

DISCOVER CHINA'S CITIES

BENXI

本 溪

B E N X I

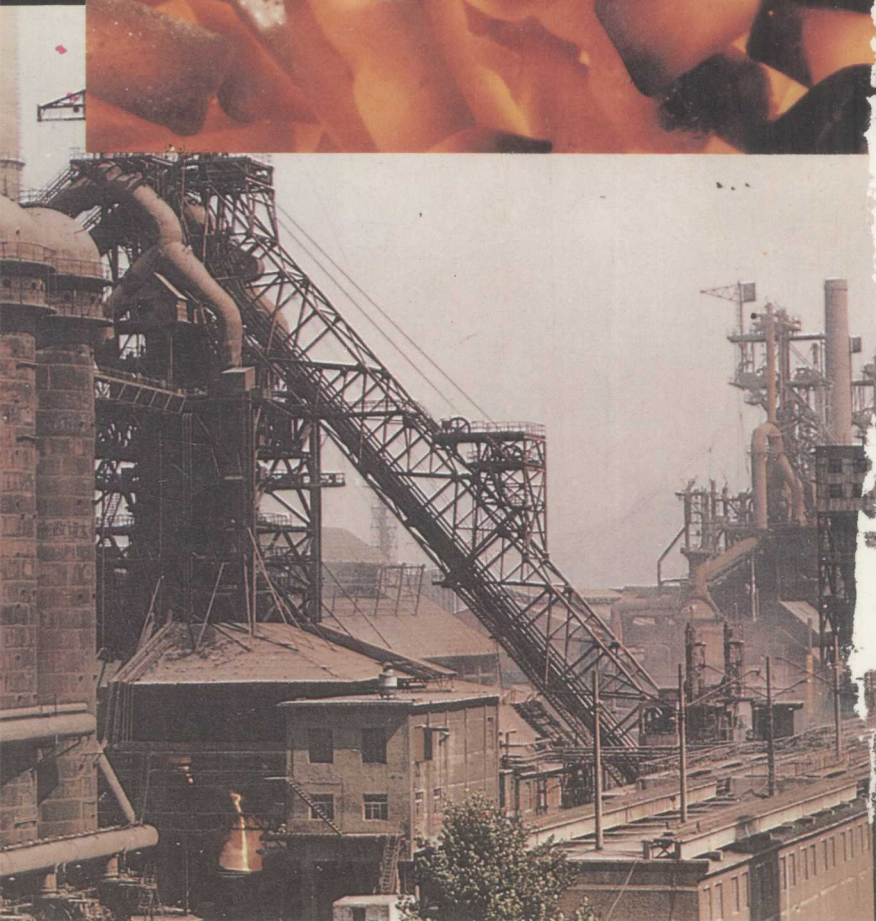
NEW WORLD PRESS



Benxi Iron and Steel Company

Altogether 550 varieties of steel are produced, including boiling steel, killed steel, carbon structural steel, ship deck steel, container steel, vehicle beam steel, low-alloy steel, bearing steel, high "I"-steel, alloy steel, mold steel, etc.

Cast pig iron is an export item special to this producer, free of inspection, and as a state gold medal product it has been cited twice at the national level. Much sought after by domestic users and foreign users in Southeast Asia, Europe and America.



Address: Renmin Road, Benxi
Tel: 20296

Cable: 3561
Telex: 80213 LNBSY CN

Benxi No. 3 Pharmaceutical Factory



Main products include Qi Zhi Wei Tong Powder Preparation/Tablets for treating cardiac ache from stagnation of *qi*; Wang Bi Powder Preparation/Tablets for treating light numbness; and Han Shi Bi Powder Preparation/Tablets for treating numbness from cold and damp stagnancy.

The preparations and tablets are produced according to prescriptions from the All-China Arthralgia-Syndrome and Spleen-stomach Disease Symposium, with expert experiment, test and appraisal made in 27 provinces and central-administered municipalities in China.



