



Tibet



Country Overview:

Location: Bordered by China in the northeast, India, Burma, Bhutan, Sikkim, and Nepal to the South and bounded by Kashmir to the West.

Size: 1.23 mil. square km

Population: 2.8 million

Capital: Lhasa (Forbidden City)

Currency: Chinese Yuan

Exports: industrial products, ethnic handicrafts, and livestock products

Ethnic groups: Tibetan 92.2%, Hans 5.9%, Other 1.9%

Religion: Tibetan Buddhism

Administration type: Autonomous Region

Chief of State: China - President HU Jintao (since 2003)

Head of TAR Government: Chairman Padma Choling (since 2010)

Spiritual Leader: His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso.

Language: Tibetan (Zang, Khampa, Ando)



Tibet/Xizang Autonomous Region (TAR)

History

- Incorporated into the People's Republic of China in 1951. TAR created in 1965 on the basis of an administrative region.

- Recognized by the United States as an **autonomous** region.

- There have been both peaceful and violent demonstrations advocating for religious and political freedom in Tibet.

- The current Dalai Lama was forced to **flee** Tibet in 1959 due to political upheaval resulting from the Chinese invasion of 1950 and now resides in India.

- The Central Tibetan Administration is seen by some as a popularly elected, and democratic, government in **exile**. However it is **not** internationally recognized as a government.

The Dalai Lama

- Official title is "His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet".

- Lama means "teacher" or "superior one" and refers to scholars and teachers in Tibetan Monasteries. The Dalai Lama is the foremost Lama and is the **spiritual** and **political** leader of Tibet.

- In 1989, the Dalai Lama received the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet.

- He has received over 84 awards, honorary doctorates, prizes, etc., in recognition occasions for his message of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility and compassion.

Meetings and Negotiations

- Be punctual.

- Business meals may last for several hours.

Business Attire

- Men: suit and tie.

- Women: formal attire; dress conservatively.

Behavior

- Business cards are presented and received with both hands.

- When receiving a business card **do not** place the business card in a back pocket, and **do not** put it away without reading it first.

Gift Giving

- Gift-giving is valued and appreciated.

- If you have received a gift, it is polite to give a gift in return.

- Give and receive gifts with **two** hands.

Appropriate Gifts:

- something from your culture

- **always** wrap gifts

Gifts to Avoid:

- scissors, letter openers, or cutting tools as they indicate the cutting of a relationship

Business Tips continued

Conversation

- When meeting the Dalai Lama, or another Lama, **do not** shake hands or hug him. Instead, you should hold your hands upright with your palms together in front of your chest and lower your head.

- When addressing someone use terms of respect. One way to

show respect is to use the suffix "la" after a person's name, for example "Lhakpa la".

- It is **very** important to be respectful of elders and teachers. Pay special attention to an elder when he/she speaks. **Respect** for elders is also seen in actions; elders walk, sit down, and begin eating before others.

- **Refrain** from loud or irreverent conversation.

Topics to Discuss:

- food and family are safe topics to discuss

Topics to Avoid:

- **avoid** discussing politics

- **avoid** talking about marriage and eating meat