

001020 Victoria Peak

Hello all,

I am currently writing to you from Victoria Peak in Hong Kong. The Peak is supposed to offer amazing views of the city below, but it has been raining since I arrived in Hong Kong. The Peak is unfortunately surrounded in clouds.

Yesterday I went to see the doctor regarding my ankle. He took more x-rays and examined the ankle. He told me that I did indeed tear a ligament. The process of tearing the ligament also chipped off a few pieces of the bone. He removed the cast as it had been applied incorrectly and it put me at risk of blood clots in my calf muscle and further damage to my ankle. In fact, he was amazed that further damage had not already occurred. However, the cast was a big hit in the x-ray lab where people came out to see it as they had never seen anything like it before.

The doctor told me to continue to use the crutches for a month, but to progressively put more and more weight onto the ankle as I walk. He said that 85% of people who have this type of injury will fully recover in a month. However, 15% of people require surgery. Rather than to perform unnecessary surgery, doctors will wait till after the first month to determine if it is necessary. So, by that time, if the ankle is still painful I will be almost ready to go home to have the surgery done there.

The insurance company could not get me a flight out till Sunday. I have figured out a way to use only one crutch which allows me to carry an umbrella in the other hand. Actually, one crutch is a lot more stable on the slick pavement. I have wanted to come to Hong Kong for as long as I can remember so I have been eager to get out of my hotel room and the hospital. Hong Kong has not let me down in that it is an amazing city. What is startling is the sheer number of foreigners here. Also startling is being able to speak English. I keep wanting to speak Mandarin, which people here generally do not understand anyway.

I will return to Yantai tomorrow.

Thanks for all of the emails! I have not had a chance yet to read them as I only am allowed a few minutes on this machine. However, I will check them all tomorrow.

Take care,

Jeff



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