

So Much To See & Shop In Seoul



Donning a traditional Hanbok and exploring Gyeongbokgung Palace, getting their future's read at Ikseon-dong and another stop at Olive Young to stock up with K-beauty products were among the highlights for the Kiwi agents in Seoul.

After arriving via the KTX train from Busan (which takes less than three hours) the agents had the opportunity to dress up and visit Gyeongbokgung Palace.

Next it was on to shopping up a storm at Ikseon-dong, an incredibly Instagrammable area with shops and themed cafes. The nearby Insa-dong, a street lined with small stores selling Korean antiques and hand-made one of a kind goods, was also a hit with the agents, also home to caricature stalls and coffee shops.

Continuing the shopping theme, Starfield COEX Mall, in the centre of Seoul, offers Korean shops and global brands, as well as a cinema. However the highlight for many here was the Insta-famous Starfield Library, home to giant towers of literature and 50,000 plus books

The group then spent a few hours 'researching' the retail therapy at Myeong-dong, one of the primary shopping districts in Seoul. It offers brand name shops and department stores and both Korean and Western dining options.

. . . Oh The Shopping

When it comes to Seoul, Stacey Leitch from NZTB says she will be urging clients to pre-pay an extra suitcase. "It has been incredible," she says of the shopping in the city. "There's a big variety of items with big discounts, and it's stuff we don't get at home."

Her top picks were Blue Elephant for sunglasses and Olive Young for K-beauty. "They really know their stuff in regards to skincare."

Pictured: Taking a break from shopping and setting sail on an Seoul Cruise across the Hangang River on the final night in Seoul is NZTB's Bridgette Smith-Baillie, Edventure Tours' Rachel Chapman, Stacey Leitch from NZTB, Orbit's Jodie Harker, Crystal Bayliss from Amped4Travel, Travel the World's Rosemary McNoe and Jeeyoon Lee from The Walshe Group, representing KTO, with CTM's Dan Simmonds, in front.

Step Into History



For insight into Korea's history, it's hard to go past Gyeongbokgung Palace, which was built in 1395 as the official palace of the Joseon dynasty. General entry is free, but it's worth paying the around $4, to go past the second gate and explore all of the buildings. Hanbok's (traditional dress) can be rented prior to entering the palace, with options starting at around $14. *Pictured:* At the palace in their Hanboks are Stacey Leitch NZTB and Red Hot Travel & Events' Brooklyn Osman.

Sky High In Seoul



For the chance to take in all that is Seoul from above, and more shopping, Lotte World Tower and Mall is Korea's tallest building, and the world's fifth tallest building. The Kiwi agents visited the observation deck, which offers panoramic views over the city, and explored the luxury department stores in the Lotte World Mall next to the tower. *Pictured*: NZTB's Bridgette Smith-Baillie and Rachel Chapman from Edventure Tours.

Arisu's Packages



Arisu Korea offers options including its signature package, a nine-day full country adventure. Priced from USD2335 per person, it takes in Seoul, Jeonju, Busan and Gyeongju. The price includes five-star twin share accommodations, private transportation and an English-speaking guide. See HERE.

Daily Flights AKL-ICN

Korean Air is boosting its Auckland–Seoul/Incheon route to daily flights for the upcoming northern winter season, running from October 25 through late March.

Passengers traveling between October 25 and December 17 will experience exceptional comfort aboard the next-generation Boeing 787-10. Starting December 18, the airline will introduce its flagship Airbus A350-900, offering passengers an enhanced long-haul journey with upgraded service.

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