

**China**                      April 2004 – August 2004

We are landed in Kunming 15.04.04 It was raining and cold. Next day we are go by Bus to Dali. After short time weather was better. Later comes sunshine.

Dali have a new big City and a traditional old town. Our Hotel was in the old town. It was very nice. There are many important places. We was go by boat round the Er-Lake, and was by cablecar in the Chang Mountains, have see Pagodas and many more.

Some days later we went go by Bus to Lijiang. In Lijiang we has also found a nice small hotel in the traditional old town. But Lijiang has also big modern new Citys.

We visited many important places from culture and nature. It was very nice and the weather was good. We enjoyed that. A wonderful view is over the Black Dragon Lake to the Yulong Mountains with about 5600 meters.

From Lijiang we flew to Chengdu. This is a very big city. Here we saw the first Pandas in our life, but in the Zoo and not in nature. There was also many other important things here. And the people was very nice at all places.

By bus we went 02.05. to Emei. Next day we was on the Top of Emei Shan. This is a huly Mountain of chinese buddhists. There was many Peoples with us, because this time was holydays in China. It was a cold day and because the top is about 3100m, it was very cold there and had a little bit snow.

After this we went by bus to Leshan. Here is the biggest Buddha of the world. He is 71m. We walked round them by very good and warm weather. Next day we went by boot along the River on downside.

07.05. we went by Bus to Dazu. Here are also huly Mountains from Buddhists, with many very old Sculptures, more than 10 000.

From there we went by bus to Chongqing before beginning our trip by ship over Yangtzeriver to Wuhan.

In Chongqing we had first a little trouble because of the language. But it was a joke. We spoke with the hotel-manager and he did not understand us in the right way. He wanted help us, like all Chinese, but this was too difficult for him. Later all things was clear. We found our ship, because of a very nice girl, she understood us good and was very helpful. The harbour is very big with many docks.

The trip by boat was wonderful, but the weather was not the best. We had very nice people with us at the table by all meals. We had a lot of fun. We saw an great landscape, but sorry with some fog. We saw also very big citys from that we do not know the names. The Chinese build fantastic things.

Wuhan is a big city. We had a nice hotel with a doorboy in traditional english cloth. Some important things we could see, but not so much.

20.05. we went by bus via Jiujiang to the Guling on the Lu Shan. Here we stood 5 days for walking through the mountains. Sometimes it was difficult to find the way, because there was no tables and not marks. We bought a chinese map, but it helps for some trips only.

But we found a nice Hotel for a low price.

From Lu Shan we went to Wuhan and by Aircraft to Hangzhou. Before starting from Wuhan we had a small mistake about language. This is to long and to difficult in english for me. It is like a joke. If you will know, you must translate by yourself from the german part in the website.

In Hangzhou we found a Hotel by CAAC office. That is the end from the Airportbus. It was 1,5 km from Westlake only. This was a good area for us, because our most activities was near. We walked in the mountains around the lake and made a trip by boat over the lake.

Our way to Shanghai was our first trip by train in China. We had soft seats. It was very comfortable. Shanghai is a fantastic city. We enjoyed the view from the TV Tower and saw the Shanghai Acrobaticgroup. We made a trip by boat around the harbour and to the Yangtze. We saw many important things. But sorry, our time was too short, because I bought the tickets for the next way by the arrival and didn't want to change it later.

Suzhou, our next place is a nice city with many beautiful gardens and important old buildings. Our hotel was good and quiet. But we had another mistake. We wanted to go to Luzhui. This is a traditional village. But the Driver from our Minibus and his friend took the bus for their private business like a taxi. By this they forgot us and to stop in Luzhui. I asked a Lady. She told us, that it was much to late. We had to go until the end and back. For Luzhui was no more time. Full day Minibus and no Luzhui, that was not so good.

Nanking, the next city has many important historic places, also from the last time of chinese history. We looked that. But it was very hot and we must climb many stairs. We was very tired all evenings.

To Xian we went by Air. Here are many important very old things from Chinese history, like the Terracottaarmy and the Undergroundpalace from the first Qin Emperor. I made many pictures, but in Undergroundpalace it was forbidden. But here is many more to see. The oldest things are from about 5000 B.C. Xi'an was the Capital City from more dynasties. Qin, Han, Tang, Zhou and others. Here are also old Temples from different kinds and some Museum.

Near Xi'an is also the Hua Shan, a huly Hill from the chinese buddhists. We climbed to the top.

Our planning for going to Yan'an we changed, because there is no flight to Taiyuan and the road by bus is not good. I bought Aircrafttickets Xi'an to Taiyuan. Yan'an we will visit perhaps in 2006. Beijing - Yan'an - Xi'an by Air is possible.

Our flight from Xi'an to Taiyuan was beautiful by good weather. In Taiyuan it was very hot and many smoke. We saw some Temple only. The best is the Jin Temple. It is world heritage.

From there we went to Taiuhai / Wutai Shan by bus. Here are many good mountains. But we was not so good in health and had not many walk and climbs. Was visited some Monasteries only.

Later we went by bus to Datong. Here are very old caves with sculptures from year 400. We wanted also to go to Heng Shan and to the hanging Monastery, but the road was closed.

Next place was Hohhot. Here are living many muslims. All are very friendly and nice. The important places here are all in the same area, so we could go to all in one day. Food here is different to the other places. But it is also very good.

Baotou, the next city, we visited special for looking the Gingis Khan Tomb. It is in Ejin Horo Qi near Baotou. And we went also by a small bus to the Wudang Monastery.

After that we flew to Changchun in Mandschuri. There is the Palace from Puyi. This was the last Emperor of China. He was a Child this time. 3 years later China was Republic. Later if he had no job, the japanese made him to King of Mandschuri. But this time was war. After this he got some problems, but my english is not well enough for correct writing.

By softsleeper we went to Tonghua and to Ji'an. Here is a Pyramid from year 400. But it is not so big. Softsleeper is very nice. If you come to China, you should take it also.

Most in northeast was Changbeishan NP. Here is the weather the most time not good. But we had one very good day. You can see it on the Pictures. It was beautiful here, and the Hotels was also very nice. But the taxi-drivers in this area are not nice.

For the way to Shenyang we found a Hardsleeper only. But it was not so hard and not so a big different to the softsleeper.

In Shenyang we saw the Emperorpalace and a Emperortomb. From here we are flew to Kunming. There was the end of our trip. Little shopping and by air via Bangkok back at home.

13.08.04 we arrived Munich.

The World is round and turn all the time, and we turn with here. We like our life.