

CHINA 1. MAY – 14. MAY 2016

The 5<sup>th</sup> day was a day on its own, but it was an offer to visit a [hutong](#). It seemed interesting, and we were in on it. We drove by bus for some distance and the rest of the transport was by [bike taxi](#). We were going to visit an elderly lady.



The bike taxi.



Here we are ready to go, both of us.



Then we are driving into the hutong.



Impressive wiring.



It is mostly older people who live here.



Grey walls.



Many bikes.



Mopeds.



Text on a wall.



There is not much space for parking of vehicles.





On some walls, there are nice pictures.



Here we are visiting the elderly woman.



First we got tee.



The elderly woman and our local guide.



Trinkets.



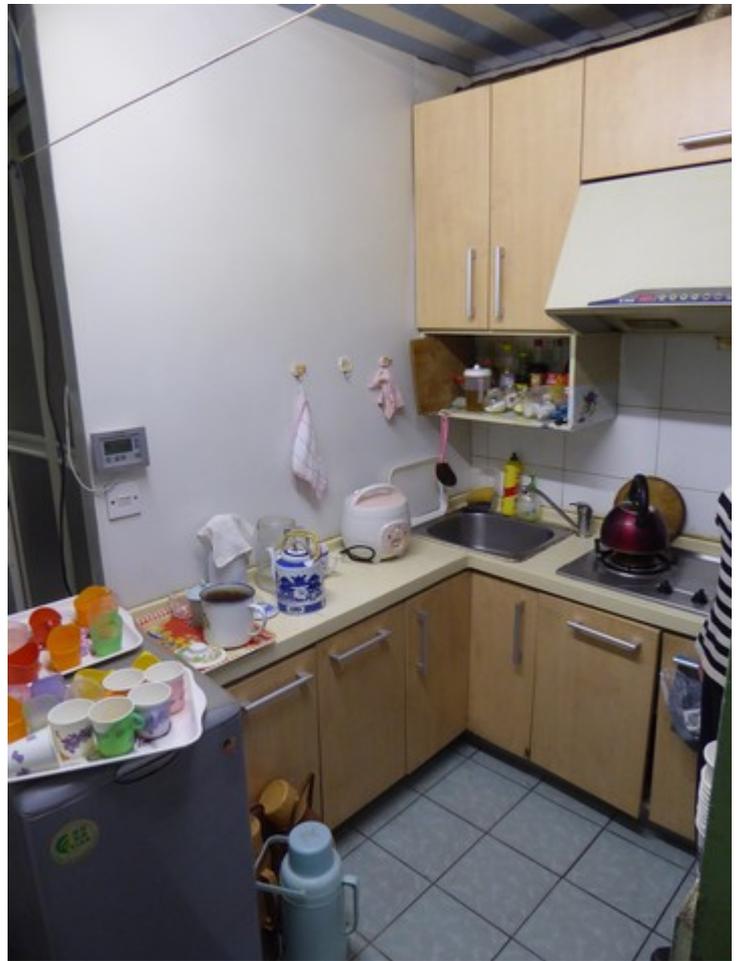
Pictures on the walls.



More decorations.

Those who live in the hutongs get cheap electricity for lighting and heating. Someone also use coal for heating.

There is no toilet in the houses. There are public toilets in every street, so there should not be more than a few minutes to walk there.



The kitchen.



The bedroom.



The bed.



Then out in the courtyard.





We say goodbye to the lady.



In a window, we see a picture of Mao.



Out on the street, the taxi drivers are waiting for us.



We drive to the center of the hutong, where we get half an hour to look around. Below are some pictures.



Nice decoration.



Built in three wheeler.



There are several shops in the center of the hutong.



Another nice wall decoration.



This one is molded into the street.



Then out into the traffic again.



Next stop was «[Silk Street](#)» or «Silk Market», which is a shopping center. Some in the group wanted to shop.

We sat in one of the restaurants while the other shopped. We ate pizza.



View from the restaurant.



This is the restaurant. After this, the bus took us back to the hotel.



In the evening we ate at a restaurant near the hotel. It's a Belgian restaurant with several Belgian dishes on the menu, and they also have several types of Belgian beer.



Here the waitress make our food order ready.



First we get the wine.



This bacon bit hung for decoration on the wall.  
(It was, of course, plastic)



Her er restauranten sett utenfra.



When we returned to the hotel, we sat for a while in the hotel garden.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> day, we took the train from Beijing to [Xi'an](#).  
Here we are waiting for the train to leave.



It's almost like at an airport. We are not getting to the train before the "gate" has opened.



Information board on the wall that shows the status.



A board inside the train showing speed.



Between Bijing and Xi'an there are big agricultural areas.



There are cities in between.



On the outskirts of Xi'an, the building activity is enormous. In Xi'an there live about 3.5 million people within the city limits. In the entire area live 6.6 million.



There are many tall buildings in work.



This was the train, which we followed. It is a modern high speed train.



In Xi'an we first went to the old [city wall](#). [Wikipedia](#).



The bus parked here.



This is on the top of the wall.



Sales booths.





Direction signs on the top of the wall.



Bikes for rent.



Tandem bikes.



The blocks around.

The construction of the first city wall began in 194 BC and lasted for 4 years. Only a few fragments of this wall remain. In 582 there were built a new city wall around the town, which had now shrunk. However, this wall is not preserved. The present wall was finished in 1378. This new wall is enclosing a much smaller area than the old one, only 14 km<sup>2</sup>. The wall has a circumference of 13.7 km, 12 meters high and 15-18 meters thick at ground level. It was repaired in 1980. In 1983, there was made a park along the wall. Since 2005 it has been possible to walk around the old town up on the wall on foot, or ride the same stretch by bicycle.



Lamps.



Our guide.



Some of the park around the wall.



More park.



This is also just outside the wall.



Our hotel is called [Grand New World Hotel](#).



Stairs up to the restaurant.



Behind the reception is this impressive monument.



In the pond, there is fish.



This statue stands beside the pond.



We ate "lambshops" in the hotel restaurant in the evening.  
We had this red wine to the food.



The view from our room the next morning.