



Basic Information

History and Civilization

Economy

Environment and Scenic Attractions

Hebei

China Panorama

Education and Technology

Society

Culture

Highlights



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China Panorama



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副 编: 宋秀丽 施 扬

编 委: 赵少玫 杨 军 杨冠宇 郑 婷

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Foreword

Hebei Province surrounds the municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin, and touches the Bohai Sea to the east. With over 74 million people it is a populous province, ranking sixth in the country. It has a sound economy, with its GDP reaching RMB2.98 trillion in 2015, ranking among the highest in the country. Hebei is also rich in cultural heritage. It has 278 cultural relic sites under state protection, ranking third in the country. It is home to four world cultural heritage sites, including the Great Wall, Chengde Mountain Resort and surrounding temples, the Eastern and Western Qing Tombs, and a section of the Grand Canal.

Hebei occupies a decisive position in the history of Chinese civilization. Archeological discoveries prove that human beings lived in Yangyuan County's Nihewan ruins area 2 million years ago. According to experts, Nihewan is the earliest human trace found in China so far. Five thousand years ago, the legendary ancestors of the Chinese people (the Yellow Emperor, Yan Emperor, and Chiyou) went from fighting to reconciling in Zhuolu, completing the first unification of the Chinese nation and marking the beginning of a 5,000-year-long civilization. Over 60 years ago, Xibaipo became the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the People's Liberation Army, where the blueprint of New China was drawn. Mao Zedong and other leaders left Xibaipo for Beijing to establish the People's Republic of China.

The landforms of Hebei are complex and diverse, including plateaus, mountains, hills, basins, plains, lakes, and a range of marine forms. It is China's only province with all of these landforms.

At present, Hebei is embracing an unprecedented opportunity. The coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei has been promoted as a key national strategy, covering the whole province. The rising Bohai Rim region has become the most dynamic economic development zone in Northeast Asia, and the third economic growth pole after the Pearl River Delta and the Yangtze River Delta; Beijing and its co-bidder Zhangjiakou have won the bid to host the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, in which Zhangjiakou will take on most of the snow events; the construction of Asia's largest air hub – Beijing's new airport – started in the capital's southern Daxing District, which borders Hebei Province. Overall, Hebei is trying to build a strong economy in order to attract worldwide investment and attention.

We welcome all readers from China and abroad to travel to and invest in Hebei to seek common development. We hope that this book – a bridge of friendship and cooperation – will provide you with useful information.



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Basic Information

- Geography
- Natural Resources
- Demographics and Religion
- Historic Figures
- Historic Events

Geography

Location

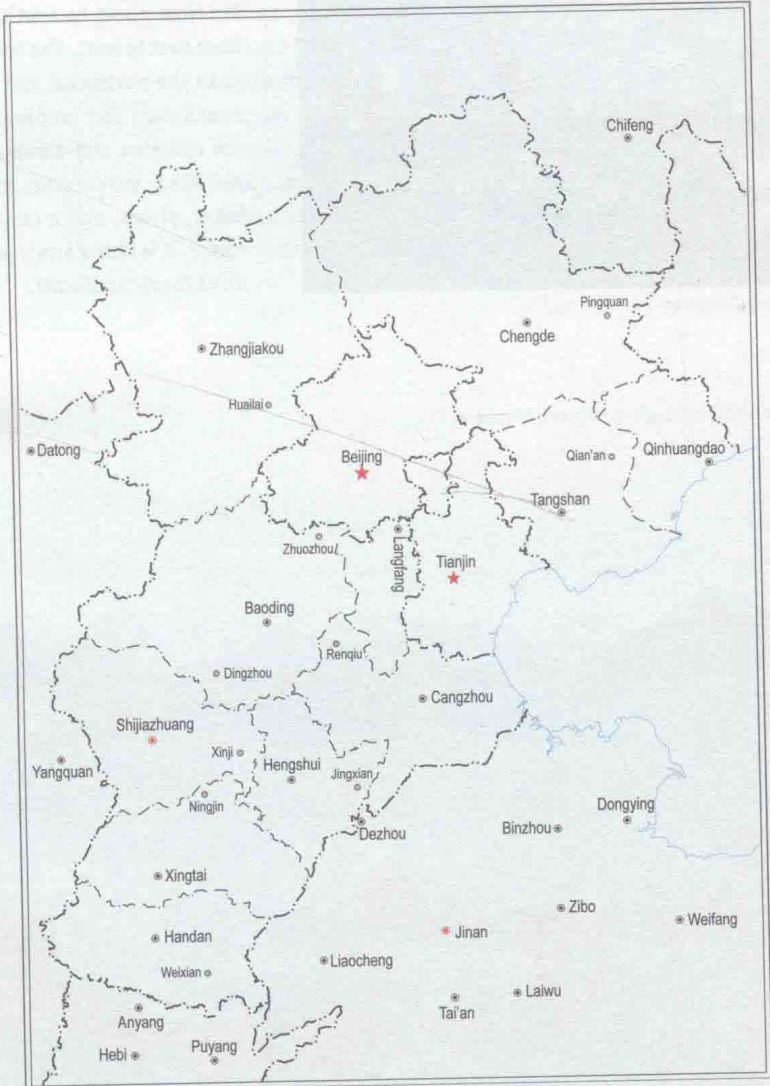
Hebei Province, spanning the area between $113^{\circ} 23'$ to $119^{\circ} 50'$ east longitude and $36^{\circ} 05'$ to $42^{\circ} 40'$ north latitude, was named thus (literally "north of the river") because of its location in relation to the Yellow River. It is also referred to as "Ji," because during ancient times the area came under the jurisdiction of Jizhou.

