



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION of SMITH COLLEGE

Dear Alumnae and Friends of Smith College:

Join Smith Professor of History Dan Gardner on an exploration of the highlights of China. He will speak about about the intellectual and cultural history of pre-modern China, on a journey that includes the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, Beijing's Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, Xian's famed terracotta warriors, and Shanghai's pulsing energy and colonial past.

The trip is designed to coincide with an extraordinary total solar eclipse lasting nearly six minutes. The eclipse viewing site is Oriental Land, a park complex with broad lawns and groves of trees, referred to as "the lungs of Shanghai" for its fresh air. It provides one of the best chances of clear skies on the centerline of the path of totality, where the eclipse is at its longest duration over terra firma. By staying at a comfortable hotel in the park, the group is in position and well-prepared to witness this astronomical phenomenon.

On July 22, 2009, the sky will slowly dim and the surrounding landscape will become shadowed. All eyes, protected by special filters, will be riveted on the sun. As the sun disappears behind the moon, the Earth and sky will darken, and stars and planets will become visible for nearly six minutes. Wellesley College's Chair of the Astronomy Department and Director of the Whittin Observatory Richard French, and members of the Wellesley College Alumnae Association join our group for this awesome spectacle. Dr. French's lectures and commentary will greatly enhance this experience.

This is truly a unique opportunity, as another eclipse of this duration will not occur again for a few centuries. If you have any questions, or would like to make a reservation, contact the Smith Travel Program at (800) 255-2209 or email alumtrav@smith.edu. We hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

Carrie Brown Ed.M'82
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Smith College

**For further information, please call the Smith Travel Program at
(800) 225-2029 or email alumtrav@smith.edu, or
call Siemer & Hand Travel at (800) 451-4321.**

Faculty Leaders

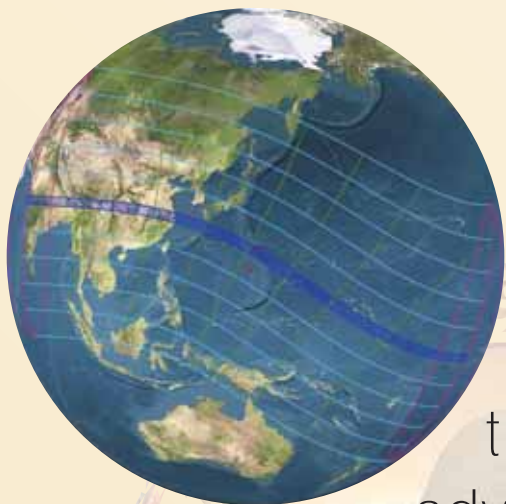
SMITH COLLEGE – Daniel K. Gardner

Daniel K. Gardner, Dwight W. Morrow Professor, specializes in the intellectual and cultural history of pre-modern China. He received his A.B. from Princeton University and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. His most recent books are *The Four Books: The Basic Teachings of the Later Confucian Tradition* (Hackett Publishing, 2007), and *Zhu Xi's Reading of the Analects: Canon, Commentary, and the Confucian Tradition* (Columbia University Press, 2003), an extended analysis of how—and why—different commentators over the centuries read the enormously influential text of the Analects differently.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE -- Richard French

Richard French is a passionate teacher at Wellesley College, where he is currently the Chair of the Astronomy Department and Director of the Whittin Observatory. Using the Hubble Space Telescope's marvelous WFPC2 camera, Dick has focused his attention on Saturn's rings, as the Principal Investigator of this long-term program. His observations and insights will add immeasurable to the eclipse experience.





Highlights of this thrilling adventure...

