



Program 8

Eclipse-City in Barkol/Balikun Region Special Program for Scientific Purposes

Our 2008 special scientific interested eclipse program in China will take you primarily to China's Northwestern Uyghur Autonomous Province of Xinjiang.

Xinjiang is the largest political subdivision of China - it accounts for more than one sixth of China's total territory, a quarter of its boundary length, but only 1.5% of its total population. It is divided into two basins by the Tianshan Mountain range: Dzungarian Basin is in the North, and Tarim Basin is in the South. Xinjiang's lowest point is located in the Turfan Depression, 155 meters below sea level (second lowest in the world). Its highest peak, K2, the second highest mountain in the world, is 8,611 meters above sea level, at the border with Pakistan.

Our two programs (8A and 8B) concentrate on a 8-10 days scientific tour around Barkol/Balikun region in the Xinjiang province. Depending on your program, we shall take you through the highlights of Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, you shall enjoy shopping at the famous multi-ethnic Bazaar, visit Flaming Mountain, ancient caves with Buddhist paintings, and the city of Jiaohe with over 2,000 years of history. Then we will take you to Barkol/Balikun and from there, to our specially built Scientific Eclipse Camp with local yurts "in the dunes" located some 130 kilometers (80 mi) North, in the middle of the Gobi Desert right on the total solar eclipse center line, with the longest viewing duration in China. This location, will allow you to pursue all your scientific interests. Only your team and a few other small groups will be staying at this camp, guarded by local security and Eclipse-City staff.

You will be accompanied by our multilingual staff, bilingual local guides, and of course, astronomy experts from the international and domestic community. Full board and an award winning show and eclipse gala dinner, will make this trip an unforgettable experience.

As the Olympic Summer games start on August 8th 2008 in Beijing, we do strongly recommend to make your flight bookings and eclipse bookings for these programs as early as possible.

Welcome again to Eclipse-City

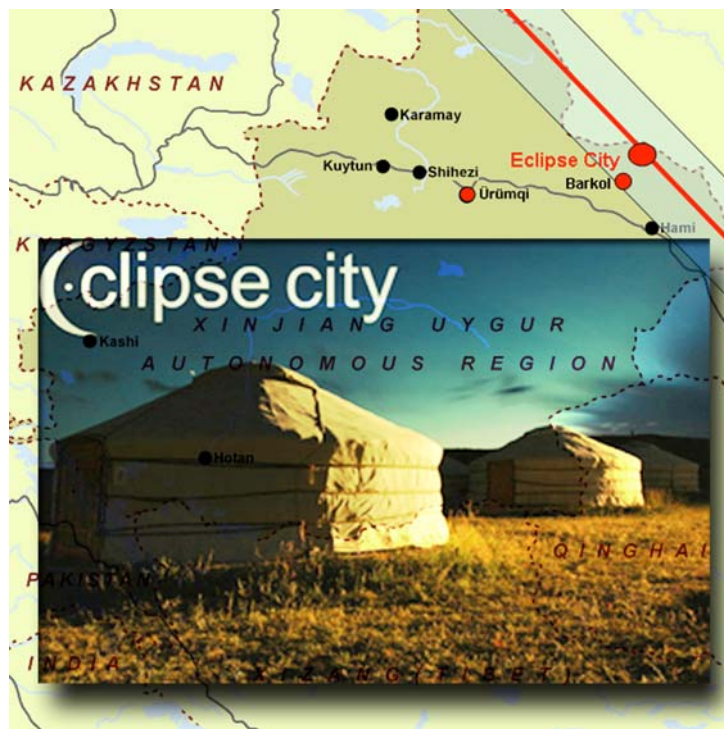
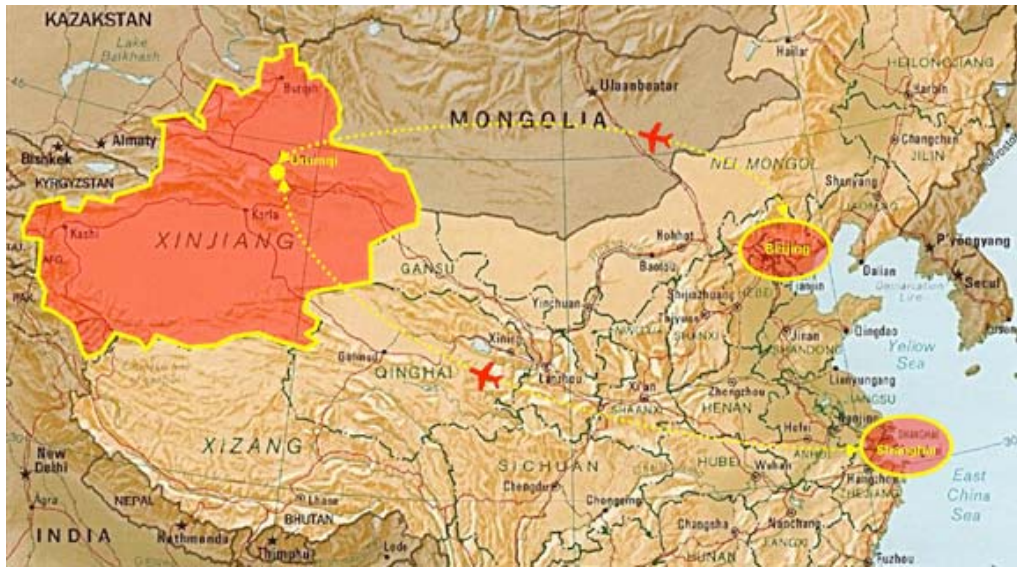
A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Frederic Thollan B'.

