

Eclipse News

Issue 34

Advance copy.... More to come

December, 2006

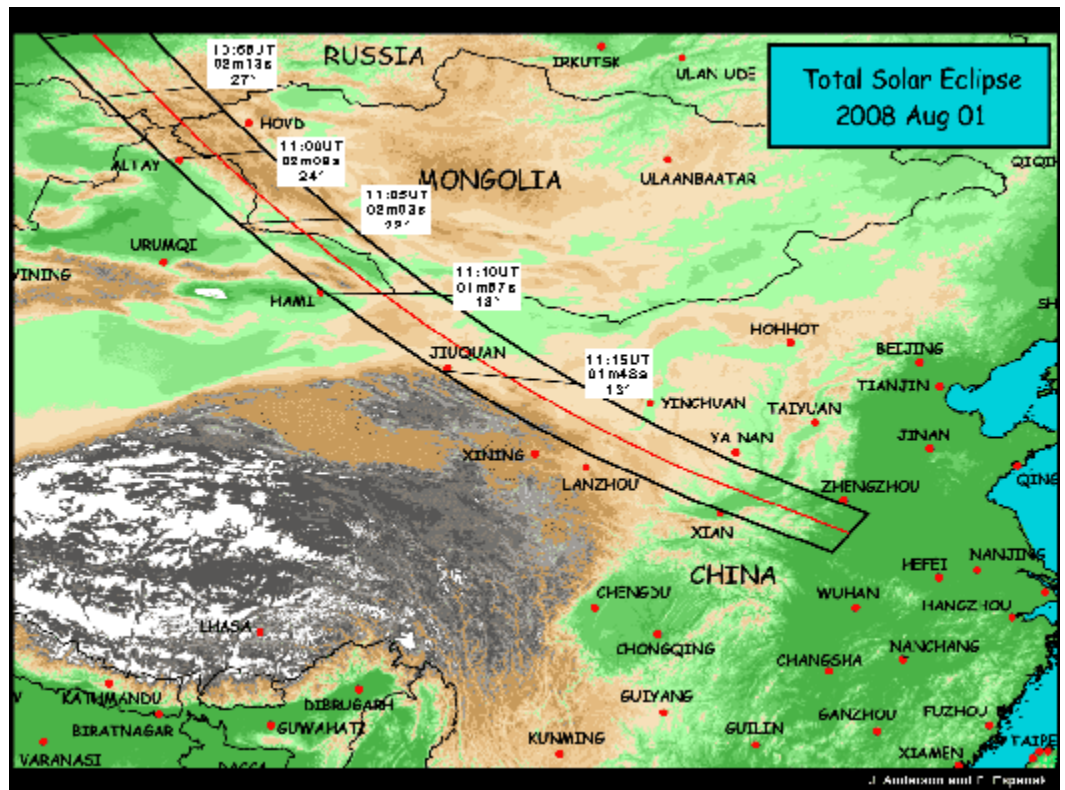


Solar Eclipse
August 1, 2008



Weekend Bodrum
did a write up on
our Total Solar
Eclipse Sailing in
1999.

Moon to eclipse the sun



China 2008 Coming up Fast

Beginning in 1990 we began advertising for our first solar eclipse journey. They said Baja was full. They said there was no camping on the beach. They said there would be no water, ice or gasoline. Seventy-five intrepid adventures drove the Baja peninsula.

Now they run their own tours.

Our clientele knows we did it and can do it again, we have been organizing adventures for 16 years now. We have many repeat customers.

Join us on a plane, rail and bus tour for the 2008 eclipse. Sorry no sails this time!

None of the stuff published in the major magazines was true.



2008 China Solar Eclipse Tour

Beijing—Lanzhou—Jiayuguan—Dunhuang—Hami—Karatoruk—Turpan—Urumqi

10 days 9 nights



Day -01 24 July. Depart USA for Beijing.

Day 00– 25 July Arrive in Far East.

Day 01 26 July. Arrive in Beijing, meet the local guide and transfer to the Hotel. (D) Overnight in Beijing 4*

Day 02 27 July. In the morning take flight from Beijing to Lanzhou. Meet the local guide and visit **White Pagoda Hill**, the mountain stands at the northern bank of the Yellow River and has its name after the white pagoda on top of it, the White Pagoda Hill Park is a large and nice place for strolling, with green forests, scattered pavilions, teahouses and, from its heights, some good views of both the churning river and the city beyond. The nearby bridge, Zhongshan Bridge, was the old crossing point for travelers and merchants who were then to head north on the Silk Road. **Mother Statue of Yellow River**, a modern sculpture in Xihu Park. In China,

the Yellow River is also called Mother River, because so much Chinese civilization was born alongside it. **Iron Bridge over the yellow river (zhongshan Bridge)**. Zhongshan Bridge, also called the first bridge over the Yellow River, lies at the foot of Bai Ta Mountain and in front of Jin Cheng Pass in Lanzhou city, the capital of Gansu Province. In the evening take soft sleeper train to Jiayuguan. (B/L/D) Overnight on the train.



