

# TAI'AN 泰安

Located in central Shandong Province at the foot of the famous Tai Shan (Tai Mountain), the city of Tai'an is home to approximately 1.9 million people. Apart from its Han Chinese majority and 33,000 Hui Muslims, Tai'an contains no other significant minority communities.

Tai'an is a rural community within an urban setting, as demonstrated by the fact that 78% of its occupants are employed in the agricultural sector. The rate of education in Tai'an is significantly below the national average. More than 154,000, or 29%, of women in the city are unable to read or write.

Tai'an is an important coal base. The city's coal production ranks first for regions in Shandong Province. The city contains three large thermal-power plants: Shiheng, Laiwu and Xinwen. The area also produces large quantities of iron ore, plaster stone, granite, rock salt and sulphur.

Thousands of residents in Tai'an are employed in the tourist industry, thanks to nearby Taishan Mountain, considered the most auspicious of the five 'holy' mountains in China by Buddhists, Daoists and Confucianists. Tens of thousands of foreign and Chinese tourists flock to Taishan every year to climb the

**Population:**  
1,412,799 (1990)  
1,898,600 (2000)  
2,551,500 (2010)

**Province:**  
Shandong

## Major Ethnic Groups:

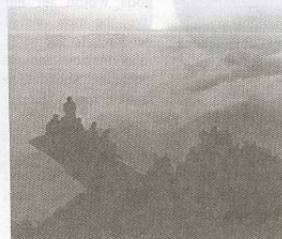
Han 97.4%  
Hui 2.4%  
Manchu 0.1%  
Zhuang 0.1%

**Christians:**  
15,000 (0.8%)



The 'Last Gate Before Heaven', located at the top of Taishan Mountain.

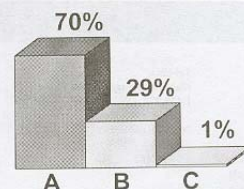
mountain, which rises 1,545 meters (5,067 feet) above Tai'an City. There are numerous religious temples, idols and structures on Taishan, in addition to pools, lakes, rock formations and ancient bridges.



Sunrise on Taishan Mountain.



## 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

Confucius, who lived in Qufu only about one hour from Tai'an today, climbed Taishan and proclaimed "The world is small." Mao Zedong stated, "The East is Red" from the summit. Incredibly, the path to the summit of the mountain contains more-than 6,000 individual stone steps, though less energetic travelers can now take a cable-car to the top.

For Christians and missionaries, Tai'an and Taishan Mountain represents a major spiritual stronghold which has turned the hearts of people towards Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism for 2,500 years. Numerous Chinese myths evolved here, including the belief that the mountain is home to the Grand Emperor of the Eastern Peak, a spirit who rules over the earth and mankind. Temples house images of this god. His daughter, the Princess of Azure Clouds, is worshipped by local women as their protector.

Numerous Emperors and Chinese leaders have ascended the mountain, as it is believed the gods of the mountain will not allow unworthy leaders to make it to the top. Emperors prayed to the god of Heaven and offered sacrifices at the summit.

The Moravian pioneer missionary Karl Gutzlaff ventured into Shandong Province between 1851 and 1853, but did not establish any long-lasting work there. Several mission organizations entered the province later. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel established the first base in Tai'an City in 1878, followed by the Southern Baptists in 1894, but their work was continually opposed by religious leaders, angry at the Christian presence in the heart of their 'holy' mountain. The True Jesus Church, an indigenous Chinese denomination, was founded near Tai'an in the 1920's. Most of the believers in the region today belong to this movement. There are no more than 15,000 Christians in Tai'an today, amounting to just 0.8% of the city's population.



Tai'an and Taishan Mountain are home to countless Buddhist, Daoist and Confucian temples and pagodas which date back many centuries. Fewer than 1% of the city know Jesus Christ.

## Pray for Tai'an

- 1 For thousands of years Tai'an and Taishan Mountain has been one of the major spiritual strongholds over China. Pray against the principalities and powers that conspire here to blind mankind.
- 2 Pray people's eyes and hearts in Tai'an would be opened to the Light of Jesus Christ as they hear the Gospel. Pray it would be known as a city that worships the One True God.
- 3 Ask God to raise up a strong and powerful evangelistic church in Tai'an, to reach both the city's residents and visiting pilgrims.

## Overview of Tai'an

Pronunciation	"Tai-ahn"	Employed people	: 869,482 (61.5% of total population)
Old Spelling	T'ai-an-fu	Main Industries	: Agriculture 78.1%; Industrial 8.5%, Professional 5.2%
Location	Shandong Province, eastern China	Educational	: University: 1.0%
Population	1,412,799 (1990 census)	Attainment	: High School: 42.1%
Males	: 720,458 (50.99%)	Primary School	: 39.7%
Females	: 692,341 (49.01%)	(highest level attended)	: Never attended any level of school: 17.2%
Households	: 268,386	Population under 15	: 23.1%
Average household	: 3.83 people	Adult Literacy	: 81% (men 90%; women 71%)
Divorced people	: 2,983	Major Nationalities	: Han 1,379,063
% of population	: 0.21%		: Hui 33,283
Centurians (1990)	: 9 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 180
Immigrants to City	: 9,827 per year		: Zhuang 141
From same province	: 7,852 (79.9%)		: Mongol 27
From other provinces	: 1,974 (20.1%)	Christians	: 15,000 (0.8%)
			: Others (18 groups): 105