Founder & Managing Director
Eclipse-City Ltd.
Where the moon mates the sun...



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July 25th (8B: July 27th) – August 3rd, 2008

Total Solar Eclipse 2008
(10/8 days programs, starting/ending in Urumqi, Xinjiang Province, China)

Euro 2,290.- per person (8A: 10-day program)
(Single supplement policy applies)

Euro 1,990.- per person (8B: 8-day program)
(Single supplement policy applies)

Day 1: Friday, July 25th 2008 / (8B: Starts Sunday, July 27th 2008)
Arrival in Urumqi (D)

Arrival in Urumqi (the capital of the Uyghur Autonomous Province of Xinjiang) on your own. Meet and greet at the airport. You will probably arrive in the afternoon, as flights from Shanghai or Beijing to Urumqi take between 4-5 hours. You will stay in a 4-star hotel in Urumqi. Before dinner, you shall have a small get together and eventually meet with Dr. Na Wang from the Urumqi Observatory and then join a dinner with exotic show in Urumqi's Uighur district. (D)

Day 2: Saturday, July 26th 2008
Urumqi, the Capital of the Uighur Autonomous Region (B, L, D)

After taking your breakfast, we will visit **the Xinjiang Regional Museum**. It has excavated hundreds of ancient tombs and cultural sites unearthed several thousands of cultural relics of high historical value. There are more than 50,000 pieces of cultural relics which reflecting the history, culture and customs of various nationalities of Xinjiang are on display in the museum. The display of ancient mummies is fantastic, for it was in this region that a great number of ancient and well-preserved remains were discovered.

We will then visit **the Red Hill**, which is a symbol of Urumqi, owing to its uniqueness. The body of the mountain, composed of purplish red sandstone, which made up of aubergine rock, has a reddish brown color, hence, the name the Red Hill. The hill is 1.5 km (0.93 mi) long and 1 km (0.62 mi) wide from east to west. On the peak of Red Hill, you will have the whole city of Urumqi before your eyes!

We will then go on shopping tour through **the International Bazaar** with lunch in a typical Uyghur restaurant.

Now we leave the Urumqi region and begin our journey towards the Southwest with late arrival at Turpan, check-in and dinner.



Day 3: Sunday, July 27th 2008 / Program 8B: Day 1 with arrival in Urumqi The Turpan (*Turfan*) Region (B, L, D)

Our day starts early with the visit of the one of the worlds architectural wonders that hides in Yarnaz Valley, 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) west of Turpan. Like a willow leaf, the ancient city of Jiaohe (Yarkhoto) with a history of 2,300 years lies between two rivers on a loess plateau atop a cliff of over 30 meters (98 feet). The largest, oldest and best-preserved earthen city in the world, **Jiaohe** is 1,650 meters (5,413 feet) by 300 meters (984 feet) at its widest; with an area of 220,000 square meters (2,368,168 square feet).

