

5 helpful Tips for Enjoying Your Time in Korea

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First of all, let me offer a big “congratulations!” to you. You’re about to embark on one exciting adventure during your time with the EPIK program.

Throughout the last 5 months I have taken away so much from this experience. I came here to teach, but have been pleasantly surprised with all that I have learned in return.

I want to offer 5 helpful tips that I wish I could have heard prior to arriving in Korea.

5. Embrace the fact that you don’t know what you don’t know. You will be entering into a new country, workplace and culture the moment you land in Korea. You will soon come to find that there are many differences. Try to fight the urge to see them as good or bad, just see them as different; that is what you’ve come here to experience, after all.

4. Working in Korea isn’t always easy, but it’s always interesting. There is no right way to work. Every culture will do things differently, and Korea is no exception. From communication styles to work habits, you will come to experience, first-hand, how different Korea’s workplace culture can be. Don’t get tied up with all of the things you think are wrong with it; become interested in the unique ways we can accomplish the same goals in different cultures.



3. Stay positive and don’t be discouraged when you feel confused. You are in a new land, and there will be times that you won’t know up from down. Those are the fun moments, enjoy them. There is nothing quite like those first fresh weeks, where you really feel like you’re in a different world. These are the moments you’ll always remember, stay positive and take any confusion or frustration lightly.



2. Have fun in the classroom and enjoy getting to know your students. They'll be so curious and shy around you to begin with. Know that they're rooting for you, and your success. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, we all need to start somewhere. After a few months of teaching you will begin to find your niche in the classroom, so be open to experimenting. Don't

forget to take the advice of your co-teachers should they be so kind to offer you some; take it as constructive criticism that will help improve your teaching skills and confidence levels in the classroom.

1. Korea is a culture built upon respect; come into this experience with lots of it. You are the only person who can control how you will view this experience. Take the bad days with the good days, and remember that if you don't like the way something is, change the way you see it. Use this opportunity to not only learn more about the world, but to learn more about yourself as well.

I wish you nothing but success and happiness during your time in Korea. The EPIK program is an absolute pleasure to be a part of, and Korea is such a beautiful country to explore.

The opportunities in front of you are endless. Welcome to Korea!

