



International Children's Day and Children's Union Foundation Day Tour

May 31st - June 7th 2021

7 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

There is a famous saying in North Korea that 'Children are the Kings of the Country' and significant attention is devoted to children's upbringing and education. International Children's Day on the 1st of June is particularly important and celebrations are held in recognition of children throughout North Korea.

This is a day that is usually marked by student-oriented activities, events, and celebrations. We'll spend the holiday in the capital [Pyongyang](#) out and about in the city visiting locations popular with schoolchildren and their families, letting out our inner child and joining in the fun!

During our time in Pyongyang, we will make sure to take you to the best that the country's capital has to offer, including [Kim Il Sung Square](#), the [Juche Tower](#), and the [Mansudae Grand Monument](#).

Apart from Pyongyang, this tour will also visit historic [Kaesong and the DMZ](#), the capital of the medieval Koryo Dynasty and the current North-South Korea border.

Want to explore further? This tour will also get you across to the east coast of Korea to visit North Korea's second largest city of [Hamhung](#), and the beachside city of [Wonsan](#).

You will then be back in Pyongyang to join in the 75th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Children's Union, which is the children's membership section of the Worker's Party of Korea.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

DAILY ITINERARY

MAY 30 – SUNDAY

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 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.

MAY 31 – MONDAY

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.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA



- **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 JS 152** at 13:05. A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch.
- **Flight arrival into [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 16:05. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **[Arch of Triumph](#)** | Massive archway made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.
- **Sungni (Victory) Street** | Walk from **[Kim Il Sung Square](#)** to **Pyongyang Grand Theatre** and then on to **Pyongyang Railway Station**.
- **Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station** at 18:45.

Overnight | **[Chongnyon \(Youth\) Hotel](#)**, **Pyongyang**. A very green retro-futurist giant, located on modernist Kwangbok Street. Outdoor AND indoor swimming pools, and home to the best foreign karaoke in Pyongyang. One of very few of our tours to stay at this unique hotel!

JUNE 1 – TUESDAY

International Children's Day & Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- **[Mangyongdae Native House](#)** | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in beautiful natural surroundings.
- **[International Children's Day](#) Activities in Pyongyang**
- **[Kwangbok Department Store](#)** | Exchange for 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.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

PM

- [Youth Movement Museum](#) | located on Kwangbok Street, this museum covers the history and achievements of the youth members of the Worker's Party of Korea.
- [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 5 EUR for great views of the city.
- [Monument to the 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.
- [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). Here we will also see the Chollima, or 'thousand ri [400 mile] horse' - a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950's following the Korean War.
- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museum and The Grand People's Study House, Korea's national library. See the centre of it all!
- [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.
- Dinner at Pyongyang's [Pizza Restuarant](#) on Kwangbok Street

Overnight | Chongnyon (Youth) Hotel

JUNE 2 - WEDNESDAY

Kaesong & DMZ

AM

- [Kaesong](#) | Drive 3-hour drive south along the 'Reunification Highway' to the ancient capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD) located near today's Korean Demilitarised Zone.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

- [Panmunjom Truce Village](#) | Located in the middle of the 4 km wide Demilitarised Zone, Panmunjom is the site of the signing of the 1953 armistice at the end of the Korean War. This is the only location where visitors can directly view soldiers from both sides and the demarcation line dividing Korea. On some days it is possible to enter the hut straddling both Koreas and there cross temporarily into the south.
- [Kaesong Koryo Museum & Stamp Shop](#) | A former Confucian education school, now a museum on the Koryo Dynasty exhibiting historical objects, statues, pagodas, and porcelain from the time. One of Kaesong's many UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- [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

- [Janam Hill](#) | Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.
- [Pyongyang](#) | Drive back to the capital city. (3 hours)
- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and USS Pueblo](#) | We'll tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guides. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of Korean War from the DPRK perspective containing artifacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and captures equipment from the US military, including the spyship [USS Pueblo](#). Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.
- [Pyongyang Metro Tour](#) | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. We'll ride six stations on the Chollima Line.
- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A traditional standing bar serving seven type of beer (50 cents a pint). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!
- [Duck Barbeque Restaurant](#) | South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.

