
2014-15 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

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Contrary to Proper Belief, No, You Can't See It from Space

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2014-09-22 Contrary to proper belief, no, you can't see it from space



Mutianyu Great Wall

Almost a month in, what a crazy thought that is.

This previous weekend's trip was the first one we've had, a journey to the Mutianyu Great Wall. After a 2-hour bus ride, then a shuttle to the base of the mountain, we began the climb up 1,400 some odd steps to get to the base of the wall. From there, you continue to climb up and down the slithering, steep and twisting wall, always seeking the view at the top of the next hill. The experience was quite a treat, but, boy, you are spent by the time you're back at the bottom of the hill. I grew up hiking and adventuring all over lakes and mountains in Oregon, and this was probably one of the more tiring hikes I've ever been on.

Next week is fall break, as we are observing National Day of the People's Republic of China. Think Fourth of July, but without the independence aspect. The holiday marks the establishment of the PRC on October, 1st, 1949. While everyone in the country will be gathering with friends and family to celebrate, us Laowai's (foreigners) are heading out on all kinds of adventures. Some of us are heading to Shanghai for our 5 days off, others to Inner Mongolia. My roommates and I are taking a break from the city life and hiking out into the hills of China to visit Jiankou Changcheng, an un-restored section of the great wall known for its difficulty to reach and great views. Sections of it had to be built by workers hanging over cliffs in wicker baskets, if that provides any idea as to what we're off to see. We will camp for the night on the wall itself, and head back the following day.

Well, time to get back on the grind.

Friday is coming all too soon and there is much left to be studied.

Brian