

# Eclipse News



## Tropical Sails repeat of Baja 91 July 11– July 24th, 2009

The solar eclipse of July 22, 2009 is a repeat of the saros series of 17 years ago. Our first expedition took 35 motor homes, campers and trucks down the Baja peninsula for the July eclipse. The major magazines said you should not drive, camp on the beach, get gas, water, ice etc

Daniel Opplinger, having worked for a major Motor home camper tour company put together the tour and Tropical Adventures was born. Now the company has grown and offers tours and tall ship cruises.



China solar eclipse tour map

# Beijing—Xi'an—Chongqing—Yichang— Shanghai-Suzhou-Eclipse-Shanghai

**July 10 Arrive in China**— An extra night may be needed to mesh with flight schedules.

**July 11th.**

**Day 01** Meet the local guide and prepare for Great Wall. Today we will visit some of the contrasting sights of Beijing, our capital city. Our first stop will be at **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest public square in the world. Dominating the north side of the square is the massive red Tian'anmen Gate through which we will pass into the fabled **Forbidden City** and another age,



where we will see the home of the members of the royal family and their court during China's Ming and Qing Dynasties. After lunch we will visit the imposing **Temple of Heaven** where the Emperor came each year to intercede with the Gods for a good and plentiful harvest. (B/L/D) Overnight in Beijing

**Day 02** Today we will visit the **Great Wall** where you

## Beijing

will have the opportunity to not only see one of the most impressive sections of the Great Wall of China but also take a walk along it. After lunch you will travel some 50 km northwest of Beijing to the **Sacred Way** with its fabulous stone animals. The way leads to the Ming Tombs in the shadow of

“...only see one of the most impressive sections of the Great Wall of China..”

Longevity Mountain. A visit to the Underground Palace of **Dingling** will allow you to see imperial coffins, burial artifacts and treasures. After this long day, we will arrange for you to have a fresh, gourmet dinner at your hotel. (B/L/D) Overnight in Beijing

**Day 03** This morning we will visit

## More of Beijing

the favorite haunt of the Empress Dowager, the **Summer Palace**. Walking in this veritable museum of classical Chinese garden architecture, where the royal family could relax away from the formal ceremony of the court, is a pleasant experience. There are a number of pavilions



Side trip to Great wall included.

as well as the Long Corridor, now a popular place for people to spend the day. After lunch, transfer back to hotel. **Yonghegong Lamasery**, is located in the northeast of Beijing and covers a space of 660,000 square metres. It looks like an imperial palace with its red walls and yellow roofing tiles. It is

## Yes, you will have time to see Panda's

the largest Buddhist temple of the Yellow-sect in Beijing and has been completely preserved. Built in 1694 as the residence of Count Yin Zhen, the fourth son of the Emperor Kangxi, it was called "the Palace of Count Yong." After Yin Zhen became the Emperor, he continued to use it as an imperial palace for short stays away from the capital. In 1744, it was converted into a lamasery. Yonghegong is the most renowned Tibetan Buddhist temple in China outside Tibet and holds treasures

of both the Han and Tibetan cultures. (B/L/D) Overnight in Beijing



**Day 04** This morning we

## Xi'an City Wall

will take an internal flight to the ancient former capital city of Xi'an, and visit the ancient **Xi'an City Wall** (14th century) one of the most important city walls in China. Afterwards, we will transfer to your hotel.

