



## National Day Mega Tour – The Highlights

### TOUR

September 2 – 12/13, 2017  
10 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

### OVERVIEW

One of our longest tours in the DPRK - See all the highlights!

Join us for one of our longest tours in the DPRK. We will cover all the best bits of Pyongyang, see the giant gift halls of Mt Myohyang, get down to Kaesong and the DMZ and venture over to the west coast to the port city of Nampo. But that's not all - you'll also get to go to the less frequently visited towns of Sinchon, Sariwon and Haeju - for more insight in DPRK countryside, history and culture. A very comprehensive and unforgettable trip awaits those who sign up for this tour!

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Pyongyang highlights (Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Kumsusan Memorial Palace, Juche Tower)
- The beautiful Mt Myohyang and International Friendship Exhibition
- The port city of Nampo
- Kaesong and the DMZ

*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

### SEPTEMBER 1 – 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!*

### SEPTEMBER 2 – 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.
- **Arch of Triumph** - Massive archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.
- **Hero's Cemetery** - Large gun, flag, and bayonet monument surrounded by rows of tombstones commemorating individual heroes of the Korean War.

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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.

## SEPTEMBER 3 – SUNDAY (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.
- **Railway Museum** - Museum dedicated to the development of the DPRK's railways with a number of antique engines and cars on display.
- **Pyongyang Zoo** – Newly renovated zoological gardens at the foot of Mt. Taesong popular with locals (*entrance fees for special exhibits apply here*).
- **Pyongyang Feature Film Studio** - See the home of 'Cholliwood', the DPRK's domestic film industry. Visits sets of traditional Korea, colonial Korea, China, Europe, and more!

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## OVERNIGHT

Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

## SEPTEMBER 4 – MONDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR)

### AM

- **Ride the full Pyongyang Metro** - One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. Ride the full length of both lines, stopping at every station to get the full experience!
- **Mt. Ryonggak BBQ** - A BBQ lunch in a woodland setting just outside of the city.

### PM

- 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*.
- **Kangso Mineral Water Factory** - Bottling plant for the DPRK's most popular brand of sparkling water.
- **Chollima Steelworks** - A major heavy industry site of the DPRK, known to Koreans as the birthplace of the Chollima Movement and famous for making 'Juche Steel'.
- **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.
- Optional **Petrol Clam BBQ** (*approx 7 EUR per person*), fired up by your very own driver this is a great local experience - just make sure to wash the clams down with sufficient soju!

### Overnight:

**Ryonggang Hot Spa Hotel** - a 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.

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## SEPTEMBER 5 – TUESDAY (SINCHON & SARIWON)

### AM

- This morning we'll drive to **Sinchon County**, known to every North Korean as the site of the Sinchon Massacre, one of the most famous events of the Korean War in North Korea. We'll learn about this in the **Sinchon US Atrocities Museum** - a recently renovated museum dedicated to 'crimes committed by the US imperialists'

### PM

- We'll drive on to **Sariwon City and Folk village** - recently built mock-up of a traditional Korean walled city which includes a history museum, food street and pavilions. Make sure to try the homemade makkolli here!
- Drive to **Kaesong**

### 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.

## SEPTEMBER 6 – WEDNESDAY (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 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 there 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.

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- **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**

- **Pakyon Waterfall** - Light walking in relaxing wooded area to a scenic waterfall.
- **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. A 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.

**Overnight:** Minsok Folk Hotel, Kaesong

**SEPTEMBER 7 – THURSDAY (HAEJU)**

**AM**

- Drive to the rarely visited town of **Haeju** (*approx. 2 hrs drive - very dependent on road conditions, but a guaranteed adventure*), the provincial seat of South Hwanghae Province and a port city on the West Sea.
- **Gyenam Stock Farm** - A livestock farm with goats, cows, and also rabbits. You can see all the processing facilities at this farm, one of the only places in the whole DPRK where tourists can see livestock.
- Picnic lunch at **Sokdam Ravine** - Made up of 9 valleys spread over a large area the Sokdam scenic area is a worthy place to visit for the views alone. Sokdam ravine means the scenic spot which was seated on the 9 ravines with mountains, rocks and streams.

