

RESERVATION FORM

Please make check payable to **Siemer & Hand Travel** and mail to: Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111. Or fax to: 415-788-4133

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) to hold _____ place(s) on **Mongolia Eclipse 2008**.

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

Card Number _____ Expiration _____
Signature as it appears on credit card _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone:
Home _____ Business _____

Email _____

I/We would like to participate in the optional extension to Bayangobi and Karakorum.

ACCOMMODATIONS

I desire single accommodations for the main program, if available, and will pay the single supplement of \$495 (subject to availability).

I desire single accommodations on the optional extension, if available, and will pay the single supplement of \$195 (subject to availability).

I will share accommodations with: _____

I prefer to share with a: ___ smoker ___ non-smoker (shares cannot be guaranteed)

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

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

VASECLOB

For further information, please call Siemer & Hand Travel at (800) 451-4321.



Dear Vassar Traveler,

Mongolia brings to mind images of Genghis Khan, camels wandering the Gobi Desert, and wild horses galloping across the wide-open steppes. Next summer, add to this the rare opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse.

Join the Alumnae and Alumni of Vassar College and Vassar Professor of Astronomy Fred Chromey on this trip and see the temples and monasteries of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital. Stay in a comfortable ger (yurt) camp in the Gobi Desert to explore the spectacular red rock mountains, narrow canyons and immense sand dunes.

Then, fly to western Mongolia where we set our own private camp near the centerline of the Path of Totality. Few phenomena have inspired and humbled humans throughout the ages as a total solar eclipse. As we watch from this ideal position, the sky will slowly dim and all eyes, protected by special filters, will be riveted on the sun to take in the moment when the sun disappears behind the moon - totality - and night will fall for approximately 2:09 minutes.

An optional post-trip extension allows you to experience more of Mongolia with visits to Bayangobi, Karakorum, and Erdene Zuu, once one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia, dating to the 16th century.

This program is co-sponsored with the alumni organizations of University of Southern California and Columbia University. Space is limited, so I encourage you to make your reservations now.

Sincerely,

Patricia Duane Lichtenberg

Patricia Duane Lichtenberg '90
Executive Director, AAVC

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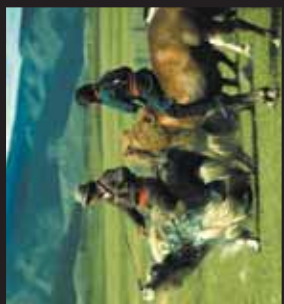
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Alumnae and Alumni of Vassar College
Alumnae House
161 College Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-2804



Tsam Dancing



Mongolian Yak Riders



Jamraisig Temple in Ulaanbaatar

Highlights of this thrilling program...

- Experience a rare total solar eclipse as it arcs across the magnificent Altay Mountains in Western Mongolia
- Lectures throughout the program by Vassar Professor of Astronomy Fred Chromey
- Explore the spectacular red rock mountains, narrow canyons, and immense sand dunes of the Gobi Desert
- Enjoy accommodations in traditional tented Mongolian ger camps, equipped with comfortable beds
- Join an optional posttrip extension to Bayangobi and Karakorum, site of the imperial capital of Genghis Khan

