

Monday the 7'th January 2008

We had to wake up very early to pack our stuff and check out. That was a little bit a stress but it was OK. We stored our luggage at the reception and went straight to the breakfast. It was a Chinese breakfast. The breakfast include a lot of warm meals that you can also eat for lunch or dinner. I tried some things which seemed to taste good. But it was disgusting. I eat only a little bit to stay alive and not to feel filled up. The warm milk as drink was the best thing of the hole breakfast.

A few minutes after 8:00 o'clock our bus to „The Three Gorges Dam“ arrived and picked us up. One hour later we arrived there and changed the bus. On the way to „The Three Gorges Dam“ we had to pass a lot of tunnels and bridges. Which was quiet interesting. The place where we stopped was next to the five step shiplock (5- stufige Schleuse). First we had to go through a security check like we had on the airport. But there were not interested to find something. Everybody went into the bus which was standing there. But the driver didn't want to drive because some of us didn't find a place to sit. Our group went out into the next bus. There we had to wait till the bus starts his tour. I hate this because we had no time. Our first stopp was at the top of the part of land between the dam and the shiplock. It was foggy so the view was not very bad. We could see only a small part of the dam and I felt not very happy with it. After few minutes we drove to the next place. I couldn't enjoy the hole place. At the next place the same game. We had no time to enjoy the view. It was only a hurry. And the view was still bad. The guide told us that the view is much better in spring or summer. So that was totally the wrong time to go there. Also the part where for the high water (Hochwasserentlastungsanlage, der mittlere Teil des Dammes) didn't work because of to less water. Our next stopp was on the other side of the river. We drove over a nice bridge and arrived at the memorial museum of the project. They showed there the dumper, cranes and other equipment how they bulid up the dam. Even there we had no real time to enjoy. Hurry up from the beginning to the end. And the dam we could see only a little bit. To make a very good picture was not possible. They set up a theater. To use cranes as travers was a great idea. In the back of the stage you could see a part of the dam. It must be great to see there a show. Finally we went back at 11:40.

We went out of the bus in the city center and looked for lunch. On the way we meet other foreigners and spoke to theme. It must be very seldom that foreigners meet each other. Finally we found a small restaurant which offered Dumblings (eine Art Maultasche). With the Dumblings came a soupe which was also very tasteful. On the way back to our restaurant we bought our tickets at a ticket shop and picked up our luggage and went to the railway station. It was a very short way so it was no problem to go there by foot. Only the last few meters we had to go up. When we arrived we saw that it was a good idea to buy the tickets in advance. There was a long line of people which wanted to buy a ticket. After we passed the security check we came into the waiting hall. People waited there already but we find a place to sit. A few minutes before they opened the doors to go to the train the hole crowd of people stand up and began to wait. They opened the doors and everybody wanted to be the first. It doesn't matter when you go in because everybody had a seatnumber. Ther was no reason to hurry up. Some of them fight for it to come a second earlier then the other person. We still sit on our seats and enjoyed this theater. No hurry because we had enough time till the train leave the station. The train was a double decker train. Our seats were downstairs and we had to sit with a lot of other people. When the train left the station we went to another free place upstairs. There we had a better few and it was much comfortable. The first station came and other people came in. We were afraid that somebody wanted to sit on our place where we sit. But nobody came.

After a 5 hours trip we arrived in Wuhan. The wagon looked like a place where animals live. It was very dirty. We get out of the train and there have been thousand of people. It was amazing how many people there have been. And it didn't end. At the exit we had to wait for going out because they controlled again the tickets. Outside the station we looked for a very cheap hostel for one night. We already saw some so we had the choice. Anna left me and looked for a stay for this night. During that time a woman came to me and asked me if I am looking for a hotel. She spoke only Chinese but with hands and my few words I know we understand each other. Till Anna came back she should wait. Then Anna came back and said that she only found expensive hotels. The woman offered us a room for 50 RMB a night for one room. We knew that it would be a very worse hotel but for only one short stay it was enough. The hotel was in a very small street with small shops. Anna looked first to the room before we said yes. With a heater inside the room costed 68 RMB which was OK. The room was not so bad we thought. But it was very cold inside and there was only Chinese toilette where you had to stay. For one night this things doesn't matter.

After a small rest in our room we went out for dinner. We searched for a barbecue and found one finally. The place where we found it was next to our hostel under a tent. It taste very good. I tried to tell them in Chinese what I want and it worked. Finally the price for the barbecue was about 75 RMB. So we payed more for food then for our room. Afterwards we made a samall walk. We wanted to go a street back to our hostel. There we had to pass a market. The smell of that place was awful. How can people work there. We didn't found a way back so we had to pass it a second time. We arrived at our room which was a little bit warmer and felt into sleep.



picture 1: The street which we could see infront of our room.