

# Korean Sample Program



\$ 1985



**Minds Abroad**

Named a 'Top Ten Program' by the Center for  
Citizen Diplomacy and U.S. State Department





## Introduction of Korean Program

South Korea is an enigma that shows little of its scars left behind by the long-lasting civil war with its northern counterpart. It has soared like a phoenix and gave the world its Samsung and Hyundai.

Minds Abroad's Korean program is a bilateral cultural exchange program in which we send American students to South Korea and vice versa. As globalization strives to erase the distance between the East and the West, programs such as ours play a significant role.

As an integral part of the Korean program, school groups from the US will partner with a Seoul-based school and travel to South Korea. During the course of this program, the US students will study Korean history, visit sites of historic and cultural significance and interact extensively with their local Korean peers--eating together, engaging in team building activities and shadowing their peers in class. This forms the heart of this bilateral program. After the US students return to their own country, their partner school will host Korean students in the same manner. This will give them an opportunity to have a similar experience of cultural exchange.

South Korea, particularly its capital Seoul, is sprinkled with numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites, despite being the country's economic nerve center. With numerous art districts set against the idyllic backdrop of sweeping mountainous landscapes, the city has a vivid artistic front, inspired deliberately or inadvertently by its bordering countries.

For a comprehensive understanding of South Korea, exploring the other side of the country beyond its highly developed exterior is at the core of this program. Students opting for this program will get to see both the modern and traditional sides of South Korea and will have a quintessential Korean experience through structured activities, including visits to places of historic and cultural sites and culture and history classes.



## About Minds Abroad

Minds Abroad is a US-based organization that conducts study abroad programs in Asia for both individual students and customized groups from high schools, colleges and universities. Our programs are typically a blend of morning classes, afternoon interning, volunteering or language exchange sessions, evening cultural activities and weekend excursions to sites of educational value. Homestays are an additional component for which school groups may opt. Minds Abroad was recently named a "Top Ten Best Practices Program" by the Center for Citizen Diplomacy in conjunction with the State Department.





## Program Components

### Korean Culture and History Classes

These classes will be primarily conducted by local teachers of the Korean school in Seoul during some weekday mornings.

The culture of South Korea, which contains distinct elements of religion, fine arts, natural, secular and social sciences and philosophies of traditional Korea culture, is constantly evolving. Our culture classes will not only focus on the changing contours, faces and denominations of South Korean culture, but will also shed light on how it fiercely protected its identity, originality and uniqueness in spite of wars and tragedies that tore Korea apart.



Our classes will also focus on how the country evolved into one of the most affluent nations of the world, with its education sector undergoing dramatic reforms, since the end of the Korean War.

### Cultural Activities with Korean Peers

The US students, as a part of their cultural learning, will go to art districts, museums, war-torn historic and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and participate in academic activities with their Korean peers. An intense and life-changing educational experience for both sets of students, the students will develop a new perspective about their own cultural heritage and that of their counterpart. This, in turn, will ensure intercultural understanding.

### Excursions to Sites of Historic and Cultural Significance in Seoul and Other Parts of South Korea

While in Seoul, the students will jointly explore historically significant sites, some of which include the Panmunjon in the DMZ, which was established as the Korean civil war ended, the 18th Century Hwaseong Fortress, an architectural wonder from the Joseon era, and the UNESCO-listed Changdeokgung Palace Complex, a stunning 15th century edifice that survived the brunt of Japanese invasion as well as the Korean civil war.



# Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
			In-Transit	Seoul	Seoul	Seoul
			<p><b>PM:</b> Depart from US</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> In Transit. <b>PM:</b> Check into hotel in Seoul. <b>Evening:</b> Welcome dinner with Korean peers.</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Activities with local peers <b>PM:</b> Activities with local peers</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Activities with local peers <b>PM:</b> Activities with local peers</p>
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11
DMZ	Hwaseong	Changdeokgong	Samcheong-dong	Jongmyo	Dongdaemun	
<p><b>AM:</b> Korean Culture/History Classes. <b>PM:</b> Have lunch together with Korean peers. Visit Panmunjon in DMZ, which was established as the Korean civil war ended and is the only place where outsiders are allowed in the military zone.</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Korean Culture/History Classes. <b>PM:</b> Have lunch together with Korean peers. Visit to the 18th century Hwaseong Fortress, an impressive architectural splendour from the Joseon era.</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Korean Culture/History Classes. <b>PM:</b> Have lunch together with Korean peers. Visit to Changdeokgung Palace Complex, a stunning 15th century edifice that survived the brunt of Japanese invasion as well as Korean civil war.</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Korean Culture/History Classes. <b>PM:</b> Have lunch together with Korean peers. Trip to Samcheong-dong, a place crammed with contemporary art schools and galleries.</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Korean Culture/History Classes. <b>PM:</b> Have lunch together with Korean peers. Head to Jongmyo, a UNESCO listed site ringed by deep woods and is said to house the spirits of Joseon royal heritage.</p>	<p><b>AM:</b> Activities with local peers. <b>PM:</b> Activities with local peers <b>Evening:</b> Farewell Dinner at a restaurant with Korean peers in Dongdaemun District.</p>	Fly Home

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