



Dear MIT Alumni and Friends:

Join us on July 22, 2009 in a rural park in China to experience one of the greatest total solar eclipses to occur in our lifetime. The sky will slowly dim and the scenery around us 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 for a period of nearly six minutes! Stars and planets will become visible as we observe one of nature's most awesome spectacles.

We will be in position the night before the eclipse at our viewing site, 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. MIT Professor Richard Binzel will prepare us for this astronomical phenomenon, delivering formal lectures and leading informal discussions throughout the program.

To complement our eclipse experience, we explore the highlights of China featuring the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, Beijing's Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, Xian's famed terra cotta warriors, and Shanghai's pulsing energy and colonial past. We are joined by alumni from Princeton University and Princeton Professor of Politics and International Affairs Lynn White. His insights and observations will help you appreciate this ancient land of beauty and mystery.

Due to the popularity of solar eclipse programs, this trip is likely to sell out quickly. If you have any questions, or would like to make a reservation, please call the MIT Alumni Travel Program at (800) 992-6749, or email us at compass@mit.edu. You may also contact our tour operator, Siemer & Hand Travel, at (800) 451-4321.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Chapman Gresh".

Melissa Chapman Gresh
Director
MIT Alumni Travel Program

P.S. Please visit our Web site at <http://alum.mit.edu/travel> for details and updates on all our programs.

Faculty Leaders

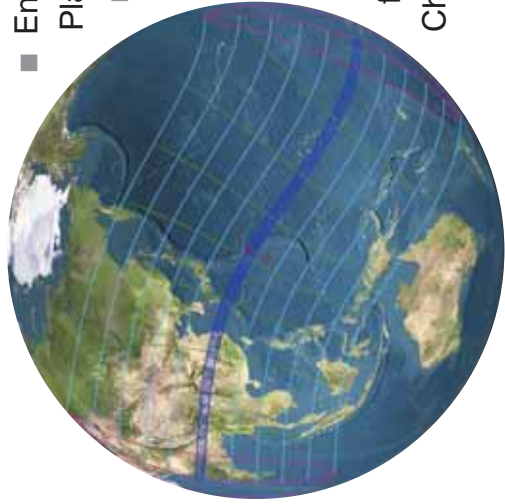
Richard P. Binzel is a Professor of Planetary Science at MIT and holds a MacVicar Faculty Fellow in recognition of outstanding teaching. Specializing in the study of the solar system, he is one of the world's leading scientists in the study of asteroids and Pluto. His current research focuses on mapping the nature and composition of asteroids and comets that pose potential impact threats to Earth. He is credited with having established compelling evidence linking certain Earth-impacting meteorite types with specific asteroids. In 1999, Binzel devised the Torino Impact Hazard Scale, which assigns a number to the likelihood that a newly discovered asteroid will strike the Earth. He is widely published and has received numerous honors and awards, including an asteroid named in his honor. Talks by Professor Binzel during our program will focus on the Earth's place in space (including eclipse phenomena) and the exploration of our solar system.

Lynn T. White, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University will speak about 4,000 years of Chinese History as well as China's modern economic boom. His lectures will greatly enhance your cultural experience.



Highlights of this thrilling adventure...

- Experience the greatest total solar eclipse of a lifetime from the center line of the path of totality



- Enjoy lectures and commentary by MIT Professor of Planetary Science Richard Binzel
- Explore the highlights of Beijing, including the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, and Forbidden City
- See Xian's terracotta warriors, pagodas, and the Bund in Shanghai
- Nearly everything is included from the moment you arrive in China