Address: Baojia, Caibei, Benxi
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Preface



Benxi, a newly-developed city is now opening up to the outside world. It is located in the south of Liaoning Province and is known as "a beautiful mountain city" and "coal town."

Benxi provides unique conditions for its open door practice. It has a superior location, rich natural resources, a solid industrial foundation, and convenient transportation. The fact that Liaoning Province has focused on the outside world makes the future of Benxi's export-oriented economy prosperous. For years, Benxi has greeted many friends and men of deep insight both at home and abroad with its progressive outlook. Sailing before the winds of the open door policy, Benxi, the mountain city, has economic vitality.

Discover China's Cities — Benxi is a very practical pamphlet for the convenience of foreigners, although it only bears a brief introduction to Benxi. On the basis of the principles of "honesty," "equality," "mutual benefit," and "joint development," Benxi warmly welcomes you and looks forward to your friendship and cooperation with our city in various fields such as investment, business, and tourism.

Mayor of Benxi

Yu Guopan

Introduction

Benxi, a new and developing city, is open to the whole world. It is situated in the east of Liaoning Province, China's northeast area. People often call it the beautiful "Benxi Mountain City" and "Coal and Iron City."

The name of Benxi City stems from the name of Benxi Lake. According to the record of the *General History of the Eight Banners*,* during the period of Emperor Yongzheng (r. 1723-1735) of Qing Dynasty, Benxi Lake was called "Beixi Lake" (Rhinoceros Cup Lake). There is a legend that at the foot of Woyun Mountain in northeast China, there was a pond of crystalline water with rippling green waves and the cool air made people relaxed and happy. All around the pond, weeping willows danced in the breeze in the midst of fascinating scenery. By the pond, there lived a destitute *xiuca*i, (a scholar who had passed the imperial examination at the country level in the Ming and Qing dynasties). Every day, he held a porcelain cup playing with the water, chanting poems, intoxicated with joy and often forgetting to go back home. Seeing this, the villagers were surprised, then joked, "What's your Earthly Branch, scholar?" He answered: "Ox." The villagers laughed: "It must be water buffalo." The scholar immediately debated: "No, no. It's a large rhinoceros with a horn on the head." So from that time on, the villagers called him "Mr. Xiniu (Rhinoceros) Lake." The pond of water was called "Beixi (Rhinoceros Cup) Lake." During the years of Qing Emperor Guangxu (r. 1875-1908), "Beixi"

Benxi Lake





Snow scene in the park in front of the Benxi Railway Station

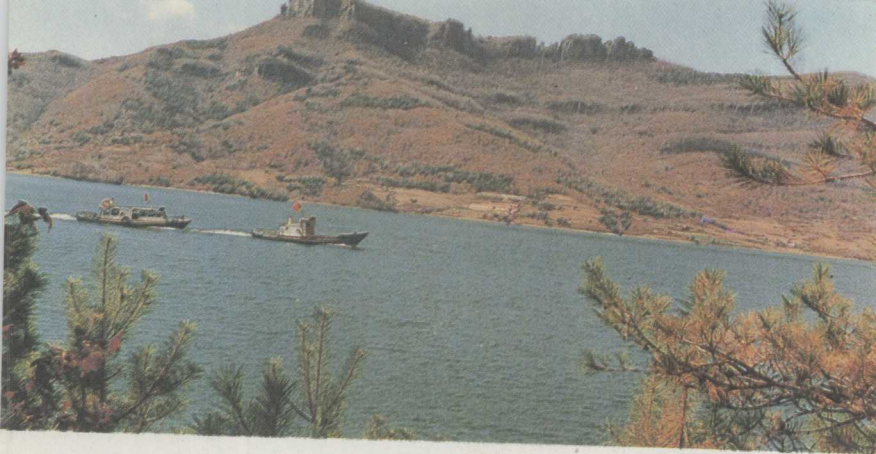
was changed into "Benxi" and then Benxi City came into being.

