

Hongyuan: Grasslands and Nomads (8/13/2007)

I arrived in Hongyuan just before 9:00 am, a starkly ugly city, especially in contrast to the beautiful scenery that passed by my window on the bus ride into town. But I had known that the attraction here was not the city but rather the grasslands and nomads that surround it. I wasted no time in navigating my way out of concrete labyrinth into the green fields on the outskirts of the city. It wasn't long before I stumbled across a couple of friendly nomad women who invited me in to their tent and served me up a lunch of thick soup and bread. I thanked them for the meal and spent the remainder of the afternoon wondering through the fields strewn with yaks and nomad tents eventually climbing a nearby hill for an expansive view over the valley.



View of the grasslands on the road to Hongyuan.



Horses on the road to Hongyuan.



Yaks and a nomad tent on the road to Hongyuan.



Yak outside of Hongyuan.



Nomad woman making butter and cheese from yak milk (tent where I had lunch), outside of Hongyuan.



Nomad woman and her child in the tent where I had lunch outside of Hongyuan.



Nomad child outside of Hongyuan.



Prayer flags and view of the grasslands near Hongyuan.



Nomad woman near Hongyuan.



**Wildflowers on the
grasslands near Hongyuan.**



**Prayer flags and view of the
grasslands near Hongyuan.**



Nomad tent and goats near Hongyuan.



Wildflowers on the grasslands near Hongyuan.



View of the grasslands near Hongyuan.