

Jiayuguan: City Guide

Gansu Province : Jiayuguan

The Gateway to the Ancient Chinese Empire, the site of the fort that marks the western end of the Great Wall in Gansu Province. Owing to its strategic position, it has the name of "fort of the border" and "domination of the Great Wall", with a long and venerable history dated back to the 2nd century B.C. and beyond, the last real outpost of the Great Wall

Location: located in the Gobi desert, at the middle of Hexi Corridor, 600 kms from Lanzhou, 5 - 6 hours away by bus from Dunhaung

Neighboring Areas: Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Qinghai provinces, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia Hui and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions

Population: 130,000
Area: 2,935 sq km

Nationalities: Han, Hui, Tibetan, Dongxiang, Yugu, Baoan, Hazake, Tu, Sala, Manchu, and Mongolian

History: historically, a small township engaged in local trading, catering to the needs of the military garrisons stationed at the fort; as a Han outpost and in 1372, during the Ming dynasty, a fortress was built to protect the last frontier of the Chinese empire

Climatic Features: warm variable zone, aridity climate with the frost-free period of 160 days

Average Temperature: January with temperature as low as - 21C, August with temperature as high as 34C; Sandstorm - March to May; Strong Wind - November and December; annually with the highest of 38.7C and lowest of 0C, annual and daily difference in temperature great.

Rainfall: annual precipitation 100 mm, with rainfall concentrated in summer

Mountains: Qilianshan Range

Rivers: Beidahe River

Products: wheat, corn, millet, buckwheat, jowar, white potato, potato, cotton, benne, beet, tobacco, stock raising

Local Highlights: Qinqiang Drama, Jiuquan Cup of phosphorescent jade, handcraft carpet