



Coast to Coast Tour

TOUR

May 27 – June 3/4, 2017
7 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

OVERVIEW

You're proper start into the summer - from coast to coast on the Korean peninsula!

Get properly started into the summer by joining us for our first time heading from East to West to visit both coasts of the Korean peninsula, enjoying clam BBQs and picnics at beaches and pleasure grounds!

This tour will of course also see the highlights of Pyongyang including amongst others a ride on the city's own metro and a visit to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum as well as getting down to the town of Kaesong and the DMZ where North and South continue their decades-old face-off.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride on the Pyongyang Metro, visit the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ – the border with South Korea
- West coast at Nampo city and the West Sea Barrage at Pi Island
- Picnics and beaches on the beautiful east coast
- Songdowon Schoolchildren's camp at Wonsan

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

MAY 26 – 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 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!*

MAY 27 - 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.
- **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
- **Local Beer Bar** - Stop by one of Pyongyang's beer bars for a taste of the local brew. Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

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OVERNIGHT

Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang - home away from home for most (but not all!) foreign visitors to Pyongyang, this 47-story hotel is located on an island in the middle of the Taedong River and offers great views of the city. Comfortable rooms and comprehensive leisure facilities: swimming pool, spa, billiards, bowling, gift shops, tea houses, beer brewed on-site, and a Chinese-run casino.

MAY 28 - SUNDAY (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). 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.
- **Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum** - 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 USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.

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

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OVERNIGHT

Minsok Folk Hotel - Traditional style hotel where guest sleep on heated floors in Korean-style. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electric supply *-please bring a torch*. Beautiful setting in Kaesong old city with stream running through the center and Ri dynasty furniture.

MAY 29 - MONDAY (KAESONG & DMZ TOUR)

AM

- **Old City Walk and South Gate** - A morning stroll through Kaesong's historic district lined with homes dating back to the late Ri Dynasty to the city's historic South Gate.
- **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

- **Sonjuk Bridge** - Small stone bridge built in 1290 which was the site of the assassination of loyal Koryo Dynasty minister Jong Mong Ju by a son of Ri Song Gye, founder of the next dynasty, in 1392. This bloody act extinguished the Koryo which had ruled over Korea for 474 years and is said to have left a permanent mark on the bridge to this day.
- 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*.

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- After a quick rest stop in Pyongyang drive west along the 'Youth Hero Highway' to **Nampo**, the port city of Pyongyang on the Taedong River estuary. A *45 minute to 1 hour drive*

OVERNIGHT

Ryonggang Hot Spa Hotel - Compound with holiday houses and a main building for dinner and entertainment. Bring a torch! Spa bath in every room with mineral water from the Sindok Spring - the most famous mineral spa in the DPRK. Billiards, karaoke, and ping pong.

MAY 30 - TUESDAY (NAMPO CITY TOUR)

AM

- **Nampo Square** - Central square of Nampo City with statues of the DPRK leadership.
- **West Sea Barrage** - An 8 km concrete, steel, and earthen barrage constructed between the Taedong River estuary and the West Sea for land reclamation, irrigation, flood prevention, and power generation. It also acts as a ship locks and fish ladder. One of the DPRK's greatest engineering feats.
- **Wau Islet** - Scenic spot perfect for relaxation with swimming/diving areas and pavilions overlooking the Taedong River. Wow!

PM

- **Chongsan-ri Co-Operative Farm** - Learn about farming and rural living in the DPRK at this farming community.
- Drive back to Pyongyang. *45 minute – 1 hour drive.*
- **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*).

OVERNIGHT

Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.



MAY 31 - WEDNESDAY (THE EAST COAST)

AM

- Drive east across the width of the peninsula to **Wonsan**, a major port city on the East Sea, stopping at scenic spots along the way. *A 4 hour drive.*
- **Tomb of King Tonmyong** – A cluster of ancient tombs including that of King Tongmyong, the founder of the Koguryo Dynasty. Set in a wide valley amongst woods and located next to a Buddhist temple.
- **Sinpyong Lake Rest Stop** – Stretch your legs at this lakeside teahouse beneath rocky crags.
- **Ulim Waterfall** - Hidden amongst the mountains on the road to Wonsan, 'Echo' Waterfall is a scenic stopover to enjoy lunch, stretch your legs, or go for a dip in the pool beneath.

PM

- **Wonsan Agricultural University** - The DPRK's premier agricultural university set among beautiful hillside scenery. Tour the grounds and the neo-Romanesque teaching hall, originally built by Germans living in the area in the early 20th century.
- **Wonsan City Centre and Docks** - Central square and ship terminal in downtown Wonsan. The Mangyongbong-92 ferry/cargo ship which once shuttled Koreans living in Japan back and forth across the East Sea of Korea is moored here.
- **Kangwon Province Art Gallery** - Small art exhibition selling artwork by local artists.

OVERNIGHT

Dongmyong Hotel - Waterfront hotel with stunning seaside views of Wonsan Harbor. Limited hours of hot water, bar, billiards, ping-pong, barber shop, beauty salon, dry-sauna, and indoor seawater swimming pool.

JUNE 1 - THURSDAY (WONSAN)

AM

- **Songdowon International Schoolchildren's Camp** - A classic socialist summer camp where Korean and international children can spend two weeks learning socialist values and teamwork. Tour the recently renovated dormitories, aquarium, bird house, gymnasium, and more!

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- **Sijung Guesthouse Beach** - Sandy beach on the East Sea of Korea for swimming and relaxing (2 EUR entrance fee to swim and stays over 30 minutes).

PM

- **Sokwang Temple** - Remains of a Buddhist temple established dating back to the late-14th century and associated with the dream that predicted the fall of the Koryo Dynasty. A historic and haunting place set in a serene mountain valley with stream.
- **Chonsam Co-operative Farm** - Learn about rural life at this farm specialising in rice and persimmons. Visit the cultural centre, farm house, and fish pond.
- **Jangdok Island and Lighthouse** - Take a stroll on the breakwater to a small island in the middle of Wonsan harbor (*1 EUR/USD entry fee*).

OVERNIGHT

Dongmyong Hotel, Wonsan.

JUNE 2 - FRIDAY (RETURN TO PYONGYANG)

AM

- Return to Pyongyang. *A 4 hour drive.*

PM

- **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*).
- **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.
- **Pizza Restaurant** - Dinner at one of Pyongyang's Italian eateries (there are three). *Pizzas range between 5 - 12 EUR each.*

OVERNIGHT

Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.



JUNE 3 - SATURDAY (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 JS 151** 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 **international sleeper train to Beijing** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Sunday June 4 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 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

- 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

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- 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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