



The North Korea Mega Tour

TOUR

September 3rd – 26th 2020

25 nights in North Korea + travel time

OVERVIEW

Koryo Tours' annual Mega Tour every September is the ultimate journey to North Korea, and our longest and most comprehensive tour to North Korea.

We'll travel from [Pyongyang](#), Panmunjom and the DMZ to stunning [Mt Paektu](#), [Mt Chilbo](#), and [Mt Kumgang](#) as well as the rarely-visited industrial cities of [Chongjin](#), [Hamhung](#), and [Wonsan](#), plus much more.

Updated for 2020 with new locations and activities, this is our longest tour to date.

The trip covers thousands of kilometres from the capital Pyongyang to the country's far north, south, east, and west by bus and internal flights. On the way, we'll stop by all the must-see tourist attractions - from massive political structures and monuments to pristine mountains, forests, and beaches to the socialist industry and agriculture that are the backbone of the DPRK economy.

We'll also be in Pyongyang for National Day, a major North Korean holiday, and see how North Koreans celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK. Get to know one of the least-understood countries in the world and its people as it stands at a crossroads in its relations with its long-time adversaries: South Korea and the United States.

The best way to get to know and understand North Korea is to spend time in the country and meet and interact with local North Koreans through activities, sports, games, and serendipitous encounters.

A new addition to this tour is the possibility of extending your stay in the DPRK for two more nights to visit the [Rason Special Economic Zone](#) to see North Korea to its fullest like nobody before. This trip offers a unique chance for an overview of much of the country.

Take it from us; we've been travelling to North Korea for more than 25 years!
Join us for this unforgettable trip of a lifetime.

Looking for something shorter? You can also book just the first 10-nights or second 14-nights of this tour. See our [National Day Long Tour](#) and [Unseen North Korea](#) tours, respectively.

DAILY ITINERARY

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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SEPTEMBER 2 – WEDNESDAY

Briefing Day and Train Departure Day

***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 answer 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 briefing 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 other in the afternoon for those departing 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.

SEPTEMBER 3 – THURSDAY

Arrival Day in Pyongyang

AM

- **Train transfer at Dandong Station** from overnight sleeper train to Dandong-Pyongyang local. Our local representative in Dandong will assist with the transfer. Train crosses the China-North Korea border followed by North Korean customs and immigration.

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- **Free bus** from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2 for those taking the flight. *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 13:00. *A 2-hour flight with basic lunch.*
- **Flight arrival into [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 16:00. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- **Sungni (Victory) Street** | Walk from [Kim Il Sung Square](#) to **Pyongyang Grand Theatre, Pyongyang Railway Station** and finishing at the [Koryo Hotel Microbrewery](#).
- **Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station** at 18:45.
- [Mirae \(Future\) Scientists Street](#) | Walk in the newly built residential district for scientists and academics to view its unique modern architecture.

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 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.

SEPTEMBER 4 – FRIDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- **City Walk in Central Pyongyang**
- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, Museum and The Grand People's Study House, Korea's national library. See the centre of it all!
- [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.

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- **Victory (Sungni) Street** | Walk from Pyongyang Grand Theatre to Kim Il Sung Square along one of post-war Pyongyang's oldest streets.
- **[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 mile] horse' – a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950s following the Korean War.
- **[Okryugwan](#)** | A meal at Pyongyang's most famous restaurant. Housed in a huge traditional building on the banks of the Taedong River. Okryugwan specialises in Pyongyang Cold Noodles.

PM

- **[Grand People's Study House](#)** | National library and public correspondence university with Neo-traditional Korean and great views of the city.
- **[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.
- **[FULL Pyongyang Metro Tour](#)** | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. Ride both lines and stop off at smaller stations, rarely visited by tourists.
- **[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.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

SEPTEMBER 5 –SATURDAY

Pyongyang and Nampo

AM

- **[Mangyongdae Native House](#)** | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.

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- [National Gift Exhibition Hall](#) | One of North Korea's two gift exhibition halls, this one houses all of the gifts given to North Korea's leaders from Koreans in North Korea, South Korea and from all over the Korean Diaspora, including items gifted by many well known Koreans.
- [Mt Ryonggak](#) | Enjoy a picnic lunch in this park on the outskirts of Pyongyang and popular with locals. Stretch your legs after lunch with a short hike to the top of Mt Ryonggak itself.