Day 03 28 July. Arrive in Jiayuguan, meet the local guide and visit **Jiayuguan Fortress**. Jiayuguan was the end of the Great Wall. Passing through the gates of the Jiayuguan fortress was leaving Chinese culture behind for the harshness of central Asia. Today the Jiayuguan fortress is a World Heritage site and a truly impressive structure. the **Great Wall Museum**, it was the first of its kind to offer comprehensive and systematic understanding of the history of the Great Wall. Covering a total

area of 3 acres, the "beacon tower" styled complex is made up of seven different sections, with the central theme of the "Great Wall". With the help of scale models, diagrams, words and photos spanning from the Warring States Period to the Ming Dynasty (a total of more than 3,000 years), the museum gives visitors a fairly good representation of the life of this vast, snaking wall. (B/L/D) Overnight in Jiayuguan 4*

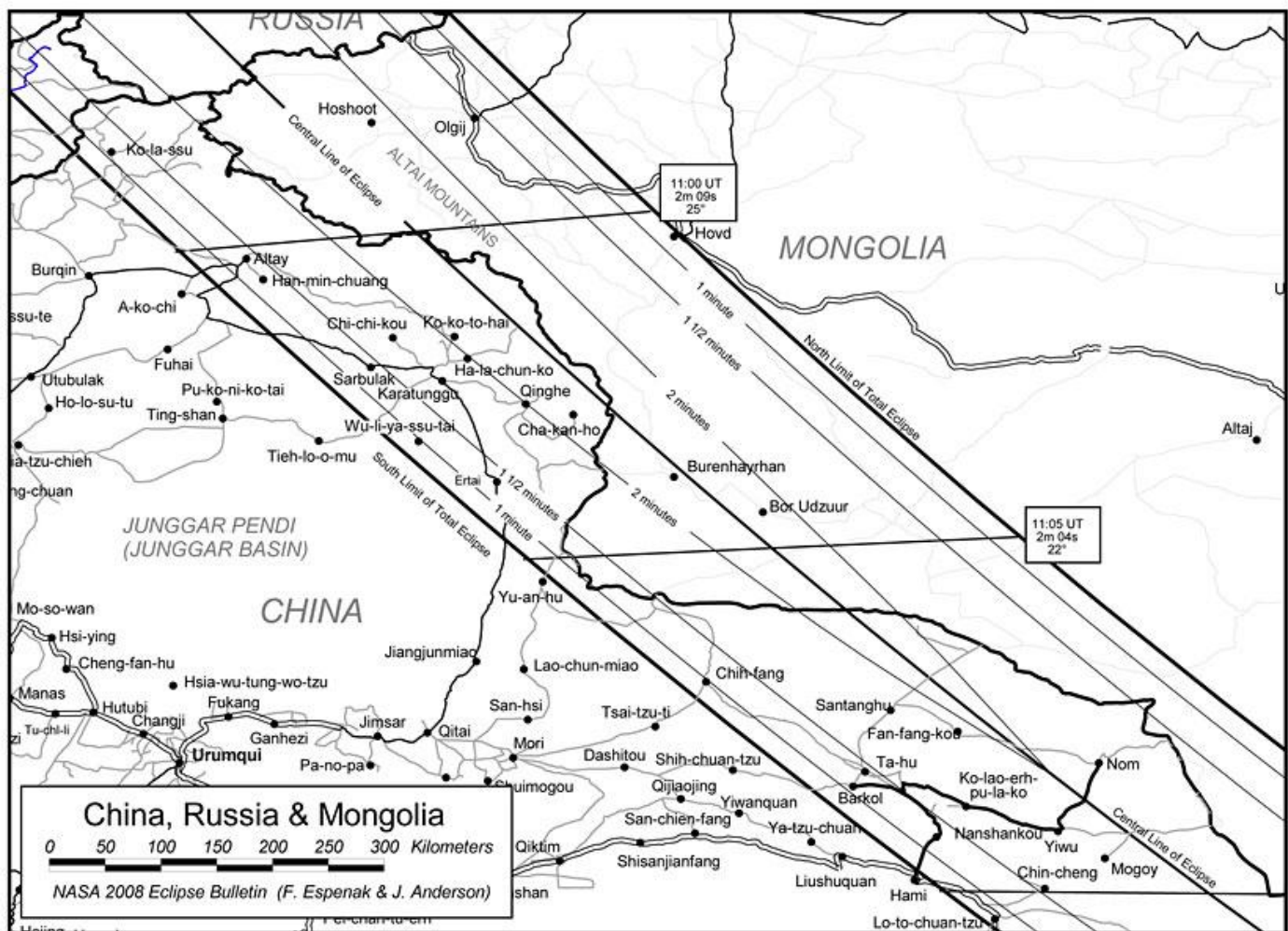


Day 04 29 July. After breakfast drive to Dunhuang. Visit **Sand Dune**. Dunhuang has a spectacular natural scene: Mingsha (Sighing) Sand Dune. The dune, a sand crusted hill of dozens of meters high, is 40km east to west, and 20km south to north. In fine days, sand roars like thunder which can be heard in the city, hence the name. when visitors climb up to the dunes and slide downward from the summit, the sand can collapse with them and give out a pearl of loud sound. **Crescent-Moon Spring**, the spring lies at the foot of the Mingsha Sand Dune and is named for its shape. It is about 100m long and 25m wide, and has fish and water weeds that are said to be good for the health. The area is often hit by windstorm, which drives up sand to shut out sun-light. Interestingly enough, however, for hundreds of years people have never seen the spring filled up with or covered by sand. (B/L/D) Overnight in Dunhuang 4*



Day 05 30 July. After breakfast visit **Mogao Grottoes**. The Mogao Grottoes, commonly named Thousand-Buddha Caves, and praised as "a glittering pearl that adorns the Silk Road", are the most famous grottoes in China. Located 25km southeast of Dunhuang County, these caves are carved out of the sandstone cliffs of Mingsha Mountain, extending some 1600m from south to north. Constructed in 10 dynasties from the fourth to the 14th century, its 45000 square meters of mural paintings and more than 2000 color statues are regarded as the greatest treasure-house of Buddhist art existing in the world. Then drive to Hami, meet the local guide and check in the hotel. (B/L/D) Overnight in Hami 3*

Day 06 31 July. In the morning drive to Karatoruk county through the **Tianshan mountain** and enjoy its gorgeous scenery, drive pass ancient beacon tower ruin. Visit **White Stone scenic area**, dipping irrigation system, **Natural salt lake**, Tang Dynasty military garrison camps ruins. (B/L/D) Overnight in Karatoruk 2*



