



KORYO BUDGET TOUR (MARCH) FROM DANDONG

TOUR

March 13 - 17 2018
4 nights in the DPRK

OVERVIEW

Koryo Budget Tours are basic introductory tours for the frugal traveller in search of adventure.

This no-frills alternative to our more advanced tours offers a great way to see a tightly edited package of the country's most interesting sights, including a city tour of Pyongyang and a visit to the DMZ, where North and South Korea continue their decades-old face-off.

You'll also visit the lively town of Pyongsong, where you can jump in on an English Language class at Kim Jong Suk Middle School and see a performance by talented young pupils at Pyongsong Conservatory of Performing Arts. Whilst in Pyongyang, you will be staying at the Sosan Hotel, a newly renovated hotel on Sports Street.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kumsusan Memorial Palace (Mausoleum of leaders), captured spy ship USS Pueblo and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ - the border with South Korea
- Kim Jong Suk Middle School and other Pyongsong highlights

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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DAILY ITINERARY

MARCH 12 – MONDAY (BRIEFING DAY)

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Dandong.*

PM

- **This evening our group assembles for a mandatory pre-tour group briefing at a to be confirmed time and location.** 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.*

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

MARCH 13 – TUESDAY (ARRIVAL IN PYONGYANG)

AM

- **Meet at the Dandong train station at TBC Time** and board the train bound for Pyongyang departing at 09:25. After crossing into the DPRK at Sinuiju, the morning and afternoon will be spent traveling through the countryside of North and South Pyong'an Provinces.

PM

- **Arrival to Pyongyang Station at 17:30** where local Korean guides will be waiting for us and the tour begins!
- **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.
- Meet the rest of the group in the evening for dinner.

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.

MARCH 14 – WEDNESDAY (KAESONG AND DMZ TOUR)

AM

- Drive 160 km south on the 'Reunification Highway' to **Kaesong**, historic capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarised Zone. *2.5 hour drive.*

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- **Panmunjom Armistice Village 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** - 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.
- **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

- Drive back to Pyongyang via **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.
- **Monument to the Three-Charters of the Reunification** - Iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between Koreas, north and south. Also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.
- **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

Overnight: Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

MARCH 15 - 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 solemn location on the itinerary. *Please note 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. Cancellations are rare but possible.*
- **Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery** - Hilltop cemetery with dozens of bronze busts of those who took part in the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. It is customary to present flowers here.

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- **Mansudae Fountain Park** - The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient, socialist, and modern architecture.
- **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.

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** - Massive archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.
- **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 with 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.
- **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.
- Drive north to **Pyongsong**, a satellite city of Pyongyang and centre of scientific research. A 45 minute to 1 hour drive.

Overnight:

Jangsusan Hotel - 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.

MARCH 16 - FRIDAY (PYONGSONG & 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.

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- **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!
- **Pyongsong Arts School** - local school focusing on talents in the performing and visual arts, see an excellent performance here.

PM

- **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.
- Drive back to Pyongyang. *45 minute - 1 hour drive.*
- **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*).
- **Mangyongdae Native House** - Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.
- **Maeri Shooting Range** - Shoot at targets with low calibre sports pistols and rifles in the facility that trained Olympic medallists. Pay by the bullet (*0.50 -1 EUR*) depending on the type of gun and target.
- **Taedonggang Bar No. 3** - Upscale bar across the street from the Tower of the Juche Idea. There are a variety of beers on tap produced at Pyongyang's Taedonggang Brewery outside of town (*2-2.5 EUR per glass*).
- Farewell dinner at South Pyongyang's **Duck Barbecue Restaurant**.

Overnight: Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

MARCH 17 – SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

AM

- Train departure at 10:10 with scheduled arrival in **Dandong on the DPRK-China border** the same day at 17:30. *This journey through the northwest of Korea typically travels in hard sleeper cars.*

End of Tour

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TOUR PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- Train Dandong - Pyongyang - Dandong
- All meals on the tour apart from the meals on the train back to Beijing
- 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 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

- 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.
- 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.
- Our Budget Tours are capped at 25 people per group.
- Please note that we are unable to offer any discounts on this particular tour, including students and groups.

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