

## CHINA 1. MAY – 14. MAY 2016

Søndag den 1. mai reiste vi til Kina med [Star Tour Tema](#). Vi parkerte som vanlig bilen på [Dalen Parkering](#). Vi reiste med [SAS](#) fra [Oslo Lufthavn](#), Gardermoen klokka 18:50. Vi måtte bytte fly i København og vi var fremme i Beijing klokka 11:55 lokal tid.

On Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May we traveled to China with [TUI](#). We parked the car as usual at [Dalen Parkering](#). We traveled with [SAS](#) from [Oslo Airport](#), Gardermoen at 6:50 p.m.. We had to change planes in Copenhagen and we arriving in Beijing at 11:55 local time.

Short about China



Situation



Flag



Coat of arms

**People's Republic of China** is the largest country in East Asia and the world's most populous country. It had in 2010 a population of over 1.3 billion people, or about 20% of world population. China is one of the two Chinese states. The second is the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The first people came to the area 95,000 years ago and there is found traces of rice cultivation from 6000 BC. It is believed that the first formation of the states started more than 2500 years before our era in the regions of the [Yellow River](#). Over the years there have been many dynasties, several of them simultaneously, and China has alternated in size.

The last dynasty was overthrown in 1912. After this there was turbulent times of strife between several factions. Famous figures were [Sun Yat-sen](#), who was the first leader and head of the Chinese Nationalist Party, the [Kuomintang](#). Later on [Chiang Kai-shek](#) took over.

Another competing party was the [Communist Party](#). The supporters of this party were driven north and east. When [Mao Tse-tung](#) became leader, things went better for them, and during the [Chinese Civil War](#) and the second [Sino-Japanese war](#), they had in 1949 gained control of most of the country. Chiang Kai-shek fled with the rest of his government and his military forces to Taiwan, where he declared Taipei as the "provisional capital" of the Republic of China and vowed to retake mainland China as soon as he could.

China is a big country and it is inhabited by many different ethnic groups. 56 ethnic groups have the status of [national minority](#).

China is rich in natural resources, such as coal, oil and iron ore. The country has long been the world's fastest growing economy. About three-quarters of China's population is still employed in agriculture, but the country has high unemployment in rural areas while the big cities along the coast undergoes a furious rapid industrialization.

Many great inventions have been made in China, such as paper making and movable types, porcelain, gunpowder and the compass.



We arrived at [Beijing Internasjonal Airport](#), which is situated north-east of the city. It is the busiest airport in Asia.





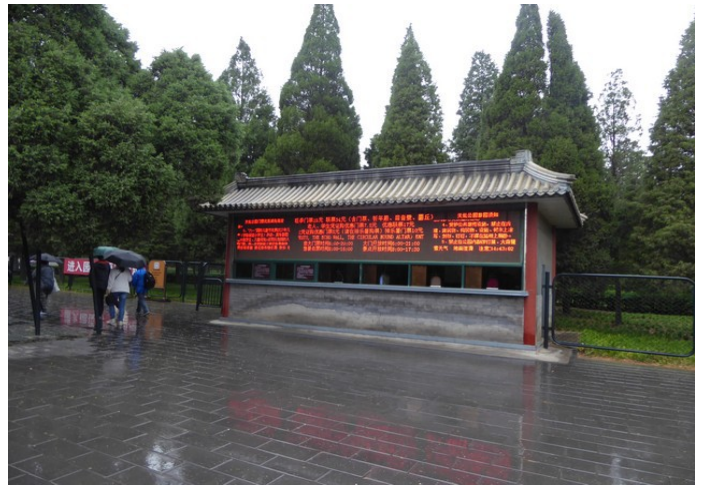
There went trains from the arrival terminal to terminal 3, which was new in 2008. Here we have collected our bags.



Outside the terminal. Here comes the bus.



The suitcases were loaded into a van as we go into the bus.



