

TRAVELQUEST International SKY & TELESCOPE

TOTAL
SOLAR
ECLIPSE

JULY 25 — AUGUST 5, 2008

THE Ancient Silk Road

ABOARD THE
CHINA ORIENT EXPRESS



Over 2000 years ago, the legendary Silk Road was the passage for the flow of goods between China and the trading centers of Persia, the Middle East and the Roman Empire. Along with merchandise into China, traders brought Islam, Buddhism and cultural traditions that endure today.

TravelQuest International and *Sky & Telescope* invite you to join us as we explore the historical and cultural wonders of China's Dunhuang and to experience the August 1, 2008 total solar eclipse. We will experience the 2-minute eclipse from our specially selected viewing site in the high desert, about a 4-hour drive outside of Hami.

Both first-time China travelers and those returning again will find this eclipse tour an exciting and adventurous journey.

略建國大綱三民

Itinerary Overview

Day 1	Fri, Jul 25	Arrive Xi'an
Day 2	Sat, Jul 26	Xi'an
Day 3	Sun, Jul 27	Xi'an
Day 4	Mon, Jul 28	Xi'an • board the China Orient Express
Day 5	Tue, Jul 29	Jiayuguan
Day 6	Wed, Jul 30	Onboard the China Orient Express • Dunhuang
Day 7	Thu, Jul 31	Onboard the China Orient Express • Hami
Day 8	Fri, Aug 1	Eclipse Day near Hami
Day 9	Sat, Aug 2	Motorcoach to Turpan
Day 10	Sun, Aug 3	Motorcoach to Urumqi
Day 11	Mon, Aug 4	Urumqi
Day 12	Tue, Aug 5	Depart Urumqi

Day 1 Friday, July 25, 2008

Meals Aloft

Beijing - Xi'an

Upon arrival at Beijing's Capital International Airport (PEK), you will be greeted and escorted to your connecting flight (included) to Xi'an, the eastern terminus for the caravans of the Silk Road and China's capital through 11 dynasties. Upon arrival in Xi'an you will be met and transferred to our hotel. The balance of the day will be free to relax and explore on your own.

Overnight: Xi'an Sheraton Hotel (3 nights)

Day 2 Sat, July 26

B/L/D

Xi'an - Big Goose Pagoda

After a leisurely morning, join the group for lunch before departing for the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a masterpiece of Buddhist construction built in AD 652. Climbing the stairs past seven stories of exquisite carvings and calligraphy, we will be treated to panoramic views of the city. This evening we'll attend a traditional multi-course dumpling banquet, followed by an impressive performance of Tang Dynasty dance and music.

Day 3 Sun, July 27

B/L/D

Xi'an - Terracotta Warriors

After breakfast this morning we'll travel to see the world-famous Terracotta Warriors, which was designated by UNESCO in 1987 as a World Cultural Heritage Site, and is certainly one of the most exciting archeological finds in recent history. Later, we'll tour the well-preserved walls of ancient Xi'an.

July 25 - August 5, 2008

Day 4 Mon, July 28

B/L/D

Xi'an - China Orient Express Train

After checkout from the hotel this morning, we will board the famed China Orient Express to begin our adventure by rail as city sprawl gives way to the terraced fields of the countryside, then yielding to the desert. Each sleeping carriage has eight private cabins decorated with mahogany and brass. Silk-lined walls and rich carpet embellish the hallways. Between every two cabins is a compartment with a sink, and there is a toilet at each end of the sleeping carriage.

Overnight: Onboard the China Oriental Express

Day 5 Tue, July 29

B/L/D

Jiayuguan

Take time this morning to pack an overnight bag to take with you for tonight's hotel stay. The remainder of your luggage will be left secured in your train compartment.

Upon arrival in Jiayuguan, we will check in to our hotel and have lunch. This afternoon, we will tour the well-known Jiayuguan Pass, the western end of the Great Wall of China. This was the last fortress for traders heading west, and a welcome sight for those coming from the east out of the desert. We will return to Jiayuguan this evening for dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Jiayuguan Hotel

Day 6 Wed, July 30

B/L/D

Jiayuguan - Dunhuang

After breakfast, we will continue our train journey to Dunhuang, founded in 111 B.C. as an important crossroad for caravans traveling south. We will enjoy lunch on the train as it skirts the southern edge of the Gobi Desert. Upon arrival in Dunhuang in the early afternoon, we will visit the famed Mogao Grottoes, one of the greatest repositories of Buddhist art in the world. Many visitors find themselves deeply touched by the hundreds of statues, paintings and reliefs.

