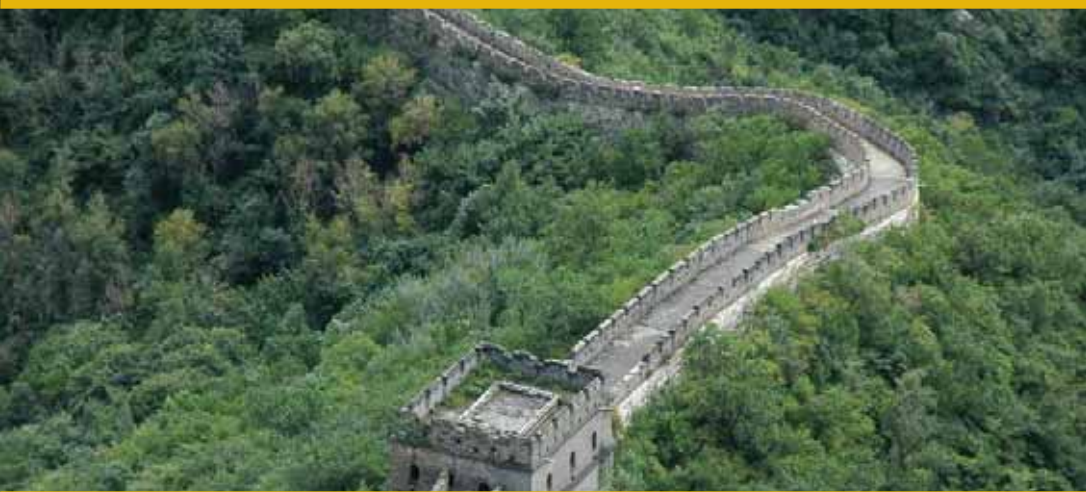




CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES



## Total Solar Eclipse over China

with the Morrison Planetarium's Bing Quock

July 15 – 24, 2009

Featuring a Post-trip Yangtze River Cruise

Dear Traveler:


Join fellow Academy travelers 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 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 you observe one of nature's most awesome spectacles.

You 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. Bing Quock, Assistant Director at the Academy's Morrison Planetarium, will prepare you for this astronomical phenomenon, delivering formal lectures and leading informal discussions throughout the program.

To complement your eclipse experience, explore the highlights of China featuring 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. You can enhance your China experience by joining the optional Yangtze River cruise through the spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges.

Solar eclipse trips always sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Sincerely,



Greg Farrington  
Executive Director  
California Academy of Sciences

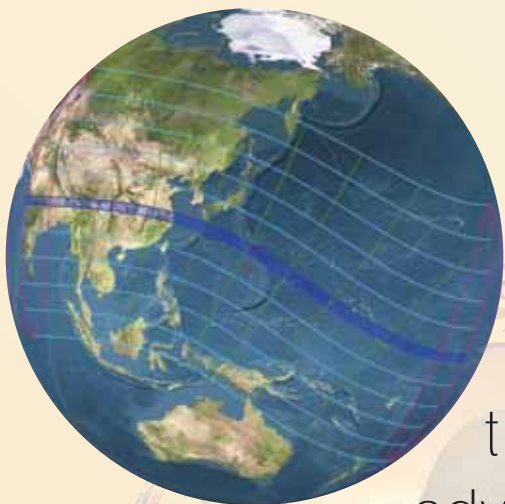
P.S. To ensure your place on this program, please contact the Academy Travel Office at (800) 853-9372.

**For more information, please contact the Academy Travel Office at 800.853.9372**

#### ACADEMY LEADER Bing Quock

Bing Quock, Assistant Director of the Academy's Morrison Planetarium, has been looking to the stars since he was a child. Longtime planetarium fans know him as the writer and producer of more than 100 planetarium presentations for eager audiences for over 20 years. He has taught astronomy at City College of San Francisco, leads stargazing nights for the San Francisco Botanical Garden, has published a children's book about planetariums, and contributes sky-watching guides to newspapers across the country. He has been called upon many times by local and national media to speak about astronomical events.



