24 C, and the humidity is approximately 60%. In the evenings it might be a little bit chilly, so the participants are recommended to bring summer clothing but also clothing for the chilly evenings.

NOTE! The local hosts and organisers of the Congress are not responsible whatsoever for any expenses or damage in any way in regard to your participation at the Congress.

The information page will be updated regularly.