

Yichun

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Situated among the hills and forests of farwestern Jiangxi Province, Yichun contains approximately 950,000 people. The population of the city is almost completely made up of ethnic Han Chinese people, with no significant communities of minority people living in Yichun at all.

Yichun lies within the linguistic sphere of the Gan Chinese language, which differs greatly from spoken Mandarin although almost everyone is now also able to speak the national language. Gan is spoken by about 36 million people in Jiangxi and southeastern Hubei province, as well as pockets of Anhui, Hunan, and Fujian.

Unlike many of China's large cities, Yichun is a beautiful place with clean air. Forests occupy 50.9% of the city's area. There are 496 historical sites and 54 officially-designated scenic spots in Yichun. The city slopes from west to east, with many small hills, rivers and streams enabling hydro electric projects to flourish here. Yichun was given the title of the first ecological city in China. The city contains an astonishing 270 bridges, while the Gan River has 52 different places for boats to dock, making it easily accessible to the rest of the province by road and by water.

Yichun means 'Pleasant spring'. The city is fa-

Population:
836,105 (1990)
933,071 (2000)
1,041,300 (2010)

Province:
Jiangxi

Major Ethnic Groups:

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

Christians:
18,000 (1.9%)

mous for its hot springs and natural beauty spots, including the Yunhua Mountain Scenic Area. The Moon Mountain, standing 1,736 meters (5,700 feet) above sea-level, contains many waterfalls. It is also home to various rare plants that are not found anywhere else in China. Other beauty spots in and around Yichun include the Baizhang Mountain, which is usually shrouded with mist, and the peaceful Jing'an River, which attracts film makers and tourists who take bamboo raft rides on the river.

Today the economy in Yichun has become a base for mechanical goods, construction, and food processing.

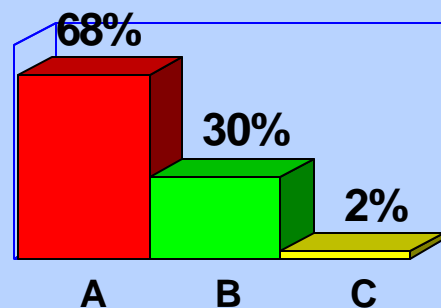
The area contains some rich mineral deposits, especially oil and coal.

Despite Yichun's economic diversity, however, the majority of the city's work-force (almost 80%) are employed in the agricultural sector. Indeed, Yichun is commonly known as the 'Rice bowl of Jiangxi Province' such is its abundance of rice. The climate in Yichun is generally wet and cool most of the year, making it an ideal location for rice production, as well as for grapes, pears, kiwi fruit and peaches.

Yichun made international headlines in 2001 for all the wrong reasons when a huge explosion ripped through a primary school in Fanglin Village, north of Yichun. Forty-one children and teachers were



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



killed and a further 27 badly injured. Initial revelations that the blast was caused by an illegal fireworks factory operating on school premises were dismissed by the Chinese authorities, embarrassed by the worldwide negative publicity.

The 1990 Chinese census revealed the people of Yichun had an extremely low educational attainment level, with just one in 300 people having attended university; and only 29% of adults having ever attended high school. As a result, the city also returned high rates of illiteracy, with 34,300 illiterate men and 60,400 illiterate women residing in the city.

Buddhism and Daoism were established in Yichun many centuries ago. Zhao Mountain (one of the three most famous mountains of Daoism) is located here, along with several old Buddhist and Daoist temples.

The first Protestant missionaries arrived in Yichun in 1903. By 1922 they had established three churches with a total of 328 believers. Today about 18,000 people confess Christ in Yichun, almost evenly divided between Protestant and Catholic believers. This figure accounts for less than 2% of the city's population. Yichun remains a largely unreached and unevangelized city.

Pray for Yichun

- 1** Pray the Holy Spirit would convict Yichun of sin, righteousness and judgment, leading to revival.
- 2** Pray Yichun would be saturated with God's Word.
- 3** Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send choice workers to Yichun.

Overview of Yichun (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Yee-choon"
Old Spelling : Ichun, Yuanchow
Location : western Jiangxi Province, central China
Population : 836,105 (1990 census)
Males : 434,592 (51.98%)
Females : 401,513 (48.02%)
Households : 189,980
Average Household : 4.4 people
Divorced People : 2,826
% divorced of Population: 0.34
Centurions (1990) : 8 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 21,245
From same province: 18,447 (86.8%)
From other provinces: 2,795 (13.2%)

Employed People : 453,955 (54.3% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 79.9%, Industrial 8.6%
Education : University: 0.4%
(highest level attended): High School: 29.0%
 Primary school: 52.7%
 Never attended any school: 17.9%
Population under 15: 258,801 (30.9%)
Adult Illiteracy : 16.4% (men 11.4%; women 21.8%)
Major Nationalities : Han 835,812
 Hui 124
 Manchu 50
 Zhuang 31
 Others 88 (13 groups)
Christians (2003) : 18,000 (1.9%)