

DECEMBER 28 – JANUARY 2/3, 2020

North Korea New Year's Eve Tour: Bring in 2020 in Pyongyang with Koryo Tours!

**5 nights in North Korea for New Year's Eve + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time
Start off 2020 with the big celebrations in Pyongyang! Round-trip by train or upgrade
to flight.**

From 899 EUR per person

Overall

Visit North Korea for New Year's Eve 2019 and bring in 2020 with Koryo Tours in style. Our annual New Year's Eve Tour counts down the clock with the locals in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square for celebrations that only get better every year. Last year saw a massive firework display over the Tower of the Juche Idea, dancing, and drone display in the sky. All topped off with a concert by some of North Korea's most famous musicians.

Watched closely by North Koreans and analysts alike, be one of the first to hear the New Year's Address for 2020. This is given by the North Korean leader on New Year's Day and outlines the country's policy and initiatives for the coming year, providing insight into where the country is going.

We'll also visit the highlights of Pyongyang such as the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, mausoleum of the DPRK leaders, and the Pyongyang Metro. This tour also includes a DMZ tour at Panmunjom and a night spent in historic Kaesong.

In the midst of winter, the tour will escape the city and head into the countryside as we jaunt down to Nampo. Here we can see the colossal West Sea Barrage at the mouth of the frozen Taedong River, and enjoy a short stop in the traditional town of Sariwon.

Take an optional ride on a Soviet-made Mi-17 helicopter (180 EUR per person) and see Pyongyang from the skies.

Highlights

- Celebrate New Year's Eve in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square with fireworks, dancing, and more!
- See Pyongyang's highlights and tour the capital on the first day of 2020
- Take a DMZ tour at Panmunjom in historic Kaesong near the demarcation line with South Korea

Itinerary

Briefing Day - December 27 | Friday

*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.

17:00 | 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.



Day 1 - December 28 | Saturday

Arrival Day in Pyongyang

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.

Free bus from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2 for those taking the flight. 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 JS 152 at 13:05. A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).

Flight arrival into Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport (FNJ) at 16:05. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.

Kim Il Sung Square // Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.

Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station.

Walk on Future Scientists' Street // An evening stroll through one of Pyongyang's newest neighbourhoods.

Overnight // The Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang. A sports-themed hotel located in West Pyongyang's Sports Village. Sport shop, bookstore, numerous bars, spa and small gym. Renovated in 2015.

Day 2 - December 29 | Sunday

Pyongyang City Tour and Highlights

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. The Palace closes for maintenance between late April / early May to July. The exact dates will be confirmed closer to the tour. Should the Palace not be accessible to the group, this visit will be substituted with an alternative location.

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.

Lunch at 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

Drive 2 ½ hours south along the 'Reunification Highway' via Monument to the Three-Charters of the Reunification an iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between Koreas, north and south to Kaesong, ancient capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD) located near today's Korean Demilitarized Zone. We'll also stop by the Sariwon Folk Street, a historic recreation of a traditional Korean street and a good rest stop to break up the drive.

Overnight | Janamsan Hotel, Kaesong. A basic hotel similar to those found in the DPRK's smaller cities.

Recommended in winter. Friendly staff and within walking distance of Sonjuk Bridge.

Day 3 - December 30 | Monday

Kaesong and DMZ Tour at Panmunjom

Sonjuk Bridge | Historic stone bridge and the assassination of Koryo minister Jong Mong Ju in the 14th century.

Walk in Kaesong Old City | A stroll through Kaesong old city among traditional Korean houses dating back a few centuries.

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 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.

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.

Traditional Royal Korean Lunch (pangsanggi) | A meal made 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 an option here (5 EUR).

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.

Drive back to Pyongyang. 2.5 hours.

Optional Screening of Comrade Kim Goes Flying, a North Korean romantic comedy co-produced by Koryo Tours, at the Yanggakdo International Cinema. The ticket is approximately 10 EUR (subject to change).

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.



Day 4 - December 31 | Tuesday

New Year's Eve

AM

Drive west along the 'Youth Hero Highway' to Nampo (45 minutes to 1-hour drive), the port city of Pyongyang at the mouth of the Taedong River on the West Sea.

Chongsam-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.

West Sea Barrage | An 8 km concrete, steel, and earthen barrage constructed between the Taedong River estuary and the West Sea for land 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. Breathtaking winter scenery.

Drive back to Pyongyang via the riverside road.

PM

Kwangbok Department Store | Shop with the citizens of Pyongyang and exchange for Korean currency! Try the snack stands for some of Pyongyang's best local eats.

Mangyongdae Native House | Birthplace of and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a park-like setting.

Taedonggang Bar No. 3 | Upscale bar across the street from the Tower of the Juche Idea. There are a variety of beers on tap produced at Pyongyang's Taedonggang Brewery outside of town (2-2.5 EUR per glass).

Dinner on Pyongyang's Rainbow Boat on the Taedong River where we'll have our New Year's Eve Party with a great view on Kim Il Sung Square and the fireworks display!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

Day 5 – January 1 | Wednesday

New Year's Day

AM

Pyongyang Metro Tour | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. We'll ride six stations on the Chollima Line.

Arch of Triumph | Massive archway made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.

Tower of the Juche Idea | Iconic tower dedicated to the DPRK's guiding philosophy and located on the Taedong River. Take the elevator to the top for 5 EUR for great views of the city.

Monument to the Party Foundation | Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which make up the emblem of the Worker's Party of Korea and represent workers, farmers, and intellectuals.

PM

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.

Kwangbok Department Store | Shop with the citizens of Pyongyang and exchange for Korean currency! Try the snack stands for some of Pyongyang's best local eats.

