

A Trip to China

By Don Sutherland

During August, I visited China (Beijing and Chengde). Much has changed there over the past ten years.

Ten years ago, seeing blue skies in Beijing was a rarity during the summer. Smog ruled as particulate matter readings were among the worst in the world. This time around, blue skies were the norm on sunny days. Air quality has improved substantially.

Even as developing high speed rail has vexed the United States—none still exists—one can take high speed rail to a range of Chinese cities. I traveled to and from Chengde at speeds of just over 300 kilometers per hour (186 miles per hour).

EVs and hybrid vehicles had appeared on the scene. Chinese news commentary referenced climate change and the need to curb carbon emissions. Broadcasts highlighted an explosive growth in renewable energy.

At the same time, I visited a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites. Some photos follow:

Putuo Zongcheng Temple:







Puning Temple:



