



APRIL BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND BUDGET TOUR

TOUR

April 14 - 17/18 2018
3 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

OVERVIEW

April 15th is one of the biggest holidays in the DPRK calendar - the 106th birthday of President Kim Il Sung. We'll make sure that we're in Pyongyang this day, soaking up the atmosphere and joining in the birthday celebrations with the locals!

Our 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. Whilst in Pyongyang, you will be staying at the Sosan Hotel, a newly renovated hotel on Sports Street.

Please note that we are unable to offer any discounts on this particular tour, including students and groups.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 106th Birthday Celebrations on April 15th
- Kumsusan Memorial Palace (Mausoleum of the leaders), captured spy ship USS Pueblo and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ - the border with South Korea

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 13 – FRIDAY (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!*

APRIL 14 – SATURDAY (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 152** at 13:05. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at 15:35. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **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.
- **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.

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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APRIL 15 – SUNDAY (THE DAY OF THE SUN, ONE OF THE DPRK’S LARGEST HOLIDAY. APRIL 15, 2018 IS THE 106TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG)

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.*
- **Mangyongdae Native House** - Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.
- **Mansudae Fountain Park** -The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient and modern architecture from different eras.
- **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.
- **Moranbong Park** - Picnic lunch and a stroll in Pyongyang’s central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports. The park is filled with historic pavilions, walls, and monuments - modern and ancient, a few of which are among the traditional ‘Eight Great Sights of Pyongyang’.

PM

- **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.
- **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.
- **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*).
- **Mass Dance** - As it's a national holiday, we expect to see large student organised dances held around Pyongyang on major holidays (*weather dependent*). Join in the fun!

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

Overnight:

Janamsan Hotel – A basic hotel similar to those found in the DPRK's smaller cities. Ideal for those who do not want to sleep on the floor or want limited hot water. Friendly staff and within walking distance of Sonjuk Bridge.

APRIL 16 – MONDAY (KAESONG CITY AND DMZ TOUR)

AM

- **Janam Hill** – Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.
- **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).
- **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.

PM

- Drive back to **Pyongyang** with a stop at the **Monument to the Three Charters of Reunification**, a large stone archway over the highway memorializing joint agreements between north and south. 2.5 hour drive.
- **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.

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- **Kim Il Sung Square** – Pyongyang’s central square lined with government ministries, museums and The Grand People’s Study House, Korea’s national library. See the centre of it all!
- **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.
- **Mansugyo Beer Bar** – A new standing bar serving seven type of beer (50 cents a pint). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!
- **Duck Barbeque Restaurant** – South Pyongyang’s famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.
- **Future Street** – Walk in the newly built residential district for scientists and academics to view its unique modern architecture.

Overnight: The Sosan Hotel

APRIL 17 – 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 08:20 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:50. *Please note there is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.*

OR

- Train departure by **international sleeper train to Beijing** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Wednesday April 18 at 08:38. *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 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.

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