PM

- Drive west along the 'Youth Hero Highway' to [Nampo](#) (45 minutes to 1-hour drive), the port city of Pyongyang at the mouth of the Taedong River on the West Sea.
- [Chongsam-ri Co-operative Farm](#) | The DPRK's most famous and iconic model farm. Visited hundreds of times by Kim Il Sung, the place where the 'Chongsam-ri Method' was developed (they will explain on-site). See how the farming system works, visit a farmhouse, the local shop, kindergarten and see the fields and greenhouses.
- [Tae' an Glass Factory](#) | Factory producing glass and glass products for the domestic market. Watch the glass-making process from smelting to sheet-cutting and even try to break a sheet of strengthened glass.
- [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 lock and fish ladder—one of the DPRK's greatest engineering feats.
- [Pi Island](#) | A local beach next to West Sea Barrage. Go for a swim or join the locals for a karaoke.
- [Clam BBQ](#) | A North Korean style clam bake!

Overnight

[Ryonggang Hot Spa Hotel, Nampo](#) | 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.

SEPTEMBER 6 – SUNDAY

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Drive from Nampo to Kaesong via Mount Kuwol, the 'September Mountain', the scenic Chaeryong Plains, and Sariwon. We'll cross the West Sea Barrage at the mouth of the Taedong River in the morning.

AM

- **Mt. Kuwol** | A scenic mountain area on the West Coast of Korea. We'll pass through this region on a full-day drive between Nampo and Kaesong after crossing over the West Sea Barrage in the morning.
- **Woljong Temple** | Buddhist temple established in the middle of the 9th century and later rebuilt at the start of the Yi Dynasty.
- **Sinchon Town and Museum of US War Crimes** | Recently renovated Museum dedicated to 'crimes committed by the US imperialists'. Located on the site of a civilian massacre, the Museum has an array of harrowing exhibits, displays, and panoramas on the haunting events that took place in this region during the war. Not for the faint of heart and sensitivity is called for here. *Please note that this location was closed to foreign visitors in 2018 following the DPRK-US Summit Meeting. If the situation changes, we will visit this site.*

PM

- [Sariwon Folk Village and City View](#) | Mock-up of a traditional Korean town which includes a history museum, food street, and pavilions. There is a small tavern selling *Makkoli*, traditional rice wine. Climb a nearby hill for a view of Sariwon City and the surrounding plains.
- **Unjong Livestock Farm and Mask Dance**
- Continue south 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.
- [Traditional Korean Royal Meal with Kayagum Performance](#) | Also known as pansanggi, the meal is made up of different dishes served in small brass bowls. The more dishes, the more distinguished the guest!

Overnight

[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 Yi Dynasty. Basic bathroom facilities. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electricity supply – please bring a torch.

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SEPTEMBER 7 – MONDAY

Historic Kaesong and Panmunjom

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.
- **Sonjuk Bridge** | Small stone bridge built in 1290, which in 1392 was the site of the assassination of the last loyal Koryo Dynasty minister Jong Mong Ju by a son of Ri Song Gye (founder of the next, and final, dynasty). 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 that can be seen to this day.
- [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.

PM

- **Pakyon Waterfall** | Light walking with a picnic lunch in a relaxing wooded area. Local people commonly visit here for picnics and sometimes swimming in the series of pools above the falls.
- **Gwanum Temple** | Located a 30-minute hike, above Pakyon Waterfalls, the temple dates back more than a thousand years and is dedicated to the Buddhist Bodhisattva of Mercy. There is an ornate marble Bodhisattva statue the nearby cave. The current building dates back to the Ri Dynasty and has a fascinating tale associated with its construction.
- **Tomb of King Wanggon** | Resting place of the founder of the Koryo Dynasty, who died in 943. The tomb is largely reconstructed after looting by the Japanese occupiers and general disrepair—a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- [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 divide the nation permanently. A 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.

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- [Janam Hill](#) | Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.

Overnight | Minsok Folk Hotel, Kaesong.

