

Chifeng

赤峰

Chifeng ("Red Peak") City, located in the southeastern part of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China, is home to more than 1.1 million people.

Although today more than 80% of the city's population are Han Chinese, Chifeng's diverse and rich history can be seen in the fact that more than 120,000 people belonging to the Mongol minority group, 50,000 belonging to the Manchus, and more than 18,000 Hui Muslims make their home in the city.

From ancient times the city was called Ulanhad ('many forests') by the Mongols. In 1778 it was colonized by the Chinese, who have transformed it into yet another Chinese industrialized city. The name was officially changed to Chifeng in 1983.

Chifeng is believed to have been the center of the Hongshan Culture, one of the earliest phases of Chinese history according to some scientists. The Hongshan era dates from as early as 3500 BC. Many archaeological sites around the city record the history of the 'Northern tribes,' which were very different from the tribes further south.

During the Liao Dynasty (907-1125 AD) the city again came to prominence. In recent years more than 4,000 tombs in the area have been illegally excavated by locals. Stone, jade and pottery wares

Population:
 987,301 (1990)
 1,108,026 (2000)
 1,243,500 (2010)

Province:
 Inner Mongolia

Major Ethnic Groups:
 Han 81.3%
 Mongol 11.9%
 Manchu 4.9%
 Hui 1.8%

Christians:
 30,000 (2.5%)

from the Hongshan era, and gold and silver artifacts from the Liao Dynasty have appeared in auction houses around the world, fetching extraordinarily high sums of money.

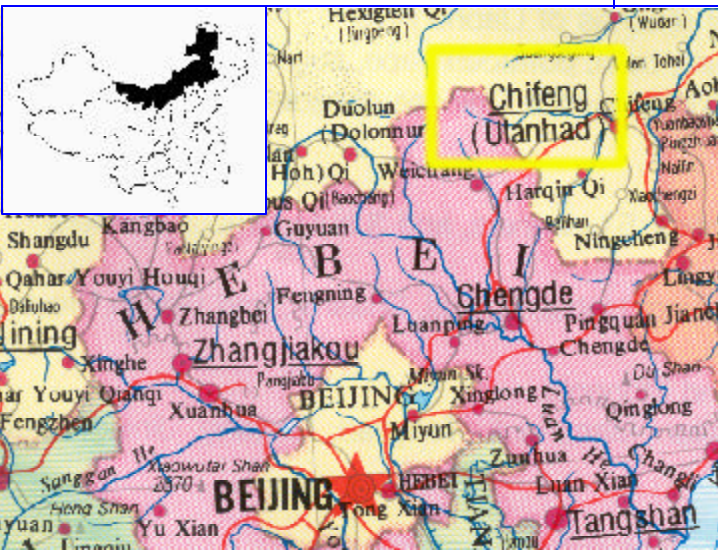
Although Chifeng suffers from pollution (especially in the winter months when much coal is burned), just outside the city there is some lovely terrain. Grasslands and woods make up one-third of the city's area. Its many lakes are famous for the 'yaluo' species of fish.

Local legends claim Chifeng was inhabited by a dragon more than 5,000 years ago. Dinosaur bones excavated in the 1970s reinforced this

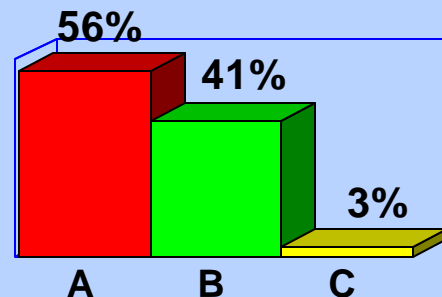
belief, so today Chifeng is also widely known as the "hometown of the dragon."

Today Chifeng is an agricultural distribution center, trading in wool, furs, hides, and grain. Coal and gold mines operate in the area. Large scale state projects launched in the 1960s and '70s have now outlived their usefulness, and many have shut down, causing thousands of people into employment. As a result, many try their hand seeking jobs in Beijing to the south or other large cities where the economy is blossoming.

Chifeng is near one of the most ambitious ecological projects in history. Due to massive soil erosion, the government launched its 'Green wall of



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 = Adherants to any form of Christianity



China's project, to build a massive wall of trees, or "shelterbelt" aimed at preventing the rapid encroachment of the sandy northern deserts into fertile farmland. On 10 May, 1981, Chifeng City was hit by a severe sandstorm which lasted 68 hours. Visibility was zero, and all road and rail transportation was stopped for three days. A total of 170,000 ha (419,900 acres) of crop fields were devastated. The shelterbelt for Chifeng has resulted in improved water and soil conservation, and increased tree growth. This in turn has proved beneficial for better agriculture and animal husbandry.

Although most residents of Chifeng today are atheists, there are many ancient temples and Buddhist pagodas located within the city. Most of the Chifeng residents who believe in Buddhism and Daoism are elderly.

Catholic missionaries commenced work in Chifeng about 200 years ago. Today there are at least 40,000 Catholics in the large Chifeng Diocese. Protestant work started in the city in 1912, when Plymouth Brethren opened a station.

In recent years house church evangelists from Daqing in Heilongjiang Province have worked in Chifeng with some success, but the vast majority of people remain ignorant of Christ.

Pray for Chifeng

- 1** Ask God to bless and empower the work of house church evangelists working in Chifeng City.
- 2** Pray Jesus would be revealed to every ethnic group living in Chifeng
- 3** Pray God's Son would be glorified and loved by the people of Chifeng

Overview of Chifeng (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Cheh-fung"	Employed People	: 561,665 (56.9% of total population)
Old Name	: Ulanhad, Chih-feng, Hada	Main Industries	: Agriculture 50.0%, Industrial 25.5%
Location	: SE Inner Mongolia, northern China	Education (highest level attended):	University: 3.6% High School: 45.3% Primary school: 35.0% Never attended any school: 16.1%
Population	: 987,301 (1990 census)	Population under 15:	270,366 (27.4%)
Males	: 505,296 (51.18%)	Adult Illiteracy	: 16.5% (men 9.7%; women 23.6%)
Females	: 482,005 (48.82%)	Major Nationalities	: Han 802,017 Mongol 117,667 Manchu 48,849 Hui 17,378 Others 1,390 (21 groups)
Households	: 244,343	Christians (2003)	: 30,000 (2.5%)
Average Household	: 4.0 people		
Divorced People	: 3,036		
% divorced of Population:	0.31		
Centurions (1990)	: 0 people aged 100 or more		
Immigrants to City	: 41,942		
From same province:	31,724 (75.6%)		
From other provinces:	10,215 (24.4%)		