Benxi is not only famous for its lake, but also for its mountains. Actually, Benxi is in a mountainous area, and eighty percent of the whole area is covered with mountains. It is an area of hills and mountains. There was an old saying: "Eight of mountains, one of water and one of farmland." In the city, there is Wangxi Mountain, Zijin Mountain, and Qingnian Mountain. The city is linked by green mountains and hills, and the city is as good as surrounded with the lofty mountains. In the northeast of the city is Luotuling Mountain and Huolianzhai Mountain is in due north. In the west are Dawang Cave and Yueyaling Mountain. In the southeast of the city is the famous Pingding Mountain which is the highest point of Benxi and is called "Lookout Tower." The city is surrounded by mountains and mountains are situated in the city.

Benxi is also rich in water resources. Qianshan Mountain range, passing through Benxi, is the main watershed of the eastern area of Liaoning Province. Benxi has four water systems: Taizi River, Hunjiang River, Caohe River and the Beisha River systems. The trunk stream of Taizi River is 464 kilometers long, 13 kilometers of which pass through Benxi, having a drainage area of 4,192 square kilometers. It passes Liaoyang Town and joins Hunjiang River, and then enters into Bohai Sea at Yingkou City. Hunjiang River originates from Jilin Province and stretches slantingly from northeast to southwest across Huanren County of Benxi City. Taizi River and Hunjiang River have very rich water sources. The city of Benxi is just situated in the terrace of Taizi River valley. Benxi people have dammed rivers and built dikes and reservoirs. They utilize the water not only for producing electric power, but also irrigate crops, plant trees, grow flowers, and breed aquatic products to create new places for sightseeing.

Benxi has a long history. The unearthed artifacts of ancient ruins discovered in 1978, in the town of Shanchengzi proved that earlier in the Palaeolithic Age, four or five hundred thousand years ago, there were already human beings living in the Benxi area.

*Eight Banners: military administrative organizations of Manchu nationality in the Qing Dynasty.



Hunjiang Reservoir

Since Xia and Shang dynasties, Benxi has had an administrative division system and was under jurisdiction of Qingzhou and Yingzhou separately. Afterwards, it was under the control of Youzhou in the Western Zhou Dynasty; under Liaodong Prefecture in the Warring States Period; under Xiangping County and Xuantu Prefecture separately in the Qin and Han dynasties; under Liaocheng Prefecture of Andong in the Tang Dynasty; and under the control of Liaodong Prefecture in the Ming Dynasty. By the end of the Qing Dynasty, it was named Benxi County. In 1939, people called it Benxihu City and it was changed into the present name Benxi by 1949. Since then it has become a city directly under provincial control.

Time has passed and through the great efforts of laboring people for generations, Benxi has become a heavy industrial city, its main products are steel, coal and building materials. The city has formed an industrial system of electronics, chemistry, textile and light industry with modernized equipment and production capacity.

Benxi is rich in natural resources. It provides inexhaustible minerals. Benxi produces a kind of pig iron praised as "ginseng iron" in industrial circles since it is very precious. Another famous product in Benxi is "Red Lamp" brand spun silk which is bright in color, gentle, smooth and elegant. Ginseng is a well known and rare medicinal herb. It has always been noted for keeping one in good health. To no surprise, ginseng is the special product in Huanren County in Benxi City. These significant products are all famous at home and abroad. Nowadays, they are sold all over the world.

Benxi is situated beside a river at the foot of mountains. It has lovely and unique scenery. There are many water grottoes in Benxi, with many stalactites suspended in mid-air. Ruins and relics from the Neolithic Age through to the Ming and Qing dynasties are also discovered. Thus, Benxi has a strong appeal to visitors.

"The Hot Spring Temple" in Benxi is very quiet and tastefully laid out, having a distinctive style. Its water can cure diseases. Pingding Mountain is indeed grand. Many different kinds of waterfalls rush down from the sheer precipices and overhanging rocks.