SEPTEMBER 8 – TUESDAY

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.
- 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 nine 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 significant military base in its day, this fortress is situated above the magnificent Suyang Waterfall.
- 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*).

Overnight | Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 9 – WEDNESDAY

National Day, the 72nd anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK

AM

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- [Mass Dance](#) | We'll watch as hundreds of locals, many in brightly coloured national dress, join together in a beautiful choreographed dance in the heart of the city (and maybe even join in ourselves!)
- [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.
- [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 against a local company team** | Most work units, whether it be a factory, a farm, or white-collar office, has its own volleyball team.
- [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).

Overnight | Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 10 – THURSDAY

Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and Drive to Mt. Myohyang

AM

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- [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

- Drive to [Anju](#) a mid-sized industrial city located on the road and rail line north of Pyongyang on the Chongchon River. During the Korean War, major battles were fought near here between North Korean-Chinese forces and UN-South Korean forces. Coal is mined nearby.
- **Paeksang Pavilion and Anju City Walls** | The greatest pavilion in Kwanso (Pyong' an Province,) which overlooks the Chongchon River. Rebuilt after destruction in the Korean War.
- Continue driving to **Mt. Myohyang**.
- [Manpok Valley Hike](#) | Various options for hikes of a range of distances/difficulties. Passing waterfalls, hermitages, interesting rocks, lovely wooded areas, and viewing points.

Overnight

[Huichon Hotel, Chagang Province](#) | Basic but clean hotel located 30 minutes north of Mt. Myohyang. Very good local food much different from the lowlands, on-site sauna, and limited electricity.

SEPTEMBER 11 – FRIDAY

Mt. Myohyang

AM

- [International Friendship Exhibition](#) | A semi-subterranean exhibition hall displaying gifts of all kinds given to the DPRK leaders by foreign states, leaders, and organisations. 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,

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basketball signed by Michael Jordan from the US State Department, and vodka given by Dennis Rodman. The visit takes most of the morning. *Presentable dress required.*

- [Pohyon Buddhist Temple](#) | A peaceful temple dating back to 1042 CE with stone pagoda and repository of print blocks and historic text of the *Tripitaka Koreana*, Buddhist scriptures first produced to invoke divine assistance from foreign invasions during the Koryo Dynasty.

PM

- Drive back to **Pyongyang** (2.5-3 hours) with a stop at [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.
- [June 9th Middle School](#) | So named due to Kim Il Sung ordering its construction on June 9th 1969 this is one of the model schools of Pyongyang. Here you can join in an English lesson, see science, revolutionary history, music, and art rooms, also outside is a dirt football pitch so bring a ball and get a kick-about going with some of the students. After all soccer is simply the world's language and the best way to interact with people in the DPRK.
- Dinner at **Duck BBQ Restaurant** | Famous restaurant in south Pyongyang specialising in duck meat barbecue on a grill. *Southcentral does it like nobody does!*

Overnight

[Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang](#) | Pyongyang's premier hotel, built-in 1985, and located in the heart of downtown, near Pyongyang Station. The go-to for visiting delegations, both foreign and domestic. Shops, bookstore, cafes, a revolving restaurant, beer brewed on-site.

SEPTEMBER 12 – SATURDAY

Slow day in Pyongyang. This morning we'll allow everyone to sleep in for some much-needed rest and those who want to can go and learn a bit about revolutionary history.

AM

- [Jongsung 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.
- [Party Foundation Museum](#) | Museum dedicated to the foundation of the Korean Workers' Party.

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PM

- [Mansudae Art Studio](#) | North Korea's centre of artistic excellence, where the majority of the country's sculptures, mosaics, and paintings are made. Visit workshops to see artists at work, plus visit an exhibition where pieces are sold.
- [Changgwangwon Health Complex](#) | Huge health complex and leisure facility with Olympic-sized pool, barber shops, beauty salons, massage, and saunas. Leave feeling ten years younger, locals say! *Tickets for activities purchased on the spot.*
- [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.
- **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*).

