

A Joyful Journey

Do You Remember the Excitement of Your First Trip Abroad? Under the gentle Californian sun and soft, warm breeze, a group of happy travelers created memories they will cherish for a lifetime — the students of Heavenly Dream School.

ForWithTo U.S. Travel Project

This past May, ten students had the opportunity to travel across the U.S. West Coast for 13 days, thanks to the generous support of the ForWithTo Foundation. The foundation, known for its wide-ranging social contribution activities, designs travel programs for underprivileged youth to help them experience diverse cultures and grow personally. In particular, Chairman Hyunshik Shim and Director Sunhee Shim hoped that students from North Korean backgrounds would broaden their horizons and encounter a wider world through this U.S. journey. Thanks to their support, diligent students who actively participate in school ministries — including the HDS choir — were gifted with this precious opportunity to travel abroad.

Today is the day of my very first trip abroad. I can't describe how excited I've been. My heart was filled with an overwhelming joy the moment I set foot on American soil. We visited Hollywood, and I couldn't believe I was actually in such a famous place! It was so much fun and made me so happy. For dinner, we were treated to a delicious meal prepared by Buena Park Korean Church. Tomorrow we'll visit more exciting places, so I'd better get some rest. America truly feels like a country full of freedom. I want to enjoy that freedom to the fullest and make as many wonderful memories as I can.

—First day in the U.S., Eun-ye's diary

Hello, America!

<p>5/16 fri</p> <p>Hollywood Griffith Observatory</p>	<p>5/17 sat</p> <p>The Getty Center LA Dodgers VS LA Angel's</p>	<p>5/18 sun</p> <p>Buena Park Church Aquarium of the Pacific Long Beach</p>	<p>5/19 mon</p> <p>Universal Studio</p>
<p>5/20 tue</p> <p>Grand Canyon</p>	<p>5/21 wed</p> <p>Sedona, Chapel of the Holy Cross</p>	<p>5/22 thu</p> <p>Palm Springs, Aerial Tramway, Joshua Tree National Park</p>	<p>5/23 fri</p> <p>San Diego Seaport Village, La Jolla Cove, Balboa Park</p>
<p>5/24 sat</p> <p>Amusement Park</p>	<p>5/25 sun</p> <p>Buena Park Church Knott's Berry Farm</p>	<p>5/26 mon</p> <p>Shopping (Norstrom Rack, Marshall, Walmart)</p>	<p>5/27-28</p> <p>LAX Airport to Incheon Airport</p>



A 90-year-old elder, who shared the same hometown as our students, joyfully and warmly treated us to dinner. Along with a sense of gratitude the students were also reminded of the painful reality faced by countless North Korean defectors and displaced people who still cannot return to their homeland.



Buena Park Korean Church welcomed us with comfortable housing while church members shared their love through delicious meals and thoughtful snacks. In return, the HDS travelers expressed their heartfelt gratitude by offering a special song during the Sunday worship service.



We enjoyed a sentimental camping experience beneath a star-filled sky and the breathtaking night scenery of Joshua Tree National Park. As the sun set, we wrote poems about travel and shared our hearts, deepening our connection with one another.

Special Scenes from the Journey



While we enjoyed the vibrant cities and nature, the trip also included programs for inner growth. Each evening, the students gathered to write in their travel diaries. At first, they simply listed the places they visited, but as days passed, their entries began to reflect personal reflections and heartfelt emotions — a journey of self-discovery.



When one student fell ill, the foundation's chairman drove a long distance to bring rice porridge. When another student was unable to enter the baseball stadium, the director chose to stay outside with them until the end. A young volunteer even took time off work to serve as a driver for the trip. Through these acts of devotion and compassion from Christians who live out God's love, the students learned the true meaning of generosity, consideration, and service — passing on the love they themselves have received from God.



For students born in North Korea and China, a trip abroad was something they could never even dream of. Through this trip, the students gained a broader view of the world and discovered their own worth.

"I have received so many gifts from God. But is it right for me to keep them all to myself? As someone who has been blessed by God's grace, I wanted to pass that love on and share what I have experienced—that's why I

prepared this trip for you. When you return to your daily lives, think deeply about who you want to become, and do your best with what you've been given."

This was the message from the Foundation's Chairman on the last day of the trip. After spending thirteen dreamy days together, we pray that they will remember the love they have received, and as they walk their life's journey, live as God's children who find joy in sharing and giving.