

Rizhao

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Approximately 1.2 million people live in the seaside port of Rizhao (“Sun Shine”) in the southeast corner of Shandong Province in eastern China. Rizhao faces out to the Yellow Sea and is adjacent to South Korea.

Rizhao was formerly called Dong Yi, then Shijiu, before its name was changed to Rizhao, derived from the saying, “the place to enjoy the first ray of sunshine.”

Rizhao today is a place of firsts. Not only does it claim to see the first rays of sun in China each day, but Rizhao also boasts the longest coastal beach, the biggest coal harbor, and the biggest tea production base in all of

Population:
1,027,724 (1990)
1,152,858 (2000)
1,293,200 (2010)

Province:
Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.7%
Manchu 0.1%
Zhuang 0.1%
Hui 0.1%

Christians:
33,000 (2.8%)

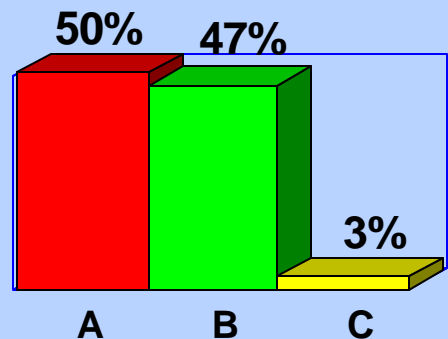
China

Rizhao Port handles over 15 million tons of cargo each year, of which 12 million tons are coal. Rizhao joins with Lianyungang in Jiangsu province as the two busiest ports in eastern China. The resource people would most like to get their hands on in Rizhao is gold. The gold reserve is estimated at 88,600 tons. Other minerals coming from the area include marble, limestone, bronze and iron.

Rizhao is a nice place to relax. There are three large reservoirs within the city, as well as a natural lake and a national forest park with many places to swim. Rizhao’s close proximity to the ocean



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



allows for moderate temperatures year around.

Experts say there is evidence of human inhabitation in Rizhao for 4,000 years. Pottery from the Dawnkou Cultural Period (approximately 2000 BC) have been unearthed in the city. Some major battles have taken place in the area over the centuries, allotting Rizhao a significant place in Chinese history.

Thousands of people in Rizhao make their living from the ocean. Every day the low droan of fishing boat engines can be heard heading out to sea. Rizhao produces 420,000 tons of aquatic products annually. The sea around the city contains 86 species of fish, among which its prawns, fan shells, clams and snakehead eggs are well known throughout China.

Rizhao has been a Buddhist stronghold in the past. The famous Wulian Mountain was once dotted with temples and monasteries. Today the people seem more concerned with getting rich than with religion, although a growing number of house churches have started to spring up in the city in recent years.

Today there are several Three-Self churches in the city, as well as many house churches, yet 97 out of every 100 Rizhao residents do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master.

Pray for Rizhao

- 1** Pray the Rizhao Christians will be like flames of fire to their city and the surrounding countryside.
- 2** Ask God to make Rizhao a city of spiritual light and blessing to many.
- 3** Pray Jesus would reign in the homes of many Rizhao residents.

Overview of Rizhao (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Riih-jaow"
Old Name : Shijiu, Shihkiuso, Shi-chao
Location : SE Shandong Province, eastern China
Population : 1,027,724 (1990 census)
Males : 520,978 (50.69%)
Females : 506,746 (49.31%)
Households : 290,015
Average Household : 3.5 people
Divorced People : 2,066
% divorced of Population: 0.20
Centurions (1990) : 6 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 28,496
From same province: 10,615 (37.3%)
From other provinces: 17,865 (62.7%)

Employed People : 634,198 (61.7% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 83.8%, Industrial 6.5%
Education : University: 1.2%
(highest level attended): High School: 35.7%
 Primary school: 42.4%
 Never attended any school: 20.7%
Population under 15: 249,537 (24.3%)
Adult Illiteracy : 22.2% (men 16.0%; women 28.6%)
Major Nationalities : Han 1,027,288
 Manchu 133
 Zhuang 101
 Hui 49
 Others 153 (20 groups)
Christians (2003) : 33,000 (2.8%)