Hebei is located in the north of China's eastern coastal region, lying in the north of the North China Plain, and spanning the southeastern Inner Mongolia Plateau. Beijing and Tianjin municipalities are carved out of Hebei. Hebei borders the Bohai Sea on the east, and its western part rises into the Taihang Mountains, while the Yanshan Mountains run through the north of the province. The Zhanghe River flows across the southeast. Hebei borders Liaoning to the northeast, Inner Mongolia to the north, Shanxi to the west, Henan to the south, and Shandong to the southeast.

The provincial capital - Shijiazhuang



Map of Hebei Province





Huanghua Port, Cangzhou

Topography

Hebei Province, covering a total area of 188,000 square km, spans 730 km from north to south and 560 km from east to west. The terrain is higher in the northwest and lower in the southeast. The landforms of Hebei are complex and diverse, including plateaus, mountains, hills, basins, lakes, plains, and a range of marine forms. It is China's only province with all of these landforms.



Climate

Under a temperate continental monsoon climate, Hebei has four distinct seasons in most areas. The average temperature for each season is: spring 2°C-16°C, summer 16°C-27°C, autumn 1°C-15°C, and winter -16°C-2°C. Its annual sunshine duration is 2,303 hours, and the frost-free season lasts from 181 to 204 days, with annual precipitation of 484.5 millimeters.

Jinshanling section of the Great Wall, Chengde



Natural Resources

Hebei possesses a vast territory and abundant mineral and marine resources, with broad prospects for the development of new energy resources. It currently has 6.56 million hectares of arable land, 4,063 million hectares of forest, and 2.81 million hectares of grassland. Thirty-nine mineral resources rank in the top 5 in terms of reserves among the provinces on the mainland.

Along its 487.3 km coastline there are 14 islands and three big ports (Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, and Huanghua). Hebei's coastal zone covers a total area of 1 million hectares. The province has the right conditions to develop marine petroleum, chemicals, transport and tourism, and offshore aquaculture. The Haihe and Luanhe rivers flow across it.

Hebei has four coal mining areas (Tangshan, Handan, Xingtai, and Yuzhou), and three oil fields: Huabei (North China), Jidong (East Hebei), and Dagang. Its onshore wind energy reserves total 74 million kw and



Offshore oil exploitation area

offshore wind farms have a capacity of more than 2.6 million kw. Shallow-buried geothermal resources are widely distributed, and mostly found in the mid-eastern plains. The total amount of geothermal resources, equivalent to 41.9 billion

tons of standard coal, is ranked third in the country. The annual solar radiation quantity ranges from 4,981 to 5,966 megajoules per square meter, and annual sunshine duration lasts 2,500 to 3,000 hours in Zhangjiakou, Chengde, and eastern Cangzhou.

Thanks to its long history, Hebei is rich in tourist resources. It has 278 national-level historical and cultural sites, ranking third in the country; 930 provincial-level sites, ranking among the top in the country; and four world cultural heritage sites.

Hebei also has abundant products. Its famous local produce includes chestnut, Shenzhou peach, Tianjin and Zhaozhou pear, Xuanhua grape, Xinglong haw, Cangzhou golden-silk jujube, Fuping and Zhanhuang jujube, small red bean, Xuanhua mung bean, Chinese wolfberry, Shexian's Three Treasures (pepper, persimmon, and walnut), mushroom and fiddlehead, Wangdu horn-shaped hot pepper, Jize hot pepper, Yesanpo walnut, Longyao scallion, Weixian watermelon, Mancheng strawberry and persimmon, Yuxian apricot, Zhangjiakou and Daying fur, Qizhou medicinal herbs, Qian'an mulberry paper, Bohai prawns, and Hengshui "royal goldfish."



