

Modus Operandi

Nanjing to Longbridge in 2010

One thing is for sure: we will not all get through this adventure without hearing or muttering a whinge, moan or complaint! But moaning won't change a thing. This adventure will insure that we will all be out of our comfort zones into the unknown... but, the right approach and attitude will make this a trip a remarkable adventure!

In Beijing, each couple will receive a route book/folder for information but also to fall back on should we become separated for whatever reason. Other than the route details, it will contain other useful information such as the addresses of the closest Australian Embassy, common phrases in foreign languages and a list of Foreign/English words to help you find a road, town, bank, hotel, taxi etc.

Whilst on the road, we will initially try to stay together as a group and follow the guide. If this should become unworkable, we will reassess the alternatives as a group.

In many instances, the day's drive could be completed in a morning or afternoon session. The "other" period could be used to either rest or visit places of interest in the town we are currently in, en route or in the town we are heading for. This decision will be made by the group with obvious guidance from the relative organizer of that particular section – Ian or David.

DIGs (Daily Informal Gatherings) – 5 minutes before we set off – in the car park - to give an overview of the route for that day; order in the convoy etc

We will soon have lunches organized... Either "snacks" from the breakfast table or a bought lunch en route. If I have learnt something from these types of trips, we will spend a lot of time eating and sitting... so lunch will probably become a social/snack affair...

Some time after booking into our hotel each afternoon, Dan will need us to check for any fluid leaks under the cars and to inform him of any squeaks or rattles that may have developed en route. It is easier to tighten a nut in a parking garage than to wire up an item on the road!

At every opportunity, we will have happy hour each evening before dinner to relive the day's events (so that Sue, our scribe, can collate all our experiences of note) and then all will be on our own to have dinner and socialize into the night.

Rest days are spread out during the trip and we can either go out in a group – in a minibus or equivalent – or go our own ways, as we see fit.