To the north of Benxi is Shenyang City (capital of Liaoning Province) and Fushun City. Dandong City is to the south of Benxi. In the east is Jilin Province, and west is Liaoyang City. It is a very convenient hub for transportation. With the creation of China's open door policy, hundreds of investors and businessmen come to establish joint venture companies. Now the municipal government is programming the new chart for the city's future.

Facts at Your Fingertips

LETTING YOU IN

All visitors must have a valid passport and visa, and go through the customs formalities when they enter the country. No further procedure is necessary in Benxi. But visitors must carry identification with them. It is particularly relevant when checking in at a hotel.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

In total area Benxi is 8,402 square kilometers, of which the city proper takes up 1,308 square kilometers. Its precise position is from 123°43' E to 125°46' E and from 40°49' N to 41°35' N. It is 800 kilometers from Beijing by train. At its greatest length, Benxi area measures 184 kilometers, from west to east; at its widest it is only 87 kilometers. The city's middle part is very narrow, thus its plain figure takes the shape of a dumbbell.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Benxi City is situated in mountain areas and 80 percent of it is covered with mountains and hills. So it is known as "Eight of mountains, one of water and one of farmland." From a look at Benxi landforms, you will find it is higher in the middle and east part, and lower in the west and south. Its mountain areas stand 350 meters on the average above sea level and the main peak of Laotuding (Bald Head) Mountain in Huanren County is 1,325 meters above sea level, therefore it is called the "Roof of Liaoning Province."

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Benxi Municipal Government is on Renmin Road. Tel: 24017. The government is under the control of Liaoning Provincial Government, and is the local power and administration organ of Benxi City.

The Standing Committee of Benxi People's Congress is on Renmin Road. Tel: 43289. It is the local organ of state power, and is the standing body of Benxi People's Congress.

Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Benxi Committee, is on Shengli Road. Tel: 22752.

Foreign Affairs Office of the Municipal Government is at 1 Shifu Road, Pingshan District. Tel: 0414-24905. Telex: 80053 BYG CN. The office is under the municipal government's control, and it is the official organization for contacts between Benxi and foreign countries. The office works together with Benxi's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. It is responsible for the reception of visiting foreign

guests, the foreign diplomatic personnel for official business, the interviewing of foreign reporters and for traveling groups.

Benxi Entry and Exit Administrative Office, at 2 Shifu Road, Pingshan District, Tel: 22045, is subordinate to Benxi Public Security Bureau. It is a functional department assisting foreigners coming to Benxi according to the Management Laws and Regulations for Foreigners' Entry and Exit in People's Republic of China. It deals with foreigners coming to Benxi about the postponement and changes of their visas and credentials. Applicants may go through the following formalities:

- checking of passports, visas and credentials;
- preparation of an application form for your postponement or other changes;
- presentment of certificates for postponement of changes.

If foreigners lose or damage their Chinese visas or credentials, they should immediately report to the entry and exit administrative departments for re-registration.

If foreigners are going to travel to places not open to them, they should apply to the entry and exit administrative departments for traveling credentials before being permitted to go there.

Foreigners who stay at inns, hotels, hostels and guesthouses in the city should produce valid passports or residence permits and complete a temporary residence registration form.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

Benxi City is divided into Pingshan, Mingshan, Xihu and Nanfen districts, and Benxi and Huanren counties.

Pingshan District is the political, economic and cultural center of Benxi City and is the place where Benxi Municipal Government is situated. The newspaper office of *Benxi Ribao*, Benxi People's Cultural Palace, Art Palace, Library, Xinhua Bookstore, Gymnasium, the Municipal Senior Middle School, Benxi No. 1 Middle School and some other primary and middle schools and colleges for higher learning are also distributed in Pingshan District.

Wangxi Park is in the center of Pingshan District. Jiefang Road stretches across the district from north to south. Businesses and services such as Huanqiu Bazaar, Lianying (Cooperative) Company, Benxi Hotel, Taihe Hotel and Yongfeng Market are concentrated on both sides of Jiefang Road. This is the most bustling area of Benxi.