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)

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 (approximately 6 EUR per 20 round cartridge) and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

Day 6 – January 2 | Thursday

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train. Please indicated your preferred exit method upon booking. For this tour, we highly recommend train departure or at least leaving your schedule flexible for train departure to Beijing. In 2019, Air Koryo do not operate a flight on January 2.

AM

Flight departure from Pyongyang on Air Koryo Flight JS 251 at 10:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 11:35. Please note that Thursday flights in January are subject to cancellation.

OR

Train departure by train to Beijing at 10:10 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to Beijing Station on Friday, January 3 at 08:38. For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).

End of Tour

Extras

Transport | Train and Flights to North Korea (New Year's 2019) This tour travels between Beijing-Pyongyang by train each way in a hard-sleeper carriage (6 bunks per compartment). The train journey takes 24 hours with a transfer at the city of Dandong. One-way or round-trip flights are also available. The flight takes around 90 minutes. For an extra 199 EUR you can upgrade to a one-way flight. A round-trip ticket costs an additional 299 EUR. Please note that the Air Koryo flight on 2 January at the end of the tour has yet to be confirmed. We recommend flight entry with a train return for the best overall experience on your trip

Visit the DPRK border town of Sinuiju If you're heading back to Beijing by train this option lets you get off for an overnight in Dongrim before the next day's tour of Sinuiju — the border city with China. Spend an extra 24 hours in the DPRK seeing the sites of North Pyongan province. You will then continue on through to Beijing.

Visit Dandong — the Chinese gateway to the DPRK Instead of immediately returning to Beijing when your tour ends you can take some extra time to visit this fascinating border city, which directly faces the DPRK town of Sinuiju, but lies on the Chinese side of the Yalu River. We offer both one-night and two-night fully guided extensions that take in all the sights of Dandong, with a special North Korea theme.

Hit the slopes at Masik Pass Ski Resort The DPRK's ski season — yes, it has a ski season! — usually runs from December to March. Add on two extra nights to your winter tour and you'll have the rare chance to try out the nine main runs at Masikryong — the DPRK's only ski resort. This place has been widely reported on, yet is not often visited. Sign up to this ski option, and be one of the first to experience it.

Upgrade to your own room All hotel rooms on our all-inclusive group tours feature twin beds, and will be shared. If you'd like a room to yourself then you can upgrade for an extra 40 EUR per night.

Helicopter flight over Pyongyang Why not take a helicopter sightseeing flight over the DPRK's capital? Grab this rare opportunity to tour the skies above the city in a 40-minute helicopter trip aboard an Air Koryo Mi-17 chopper. The flight offers an unrivalled view from above, and great opportunities for photos and video from a completely different angle.

Hotel booking in Beijing Koryo Tours is able to arrange hotel bookings in Beijing at the following hotels on behalf of people travelling with us. We have four hotels on offer with different levels of comfort and all located a short walk from our office. Select which hotel you are interested in and your Tour Manager will confirm the dates and cost for you. We will make the booking and add the cost to your tour invoice.

Insurance for up to six nights We're unable to take you on one of our tours if you do not have medical insurance that covers the destination in question. Issues of isolation and infrastructure where we go mean it would be irresponsible of us to do so. We can provide this if you do not have it — or you can use your own.

What is / is not included?

INCLUDED

- Train Beijing – Pyongyang with transfer at Dandong
- Train Pyongyang – Beijing with transfer at Dandong
- All meals on the tour apart from the meals on the train
- Hotel accommodation in the DPRK
- Two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- A Koryo Tours Tour Leader
- All transportation in the DPRK

NOT INCLUDED

- North Korean (DPRK) visa fee 50 EUR
- Optional flights between Beijing and Pyongyang (one-way: 199 EUR; return: 299 EUR)
- Optional single room supplement of 40 EUR per night
- Tips for the local Korean guides and driver (approx 10-15 EUR per day)
- Optional activities such as the lift up the Juche Tower (5 EUR) or a visit to the funfair (approx. 2 EUR entrance fee per person)

- Entry tickets for special events if applicable – for example, Pyongyang Circus (approx. 20 EUR per person)
- Meals include a complimentary beer and water, but you will need to purchase extra drinks if needed
- Spending money for souvenirs
- Skiing extension (from 430 EUR)
- Sinuiju Extension: RMB 50 for the bus across the bridge to Dandong to be paid on the spot to the local guides

Notes

Groups will be in the experienced hands of two or three local Korean guides. Furthermore, for groups of 10 or more, a member of the Koryo Tours team will accompany the trip.

Please note that when on tour your day-to-day itinerary may differ slightly to what is advertised above. Your tour leader will ensure, however, that everything available at the time is covered, and replacement options are provided where needed. We will also add in extras when there is time (such as a visit to a local bar or amusement park). We visit the DPRK regularly so know all the best places to go, and how to make the most of your days there to guarantee the experience of a lifetime. After the tour, we will send out a list of all participants' emails, so you can keep in touch, swap photos etc. If you do not wish to be on this list then please let us know.

Visa Information

We arrange your North Korean visa as part of your tour package [+50 EUR]. However, given the tour starts and finishes in China you may also need to consider entry and exit procedures in China for your trip. This can be obtained at a Chinese embassy abroad. We recommend obtaining at least a double-entry Chinese visa for your trip.

Over 50 nationalities can obtain a visa-waiver for up to 144 hours when in transit through Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) using direct international flights. Most other nationalities can transit for up to 24 hours. If you don't want to visit China as part of your trip, this could be the easiest option for you. It is not possible to obtain a transit-waiver when using a train for entry or exit from China.

Please be sure to check your visa status for travel through China while planning your trip. We may be able to assist with Chinese visas. We can also provide documentation in support of visa applications upon payment of a tour deposit.