



SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR 2012

Pyongyang / Wonsan / Hamhung / Lake Sijung plus Dandong option available
It is also possible to add Magadan (abandoned Russian ghost town) to this tour.

June Thurs 28 to July Wed 4 / Thurs 5
6 nights in DPRK, plus one on the train

What better summer holiday than a trip to North Korea to get over to the rarely-seen East coast and to see tranquil beaches, deep countryside and the major industrial city of Hamhung, open to tourists only in the last year! Ideal for second time visitors as well as NK virgins this trip covers a lot of ground and gets to places far and wide around the country. **At the end of the tour we are offering an extension to join our brand new 'Chollima to Kolyma' tour,** Please apply by June 1st, 2012.

Thurs 28th June

AM: Bus from office to Airport

PM: Flight JS152 Beijing – Pyongyang, 13:00 departure from PEK Beijing International Airport (Terminal 2). Arrival to Pyongyang 16:25. Meet guides who will accompany you during your stay, **Arch of Triumph** – similar to the French version (but bigger), **Fountain Park**, **Mansudae Grand Monument** statue of DPRK President Kim Il Sung

OVERNIGHT: Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

Fri 29th June

AM: Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum(Korean War Museum) - hear and see the DPRK version of the conflict, **War Victory Monuments** - sculptures of notable events from the war, **Mangyongdae Native House** - birthplace of the DPRK founder Kim Il Sung, **Mansudae Art Studio** - Pyongyang's centre of artistic excellence, **Pyongyang Metro (extended ride)** - the deepest in the world, take a ride with the locals

PM: USS Pueblo - tour the American espionage ship captured in the 1968, **Juche Tower** - 150m stone tower with lookout platform at the top and great panoramic views of the city, **Monument to Party Foundation** - commemorates the 50 years of Worker's Party rule, **3 Revolutions Exhibition**

OVERNIGHT: Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang



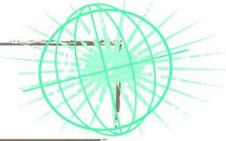
Sat 30th June

AM: Drive to **Wonsan** (4hrs) – major city on the east coast of Korea

PM: Wonsan docks and central square - the moored Mangyongbon-92 passenger ship to Japan is based here and the statue of the President overlooking the harbour shows the importance of this port to the DPRK, **Songdowon Schoolchildren's Camp** - where Korean children (and also those from overseas sometimes) spend some weeks in summer, playing and learning, **Buddhist Temple** **OVERNIGHT:** Tongmyong Hotel, Wonsan

Sun 1st July

AM: Drive to **Hamhung** (2.5 hour drive from Wonsan) - a major city



on DPRK's east coast which was closed to tourists from 1945 until 2010 when Koryo Tours became the first company to take people there, **city park, statue of President Kim Il Sung, ancient pavilion** for city views - set on a hillside on the edge of town this area affords views over the city centre and farmland outside of the metropolitan area.

PM: Fertiliser Factory - A rare chance to see a bit of heavy industry,
Home of King Ri Song Gye - one of the rulers of ancient Korea,
Hungnam Vinalon Factory - newly renovated using DPRK's new 'CNC Technology' this is where the 'miracle fabric' Vinalon is produced.
Hamhung Grand Theatre - the iconic building of the city, dominating the central area and bordered by a pleasant lake and park. To **Majon beach** area.
OVERNIGHT: Majon Guesthouse, Hamhung



Mon 2nd July

AM: Tongbong co-operative farm - visited several times by DPRK leader Kim Jong Il this reasonably modern farm accepts tourists to see their 'hall of fame', kindergarten, and see what they grow in the local area. Return to **Wonsan**
PM: Wonsan Agricultural University, Drive to **local beach** for relaxing and chance for swimming, beach barbeque, to **lake sijung** where sludge treatments are available
OVERNIGHT: Sijung Motel, Lake Sijung

Tue 3rd July

AM: Return to Pyongyang via **Ulim Waterfalls**
PM: Schoolchildren's Palace tour and performance, **Korean Central Art Gallery, Paradise micro-brewery & bar**
OVERNIGHT: Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

