Inner Mongolia Information

Overview

Inner Mongolia is located in the northern region of China and shares an international border with Mongolia and the Russian Federation. Inner Mongolia is the third-largest subdivision of China and covers 12% of China's total land area. The main languages spoken here are Chinese and Mongolian. The province has a population of about 24 million people with the majority being the Han Chinese. The capital of Inner Mongolia is Hohhot and the largest city is Baotou. The region is known as “Inner” Mongolia, to distinguish itself from “Outer Mongolia”, or the independent state of Mongolia.

Geography

Inner Mongolia ties the province of Shaanxi in that is has the most neighboring provinces of any other Chinese province. Inner Mongolia borders Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Hebei, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Ningxia, and Gansu. Due to the size of the province stretching from Northwest to Northeast, the region has a four-season climate to include long, cold, dry winters and very warm to hot summers.

Economy

Farming of crops such as wheat takes precedence along the river valleys. In the more arid grasslands, herding of goats, sheep and so on is a traditional method of subsistence. Inner Mongolia has an abundance of natural resources such as coal, cashmere, natural gas, and rare earth elements. The region also has more deposits of naturally occurring niobium, zirconium and beryllium than any other province in China.

Demographics

When the region was established in 1947, Han Chinese comprised about 83% of the population, while the Mongols made up about 14% of the population. The Han Chinese live mostly in the Hetao region as well as in central and eastern Inner Mongolia. Over 70% of Mongols are concentrated in less than 18% of Inner Mongolia's territory.