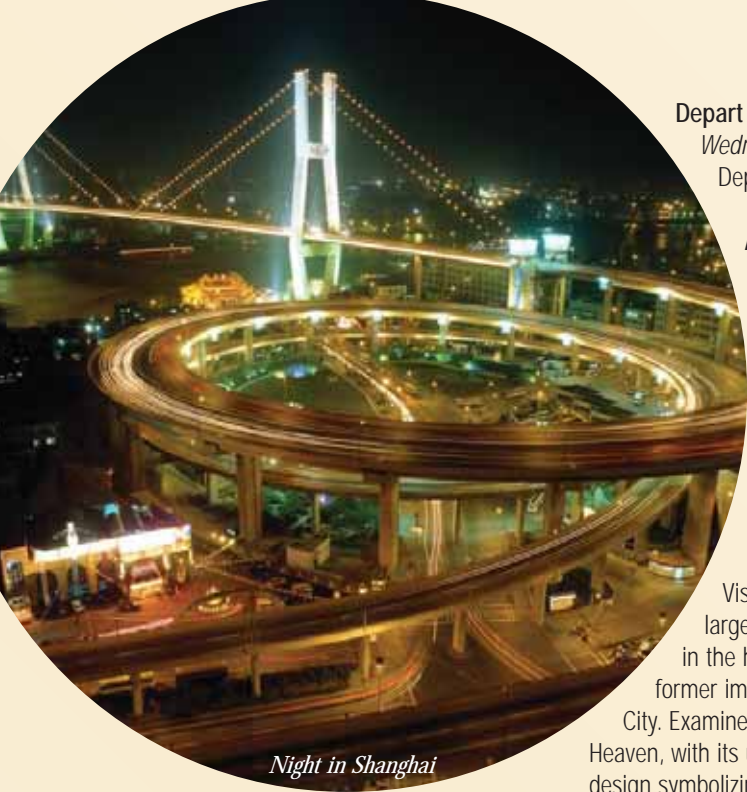


## Highlights of this thrilling adventure...

- 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 Academy Astronomer Bing Quock.
- 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.
- Extend your China Adventure with an optional Yangtze River cruise through the famed Three Gorges.

For more information, please contact the Academy Travel Office at 800.853.9372





*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 GRAND MERCURE XIDAN 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. After a dumpling lunch, enjoy a visit to the Shaanxi Provincial History Museum, one of the finest in China. **TWO NIGHTS AT THE GRAND NEW WORLD 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, a 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 the Assistant Director of the Morrison Planetarium, Bing Quock
- 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 aboard the *Victoria Empress* and one night in a Shanghai hotel
- 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 NEW WORLD MAYFAIR 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 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 THE *VICTORIA EMPRESS* (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, OR SIMILAR (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 <i>(Per person, based on double occupancy)</i> . . . . .	\$3,895
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT . . . . .	\$ 695
YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE EXTENSION <i>(Per person, 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; 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. To protect for the following three conditions, insurance must be purchased within 14 days of your initial tour deposit: 1) a preexisting condition pertaining to you, a travel companion, or an immediate family member; 2) unforeseeable events or their consequences including cancellations by an airline, cruise line or tour operator as a result of financial insolvency; and 3) terrorist act(s) which occur in your departure city or in a city which is a scheduled destination for your trip and within 30 days of the scheduled departure date. Information and applications will be made available to you upon receipt of your initial deposit. ■ **RESPONSIBILITY:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc. and the California Academy of Sciences 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. CST 1004239-10

### RESERVATION FORM CHINA ECLIPSE JULY 15 - 24, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as it appears on passport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as it appears on passport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP

Telephone	Home	Cell
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Email	Home	Business
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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 desire assistance in finding a roommate. I understand that if one cannot be found, I will be responsible for paying the single rate, pending availability.

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 request trip cancellation insurance covering the full trip cost. By purchasing the coverage now, I am also protected for the three conditions stated under Travel Insurance in the General Information section above. Multiply the full program cost (including any non-refundable air) by .075 for each traveler for a total premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please make check payable to *Siemer & Hand Travel* and mail to:  
Academy Travel Office, 500 Third Street, Suite 455, San Francisco, CA 94107 Tel: (800) 853-9372 Fax: (415) 901-8140

**MEMBERSHIP POLICY:**

Travelers must be current California Academy of Sciences members to participate in the travel program. Dues range from \$35 for Out of Towner Individual Membership to \$60 for Family or Grandparent/Grandchildren Membership. Please call 800.794.7576 for details on membership categories and costs.

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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**For more information, please contact the Academy Travel Office at 800.853.9372.**