Overnight | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 13 – SUNDAY

Pyongsong and Hoechang

AM

- [Pyongsong](#) | Drive north of Pyongyang to the capital of South Pyongan Province. A *45 minute to 1-hour drive*.
- [Pyongsong City Square](#) | Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary Museum.
- [Konji-Ri Revolutionary Site](#) | Headquarters of the Korean's People's Army during the Korean War in the hills north of Pyongyang. Preserved traditional homes which served as army offices during the war, bunkers, as well as burnt trees and bomb casing from American aerial attacks set among a bucolic landscape. The on-site Museum complements the War Museum in Pyongyang.
- Drive to [Hoechang](#), a 3-hour drive.

PM

- **Cemetery for the Martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army** | Built in the 1950s (renovated in 2010) and opened by Zhou Enlai. Scenic Chinese hillside

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cemetery with domed tombs of 134 Chinese soldiers. Including a bust and tomb of Mao Anying; the Chairman's son.

- **Songhung Revolutionary Site** | Drive past the giant zinc factory to the wartime base of the Volunteer Army. Caves and tunnels, buildings from the period used by the soldiers and by Kim Il Sung when he visited to thank them for assistance.
- Return to Pyongyang.

Overnight | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 14 – MONDAY

Drive to Hamhung, the DPRK's second-largest city and centre of heavy industry, stopping at sights along the way.

AM

- [Hamhung](#) | Drive east across the width of the peninsula before heading north to Hamhung (6-7 hour drive), the second-largest city of the DPRK and major centre of industry.
- [Tomb of King Tongmyong](#) | Largest of the UNESCO listed Koguryo Tombs spread through the area; this is the beautiful tomb complex of the founder of the Koguryo Dynasty two thousand years ago. Statues, a Buddhist Monastery, and lovely wall paintings make this a fascinating visit for history buffs.
- [Sinpyong Lake Rest Stop](#) | Known as 'Little Kumgang' this scenic lakeside rest stop, a great opportunity to stretch your legs.
- [Ulim Waterfall](#) | Hidden amongst the mountains on the road to Wonsan, 'Echo' Waterfall is a scenic stopover to enjoy lunch, stretch your legs, or go for a dip in the pool beneath.

PM

- [Hamhung Grand Theatre and Central Square](#) | Exterior view of the DPRK's largest theatre on the city's central square.
- **Home of Ri Song Gye** | Home of the first king of the Ri Dynasty (1392-1910) who extinguished the Koryo Dynasty, only to be then ousted by his son. A traditional hall and pavilion and associated naughty stories of the former king's retirement years – some not appropriate for the youth!

Overnight

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[Majon Beach Guesthouse, Hamhung](#) | A beachside holiday compound with basic but comfortable chalets. Rooms have heated floors but no running water. Bring a torch! There is a main building with restaurant, bar, billiards, table-tennis, bookshop, and Korean karaoke.

SEPTEMBER 15 – TUESDAY

From Hamhung to the truly rarely visited Pujon Highlands (and back!)

AM

- [Hungnam Fertiliser Factory](#) | Massive chemical-industrial plant producing various kinds of fertilisers. Tour of the plant control room, production facilities, and packing plant - just don't light up next to the Ammonium Nitrate!

PM

- [Pujon Highlands](#) | A scenic drive through the highlands above Hamhung, traditionally considered as one of the 'Eight Great Sights of Korea'. Home to the **Pujon Stone River**, a multi-kilometre river of boulders running down the side a mountain and the Okryonsan Revolutionary Site -a base for anti-Japanese guerillas during the colonial period. This region was the sight of some of the most brutal fighting of the Korean War in the middle of the unusually cold winter of 1950. Notice how the local architecture differs from the lowlands beneath.

Overnight | Majon Beach Guesthouse, Hamhung

SEPTEMBER 16 – WEDNESDAY

Drive to Wonsan, a major port city on North Korea's east coast.

AM

- **Tonghung Revolutionary Site** | Hillside park with statues of the DPRK leadership overlooking Hamhung city centre and the Songchon River. A presentation of flowers is customary.
- Drive south to [Wonsan](#), a major port city on the East Sea, stopping at scenic spots along the way. *A 2.5-3 hour drive.*
- [Wonsan Agricultural University](#) | The DPRK's premier agricultural university set among beautiful hillside scenery. Tour the grounds and the neo-Romanesque teaching hall, originally built by Germans living in the area in the early 20th century.

