



## China National Day Long Tour

### TOUR

September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

7 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

### OVERVIEW

Calling all Chinese ex-pats! What better way to spend all of those days off for the Chinese National Holiday than exploring one of the world's least-visited countries - but surprisingly accessible from China!

Our Chinese National Holiday Tour includes a comprehensive city tour of [Pyongyang](#) as well as getting you down to the [DMZ](#), where North and South Korea continue their decades-old face-off. We'll also head up to [Pyongsong](#), a satellite city of Pyongyang and a centre for the national sci-tech industry. We will also take an afternoon trip east to the rarely visited [Hoechang](#), site of a Chinese military cemetery from the Korean War.

Our tour will also visit [Nampo](#), a centre of North Korea's trade network and the main point of entry for foreign goods destined for Pyongyang! The city is also the site of a major dam, the [West Sea Barrage](#), which spans the width of the Taedong river estuary.

Our comprehensive city tour of Pyongyang includes must-see sights such as the [mausoleum of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il](#), and the [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum](#), as well as visiting more local places such as the bustling [Kwangbok Supermarket](#), the only place in Pyongyang where tourists can spend local Won that can be changed at the black market exchange rate. It certainly won't be a relaxed Chinese golden week away, but it is an action pack week guaranteed to leave you wanting more!

*Want to escape China for National Day on a tighter budget? Check out our [China National Day Tour](#)*

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## DAILY ITINERARY

### SEPTEMBER 27 – SUNDAY

#### 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 28 – 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.

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## PM

- Flight departure from Beijing on **Air Koryo flight JS152** at 12:00. A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).
- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ)** at 15:00. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- [Grand People's Study House](#) | National library and public university in traditional Korean style with great views of Kim Il Sung Square. Learn about education in the DPRK.
- [National Stamp Exhibition](#) | A collection of stamps published in North Korea on display near the Koryo Hotel in central Pyongyang.
- Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station.
- [Walk on Mirae \(Future\) Scientists Street](#) | An evening stroll along one of Pyongyang's newest districts built for scientists in a uniquely DPRK-modernist style.

**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 great views of the city. Comfortable rooms and comprehensive leisure facilities: swimming pool, spa, billiards, bowling, gift shops, tea houses, beer brewed on-site, and a Chinese-run casino.

## SEPTEMBER 29 – TUESDAY

### *Kaesong & DMZ Tour*

## AM

- [Kaesong](#) | Drive south along the '[Reunification Highway](#)' to the historic capital of the [Koryo Dynasty](#) (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. A 2.5-hour drive
- [Panmunjom Truce Village and DMZ](#) | 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.

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- [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

- [Old City Walk and South Gate](#) | A morning stroll through Kaesong's historic district lined with homes dating back to the Ri Dynasty to the city's historic South Gate.
- [Janam Hill](#) | Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.
- [Tomb of King Kongmin](#) | Tomb of the 31st king of the Koryo Dynasty, a talented statesman and prolific painter, and his Mongolian wife set the end of a picturesque valley. 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 permanently divide the nation. 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.

**Overnight** | [Minsok Folk Hotel](#). Traditional style hotel where guest sleep on heated floors in Korean-style. Beautiful setting in Kaesong old city with stream running through the center and Ri dynasty furniture. Basic bathroom facilities. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electric supply – please bring a torch.

#### SEPTEMBER 30 – WEDNESDAY

*Sariwon & Pyongyang*

#### AM

- [Sariwon](#) | Drive north along the Reunification Highway to the capital of North Hwanghae Province.

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- [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.
- **Pyongyang** | Drive back to the capital.
- [Monument to the Three-Charters of National Reunification](#) | Iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between Koreans, north and south. Also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.

#### PM

- **Volleyball Match** | Take part in a volleyball match against a local team - Volleyball is one of the most popular sports in North Korea, so good luck!
- [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.
- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.
- [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.
- [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.

**Overnight** | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

#### OCTOBER 1 – THURSDAY

##### *Pyongyang City Tour*

#### AM

- [Kumsusan Memorial 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. We will need to dress formally for our visit: shirt, dress pants, and tie for men and covered shoulders, legs, and feet for women. The visit will take most of the morning and visitors are asked to bow a number of times

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inside. Please note that 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

- [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.
- [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 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 spyship [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 beer (50 cents a pint). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

**Overnight** / Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

### OCTOBER 2 – FRIDAY

*Pyongsong & Hoechang*

#### AM

- [Hoechang](#) | Drive east of Pyongyang to the remote city of Hoechang.
- **Cemetery for the Martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army** | Cemetery for fallen Chinese troops who died during the Korean War.

#### PM

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- **Songhung Revolutionary Site** | We'll visit the original Chinese military headquarters used during the Korean War to command Beijing's People's Volunteer Army.
- **Pyongsong** | Drive to the capital of South Pyongan Province, a satellite city of Pyongyang which serves as a centre for the national sci-tech industry.
- **Konji-Ri Revolutionary Site** | Headquarters of the Korean 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 compliments the War Museum in Pyongyang.

**Overnight** | **Jangsusan Hotel**. The only hotel in Pyongsong open to foreigners located in the centre of the city.

### OCTOBER 3 – SATURDAY

#### *Pyongsong & Pyongyang*

#### AM

- **Doksung Primary School** | A local primary school in Pyongsong which will give you a glimpse into the national education system (and perhaps a chance to get beaten and table-tennis by some impressive young athletes).
- **Pyongsong City Square** | Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary museum. Presentation of flowers customary.
- **Pyongyang** | Drive back south to Pyongyang.

#### PM

- **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**, or 'thousand *ri* [400 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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- **Friendship Tower** | A tower built to commemorate the longstanding friendship between China and North Korea.
- **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, Pyongyang

## OCTOBER 4 – SUNDAY

*Nampo*

### AM

- **Nampo** | We'll drive west along the [riverside road](#) by the [Taedong River](#) to this major port on the west coast of Korea and gateway to the Taedong River and Pyongyang. Transformed from a sleepy fishing village to a centre of industry and shipping during the 20th century due to its strategic location.
- **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.
- **Chongsam-ri Farm** | Learn about rural life at this farm specialising in rice and persimmons. Visit the cultural centre, farm house, and fish pond.

### PM

- **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 locks and fish ladder. One of the DPRK's greatest engineering feats.
- **Nampo Square** | Central square of Nampo City with statues of the DPRK leadership.
- **Pyongyang** | [Drive back east to Pyongyang.](#)
- **Kaesong 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).
- **Hyangmanryu Restaurant** | We'll have our farewell dinner at one of Pyongyang's Chinese restaurants.

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**Overnight |** Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

**OCTOBER 5 – MONDAY**

*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 JS151** at 08:40 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 10:00

**OR**

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:10 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Tuesday, October 6 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

**End of Tour**

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