

# King Ling College S5 Grand Tour Report

Destination: Seoul

5A (2022-2023) Group 2



By Group2

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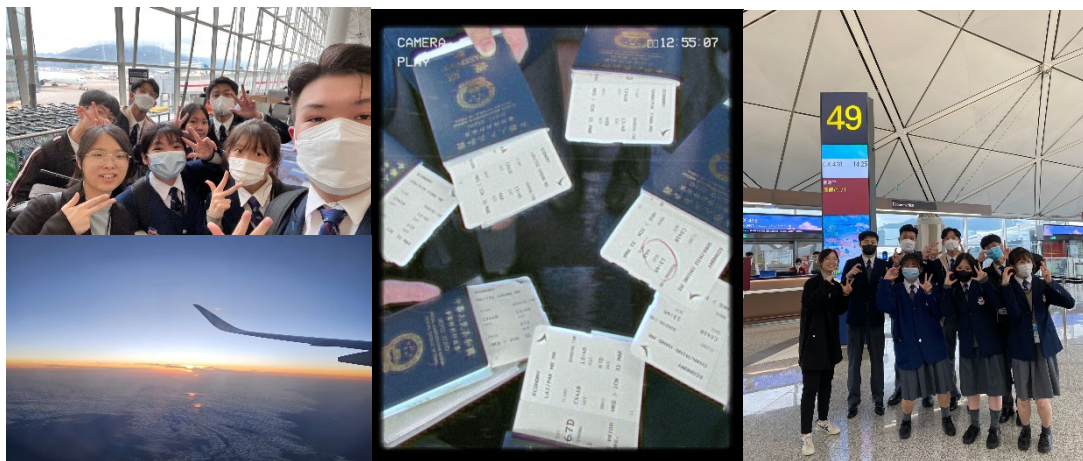
## Day 1

In contrast to the other three classes that had scheduled early morning departure times, our departure time was relatively late. Still, our team arrived at the airport ahead of schedule for the sake of fulfilling the interview mission. With utmost effort, we sought permission from various individuals for an interview and eventually successfully interviewed four distinct groups of individuals, consisting of both foreign visitors and local residents. Our findings revealed that pop music was not a subject of familiarity for most of the Chinese and foreigners. We also realized the importance of preparing a structured greeting script was of paramount importance beforehand, as it would minimize the occurrence of stammering.

Our initial departure time was 2:25 pm. Nevertheless, we experienced an unfortunate delay, which was the last thing we wanted to happen. The flight eventually took off at 3:55. Despite the delay, we were thrilled to arrive at the Incheon Airport after three hours of voyage time, particularly since many of us had refrained from traveling for an extended period due to the pandemic outbreak. Much to our surprise, the weather in Korea was far more mild than we had anticipated. We even did not have to take out our coats we had prepared in advance.

Due to the extensive delay and lengthy customs lines, our arrival time at the airport was distinctly later than expected. Thus, our original itinerary, a leisurely stroll through the bustling Dongdaemun area, had to be postponed until the final day of our trip. We returned to our hotel only after the dinner, a hearty bowl of potato soup. During our bus ride, we were introduced to our amiable tour guide, Eddy, who provided us with a wealth of information about Korea throughout the tour. His insightful explanations and commentary added depth to our understanding and appreciation of the country.

Although today's itinerary was not rich enough, we eagerly looked forward to the arrival of tomorrow.



## Day 2

Our day commenced with a visit to the National Museum of Korea, renowned for its curation of an extensive collection of artistic masterpieces, spanning from the Paleolithic Era to the early 20th century. Upon our arrival at the museum, which had yet to officially open, we seized the opportunity to accomplish our mission by requesting the help of locals to record a congratulatory video for our school's 30th anniversary. We successfully invited three pairs of locals for the video.

When the time reached at 10:30am, we finally entered the museum. Led by our knowledgeable guide, Eddy, we explored Prehistory and Ancient History, as well as the Medieval and Early Modern History exhibition on the first floor at the Museum. The displays were thoughtfully curated and showcased a wide range of historical artifacts and artworks. Eddy's detailed explanations on the historical and cultural significance of each exhibit fostered us a nuanced and profound appreciation of Korean history, allowing us to delve deeper into the country's rich cultural heritage. Of particular note was the awe-inspiring Gyeongcheonsa Pagoda, a 15-meter wooden structure that serves as a centerpiece of the museum's Buddhist artifact collection. We were undoubtedly captivated by its grandeur that we were compelled to capture the moment through photography. Indeed, the visit was a truly unforgettable experience.

After that, we visited the War Memorial of Korea, the largest war-themed memorial around the globe. The majestic aircraft and tank models left us in awe, especially the boys who eagerly waited for free time to explore the military vehicles. We did have an impressive experience when we're sitting in the aircraft. The inside environment rendered us a sense of authenticity. Additionally, the monument with the engraved names of heroic soldiers evoked empathy. The visit piqued the curiosity of our team members, giving that many of whom had relatives studying history. Overall, it was a valuable and informative experience.

After indulging in Korean stir fry pork for lunch, we ventured to Namdaemun Sijang to have a glimpse of Korean street vendors. The lively vibes and diverse array of shops offering everything from gastronomic Korean delicacies to traditional souvenirs reminded us of Hong Kong's Ladies' Market. Scrolling through the bustling and vibrant alleys, we felt a hint of familiarity. The sound of visitors bargaining and chatting spiced up the atmosphere. We also savored signature local cuisine, Hotteok and Tteok-Bokki. It was definitely a bucket-visit destination for those looking to immerse themselves in the vibrant culture and energy of Seoul.

After an hour-long excursion in Namdaemun, we embarked on a journey to the N Seoul Tower. However, the lengthy wait in the queue for the cable car was



undeniably tedious. Nevertheless, after an hour and a half of patient waiting, we arrived at the tower, where the sight of the blossoming tree was a feast for the eyes. As we explored the area, we unexpectedly stumbled upon the filming location of the Korean drama "Hell is Other People," an exciting discovery. The most memorable moment must be the experience when a breathtaking panorama spreads out before us when we're inside the tower. We also took the opportunity to purchase some unique souvenirs, a perfect way to commemorate this unforgettable experience.

Our planned itineraries for the day were successfully accomplished. Following a nourishing dinner of Korean ginseng chicken soup, we returned to our hotel with a fatigued body



### Day 3



Today's schedule only included Nami Island and Lotte World, both of which were thoroughly fulfilling. After a lengthy bus ride, we arrived at the pier and boarded the ferry. A brief five-minute journey brought us to the island, where we began our exploration.

We were greeted by an enchanting tree-lined road, which was a frequently used site for Korean drama filming, with many ephemeral blossom trees. During the one hour free time with our team, we scrolled through the alley. Surprisingly, an adorable squirrel, which scurried up a nearby tree, popped up in front of us. We were all head over heels of its playful antics and curious gaze. Furthermore, we witnessed the sight of blossoms falling down, which was a delicate and breathtaking spectacle. The petals gently drift and swirl in the breeze like snowflakes. The scene was a rare sight to behold in Hong Kong, making it an exceptional experience. Our team also captured some distinctive and memorable photographs, preserving the essence of our experience.

After having Nami Island's signature dish, Chuncheon Spicy Fried Chicken for lunch, we kicked off a lengthy bus ride to the Lotte World. We all entered it with merriment. After embarking on the thrilling French Revolution roller coaster. Despite the excitement, however, some of our team members were hesitant and reluctant to try on it. Nevertheless, they plunked up their courage after listening to our pep talk and eventually jumped on the adventure, which was a testament to their courage and determination. We learned that as long as we do not give up on anything, ultimately we are sure to get over everything. We also enjoyed other exciting rides such as the Swing Tree and Gyro Spin, which made our hearts race and our adrenaline soar.



Aside from the thrilling rides, we also took the time to explore the unique shops and purchase some exceptional souvenirs.

Overall, it was an exhilarating experience that left us with unforgettable memories. The rides, shops, and energy of the park all contributed to an unforgettable adventure that we will cherish for years to come. Our day was enclosed with bulgogi for dinner.

