

Blog 8
Chengdu Part. 3—Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding



On the last day of our trip, we decided to take a look at the one and only Panda research center in the world – Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. I was so excited to see a real live panda! The minute you step into that environment you know for sure it's a home for bamboo eating creatures. Why? Because bunches of bamboos bordered all of the sidewalks, creating shade for the visitors walking by.

Panda's are an extremely endangered species. The best estimate of the entire amount of pandas left in the world is only 1,600. 200 of them are in captivity in zoos much like the one we visited. Unlike many other animals, Pandas are only found in three provinces in China and one of them is Sichuan. (The province in witch Chengdu is located)



That day was pretty hot, not many pandas were in their usual outdoors area. But one mother along with her two mischievous babies stayed outside and we were very lucky to catch a glimpse at them. The mother was quietly sun tanning in her corner, while the two babies were off on their own playing. Their movements and adorableness attracted our attention and brung out our giggles. One of the little pandas intrigued my attention the most. She took off for one of the nearby trees and started doing the unthinkable. Climbing it! What a little monkey! ☺ Surprisingly, she climbed it in a blink of an eye. Then with one swift movement she slid herself onto the long low hanging branch attached to the tree trunk, then whoop! She flipped herself upside down! And that wasn't enough! She did it a second time around! She was certainly the center of my attention!



During this little rascal's tree-climbing act, the other one was trying its best to urge its mother to play with them. No matter what she did, climbing over her mother, scratching her, or even nuzzling under her thick and heavy arm, the mother would just lay there yawning and gnawing on the fresh green stick of bamboo. What a lazy mother!!



1936, the year the very first panda was brought to the U.S by Ruth Harkness. The little panda's name was Su-Lin. This little creature made so many Americans interested in the Giant Panda. Books, news and articles were written about them. The pictures of panda made its way onto people's clothing. This made Americans bring many more Giant Pandas into the United States. At this time there are more than 10 pandas that live in 4 different cities in the U.S. I hope I can visit them as well when I go back to the United States.

