

Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

Yulshul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (Tibetan: ཡུལ་ཤུལ་བོད་རིགས་རང་སྐྱོང་ཁུལ་, *ZYPY: Yüxü Poirig Ranggyong Kü*, Lhasa dialect IPA: [j̥y̥ɕüː pʰø rik rən̪coŋkyː(l̪)]), commonly known as **Yushu** (Chinese: 玉树藏族自治州; retranscribed into Tibetan as ཡུལ་རྩུལ་), is an autonomous prefecture of southwestern Qinghai province, China. Largely inhabited by Tibetans, the prefecture has an area of 188,794 square kilometres (72,894 sq mi) and its seat is located in the town of Gyêgu in Yushu County, which is the place of the old Tibetan trade mart of Jyekundo. The official source of the Yellow River lies within the prefecture. Historically, the area belongs to the cultural realm of Kham in eastern Tibet.

On 14 April 2010, an earthquake struck the prefecture, registering a magnitude of 6.9^{[1][2]} (USGS, EMSC) or 7.1^[3] (Xinhua). It originated in the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, at 07:49 local time.^{[4][5]}

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Geography

Yushu Prefecture occupies most of the southwestern third of Qinghai, with the exception of the province's extreme southwestern corner (Tanggulashan Town), which is an exclave of the Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Almost all of the prefecture is located in the uppermost part of the basins of three of Asia's great rivers - the Yellow River, the Yangtze, and the Mekong.^[6] although in the remote areas of the far west of the prefecture (the Hoh Xil plateau), and along its northern borders, there are some endorheic basins as well. A significant portion of the prefecture's territory is incorporated into the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, intended to protect the headwaters of the three great rivers.

Most of the prefecture's population lives in its southeastern part: primarily in the valley of the upper Yangtze (whose section within the prefecture is known in Chinese as the Tongtian River, in Tibetan as Drichu འཇིག་ཁྲི), and some also in the valley of the Mekong (the Dzachu ཇཱཅཱ་ (扎曲) River^[7]). The highlands away from these two rivers, as well as the western part of the prefecture, have very little population.

Climate

With elevations above 3,600 metres (12,000 ft), the prefecture has a harsh climate, with long, cold winters, and short, rainy, and cool to warm summers. Specifically, in the Köppen system, the prefecture ranges from the alpine variation of the subarctic climate (Köppen *Dwc*), to a full alpine climate (Köppen *EH*), to a semi-arid climate (Köppen *BSk*).^[8] Most of the annual precipitation occurs from June to September, when on average, a majority of the days each month has some rainfall.

The annual mean temperature in Yishu County, at an elevation of 3,690 metres (12,10 ft), is 3.22 °C (37.8 °F) and in Qumarlêb, in the northeast of the prefecture at 4,190 m (13,750 ft) elevation, −2.13 °C (28.2 °F). Sunshine is generous, ranging from around 2500 hours in the prefecture seat to 2780 hours in Qumarlêb.

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Autonomous prefecture
<div><div>玉树藏族自治州 · ཡུལ་ཤུལ་བོད་རིགས་རང་སྐྱོང་ཁུལ་</div><div></div><div>Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture</div></div>
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<div><div><div></div></div></div>
<div>Location of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai</div>
Coordinates (Yushu City): 33°00′N 97°01′E
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Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture	
Chinese name	
Simplified Chinese	玉树藏族自治州
Traditional Chinese	玉樹藏族自治州
Transcriptions	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu	Yùshù Zàngzú
Pinyin	Zìzhìzhōu



Xia Laxiu village in Yushu county

IPA	[ʏsü tsäŋtsü tsit͡ʂit͡ʂóu]
Tibetan name	
Tibetan	<p>ཡུལ་ཤུལ་བོད་</p> <p>རྒྱལ་མཁའ་རྒྱུ་</p> <p>ལྷུལ།</p> <p>ཡུལ་རྒྱུ་བོད་</p> <p>རྒྱལ་མཁའ་རྒྱུ་</p> <p>ལྷུལ།</p>
Transcriptions	
Wylie	<p>yul-shul bod-rigs rang-</p> <p>skyong-khul</p> <p>yus-hru'u bod-rigs rang-</p> <p>skyong-khul</p>
Tibetan	Yüxü Poirig Ranggyong
Pinyin	<p>Kü</p> <p>Yüshu Poirig Ranggyong</p> <p>Kü</p>

