



Party Foundation Day Tour From Shanghai

TOUR

October 8th – 11th 2020

2.5 nights in North Korea + Shanghai-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

Join us on an exclusive tour direct from Shanghai to Pyongyang - our shortest and most action-packed tours.

Party Foundation Day is one of North Korea's most important holiday dates, and this year is especially important. It is the 75th anniversary of Party Foundation Day, and therefore celebrations will be extra big and extra spectacular. We are also expecting a military parade!

On this short but comprehensive tour, we will spend a day and a half in [Pyongyang](#), visiting all of the must-see sights for a great first look into North Korea. This includes a trip to the [Kumsusan Memorial Palace](#) - the mausoleum where Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il lie in state. Making the most out of the time in North Korea, we take a day trip to visit historic [Kumsusan Memorial Palace](#), [Kaesong](#) and the [DMZ](#), the North-South Korean border.

Flying from Beijing? Check out our tours to North Korea from Beijing; [5-night](#) and [3-night](#).

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

OCTOBER 8 – THURSDAY

Briefing Day

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Meet your Koryo Tours tour guide and fellow travellers at Shanghai Pudong Airport for a pre-tour briefing and check-in (Air Koryo check-in desk in Terminal 1 @ approximately 18:30) for your late-night flight to Pyongyang. This briefing will last approximately one hour and is 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 travellers.

OCTOBER 9 – FRIDAY

Arrival in Pyongyang. Historic Kaesong and the DMZ Tour

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Early morning arrival at Sunan Airport, Pyongyang, and transfer to hotel for sleep and breakfast

- **[Kaesong](#)** | Drive 3 hours south along the '[Reunification Highway](#)' to the historic capital of the [Koryo Dynasty](#) (918-1392), located near today's Korean Demilitarized Zone with a stop at the [Monument to the Three-Charters of National Reunification](#) an iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between the Koreas, north and south. Also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.
- **[Panmunjom Armistice Village and DMZ](#)** | Perhaps the most famous place in the entire country. The iconic manifestation of the tragic division between North and South Korea. The 'truce' village where several huts straddle the Central Military Demarcation Line (de facto border) with soldiers from each side standing guard. A tour here starts with a briefing at the edge of the DMZ, a visit to the Armistice Negotiation Hall and Armistice Signing Hall, seen as symbols of victory over foreign aggression on this side of the line. Then to Panmunjom itself – cross the border inside one of the blue huts, experience the uncanny feeling of crossing the front line of a sad and needless division of one society, and then take a higher view from the Panmun Pavilion looking over the line from above. A Korean People's Army officer will be there to explain their side of things and will willingly pose for some photos too. A completely and utterly unmissable place.

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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. One of Kaesong's many UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The buildings are in Koryo Dynasty style but date back to the early 17th century following their destruction in the Imjin War.
- [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 consisting 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 also an option here (+5 EUR).

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- [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 to the city's historic South Gate.
- [Janam Hill and Old City View](#) | 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..
- Drive back to Pyongyang. *3-hour drive*.
- Visit a local **Beer Bar** to try some of the excellent local beer - have a pint or two alongside locals celebrating the eve of this major national holiday

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.

OCTOBER 10 – SATURDAY

Party Foundation Day – the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea

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On October 10th there will be large-scale celebrations in Pyongyang. A military parade is expected, in which case the itinerary for the day will be subject to change. Foreign travellers are typically allowed to view military units as they exit the city from the parade course and the city's residents come out en masse to greet them. Be prepared to potentially wait around for a few hours, but it will be well worth it. For Party Foundation Day, we also expect student-organised mass dances at prominent locations throughout the city and the possibility of evening fireworks. Whatever happens this holiday, it will be impressive and unforgettable. Not to be missed!

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- [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](#) | A massive archway made for the 70th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.
- [Mass Dance](#) | As it's a national holiday, we expect to see large student organised dances held around Pyongyang on major holidays (*weather dependent*). Join in the fun!
- [Moranbong Park](#) | We'll have a picnic and take a stroll 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'.

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- [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). *Please note this is a government-administered sight and visits are subject to cancellation. Visits are optional and require a certain dress code (close-toed shoes and covered legs and shoulders)*. 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 1950s following the Korean War.
- [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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- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
- [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*).
- [Party Foundation Monument](#) | Iconic Monument made up of stone depictions of hands gripping the hammer, sickle, and writing brush – symbols of the Workers' Party of Korea. Built in 1995 for the 40th anniversary of this Party.
- [Mass Games!](#) | The Mass Games are an art form in North Korea, developed over decades, which can involve up to 100,000 performers in massive synchronised displays of gymnastics and dance. Not to be missed!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 11 – SUNDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

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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.*
- [Trolleybus Ride](#) | A ride through Pyongyang on one of the city's famous trolleybuses.
- **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.

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- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a park-like setting.

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- [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.
- [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*).
- We make our way to **Pyongyang Sunan Airport** for dinner in one of the very best restaurants in the country, a rare treat and somewhere almost never used by tourists.
- **Air Koryo flight JS157 from Pyongyang to Shanghai** departing at 19:40 with scheduled arrival to Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) Terminal 1 at 21:00 – end of this unforgettable adventure!

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