Before we booked into the hotel, we had a stop at the [Temple of Heaven](#), which is located in a large park. Here we are just inside the park entrance. We went into the eastern gate.

The park is called Tiantan and is 2.73 km<sup>2</sup>.

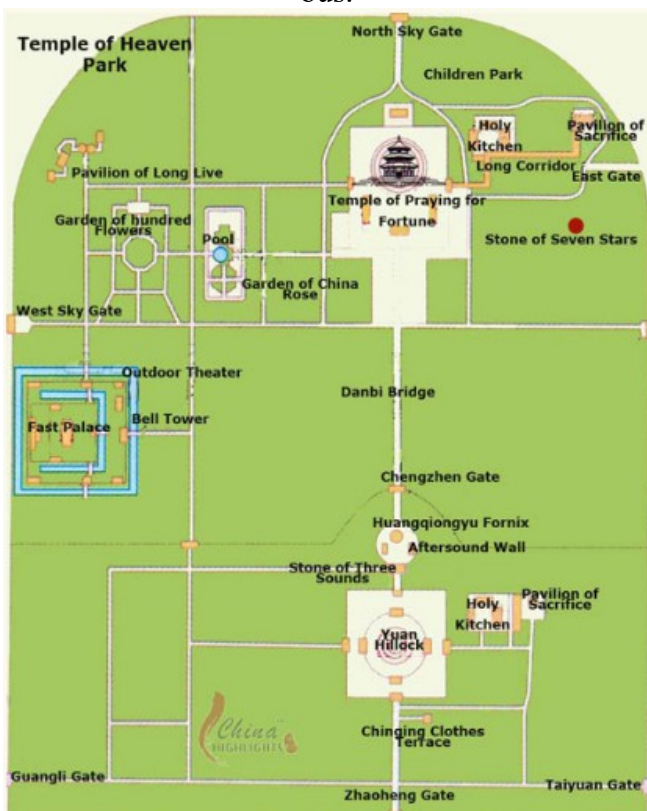
The temple complex was built during the years 1406 – 1420.

The complex was occupied both during the Opium War of 1857-1860 and during the Boxer Rebellion in 1899-1901. Especially during the last occupation it was very damaged. Besides, it was poorly maintained, and the buildings began to collapse.

The area was opened to the public in 1918 and converted into a public park.

The Temple of Heaven is 36 meters in diameter and 38 meters high. The building is made of wood and there is not used nails. It burned in 1889 because of lightning and was not rebuilt until several years later.

In 1998, the Temple of Heaven was included on UNESCO's World Heritage List.



Map of the park.

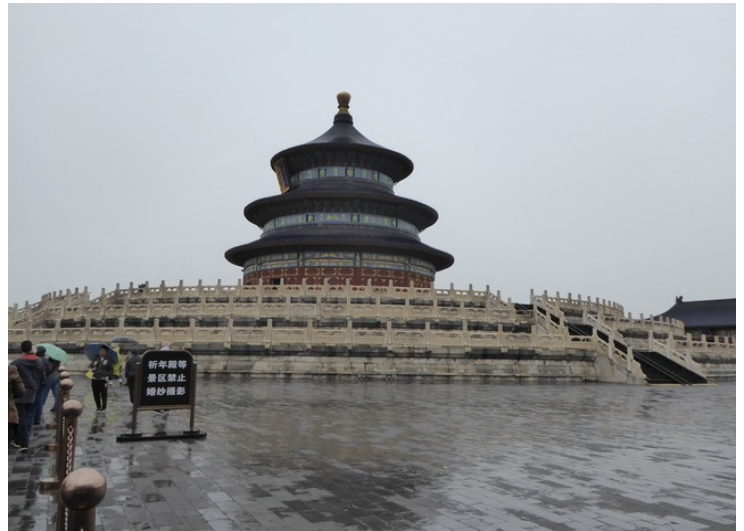


There are souvenir shops here too.



