

China

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Mandarin Chinese (official), Cantonese, Shanghainese, Other regional languages and dialects

Population: 1,425,000,000

Currency: Renminbi (Yuan)

Area: 9,596,961

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Great Wall of China', 'writeup': 'An ancient series of walls and fortifications stretching over 13,000 miles, built to protect Chinese states from invasions.'}
- {'name': 'Forbidden City', 'writeup': 'A vast imperial palace complex in Beijing that served as the home of emperors and political center for centuries.'}
- {'name': 'Terracotta Army', 'writeup': 'Thousands of life-sized clay soldiers buried with China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang to protect him in the afterlife.'}
- {'name': 'Potala Palace', 'writeup': 'A historic palace in Lhasa, Tibet, that was the winter residence of the Dalai Lama and a symbol of Tibetan Buddhism.'}
- {'name': 'Shanghai Tower', 'writeup': 'The tallest building in China and the second tallest in the world, symbolizing China's rapid modernization.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Xi Jinping

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Chinese New Year', 'writeup': 'Also known as Spring Festival, it marks the lunar new year with family reunions, fireworks, and traditional performances.'}
- {'name': 'Mid-Autumn Festival', 'writeup': 'Celebrated with mooncakes and lanterns, it honors the harvest and the full moon.'}
- {'name': 'Dragon Boat Festival', 'writeup': 'Commemorates the poet Qu Yuan with boat races and eating zongzi (sticky rice dumplings).')}

Food & Cuisine:

Chinese cuisine is diverse, featuring regional styles such as Sichuan's spicy dishes, Cantonese dim sum, and northern wheat-based foods. Staple ingredients include rice, noodles, soy products, and a variety of meats and vegetables.

Brief History:

China is one of the world's oldest civilizations, with recorded history dating back over 3,000 years. It has experienced dynastic rule, imperial expansion, colonial encounters, a communist revolution in 1949, and rapid economic growth in recent decades.

Important People:

- Confucius - Philosopher and teacher whose ideas influenced Chinese culture and ethics.

- Mao Zedong - Founding father of the People's Republic of China.
- Deng Xiaoping - Leader who initiated economic reforms and opening up.
- Sun Yat-sen - Revolutionary and first provisional president of the Republic of China.
- Xi Jinping - Current President and General Secretary of the Communist Party.

Current Conflicts:

China faces territorial disputes in the South China Sea, tensions with Taiwan over sovereignty claims, and ongoing issues related to human rights and ethnic minorities such as in Xinjiang and Tibet.

Youtube Links:

- China: A Country of Contrasts and Change
- The Great Wall of China - History and Facts
- Chinese New Year Traditions Explained
- Modern China: Economic Growth and Challenges
- Exploring Chinese Cuisine: Regional Flavors