

Eclipse Expedition Orientation – ATMoB Tour

27 October 2007

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Twilight Tours Inc.

Note: Presentation edited for publication on the Internet.

Tonight's Agenda

- My Background/History
- Overview of the circumstances, parametric data for the 22 July 2009 eclipse
- Site inspection information, images, and other helpful “stuff”
- General tour announcements
- Q and A time
- Adjourn

JKH Eclipse “Credentials”

- Pursuing solar eclipses for > 30 years
- First eclipse observed in June 1973 as part of Dr. Donald Menzel’s science team from Harvard Observatory, in Mauritania, West Africa
- Since then, have observed some 14 other eclipses throughout the world (see map), with a 93% success rate (1 full cloud-out)
- Have written feature magazine articles for both *Sky and Telescope* and *Astronomy* regarding future eclipse circumstances, logistics, and site observations
- Co-author (with Sr. Editor Rich Talcott at *Astronomy*) of “*Chasing the Shadow – An Observer’s Guide to Eclipses*”, published by Kalmbach Publishers - 1994

A Portrait of the Astronomer as a Young(er) Man



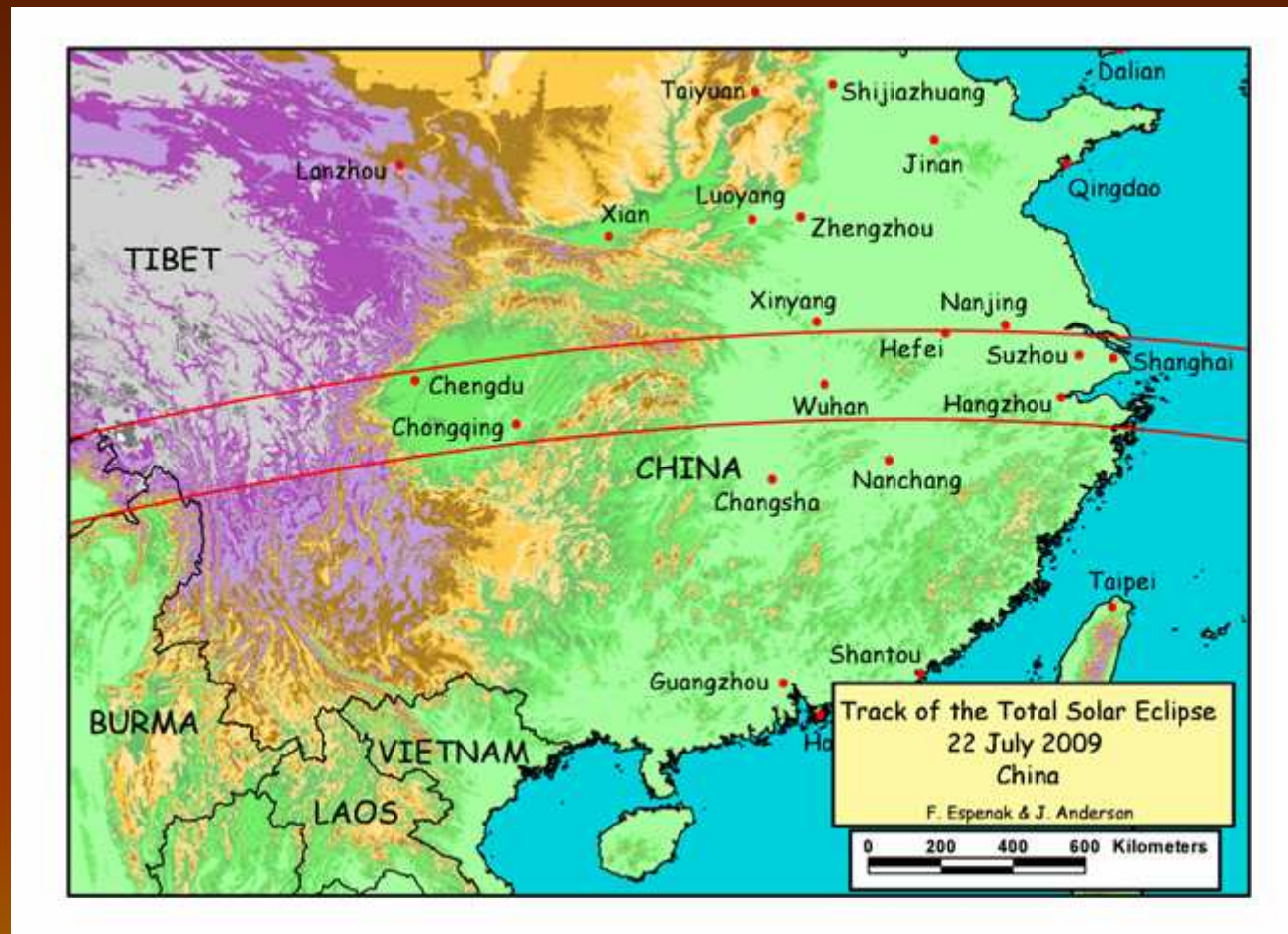
Prior Eclipse Observations: 1973-2006



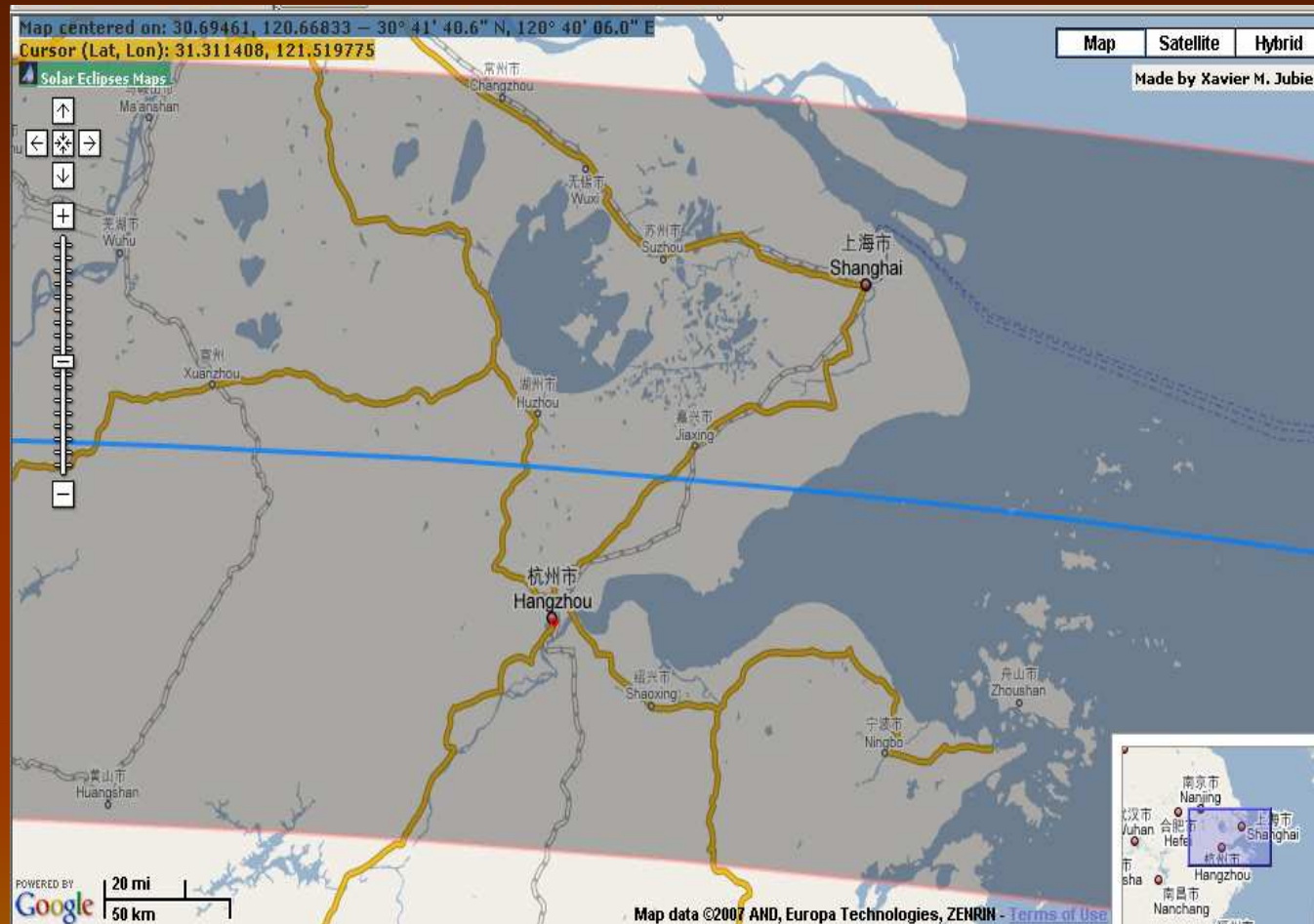
“Chasing the Shadow”