"one of the most important city walls in China"

(B/L/D) Overnight in Xi'an

**Day 05** Following breakfast in the hotel, we will set out for another highlight of your tour, the **Terracotta Warriors Museum**. The thousands of life size soldiers and horses were created to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, the first Emperor to unite China under his firm rule. The royal tomb itself has yet to be opened but the



**Terracotta Warriors Museum.**

rank upon rank of Warriors is a sight that is unrivalled anywhere in the world. After lunch, we will visit the **Provincial History Museum** which has the richest collection of artifacts in China. For the last visit of the afternoon we will go to the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**. The square, seven-storey pagoda was built in 652 AD and is a fine example of Tang Dynasty

## Forest of Stone Steles Museum

Buddhist architecture. Tonight, dinner will be at the famous Tang Dynasty Palace for the deluxe Tang Dynasty Dinner Show where fine food and spectacular entertainment bring another outstanding day to a close. (B/L/D) Overnight in Xi'an



**Day 06** To start your day before breakfast, you will have a unique chance to experience the mysterious and ancient art of **Tai Chi Chuan**, a 300-year old traditional Chinese martial art, also known as shadow boxing. After breakfast, we will visit the **Forest of Stone Steles Museum**. The museum, which is housed in the Temple of Confucius, has the largest collection of its kind in China with over 3,000 inscribed stones steles.

## Preparing to Cruise

Next comes the **Great Mosque** built in 742 during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The traditional Chinese-style architecture makes this mosque quite distinct from its Arabic counterparts. In the afternoon take flight from Xi'an to Chongqing. Dinner tonight will be Sichuan style at one of the best local restaurants, then afterwards we

will transfer to the pier to join the cruise ship and spend the night on-board before starting our river cruise.

(B/L/D)

Overnight on board

“transfer to the pier to join the cruise ship”

## Yangtze River

**Day 07** At eight this morning we set out along the Yangtze River at the start of the river voyage During the relaxing morning, you can enjoy all the sights of the river. After lunch we will make a stop for a visit to the **Ghost City of Fengdu**, famous for its



Five Star Cruise included

temple dedicated to the King of the Underworld, an association dating back to the Han Dynasty. (B/L/D) Overnight on board

## Shennong Stream

**Day 08** As you progress along the mighty river, you arrive at Badong, here you will transfer to a small junk and explore the **Shennong Stream**. The trip features a fantastic natural backdrop and a wonderful boat ride along the crystal stream. The most impressive scene is a team of trackers push and haul the wooden sampans over the willow rapids. Sometimes, the pea boats allow you to take a closer look at mossy rocks, verdant plants, ancient plank roads, hanging coffins and rare flying mon-



Take a small junk and go exploring.

keys. Afterwards we go back on board and have dinner. (B/L/D) Overnight on board

## Three Gorges Dam

**Day 09** Today we will arrive at Sandouping and see the **Three Gorges Dam Project**. Now virtually complete, this is the largest project of its kind ever undertaken anywhere in the world. Not only does the dam fulfill the function of controlling the floodwaters of the Yangtze but will also provide eco-friendly hydroelectric power. In

“..largest project of its kind ever undertaken anywhere in the world.”

the afternoon disembark from the cruise. Meet the local guide and transfer to the airport to take flight to Shanghai. (B/L/D) Overnight in Shanghai

## Shanghai

**Day 10** Shanghai is a city that must be seen to be appreciated. You will see something of its history at the **Shanghai Museum** on People’s Square with its fine collection of cultural



Caption describing picture or graphic.

relics. Then we will visit the **Yuyuan Garden**. Laid out in the 16th century by a Ming official, this small (2 hectares) garden is a delight of pools, pavilions and rock gardens. Strolling through the bazaar surrounding the garden, you will find lines of stores that sell traditional Chinese arts and crafts. Next comes **The Bund**, one of the most famous

## Prepare for the total solar eclipse

thoroughfares in China and here you will see a collection of buildings dating from the 1930's displaying their western influence and fulfilling the role of the commercial heart of Shanghai. Leaving the ancient for the modern you visit the **TV Tower of the Oriental Pearl** situated in the thriving Pudong area of the city dominated by the 88-storey Jin Mao building. (B/L/D) Overnight in Shanghai

