



The Party Foundation Day Tour

TOUR

October 7th – 14th 2023

7 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 7-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 the port city of [Nampo](#) where we will stay in North Korea's oldest [hot spa resort](#).

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](#).

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

OCTOBER 6 - 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.*

OCTOBER 7 - 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 13:05. 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 16:05. 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 8 - SUNDAY

Pyongyang City Tour & Nampo

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.*

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- [Mansudae Fountain Park](#) | The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient and modern architecture from different eras.
- [Mansudae Grand Monument](#) | Enormous bronze statues of the DPRK leadership overlooking downtown Pyongyang. A presentation of flowers and bow by the group is customary here. ***Visitations are by special request only and decent dress is required. No shorts or flip-flop sandals allowed here.***
- Walk along [Taedong River](#) to **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

- [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.
- [Trolleybus Ride](#) | A ride through Pyongyang from Pyongyang Railway Station to Arch of Triumph on one of the city's famous trolleybuses. A Koryo exclusive!
- [Nampo](#) | Drive west along the '[Youth Hero Highway](#)' to this port city of Pyongyang on the Taedong River estuary. *A 1.5-hour drive.*
- [Clam BBQ](#) | A North Korean style clam bake!
- **Overnight:** [Ryonggang Hot Spa Hotel](#) | Compound with holiday houses and a main building for dinner and entertainment. Bring a torch! [Spa bath](#) in every room with mineral water from the Sindok Spring- the most famous mineral spa in the DPRK. Billiards, karaoke, and ping pong.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 9 - MONDAY

Nampo, Pyongyang

AM

- [West Sea Barrage](#) | An 8 km concrete, steel, and earthen barrage constructed between the [Taedong River](#) estuary and the West Sea for land

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reclamation, irrigation, flood prevention, and power generation. It also acts as a ship lock and fish ladder. One of the DPRK's greatest engineering feats.

- [Tae'an Glass Factory](#) | Factory producing glass and glass products for the domestic market. Watch the glass-making process from smelting to sheet-cutting and even try to break a sheet of strengthened glass.
- [Chongsan-ri Co-Operative Farm](#) | The DPRK's most famous and iconic model farm. Visited hundreds of times by Kim Il Sung (there is a bronze statue of him and various farm workers here), the place where the 'Chongsam-ri Method' was developed (they will explain on-site). See how the farming system works, visit a farmhouse and the local shop & kindergarten, see the fields and greenhouses.
- Return to [Pyongyang](#) on the 'Youth Hero Highway'.

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*).
- [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.
- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A beer bar serving seven types of beer. Popular with locals after work and on weekends. Best place to drink pints with local people.
- [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.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 10 - TUESDAY

Party Foundation Day – the 78th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea

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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!

AM

- [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.
- [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

- [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 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!
- [Pyongyang Circus \(or other available performance\)](#) | We will leave time this afternoon to try and catch a local performance - either of the Pyongyang Circus, theatre, or a revolutionary opera. Schedules are typically announced only a few weeks before the trip. If no performances are available, we will find an alternative activity in the city. *Tickets to be paid on the spot (from 5-25 EUR) depending on the available performance.*

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

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OCTOBER 11 - WEDNESDAY

Kaesong, DMZ, Pyongyang

AM

- 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-Charters of the 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'.
- [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

- [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.
- [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

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nation. A 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.

- **Pyongyang** | Drive back to the capital.
- [Monument to the Three-Charter 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'.
- 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 12 - THURSDAY

Pyongyang and drive to Mt. Myohyang

AM

- [Jongsung Revolutionary Site](#) | A system of underground tunnels and bunkers used by Korean government's cabinet during the 1950's. Learn about life underground during the years of American bombing.
- [Party Foundation Museum](#) | Museum dedicated to the foundation of the Korean Workers' Party.
- [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.

PM

- 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 **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 13 - FRIDAY

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.

PM

- Drive back to **Pyongyang** (2.5-3 hours).
- **Kang Pan Sok Middle School** | Named for the mother of Kim Il Sung, who lived in this part of the city, this is a fascinating secondary school to visit. Here you can join in an English lesson, see science, revolutionary history, music, and art rooms, also outside is a dirt football pitch so bring a ball and get a kick-about going with some of the students. After all, soccer is simply the world's language and the best way to interact with people in the DPRK.
- Farewell dinner at **Yanggakdo Hotel Revolving Restaurant** | Best view of the city you can have while eating a meal! A deserving end to an epic adventure!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 14 - 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.

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OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Sunday, October 16 at 08:40. For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).

End of Tour

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