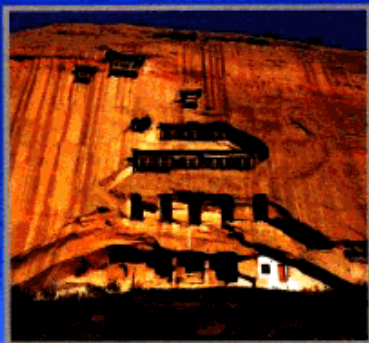


DANXIA LANDFORMS

ZHANGYE GANSU



张掖·丹霞地貌

王金 摄影
Photographed by Wang Jin

敦煌文艺出版社

前言

张掖又名甘州，位于河西走廊中部，是河西走廊的重镇之一。汉武帝开辟河西四郡时，就设置了张掖郡。张掖的意思是“断匈奴右臂，张中国之掖”。西魏时，因城内有泉且泉水甘美而易名为甘泉。

张掖因居于河西走廊的中心地段，是古代南北交通“龙城古道”和东西交通“丝绸之路”的交汇点，所以自汉朝以来，即为四通八达的重镇。张骞、班超都是经过张掖而通西域的。西域及亚非诸国的商胡、僧旅、使者等也是从张掖到达长安各地的。在海运未开之前，张掖是中西陆路交通的重要通道。中国文化艺术及丝绸等商品之西去，西方文化与佛教之东来，张掖，是为主干。汉唐以来建都于长安的王朝，都把西北的防御放在首位，其中对于河西的控制更是举足轻重。张掖作为河西走廊的中心，许多重要的军事机构常设于此。

张掖在军事上有着极其重要的位置。南面越祁连山、过扁都口，可达青海；北面经合黎山是通往蒙古的大道，可达居延塞；东、西有甘新驿道，东通兰州，西达新疆。对于新疆、青海、内蒙古、宁夏四省（区），实有四路照应之势，自古为兵家必争之地。

张掖，素有“塞外江南”之称。在河西走廊，有“金张掖”之美誉。俗话说：“凉州米粮川，甘州水连天。”，古时候的张掖，半城芦苇半城塔。其经济文化的繁荣，早已载入了史册。这里，自古种族繁多，先后有西戎、月氏、匈奴、乌孙、羌、鲜卑、吐谷浑、突厥、回纥、吐鲁番、鞑靼、蒙古、满族等部，各民族人民在这里共同创造了灿烂辉煌的文明。

张掖气候干燥，雨量稀少，农田和草原全靠祁连雪水的灌溉。祁连山山势陡峭，山高谷深，终年积雪，冰川纵横，冰川总面积达1000多平方公里，冰层厚度在40—100多米之间，储量达300亿立方米。由于面积连绵广阔，水蒸气充足，气候变化剧烈，山区年降水量在400厘米。祁连山这个天然的大水库，在张掖，更是占尽天时地利。横贯张掖的黑河水系，源出祁连山之八宝山，至鹰落峡出山，向东北流，至平原壑汇集东来之山丹河，浩浩荡荡，滋润着张掖肥沃的土地。

张掖地势平坦，土壤肥沃，是全国重点建设的12个商品粮基地之一，物产丰富，以乌江米为最，有“不望祁连山上雪，错将甘州当江南”之佳句。

张掖旅游资源丰富，从东部的绣花庙到西部的文殊山，从南部的红寺湾到北部的东山寺，山地、峡谷、平原、草原、沙漠、戈壁……分布着大大小小，星罗棋布的文物古迹。长城、烽燧、古城堡、石窟寺……精品荟萃，绚烂多彩，蔚为大观。景点以大佛寺、肃南马蹄寺、山丹军马场、新河驿、木塔寺和镇远楼最为著名。

走进张掖，有西部的雄浑、壮阔，亦有江南的缠绵和秀美；有粗犷、强悍的民风、民俗，又有博大精深的文化底蕴……走进张掖，自然风光的多种多样和人文景观的丰富多彩，使人流连忘返，使人心旷神怡。

