PARTY FOUNDATION DAY LONG TOUR 2017

TOUR

October 7 – 14/15 2017
7 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

OVERVIEW

Join us in North Korea for the Party Foundation Day Celebrations on October 10th! This tour includes a city tour of Pyongyang, a visit down to the DMZ, and a trip to the beautiful Mt Myohyang to see the International Friendship Exhibition. You'll also get the chance to enjoy a truly Korean hot spa bath at the Dragon River Spa Hotel and visit the West Sea Barrage at Nampo!

Our comprehensive city tour of Pyongyang includes must see sights such as the mausoleum of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, and the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, 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. You will be staying at the Yanggakdo Hotel, one of the deluxe standard hotels in Pyongyang.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Party Foundation Day celebrations on October 10th
- Kumsusan Memorial Palace (Mausoleum of leaders), captured spy ship USS Pueblo and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ – the border with South Korea
- Soaking up the medicinal waters at Dragon River Hot Spa Hotel, Nampo

Please note that the itinerary may differ slightly to what is below but your tour leader will do their best to ensure that as much is covered as possible and will also add in extras when there is time such as a visit to a local bar or a funfair. We visit the DPRK regularly and know all the best places to go to make your trip even more unique. We will make the most of your time in the DPRK to guarantee the experience of a lifetime.

DAILY ITINERARY

OCTOBER 6 – FRIDAY (BRIEFING DAY)

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*

PM

- **16:00: Our group assembles for a pre-tour group briefing at the Koryo Tours office in Beijing.** This briefing will last approximately one hour and designed so that you will get the most out of your tour. It will cover travel etiquette, safety, and practicalities for travel in the DPRK. Have your last minute questions answered and meet your fellow travelers. *Please be punctual - you can come early, pay any outstanding tour fees and browse our collection of Korean art.*

OVERNIGHT

- Hotel in Beijing not included in the tour. Contact us for recommendations near our office.

OCTOBER 7 – SATURDAY (ARRIVAL IN PYONGYANG)

AM

- **Free bus** from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2. *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 12:55. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*

- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport** (FNJ) at 15:25. 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.

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.

OCTOBER 8 – SUNDAY (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.*
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- **Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery** -Hilltop cemetery with dozens of bronze busts of those who took part in the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. It is customary to present flowers here.
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- **Kim Il Sung Square**- Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.
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- **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

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 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 USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.

- **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.

- **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.

- Drive north passing rivers valleys and hills to **Mt. Myohyang**, the 'mountain of mysterious fragrance'. *A 2.5 hour to 3 hour drive*.

OVERNIGHT

- Chongchon Hotel - Basic but clean hotel at Mt. Myohyang. Book and souvenir shop, billiards, ping-pong, and karaoke

OCTOBER 9 – MONDAY (MT. MYOHYANG TOUR)

AM

- **International Friendship Exhibition**- A 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.

- **Pohyon Buddhist Temple** -A peaceful temple dating back to 1042 with stone pagoda and repository of a print blocks and historic text of the *Tripitaka Koreana*, Buddhist scriptures first produced to invoke divine assistance from foreign invasion during the Koryo Dynasty.

PM

- **Manpok Valley Walk** - A gentle stroll passing waterfalls, interesting rocks, lovely wooded areas and viewing points.

- Drive back to Pyongyang. *2.5 - 3 hour drive.*

OVERNIGHT

- Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 10 – TUESDAY (DPRK HOLIDAY: PARTY FOUNDATION DAY)

AM

- **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.

- **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).

- 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 1950's following the Korean War.

- **Mangyongdae Native House** -Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.

- **Trolleybus Ride** - A ride through Pyongyang on one of the city's famous trolleybuses

- **Picnic Lunch in Moranbong Park** -We'll take a stroll in Pyongyang's central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports, especially on national holidays. The park is filled with historic pavilions, walls, and monuments- modern and ancient, a few of which are among the traditional 'Eight Great Sights of Pyongyang'.

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*).

