

Thursday the 26'th december 2007

I woke up several times during the night. But I slept very good. One time I watched out of the window I saw snow. I was very proud to see snow. About 7 o'clock we woke up but we didn't get up. In the bed it was too comfortable. The snow outside was getting less and less. We were very worry about that. Anna told me that the landscape look like in Russia. At about 8 o'clock we get out of our beds and set down at the floor of the train. A few minutes before the train reached Harbin we changed our cloth into warm cloth. Just in time at 9:30 the train arrived in Harbin. We got out of the train and it was really cold outside. In front of the railwaystation we began to make our first pictures in Harbin. And it got colder and colder. We looked up for a taxi, which was no problem. Every taxidriver wants to drive you. Of course the taxidriver knows where to drive when we show him the address. And when we sat in the taxi didn't know. What else could happen. But he was so friendly and called the hotel we want to go. After a long ride with the taxi far away from the center we reached our hostel for the next two nights. The taxidriver said to us that it is not so good and it is far away from the center. But we didn't care about that. We went in and look not very good but also not very bad. Then we got our room. The room had not very much comfort. And everything smelt not so good. Especially the bathroom! There were nothing. No towel, no soap, no bedline but we had a TV and Internet. So we were conacted to the world.

After we inspect our room we get ready to discover the city. We asked at the reception for the sights in this city. Especially we wanted to know where the ice sculptures are. Our first trip was going straight to a big street which the lady from the reception offered us. We get there by bus. That was only possible because Anna could speak and read Chinese. After quiet long trip with the bus we arrived there. Outside it was very cold. But with the right cloth it was no problem. We wanted to cross the road. But the street was very big and there have been a lot of traffic. I saw a stairs that go down. It seemed that there is a way under the street. We got down and saw a big shopping street right under the street. So we walked a few meters through to find a way out on the other side. Actually we find a exit and came up again. When we looked around we recognize that there where nothing to see. Anna asked somebody for help. They said to us that we have to cross the road again. So we did it. But before we go on with discover the city we decided to eat something at the KFC.

When we finished with lunch we continue our discover tour. We asked somebody else for where to go. So we walked along these street. It was interesting a lot of small shops have been a bit under the ground level. So you have to go a few steps downstairs. We were looking for a Russian style church but we could find it. The most things here in Harbin looks like in her city Anna said. After a long distance we get to a church but it wasn't the right one. Again we asked somebody but he looded a little bit strange. He said we should take a taxi. But we didn't talk one. We saw strais going down and thought that is a subway. When we went downstairs there was again a big market. This time they sold food and it smells like food. Especially the meat didn't smell good. We went out so fast as possible and get the next taxi. It brought us straight to the church we wanted to go. It was quiet nice and we made some pictures of it. After we finished we wanted to go to the shopping street.

It took a while to find it. When we arrived there it was amazing. In the street there have been ice sculptures. They made ice sculptures from the olympic games. And they made other sculptures. It was great. We also saw a Ice Bar and a chines ches field (Chinesisches Schach Feld)! The figures of this game have been made of ice. What else! We walked and walked through the shopping street until the river. There have been a very big building made of ice. Amazing! The river was frozen so we could go on the river. Everywhere could do things. There have been a big ice slight, horses to ride and other things to move on the ice. But we only walked on it. It was great. Even the river was very big. From one side to the other side was real big distance.

After that we went in a supermarket to buy things for the evening. It was already dark outside. In the supermarket it was really hot because we wear very hot clothes. When we got all the things we need we went back to the shopping street. The ice sculptures were standing now in a special light it looked much better then by daytime. This was great and we knew that there are places in the city



with much better ice sculptures. We made a lot of pictures. When we got to the big street we took the next bus to our hostel. We had dinner in our room and enjoyed the evening together.

picture 1: One of the ice sculptures at night (27. december 2007)



picture 2: Our ice sculpture we saw (27. December 2007)