

## Riding in China

The horse riding school “Gut Moschenhof” in Hubbelrath hosted guests from Shanghai for a week. On Sunday, equestrian trainer Edward Wong and his students took their first ride through the forests.



Above Picture: Enthralled by a cultural exchange on horseback: Trainer Kathrine Queck (right), her colleague Edward Wong (kneeling) and the delegation of students from Shanghai. The group has now scheduled a couple days stay on Sylt.

Hubbelrath – Eleven year old Audrey adjusts her cap for the last time, grabs the stirrups and swings herself easily into the saddle of pony “Gypsi,” with whom she has enjoyed a close friendship these last days. Just as the other eight children and two adults that equestrian instructor Edward Wong has brought along to Germany, she has been riding the same horse since last Wednesday and has since learned a lot.

Kathrin Queck, the trainer from “Gut Moschenhof,” has been diligently learning vocabulary, so that her Chinese students can understand her. Instruction in English was no problem for Audrey and her friends. Some of them come from international families with one Chinese and one European parent. Most of them speak fluent Mandarin, English and French and attend international schools.

The first small highlight for a part of the group is the ride through the abundant nature reserve between Hubbelrath and Ratingen. Once Olaf Joh, who founded the horse riding school with his wife Melanie 22 years ago, is in his saddle, the ride can finally begin. The children are visibly excited, after all so far all they have only seen are big trees in books. “The landscape here is simply unbelievable,” agrees Wong. “The forests seem endless.”

### **Riding on a higher level**

Last year in December, he came to Düsseldorf for the first time, to visit his friend Hendrik Sassmann, who worked as a guest instructor at the “Meadowbrook Equestrian Centre” in Shanghai for a year. “The Germans simply know the most about horses,” says Wong. That’s why he wanted to bring his students to Germany: So that they can see what riding at a higher level looks like.

Today, however, everyone takes a relaxed approach and savor the experience. The weather is perfect for it: sunny, but not too hot. Only when Olaf Joh changes from a fast paced trot into a gallop is there some unrest amongst the group. Ten year old Marie, youngest participant of the ride, begins to cry. “Marie, let me hear your Brrrr-sound,” Wong tries to remind her of what she’s learned, “you’re so good at it.” But for the little girl it’s just too many new impressions at once.

So the round ends in a peaceful trot. “That was fun,” says Audrey, “so far I’ve always just ridden indoors.” In the end everyone agrees: They want to come back. And even Olaf and Melanie Joh are considering starting a serious co-operation with the school in Shanghai, maybe even combine it with language classes. For today, however, it is time to say goodbye to Gut Moschenhof and Düsseldorf. Before flying back home, the group plans to spend a few days in Sylt.

### **INFO**

#### **Germany-Visit**

During the week on Gut Moschenhof, the guests weren’t simply sitting in the saddle all day. They took part in several activities: Sightseeing in the city centre, the visit of a big equestrian competition in Ratingen, and a big barbeque evening together with the Germans. The guests were fascinated by the landscape and the sophisticated level of the German riders. That’s why Edward Wong instructs according to German methods in his Meadowbrook horse riding school. More information online under [www.meadowbrookshanghai.com](http://www.meadowbrookshanghai.com)