ON THE SPOT IN CHINA

Thirty years of change

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Thirty years of change

I first went to the People’s Republic in April 1976 and have been visiting almost every year since. A camera has been my constant companion, and during the last few years I realised that I could go back and attempt to reproduce photographic shots from as far as possible exactly the same spot. These are the results.
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Chang’an dajie
  - Just east of Tiananmen Square and west of Nanchizi
  - Looking East

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - August 1984
  - April 2005
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Chang’an dajie
  - Just east of Wangfujing crossroads
  - Looking East, from East Wing of Peking Hotel

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - April 2007
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Chang’an dajie
  - Telegraph Building
  - Just east of Xidan crossroads
  - Looking east

- **Dates**
  - February 1979
  - April 2007

- **Notes**
  - Site of Democracy Wall 1978-1979
Beijing

- **Location**
  - The Great Wall, Badaling

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - October 1978
  - September 2002
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Gugong
  - Looking north, at the west side of the Hall of Imperial Harmony

- **Dates**
  - November 1987
  - April 2007
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Outside Gugong Wall
  - Looking south from northeast corner

- **Dates**
  - November 1978
  - November 1998
  - April 2007

- **Notes**
  - Now a police station and security area.
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Jinyuhutong
  - Eastern end, looking west

- **Dates**
  - August 1984
  - April 2007

- **Notes**
  - Jinyuhutong runs from Dongdan dajie to Wangfujing
Beijing

- **Location**
  - Summer Palace
  - Kunminghu

- **Dates**
  - December 1978
  - May 2000
  - September 2002
Beijing

- Location
  - Qianmen
  - Tiananmen Square
  - Looking West

- Dates
  - November 1978
  - April 2007
Beijing

Location
- Tiananmen Square
- Tiananmen and Reviewing Stand
- Looking West

Dates
- April 1976
- April 2007
Chengdu

- **Location**
  - Chunxijie corner Dongda
  - Central shopping district.

- **Date**
  - July 1979
  - July 2009
Chengdu

- Location
  - Donghuazhengjie corner Shunchengdajie
  - Central business district.

- Date
  - July 1979
  - July 2009
Chengdu

- Location
  - Tijingjie corner Shuncheng dajie
  - Central business district.

- Date
  - July 1979
  - July 2009
Leshan Buddha

- **Location**
  - Leshan
  - River confluence opposite Leshan.

- **Date**
  - August 1982
  - July 2009
Nanjing

- **Location**
  - Nanjing Road Bridge
  - Looking North from viewing station

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - April 2007
Nanjing

- **Location**
  - Nanjing Road Bridge
  - Looking South

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - April 2007
Nanjing

- **Location**
  - Nanjing
  - Looking South
  - From the Road Bridge

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - April 2007
Nanjing

- **Location**
  - Outside Taiping Tianguo History Museum
  - Looking to right of main entrance

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - April 2007
Pingyao

- **Location**
  - Main street
  - Looking southwest

- **Dates**
  - November 1987
  - October 2003

- **Notes**
  - Spot the foreigners in 1987
Shanghai

- **Location**
  - Henan Road
  - Outside church
  - Looking from People’s Park

- **Dates**
  - February 1979
  - March 2007

- **Notes**
  - In 1978-1979 this was a site of assembly for democracy activists
Shanghai

- **Location**
  - Songjiang

- **Dates**
  - April 1976
  - March 2006

- **Notes**
  - Songjiang was an older city in the delta, later incorporated in the expansion of Shanghai.
  - Songjiang is currently being developed as a new urban area based on higher education and a series of ‘model’ European villages. Thamestown (in the 2006 photograph) is one of these.
Shanghai

- **Location**
  - Soochow Creek
  - One bridge back from the confluence with the Huangpu
  - From western end of bridge

- **Dates**
  - February 1979
  - March 2007
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Yingzedajie Bridge over Fenhe
  - Looking west from start of bridge

- **Dates**
  - November 1995
  - April 2007

- **Notes**
  - Right hand bridge was built by Yan Xishan
  - Fenhe river bed increasingly dried up after 1975
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Tiyulu

- **Dates**
  - November 1995
  - April 2007

- **Notes**
  - T-junction has now become crossroads
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Yingze dajie
  - Outside Tianlong daxia, looking east

- **Dates**
  - November 1996
  - April 2007
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Yingzedajie Bridge over Fenhe
  - Looking north from just after start of bridge

- **Dates**
  - November 1995
  - April 2007

- **Notes**
  - In 1997 the river bed was reclaimed; a highway built to assist traffic round the city; a park developed alongside the highway, with a reservoir created in the old river bed, sourced by water piped from the Yellow River through the Fenhe to Taiyuan.
Taiyuan

**Location**
- Wuyi Square
- Looking east
- Corner of Bingzhou lu, outside Bingzhou Hotel

**Dates**
- July 1987
- April 2007
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Shanxi Grand Hotel
  - Looking towards Manager’s Desk from Coffee Shop

- **Dates**
  - November 1995
  - April 2007
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Yingze dajie
  - Looking west from Wuyi Square

- **Dates**
  - July 1987
  - October 2007
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - Yingze dajie
  - Looking west
  - Corner Jiefanglu, standing on north side of Yingze dajie

- **Dates**
  - July 1987
  - April 2007
Taiyuan

- **Location**
  - City
  - Looking east from Shanxi Grand Hotel

- **Dates**
  - September 2002
  - April 2007
Tianjin

- **Location**
  - Bingjiangdao, in former French Concession area.
  - Central shopping district.
  - Corner of Bingjiangdao with Hepinglu, walking down towards former French Cathedral.

- **Date**
  - February 1979
  - October 2008
Tianjin

- **Location**
  - Hepinglu
  - Central shopping district.

- **Date**
  - February 1979
  - October 2008