



## One Korea Tour

### TOUR

October 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Eight nights in North Korea and South Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

### OVERVIEW

North Korea and South Korea in one tour - **The One Korea Tour**. Visit the **North Korean** and **South Korean** capitals Seoul and Pyongyang, as well as the DMZ from both sides! This trip will take us to the respective capitals of the DPRK (North Korea) and ROK (South Korea).

From the monumental, ordered [Pyongyang](#), to the dynamic, bustling **Seoul**, where we can compare how the cities have tried to better each other in the past through competitions, and how each remembers the past through visits to their [Korean War museums](#).

South Korea like you've never experienced: visiting South Korea with Koryo Tours after a trip to North Korea not only allows you to draw comparisons and see how each has developed from a historically one country, but we will visit places in South Korea allowing us to also explore the differences and commonalities of both countries, divided since 1945 and still technically at war since 1950 - offering a rare and unique South Korea tour.

This specially designed One Korea tour in cooperation with [Panmunjom Travel Center](#) will get you to Pyongyang for what we expect to be the most fascinating North Korean travel experience to take place in years – experience **the 75th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Workers' Party of Korea** and see the amazing and life-changing [Mass Games](#).

"**Korea is one!**" is a common saying in both North and South Korea. See it for yourself with Koryo Tours!

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.  
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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 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 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 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 12:00. *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.
- **[Grand People's Study House](#)** | National library and public correspondence university with Neo-traditional Korean style and great views of the city.
- Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station at 18:45.
- **Walk to the hotel** | An evening stroll through Pyongyang's Central District.

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

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**OCTOBER 10 – SATURDAY**

***Party Foundation Day and Mass Games – the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea and the largest performance on Earth***

*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!*

*Mass Games' at Pyongyang's May Day Stadium open to foreign travellers. This massive performance incorporates choreographed acrobatics, dancing, music, floats, and a moving backdrop of tens of thousands of students holding coloured cards. In previous years, there have been four classes of seating with tickets arranged and purchased on the spot in-country.*

**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**

- [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.

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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*).
- [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** | Pyongyang Hotel, Pyongyang

## 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.*
- [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.
- [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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PM

- [Kaesong](#) | Drive 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'. .
- [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.
- [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.
- **Dinner with Kayagum Performance** | Traditional Korean stringed instrument performance at the Minsok Folk Hotel. Tip recommended (*1-3 EUR per person*) for this beautiful demonstration of Korean music.

**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.

**OCTOBER 12 – MONDAY**

*Historic Kaesong and Panmunjom*

AM

- [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

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will be there to explain their side of things and will willingly pose for some photos too. A completely and utterly unmissable place.

- **Sonjuk Bridge** | Small stone bridge built in 1290, which in 1392 was the site of the assassination of the last loyal Koryo Dynasty minister Jong Mong Ju by a son of Ri Song Gye (founder of the next, and final, dynasty). This bloody act extinguished the Koryo which had ruled over Korea for 474 years and is said to have left a permanent mark on the bridge that can be seen to this day.
- [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).
- [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.
- [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.
- **Local Beer Bar** | For this beer bar visit we'll be heading to somewhere very special - an authentic local beer bar in Pyongyang that is off-limits to foreigners. The perfect way to finish our tour and toast our local Korean hosts!

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**Overnight |** Pyongyang Hotel, Pyongyang

**OCTOBER 13 – TUESDAY**

*Meeting with Korean Students and Pyongyang City Tour*

**AM**

- **Meeting with Korean College Students |** Meeting with local college students who will be the tour guides of the future at **Pyongyang Tourism College**.
- [Party Foundation Museum](#) | Museum dedicated to the foundation of the Korean Workers' Party.