Wed 4th July

AM: 10:10 Train departs from Pyongyang for China
PM: Cross border at Sinuiju/Dandong, those visiting Dandong alight here, train continues to Beijing
OVERNIGHT: On Train

Thurs 5th July

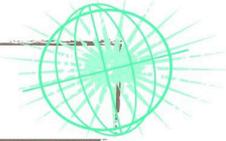
AM: 08:34 Arrival at Beijing Central Railway Station. End of Tour

Alternative Tour ending – stay an extra couple of nights to see the DMZ or to join the **'Chollima to Kolyma'** Tour, **Magadan** and **Abandoned Russia** extensions



PRE-TOUR MEETING: June 27th (Wednesday), 4PM, at our office in Beijing. Room upgrades available – please ask for more information.

TOUR FEE (approx \$2450 AUD) **INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:**



- Flight Beijing-Pyongyang, train Pyongyang-Beijing
- All meals on the tour except on the train out of DPRK – see below
- Hotel accommodation
- All entry fees
- Two guides and a driver per group
- All transportation in DPRK

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR FEE:

- Optional single room supplement of EUR 40 per night
- Spending money for drinks and souvenirs
- DPRK visa fee EUR 50
- EUR 50 surcharge for the train to or EUR 50 surcharge for the plane to Beijing (or Air China surcharge EUR 120)
- Tip for the guides (approx EUR 20-25 total)
- Meals on the train out of DPRK - (bring your own food or eat dinner and lunch in the buffet car approximately EUR 5 per person)
- Entry tickets for Mass Games and special events if applicable – for example Revolutionary Opera if being staged, or a visit to the funfair
- The lift up the Juche Tower EUR 5
- Meals will have a complimentary beer but you will have to pay for extra drinks above those provided. If you are vegetarian or have special dietary requirements then please inform us beforehand



MAGADAN and ABANDONED RUSSIA TOUR INFORMATION

Explore a place many have heard of but which few have ever seen

Continuing our tradition of groundbreaking new tours to regions most people wouldn't even think of going to, **Koryo Tours** is proud to announce we are bringing back one of the most exciting trips we have ever offered open now for booking and departing in **July 2012**. Come with us to Magadan, a trip you never thought you would take but one that you'll never forget!

MAGADAN - One of Russia's remotest and most isolated regions, the name is instantly recognisable to those familiar with the works of Solzhenitsyn, Shalamov, and other Gulag historians and chroniclers. A place hundreds of thousands of people were shipped to never to return during the darkest days of Stalin's Soviet Union, but also a place of stunning natural beauty and an interesting contemporary lifestyle far removed from the European Russia we are more familiar with. Far from the 'normal' Russian tourist trail and so far removed from the rest of Russia even today that the locals refer to the rest of the country as 'the mainland', this province has no railway line linking it to any other area and the only road that runs in from outside (the Kolyma highway 'the road of bones' from Yakutsk, over 2000 km away) is only passable in winter and takes 4 days in good conditions.

Magadan City is the capital of the province and contains a hardy 100,000 inhabitants although this number drops each year due to migration to the mainland. Still, the place retains its charm and has a lively social scene as well as some photogenic architecture in the city as well as the forests and beaches nearby. Despite its isolation and remoteness from the Russia more commonly seen there is much to experience in Magadan. Dark tourism is but one element and on this special brand new tour we will see what Magadan has to offer, becoming one of the first tour groups ever to go there, application is open now and we hope you can make it there with us!

Our tour will involve flying direct from Vladivostok; usually the end of the line for most epic Russian Journeys, for us it is merely the beginning as we further than you may have thought you would ever get into this massive country.



We will fly for 3 hours and then head into Magadan city, checking into the VM-Tsentr Hotel Magadan and after dinner the chance to explore the town beckons at a time of year when the skies are clear and blue until it briefly gets dark at around 2AM. A guided city tour follows the next day led by one of our local guides who spent years living in Magadan and knows the area better than anyone. We'll visit the regional museum, the Mask of Sorrow – an evocative and haunting Gulag memorial, a local beach to see how people enjoy themselves

in the good weather, a gold and bone working factory to see how the region's main product are turned into commodity form, and more besides. Evening time is at leisure so experiencing the nightlife of Magadan or simply relaxing in this easily navigable city are the main choices here.

