



Liberation Day Short Tour from Shanghai

TOUR

August 14 – 17/18, 2017
3.5 nights in the DPRK

OVERVIEW

Join us for the DPRK's Liberation Day celebrations on a short tour from Shanghai!

Liberation Day 2016 marks the 72nd anniversary of the end of Japanese occupation. It is a major public holiday in North Korea and we give you the chance to spend the day joining in the celebrations by picnicking and dancing with the locals in Moranbong Park, and joining in a Mass Dance with university students! As well as the Liberation Day festivities and a city tour of Pyongyang, this tour also includes a trip to the DMZ.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Liberation Day celebrations on August 15th!
- Kumsusan Memorial Palace (Mausoleum of leaders), captured spy ship USS Pueblo and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ – the border with South Korea

Please note that this tour schedule is subject to final confirmation from Air Koryo. Your tour manager will be able to give you further info.

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

AUGUST 13 – SUNDAY (BRIEFING DAY)

PM

- **Meet your Koryo Tours tour guide and fellow travelers at Shanghai Pudong Airport for a pre-tour briefing and check-in for your late night flight to Pyongyang.**

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.

AUGUST 14 – MONDAY (ARRIVAL IN PYONGYANG & CITY TOUR)

AM

- Early morning arrival at Sunan Airport, Pyongyang and transfer to **hotel for breakfast and a rest**
- **Walk on Future Street** - A walk through newly built residential apartments for scientists and academics with its unique architecture.
- **Science and Technology Centre** - Newly built atom-shaped educational facility, library, computer lab, and exhibition of the latest developments in science and technology.
- **Pyongyang Feature Film Studio** - See the home of 'Cholliwood', the DPRK's domestic film industry. Visit sets of traditional Korea, colonial Korea, China, Europe, and more!

PM

- **Mansudae Art Studio** - The DPRK's centre of artistic excellence, where the majority of sculptures, mosaics, and paintings around the country are made. Visit workshops to see artists at work and an exhibition where pieces are sold.
- **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.

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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.

AUGUST 15 – TUESDAY (DPRK NATIONAL HOLIDAY)

Liberation Day!

Today marks a very important national holiday and we expect to see and join in for the celebrations in Pyongyang.

AM

- **Mansudae Grand Monuments** - 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.
- **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.
- **Mangyongdae Native House** - Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.
- **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.
- **Picnicking with the locals in Moranbong Park** – We'll take a stroll in Pyongyang's central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports.

PM

- **Circus** (*approx. 20 EUR per person*) – A one hour circus show including clowns, trapeze artists, jugglers, and much more. The shows here are especially popular with locals on national holidays.

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- **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!
- **Mansugyo Beer Bar** - A new standing bar serving seven type of local beer (*0.50 -1 EUR per beer*). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

OVERNIGHT

Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

AUGUST 16 – WEDNESDAY (KAESONG & DMZ TOUR)

AM

- 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.*
- **Panmunjom Truce Village** - Located in the middle of the 4 km wide Demilitarised Zone, Panmunjom is the site of the signing of the 1953 armistice at the end of the Korean War. This is the only location where visitors can directly view soldiers from both sides and the demarcation line dividing Korea. On some days it is possible to enter the hut straddling both Koreas and cross temporarily into the south.
- **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

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

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- **Tomb of King Kongmin** - Tomb of the 31st king of the Koryo Dynasty, a talented statesman and prolific painter, and his Mongolian wife set at the end of a picturesque valley. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 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.*
- **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

Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

AUGUST 17 - 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.
- **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.

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.
- **Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum** - Tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guide. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of

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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.

- **Duck Barbecue Restaurant** - South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many teary-eyed farewells.
- **Transfer to Pyongyang airport** for late evening flight back to Shanghai with scheduled arrival at Shanghai Pudong Airport at approx. 11:30pm.

End of Tour

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TOUR PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- Flight Shanghai- Pyongyang - Shanghai
- DPRK visa fee
- A Koryo Tours tour leader, two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- Hotel accommodation in the DPRK
- All meals on the tour
- All transportation in the DPRK

NOT INCLUDED

- 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

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- 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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