



PYONGYANG 2018: SEE NORTH KOREA AFTER THE OLYMPICS

TOUR

March 1 - 6/7 2018

5 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

OVERVIEW

Going to Pyongchang for the 2018 Winter Olympics? After the closing ceremony in Pyongchang, why not come north and see Pyongyang. This special tour combines highlights of the DPRK with sports-related locations and activities.

See Pyongyang's massive May Day Stadium, kick around with the students of the national youth football academy, cycle around Pyongyang, and learn about Korea's traditional martial art, Taekwondo. We'll also take on a local company team in a friendly, but competitive, match of volleyball!

The trip will also visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the mausoleum of the DPRK leadership, and the DMZ for a chance to revisit South Korea, if only momentarily.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour Pyongyang's sport facilities, including the massive May Day Stadium and the Pyongyang International Football Academy
- Volleyball match against a local company team
- A demonstration of Taekwondo, Korea's national martial art
- Ride on the Pyongyang Metro, visit the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ - the demarcation line between North and South Korea
- City cycling for the first twenty to book the tour

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.

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

DAILY ITINERARY

FEBRUARY 28 – 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!*

MARCH 1 – 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.
- **Kim Il Sung Square** - Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
- **Walk in downtown Pyongyang** - Stretch your legs with on this walk in central Pyongyang past ministries, museums, and monuments.

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 2 – FRIDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR)

AM

- **Mansudae Fountain Park** - The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens afterschool 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). *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.
- **Pyongyang International Football Academy** - Premier football school for young and promising athletes. We’ll 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.
- **Okryugwan** - A meal at Pyongyang’s most famous restaurant. Housed in a huge traditional building on the banks of the Taedong River. Okgyuwan specialises in Pyongyang Cold Noodles, a local dish.

PM

- **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 artifacts, 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.
- **Sports Equipment Factory** - A special visit to a factory that produces sporting goods.
- **Maeri Shooting Range** - Shoot at targets with low caliber sports pistols and rifles in the facility that trained Olympic medalists. Pay by the bullet (0.50 - 1 EUR) depending on the type of gun and target.
- **Mansugyo Beer Bar** - A standing bar serving seven type of beer (50 cents a pint). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

Overnight: The Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang

MARCH 3 – SATURDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR - SPORTS)

AM

- **Optional early morning run on Sports Street** - Wake up early for a run past stadiums and sports halls, architecture of which reflects the sports played within.
- **Changgwangwon Health Complex** - a huge health and leisure facility with Olympic-sized pool, barber shops, beauty salons, massage, and saunas. Leave feeling ten years younger, locals say! Tickets for activities (3-10 EUR) purchased on the spot. One of our favorites!
- **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 made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.

PM

- **City Cycling** - Tour downtown Pyongyang on a bike (please note that bicycles are limited to 20 spots)
- **Ice Skating or Bowling** - See what the locals are up to on a Saturday night at the ice rink (3-5 EUR) and bowling alley (2.5 EUR per person per game). Ping pong and air gun shooting are also available nearby.

Overnight: The Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang

MARCH 4 – SUNDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR AND KOREAN SOCIETY)

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.*
- **Lunch at the hotel** and a chance to change into more comfortable clothes.

PM

- **Taekwondo Demonstration** - See a small demonstration of the Korean martial art Taekwondo.
- **Monument to the Party Foundation** - Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which make up the emblem of the Worker's Party of Korea and represent workers, farmers, and intellectuals.

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- **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 5 EUR for great views of the city.
- 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.

Overnight:

Janamsan Hotel - A basic hotel similar to those found in the DPRK's smaller cities. Friendly staff, cool decorations, great local dessert and within walking distance of Sonjuk Bridge.

MARCH 5 - MONDAY (KAESONG AND DMZ TOUR)

AM

- **Sonjuk Bridge** - Small stone bridge built in 1290 which was the site of the assassination of loyal Koryo Dynasty minister Jong Mong Ju.
- **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. Time permitting.
- **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. Time permitting.
- **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 **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'.
- **Volleyball Match** - Take on the team of a local company in a friendly volleyball match.
- Farewell dinner at South Pyongyang's **Duck Barbecue Restaurant**.

Overnight: The Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.



MARCH 6 – TUESDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

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

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. Please note there is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.

OR

- Train departure by **local day to Dandong** at 10:10, train transfer in Dandong to sleeper train with onward travel to Beijing. Scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Wednesday March 7 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

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TOUR PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- Flight Beijing - Pyongyang
- Train Pyongyang - Beijing
- 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
- Skiing extension
- 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.
- This tour is capped at 20 persons per group.
- 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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