



North Korea National Day Tour

TOUR

September 7th – 12th 2020

5 nights in North Korea + travel time

OVERVIEW

One of the biggest North Korea holidays, North Korea National Day celebrates the foundation of the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea). This year, North Koreans throughout the country will be in full celebration mode as they enjoy the festivities for the 72nd North Korea National Day.

As well as celebrating with the local North Koreans, we'll take you on an extensive tour throughout [Pyongyang](#), visiting the must-see sites including; the [Mansudae Grand Monument](#), [Kumsusan Palace of the Sun](#), and the [Pyongyang Metro](#).

During this tour, we will also get the chance to have an overnight trip to the ancient city of [Kaesong](#), the capital of the medieval Koryo Dynasty. In Kaesong, we'll visit the Panmunjom Truce Village in the [Korean Demilitarized Zone \(DMZ\)](#).

Strapped for time or cash? [North Korea National Day Short Tour](#)

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

SEPTEMBER 6 – SUNDAY

***Pre-Tour Briefing** | *We require all travellers to attend a pre-tour briefing that covers regulations, etiquette, safety, and practicalities for travel in North Korea. The briefing lasts approximately one hour, followed by a question and answers session. Please be punctual for the briefing. You can come early, meet your fellow travellers, pay any outstanding tour fees and browse our collection of Korean art. A proper presentation is an essential part of travel to North Korea.*

For this tour, we will hold two briefings. One in the morning for those departing by train this afternoon and the second in the afternoon for those leaving by flight the next day.

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*
- **10:00 | briefing for those departing by train.**

PM

- **16:00 | briefing for those departing by flight.**
- **17:27 | Train travellers depart Beijing Station** by domestic sleeper train to [Dandong](#), the Chinese city on the border with the DPRK. Please arrange independent travel to the train station and arrive at least an hour and a half early for the train departure.

Overnight | *Hotel in Beijing not included in the tour for those taking the flight the next day. Contact us for recommendations near our office! Those travelling by train will spend the night on the train.*

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SEPTEMBER 7 – MONDAY

Arrival day 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 JS152** at 12:00. *A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Flight arrival into [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 15:00 time. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- **[Grand People's Study House](#)** | National library and public correspondence university with Neo-traditional Korean and great views of the city.
- Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station.
- **[Mirae \(Future\) Scientists Street](#)** | Walk in the newly built residential district for scientists and academics to view its unique modern architecture.

[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 excellent views of the city. Comfortable rooms and comprehensive leisure facilities: swimming pool, spa, billiards, bowling, gift shops, tea houses and beer brewed on-site.

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SEPTEMBER 8 – TUESDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- **Walk on Sungni (Victory) Street** | Walk through the heart of North Korea's capital city. From the Railway station to Kim Il Sung Square. We will pass the stunning architecture of the Pyongyang Grand Theatre along the way.
- **Korean Central History Museum** | National museum presenting an overview of Korean history from prehistoric times onwards. Home to many rare artefacts and reproductions.
- **[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.
- **[Mangyongdae Native House](#)** | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.

PM

- **[Kwangbok Department Store](#)** | Exchange for 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.
- **[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 5 EUR for great views of the city.
- **[Monument to the Party Foundation](#)** | Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which make up the emblem of the Worker's Party of Korea and represent workers, farmers, and intellectuals.
- **[Munsu Water Park](#)** | We'll take a break at this outdoor and indoor water park 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*).

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel

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SEPTEMBER 9 – WEDNESDAY

DPRK National Day

AM

- [Mansudae Fountain Park](#) | The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school 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, or 'thousand *ri* [400 miles] horse' – a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950s following the Korean War.
- [Mass Dance](#) | We'll watch as hundreds of locals, many in brightly coloured national dress, join together in a beautifully choreographed dance in the heart of the city (and maybe even join in ourselves!)
- [Pyongyang Metro Tour](#) | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. We'll ride six stations on the Chollima Line.
- [Arch of Triumph](#) | Massive archway made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.
- [Moranbong Park](#) | We'll take a stroll and have picnic lunch in Pyongyang's central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports. 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

- [Volleyball Game](#) | We'll take on a local team in a game of volleyball!
- [Pyongyang Circus](#) (*optional*) | A one hour circus show including clowns, trapeze artists, jugglers, and much more. Pyongyang has two circuses: the Military Circus (no animals) and the Civilian Circus (with animals).
- [Tram Ride](#) | A ride through Pyongyang on one of the city's trams from Kwangbok Street. A Koryo exclusive!
- [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).

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Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel

SEPTEMBER 10 – THURSDAY

Kumsusan Palace of the Sun & Drive to Kaesong

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 need 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 several 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.
- [Walk on Ryomyong Street](#) | Walk on one of Pyongyang's newest districts lined with new modernist-style architecture.

PM

- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and USS Pueblo](#) | We'll tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guides. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of Korean War from the DPRK perspective containing artefacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and capture equipment from the US military, including the spy ship [USS Pueblo](#). Central to the understanding of the country today and a highlight of the trip.
- Drive 2 ½ hours drive south along the 'Reunification Highway' to [Kaesong](#), the historic capital of the medieval Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD). Once located in South Korea, the city changed hands during the Korean War. It is now located just north of the DMZ.
- [Dinner & Kayagum Performance](#) | Traditional Korean stringed instrument performance at the Minsok Folk Hotel. Tip recommended (1-3 EUR per person on group tours; 15-20 EUR in total for private tours) for this beautiful demonstration of Korean music.

[Minsok Folk Hotel, Kaesong](#) | Traditional style hotel where guests sleep on heated floors in Korean style. Housed in beautiful courtyards of Kaesong's old city, structures date back to the Ri Dynasty. Basic bathroom facilities. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electricity supply – please bring a torch.

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SEPTEMBER 11 – FRIDAY

Kaesong & DMZ

AM

- [Old City Walk and South Gate](#) | A stroll from the hotel through Kaesong's historic district lined with homes dating back to the Ri Dynasty from the city's historic South Gate.
- [Panmunjom Truce Village](#) | Located in the middle of the 4 km wide Demilitarized 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 & Stamp Shop](#) | A former Confucian education school, now a museum on the Koryo Dynasty exhibiting historical objects, statues, pagodas, and porcelain from the time. One of Kaesong's many UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- [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

- [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.
- Return to Pyongyang with a stop at the [Monument to the Three-Charters of National Reunification](#), Iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between Koreas, north and south, also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'. A 3-hours 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).
- **Duck Barbeque Restaurant** | South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel

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SEPTEMBER 12 – SATURDAY

Departure Day

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 11:35.

OR

- Train departure at 10:25 with a transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Wednesday, September 13, at 08:30. *For this tour, the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

End of Tour

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