



# There's more to China than the Great Wall

A new docuseries captures the nation like never before

With high-tech production techniques, Smithsonian Channel's *China From Above* (premiering Nov. 12) is taking an unprecedented look at the vast country. Above, Lorne Townend, the docu-series' producer, breaks down how the crew covered unique locales, ranging from Zhaosu County's horse-filled prairies to an ornate sunken city at the bottom of Qiandao Lake.



## Texas doesn't do bah, humbug

A Victorian-themed holiday celebration in Galveston, Texas, brings *A Christmas Carol* to the streets

THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS past—waaay past—are returning to Galveston, Texas. At the 45th annual Dickens on the Strand festival (Nov. 30 to Dec. 2), attendees are invited to mark the holiday season's arrival with carolers, jugglers, bed races and other Victorian revelry inspired by the imagination of Charles Dickens. There are also traditional British snacks, such as Scotch eggs. For

those who don costumes, they're rewarded with half-price admission. However, Galveston Historical Foundation chief creative officer Will Wright warns that he'd rather Strand goers dress up like the lord of a manor, not a Sith Lord. "We definitely don't want a Darth Vader rolling through here," quips Wright, "which has happened." Scrooges, you've been warned. —FABIENNE FLEURANTIN