#### **Day 4**

We were honored to pay a visit to Young-il High School. The school's marvelous campus, set amidst a vast field, left a lasting impression on us. We were eager to explore this school. Our arrival at the school remains a vivid memory, as we were cordially greeted by the school's representatives upon setting foot at the entrance. Paired up with the enthusiastic and friendly ambassadors, we were led to the hall where we engaged in lively English conversations.

The campaign consisted of various parts, ranging from introducing our school mutually and acknowledging the education system in Korea to present-giving and photo-taking. We observed the education systems of both places were also competitive, with over 80% of students studying relentlessly in the hope of entering university, often resulting in academic distress. Through empathetic sharing of our own experiences, we connected with the students on a deeper level.

Other than that, a campus tour session was conducted. The school's ambassadors wandered around with us to get a taste of Korean school life. What amazed us was that Korean students could wear slippers in the school. We were also thunderstruck by its comfortable and large self-study room. Nevertheless, the friendships we forged and maintained through Instagram were the most cherished outcome of our visit. We all treasured this experience so much.



Following the school visit, we also visited Ewha Womans University, a well-known tourist destination. In the alley along the way to the university, we took Purikura with unique props in a tiny studio. It captured the precious memories of youth. It was believed that we would reminisce about the "good old days" when we grew up.

After visiting Ewha Womans University and enjoying scrumptious lunch, we went to Cheongwadae, a historic public park that served as the presidential residence from 1948 to 2022. It definitely was a place steeped in history. The Korean-style architecture, blended with modern elements, features the Main Building, Yeongbinwan, Official Residence, Sangchunjae, Nokjiwon, and Chunchugwan. We viewed portraits of the former president of Korea and visited the hall where press conferences were held. It was an enlightening experience.



In addition, one of the indispensable itineraries was wearing hanbok and capturing photos in Gyeongbok Palace. The elegant attire transported us to the Korean Dynasty, and the cherry blossoms made for a striking backdrop. We took a bunch of photos. Everyone looked elegant and handsome. We concluded the day with a satisfying dinner and returned to our hotel.

## Day 5

It was the last day of our grand tour. We had to say goodbye to Korea reluctantly. We were all unwilling to return back to reality. Before going to the airport, we visited CheongGyeCheon Museum. It was an exhibition which traced back past Seoul's designation as the capital of the Joseon Dynasty. For instance, it displayed the diverse lives of people living alongside the stream, the timeline of Seoul's finding, the entire process of the restoration project, etc. We witnessed the development of Korea in the museum. It fostered greater understanding between people of different cultures.

Taking a stroll to Cheonggyecheon, we were mesmerized by the clear river. It was a place to pray for harmony, peace and unity. Staying here was like escaping the hustle and bustle of city life. So we could appreciate the beauty of nature. It consisted of waterfalls, fountains, trails and exploration roads. To say it was a place brimming with charm and appeal was merely an understatement.

Apart from wandering in Cheonggyecheon, we paid a visit to a scenic spot—Naksan Park. We walked along the Seoul City Wall and we were able to see a good stretch of Seoul City Wall and part of Seoul. It was famous as the filming location for popular Korean TV dramas like the SBS's *The Inheritors* (/The Heirs) by leading actors Lee Min-Ho. We could not resist the magnetic views.

After we ate Korean rice cake and hotpot, we hanged around in Dongdaemun, our last chance to go shopping. We spent our time in Kakao Friends and Nike and splashed out our money.

Leaving paradise was never easy. We loathed to part with Korea but we had to. But luckily, all of us backed Hong Kong with fruitful souvenirs and experiences. Thank you Dr.Yang for picking us up at the HK airport.





It was a rewarding trip that we obtained the ability of taking care of ourselves and widen our horizons. The grand tour will definitely be the most unforgettable experience, not just because it is the only opportunity to go on a grand tour, but also due to the fact that 5A are there to accompany each other, which makes the trip become more memorable. Even though the grand tour was an ephemeral moment, we were able to connect to each other and appreciate the world