Shandong Information

Overview

Shandong is located on the northern coast of China, lying across the Yellow Sea from the Korean Peninsula. The capital and largest city, Jinan, is located on the Yellow River (Huang He) about 60 miles (97 km) from the western border. Shandong is China’s 20th largest province, covering roughly 60,500 square miles (156,700 sq km). However, the province’s population ranks 2nd in the country with 91,800,000 people. The name Shandong means Mountain East, which is derived from its geographic location east of the Taihang Mountains.

Shandong Geography

Shandong province is located on China’s eastern coast. It borders the Bo Sea in the north and Yellow Sea (Huang Hai) in the south. The Shandong Peninsula (Shandong Bandao) stretches northeast towards Korea Bay and separates the Bo Sea from the Yellow Sea. Shandong is the last province to carry the Yellow River before it reaches the sea just above Laizhou Bay (Laizhou Wan). The much smaller but commercially important Jiaozhou Bay (Jiaozhou Wan) is located next to Qingdao. The Grand Canal of China flows through Shandong from the northwest to the southwest where it runs along Weishan Lake (Weisihan Hu), the largest lake in the province, before exiting. Shandong province covers a portion of the historic center of China, the North China Plane, in the west. Central Shandong is home to the Tai Mountains (Taishan). Tai Mountain just above Tai’an city is one of China’s five sacred mountains.

Shandong Demographics

Shandong is mostly Han Chinese who make up 99.3% of the population. Hui follow with 0.6%.

Shandong History

Shandong province was a part of Chinese dynastic history as far back as China’s first dynasty, the Shang Dynasty (1600 BC – 1046 BC), and China’s longest dynasty, the Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC – 226 BC). During the Spring and Autumn Period (722 BC – 481 BC) and the Warring States Period (5th century BC – 221 BC) Shandong was home to the state of Lu, which is noted for being the home of Confucius. Some of the oldest portions of the Great Wall of China were built here during the state of Qi,. Shandong was first ruled under its current name during the Jurchen Jin Dynasty (1115 AD – 1234 AD). The Germans leased Qingdao in 1897 and Britain leased Weihai in 1898. In 1922, under the Republic of China, Qingdao was once again under Chinese rule. Weihai followed in 1930. The Kuomintang were driven entirely out of Shandong province by 1949 by the Communists who established the People’s Republic of China that year. In central Shandong, Tai Mountain and its temples have attracted pilgrims for nearly 3,000 years.

Shandong Industry

Shandong province has more gold, gypsum, and natural sulfur than any other province and ranks second in its reserves of oil, diamonds, and magnetite. Agriculture also makes an important contribution to the province’s economy. Eastern Shandong, especially around Qingdao, has seen the most economic prosperity in part due to Korean and Japanese investment. Shandong’s provincial GDP ranked second in China, behind Guangdong province, in 2004.