Xuanhua grapes, Zhangjiakou



National Wind and PV Energy Storage and Transmission Demonstration Project in Bashang, Zhangjiakou



Handan City

Demographics and Religion

There are 11 cities with established districts under Hebei's jurisdiction: Shijiazhuang, Tangshan, Qinhuangdao, Handan, Xingtai, Baoding, Zhangjiakou, Chengde, Langfang, Cangzhou, and Hengshui. The provincial capital is Shijiazhuang. At the end of 2015, the total population of Hebei was over 74 million people, made up of 56 ethnic groups. Minority populations accounted for about 4% of the province's total population.

The 2 million religious believers in Hebei follow five major religions: Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestant Christianity. They account for about 3% of the total population of the province. Of them, there are about 1 million Catholics, taking up 25% of the national total; 200,000 followers of Chinese Buddhism, 150,000 followers of Tibetan Buddhism, over 20,000 followers of Daoism, and 500,000 Muslims.



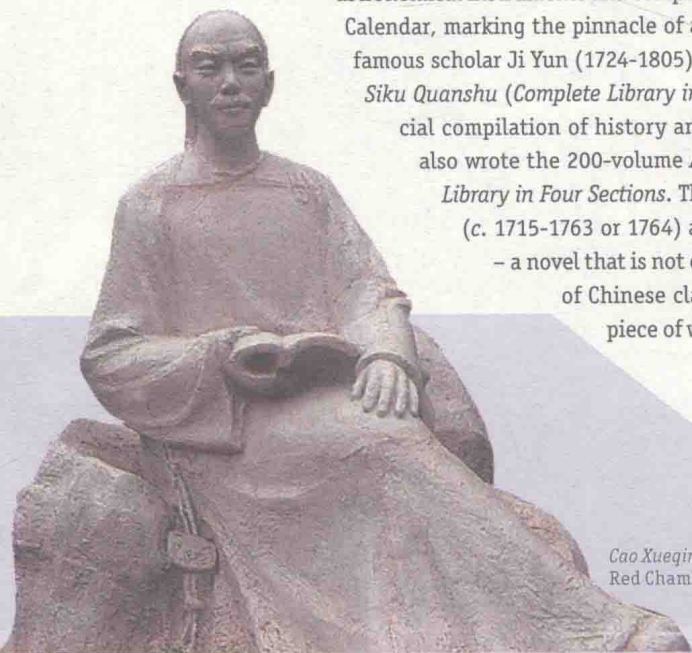
Yesanpo Minorities Park, Baoding

Historic Figures

Hebei has been home to countless historic figures who have had a major influence on China's politics, military affairs, medicine, mathematics, literature, and philosophy.

Bian Que (c. 407-310 BC) was a famous doctor in ancient China who summed up the experience of his predecessors. He advocated a four-step diagnosis that included "Look (at the patient's tongue and external appearance), Listen (to voice and breathing patterns), Question (about symptoms), and Take (the pulse)." This laid the foundation for the creation of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), and Bian Que was named "the forefather of medical science" in China. Traditionally associated with the promotion of Confucianism, Dong Zhongshu's (c. 179-104 BC) philosophical theory and political views occupy an important position in the development of China's schools of philosophy. The mathematician Zu Chongzhi (429-500) calculated the value of π to 7 decimal places for the first time. It wasn't until 1,000 years later that the same was done in Europe. Geographer and essayist Li Daoyuan (466 or 472-527) of the Northern Wei Dynasty wrote the *Shuijingzhu* (*Commentary on the Water Classic*) – the most comprehensive and systematic geographical work of his time. Mathematician, hydrologist, and astronomer Guo Shoujing (1231-1316) of the Yuan Dynasty was responsible for dredging the Tonghui River from Beijing to Tongzhou, and restoring the blocked

and damaged parts of the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, which made the canal zone in Southeast Hebei thrive again. He created and improved 13 astronomical instruments and compiled the *Shoushi* (*Season-Granting*) Calendar, marking the pinnacle of ancient Chinese time records. The famous scholar Ji Yun (1724-1805) of the Qing Dynasty compiled the *Siku Quanshu* (*Complete Library in Four Sections*) – the largest official compilation of history and literature in ancient China. He also wrote the 200-volume *Annotated Catalog of the Complete Library in Four Sections*. The Qing Dynasty writer Cao Xueqin (c. 1715-1763 or 1764) authored *A Dream of Red Mansions* – a novel that is not only acknowledged as the pinnacle of Chinese classical fiction, but also a masterpiece of world literature.



Cao Xueqin — author of *Dream of the Red Chamber*