



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Fast Facts

<https://savetibet.org/why-tibet/fast-facts>

Located in one of the most remote regions of the world, Tibet often seems mysterious to outsiders.

Below are some fast facts to help you learn more about this unique, important place.

Size: 1 million square miles (10th largest country in the world)

Capital: Lhasa

Population: 6 million Tibetans and an unknown number of Chinese

Religion: Tibetan Buddhism is practiced by 99 percent of the Tibetan population; Bon, the traditional religion, along with Islam and Christianity, are practiced by some Tibetans

Language: Tibetan (of the Tibeto-Burmese language family); since China's occupation, the official language has been Chinese

Staple Food: Tsampa (roasted barley flour)

National Drink: Salted butter tea

Common Animals: Yak, Dzo, Dzomo (mixed breed), bharal (blue sheep), musk deer, Tibetan antelope, Tibetan gazelle, kiang (wild ass) and pika

Common Birds: Black-necked crane, lammergeyer (bearded vulture), great crested grebe, bar-headed goose, ruddy shelduck and ibisbill

Major Environmental Problems: Receding glaciers, mining, damming of rivers, deforestation, desertification and poaching of large mammals

Average Altitude: 14,000 ft.

Tallest Mountain: Chomo Langma (Mt. Everest), 29,028 ft.

Average Temperature: 24 degrees Fahrenheit in January; 58 degrees Fahrenheit in July

Mineral Deposits: Borax, uranium, iron, chromite, lithium, and gold

Major Rivers: Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra), Dza Chu, (Mekong), Dri Chu (Yangtze), Gyalmo Ngulchu (Salween), Ma Chu (Yellow), Senge Tsangpo (Indus) and Mapcha Khabab (Karnali)

Economy: Primarily agriculture and animal husbandry for Tibetans; primarily government, commerce and the service sector for Chinese

Provinces: U-Tsang (Central Tibet), Amdo (Northeast Tibet) and Kham (Southeast Tibet)

Bordering Countries: India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and China

National Flag: Snow lions with red and blue rays; the flag is outlawed inside Tibet

Religious Leader: The 14th Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in Dharamsala, India

Political Leader: Sikyong (president) of the Central Tibetan Administration, currently Penpa Tsering, who's also based in Dharamsala

Government: In Tibet, communist since China's occupation began; in exile, democratic under the Central Tibetan Administration

Relationship with The People's Republic of China: Colonial

Legal Status: Occupied

