

Great Wall of China viewed from Main Road from Beijing to Yangquan



Great Wall of China

Photos and Story by

Marguerite Carstairs



The Great Wall of China is an amazing place wherever you climb and walk it, but the most spectacular part is at Jingsaling and Simatai.

This is a photographic tour of the Walk from Jingsaling to Simatai which took 3 and half hours, over 30 towers.

Photographs by Maggi Carstairs

[http://www.ebook.com/ebooks/Education/Great
Wall Jingsanling](http://www.ebook.com/ebooks/Education/Great_Wall_Jingsanling)





Simatai was the most spectacular and the Wall finishes here after the 12th Tower

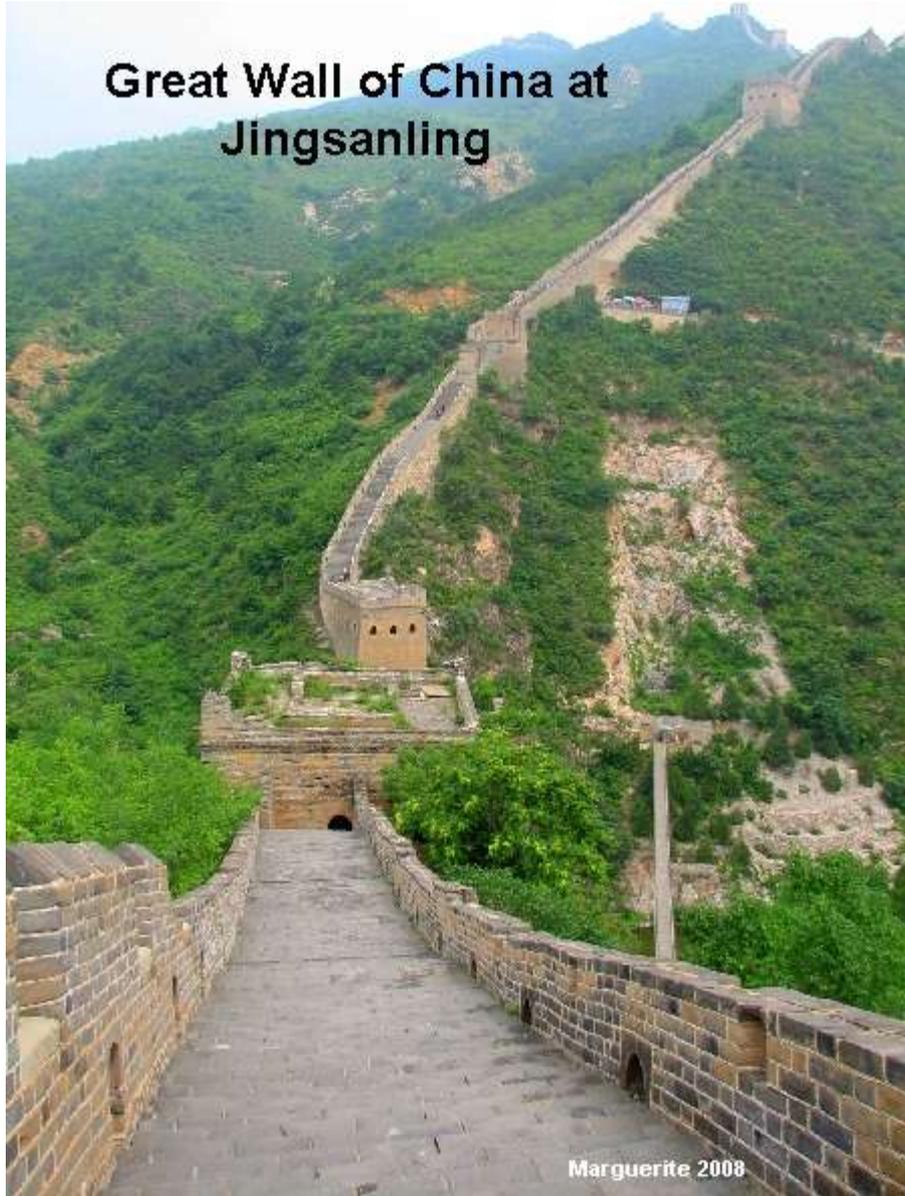


We Travelled by cable to the top and then walked this path to the great wall



Great Wall at Jingsaling

Great Wall of China at Jingsanling

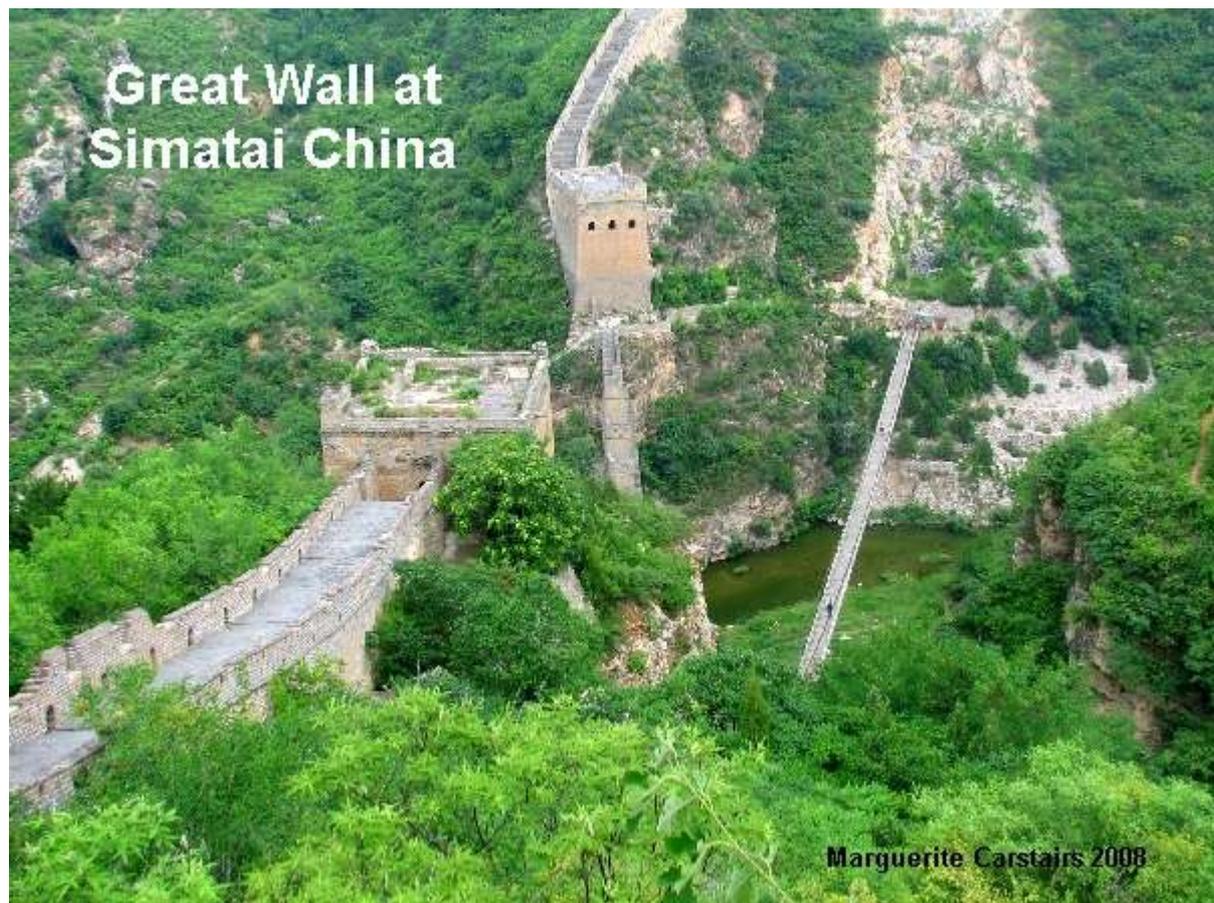


Marguerite 2008



A Brief Introduction of Jinshanling Great Wall

The Jinshanling Great wall was originally built in 1368 and restored in 1567. It was built under the supervision of Qijiguang, a famous general in Ming Dynasty. The Great Wall Starts from Longyukou to Wangjing Tower , altogether 10.5 KM long with five passes, 67 towers and 2 beacon towers. It is famous for its magnificent views, special sites, beautiful architecture, united defences and intact appearance. Block Lower house walls, block walls, block walls, store houses, chinese character brick and carved kylin wall exist on here. In 1987 it was enlisted in the decorations of World Cultural Heritage. It was approved as a National Important Cultural Relics Protection Unit in 1988. in 1991 it was approved as a National Important Scenic Spot. The Jinshanling Great Wall is located near the 101 State Road, 136 KM from Beijing, 90 KM from Chengde, 240 KM from Weichang, is the important part of golden tourist line north of Beijing. In Jingshanling there are three parking areas. The Jinshanling Hotel located at the base of the wall can serve more than two hundred guests. It is just 20 minutes by the cable car to the highest spot of the Great Wall, Xiaojinshan (Little Golden Mountain). We welcome all guests to the Jinshanling Great Wall. We will give you high quality service and our warm hospitality.

