

The Essence of Korea

8 days Highlights Tour to Seoul, Busan, Gyeongju, Daegu, Andong & Mt. Sorak

Korea's cultural heritage sites reflect a rich and diverse history, spanning from ancient times, such as the Dolmen sites, to the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). These sites showcase a remarkable blend of artistic elegance and scientific ingenuity, evident in traditional architectural structures like royal palaces, temples, and stone monuments. Notably, the depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks at Haeinsa Temple, as well as Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, stand out as iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in the southeastern region of Korea.

Day 1 TUE Arrival Seoul Departure on Tuesday
Upon arrival at Incheon International Airport, you are met by our representative and transfer to your hotel.
The rest of day is at your leisure.

Day 2 WED Seoul Half Day Sightseeing Meal: B
After breakfast, pick up at your hotel around 08:30-09:00 am for Seoul half day sightseeing. Visit Gyeongbokgung Palace (Deoksu Palace on Tue) The Royal Guard Changing Ceremony, National Folk Museum, Korean Ginseng Center. Continue to visit Insadong Antique Shop Alley, Namsan Hanok Village (Myeongdong on Tuesdays) and N Seoul Tower for an unobstructed view of Seoul city. Return to the hotel.

Day 3 THU Seoul – Busan Meal: B
This morning is at leisure; at noon transferred to the train station for your KTX high speed train to Busan; upon arrival, met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 4 FRI Busan – Gyeongju Meal: B
After breakfast, meet your guide for a full day of sightseeing in Busan. Start at the city's most famous beach, Haeundae Beach, known for its 1.5 km stretch of soft white sand and beautiful coastline. Continue along the scenic Dalmaji-gil Road to Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, dramatically perched on Busan's northeastern coast with stunning ocean views. Next, explore the colourful Gamcheon Culture Village, a hillside community of vibrant, staircase-style homes often called the "Machu Picchu of Busan."

Visit Jagalchi Fish Market, Korea's largest seafood market, followed by lively BIFF Square. Enjoy a traditional rice-cake making experience with a master maker (available for groups of 8 or more). In the afternoon, transfer to Gyeongju (1.5 hours) and visit Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond, once a royal palace of the Silla crown prince. At night, enjoy the beautiful reflections of the illuminated buildings shimmering across the pond.

During peak season, if accommodation is arranged in Ulsan instead of Gyeongju, a visit to Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond won't be arranged.)

Day 5 SAT Gyeongju – Daegu Meal: B
Depart for Gyeongju, often called a "museum without walls." This city, which became the capital of the Shilla Dynasty around 57 BC and remained so for about 1,000 years, is rich in historical heritage and has many significant sites. You will visit Gyeongju National Museum: Explore a wide range of artifacts and treasures from the Shilla Dynasty. Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory: Visit the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia. In the afternoon we will visit Seokguram Grotto: Tour this UNESCO World Heritage site, an artificial stone temple made of granite located on the eastern peak of Mt. Toham. Inside the main hall, you'll find the Bonjon Statue, Bodhisattva, and his disciples. Bulguksa Temple: the UNESCO World Heritage temple known for its stunning architecture and exquisite stone relics, highly praised by visitors worldwide. Continue to Daegu city, the largest and central city of this province. Check in at your hotel.



Day 6 SUN Daegu – Haeinsa Temple – Andong - Pyongchang Meal: B

Drive to Gayasan National Park and visit Haeinsa Temple, which was founded by King Ae-Jang of Shilla Dynasty (802), with its famous treasure "Tripitaka Koreana" (UNESCO world heritage) composed of 81,341 printing woodblocks made to repulse the Mongolian Army Invasion with support of Buddha. Afterwards transfer to Andong Hahoe Village which has preserved the housing architecture and the village structure of the Joseon Dynasty. People still living inside the village. The Hahoe Village has become world-famous after the visit of the Queen Elizabeth II few years ago. Then transfer to Gangneung, one of 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic Cities.

Day 7 MON Pyongchang - Mt. Sorak – Seoul Meal: B

Depart to Seoraksan National Park, where the peaks break through the clouds while jade like water flows through the valleys, creating breathtaking views and making it the Korea's most famous national park. UNESCO designated this park a Biosphere Preservation District in 1982 because of many rare species found here. Visit Sinheungsa Temple an ancient temple with deep historical significance, built by a great monk Jajangyulsa (590~658). (Optional Gwongeumseong Cable Car–USD20.00). Gwongeumseong is a site of castle ruins located on the steep Dol Mountain of Seoraksan National Park area. After sightseeing of Seoraksan National Park, continue our journey to Seoul and check in your hotel.

Day 8 TUE Seoul departure Meal: B

Today is at leisure (subject to hotel check out policy) until in time transfer to the airport for your flight bound for your next destination.

Departs every Tuesday

Price: $4260 per person

Single room extra: $1280

Inclusions:

1.Twin share 4* hotel at Seoul The Link Hotel, Busan Wyndham Grand Hotel, Gyeongju Lahan Hotel; Daegu Interbulgo EXCO Hotel, Pyeongchang Alpensia Inter-Continental or similar
2.Korean domestic high speed train Seoul – Busan
3.Fully inclusive seat in coach tour with English speaking guide, all transfers and entrance fees as per itinerary.

Exclusions:

International air travel, tipping for the guide and driver, optional tour; personal expenses; travel insurance, items not mentioned in above itinerary, unscheduled meals etc.

Remarks: Depart every Tuesday all year round except Blackout dates in 2027 - Lunar New Year, Korean Thanksgiving, School Holidays; Christmas and New Year Holidays period). 2Feb, 9Feb, 20Jul, 27Jul, 3Aug, 10Aug, 14Sep 2027

High season: 6Jul, 13Jul, 17Aug, 24Aug, 21Dec, 28Dec, 2027 with Price: $4460 pp. S.S $1380.

All bookings are subject to availability and final confirmation. Itinerary is subject to minor change upon local arrangement. Minimum of 2 participants for guaranteed departure.



