Silk Road Suitecase Seminar
TRACING CHINA’S ANCIENT CARAVAN ROUTES
September 5 to 25, 2011
One of the world’s most epic journeys is without question the fabled Silk Road. Though named for its famous silk trade, the route also acted as a conduit for the gold, ivory, and exotic plant and animal trade. Traveling overland from Beijing to Central Asia through China’s remote northwest is not an undertaking for an inexperienced traveler, though the rewards are great for those who endure: art-filled Buddhist caves in Dunhuang, the oasis city of Turfan, Kashgar’s famed livestock bazaar and an unforgettable mix of exotic peoples and cultures. Our caravan is led by Travel/Study’s modern-day Marco Polo, Professor Lyman Van Slyke, veteran of over 35 Stanford programs in Asia and the driving force behind this itinerary. This journey is not to be missed.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**EXPLORE** markets and mosques of oasis cities along the route of ancient caravans, including the vibrant market of Kashgar.

**DISCOVER** the Buddhist grottoes of Dunhuang and Bezeklik, caves filled with art that were commissioned by rich merchants looking to win favor with Buddah.

**STAND** in the shadow of Da Fo (“Great Buddah”), a 235-foot-high statue of Buddah carved into a cliff face in the Leshan mountains.
MONDAY & TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 & 6
U.S. / BEIJING, CHINA
Depart the U.S. on flights bound for Beijing, crossing the international date line and arriving in Beijing on Tuesday. Enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure.
GRAND HYATT BEIJING

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 & 8
BEIJING
During our two full days in China’s capital, visit the “Forbidden City,” the Imperial Palace of omnipotent Chinese emperors. Visit the Temple of Heaven, a complex of three main structures: the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, the Imperial Vault of Heaven and the Circular Mound Altar of Heaven. Walk through Xian’s old district where the Great Mosque and the Chinese garden surrounding it create an island of tranquility. Enjoy a dumpling dinner at the renowned Defachang restaurant.
SOFITEL RENMIN SQUARE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
XIÂN
Xian served as China’s capital during the reign of Qin Shi Huang Di, the first emperor of China. The legendary, life-size 6,000-man terra-cotta army, created to protect his tomb and China’s most breathtaking archaeological find, was discovered in 1974 and is only part of the treasure trove hidden beneath the low hills outside Xian. Visit the Shaanxi History Museum, which houses over 300,000 items dating as far back 1.7 million years.
SOFITEL RENMIN SQUARE (B,L)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
XIÂN / LANZHOU / XIAHÉ (LABRANG)
Fly to Lanzhou. This afternoon, continue by coach on a four-hour drive to Xiahe, passing mosques and Hui Muslim villages en route.
LABRANG HOTEL (B,L,D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
XIAHÉ (LABRANG) / LANZHOU
Spend the day exploring the Labrang Monastery, which sits at an altitude of 9,500 feet in a remote mountain valley in Gansu province. Home to over 1,000 monks, Labrang is an important pilgrimage site and center of scholarship — and considered the most important Tibetan monastery outside of Tibet.
SUNSHINE PLAZA HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
LANZHOU / DUNHUANG
Lanzhou was a caravan stop on the Silk Road and an historic transit point for the wool, silk and tea trades. Situated on the banks of the Yellow River, it is the present-day capital of Gansu province. Visit the Gansu Provincial Museum with its relics from...
the Silk Road, which provide evidence that ancient traders made contact with a variety of civilizations. Fly to Dunhuang late this afternoon.

**DUNHUANG HOTEL GUIBINLOU (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**DUNHUANG**

Explore Dunhuang’s famous Mogao Thousand Buddha Caves. Dunhuang was a major crossroads on the arduous Silk Road, where Indian, Chinese, and Central Asian monks and pilgrims mixed with merchants, traders and camel caravans, carrying with them in both directions their various forms of Buddhism. The nearly 500 grottoes contain 1,000 years of Buddhist sculpture, art and murals. This afternoon, visit the tower-ing Mingsha (“Singing Sands”) sand dunes and perhaps take a camel ride across the desert.

**DUNHUANG HOTEL GUIBINLOU (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**DUNHUANG / URUMQI / TURFAN**

This morning, fly to Urumqi and continue by coach to the oasis city of Turfan with its mix of Uyghur, Han Chinese and Hui peoples. The extremes of heat and cold in the desert landscape are mitigated by the ingenious underground karez irrigation channels that bring melted snow from the Tian Shan Mountains. This system is considered one of the three great ancient engineering projects in China, along with the Great Wall and the Grand Canal.

**TUHA SHIYOU HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

**TURFAN**

Visit Emin Mosque with its 130-foot-tall minaret, one of the best-preserved in China. Explore the Gaochang ruins, the remains of a major Silk Road trading post. Stop for a view of the Flaming Mountains on our way to Bezeklik, an archaeological site of almost 13,000 square feet, with cave murals dating from the 5th century.

**TUHA SHIYOU HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**TURFAN / URUMQI / KASHGAR**

Today we drive to Urumqi where we visit the Xinjiang Provincial Museum to view its impressive Caucasian mummies discovered in the Taklamakan Desert. This evening fly to Kashgar.