Day 07 1 Aug. Half day tour to enjoy observations of **Sun Phenomenon (Total Solar Eclipse)** at the very site of Laomaodi (the famous field which was for growing sweet Hami melon). In the afternoon back to Hami. (B/L/D) Overnight in Hami 3*





Day 08 2 Aug. Drive to Turpan. Turpan depression 154m below sea level , second lowest place in the world after the dead sea in Jordan. Very important cultural and historical town in Xinjiang China, on the way visit **Bezeklik caves** (4th century), **Astana tombs** (ancient burial ground for the nobles – aristocrat , for more than 400 tombs excavated with best preserved artifacts, so named 'underground museum' by the world scholars). In the afternoon visit **Grape Gorge** which is a long valley 5 km at the foot of the flaming mountain , clients can taste grapes and wine. (B/L/D) Overnight in Turpan 3*



Day 09 3 Aug. In the morning visit ancient citadel of **Jiaohe** with history of over 2500 years, the city was built on a natural earth cliff , still up to now outline of the city well preserved , and protective archaeological site by the UNESCO. Visit **Kariz** under ground irrigation system (one of the three manmade ancient project of China), visit **Emin minaret** (1777 years built ,mosque complex building, for commemorate the religious head of Turpan). In the afternoon drive to Urumqi. (B/L/D) Overnight in Urumqi 4*

Day 10 4 Aug. In the morning take flight to Beijing, then take flight for USA.

Prices: \$ 2288 USD p/p Single room supplement: \$ 598 USD

Included in the tour price:

- 2 flights in the economic class with tax (Beijing/Urumqi /Beijing)
- 4 Star hotels with buffet breakfasts, twin-bedded rooms with private shower and WC. (if there is no 4 star hotel, we will supplement the best local hotel)
- 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

Not included in the tour price:

- International transportation and tax
- Personal consumption of ethanol
- Visa fee
- Tips for guide, driver and porter
- Travel. Accident and Trip Cancellation Insurance.
- Tour must have 16 paying guests to run.

Reservation Form:

Our interest:

Name (s):

() 9 night China Solar Eclipse tour
\$ 2288

Address:

() Hong Kong Extension

City:

() I would like a Tropical Sails Corp to
arrange international flights.

State:

() Send Trip Accident & Cancellation
Insurance Brochure

Zip

() Tee Shirt Sizes:_____

Phone:

Email:

Airfare departure city:

I have read the payment policy.

TROPICAL SAILS CORP

Deposit is \$400 per person for the tour. \$375 is refundable until February 1, 2008. Thereafter deposit is forfeited if balance is not paid. The balance is due May 1, 2007. Deposit and payment policy on airfares may vary.

Sailing tall ships to small islands worldwide.

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623-444-8195
email: eclipse@tropicalsails.com

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