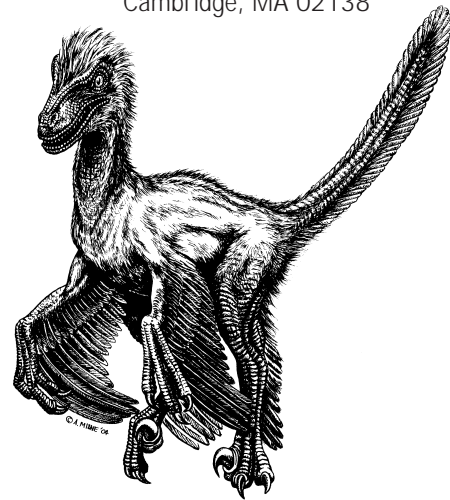


For the Harvard Museum of Natural History



26 Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138



Join us!... As we Discover China's
World-Renowned Sites for Feathered
Dinosaurs, Pandas & More!
March 18-April 5, 2006

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit #59427

Costs & Conditions (CONTINUED)

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for travelers who would enjoy exploring the cultural heritage and natural history of China with a special look at the sites where feathered dinosaurs were recently discovered and at the pandas of Wolong. We will also explore China's top attractions including Beijing, Xian's terra cotta warriors, and the Yangtze River cruise.

Joining our leadership team will be local guides and guest experts. The group will travel 3 to 4 hours by bus or van on several days. On traveling days, we will take time for both planned and spontaneous stops to walk, photograph, and talk with local people. Walks will be at a leisurely pace suitable for cultural discovery and natural history study; binoculars are suggested. Food will include a varied Chinese menu.

Weather will be spring-like, with midday temperatures in the 50s to 70s and some rain. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who would enjoy a chance to explore culturally, biologically, and paleontologically rich areas in China. Please be flexible concerning time schedules, hotels, food, roads, and mechanical breakdowns. With this in mind, we will

have a grand adventure of discovery. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Please book flights directly with United Airlines or other carriers to arrive in Beijing by mid-afternoon on March 19th and to depart from Shanghai on April 5th. For assistance with flights, please contact Deborah at Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910.

Accommodations: We will occupy 5 star hotels in the cities, and good Chinese hotels in outlying locations. We will travel on the first class *M/V Victoria* or equivalent on the Yangtze River. Accommodations are twin-share with private bath. Expect a good bed, showers, Western toilets, and carefully prepared food. In non-tourist locations, only Asian toilets may be available between hotels (some "clean" and some not). Single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$1,095.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

China Feathered Dinosaur Expedition, Harvard Museum of Natural History Travel Program, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

The balance is due January 18, 2006.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.



Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and the Harvard Museum of Natural History Travel Program act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. 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, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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The Harvard Museum of Natural History presents

CHINA

March 18-April 5, 2006

Feathered Dinosaur Expedition

Led by Professor Karel Liem

Dear Travelers:

We invite you to join us in March 2006 to explore some of the world's most spectacular fossil sites of feathered dinosaurs, the species at the transition from reptile to bird.

We will travel north from **Beijing** to the **Chaoyang Basin** in remote Western Liaoning Province where late-Jurassic shales hold fossils that have contributed much to what we know about the evolutionary transition from reptiles to birds. Here the **Yixian Formation** continues to revolutionize what we know about the origins of flight.

In January 2003, researchers described a feathered reptile with gliding wings on each of its four legs. Such an unexpected creature strengthens the theory that avian flight evolved from "the trees down" rather than from "the ground up."

Additional dinosaur sites on our itinerary include a fascinating in-situ display at **Zigong** in the Sichuan Basin. We will also visit several museums of national importance that have excellent dinosaur exhibitions. But paleontology is just one facet on a journey that features highlights of the Chinese world, both historical and contemporary.

We will also explore the 2300-year-old terra cotta warriors of Qin Dynasty in **Xi'an**. Near Chengdu we will visit the **Wolong Panda Reserve**. The Three Gorges of the Yangtze River and its brand new, enormous dam site offer a more contemporary example of how China likes to set standards for ambitious construction.