**July 19** Today we will arrive at Sandouping and see the **Three Gorges Dam Project**. Meet the local guide and transfer to the airport to take flight to Shanghai. (B/L/D) Overnight in Shanghai



pavilions and rock gardens

**July 20 Shanghai Museum** on People's Square with its fine collection of cultural relics. Then we will visit the **Yu-yuan Garden**. Next comes **The Bund**, and the **TV**

**Tower of the Oriental Pearl** and the **88-story Jin Mao building**. (B/L/D) Overnight in Shanghai

## Suzhou tours



**July 21.** In the morning take coach to Anji. Free afternoon Anji. (B/L/D) Overnight in Anji.

**July 22** In the morning enjoy observations of **Sun Phenomenon of Total Solar Eclipse** (B/L/D) Overnight in Suzhou.

**July 23.** Visit the **Humble Administrator's Garden** (Zhouzheng Yuan) Visit the **Garden of the Master of the Net**, cruise on the **ancient canal**. (B/L/D) Overnight in Shanghai.



cruise on the ancient canal

**July 24.** After breakfast transfer to Shanghai airport as needed. Take flights east or fly to Beijing for flights east.

**Reservation Form:****Name (s):**

As on passports please.

**Address:****City:****State:****Zip:****Phone:****Email:**

Airfare departure city:\_\_\_\_\_

July 11- July 24th, 2009

 2 persons, double occupancy \$2898 Single surcharge \$692 Send Cancellation/Trip insurance information

Tee Shirt Sizes \_\_\_\_\_

 I (we) may need pre tour hotelPlease mail this form or fill one out on our webpage at: [www.tropicalsails.com/eclipse/page10.html](http://www.tropicalsails.com/eclipse/page10.html)

Signature. \_\_\_\_\_

**\$2898 per person, Single supplement \$692. \$400 per person deposit. 50% due by 1 March 2009, 50 % 1 May 2009 Deposit refundable less \$25 until February 1, 2009.****Included in the tour price:**

- \* 3 domestic flights in the economic class with tax ( Beijing/Xi' an/Chongqing, Yichang/Shanghai )
- \* Soft seat train ( Shanghai/Suzhou )
- \* 4 Star hotels with buffet breakfasts, twin-bedded rooms with private shower and WC.
- \* English speaking local guide.
- \* Daily meals (as detailed in the tour description )
- \* Admission charges where applicable as shown in the tour description
- \* Transportation in the program
- \* Service charges for baggage handling between airport and railway station
- \* Domestic travel insurance
- \* 5 star Yangtze Cruise
- \* Eclipse Shades
- \* Early booking locks in your price. Prices may change in the coming months due to currency changes.

**Not included in the tour price:**

- \* International transportation and tax
- \* Personal consumption of ethanol
- \* Visa fee
- \* Tips for guide, driver and porter
- \* Tour Cancellation, Accident Insurance. ( Available from Tropical Sails Corp )

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## Fine Print

**\$400 per person deposit. 50% due by 1 March 2009, 50 % 1 May 2009 Deposit refundable less \$25 until February 1, 2009.**

**Deposit and payment policy on airfares may vary.**

**Refunds on cancellations are subject to steep penalties. No refunds within 15 days of tour. Once money is sent to China, refunds cannot be made unless recovered from China.**

**Tropical Sails Corp act only as agent for the suppliers of yacht tours, accommodations, food and other goods and services provided to the participant. All arrangements to transport, accommodate and other services are made upon the express conditions that Tropical Sails Corp and its agents shall not be held liable for any direct, indirect consequential or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind occasioned by reason or any act or omission beyond its control, including without limitation, any act or negligence or breach of contract by any third party, such as airline, cruise line, hotel, ground handler, etc., who is to or does supply any good or service to the tour. Itinerary and schedule is subject to the Captain's or leader discretion, wind, weather and/or road conditions. Traveler's Accident, Cancellation and Trip Interruption Insurance is available from Tropical Sails Corp. Credit cards used for balances incur a 2% fee.**



Total Solar Eclipse