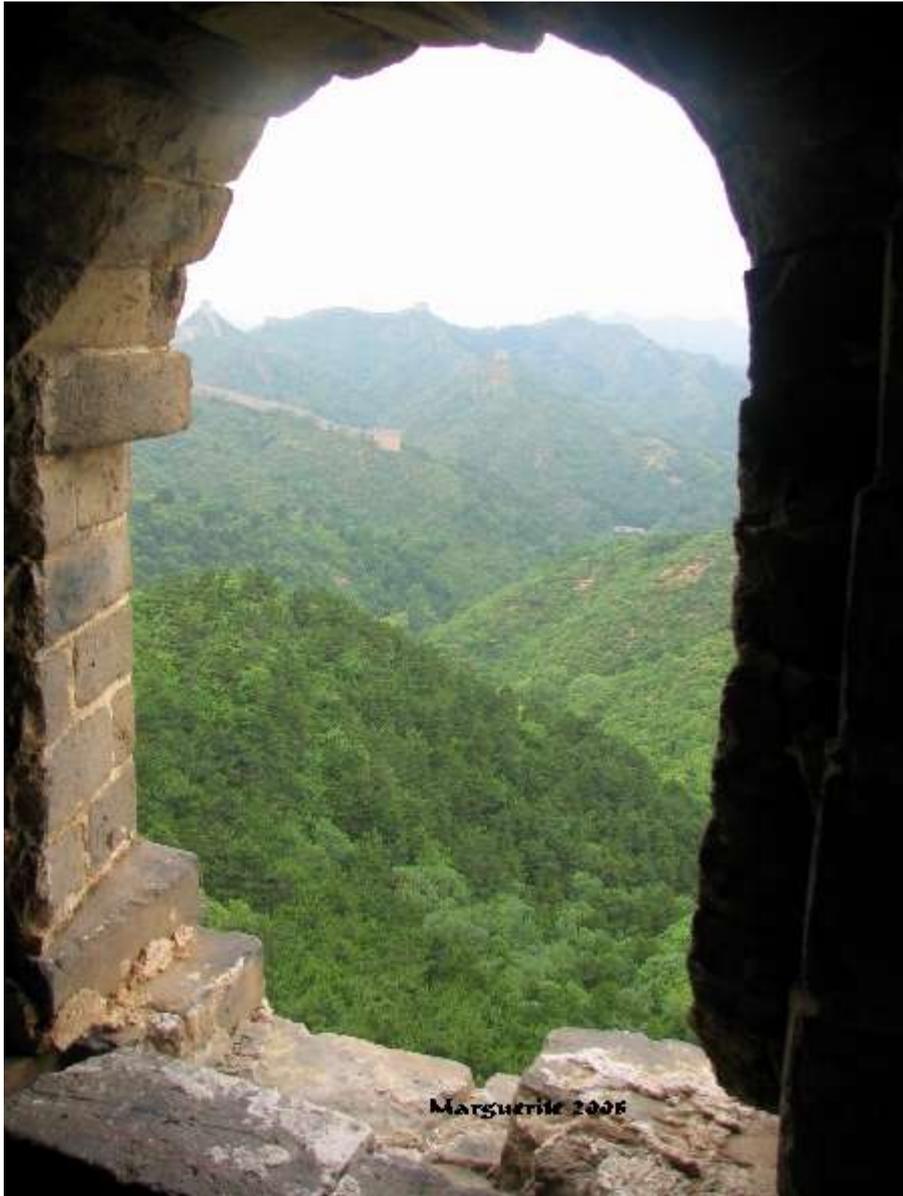




The walls are very steep in this section and the climbing was very difficult

It was spectacular as we could see for many miles





The turrets on the towers had openings where the soldiers would have waited as they kept a lookout. You could see a long way and to the next tower.





There are many stories and legends about the wall

Great Wall of China: Beijing: Insights

<http://www.squidoo.com/GreatWallChina>

Some background into the Great Wall of China, as it is one of the most amazing sights in the world. The fact that it has been there so long is one wonder. Just to walk along a path that was walked along so many times by so many different people, who have left something of their soul in the experience.

The wall was built and constructed by labourers who thought desperately poor themselves, donated their time and labour freely for their country and Emperor. That in itself is an amazing thing. Not only were these workers not paid for their efforts, but they lived in appalling conditions with very little food and services while donating their labour. Many died of extreme cold or hardship, and their bodies were actually just buried into the wall they died trying to build for the love of their country.

Then you have the soldiers and armies that were marched 10 abreast over the wall, and the soldiers who died in battle and also during their service. These were also put into the wall.

If you are a person who feels the spirituality of a place, the wall is full of emotions. Added to the souls of the people who constructed and worked the wall, you also have the love of the pilgrims, the Chinese people and the visitors who come to see this wonder. All this is incarcerated into the wall, and walking alone in winter, you can hear and feel the calls of these people, and see the splendour that was China as the Emperor and the Victorious also walked the walls.

There is the vast expanse of scenery. **The wall stretches 5000 miles across China.** That is the distance equivalent to the distance across America or Australia, a vast distance indeed.



Symbol of the Spirit of China

The Great Wall stands as a symbol of the dauntlessly strong spirit of the Chinese people in Ancient Times. Today it is a tourist Attraction that draws adventurers and sightseers to experience this awesome Wonder of the World.

The Towers were sturdy and strongly built of thick stone. Five thousand kilometres like a gigantic dragon winding its way across China, with many of its sections and passes now designated as Key national Cultural Sites.



Each main area divided into smaller areas with a turret window in each section, which would have been manned by soldiers in the past. A small staircase led up steep steps, to the parapet, from which one could get a 360 degree view over the land.