Xihu District is in the north of the city proper and is an old area of the city. In the 32nd year of the reign of the Qing Emperor Guangxu (1906), Benxi County's office was set here when its administration was just established. In history, it flourished and abounded in pottery articles. In the district there is also situated the famous Benxi Coalmine (which is no longer being mined), No. 1 Iron-Smelting Factory of Benxi Iron and Steel Company — the earliest modern industry in Benxi, the Refractory Material Manufacturing Factory, the Organic Chemistry Factory, No. 3 Pharmaceutical Factory, the Benxi Cement Plant and the Heavy-Duty Automobile Factory.

Benxi Lake, "the world's smallest lake," is in the district and known far and wide. There's also the newly developed "Odd Stone Grotto." The two contrast finely with each other with distinctive scenery. It is very appealing to travelers.

Mingshan District is a new district combining the city with countryside. It is rich in wild fruits, and mineral resources. The varieties of fruits are of hawthorn, pear, wild grapes, large-fruited hawthorn,

Asarum Sieboldii (the root of Chinese wild ginger), and Schisandra Chinensis (the fruit of Chinese magnoliavine). There are also more than ten kinds of mineral products, and among them are very rich reserves of limestone, silica, granite, clay and coal.

Mingshan District is also Benxi's cultural area. Benxi People's Radio Broadcasting Station, TV Station and Benxi Stadium are in this district. At the eastern foot of Pingding Mountain around Zhangjiapu is situated Benxi College, Benxi Metallurgy College for Professional Training, Benxi Teachers' Training School and other colleges and special secondary schools.

Nanfen District in the south of the city proper. It is the industrial and mining area of Benxi outer suburbs. The biggest opencut iron mine in China — Nanfen Opencut Iron Mine of Benxi Iron and Steel Company is in the district. Shenyang-Dandong Railway and Highway pass across the district and thus provide a very advantageous condition for developing its industry and agriculture. There are also very rich forestry and underground resources in Nanfen District. The underground resources mainly include iron talcum and silica. The latter's reserves have reached several billion tons with a high quality.

PEOPLE

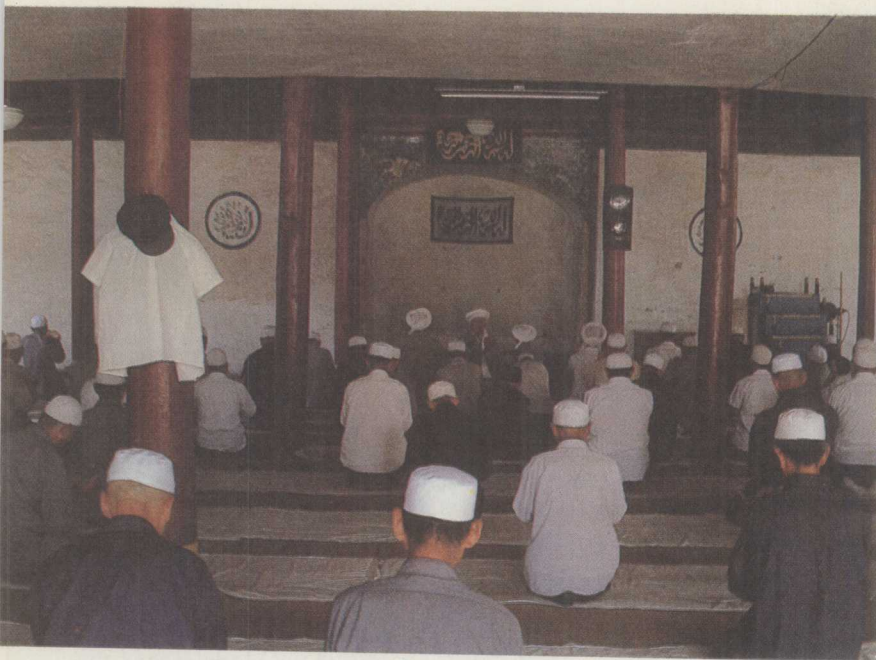
Benxi is a multi-national area with Han, Hui, Mongol, Korean, Xibe and twenty-one other nationalities. Its total population is 1,439,000, of which 25.54 percent is minority nationalities.