Our voyage down the Yangtze River, on board a comfortable cruise ship, will take us through the spectacular **Three Gorges**. Here the world's largest and perhaps the most controversial dam project is creating an enormous reservoir. After traversing the gorges and descending through locks to pass

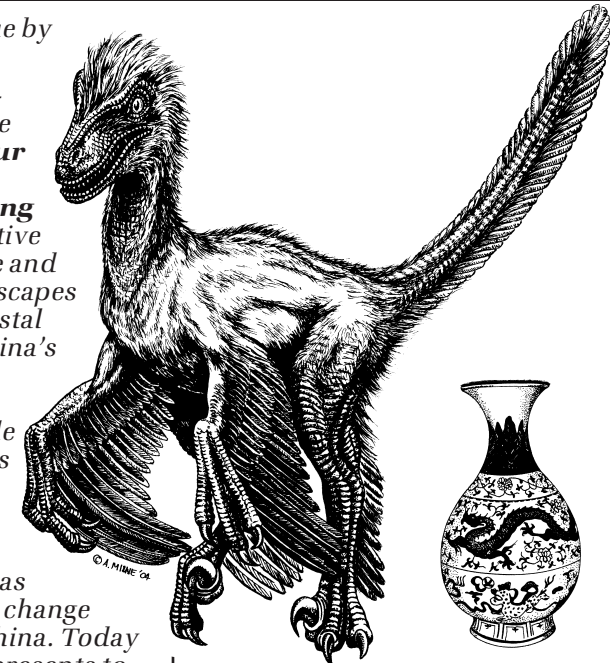
the dam, we'll continue by air to Shanghai.

The journey will conclude with a visit to the **Changzhou Dinosaur Park** and the "water towns" of **Zhouzhuang** or **Tongli**, representative of the traditional "rice and fish" agricultural landscapes of China's eastern coastal plain. **Shanghai** is China's most economically progressive city, yet it preserves a remarkable array of historical sites like the waterfront bund and the old commercial center.

No modern society has witnessed more rapid change than contemporary China. Today the Middle Kingdom presents to foreigners a baffling, enthralling tapestry of landscapes and lifestyles. Rice fields, water buffalo and jagged, green hills still typify the rural scene, but the cities have changed tremendously. Today, Internet cafes share street space with teahouses and music shops. Artisans, business commuters, and doting grandparents walk together in the urban centers.

Beyond learning about feathered dinosaurs and visiting historic sites of global importance, our journey through the Middle Kingdom will confront a variety of fascinating questions about the natural and cultural heritage of China. We will take advantage of the opportunity to meet local people, both in scheduled exchanges with scientists and local experts, and spontaneous meetings with villagers and merchants in cities and small towns.

We will have the services of a distinguished trip leader, **Dr. Chris Carpenter**, an ecologist with a sound understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of China; and also our local guide,



David Huang, Accompanying them will be **Prof. Karel Liem**, Henry Bryant Bigelow Professor of Ichthyology at Harvard University and curator of Ichthyology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Karel is a popular lecturer, author, and editor of numerous books, journals, and articles. He has traveled extensively with the HMNH and has lectured on a wide variety of natural history topics.

We hope you will join us for an unforgettable visit to a fascinating part of the world.

Sincerely,

Lauren M. Bruck
Head of Travel

P.S. For those interested in seeing the Great Wall and other attractions in and around Beijing, an optional pre-trip extension can be arranged on an independent basis.

Itinerary

Day 1 USA to Beijing

Depart from your preferred USA gateway city for Beijing. (Advance one day crossing the International Date Line.)

Day 2 Arrive Beijing

Arrive Beijing by mid-afternoon. Transfer to our hotel in the Embassy District. Welcome dinner. *Beijing International Hotel (2 nights)*.

Day 3 Beijing

Morning visit to the Museum of Vertebrate Paleontology to meet and exchange information with experts who have recognized the singular importance of China's feathered dinosaur fossils. The Museum features several intact dinosaur skeletons and has an active research program. Lunch at a traditional Beijing noodle restaurant. This afternoon, we will explore some of Beijing's historic neighborhoods or *hutongs* for a fascinating look at the historic part of the city.

Day 4 Beijing to Chaoyang

A one hour morning flight will get us to Shenyang, an historic city in China's northeastern Manchurian region. Here we will visit the Qing Imperial residence (analogous to Beijing's Temple of Heaven) before driving in the afternoon to the town of Chaoyang. The Chaoyang Basin is the center of the Yixian Formation, late Jurassic shales that crop out across Western Liaoning Province and provide numerous excellent fossil sites. Western Liaoning may be quite a draw for "paleontological tourists," but apart from that rather specialized crowd, it attracts few outsiders. Consequently, this dry, hilly region will provide us an insight into the old China, off the beaten track and largely untouched by the economic development that is occurring in the more prosperous southern regions. *Chaoyang Hotel (2 nights)*.

