

Morgantown's Sister City

Xuzhou, China



Morgantown Sister Cities Commission invites you to learn about Xuzhou

- Birthplace of the Han culture in China
- Located in Jiangsu Province in east central China, 400 miles south of Beijing
- Center of the Huaihai Economic Development Zone
- Population 2.6 million
- Known as the City of Gardens
- Home to many Han Dynasty artifacts
- Coal mining and higher education are part of the economic base
- Donated 20,000 PPE materials to local agencies in Morgantown in 2020
- International Eco-Park features Morgantown as its only sister city from North America with landscape design by the WV Botanic Garden

Further information about
Morgantown Sister Cities and the
Xuzhou partnership can be found on the
City of Morgantown web site:

<https://www.morgantownwv.gov/275/Xuzhou-China>

Where is Xuzhou?



The city of Xuzhou is situated in northwestern Jiangsu province, eastern China about 400 miles south of Beijing.

It is located in a gap in the southern portion of the Shandong Hills through which the Feihuang River flows and which joins the Si River and the Grand Canal.

Xuzhou sits at the junction of four neighboring provinces (Jiangsu, Anhui, Henan, and Shandong), and since ancient times has been both a transportation center and a strategic point that has been repeatedly fought over by warring parties.

Importance in History



The first canal through the gap in the Shandong Hills was built in the 2nd century BCE during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE). The route, known as the Old Bian Canal, was replaced after the construction of the New Bian Canal in 605, which took a route farther southward.

Xuzhou continued to be a transportation center and a major commercial city until the 12th century.

In this early period it was sometimes known as Pengcheng. For hundreds of years it was a heavily garrisoned stronghold, protecting the vital supply line of the New Bian Canal from invasion, and in the 10th century it was also a hotly contested strategic base in struggles between the dynasties of the northeast and the independent states farther south.

It declined somewhat during the 12th century, until in 1194 the shifting course of the Huang He placed Xuzhou at the junction between that river and the Grand Canal. A new canal, built in 1276 to supply the Yuan (Mongol) dynasty's capital of Dadu (now Beijing), also passed through Xuzhou. As the Grand Canal and its grain traffic gained in importance from the 14th century onward, Xuzhou regained its former prosperity. By the early years of the 20th century however, like other towns on the Grand Canal, it lost a certain degree of its importance.

In 1912 Xuzhou was joined by the railway to both Beijing and the Yangtze (at Nanjing). With the completion of the Longhai Railway, it also became a rail junction between major east-west and north-south trunk railways. Another rail line, running east to the Yellow Sea port of Lianyungang, opened in 1934 and is now part of the Longhai Railway. In the period before World War II, Xuzhou became a commercial and collecting center for the agriculture of southwestern Shandong, eastern Henan, northern Jiangsu, and Anhui provinces.

The Contemporary City

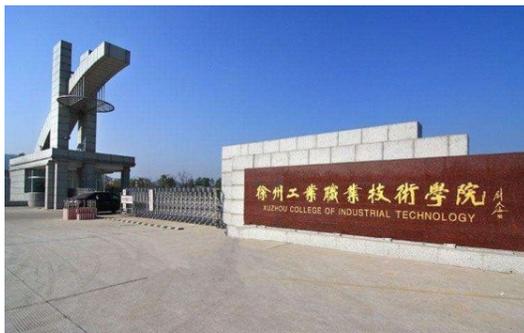
Since 1949 Xuzhou has developed, not only as a regional commercial center and a railway and highway hub, but also as the chief city of a mining district. It is the center of a rich coalfield, with mines in the immediate vicinity. The generation of electric power and the manufacture of chemicals based on this coal are economic mainstays. Xuzhou's chief industries include machine building, engineering, and the production of cotton textiles.



However, starting in the 1990s, Xuzhou began to restructure its industries toward higher technology. Plants were established that manufactured pharmaceuticals, environmental-protection equipment, and electronics. In addition to its major role in the regional rail and highway system, Xuzhou also has an airport that provides domestic air service to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou (Canton), and other cities. It is the

central business district of the Huaihai Economic Zone and Xuzhou metropolitan area. It is an important node city of the country's Belt and Road Initiative, and an international new energy base.

Several institutions of higher learning are located in the city, including two military colleges.



Xuzhou Medical University (above), and Xuzhou College of Industrial Technology

The City's Culture

Xuzhou, with its long and rich history, has been designated by the national government as one of China's historical and cultural cities. Tourism has become increasingly important to the local economy. A number of locations in and around the city are associated with the Han period, including the terracotta armies, the mausoleums of princes and the art of relief of the Han dynasty.



Xuzhou's Terra Cotta Warriors of the Han Dynasty were scaled down and more lifelike than the Qin Terracotta Warriors. More than 6,000 pieces of Han Dynasty terracotta figurines have been unearthed in Xuzhou, the largest number of terracotta figurines found in the two Han dynasties, except for the capital city Chang'an. The Lion Mountain Terracotta Warriors and Horses with huge military formations and simple

shapes; the Tuolan Mountain Terracotta Warriors with elegant and delicate hands; and the Beidong Mountain Terracotta Warriors with bright colors and realistic looks are all rare treasures

Xuzhou is also known for natural scenic areas in the surrounding region. Yunlong Lake is one of the most famous natural landscapes in Xuzhou, and the autumn scenery of Yunlong Lake is even more beautiful. You can walk around the lake, enjoy the lake and mountains, or row a boat on the lake.



Climate

Xuzhou has a monsoon-influenced, humid, subtropical climate with cool, dry winters, warm springs, long, hot and humid summers, and crisp autumns. Temperatures in January average 33.3°F although in 1969 the mercury dipped to -10°F. July temperatures average 81.1°F. The record high of 110 °F was recorded in July 1955. It can snow in winter, though rarely heavily. Most precipitation occurs from June through August and the annual average is 33.2".

Cuisine



Xuzhou cuisine is closely related to Shandong cuisine's Jinan-style. Xuzhou's most well known foods include bāzi ròu (pork belly, and other items stewed in a thick broth), sha tang, and various dog meat dishes.

Another one of Xuzhou's famous dishes is *di guo* style cooking which places ingredients with a spicy sauce in a deep black skillet and cooks little pieces of flatbread on the side or top. Common staples of *di guo* style cooking include chicken, fish, lamb, pork rib and eggplant.



The Fu Yang Festival is a traditional festival celebrated in the city. It starts on Chufu which is around mid-July and lasts for about one month. During the festival, people eat lamb meat and drink lamb soup. This festival is very popular among all the citizens.

Modern China

The Revolution of 1911 brought to an end the last imperial dynasty, the Manchu-led Qing dynasty. Its success marked the end of 2,132 years of imperial rule in China and 276 years of the Qing dynasty, and the beginning of China's early republican era. When the second revolution began in 1913, Xuzhou became a front-line city. The city suffered from intermittent warfare through the 1920s and in 1938, during the Sino-Japanese War (1937–45), it was the site of a desperate battle.



Following that, during the period of civil war (1945–49), it was the site of the greatest and most decisive battle between the communist and Nationalist armies, in which some 500,000 troops were engaged on each side in bloody fighting (November 1948–January 1949).

Sources:

- [Wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)
- [Britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com)
- Division of American & Asian Affairs of Xuzhou FAO