



WINTER SUPERIOR TOUR 2017

TOUR

November 30 – December 5
5 nights in the DPRK

OVERVIEW

End 2017 in style and join our Winter Superior Tour for a variety of long winter walks through Pyongyang (dress warmly!), high-class dinners at Pyongyang's best restaurants and nights at DPRK's deluxe hotels.

This tour covers the highlights of Pyongyang including amongst others the mausoleum where Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung lie in state and the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and also takes you to the beautiful landscapes of Myohyangsan.

We will be staying at the Koryo Hotel, one of Pyongyang's deluxe hotels located in the city centre and spend one night in the Hyangsan Hotel at Mt. Myohyang - enjoying one of the most comfortable and high-class hotels the DPRK has to offer.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dining at Pyongyang's best restaurants and relaxing in local health centres
- Long winter walks through Pyongyang
- Kumsusan Memorial Palace (Mausoleum of leaders), Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ – the border with South Korea
- Overnight at the deluxe Hyangsan Hotel in the beautiful area of Mt. Myohyang

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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27 Bei Sanlitun Nan, Chaoyang District, 100027, Beijing, China

DAILY ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 29 – WEDNESDAY (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.

NOVEMBER 30 – THURSDAY (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 14:05. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at 16:35. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **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.
- **Walk in Central District** - A walk through downtown Pyongyang past monuments, museums, and ministries.

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- **Dinner in Ansan Guesthouse** - this restaurant, just opposite our hotel, specialises in traditional Korean dishes

OVERNIGHT

- **The Pottonggang Hotel** - Deluxe hotel located on the banks of the Potong River and hang out for Pyongyang's most fashionable

DECEMBER 1 – FRIDAY (KAESONG CITY & 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 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.
- **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

- 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.
- **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.

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- **Ryugyong Ice Rink** - Enjoy ice skating, one of Pyongyang's winter pastimes, with the locals. Rentals available on site.
- **Ryugyong Restaurant** - A high class restaurant located in East Pyongyang with branches overseas. Some of the best dining in Pyongyang

OVERNIGHT

- Pottonggang Hotel, Pyongyang.

DECEMBER 2 – FRIDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR)

AM

- **Changgwanwon Health Complex** - Huge health and leisure facility with Olympic-sized pool, barber shops, beauty salons, massage, and saunas. Leave feeling ten years younger, locals say! Tickets for activities (3-10 EUR) purchased on the spot. One of our favorites!
- **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 commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.
- **Lunch at Okryugwan** - Pyongyang Cold Noodles at Pyongyang's most famous restaurant. Housed in a huge traditional building on the banks of the Taedong River.

PM

- **Walk from Okryugwan to Pyongyang Hotel Cafe** with a stop at the **Foreign Languages Bookshop**, a store selling Korean publications translated into English, German, French, Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. Also pick up DVDs, postcards, and small works of art.
- **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
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captured equipment from the US military, including the USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.

- **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!
- **Private screening of *Comrade Kim Goes Flying***, a DPRK film about a young rural coal miner, Kim Yong Mi, who dreams of becoming a trapeze artist at the Pyongyang Circus. Her plans are complicated by the arrogant trapeze star Pak Jang Phil who believes miners belong underground and not in the air. North Korea's first "girl power" movie about a young woman achieving her dreams. Produced and directed by a British, Belgian, and Korean team. The film is 78 minutes long and will be shown at the **Pyongyang International House of Cinema**, a short distance from our hotel (100 RMB entry fee paid on the spot). A Koryo Tours Exclusive!

OVERNIGHT

- Pottonggang Hotel, Pyongyang

DECEMBER 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.

PM

- **Walking Tour of East Pyongyang** - Walk from the **Tower of the Juche Idea**, iconic tower dedicated to the DPRK's guiding philosophy on the Taedong River (*elevator ticket is 5 EUR*), to the **Golden Lane Bowling Centre**, where Pyongyang locals go for their ten-pin fix (2.5 EUR per person per game), then to the **Monument to the Party Foundation**, a large featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which represent the workers, farmers, and intellectuals that make up the Worker's Party of Korea. Finally end the walk at the **Munsu Water Park**, for an swim at the indoor water park

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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*).

- Drive north passing rivers valleys and hills to **Mt. Myohyang**, the 'mountain of mysterious fragrance'. *A 2.5 hour to 3 hour drive.*

OVERNIGHT

- Hyangsan Hotel -The fanciest hotel in the DPRK, renovated in 2010. The only hotel with internet access for tourists and other "7-star" facilities.

DECEMBER 4 – MONDAY (MT. MYOHYANG TOUR)

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

- Drive back to Pyongyang. *2.5 - 3 hour drive.*
- **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.
- **Walk on Future Street** - A walk through a newly built residential apartments for scientists and academics with its unique architecture.
- **Pizza Restaurant** - Dinner at one of Pyongyang's Italian eateries (there are three). *Pizzas range between 5-12 EUR each.*

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OVERNIGHT

- Pottonggang Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 21 – SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing

*Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please confirm your preferred exit method upon booking**

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS 151** at 08:30 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 10:00. *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, transfer in **Dandong** and onward travel to Beijing with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Wednesday December 6 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.*

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TOUR PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- Flight Beijing – Pyongyang – Beijing (Business Class)
- 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)
- All meals on the tour
- Hotel accommodation
- 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
- 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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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.

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