Jiaohe was the capital of the former Cheshi State. An Indian proverb says, 'Intelligence is bound to exist where two rivers meet'. Jiaohe, meaning in Chinese *where two rivers meet*, is such a place. According to historical records it was home to 700 households, 6,500 residents, plus 865 soldiers.



Jiaohe distinguishes itself from other ancient cities owing to three features. First, it had only two city gates, the South and East Gates. The main South Gate vanished long ago, leaving a huge breach. The East Gate cut by the cliff was virtually non-existent. Second, the city faces cliffs on three sides, so there are no city walls commonly seen in other ancient cities. Third, all the buildings were dug from earth, and wood was rarely used. The central avenue, 350 meters (1,148 feet) long, runs north from South Gate, separating the city into three parts; namely, residences for common people, temples, and residences for aristocrats. To the west of the avenue, low buildings with sparse small temples were residences for commoners, while the high ones in the east were for aristocrats and troops. At the end of the avenue stands a large well-preserved Buddhist temple, Jiaohe Temple, with an area of 5,000 square meters (53,824 square feet).

The relics we see today featured Tang Dynasty (618-907) architectural style. Houses were dug downward from the earth, and as no house gates faced the streets, military defense was apparently priority.

At the end of the 8th Century, the city was tossed into the reigns of the Turpan, Hui, and Mongols. Residents fled from the destroyed city continuously until in the beginning of the 14th Century, the city was abandoned, as was its glory and prosperity of over 2,000 years. Miraculously, owing to the arid climate and remote location, the ancient city of Jiaohe remains intact, leaving us a rare exemplar of an earthen castle.

We then drive to **Grape Valley** with lunch (alternatively lunch at Flaming Mountains). "...Grapes in Turpan grow up; Anarhan's heart is ecstatic..." This folk song of the last century is well known in China. Turpan, a place truly flowing with milk and honey in the Turki language, is famous for its fruits. Among them, grape is the most famous. Every August the sweet air will herald the vintage. The best place to enjoy the grapes is Grape Valley. This green paradise of 400 hectares (988 acres) is covered with layer upon layer of grapes. It seems that all the water in the desert of Turpan flows into the Karez Systems in the Grape Valley. Every single grape is crystal and watery-some are as green as emerald; some as red as agate, some as small as pearls while others are like olives. Among dozens of kinds of grapes, Wuhebai (white seedless) grape is reputed as a green pearl with the sugar content as much as 22%.

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We continue our journey to visit **Flaming Mountain**. This is very popular thanks to a classical novel, *The Journey to the West* by the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) writer, Wu Cheng'en and its charming hero: The Monkey King. In the Han account of the legend, it is said the Monkey King stirred up trouble in Heaven and kicked off the oven for making immortal pills. Charcoals fell from the sky to where the Flaming Mountain now lies: In the middle of Turpan Basin. According to the Uygur version, a vicious dragon lived in deep Tianshan Mountain and ate little children. A Uygur hero fought gallantly against the dragon for three days and three nights and cut the dragon into eight parts. The remains of the dragon turned to a scarlet mountain colored by its blood. The eight scars turned into the eight valleys in the Flaming Mountain, including the famous Grape Valley.

Scientific explanation cites tectonic plate movement on the earth's surface during the formation of the Himalayas 50,000,000 years ago. The mountain is barren and extremely hot in summer. During the trek approaching the mountain, visitors will find the soles of their shoes soften in the intense heat. With the red sun overhead, the red mountain looks like a fiery dragon-truly an unforgettable spectacle!

As Buddhism was the first religion from abroad introduced to this area, Xinjiang witnessed the earliest development of Buddhist cave art in China. Soon after the religion's establishment in the region, Turpan became the Buddhist center on the Silk Road owing to its geographic location. Among the Buddhist caves found in Turpan, Bizalkik Thousand Buddha Caves are considered most valuable.