FORWORD

Zhangye, also named Gan Prefecture, located in the middle of Hexi Corridor, is one of the most important towns in Hexi. As early as in the Han Dynasty, Zhangye Prefecture was set up as one of the "Four Towns in Hexi" by Emperor Wu. In Chinese, the word "zhangye" means "cutting off the arms of the Huns, and stretching Chinese arms". Up to West Wei Dynasty, due to it's sweet and refreshing water, Zhangye was renamed Sweet Spring.

Since Han Dynasty, Zhangye has been a key traffic point connecting all directions, owing to it's location in the center of Hexi Corridor. In history, Zhangqian and Banchao's diplomatic missions to Western Regions, journeys of merchants and monks from Western Regions, Africa and west Asia to Changan and other places of China, all were fulfilled after crossing Zhangye. Before sea transportation started, as the chief passageway, Zhangye served the exchanges of culture, art, silk and Buddhism, etc. between the west and China.

Being a converging point of Qing Hai in south, Mongolia in north, Lanzhou in east and Xinjiang in west, Zhangye holds an outstanding geographical position always fought for by military strategists since ancient time.

Zhangye is habitually called "A fertile zone beyond the Great Wall". While in Hexi Corridor, its good reputation is "Golden Zhangye" thanks to its abundant products.

From time immemorial, many ethnic groups live together there, and created magnificent and glorious culture. Its prosperity in economy and culture has been recorded in history.

In Zhangye, there are not only the vigor of the west, but also elegance of the south, not only the rough and fierce folk custom, but also the extensive and profound culture. Entering Zhang, the varied natural scenery and colorful places of cultural interest will make you relaxed and joyful, and reluctant to leave.

As a result of dry climate and low precipitation, farmlands and grasslands here are all irrigated by water from the snow mountains of Qilian. Hence Qilian Mountains are regarded as a natural great reservoir of Zhangye. The vast Heihe River system, originating from Babao Mountain of Qilian, passing through Zhangye from west to east, nourishes the fertile lands.

Here are rich tourism resources. The ancient fortresses, grottoes, and Great Wall present a splendid cultural sight. Oasis, forests and the Gobi Deserts constitute charming natural scenery. Among them are the famous Great Buddha Temple, Horse-hoof Temple Grottoes, Shandan Army Horse Ranch, etc.



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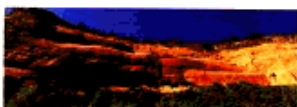
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张掖旅游景点示意图



山丹军马场

SHANDAN ARMY HORSE RANCH

山丹军马场位于山丹县城南55公里处的祁连山区大马营草滩。一望无际的草原有百万亩之大，是目前世界上历史最悠久的军马繁育场，也是亚洲规模最大的，毗邻第一大马场。

山丹军马场地势平坦，水草丰茂，夏季绿草如茵，冬季，铺金黄，是马匹繁衍、生长的理想场所。早在3000多年前，这里就已养马。自西汉以来，这里以当地蒙古马为基础，引进各种西域良马，杂交培育出的山丹马驰名天下，遂成为历代皇家军马繁殖基地，经久不衰。山丹马体形匀称，粗壮结实，雄健剽悍，耐粗饲，适应性良好，速度和持久力俱佳，是驮、乘、挽兼用的良驹。目前具有10000多匹马。

大马营草滩，原名汉阳大草滩。据《汉书·地理志》中记载，早在3000多年前，我们的祖先就在这里繁育军马。汉武帝时，费闲将军征伐西南夷，过祁连山至祁连山，就在此屯兵、养马，修筑边防烽火台。隋唐时，在这里设牧监，养军马达10多万匹。元明时，这里属甘州治，多处修建牧马营房。清代在这里设置大马营守备。1940年国民政府军政部在此





















