

Day 5 – Turpan to Jiayuguan



Not to be out phased by the task in hand all of the leg 3 team members rallied round with their undisputed bouncebackability for another early morning wake-up 5am and 6am start. Only one U-turn required to negotiate our way out of town and it was straight onto the Silk road for a long haul. Passing field of sun soaked vines, watered by the underground Turpan irrigation system built 2000 years ago. The temptation to stop and enjoy some local melons was strong but we had to push on. With the off-road capabilities of the LR's we were in our element during the all too frequent deviations round the

highway road works. Great fun for the drivers and a break from the monotony of long distance driving. Passing out of the Xinjiang province the scenery suddenly changed from desert to lush vegetation and fields of golden sunflowers & citrus trees. This was the beginning of mainland China. Approaching the Hex corridor near Yumen we left the Silk road and headed for Jiayuguan for food and a rest. The restaurant fare was the usual noodles, chunks of chicken on bone, fish, veg, lamb left overs and scrambled egg with tomato. Feeling the needs for some western food the team headed up town but at midnight all the stalls had shut and there was only one option but to raid the biscuit tin and head for bed.