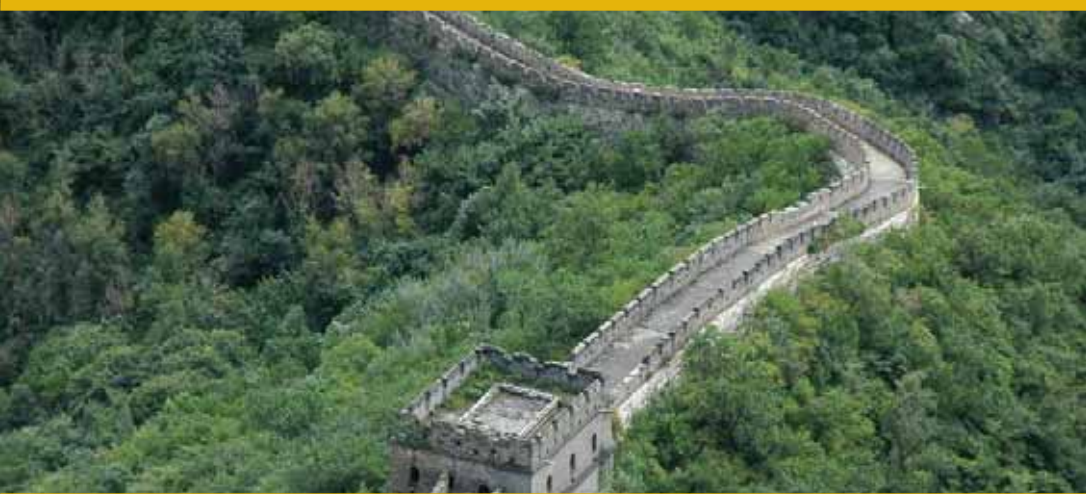
- Witness the total solar eclipse from the centerline of the path of totality, where viewing will last an extraordinary 5 minutes and 55 seconds
- Travel with Smith Professor of History Dan Gardner and Wellesley Professor of Astronomy Richard French
- Explore the highlights of Beijing, including the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, and the Forbidden City
- See Xian's terracotta warriors, and the Bund in Shanghai
- Join an optional post-tour cruise down the Yangtze River through the legendary Three Gorges

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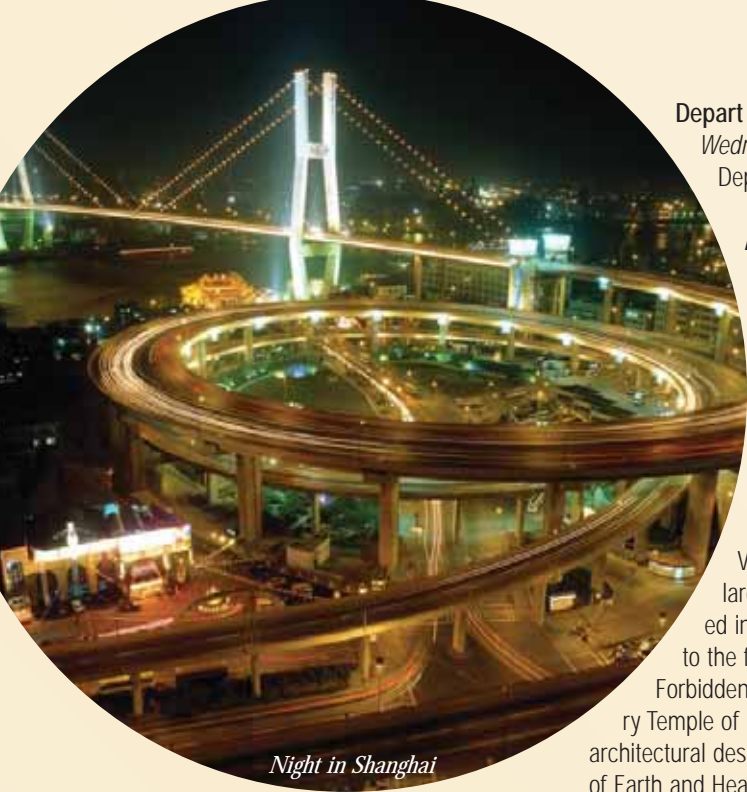


Total Solar Eclipse over China

with Professor Dan Gardner

July 15 – 24, 2009

Featuring a Post-trip Yangtze River Cruise



Night in Shanghai

Depart USA

Wednesday, July 15

Depart the USA for Beijing.

Arrive Beijing *Thursday, July 16*

Arrive in Beijing and proceed to the hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome orientation. **THREE NIGHTS AT THE NOVOTEL PEACE HOTEL**

Forbidden City

Friday, July 17

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)

Great Wall of China

Saturday, July 18

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)

Beijing – Xian

Sunday, July 19

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. **TWO NIGHTS AT THE KING DYNASTY HOTEL** (B,L,D)

Xian (Terracotta Warriors)

Monday, July 20

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)

Xian – Oriental Land

Tuesday, July 21

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. **ORIENTAL GREEN BOAT VILLA HOTEL** (B,L,D)

Program

Costs Include:

