

Visit to South Korea, September 2009

The 25th Anniversary gathering of The Olave Baden-Powell Society was held in Seoul from 10th to 13th September 2009. The Society supports the Mission of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS): to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

Over 260 participants from all over the world attended the event including the Society's Patron, HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark. The gathering was held at the Silla Hotel, with a membership ceremony being held at the national museum – the first time the venue had been used for such a purpose by a non-Governmental organisation. Some time was given to sightseeing and visits were arranged to Changdeokgung Palace, Insa Dong and the headquarters of Girl Scouts of Korea.



A special 25th anniversary dinner was held at the Silla Hotel, attended by over 400 people at which we were superbly entertained with Korean song and dance, the highlight being a fantastic Korean singing group called Uangel Voice.

Girl Scouts of Korea were the hosts to the event and volunteers provided a fantastic experience of the friendliness and efficiency of the South Korean people.

After the main event, a number of visitors went on arranged tours and my husband and I joined about 20 other people on a three day visit to Gyeongju. We travelled by train from Seoul, a very comfortable and impressive two hour journey. We were met off the train by a welcoming party from Girl Scouts of Korea, and given over 3 days the most fantastic experience of Korean food, culture, history and modern day life.

The tour included Cheomseongdae Observatory, Seokguram Grotto, Gyeongju Expo Park, Bulguksa Temple and Bunhwangsa Temple.





Our overall impression of South Korea was of a hidden jewel. We felt safe, welcome and comfortable and were particularly impressed with the cleanliness of the place and the enthusiasm of the young people to be educated and excel in the arts such as music and dance. Moral standards

seemed high and the country gave a definite air of prosperity and development whilst having a fascinating history, well preserved and a source of pride.

We would thoroughly recommend anyone to visit South Korea and hope to revisit ourselves one day.

Anne and Clive Lambert-Beeson
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