



Join TravelQuest and Sky & Telescope to witness the awe-inspiring total solar eclipse on August 1, 2008, outside the Siberian city of Novosibirsk.

Itinerary Overview

Day 1	Wed, Jul 30	Depart Moscow
Day 2	Thu, Jul 31	Arrive Novosibirsk
Day 3	Fri, Aug 1	Novosibirsk • Total Eclipse Day
Day 4	Sat, Aug 2	Depart Novosibirsk • Arrive Moscow



ITINERARY

Novosibirsk Fly-In Total Eclipse

Day 1 Wed, Jul 30

No Meals

Depart Moscow

Those arriving on international flights to Moscow, will be transferred to the domestic airport for the overnight flight to Novosibirsk. (Sample air: Depart Moscow 23:55 – Arrive NOvosibirsk 06:55 next day).

Day 2 Thu, Jul 31

B-Aloft/L/D

Novosibirsk

Arriving in the morning, we will collect our luggage at the airport and board our private motorcoach to begin an orientation tour of Novosibirsk. With a population of 1.6 million, Novosibirsk is the largest city in Siberia, and its industrial and scientific center. Novosibirsk did not exist before the Trans-Siberian railway was built, growing up around the place chosen for the rail line's Ob River crossing.

Our driving tour will include stops at Lenin Square and the Church of the Ascension, as well as the Opera and Ballet Theater whose landmark rotunda and tall portico have become one of the city's highlights. Our next stop will be the Novosibirsk State Museum of Regional Studies, whose task has been to collect original artifacts and information about Siberia's many indigenous peoples, most of who were still living in the old ways in 1920 when the museum was founded. Today, fourteen of the Siberian indigenous nations are represented here, as well as the early Slavic settlers in the area.

After lunch we'll continue on to Akademgorodok (Academy City) and check into our hotel. The Golden Valley Hotel is a Soviet style building in the center of the scientific and educational community of Akademgorodok, 10 miles outside of Novosibirsk. Rooms include refrigerator, phone, TV and modern bathrooms. The restaurant serves Russian and international cuisine and there is a separate bar.

Founded in 1959 by Nikita Khrushchev when he relocated USSR's top scientists to this special town built expressly for scientific research, Akademgorodok continues today as perhaps the most renowned world-class research campus.

Join us this evening for dinner and an orientation/weather briefing in preparation for tomorrow's total solar eclipse.

Day 3 Fri, August 1

B/L/D

Novosibirsk: Eclipse Day!

Today is dedicated to experiencing the total solar eclipse from our specially selected centerline viewing site. Join us this evening for a celebratory dinner and to share our eclipse experiences.



July 30 - August 2, 2008

Local eclipse contact times (approx).

First contact (eclipse begins):	16:41
Second contact (totality begins):	17:44
Third contact (totality ends):	17:46
Fourth contact (eclipse ends):	18:45
Duration of totality	2m 20s



Novosibirsk Eclipse Day Weather

by Eclipse Meteorologist Jay Anderson

Russia's fourth-largest city provides ready access to the eclipse track and to the most favourable area for viewing outside of China. Novosibirsk lies within a small region of south central Siberia that has a notable sunny microclimate. Lying in the midst of the world's largest landmass, the city is well-removed from oceanic moisture sources. The immense Altai Mountains and the Gobi Desert to the south block monsoon flows that invade Asia at this time of year.

Southern Siberia experiences the same types of weather systems typical of the northern Great Plains, with periodic low-pressure disturbances and generous thunderstorms. Temperatures are pleasantly warm and humidities typically low. Cooling associated with the eclipse will tend to dissipate smaller cloud elements and the higher angle of the Sun when compared to Chinese locations will make viewing more certain in a partly-cloudy sky.

Day 4 Sat, August 2

B

Novosibirsk - Moscow

After an early breakfast, our eclipse adventure comes to a close as we transfer to the airport for our return flight to Moscow. (Sample Air: Depart Novosibirsk 07:40am – Arrive Moscow 08:40am).

Upon arrival in Moscow, we will transfer as a group from the domestic airport to the international airport for onward flight connections.

Trip Cost:

\$2295 USD per person, double occupancy. Add \$340 USD for single occupancy (limited availability).

Trip Includes:

- Roundtrip flight Moscow – Novosibirsk.
- Accommodations in Akademgorodok for 2 nights, with breakfast daily, local service charge and tax.
- Private coach airport/hotel transfers.
- Meals per the itinerary: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners.
- Professional bi-lingual Tour Manager throughout the tour.
- Professionally-guided walking and driving tours per itinerary.
- Entrance fees to all sites listed in itinerary.
- Bottled/purified water with all meals and on buses.
- Russian visa invitation.
- All gratuities to Tour Manager, local guides & drivers.

Not Included:

- International airfare and taxes.
- Russian visa support and processing.
- Travel insurance - highly recommended. Application information provided with initial invoice.
- 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, other items not expressly listed as included.
- Travel Insurance to cover cancellation, emergency medical, evacuation costs, trip interruption, etc.

Payments and Terms:

A \$500 USD per person advance payment (payable by check drawn on a US bank or using MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express cards), along with a completed reservation form, confirms your space. A second advance payment of \$500 is due September 25, 2007. The balance is due March 15, 2008.

All advance payments, less a \$200 per person service fee, are refundable until July 25, 2007. From July 26 to September 25, 2007, there will be a \$400 per person cancellation fee. From September 26 to March 15, 2008, there will be a \$600 per person cancellation fee. There are no refunds after March 15, 2008. Air cancellation terms are additional.

