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China – Where only the hustlers speaks good English

You will not get by easily on English. Ask the hotel for a business card with Chinese signs on it or the taxi driver can find your way back. There are not a lot of the people that speak English. Placing an order in a restaurant can be very difficult. The prices are moderate so you can take several courses and eat what you like. A better idea is of course to ask the manager to write down your favourite dishes in Chinese. The government tries to change that with education and daily television shows where they compete in English. We just stayed in China for about ten days and all this time we stayed in Beijing.

Forbidden City

A fantastic part of Beijing.

Our daughters was not left alone in Forbidden city, Chinese families tried to take photos of our girls together with their daughters all the time.

You will most certainly get in touch with so called “art students” that want you to have a free look at their exhibition. We bought a painting from an art student. Guess what we found two days later at Pearl market. Four more of this “unique” painting. Well we still like the painting and we have another story to tell. Well, anyway it was nice to met someone that spoke good English even though he was scamming us.

Tiananmen Square

Here is Great Hall of the People and Mao Zedong Memorial Hall. The square is crowded specially on weekends when a lot of people want to pay tribute to Mao Zedong bay look at his corpse.

Pearl Market

Here you can find anything from clothes, cameras to pirate copies of any movie, game or software you desire. What ever you want to buy, bargaining! If the salesman says 100Y go for 20Y and meet him/her at 35 or 40Y and that is probably an over price.





The Great Wall of China

There are six parts of the wall that are the most common to visit, but they are full of tourists and commerce. We were lucky to get hold of a guide that took us to a part of the wall that was quiet and without any commerce. It took about three hours to get to the wall and it was a bit of a steep walk up to the wall. The girls managed the walk without any complaints, but if you have problems walking think again.



Beijing Zoo

Our recommendation is not to visit this badly managed zoo. The animal environment was narrow and dirty. My guess is that this will be fixed before the Olympics 2008.

China Facts:

Climate: In fact you will find all kinds of climates here

Local time: GMT +8 hours

Currency: 1 Yen

Language: Mandarin and Cantonese.

Population: 1,3 billion



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