

Tuesday the 8'th January 2008

We woke up at 5:30. Our sleep was not very good. We felt like every minute somebody can come in. Stuff from the hostel knock also at our door to get up which was very nice. Then we went by taxi to the bus stop where the bus leave to the airport. This was much cheaper than a taxi. When we arrived there the taxi driver wanted to bring us to the airport. But we didn't want. We arrived at the airport and wanted to check in. The first person said we have to go to this place. From this place we were sent to another place. There they also couldn't help us. Then a man from the air port came and helped us. We figured out that the flight was canceled. Now we knew what the E-Mail in Shanghai said to us. They canceled the flight and they couldn't call us because the mobile phone was powered off. Afterwards I called the company where I bought the tickets. They looked for another flight. We had no other possibility then to book another one. The flight was a little bit later and cost not that much more. If we had known that before we would go to Yichang by train. But now it's happened like this and it was also OK. In the plane we had to find different places. Because there have been not all seats sold out we could sit together. Our seats have been separate to the other class. It seemed that we have first class tickets. There have been also enough place for our legs. It was quiet comfortable. We were very tired and slept a little bit in the plane. The flight was not that long it took only about 1 hour.

In Xi'an we took the shuttle bus into the city. First it looked like in Tianjin till passed the city wall (Stadtmauer) The buildings looked totally different. That's how I think China look like. Then we arrived at the shuttle bus station and went straight to our hostel. It was not far away from the place where we arrived. Next to the hostel was a KFC where we made first a short stop. It was already lunchtime and we felt a little bit hungry. At the reception we booked for the next day the tour to the terracotta army and our train tickets. In our room we made us fresh and slept a little bit.

After we woke up we got ready to discover the city. We went to the „Drum Tower“ and made some pictures of it. Then we turned into a street. There have been a region of muslim people (Muslimenviertel). On the street it was very busy and they sold a lot of food. Especially they sold barbecue. We walked through the street and ate a small snack. Afterwards we went on with discovering the city. The next stop was a living place of an officer in the 7'th generation. For a small money we visited it. Somebody showed us the rooms and gave us some explanation to it. It was quiet interesting. We also wanted to see the great mosaic (große Moschee) to that place we had to walk through small backstreet. The mosaic was already closed when we arrived. We didn't plan to go in so it was OK. Our next stop was the „Bell Tower“! It was in the middle of the city center. After a few meters more we turned and went back by bus to our hostel.

After we arrived we went to the hostel restaurant. There we had a free drink. With my computer we sat down and looked up things in the internet (they had w-lan, which is quiet comfortable) and some other things. It was very late when we went back to our room. I felt very tired so I didn't want to go out. But we felt hungry. Anna was full of power and looked for some food and went for a look in a club which was next to our hostel. She came back with things from a barbecue. It was delicious as the times before in other cities. Then we went straight to our bed to be fit for the next day.

Impressions:

Here you don't feel like a foreigner. Nearly nobody look after you like you come from another planet. It was also interesting how many people could speak English. Much more than in other cities we went before.