

## Nei Mongol (Inner Mongolia) Autonomous Region



With Hohhot as its capital, Nei Mongol (Inner Mongolia) Autonomous Region, which is abbreviated as "Nei Mongol", is located on the north border of China. It covers an area of over 1.1 million square kilometers, and has a population of 23.50 million, including such ethnic groups as Han, Mongol, Man, Hui, Daur, Ewenki and Korean, among which Mongols take up 70% of its population.

### ■ Geographical Features

**Topography** Nei Mongol forms the greater part of the Inner Mongolia Gaoyuan (Plt.), with an elevation of above 1,000 meters. The Da Hinggan Ling (Mts.), Yin Shan (Mt.) and Helan Shan stretch along its border. Extensive grassland is on the east of the region, while most of the west part is occupied by Tengger, Badain Jaran, Ulan Buh, Hobq and Mu Us deserts. Plains like Hetao Pingyuan, Nenjiang Pingyuan, Xiliaohe Pingyuan, Tumochuan Pingyuan are distributed along Huang He (Yellow R.), or at the foot of Yin Shan. Very few rivers are found in this region other than Huang He, which is the largest passing river in Nei Mongol. Most other rivers here are seasonal inland rivers. Numerous lakes like Hulun Nur, Buir Nur, Ulanhai Nur, and Dalai Nur, are found in this region, most of which are salt lakes in dry areas except Hulun Nur, which is the largest fresh water lake in Nei Mongol.

**Climate** Temperate arid and semi-arid continental climate rules here, bringing about sharp difference between winter and summer as well as between different localities. Summer here is cool and pleasant, while winter is long and cold. Annual rainfall in this area is between 50~450mm. The average annual temperature here is between -1~10°C, with an average temperature in January between -26~-10°C, while in July between 18~24°C.

### ■ Natural Resources

Rich reserves of diversified minerals were found in Nei Mongol. By now over 120 kinds of minerals have been found here, among which the reserves of minerals like rare earth, niobium, natural alkali, coal and 50 others are among China's top ten. Reserves of rare earth found in this region take up 90% of China's total. Coal reserves are particularly rich. Nonferrous metals found here include: ferrous sulfide, limestone, mica, silicon sand, quartz, gypsum, graphite, lake salt, Glauber's salt, marble and over 20 other different kinds.

Nei Mongol's forest cover rate is around 12.73%, mostly pine trees, birch and willows in Da Hinggan Ling area. As the largest natural pasturing area in China, the region has a total grassland area of 87 million hectares.

There are nearly 120 species of land vertebrates, over 360 species of birds and over 2,000 species of wildings living in this area, of which over 600 are herbs of medical value.

As the annual sunshine time here is between 2,600~3,400 hours, Nei Mongol has rich solar energy resources second only to Qingzang Gaoyuan. The region also has rich wind energy resources, and over 70% of its pastures are suitable for wind power generation.

