



North Korea Spring Budget Tour

TOUR

March 11th – 15th 2024

4 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

March is an important time of year in Korea as the country emerges from the cold winter North Korea climate and into a much warmer, welcoming one. Although still a quiet time for tourism, North Koreans are getting busy in the countryside agricultural work begins in anticipation for the coming spring harvest.

On this tour, we take you to see the main sites of the capital city [Pyongyang](#), including; a ride on the [Pyongyang Metro](#), [Juche Tower](#), [Kim Il Sung Square](#), and a walk down one of Pyongyang's newest streets. We will also head out of Pyongyang to go to [Pyongsong](#), the centre of scientific research and the North-South Korea border [DMZ](#).

This North Korea budget tour helps you get the most for your money on your trip to North Korea. Great for first-timers, or those with little time (or money!), we take you to see the main sites in and outside of Pyongyang. Be warned, there will be little time to for rest on this action-packed itinerary - not that you'll want to, though!

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

MARCH 10 – MONDAY

***Pre-Tour Briefing |** *We require all travellers to attend a pre-tour briefing that covers regulations, etiquette, safety, and practicalities for travel in North Korea. The briefing lasts approximately one hour followed by a question and answer session. Please be punctual for the briefing. You can come early, meet your fellow travellers, and pay any outstanding tour fees. A proper briefing is an essential part of travel to North Korea.*

For this tour, we will hold two briefings. One in the morning for those departing by train this afternoon and the other in the afternoon for those departing by flight the next day.

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*
- **10:00 | Briefing for those departing by train.**

PM

- **16:00 | Briefing for those departing by flight.**
- **17:27 | Train travellers depart Beijing Station** by Chinese domestic sleeper train to [Dandong](#), the Chinese city on the border with North Korea. Please arrange independent travel to the train station and arrive at least an hour and a half early for the train departure.

Overnight | *Hotel in Beijing not included in the tour for those taking the flight the next day. Contact us for recommendations near our office! Those travelling by train will spend the night on the train.*

MARCH 11 – TUESDAY

Arrival day in Pyongyang

AM

- **Train transfer at Dandong Station** from overnight sleeper train to Dandong-Pyongyang local. *Our local representative in Dandong will assist with the transfer. Train crosses the [China-North Korea border](#) followed by North Korean customs and immigration.*

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- Flight departure from **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) Terminal 2** on [Air Koryo flight JS152](#) at 12:55. *A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch ([vegetarian option](#) is subject to availability). **Check-in starts 3 hours prior to departure.***
- **Flight arrival to [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#) (FNJ)** at 15:55. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
- Train arrival to [Pyongyang Railway Station](#) at 18:45.
- **Walk on [Future Scientists' Street](#)** | An evening stroll through one of Pyongyang's newest neighbourhoods.

Overnight | [The Sosan Hotel](#), Pyongyang. A sports-themed hotel located in West Pyongyang's Sports Village. Sports shop, bookstore, numerous bars, spa and small gym. Renovated in 2015.

MARCH 12 - WEDNESDAY

Kaesong City and DMZ Tour

AM

- [Kaesong](#) | Drive south (*2.5 hour drive*) to the historic capital of the medieval Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD). Once located in South Korea, the city changed hands during the Korean War. It is now located just north of the DMZ.
- [Panmunjom and DMZ](#) | The site of the signing of the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War and demarcation line between north and south. On some days it is possible to visit the hut straddling the line, where negotiations between both sides once took place. Here we will be accompanied by military guides from the Korean People's Army.
- [Kaesong Koryo Museum \(Songgyungwan Academy\)](#) | Once the Songgyung Academy, a Confucian school, and now a museum on the Koryo Dynasty exhibiting historical objects, statues, pagodas, and porcelain from that era. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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- [Kaesong Korean Stamp Exhibition Hall](#) | Store selling stamps, postcards, local *ginseng*, souvenirs, art, and more! One of the best postcard collections in the country and friendly staff.
- [Traditional Royal Korean Lunch \(*pangsanggi*\)](#) | A meal made of 12 dishes served in brass bowls fit for the kings of old. The more dishes, the more distinguished the guest! Traditional Korean 'sweet meat soup' is an option here (5 EUR).