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- [Songdowon International Schoolchildren's Camp](#) | A classic socialist summer camp where Korean and international children can spend two weeks learning socialist values and teamwork. Tour the recently renovated dormitories, aquarium, birdhouse, gymnasium, and more!
- [Wonsan City Centre and Docks](#) | Central square and ship terminal in downtown Wonsan.
- [Mangyongbong-92](#) | A ferry/cruise ship built in 1992 to ferry Japanese Koreans and goods between Japan and North Korea till 2006. In 2018, the ship carried North Korean performers for the Winter Olympics in South Korea.
- [Kangwon Province Art Gallery](#) | Small art exhibition selling artwork by local artists.

Overnight

[Dongmyong Hotel, Wonsan](#) | Waterfront hotel with stunning seaside views of Wonsan Harbor. Limited hours of hot water, bar, billiards, ping-pong, barber shop, beauty salon, dry-sauna, and indoor seawater swimming pool.

SEPTEMBER 17 – THURSDAY

Drive to Mt. Kumgang and hiking at Mt. Kumgang

AM

- [Mt. Kumgang](#) | Drive along the East Sea to see the 'Diamond Mountain' noted in East Asian history and famous in Korean legend. Home of some of Korea's most spectacular natural landscapes and best hiking. *A 2.5-hour drive.*
- [Samil Lagoon](#) | A charming green-water coastal lagoon lined by pine forests. Named for the 'three-day' stay (*sam-il*) of a king in days-gone-by to take in the full beauty of the area

PM

- [Hiking at Kuryong Waterfall](#) | An 8 km (round-trip) hike to a scenic waterfall through forests, along mountain streams and by emerald pools. A beautiful place to sit, relax and spend a few hours in nature. Feel like a rewarding challenge? Extend your hike by tackling Sangpaldam Peak.

Overnight

[Kumgangsan Hotel, Mt. Kumgang](#) | A comfortable hotel with good hot water supply and clean rooms. Top floor bar and karaoke, outdoor balcony barbeque, billiards, gift shops, and small sauna facilities.

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SEPTEMBER 18 – FRIDAY

Back to Wonsan

AM

- Drive back north to **Wonsan**. A 2.5-3 hr drive.
- **Kosan Fruit Farm** | Situated on a flat land in middle of mountains this fruit farm has been growing apples since the 1920s. The farm was completely renovated in 2008 and currently midway through mechanising old process. Also grows pear and peach, and has an iron fence factory, pig farm, and other smaller factories.
- [Former Wonsan Railway Station Revolutionary Site](#) | Preserved Japanese colonial era train station, waiting room, guesthouse, and the train which future President Kim Il Sung rode to Pyongyang during the liberation of the country in 1945.

PM

- **Time to relax and swim on the beautiful beaches of Wonsan!**
- [Jangdok Island and Lighthouse](#) | Take a stroll on the breakwater to a small island in the middle of Wonsan harbour (1 EUR/USD entry fee).

Overnight | Dongmyong Hotel, Wonsan

SEPTEMBER 19 – SATURDAY

Drive back to Pyongyang and Pyongyang City Cycling

AM

- Drive back to **Pyongyang**. A 3-4 hour drive.

PM

- [City Cycling](#) | Tour Pyongyang on a bike (*please note that bicycles are limited to 20 spots*) starting from Kwangbok Department Store through downtown Pyongyang to Munsu Water park.
- [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*).

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Overnight: Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

SEPTEMBER 20 – SATURDAY

Flight to Mt. Paektu!

AM

- Charter flight to **Samjiyon Town**, the gateway to Mt. Paektu located in the far north of the country. *A 1-hour flight.*
- [Mt. Paektu crater rim and Lake Chon](#) | Ascend to the highest point in all of Korea (on foot, or by funicular railway) for amazing views of the highest crater lake in the world, sitting in the caldera of the volcano. A breathtaking and remote place of stunning and unique scenery – unforgettable in fact. From the top one can either walk down or cable car (weather permitting) to the lake itself to sample the crystal-clear waters. Basic facilities on site with a picnic lunch to maximise the time here.

