



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION of SMITH COLLEGE

Total Solar Eclipse over China July 15 to 24, 2009

Preliminary Itinerary (subject to amendment)

Day 1 – Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Gateway City/Beijing

- Depart the USA for Beijing.

(Appropriate in-flight meals)

Day 2 – Thursday, July 16, 2009

Beijing

- Arrive in Beijing and proceed to the hotel.
- Gather this evening for a welcome orientation.

(Appropriate in-flight meals)

Novotel Peace Hotel

Day 3 – Friday, July 17, 2009

Forbidden City

- Visit Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world, located in the heart of Beijing.
- Continue to the former imperial palace at the Forbidden City.
- Examine the 15th-century Temple of Heaven, with its unique round architectural design symbolizing the relationship of Earth and Heaven.
- Gather this evening for a festive welcome dinner.

(B, L, D)

Novotel Peace Hotel

Day 4 – Saturday, July 18, 2009

Great Wall of China

- Travel across the North China Plain to explore one of the best-preserved sections of the Great Wall.
- Then walk along the Sacred Way leading to the Ming Tombs, housing the mausoleums of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors.

(B, L)

Novotel Peace Hotel

Day 5 – Sunday, July 19, 2009

Beijing/Xian

- Fly to Xian, the eastern terminus of the Silk Road, which still shows its Islamic influence.
- Tour the Great Mosque in the Muslim Quarter, with time to browse the eclectic market, followed by a dumpling lunch.
- Enjoy a visit to the Shaanxi Provincial History Museum, one of the finest in China.

(B, L, D)

King Dynasty Hotel

Day 6 – Monday, July 20, 2009

Xian (Terracotta Warriors)

- Explore the legions of terracotta warriors, dating to the 3rd century B.C., standing guard over Emperor Qin’s Tomb.
- Also see the elegant Big Wild Goose Pagoda, an ancient holy place for Buddhists.
- This evening, gather for a special dinner and Tang Dynasty show.

(B, L, D)

King Dynasty Hotel

Day 7 – Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Xian/Oriental Land

- Fly to Shanghai and travel about an hour and a half to a park called Oriental Land, which is the group’s eclipse viewing location.
- En route, explore Zhu Jia Jiao, an historic “water town” with ancient Ming and Qing Dynasty architecture divided by canals and connected by bridges.

(B, L, D)

Oriental Green Boat Villa Hotel

Day 8 - Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Eclipse Day! Oriental Land/Shanghai

- Following breakfast, get into position on the grounds of the hotel for the total solar eclipse scheduled to reach totality at 9:37 a.m.
- Later today, travel to Shanghai and visit Yuyuan Garden, a Ming Dynasty classical garden.
- See the Old Town’s rich display of Ming and Qing Dynasty architecture contrasted against the bustling Shanghai street scene.
- This evening, gather for dinner at the hotel to discuss the day’s exciting events.

(B, L, D)

Vista Holiday Inn Hotel

Day 9 – Thursday, July 23, 2009

Shanghai

- The tour this morning includes the famed Shanghai Museum and the Bund, or the riverfront setting of the colonial era city center.
- Enjoy exploring the city independently this afternoon.
- Then gather for a festive farewell reception.

(B, D)

Vista Holiday Inn Hotel

Day 10 – Friday, July 24, 2009

USA or Yangtze River Cruise Extension

- Proceed to Shanghai’s airport for flights homeward, arriving the same day.
- Or, continue on the Yangtze River cruise.

(B, appropriate in-flight meals)

Post Trip Extension: Yangtze River Cruise ***July 24 to July 28, 2009***

Day 10 – Friday, July 24, 2009 **Shanghai/Chongqing/Embark Yangtze River Cruise**

- Transfer to Pudong International Airport for a flight to Chongqing.
- Upon arrival, we transfer to the city center to visit the Panda Zoo and the Painting Gallery of Chongqing Academy.
- Following dinner in town, transfer to the pier to embark on our cruise along the Yangtze River.
- The ship departs at 9:00 p.m. this evening.

(B, L, D)

Victoria Cruises Riverboat

Day 11 – Saturday, July 25, 2009 **Yangtze River Cruise**

- Today, stop at Fengdu for a shore excursion to visit this “ghost town”.
- Enjoy the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening, followed by dinner and a Fashion Show onboard.

(B, L, D)

Victoria Cruises Riverboat

Day 12 – Sunday, July 26, 2009 **Yangtze River Cruise**

- We enter Qutang Gorge this morning, and stop for a shore excursion visiting the Lesser Gorges of “Daning River”.
- This evening, we cross into Xiling Gorge, and enjoy a special dinner onboard, followed by a cabaret show put on by the ship’s crew.

(B, L, D)

Victoria Cruises Riverboat

Day 13 – Monday, July 27, 2008 **Arrive Yichang/Shanghai**

- This morning, we stop for a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Project.
- After our final lunch onboard, we disembark at Yichang.
- Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Shanghai.
- Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.
- Enjoy the evening and dinner independently.

(B, L)

Hotel Equatorial (or similar)

Day 14 – Tuesday, July 28, 2008 **Shanghai/Return to U.S.**

- Return to Pudong International Airport for flights back to the U.S.

(B, appropriate in-flight meals)