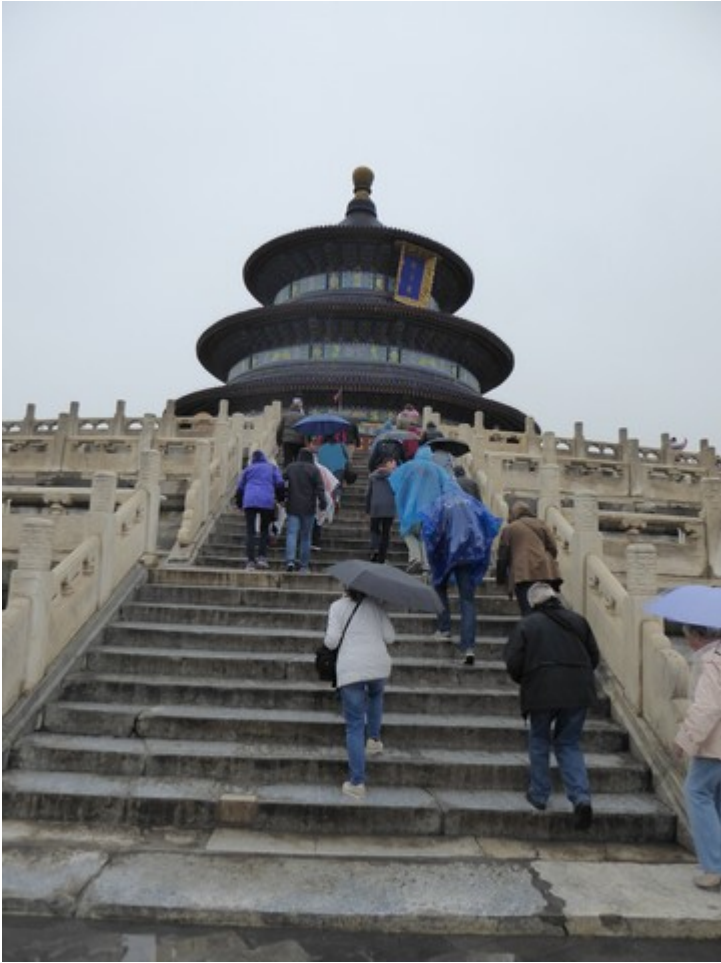
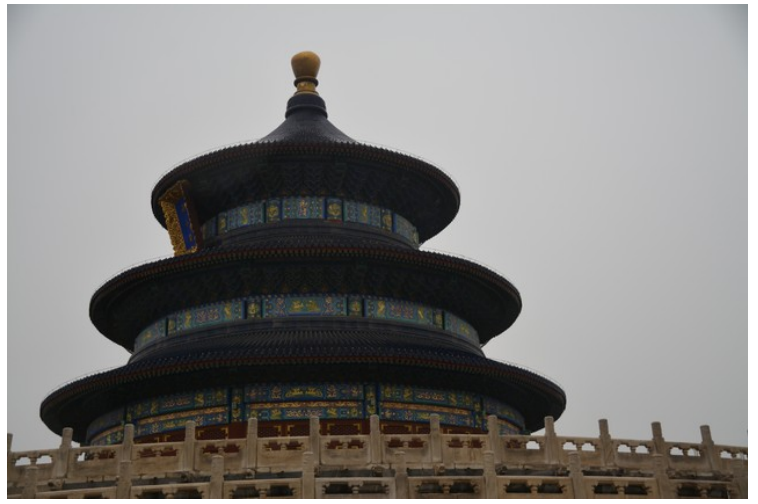
Here are some photos from the park.





Temple of Heaven.





Our Swedish guide standing in the middle.

Steps up to the temple.



A peek inside the temple.



A boiler for burning incense.



Then we headed back to the bus.



A lot of people in the park.



The next item on the agenda was to check into the hotel where we were staying for 4 nights. It is called [Beijing Asia Hotel](#). We got room on the 6th floor.



