



## The Chinese New Year Tour

### TOUR

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

7 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

### OVERVIEW

Our Chinese New Year in North Korea Tour is perfect for those going from China to North Korea, seeking adventure travel on a budget, or those wanting to escape China during Chinese New Year holidays.

Head to [Pyongyang](#) by train or plane and enjoy an extensive tour of the capital city, visiting all of the must-see sites - as well as some not-so-frequently-visited ones. Making the most of North Korea tourism, this tour also includes a trip to the DMZ, the border to North and South Korea and often referred to as 'the world's most dangerous border'.

Mark North Korea off your bucket list and get a key insight into this little-explored country. Prepare yourself for a truly fascinating experience with Koryo Tours.

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.  
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## DAILY ITINERARY

### JANUARY 20 – 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, and pay any outstanding tour fees. 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 Chinese domestic sleeper train to [Dandong](#), the Chinese city on the border with North Korea. 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 21 – 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*

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with the transfer. Train crosses the [China-North Korea border](#) followed by North Korean customs and immigration.

## PM

- Flight departure from **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) Terminal 2** on [Air Koryo flight JS152](#) at 12:55. A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch ([vegetarian option](#) is subject to availability). **Check-in starts 3 hours prior to departure.**
- 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.
- [Pyongyang Stamp Exhibition](#) | See the history of the DPRK through the medium of philately! (Better than it sounds, honest!)
- Train arrival at [Pyongyang Railway Station](#) at 18:45.
- [Koryo Hotel Microbrewery](#) | Time for a quick welcome drink at the Koryo International Hotel's own microbrewery.

**Overnight** | [Koryo Hotel](#), Pyongyang. Pyongyang's premier hotel, built in 1985, and located in the heart of downtown, near Pyongyang Station. The go-to for special visiting delegations, foreign and domestic. Shops, bookstore, cafes, revolving restaurant, beer brewed on-site.

## JANUARY 22 – SUNDAY

*Pyongyang City Tour 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 in the country. **Visitations are by special request only and 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.
- [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*

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*to cancellation. Visits are optional and require a certain dresscode (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 1950's 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*).
- **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.
- **Kaesong** | Drive south (*3 hour drive*) to the 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.

**Overnight** | **Janamsan Hotel**, Kaesong. A basic hotel with distinct Soviet-style architecture and friendly staff. Ideal for those wanting a western bed, hot water, and reliable electricity. Recommended in winter.

### JANUARY 23 – MONDAY

*Kaesong and DMZ*

*Panmunjom Tour, the Korean Demilitarized Zone, and Kaesong city tour. We'll visit the DMZ and also see historic sights dating back to the Koryo Dynasty.*

#### AM

- **Sonjuk Bridge** | Small stone bridge built in 1290 which was the site of the assassination of loyal Koryo Dynasty minister Jong Mong Ju by a son of Ri Song Gye (founder of the next, and final, dynasty) in 1392. 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 to this day.
- **Panmunjom and DMZ** | Perhaps the most famous place in the entire country. The iconic manifestation of the tragic division between North and

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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 \(Songgyungwan Academy\)](#) | A former Confucian school and 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 Korean Royal Lunch](#) | Also known as *pansanggi*, the meal is made up of different dishes served in small brass bowls. The more dishes, the more distinguished the guest!

#### 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.
- [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. 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through the countryside.
- [Pyongyang](#) | Drive back to the capital city. (3 hours)

**Overnight** | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

### JANUARY 24 – TUESDAY

*Pyongyang City Tour – Lunar New Year*

*Today is Lunar New Year's Eve – as in many eastern countries this is a traditional holiday in the DPRK – we will join in with some local events as and when they happen. Be flexible and we will experience as much as possible!*

#### AM

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- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a park-like setting.
- **Folk Games** | Today it is normal for some traditional games to be played in local parks, we will find out which one looks like the biggest and best and then go along to join in. Usually this presents excellent opportunities for mingling with local people and getting a taste of local life and culture.

PM

- [Pyongyang Metro Tour \(two-line ride\)](#) | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. Ride both lines and stop off at smaller stations, rarely visited by tourists.
- [Munsu Water Park](#) | 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).

**Overnight** | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

**JANUARY 25 - WEDNESDAY**

*Pyongyang City Tour*

AM

- **Victory (Sungni) Street** | Walk from Kim Il Sung Square to the Pyongyang Grand Theatre along one of post-war Pyongyang's oldest streets.
- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
- [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.
- [Arch of Triumph](#) | Massive archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.

PM

- [Ryomyong Street](#) | With giant apartment buildings and some quirky shops, this street is one of the newest in Pyongyang. See the flashier part of town from ground level.

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- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum](#) | A world-class museum led by a local museum guides. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of 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 spy ship USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip. Unmissable.
- [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!
- [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.
- Dinner at [Pyongyang Duck Barbeque Restaurant](#) | South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.

**Overnight** | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

## JANUARY 26 – THURSDAY

*Drive to and hike at Mt. Myohyang*

### AM

- [Tomb of King Tongmyong](#) | Largest of the UNESCO listed Koguryo Tombs spread through the area, this is the beautiful tomb complex of the founder of the Koguryo Dynasty two thousand years ago. Statues, a Buddhist Monastery, and lovely wall paintings make this a fascinating visit for history buffs.
- [Drive 2.5 hour north](#) passing rivers valleys and hills to [Mt. Myohyang](#), the mountain of mysterious fragrance.
- Check-in and lunch at hotel.

### PM

- [Manpok Valley Walk hike](#) | Various options for hikes of a range of distances/difficulties. Passing waterfalls, hermitages. interesting rocks, lovely wooded areas, and viewing points.
- Enjoying the facilities and dinner at hotel.

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**Overnight** | [Hyangsan Hotel](#). The fanciest hotel in North Korea with '7-star' facilities. Renovated in 2010. Excellent swimming pool, lovely location.

### JANUARY 27 – FRIDAY

*Mt. Myohyang and return to Pyongyang via Anju*

#### 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.*

#### PM

- [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.
- Drive to [Anju](#) a mid-sized industrial city located on the road and rail line north of Pyongyang on the Chongchon River. During the Korean War, major battles were fought near here between North Korean-Chinese forces and UN-South Korean forces. Coal is mined nearby.
- [Paeksang Pavilion and Anju City Walls](#) | The greatest pavilion in Kwanso (Pyong'an Province,) which overlooks the Chongchon River. Rebuilt after destruction in the Korean War.
- Continue driving to **Pyongyang**.
- **Relaxing afternoon after a long drive** | 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.
- [Pizza Restaurant](#) | Farewell dinner at one of Pyongyang's Italian eateries. *Pizzas range between 5-12 EUR each.*

**Overnight** | Koryo Hotel, Pyongyang

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## JANUARY 28 – SATURDAY

*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 JS151** at 08:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55.

### OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Sunday, February 6 at 08:40. *For this tour, the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

### End of Tour

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