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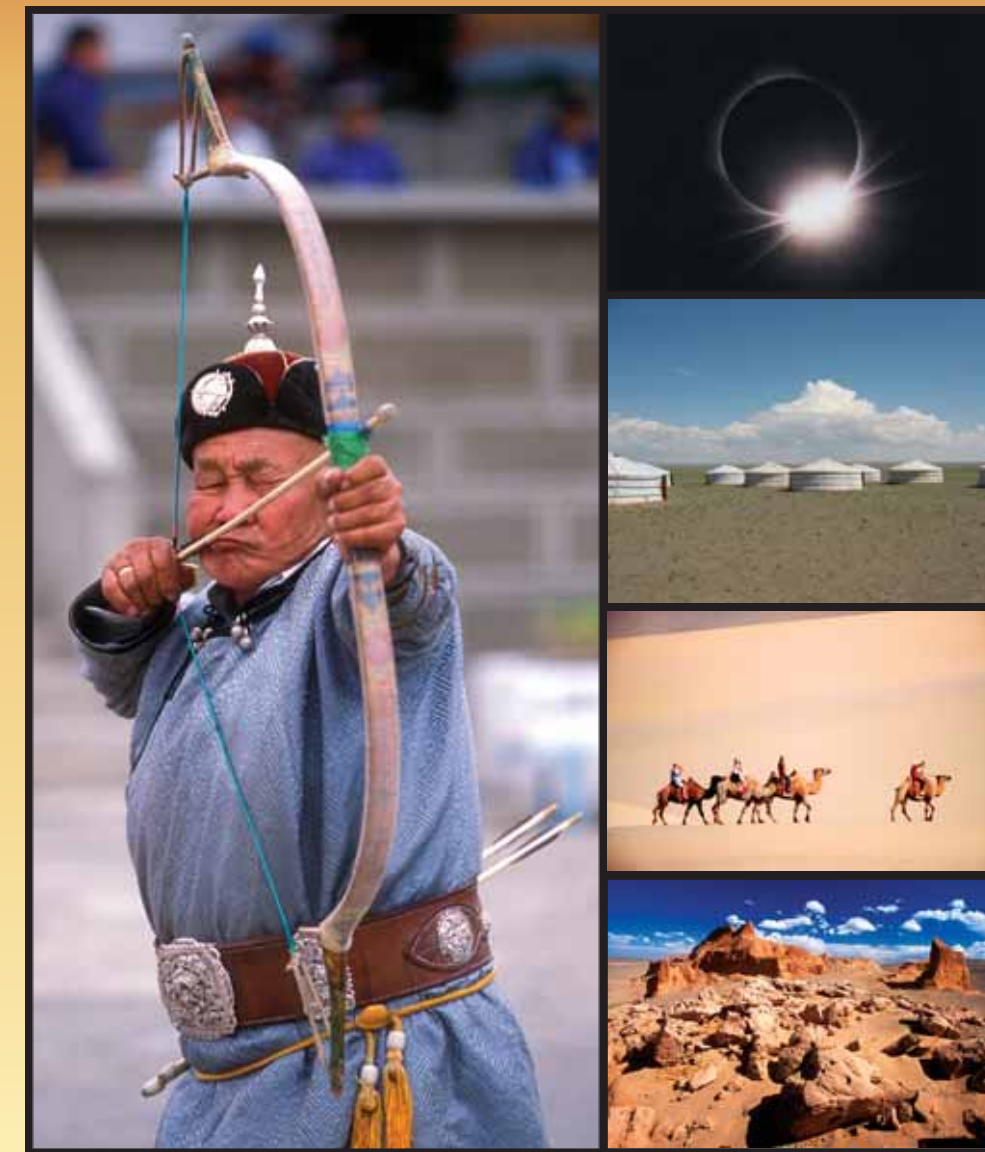
Cover Images (from left, top): Mongolian archer, eclipse, Ger camp, camels in Gobi Desert, Flaming Cliffs



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE IN MONGOLIA

With Vassar Professor of Astronomy Fred Chromey

July 24 - August 3, 2008



With an Optional Extension to Bayangobi and Karakorum

August 3-6, 2008

STUDY LEADER

Fred Chromey earned a B.S. in electronic physics from St. Joseph's University and a Ph.D. in astronomy from Harvard University. His research interests are in observational astronomy, particularly as applied to the structure and history of galaxies. Dr. Chromey taught at Brooklyn College (CUNY) before joining the Vassar Faculty in 1981. As Director of the College Observatory he oversaw the construction of the new Class of 1951 Observatory Building in 1998 as well as a new solar telescope in 2006. At the Observatory he collaborates with student researchers to study objects of variable brightness, including both galaxy nuclei and rotating minor planets.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a unique program for those who have a strong desire to explore spectacular natural areas, learn about the history and culture of Mongolia, and witness the total solar eclipse. Since we will be traveling to remote areas, travelers should possess a spirit of adventure and a willingness to be patient and flexible. This program is active and involves walking on uneven terrain. Although we cover the longest distances comfortably by air, some travel will be over bumpy roads. Not all coaches and accommodations are air-conditioned. Accommodations in Ulaanbaatar are in a comfortable, modern hotel. Elsewhere, we stay in gers, traditional nomadic dwellings that many Mongolians still live in today. They are large, dome-shaped tents with a wood frame covered by felt and canvas. Furnishings include regular western-style beds, a small table with chairs, and carpeted floors. The accommodations can be single, double or triple at your request. Western-style toilets and hot shower facilities are separate from the gers and shared, but well-maintained. The restaurant ger serves a combination of western and typical Mongolian dishes providing the opportunity to try new things while always seeing something familiar. Portable generators and solar power provide electric lighting in each ger, and there are outlets available at both camps for charging batteries, etc. The weather should be warm at this time of year, but the gers tend to remain comfortably cool.



Erdene Zuu Monastery, Karakorum



Bogdo Khaan Winter Palace Museum in Ulaanbaatar

Ger interior

ITINERARY

USA (July 24)

Depart the USA for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA (July 25)

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, and proceed to our centrally located, comfortable hotel. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL, two nights

ULAANBAATAR (July 26)

The tour of the city includes Gandantegchinlen Monastery, the largest in Mongolia; the splendid dinosaur exhibits in the Museum of Natural History, and the National Museum of Mongolian History for an introduction to this colorful culture. Enjoy a traditional Mongolian folklore performance.

