



Edmonton Association for Learning & Preserving the History of World War Two in Asia (ALPHA)

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2012 Peace and Reconciliation Study Tour Hong Kong, Mainland China, Korea July 5 - July 21, 2012

Alberta teachers have the opportunity to study in Asia this coming summer. Organized by the Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WWII in Asia (ALPHA), a non-profit group with chapters in B.C., Alberta and Ontario, the study tour will visit China and Korea from July 5 to 21.

The *2012 Peace and Reconciliation Study Tour for Educators* will be the eighth and final such tour organized by ALPHA.

The purpose of ALPHA's study tours is to help teachers gain experiential knowledge of, and personal understandings about the Asian Holocaust. ALPHA's main goal is reconciliation with the past and peaceful relations between peoples and nations today and in the future.

Participating educators will enhance their knowledge of atrocities committed by Imperial Japan during that conflict including sexual slavery, forced labour, human experimentation, and deployment of biological and chemical weapons.

Learning activities include critical examination of historical facts, education about social justice, meetings with survivors, and dialogues with local historians, scholars, teachers and lawyers, as well as visits to public and private museums. ALPHA's study tour is unlike anything available elsewhere.

New this year, participants travel to Hong Kong to study about the valour and suffering of Canadian soldiers who defended Hong Kong in December of 1941 and experienced inhuman conditions during their imprisonment. This summer's study tour will also visit Edmonton's sister city Harbin as well as, Shanghai, Nanjing and Seoul.



2009 Study Tour Participants in Shanghai

In Nanjing (formerly Nanking), participants will visit the former site of the International Safety Zone established in 1937 by 28 foreigners. The Zone saved close to 200,000 Chinese from being massacred by Imperial Japanese soldiers.

While in Harbin, teachers will visit Unit 731, a formerly secret military site where the Japanese carried out experiments on Chinese and Allied captives to develop chemical and biological weapons.

In both China and Korea, teachers will meet with survivors of military sexual slavery who are now in their 80s and 90s. Euphemistically called “Comfort Women” by the Imperial Japanese, approximately 200,000 of these women endured horrific suffering. Most of them died at a young age. Those who survived were unable to conceive and continued to suffer both physically and as social outcasts.

To learn of how meaningful this learning experience has been for other teachers read the [testimonials of past study tour participants](#) .

Additional Particulars

Through its fundraising this past year, Edmonton ALPHA is able to considerably reduce the costs associated with the 17-day study tour. Successful applicants contribute \$1500 (for which they will receive an *income tax receipt*) plus the cost of airfare (arranged for the group later in March).

The study tour covers accommodation, most meals, and internal road and air travel. (We are proud to state that previous participants have rated all these aspects as first-class. We want the experience to be as enjoyable as possible.)

Successful applicants are responsible for obtaining a **visa** to enter China.

Prior to the study tour, it is **mandatory** for successful tour applicants to take part in pre-tour study sessions held on three Sunday afternoons: April 15, May 13 and June 10. It is important to acquire and bring knowledge of what went on in Asia before and after the years 1931-1945.

During the study tour, participants will build capacity through:

- journaling and creating personal narratives to share with their classes
- finding and obtaining learning resources that are accessible and learner friendly
- creating and sharing original learning resources (e.g., share via the ALPHA website, the Social Studies Council website, and Teachers’ Conventions)

Expect days to be full and, understandably, free time rather limited. We have also included some cultural shows and programs to help temper the intensity of the learning. (And many younger participants have found they were able to stretch their days into the evenings to get to know and enjoy their surroundings even more.)

Also expect to be emotionally impacted by what you see and hear. For many participants, the study tour has had a profound effect. As well, teachers have told us that relating their experiences to their classes has also affected their students (i.e. evoked greater consciousness and prompted attitudinal shifts).

The [study tour itinerary](#) is available on the website of our sister organization, Toronto ALPHA. Please also NOTE that departure/arrival times will differ for study tour participants from Alberta, and that all Alberta applications must be submitted to [Edmonton ALPHA](#).

Following the study tour, participants are expected to make professional contributions by sharing their study tour observations and experiences with their students and colleagues as part of their teaching about social responsibility and global citizenship. In the past, some study tour participants have made this obligation part of their Professional Growth Plan.

Want to Join the Study Tour?

Teachers interested in joining this year's study tour are asked to visit [Edmonton ALPHA's website](#) and download the *Application Form*. Applicants must also provide personal and professional information and complete a written response to a statement.

Completed applications must be received via e-mail < info@edmontonalpha.org > by **noon Wed. March 14, 2012**.

As soon as possible after Edmonton ALPHA has received the application package, candidates will be notified of interview dates. Interviews will conclude on March 18. Successful candidates will be notified on or before March 19.

NOTE: At this year's [Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention](#), three teachers are presenting a session about their experiences as participants on our 2011 Study Tour. (If this is your Convention, you may want to attend this session on **Friday, March 2, 9:00-10:15** at the Westin Hotel.)

Questions?

Please contact Edmonton ALPHA at info@edmontonalpha.org.