

Leg 3 Day 6 Jiayuguan to Lanzau

After 2 long driving days and staying the night in Jiayuguan – just 8 mins drive from the great wall, leg 3 decided it was time for a treat. We set off early to see the great wall, at 8.00am the sun was up and shining bright (34 deg C). Whilst waiting for the ticket office to open we amused ourselves and discovered we had a hidden talent as a group.



At the great wall we hired samurai warrior costumes and had a go at some archery. The fort itself has been renovated with original wall leading up to and around it. Inside, there were various points of interest, exhibitions and hands-on activities. Locals / visitors were very interested in us, wanting their picture taken with us. We left there in high spirits and truly privileged to be there.

After returning from the wall we filled up on breakfast and in team spirit challenged each other

to taste what looked like a deep fried maggot (turned out it was a strange shaped vegetable but certainly entertained us for a while).

Whilst checking out of the hotel, whom did we meet? No other than the Chinese Olympic torch team. We were all very excited and each had a hold of the torch. The team were very friendly and interested in our challenge. We exchanged gifts; the team being recipients of official Olympic polo shirts and



wished us good luck on our travels.

What an amazing morning and its still only 10am, but lets not forget we have a challenge to complete and get back on the road for some more driving, mostly expressway driving today in stagger formation. Just as we entered Lanzhou, our overnight stop, we experienced our first storm. The outside temperature plummeted from our usual 38 degrees to just 16. The sky was full of black cloud and continuous lightning. Roads were covered with deep rain puddles though they weren't considered deep for the Land Rovers and their snorkels! Entering cities at the end of the day to get to our overnight stop

remains the toughest driving challenge. After a long day on the road, traffic is heavy and coming from every direction. The convoy work well together with radio communication and stick bumper to bumper to snake through the angry traffic, following a taxi if needs be. We arrived at the hotel at approx 9.30pm, checked in and went to KFC – a favourite choice or everyone as we desperately need a refuel.