



Party Foundation Day Short Tour

TOUR

October 9th – 14th 2021

5 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

A North Korea autumn is a sight to see! Take in the autumn reds, oranges, and yellows at North Korea's [Mt Myohyang](#), see Pyongyang for Party Foundation Day and tour the [DMZ](#).

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 [Tomb of King Kongmin](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's then heading North to Korea's [Mount Myohyang](#) to see all the amazing sights there too!

Want more? Check out the longer [7-night option](#) for this tour.

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

OCTOBER 8 – FRIDAY

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.*

OCTOBER 9 – 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.*

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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 JS152** at 13:00. *A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*
- **Arrival to [Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport](#)** (FNJ) at 16:00. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- **[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.
- **Train arrival** to Pyongyang Railway Station at 18:45.
- **[Walk on Mirae \(Future\) Scientists Street](#)** | An evening stroll along one of Pyongyang's newest districts built for scientists in a uniquely DPRK-modernist style.

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 10 – SUNDAY

Party Foundation Day – the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea

On October 10th there may be large-scale celebrations in Pyongyang. A military parade is possible but unconfirmed. If large events happen then 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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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.*
- [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.
- [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 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.
- [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.
- [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!
- [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*).

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- [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. 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

OCTOBER 11 – MONDAY

Pyongyang, Mt. Myohyang

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- [Party Foundation Museum](#) | Museum dedicated to the foundation of the Korean Workers' Party.
- [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 highlight of the trip.
- **Walk on Ryomyong Street** | The newest of Pyongyang's prestige neighbourhoods

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- Drive to [Mt. Myohyang](#). | A scenic area 3 hours drive north from Pyongyang. Along the way see rivers, mountains, and villages
- [Manpok Valley Hike](#) | Various options for hikes of a range of distances/difficulties. Passing waterfalls, hermitages, interesting rocks, lovely wooded areas, and viewing points.
- Continue driving to [Mt. Myohyang](#).
- Continue driving to **Huichon County**

Overnight | [Huichon Hotel](#), Huichon | The only place a tourist can visit in Chagang Province. Almost never used by foreign tourists. Stay somewhere very different indeed!

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OCTOBER 12 – TUESDAY

Mt. Myohyang, Pyongyang

AM

- [International Friendship Exhibition](#) | A semi-subterranean exhibition hall displaying gifts of all kinds given to the DPRK leaders by foreign states, leaders, and organizations. The exhibition is a fascinating look into material culture in the second half of the 20th century. Highlights include a plane given by the Soviet Union, basketball signed by Michael Jordan from the US State Department, and vodka given by Dennis Rodman. The visit takes most of the morning. *Presentable dress required.*
- [Pohyon Buddhist Temple](#) | A peaceful temple dating back to 1042 CE with stone pagoda and repository of print blocks and historic text of the *Tripitaka Koreana*, Buddhist scriptures first produced to invoke divine assistance from foreign invasions during the Koryo Dynasty.

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- Drive back to **Pyongyang** (2.5-3 hours).
- [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.
- Drive south to [Kaesong](#), historic capital of the medieval [Koryo Dynasty](#) (918-1392 AD). Once located in South Korea, the city changed hands during the Korean War. It is now located just north of the DMZ.
- Stop for Dinner on the way at the [March 8th Hotel](#) in [Sariwon City](#)

Overnight | [Janamsan Hotel](#), Kaesong | Used at various times by all three of the DPRK's national Leaders! This is a fun and retro hotel in a peaceful part of historic Kaesong

OCTOBER 13 – WEDNESDAY

Kaesong, DMZ, Pyongyang

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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.
- [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 from the city's historic South Gate.
- [Panmunjom Armistice Village and DMZ](#) | The site of the signing of the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War and demarcation line between north and south. On some days it is possible to visit the hut straddling the line, where negotiations between both sides once took place. Here we will be accompanied by military guides from the Korean People's Army.
- [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.
- [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.
- [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

- [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.
- **Pyongyang** | Drive back to the capital.
- [Monument to the Three-Charters of National Reunification](#) | Iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between Koreas, north and south. Also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.
- [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 and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang.

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- Dinner at [Duck BBQ Restaurant](#) | Famous restaurant in south Pyongyang specializing in duck meat barbecue on a grill. *Southcentral does it like nobody does!*

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 14 – THURSDAY

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

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