

# BAOTOU 包头

Baotou is the largest city within the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in China. It's population of more than 1.6 million primarily consists of Han Chinese. Despite its location in Inner Mongolia, there are only 25,000 ethnic Mongols living in the city, in addition to 28,000 Hui Muslims, 18,000 Manchu, 650 Koreans, 550 Daur and 220 Xibe. Many of the street signs in Baotou are in the Mongolian script, but these are mainly for show only, as the population of the city is overwhelmingly Han, and even many of the people classified as Mongols in the city have lost their cultural identity and mother tongue.

Baotou is situated on the banks of the Yellow River. Baotou means 'land with deer' in Mongolian, although deer have long been hunted to extinction in this part of the province. Baotou was a small, non-descript town clustered in the semi-arid desert until the 1950's, when the railway line from Baotou to Beijing and Yinchuan was constructed and good roads were built to enable to central government to mine the region's coal and iron deposits. Tens of thousands of workers flooded into Baotou, causing it to develop into a large industrialized city almost overnight. Today, Baotou is a geographically huge city. Its suburbs spread out for more than 20 km (12 miles) from the city center. The people of Baotou, who are considered very friendly, do not see too

**Population:**  
1,248,391 (1990)  
1,677,700 (2000)  
2,254,600 (2010)

**Province:**  
Inner Mongolia

## Major Ethnic Groups:

**Han** 94.1%  
**Hui** 2.2%  
**Mongol** 2.0%  
**Manchu** 1.5%

**Christians:**  
30,000 (2.4%)

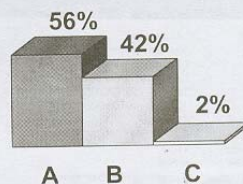
many foreign visitors.

Baotou City, being a relatively new sprawling metropolis, contains few interesting sites. One of main attractions in the region is a mausoleum to Genghis Khan, the great Mongol conqueror of the 13th century. It is located outside the town of Dongsheng, five hours southwest of Baotou. Although five hours might seem a long distance to travel for some, in Inner Mongolia the vast distances and thinly populated grasslands mean it is nearby by local standards. Nobody is sure where Genghis is buried, so a number of mausoleums and memorials to his memory are found scattered across the Mongolian world. In 1954, the Mongols brought back the supposed ashes of Genghis from Qinghai Province, where they had been hidden from the Japanese invaders. They were placed in the mausoleum where they continue to be worshipped and revered by Mongolians who often travel days to view them. Genghis Khan does not only represent a great hero to Mongolians, but his memory also promises them hope of a better future, as they recall the time when the Mongol hordes ruled from Southeast Asia to Eastern Europe, establishing the largest empire in the history of the world.

Closer to Baotou is the Wudangzhao Monastery, some 70 km (43 miles) from the city. This Tibetan Buddhist



## Status of Evangelization (Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the name of Christ  
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians  
C = Adherents to any form of Christianity

monastery was built in 1749 and housed 1,200 monks at its zenith. Before the Tibetans brought their religion across the Yellow River, the Mongols were primarily worshippers of nature. They made sacrifices and prayed to the moon, sun, stars and wind. Shamans, or spirit-priests, were called in to mediate between the community and the spirit-world. The Wudangzhao Monastery is a significant spiritual stronghold and would be a good location for prayer and intercession teams to visit.

Catholic missionaries first ventured into Inner Mongolia in the 17th century, adapting the Gospel to the needs of the people. In many areas the priests reported many converts, but a closer inspection reveals that often the incentive was an economic one. The Catholics allowed "believers" to farm their land and gave tools and livestock to those who would join them. Modern Protestant work did not get underway until 1895, when the Scandinavian Alliance Mission sent D. W. Stenberg to the region. He was joined by other workers, many of whom lost their lives during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900.

In 1921 Rev. Li Jinbiao founded the Assembly of God near Baotou. Using the catch phrase "Fear no poverty, neither hardship nor death", Li soon had more than 4,000 converts in the Baotou area.

In the past decade there has been a tremendous outpouring of God's saving power in parts of Inner Mongolia. The church in the city of Hohhot, further east of Baotou, has experienced explosive growth. This revival has also impacted Baotou, but not to the same extent as in Hohhot.

Today there are around 30,000 believers in Baotou, meeting in more than 100 small churches in the city's suburbs. This amounts to only about 2% of the city's population however. Most people in Baotou have never heard the Gospel in a life-transforming manner.



A newspaper salesman with his mobile shop attached to his bicycle. The church is growing in Baotou, but 98% of the population do not yet believe in Jesus Christ.

## Pray for Baotou

- 1 Pray the recent small flickers of revival fire in Baotou would be fanned into a mighty raging fire that would sweep hundreds of thousands of precious souls into the Kingdom of God.
- 2 Pray the Christian movement would not be confined to the Han Chinese, but would spread to ethnic Mongols, Hui and all other nationalities throughout the region.
- 3 Pray all people in Baotou would soon have the chance to accept or reject the offer of Christ's salvation.

## Overview of Baotou

Pronunciation : "Baow-toe"  
Old Spelling : Pa-t'ou  
Location : Nei Mongol Autonomous Region, northern China  
Population : 1,248,391 (1990 census)  
Males : 644,645 (51.64%)  
Females : 603,746 (48.36%)  
Households : 343,453  
Average household : 3.63 people  
Divorced people : 7,132  
% of population : 0.57%  
Centenarians (1990) : 4 people aged 100 or more  
Immigrants to City : 15,324 per year  
From same province : 10,279 (67.1%)  
From other provinces : 5,044 (32.9%)

Employed people : 696,308 (55.8% of total population)  
Main Industries : Industrial 46.9%; Agriculture 14.5%; Professional 13%  
Educational : University: 1.5%  
Attainment : High School: 62.4%  
(highest level) : Primary School: 23.7%  
Never attended any level of school: 12.4%  
Population under 15 : 21.1%  
Adult Literacy : 88% (men 93%, women 83%)  
Major Nationalities : Han 1,175,319  
Hui 28,080  
Mongol 24,723  
Manchu 18,134  
Korean 630  
Others (31 groups): 1,505  
Christians : 30,000 (2.4%)