

Profile of Linfen City, Shanxi Province

Linfen is located in the southwest of Shanxi Province. It has a population of 4.50 million and an area of 20,302 square kilometers. The semi-arid and semi-humid monsoon zone location allows it to enjoy a temperate continental climate with four distinct seasons. Linfen has a long history and is one of the pivotal birthplaces of the Chinese nation and the cradle of the Yellow River civilization. As the ancient emperor Yao once established his capital here, Linfen is also known as the "Earliest Capital of China." In August 2000, Linfen was escalated from a prefecture to a municipality. It has 1 district, 2 cities, 14 counties and 5 provincial economic and technological development zones under its jurisdiction.

Linfen is rich in mineral resources. 38 types of ores have been discovered and proved. Coal, as the most well known resource, has a storage area of 15,400 square kilometers. With 96 billion tons of reserves, the coal resource accounts for 23.7% of the provincial total. And it can also be easily mined for its thick and shallow coal seams. Linfen is one of the country's three high-quality coking coal production bases. Iron ore is Linfen's

second largest mineral resource. Of the 420 million tons reserves, high-grade iron ore accounts for more than 70%, while pig iron production constitutes 43% of the province. Marble, gypsum and other resources also occupy an important position in the province.

Linfen has shaped a multi-industry system with coal, coking, metallurgy, electric power, equipment manufacturing as the backbone, supported by industries of coal chemical, tourism, logistics, and food processing. It is a major part of the new energy and industrial base of Shanxi Province.

Linfen City is an important grain and cotton production base in North China, known as the "Hometown of Cotton and Wheat" and a "Fertile Land." The area of cultivated land in the city reaches 6.87 million mu (1 acre is about 6 mu), good for growing wheat, cotton, corn, millet, small grains, apples, pears, jujube and walnuts. The 2.074 billion kg grain yield accounts for approximately 15% of the provincial total, of which wheat accounts for over 35%. A total of 115 agricultural products have obtained national green certification. Ji County Apple, Xi

County Pear are reputed across the country with their excellent quality.

Linfen City has a deep-rooted historical and cultural origin. The territory houses an ancient human site of over 100,000 years old in Dingcun. The Taosi Ruins in the city is the largest prehistoric town site found so far in China. While Shanxi accounts for 70% of the country's total aboveground cultural relics that older than 800 years, Linfen accounts for 30% of Shanxi's total. More than 8,300 immovable cultural relics protection units have been identified, including 43 at national level, 72 at provincial level and 34 at municipal level.

Linfen is rich in tourism resources. Tourism attractions well-known at home and abroad include: one National AAAAA scenic spot, six National AAAA scenic spots, represented by Hukou Waterfall in Ji County, Hongtong Pagoda Tree, Mount Yunqiu in Xiangning County and Yao Temple.

Linfen has wide variety of intangible cultural heritages, featuring Puzhou opera, weifeng gongs and drums play, dough modeling, paper-cut, straw plaiting, puppet, shadow play, Pingyang woodblock New Year Painting. It is known as the

home to Plum Blossom Opera Award Winner, paper-cutting and gongs and drums play.

Linfen has superior location and convenient transportation. Situated at the intersection of the three provincial capital cities of Taiyuan, Zhengzhou and Xi'an, Linfen sees a highway mileage of 13,000 kilometers. It is only 20 minutes drive from downtown to the airport, and 10 minutes drive to the high-speed railway station. Houma City, a major hub of the railway network of North China, is one of the five major logistics towns in the country, reputed as a "land port" of North China.

Linfen keeps opening up to the outside world. International exchanges are becoming more frequent. The total number of outbound visitors for tourism, business and family visits exceeded reached 40,000, and inbound visitors for business and tourism were more than 14,000 in 2018. Houma Customs and Shanxi Land Port Park jointly build a convenient international trade platform. The China-Europe Railway Express connecting Houma City and Hamburg of Germany is in operation that shuttles once every 30 days.