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在10月为期8天的公众假日结束后，数以百万计的人们在中国重返工作岗位。这个假期是人们外出旅行和消费的时期。然而这次长假特别令人关注的是在公路和主要旅游景点的堵塞情景。请听 BBC 记者 Viv Marsh 发回的报道：

They called it the "great queue of China", and it **went viral** on the internet. It was a photo showing a visitor on the Great Wall near Beijing last week, with the famous structure **snaking** to the horizon behind him completely hidden by a mass of other tourists. The **vast** imperial palace, the Forbidden City, at one point welcomed more than a hundred-and-eighty-thousand visitors in a single day.

In the desert at Dunhuang, at least two camels transporting tourists reportedly died from **overwork**. And Chinese media said road traffic was up by thirteen per cent on last year, causing **unprecedented** jams. Many people in China don't take their leave **entitlement** because regulations aren't properly **enforced**: they save their travelling for the two big annual public holidays - the other is at Chinese New Year. Then, it seems as if the whole country has **shut down** and everyone is on the road or on the train.

There've been renewed **appeals** for a third public holiday, in May, to be lengthened to spread the **strain**. And a commentary by Xinhua news agency

went further, calling for a proper system of paid leave. It said that as Chinese people's living standards improved, public holidays were no longer enough to fulfil their needs.

Questions

1. What is the name of the famous palace in Beijing's city centre?
2. What kind of animals died from overwork as mentioned in the report?
3. How many big public holidays are there in China?
4. What is the reported increase in road traffic when compared to previous year?

Vocabulary and definitions

went viral	快速散播
snaking	弯来弯去的
vast	庞大的
overwork	操劳过度
unprecedented	从未有过的
entitlement	应有的权利
enforced	被执行
shut down	关闭
appeals	呼吁
strain	负担

Answers to the questions

1. What is the name of the famous palace in Beijing's city centre?

Answer: The Forbidden City.

2. What kind of animals died from overwork as mentioned in the report?

Answer: Camels.

3. How many big public holidays are there in China?

Answer: Two big holidays in October and Chinese New Year.

4. What is the reported increase in road traffic when compared to previous year?

Answer: Up by 13 percent.