**PM**

- **Walk on Ryomyong Street |** Walk on one of Pyongyang's newest districts lined with new modernist-style architecture.
- [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.
- **Foodstuff Factory |** See how a North Korean factory works, and learn about the production process of different snacks. You can even taste the products if you're lucky.
- **Farewell Dinner at [Arirang Restaurant](#) |** Considered one of Pyongyang's best restaurants serving fantastic Korean food. They also happen to make what some people in the know consider to be the best Makkoli in Pyongyang and served the traditional way.

**Overnight |** Pyongyang Hotel, Pyongyang

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**OCTOBER 14 – WEDNESDAY**

*Flight to Seoul/Incheon via Shenyang*

**AM**

- [War Heroes' Cemetery](#) | Cemetery with dozens of bronze busts of heroes of the Korean War. Opened in 2013 and centred around Monument of a rifle and red flag.
- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS155** at 11:50 with scheduled arrival at Shenyang Taoxian Airport (SHE) at 12:00.

**PM**

- Flight departure from Shenyang on **Korean Air flight KE834** at 16:50.
- **Arrival to the Best Airport Worldwide, Seoul's Incheon International Airport (ICN)** at 20:00. ROK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guide and transfer to the hotel.

**Overnight** | Ibis Ambassador Insadong Hotel, Seoul

**OCTOBER 15 – THURSDAY**

*Seoul City Tour*

**AM**

- **War Memorial of Korea** | Visit the War Memorial of Korea in South Korea and see things from a different perspective. The War Memorial of Korea features both indoor and outdoor exhibition halls containing approx. 33,000 artefacts.
- **Gwanghwamun Square** | Also known as Gwanghwamun Plaza is a large public open space featuring fountains and statues of historical significance, also housing the royal administrative buildings known as the 'Street of Six Ministries'.
- **National Museum of Contemporary Korean History** | Learn about the tumultuous 1960s when South Korea was under a military dictatorship. It's also the time of the 'Miracle on the Han River' when the country transformed from a developing country to one of the most developed economies.

**PM**

- **Local Factory** | See how a South Korean factory works, and learn about the production process and how the factory differs from that in the North.

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- Free time at your own leisure.

**Overnight | Ibis Ambassador Insadong Hotel, Seoul**

**OCTOBER 16 – FRIDAY**

**\*DMZ and JSA Tour |** *Please note that the Joint Security Area (JSA) is administered by the United Nations Commands and visits to the JSA is subject to cancellations according to local circumstances.*

**AM**

- Drive to **Imjingak**, the South's version of Panmunjom, visit the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) from the other side.
- **Third Infiltration Tunnel |** The Third Tunnel of Aggression is one of four known tunnels built by North Korea running from North to South. Visitors can take a tour of this tunnel, but photography is not permitted inside.
- **Dorasan Observatory |** One of the many observatories at the DMZ where you can overlook North Korea from the South and have a peek back into Kaesong and other places back in the DPRK.
- **Dorasan Station |** The last stop in South Korea before the tracks enter North Korea. It is located 56km from Seoul and 205km from Pyongyang.
- Bulgogi lunch.

**PM**

- **Camp Bonifas |** A UN command post in South Korea, 400 meters away from the southern line of the DMZ. Also home to the "world's most dangerous hole in golf" as it sports a golf course surrounded by landmines. A safety briefing will be held here by a South Korean or American military guide before visiting the JSA. Please note that cancellation is possible.
- **JSA |** Visit the Joint Security Area (Truce Village) from the South as well. It is the closest you'll be getting to North Korea from the Southside.
- Drive back to **Seoul**.
- Free time at your own leisure.

**Overnight | Ibis Ambassador Insadong Hotel, Seoul**

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## OCTOBER 17 – SATURDAY

### *Departure day from Seoul*

Our trip ends this morning. Catch an international flight from Seoul's Incheon (Airport code: ICN; serves over 130 destinations in more than 50 countries) or Gimpo Airport (Airport code: GMP, serves domestic cities and East Asian metropolitan areas) or continue to explore Seoul and South Korea independently.

For tips in South Korea, please contact your tour manager.

### **End of Tour**

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