Experiences in Asia – Travel Journals and Blogs

**JAPAN**

**A Life in Japan (Video)**
URL: http://www.alifeinjapan.com/
This documentary is almost one hour and twenty minutes long. It can be downloaded to one's computer or watched on the Web page in a variety of formats, including English (with or without subtitles), Japanese, and Swedish. Several people from different countries respond on screen to questions – like “What is your purpose in coming to Japan?” posed by the filmmaker. It is interesting to hear the responses which, in some cases, are very similar. The interviews are interspersed with videos of scenery, city life, and other views of Japan.

**Kakehashi Project Student Photo Journal**
URL: http://ewsis.wordpress.com/2013/07/31/kakehashi-project-student-photo-journal/
A group of high school students from New York comment on their trip to Japan. Their remarks about the kindness of and the good interactions with their host families will reassure any student reader that a trip to Japan can be worthwhile and fascinating.

**What's It Like Living in Japan**
URL: http://www.shonsblog.com/random/living-in-japan/
This page is part of a longer blog written by a young woman living in Japan. She has posted six short videos, mostly about shopping and eating. They provide a sense of what life is like and would be appropriate for viewing by precollege students.

**A Walk in Japan**
URL: http://awalkinjapan.wordpress.com/
The author of this blog spent a year in Japan participating in the JET program. The site includes commentaries and video pieces, many on his travels within Japan. It is easy to navigate the site by simply scrolling down the home page and clicking on items of interest.

**INDIA**

**An Indian Year**
URL: http://anindianyear.wordpress.com/
This is the online journal of a college student from the University of California who spent eleven months living in Nagour, India. His posts range from comments on cricket to Christmas in India to various trips he took.

**The Exchange Student’s Guide to Living in India**
URL: http://livinindia.wordpress.com/
This is not really a guide, as indicated in the title. It is rather a collection of posts and photos about visiting North India as part of an exchange program. The first post is in 2011; the blog ends in May 2012.

**In Love with India**
URL: http://erasmus-in-india.blogspot.com/
This blog begins in 2005 when a Belgian student has the opportunity to go to India as an exchange student. She arrives in Mumbai and then goes to live in Bangalore. She speaks of daily life, of Indian customs, of bus and train travel, and other interesting topics. The majority of the entries date back to 2005 and 2006.

**CHINA**

**Elizabeth in India**
URL: http://blog.smu.edu/studentadventures/category/elizabeth-in-india/
Elizabeth, a student at SMU, spent a summer in India working as an intern for the Water Literacy Foundation. She points out the good and the not-so-good of her experiences in India and emphasizes that one cannot have unrealistic expectations when dealing with a non-Western culture, as she defines India.

**Living a Dream in China**
URL: http://sarajaaksola.com/
Sara had always been interested in China, so when she had the opportunity, she went there to study. She dropped her history major and majored in Chinese as a second language, even writing a thesis in Chinese. By clicking on the archives link at the top of the page, one finds a listing of the titles of her posts. They date from June 2010 to the present.

**China Non-Stop**
URL: http://www.chinanon-stop.com/
The author of this blog has conveniently placed the topics he covers near the top of the blog. The greatest number of entries are about Chinese society, followed by “Business in China” and “Changsha,” where he resides.

**Shanghai: Inside Student Blogs**
URL: http://blogs.iesabroad.org/tag/shanghai/
This is a collection of student blog posts about their time in Shanghai during a study abroad program. A few posts pertaining to Shanghai are shown for each student. For more blog posts from each of them, click on their names.

**SOUTH KOREA**

**Seoul Sub→urban**
URL: http://seoulsuburban.com/
An American teaching English in Korea has undertaken a project to look at the neighborhoods of Seoul. The blog is organized by stops on the Seoul subway system. Like most blogs, the entries are posted in reverse chronological order and provide details and photos for each subway stop neighborhood. If one has a particular neighborhood in mind, there is a search box; otherwise, there is no easy way to navigate the site.

