



## The Summer Holiday Tour

### TOUR

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

7 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

### OVERVIEW

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!

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.  
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## DAILY ITINERARY

### JULY 1 – FRIDAY

#### Briefing Day and Train Departure Day

**\*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.
- **17:27** | 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.

### JULY 2 – 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.

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Train crosses the [China-North Korea border](#) followed by North Korean customs and immigration.

#### PM

- Flight departure from **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) Terminal 2** on [Air Koryo flight JS152](#) at 13:05. A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch ([vegetarian option](#) is subject to availability). **Check-in starts 3 hours prior to departure.**
- **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.
- [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](#) at 18:45.
- **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.

### JULY 3 – SUNDAY

*Sunday in Pyongyang and drive to Kaesong*

#### AM

- [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.
- [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 the DPRK leadership overlooking downtown Pyongyang. A presentation of flowers and bow by the group is customary here. **Visitations are by special request only and decent dress is required. No shorts or flip-flop sandals allowed here.**

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- [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museum and The Grand People's Study House, Korea's national library. See the centre of it all!
- [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.
- [Moranbong Park](#) | We'll take a stroll in Pyongyang's central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports. 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

- [Kwangbok Department Store](#) | Exchange for Korean currency and shop with the citizens of Pyongyang! Try the snack stands for some of Pyongyang's best local eats.
- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.
- [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 5 EUR for great views of the city.
- Drive south on the [Reunification Highway](#) to [Kaesong](#), historic capital of the medieval Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD). Once located in South Korea, the city changed hands during the Korean War. It is now located just north of the DMZ.
- Dinner with a live Kayagum performance - a traditional Korean instrument in a unique setting!

**Overnight** | [Minsok Folk Hotel](#), [Kaesong](#). Traditional style hotel where guests sleep on heated floors in Korean style. Housed in beautiful courtyards of Kaesong's old city, structures date back to the Ri Dynasty. Basic bathroom facilities. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electricity supply – please bring a torch.

#### JULY 4 – MONDAY

*Historic Kaesong and the Joint Security Area*

#### AM

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- [Old City Walk and South Gate](#) | A stroll from the hotel through Kaesong's historic district lined with homes dating back to the Ri Dynasty from 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.
- [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

- [Sonjuk Bridge](#) | Small stone bridge built in 1290, which in 1392 was the site of the assassination of the last loyal Koryo Dynasty minister Jong Mong Ju by a son of Ri Song Gye (founder of the next, and final, dynasty). This bloody act extinguished the Koryo which had ruled over Korea for 474 years and is said to have left a permanent mark on the bridge that can be seen to this day.
- 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. *A 3-hour drive.*
- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and USS Pueblo](#) | We'll tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guides. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of 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 spyship [USS Pueblo](#). Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.
- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A beer bar serving seven types of beer. Popular with locals after work and on weekends. Best place to drink pints with local people.

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- **Evening [walk on Ryomyong Street](#)** | Pyongyang's newest futuristic neighbourhood after a farewell dinner at Pyongsol Restaurant.

**Overnight** | Yanggakdo International Hotel, Pyongyang

## JULY 5 – TUESDAY

*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 7 to 8-hour drive.*
- Stop by [Sinpyong Lake 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.

## JULY 6 – WEDNESDAY

*Hamhung and Wonsan*

### AM

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- [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.
- [Tonghung Revolutionary Site](#) | Hillside park with statues of the DPRK leadership overlooking Hamhung city centre and Songchon River. *A presentation of flowers is customary.*

#### PM

- Drive south to [Wonsan](#), a major port city on the East Sea of Korea. A 2.5 - 3-hour drive.
- [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!
- [Wonsan City Centre and Docks](#) | Central square and ship terminal in downtown Wonsan. The *Mangyongbong-92* ferry/cargo ship which one shuttled Koreans living in Japan back and forth across the East Sea of Korea is moored here.
- [Mangyongbong-92](#) | A ferry/cruise ship built in 1992 to ferry Japanese Koreans and goods between Japan and North Korea till 2006. In 2018, the ship carried North Korean performers for the Winter Olympics in South Korea.
- [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.

### JULY 7 – THURSDAY

*Mt. Kumgang, the 'Diamond Mountain'*

#### AM

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- [Kangwon Province Art Gallery](#) | Small art exhibition selling artwork by local artists, where you can purchase paintings.
- 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.
- [Sokwang Temple](#) | Remains of a Buddhist temple established dating back to the late-14th century and associated with the dream that predicted the fall of the Koryo Dynasty. A historic and haunting place set in a serene mountain valley with stream.

#### PM

- [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.

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

#### JULY 8 – FRIDAY

*Mt. Kumgang hiking and 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

- [Hiking in the Mt Kumgang area](#) | ‘The Diamond Mountain’ – a series of peaks and canyons rising above Korea’s eastern seaboard and regarded since time immemorial as one of the most scenic regions in East Asia. An 8 km (round-trip) hike to a scenic ‘Nine-Dragons’ waterfall will take us through forests, along mountain streams and by emerald pools.

#### PM

- Drive back up the coast to **Wonsan** with a rest stop at Lake Sinjung.
- Continue driving 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.

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- [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.
- Modest farewell dinner.

**Overnight** | Yanggakdo Hotel, Pyongyang.

### **JULY 9 – 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 JS151** at 08:30 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 May 8 at 08:40. *For this tour the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

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