**PM**

- **Haeju Central Square and Statues**
- **Puyong Pavilion** - The largest pavilion in the whole DPRK and the only one in Korea built on footstalls in water, originally built in 1500.
- **Koryo Fortress** - A major military base in its day, this fortress is situated above the magnificent Suyang waterfall
- Drive back to **Pyongyang** (*approx. 2.5 hrs drive, depending on road conditions*)

**Overnight:** Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

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## SEPTEMBER 8 – FRIDAY (PYONGYANG)

### AM

- **Mansudae Art Studio** – The DPRK’s centre of artistic excellence, where the majority of sculptures, mosaics, and paintings around the country are made.
- **Grand People’s Study House** – National library and public university in traditional Korean style with great views of Kim Il Sung Square.
- **Jongsong Revolutionary Site** – A system of underground tunnels and bunkers used by Korean government’s cabinet during the 1950’s.

### PM

- **Vintage 1970s Tram Ride** - A ride through Pyongyang on one of city’s trams from Kwangbok Street.
- **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 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.
- **Drinks in Mansugyo Beer Bar** - A 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.

## SEPTEMBER 9 – SATURDAY (DPRK NATIONAL HOLIDAY)

*National Day!*

### AM

- **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.
- **Mangyongdae Native House** - Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.

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- **Moranbong Park** - We'll take a stroll in Pyongyang's central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports, especially on national holidays. 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

- **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.
- **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!
- **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.
- **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*).
- **Kaesong Funfair** - We'll take on the rides of Pyongyang's newest funfair with the locals: pirate ship, vominator, rollercoaster, bumper cars, arcades, and more. Tickets purchased on the spot (*1 EUR entry, 2-7 EUR for rides*).

**Overnight:** Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

### SEPTEMBER 10 – SUNDAY (PYONGSONG)

#### AM

- **Munsu Waterpark** – We'll take a break at this outdoor and indoor water park with water slides, lap pools, and hot tubs.
- Drive north to **Pyongsong**, a satellite city of Pyongyang and centre of scientific research. *A 45 minute to 1 hour drive.*

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- **Pyongsong Central Square and statues** - Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary museum. Presentation of flowers customary.
- **Visit to Kim Jong Suk Middle School** - One of the DPRK's top middle schools for gifted students, tourists are encouraged to help teach an English class!

#### PM

- **Paeksong Revolutionary Site** - Location of Kim Il Sung University during the Korean war. Tour the old classrooms and hear about how students lived during the war.
- **Pyongsong Conservatory of Performing Arts (including performance)** - local school focusing on talents in the performing and visual arts, see an excellent performance here.
- **Drive to Mt Myohyang** (*approx. 2 hours drive north of Pyongyang*)

**Overnight:** Chongchon Hotel, Mt Myohyang

### SEPTEMBER 11 – MONDAY (MT MYOHYANG)

#### AM

- **International Friendship Exhibition** - A subterranean exhibition hall displaying gifts of all kinds given to the DPRK leaders by foreign states, leaders, and organizations. The exhibition is a fascinating look into material culture in the second half of the 20th century. Highlights include a plane given by the Soviet Union, basketball signed by Michael Jordan from the US State Department, and vodka given by Dennis Rodman. The visit takes most of the morning.
- **Pohyon Buddhist Temple** - A peaceful temple dating back to 1042 with stone pagoda and repository of a print blocks and historic text of the *Tripitaka Koreana*, Buddhist scriptures first produced to invoke divine assistance from foreign invasion during the Koryo Dynasty.

#### PM

- **Manpok Valley Walk** - A gentle stroll passing waterfalls, interesting rocks, lovely wooded areas and viewing points.
- **Ryongmun Caves** - A subterranean complex of limestone caves and grottoes. Led by an experienced local guide, you will see weirdly (and suggestively) shaped rocks and stalactites/stalagmites and hear a wealth of stories and legends about each - some not appropriate for young audiences.

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- **Drive back to Pyongyang** (*approx. 3 hrs drive*)
- **Diplomatic Club for dinner and drinks** - Leisure complex with restaurant, swimming pool, bar, karaoke, billiards, and banquet hall for foreigners residing and visiting Pyongyang. Open late!

**Overnight:** Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

### **SEPTEMBER 12 - TUESDAY (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 **local train to the Korean-Chinese border** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to Beijing Station on Wednesday September 13th 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.