PM

- [Janam Hill](#) | Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.
- Drive back to the capital city *via* [Sariwon](#) (2-hour drive) the provincial seat of North Hwanghae Province and a centre of agriculture and industry.
- [Migok Co-Operative Farm](#) | An example of a North Korean co-operative farm. Visit the farm museum, a farmhouse and a viewpoint overlooking the Chaeryong Plains.
- [Sariwon Folk Village and City View](#) | Mock-up of a traditional Korean town which includes a history museum, food street, and pavilions. There is a small tavern selling Makkoli, traditional rice wine. Climb a nearby hill for a view of Sariwon City and the surrounding plains.
- From Sariwon another hour of driving to [Pyongyang](#).
- [Foreign Languages Bookshop](#) | Store selling Korean publications translated into English, German, French, Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. Also pick up DVDs, postcards, and small works of art.
- [Kwangbok Department Store](#) | Shop with the citizens of Pyongyang and exchange for Korean currency! Try the snack stands for some of Pyongyang's best local eats.

Overnight | Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang

MARCH 13 - THURSDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- [Kumsusan Palace of the Sun](#) | Mausoleum of the DPRK leadership where President Kim Il Sung and Leader Kim Jong Il lie in state and the most

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solemn location in the country. **Visitations are by special request only and formal dress is required.** Men require collared shirt with tie, dark non-jean pants, and dark shoes. Women require covered shoulders, knee-length dress or pants, and closed toed shoes. The visit will take most of the morning and visitors are asked to bow a number of times inside. This is a state administered site and visits are subject to local conditions.

- [Mansudae Grand Monument](#) | Enormous bronze statues of President Kim Il Sung and Leader Kim Jong Il overlooking downtown Pyongyang. A presentation of flowers and bow by the group is customary here (5 EUR). Please note this is a government-administered sight and visits are subject to cancellation. Visits are optional and require a certain dresscode (close-toed shoes and covered legs and shoulders).

PM

- [Pyongyang Metro Tour](#) | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. Ride six stations on the Chollima Line.
- [Arch of Triumph](#) | A 60-m archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule and larger than its counterpart in Paris.
- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum](#) | Tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guide. Renovated in 2012 and it exhibits the Korean War from the DPRK perspective containing artefacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and captured equipment from the US military, including the [USS Pueblo](#). Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.
- [Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace](#) | Tour one of Pyongyang's centres of extracurricular excellence with study rooms for fine arts, dance, sports, and music, then watch a spectacular performance put on by the students.
- [Pyongsong](#) | A satellite city of Pyongyang and centre of scientific research. A 45-minute to 1-hour drive.

Overnight | [Jangsusan Hotel](#), Pyongsong. The only hotel in Pyongsong open for tourists, an excellent bar with one of the best bartenders in the DPRK makes this hotel one of the most fun in the whole country! Basic facilities with fairly reliable electricity and hot water. Billiards, karaoke, haircut, and outdoor eateries in summer.

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MARCH 14 – FRIDAY

Pyongsong and Pyongyang City Tours

AM

- [Pyongsong City Square](#) | Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary museum. Presentation of flowers customary.
- [Kim Jong Suk Higher Middle School](#) | One of the DPRK's top middle schools for gifted students, tourists are encouraged to help teach an English class!
- [Paeksong Revolutionary Site](#) | Location of Kim Il Sung University during the Korean war. Tour the old classrooms and hear about how students lived during the war.

PM

- [Pyongyang](#) | Return to the capital. *45 minute to 1-hour drive.*
- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.
- [Monument to the Party Foundation](#) | Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which represent the workers, farmers, and intellectuals that make up the Worker's Party of Korea.
- [Tower of the Juche Idea](#) | Iconic tower dedicated to the DPRK's guiding philosophy and located on the Taedong River. Take the elevator to the top for great views of the city (*elevator ticket is 5 EUR*).
- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A bar serving seven types of beer. Popular with locals after work and on weekends. Best place to drink pints with local people.
- [Golden Lane Bowling Centre](#) | Where Pyongyang locals go for their ten-pin fix (*2.5 EUR per person per game*). Also has billiards and arcade games. Non-bowlers can head next door to the [Kumrung Leisure Centre](#) for an air gun shooting range (*approximately 6 EUR per 20 round cartridge*) and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang.
- **Farewell Dinner** | We'll enjoy a final group dinner at the Golden Lanes Bowling Centre's bulgogi BBQ restaurant.

Overnight | Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang

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MARCH 15 - SATURDAY

*Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please confirm your preferred transport method upon booking**

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS151** at 08:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55.

OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Sunday March 16 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

End of Tour

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