



5 Night Marathon Tour from Beijing

TOUR

April 11th - 16th 2024

5 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

Visit North Korea from Beijing for the [Pyongyang Marathon](#), one of the most unique marathons in the world. Run alongside local Korean runners as you power through the streets of Pyongyang that will be lined with thousands of Koreans cheering you on as you go.

Running through the streets of Pyongyang is one of the most unique ways to explore the fascinating and unique capital.

Aside from the Pyongyang Marathon, we will also take you on a comprehensive city tour throughout Pyongyang, including its famous [Pyongyang metro system](#) and the victorious [Fatherland Liberation War Museum](#) featuring the captured spy ship - the USS Pueblo.

We will also get out of the city and head for the North Korean countryside as we head down to historic Kaesong for a tour of the city including the infamous [Panmunjom and DMZ](#) that separates Korea into two.

Notably, joining us on this tour means you'll get to join the local North Koreans in celebrating one of the most important dates in the Korean calendar; Kim Il Sung's Birthday. Officially known as the '[Day of the Sun](#)'. Expect [mass dances](#) and even the possibility of a military parade and a firework display over the Taedonggang river. We will also get a chance to see the orchid named after the President, the [Kimilsungia](#).

Plus much more!

► **Pyongyang Marathon 2024**

Koryo Tours are the official partners of the Pyongyang Marathon.

The marathon is a World Athletics' Bronze Label Road Race, and also has AIMS Certification. Join the race and receive the most unique finisher's medal, running shirt, and race certificates available.

Even if you're not a serious runner, the Pyongyang Marathon is an event like no other. It starts and ends in Kim Il Sung Stadium - a stadium filled with over 50,000

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North Koreans cheering you on as you finish your race. It's an experience like no other.

[The Closest Experience to Being in the Olympics](#)
[What do North Koreans Think of the Pyongyang Marathon?](#)
[More on the Pyongyang Marathon](#)

DAILY ITINERARY

APRIL 10 – WEDNESDAY

Pre-Tour Briefing | *We require all travelers 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 travelers, 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 Pyongyang Marathon tours, we will hold several briefings - in the morning for those departing by train in the afternoon, and in the afternoon for those departing by flight the next day.

AM

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*
- **10:00 | Train Departure** - your briefing will be held at this time in Beijing

PM

- **14:00 / 16:00 / 18:00 | Flight Departure** - briefings will be held in the afternoon on this day in Beijing at these times, you only need to attend one briefing (*exact times offered to be confirmed.*)
- **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.*

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APRIL 11 – THURSDAY

Arrival Day in Pyongyang

AM

- **Train transfer at Dandong Station from overnight sleeper train to the Dandong-Pyongyang local train.** *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. *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 times are TBC and subject to change.** Currently expected to depart around midday/early afternoon. *A 2-hour flight with basic lunch.*
- [Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport \(FNJ\).](#) DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- **Train arrival to Pyongyang Railway Station** expected at 6:45 pm.

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 and beer brewed on-site.

APRIL 12 – FRIDAY

Historic Kaesong and the DMZ Tour

AM

- [Kaesong](#) | Drive south along the '[Reunification Highway](#)' to the historic capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarised Zone. *A 3-hour drive*

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- [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

- [Sariwon Folk Village and City View](#) | Mock-up of a traditional Korean town which includes a history museum, food street, and pavilions. There is a small tavern selling *Makkoli*, traditional rice wine. Climb a nearby hill for a view of Sariwon City and the surrounding plains.
- [Monument to the Three-Charters of the Reunification](#) | Iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between Koreas, north and south. Also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.
- [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.
- [Arch of Triumph](#) | A massive archway made for the 70th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung in 1982 and commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. Larger than its counterpart in Paris.
- [Duck Barbecue Restaurant](#) | South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

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APRIL 13 – SATURDAY

Pyongsong & Nampo

AM

- **Early Morning Run in Pyongyang** | Your chance for a pre-marathon run in Pyongyang! You will have to be up early for this, a good opportunity to give yourself some preparation for the following day's big event. *Optional activity, for those that don't participate you can enjoy a sleep in.*
- Drive 45 minute north to [Pyongsong](#), a satellite city of Pyongyang, centre of science and technological research, and the provincial seat of South Pyong'an province.
- **Pyongsong City Square** | Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary museum. Presentation of flowers customary.
- **Tok Song Primary School** | The area's top primary school for gifted students. Tour the school's classrooms & facilities, watch music & dance performances by the students, and test your ping pong skills against them in the gymnasium.
- [Konji-ri Revolutionary Site](#) | Location of the headquarters of the Korean People's Army & home of Kim Il Sung during the Korean War. Tour the renovated buildings and learn about life there during the war.
- Drive back to Pyongyang for lunch

