from sand to sea
cultural exchange through trade on the silk road

Field Study: Western China and the Arabian Peninsula
July 16 – July 31/August 1, 2008

July 16-23: Western China

The China portion of the field study trip will examine two contrasting cities that were main locales on the land network of the Silk Road. Xian, renowned for being the eastern terminus of the Silk Road, is now the sprawling, dynamic, urban capital of Shaanxi Province. Dunhuang, located in Gansu Province, is a small oasis town on the edge of the Gobi Desert marking the historic junction of the Northern and Southern Silk Road and showcasing the world’s richest treasures of Buddhist manuscripts, murals, and sculptures. Visiting these two cities will help us understand how the flow of commodities, technologies, cultures, and religions along the Silk Road were interconnected with the ebb and flow of merchants, monks, and military men.

Our itinerary in Xian may include the following sites and activities (subject to change):

- City Wall of the Ming Dynasty
- Bell Tower and Drum Tower
- Grand Mosque and Muslim Street
- Huajie Xiang
- Shaanxi Provincial Museum
- Museum of Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses
- Xian Dumpling Banquet Dinner
- Big Wild Goose Pagoda
- Forest of Stone Steles
- Famen Monastery and Museum
- Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show

Our itinerary in Dunhuang may include the following sites and activities (subject to change):

- Mogao Caves
- Western Thousand Buddha Cave
- White Horse Pagoda
- Hechang Military Depot
- Dunhuang Night Market
- Echoing-Sand Mountain
- Camel Caravan in Desert
- Crescent Moon Lake
- Great Wall of the Han Dynasty (Yumen Pass and Yangguan Pass)
- Silk Road Traditional Song and Dance Performance
July 24-31: The Arabian Peninsula

The Arabian Peninsula portion of the field study will survey two regions that have played different historical roles in overland trade as well as the important water routes that traverse the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean. Short stays in Yemen and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will help us understand the heritage and contemporary realities of the movement of both products (frankincense, gold, copper, myrrh, pearls and oil) and people (travelers, traders, slaves, workers, and refugees) throughout this diverse region. Along the way, we shall experience both urban and rural landscapes in one of the most rapidly changing areas of the world.

Our itinerary in Yemen may include the following sites and activities (subject to change):

- Getting Lost in Sana’a’s Historic Walled Old City
- Hiking in the Haraz Mountains
- Wadi Hadramaut
- “Manhattans of the Desert”
- Ma’rib, the Fabled Hometown of The Queen of Sheba
- Dinner with Local Families and/or Group Qat Chew
- Yemen Language Center Site Visit
- Sites of importance to the historic Frankincense routes

Our itinerary in UAE may include the following sites and activities (subject to change):

- Abra Rides on Historic Dubai Creek
- Gold Souq/Spice Souq
- Burj al-Arab/Ibn Battuta Mall
- Dubai Museum
- Hindi Lane
- Zayed University Site Visit
- Art Gallery tours of the Bastakia Quarter
- Sheesha Café visit overlooking the Dubai Creek
- Desert Excursion
Projected Itinerary *(subject to change)*

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<th>July 16</th>
<th>Travel day: depart JFK for Hong Kong via Dubai</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Travel day: Hong Kong to Xian</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
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