



For the pop group Ateez, traveling around the world is a huge perk. KQ ENTERTAINMENT

## CELEBRITY TRAVEL

# Energy from tour inspires group

By Jae-Ha Kim  
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The K-pop group Ateez has grown accustomed to breaking barriers. Since launching its career in 2018, the octet has had seven Top 10 albums in the Billboard 200, including two that topped the chart. Its single "Lemon Drop" made its debut on the Billboard Hot 100 in June. And its ongoing world tour includes concerts in stadiums across the United States, as well as ballparks.

All eight members of the group participated from Seoul in this interview that has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: Do you write or work on songs while you're on the road?**

**Hongjoong:** I do write while we're on the road, especially when an idea hits during quiet moments, like late at night in a hotel room. During the European tour, I actually worked on several of the members' solo tracks in the hotel. Being away from the usual studio setting can help me focus differently. Sometimes, the energy from the tour itself becomes inspiration.

**Q: What can you share about "In Your Fantasy," the new all-English track from "Golden Hour: Part 3 'In Your Fantasy Edition'?"**

**Yunho:** We want (our fandom) Atiny to be surprised for sure, but since this is just before the release (on July 11), we

can give a little hint! "In Your Fantasy" is a track that shows a very different energy from "Lemon Drop." It's got a more mature and intense vibe — something that really comes alive on stage.

**Wooyoung:** If "Lemon Drop" was yellow and fresh, "In Your Fantasy" is definitely red. It's sexy, bold and made to heat up the tour stages. We can't wait for everyone to see and hear this new side of us.

**Q: How do you stay in shape while touring?**

**Yeosang:** I try to keep a consistent routine even when we're moving around a lot. I take vitamins regularly and make time for light workouts or stretching. But I think mental care is just as important. Having moments to rest, reset and talk with the members helps a lot. Staying healthy means we can give more to the fans (when we're) onstage.

**Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?**

**Wooyoung:** Anywhere I can ride a bike and take photos freely — maybe somewhere with nice weather and wide open skies. I like places that feel peaceful, where I can relax without thinking too much.

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

**Yeosang:** There are so many places I'd love to see,

but one of them is Greece. I've always imagined what it would be like to see the ocean there, walk along the white buildings and take photos of the scenery.

**Q: When you go away, what are some of your must-have items?**

**Wooyoung:** No matter where I go, I always pack Korean snacks or ramyeon! It just makes me feel at home.

**Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?**

**San:** What stood out wasn't the place we went to, but the fact that we were all together. We laughed, played around and shared more conversations than usual. Even now when things get tough, I find comfort in thinking back to those memories.

**Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?**

**Seonghwa:** How precious each moment is, because it never comes again. Being in unfamiliar places, meeting new people and experiencing different cultures teaches you a lot in ways you don't expect.

**Q: Would you prefer a food truck or fine dining?**

**Jongho:** It doesn't really matter. ... Simple street food or a fancy meal, I just want to enjoy delicious food and the moment that comes with it.

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