PM

- [Mt. Paektu Secret Camp](#) | The guerilla headquarters of General Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese struggle set in a hidden alpine valley lined by towering peaks and said to be the Birthplace of leader Kim Jong Il. See the reconstructed camp telling of how the guerillas lived year in and year out.
- [Rimyongsu Waterfall](#) | A scenic waterfall which never freezes due despite chilling alpine winters. The waterfall also provides hydroelectric power to neighbouring villages.

Overnight

[Paegaebong Hotel](#) | The only option in this area. Located on the edge of Samjiyon Town. A well-maintained place offering hospitable service, a range of potato-based dishes (spuds are the main crop in this area) as well as billiards and a very nice garden area.

SEPTEMBER 21 – MONDAY

Charter flight to North Hamgyong Province and Mount Chilbo

AM

- [Samjiyon Grand Monument](#) | group of bronze statues, including one of President Kim Il Sung, and stone monuments next to a scenic alpine lake. One of three 'grand monuments' in the country.

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- We will catch our charter flight onwards to [Orang Airport](#) in North Hamkyong Province. *A 1-hour flight.*

PM

- Upon arrival at [Mount Chilbo](#), we will start our tour of the mountain range. The 'Seven Treasures' mountain is one of the DPRK's most remote and scenic areas with a vast array of strangely shaped peaks and unique geologic formations. This primordial landscape is Home to many colourful (and suggestive) legends and offers a contrast to the densely populated cities and agricultural areas seen in much the rest of the country.

Overnight

[Homestay Village, Mount Chilbo](#) | The only place in the DPRK where foreigners can stay with local families in either a Korean-style or European-style home. Each Home has a bedroom and washroom for guests.

SEPTEMBER 22 – TUESDAY

Mount Chilbo

AM

- **Hiking to Kangson Gate** | A morning hike to **Kangson Gate**, a rock archway overlooking the sea.

PM

- [Local games, boating, and picnic at homestay village](#) | Brush up on your Korean (or body-language) for an evening spent with your local family. It is also possible to play volleyball against or wrestle the village team. *Fees for boating, swimming (shower or swimsuit rental), a la carte BBQ (mushroom and fish), and cooking class to be paid on the spot. Estimated 100-300 RMB depending on the activities you choose.*

Overnight | Homestay Village, Mount Chilbo.

SEPTEMBER 23 – WEDNESDAY

Mount Chilbo to Chongjin

AM

- We'll leave Mount Chilbo by way of the scenic coastal road (weather permitting) that leads to Kyongsong and [Chongjin](#) the DPRK's third largest city, provincial seat of

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North Hamgyong Province, and Korea's 'city of steel' - home to the massive Kim Chaek Iron Works.

- **So Ryang Hwa Waterfall** | A picturesque waterfall along the scenic coastal road from Mt. Chilbo north to Kyongsong.
- **Mugae Lagoon** | About an hour north from the So Ryang Hwa waterfall is Mugae Lagoon, another pleasant rest stop where the guides can tell some interesting legends about the events that caused the lake to be created. The slogan along the road reads 'Even though the road is difficult, we go along with a smile' – good advice for travelling in North Hamgyong Province!

PM

- **Chongjin Trolley Bus** | We'll take a ride down Chongjin's main drag on one of the city's trolleybuses.
- [Chongjin Central Square](#) | Central Square of Chongjin city with statues of the DPRK leadership. A presentation of flowers is customary (2-3 EUR).
- **North Hamgyong Province Revolutionary Museum** | Museum depicting the revolutionary struggles of the region.
- [North Hamgyong Province E-Library](#) | A library, study, and computer centre for the province, located just off Chongjin Central Square.
- **North Hamgyong Province Art Gallery** | Studio exhibiting and selling art from the region at comparatively good prices.
- **Chongjin Foreign Languages School** | One of the best school in the country to learn foreign languages (English, Chinese, and Russian). Join one of the English classes!

Overnight

Chongjin Foreigners' Lodging, Chongjin | The former foreign expert apartments of Kim Chaek Steelworks, similar in design to local apartments. Basic rooms but great food and service.

