

Sirius Travel Inc.

presents

2009 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE CHINA AND TIBET

July 13 – July 30, 2009



On July 22, 2009 a total solar eclipse will pass through China. On that date **Sirius Travel Inc.** will lead approximately 30 travelers to the sacred Buddhist mountain of Emei Shan. Perched above the world at an altitude of 3099 meters, we will stand in the centerline of the shadow of the Sun as it races past. We will start our journey in Beijing on July 13, 2009 and will proceed from there to visit X'ian, Chengdu, Leshan and Tibet. From the ancient Terra Cotta Warriors in X'ian to the natural beauty of the sacred Buddhist mountain Emei Shan and on to the breathtaking beauty of Tibet, this tour will be a wonderful adventure that will engage the most experienced traveler.

The eclipse on July 22, 2009 in China will occur at approximately 01:12 UT with a duration of approximately 5 minutes. The astronomers and climatologists of Sirius Travel are always committed to selecting an observation site that will optimize our tour's chances of a successful eclipse viewing experience. The weather along the eclipse path at this time of year varies from 50% - 85% chance of cloudiness which makes proper site location crucial to a successful eclipse viewing. Our site in China has been selected after careful consideration of eclipse duration, cloud statistics for this date (50% - 55% in this area), geography, politics, and summer climate to insure the best possible viewing experience for our guests. In particular, the site we have selected on Emei Shan, because of its altitude, is often above the clouds that cover the lowlands at this time of year!

Sirius Travel Inc. provides tour guides with extensive astronomical knowledge and experience as well as all the equipment required to safely view a solar eclipse, including a small telescope(s) with the proper filters and eclipse viewing glasses. There is no better way to fully appreciate this magnificent event!

In order to insure the best possible, hassle-free astronomy adventure, Sirius only leads small groups. Space is limited on this extraordinary trip so send in your reservation materials today. To reserve, each traveler must submit a completed disclaimer form (page 5), reservation form (page 7), and initial deposit to: **Sirius Travel Inc., 3026 11th St., Boulder, CO 80304 USA**

BRIEF ITINERARY

SOLAR ECLIPSE TOUR CHINA AND TIBET JULY 13- JULY 30, 2009

Day 1, July 13, 2009: Arrive in Beijing (AB)

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 2, July 14, 2009: Full Day Beijing (AB, L, SD)

Visit the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Summer Palace. The Forbidden City was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Adjacent to the Forbidden City is Tiananmen Square. The square is 880 meters south to north and 500 meters east to west, a total area of 440,000 square meters, which makes it the largest open-urban square in the world. We will also visit the Summer Palace which is a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. In the evening, we will enjoy a Kung Fu Show and sample the famous Peking Duck at our Welcome Banquet.

Day 3, July 15, 2009: Beijing (AB, L, D)

Enjoy a full day excursion to the world famous Great Wall. In the evening, we will visit the ancient astronomical Observatory of Beijing. Its rich history spans more than five hundred years, making it one of the most historically interesting observatories in the world.

Day 4, July 16, 2009: Beijing - Xian (AB, L)

Visit the Ming Tombs in the morning. The harmonious integration of remarkable architectural groups in a natural environment chosen to meet the criteria of geomancy (Feng shui) makes the Ming and Qing Imperial Tombs masterpieces of human creative genius. Take an evening flight to Xian.

Day 5, July 17, 2009: Xian (AB, L, SD)

In Xian, we visit the Shaanxi Provincial Museum, a Chinese style mosque, Terra Cotta Warriors and browse through the night market. The Qin Terra Cotta Warriors site near Xian has nearly 8,000 life-sized pottery warriors and horses in battle attire and formation. They have been buried for over 2,200 years their discovery is considered to be the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century. Enjoy the famous Dumpling Banquet of Xian.

Day 6, July 18, 2009: Xian (AB, L, D)

Visit the Two Wild Goose Pagodas. These two giant Buddhist pagodas date back about 1300 years to the Tang Dynasty. They are the only tall pagodas of the historic Tang era still standing. Also visit the Bell Tower and the prehistoric village of Ban Po. The Bell Tower, a remarkable symbol of ancient Xian, is the largest and best preserved among the existing bell towers in China. Ban Po, just east of the modern town, is a famous excavation in archeological circles, consisting of a complete Neolithic village.

