

2009 Silk Road # 4 W.W. Ching & Ken Ching

We arrive in Lanzhou on the 20/9 afternoon and checked into the Dong Fang Hotel and recovered our bikes from the Security. Cleaned up the bikes on the 21/9, replaced 2 spokes on the front wheel that broke on the last trip and put on the cable for parallel battery connections. Have the most excellent and most expensive Lanzhou Beef noodles in China at the Lanzhou No.1 noodle for dinner for RMB 50 per bowl. A standard bowl is price at RMB 6 elsewhere. I mentioned this only to show how the economy and life styles have changed in China since 1980 from central economic planning to free market.

22/9/2009, we started on the stage # 4 from Lanzhou at 09:00 hrs. Riding alongside the yellow river, it took over an hour to get to the edge of the city on to the G312.



Day 1, 09:30hrs

Lunch break and charging for 2 hrs in Tian Zhu. We arrived at Gu Lang after 240 km, riding time 8 hrs, 66.91 Ah. Average speed 25 kmph.

23/9/2009. We got pretty exhausted on the first day, and go up late in the morning, and started out only at 10:00hrs. Stopped at Wu Wei for lunch and charging.



Day 2, riding along the Hexi Corridor between 2 mountain ranges. Made it to Shan Dan after 235km 55.86 Ah 8hrs 38 mins.



23/9/2009 18:40 hrs, Installing optical fibre lines beside what is left of a stretch of the great wall build with ram earth. Constructions that are 1000 years apart.

24/9/2009, today we struggle to get out of bed, and luckily we have probably less than 200 km for the day. We started out from ShanDan at 10:10 hrs. Arrived in Zhang Ye a small but ancient city.



24/9/2009 14:08 hrs, In the Zhang Ye down-town food center, where we have lunch. The blue poster on the glass window is an advertisement for Viagra.



24/9/2009 16:22 hrs, Jujube fruit trees and willows line the roads. Arrived at Gao Tai after 184 km and 53.37 Ah. This was an easy day.

25/9/2009 . This is the easiest day, and we would have some time for some sight seeing of the ancient pass along the great wall “Jia Yu Guan”



25/9/2009 09:39 hrs, on the G312 towards Jia Yu Guan



25/9/2009 18:01hrs, Jia Yu Guan the Fortress Pass built in about AD1500 Ming Dynasty. Toured Jia Yu Guan before checking into the hotel at Jia Yu Guan city.

26/9/2009 Started at about 09:00 hrs and passing Jia Yu Guan and the great wall.



26/9/2009 09:23hrs, The eZee Torq by Jia Yu Guan, after this we are out of the Hexi Corridor in Gansu province. And a long ride, arriving into Gua Zhou at about midnight after 283kms and 12 hrs of ride.



26/9/2009 10:52hrs, and out into the desert in Gansu province.

27/9/2009. We took the morning to visit a unique geological formation in the desert call “Ya Dan Geological Park” but instead the cab took us to the fringes of the park back on G312

27/9/2009. We took the morning to visit a unique geological formation in the desert call “Ya Dan Geological Park” but instead the cab took us to the fringes of the park back on the G312 (which we did not see because we were riding late into the night to Gua Zhou. and we saw what was the least attractive of the landscape below.



We headed from Gua Zhou after lunch for another 200 km or so, but that was a big mistake as we did not realize that we are heading towards a very broad mountain range.



27/9/2009 15:09 hrs, the mountain range lies ahead, I thought the road will go left and it did not, and we have to head straight into the mountains, not very high, BUT, it was one climb after another, another and another, very broad maybe over 100 km.



27/9/2009 19:04 hrs, a valley between the mountain range and saw a herd of wild Bactrian camels, and we kept riding past mid night to finally settled down in a most rudimentary truckers stop for the night at Xing Xing Xia. 177 km 53.64 Ah



28/9/2009 10:35hrs, inquisitive truck drivers with Ken as we head out for the last leg on # 4 to the city of Hami in Xinjiang. This restaurant/hotel is just 100 meters inside the border of Xinjiang province.



28/9/2009 11:00hrs, I thought we were done with the mountains, but here it goes again, but fortunately not for too long.



28/9/1009 13:03hrs, a brief snack after 100km, we decided to move across to the new highway that is not yet open to traffic, this probably the only chance we will ever have riding on 100 km of highway all to ourselves. This day gave the clearest ever distinction I could make with regard to head wind and tail wind, the first 100 we have tail wind, and used 1 single pack of 14 Ah depleting about 12 Ah before I change it, it was going like 80watts at 35 kmph and I swap the 3 packs x 14Ah on the second 100 when we have head wind which took 36 Ah with average speed of 25 kmph at 350 watts. Arrived in Hami after 206 km at about 20:00hrs. We have completed a total of 4200 km or 2625 miles from Shanghai to Hami.



Chinese and Arabic architecture combination.