

# 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 Battutta Mall  
Dubai Museum  
Hindi Lane  
Zayed University Site Visit  
Art Gallery tours of the Bastakia Quarter  
Sheeshah Café visit overlooking the Dubai Creek  
Desert Excursion

## Projected Itinerary (subject to change)

July 16	Travel day: depart JFK for Hong Kong via Dubai
July 17	Travel day: Hong Kong to Xian
July 18	Xian
July 19	Xian
July 20	Travel day: Xian to Dunhuang
July 21	Dunhuang
July 22	Dunhuang
July 23	Dunhuang to Hong Kong
July 24	Travel Day: depart Hong Kong to Sana'a via Dubai
July 25	Sana'a
July 26	Ma'rib, on to Wadi Hadramawt (Shibam)
July 27	Wadi Hadramawt (Shibam)
July 28	Return to Sana'a
July 29	Depart Sana'a for Dubai
July 30	Dubai
July 31/August 1	Depart Dubai for JFK