

Peacemaking Travel Study Seminar

The Conflict in Korea: History, Hopes and Challenges for Peace

November 5-17, 2018

Preliminary Schedule

The following general schedule is provided to give those interested an idea of the travel study seminar content. All items are subject to change.

Day 0: Monday Nov 5

- Depart home airport, travel day

Day 1: Tuesday Nov 6 - Seoul

- Likely Arrival
- Group Introductions/Community Building
- Open Space Processing (*a time for the group to debrief and explore the experiences of the day*)

Day 2: Wednesday Nov 7 – Seoul to Jeju Island

- Community building
- Sessions on Peace, Forgiveness, Racism and 'Orientalism'
- Brief History of Korea in Relation to US History
- Travel to Jeju Island
- Open Space Processing

Day 3: Thursday Nov 8 - Jeju Island

- Session on "Origins of Korean War"
- Visit [4.3 Peace Park](#) - *This park tells the story of an "incident" that grew from a US Military Government crackdown on protests against its elections in 1947 lead to a counter-insurgency campaign by the South Korean military that left an estimated 15,000 dead or disappeared between 1948 and 1950 two years before the Korean War broke out. The group will tour the park, hear the stories, and put the "incident" in the context of US Military Government policies as the Korean peninsula struggled to find independence after liberation from Japanese colonization at the end of World War II.*
- [Seongsan Ilchulbong](#) - *Jeju Island was created by one very large volcano, and Seongsan Ilchulbong is one crater on the edge of the island created by a release point on the side of the volcano. We will visit the crater visitor center and those who wish can climb up one side of the crater for an amazing view of the coastline and sea between Korea and Japan.*
- Open Space Processing

Day 4: Friday Nov 9 - Jeju Island to No Gun Ri

- Travel to [No Gun Ri Peace Park](#) - *This park tells the story of an "incident" during the Korea War when US soldiers began firing on a group of villagers seeking to flee the fighting during the initial invasion of North Korean forces in July of 1950 leaving somewhere between 150 and 300 dead. The director of the Peace Park is also the chair of the campaign seeking to find justice for the victims and survivors of the incident. His mother was under the bridge with what would have been his brother and sister, but only his mother survived. His father, who was not under the bridge, began the campaign for the survivors and victims. We hope to hear about his quest for justice and his hope for healing on both sides of the incident.*

- Tour and visit with No Gun Ri Peace Park director
- Open Space Processing

Day 5: Saturday Nov 10 - No Gun Ri back to Seoul

- Travel to Seoul
- Free time in Seoul for [Gyeongbokgung Palace](#) (or another cultural destination) - *Built in 1395, Gyeongbokgung Palace is also commonly referred to as the Northern Palace because its location is furthest north when compared to the neighboring palaces of Changdeokgung (Eastern Palace) and Gyeonghuigung (Western Palace) Palace. Gyeongbokgung Palace is arguably the most beautiful, and remains the largest of all five palaces. The premises were once destroyed by fire during the Imjin War (Japanese Invasions, 1592-1598). However, all of the palace buildings were later restored under the leadership of Heungseondaewongun during the reign of King Gojong (1852-1919).*
- Arrive in Seoul accommodations
- Open Space Processing

Day 6: Sunday Nov 11 - Seoul

- Worship at various congregations, PCK and PROK
- Evening in [Insadong](#) - *Located in the heart of the city, Insadong is an important place where old but precious and traditional goods are on display. There is one main road in Insadong with alleys on each side. Within these alleys are galleries and traditional restaurants, teahouses, and cafes. The galleries are the heartbeat of Insadong. There are about 100 galleries in the area and you can see every example of traditional Korean fine art from paintings to sculptures. The most famous galleries are Hakgojae Gallery, which functions as the center of folk art, Gana Art Gallery, which promotes many promising artists, and Gana Art Center.*
- Open Space Processing

Day 7: Monday Nov 12 - Seoul

- Peace talks with partners
- NCKK - [National Council of Churches in Korea](#) - *Ecumenical council of the main Protestant denominations in South Korea. We will meet with their Reconciliation and Unification Committee, which works on advocacy for peaceful resolution of the Korean conflict and maintains a relationship with the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) of the DPRK (North Korea) holding consultations with them every year.*
- PCK - [Presbyterian Church of Korea \(Tonghap\)](#) - *The PCK (Tonghap) is the largest Presbyterian denomination in Korea of about 2.2 million members. It is the institution that remains from the first Presbyterian denomination founded in Korea with the help of Presbyterian missionaries, from which over 100 denominations of split off. The PCK has been the longest partner with the PC(USA)*
- PROK - [Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea \(Gijang\)](#) - *The PROK (Gijang) formed after a split with the PCK (Tonghap) in 1952 at which time it also split from our PC(USA) partnership. We became partners again at a later date.*
- Meeting at the PC(USA) Seoul Office
- Open Space Processing

Day 8: Tuesday Nov 13 – To Cheorwon and back to Seoul

- Travel to [DMZ Border Peace School \(BPS\)](#) - *The Border Peace School in Cheorwon was founded by a pastor of the PROK denomination, and is a center for peace learning offering peace studies*

certificates. The school brings in lecturers from former and present conflict areas around the world including Northern Ireland, countries in Africa, and countries in the Middle East. The founder has a dream of establishing border peace schools all along the border some day including on the other side of the border with the DPRK so that South and North Koreans may study peace alongside each other and in each other's contexts. The Border Peace School will soon become a partner with the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program as we make it one of our volunteer placement locations within the Korea YAV Program site.

- Intro to BPS
- Workshops on Peace Education
- Return to Seoul (needs to be before or much after rush hour)
- Open Space Processing (or before return)

Day 9: Wednesday Nov 14 - Seoul

- Discussions on Peacemaking in Korea
 - History of meetings with KCF & Christian Witness to Peace
 - Peace Treaty Campaign
 - Hope for dialogue
- Open Space Processing

Day 10: Thursday Nov 15 Yongin and back to Seoul

- Small Group processing - "What can come out of this learning experience?"
- Afternoon at [Yongin Korean Folk Village](#) (cultural viewing) - *Korean Folk Village introduces traditional culture from the late Joseon period to both local and international visitors through cultural classes experience, shaman faith, seasonal customs and others. Also, the village shows various places with unique features such as a farming village, private house, official districts, Confucian academy, seodang (village school), and a village street in realistic descriptions, as well as, a nobleman's house and traditional workshop.*
- Open Space Processing

Day 11: Friday Nov 16 - Seoul

- Groups report-in on processing from day earlier
- Work on report/document or statement
- Finalize statements or covenants for continuing the work
- Open Space Processing

Day 12: Saturday Nov 17

- Depart Korea for international flights (or additional personal travel)