

## Hong Kong & Macau

The following program is preliminary and subject to change, but is a reasonable representation of the schedule of events. Breakfast is included at Robert Black College (Hong Kong) in your ground fee, and you can book lunches and dinners there at a reasonable cost; transport to Macau and accommodations at the Pousada Coloane are also included in the ground fee and accommodations will be the equivalent of a three star hotel (exact location to be confirmed). Visits to museums or other institutions, public transport, lunches and dinners are not included except where specified in the program.

### Monday May 22: *Day 1/Night 2*

- Morning            Breakfast and introductory session. We talk about the writing process and what we all hope to achieve for our own work. Sign ups for manuscript consultations for those participants who have applied to do so, and also review of itinerary. All four trip authors will be present.
- An informal talk/discussion on the contemporary literary and cultural landscape of Hong Kong both in its local and intra-Asian context by Xu Xi and Robin Hemley.
- Lunch                Classic dim sum lunch at **Luk Yu**, a long-established Chinese tea house in Central, the business district of Hong Kong (optional, own expense, public transport to Central)
- Afternoon           **Flex time.**
- Xu Xi will accompany interested participants on a sojourn by foot and tram along the waterfront districts of Hong Kong island, which may include Western, Sheung Wan, Central, Admiralty and Wanchai (the red light district of “Suzie Wong” fame) where some of her own fiction is set.
- OR**
- A viewing of the film “**The Map of Sex & Love**” by **Evans Chan** at Robert Black College. Chan is an acclaimed independent filmmaker from Hong Kong and Macau whose credits include several features and documentaries that have been screened and critically acclaimed at film festivals worldwide.
- Evening              Reconvene at Robert Black for a reflection on the authors’ life when we travel. What do we take away from being “at large” that is unique to the profession of writing? We also welcome a sharing of work by any participants who have written in the afternoon or who have work they wish to read to the group.
- Dinner on your own.

## Tuesday May 23: *Day 2/Night 3*

Morning

Breakfast

Travel to Kowloon on the Star Ferry, a historic form of public transportation across the harbor long before the underwater tunnels were built. **(Group transport arranged and covered in ground fee, except for the nominal fare for Star Ferry)**

Meet with **Martha Cheung**, director of Baptist University's Translation Center and editor of *Collage*, a collection of Hong Kong prose in translation by some of the city's Chinese language writers. Cheung will introduce you to the contemporary local Chinese language literature.

Group transport provided back to Robert Black College for those wishing to return back across the harbor for **flex time**.

Recommendations for flex time sojourns:

**Hong Kong Island:** Visit to the Hong Kong University Fung Ping Shan Museum is recommended, as is a walk around the university area. Also recommended is a walk down Hollywood Road for the galleries and further on to ParaSite, which features many local contemporary Hong Kong artists.

**OR**

**Kowloon:** Those wishing to remain in Kowloon can visit the Hong Kong History Museum in Hung Hom, the Hong Kong Art Museum in Tsimshatsui or the Cattle Depot Artist Center, a historical site featuring galleries of contemporary art. Other sites of interest include Chungking Mansion of *Chungking Express* fame (the Wong Kar Wai film) in Tsimshatsui.

Lunch is on your own.

Afternoon

Writing craft talk and Q&A with AAL trip author **Abby Jauss** at Robert Black College seminar room.

Poet **Agnes Lam** will give a private reading and talk about her work at Robert Black College seminar room. Hong Kong born Lam is one of Hong Kong leading English language poets. Her two volumes of poetry are *Woman to Woman* and *Water Wood Pure Splendour*.

Author/editor **Mike Ingham** will talk about contemporary Hong Kong culture. Ingham is the author of a new cultural guide to Hong Kong for the "Cities of the Imagination" series (forthcoming, 2006). A long-time resident and professor at Lingnan University's English department, where he teaches Asian literature and drama, he is co-editor with Xu Xi of *City Stage* and *City Voices*, two anthologies of Hong Kong writing in English that covers Playwriting, Prose and Poetry.

Evening

Reception with local writers at Robert Black College. Wine, non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks will be served **(covered in ground fee)**.

Dinner on your own. We encourage participants to join up with like-minded members in the group for further literary discussions or sojourns in the city.