In the evening there was a joint dinner at a restaurant with Chinese cuisine. We sat around a round table with a rotatable glass disc in the middle. The dishes came in as they were finished, and we ate some of every sort.



View from our room.

A picture of the hotel as we go on the bus the next day. Then there was tour to the Great Wall. Below are some pictures taken from the bus on the way there.





On the way we stopped to visit a cloisonne factory. On the way out of the bus.



Here we are waiting.





The staff make yellow amulets for us.



Here they are given to us.



I have got my amulet.



Decoration.



The factory guide shows us various stages in the process.



Out in the yard.



Then she show us decoration of vases.



Vases that is not decorated yet.



It requires a high degree of accuracy.



In another room, they made pictures.

Cloisonne is an ancient technique for decorating metal. The decoration is made by first making figures by soldering gold wires or ribbons along the borders. Then enamel of different colors is filled in the various figures. When the picture is finished, it is cured in an oven. It was at first used on small decorations such as jewelry, bracelet or small decorations on swords.

The technique was first used in the Middle East in the times of the Pharaohs. In the 1400<sup>th</sup> century the technology had come to China. Here they developed the technique even further and started using it on large vases and jars, which eventually were covered completely.

There are several techniques used, and often enamel must be applied up to 7 times, until the figures have been filled



The entrance to the shop.



Big shop with many items.



It was certainly wished that we bought a lot, but no one was urging us, as in Muslim countries.



This is the factory trademark that stands on a hill above the factory.

Quite a size of the largest urns.



Next stop was at the [Great Wall in Mutianyu](#). ([Link](#))

China has historically been subjected to numerous attacks by nomadic populations in the north. To prevent these, the first emperor of the total China ordered that it should be built a wall. The wall was built in mainly four stages: 221-207 BC, 205-127 BC, 1200s and 1367-1644. In addition, there was built smaller walls both outside and inside the Great Wall. There worked up to 500,000 people at the time of construction. The Great Wall is considered the earth's biggest edifice, and it was completed during the [Ming Dynasty](#). The Ming-era wall was six to ten meters high and where it is restored, it often has this height. Long stretches of the wall is worn down and destroyed by the ravages of time, or disappeared when people along the wall have used the stone as building material for other things. Today, the wall is protected and was listed on [UNESCO World Heritage List](#) in 1987.



Here we are at the entrance to the village of Mutianyu, where the local guide retrieves tickets for the group.



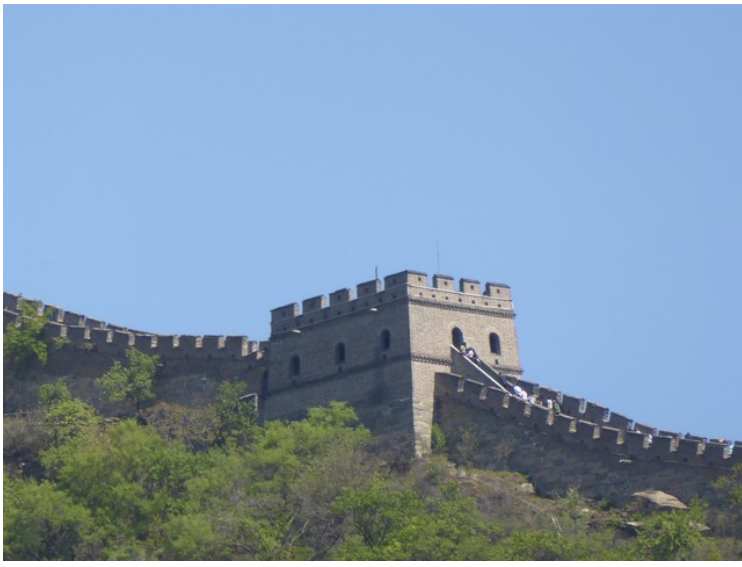
The bus is not allowed to go any further. We must walk the rest of the way up the path that goes to the top.



