Uncover North Korea
5 days | Starts/Ends: Beijing

Almost untouched by tourism, North Korea is a mysterious place with a bumpy recent history yet offers the inquisitive traveller mountain scenery, halls of treasure, ancient temples and historic monuments. Be one of the few thousands of foreign visitors allowed here each year by joining us for a unique foray into the ‘Hermit Kingdom’.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
- MT. MYOHYANG - Mountain of Mysterious Fragrance with striking scenery, visit to the International Friendship Exhibition and the Pohyon Buddhist Temple
- NAMPO - the Nampo West Sea Barrage on the Taedong River
- PYONGYANG - Arch of Triumph, the Juche Tower, Victorious War Museum, Schoolchildren's Palace, Mangyongdae Native House, the Metro and Mansudae Art Studio
- KAESONG - the Dimilitarised Zone, the Kaesong Koryo Museum and Tomb of Wang Gwon

What’s included
- 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- 4 nights 4 star accommodation
- Return economy class flights from Beijing to Pyongyang
- Local transfers and transportation in private A/C vehicle
- Entrance fees for inc. excursions
- Services of an official English-speaking North Korean guide
- Tourism visa to North Korea

What’s not included
- International flights & Chinese visa
- Compulsory North Korea government-regulated Alilang show - paid locally at EUR100 per person
- Tipping - a personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Pyongyang
Make your own way to Beijing's International airport for your included flight to Pyongyang, North Korea’s capital. Upon arrival into Pyongyang you will be met by your official North Korean guides who will be with you throughout the tour. On the way to our hotel we will stop to see the historic Arch of Triumph. The Arch holds an important place in Korea's history as it is where Kim Il Sung gave his first speech to his people after the surrender of the Japanese. Overnight - Pyongyang. (B)

Day 2: Mt. Myohyang
This morning we drive to Mt. Myohyang - the Mountain of Mysterious Fragrance, home to striking scenery and fresh air. We explore the large subterranean halls of the International Friendship Exhibition, filled with gifts presented to North Korea's
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leaders by people from all over the world. Enjoy a tea break out on the balcony with stunning views of the surrounding scenery before exploring the Pohyon Buddhist Temple. At nearly a thousand years old, the temple was destroyed during the Korean War but later rebuilt as a working temple. After lunch we head back to the capital to visit the Juche Tower, the tallest stone monument in the world, for an introduction to the ‘Juche’ philosophy. Time will also be spent at the Victorious War Museum. **Overnight - Pyongyang. (B, L, D)**

Day 3: Kaesong

It’s an early start today as we drive south to the historical city of Kaesong. The former capital of the Koryo Dynasty between 918 - 1392 AD, the city is also famously the only major city to change hands between North and South Korea during the war. We’ll visit the DMZ (demilitarised zone) where the two countries continue their decades-long standoff. It may be possible to go into one of the huts that straddle the demarcation line and actually cross over into South Korea! In Kaesong we visit the Kaesong Koryo Museum, a beautiful old Buddhist Temple. At nearly a thousand years old, the temple was destroyed during the Korean War but later rebuilt as a working temple. After lunch we head back to the capital to visit the Juche Tower, the tallest stone monument in the world, for an introduction to the ‘Juche’ philosophy. Time will also be spent at the Victorious War Museum. **Overnight - Pyongyang. (B, L, D)**

Day 4: Nampo

Today we visit the Nampo West Sea Barrage, an 8km-long dam separating the Taedong River from the West Sea of Korea. The dam prevents Pyongyang from being flooded by tidal surges and also provides more agricultural land.

Regarded as a great feat of engineering, the project was personally overseen by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong II. We proceed to Mangyongdae Native House, the birthplace of North Korean President Kim Il Sung and enjoy a ride on the Pyongyang metro - the deepest underground system in the world with main stations displaying superb lighting and mosaics. A brief stop at the Mansudae Art Studio offers a glimpse into the country’s arts and crafts and afterwards there is free time to go shopping at one of Pyongyang’s glitzy malls. **Overnight - Pyongyang. (B, L, D)**

Day 5: Back to Beijing

After breakfast and hotel check out we will transfer you to Pyongyang airport for your included flight, departing at 09:00 to Beijing. Upon arrival to Beijing you will be met by our representative and transferred to your group tour start hotel for check in.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**Visa requirements**

Once you have confirmed your bolt-on, our Beijing office will secure your North Korean visa. We will send you a Visa form that needs to be filled out a month in advance. We also require a colour copy of your passport as well as a digital photo measuring 4x3cm on a white background. The fee for the visa is GBP55 per person. Your visa will be delivered to you in Beijing before you depart for North Korea. Please do not forget – North Korea is a closed country and both Border Control and Customs can be very strict.

Journalists, or those in a related field, Israeli, South Korean & Japanese Passport holders will not be granted visas to enter North Korea. If you were born in either of these countries but hold an alternative country’s passport, or have a surname which is of Israeli, South Korean or Japanese heritage please inform us, so we can enquire whether you will be granted a North Korean visa. We will not accept visa’s issued by an external third party.

**Climate**

North Korea is in the North Temperate Zone, with distinct seasonal changes. Early spring is sunny but chilly with temperatures reaching 5-6 degrees and the nights often falling below Zero. As summer approaches the days warm up,
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often reaching 18-20 degrees, however rain is frequent, so we suggest a rain-coat. Autumn is variable and winter, although often sunny with little snow, can be frigid with temperatures falling to around -10 to -15 degrees and Arctic winds.

Time
North Korea is 9 hours ahead of GMT.

Money
The official currency of North Korea is the Chosun Won, however as foreigners you will only be permitted to purchase items in Chinese Yuan or Euros, cash. Credit Cards are not accepted.

Accommodation
Foreign Nationals may only stay in Government approved accommodation. On The Go stay in ‘Special’ Grade Hotels - the highest possible. You will find the common areas and facilities in a ‘Special Grade’ hotel resemble many Western 5 star establishments whilst the rooms themselves are more similar to Western 3 star hotels.

Transport
When in North Korea we utilise Chinese built vehicles. Due to a lack of maintenance, road conditions can however, at times, be challenging. phones Mobile Phones are allowed into the DPRK, however as there no network coverage, calls will not be possible.

Using your phone as a camera is permitted. International calls and faxes are possible from your hotel at a cost of approx. Yuan 60/GBP6.5/min. There will be no access to public phone-booths.

Voltage
Standard voltage is 220v, 50Hz AC. Plug sockets can be either 2-pronged flat pins as used in the USA; or 2 round narrow pins as used in Europe. To cover all bases, pack a travel adaptor! You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Health requirements
You should seek medical advice before travelling to North Korea from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide you should make sure you’re up to date with vaccinations including Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Japanese Encephalitis and Malaria.

Food
All meals are provided whilst within North Korea, however the food itself will be simple in nature. Tofu & vegetables are available so vegetarians can be accommodated however fruit & milk will be unavailable.

Prohibited items
North Korean currency, Telescope, Laptop, professional camera, or video camera, camera lenses exceeding 150mm, GPS’s – either stand-alone or embodied within another electronic device, literature of a religious or political nature, printed or electronic material which could be viewed as offensive or obscene & anything which could be construed as an allegiance with South Korea (such as clothing, documents & other material which may display their flag, crest or language).

Please do not take photos from your train/coach of the external countryside.

Please do not photograph the Police or Armed Forces. If in doubt, please request permission first from your guide. Do not make comments of a political nature whether generally or specifically about North Korea or its leaders, even when in the privacy of your hotel room. On The Go cannot take responsibility for people who contravene North Korean Laws – if in doubt, ask your guide first.

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.