Bizalkik Thousand Buddha Caves stand high on the cliffs of west Mutou Valley under the Flaming Mountain, 45 km (28 miles) east of Turpan. Of the 83 original caves, 57 caves currently remain. The murals cover an area over 1,200 square meters (12,917 square feet) in more than 40 caves.

Beginning in the Southern and Northern Dynasties, the construction experienced Tang, the Five Dynasties, Song and Yuan. The Caves had been the Buddhist center of Gaochang. Near the end of the 13th century, the royal family of Gaochang moved to Yongchang, Gansu. Around this same time, Buddhism in Turpan began to decline in popularity with the introduction of Islam. Subsequently, the religious importance of The Bizalkik Thousand Buddha Caves became less apparent. Many of the caves were destroyed during the ensuing religious clashes. Vandals dug out the eyes of many of the portraits human figures contained in the murals. Later, at the beginning of the 20th century, foreign explorers robbed the caves of much of the treasures. Despite all the destruction, the surviving parts, such as the delicate Buddha seat and the bright color of the murals, give us some idea of its past glory.



Bizaklik Caves was the royal temple of Huihu (the predecessor of today's Uygur) State and the existing caves were enlarged or renovated during that time. The murals take us back to the ancient Huihu State, where we can see the King and Queen and people from all walks of life. The inscriptions, written in ancient Uygur, Chinese and other languages, provide authentic reference for valuable historic research.

The most exceptionally rare mural topics in Bizaklik Caves are found in Caves No.16 and 17. Cave No.16 depicts a musician playing Xiao Hu Lei: a lute-like instrument originating from southern China's Yunnan province. This strengthens the belief that cultural exchange between northern and southern China was unprecedented during Tang Dynasty.

The mural *Transformation in Hell* in Cave No.17 supports the notion Huihu Gaochang was the center of Manicheism from 9th to 12th century. *Buddhist disciples wailing in mourning* and *Bhikku wailing in mourning* in Cave No.33 are also highly praised for their vivid depiction.

In addition to the murals and inscriptions, a piece of gold foil wrapping paper found at the caves is also intriguing. A stamp on it revealed the address of the shop on the south side of Tiahelou Street, Hangzhou, Zhejiang of Song Dynasty. It also advised clients to examine their goods carefully before purchase to avoid being cheated. As an apparent piece of advertisement, the foil shows that Gaochang Huihu kept close economic ties with Song Dynasty as the trade extended as far as to the East China Sea.

After a full day of impressions we take dinner at the hotel or another typical place.

For those who follow our program 8B, after arrival in Urumqi (capital of the Uyghur Autonomous Province of Xinjiang) on your own, we will first meet and greet you at the airport, take you to a 4-star hotel and check in. Then you will join a dinner with exotic show from the Urumqi's Uighur district. (D)

The day after, you will start your journey with Eclipse-City to "your special camp" into the Barkol region.

Day 4-7 (8B: Day 2-5): Monday, 2008 July 28th – Thursday, 2008 July 31st Barkol and Center Line Location (B, L, D)

After early breakfast, we head NE towards Barkol, some 5 hours drive away. After arriving in Barkol, we will have lunch at our especially reserved hotel.

We will then head for "your special camp", located some 130 kilometers (80 mi) to the north in the middle of the Gobi Desert right on the center line. This location, where you will get just over 2 minutes of totality, will also be the location for all other visitors on "E-day". Your team and some other small groups will be the only ones staying at this camp, guarded by local security and Eclipse-City staff.

There will be no showering facility at the camp, as you will be a small group staying in the middle of Gobi Desert. However if you want to take showers, you can do so at our hotel in Barkol (130 km, about 90-120 minutes drive away) or Santanghu (37 km) at one of our partners' premises. We will provide daily shuttle services and you may choose to stay overnight at the camp or the hotel in Barkol.

At the camp, we will provide mobile toilets and water for hand washing only.

Sleeping at the camp (if you chose to do so) will be in local yurts, sleeping up to 8 people on mattresses (bed sheets and pillows provided). If you want your own yurt, please ask for VIP services (at an additional cost). Alternatively, if you want a small tent for single use, we can provide also, but we do not recommend it for the local circumstances. You have the choice to sleep also in the hotel at Barkol (double room, shared) from July 28th through August 1st.