### Wednesday May 24: Day 3/Night 4

- Morning Breakfast followed by flex time
- Morning tea at the **Foreign Correspondents Club** with author **Nury Vittachi** and publisher **Peter Gordon**. Sri Lankan Vittachi is one of the city's leading English language writers and literary activists. A former columnist for the *South China Morning Post* and *Far Eastern Economic Review*, he founded *Dimsum*, a journal of Asian writing, and the city's International Literary Festival (now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year). His books include the *Feng Shui Detective* series. Gordon runs Chameleon Press which publishes Hong Kong and Asian writing and is also affiliated with Paddyfield Books, one of Asia's first online booksellers of English language books. Vittachi and Gordon will talk about the local literary scene. **(tea included in ground fee)**
- Afternoon Chinese lunch in Sai Kung and a visit to Sai Kung Country Park in the New Territories **(lunch, transport to Sai Kung and return to Robert Black included in ground fee)**. Despite Hong Kong's urban density, there is a surprising amount of open space that the government preserves for the environment and recreation. The drive out will allow a glimpse of that "other" Hong Kong.
- Evening At **Yellow Door**, one of Hong Kong's first "home kitchen restaurants" where the menu is specified by the chef each evening through a number of traditional courses. Proprietor **Lau Kin Wai** is a local art and culture critic who writes regular columns for the Chinese press. He also curated several important art events, and first exhibited "the King of Kowloon," a local graffiti artist who transforms his stylized Chinese characters into street protest art. Yellow Door is located under the escalator in Sheung Wan, near to "Soho," and Lan Kwai Fong, where much of the city's night life occurs. (Optional, own expense)

### Thursday May 25: Day 4/Night 5

- Morning Breakfast.
- Check out of Robert Black College.
- Depart for Macau ferry pier **(group transport provided)** for hydrofoil to Macau, approximately 1 hour sailing time, **(included in ground fee)**.
- Transfer from Macau ferry pier. Check into Pousada Coloane
- Lunch on you own.
- Afternoon Flex time.
- Talk by **Andrew Moody** an American resident who teaches at the University of Macau will speak about living in this Southeastern Chinese city. A linguistics scholar and formerly resident in Hong Kong, he can offer insights on local culture and the expatriate experience.
- Evening Portuguese buffet dinner at hotel,.

**Friday May 26: Day 5/Night 6**

Morning Breakfast followed by **flex time**.

Depart for University of Macau for lecture by Philip Graham on Portuguese diasporic literature. **(transport to University and City center provided in ground fee)**

Lunch in city center on your own.

Afternoon Recommend walks & visits to cultural sites in city center. Transport will be arranged at specific time for talk & reception.

Informal talk by **Dr. Chiu Man Yee**, a professor of English at the University of Macau. Originally from Hong Kong, he came to Macau years ago and never left. He will talk about his colorful, trans-national background. This will be followed by an informal talk about the local literary scene and reading (in translation) by leading local Chinese language poet and writer **Agnes Lam** (not to be confused with Hong Kong's English language poet of the same name), who heads PEN in Macau.

This will be held at the Portuguese Military Club.

Evening Reception with local writers and arts-related folks at the Portuguese Military Club. **(included in ground fee)**

Dinner on your own.

**Saturday May 27: Day 6/Night 7**

Morning Breakfast/**flex time**

An informal talk/ discussion about the role of Hong Kong and Macau in their post-colonial, post-handover status as “special administrative regions” of China. Led by Xu Xi and a local historian.

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon A shared work session, where participants and the authors read short excerpts of their writing. The focus will be on work written since embarking on this sojourn. All AAL authors will be present.

We will be joined by **Dr. Chris (Kit) Kelen** a professor of English at the University of Macau and a long time expatriate resident & poet and his graduate writing students.

Tea provided **(included in ground fee)**.

Dinner and casino visits for interested participants (optional, own expense).

**Sunday May 28: Day 7/Night 8**

- Morning            Breakfast
- Check out and return to Hong Kong.  
**(Transport to ferry pier and ferry ticket included in ground fee)**
- Afternoon            Check into Robert Black College
- Flex time
- Evening              At **Yellow Door**, one of Hong Kong's first "home kitchen restaurants" where the menu is specified by the chef each evening through a number of traditional courses. Proprietor **Lau Kin Wai** is a local art and culture critic who writes regular columns for the Chinese press. He also curated several important art events, and first exhibited "the King of Kowloon," a local graffiti artist who transforms his stylized Chinese characters into street protest art. Yellow Door is located under the escalator in Sheung Wan, near to "Soho," and Lan Kwai Fong, where much of the city's night life occurs. (Optional, own expense)

**Monday May 29: Day 8/Night 9**

- Morning            Breakfast /flex time'
- Lunch                Depart for lunch at the Peak Café (own expense). We will ride up the Peak Tram, of "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" fame, a film starring Jennifer Jones and William Holden, based on the novel by Han Suyin.
- Afternoon            Visit to local bookstores OR a cultural walk/trip – some possibilities include the infamous Chungking Mansion, portrayed in independent filmmaker Wong Kar Wai's early feature film *Chungking Express*.

Wrap up dinner and final discussion of the life of authors at large at Robert Black College.

**Tuesday May 30: Day 9**                    Depart Hong Kong.