

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

EXPLORING SHANXI AND SHAANXI PROVINCES

MAY 17 – JUNE 4, 2013

LED BY DR. JEFFREY RIEGEL



Discover the cradle of Chinese civilization and some of the oldest Buddhist sites in China in Shanxi and Shaanxi Provinces accompanied by Dr. Jeffrey Riegel of the University of Sydney.

Our cultural and historical journey begins in Beijing with time to discover some of its newer treasures. Fly southwest to Shanxi Province and explore some of the oldest and most sacred Buddhist sites at Datong, Taiyuan and Pingyao. Visit two of the four sacred Buddhist mountains in China, Wutaishan Mountain and Huashan Mountain. Admire the distinctive architectural styles of the Tang, Ming and Qing dynasties before traveling into Shaanxi Province and Xi'an, the capital of thirteen feudal dynasties from the Zhou to Tang dynasties stretching over 1,100 years. Discover the great ancient and modern monuments of the city that

was an important part of the Silk Road. This promises to be an unforgettable journey and we do hope that you can join us!

Synopsis of the Tour

BEIJING – 2 nights

The Peninsula Hotel

- Wander through the National Museum of China
- Visit the Commune by the Great Wall

DATONG – 2 nights

Garden Hotel

- Explore the Yungang Grottoes
- Visit the Huayun Temple
- Admire the Nine Dragon Screen
- Marvel at the Shanhua Temple

WUTAISHAN – 3 nights

Wufeng Hotel

- Ascend Mount Hengshan
- Visit Yingxian Wooden Pagoda
- Admire Xiantong Temple, Pusa Ding Temple, Tayuan Temple and Shuxiang Temple
- Explore Punha Temple, the South Mountain Temple, and the Dragon Fountain Temple

TAIYUAN – 2 nights

Chateau Star River Taiyuan

- Visit Foguang Temple and Nanchan Temple
- Visit Shanxi Provincial Museum
- Visit the Twin Pagoda Temple, Jinci Temple and the Wang Family Hall



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: STRENUOUS

There will be extensive walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. This trip is not suitable for those who have mobility problems.

PINGYAO – 2 nights

The Kylin Grand Hotel

- Walk the ancient city walls
- Explore Ming & Qing Streets
- Visit Shuanglin Temple
- Wang Family Courtyard House

LINFEN – 1 night

Jindu Garden Hotel

- Visit the Guangsheng Temple
- Explore the ancient architectural complex of Fencheng

HUASHAN – 1 night

Jingyuan Hotel

- Visit the Houma Bronze Foundry, the Guanyu Temple, the frescoes at Yongle Gong
- Ascend Huashan Mountain and visit Zhurong Palace, Shangfeng Temple and the South Gate of Heaven

XI'AN – 3 nights

Sofitel on Renmin Square

- Visit the Archaeological Institute, Shaanxi History Museum and FaMen Temple

BEIJING – 1 night

The Peninsula Hotel

- Fly back to Beijing before your flight home

Accompanied by Dr. Jeffrey Riegel, begin the trip in Beijing, the capital of China. Stroll through the National Museum of China covering Chinese history from Yuanmou Man dating back 1.7 million years to the end of the Qing Dynasty. Fly to Datong and visit the Yungang Grottoes, one of the three major grottoes in China. The construction of the caves was started under the auspices of the noted monk Tan Yao in 453 and took 50 years to complete. Explore Huayan Temple inside the city walls and admire the Nine Dragon Screen which was placed in front of the entrance of a Ming Dynasty palace to prevent evil spirits from entering.

Drive to the Yongan Monastery, which was built in the Yuan Dynasty. Continue on to the Hanging Temple, which according to the history of Hengshan Mountain, was first built at the end of the Northern Wei Dynasty (about the 6th century). Spend the following two days exploring Wutaishan Mountain, one of China's four sacred Buddhist Mountains and admire the many temples in the area.

Marvel at two of the oldest wooden buildings in China, Foguang Temple and Nanchan Temple, an important architectural site which contains an original set of artistically-important Tang Dynasty sculptures dating from the period of

its construction. Explore the Shanxi Provincial Museum which was formerly housed in the Chunyang Temple of Taiyuan City.

Wander through the ancient town of Pingyao: walk on the city wall and enjoy a chance to shop at the Ming & Qing Streets. Continue on to visit the Shuanglin Buddhist Temple which is part of the

World Heritage Site of Pingyao. Drive to Linfen stopping en route to visit the Wang Family Compound, the Guangsheng Temple and the ancient architectural complex at Fencheng. The Wang Family Compound is one of largest luxurious residential complexes in Shanxi province, representing the Chinese distinctive architectural styles of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Spend a night at Huashan Mountain which was historically the location of several influential Taoist monasteries, and was known as a center for the practice of traditional Chinese martial arts. Visit the Guanyu Temple and the frescoes at Yongle Gong. Ascend the mountain by cable car and stop at one of the oldest Taoist temples, the Shangfeng Temple.

End the trip with three nights in Xi'an where you will have a chance to visit the Archaeological Institute and walk amid an archaeological dig. Explore the Shaanxi History Museum including a visit to the recently opened Tang Dynasty frescoes with a local expert. Discover the FaMen Temple built to house a finger bone of the Buddha.

Return to Beijing for one night before flying home.

The trip will be led by Dr. Jeffrey Riegel, Head of the School of Languages and Cultures at the

University of Sydney. In 2007, after a 30-year academic career at the University of California, Berkeley Dr. Riegel retired and moved to Australia. He focuses on literature, thought and material culture of early China (7th -2nd centuries BC). He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. In September 2012, he will speak at the Asian Art Museum.

Exploring Shanxi and Shaanxi Provinces

\$5,780 PER PERSON • SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT \$1,590

The tour cost includes:

- Accommodations in double occupancy in hotels as listed
- Flights in economy (Beijing/Taiyuan/Datong, Xi'an/Beijing)
- Meals as listed in the program
- All sightseeing and entrances listed
- Transportation in a private air-conditioned bus
- Arrival and departure transfers for those arriving and departing on designated flights.
- Dr. Jeffrey Riegel will accompany the trip
- An excellent Chinese escort will travel with the group
- Bottled water on the bus and at all included lunches & dinners
- All gratuities and portage at hotels
- A \$400 donation to the Society for Asian Art

Not Included are:

- International airfares to and from Beijing
- Visa and passport fees
- Drinks other than water with meals
- Excess luggage charges
- Laundry charges
- Communication (phone, fax and internet) charges
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation
- Items of a purely personal nature
- Any items not listed

*For more information or a detailed itinerary, call
Distant Horizons at (800) 333-1240;
or the Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701.*

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RESERVATION FORM

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for the **EXPLORING SHANXI AND SHAANXI PROVINCES** tour.

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a \$250 per person administration fee.

Room Arrangements

- Single Supplement
- Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with:

I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

Personal Information

Last Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____

Travel Arrangements

- I/we wish to be booked on the group flight from San Francisco.
- I/we wish to be booked on a flight departing from:

I/we will make other travel arrangements for this program.

First Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Send application to: the Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

A confirmation letter, a declaration & waiver form and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.