



King Ling College

S5C Group 3 Grand Tour Report



Class: 5c  
Destination: Seoul Korea  
Date: 26 – 29 March

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## **Introduction**

After few months of waiting, all S5 students finally travelled together to Seoul, the capital city of Korea, in the four-day grand tour. The tour aims to release pressure from studying, puts all concerns behind our heads and marks the beginning of the long holiday. Students, on the other hand, have to start preparing to strike for DSE examinations after the end of the tour. We enjoyed the grand tour since lots of memories became a part of our high school lives. We will never forget this trip as we only have one chance in our lives to travel overseas together with hundreds of students.

## Reflection: Day 1

### **Spots description**

Hongik University is one of the most famous universities in South Korea, and the place near the university was developed to a tourist attraction with shops. As we arrived in Seoul in the evening, we could only stay at the place for an hour. On the street, there are shops selling clothes and cosmetic products, most of them are international brands. Same as Meyong-dong, the place shows the prosperity of Seoul.

### **Reflection**

Hongik University actually is an ordinary tourist shopping spot in Seoul and the same kind of streets are popular near different universities in Seoul (e.g., Ewha Womans University). The shops there are mostly international brands which can also be found in Hong Kong, it might not gain interest from tourists who are not interested in these products. Although the place have many shops with international background (just like Canton Road in Hong Kong), there are also many shops on the street which sell food or related souvenirs which gave us a special feeling on the street is not only filled up with international brand. Normally, the rent in these places should be very high which Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are not affordable. However there are many shops which we are not familiar with and seem to be local firms. It shows the rent there still affordable for SMEs owners. It also reflects the rent in Hong Kong is unreasonably higher than other place such as in South

Korea. This problem becomes one of the biggest differences between the famous tourist attractions in Hong Kong and South Korea.

Another big difference that we discovered is about how Seoul manages the local stalls (mainly sells food and souvenirs) located on the streets near Hongik University. The stalls are well organised with semi-permanent style and were set-up only on the same selected area which the feeling of disorder do not exist there. Is Hong Kong already done enough on managing the same kind of stalls which have conflicts between owners and LCSD recently in Sham Shui Po? Whether is it really impossible for stalls owner to continue their business on a well organised condition? If answers are no, may be Hong Kong Government can take reference to Seoul by setting up more stalls at limited area and allow owners to bid for a legal licence. This might be a way for satisfying the owner and protect the local culture by well-organised licence system to prevent them to sell anywhere. The actual technical problem is still required government investigation.



This photo was taken in Hongik University, famous for shopping and street food, like Mong Kok in Hong Kong

## Reflection: Day 2

### **Spots description**

On the second day, 5C visited War Memorial of Korea, a place full of Korean history and military equipments. The Statue of Brothers was located outside the museum which represents the situation between North and South Korea. Also, around 20-40 jets and battleships were displayed outdoor while variety kinds of weapons could be found in the hall. Visiting the War Memorial of Korea, 5C students can know more about Korean War which we cannot find in textbook.

### Reflection:

Firstly, the Statue of Brothers gave a meaningful lesson to our group mates. Not only is it the most famous statue in Korea, but also the story behind was touching, which enable our team to focus on the consequences of war. The story was happened in Korean War, where the two brothers met. One of the brothers came from North Korea and another came from South Korea .They had lost each other for a long period and finally met at the war field. Wars lead to heavy casualties and family lost their members, hence, keeping the world in peace is very important. Of course, being students, we are not going to stop or interrupt a war. Instead, we should be more aware to the social and international issues and news so as to show our care to the world.

In addition, our team was more interested in Korean history after visiting the museum. Rarely could we see jets and battleships in Hong Kong and this precious opportunity allowed us to take a splendid look at the structure of real battleships. It was a remarkable experience.

## Photo



### **Caption:**

The photo was taken underneath the Statue of Brothers which all of the group mates were so obsess with.

## **Description**

The most eye-catching architecture is the Ewha Campus Complex which is a modern construction that includes most of the basic facilities a university needs. The design of the Ewha Campus Complex is environmental friendly since it is mainly built with glass.

## **Reflection**

On the second day of our Grand Tour we went to Ewha Womans University which is a famous university in Korea. The attraction points of Ewha Womans University are the stunning scenery and the streets surrounding Ewha Womans University which enable the locals and travelers shop for a whole day. However, shopping and sightseeing are not the main purpose of visiting Ewha Womans University in the Grand Tour. Learning its history and background is the reason that 5C's students visited the Ewha Womans University.

One student from Ewha Womans University was our tour guide when we visited the university in the afternoon. She told us the reason of using the word 'Womans', as the name of the University which implicates Ewha Womans University considers every student individually and respects every woman rather than just being a typing mistake.

