



## The China National Day Tour

### TOUR

September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

6 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

### OVERVIEW

Calling all adventurers! What better way to spend all of those days off for the [Chinese National Holiday](#) than exploring one of the world's least-visited countries - but surprisingly accessible from China!

The China National Day Tour includes a comprehensive city tour of [Pyongyang](#) as well as getting you down to the [DMZ](#), where North and South Korea continue their decades-old face-off. We'll also head up to [Pyongsong](#), a satellite city of Pyongyang and a centre for the national sci-tech industry. We will also travel up to scenic [Mt. Myohyang](#) and the amazing halls of gifts to the DPRK's Leaders. Add in [Anju](#), [Hoechang](#), and [Huichon](#) and you have a perfect week in the DPRK!

Our comprehensive city tour of Pyongyang includes must-see sights such as the [mausoleum of the President Kim Il Sung and the General Kim Jong Il](#), and the [Mansudae Grand Monument](#), as well as visiting more local places such as the bustling [Kwangbok Supermarket](#), the only place in Pyongyang where tourists can spend local Won that can be changed at the black market exchange rate. It certainly won't be a relaxed Chinese golden week away, but it is an action-packed week guaranteed to leave you wanting more!

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

### SEPTEMBER 29 - 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. Please note that the train entry option for this tour is sold out due high demand during the National Day Holiday in China.

#### 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.*

### SEPTEMBER 30 - SATURDAY

*Arrival day in Pyongyang*

#### AM

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- **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.*

## PM

- Flight departure from **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) Terminal 2** on [Air Koryo flight JS152](#) at 12:20. *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 15:20. 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 and great views of the city.
- Train arrival to [Pyongyang Railway Station](#) at 18:45.

**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 and beer brewed on-site.

## OCTOBER 1 - SUNDAY

### *China National Day - Pyongyang City Tour*

## 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.*
- [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.

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- **[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.
- **Walk and Picnic Lunch in [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 Sightings of Pyongyang’.

#### 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.
- **[Monument to the Party Foundation](#)** | Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which represent the workers, farmers, and intellectuals that make up the Worker’s Party of Korea.
- **[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.
- **[Xiangmanlou/Hyangmanru Restaurant](#)** | A rare chance to eat dinner at Pyongyang’s best Chinese Restaurant on this Chinese Holiday. Amazing building, great food, be one of the very few foreigners to have ever been here!

**Overnight** | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

**OCTOBER 2 - MONDAY**

*Pyongyang & Kaesong*

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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.
- [Friendship Tower](#) | Monument to the assistance given by the Chinese Volunteer Army during the Korean War
- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and USS Pueblo](#) | We'll tour this world-class museum led by 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.
- 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

- [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*).
- [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*).
- [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'.
- 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.

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- **Dinner with a Kayagum Performance.**

**Overnight | [Minsok Folk Hotel, Kaesong](#) |** 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 3 - TUESDAY

*DMZ & Kaesong City*

### AM

- [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

- [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.
- [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.

**Overnight** | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

## OCTOBER 4 - WEDNESDAY

*Hoechang, Pyongsong, Anju*

### AM

- Drive to [Hoechang](#).
- **Cemetery for the Martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army** | Built in the 1950s (renovated in 2010) and opened by Zhou Enlai. Scenic Chinese hillside cemetery with domed tombs of 134 Chinese soldiers. Including a bust and tomb of **Mao Anying**; the Chairman's son.
- **Songhung Revolutionary Site** | Drive past the giant zinc factory to the wartime base of the Volunteer Army. Caves and tunnels, buildings from the period used by the soldiers and by Kim Il Sung when he visited to thank them for assistance.

### PM

- Drive north to [Pyongsong](#), a satellite city of Pyongyang and centre of scientific research. *A 45 minute to 1 hour drive.*
- **Pyongsong City Square** | Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary museum.
- **Kim Jong Suk Higher Middle School** | One of the DPRK's top middle schools for gifted students, tourists are encouraged to help teach an English class!
- 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.

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- Continue driving to [Mt. Myohyang](#) and on 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!

### OCTOBER 5 - THURSDAY

*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

- **[Manpok Valley Hike](#)** | Various options for hikes of a range of distances/difficulties. Passing waterfalls, hermitages, interesting rocks, lovely wooded areas, and viewing points.
- **Pyongyang** | 3-hour drive back to the capital.
- Farewell dinner at **[Arirang Restaurant](#)** | One of Pyongyang's best restaurant in the center of the city.
- **Final evening walk through the heart of Pyongyang** | bring an end to an amazing tour

**Overnight** | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

### OCTOBER 6 - FRIDAY

*Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please confirm your preferred exit method upon booking\**

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## AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS 251** at 10:25 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 11:50.

## OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:10 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to **Beijing Station** on Friday, October 7 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

## End of Tour

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