After our tour, we will check in to our hotel and relax during the hottest part of the day. In the late afternoon we will take a tour of Min Sha Hill and the Crescent Moon Pool, where we will have the opportunity to ride Bactrian camels over the sand dunes. This evening, we will enjoy dinner and a cultural show at the hotel.

Day 7 Thu, July 31

B/L/D

Dunhuang - Hami

After late breakfast this morning, we'll board the train for Hami, rolling through desert landscapes enjoying lunch along the way. Upon arrival in Hami in the afternoon, we will end our journey by train and transfer to our hotel to relax and prepare for tomorrow's big event. Join us this evening for dinner and an eclipse day orientation.

Overnight: Hami Hotel (2 nights)

Day 8 Fri, August 1

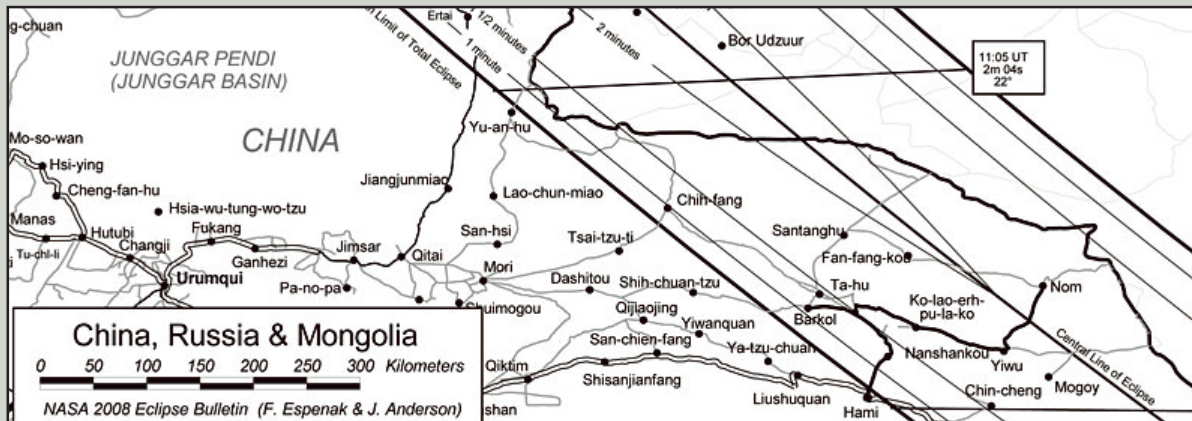
B/L/boxed-D

Eclipse Day in Yiwu

Today will be devoted to the eclipse. We'll meet this morning for a final eclipse briefing. Departing by motorcoach for our centerline viewing site located near the town of Yiwu, our 4.5-hour drive will take us past part of the beautiful Ba Li Kun Grassland. After fourth contact, we'll drive back to Hami, arriving at the hotel well after midnight.

Local eclipse contact times (approx).

First contact (eclipse begins):	18:09
Second contact (totality begins):	19:08
Third contact (totality ends):	19:10
Fourth contact (eclipse ends):	20:05
Duration of totality	1m 54s



Hami Eclipse Day Weather

by Eclipse Meteorologist Jay Anderson

The very best weather prospects for the eclipse are found in a small area of northwest China close to the city of Hami – exactly where TravelQuest has chosen to go. The site lies on the edge of a small range of hills, with the vast extent of the Gobi Desert to the east side and the Talikmakan Desert (second only to the Sahara in size) to the west. Its location in the northern part of China spares it from the monsoon flows that plague the larger part of Southeast Asia at this time of year.

In spite of its proximity to these two great deserts, the incidence of sandstorms and blowing dust is very low, especially in the summer months. China's dust storms tend to come with northerly winds and Hami's location on the north side of the deserts puts it on the upwind side of the source region for the dust. Because of its desert environment, cloud cover is very low and precipitation is rare, totaling only 7 mm on average for the month. The estimated probability of seeing the eclipse is nearly 80 percent.

July 25 - August 5, 2008

Day 9 Sat, August 2

B/L/D

Hami - Turpan

After a late breakfast, we'll depart by private motorcoach for Turpan, the second lowest depression in the world at 154 meters/505 feet below sea level. Passing by the picturesque Flaming Mountains, we will arrive in Turpan in the evening. After dinner, we'll be treated to a performance of traditional song and dance.