Day 7, July 19, 2009: Xian - Chengdu (AB, L, D)

Fly to Chengdu in the morning. Half day tour to Dujiangyan Irrigation System. The Dujiangyan Irrigation System, begun in the 2nd century BCE, is a major landmark in the development of water management and technology, and is still discharging its functions perfectly. This system controls the waters of the Minjiang River and distributes it to the fertile farmland of the Chengdu plains. The immense advances in science and technology achieved in ancient China are graphically illustrated by the Dujiangyan Irrigation System.

Day 8, July 20, 2009: Chengdu (AB, L, D)

Morning visit to Giant Panda research center. The Chengdu Panda center is one of the best known panda breeding facilities in China and has been very successful at producing cubs. In the afternoon, we will visit the Sanxingdui Museum and learn about the culture that existed in the area of Chengdu between 2,800 to 800 BC. The museum houses some of the area's most ancient remains excavated near the present city of Guanghan. Clues to this large and thriving culture were discovered by a farmer in 1929 and in the years since, more and more clues about the mysterious Sanxingdui are being unearthed. Silk Factory and Tea shopping after the museum..

Day 9, July 21, 2009: Chengdu - Leshan - Emei (AB, L, D)

About 2 hrs drive from Chengdu to the Leshan Scenic Area where we will visit the cultural treasure of the Giant Buddha of Leshan, carved out of a hillside in the 8th century and looking down on the confluence of three rivers. At 71 m high, it is the largest Buddha in the world. We will then drive to Emei Shan and the Golden Summit.



The World Heritage Committee considers the area of Mt. Emei to be of exceptional cultural significance, since it is the place where Buddhism first became established on Chinese territory and from where it spread widely throughout the east. Mount Emei is also notable for its exceptionally diverse vegetation, ranging from subtropical to subalpine pine forests. Some of the trees there are more than 1,000 years old. It is an area of natural beauty into which the human element has been integrated.

Overnight at Golden Summit Hotel. Please note that we will be spending the night at the summit.

Day 10, July 22, 2009: ECLIPSE DAY! (AB, L, D)

"Totality! Where the Sun once stood, there is a black disk in the sky, outlined by the soft pearly white glow of the corona, about the brightness of a Full Moon. Small but vibrant reddish features stand at the rim of the Moon's disk, contrasting vividly with the white of the corona and the black where the Sun is hidden. These are the prominences, giant clouds of hot gas in the Sun's lower atmosphere. They are always a surprise, each unique in shape and size, different yesterday and tomorrow from what they are at this special moment.

You are standing in the shadow of the Moon." (- adapted from *Totality: Eclipses of the Sun*)

We have selected to view this eclipse from the summit of Emei Shan which lies almost directly on the centerline of the eclipse path. Emei Shan is one of the four sacred Buddhist mountains of China and has an elevation of 3099 meters. The views from the summit are spectacular and are usually clear of the clouds and fog of the low lying mainland at this time of year.

Mt. Emei & Golden Summit. Cable car down to the foot of Mt. Emei via Wannian Temple. Overnight at Golden Summit Hotel.

Day 11, July 23, 2009: Mt. Emei -Chengdu (AB, L, D)

Return to Chengdu. Visit Wuhou Temple and Dufu's Thatched Cottage. Dufu was a well-known poet in the Tang Dynasty (618 ~ 907A.D.). He was regarded as the "Father of Poems" because he used his poems as a weapon to reveal the exploitation of the poor by the Emperor. Sichuan Opera in the evening. Face changing is the highlight of the Sichuan Opera where performers will change more than 10 masks in less than 20 seconds!

Day 12, July 24, 2009: Chengdu - Lhasa (AB, L, D)

Transfer from airport to hotel. Spend the rest of the day getting used to the altitude..