- Lecturers and commentary by Smith Professor Dan Gardner and Wellesley Professor Daniel French
- Eight nights accommodations at hotels selected for their service, facilities, and location
- Breakfast every day, six lunches, and six dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners
- Scheduled flights from Beijing to Xian and from Xian to Shanghai
- All sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including entrance fees
- A Siemer & Hand tour manager, plus an English-speaking local guide throughout the trip
- All transfers with luggage handling while in China for those traveling on program dates
- Pre-trip assistance including suggested reading lists and pre-departure information

Optional Yangtze River Cruise Includes:

- Flights from Shanghai to Chongqing and from Yichang to Shanghai
- Three nights passage on the Yangtze riverboat and one night at the Hotel Equatorial, Shanghai
- Four breakfasts, four lunches, and three dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary and all transfers with luggage handling in China for those traveling with the group
- A Siemer & Hand tour manager, plus an English-speaking local guide throughout the trip

Eclipse Day! Oriental Land – Shanghai

Wednesday, July 22

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. TWO NIGHTS AT THE VISTA HOLIDAY INN HOTEL (B,L,D)

Shanghai

Thursday, July 23

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 dinner. (B,D)

Shanghai – USA or Yangtze River Cruise Extension

Friday, July 24

Proceed to Shanghai's airport for flights homeward, arriving the same day. Or, continue on the Yangtze River cruise. (B)

Optional Extension – Yangtze River Cruise

Shanghai – Chongqing – Embark Yangtze River Cruise

Friday, July 24

Fly to Chongqing, tour the city, visiting the Panda Zoo, and board the riverboat to cruise down the Yangtze River. THREE NIGHTS ABOARD A VICTORIA CRUISES RIVERBOAT (B,L,D)

Yangtze River Cruise

Saturday, July 25 to Monday, July 27

Cruise for three days through beautiful Chinese landscapes of sheer mountain cliffs raising from the river's edge. Explore the famed Three Gorges, as well as tributaries flowing through smaller gorges, no less beautiful. Tour the Three Gorges Dam project, one of the largest engineering feats ever attempted. Then fly to Shanghai for a final night. HOTEL EQUATORIAL (3B,3L,2D)

Shanghai – Return to USA

Tuesday, July 28

Return to the airport for flights back to the U.S. arriving on the same day. (B)



Along the Yangtze River

Program Prices

MAIN PROGRAM (Per person, based on double occupancy)	\$3,895
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 695
YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE EXTENSION (Per person, based on double occupancy)	\$1,995
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 525

General Information

■ **LAND COST EXCLUDES:** International airfare; transfers for those not traveling on program dates; meals not specified in the daily itinerary; charges for items of a personal nature including laundry, beverages, and excess baggage charges; gratuities to drivers and guides; independent travel arrangements; trip cancellation insurance; inoculations; and passport and visa fees.

■ **HEALTH:** All participants must be in good health. This program is active and involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. Not all locations may be handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require special medical attention or other accommodation must be reported at the time of your reservation.

■ **DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS:** Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$500 per person. A second deposit of \$1,000 is due November 15, 2008. Final payment is due by March 15, 2009 and must be paid by check. If there is a significant change in the value of the dollar, a sharp rise in the cost of fuel, or other unanticipated circumstance, there

may be a slight increase in the cost of the program.

■ **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$300 per person, will be made if we are notified on or before November 15, 2008. Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$750 per person, will be made if we are notified on or before March 15, 2009. No refunds will be granted after that date. All cancellations must be in writing.

■ **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration.

■ **RESPONSIBILITY:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc. and the Alumnae Association of Smith College for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request.

■ **SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL, INC.:** Seller of fine travel programs since 1959. www.siemerhand.com

CST 1004239-10

RESERVATION FORM CHINA ECLIPSE JULY 15 - 24, 2009

Name (as it appears on passport) _____ Class / Parent Year _____

Name (as it appears on passport) _____ Class / Parent Year _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone Home _____ Business _____

Email _____

I/We would like to participate in the optional post-extension Yangtze River cruise.

ACCOMMODATIONS

I desire single accommodations, and will pay the single supplement of \$695 (subject to availability)

I desire single accommodations on the optional extension, and will pay the single supplement of \$525 (subject to availability).

I will share accommodations with: _____

I am willing to share accommodations and understand that shares cannot be guaranteed.

Please make check payable to *Siemer & Hand Travel*, and mail to:
Smith Travel Program
Alumnae Association of Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) to hold _____ place(s) on **China Eclipse 2009**.

Or charge my deposit to: MasterCard Visa Diners Club American Express Discover Card

Number _____ Expiration _____

Signature as it appears on credit card _____

I/We have read the General Information and understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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