SEPTEMBER 24 – THURSDAY

Chongjin and drive to Hoeryong

AM

- **Gomalsan Revolutionary Site** | Birds eye view of Chongjin and memorial site honoring the Soviet troops who helped liberating this area.

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- **Mushroom Factory** | See how a North Korean factory works, and learn about the production process of different mushrooms. You can even taste the products if you're lucky.
- Drive to [Hoeryong](#) the Birthplace of Kim Jong Il's mother Kim Jong Suk. A city on the Sino-Korean border opened for tourists in 2012. A 2-2.5 hours drive.

PM

- **Central Square and Statue of Mother Kim Jong Suk** | Bronze statue of 'The Mother of Korea' in central Hoeryong. A presentation of flowers (2-4 EUR) is customary here.
- [Native House of Kim Jong Suk](#) | Traditional Korean Home of Kim Jong Suk set among a peaceful apricot orchard.
- [Hoeryong Revolutionary Museum](#) | Museum depicting the revolutionary struggles of the region. Particularly interesting for its giant mural depicting the 'Three Generals of Mt. Paekdu' during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. The painting was made by artists from the Mansudae Art Studio in Pyongyang and smaller replicas of it can be found throughout the country.
- **Hoeryong Schoolchildren's Palace** | Center of extracurricular activities in the arts, music, and sports for local children.

Overnight

Hoeryong Hotel, Hoeryong | A basic hotel featuring large rooms with air conditioning but no hot water, separate sauna/shower block, small shop and bar and large banquet hall.

SEPTEMBER 25 – FRIDAY

Kyongsong and domestic flight back to Pyongyang OR overland crossing over the internal Korean border to Rason Special Economic Zone

AM

- Drive to [Kyongsong](#) once one of the primary cities in Hamgyong Province, from which 'Kyong' derives, now eclipsed by neighbor Chongjin. Kyongsong is renowned for its hot spas which provide needed relaxation after days on the road and outdoor activities at Mt. Chilbo. A 2.5-3 hours drive.
- **Jipsam Revolutionary Site** | Seven Generals revolutionary site is worth visiting for the view of the sea and the nearby fishing village alone. Of course as befits any North Korean revolutionary site there is a granite monument with Korean text detailing the revolutionary events that occurred here (the guides will explain) and you can also see some old tools used to haul boats ashore. But the highlight is

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having a walk out along a rocky path along the coast, stand out on the pavilions and have a look out to the sea.

- **Kyongsong Revolutionary Site** | Japanese colonial-era house once used by the DPRK leadership and telling of their exploits in the region.

PM

After lunch our group will split up. You have the choice of flying back with your Korean guides to Pyongyang to catch the flight or train back to Beijing the next day. Or you can stay two more nights with your Tour Leader (we will have new guides joining us from Rason) in the DPRK to visit Rason Special Economic Zone to see North Korea to its fullest like nobody did before.

Option 1 | Flight back to Pyongyang

- Flight departure from Oran Airport on domestic **Air Koryo Flight JS4102** at 15:00 with scheduled arrival in Pyongyang at 16:00.
- [War Heroes' Cemetery](#) | Large gun, flag, and bayonet monument surrounded by rows of tombstones commemorating individual heroes of the Korean War.
- Farewell dinner at [Arirang Restaurant](#) | One of Pyongyang's best restaurant in the center of the city.

Overnight | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

OR

Option 2 | Rason Special Economic Zone

- Although the [Rason](#) zone is part of the DPRK it is administered in a different way, so there is a kind of internal customs to pass.
- **Statues of the DPRK's Leaders** | Situated on a hill behind the hotel and offering a great view over the city and bay.
- [Golden Triangle Bank](#) | Here we will learn about the different economic system of Rason, change money into local won (yes, it is legal, not to be taken out of the country though, you are supposed to spend it), and see actual banking going on, the only place you get to witness this in the DPRK!
- After dinner, have a walk through the **Hae'an Park** at the seaside. In good weather locals will gather here.

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- **Czech Beer Bar** | Opened with foreign investment. Slake your thirst with a range of made-on-site brews before dinner and overnight in this part of the DPRK.

