



North Korea Winter Budget Tour

TOUR

January 7th - 11th/12th 2025

4 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

A North Korea winter is chilly and quiet. Already among the least visited countries in the world, visit North Korea at a time when there are even fewer travellers around and enjoy the calm and quiet as you explore the DPRK.

This North Korea tour package includes a city tour of [Pyongyang](#) and a [DMZ tour at Panmunjom](#).

The clear skies, snow-covered streets, and Koreans fully kitted out for a North Korean winter wrapped up in hats and scarves make for great pictures! Plus, you'll be amongst the first to hear about the latest economic and political developments that DPRK has in store for the year ahead in the New Year's Address nationwide speech.

Our North Korea Winter budget tour is perfect for those seeking adventure travel on a budget, or those wanting a short break away. Tick North Korea off your bucket list and get an insight into this little-explored country. Prepare yourself for a truly action-packed itinerary and a comprehensive introduction to North Korean history and society today!

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The Experts in Travel to Rather Unusual Destinations.
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DAILY ITINERARY

JANUARY 6 – MONDAY

***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, and pay any outstanding tour fees. 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.**

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- **16:00 | Briefing for those departing by flight.**
- **17:26 | Train travellers depart Beijing Station** by Chinese 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.*

JANUARY 7 – TUESDAY

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.*

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- Flight departure from **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) Terminal 2** on [Air Koryo flight JS152](#) at 12:55. *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 15:55. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides and transfer to the city.
- [Koryo Hotel Microbrewery](#) | Microbrewery at one of Pyongyang's main hotels near the train station making two different beers.
- Train arrival to [Pyongyang Railway Station](#) at 18:45.
- Evening stroll through Central Pyongyang from Pyongyang Railway Station to Haebangsang Hotel via [Pyongyang Grand Theatre](#).

Overnight | [Haebangsang Hotel](#), Pyongyang. An old classic hotel located in downtown Pyongyang. Popular with Pyongyang's long-term foreign residents. Excellent restaurant.

JANUARY 8 - WEDNESDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- Morning rush hour walk from the hotel to Mansudae Grand Monument. Experience the vibe of the city as few foreigners do while locals are on their way to work.
- [Mansudae Grand Monument](#) | Enormous bronze statues of President Kim Il Sung and General 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.
- [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.

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- [Grand People's Study House](#) | National library and public correspondence university with Neo-traditional Korean architecture and great views of the city.

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- [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](#) | Massive archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. Made for the 70th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in 1982.
- [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 with 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.
- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A standing bar serving seven types of beer (50 cents a pint, 4.5 EUR for a flight). Popular with locals after work and on weekends!
- [Yanggakdo International Cinema](#) | Optional screening of *Comrade Kim Goes Flying*, a North Korean romantic comedy co-produced by Koryo Tours. The ticket is approximately 10 EUR (*subject to change*).

Overnight | Haebangsan Hotel, Pyongyang

JANUARY 9 – THURSDAY

Pyongyang City Tour and drive to Kaesong

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 a collared shirt with tie, dark non-jean pants, and dark shoes. Women require covered shoulders, knee-length dresses 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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- [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.
- [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.

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- [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.
- [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*).
- **Relaxing afternoon before a long drive** | You can go for a ten-pin fix with Pyongyang locals at [Golden Lane Bowling Centre](#), or head next door to the [Kumrung Leisure Centre](#) for an airgun shooting range and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang. Those who want to warm up a bit and leave feeling ten years younger can go to **Ryomyong Sauna Complex** to chill and mingle with locals.
- Drive 3 hours south along the '[Reunification Highway](#)' to [Kaesong](#), ancient capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD) located near today's Korean Demilitarized Zone with a stop at the [Monument to the Three-Charters of the Reunification](#) an iconic arch over the Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway dedicated to joint meeting between the Koreas, north and south. Also known as the 'Arch of Reunification'.

Overnight | [Janamsan Hotel](#), Kaesong. One of our favourite hotels in the DPRK. Friendly staff, great food, and 1970s socialist design. A cosy place to stay in winter!

JANUARY 10 – FRIDAY

[Kaesong](#) and DMZ Tour at Panmunjom

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- [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

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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

- [Janam Hill and Old City View](#) | Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.
- [Panmunjom and DMZ](#) | Perhaps the most famous place in the entire country. The iconic manifestation of the tragic division between North and South Korea. The 'truce' village where several huts straddle the Central Military Demarcation Line (de facto border) with soldiers from each side standing guard. A tour here starts with a briefing at the edge of the DMZ, a visit to the Armistice Negotiation Hall and Armistice Signing Hall, seen as symbols of victory over foreign aggression on this side of the line. Then to Panmunjom itself – cross the border inside one of the blue huts, experience the uncanny feeling of crossing the front line of a sad and needless division of one society, and then take a higher view from the Panmun Pavilion looking over the line from above. A Korean People's Army officer will be there to explain their side of things and will willingly pose for some photos too. A completely and utterly unmissable place.
- [Kaesong Ginseng Factory](#) | See how this famous panacea and aphrodisiac is processed into various forms (tea, candy, powder, etc.). Also learn the history of the root - it was first cultivated in Kaesong, the 'home of ginseng'.
- [Kaesong Koryo Museum \(Songgyungwan Academy\)](#) | A former Confucian school and now a museum on the Koryo Dynasty exhibiting historical objects, statues, pagodas, and porcelain from the time. One of Kaesong's many UNESCO World Heritage Site. The buildings are in Koryo Dynasty style but date back to the early 17th century following their destruction in the Imjin War.
- [Stamp Shop](#) | Store selling stamps, postcards, local ginseng, souvenirs, art, and more. One of the best postcard collections in the country.

PM

- Drive back to Pyongyang via [Sariwon](#) the seat of North Hwanghae Province. *2 hour drive.*
- [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.

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- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.
- [Kwangbok Department Store](#) | [Exchange for 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.
- Farewell dinner at [Pyongyang Duck Barbeque Restaurant](#) | South Pyongyang's famous grilled duck restaurant that has seen many a teary-eyed farewell.

Overnight | Haebangsan Hotel, Pyongyang

JANUARY 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 JS151** at 08:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55.

OR

- Train departure by **train to Beijing** at 10:25 with transfer in Dandong. The scheduled arrival is at **Beijing Station** on Sunday, January 12 at 08:40. *For this tour, the default option is hard sleeper (six beds per berth).*

End of Tour

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