



China to North Korea: Spring Festival Student Budget Tour

TOUR

January 30th – February 4th 2021

5 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

Looking for travel ideas from China to North Korea to help you escape the business of the Spring Festival Chinese holidays? Look no further!

This special 5-night budget tour is longer than other budget tours, allowing you to get a real feel for the country and make sure to get in all of the must-sees. Not only will you visit the capital Pyongyang, and the historic town of [Kaesong](#) on the way to visiting the [DMZ border](#) to South Korea, but you will also get to partake in activities that very few tourists get to participate in.

Spend your Chinese holidays trying out your Taekwondo skills, attending introductory Korean classes followed by a discussion with Korean students, and learning some Korean cooking to impress your friends with back home.

Our North Korea Spring Festival budget tour is perfect for those going from China to North Korea, seeking adventure travel on a budget. Or, those wanting to escape the hustle and bustle in China during the Chinese holidays. Tick North Korea off your bucket list and get a key insight into this little-explored country. Prepare yourself for a truly action-packed itinerary!

You can also add a 2-night skiing extension to this tour at the slopes of [Masik Pass](#), North Korea's only ski resort open to foreigners.

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

JANUARY 29 – FRIDAY

***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.

JANUARY 30 – SATURDAY

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.

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- **9:15 | Free bus** from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2 for those taking the flight. *Alternatively meet the group at the Air Koryo check-in counter at 10:00.*

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 to [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 15:55. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **[Kim Il Sung Square](#)** | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House, Korea's national library. See the centre of it all!
- **Walk on post-war Pyongyang's oldest street Victory (Sungni) Street** from Kim Il Sung Square to **Pyongyang Grand Theatre**.
- Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station at 18:45.
- Walk from the train station to the hotel.

Overnight | [Pyongyang Hotel](#), Pyongyang. Pyongyang's oldest hotel in operation and centrally located. Popular with overseas Koreans and Japanese. Excellent restaurants and cafes.

JANUARY 31 – SUNDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

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 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.*
- **[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.

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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.
- [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.

PM

- [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*).
- **Relaxing Sunday afternoon in East Pyongyang** | You can go for a ten-pin fix with Pyongyang locals at [Golden Lane Bowling Centre](#), or head next door to the [Kumrung Leisure Centre](#) for an airgun shooting range and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang. Those who want to warm up a bit and leave feeling ten years younger can go to **Ryomyong Sauna Complex** to chill and mingle with locals.
- [Monument to 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.
- [Pyongyang Ice Rink](#) | We’ll enjoy ice skating, one of Pyongyang’s winter pastimes, with the locals. Rentals available on sight.

Overnight | Pyongyang Hotel, Pyongyang

FEBRUARY 1 – MONDAY

A day dedicated to learning

AM

- **Conversational Korean Languages Class** | Two 90 minutes long introductory Korean classes held by a local teacher at **Pyongyang Tourism College**. This lightning course will teach you the essential phrases for basic conversations from greeting and addressing people to inquire about the prices in a shop and ordering beer in a bar.

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- [Kwangbok Department Store](#) | Shop with the citizens of Pyongyang and exchange for [Korean currency](#)! Lunch on the top floor – mix with local shoppers/diners while lining up and eating with them.

PM

- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a park-like setting.
- **Taekwondo Class** | A 60 minute introductory class at the **Taekwondo Areana on Sports Street** to taekwondo the national martial art which all children learn to a certain degree in school.
- [Grand People's Study House](#) | Huge national library and public university housed in a large neo-traditional Korean building overlooking Kim Il Sung Square and the downtown Pyongyang.
- **Cooking Class** | You will learn how to make Korean classics like Pyongyang cold noodles (raengmyon), kimchi, green bean pancakes, and other local delicacies followed by a dinner of your own making!
- **Evening walk on Ryomyong Street** Pyongyang's newest futuristic neighbourhood.

Overnight | Pyongyang Hotel, Pyongyang

FEBRUARY 2 – TUESDAY

Pyongyang City Tour and drive to Kaesong

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.
- [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

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military, including the [USS Pueblo](#). Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.

PM

- Drive 3 hours south along the ‘[Reunification Highway](#)’ to [Kaesong](#), ancient capital of the [Koryo Dynasty](#) (918-1392 AD) 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. 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 permanently divide the nation. 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.
- [South Gate and Old City Walk](#) | A stroll to the hotel through Kaesong’s historic district lined with homes dating back to the Ri Dynasty from the city’s historic South Gate.

Overnight | [Janamsan Hotel](#), Kaesong. One of our favourite hotels in the DPRK. Friendly staff, great food, and 1970's socialist design. A cosy place to stay in winter!

FEBRUARY 3 – WEDNESDAY

Kaesong and the DMZ

AM

- [Panmunjom 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. 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

- Drive back to **Pyongyang**. 3 hour drive.
- [Trolleybus Ride](#) | A ride through Pyongyang on one of the city's famous trolleybuses. A Koryo exclusive!
- [Pizza Restaurant](#) | Farewell dinner at one of Pyongyang's Italian eateries (there are three).
- [Walk on Future Scientists' Street](#) | An evening stroll through one of Pyongyang's newest neighbourhoods.

Overnight | Pyongyang Hotel, Pyongyang

FEBRUARY 4 – THURSDAY

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please confirm your preferred transport method upon booking.

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS251** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 11:30.

OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Friday February 5 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

End of Tour

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