There is made figurines in the mountainside.



We get a glimpse the wall down from the village.



Zoomed on one of the towers.



We can also see a bit of the lift.



First we walk along the main street.



Souvenir shops.



Restaurants.





Then we've gone up a long hill, and is soon up at the ticket control.



Here we are through the counting devices.



In line to take the lift up to the wall.



There is space for maximum 6 people in each carriage.



On the way up.



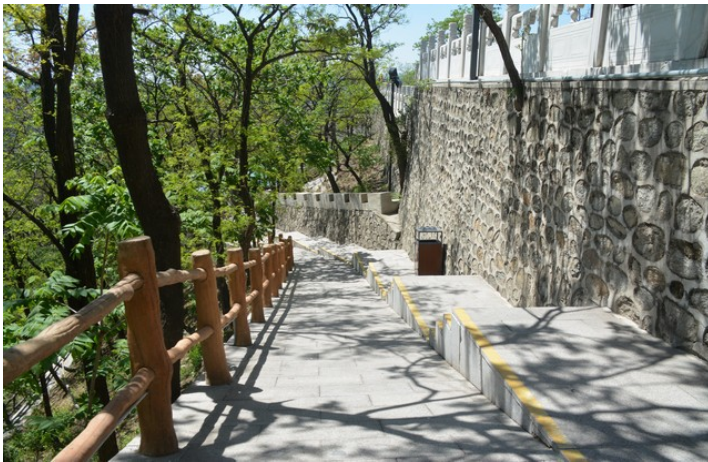
Further up.



We get nice views eventually.



When we are up, we have to walk up another hill to get up on the wall.



Looking down where we just came up.



We come first to a belvedere that is made below the wall.





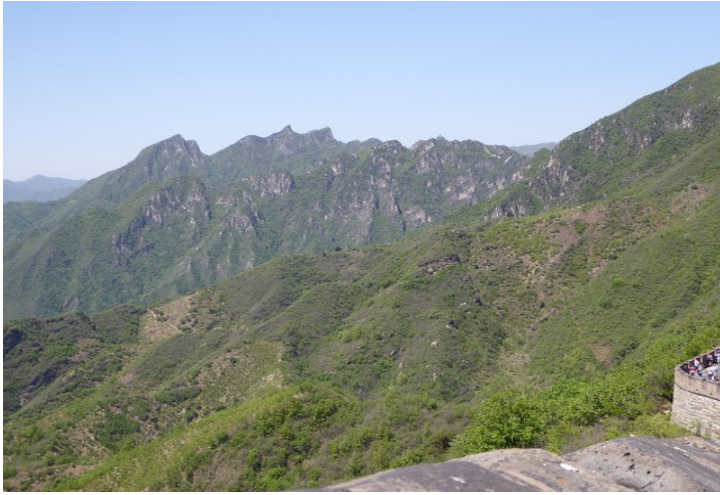


Here are the steps up on to the wall.



Then some pictures from the wall.





Inside one of the watch towers.



Looking down to Mutianyu

Zoomed.



Then we're back in the topmost lift house to take the lift back down.

Down here there is a stone museum.



Some way down the hill we come to this restaurant.

I buy a couple of beers.



We have to wait a while before we eat lunch.

We were visited by a dog.



This is a Chinese man who asked me about the pronunciation of English words and what they meant.



We are going to eat lunch at this restaurant.



Here some of the food is on the table.



Nudelsuppa.

After this we went straight back to the hotel. In the evening there was a voluntary excursion to see [Peking opera](#) (Jingju). We did not go, so we relaxed in the hotel. We ate at the hotel restaurant in the evening. I had cod and Anne Berit had noodle soup. Afterwards we sat a bit out in the hotel's garden and then took we took a cocktail in the bar before we went to bed.



The hotel garden in daylight.