GOBI DESERT (July 27 - 29)

Fly to the famed Gobi Desert for three nights in a comfortable ger (yurt) camp. Numerous exotic species call this fascinating land home, the most common being wild takhi horses and shaggy-necked bactrians (two-humped camels). Experience the stunning landscapes of Yol Valley National Park and meet a local family who breeds camels. Explore the spectacular Hongor Sand Dunes, rising more than 600 feet over the plains of Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park and stretching more than 100 miles. See the fascinating "Flaming Cliffs" of Bayan Zag, and the Gobi Cemetery of Dinosaurs, where the first-known dinosaur egg fossils were found. NEW TOVSHIN GER CAMP, three nights

ULAANBAATAR (July 30)

Fly back to Ulaanbaatar to visit the Bogdo Khaan Winter Palace Museum, home of the last Mongolian king, and view works of art by Mongolian, Tibetan and Chinese master-sculptors. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL

ECLIPSE SITE, WESTERN MONGOLIA (July 31 - August 1)

Fly to Bulgan in Western Mongolia, close to the Chinese border. Continue to our private ger camp, located near the centerline of the eclipse path, where we spend two nights. Lectures and discussions prepare us for the total solar eclipse on August 1. PRIVATE GER CAMP, two nights



Buddha at Erdene Zuu Monastery

Hongor Sand Dunes in Gobi

ULAANBAATAR (August 2)

Fly to Ulaanbaatar, where dayrooms have been reserved at the hotel. Tonight, board flights back to the USA. Or stay overnight and join the extension to Bayangobi and Karakorum.

USA (August 3)

Flights arrive back in the USA.

OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

BAYANGOBI - KARAKORUM (August 3 - 4)

After an overnight in Ulaanbaatar, enjoy a fascinating drive to Bayangobi, which offers a unique combination of steppe, forested mountains and desert landscape. Our ger camp is set along the sand dunes at the base of the beautiful Hogno Khaan Mountains. We visit a horse breeder's camp to experience the lifestyle of nomads, observe the making of airag (fermented mare's milk, the national drink of Mongolia) and enjoy an opportunity to ride horseback on Mongolian wooden saddles. Visit Karakorum, Genghis Khan's Imperial Capital of the largest land empire the world has ever known. See the first Buddhist monastery built in Mongolia; Erdene Zuu, now both a museum and a functioning monastery. DOUBLE ZAGAL GER CAMP, two nights

ULAANBAATAR (August 5)

Drive back to Ulaanbaatar, where dayrooms have been reserved at the hotel. Tonight, board flights back to the USA.

USA (August 6)

Flights arrive back in the USA.



Mongolian folk dance

THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM INCLUDES :

- Lectures and commentary by Professor Fred Chromey
- Four flights within Mongolia
- A prime eclipse viewing site on the center line of the Path of Totality
- Three nights and the use of a dayroom at the Ulaanbaatar Hotel.
- Three nights in the New Tovshin Ger Camp in the Gobi Desert
- Two nights in a private ger camp in Western Mongolia for the Eclipse
- All meals, from breakfast on July 26 to breakfast on August 2
- All sightseeing and activities as outlined in the itinerary
- An opportunity to visit a local Mongolian family's home
- A Siemer & Hand Travel tour manager, plus English-speaking local guides throughout the trip
- Airport/hotel transfers including luggage handling for those traveling on the program dates
- All gratuities to drivers and guides
- Pre-trip assistance including suggested reading list and pre-departure information

POST TRIP EXTENSION INCLUDES:

- One night and the use of a dayroom at the Ulaanbaatar Hotel
- Two nights at the Double Zagal Ger Camp
- All meals, from breakfast on August 3 to breakfast on August 5

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATE:\$4,295

Per person, based on double occupancy

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:\$495

Subject to availability

OPTIONAL EXTENSION:\$895

Per person, based on double occupancy

EXTENSION SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:\$195

Subject to availability

PROGRAM RATE EXCLUDES: International airfare, airport and departure taxes; airport/hotel transfers for those not traveling on the program dates; meals and beverages other than those specified as included; charges for items of a personal nature including laundry, beverages and excess baggage charges; baggage and trip cancellation insurance; independent travel arrangements; immunizations; and passport/visa fees.

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

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$500 per person. Deposits can be made by check or be paid by credit card. Final payment, payable by check only, is due by April 25, 2008.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$350 per person, will be made if we are notified in writing on or before April 25, 2008. No refunds are granted after that date.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Insurance information will be provided by AAVC.

RESPONSIBILITY: A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc., and Alumnae and Alumni of Vassar College (AAVC) for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request. Please note that Siemer & Hand Travel and sponsoring organizations are not responsible for any inclement weather on August 1, 2008.

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