We will then journey to see the remains of the horror that Magadan and the entire Kolyma region became known for; the ruins of some of the nearby camps that formed part of the massive continent-spanning Gulag system of the USSR in the early – mid 20th century.

A dark and saddening place which is nevertheless important to remember and learn from. We'll see what is left of the place to which so many people from so many walks of life came but never left. This part is not supposed to be fun but a life-long memory will be formed. Simply put, this is one of the most tragic places on Earth, so remote that the journey is long and arduous but a place of great historical importance nevertheless.

Our final morning will be at leisure; explore the city some more, go shopping for souvenirs, visit art galleries, parks, etc for we fly out in the early evening back to Vladivostok where we spend the night in the Hotel Vladivostok before transferring to the airport the next morning for the flight to Beijing (or if you have alternative arrangements heading off in whatever direction you have planned).

ABANDONED RUSSIA - If this is somehow not enough for you yet we are also offering a tour that no other company has ever even considered running – we call it **ABANDONED RUSSIA**. This is a trip deep into Magadan province to the abandoned city of **Kadykchan**. Meaning 'death valley' in Russian this was once a fairly populous mining town, with (at the time) modern facilities and buildings, schools, apartment complexes, workplaces and so on. From the establishment of the city in the early 1970's up until the mid 80's life was lived as normal in remote parts of Russia but as the economy began the downward spiral that would end in the dissolution of the Soviet Union and exodus of the population began. In 1996 a winter even harsher than normal hit and pipes froze while relief vehicles failed to arrive and the danger of starvation reared its head for the remaining population.

Finally evacuated by the Russian military they left behind one of the largest and most well preserved ghost towns in the world. Still all standing, albeit in various states of disrepair, the city bears some similarities to Pripjat in the Ukraine (the abandoned town next to the Chernobyl reactor).

A chilling and life-changing experience for any visitor this is somewhere exceptionally difficult to reach but the rewards; in memories, and some of the most remarkable photos you will ever take, make it utterly worthwhile. For aficionados of Dark Tourism there are few places like it. We'll take you there via a 650km road trip from Magadan to the town of **Susuman** (the airport there was converted into an orthodox church some time ago) which we will use as a base for exploring Kadykchan. We will explore the city on foot, seeing where people lived, worked, and played; see abandoned apartments, restaurants, and offices.





See a place which once bustled with life but is now being reclaimed by nature. In this city you can go inside apartment buildings, the hospitals, schools, technological institutes, the city government, Olympic centre, and much much more. See the bust of Lenin which is now full of holes since being shot at by evacuating local residents, a truly life-changing trip; you've never been anywhere like it. After this singular and amazing experience we will return to Magadan and visit with a local family, see and hear about their life in this remote area before returning to Vladivostok by plane. But the experience of abandonment is not yet over. We will spend a long morning visiting the ruins of the Voroshilov Battery on the nearby Russki Island, one of a number of military facilities built around the outskirts of the city in the early 20th Century to guard against Chinese and Japanese designs on the area. A free afternoon for shopping and sightseeing rounds off the tour with one last night in Vladivostok before we fly back to Beijing or you journey on to places beyond, freshly equipped with 'memories, photographs, and souvenirs of places your friends have never even heard of!



This **ABANDONED RUSSIA** extension is not offered by any other tour company. Be one of the very few people to have ever laid eyes on the city of Kadykchan. You may not have heard of it before, but it will be forever etched in memory before long. This extension is fully guided and will run as planned assuming 6 or more people sign up. We will again operate with a maximum of 20 participants.



