

Helongjiang General

Jixi to Huanan

It doesn't take much to close an expressway in China and a bit of snow overnight on 6 April was enough to do that. We, therefore, had to drive the old road from Jixi to Huanan and it took us the whole day. On the plus side, it was an interesting journey involving a blocked road on a mountain pass and lunch at a village along the way.



Leaving Jixi - the road varied from 'bad' to 'narrow but good'. This section was 'fair'.



As we climbed the first pass, snow was lying on the ground.



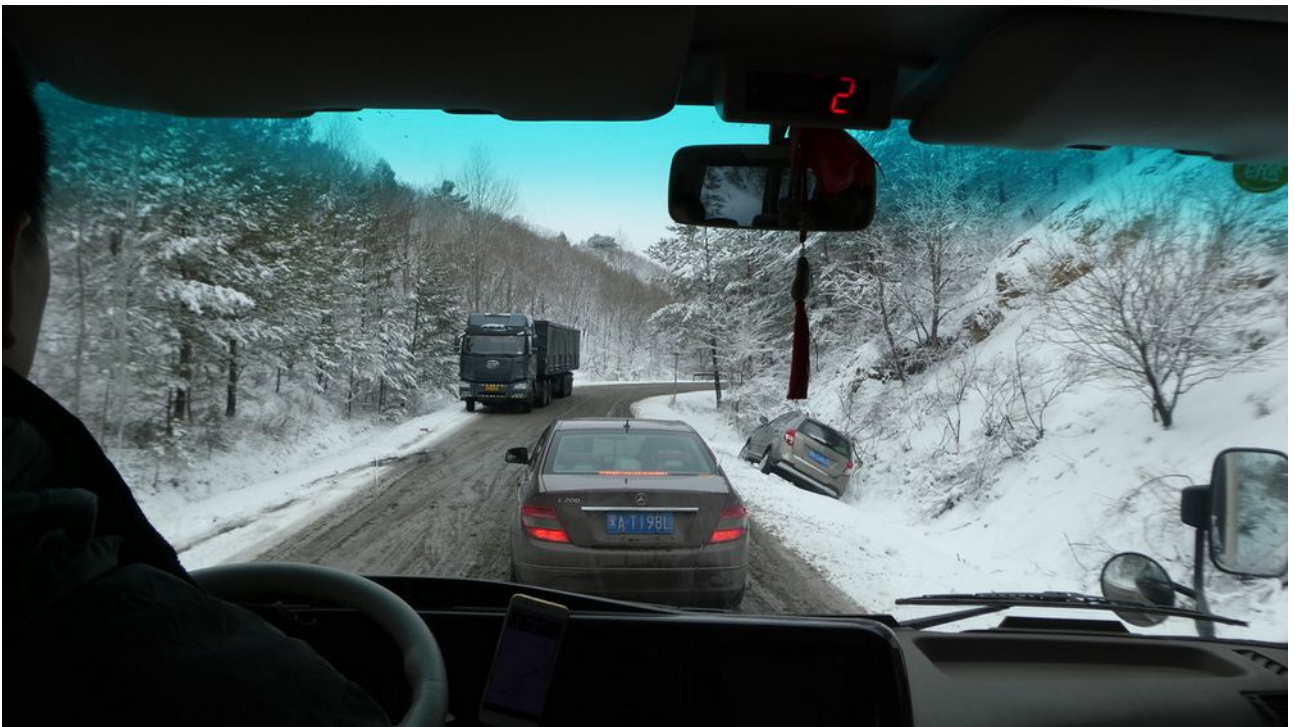
And sticking to the trees.



We ground to a halt near the summit and waited for about 30 minutes while the traffic police sorted things out.



This was the view looking forwards.



A truck has stalled on the grade and a car was in the ditch.



We got onto a good bit of road after Qitaihe but overtaking was a squeeze!



Silk worm cocoons were on the menu for lunch so after checking if some of the group would try them, we ordered up a plate.



Silk worm cocoons prepared as a dish. They were tasty.



Our group were discovered by some local girls looking for selfies with the western visitors.



The family who run the restaurant. The young cook and owner is second from right.



These looked odd so I asked what they were. It seems they are used to grow fungus after being impregnated with fungus spores.

We made it to Huanan around 15:00 and after a haircut and a shop, we had dinner with one of the new Huanan tourist railway managers and some of his staff. Among the dishes was this one.



The edible tree leaf on the right was a first for me. It is used to make a wrap with meat and spicy dips, it had a slight minty taste. A very interesting take on the Chinese idea of making a wrap also used with Peking Duck but with a pancake in that dish.

John Raby
6 April 2019