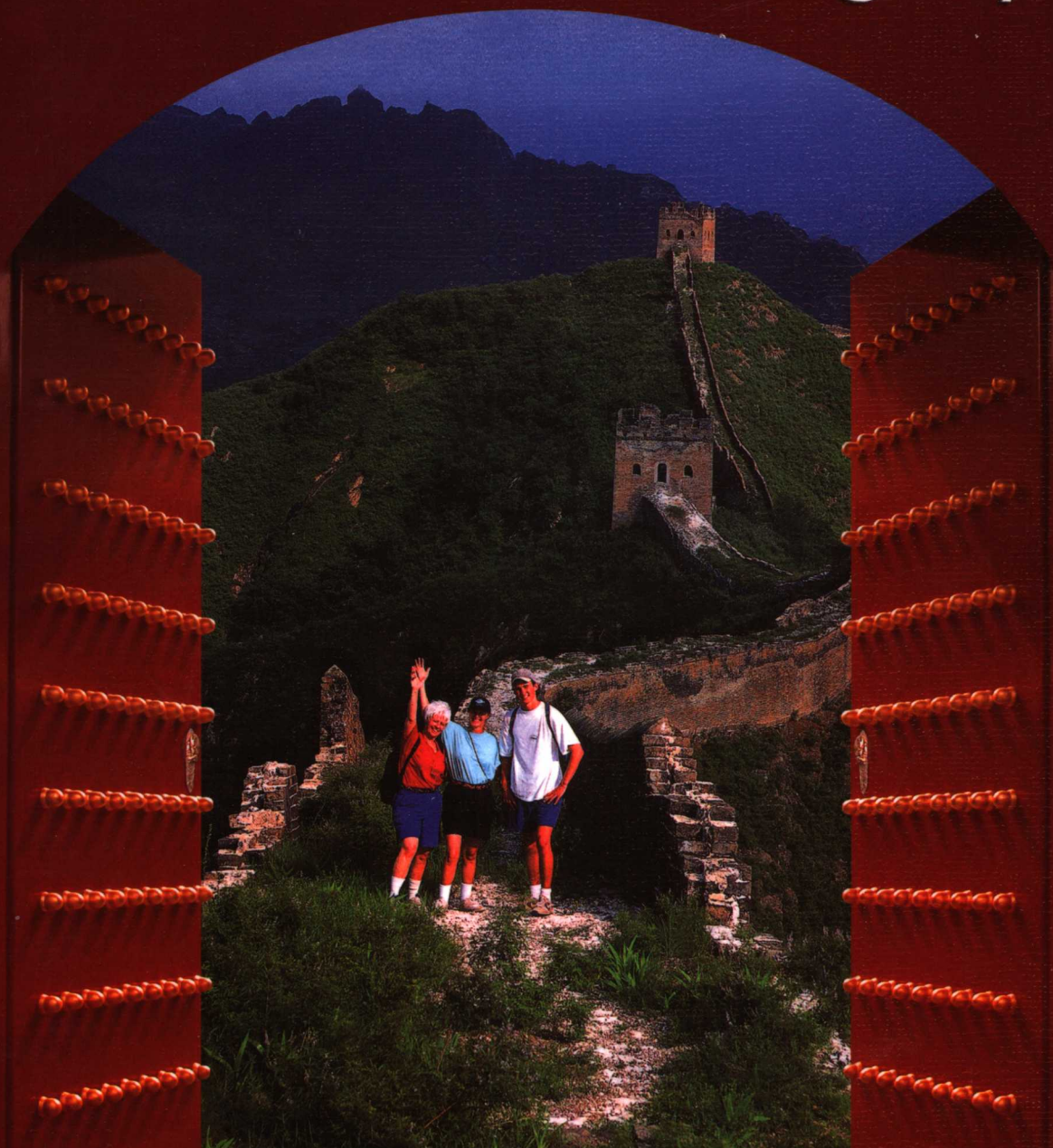


PANORAMIC CHINA

# HEBEI

## The Great Wall Legacy



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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# Introduction

China has 23 provinces, four municipalities directly under the Central Government, five autonomous regions and two special administrative regions. Due to geographical and topographical differences and climatic variations, each area has its own unique natural scenery. The mountains in the north of the country are rugged and magnificent, the waters in the south are clear and turbulent, the Gobi in the northwest shines brilliantly in the sunlight, the hills in the southeast are often shrouded in floating fog, green waves of sorghum and soybean crops undulate over the vast fields of the northeast, and the mountains in the southwest, with sequestered villages and terraced fields, look tranquil and picturesque.