**INDONESIA**

**Our Spice Islands Adventure**
URL: http://spiceislandsadventure.wordpress.com/
Although this family has ended their stay in Manado, North Sulawesi, their blog remains online. Through the photos and the writing, one can see how well they were integrated into the fabric of Indonesian life.
Teaching Asia Through Field Trips and Experiential Learning

WEB GLEANINGS By Judith S. Ames

Jakarta News
URL: http://mylifejakarta.blogspot.com/
This blog begins in 2009 and has a wide range of subjects. A few examples are the detailed chart of the cost of living in Jakarta, with comparisons of commodity costs in several other countries, a photo display of many of Jakarta’s sights, and a description of bus travel.

Katherine and Bruno’s Adventure Abroad
URL: http://kandbabroad.wordpress.com/
Katherine and Bruno travel a lot. These pages look at their time in Indonesia. Because they live in Jakarta, most of their entries focus on this city. They not only look at the positive aspects of living in Indonesia, but also cover the negatives, such as the pollution, the lack of transportation, the slums, and the crime.

SINGAPORE

Notabilia: A Crafty New Yorker in Singapore
URL: http://notabilia.wordpress.com/
This is the blog of a crafter from New York living in Singapore. Because of her interest in crafts, many of her posts cover this field. She has entries on ceramics, the book arts, fabrics, and sewing in Singapore and elsewhere in Asia.

THAILAND

American Expat in Chiang Mai
URL: http://americanexpatchiangmai.com/
An American man and his wife move to Thailand with all their possessions and build a life in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. His blog covers experiences of daily life, including dealing with the medical system, the customs, and a guest post about marriage and divorce. One can read about his travels around Thailand, the unusual food items, and the highlights of Chiang Mai.

Joey’s Bangkok Blog
URL: http://joeysbangkokblog.blogspot.co.uk/
This is the blog of an eight-year-old American boy who lives in Thailand. It is interesting in part because one can see the perspective and the activities, at school and at home, of a child who is living in a foreign country.

Bangkok, I Love You
URL: http://bangkokiloveyou.com/
This is a very attractive and easy-to-navigate blog. The featured entries are posted near the top of the home page, and below are photo tags that display both the category (like “Food and Drink”) and the latest entry in a particular category (like a restaurant review.)

Jamie’s Phuket Blog
URL: http://jamie-monk.blogspot.com/
There is a lot to read and see on this blog. The author has posted many photos and videos of the people and places in Phuket, an island community off the coast of Thailand. Along the left side of the home page are links to some of the blog posts. In addition, there are listings of things to do in Phuket, favorite restaurants and beaches, and posts about life on the island.

Judith S. Ames, PhD, formerly associated with the Japan Society in New York, is currently an editorial and computer consultant.

The Association for Asian Studies
The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) aims to serve the broadening disciplinary, professional, and geographical interests of its membership. Through its publications, online resources, regional conferences, and annual conference, the AAS provides its members with a unique and invaluable professional network.

MEMBERSHIP MEANS MORE...

COMMUNITY
NETWORKING
PRIVILEGES
BENEFITS

“Becoming an AAS member is standard procedure for anyone seriously interested in pursuing and maintaining a career in the field.”

- Connect with approximately 8,000 scholars across all disciplines.
- Enjoy fellowship and intellectual exchange with your peers.
- Stay current on the latest Asian studies research and methodology.
- Access the member-only section of the AAS website which includes a searchable AAS Member Directory, employment listings, and the online Journal of Asian Studies.
- Receive complimentary annual subscriptions to the Asian Studies E-Newsletter and the Journal of Asian Studies (4 print issues, and online access to all articles since 1941).
- Receive special rates on all Cambridge University Press and AAS publications, including Education About Asia.
- Enjoy a reduced registration fee for the AAS Annual Conference - the largest Asian studies conference in North America.
- Become eligible for grant programs and book subventions.
- Gain full voting privileges to elect AAS officers and council representatives.
- Access classified listings.

Attend the AAS 2015 Annual Conference!
March 26-30, 2015
Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers
Chicago, Illinois

JOIN TODAY! www.asian-studies.org