The concept of respecting women is great since some places like Middle-East underestimate female. Respecting others is the core of Chinese culture. When chatting with teachers, students, undoubtedly, should be respectful and maintain a good manner. This should be the same when associating with classmates and friends. A good manner should not disappear even when friendship gets deeper. Manner is the foundation of personality and a bright future, which is why we receive

normal education at school instead of computers. We cannot learn etiquette, the way one treats others in different situation and real life experience from adults in computer. These are the most precious lessons that we learnt in King Ling College. 'Manner' is an endless subject. We should grab every chance to learn how to improve our inner personal quality.

### Photos



#### Caption:

The church-like architecture is the Pfeiffer Hall which is Ewha's most notable building which functions as the main hall.



#### Caption:

Lala Soo and Fatfat Ng as the representatives of 5c, and the student from Ewha Womans University who is our tour guide is receiving the gift, scarf, from our school.

## Reflection: Day 3

### **Spots description**

"Dreams Become Reality, the Land of Year-Round Festivals!"

Everland, the first theme park in Korea, is a popular amusement park with hundreds and thousands of people visiting, especially during the holidays . Five distinct zones which have different themes can be found there. While some of the visitors enjoy playing the exciting rides, others love the stunning scenery. In addition to the rides and the zoo, there is a beautiful garden near the hotel too. These explain why Everland captivates both foreigners and local people.

### **Reflection**

Everland attracts a number of people because of the exciting rides and the joyful atmosphere. Playing a number of thrilling rides such as the Double Tock Spin and visiting the fascinating zoo together were unforgettable. We treasure every moment in the Everland as it was a special experience for all of us. We took a lot of photos to capture our precious memories.

Because of the limited time, we did not have enough time to play all the games.

Therefore, we hope that we can visit the theme park again.

As a matter of fact, we were under immense pressure because of the uniform tests and homework. Thanks to this trip, we could take a rest and do our best in the coming examinations. We will never forget these beautiful memories.

## Photos



### **Caption:**

This is an interesting moment of a lion king roaring towards the other lion. It showed the aggressiveness and the dignity of the lion.



### **Caption:**

The multi-colored tree stands in the middle of the park which the decorations will vary with different festivals and seasons. This is one of the reasons why everyone sees Everland as a fairyland.

## **Spots description**

Dongdaemun Design Plaza is a landmark in Seoul. Our team hit there as we had no interest in shopping in Dongdaemun. As we were approaching near the Design Square, the curving forms of structures made every groupmate gasped. The Plaza was presented new architectural ideas to the world, and also the prosperity of Korea.

## **Reflection**

With well organised urban planing, Dongdaemun Design Plaza has become a landmark in Seoul. Conventions, exhibtions,and performances are condudcted there frequently. Our team appreciated it a lot. The development of Korea is of absoulte high standard as many of its architectures amazed the world with unexpected features and elements.

Frankly, Hong Kong, as one of the Four Asian Tigers, too, has not come up with inspirational infrastructure for around a decade. We could think of some similar ones such as the Hong Kong Science & Techonlogy Parks. However, when we compare it with the Dongdaemun Design Plaza, its contribution in tourist of Hong Kong and special functional elements are relatively low. With lack of support from the Hong Kong government, there are only a few firms located their bussiness in Hong Kong Science & Techonlogy Parks. The park got an amazing design, but unlike the Dongdaemun Design Plaza, the park cannot fuction well and become a new attraction in this shopping paredise. Local citizens and foreign tourists will not visit there ,unless they want to ride the bicycle or admire the green environment.

Dongdaemun Design Plaza is a spectacular spot to visit. The Hong Kong government should have better urban planning in order to consolidate our status among the world.

### Photos



#### **Caption:**

This photo was taken in the Dongdaemun Design Plaza. Everyone of the group gasped because of the tremendous architecture.

## Reflection: Day 4

### Spots description

DORASAN-Station is one of the world's most special train station. It is located at Northern part of South Korea, at the South of North Korea.

DORASAN-Station connect South Korea and North Korea, train can travel through the capital of these "two" countries .However due to the tension relationship between the North and South Korea DORASAN-Station only open the train route from Seoul to Dorasan, can celling the trail from Seoul to Pyongyang.

### Reflection

We ,a group of students from Hong Kong, are in doubt that why South and North Korea Government build a train station to sever each other. A station should represent the connection of have built two places but now instead of representing the gap between these two countries which should be one in geographical terms.

Actually, we can see that South Korea Government has been trying to negotiate with North Korea about the progress to reunification 'Not the last station from the South, but the first station toward the North' is the aim of the DORASAN-Station. This slogan touches us a lot.

I at this moment ,the most important topic is not 'Does South Korean Government wants the resources or other benefit inside North Korea ?'The aim of peace and reunification is to let the two

Koreas reunion, separating is painful, especially for brothers who had to separate due to confrontation.

I am proud that Hong Kong and Chinese citizens who can travel each other easily, although we have two political systems .However we are still one country as same as the situation of South and North Korea .In Hong Kong we have MTR station connect with Mainland China but in Korea, they have a train station separate the south and north. None of us know how many families separate during the Korea War and the situation now, but we can feel their pain and sadness. We really hope that one day the aim of DORASAN-Station can be achieved.