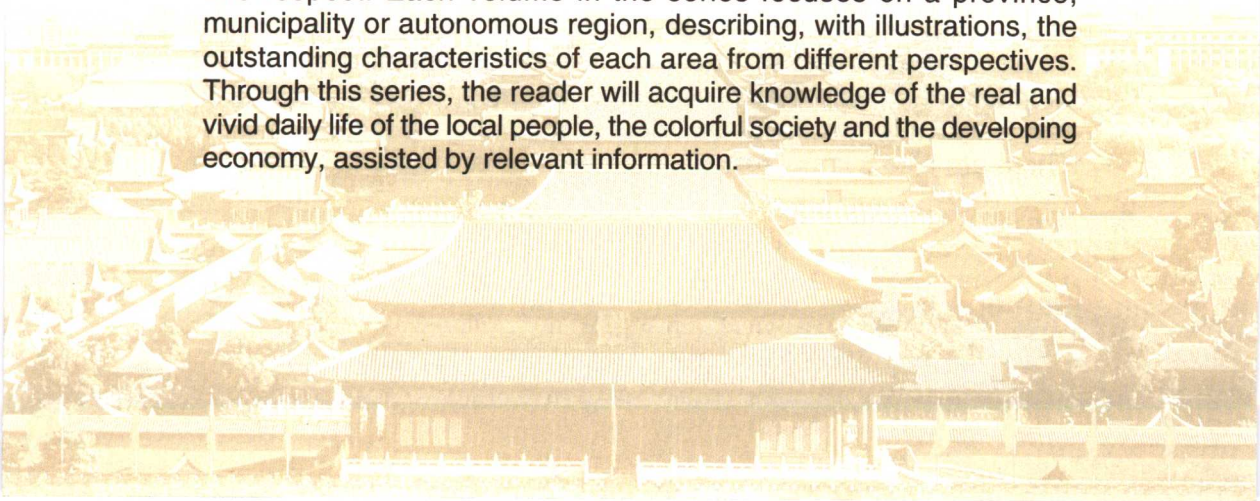
There are 56 ethnic groups in China. The Han, making up the overwhelming majority of the population, mainly live in the eastern and central parts of the country, while many ethnic groups with smaller populations live in the west. In China, all ethnic groups, regardless of size, are equal and respect each other. Each ethnic group has its own folk customs, religious beliefs and cultural traditions, and most use their own language and script. Regional autonomy is practiced in areas where ethnic minorities live in compact communities. All the ethnic groups call themselves “Chinese.” They are courteous and friendly. In the ethnic-minority areas, the quiet environment, quaint buildings, exquisite fashions, unsophisticated folk customs and hospitality of the local people hold a great appeal to visitors from afar.

China boasts 5,000 years of recorded civilization and a brilliant culture. The country is home to such world-renowned cultural treasures as the Great Wall, terracotta warriors and horses of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang, and Ming and Qing imperial palaces and mausoleums, and large numbers of ancient architectural masterpieces, including temples, Buddhist pagodas, residential buildings, gardens, bridges, city walls and irrigation works. There are also cultural relics unearthed from ancient sites, including

