



Party Foundation Day Short Tour

TOUR

October 8th – 13th 2020

5 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

This 5-night adventure offers a unique mix of local culture, must-see attractions, and the great outdoors in some of the most remote parts of North Korea.

We'll be in Pyongyang for Party Foundation Day (October 10), a North Korean holiday which marks the foundation of the Korean Workers' Party, for the celebrations, including student-organised mass dances, and to see other highlights such as the [Pyongyang Metro](#), the [Kumsusan Palace of the Sun](#), and the [Mansudae Grand Monument](#), followed by an overnight trip to historic [Kaesong](#), the medieval capital of the Koryo Dynasty.

In Kaesong, we'll take a [DMZ tour](#) to the Panmunjom Armistice Village between North and South Korea, as well as visit the of King Kongmin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Sariwon.

Short on time? Check out the shorter [3-night](#) option for this tour.

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DAILY ITINERARY

OCTOBER 7 – 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 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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OCTOBER 8 – 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.*
- **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 JS252** at 14:00. *A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Flight arrival into [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 17:00. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- **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 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 9 – FRIDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- **[Mangyongdae Native House](#)** | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a park-like setting.
- **[National Gifts Hall](#)** | An exhibition hall displaying gifts of all kinds given to the DPRK leaders by Koreans in China, Japan and overseas.

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- [Mt. Ryonggak BBQ](#) | A short hike and BBQ lunch in a woodland setting just outside of the city.

PM

- [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.
- [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.
- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A standing bar serving seven types of beer or you can order a flight (50 cents a pint, 5 EUR for a flight). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

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 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.

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- [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.
- [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. It was 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

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OCTOBER 11 – SUNDAY

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

PM

- [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-Charter of National Reunification](#) an iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between the Koreas, north and south and also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.
- [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.
- [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.

Overnight | [Minsok Folk Hotel](#). 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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OCTOBER 12 – MONDAY

Historic Kaesong, Panmunjom, and Sariwon

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 to the city's historic South Gate.
- [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.
- [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 to [Sariwon](#) | The provincial seat of North Hwanghae Province and centre of regional industry (2 hrs).

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- [Migok Co-Operative Farm](#) | Learn about rural life in the DPRK at this farming community on the bucolic plains of Sariwon. Visit the farm's museum, viewpoint, and local home.
- Drive back to Pyongyang. *1-hour drive.*
- [Party Foundation Museum](#) / museum dedicated to the foundation of the Korean Workers' Party.
- **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*).
- 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

OCTOBER 13 – TUESDAY

*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 08:35 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 Wednesday, October 14 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

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