



Train Tour

TOUR

September 23 – 30/October 1, 2017
7 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train
Optional 3 nights DPRK highlights tour extension available

OVERVIEW

Travel by train across North Korea from Pyongyang to Chongjin!

Koryo Tours is proud to announce the return of a stunning travel opportunity that crosses North Korea overland by train from Pyongyang all the way to the rarely-visited East and North-East Coast, and the major industrial city of Chongjin. As this area was previously only accessible from Pyongyang by a special charter flight, you will be amongst the very few foreigners who have experienced the spectacular scenery between the capital and the remote North-East Coast.

The long journey northwards from Hamhung to Chongjin will reveal entire parts of the country rarely seen by foreign eyes, as our train meanders its way through remote mountains and along the pristine coastline of the DPRK's far North East, stopping at as-yet-undiscovered cities such as Sinpho and Kimchaek and passing by isolated beaches.

This special tour also includes full tourist itineraries in all the cities of the East and North East of the country. We will be travelling in vintage 1970s carriages with Korean diesel locomotives and fully-functioning restaurant car, and will be one of the few foreign tour groups to travel overnight domestically by train within the DPRK, as we make our way non-stop back from Chongjin to Pyongyang at the end of the trip. As a final bonus, we include many of the major sights in Pyongyang, not missing out on a full tour of the Pyongyang Metro and a ride on a Pyongyang Tram, starting off from Mangyongdae's Tram Depot. Lastly, the Train Tour would not be complete, without a visit to Pyongyang's excellent Metro Museum.

This tour is designed for those who enjoy intercity adventure travel by rail, and would suit anyone with an interest in a new and exciting new way to travel around and discover uncharted regions of North Korea.

For those wanting to cover more Pyongyang highlights this tour can be extended which also includes one night in Kaesong and a visit to the DMZ (the border to South Korea).

One of the highlights in our specialist tours calendar, this trip needs 14 to run and is limited to 20 pax so book early to avoid disappointment.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel by train across North Korea
- Explore the rarely-visited East and North-East Coast, and the major industrial city of Chongjin
- Enjoy being one of the few foreigners to travel overnight on a domestic North Korean train from Chongjin back to Pyongyang
- Optional three night extension to include Pyongyang and Kaesong

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.

Please note that this tour requires a minimum of 14 people to run.

DAILY ITINERARY

SEPTEMBER 22 – 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 23 - 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.*

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PM

- Flight departure from Beijing on **Air Koryo 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.
- **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.

OVERNIGHT

Koryo Hotel - Pyongyang's premier international hotel (which overlooks the city's central railway station). Dinner this evening will be in the hotel.

SEPTEMBER 24 - SUNDAY (PYONGYANG TO WONSAN)

Train Journey from Pyongyang to Wonsan

AM

- We depart Pyongyang after breakfast for our rail journey eastwards to Wonsan on our special vintage charter train, passing through the farmland, local towns and rolling hills of the DPRK's central areas. This journey takes about 8 hours, and we will enjoy a delicious lunch on board the train in its restaurant car.

PM

- Arriving at **Wonsan new Railway Station** in the mid-afternoon, we will take a tour of this fascinating coastal city, which is not only the location of the DPRK's main port, but also contains many examples of 1970s and 80s socialist buildings and public spaces.

Overnight: Dongmyong Hotel, Wonsan

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SEPTEMBER 25 - MONDAY (WONSAN TO HAMHUNG)

By Train from Wonsan to Hamhung

AM

- After breakfast, we will take a tour of the city's huge **port area**, as well as its **central square**, still frozen in the mid-1980s. A highlight of the tour will be the visit to the city's **Old Railway Station**, now a museum, as well as visiting Wonsan Art Gallery.
- We then depart for **Hamhung** city, heading northwards up the line from Wonsan through the mountains and valleys of the DPRK's East Coast. This is a journey of 4 hours, and we will once again take lunch in the restaurant car while enjoying the spectacular scenery from the train.

PM

- We will arrive in **Hamhung** in the late afternoon, and immediately begin our tour of the DPRK's second city with a tour of the city's **main square and brutalist Grand Theatre**. We will also visit the **statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il**. We will then visit the **Hamhung Fertilizer Factory**, a huge complex which provides the best glimpse of socialist heavy industry in the country. Later we will transfer to the **Majon Guesthouse** on the coast for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Majon Guesthouse, Hamhung

SEPTEMBER 26 - TUESDAY (HAMHUNG TO CHONGJIN)

By Train towards Chongjin

AM

- We will depart **Hamhung** train station for our pioneering journey north to the remote industrial city of **Chongjin** on the DPRK's north-eastern coast. This is a long journey of 12 hours, and will give us plenty of time to admire the views of spectacular coastline, isolated beaches and local Korean towns through which we will pass on our journey. We will have a hearty lunch and a sumptuous dinner in the train's restaurant car.

PM

- After meandering through the mountains and up the shoreline of the DPRK's north-east, we will arrive in time to visit the bar at the local **Seamen's Club** for drinks and a late dinner. A Chongjin institution, this is a great place to mix, play pool, and drink with locals, and to enjoy the city's maritime atmosphere. We will then go to the **Chongjin Tourist hotel** for the night.

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Many of the hotel's rooms overlook the main train line, providing a great chance to observe night-time rail traffic and soak up the city's industrial atmosphere.

