



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY MINI BREAK

### TOUR

February 15 - 17 2018  
2 nights in the DPRK

### OVERVIEW

Here's your chance to escape the chaos of Beijing for a mini-break over the Chinese New Year holiday and experience a city tour of Pyongyang combined with joining in for the celebrations for one of the DPRK's biggest holidays - the 76th birthday of General Kim Jong Il on February 16th.

Join in the celebrations over one of the biggest holidays in the DPRK's calendar - the 76th birthday of General Kim Jong Il on February 16th. Many special events are expected to take place in Pyongyang over this time such as the Kimjongilia Flower Exhibition, a performance of the Pyongyang Circus and a Mass Dance - come along and join in!

This tour can be combined with our Mongolia: Land of the Winter Horse Tour (February 19-22).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 76th Birthday Celebrations on February 16th
- Kimjongilia Flower Exhibition, Juche Tower, Party Foundation Monument, Pyongyang Metro

*Please note that the itinerary may differ slightly to what is below but your tour leader will do their best to ensure that as much is covered as possible and will also add in extras when there is time such as a visit to a local bar or a funfair. We visit the DPRK regularly and know all the best places to go to make your trip even more unique. We will make the most of your time in the DPRK to guarantee the experience of a lifetime.*

**The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.**

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27 Bei Sanlitun Nan, Chaoyang District, 100027, Beijing, China



## DAILY ITINERARY

### FEBRUARY 14 – WEDNESDAY (BRIEFING DAY)

#### AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*

#### PM

- **16:00: Our group assembles for a pre-tour group briefing at the Koryo Tours office in Beijing.** This briefing will last approximately one hour and designed so that you will get the most out of your tour. It will cover travel etiquette, safety, and practicalities for travel in the DPRK. Have your last minute questions answered and meet your fellow travellers. *Please be punctual - you can come early, pay any outstanding tour fees and browse our collection of Korean art.*

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Beijing not included in the tour. Contact us for recommendations near our office!*

### FEBRUARY 15 – THURSDAY (ARRIVAL IN PYONGYANG)

#### AM

- **Free bus** from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2. *Exact time TBC at the pre-tour briefing. Alternatively meet the group at the Air Koryo check-in counter.*

#### PM

- Flight departure from Beijing on **Air Koryo flight JS 252** at 14:05. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at 16:35. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and USS Pueblo** - We'll tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guide. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of Korean War from the DPRK perspective containing artifacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and captures equipment from the US military, including the spyship USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.
- **Mansugyo Beer Bar** - A new standing bar serving seven type of beer (50 cents a pint). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

#### Overnight:

**The Sosan Hotel** - A sports-themed hotel located in West Pyongyang's Sports Village. Sport shop, bookstore, numerous bars, spa, and small gym. Renovated in 2015.

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**FEBRUARY 16 – FRIDAY (DPRK HOLIDAY - BIRTHDAY OF GENERAL KIM JONG IL)**

**AM**

- **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 dress code (close-toed shoes and covered legs and shoulders).* Here we will also see the **Chollima Monument**, or 'thousand ri (400 km or 250 mile) horse' - a symbol of speed - commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950's following the Korean War.
- **Kimilsungia and Kimjongillia Flower Exhibition** - Exhibit of the two flowers named after the DPRK's leaders and held on the occasion of their respective birthday anniversaries in February and April. See organisations and groups from across society compete to put on the best floral display.
- **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 on the Taedong River. Take the elevator to the top for great views of the city (elevator ticket is 5 EUR).
- **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** - Massive archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.

**PM**

- **Kim Il Sung Square** - Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
- **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.
- This afternoon we will have the chance to attend one or more special performances held specially to commemorate the birthday of Kim Jong Il, ranging from the **Paekdusan International Figure Skating Competition** to a **Synchronised Swimming Display, the Symphony Orchestra or the State Circus** - all of these performances are stunning and usually involve an entrance fee of approx. 20 EUR each.
- **Mass Dance** - As it's a national holiday, we also expect to see large student organised dances held around Pyongyang on major holidays (weather dependent). Join in the fun!

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- **Kwangbok Department Store** - Exchange for Korean currency and shop with the citizens of Pyongyang! Try the snack stand on the first floor for some of Pyongyang's best local eats.
- **Golden Lanes Bowling Centre** - Where Pyongyang locals go for their ten-pin fix. Also has billiards and arcade games. Non-bowlers can head next door to the **Kumrung Leisure Centre** for an airgun shooting range and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang.
- Farewell group dinner at the **Bowling Centre's bulgogi BBQ restaurant**.

**Overnight:** Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

### **FEBRUARY 17 – SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)**

#### **AM**

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS151** at 08:25 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55.

#### **End of Tour**

#### **OR**

Extend and join our **Mongolia: Land of the Winter Horse Tour** (February 19-23) to see the country's breathtaking landscape and traditional life on the grasslands.

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## TOUR PACKAGE

### INCLUDED

- Flight Beijing - Pyongyang - Beijing
- All meals on the tour
- Hotel accommodation
- Two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- For groups of 10 or more, a Koryo Tours tour leader
- All transportation in the DPRK

### NOT INCLUDED

- DPRK visa fee
- Optional single room supplement
- Tips for the local Korean guides and driver
- Optional activities such as the lift up the Juche Tower (5 EUR) or a visit to the funfair (approx. 2 EUR entrance fee per person)
- Entry tickets for special events if applicable - for example Pyongyang Circus (approx. 20 EUR per person)
- Meals include a complimentary beer and water, but you will need to purchase extra drinks if needed
- Spending money for souvenirs

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## ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Please note that when on tour your day-to-day itinerary may differ to what is advertised above. Your tour leader will ensure, however, that everything available at the time is covered, and replacement options are provided where needed. We will also add in extras when there is time (such as a visit to a local bar or amusement park).
- We visit the DPRK regularly so know all the best places to go, and how to make the most of your days there to guarantee the experience of a lifetime.
- After the tour, we will send out a list of all participants' emails so you can keep in touch, swap photos etc. If you do not wish to be on this list then please let us know.
- Groups will be in the experienced hands of two or three local Korean guides. Furthermore, for groups of 10 or more, a member of the Koryo Tours team will accompany the trip.

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