Day 5 The Chaoyang Basin

In the morning we will drive to Beipiao, a small town that lies near Sihetun, probably the world's most productive site for feathered dinosaur fossils. The excavation site is partially enclosed and it is possible to see numerous plant and insect fossils in-situ, although the dinosaur fossils themselves are excavated and removed for research as they're uncovered. Here exceptionally fine stratigraphy has preserved the antennae and leaf venation patterns of late-Jurassic insects and plants, not to mention the fine structure on the feathers of dinosaurs like *Dromaeosaurus*, an "unequivocal reptile" with "unequivocal feathers" described in the spring 2002.

Beipiao has also yielded excellent fossils of a tailed, toothed, yet feathered reptile about three feet long called *Sinosauropteryx*. This animal, from the late Jurassic, may be the most clearly

CHINA



transitional form of all, though it remains uncertain as to whether it really is the ancestor of living birds. Rare specimens like these have been instrumental in resolving the dispute as to whether birds evolved from dinosaurs. After visiting the fossil site, we'll see unique feathered dinosaur fossils on display at the Beipiao Museum of Paleontology, then drive back to Chaoyang and visit the "fossil city," a fossil market in the old city center.

Days 6/7 Chaoyang to Xi'an

Depart on a morning flight from Chaoyang to Shenyang and Xi'an, the historic ancient capital of Qin Dynasty China in the 3rd Century BC. Here we will visit the world renowned terra cotta warriors, an army of more than 6000 life-sized clay figures buried in tribute to the emperor Qin Shihuang who ruled this part of the Middle Kingdom 2300 years ago. In the afternoon, explore the hinterlands of Xi'an for rural and village life. *Xi'an Sheraton Hotel (2 nights)*.

Day 8 Xi'an to Chengdu

Fly to Chengdu then drive north to Sanxingdui, an archaeological site where hundreds of fascinating early bronze-age artifacts have been unearthed. Enigmatic masks and bronze trees confirm the existence of the near-mythical Shu civilization at the dawn of Chinese history nearly 5000 years ago. The craftsmanship is striking and idiosyncratic, but the strange and hauntingly beautiful artifacts housed in the Sanxingdui Museum give



little information about the character of these ancient peoples. Dinner and evening cultural performance of Sichuan Opera. *Jianjiang Hotel*.

Day 9 Chengdu to Wolong

This morning we will depart for the Wolong Panda Reserve, passing through intriguing Chinese countryside and villages en route. We will arrive at the mountain sanctuary of Wolong in the early afternoon and check into the new *Wolong Stone Garden International Hotel (2 nights)*.

Day 10 Wolong Panda Reserve

Today we will visit the Wolong Panda Breeding Center. We'll have a special visit with the pandas, including a chance to hold one of the babies. We will then visit the Wolong Natural History Museum. Wolong is a spectacular nature reserve. Tumbling rivers go through dense forests and its soaring summit reaches 21,000 feet. We will hike in the Yinchanggou Valley or drive to Balong Pass for spectacular views and alpine ecology.

Day 11 Wolong to Zigong

Morning return drive to Chengdu, passing a fascinating 2,000-year-old irrigation project which is still in use. After lunch we'll drive south among the orchards, fish farms and sandstone hills of the Sichuan Basin to the city of Zigong, site of one of China's most spectacular dinosaur fossil assemblages. *Zigong Hotel*.

Day 12 Zigong to Dazu

In the morning, we'll visit Zigong Dinosaur Museum, built over a site where dozens of mid-Jurassic dinosaurs, including many stegosaurs and large sauropods, appear to have been washed to a bend in a river where they were

covered and fossilized. At the Zigong Museum, we can view many fossils in situ together with several intact, excavated skeletons, some of which exceed 65 feet in length. An elevated walkway enables visitors to look down on excavations still in progress. In the afternoon, we will drive to Dazu where hundreds of Tang Dynasty Buddhist carvings occupy cliff side grottoes. *Dazu Hotel*.

Day 13 Dazu to Chongqing

This morning we will explore the Buddhist grottoes of Dazu. The oldest scenes date from the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, 650 AD, a period when Buddhism thrived across China. In the afternoon we'll drive to Chongqing, an important, industrial municipality on a hilly outcrop where the Fuling, a major tributary joins the Yangtze River, making it large enough for ship navigation. Chongqing is the embarkation port for ferries which travel through the Yangtze River's Three Gorges. *Yangtze River Cruise Ship (3 nights)*.

