

Free ROK Cultural Immersion Program

Whether you're single, unaccompanied, or stationed with your family in Korea, it can take a few months to get comfortable in your new surroundings. Korea has many exciting activities, a rich cultural history and delicious food to sample, but where do you begin?

The ROK Cultural Immersion Program by the ROK-US Combined Forces Command (CFC) allows you to learn more about the country through travel, culture and cuisine with the help of experienced guides and in a group setting. The program started in 2020 and is open to U.S. service members, UNC troops, GS employees and their families stationed in Korea. This program is sponsored by the Korean government as part of the ROK-US Alliance Strengthening Project. All expenses, including transportation, hotels, meals, and activities, are 100 percent free for eligible participants.

The distinctive feature of this program is that it's specifically

designed for the U.S. military community and UNC troops! So before you sign up, it's crucial to understand its purpose.

This program is not just about leisure or entertainment. It's also focused on providing a comprehensive understanding of Korean history, culture and also security with a military perspective. While exploring some famous destinations, you'll have a great opportunity to learn why you are serving in South Korea and how your service contributes to the national security of this country. It can be a motivating and educational experience. If you are with family, it can be even more enlightening for your kids, helping them understand the relationship with an allied nation and the role of U.S. and UNC troops in Korea.

Also, the knowledgeable Korean guides on this tour provide detailed explanations, and they are ready to answer any question regarding the destinations or anything else about Korea.

-Hyemin Lee



FAQ

Q: How often is it held?

A: The program is conducted 10 times a year in spring and fall, with 200 participants for each session, totaling approximately 2,000 participants annually. During each session, the participants are divided into five groups, each traveling to different provinces on the Peninsula. Additionally, there is a special session held on Jeju Island twice in September.

Q: How can I join?

A: Recruitment of participants is overseen by USFK J1, with slots allocated to USFK components when each session is held. Most participants usually apply for the program when they receive an email regarding the program within their units. However, there's no need to wait. You can simply inquire via email (indopacom.humphreys.usfk.list.usfk-cultural-immersion-program@army.mil) at any time. Please note that obtaining approval from your unit may be necessary, as the program is conducted from Tuesday to Thursday.

Q: Do you need to take leave?

A: No, service members can attend the program without taking leave, as it is conducted with the official approval of USFK. Accompanying children can also participate without being marked absent from school. However, GS employees will need to take leave to attend.

Q: Can I cancel my trip?

A: If, for any reason, you find yourself unable to attend the session that you have applied, it's strongly recommended to inform the point of contact as soon as possible. Occasionally, no-shows happen. Please note that in such cases, it not only wastes the budget, but also takes away the opportunity from those on the waiting list who are eager to join.

Q: Can I attend again?

A: Individuals who have previously participated can apply for another session if there are available spots. However, for the Jeju Island sessions, only those who have never participated before are eligible.



Full story

Key information

Participants: U.S. troops, UNC troops, GS employees and families in Korea.

Duration: 2 nights, 3 days (Tues to Thurs). Sessions: 10 sessions per year (6 in April-May, 2 in October, and 2 Jeju Island sessions in September).

Locations: Seoul-DMZ, East Coast-Seorak Mountain, Jeonju-Yeosu, Gyeongju-Busan and Jeju Island.

Contact: indopacom.humphreys.usfk.list.usfk-cultural-immersion-program@army.mil

Tell us about the trip



Cody Biggs (United States Forces Korea)

"I joined this program with my wife and three kids, and they absolutely loved it. This program has given us opportunities to visit various museums and sites, including the UNMC. I'm honored to be here with

my family while on active duty for the US Army. South Korea is where my grandfather served in the Korean War 70 years ago. I'm very proud of my family's history, knowing that my family contributes to the success of South Korea."



Alejandrina Evans (Special Operations Command Korea)

"I love the fact that families can come with their children. My daughter had the opportunity to experience new things, get exposed to a different culture, and

expand her horizons. I'm thankful to the governments for putting this program together, allowing us to spend quality time with family, experience the beauty of this country, and learn about new cultures, history and places."



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