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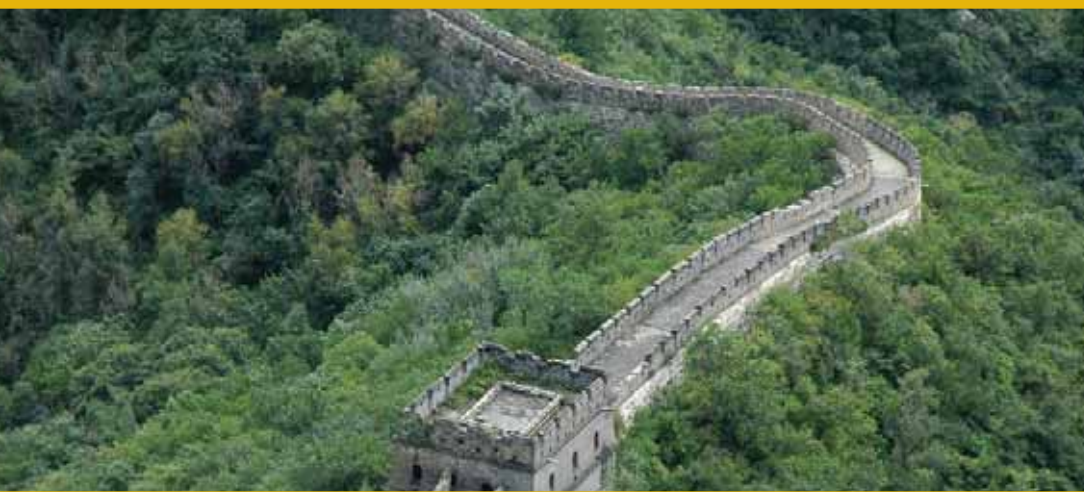


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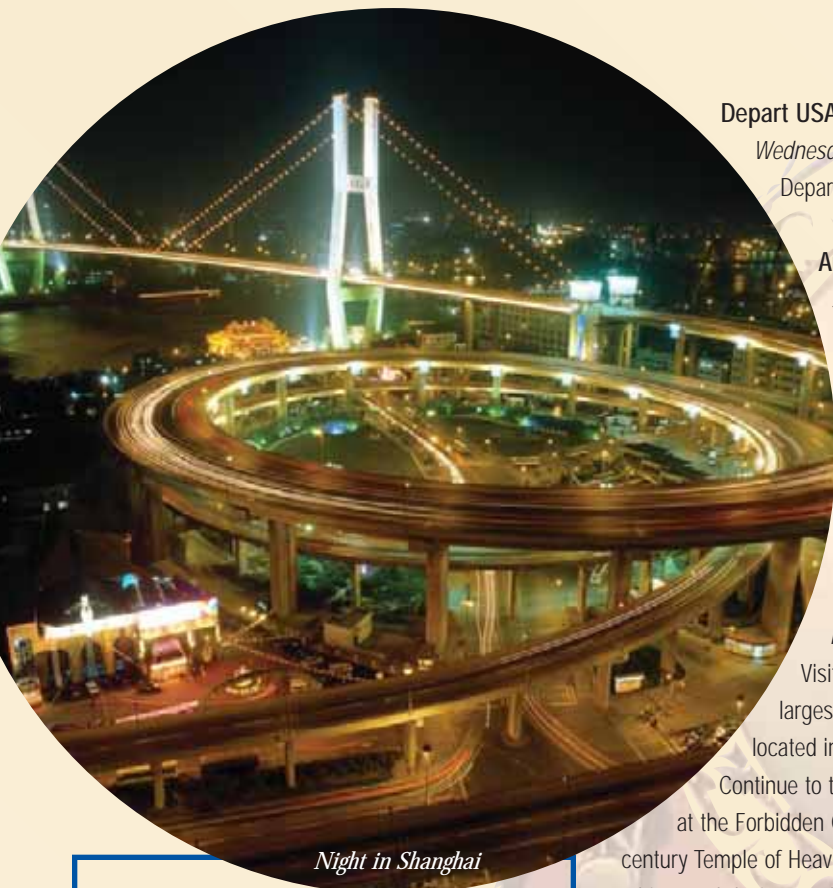


Total Solar Eclipse in China

with MIT Professor Richard Binzel

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 PARK PLAZA 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 BELL TOWER 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)

Program Costs Include:

- Lecturers and commentary by MIT Professor Richard Binzel and Princeton Professor Lynn White
- 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 professional 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 list 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
- Five breakfasts, four lunches and three dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- All transfers with luggage handling in China for those traveling with the group
- A professional tour manager, plus an English-speaking local guide throughout the trip

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 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)

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 approximately 9:30 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 days exciting events. TWO NIGHTS AT THE HOTEL EQUATORIAL (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 at leisure this afternoon. Then gather for a festive farewell dinner. (B,D)

Shanghai– USA or Yangtze Cruise Extension

Friday, July 24

Proceed to Shanghai’s airport for flights to the USA. 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. (B,L,D)

