



New Year's Eve Tour

TOUR

December 29 2020 – January 2 2021

4 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

Visit North Korea for New Year's Eve 2020 and bring in 2021 with Koryo Tours in style. Our annual New Year's Eve Tour counts down the clock with the locals in Pyongyang's [Kim Il Sung Square](#) for celebrations that only get better every year.

Last year saw a massive firework display over the [Tower of the Juche Idea](#), dancing, and drone display in the sky. All topped off with a concert by some of [North Korea's most famous musicians](#).

Watched closely by North Koreans and analysts alike, be one of the first to hear the New Year's Address for 2021. Given by the North Korean leader on New Year's Day and outlines the country's policy and initiatives for the coming year, providing insight into where the country is going. We'll also visit the highlights of Pyongyang such as the [Kumsusan Palace of the Sun](#), Mausoleum of the DPRK leaders, and the [Pyongyang Metro](#). This tour also includes a [DMZ](#) tour at Panmunjom in [Kaesong](#).

On a budget? See the highlights of Pyongyang and experience the New Year's Eve celebrations on our shorter [North Korea New Year's Eve Budget Tour](#). Please note: We recommend departure by train at the end of this tour as the Air Koryo flight on January 2nd has yet to be confirmed.

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DAILY ITINERARY

DECEMBER 28 – MONDAY

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 leaving by flight the next day.

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*
- **10:00 | briefing for those departing by train.**

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- **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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DECEMBER 29 – TUESDAY

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 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 12:55. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Flight arrival into [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 15:55. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **[Walk on Future Scientists' Street](#)** | An evening stroll through one of Pyongyang's newest neighbourhoods.
- **Koryo Hotel Microbrewery** | Microbrewery at one of Pyongyang's main hotels near the train station making two different beers.
- Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station at 18:45.

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.

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DECEMBER 30 – WEDNESDAY

Kaesong and 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 Demilitarised Zone. A 3-hour drive
- [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. 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 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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- [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.
- [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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- Return to Pyongyang with a stop at the [Monument to the Three-Charterers 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'. A 3-hours drive.
- [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.
- [Yanggakdo International Cinema](#) | Optional Screening of *Comrade Kim Goes Flying*, a North Korean romantic comedy co-produced by Koryo Tours. The ticket is approximately 10 EUR (*subject to change*).

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

DECEMBER 31 – THURSDAY

New Year's Eve

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.*
- [Mansudae Fountain Park](#) | The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school 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). *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.

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- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
- [Okryugwan](#) | A meal at Pyongyang's most famous restaurant. Housed in a massive traditional building on the banks of the Taedong River. Okryugwan specialises in Pyongyang Cold Noodles.

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- [Trolleybus Ride](#) | A ride through Pyongyang from Pyongyang Railway Station to Arch of Triumph on one of the city's famous trolleybuses. A Koryo exclusive!
- [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 (50 cents a pint, 4.5 EUR for a flight). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!
- **Dinner on Pyongyang's Rainbow Boat** on the Taedong River where we'll have our New Year's Eve Party with a great view on Kim Il Sung Square and the fireworks display!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

JANUARY 1 – FRIDAY

New Year's Day

AM

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

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- [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*).
- [Monument to Party Foundation](#) | Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which represent the workers, farmers, and intellectuals that make up the Worker's Party of 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*).
- Farewell dinner at [Diplomatic Club](#) | Leisure complex with restaurant, swimming pool, bar, karaoke, billiards, and banquet hall for foreigners residing and visiting Pyongyang. Open late!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

JANUARY 2 – SATURDAY

*Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please indicate your preferred exit method upon booking. **For this tour, we highly recommend train departure or at least leaving your schedule flexible for train departure to Beijing. In 2020, Air Koryo did not operate a flight on January 2nd.***

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS151** at 80:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55. *****Please note this flight is subject to cancellation.*****

OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with a transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Sunday, January 3rd, at 08:40. *For this tour, the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

End of Tour

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