Day 13, July 25, 2009: Lhasa, Tibet (AB, L, D)

Visit Jokhang Temple, Drepung Monastery, and Barkhor Street. Included on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2000, the Jokhang Temple is located in central Lhasa and is the ultimate pilgrimage destination for Tibetan Pilgrims. The Drepung Monastery is known as the most important monastery of Gelugpa in Tibetan Buddhism. Barkhor, the sacred pilgrim path, is also a marketplace where shaggy nomads, traders, robed monks and chanting pilgrims join together.

Day 14, July 26, 2009: Lhasa, Tibet (AB, L, D)

Visit Potala Palace, Lobucalin and Tibetan History Museum. The Potala Palace, winter palace of the Dalai Lama since the 7th century, symbolizes Tibetan Buddhism and its central role in the traditional administration of Tibet.

Day 15, July 27, 2009: Tibet (AB, L, D)

Details to be determined.

Day 16, July 28, 2009: Tibet (AB, L, D)

Details to be determined.

Day 17, July 29, 2009: Tibet (AB, L, D)

Details to be determined.

Day 18, July 30, 2009: Lhasa - Chengdu - Home (AB)

Flights from Lhasa to Chengdu and back home.

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Small group size: Our group size is limited, 15-35 guests, for an enjoyable and unique travel experience.
- Lodging: 4 and 5 star hotel accommodations.
- Meals: As described in itinerary.
- Vehicles: Bus, vans
- Domestic flights
- Guides: One or two English speaking local guides will be with the tour at all times. Two or three astronomer/scientist guides will accompany the tour.
- Equipment: Sirius Travel will supply at least one telescope (with solar filter) and eclipse viewing glasses for the tour.
- Lectures: Astronomy lectures and general science discussions throughout the tour. All Sirius Travel guides are experienced travelers, educators, and scientists.
- Park Entrance Fees: Included
- Porterage: Included. (Baggage handled not to exceed two suitcases and 44 lbs. per person)



NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE

Items of a personal nature, passport and visa fees, gratuity to local guides, airport taxes, excess baggage fees.

RESERVATIONS, CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS, AND PAYMENTS

To secure your space, a \$900 per person reservation fee with a completed reservation form is required. A second payment of \$1000 is due September 1, 2008. The final balance is due March 1, 2009.

For cancellations made before September 1, 2008, there will be a \$100 per person cancellation fee. For cancellations made from September 1, 2008 – March 1, 2009, there will be a \$900 per person cancellation fee. There are no refunds after March 1, 2009. Air cancellation terms are additional.

INSURANCE

Trip cancellation, health, and accident insurance is recommended but not required. It can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip. We recommend TravelGuard trip insurance (www.travelguard.com) and we recommend that all travelers purchase their insurance within 7 days of their initial reservation to take advantage of any pre-existing condition clause.

VISAS & PASSPORTS

Depending on your country of origin, visas may be required to enter China. For US citizens, visas are required. Passports are required to enter China and must be valid for 6 months beyond the date of return. Tickets and Documents for return or onward travel are required. Visa and passport fees are not included in the price of this trip. We recommend obtaining your visa 6 months prior to departure and we will send notification to all clients.

AGE/HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

Children 3 -18 are welcome on this tour and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The high altitude in Tibet can trigger latent health conditions. We recommend that all interested clients check with their healthcare provider before signing on.

TOUR PACKAGE RATES

<u>Package</u>	<u>Rate per person</u>
Adult China/Tibet only	\$4325.00
Child China/Tibet only	\$3764.00
Adult RT from U.S.	\$4950.00
Child RT from U.S.	\$4225.00
Single Supplement	\$675.00

Notes: Base rates are double occupancy. Airfare is based on summer, 2007 rates. This is subject to change and will be fixed 10 months prior to departure. China/Tibet-only clients will meet the group at the hotel in Beijing on July 13, 2009. Child rates are for children 12 and under.

CONSUMER DISCLOSURE NOTICE

The payment of the required deposit or a partial or full payment for reservations on a tour shall constitute consent to all provisions of the list of conditions and general information contained in the brochure for the tour. These provisions are hereby incorporated by reference into this disclosure notice and passengers are advised to take note of them.