We will provide 2-3 yurts/tents for common gathering: 1-2 as restaurant type, one additional as a seating/writing Internet type cafe (this yurt/tent shall be provided with AC if the temperature exceeds 30°C or 86°F). Barkol is dry and at 1,600 meters altitude and our day camp at 615 meters. The temperatures are normally bearable in that region.

We will provide 110 and 220 V power generators (in total some 5-6 kW) and try to use renewable energy (aeolian and/or solar).

Food will be processed off-site and delivered via shuttle to the day camp. It includes Uyghur, Kazakh or Chinese style. Uyghur-Kazakh diet is based on lamb and cattle (grazing animals) and a lot of vegetable, similar to Turkish food and very tasty. Hot tea and water will be provided at any time.

Besides your passports, we will need a detailed list of equipment you will be bringing along. This list needs to be filled out by each person. It has happened in China in general, people have had to leave their photographic / astronomical equipment at customs for fear of spying... With your list approved by our contacts in the government, you shall have no problems. The form will be sent to you in due time.

Day 8-9 (8B: Day 6-7): Friday, 2008 August 1st – Saturday, 2008 August 2nd Core TSE 2008 (B, L, D)

Camp life as described above or at Barkol (depending on your booking). Showers will be available at one complimentary suite in Barkol or Santanghu (for those not booking additional rooms in Barkol).

Friday, August 1st 2008 – Eclipse Day: 2 Minutes and 1 Second of Totality

Get ready for

1st Contact at 18:06:30 (altitude 31°, azimuth 265°)
2nd contact at 19:05:44 (altitude 21°, azimuth 275°)

11:06:45 UTC (19:06:45 Chinese / Standard Beijing Time). More than two minutes of totality. Sun's altitude will be 20.5° and azimuth¹ 275.3° at mid-totality. Considering our location, we expect a spectacular and immaculate totality view over the Gobi Desert's horizon, with the distant Eastern Tian Shan Mountains in the background.

3rd contact: 19:07:45 (altitude 20°, azimuth 275°)
4th contact: 20:02:45 (altitude 11°, azimuth 285°)

On the evening of "E-day", i.e. the evening after the eclipse on August 1st, you may want to join our Gala Dinner and Show in Barkol or stay at the camp. If you chose to join the show, we will bring you back to the camp via shuttle service, after the show, around midnight.

¹ Azimuth: 0° = due North, 90° = East, 180 = South, 270 = West

After you have packed your belongings on August 2nd (latest by noon time) we will depart for Urumqi. Overnight in Urumqi at 4-star hotel.

Day 10 (8B: Day 8): Sunday, 2008 August 3rd – Farewell

After breakfast, we will take you to the airport, where you shall return to your home countries or continue your own program.

There is no Beijing program availability after the eclipse due to the Beijing Olympics starting August 8th 2008. If you require a Beijing Olympic package please get in touch with us at

Beijing-Olympics@eclipse-city.com

or

simply consult the official site at <http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

Program 8 is directed especially to all those clients wishing to implement scientific experiments before, during and shortly after the 2008 total solar eclipse, at the best and longest viewing location in China

Services:

- Welcome and departure meet and greet at Urumqi International airport
- Luggage service. Please specify the amount (weight and size) of luggage you will bring with you if this exceeds the "normal" travelers standard.
- Tour guidance in Chinese and English (other languages upon request)
- Local guides
- Lodging in 3 or 4-star hotels, depending on location and at Eclipse-City camp in local yurts or 3-star hotel in Barkol/Balikun. Single supplement applies. Sleeping in local yurts sleeps parties of 8 on clean beds with mattresses, bed sheets and pillows. If you want to have your own yurt, please ask for our special VIP tents.
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and warm dinner), daily drinks, alcoholic beverages during Eclipse Gala Dinner only
- Local transportation on state-of-the-art local tourist busses
- Shuttle services from/back to camp
- Eclipse shades
- Information material
- 100 Euros voucher on your next booking on an Eclipse-City program to Iwo Jima in 2009

Single supplement policy:

- 250,- (8B:150,-) Euro for accommodations sleeping in hotels during the program (except Barkol where there is no single room availability). If you require your own yurt at the day camp, please ask to VIP@eclipse-city.com. If you require hotel rooms from July 28th to August 1st in Barkol in addition to the yurt, we will have to charge an additional 700 Euro p.p. (double occupancy in Barkol), as there is very limited availability for hotel rooms in the region around E-day.
- Additional requirements, such as additional AC, liquid nitrogen, or others are quoted separately. Please ask for a quotation giving for example the number of liters needed for liquid nitrogen.