Overnight | Chongnyon (Youth) Hotel

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

JUNE 3 - THURSDAY

Hamhung

AM

- [Hamhung](#) | Drive east across the width of the peninsula before heading north to Hamhung (6-7 hour drive), the second-largest city of the DPRK and major centre of industry.
- [Sinpyong Lake Rest Stop](#) | Known as 'Little Kumgang' this scenic lakeside rest stop, a great opportunity to stretch your legs.
- [Ulim Waterfall](#) | Hidden amongst the mountains on the road to Wonsan, 'Echo' Waterfall is a scenic stopover to enjoy lunch, stretch your legs, or go for a dip in the pool beneath.

PM

- [Tongbong Co-operative Farm](#) | Local farm in the outskirts of Hamhung. View the machinery barn, a local home, and the farm shop to buy some locally made products.
- [Hamhung Grand Theatre and Central Square](#) | Exterior view of the DPRK's largest theatre on the city's central square.

Overnight | [Sinhungsan Hotel, Hamhung](#). A basic, but comfortable hotel and the only hotel foreigners can stay at in Hamhung city. It has a restaurant, bar, billiards, table tennis, bookshop, barber shop, beauty salon and karaoke. Limited hot water.

JUNE 4 - FRIDAY

The Pujon Highlands

AM

- [Pujon Highlands](#) | A scenic drive through the highlands above Hamhung, traditionally considered as one of the 'Eight Great Sights of Korea'. Home to the **Pujon Stone River**, a multi-kilometre river of boulders running down the side a mountain and the **Okryonsan Revolutionary Site** - a base for anti-Japanese guerillas during the colonial period. This region was the sight of some of the most brutal fighting of the Korean War in the middle of the unusually cold winter of 1950. Notice how the local architecture differs from the lowlands beneath.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

PM

- [Home of Ri Song Gye](#) | Home of the first king of the Ri Dynasty (1392-1910) who extinguished the Koryo Dynasty, only to be then ousted by his own son. A traditional hall and pavilion and associated naughty stories of the former king's retirement years - some not appropriate for the youth!
- [Hungnam Fertiliser Factory](#) | Massive chemical-industrial plant producing various kinds of fertilisers. Tour of the plant control room, production facilities, and packing plant - just don't light up next to the Ammonium Nitrate!

Overnight | Sinhungsan Hotel, Hamhung

JUNE 5 – SATURDAY

Wonsan

AM

- [Tonghung Revolutionary Site](#) | Hillside park with statues of the DPRK leadership overlooking Hamhung city centre and the Songchon River. A presentation of flowers is customary.
- Drive to [Wonsan](#), a 2-3 hour drive.
- [Kangwon Province Art Gallery](#) | Small art exhibition selling artwork by local artists.
- Lunch at [Wonsan's Seafood Restaurant](#).

PM

- [Wonsan City Centre and Docks](#) | Central square and ship terminal in downtown Wonsan.
- [Mangyongbong-92](#) | A ferry/cruise ship built in 1992 to ferry Japanese Koreans and goods between Japan and North Korea till 2006. In 2018, the ship carried North Korean performers for the Winter Olympics in South Korea.
- [Former Wonsan Railway Station Revolutionary Site](#) | Preserved Japanese colonial era train station, waiting room, guesthouse, and the train which future President Kim Il Sung rode to Pyongyang during the liberation of the country in 1945.
- Continue drive back to Pyongyang, with stop at [Sinpyong Rest House](#). A 4-hour drive.

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA

Overnight | Chongnyon (Youth) Hotel

JUNE 6 – SUNDAY

75th anniversary of the foundation of the Children's Union

AM

- **Children's Union Foundation Day celebrations** | Today marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Children's Union of the Worker's Party of Korea. We expect there to be some special events happening today, the details for which will be confirmed closer to the date.
- [Moranbong Park](#) | We'll take a stroll and have picnic lunch 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

- [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).
- [Pyongyang Circus](#) | Pyongyang's premier circus, expect to see acrobatics, clowns, gymnastics, synchronised swimming, ice skating, and feats of strength. *The entry fee is included on this particular tour.*
- [Golden Lane Bowling Centre](#) | Where Pyongyang locals go for their ten-pin fix (2.5 EUR per person per game). Also has billiards and arcade games. Non-bowlers can head next door to the **Kumrung Leisure Centre** for an airgun shooting range (approximately 6 EUR per 20 round cartridge) and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang.
- [Taedonggang Seafood Restaurant](#) | Our final dinner together tonight will be at the Taedonggang Restaurant.

Overnight | Chongnyon (Youth) Hotel

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA



JUNE 7 – MONDAY

*Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please indicated 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 transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Tuesday, June 8 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

THIS DOCUMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO KOREA