



The Party Foundation Day Long Weekend Tour

TOUR

October 9th – 12th 2020

3 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

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.

Are you flying from Shanghai? Check out our [Party Foundation Day tour to North Korea from Shanghai](#).

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

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 8 – THURSDAY

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 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 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.*

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

OCTOBER 9 – FRIDAY

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. The train crosses the China-North Korea border followed by North Korean customs and immigration.*
- **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. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- **[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 artefacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and captured equipment from the US military, including the **[USS Pueblo](#)**. Central to the understanding of the country today and a highlight of the trip.
- **Train arrival** to Pyongyang Railway Station at 18:45.
- **[Walk on Future Scientists' Street](#)** | An evening stroll through one of Pyongyang's newest neighbourhoods.

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, beer brewed on-site, and a Chinese-run casino.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

OCTOBER 10 –SATURDAY

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

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 wait around for a few hours potentially, 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!

AM

- [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'.

PM

- [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 specific 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 miles) horse' - a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950s following the Korean War.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA



- [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.
- [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

Historic Kaesong and Panmunjom

AM

- [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.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

- [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).

PM

- Drive back to Pyongyang (3 hrs drive).
- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a park-like setting.
- [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.
- Farewell dinner at **Duck Barbeque Restaurant** | South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA



OCTOBER 12 – MONDAY

*Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please indicate 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 10:25 with a transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Tuesday, October 13, at 08:40. *For this tour, the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA