



DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL WEEKEND TOUR

TOUR

June 16 – 19 2018
3 nights in the DPRK

OVERVIEW

This tour is designed for those who are looking for an active weekend in the DPRK during the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival long weekend.

This long weekend getaway is an introduction to the DPRK through outdoor and indoor activities. Early risers can have a morning run on Pyongyang's Sports Street and be overtaken by DPR Korea athletes during their morning training. We'll hang out with the locals in Moranbong Park - a popular place for picnic, drinking sessions, and dancing - on their day off and tour the highlights of Pyongyang by bike before finishing off at Munsu Water Park to relax with the locals.

The tour will also get you to the DMZ the most heavily fortified border on earth and a viewpoint of the Concrete Wall, an anti-tank barrier built in the 1970s by the south across the entire the DMZ. The 45-minute scenic drive from Kaesong will also give you a rare insight to rural North Korea.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride on the Pyongyang Metro, visit the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum
- City Cycling from Kwangbok Department Store through downtown Pyongyang to Munsu Water Park
- 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.

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DAILY ITINERARY

JUNE 15 – 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!

JUNE 16 – 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 12:55. A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at 15:25. 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.

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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JUNE 17 – SUNDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR AND CITY CYCLING)

AM

- Optional morning run for the early risers on **Sports Street** past stadiums and halls whose architecture reflects the sports played within.
- **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 dresscode (close-toed shoes and covered legs and shoulders).* Here we will also see the **Chollima Monument**, or ‘thousand ri [400 mile] horse’ – a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950’s following the Korean War.
- **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.
- **Moranbong Park** – A walk through Pyongyang’s central park through historic monuments, ancient and modern architecture.
- **Mangyondae Native House** – Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.

PM

- **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.
- **City Cycling** - Tour Pyongyang on a bike (*please note that bicycles are limited to 20 spots*) starting from Kwangbok Department Store through downtown Pyongyang to Munsu Water park stopping at:
 - **Kim Il Sung Square** - Pyongyang’s central square lined with government ministries, museum and The Grand People’s Study House, Korea’s national library. See the centre of it all!
 - **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.
 - **Monument to the Party Foundation** – Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which make up the emblem of the

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Worker's Party of Korea and represent workers, farmers, and intellectuals.

- **Munsu Water Park** - We'll take a break at this outdoor and indoor water park with water slides, lap pools, and hot tubs. Bar, coffee shop, and shops for non-swimmers (Entry fee 2 EUR; swimming fee- 10 EUR with suit rental; tennis- 5 EUR).
- **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).

Overnight: Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

JUNE 18 - MONDAY (KAESONG AND THE DMZ)

AM

- Drive 2 ½ hours south along the 'Reunification Highway' to **Kaesong**, ancient capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD) located near today's Korean Demilitarised Zone.
- **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

- **Concrete Wall and view of DMZ** - View of a complex fortification system erected on the southern boundary of the DMZ accompanied by a military guide. The wall is seen as evidence of intent to permanently divide the nation. 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.
- 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.
- **Mansugyo Beer Bar** - A new standing bar serving seven type of beer (50 cents a pint). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

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- Farewell dinner at the **Duck Barbeque Restaurant**, South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.

Overnight: Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

JUNE 19 – 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

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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)
- 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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