



South Korea

Seoul & Beyond: A Korean Journey

11 Days

This trip offers an immersive journey through South Korea, combining vibrant city life, historic landmarks, and serene natural landscapes from Seoul to Jeonju and Busan. Along the way, we engage deeply with Korean culture through palace tours, temple stays, traditional cooking and etiquette classes, hanbok experiences, and hands-on K-pop and ecological activities. Beyond sightseeing, the itinerary fosters personal growth and cultural education, encouraging reflection, creativity, environmental awareness, and a deeper appreciation for Korea's history, traditions, and contemporary culture.



[Learn more about our
Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Days 1 - 2	UK - Seoul <p>We arrive in Seoul on day 2 and begin with a walk through the city. We stroll along Cheonggyecheon, a restored urban stream that runs through downtown Seoul and offers a peaceful path surrounded by bridges and city views, before exploring Euljiro, a neighbourhood known for its mix of old industrial alleys, trendy cafés, and creative spaces. We end in Myeongdong, one of Seoul's most vibrant districts, famous for its shopping streets, street food stalls, and bright city atmosphere in the evening.</p>	BLD
Day 3	Korean Demilitarized Zone, Upcycling Plaza & COEX Mall <p>On day 3, we take a half-day tour to the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the heavily guarded border that separates North and South Korea. During the visit, we learn about the history of the Korean War and the ongoing division of the peninsula while viewing key sites within the zone. After returning to the city, we visit the Seoul Upcycling Plaza, a unique cultural space dedicated to creative recycling and sustainable design, before ending the day at COEX Mall to see the famous Starfield Library, known for its towering bookshelves and striking architecture.</p>	BLD
Day 4	Gyeongbokgung Palace, Bukchon Hanok Village & N Seoul Tower <p>The next day, we explore Gyeongbokgung Palace, where we walk through grand gates, traditional pavilions, and wide courtyards that once served as the royal residence. Within the palace grounds, we visit the National Folk Museum of Korea, which showcases exhibits about traditional Korean homes, customs, and everyday life throughout history. We then wander through Bukchon Hanok Village, a historic neighborhood filled with narrow lanes and preserved hanok houses that provide a glimpse into Seoul's past while overlooking the modern city. To end the day, we hike up Namsan Mountain to reach N Seoul Tower, where we enjoy sweeping panoramic views of Seoul from the top of the observatory.</p>	BLD
Day 5	Seogosa Temple & Overnight Temple Stay <p>Today we travel from Seoul to Jeonju by the KTX, South Korea's high-speed train. After arriving, we head to Seogosa Temple for an overnight temple stay experience. During our stay, we take part in aspects of monastic life such as learning about Buddhist traditions, sharing a simple vegetarian temple meal, and spending quiet time in reflection in the peaceful surroundings. This experience offers a unique opportunity to slow down, disconnect from the busy city, and gain insight into Korean spiritual culture.</p>	BLD





Day 6	<p>Deokjin Lake Park & Jeonju Hanji Museum</p> <p>The next day, we check out of our stay at Seogosa Temple and continue exploring Jeonju. We visit Deokjin Lake Park, a scenic lakeside park known for its walking paths, pavilions, and seasonal lotus flowers that create a peaceful natural setting. Later, we explore the Jeonju Hanji Museum, where we learn about hanji, Korea’s traditional handmade paper, and its long history in Korean art, crafts, and daily life.</p>	BLD
Day 7	<p>Hanbok, Bibimbap Cooking Class & Jeonju Hanok Village</p> <p>Today we dive deeper into traditional Korean culture with a morning class that includes Life Etiquette Education and a hanbok experience, where we learn about traditional manners and dress in Korea’s colourful ceremonial clothing. From here, we participate in a bibimbap cooking class, making and tasting Jeonju’s famous dish. In the afternoon, we explore Jeonju Hanok Village, visiting highlights such as Gyeonggijeon Shrine, Hakindang, the charming Slow City area, and the artistic streets of Gaeksagil, soaking in the village’s preserved hanok architecture, quaint alleys, and cultural atmosphere.</p>	BLD
Day 8	<p>Busan & Eulsukdo Ecological Park</p> <p>We take the KTX from Jeonju to Busan, arriving in the coastal city to continue our nature-focused adventure. We visit Eulsukdo Ecological Park, a rich wetland habitat where we enjoy birdwatching, explore river and estuary conservation programs, and learn about local ecology. For a more active experience, we also take a cycling tour around the park, soaking in the scenic riverside views and observing the diverse flora and fauna.</p>	BLD
Day 9	<p>Beach Clean-up & Centum City</p> <p>The next day, we begin with a beach clean-up at Haeundae Beach, contributing to environmental conservation while enjoying the coastal scenery. Afterwards, we explore Centum City, including the BIFF Square area, known for its vibrant atmosphere and the Busan International Film Festival. We end the day with sightseeing and a relaxing beach walk along Haeundae Beach, taking in the views of the ocean and nearby skyline.</p>	BLD
Day 10	<p>Seoul & K-pop Dance Class</p> <p>This morning we take the KTX from Busan back to Seoul, enjoying a fast and scenic journey through South Korea’s countryside. In the afternoon, we dive into a K-pop dance class, where we learn the moves and choreography of popular Korean hits under the guidance of experienced instructors. This fun and energetic session gives us a hands-on experience of K-pop culture, letting us feel the rhythm, style, and performance energy that define Korea’s world-famous music scene.</p>	BLD
Day 11	<p>Seoul - UK</p> <p>Subject to our flight time, we will depart for our onward journey home.</p>	BLD

Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- ATOL financial protection
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination



What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance

A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit: <https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Trees for Life

Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 1



Anyone fit and healthy should be able to actively participate in this trip. There is very little physical activity although you will be expected to carry your own luggage at times. Walking around markets, city tours and such like is common and so you could be spending a few hours on your feet.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

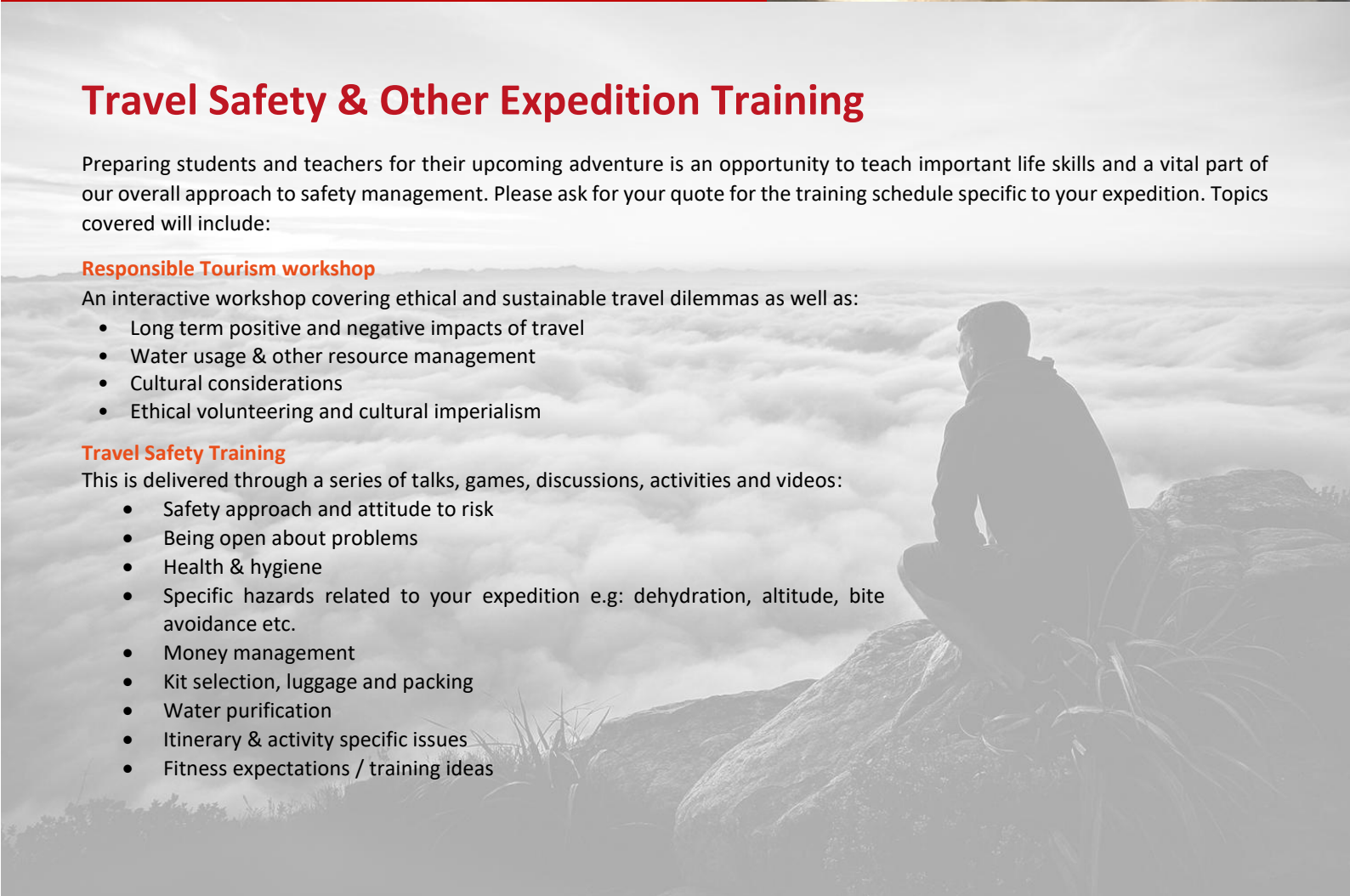
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.



"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

Contact Us:

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Trees for Life

