

Tianjin

Quick Facts

- **Land area:** 4,601 square miles
- **Population:** 10,430,000 (2005)
- **Population density (people/square mile):** 875
- **Capital:** Tianjin
- **Leading agriculture:** cotton, grapes
- **Leading industry:** mobile phones, crude oil



Tianjin data from *National Geographic Atlas of China* (2008)

Tianjin

The city of Tianjin is one of four municipalities in China, which is governed directly by the national government in Beijing. Tianjin is the third largest city in China, following Shanghai and Beijing.

Tianjin is located on the western edge of Bohai Bay. Along the coast, this region is part of the Bohai saline meadow ecoregion. The Huang, or Yellow, River empties into the Bohai Sea south of Tianjin, and further inland Tianjin is in the Huang River Plain mixed forest ecoregion. As a result of this diversity, the wetlands within Tianjin include both inland fresh water and coastal salt water wetlands.

In addition to migrating Siberian and Red-crowned Cranes, hundreds of thousands of other waterbirds use the coastal and inland wetlands surrounding Bohai Bay during their migrations and for breeding and wintering areas. In this part of eastern China the mountains come down close to the sea. Huge numbers of waterbirds migrating south from Russia, China and Mongolia are funneled between the mountains and the sea at Tianjin, and depend on wetlands along this narrow coastal corridor for safe passage north and south.

For more information on the Bohai saline meadow and Huang River Plain mixed forest ecoregions, visit the Wild World website at www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/pa/pa0902.html and [/pa0424.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/pa/pa0424.html).

Conservation Threats

The wetlands along Bohai Bay are impacted by the large urban populations that live within this region.

- The **filling and draining of wetlands** for development is a serious threat to remaining habitat for migratory birds along the Bohai Sea.
- Some wetlands have also have been modified for agriculture and aquaculture, especially for **rice and shrimp farming**.
- The Bohai Sea is an important area for oil production in China, and **leakages or spills from oil production** is a possible threat to the wetlands. Fortunately, oil companies in this region take precautions to reduce this risk.

Linkages

In the United States, increasing development along our coasts is also impacting our coastal wetlands. As our population increases near coastal areas, the risk of pollution entering wetlands increases, along with the risk of wetland loss due to development. Many important coastal wetlands in the United States are protected, such as the Chassahowitzca National Wildlife Refuge, where the ultralight-led Whooping Cranes spend their first winter in western Florida.

Fun Fact

Tianjin will hold the soccer matches for the 2008 Olympic Games at the Tianjin Olympic Center Stadium.