

Teaching Nomad

# Air Pollution in China



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Examples of industrial China, where the heart of the smog tends to reside:

Beijing



Tianjin



Hebei



These 3 provinces are right next to each other in Northeast China



These areas have a higher concentration of air pollutants per cubic meter of air than is classified by the World Health Organization as safe.

However, there are millions of people living in each of these provinces. It mostly comes down to personal preference and whether you're willing to wear a mask to keep yourself safe on the worst days.

Population in each province:

**Beijing**

21.54 million

**Tianjin**

2.6 million

**Hebei**

74.7 million

# So what are they doing about it?

- In 2017, the Chinese government began forcing households to use cleaner energy to combat the pollution problem.
- The government has also enforced policies to control power plants, industry, and transportation.

This has worked so far - the average person's exposure to PM2.5 (the most dangerous particulates in air pollution) has been cut by 47 percent.

## How to protect yourself

Buy an air purifier



Download an air quality monitoring app



Wear a face mask



Live on the outskirts of the city



Exercise more



Eat healthier

# The world's largest air purifier

Where is it located?

**Xi'an in Shaanxi province**

★ (Find the blue star on the map above)

When was it built?

**2017**

Has it made a noticeable positive impact?

**Yes! The tower has produced more than 10 million cubic meters of clean air a day since its launch.**

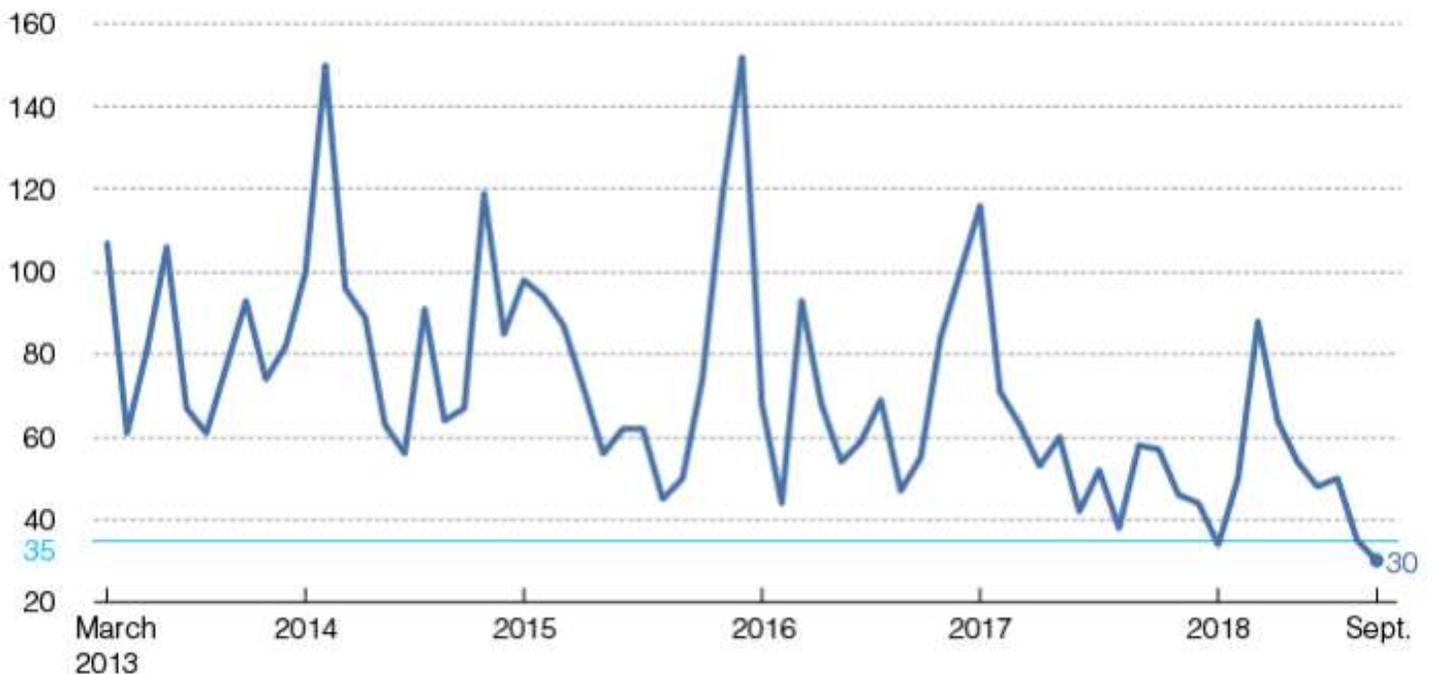


## More good news:

### PM2.5 in Beijing Dips to New Low

— Average monthly PM2.5 concentrations

Unit: Micrograms per cubic meter



Sources: China National Environmental Monitoring Center, Caixin Data, CEIC

# The reality of things

The pollution is much worse in parts of China than it is in most Western countries; however, the worst pollution is concentrated in the areas where there are many factories (the Northeast).