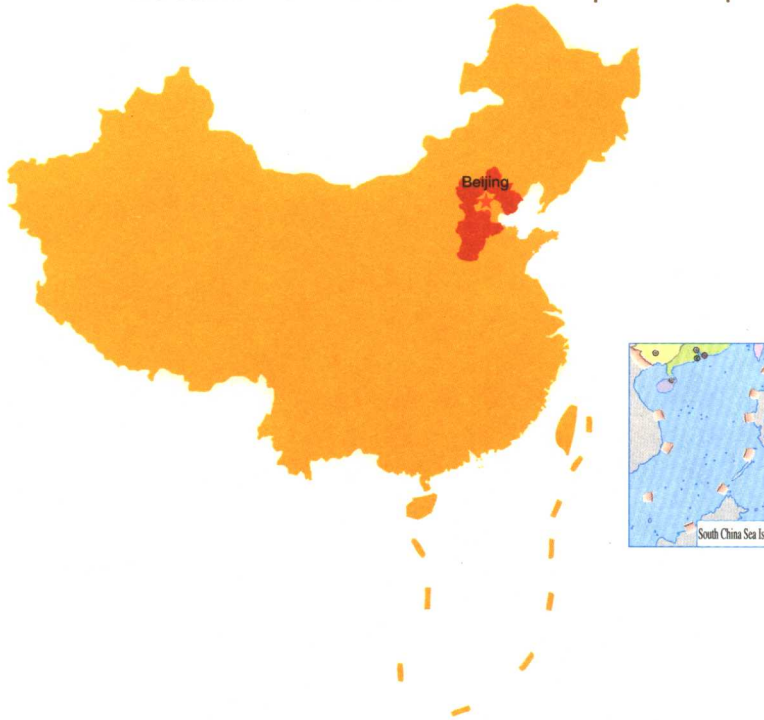
painted pottery, jade ware, bronze ware, large and ornate tombs and foundations of historical buildings, and many more as yet undiscovered. The museums of China's various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions house thousands of cultural relics and works of art, among which are treasures rare in the world, displaying the long history of China and the splendid Chinese culture from different aspects. The strong, deep-rooted Chinese culture has always influenced the mentality and moral standards of the Chinese people, having developed continually in pace with the civilization. A careful study of today's Peking opera, *Kunqu* opera, shadow plays, calligraphy, painting, paper-cutting, and even the flower-shaped steamed buns on the kitchen range of farmers will reveal elements of traditional Chinese culture as well as replications of the art of the past.

Like other countries of venerable age, China has suffered grievous calamities. During the century and more before the 1950s, the Chinese people made unrelenting struggles for the prosperity of the country, national independence and liberation. A large number of insightful people and revolutionaries, cherishing all kinds of dreams for a strong China, studied the ways of the West in a quest for prosperity and strength, and borrowed the revolutionary experience of foreign countries. At last, the Communist Party of China, proceeding from the reality of China, and relying on the working people, founded a brand-new country, the People's Republic of China, in 1949. Since then, the Chinese people have made persistent efforts and explorations for the grand revitalization of the Chinese nation. The Chinese people's efforts in the past two decades and more have resulted in outstanding achievements, with rapid social progress, a well-developed economy, and a modern civilization and traditional culture enhancing each other.

It is easy to have a quick look at China's past and present, but it takes time to gain a panoramic knowledge of China. The "Panoramic China" series is meant to assist readers, especially those overseas, in this respect. Each volume in the series focuses on a province, municipality or autonomous region, describing, with illustrations, the outstanding characteristics of each area from different perspectives. Through this series, the reader will acquire knowledge of the real and vivid daily life of the local people, the colorful society and the developing economy, assisted by relevant information.