TOUR OPTIONS:

We offer three different options for joining this tour; please see them outlined below;

- **Option 1:** Join our **Tuman Triangle II Tour** – This tour, utterly unique to Koryo Tours takes in 3 countries, time zones, and cultures in some of the least visited parts of Asia, we go to NE China's Korean Autonomous region to start, then drive to Rason, the North Korean free trade zone. After this we travel to Russia by train, first to the resort of Andreyvka and finally by ferry to Vladivostok. After the program ends with a couple of days here some of the group return to Beijing, others begin only our second ever group tour to Magadan!
- **Option 2:** Join our **North Korea Summer Holiday Tour** – See some of the most fascinating parts of the DPRK including Pyongyang, Kaesong, Wonsan, and a rare trip to the previously closed (opened by Koryo Tours in 2010) city of Hamhung, then instead of returning to China with the rest of the group you stay one more night in the country and visit the West Coast city of Nampo including some rarely-seen heavy industry and then take the weekly Air Koryo flight to Vladivostok, arriving in time to join the Tuman Triangle II group on their tour of the city and its surrounding area before heading off into the unknown, to Magadan!
- **Option 3:** Make your **own way** to Vladivostok to begin the tour – despite being far-flung and exotic the city is well served by internal flights in Russia and lies at the end of the Trans-Siberian railway, over 9000km from Moscow. As long as you are there in time to begin the tour we are more than happy to welcome you on our inaugural tour to Magadan!



ABANDONED RUSSIA Extension – This extension is available to anyone joining the Magadan Tour. Minimum 6 participants required to run this extension.



DANDONG OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Dandong; a fascinating small city on the Chinese side of the Yalu river, facing across to Sinuiju, your point of exit from DPRK after the tour. Instead of returning directly to Beijing we are pleased to offer a one day fully-guided extension to the tour to take in all the sights of Dandong on a special North Korea-themed extension.

Formerly only available to those tourists who exit the DPRK by train, this tour is now available to US citizens (and any other nationalities) taking part in DPRK tours ending on Saturdays and Wednesdays only, it is still not possible to leave the DPRK by train but on these days you can fly from Pyongyang to Shenyang and we arrange a car or bus to take you from the airport there to Dandong in time to begin the tour. This option is also available for non-US citizens. See below for costs.

The train from DPRK arrives in China at around 17:30 and here you get off and transfer to your hotel. Dinner is in a local Chinese restaurant and the evening is your own. Next morning, the first stop is a trip to the most eastern part of the Great Wall at Tiger Mountain overlooking North Korea. Here you can take a boat trip (extra cost - approx RMB 20 per person) at the 'one metre hop' the narrowest point between China and DPRK (it is possible to see Korean People's Army border guards up close, just a few metres away). Next is the snappily-named 'Museum of War to Resist America and Aid Korea' otherwise known as the Korean war museum, which charts the events which led to the deployment of over 2 million Chinese 'volunteers' to Korea in 1950. Here you can learn the Chinese side of the story as well as view many very well presented rooms (now all exhibits have English captions). Compare and contrast with the Korean version of events as well as that taught in the west. Stunning city views are afforded by the hilltop location of the museum which is situated on the site of Chinese Volunteer Army supreme commander Peng De Huai's base prior to moving into Korea.

After lunch which is taken in a North Korean restaurant complete with song and dance show from the waitresses, you take another boat trip, this time on the wider Yalu river; the boat sweeps up and down the river in and out of North Korean waters, great for photos! You can also walk along the 'Broken Bridge' which runs parallel to the friendship bridge over the Yalu river connecting the two countries. Half destroyed by the US air force in the Korean War, the broken bridge extends to exactly the halfway point between China and DPRK. Around the bridge area all manner of North Korean goodies can be bought, from badges and cigarettes to currency and other knick-knacks!

After this there will be just enough time to pose for photos at the giant red Chairman Mao statue outside the railway station before boarding the overnight sleeper for Beijing, 4 berth soft sleeper beds carry you to China's capital overnight for an 08:34 arrival the next day.

Cost of this option leaving DPRK by train is approximately AUD\$280 twin share depending on season and is inclusive of the above attractions, guides, transport, meals and overnight at the Zhonglian Hotel.

Cost of this option leaving DPRK by plane to Shenyang is approximately AUD\$500 twin share which also includes private transport from Shenyang to Dandong about 3 ½ hours drive.



Note that this option is only available to those that choose to travel out of the DPRK by train at the end of the tour. It is the perfect way to end a tour of North Korea and a unique look at a fascinating part of China.