You won't see long-term effects from the pollution on your health if you only plan to stay in a heavily polluted area for a short period of time.

As long as you make an effort to remain healthy by eating well and exercising, any short-term health effects you experience will be reversible.

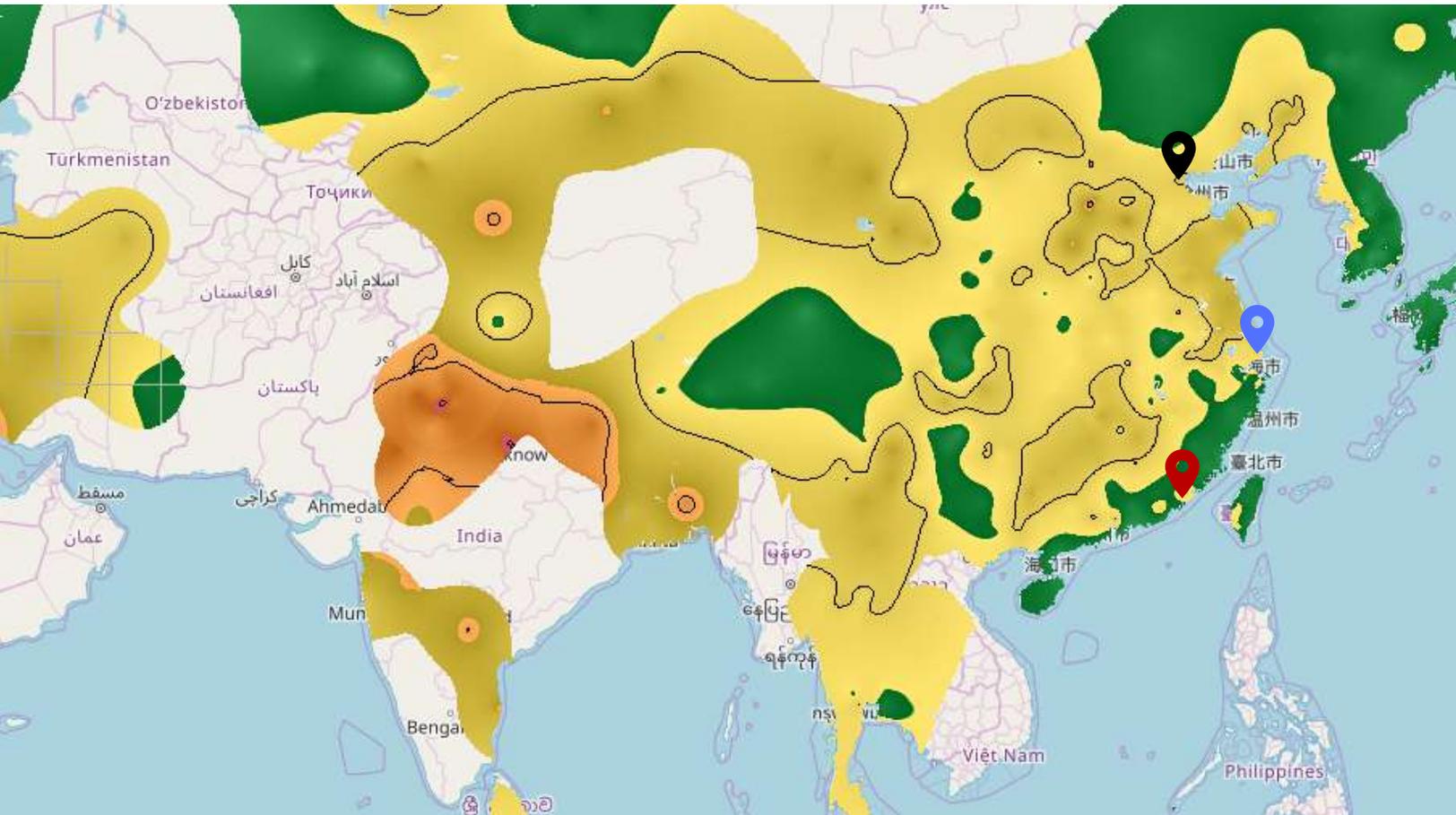
## The Most Polluted Cities in China

Rank	Country	City	PM 2.5
1	China	Xingtai	128
2	China	Baoding	126
3	China	Shijiazhuang	121
4	China	Handan	112
5	China	Hengshui	107
6	China	Tangshan	102
7	China	Langfang	96
8	China	Cangzhou	88
9	China	Tianjin	87
10	China	Zhengzhou	86
11	China	Beijing	85

\*Pollution in China tends to get worse in the Winter\*

\*Keep in mind that pollution levels change from day to day\*

Here's a map showing pollution levels across Asia on May 29th, 2019



- Beijing
- Shanghai
- Hong Kong

Pollution levels are often lower in coastal areas, rural areas, and southern/western areas.

In the south there are fewer factories, cars, and other things that cause the massive amount of air pollution that you'll find in the Northeastern parts of China.