Sirius Travel Inc. (STI), its agents, servants and employees, shall not be responsible for personal injuries or property damage, loss or delay, or change of itinerary incurred by a person or tour participant arising out of the act of negligence of any direct or supplemental air carrier, hotel or other person rendering these tours; nor shall tour operator be responsible for injury, death, damage, loss or delay in any means of transportation or by any agent supplier.

The right is reserved to decline, accept or to retain any person as a member of a trip or to cancel a trip due to circumstances beyond the control of STI.

If the contract between STI and the passenger, on the one hand, and/or the designated carrier, on the other hand, is canceled for any reason whatsoever, all partial or full payments made for the trip will be refunded per the cancellations section of the contract with no future obligation on the part of the operator.

The right is specifically reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in a similar category or to change schedules without prior notice, should circumstances so require.

In the event of a change in the itinerary necessitated by factors or conditions beyond the actual control of STI, no refund can be made nor will credit be allowed, provided that in the event of such change in itinerary STI shall provide accommodations and services of comparable quality and standard as set forth in the brochure. Any such change shall not modify the cancellation provisions in the brochure. No credit will be allowed nor refunds given for any services provided in the itinerary and conditions list should any such services not be utilized by tour members.

All rates quoted are based on the carrier tariffs and international exchange rates at the time of pricing, and are subject to adjustment with prior notification in the event of changes therein, and any increase resulting from such adjustment shall not modify the cancellation provisions in the brochure.

STI shall not be held responsible for any damage, injury, death or other loss caused by act or omission to act of any of the suppliers set forth.



TRAVELER DISCLAIMER

In offering this tour, Sirius Travel Inc. (STI) act only in the capacity of an agent for accommodations with the suppliers of the services listed in your travel itinerary.

STI's status as an agent means that it maintains no control of the operation, equipment, or personnel of any other travel supplier. Therefore, STI can not assume responsibility for personal injury, property damage or other loss, accident, delay or inconvenience or irregularity which may be occasioned by any of the following reasons:

1. Any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of the tour operator or any of its suppliers;
2. Any negligent, wrongful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any independent contractor of STI, tour operator, or any of its suppliers;
3. Any negligent or wrongful acts or omissions on the part of any person not under the direct control and/or direction of STI.

If the services and accommodations set forth in the tour itinerary cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of STI, their best efforts will be made to supply comparable services and accommodations. If such services and accommodations cannot be provided due to the above reasons, or if the services are not used due to voluntary omissions by the tour member, refunds will not be granted. STI recommends that all clients check with their insurance agent before traveling to ensure that many of the above acts are covered under their policy. STI has provided information on recommended insurance options.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of this disclaimer and state that I understand its terms and provisions. I also acknowledge that any questions I had concerning this disclaimer have been answered to my full satisfaction. I understand and acknowledge that I am under no obligation to sign this disclaimer, but once having signed it, am bound to its terms.

Traveler Signature Date

Parent/Guardian if under 18

TRAVELERS RISK DISCLAIMER

I understand that the tour booked by Sirius Travel Inc. for my Solar Eclipse Tour to China/Tibet starting on July 13, 2009 involves certain risks and possibly unsafe conditions that may arise during the tour. I do hereby specifically and expressly assume any and all risks, to the extent permitted by any statute or regulation, incurred as a result of my participation in this tour. I, hereby, specifically agree to hold harmless Sirius Travel Inc., its employees, officers, and directors, as a result of the inherent risks that arise as part of this tour.

I fully understand the content and meaning of this notification. Any questions I may have concerning the notification have been answered to my satisfaction. I have also been given the opportunity to seek advice with regard to this notice prior to executing it.

The payment by me for this tour, in addition to signing this notice, also constitutes acknowledgment of the risks inherent in this tour.

I have also been given information about how to purchase traveler's insurance by Sirius Travel Inc. and have advised Sirius Travel Inc., below, as to my acceptance or rejection of that insurance.

I accept travelers insurance. I decline travelers insurance.

