

# Yinchuan 银川

Yinchuan is the capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a mostly barren area in north-central China that was created by the government in 1958 to be a symbolic “home” for the Hui minority group. Although some leading politicians and leaders in Ningxia are Hui, the “autonomy” is strictly nominal. China rules the region with whatever force they deem necessary. Muslim riots in recent years have been crushed with an iron fist by the central government.

Yinchuan (“Silver River”) City recorded a population of 502,000 in the 1990 census, which grew to 641,000 by 2000. The greater city area, which includes some districts not administratively un-

**Population:**  
502,080 (1990)  
641,723 (2000)  
820,200 (2010)

**Province:**  
Ningxia

**Major Ethnic Groups:**

Han 80.4%  
Hui 17.7%  
Manchu 1.7%  
Mongol 0.2%

**Christians:**  
15,000 (2.3%)

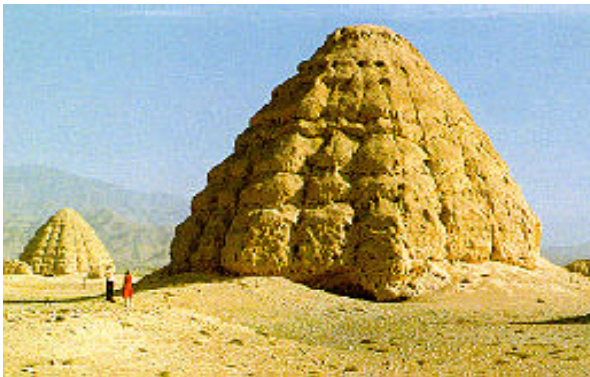
der the direct control of Yinchuan, is just under one million.

Although people know Ningxia as the home of the Hui people, Yinchuan itself is only 17.7% Hui. More than 80% are Han Chinese, in addition to 8,600 Manchus and 1,200 Mongols. The predominantly Hui parts of Ningxia are in the arid central and southern regions.

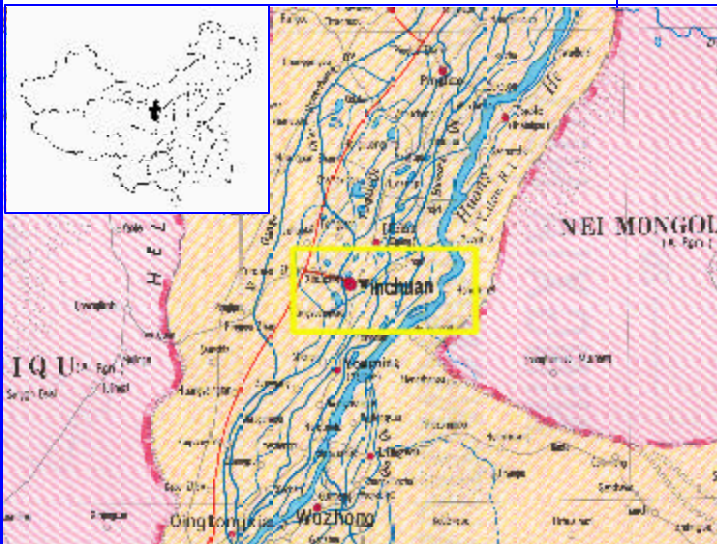
The Chinese census reveals Yinchuan as one of the most highly educated cities in all of China, with 10.1% of all adults having attended university or another form of tertiary education, a figure not far off that of Beijing.

Yinchuan has been a strategic city for more than two thousand years. During the 11th century it was the capital of the Western Xia kingdom. The Western Xia was founded by Li Yuanhao in 1038. Its territory included today’s Ningxia, and parts of Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai and Inner Mongolia, before it was toppled by the ruthless Mongolian hordes in 1227. Burial mounds of nine Xia emperors are found about 35 km (22 miles) outside Yinchuan.

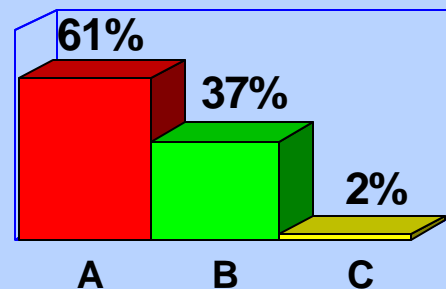
The city owes its growth to the Yellow River. Most of the population lives near its banks or the irrigation canals that run off it. Without the Yellow River Yinchuan would be a barren wasteland, like much of Ningxia. The canals were first constructed during



One of the ancient royal burial mounds near Yinchuan (note two people to the left of the mound).



**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



the Han Dynasty in century before Christ. It was during this time that the Chinese first settled in the area. Yinchuan was named Xingchuan for most of its history, only taking on its present name in 1944.

Yinchuan today is divided into two main parts. The Old City is where most of the historic sights, mosques, restaurants and hotels are situated while the New City contains the modern industrialized complex and train station. The climate of Yinchuan is harsh, with freezing winter temperatures and icy winds blowing from the Mongolian plains to the north, followed by sizzling hot summers. The Helanshan Mountain Range begins just 17 km (11 miles) northwest of Yinchuan, and rise to a height of 3,550 meters (11,640 feet). They have served as a barricade against desert sands and foreign invaders. Several ancient Buddhist temples and pagodas are scattered throughout Yinchuan, including the 5th-century Haibao Pagoda, and the Chentiansi Tower built in 1050.

Both the Three-Self Church and house churches in Yinchuan has grown significantly in the past decade, but Christians still constitute only about 2.3% of the city's population. The 90,000 Hui Muslims in Yinchuan remain completely untouched by the Gospel, as they do throughout the whole of China.

## Pray for Yinchuan

- 1** Pray the millions of Hui Muslims in Ningxia would soon find God's love through Jesus Christ.
- 2** Ask God to give dreams and visions to Muslims that lead to their salvation.
- 3** Pray barren Ningxia will become a spiritual oasis for God's kingdom.

## Overview of Yinchuan (based on 1990 census)

<b>Pronunciation</b>	: "In-chwan"	<b>Employed People</b>	: 282,756 (56.3% of total population)
<b>Old Spelling</b>	: Ningsia City, Ning-hsia, Xingchuan	<b>Main Industries</b>	: Industrial 29.6%, Agriculture 23.7%
<b>Location</b>	: North Ningxia Region, northern China	<b>Education (highest level attended):</b>	University: 10.1% High School: 53.2% Primary school: 24.9% Never attended any school: 11.8%
<b>Population</b>	: 502,080 (1990 census)	<b>Population under 15:</b>	111,920 (22.3%)
<b>Males</b>	: 260,035 (51.79%)	<b>Adult Illiteracy</b>	: 11.9% (men 7.3%; women 16.9%)
<b>Females</b>	: 242,045 (48.21%)	<b>Major Nationalities</b>	: Han 402,375 Hui 88,952 Manchu 8,610 Mongol 1,169 Others 974 (28 groups)
<b>Households</b>	: 130,761	<b>Christians (2003)</b>	: 15,000 (2.3%)
<b>Average Household</b>	: 3.8 people		
<b>Divorced People</b>	: 3,963		
<b>% divorced of Population:</b>	0.79		
<b>Centurions (1990)</b>	: 10 people aged 100 or more		
<b>Immigrants to City</b>	: 77,451		
<b>From same province:</b>	48,146 (62.2%)		
<b>From other provinces:</b>	29,237 (37.8%)		