Manchu Nationality — Benxi is one of the birthplaces of the Manchu nationality. After the set-up of the late Jin and Qing regimes in 15th century, Manchu population began to grow. At present, its population has reached 330,500 and accounts for 89.1 percent of the city's minority nationalities. Manchu nationality has a very long cultural history. The Manchu people enjoy horsemanship and marksmanship. When the children are very young, they begin shooting on horses, wrestling and skiing. Most of Manchu's surnames are Dong, Guan, Ma, Suo, Qi, Fu, Na and Lang, and they have mainly settled in the countryside. When a Manchu's family gives birth to a male baby, they will hang a bow and arrow above the gate to indicate he will become a marvelous marksman. When the family gives birth to a female baby, they will hang a piece of red cloth above the gate as a symbol of luck. Manchu enjoy sour, pickled Chinese cabbage and glutinous food.

Hui Nationality — Huis in Benxi migrated from inside Shanhaiguan more than 300 years ago, which was around the end of the Ming and the beginning of the Qing dynasties. Now the total population of Hui nationality is more than 24,000, and is the second largest minority nationality in Benxi.

Huis believe in Islam, and they have their own festivals every year. During festivals, families will deep-fry *youxiang* (a food item) to exchange as presents with each other, and they gather at the mosque for celebrations. Every Friday, they go to the mosque for religious service.

Korean Nationality — The Korean nationality in Benxi mainly inhabit Huanren County. Their total population is about 8,300. Most of them engage in farming, especially traditional rice production. Those of Korean nationality still keep their own language. There are two middle schools and several primary schools in the city for the Korean nationality. The nationality prefers white dresses, so they are always known as a nationality of white dresses. Rice is the main food



Muslim worshippers during a service

of the nationality and they enjoy cakes of glutinous rice, cold noodles, hot and sour cabbage, baked beef and cooked tripe served with seasoning. Most of Korean people sleep on the *kang* (a heatable brick bed). Before entering the room, they take off their shoes outside the door. That is to say, when they enter the room, they just step on the *kang*. The Korean nationality enjoys singing and dancing. On holidays they gather together celebrating and hold sports and recreational activities. Men like wrestling and women prefer gang-planking and playing on a swing.

TRAVEL SERVICE

Situated at 1 Shifu Road, Tel: 22401 ext. 371, China Travel Service, Benxi Branch is concurrently in charge of the business of Benxi branches of China International Travel Service and China Overseas Chinese Travel Service. It is responsible for the reception of travel groups organized and arranged by higher-level travel services and the reception of compatriots of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, Overseas Chinese and foreign visitors. The branch will make arrangements for tourists' food and accommodation, travel routes, and purchase train and airplane tickets.

INDIVIDUAL TRAVELER

If you come to Benxi and have not contacted with any reception units beforehand, you may get in touch with the China Travel Service, Benxi Branch at airport or railway station.

It will arrange for cars to pick you up and help you with your food and accommodations, tour routes and other activities.

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Benxi Post and Telecommunications Office is in charge of long-distance calls, international calls, telegrams, telex, letters and package post. All these can be handled in the Post Office's Business Hall on Shifu Road. The liaison telephone number for international call is 40278, for international telegram and telex, 40114.

BANKING

Renminbi, the unified currency of People's Republic of China, is used in Benxi. Renminbi is not allowed to circulate on the international market. There are twelve kinds of Renminbi face value: one hundred yuan, fifty yuan, ten yuan, five yuan, two yuan, one yuan, five *jiao*, two *jiao*, one *jiao*, five *fen*, two *fen*, and one *fen*.