July 30 - August 2, 2008

What to Expect:

Weather: The average July/August temperatures in Moscow are about 71°F/22°C by day and 55°F/13°C at night. In the inland city of Novosibirsk (our eclipse viewing area), average temperatures are near 80°F/27°C by day and near 68°F/20°C at night. Keep in mind that these are averages, and extreme conditions could change these temperatures, and it would not be unusual for it to be significantly cooler or hotter with humidity (our private train and motorcoaches are air-conditioned). Throughout the trip, rain is possible. It is each traveler's responsibility to be prepared for any type of weather.

Airfare: International air travel is not included in this program. Flights within Russia required by your itinerary are included in your tour price. In Fall of 2007, we will provide you with contact information for a ticketing agency familiar with your tour. They will assist you with your travel needs at that time, or you may book your flights on your own.

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.

Sensory Overload

A total eclipse of the Sun has to be seen, and heard, and felt to be believed.

Much of the time, astronomical observing involves straining to perceive something at the limit of detectability, such as a faint galaxy, a dim double-star companion, or a tiny festoon in Jupiter's clouds. The more you look the more you see, so the key to really enjoying backyard astronomy is to spend lots of time doing it. It also helps if you take the trouble to learn as much as you can about what you're looking for, because even when you find it you may not be terribly impressed with the view. As I've written before (S&T: January 2005, page 8), most celestial objects are small, faint, or both, so they're best appreciated with the mind rather than the eye.

Among the relatively few exceptions to this rule, the most extreme is a total eclipse of the Sun. You don't have to use averted vision or special filters or other tricks to experience totality. You just have to put yourself in the right place at the right time and hope for clear skies. When the Moon's shadow arrives, it hits you over the head — big time!

I like to use the phrase "experience totality" rather than "see totality," because a total solar eclipse is the only celestial phenomenon I can think of that truly overwhelms the senses, so much so that it's virtually impossible for a single observer to take in everything that happens. You can't look up in the sky at the last sliver of Sun at the same time you're looking down at the ground for shadow bands. You can't admire the pretty sunset colors around the horizon or scan the sky for bright stars and planets while you're examining coronal streamers in your telescope. And you can't watch the "diamond ring" glitter at the end of totality while you're using a diffraction grating to watch for chromospheric emission lines to flash into view.

So you end up seeing some things that others miss, and missing some things that others see. But you also feel the eclipse, as the temperature drops and the wind changes. And you hear it, too, when you and your fellow eclipse-chasers holler with excitement as the event unfolds. (In Mexico in 1991 and in the Caribbean in 1998, observers enjoyed the taste of totality too, thanks to Corona beer and Eclipse Barbados rum!)

I experienced my sixth total eclipse last March 29th in the Libyan desert, with a sizable Sky & Telescope/TravelQuest International tour group that had sailed to Libya from Italy aboard the MSC Sinfonia. Afterward, as we shared with each other what we saw, heard, and felt, I realized that this eclipse had featured almost every phenomenon I'd ever heard of in connection with totality — though as usual I hadn't seen every one of them myself. About the only thing missing was a surprise sungrazing comet.

If you've never experienced totality but spend your clear nights straining at the eyepiece to check off faint fuzzies on the Messier, Caldwell, or Hershel lists, I urge you to think about traveling to totality at the next opportunity. You really owe it to yourself to check off the one celestial target that eclipses all others.

Rick Fienberg
Editor in Chief

SKY & TELESCOPE

Reservations

Novosibirsk Fly-In Total Eclipse

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Traveler 1 Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Traveler 2 Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

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

Address: _____

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Day/Work Phone Number: _____

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Payment Amount: _____ Enter Amount. (\$500 USD per Person)

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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 30 - August 2, 2008

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**

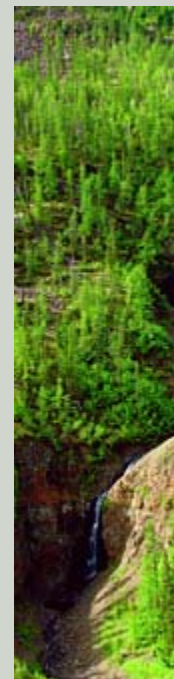
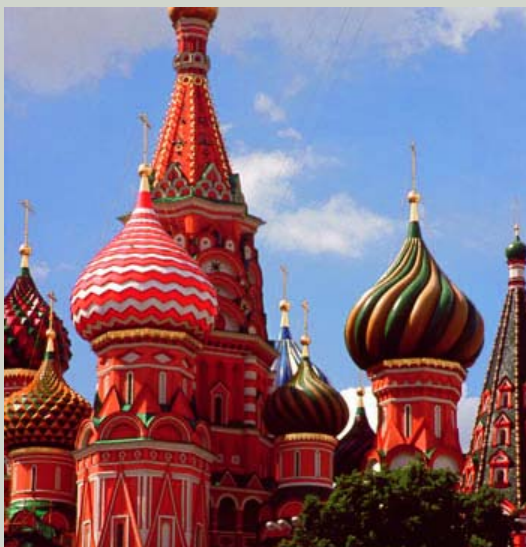
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Any litigation concerning this tour shall be brought in Yavapai County, in the State of Arizona, pursuant to the laws of Arizona. Changes in this Responsibility Clause can be made only in writing and signed by an officer of TravelQuest. Deposits paid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