Climate data for Yushu, Qinghai (1971–2000)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	1.9 (35.4)	4.1 (39.4)	8.4 (47.1)	12.2 (54)	15.9 (60.6)	18.4 (65.1)	20.0 (68)	20.0 (68)	16.9 (62.4)	12.3 (54.1)	6.8 (44.2)	2.8 (37)	11.6 (52.9)
Average low °C (°F)	−15.1 (4.8)	−11.5 (11.3)	−6.5 (20.3)	−2.9 (26.8)	1.6 (34.9)	5.3 (41.5)	6.9 (44.4)	5.9 (42.6)	3.6 (38.5)	−1.9 (28.6)	−9.5 (14.9)	−14.4 (6.1)	−3.2 (26.2)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	3.1 (0.122)	5.1 (0.201)	8.4 (0.331)	16.6 (0.654)	54.0 (2.126)	102.2 (4.024)	102.1 (4.02)	83.9 (3.303)	75.4 (2.969)	29.1 (1.146)	3.7 (0.146)	2.2 (0.087)	485.8 (19.129)
Average precipitation days (≥ 0.1 mm)	3.5	4.4	7.0	10.5	17.8	21.8	20.9	18.3	19.4	12.5	3.4	2.2	141.7
Average relative humidity (%)	44	41	41	48	57	65	68	68	71	64	50	45	55
Mean monthly sunshine hours	186.6	177.6	213.9	227.4	237.4	210.3	227.0	225.2	188.0	202.6	207.0	193.3	2,496.3
Percent possible sunshine	59	57	58	59	56	49	52	54	51	58	66	62	56
Source: "China Meteorological Administration" . Retrieved 2010-07-02.													

Climate data for Qumarlêb County (1971–2000)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	−5.1 (22.8)	−2.4 (27.7)	2.1 (35.8)	6.3 (43.3)	10.7 (51.3)	13.3 (55.9)	15.6 (60.1)	15.4 (59.7)	11.8 (53.2)	6.3 (43.3)	0.4 (32.7)	−3.7 (25.3)	5.9 (42.6)
Average low °C (°F)	−22.8 (−9)	−19.1 (−2.4)	−13.5 (7.7)	−8.9 (16)	−3.6 (25.5)	1.2 (34.2)	3.2 (37.8)	1.8 (35.2)	−0.6 (30.9)	−7.7 (18.1)	−16.7 (1.9)	−21.8 (−7.2)	−9 (15.7)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	3.0 (0.118)	3.9 (0.154)	7.2 (0.283)	11.8 (0.465)	37.7 (1.484)	90.8 (3.575)	92.2 (3.63)	71.6 (2.819)	65.5 (2.579)	17.9 (0.705)	2.3 (0.091)	2.5 (0.098)	406.4 (16.001)
Average precipitation days (≥ 0.1 mm)	5.2	6.3	7.9	9.7	16.8	21.1	21.0	16.5	19.3	10.3	3.4	3.4	140.9
Average relative humidity (%)	48	43	42	47	58	67	68	67	71	61	49	46	56
Mean monthly sunshine hours	220.1	204.5	227.9	243.7	254.5	218.9	240.3	243.8	211.9	243.7	242.9	229.6	2,781.8
Percent possible sunshine	70	66	62	63	59	51	55	59	57	70	78	75	63
Source: China Meteorological Administration													

Economy

Agricultural, trees, wheat, millet.

