



▲ (Left) Sherry Shroff in South Korea; and Noona's Noonchi tours at the light house in Pohang. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



stay in a *hanok* (a traditional Korean house).

The idea for a tour, she says, was born out of extensive research and conversations with the members of her online K-drama club on Facebook. "Partnering with a local company like Goodmate Travel, also ensures the ease of travel and information. There is a big difference between travelling as a tourist and wanting to experience things from a local perspective, and my tour hopes to give the authentic experience with the emphasis not just on dramas, but Korean culture and food," she adds.

Over the years, with newer shows and movies releasing, filming locations have enjoyed the spotlight. Following the release of the 2019 Academy Award-winning film *Parasite*, many travel companies offered tours of the houses where the film was shot.

While planning a recent holiday to South Korea, Sonali Pawar, a Delhi resident says that her itinerary was largely motivated by places she had

**A K-Drama guide to explore South Korea**

- Bukchon Hanok Village, Seoul - *Personal Taste, My Roommate is a Gumiho, 2 Days and 1 Night*
- Dongdaemun Design Plaza, Seoul - *Vincenzo, Love Alarm*
- COEX Starfield Library, Seoul - *Record of Youth*
- Cheonggyecheon Stream, Seoul - *Lovestruck in the city, Queen of Tears, See you in my 19th life*
- Spacewalk, Pohang - *Destined with you*
- Forest of Wisdom Library, Paju City - *It's okay to not be okay, What's wrong with secretary Kim*

seen in K-dramas, even if not the exact locations or shooting spots. "The vibrant streets of Itaewon, the ivy-covered Yonsei University building, and the Deoksugung palace stonewall, which features in the shows *Run On* and *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* were some of the places I visited," she said.

Apart from checking out popular spots that have a significance to BTS such as Magnate Cafe in Busan, Sonali says, "It truly hit me, about where exactly I was when I went to Pohang, where *Hometown Cha Cha Cha* was shot. It truly felt surreal, to see all these places that I've seen in my favourite shows," she adds.

Given how the enthusiasm for K-dramas does not seem to be dying down anytime soon, if you plan a trip to South Korea, make time to run through the Hanbyeokgul tunnel in Jeonju from *Twenty-Five Twenty-one*, or explore Jumunjin beach where the goblin encounters Ji Eun-tak in *Guardian: Lonely and the Great God*.

# All aboard a K-drama tour

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The feeling of travelling as a group and enjoying these locales as a community is what defines these tour experiences. Content creator and influencer Sherry Shroff, who recently announced a K-drama tour partnering with South Korea-based company Goodmate Travel says that having a group of like-minded people travelling together makes the

experience all the more enriching and exciting.

**The joy of community**  
"I realised that watching K-dramas feels different from other shows, given that we are invested in and aware of so many aspects of the lives of the characters we see – the culture, fashion, and food for instance," Sherry says. On her last trip to South Korea, Sherry says she realised how true this is. "I walked into a convenience store

post midnight to pick up instant ramen, sausages and a nori(seaweed) snack – something I've seen many, many times in my favourite shows," she laughs, describing these smaller experiences that add to the joy of visiting the country.

Sherry's eight day K-Drama tour (priced from \$3,150 onwards) will cover Seoul, Jeonju, Busan and Gyeongju, and include K-drama filming locations, a cooking class experience, and a



**Down memory lane**

The Legacy Gala, organised by the Good Shepherd Convent Alumni Association, is a fun event aimed at building bridges across generations, connecting 100 years of the Chennai-based school's alumni. Highlights will be meet and greet friends and teachers over tea, formal event hosted by alumna Anu Menon (ex. Lola Kutty) followed by a comedy bit, keynote address by Sudha Raghunathan, Padma Shri awardee and alumna, curtain raiser video *A Walk to Remember* by Latha Menon, and singer Shwetha Mohan, alumna, sharing her memories and an impromptu sing-along. A new alumni website will be launched by alumna Praveena Rai (COO, NPCI), felicitation of staff, lucky draw, fun photo booth, campus night rides on buggies to visit iconic spots on the large campus, DJ and dance floor, gala dinner and mementos. Early bird passes for ₹1,600 are on offer till August 5, thereafter for ₹2,000.

On August 10, from 4pm onwards at the school premises on College Road, Nungambakkam. For details, call 8438197919 or email secretary@goodshpherdalumni.org.



**Jungle book**

Planning a long weekend for Independence Day? Aalia Jungle Retreat and Spa, the newest addition to the Claridges Collection, offers special packages. Nestled in a forest reserve near Rajaji National Park in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, this luxurious property provides a sanctuary where guests can disconnect from the hustle and bustle of city life and reconnect with family and friends.

To begin with, there are special meals planned like the Dev Bhoomi thali that features an assortment of regional dishes, including aloo ke gutke, Kumaoni raita, and bhutt ki churkani. To offset the guilt after a large meal, you can also opt for Nature walks curated by the property or if you want to grab a bite amidst the lush foliage, opt for the sunset picnic. There is also horse riding, where you can explore the scenic surroundings on horseback. End the day with invigorating spa therapies on a heated massage bed, and fall asleep to lulling music and the aroma of fragrant oils.

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