Days 14/15 Cruising on the Yangtze River

We will awaken en route to the Three Gorges. At first, we'll pass low-lying hills of the Sichuan Basin, then the surrounding ranges will begin to enclose the river, culminating in a spectacular series of narrow chasms through which the boat sails. Stops en route include the Ghost City of Fengdu and the bustling town of Wanzhou, many of whose residents have been relocated in anticipation of flooding upriver due to the Three Gorges Dam, largest hydroelectric project in the world. A tributary known as the "Little Three Gorges" also makes a scenic side trip. Here the ridgelines of the gorges are spectacular—a classic Chinese landscape. Although the recently completed Three Gorges dam has been filling for some time, the impoundment behind the dam will not attain its maximum depth for several more years. Initial stages on our voyage will follow the Yangtze's normal flow. Later, we'll sail through an area where the river has backed up behind the dam.

Day 16 Yichang to Shanghai

This morning, our vessel will traverse the locks of the Three Gorges Dam, then arrive in the historic city of Yichang. We will enjoy a short tour of Yichang before boarding an afternoon flight to the city of Shanghai, located near the mouth of the Yangtze River. *Sofitel Hyland Hotel*.

Day 17 Shanghai to Suzhou

Today we will visit an historic "water towns" like Zhouzhuang or Tongli, en route to Suzhou, the city in China most famous for its gardens. The Yangtze river delta and the East China plain are a tapestry of water and rice. Here at the southern end of the Grand Canal—built more than 1000 years ago as a navigable waterway linking the Yangtze and Yellow River Basins, trade

flourished. Consequently, this area has long been a center of Chinese learning and civilization. The gardens of Suzhou, with their intricate pools and rockeries, are widely regarded as archetypes of landscape design. In the afternoon, we will visit the Humble Administrator's Garden which, in early April, should be absolutely spectacular. *Suzhou Hotel*.

Day 18 Suzhou to Shanghai

In the morning, we'll visit the Changzhou Dinosaur Park which displays fossils of *Sinosauropteryx*, and several other feathered dinosaur taxa, some recently discovered, that are thought to be part of the lineage that led to the evolution of birds. Changzhou also has an important educational mission, with more than 30 intact dinosaur skeletons. Its vibrant displays make a sincere effort to teach Chinese students about the importance of the dinosaur's evolutionary lineage. Farewell banquet and acrobatic performance in celebration of our journey. *Sofitel Hyland Hotel, Shanghai*.

Day 19 Shanghai to USA

Fly to the USA today. Arrive the same day.



Costs & Conditions

Trip Fee: \$5,995 per person (plus air fare of approximately \$995 + tax USA to Beijing, with return from Shanghai plus \$695 in-tour flights). Limited to 20 paying participants. Single Supplement: \$1,095.

Questions: Please contact the HMNH Travel Program

Phone: 617-495-2463

Fax: 617-496-8782

Email: HMNHTravel@oeb.harvard.edu

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; all meals in China; tips to drivers and local guides; entrance fees; baggage handling; evacuation insurance; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare or in-tour flights (quoted separately); China visa fee; gratuities to expedition leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, sodas, snacks, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure taxes. OVER

Reservations

#921

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 non-refundable deposit per person) payable to "The Harvard Museum of Natural History" to hold _____ place(s) on the **China Feathered Dinosaur tour, March 18-April 5, 2006.**

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____
 _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ Office (____) _____

Email Address _____

- I wish to pay an additional \$1,095 for single accommodations.
 If possible, please assign a roommate: Nonsmoker Smoker
 I understand that if a roommate is not secured for me by the final payment date, I will be charged the single supplement amount.
 Please contact me about flight arrangements.
 I will make my own flight arrangements.

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read the information on refunds, general conditions and the responsibility clause specified in the tour conditions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this form to: The Travel Program, Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
QUESTIONS? Please call us at (617) 495-2463

MEMBERSHIP: We strongly encourage our travelers to be members of the museum. The Harvard Museum of Natural History offers the public world-class collections and research of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Botanical Museum, and the Mineralogical Museum, through exhibitions, educational programs, lectures, public events and travel. Members support these innovative programs.

- I am currently a member of the HMNH.
 I would like to become a member at the following level: \$40 individual
 \$60 Dual/Family \$125 Sustaining \$250 Supporting \$500 Patron

Please enclose a separate check made out to the Harvard Museum of Natural History for membership. Thank you.