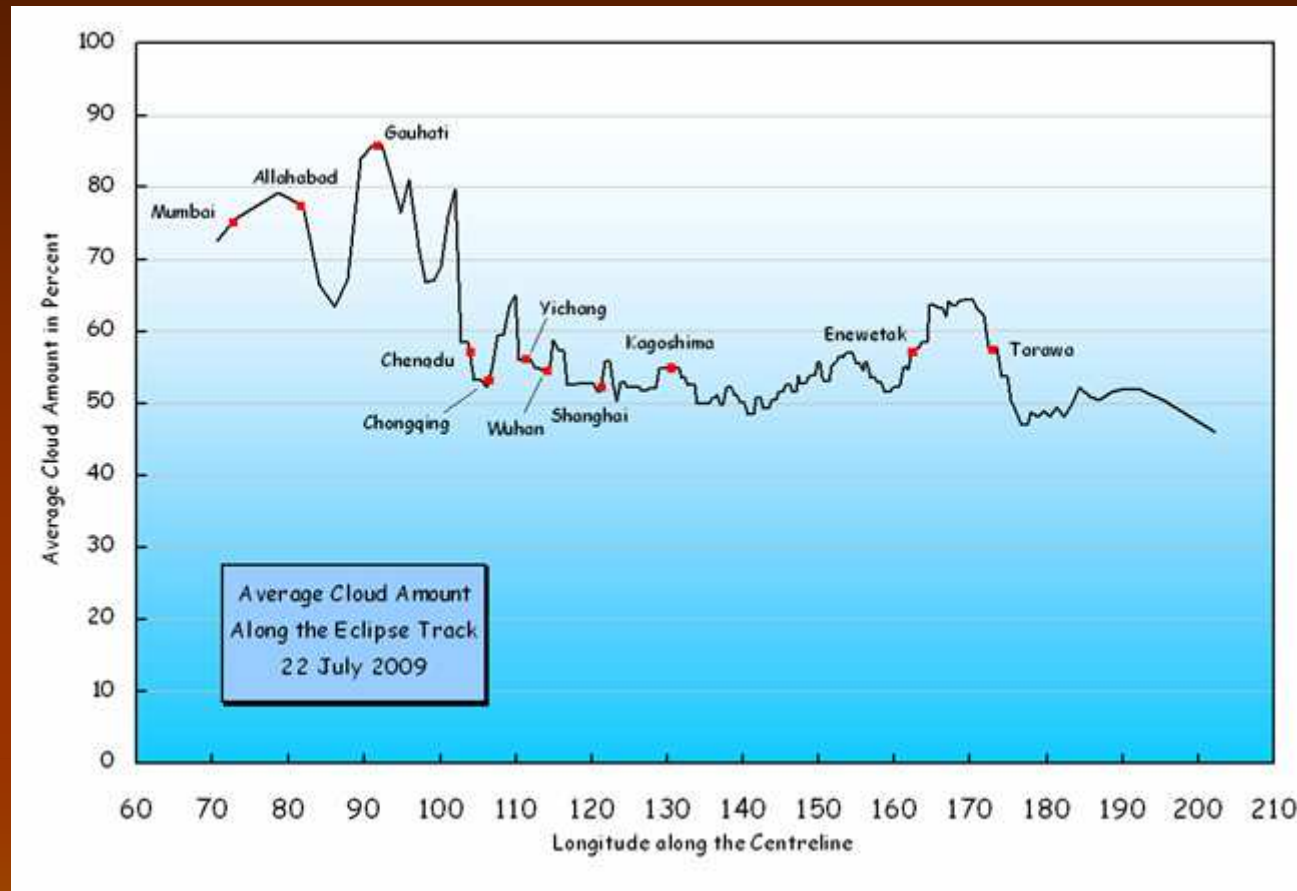
The 2009 Eclipse Track Through China



Map of 2009 Eclipse Path Through Eastern China

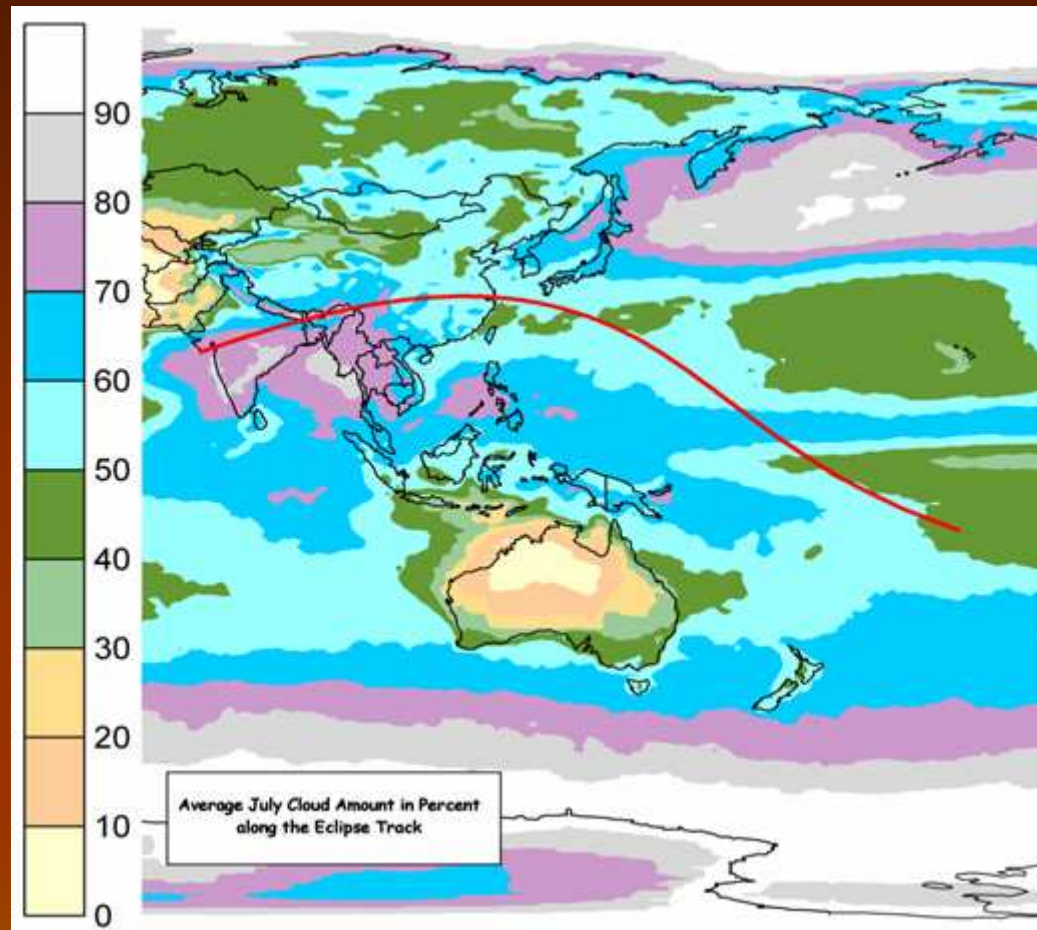


Synoptic Cloud Coverage Data – July 22nd *



* Courtesy, Dr. Jay Anderson, Environment Canada

Average Cloud Coverage Over Eclipse Track in July *



* Courtesy, Dr. Jay Anderson, Environment Canada

General Site Inspection and Travel Notes for Shanghai/Hangzhou (1 of 3)

- Site visit conducted from August 6th – 12th, 2007 by J. Harris, B. Volz, and G. Buchwald
- Spent two days/nights in Shanghai and 3 days/nights in Hangzhou. Main objective of the trip was to locate, fix, and assess potential viewing sites for the eclipse group to use in July 2009
- Traveled some 400-500 km to find sites; identified a total of 5 potential sites, both on the eclipse centerline and slightly off the line
- Primarily, all viewing sites are located on school grounds, with the intent to use athletic field/track infield area for observing.
- We rejected sites located in the Moganshan/National Park area west of Linghu, due to poor road access, small potential observing real estate, and probability of orographic cloud formation prior to totality

General Site Inspection and Travel Notes for Shanghai/Hangzhou (2 of 3)