**INTERNATIONAL HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

**KASHGAR**

The Kashgar market is one of the highlights of our journey. Each Sunday thousands of people — Uyghurs, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Han Chinese — converge on Kashgar to trade and socialize. Goods and services
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19  
KASHGAR
Enjoy a full-day excursion to Lake Karakul, one of the greatest natural sights in western China and known for its array of blue-and-green coloring. At an altitude of almost 12,000 feet, it is the highest lake of the Pamir plateau and surrounded by even higher mountains that remain snow-covered throughout the year. Enjoy a walk around Lake Karakul, perhaps catching sight of the three highest peaks visible from the lake: Muztagata with an elevation of 24,750 feet, Kongur Tagh (25,088 feet) and Kongur Tiube (24,698 feet).

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20  
KASHGAR / URUMQI / CHENGDU
Fly to Urumqi this morning and connect with our afternoon flight to Chengdu, the southern terminus of the Silk Road and known for its Sichuan silk.

SHANGRI-LA (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
CHENGDU
In Guanxian, 25 miles northwest of Chengdu, visit the Dujiangyan Irrigation Works, an ancient water project designed in 250 BC. In concert with modern technology, this engineering marvel irrigates 16.5 million acres. This afternoon discover the archaeological wonders on display in the Sanxingdui Museum.

SHANGRI-LA (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
CHENGDU
This morning visit the Da Fo ("Great Buddha") overlooking the confluence of the Dadu and Min rivers. This 235-foot-tall Buddha, carved into a cliff face by local residents to subdue the dangerous river currents, is the largest stone Buddha figure in the world and a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Return to Chengdu this evening.

SHANGRI-LA (B,L)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23  
CHENGDU / SHANGHAI
Visit the Panda Research Institute before our flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival in Shanghai, transfer to our hotel, then enjoy an afternoon at leisure. This evening, after dinner on our own, attend a magical performance by the Shanghai Acrobats.

HYATT ON THE BUND (B,L)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
SHANGHAI
This morning explore Yu Gardens and tour the Shanghai Museum with its 30 centuries of art treasures. Enjoy a free afternoon before our farewell reception and dinner this evening.

HYATT ON THE BUND (B,D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25  
SHANGHAI / U.S.
After breakfast, transfer to the Shanghai airport for our flight to the U.S., crossing the international date line en route and arriving the same day.

(B)
Suitcase Seminar

A $1,000-per-person deposit is due 120 days prior to departure. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?silkroad2011. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Inclusions

- 19 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 19 breakfasts, 17 lunches and 14 dinners • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Bottled water on excursions • Visa fees • Internal flights as mentioned in the itinerary • Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included

- International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as email, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United from San Francisco to Beijing and Shanghai to San Francisco is approximately $1,375 as of November 2010 and is subject to change without notice.

What to Expect

Participants must be physically fit and in good health. Due to China’s infrastructure outside of its major cities, we consider this program to be a strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven terrain and cobbled paths. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators are limited. Some days require early mornings. We often have a full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events. Our journey at times requires several hours of travel by motorcoach, the longest drives being up to four hours. Luggage will need to be handled by individual travelers at airport customs points where porters are not permitted.

If you are susceptible to altitude sickness, please be aware that Xian is almost 10,000 feet above sea level and Lake Karakul is nearly 12,000 feet above sea level. China’s tourism industry is developing, thus patience with local service standards will greatly improve one’s enjoyment of the trip. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose interest in the places we visit far outweighs the need for creature comforts. In many ways, the challenges of this program are part of the learning experience. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment

A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on the Silk Road Suitcase Seminar. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?silkroad2011. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations and Refunds

Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be born by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in November 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.
Faculty Leader

PROFESSOR LYMAN VAN SLYKE’S first encounters with Asia occurred during and just after the Korean War aboard U.S. aircraft carriers on two 10-month cruises. For a young Minnesotan just out of college, these experiences in Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and the Philippines in the early 1950s were a turning point in his life. Hoping to stay in the Bay Area after having passed through it on his way to Asia and deciding to pursue this new passion about all things Asia led him to UC-Berkeley, where he studied Asian history. In what he calls “a stroke of remarkable good fortune,” he was invited to join Stanford’s history faculty in 1963, an offer that took him “approximately three seconds to accept.”

In 1963 he helped to establish the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Taipei and directed Stanford’s Center for East Asian Studies. Professor Van Slyke spent his entire teaching career at Stanford. Professor Van Slyke has led over 35 Travel/Study programs to all parts of China, Tibet and Southeast Asia.

- Former Director, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford
- Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1984
- Honorary Doctor of Law degree, Carleton College, 2004
- MA, East Asian Studies, and PhD, Asian History, UC-Berkeley

Reservation Form
Silk Road Suitcase Seminar

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. Miss / Dr. / Prof.
NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

[ ] I wish to have single accommodations.
[ ] I plan to share accommodations with:

OR [ ] I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).

[ ] Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

[ ] Charge my deposit to my:

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express

CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?Silkroad2011. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

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“Of all the travel we have done, the trips with Stanford are far superior to any we have taken. The memories will last forever and can be attributed to the thought and planning that was put forth by Stanford.”

JAN & DAVE WHITNEY, STANFORD TRAVELERS