Traveler Signature Date

Parent/Guardian if under 18

TRAVELERS DISCLAIMER PASSENGERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Children under the age of 18 traveling without a parent must have a notarized letter of consent from the non-accompanying parent(s) stating that they have given consent for the child to travel with this tour. In addition, if a passenger 18 years or older is accompanying the minor, the letter should state that the parents give this person permission to accompany the minor and that they are responsible for the minor. Failure to comply will result in denied travel.

I have read the above information and understand the documentation required for travel with Sirius Travel Inc.'s Solar Eclipse Tour to China/Tibet. I realize that failure to provide this information will result in denied travel.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date



Sirius Travel Inc.

Sirius Travel Inc. is owned and operated by astronomers whose specialties include solar astronomy, galactic astronomy, and archaeoastronomy. Our interests are reflected in our logo, which is a replication of a Mayan solar eclipse symbol circa 940 A.D. When we are not leading excursions to interesting astronomical sites in the U.S. or around the world, we pursue observing time, write papers, and teach astronomy. Based in Boulder, Colorado, **Sirius Travel Inc.** is influenced by and ideally situated to access the rich astronomical environment of the American southwest.

Tour operator **Victoria Alten Sahami, M.S.** is an alumna of the astrophysics program at the University of Colorado. Over the years she has taught undergraduate astronomy at San Diego State University, worked as a solar observer for four years at Mt. Wilson Observatory, worked as a tour guide at Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, researched and discovered more than 40 new objects (Herbig-Haro objects), launched UV telescope payloads on rockets from the outback of Australia, and spent countless long cold nights at telescopes observing everything from geosynchronous satellites to star formation regions. She has led astronomical tours since 1996 and now teaches astronomy at the Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Kamran Sahami, Ph.D. is a professor of physics at the Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) and is a researcher at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Kamran recently earned the prestigious Annual Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Award at MSCD and is currently the principal investigator on an NSF grant studying the effects of an immersive environment on teaching undergraduate astronomy. He has spent many years teaching physics at the college level, has co-authored a teacher's guide to undergraduate astronomy, and enjoys photographing astronomical objects. Currently Kamran's research is focused on studying the effects of an immersive environment in the classroom and whether information retention increases for the students with its use. Kamran has participated in leading astronomical tours around the American Southwest, Sirius Travel's eclipse trip through Australia (December, 2002), and has explored many astronomical sites in Peru, Mexico, and Europe.

Ralph Shuping, Ph.D. is currently a staff scientist for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) [<http://www.sofia.usra.edu/>] -- a telescope in a Boeing 747 under development at NASA Ames Research Center. His research interests include the physics and chemistry of the interstellar medium, star formation, and astrobiology. He has used some of the most advanced telescopes in the world at Kitt Peak (Arizona), Mauna Kea (Hawai'i), and Cerro Tololo (Chile). Ralph has also taught undergraduate astronomy and moonlighted in primary and high school class rooms. When not working on astronomy, Ralph enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, and surfing with his family. Ralph was a leader on the eclipse tour to Divrigi, Turkey (August, 1999) and Cappadocia, Turkey (March, 2006) and plans to participate in leading many more Sirius eclipse tours.



Sirius Travel Inc.

3026 11th St. Boulder, CO 80304 USA

Reservation Form

2009 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE – CHINA/TIBET

July 13, 2009 – July 30, 2009

--Keep a copy of this page for your records--

Passport Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Passport Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

FAX _____ E-mail _____

Emergency contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I/we would like the following package(s):

- Adult China/Tibet-only (\$4325)
- Adult RT from US (\$4950*)
- Child** China/Tibet-only (\$3764)
- Child** RT from US (\$4225*)
- Single Supplement Option (\$675)

Preferred T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Deposit Payment (\$900 per person):

<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a deposit of \$ _____ <i>Checks should be made payable to Sirius Travel Inc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I have made a deposit of \$ _____ online on _____ (date) www.siriustravel.com/tibet09/payment.cfm
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* All-inclusive, RT from US cost is based on summer, 2007 airfares. This may change based on actual airfares and will be set 10 months prior to departure. ** Child rate applies to children 12 and under.

