

# Geodetic Journey (logo)

Home What Where When Who Why Pictures Video

Contact

## Geodesy

Geodesy is an Earth Science that studies the size, shape, orientation and gravity field of the Earth, planets and their satellites including the temporal variations of these features.

**Geodesy in the future: GGOS2020**

## Geodesy in Society

Earth Observation  
Climate change  
Geohazard  
Water cycle  
Navigation  
Surveying&Mapping

Most citizens of the developed world are familiar with GPS equipment, on boats, in the car or as a tool when exploring new cities. Few of these citizens know that GPS is a space geodetic technique.

The Geodetic Journey is an outreach activity that aims to promote the field of geodesy to the general public by making journeys that focus on geodesy both today and its history particularly in the region where the journey take place.

## Geodetic Journey 2007

**From Ancient Surveying to Modern Earth Observation  
With train from Beijing to Lhasa**

A team of experts will travel from Beijing to Lhasa and Shanghai. Starting in Beijing, the journey will go by train through the "Mother of China" (Middle Kingdom?) region and along the ancient Silk Road before reaching Lhasa and Tibet. In Tibet the team will visit Mt. Everest/Qomolangma Base Camp and other geophysical interesting and beautiful sites – all seen from a geodetic perspective.

On this journey the team will unveil China's and the Tibetan Plateau's natural beauty and characteristics as well as it's scientific and technical culture, history and recent discoveries.

## Blogg

Chinese National  
Geography

Scenic Splendor of China

Book sales

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GGOS,  
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## Geodetic Journey 2007

From Ancient Surveying to Modern Earth Observation

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## What

### *Motivation*

Exploring science and technology in China and its Tibetan region with special focus on geodesy and surveying&mapping; linking ancient history and modern development. Demonstrating applications of geodesy in climate change research, geohazards and mass distribution (water cycle).

### *Objectives and goals*

A team of experts will travel through China and its Tibetan region. Starting in Beijing, the journey will go through the “Mother of China” region and along the ancient Silk Road before reaching Lhasa and Tibet. On the trip the team will unveil China and the Tibetan Plateau's natural beauty and characteristics as well as its scientific and technical culture, history and recent discoveries. The team aims to develop crosscultural scientific projects that will both contribute to global research and build bridges between countries far apart; Norway and China. The main goals are:

A journey through China and its Tibetan region both in time and space

Documenting the journey through different media such as a TV-documentary, popular science articles, diaries, travel reports etc.

Define the basis for and start project development within climate change, geohazards and space geodesy research and surveying and mapping history.

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## Where – the route of the journey

The journey will go from the Chinese capital Beijing through the ancient centres of the Middle Kingdom to the mysterious Lhasa and the Tibetan Plateau ending finally in modern Shanghai. The route has been chosen based on its historical and geodetic importance. The sites are chosen based on the book *Scenic splendor of China*, Chinese National Geography and their geophysical interest.

This is one of two or more journeys that will all focus on the importance of geodesy and the need for international cooperation to meet the societal requirements today and in the future.

**Beijing (2008)**  
**“Mother of China”**  
**(Kaifeng, Zhengzhou, Luoyang, Xi'an)**  
**The silk road**  
**(Luoyang, Xi'an, Lanzhou, Xining)**  
**Tibet**  
**Shanghai**

Quote: Xin, *This is the most interesting part of China seen from a geodetic point of view...*



## When – day by day schedule

The journey will take place in August 2007 -(1 – 22?). Each day will be duly reported through the blogg with both pictures, text and some video shots so that the readers can make a virtual journey equivalent to the journey the Travel team will make. Below you find the schedule of the journey.

**Beijing: 1 - 3**

**Mother of China:**

**Zhenzhou:3**

**Luoyang:4**

**Xi'an: 5-6**

**Lanzhou: 7**

**Xining: 8**

**Golmud: 9**

**Lhasa: 10**

**Tibet:**

**Lhasa: 11-12**

**Mt.Everest: 13-15**

**Namjagbarwa: 16-18**

**Lhasa: 19**

**Shanghai: 20-22**

## Who – the travelling team

### The Travellers

**Bente Lilja Bye** has a background from theoretical astrophysics. When she was younger she wanted to become an astronaut and leave the planet Earth for a while, but in an ESA astronaut selection process in the early nineties she was grounded due to a pregnancy. One might say that Bente's beloved son Eilev this way ignited her deeper interest in the Earth and her caring about what happens to and on our home planet. After a decade working with national and international science policy she visited the world of business before ending up dedicating her time and energy to earth observation. Today she works for the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority as Research Director and she is a Senior Adviser for the Geodetic Institute.

**Xiuhua Zhang** worked as a University lecturer in Tianjin, China before she left for Sweden and studies in informatics. After finishing her ph.d at lund universitet she moved to Norway where she has been working for various research institutes and the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority. Xiuhua has dedicated a lot of her resources to building bridges between the Chinese and Nordic Cultures and today she is the president of Chinese Professionals in Norway – CPN.

**Bjorn Geirr Harsson** has a degree in geophysics and has worked for the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority for decades. In addition to being a specialist on geodesy in international context, Bjørn Geirr is taking a responsibility for securing the history of geodesy. Among his results so far are the establishment of the Museum for Surveying and Mapping and bringing the Struves Median Arc to the UNESCO list of World heritage. Bjørn Geirr has been awarded the royal order of St. Olav for contribution to national and international geodesy and is a fellow of the International Association for Geodesy.

**Dag Solheim** has a degree in astrophysics from the University of Oslo. Dag Solheim is an experienced geodesist with both teoretical and practical experience from surveying and geodesy. He is leading the Nordic working group on geoid determination.

**Klaus Erik Okstad** is an acknowledged film photographer and documentary director as well as producer. He is also very interested in mountaineering and have experience from climbing in the Mt. Everest, Himalaya as well as in other challenging mountain areas. The first Norwegian expedition to reach the top of Mt.Everest was led by the late Arne Næss jr. In connection with the 20 year anniversary of this event, Klaus Erik Okstad revisited Mt. Everest Base Camp together with Arne Næss jr. son and other members of the expedition. This documentary demonstrate the respect that Okstad has for the mountains, nature in general as well as the people he describes in his work. Klaus Erik work for the NRK – The National Norwegian Broadcast Company.

### The Chinese Experts

Xiubin Li, IGSNRR, Land Use, Library

Chen, adviser to the SBSM, geodesist

Gan Weijun, Chinese National Earthquake Administration, GNSS expert

etc.