- Flight over from SFO to Shanghai/Pudong International airport was uneventful and tolerable (~ 12.5 hour direct, non-stop flight on UAL)
- Hotel we used in Shanghai (Downtown Holiday Inn) was acceptable, but not exemplary. It has been decided to change this hotel to the Radisson Shanghai New World Hotel for the tour in July 2009
- Hotel in Hangzhou, the Sofitel West Lake, was very nice and of high quality. Facilities such as the shower, laundry service, in-room items such as mini bar, were of 4★ quality. Restaurant (the Tepanyaki Coffee Shop) was acceptable, food good. Tableside service was slow, but the meals were buffet style, thus service was of minor consequence.
- Sofitel Hotel staff/concierge were helpful, although front desk staff's English was not always fluent.
- Note: if going outside the hotel (either Shanghai or Hangzhou) menus are not printed in English, but do have photos of dishes. Also, restaurant staff does not usually speak English whatsoever.

General Site Inspection and Travel Notes for Shanghai/Hangzhou (3 of 3)

- Judging from both properties, standard double occupancy rooms at hotels in PRC/China can accommodate two adults and ONE young child (read: < 12 years of age) comfortably. Families with adolescents, or one child > 12 years old, will need to have separate room for those/those children/child.
- We will be using prime and secondary viewing sites on the day of the eclipse (to $\uparrow P_{\text{success}}$ on the day of the event).
- Twilight Tours (T²) will provide ALL expedition members that day with:
 - aluminized Mylar[®] for partial phase eye/optical equipment protection
 - cold, bottled mineral water and soft drinks at the school viewing site
 - box lunches for all tour members
 - protection from the sun/heat in bleacher area of the track/field facility
 - access to bathrooms incumbent on athletic field/dressing room facility
 - possibility for “lawn chairs” for on field seating

Shanghai – The Bund/Waterfront Area



Shanghai – All the Comforts of Home!!



Shanghai – Famous Yu Garden



Other General Preparatory Notes

- Weather conditions: very warm (read: ~ 90-95° F, with ~ 80% RH – yikes)
- Alleged horrific air pollution was not evident in either Shanghai or Hangzhou
- We fastidiously avoided ingesting ANY tap water
- Stayed with food either in the hotels or at restaurants recommended by the concierge desk, with one exception in Linghu
- Kept our valuables either in our room safes, or close to our persons in fanny packs or front pockets
- Never felt either in danger or threatened at any time during the site trip, in any of the venues we visited

General Notes [cont'd]

- Both hotels, and a restaurant in Hangzhou we dined at, readily accepted credit cards (Visa, M/C, Amex)
- Local currency (RMB) was obtained at ATMs throughout Shanghai and Hangzhou



- Many potentials for souvenir hunters/buyers in Shanghai, but we will be “encapsulating” that part of the tour in '09
- Some crowds at the Yu Garden in Shanghai, the and potential exists for same at Great Wall, Forbidden City/Tiananmen Square and Terra Cotta Warrior museum portions of the tour in two years

Twilight Tours (T²) Announcements

- Next e-newsletter: week of November 26th
- Proposed progress/deposit payment schedule
 - 14 December (\$750 per reservation for extended tour, \$500 per reservation for the short program *)
 - 23 May '08 (\$750 per reservation for extended tour, \$200 for short program *)
 - Balances due on 6 February '09 (\$775 for extended tour, \$100 for short tour *)

* Based on current CY 2006/07 prices of \$2575 and \$1100, respectively

More T² “Stuff”

- *Who* is going to want transpacific airfare provided (at additional cost) for the trip?
- Anyone wishing add-on airfares from Boston/East Coast gateways?
- Should anyone wish a customized post-eclipse add-on/FIT itinerary, let me know when you have some idea of where/what you wish to visit
- For those bringing children on the tour, I need for you to provide me with their ages at the time of the trip in July 2009

Final Notes

- This is shaping up to be a great trip
- We/I am very grateful for everyone's participation in this tour --- YOU are the reason we are in business!!
- If any questions or concerns arise over the course of time between now and the tour, please contact T² (phone, email, snail mail)
- Contact information:
 - twilighttours@pacbell.net
 - Phone: (818) 575-9580
 - Fax: (818) 575-9588
 - Snail mail: Twilight Tours Inc, 31555 Rustic Oak Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91361

T-t-t-t-hat's All, Folks!

Any Questions??