

**JULY 4 - JULY 11/12 2020**

## **The Summer Holiday Tour in North Korea**

**7 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel**

**Discover North Korea's rarely visited East coast from the industrial centre of Hamhung to the hiking trails of Mt. Kumgang. A summer adventure in North Korea! This tour will also include Pyongyang, Kaesong & DMZ.**

**From 1,249 EUR per person**

### **Overall**

Sun, sea, and sand... Yes, that's right!

North Korea may not be known as a summer get-away, or indeed known for its beaches, but we think a summer package holiday in North Korea is far too underrated, and one of the best holiday destinations to give you one of the most unforgettable trips of a lifetime.

Plus, you won't have to worry about tourists crowding the beaches!

Our Summer Holiday Tour is an annual favourite which gives you the highlights of North Korea - and more. This includes exploring the capital Pyongyang and historic Kaesong on the Korean Demilitarised Zone on the North-South Korea border, while also taking time to see the country's rarely visited east coast.

On the east coast, you will see the port city of Wonsan and the industrial centre of Hamhung, while having the chance to explore the hiking trails in Mt Kumgang. The weather is beautiful at this time of year – warm during the day but not too hot, making it one of the best holiday destinations this summer!

Don't forget to pack your bikini/swimming trunks!

### **Highlights**

- The stunning mountain scenery of Mt Kumgang
- Beaches of Korea's eastern coast
- The port city of Wonsan and industrial city of Hamhung

### **Itinerary**

#### **Briefing Day – July 3 | 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 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.



### **Day 1 – July 4 | 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 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 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 | Massive archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.

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.

Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station.

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

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

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.

## **Day 2 - July 5 | Sunday**

### **Drive to Hamhung**

AM

Drive east across the width of the peninsula before heading north to Hamhung, the second largest city of the DPRK and major centre of industry. A 6 to 7-hour drive.

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

Stop by Sinpyong Lake Beach Guesthouse to stretch your legs at this lakeside teahouse beneath rocky crags.

Ulim Waterfall for a picnic lunch | Hidden amongst the mountains on the road to Wonsan, 'Echo' Waterfall is a scenic stopover to enjoy lunch, stretch your legs, or go for a dip in the pool beneath.

PM

Tongbong Co-operative Farm | Local farm in the outskirts of Hamhung. View the machinery barn, a local home, and the farm shop to buy some locally made products.

Home of Ri Song Gye | Home of the first king of the Ri Dynasty (1392-1910) who extinguished the Koryo Dynasty, only to be then ousted by his own son. A traditional hall and pavilion and associated naughty stories of the former king's retirement years -some not appropriate for the youth!

Overnight | Majon Beach Guesthouse, Hamhung. A beachside holiday compound with basic but comfortable chalets. Rooms have heated floors but no running water. Bring a torch! There is a main building with restaurant, bar, billiards, table-tennis, bookshop, and Korean karaoke.

## **Day 3 – July 6 | Monday**

### **Hamhung and Wonsan**

AM

Hungnam Fertiliser Factory | Massive chemical-industrial plant producing various kinds of fertilisers. Tour of the plant control room, production facilities, and packing plant - just don't light up next to the Ammonium Nitrate!

Hamhung Grand Theatre and Central Square | Exterior view of the DPRK's largest theatre on the city's central square.

Drive south to Wonsan, a major port city on the East Sea of Korea. A 2.5 -3-hour drive.

PM

Wonsan Agricultural University | The DPRK's premier agricultural university set among beautiful hillside scenery. Tour the grounds and the neo-Romanesque teaching hall, originally built by Germans living in the area in the early 20th century.

Songdowon International Schoolchildren's Camp | A classic socialist summer camp where Korean and international children can spend two weeks learning socialist values and teamwork. Tour the recently renovated dormitories, aquarium, birdhouse, gymnasium, and more!

Jangdok Island and Lighthouse | Take a stroll on the breakwater to a small island in the middle of Wonsan harbour (1 EUR/USD entry fee).

Overnight | Dongmyong Hotel, Wonsan. Waterfront hotel with stunning seaside views of Wonsan Harbor. Limited hours of hot water, bar, billiards, ping-pong, barber shop, beauty salon, dry-sauna, and indoor seawater swimming pool.

**Day 4 – July 7 | Tuesday**

**Mt. Kumgang, the 'Diamond Mountain'**

AM

Drive south along the East Sea coast to the scenic Mt. Kumgang, the 'Diamond Mountain' noted in East Asian history and famous in Korean legends. Home of some of Korea's most spectacular natural landscapes and best hiking. A 2.5 - 3-hour drive.

Samil Lagoon | A charming green-water coastal lagoon lined by pine forests. Named for the 'three-day' stay (sam-il) of a king in days-gone-by to take in the full beauty of the area. PM

Hiking at Kuryong Waterfall | A 8 km (round-trip) hike to a scenic 'Nine-Dragons' waterfall through forests, along mountain streams and by emerald pools.

Kumgangsán Hot Spa | Relax in the facilities of Kumgangsán's hot spa or treat yourself to a massage (approx 10-15 USD).

Overnight | Kumgangsán Hotel, Mt. Kumgang. A very comfortable, clean and well equipped. Bar, billiards, massage and a great terrace with barbecue options.



**Day 5 – July 8 | Wednesday**

**Drive back to Pyongyang with stops along the way. Please note that 8 July marks the anniversary of the passing of President Kim Il Sung in 1994. Additionally, restaurants may not serve alcohol at meals on this day**

AM

Drive back up the coast to Wonsan with a rest stop at Lake Sinjung and lunch in Wonsan.

PM

Drive back to Pyongyang (approx 4 hours drive) with a stop at Masik Pass Ski Resort, the DPRK's largest ski resort. Opened in 2013, Masik Pass features nine main runs, two beginner slopes, and a lodge with full amenities.

Walk in the city centre.

Overnight | Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang.

**Day 6 – July 9 | Thursday**

**Pyongyang City Tour**

AM

Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum | Tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guide. 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 USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.

Mansudae Fountain Park | The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens afterschool and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient, socialist, and modern architecture.

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 miles) horse' - a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950s following the Korean War.

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

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.

PM

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

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.

Drive south along the 'Reunification Highway' to Kaesong, historic capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarised Zone. A 2.5-hour drive

Tomb of King Kongmin | Tomb of the 31st king of the Koryo Dynasty, a talented statesman and prolific painter, and his Mongolian wife. Set the end of a picturesque valley. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Kayagum Performance | Traditional Korean stringed instrument performance at the Minsok Folk Hotel. Tip recommended (1-3 EUR per person on group tours) for this beautiful demonstration of Korean music.

Overnight | Minsok Folk Hotel, Kaesong. Traditional style hotel where guest sleep on heated floors, Korean-style. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electric supply - please bring a torch. Beautiful setting in Kaesong old city with stream running through the center and Ri dynasty furniture.

## **Day 7 – July 10 | Friday**

### **Kaesong City and DMZ Tour**

AM

Old City Walk and South Gate | A morning stroll through Kaesong's historic district lined with homes dating back to the late Ri Dynasty to 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 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.

Pakyon Waterfall | Light walking in relaxing wooded area to a scenic waterfall. There are hiking trails of various lengths. Local people commonly visit here for picnics and sometimes bathing/swimming.

PM

Drive to Sariwon, the provincial seat of North Hwanghae Province and a centre of agro-industry on the Chaeryong Plains with a stop at the Dinosaur Footprint. A 1-hour drive.

Sariwon Traditional Folk Street | We'll take a break from the drive to stop by this traditionally themed street for a quick overview of Korean history and culture. Sometimes it is possible to drop by a small makkolli (Korean rice wine) shop on the street, where bowl of makkolli costs about 1 EUR.

Continue back to Sariwon with a stop at the Monument to the Three Charters of Reunification, a large stone archway over the highway memorializing joint agreements between north and south. 1.5-hour drive.

Ri In Mo Monument | Bronze statue of Ri In Mo, a long-term unconverted prisoner who spent decades in captivity in the south after being captured during the Korean War, located on modernist Tongil Street. Ri In Mo is known in the DPRK as 'the incarnation of faith and will'

Overnight | Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang.

### **Day 8 – July 11 | 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 JS 151 at 08:50 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:50.

OR

Train departure by train to Beijing at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is to Beijing Station on Sunday, 12 July at 08:30. For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).

### **End of Tour**

#### **Extras**

Transport | Train and Flights to North Korea (Standard) 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.

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.

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.

Insurance (7 to 9 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 back to Beijing
- Hotel accommodation

- Koryo Tours tour leader
- Two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- All transportation in North Korea

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- North Korean visa fee 50 EUR
- Optional Air Koryo flights (one-way: 199 EUR; round-trip: 299EUR)
- Optional single room supplement (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
- 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.*