- **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.

- **Circus** *(approx. 20 EUR per person)* – A one hour circus show including clowns, trapeze artists, jugglers, and much more. The shows here are especially popular with locals on national holidays.

- **Mass Dance** – As it's a national holiday, we expect to see large student organised dances held around Pyongyang on major holidays (*weather dependent*). Join in the fun!

- **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 Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 11 – WEDNESDAY (KAESONG CITY & DMZ TOUR)

AM

- Drive 160 km south the 'Reunification Highway' to **Kaesong**, historic capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarised Zone. *2.5 hour drive.*

- **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

- **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.

- **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 nation. A 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.

- Drive back to **Pyongyang** 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. *2.5 hour drive.*

OVERNIGHT

- Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 12 – THURSDAY (PYONGYANG & NAMPO TOUR)

AM

- **Grand People's Study House** -National library and public university in neo-traditional Korean style building overlooking Kim Il Sung Square. Gain insight into higher education and research in the DPRK and great views of Pyongyang.

- **Jonsung Revolutionary Site** -A system of underground tunnels and bunkers used by Korean government's cabinet during the 1950's. Learn about life underground during the years of American bombing.

- **Mt. Ryonggak BBQ** - A BBQ lunch in a woodland setting just outside of the city.

PM

- Drive west along the 'Youth Hero Highway' to **Nampo**, the port city of Pyongyang on the Taedong River estuary. A *45 minute to 1 hour drive.*

- **Chongsan-ri Co-Operative Farm** - Learn about farming and rural living in the DPRK at this farming community.

- **Kangso Mineral Water Factory** - Bottling plant for the DPRK's most popular brand of sparking water.

- **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 locks and fish ladder. One of the DPRK's greatest engineering feats.

OVERNIGHT

- **Ryonggang Hot Spa Hotel** - Compound with holiday houses and a main building for dinner and entertainment. Bring a torch! Spa bath in every room with mineral water from the Sindok Spring- the most famous mineral spa in the DPRK. Billiards, karaoke, and ping pong.

OCTOBER 13 – FRIDAY (NAMPO & PYONGYANG TOUR)

AM

- **Nampo Orphanage** - Where parentless children are cared for and raised. Long-term partner of Koryo Tours' humanitarian work.

- **Chollima Steelworks** - A major heavy industry site of the DPRK, known to Koreans as the birthplace of the Chollima Movement and famous for making 'Juche Steel'.

- Return to Pyongyang. 45 minute to 1 hour drive.

PM

- **Pyongyang Feature Film Studio** - See the home of 'Cholliwood', the DPRK's domestic film industry. Visits sets of traditional Korea, colonial Korea, China, Europe, and more!

- **Mansudae Art Studio** -The DPRK's centre of artistic excellence, where the majority of sculptures, mosaics, and paintings around the country are made. Visit workshops to see artists at work and an exhibition where pieces are sold.
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- **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*).
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- Farewell group dinner at South Pyongyang's famous **Duck Barbecue Restaurant**, where you can grill your own meats. The site of many teary eyed farewells.

OVERNIGHT

- Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang

OCTOBER 14 – SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing

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

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS 251** at 10:00 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 11:30. *Please note there is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.*

OR

- Train departure by **international sleeper train to Beijing** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Friday October 13 at 08:30. *We typically book soft sleeper (four beds per cabin) for the return journey. Please note that in some rare instances, soft sleeper tickets may sell out and we will book hard sleeper (six beds per cabin) instead.*

TOUR PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- Flight Beijing – Pyongyang
- Train Pyongyang – Beijing
- All meals on the tour apart from the meals on the train back to Beijing
- Hotel accommodation
- A Koryo Tours tour leader, two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- All transportation in the DPRK

NOT INCLUDED

- DPRK visa fee
- Optional flight back to Beijing at end of the tour
- Optional single room supplement
- Tips for the local Korean guides and driver
- 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

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Please note that when on tour your day-to-day itinerary may differ 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.