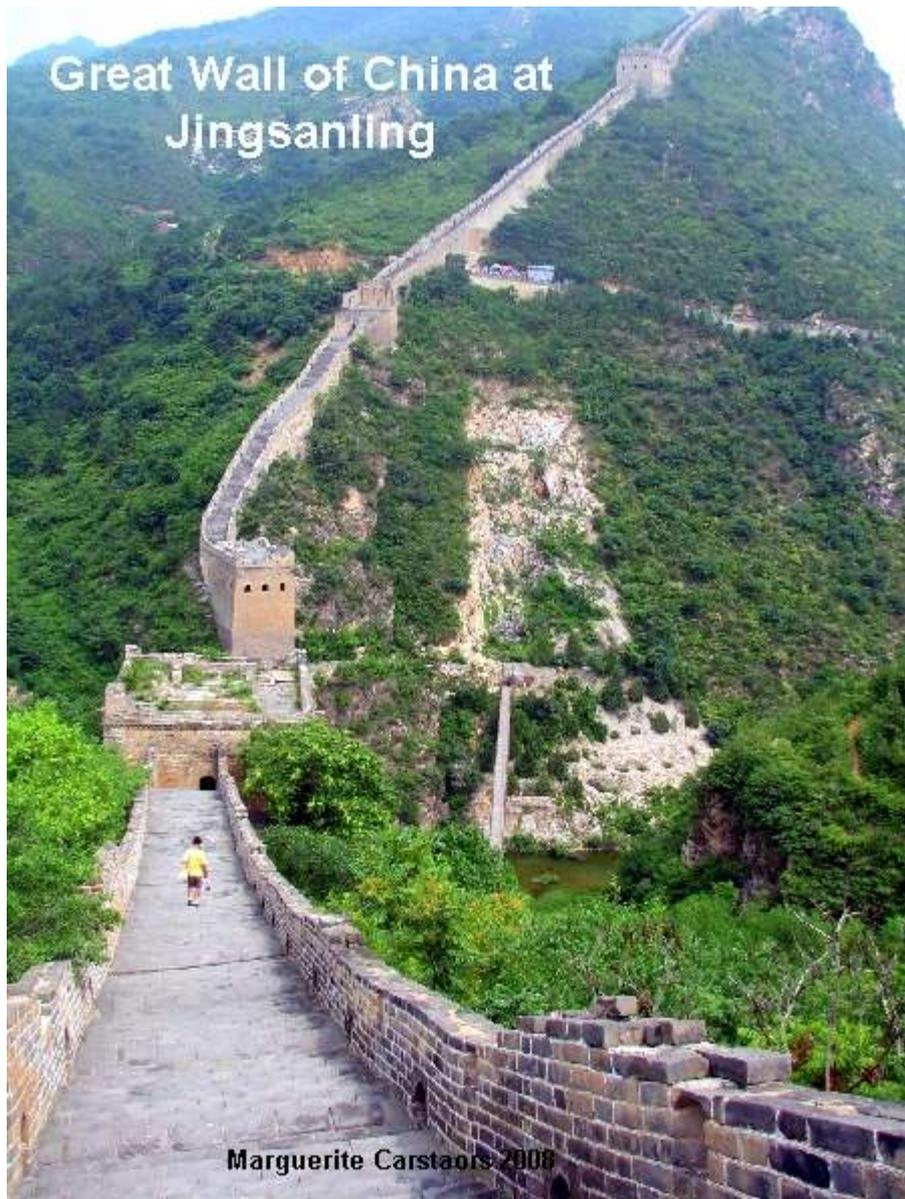


There were steps up to the tower and down from the tower.

The walking path ran alongside the wall in most places, and you can see it quite clearly. The tour guide told us there were 1000 steps from where we started, to the wall, when he suggested we take the chair lift to the top, at the beginning of the tour. Because of the weather in January, and also the time element of the tour, we chose the faster pulley up to the Wall, so we could spend the entire time walking the wall.



There are many stories written about the Great Wall, but the one that I like best is the fact that it was called the **Wall of Tears**, as so many lost their lives in the creation of this World Wonder. The faith and heart of the Chinese is very strong here. They considered it an honour to die, in the course of serving their Emperor. Many died from the hard life they left, and were just buried under the wall itself making this the "Wall of Tears".



When you stand and marvel at the feat of construction, spare a thought for the workers who toiled so hard to build this Fantasy.

Yes, it is a very memorable wall and if walls tell stories, there is a story here with each stone.

It is a wonderful Physical and Spiritual Experience to Walk the Wall.

Maggi Carstairs 2006

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