PM

- [Nampo](#) | Drive west along the '[Youth Hero Highway](#)' to this port city of Pyongyang on the Taedong River estuary. *A 45 minute to 1-hour drive.*
- [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.
- **Local Factory** | Nampo is a major industrial area of the DPRK, we'll visit one of the local factories to see and learn more about the industrial side of the country. We will visit either a [glass factory](#), [mineral water bottling plant](#) or if we're lucky the famous [Chollima Steelworks](#). *Please note that factory visits may depend on on-site activities/conditions.*

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- [Chongsam-ri Co-operative Farm](#) | The DPRK's most famous and iconic model farm. Visited hundreds of times by Kim Il Sung, the place where the 'Chongsam-ri Method' was developed (they will explain on-site). See how the farming system works, visit a farmhouse, the local shop, kindergarten and see the fields and greenhouses.
- Return to Pyongyang
- [Kim Il Sung Stadium & Marathon Route Preview](#) | Visit the stadium where you will start and finish your race, and then drive the marathon route to familiarise yourself with the roads, turning points and toilet stops.
- Dinner @ local restaurant
- [Yanggakdo International Cinema](#) | Optional screening of *Run and Run*, a DPRK film about marathon runner Yong Ho who faces the physical and mental struggles of marathon participation. After both his father and work unit manager tell him to stop running, he becomes more determined to achieve his marathon dream. The film will be shown at the **Pyongyang International House of Cinema** (*80 RMB entry fee paid on the spot*). A Koryo Tours exclusive and sure to provide you with motivation ahead of the big event!

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

APRIL 14 – SUNDAY

The big event! The Pyongyang Marathon 2024!

AM

- [The 2024 Pyongyang Marathon](#) | this is your chance to run the streets of Pyongyang in the DPRK's largest annual sports event! Join the Full Marathon, Half Marathon, 10km or 5km race – all of which follow a return course that starts and ends in [Kim Il Sung Stadium](#) in front of a 50,000-strong capacity crowd of local Koreans. ([Runner's guide to Kim Il Sung Stadium](#))

The full route, which has been certified by both World Athletics and AIMS, leads right through the city centre, past a number of iconic landmarks, and then out into Pyongyang's less urban districts. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to see more of the capital and interact with people along the course. Prizes are available for the winners of each race.

PM

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- **Shower, resting time and lunch** | After the marathon's closing ceremony, we'll be heading back to the hotel to recharge, shower and rest
- **[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.
- **[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*).
- **[Party Foundation Monument](#)** | 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.
- **Local Beer Bar** | Relax at one of Pyongyang's local bars to wrap up an exciting day.

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

APRIL 15 – MONDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

The Day of the Sun – one of the DPRK's largest holidays. April 15, 2024, is the 112th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung's birth

On April 15th there may be large-scale celebrations in Pyongyang. A Military Parade is possible, in which case the itinerary for the day will be subject to change. Foreign travellers are typically allowed to view military units as they exit the city from the parade course and the city's residents come out en masse to greet them. Be prepared to potentially wait around for a few hours, but it will be well worth it. For The Day of the Sun we also expect student-organised mass dances at prominent locations throughout the city and the possibility of evening fireworks. Whatever happens this holiday, it will be impressive and unforgettable. Not to be missed!

AM

- **[Mansudae Fountain Park](#)** | The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient and modern architecture from different eras.
- **[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).

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*Please note this is a government-administered sight and visits are subject to cancellation. **Visitations are by special request only and decent dress is required (close-toed shoes and covered legs and shoulders).***

- [Chollima Monument](#) | or 'thousand ri (400 km or 250 mile) horse' -a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950s 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.
- [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.
- [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.

PM

- [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.
- [Kimilsungia and Kimjongillia Flower Exhibition](#) | Exhibit of the two flowers named after the DPRK's leaders and held on the occasion of their respective birthday anniversaries in February and April. See organizations and groups from across society compete to put on the best floral display.
- [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.
- [Mass Dance](#) | Large student organised dances held around Pyongyang on major holidays (*weather dependent*). Join in the fun!
- [Pyongyang Circus \(or other available performance\)](#) | We will leave time this afternoon to try and catch a local performance – either of the

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Pyongyang Circus, theatre, or a revolutionary opera. Schedules are typically announced only a few weeks before the trip. If no performances are available, we will find an alternative activity in the city. *Tickets to be paid on the spot (from 5-25 EUR) depending on the available performance.*

- **Dinner and sunset boat cruise along the [Taedong River](#)** | We will take a cruise on the Taedong River while having dinner with live music performance and waiting for the fireworks
- **[Future Scientist Street](#)** | An evening stroll around one of Pyongyang's newest districts

Overnight | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang.

APRIL 16 – TUESDAY

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight or train.

AM

Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo** with an expected arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 by midday.

OR

Train departure by **local train to the Korean-Chinese border** at 10:25 am, transfer in **Dandong** and onward travel to Beijing with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Wednesday, April 17th at 08:30 am. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

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