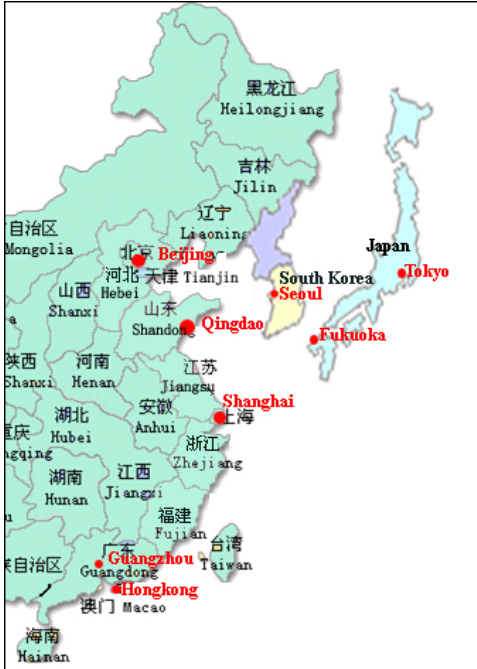


Qingdao Introduction:

The Qingdao Municipal Government set out to build a “world-renowned city with distinctive features, and the most livable city in China”. Recognizing the value of its European style old town,



the Qingdao government preserved and upgraded the city's image as that of “red roofs, green trees, clear skies, and blue seas.” These efforts included the preservation of heritage buildings, re-roofing flat-topped low-rise public housing built from the 1950's to the 1990's, and the general upgrading of housing in and around Qingdao. Through these efforts, Qingdao has won many domestic and international awards, reflecting the beauty and success of Qingdao, including the following:

- “A city with the most vibrant economy in China”, awarded by CCTV in 2004
- “A city with the best business environment in China”, awarded by FORTUNE magazine
- “A Livable City in China”, awarded by the Chinese central government
- “National Level Historical & Cultural Well-known City”, designated by the Ministry of Construction
- “National Level Landscaping City”, awarded by the Ministry of Construction
- “Outstanding Tourism City”, awarded by the State Tourism Administration Bureau

The city's abundant cultural relics and historical sites, colourful local customs and flavour is uniquely cosmopolitan by combining the Orient with Western styles, making Qingdao a charming tourist city. The people are typically very friendly and curious about foreigners. Qingdao has many fabulous seafood restaurants and a magnificent sea walk which extends over carefully maintained boardwalks and paths for over 40km along the Yellow Sea.

Qingdao is home to world-famous Tsingtao beer and is the sailing/yachting venue for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Many high-quality wood products manufacturers are located in and around Qingdao and it has the largest container transportation hub in the Yellow River Region, with trade reaching over 130 countries and regions in the world. Although trade has historically been heavy to Japan and South Korea, many wood product manufacturers are looking to diversify their exports to the U.S., Europe and other new markets.

Qingdao International Airport operates 13 international (regional) routes for passenger and freight, connecting Qingdao to Japan, South Korea and cities within China.

There are almost 20 flights per day between Beijing and Shanghai to/from Qingdao, with travel time of about one hour. Flights to/from Japan and South Korea also occur several times daily.

More information can be found by visiting www.qingdaochina.org