Overnight

Namsan Hotel, Rajin | Centrally located and locally famous. Right in the heart of Rajin city.

SEPTEMBER 26 – SATURDAY

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train OR Rason/SEZ

AM

Option 1 | Departure Day from Pyongyang

Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS151** at 08:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:50.

OR

Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Sunday, September 27 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

Tour Ends for Option 1

OR

Option 2 | Rason Special Economic Zone

- Drive from Rajin to the nationally-famous **Pipha Island Area**, a scenic spot known to all North Koreans for its beauty.
- **Salmon and Trout Farm** | This is a seafood producing area after all – learn how they operate such places here.
- **Emperor Hotel** | Built with investment from Hong Kong this houses the first casino in the DPRK. Chinese tourists flock here for gambling and you can have a flutter yourself too, or enjoy a coffee and a look around this unexpected place!
- **Pipha Island** itself | A narrow road links it to the mainland. From here you can take an optional boat ride to see some seals who populate some rocks nearby, relax at the waterfront, or try some local seafood.

PM

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- [Foreign Language School](#) | Here local children learn English, Chinese, and other languages. Step in and help out with some lessons!
- **Sonryang Hana Shoe Factory** | Interesting small factory founded by a overseas Korean making various types of shoes (basketball, football, snow boots and many more). Many different designs. The logo of the brand is the Korean letter 'thiut (ㅄ)' referring to 'reunification'.
- [Rajin Port](#) | Here you will see what kind of industry is going on; fishing, shipping goods in and out, and look out for some very non-Korean people; one of the three piers is operated by Russians who live on site!
- [Haeyang Revolutionary Site](#) | A 20 minute drive from Rajin City this set of two houses are still occupied but are notable for having visited by Kim Il Sung, who gave 'on the spot guidance' about the lives of fisher folk. There is a nice view of the sea here.
- [Rajin City Market](#) | The only local market open to tourists in the whole country. Spread out through several buildings find consumer goods, stationary, food, drinks, building material, bicycles, and everything else a person in Rason would need. You can buy things too if you like – spend local money or RMB. Worth it just for the people-watching opportunity as it can get very busy here indeed!

Overnight | Namsan Hotel, Rajin

SEPTEMBER 27 – SUNDAY

Rason to Yanji – 2 different worlds!

AM

- Drive to the nearby city of **Sonbong**, the smaller of the sister cities in this zone.
- Stop for photos in the centre of town | Here there is a theatre, some monuments and mosaics, and an immortality tower too.
- **Sonbong Revolutionary Site** | Associated with the end of Japanese rule over Korea. The guides will explain the whole story.
- Drive on to **Tumangang Town**, right up on the Russian and Chinese borders, enjoy a packed lunch in this area.

PM

- Visit the **Russia-DPRK Friendship house** | Exhibit of photos of visits by key figures from the neighbouring countries.

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- [3 Countries Border Viewpoint](#) | A picturesque pavilion offering views into China and Russia. From here you can see how the river divides the nations and also hear about a historical naval battle that a famed Korean admiral directed from this very hilltop.
- Next up is our final drive in the DPRK where we head across the northern part of the Rason zone and end up at **Wonjong Bridge** - the frontier between the DPRK and the PRC. We pass through customs here on the Korean side, take a short ride or walk across the bridge and then we are back in China, just like that!
- [Drive to Yanji](#) | We will get picked up after we enter China. We have a 3 hour drive (with scenic stops) to the Chinese city of Yanji, the capital of the **Yanbian Korean Autonomous Region**. We'll end up here for dinner, drinks to celebrate the end of this adventure, and an overnight stay to bring our tour to a close. Congratulations to you for being with us on this amazing journey!
- Our tour sadly ends tonight and we all bid each other a fond *farewell!* How you depart from here is up to you – there are trains, planes, buses, etc. Koryo Tours can assist in planning onward travel in this region, back to Beijing, or onward elsewhere (Yanji may seem remote, but actually you can get to a lot of fascinating places from here without too much difficulty) – drop us a line with how you plan to finish this trip and we'll help you out!

Overnight | Yanji Hotel, Yanji

End of Tour

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