

An Alternative Place to Take Your International Friends

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Why not take your international friends to someplace different? Most of China's visitors from abroad see the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, and other popular tourist sites. Those who land in Shanghai always visit the Bund and tourists who venture out west are sure to see Xi'an's Terracotta Soldiers. However, too many go back home disappointed that they never saw "real China," something beyond the gloss of popular tourist sites. You may be their best solution, and if you happen to be in Beijing, I want to recommend one of my favorite rural settings.

You'll have to hire a car to get there, as you can see by the map on the right, but Wali (洼里) is well worth the time and effort to take your international friends there. They will experience one of Beijing's best, but little known, rural fun spots.



You can search 洼里 on Baidu for details on what the park offers, or simply enjoy the pictures below. For your English practice, try to answer the questions (using only English).

ENGLISH QUESTION 1: What are they doing in the picture below? Using English only, try to describe the actions of the people in this picture.



We animals are friendly to humans

Stepping back in history at Wali, grinding real cornmeal





Wali animals are so cute, you'll wanna take us home, but we're not for sale



Did you say cute?



I love swinging on the rope swing

Wali even has a small agriculture museum



Do you know how to say “滑梯” in English? Try it on your own and then look on the next page

ENGLISH QUESTION 2: After looking at these pictures and reading articles on Baidu about Wali, how would you describe this place to an international visitor?
Suggestion for Practice: Find a friend who likes to practice English. Roleplay this: One of you play the part of an international visitor, the other person describe Wali, using the information you see in these pictures and find on your Baidu search.

Property of Lovin' English

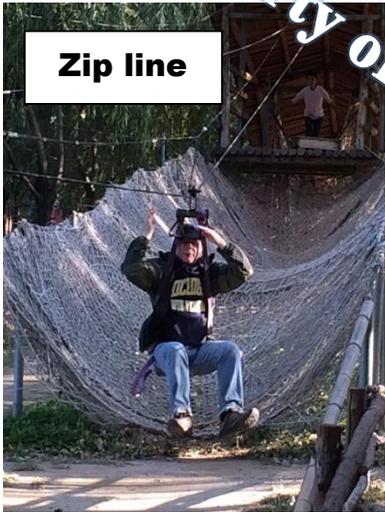


It's called a slide

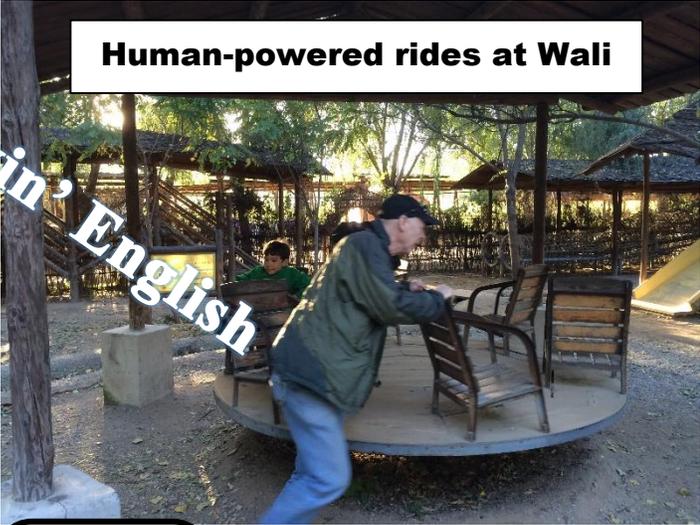
Your international friends can learn the Chinese names of animals by reading the signs at Wali



ENGLISH QUESTION 3: What are the two people on the left doing? Use English to describe their action.



Zip line



Human-powered rides at Wali



Wali's animal friends playing and eating together

Can you take me home with you?



I'd love to, but you are too big for my apartment. Don't worry, I see you again next time I come to Wali!

HELP FOR ENGLISH QUESTION 3: The two people in the picture are "going down the slide." We can use the verb "sliding" to describe this action, but most people just say "going down." Sometimes kids just say, "playing on the slide."