



SOUTH KOREA GATEWAY TO ASIA

A PIECE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

“Land of the Morning Calm” is a nickname for Korea. When you stand on a mountain hill overlooking cloud draped mountains and rolling green fields, it feels just like that. Seoul on the other hand takes you back to reality in a flash. Seoul is a pulsating modern city with a mix of shopping, culture and nightlife that simply is one of the best in the world! The tour that we have put together for you will show you several sides of this multifaceted country, the vibrant city of Seoul that still holds many ancient treasures, the old capitol of Gyeongju with its many temples and breathtaking mountains and to the modern port of Busan, famous for bargain shopping and where you can sample interesting creatures from the ocean at the Jagalchi Fish Market.



SOUTH KOREA - 8 DAY ITINERAY

DAY 1 UK - Seoul

Departure from the UK to Seoul. Overnight flight.

DAY 2 Seoul

Welcome to Seoul, the heart of South Korea. After clearing immigration and customs at Incheon International Airport you will be met by our ground staff and escorted to your awaiting private transfer onward to your hotel for check-in. Afternoon at your leisure. Your chance to explore the fantastic wonders of this mega-city, sample the mouth-watering foods of Korean cuisine, considered to be the best in the world.

DAY 3 Seoul

After breakfast, you will be met by your personal guide who will take you to some of Seoul's best-loved attractions. You will be taken to sites such as Gyeongbokgung Royal Palace, the largest of five grand palaces of the Joseon Dynasty. Then its onto the National Folk Museum of Korea before heading to the Jogyesa Temple, the chief temple of Korean Buddhism. After lunch, you will have the chance to drop by the Itaewon Shopping district, a local haunt among ex-pats. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 4 Seoul

After breakfast, your guide will meet you at your hotel. Today we have prepared a full day sightseeing tour of the border with North Korea., otherwise known as the DMZ (demilitarized zone) on the 38th Parallel. Your guide will tell you the fascinating story of how the country was divided after World War II and about the efforts of the South Korean people to get their relatives out of North Korea. You will also be able to descend into one of the many tunnels discovered by the South Koreans that were dug from the North with the intention to invade Seoul and the rest of South Korea. Afterwards, return transfers, dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 4 Seoul - Gyeongju

After three nights in the hectic city of Seoul it is time to head for the countryside. Following breakfast and check out, your transfer will take you to Seoul Station, the capital's main railway station. The high speed train from the capital will whisk you down to the former and ancient capital of the Shilla Kingdom, Gyeongju. The journey will take approximately 2 hours. On arrival you will be met by one of our guides and taken to your hotel for check-in. Rest of the afternoon is free at leisure. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 5 Gyeongju

After breakfast your guide will meet you at the hotel to take you for a full day sightseeing. With a host of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the area, your guide will make sure you see them all. Your first stop is the Bulguska Temple, located up in the mountains. The Bulguska Temple is considered to be the most treasured site in all of Korea. You will also visit the Seokguram Grotto, located on the ridges of Mount Tohamsan, where you will find the Holy Buddha inside. Built in 751 and still standing, the remarkable site also offers breathtaking views over the Sea of Japan to the East. You will be returned to your hotel for dinner and entertainment. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 6 Gyeongju - Busan

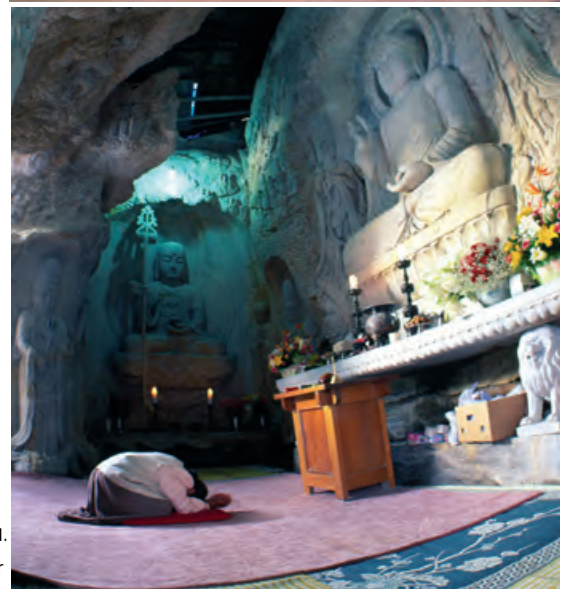
After breakfast and check out, you will continue your journey through South Korea and head further South to the port of Busan by train, reaching the city in just over an hour. The Gukse open air market is a great place for shopping for anything from electrical gadgets to traditional Ginseng medicine. You will be taken to the Jagalchi Fish Market where you can try a plate of live octopus if your stomach allows. Stay one night in Busan before heading back to Seoul.

DAY 7 Busan - Seoul

After breakfast and check out, you will have a private transfer to Busan's train station. Travel back to Seoul, again by high speed train with the journey taking 2 hours and 30 minutes. Spend your final night in Seoul where your guide will take you to a NANTA Show. The NANTA Show is a non-verbal performance of reckless rhythms that dramatize the customary Korean percussion in a strikingly comedic stage show. Integrating uniquely Korean traditional tempos with a western style performance, NANTA storms on stage into a huge kitchen where four capricious cooks are preparing a wedding banquet. After show dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 8 Seoul - UK

After breakfast you will check out and a private transfer will take you to Incheon International Airport for your flight back to the UK. Arrival back in the UK.



Korean History

Gojoseon	2333 - 108 BC
Proto - Three Kingdoms	108 - 57 BC
Three Kingdoms	57 BC - 668 AD
North - South States	698 - 935
Goryeo Dynasty	918 - 1392
Joseon Dynasty	1392 - 1897
Korean Empire	1897 - 1910
Japanese rule	1910 - 1945
Division of Korea	1945 - 1948
North & South Korea	1948 - present day