Overnight: Turpan Hotel

Day 10 Sun, August 3

B/L/D

Turpan - Urumqi

After breakfast and check-out, our morning excursion will take us to the Karez Well, where we will see and learn about this ingenious ancient underground irrigation system. Continuing on to the Grape Valley we will enjoy the famous grapes harvested in this scenic area and meet some of the local Uyghur people. After lunch, we'll continue our bus ride to Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region - the largest province in China. Upon arrival in this city of almost 3 million people, we will check-in to our hotel and have some time to freshen up. Later, we will explore the city, including a visit to a bustling local bazaar and enjoy a walk through the city's downtown nightlife.

Overnight: Sheraton Urumqi Hotel (2 nights)

Day 11 Mon, August 4

B/L/D

Urumqi

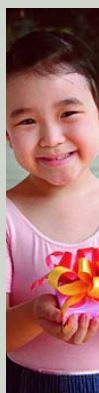
Today's excursion will take us to the beautiful Lake of Heaven (Tianchi Lake). We'll enjoy a leisurely boat ride on this alpine drift lake. The stunning scenery here is a sharp contrast to the arid lands we've left behind. Returning to the city, we will visit the Regional Museum, which has an extensive collection of Silk Road artifacts and houses the famous mummies of Indo-European ancestry. Join us this evening for a special roast lamb farewell dinner.

Day 12 Tue, August 5

B

Urumqi - Beijing

Today we will transfer from the hotel to the airport for our flight to Beijing for connecting onward flights



PAYMENTS/TERMS *Ancient Silk Road, China Eclipse*

Trip Cost:

\$5290 USD per person, double occupancy. Add \$1990 USD for single occupancy (limited availability).

Above pricing is based on a June 2006 exchange rate of 8 RMB (China Yuan Renminbi) to \$1 USD. If at the time of final payment the exchange rate changes in either direction by more than 5% from the current rate, pricing will be adjusted accordingly.

Trip Includes:

- All accommodations with private bathroom facilities per the itinerary (5 star hotel in Xi'an and Urumqi, and best available in other cities), breakfast daily, local service charge and tax.
- Arrival and departure transfers for those arriving and departing the dates of the tour.
- Baggage handling at all hotels.
- Services of a bi-lingual Tour Manager who will accompany the group throughout the tour.
- Local English-speaking guides throughout the program.
- All sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees per itinerary.
- All in-country transportation per the itinerary including private train from Xian and Hami, private bus transportation from Hami to Urumqi, and one-way flights from Beijing to Xian and Urumqi to Beijing.
- All meals, including breakfast daily, lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary.
- Bottled/purified water will be provided on buses.
- Beverages with lunches/dinners: In cities, your choice of one non-alcoholic drink (soft drink or water) or beer is included. On the train, a beer and water is included at both lunches and dinners.
- All gratuities to Tour Managers, local guides, drivers and train service staff.

Not Included:

- International airfare to and from China. (Flight information will be provided in Fall 2007).
- China visa fees (approximately \$50 USD).
- All items not expressly listed above - including but not limited to: food or beverages not included in group meals, items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcoholic beverages, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, evacuation costs, other items not expressly listed as included.
- Possible additional hotel nights in Beijing that may be needed because of airline flight connection changes.
- Travel Insurance to cover cancellation, emergency medical, evacuation costs, trip interruption, etc.

Payments and Terms:

A \$700 per person advance payment (payable by using MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express or by check drawn on a US bank), along with a completed reservation form, confirms your space. A second advance payment of \$1000 per person is due September 25, 2007. The balance is due March 15, 2008.

All advance payments, less a \$250 per person service fee, are refundable until September 25, 2007. From September 26 to March 15, 2008, there will be a \$1200 per person cancellation fee. There are no refunds after March 15, 2008. Air cancellation terms are additional.

July 25 - August 5, 2008

Air Travel & Optional Add-On Packages:

International airfare is not included in the cost of this program. In Fall 2007, we will provide you with contact information for an air-ticketing agency familiar with this tour. They will assist with your travel needs at that time, or you may book your flights on your own.

Internal China flights, beginning and ending in Beijing, are included in the cost of this tour. Although these flights connect through Beijing, this tour does not include any time in the city. In Fall 2007, we will offer optional Beijing and Shanghai pre- and post-tour add-on packages, including optional Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic packages.

Weather:

In August, average daytime temperatures are around 100°F/38°C in Silk Road desert locations. (Our private motorcoach is air-conditioned). Nights in the desert cool to about 65°F/18°C. Rain is very unlikely. Keep in mind that these are averages, and extreme conditions could change these temperatures significantly.

