

Kashgar

Written by Administrator

Friday, 04 December 2009 04:42 - Last Updated Friday, 04 December 2009 05:51



Our descent from the pass for the next 7 hours was a mix of stunning scenery, the worst road we had so far experienced and an extraordinary amount of beurocracy, some of it very petty as we attempted to temporarily import ourselves and our vehicle into China.

The Chinese politic has a love of red tape, much of it designed for a love of systemisation and much more of it designed to provide an income to support an immense political system. As foreigners trying to take our own vehicle across two of China's most sensitive Autonomous Regions our dose of beurocracy has been heavier than most. Apart from our Chinese Visa we have required temporary driving licenses for myself and Ruth, a temporary import deposit, license plate and tax for the car, a guide and permits for each region and smaller county that we would be passing through. This adds up to an immense mound of paperwork, all of which can be demanded at numerous check points along our route. We used a travel agency to deal with all the necessary applications, however the cost and complexity of this journey, quite apart from the physical challenge is one reason why we saw only one other foreign owned car in our month in China.

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Wife and child of a family of the market, beautifully decorated courtyard and a black dog in the courtyard.

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