



**Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,**

What are you doing this summer? I just thought I'd ask because that's the **20% off** sale we are running from now until the end of February, the "What are you doing this summer?" sale. This is pretty much our last big sale effort this year since we will begin focusing a lot of Earth Cubed work this year on exciting internet and video projects that are just now in their embryonic stage.

Keep in mind that this sale applies IN ADDITION to other sales. I'm also finding some really good deals on airfare for my travelers. And don't forget that we can organize tailor-made trips anywhere in the world. What better reason is there to start considering your summer plans now?

### **Journey to the Roof of the World**

We just need a few more people for the September 10<sup>th</sup> trip, so I thought I'd alert you to it. We begin the second trip in the Escape From Siberia series from China's capital, Beijing including a less traveled portion of the Great Wall. Then it's on to the 'Terracotta Warriors' ancient capital of Xian, the eastern gate to the Silk Road. The Silk Road portion of our journey then brings us to the Gobi desert at Dunhuang, where we ride camels through majestic sand dunes to the Mogao Buddhist Grottoes, world renowned

for exquisite colorful paintings and sculptures. Soon after, we catch the spectacular Tibet Train taking us to the towering peaks and sapphire lakes of the Tibetan Plateau. We acclimatize in Lhasa, home of many of the greatest monasteries before heading out on our journey by jeep tour. We see many beautiful sites and monasteries all across Tibet before reaching Mt. Everest, where we hike through local villages and have a possibility to stay in a monastery and visit the base camp. Then we cross the Himalayas into Nepal and the cobblestone streets, temples and durbars of Kathmandu. Arriving at the very end of September is the perfect time of year when the air is crystal clear for trekking and viewing



the Himalaya. Please consider this trip, and, don't forget, you could always connect one or both of the other Escape from Siberia trips to it!

## Trips and prices for 2012!



**Private and Tailor-Made Trips** Give us an idea or design your own adventure anywhere in the world, and we will design a fully accommodated, guided or unguided itinerary for you.



**From Duck to Dim Sum: On the Trail of Chinese Cuisine** (\$2090, now **\$1672**; 15 days; June 17, July 22, August 5) The best introduction to all of China for first-time visitors through the theme of cuisine. Follow the road from wheat-based to rice based cuisine and find out where all your favorite Chinese dishes come from by visiting the famous cuisine regions, eating delicious food and discovering all the most fascinating must-see sights of China.



**Yangtze, Heart of China** (\$2080, now **\$1664** (14 days; May 26, June 30, August 4) This 2-week tour follows the Yangtze upstream and captures the essence of the 'heartland' of China focusing on Shanghai, the Three Gorges and the beautiful scenery and minorities of Yunnan Province.



**In Search of the Yangtze** (\$3290, now **\$2632** (22 days; May 26, June 30, August 4) What can you discover when you just follow a river to see where it goes? This 3-week tour follows the Yangtze upstream from the sea at Shanghai to the remote upper reaches of the Tibetan Plateau.



**Escape from Siberia Quest Series** (\$6845, now **\$5476**; 45 days; April 7, August 25) Follow the walk to freedom of gulag escapee, Slavomir Rawicz as dramatized in the movie *The Way Back*. From Moscow to Siberia's beautiful Lake Baikal, through Mongolia, Beijing, Xian, the Chinese desert, Tibet, Nepal to India, this 45 day tour will explore the most exotic worlds.

**The 3 Parts of Escape From Siberia can be taken individually or together. They are:**



**The Jade Express** (\$4215, now **\$3372**; 20 days; April 7, August 25) Across the hinterland of Siberia, sapphire Lake Baikal, wide-open pastures of Mongolia with a final descent into the Middle Kingdom (China), we travel not only by boat, jeep, and horse, we rocket through remote lands on a 'jade express', the Trans-Siberian Railway.



**Journey to the Roof of the World** (\$2070, now **\$2296**; 18 days; April 23, September 10) From the Chinese stately courts of the Forbidden City, we venture, as caravans once did, into the 'land of barbarians', the deserts at the beginning of the Silk Road. We then climb to ornate monasteries amid the mountain vistas of Tibet, the 'Roof of the World'. We negotiate Everest and the Himalayas and descend to the cobbled

alleyways of Kathmandu, Nepal.



**Himalayan Tributaries** (~~\$1170~~, now **\$936**; 11 days; May 10, September 27) From the enchanting temples, Hindu gods and monkeys of Kathmandu, we meander through the pastoral, picturesque villages with colorfully-adorned inhabitants in the shadow of the mighty Himalaya. We raft through lush gorges before reaching the rainforests and exotic wildlife of Chitwan. Then it's on to India's most mystical, ancient enclaves of

Varanasi and Bodhgaya before sampling the Bengali culture of Kolkata.

**Please visit us at [www.earthcubed.com](http://www.earthcubed.com) for more information, pictures and detailed itineraries!!**

Happy travels this summer!

Greg