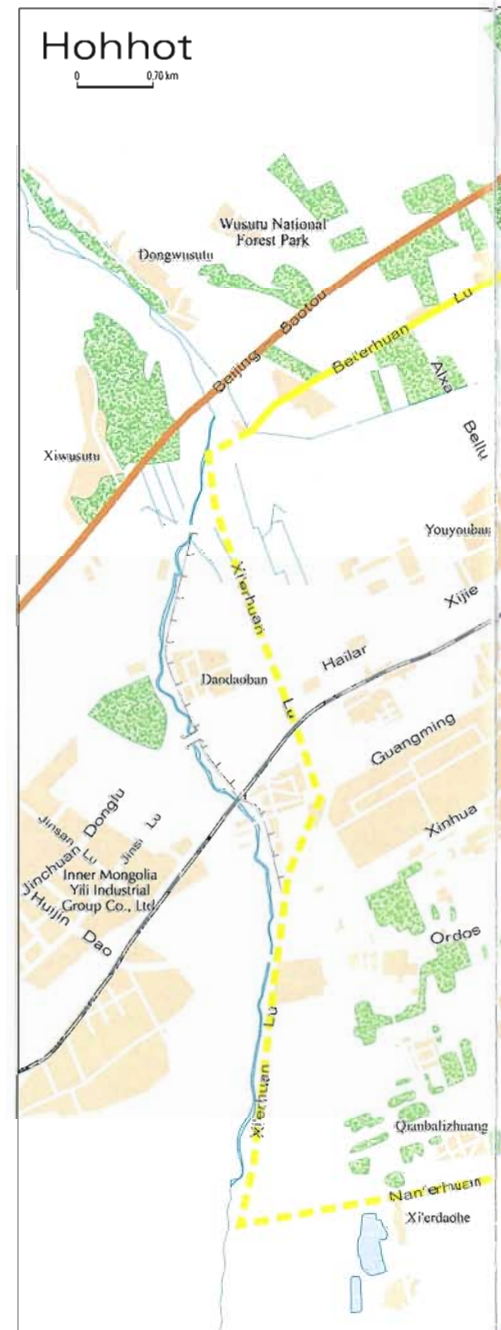
### ■ Agriculture

As Nei Mongol occupies a long and narrow

area from west to east, there is a great regional difference in its agricultural development, with farming in the south and pasturing in the north. Wheat, corn, potato, buckwheat, raw buckwheat, soybean and benne are planted on fertile soils of Hetao-Tumochuan Pingyuan and Xiliaohe-Nenjiang Pingyuan. Sheep, goat, cow, horse and camel are bred in pastures like Hulun Buir, Xilin Gol and Urad. The number of livestock raised here as well as the output of wool, cashmere and camel hair produced here are all ranked as China's No. 1. Sanhe Horses, Sanhe Oxen and fine wool sheep are all raised in Nei Mongol.

### ■ Industry

As a major production base of steel and coal in China, Nei Mongol has four of China's major open cut coal mines: Yiminhe Open-Air Mine, Huolinhe Open-Air Mine, Yuanbaoshan Open-Air Mine and Jungar Open-Air Mine.



Hulun Buir Grassland







Coalmining, power engineering, metallurgy, machinery, forest and livestock products processing are major industries in this region. Food and beverage production, textile, paper making are also developed here. Forest machinery and dairy products of this region play important roles in China.

### ■ Transportation

**Railway** Three main stems including Beijing-Baotou, Baotou-Lanzhou and Beijing-Tongliao railways run through the region, and are supported by provincial railways like Jining-Tongliao, Jining-Erenhot and Baotou-Shenmu railways.

**Highway** National highways joined with railways provide a transportation network reaching every city and town in this region. The express highway between Hohhot and Baotou has been put into use.

**Airway** Centered round Hohhot, flights can

reach Baotou, Chifeng, Hulun Buir and Xilinhote as well as Beijing, Shanghai and 20 other major cities in China.

### ■ Places of Interest

Pasture scenery and unique ethnic culture are two major characteristics of Nei Mongol's tourism. Located in the northern border of the region, Da Hinggan Ling boast abundant resources of forest, river, diversified animals and wonderful natural sceneries. It is the largest primitive forest in China. The tomb of Genghis Khan is located at Ejina Horo Qi (B.), covering a total area of 50,000 square meters. The tomb of Princess Wang Zhaojun is located on the southern outskirts of Hohhot. Wang Zhaojun is regarded as the symbol of national unity, and her tomb is a monument to national unity. 70 kilometers from the city of Baotou, Wudangzhao is the largest and best preserved monastery in Nei Mongol. It was built during

the reign of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty, after the model of Potala Palace in Tibet. Xiangshawan is to the south of Baotou. Sliding down from the sand hill, one can hear the sound of automobile and aircraft engines, a natural phenomenon that can not be explained. Other tourist attractions are: Five Pagodas Monastery, Dazhao Monastery, Mt. Arxan Hot Spring, Hulun Nur, Xiritala Grassland Scenic Spot, and Xilamuren Grassland Scenic Spot.

### ■ Local Products

As an important pasture in China, Nei Mongol produces various high quality leathers and wool products including thick caddice, carpet, camel's fine hair, cashmere and lamb skin. Saddles, Mongolian boots, and colourful stones are traditional local products. Local flavours like roast lamb, cream, dairy tofu, kumiss and liquor have distinctive taste.