Excludes:

- Visa / customs / duties / extra tips / extra fees for introducing special equipment into China
- Travel Insurance, cancellation insurance, private medical insurance nor private insurance for your equipment and belongings
- Flight arrangements. You arrive/depart on your own to/from Urumqi. You shall do your bookings ahead of time, especially if you fly through Beijing, due to the Beijing Olympics starting August 8th, one week after the eclipse. However, Eclipse-City has negotiated a *Sky-Team* package (www.skyteam.com/globalmeetings) with special prices from your home country/city through Beijing. Please consult our website or with us directly for details.
- Alcoholic beverages. These are provided at our gala dinner at Barkol on the evening of August 1st only

Note:

- The package price is: 2,290.- (8B: 1,990.-) Euro per person (full board) based on a minimum of 15 people, double occupancy in hotels and yurts (sleeping up to 8 people at the camp).
- Booking becomes confirmed after payment of a 50% deposit. 100% is due by March 2008.
- If the minimum number of PAX for this special program is not met by end of March 2008, we will have to (re)charge the remaining team accordingly.
- Eclipse-City general terms and conditions apply
- Passports need to have at least 6 months validity when entering/leaving China
- Eclipse-City cannot be held liable for any - though unlikely - unexpected weather changes.

Minimum Program size: Program 8A and 8B require at least 15 people per program

Payment Terms and Conditions

Individual sale

1. 50% deposit upon receipt of reservation
2. 50% balance by 15 March 2008

Group Sale with allotment

1. 50% Group Deposit upon signature of contract
2. Balance of payment by 15 April 2008

Cancellation Terms and Conditions

Individual sale

10% cancellation fee from 15 March 2007 - 31 December 2007

50% cancellation fee from 1 January 2008 – 15 March 2008

75% cancellation fee from 16 March 2008 – 30 June 2008

100% cancellation fee from 1 July 2008

Name changes permitted up to 1 July 2008, subject to:

Name change policy of airline applies, where flight bookings have been made. Visa needs to be issued

Group sale

10% cancellation fee from 15 March 2007 - 31 December 2007

50% cancellation fee from 1 January 2008 – 15 April 2008

75% cancellation fee from 16 April 2008 – 30 June 2008

100% cancellation fee from 1 July 2008

Name changes permitted up to 1 July 2008, subject to:

Visa and permits need to be issued

Meals

Regardless of the package you have booked, all Eclipse-City guests will be provided with full board. Changes may apply on date of arrival and/or departure depending on your program.

A large team of local and international staff will prepare Chinese and international dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For all those guests requiring a special dietary treatment, we do encourage you to clearly specify your requirements in writing, when booking your Eclipse-City trip.

Transport to and from Eclipse-City

Eclipse-City will provide for full transport with state-of-the-art local transport as specifies in the program

If you require a special "out of program schedule" transport to/from the viewing site, please request it in writing to VIP@eclipse-city.com. We will try to satisfy all your special requirements.

Security and personal safety

Your security and personal safety is our primary duty!

What have we done so far and what can you expect:

- Before issuing this program, we have made sure to have the official endorsement of our program from the Barkol government in Xinjiang Autonomous Province.
- Eclipse-City is expecting and prepared to see and receive other eclipse-viewing visitors. Everyone else not registered at Eclipse-City, will not be permitted nor have physical access to the City. Private security services will be guarding the camp, our guests and all your valuables.
- Eclipse-City is prepared to treat minor emergencies in a special conditioned medical tent, including specialized staff. Included in your package are complimentary medical treatments, such as sunburn, insect bites, and gastro-intestinal disturbances.

Our general terms and conditions apply. Please consult our website www.eclipse-city.com

Eclipse-City Ltd.

November 2007