



GUI YANWEI / CHINA DAILY

Cement factory at an industrial zone in the south of Ruzhou, where the resources are putting the city on a fast growth track.

Historic city finds new ways to promote growth

By XIA RONGTIE,
GUI YANWEI
AND GUO QIANGWEI

This historic city in Henan province in central China is finding new ways to reinvent itself — as a good place to invest — thanks to its resources and industrial foundation.

Ruzhou sits in the center of the province's five major cities: the capital Zhengzhou; the popular historic, tourist destination Luoyang; coal-rich Pingdingshan; and the other historic cities of Xuchang and Nanyang.

It covers a 1,573-square-kilometer area and is a regional hub because of its network of railways, expressways and highways.

It is less than two hours by car from Zhengzhou, Luoyang and Nanyang airports, and five hours from the port of Rizhao, in the neighboring coastal province of Shandong.

8
million tons
in coal output, annually

It also has an abundance of 46 types of known minerals, 26 of which have been developed, including coal, bauxite and limestone for cement.

Ruzhou sits on an estimated 3.55 billion tons of coal, which has given it the nickname "50-km-long sea of coal". It is one of 50 key coal-mining cities in China, with an annual output of 8 million tons.

Hot springs

Another underground treasure is its hot springs, a geothermal resource with a temperature between 57 and 75 C, and which contains many elements beneficial to health.

The springs can compete

with the more famous minerals springs in Vichy, France, in quality, so they are ideal healthcare spots.

This resource wealth helped the city's industrial development in the energy, chemicals, machine, food processing, metallurgy, and construction sectors.

Naturally, local companies in related businesses have grown and have gradually gained influence nationwide and even globally.

Ruzhou is now the world's third largest producer of L-tryptophan, which is used in a number of ways to treat attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, insomnia, even depression.

The city tops in Asia in its alloys and wheels for heavy high-speed locomotives, and a major producer of cement.

Ruzhou is also a major national wheat, grain and meat center, and a producer of cornstarch and biscuits.

Its sewage treatment plant can handle 40,000 tons of waste water daily and it has an eco-friendly garbage-treatment system.

Friendly environment

With its forest-coverage running to 28 percent, Ruzhou has improved its environment dramatically.

It has also improved its administration and investment policies to attract investors from China and abroad.

These include the US KKR, a private equity member of the Fortune 500, and the International Finance Corp, a member of the World Bank Group.

The investment has helped the local economy and put Ruzhou in 154th place last year, in competitiveness, out of 2,001 county-level cities.

It has also taken a number of awards for its innovation, startups, tourism, private economy, and environment.

Cultural heritage alluring to tourists

By XIA RONGTIE,
GUI YANWEI
AND GUO QIANGWEI

Ruzhou, with 1,400 years of history, has a great cultural heritage.

• Pottery

One priceless piece of art in Chinese History Museum — a pot decorated with a stork holding a fish in its mouth — was discovered in an archaeological dig, in the city.

This early pottery painting, believed to have come from the New Stone Age, is the largest piece of its kind in China and represents the achievements of art from that period.

• Porcelain

Ruzhou's porcelain has been valued by collectors since early times. During the Song Dynasty (960-1279), when ceramics-making reached its highest point, Ruzhou's porcelain was one of China's five most famous types.

Today, the traditional porcelain firing skills are on the national cultural heritage list.

• Stone inscriptions

Ruzhou is also known for rubbings from early stone inscriptions.

Over 800 years ago, one local official, Wang Caicong,



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Ruzhou's cultural legacy: pottery, porcelain, rubbings from stone inscriptions, and a horse made of ru stone.

selected 109 examples of ancient calligraphy and had them carved in stone.

The stone inscriptions represent a variety of Chinese art forms and are treasured by calligraphy lovers.

• Ru stone

Another uniquely local item is ru stone, a type of lava that has been likened to jade.

The special stone also contain various microelements that are beneficial to health.

• Scenic sites

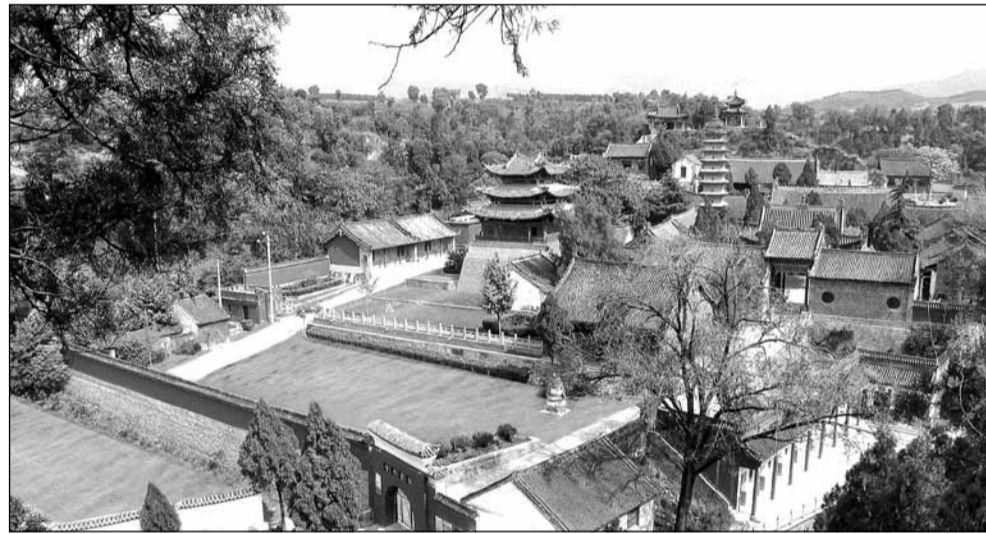
These include the Fengxue Temple and local hot springs, which attracted emperors and empresses from differ-

ent dynasties, as well as the renowned poets Su Dongpo and Ouyang Xiu.

About nine kilometers northeast of Fengxue Temple is the magic slopes, more than 2,000 meters long, where a rider can ascend without pedaling.

One not-to-miss site is the geopark with its moraine and clearly revealed strata.

The city's rich tourism resources are expected to attract more tourists from around the globe, so it wants to develop its tourism and promote its image, local officials say.



GUI YANWEI / CHINA DAILY

Fengxue Temple, originally built during the Eastern Han Dynasty (AD 25-220), has a variety of classical architecture styles added during subsequent dynasties.



热烈祝贺第二届中国曲剧艺术节2011年9月6日-9日中国汝州举行

第二届中国曲剧艺术节将举办六项主题活动，分别为：开幕式；曲剧优秀剧目展演；中国曲剧艺术发展论坛；评授“当代中国曲剧艺术家”；招商引资经贸洽谈会；闭幕式。

诞生于汝州的中国曲剧，是全国第八、河南省第二大剧种，被国务院列为全国首批非物质文化遗产保护名录。曲剧质朴通俗、贴近民众，具有浓郁的地方特色，以其优美、抒情、细腻而又明快活泼的音乐唱腔广为流传，《卷席筒》、《寇准背靴》、《屠夫状元》等经典剧目唱响全国。曲剧著名艺术家张新芳、王秀玲，曲胡著名演奏家宋喜元等，都是从汝州走出去的。曲剧以其独特的艺术魅力，不仅从汝州走向河南，而且走向全国，在河北、安徽、湖北、陕西、新疆、内蒙古、台湾等10多个省（区）和地区，曲剧都广为流传，在海外华人社会也声名远播，具有广泛而深远的影响。

