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Sunday, May 4, 2025

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CELEBRITY TRAVEL

VVS spills the tea on traveling the world

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency

South Korea quintet VVS spent time in Japan working on its latest projects. MZMC INC. KOREA CO. LTD

Before VVS even made its April 2025 debut, there was already enough buzz about this international girl group that the quintet was featured in Billboard magazine and CNN. Now, the group is ready to show the world what it can do. The infectiously catchy single "Tea" is accompanied by a cinematic noir music video that includes sword fights, roundhouse kicks and gunbattles. With stunts choreographed by "John Wick" action director Koji Kawamoto, the video showcases the quintet's versatility as both singers and performers.

"It's not like a traditional K-pop video," said group leader Brittney. "All our members are secret agents on their individual missions that lead us to meet each other for the first time in the agency safehouse. 'Tea' presents a double meaning. The first is the literal action of drinking tea. The second is 'spilling the tea,' suggesting that VVS is the tea."

This interview with VVS has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Brittney, when did you live in the U.S.?

Brittney: I was born in South Korea and moved to Orange County, California, when I was young. I lived in the U.S. for about eight years and moved back to Korea when I was 15. At first, I was afraid to go back to Korea to pursue my dream of becoming a K-pop idol. But once I arrived back in Korea, I knew it was the right choice.

Q: You were in Japan to film your music video for "Tea" in Japan. Did you have time to wander around when you weren't working?

Rana: In the mornings, I took walks with Ilee. On the last day, we all went shopping together. Since I'm Japanese, I tried my best to help the members and staff as much as I could.

Q: What childhood trip still stands out?

Ilee: I have vivid memories of traveling to Europe with my family when I was young. Now, I really enjoy and eat Western food well, but back then I was a hardcore Korean food lover. I remember eating at local restaurants in Europe and then rushing back to the hotel to devour rice with seaweed. But I still can't forget how beautiful and amazing the streets of Rome in Italy and the scenery of Jungfrau in Switzerland were. They left a lasting impression on me.

Jiu: I remember the first time I traveled to Busan with my family. It was our first time there, so we visited a market, went to the beach and took photos together. It was such a happy time. I especially remember going to eat gukbap — rice soup — in Busan. It was so delicious that I still remember the taste to this day.

Liwon: When I was young, I used to go to the Korean rivers a lot. I just ran around and played in the water. But I remember bumping into rocks and getting hurt. What I still remember clearly is that we went there with my dad's friends and they let us ride on tubes in the river and gave us delicious food. Those memories are still vivid in my mind!

Q: Where do you recommend tourists visit in Korea?

J: Haenggung-dong (in Suwon)! I live in Suwon, so I used to go there often. Every time I went, it felt so pretty and new, like a fairytale village. There are also tons of great restaurants. I also recommend visiting (Mong Ted Cafe), the house featured in the famous K-drama "Lovely Runner." It's a popular photo spot.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

B: I really want to visit Paris. My mom and sisters went there recently and told me how great it was.

I: I want to visit Bali. I've heard so many people recommend Bali as a great travel destination, so I'm curious about it.

R: I really want to visit the Maldives. I'm scared of the sea, but I love looking at the ocean.

J: Lucerne in Switzerland. I'd love to go there to relax and heal when I'm feeling tired or stressed.

L: Kota Kinabalu (in Malaysia). The scenery there is so beautiful. I want to try everything that Kota Kinabalu has to offer.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

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racing track a little ways northwest of downtown, the one now locked away and waiting for new life. For

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