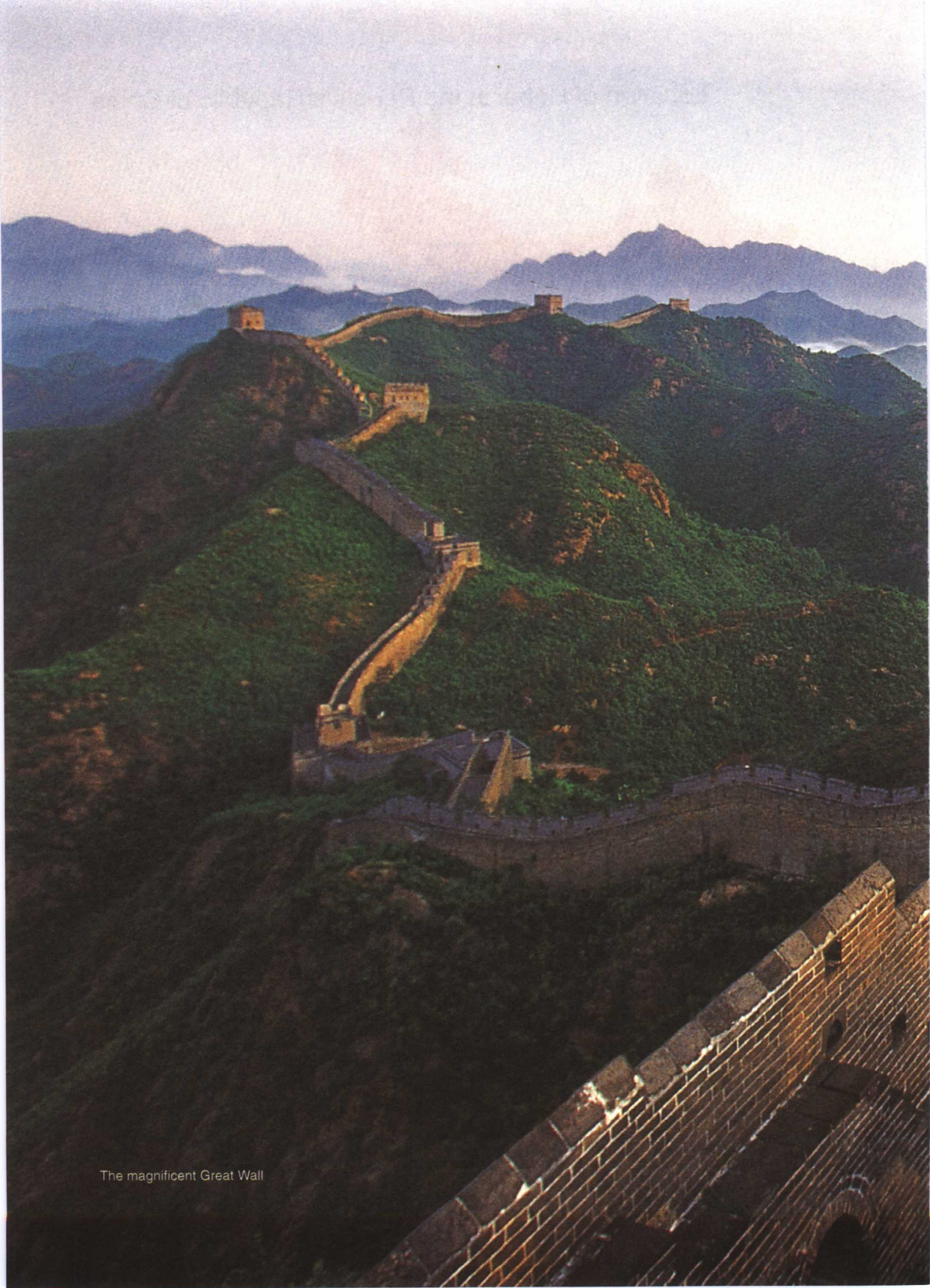


## Location of Hebei in the People's Republic of China



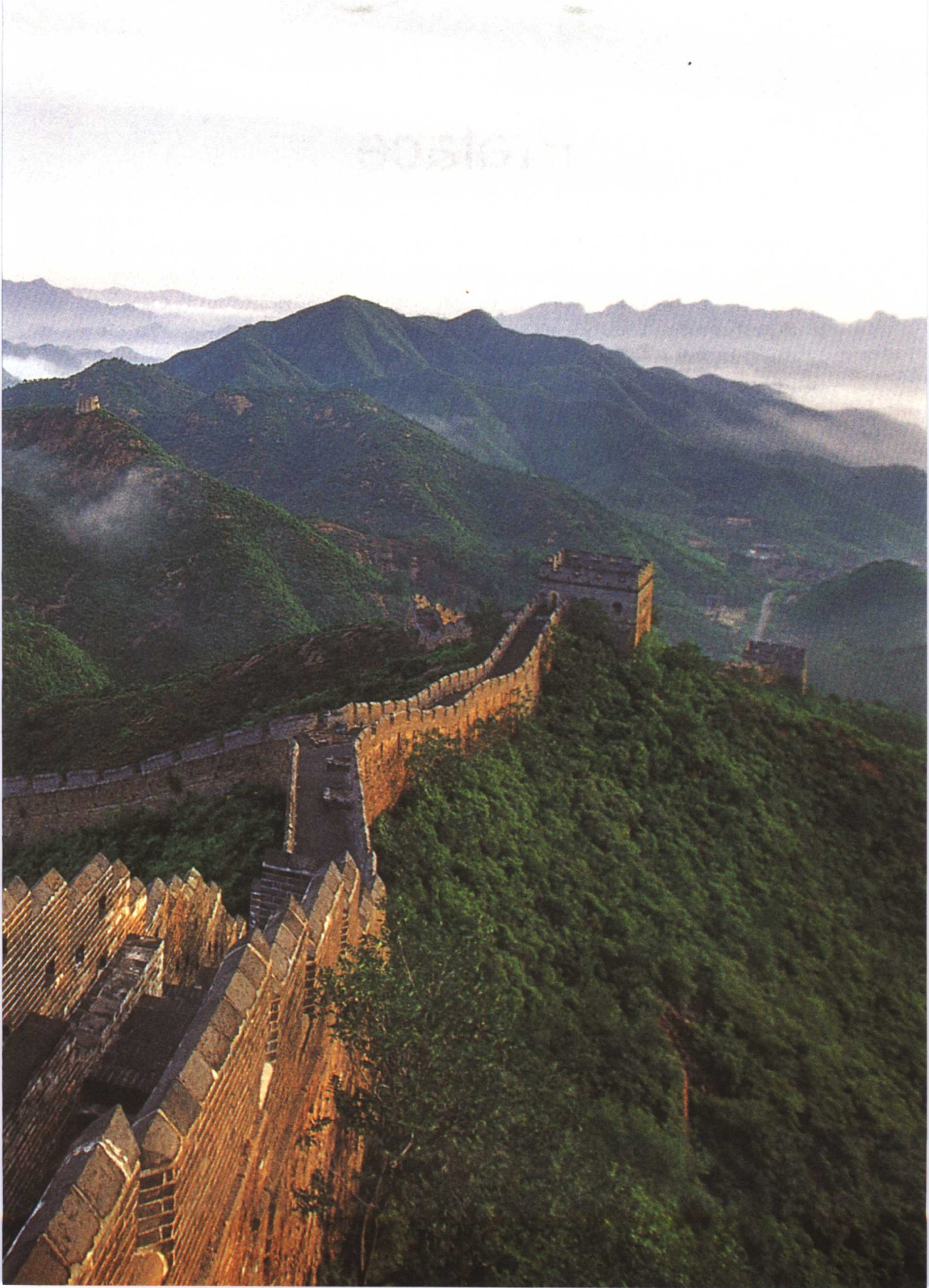
## Administrative divisions of Hebei





The magnificent Great Wall





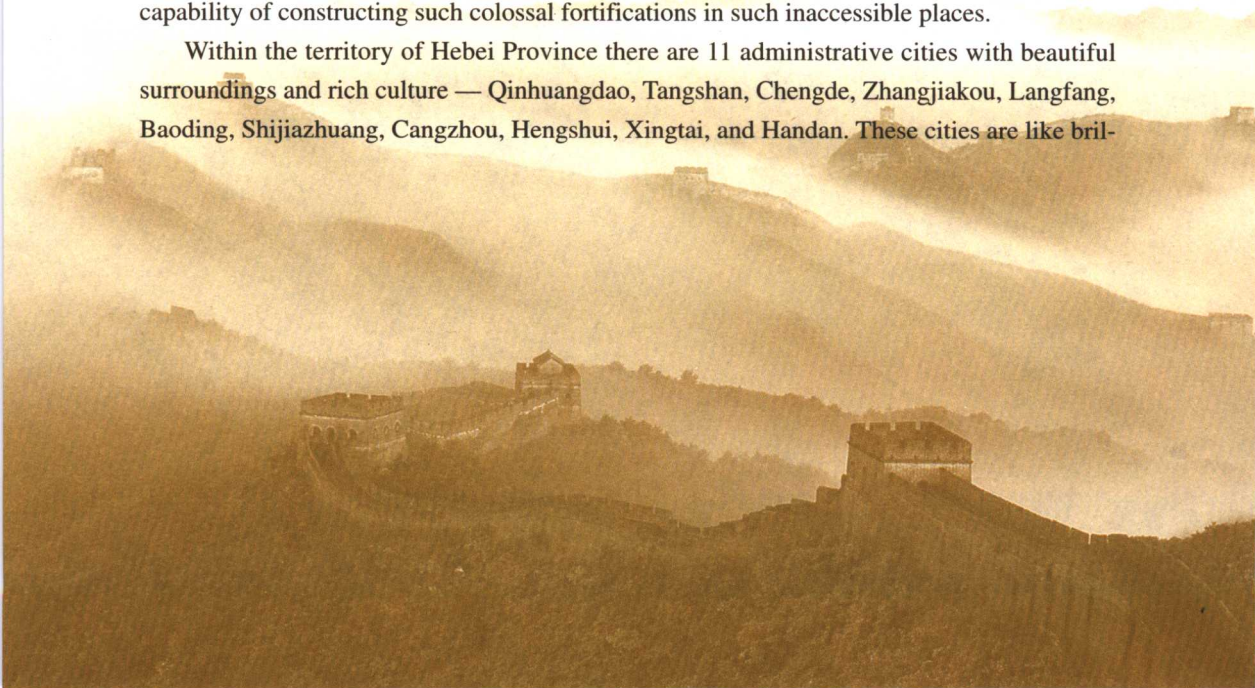
# Preface

The ten-thousand-*li* Great Wall of brick and stone snakes like a giant dragon along the lofty ridges and towering mountains of northern China. Mighty and magnificent, the Great Wall is the pride of the Chinese nation, as it manifests the wisdom and tenacity of the Chinese people, and embodies the essence of Chinese civilization.

The Great Wall, meandering over 3,000 km of northern China, has survived 2,000 years of vicissitudes. It can be called a miracle from the viewpoints of its long history, its grand scale, its great length, and its far-reaching influence on Chinese civilization. The Great Wall is one of the “Eight Wonders of the World.” At any rate, it is a precious cultural heritage from China to the whole of mankind.

Surging over the Taihang and Yanshan mountain ranges, the Great Wall in Hebei is more than 2,000 km in length. A host of noted sections of the Great Wall are located in Hebei Province, such as Laolongtou (Old Dragon’s Head) extending into the sea, Shanhaiguan (the “No. 1 Pass on the Great Wall”), Jiaoshan, which is like a dragon flying straight up, Jiumenkou, which bestrides