Yangtze River Cruise

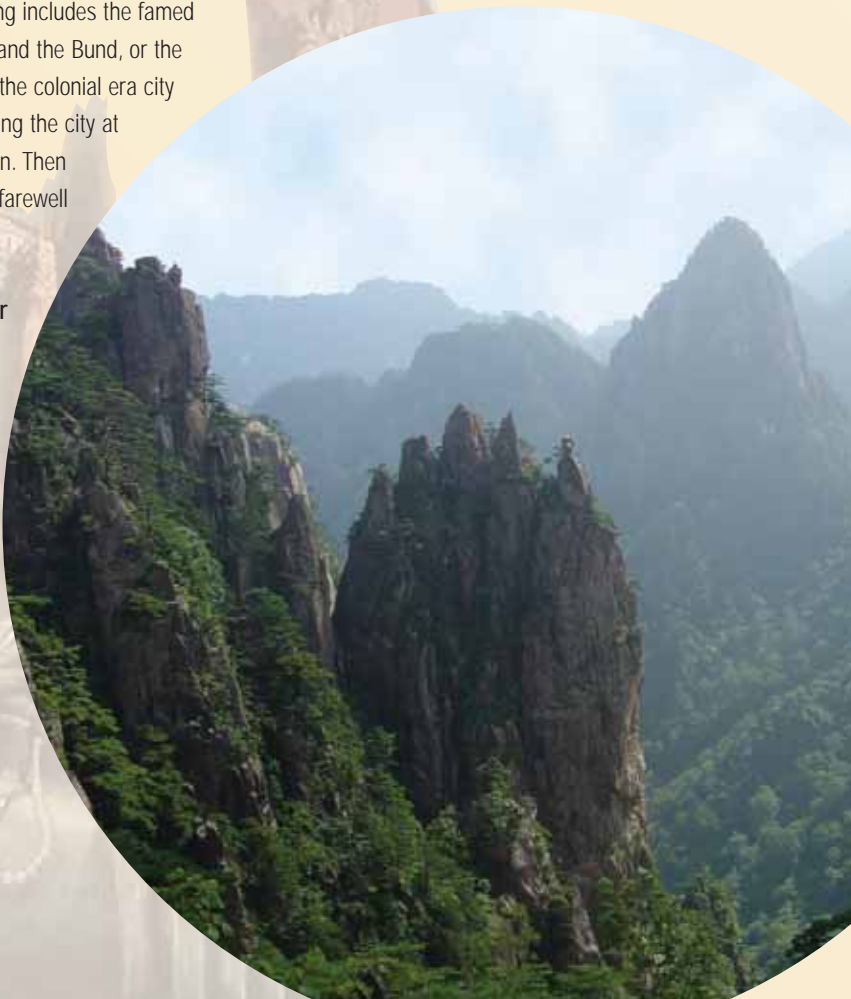
Saturday, July 25 to Monday, July 27

Cruise for three days through beautiful Chinese landscapes of sheer mountain cliffs raising from the river’s edge. Cruise by the famed Three Gorges, visiting villages, pagodas, and museums along the river. Using smaller boats, explore tributaries flowing through steep canyons. Also, tour the Three Gorges Dam project, one of the largest engineering feats ever attempted. Then fly to Shanghai for a final night. (3B,3L,2D)

Shanghai – Return to USA

Tuesday, July 28

Return to the airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)



Along the Yangtze River

Program Prices

MAIN PROGRAM <i>(Based on double occupancy)</i>	\$3,895
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 695
YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE – OPTIONAL EXTENSION <i>(Based on double occupancy)</i>	\$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; travel and accident 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. Trip cancellation/interruption, medical and baggage insurance are highly recommended and should be considered for your protection, and will be made available to you upon receipt of your initial deposit.
 - **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is strongly recommended. An application will be sent to participants upon enrollment.
 - **RESPONSIBILITY:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc. and the MIT Alumni Travel Program 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
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MIT ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM RESERVATION FORM CHINA ECLIPSE JULY 15 - 24, 2009

Name (as it appears on passport)	MIT Affiliation
Name (as it appears on passport)	MIT Affiliation
Address	
City/State/ZIP	
Telephone	Home
Business	
Email	

I/We would like to participate in the optional post-extension Yangtze River cruise. Further details will be provided.

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:

MIT Alumni Travel Program
Building W59-200
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
FAX: (617) 258-6211

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
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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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