

### Day 3....Korgas to Yining

Team forced to have a lie-in today because the Customs department didn't open until 10. Team feeling slightly refreshed and ready to enjoy the day hopefully in China. Our guide said he would meet us but felling brave, we set off to find some breakfast. All the little shops looked alike and so we plumped for one with lots of people in. This was in the hope that they would be a good sign! After some trials and errors, the orders were placed and we waited to see what would arrive.

We headed to exchange some dollars as they aren't accepted here and on the way back to the hotel we wandered into a little market. It smelt fantastic with all the aromas of the spices out of all the different

boxes on display – very colourful. Meat “killed” freshly and bunnies nibbling on the discarded vegetables.

We met up with Xiao our guide (pronounced Chow) and decided the 25 minute walk to the border in the heat was a little too much and so we hopped into a 3 wheeled taxi, Engine ventilation via a can of pop holding open the engine so it didn't over heat. It was no bigger than a Smart car but we successfully managed to fit 3 people in!!



The border took until 14:00 and then we were on our

way. The road out of town was a more difficult terrain than we had driven on so far, with massive pot holes and so much dust we struggled to see the vehicles in front. Everyone was very impressed with how the Land Rovers performed – they were in there element / environment.

We made it to Yining about 16:30 for the vehicles to be scanned and MOT'd, + had what it said on the tin!. This had to take place before we could get our chinese licenses, Very strange given that we had already driven approx 100km in China. As expected, the vehicles passed with flying colours and we headed for our licences. Very impressive Government building where the licences are issued. Xiao did

his best to smooth the process, but so much waiting. We had to remove the protective films off the chassis plates so that both body and chassis numbrs could be checked and double checked. Team entertained themselves by synchronised photos with the team posing in different positions on and off the roofs. Cycle team one practiced the human cycle; video clip available whilst we waited and waited and waited.

Although a protracted process, we were pleasantly surprised by some of the officials staying after normal hours to finish the process – couple of gifts and a lift home secured the deal. We were finally officially OK to drive in China.

City traffic a nightmare plus no food again. Swift meal and find a hotel, bed by 00:30 with cold showers, Early start tomorrow to play catch up.

