



WENSHAN PREFECTURE

- » **Location:** South-eastern corner of Yunnan province, near border with Vietnam.
- » **Population:** Just over three million people; nine in 10 are farmers. An “autonomous prefecture”, more than half of Wenshan’s population comprises 11 minority ethnic groups, with the Zhuang and Miao the largest among them.
- » **Claim to fame:** A key producer of the Chinese herb Sanqi (*Panax pseudoginseng*), a type of Asian ginseng which grows in the forests. Used to treat blood deficiency and high blood pressure.

POVERTY

- » Wenshan’s Xichou county is one of China’s 592 poor counties. Counties with a per capita annual income of less than 400 yuan (S\$79) are considered “poor”, according to a Chinese standard set in 1994.
- » By international poverty benchmarks, around 10 per cent of China’s population live in poverty.
- » 56 per cent of China’s 1.3 billion people are rural residents.

INCOME GAP

- » Rural households’ average per capita annual income was 3,580 yuan in 2006, compared with 11,750 yuan for urban households, according to official data.

EDUCATION GAP

- » The number of college graduates in urban areas is almost 44 times more than in rural areas.