



# Telluride Institute Tibet Fund Newsletter

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Dear friends near and far,

This could be my last posting for a while as I will be traveling for the next 3 months. Of course, there might just be a cozy internet café waiting somewhere in East Asia, ready to help me share some travel stories with you.

Anyway, I am off to see the girls in East Tibet; to make sure our money goes to where we think it goes; what else we could be doing next to make their days a bit more fun, their education more rounded, their basic needs for food, safety and health taken care of.

After that I hope to make my way back to central Tibet with its fabulous capital Lhasa, checking on a few friends and some dear-to-my-heart places.

From there I plan to take the new, infamous railway to China's old capital Xi'an with its army of terracotta warriors; on to Beijing and the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square etc. etc.

A few weeks in Northern Laos and Thailand, plus time with my mom in Germany will take me to mid-January and a return home. My travel partner will be Felix, my son, who is between work and graduate school!

I am acutely aware of how fortunate I am.

With excitement and a bit of trepidation,  
yours, Elisabeth

P.S.

I had just finished my announcement to you all when an e-mail came in from the director of a large, important, very well-funded and obviously well-informed aid organization (based in the US) with the following urgent warning:

"We do not encourage foreigners to visit any development projects in this region (East Tibet) right now.

"Three American NGOs have had to shut down their activities in Lhasa one month ago and the situation for NGOs is very sensitive. Therefore our Tibetan staff will not be hosting meetings in Chengdu or arranging site visits with guests or potential donors until things relax in the region.

"Visits to projects at this time by foreigners, particularly those who are not associated with local projects or NGOs in the region, will generate suspicion which will result in visits by police and security bureaus to both the project site, partner and to our office and staff."

This has me worried. Naturally, I will be as cautious as necessary for the future well-being of our girl, but very sad, too. I'll keep you posted.

"I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was meant to remain oblivious. White privilege is like an invivible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, code books, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks".

Peggy McIntosh

A new edition of The Tibet Connection is out! Go to [thetibetconnection.org](http://thetibetconnection.org) for good stuff on all things Tibet.