Also we hope that every tourist can travel with a serious attitude, because I remember there were 2 to 3 kids chasing each other and feel bored .It is not respect to both South and North Korean ,it is because what they saw in the DORASAN-Station is all about hope and family .

### **Photo**



#### **Caption:**

The platform is opened, it is peaceful and clear. This made a difference with Hong Kong's train station which is very crowded. But more than that, it is about DORASAN-Station, about a station symbolized war, blood and bullets.

## **Spots Description**

In the afternoon of the forth day, we had visited Kimchi museum. It was a small-scale museum where were lots of facilities. Looking around the museum, we had learnt several of information such as the history, food culture of Kimchi and also the nutrients of different kinds of food through exhibition panels and guide's explanation. We were so honored to make spicy Kimchi personally. We got a chance to wear Korean traditional costume. All of the classmates seemed to be so active. Of course, wearing Korean traditional costume, we had a fulfilled experience. Few hours later, it was time for us to back to Hong Kong. Actually, before going out of hotel, we have packed all of our belongings and prepare well, therefore, we arrived to airport at about 5:30 p.m. hastily.

## **Reflection**

In spite of the fact that this period of time was too short, however, everyone gained indispensable experience and memories. For the Kimchi manufacturing program, most of us were the first time in touch with making Kimchi, surely all of them did a good job. Not only did we gain sense of accomplishment, but also strengthened connection between classmates as we helped each other in order to tackle problems. The process was full of happiness. We also knew that guides processed food needed a week to leaven which was similar to our distance of study. It is not possible to get good result without revision, so processed food reminded that we should study hard after this fulfilling journey, we

reap what we sown.

We had a deeper understanding of Korea culture through wearing Korean traditional costumes and making Kimchi.

Experiencing a distinct culture enable us to know more about Korea.

During these few days, we understood that we would be puzzled without helping hands of parents. The most thing we have learnt in this period of time was dependent. In the future, we cannot still stay at parents' hug. This was a great lesson for us to grow, develop and become mature.

### Photo



**Caption:**

The photo shows few of our classmates were following the steps making spicy Kimchi.



**Caption:**

Male classmates were unusual to wear Korean traditional costume with complex wearing procedure. They looked flustering but enjoyable.

## **Description**

On the last day of the trip, our group visited the most unique land in Korea, the demilitarized zone, it is also known as the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel as it divides North Korea and South Korea along this latitude. Once we entered the zone, there are lots of military bases which consist of tanks, soldiers and helicopters, which use to prevent sudden attack from North Korea. Then, while we were looking towards North Korea, we discovered that there are not many modern buildings. Lastly, our group had interviewed a Brazilian tourist and we had discussed about the political situation between North and South Korea.

## **Reflection**

Through visiting the DMZ, our group can apply the knowledge from History lesson. In Form three, we had studied the Korean War which started in 1950 and ended in 1953 after the signing of a ceasefire treaty. While we were walking through the DMZ, we saw there are many warnings of mines so we understood more about the wartime situation in Korea and how danger war is. Moreover, the DMZ not only showed the cruelty of the Korean War, but also reflected the appearance of the land without human. The ecosystem has been well-developed that wild animals can live freely in the DMZ without the intervention of human. This arouses a question to our group that are conflicts between human sometimes bring peace to the nature. For example, the heavy casualties from war reduce the demand for living spaces so as to

protect the nature from being destroyed for building new apartment. All in all, visiting the DMZ enabled our group to explore more beyond the curriculum.

**Photo**



**Caption:**

The road block symbolized the existence of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel has blocked the cultural exchange between North Korea and South Korea.

## **Conclusion:**

Countless memories were stored in our brains forever. Here we would like to say thank you to all members who contributed to hold this Grand Tour for Form five students. Specifically, we appreciate Freddy, the local tour guide, who treated 5C students as his own born children likely. Moreover, we have learnt a lot while travelling around Seoul such as the skill to make Kimchi, the history of Korean War and the geographical knowledge of the zone between North and South Korea. Using the term we learnt from Form one Liberal Studies, our horizons have been widened through the Grand Tour. Better still, thanks to the Grand Tour, we have discovered the essence of “From Me to We” is to create a sense of belonging to King Ling College through participating school’s events enthusiastically like the Grand Tour and yes we did. All in all, those enjoyable days had gone and we have to move on. Our next common goal, strike for the DSE examination.

## **Group member list**

Mr. Lo YH

Mr. Cheung KK

Ms. Fung

Marick Chung 25

Fatfat Ng 30

Howard Men 29

Justin Yau 31

Sunny Ip 26

Calvin Choi 24

Jonas Lam 28

Andrew Kong 27

Claudia Ko 9

Annabelle Ho 7