mountain streams, Panjiakou, which dives into the water, Jinshanling, with complete defense installations, Dajingmen, known as a corridor beyond the Great Wall and Mengjiangnü Temple, with a tragic and moving history. These sections are important attractions, where visitors can appreciate the magnificent Great Wall, a monument of China’s history and a manifestation of the conflicts between the farming civilization of the heartland and the nomadic culture of the ethnic groups on the northern border, and will feel awe at the Chinese people’s capability of constructing such colossal fortifications in such inaccessible places.

Within the territory of Hebei Province there are 11 administrative cities with beautiful surroundings and rich culture — Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, Chengde, Zhangjiakou, Langfang, Baoding, Shijiazhuang, Cangzhou, Hengshui, Xingtai, and Handan. These cities are like bril-



liant sparkling pearls, and the winding Great Wall is like a silk ribbon stringing the pearls into a glittering necklace. Visiting the Great Wall, one will have a chance to visit these cities, and then appreciate the Great Wall more deeply.

The number of tourists coming from both at home and abroad to visit the Great Wall in Hebei has been increasing steadily. People come to sightsee, study, hike and bike. To provide convenience for tourists, a 1,754-km-long highway along the Great Wall in Hebei has been built, which starts from Laolongtou (Old Dragon's Head) at Qinhuangdao in the east, and terminates at Dajingmen, Zhangjiakou, in the west.

Among the tourist attractions in Hebei, the Great Wall must not to be missed. For this reason, we take the Great Wall as the theme of the Hebei volume of the "Panoramic China" series. With a panoramic view of the Great Wall as the background, this book focuses on the remains of passes of strategic importance along the Great Wall built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Hebei. It covers their geological location, architectural characteristics, historical changes and development, and cultural value, interwoven with historical stories, folklore, myths and anecdotes, as well as information about the scenic spots and historical sites, roads and transportation, tourism and hotels, special local products and local cuisine, and indigenous customs and folkways. This book is meant to assist readers and visitors who would like to know about and visit the Great Wall in Hebei Province.

The Great Wall and Hebei welcome friends from all over the world!

Zhang Qynsheng  
2005



Shijiazhuang today

Qinhuangdao Harbor





Beijing-Shijiazhuang Expressway overpass



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The Great Wall Legacy



*Hebei*