



KORYO FOUNDERS EXCLUSIVE TOUR 2017

TOUR

October 17 – 21
4 nights in the DPRK

OVERVIEW

The most comfortable hotel, business class flights, the best restaurants, the best guides and the most luxurious travel experience possible in North Korea tourism. Accompanied by travel specialist and film and documentary producer Nicholas Bonner, this exclusive tour is the most exclusive and comfortable way to explore the country and hear intimate stories about Bonner's making of three award winning documentaries, a feature film and his personal and entertaining recollection of travel to the country since 1993.

A small group of no more than 12 people will meet the experts in various fields and see the best the country has to offer, all at the highest standard available.

As business class seats are very limited, the earlier you book, the better your chance is of a business class seat being available. We will refund the difference for anyone we are unable to get business class for.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The most luxurious travel experience possible in DPRK tourism (business class flights, best restaurants, best hotels and best guides)
- Led by award-winning film producer and Koryo Tours' founder Nicholas Bonner
- Intimate stories from Bonner's experience of more than 20 years of travelling to the DPRK

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.

info@koryotours.com | +86 10 6416 7544 | www.koryotours.com
27 Bei Sanlitun Nan, Chaoyang District, 100027, Beijing, China

DAILY ITINERARY

OCTOBER 16 – MONDAY (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.

OCTOBER 17 – TUESDAY (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 13:05. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at 15:35. 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 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.

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- **Dinner in Ansan Guesthouse** - this restaurant, just opposite our hotel, specialises in traditional Korean dishes including dog meat (costs around USD 5 for one bowl)

OVERNIGHT

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

OCTOBER 18 – WEDNESDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR)

AM

- **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.
- **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.
- **Pyongyang Hotel coffee shop** with views overlooking the Taedong River for a break and a chat with the head of Pyongyang's only foreign law firm
- **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

- **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!
- **Paekdu Architectural Academy** - Studio where many of Pyongyang's iconic buildings were designed. Learn about architecture and design in the DPRK and see architects at work.

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- **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*).
- **Moran Beer Bar** - A recently renovated local bar with cheap brews (*0.50-1 EUR a glass*).
- **Evening walk on Future Street** - A walk through a newly built residential apartments for scientists and academics with its unique architecture.
- Dinner at **Soje Guest House Restaurant**

OVERNIGHT

- Pottonggang Hotel, Pyongyang.

OCTOBER 19 – 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.*
- A visit to the offices of **Hana Electronics**, a joint venture (UK – DPRK) company making DVD players and other electronic goods for the internal market in DPRK. The British director of the company will give us a tour and can answer questions about his long history of working in DPRK
- Lunch at Hana electronics

PM

- **Mirim Equestrian Centre** -The DPRK's first civilian horse riding centre in located in the eastern suburbs of Pyongyang. A large facility with indoor and outdoor tracks. Visitors can ride horses and ponies. All skill levels can be accommodated. Safety equipment is provided and ½ hour of riding included.
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- **Mangyongdae Native House** - Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.
- **Pyongyang Circus** - A one hour circus show including clowns, trapeze artists, jugglers, and much more. *Tickets purchased on the spot - 20 EUR.*
- Dinner and sunset boat cruise along the Taedong River

OVERNIGHT

- Pottonggang Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 20 – FRIDAY (KAESONG CITY AND DMZ TOUR)

AM

- Drive 160 km south the 'Reunification Highway' to **Kaesong**, historic capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarised Zone. *2.5 hour drive.*
- **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*)

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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.
- **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.
- 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*
- **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.
- **Dinner and drinks in the Diplomatic Club** - Leisure complex with restaurant, swimming pool, bar, karaoke, billiards, and banquet hall for foreigners residing and visiting Pyongyang.
- **Kaeson 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

- Pottonggang Hotel, Pyongyang.

OCTOBER 21 – SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing

AM

- Flight departure (Business Class) from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS 251** 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.*

End of Tour

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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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