



Koryo Returners Marathon Tour from Beijing

TOUR

April 6 – 11/12, 2017
5 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

OVERVIEW

Exclusively designed for return customers - run the Pyongyang Marathon and visit places you certainly have not seen before!

Specially designed for those who have visited the DPRK previously, this tour takes in some places that very few visitors make it to, and some brand new attractions opening soon too. The tour will take you to Hoechang, a town north of Pyongyang which has only been visited by a handful of foreigners. As part of the Hoechang experience, you'll visit a chestnut factory and stay in the charming Hoechang Guesthouse!

HIGHLIGHTS

- PYONGYANG MARATHON!
- The rarely visited town of Hoechang
- Full Pyongyang Metro ride

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.

info@koryotours.com | +86 10 6416 7544 | www.koryotours.com
27 Bei Sanlitun Nan, Chaoyang District, 100027, Beijing, China

DAILY ITINERARY

APRIL 5 – WEDNESDAY (BRIEFING DAY)

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*

PM

- **Time TBC: 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 travelers. *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!*

APRIL 6 – 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 JS252** at 2pm. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at TBC time. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **Arch of Triumph** - A massive archway made for the 70th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.

OVERNIGHT

We'll be staying in a mid-range hotel located in central Pyongyang, not far from the Grand Theatre and Kim Il Sung Square. Basic, but comfortable facilities.

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APRIL 7 – FRIDAY (HOECHANG TOUR)

AM

- Drive north to **Hoechang** (*approx. 2 hrs drive* depending on road conditions) along winding roads through deep countryside, remote villages and really wonderful scenery
- Stop at a **Chestnut Factory**, where goods such as oils and foodstuffs are made
- Upon arrival in Hoechang we'll visit the **Chinese Army Cemetery** – Chinese-built tasteful hillside graveyard of significant Chinese Volunteer Army officers, with a bust of Chairman Mao's son (who was killed in the war) at the front, offers a good view of the city.

PM

- **Former Volunteer Army Military HQ** – an area made up of restored 1950s huts and some cave complexes used at the time as the HQ of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. Visited by Kim Il Sung at the end of the war. Hear all the stories here!

OVERNIGHT

Hoechang Guesthouse - basic but clean hotel just on the edge of town next to the local theatre and directly below the monument to the burial mounds of the Chinese Revolutionaries. Hot water not guaranteed but a sound night away from the bustle of Pyongyang guaranteed! Downstairs reception desk that can be turned into a bar.

APRIL 8 – SATURDAY (PYONGYANG SIGHTS)

AM

- Drive back to Pyongyang stopping off for photos at scenic spots on the way!
- **Ride the full Pyongyang Metro** - one of the deepest metro systems in the world One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. Ride the full length of both lines, stopping at every station to get the full experience!

PM

- **Pyeonghwa Motor dealership** - the only dealership for the DPRK's very own Pyeonghwa Motor cars, made at the joint venture car factory outside the nearby city of Nampo . Get some rare souvenirs here!

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- **Pyongyang International Football Academy** - Premier football school for young and promising athletes. Tour the facilities and learn about the history of football in the DPRK.
- **May Day Stadium** - We'll tour the grounds and facilities of one of the world's largest stadiums, once used for the DPRK's Arirang Mass Games and now major sports events.

OVERNIGHT

Mid-range hotel in central Pyongyang.

APRIL 9 – SUNDAY (PYONGYANG MARATHON)

The big event! The Pyongyang Marathon!

AM

- **The Pyongyang Marathon** — this is your chance to run the streets of Pyongyang in the DPRK's largest annual sports event!

Join the Full Marathon, Half Marathon or 10km race — all of which follow a return course that starts and ends in Kim Il Sung Stadium in front of a 50-000-strong capacity crowd of local Koreans.

The full route, which has been certified by the IAAF, leads right through the city centre, past a number of iconic landmarks, and then out into Pyongyang's less urban districts. The route for 2017 is a first for this race, and takes in more parts of the city than ever before. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to see more of the capital and interact with people along the course. Prizes are available for the winners of each race.

PM

- **Walk in the city centre** – After lunch and a rest at the hotel, we'll continue the tour with a walk in the city centre to cool down.
- **Local Beer Bar** - Relax at a local bar to wrap up an exciting day.

OVERNIGHT

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APRIL 10 – MONDAY (PYONGYANG SIGHTS)

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). 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.
- **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.
- **Kim Il Sung Square**- Pyongyang’s central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People’s Study House.

PM

- **Kwangbok Department Store** – Opportunity to use 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.
- **Moran Beer Bar** – A recently renovated local bar with cheap brews (0.5-1 EUR a glass)
- **Farewell dinner in the Diplomatic Club** – A leisure complex with restaurant, swimming pool, bar, karaoke, billiards, and banquet hall for foreigners residing and visiting Pyongyang. Open late!

OVERNIGHT

Mid-range hotel in central Pyongyang.

APRIL 11 – TUESDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

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

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS151** with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 10:00am. *Please note there is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.*

OR

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- Train departure by **local train to the Korean-Chinese border** at 10:10, transfer in **Dandong** and onward travel to Beijing with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Wednesday April 12th at 08:30. *We typically book soft sleeper (four beds per cabin) for the return journey. Please note that in some rare instances, soft sleeper tickets may sell out and we will book hard sleeper (six beds per cabin) instead.*

End of Tour

TOUR PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- Flight Beijing - Pyongyang
- Train Pyongyang - Beijing
- All meals on the tour (apart from on the train back to Beijing)
- Hotel accommodation in the DPRK
- A Koryo Tours tour leader, two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- All transportation in the DPRK

NOT INCLUDED

- Marathon race fees – 50 EUR for the 10km race; 70 EUR for the half marathon; 100 EUR for the full marathon
- DPRK visa fee
- Optional flight back to Beijing at end of the tour
- 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
- SINUIJU EXTENSION: RMB 50 for the bus across the bridge to Dandong to be paid on the spot to the local guides

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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.

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