Population

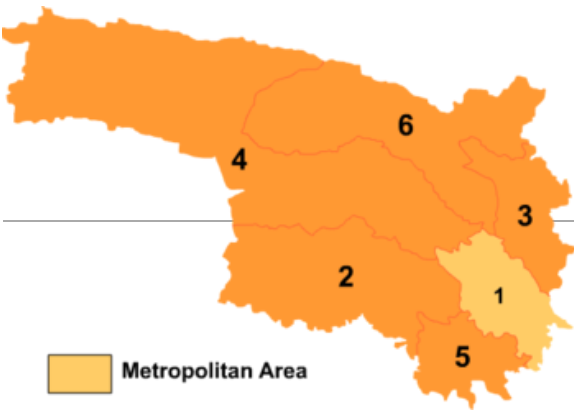
Ethnic groups in Yushu, 2005 Yushu Statistical Yearbook:^[9]

Nationality	Population	Percentage
Khampa Tibetan	288,829	97.25%
Han	7,594	2.56%
Hui	295	0.1%
Tu/Monguor	138	<0.1%
Salar	64	<0.1%
Mongol	50	<0.1%
Manchu	22	<0.01%
Others	12	<0.01%

This statistics only includes the registered population, not the floating population which is estimated at about 50-60,000 for the entire prefecture.

Subdivisions

The prefecture is subdivided into sixcounty-level divisions six counties:

Map								
<div></div>								
#	Name	Hanzi	Hanyu Pinyin	Tibetan	Wylie Tibetan Pinyin	Population (2010 Census)	Area (km²)	Density (/km²)
1	Yushu City	玉树市	Yùshù Shì	ཡུལ་ཤུལ་གྲོང་ཁྱེར།	yul shul grong khyer Yüxü Chongkyir	120,447	13,462	8.94
2	Zadoi County (Zaduo County)	杂多县	Zádūo Xiàn	རེ་སྟོད་རྫོང་།	rdza stod rdzong Zadoi Zong	58,268	33,333	1.74
3	Chindu County (Chenduo County)	称多县	Chènduō Xiàn	ཁྲི་འདུ་རྫོང་།	khri 'du rdzong Chindu Zong	55,619	13,793	4.03
4	Zhidoi County (Zhiduo County)	治多县	Zhìduō Xiàn	འབྲི་སྟོད་རྫོང་།	'bri stod rdzong Zhidoi Zong	30,037	66,667	0.45
5	Nangchen County (Nangqian County)	囊谦县	Nángqiān Xiàn	ནང་ཆེན་རྫོང་།	nang chen rdzong Nangqên Zong	85,825	11,539	7.43
6	Qumarlêb County (Qumalai County)	曲麻莱县	Qūmálái Xiàn	ཆུ་དམར་ལེབ་རྫོང་།	chu dmar leb rdzong Qumarlêb Zong	28,243	50,000	0.56

Transportation

The eastern part of the prefecture, where most of its population lives, is served by the [China National Highway 214](#) and the recently constructed (opened 2009) [Yushu Batang Airport](#)

The far western part of the prefecture, which is hundreds of kilometers away from the prefecture's eastern "core", and has very little population, is crossed by [China National Highway 109](#)and the [Qinghai-Tibet Railway](#).

History and traditional culture

Monasticism

Yushu prefecture is rich in Buddhist monasteries. Being a constituent of the former [Nangchen kingdom](#), the area was, for most of the time, not under domination by theDalai Lama's Gelugpa order in Lhasa. The diferent balance of power in this part of Kham enabled the older Tibetan Buddhist orders to prevail in Yushu. Of the 195 pre-1958 lamaseries only 23 belonged to the Gelugpa.

An overwhelming majority of more than 100 monasteries followed and still follow the teachings of the various [Kagyupa](#) schools, with some of their sub-sects only found in this part of Tibet. The [Sakyapa](#) were and are also strong in Yushu, with many of their 32 monasteries being among the most significant in Kham. The [Nyingmapa](#)'s monastic institutions amount to about the same number, while the [Bönpo](#) are only met with in one lamasery they share with the Nyingmapa.

Prior to collectivization in 1958, the entire monastic population of present-day Yushu TAP amounted to more than 25,000 Buddhist monks and nuns, with approximately 300 incarnate lamas among them. On the average about three to five per cent of the population were monastic, with a strikingly higher share in[Nangchen](#) county, where monks and nuns made up between 12 and 20% of the community^[10]



The main monastery in Yushu's Gyêgu township

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Citations

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External links

- Yushu: A Tibetan Town Rebuilt in Beijing's Image
- The East Tibet Website
- Nangchen historic area
- Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture
- Official Website of the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture(in Chinese)

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