The Famous China Orient Express:

In the 1950s and '60s, diplomats and delegations traveled cross-country aboard the China Orient Express. Now it is your turn to survey the countryside in the comfort of this vintage train available only to dignitaries and special groups.

Privately chartered for our 2008 eclipse tour, we will spend four days on the historic China Orient Express, from Xi'an through the Gobi Desert to Hami. Each sleeping carriage has eight private cabins decorated with mahogany and brass. Silk-lined walls and rich carpet embellish the hallways. Between every two cabins is a compartment with a sink, and there is a toilet at each end of the sleeping carriage.

Because there are no showers on the train, we will pack an overnight bag and stay in hotels all but one night. For meals onboard, Chinese chefs prepare traditional specialties served in the dining cars. Lounge cars offer the opportunity to relax or visit with friends as the landscape unfolds past the windows.



Optional trip cancellation/medical insurance is highly recommended. Application informational will be provided with initial invoice. You can also get information on our website at www.tq-international.com and you may sign-up online.



Reservation Form

Ancient Silk Road, China Eclipse

Please fill out this form (both pages) and mail it to TravelQuest International at; 305 Double D Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86303. You may fax this form to TravelQuest at 928-445-8771. You may also fill out this form online at www.tq-international.com.

Traveler 1 Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Traveler 2 Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

For additional travelers, please provide above information for each person on a separate sheet and attach to this form.

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Evening Phone Number: _____

Day/Work Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Name/Relationship: _____

Emergency Phone Number: _____

Payment Amount: _____ Enter Amount. (\$700 USD per Person)

Payment by Check:

(Drawn on US Funds. Payable to TravelQuest, 305 Double D Dr., Prescott, AZ 86303)

Payment by Credit Card: American Express Master Card Visa Discover

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card Verification Number: _____

Please Sign Here: _____

IMPORTANT: By submitting this form and making this payment your party agrees to our Consumer Disclosure Notice (last page), and the Payment and Cancellation Terms of this tour.

PLEASE CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE

July 25 - August 5, 2008

Where available I/we prefer:

ONE Bed TWO Beds

I am traveling alone and would like to share a double room,
(Roommate not guaranteed):

YES NO

I am traveling alone and would prefer a single room
with single supplement

YES NO

How did you find us? _____



Mail this form to:

**TravelQuest International
305 Double D Drive
Prescott, Arizona 86303**

Fax this form to:

928-445-8771

For further information please visit our website at: www.tq-international.com

Or call us at: **800-830-1998** US and Canada Only **928-445-7754** All other



VERY IMPORTANT CONSUMER DISCLOSURE NOTICE

Please read this notice. It constitutes part of your contract for travel-related services.

Event Horizon LLC, doing business as TravelQuest International, and hereafter referred to as TravelQuest, its agents (collective) and sponsoring organizations act only as an independent contractor for the suppliers of transportation, accommodations, food and other goods and services provided to the participant. All arrangements to transport, accommodate and other services are made upon the express condition that TravelQuest and its agents shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, or loss to person or property, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond our control, including without limitation, any act or negligence or breach of contract of any third party, such as an airline, cruise line, train, hotel, restaurant, ground handler, etc., who is to or does supply any goods or services to the tour.

Without limiting the foregoing, TravelQuest and its agents are not responsible for any loss or expenses due to delay or change in schedule, overbooking of accommodations, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, quarantine, theft, criminal activity or for any other cause beyond our control.

TravelQuest reserves the right to change the itinerary of this tour without prior notice. If the tour is canceled by TravelQuest due to low enrollment, TravelQuest shall incur no liability beyond the refund of all tour participants' payments received. However, if TravelQuest must cancel for reasons beyond its control, including but not limited to weather, disease, strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism or war, TravelQuest's liability shall be limited to a refund of only those portions of the tour cost TravelQuest is able to recover from suppliers.

TravelQuest may increase the tour cost if there are cost increases. If any tour member chooses not to participate in any included activity or meal, there will be no refund for that unused portion of the tour. If any tour member leaves or is removed from the tour, a refund only for refundable unused services shall be made. This tour may be sold in conjunction with the services of any airline. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger. Carriers are not responsible for any act or omission or events during the time tour participants are not aboard their conveyances.

Any litigation concerning this tour shall be brought in Yavapai County, in the State of Arizona, pursuant to the laws of Arizona. Changes in this Responsibility Clause can be made only in writing and signed by an officer of TravelQuest. Deposits paid by tour participant indicate acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