Issued by Bank of China, the Foreign Exchange Certificate is a substitute for Renminbi with foreign exchange value. It has the equal value with Renminbi. In Benxi, it can only be used at hotels, scenic spots, foreign trade shops and some open-to-foreigners' places by foreign guests, overseas Chinese, compatriots of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

Credit card and travel check are also accepted at hotels and some businesses in Benxi, however, for specific information contact.

Bank of China, Benxi Branch, on North Jiefang Road, Tel: 45029, is in charge of foreign currency exchanges. The exchange rate should be converted according to the listed price issued daily by the Foreign Exchange Administrative Bureau of People's Republic of China.

Usually the foreign money-owner himself is asked to do the exchange and take his passport or identity credentials with him. If you entrust the reception units with the matter, you should also provide your passport or identity credentials.

LANGUAGE

Benxi people speak with pronunciation a little different from northeast accent, and it is similar to *Putonghua* (standard Chinese). If foreigners with no Chinese knowledge intend to go shopping, they may wish to bring an interpreter with them.

BROADCAST AND TV

It can be enjoyable and easy to listen to radio broadcasts and watch TV while in Benxi. Local programs are broadcast by Benxi Broadcasting and TV stations. They also relay programs from Liaoning Provincial and China Central TV broadcasting stations. Foreign language programs can be heard from the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States.

BOOKSTORE

Located on Renmin Road, Pingshan District, Tel: 21697, 21933, the Foreign Languages Department of Xinhua Bookstore is in charge of the issue of books in foreign languages for the whole city. At present, there are 1,200 different titles in foreign languages, mainly in English, although French, German, Russian, Japanese and Spanish are available. They are mainly about science and technology. Some of them are about social science, art and literature. There's also a certain amount of reference books for English study.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The metric system is utilized in Benxi, including distance, height,

weight, length and other units. However, ordinary people are more accustomed to Chinese system of weight and measurement, especially at stands of free markets.

Benxi's voltage is 220 V. Socket adaptors and voltage converters may be requested from hotel management.

LAW OFFICE AND POLICEMEN

Policemen in Benxi are most helpful. Most of them do not speak foreign languages. If you need their help, please take an interpreter or ask your reception unit for help.

Lawyers in Benxi will do their best to help foreigners in the city in their legal affairs to safeguard their legal rights in China. According to laws, lawyers can be engaged as foreigners' agents in China to take part in activities about science and technology, foreign trade, culture exchanges and business talks. They can act as foreigners' agents to sign agreements, bring a case to court, do arbitrations and notarization or be entrusted to do investigations about another's credit and capital.

Benxi Law Office's address is 32, Second Section, Renmin Road. Tel: 45167, 43241.

HOSPITALS

If you feel a bit ill, such as a headache, a fever or diarrhea, the service desk at guesthouses or hotels will relieve you from suffering with their medicines in common use. Further, service personnel at guesthouses and hotels will make contact for you with hospitals to have you treated. The following are several major hospitals in Benxi:

Benxi Central Hospital is situated in the center of the city, and in the north of Municipal Children's Playground. It is the largest comprehensive hospital in Benxi, a place of medicinal treatment, teaching and scientific research for the departments of health and municipal administration. It is also a teaching hospital for Chinese Medicinal College. It has advanced technical equipment, high-level medical skill and good nursing. Now there are more than 700 beds for inpatients.

Benxi Traditional Chinese Medicinal Hospital is to the right of Benxi Municipal Government Square and is in the center of the city's commerce and communications. Its total number of outpatients accounts for the second largest among the hospitals directly under the municipal government. There are departments of internal medicine, surgical department, department of gynecology, department of paediatrics, department of acupuncture, dermatological department, health department and *qigong* (a system of deep breathing exercises) department. There are more than 300 beds for inpatients.

LEAVING

When you leave Benxi, the reception unit, travel agency, or hotels usually acts to reserve train or airplane tickets and check baggage for you.

If you intend to check large or overweight baggage, please go to the passenger baggage service at Benxi Railway Station.