Overnight: Chongjin Tourist Hotel, Chongjin

SEPTEMBER 27 - WEDNESDAY (CHONGJIN TO PYONGYANG)

Chongjin and back to Pyongyang

AM

- This morning we will have a comprehensive tour of **Chongjin**, the DPRK's third largest city. We will visit the city's vast **main square and giant statue of Kim Il Sung**, as well as **Chongjin Revolutionary Museum**. We will also get a chance to discover two educational establishments in the city, as we tour the **Chongjin E-library** and the **Steelworks Kindergarten**, where we will see a musical and dance performance by the local children. Following this, we will have our second chance to get a feel for DPRK industry, with a tour of the city's **Foodstuffs Factory**

PM

- Following the morning's city tour, we will have lunch in a local restaurant in Chongjin, before boarding our charter train for the long overnight journey back to Pyongyang. We will be the first foreign tourists to take an overnight train journey through the DPRK. Our route will take us south along the country's eastern coast through the towns of **Kyongsong, Myongchon, Kimchaek, and Sinpho**. We will have dinner in the train's restaurant car before retiring for the night in our comfortable sleeper compartments.

Overnight: On Train

SEPTEMBER 28 - THURSDAY (CONTINUE TO PYONYANG)

Continue to Pyongyang

AM

- We will spend this morning continuing our journey to the capital, as our train branches off from the Hamhung-Wonsan main line at **Kowon** and heads westwards back to Pyongyang through the central towns **Yangdok and Sinyang**, passing waterfalls, lakes and quiet local settlements on the way.

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PM

- After enjoying another delicious lunch on the train, we will arrive at **Pyongyang Railway Station**. We will head to hotel first to freshen up, before visiting **Kwangbok Supermarket, Juche Tower, Party Foundation Monument** and dinner back at the hotel.

Overnight: Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 29 - FRIDAY (PYONGYANG)

Pyongyang

AM

- Today we start by riding the whole of the ornate **Pyongyang Metro**. We will travel through all stations on this system, reportedly one of the deepest in the world. Its stations are decorated with socialist- realist mosaics and reliefs depicting the revolutionary history and achievements of the DPRK. On this special tour, we will be able to alight at each of the six stations to admire the superb decoration on the platforms.
- Following this, we will head to **The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum** where you can learn the history of the Korean War from the North Korean perspective. The museum's different rooms explain the origins of the conflict, and include highly impressive dioramas, tanks, planes, and much more. Then it's on to the **USS Pueblo** – an American spy ship captured by the DPRK navy in 1968.

PM

- The afternoon will start with a **tram ride** along grandiose **Kwangbok Street**, built in 1989 as the ultimate socialist micro-district for the World Festival of Youth and Students. We will then visit the city's **Metro Museum**, where we will see exhibits relating to the construction of the system and a superb panorama.
- We will then drop by **Taedonggang Number 3 brewery**. Our farewell dinner (for those not extending) will be in Pyongyang's famous duck BBQ restaurant.

Overnight: Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 30 - SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY OR PYONGYANG)

Departure day for the non-extendors / More Pyongyang sites for those who extend

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo JS 151** at 08:25 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55. *There is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.*

OR

- Train departure by **international sleeper train** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to Beijing Station on Sunday October 1 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.*

OPTIONAL EXTENSION Day 1 (+650 EUR - please ensure to select this extra when submitting your application)

AM

- After saying goodbye to those who aren't extending, head for a morning stroll along **Future Street**, a newly built residential district for scientists and academics to view its unique modern architecture. We will stop at the newly built **Science and Technology Centre** an atom-shaped educational facility, library, computer lab, and exhibition of the latest developments in science and technology.
- Following this, we will drop by **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. We will then head to **Moran Hill**, to take a stroll in Pyongyang's central park, popular with locals for picnics, dances and sports.

PM

- Following lunch we will visit **Jonsong Revolutionary Site** - A system of underground tunnels and bunkers used by Korean government's cabinet during the 1950's. Learn about life underground during the years of American bombing. We will then walk from Pyongyang's Grand Theatre to Kim Il Sung Square where we will visit the **Korean Central Art Gallery**.

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- The last stop for today will be at **Three Revolutions Exhibition** for an exploration of the DPRK's technological and cultural development (including exhibits of various modes of transport).

Overnight: Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 1 - SUNDAY (PYONGYANG & KAESONG)

Optional Extension Day 2 - Pyongyang and Kaesong

AM

- We will start the day with a visit to **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.*
- Following this we will stop at **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.

PM

- 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
- We will stop at the **Concrete Wall** for a 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. The Concrete Wall is a 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside. On our way to Minsok Folk Hotel, we will also stop at **Pakyon Waterfall** for some light walking in a relaxing wooded area with a scenic waterfall

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.

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OCTOBER 2 - MONDAY (KAESONG & DMZ)

Optional Extension Day 3 - Kaesong and back to Pyongyang

- We will start the day with a **walk of the Old City and South Gate** - 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 Arm
- **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

- **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** (2.5 hour drive) 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.
- **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 airgun shooting range (approximately 6 EUR per 20 round cartridge) and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang.

Overnight: Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

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OCTOBER 3 - 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 JS 151** at 08:25 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55. *There is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.*

OR

- Train departure by **international sleeper train** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to Beijing Station on Wednesday October 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

- Please note that this tour requires a minimum of 14 people to run.
- 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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