



## **New Korea Tours specializes solely in travel to DPRK (North Korea).**

We are experts in getting you into the country and make sure you have the best itinerary and are aware of the restrictions and behavior required while touring such a unique destination. Our representatives in Beijing will meet you at their office one day prior to your departure to DPRK. They will conduct orientation session, answer all your questions, you will pay the remaining balances and \$50.00 DPRK visa fee, collect your DPRK tourist visa and Pyongyang roundtrip airline tickets. **DPRK visas are not stamped into your Passports, but given as a separate document, so your Passport will not have any indications of your entry to DPRK.**

We make sure your trip is safe, you see the highlights of North Korea and have as much contact with the public as possible. Because of our experience of running tours to DPRK and our special relationships with North Korean partners, there are certain tour sights and activities only available to our tours. Unlike some travel agencies we won't just hand you a ticket and wish you luck. We know more about North Korea than anyone and we do not disappoint. Since 1995 American tourists were allowed only three opportunities to visit DPRK – in 2002, 2005 and 2008. **We have confirmation from North Korea officials that there will be another (and, who knows, may be the last) opportunity for Americans to visit DPRK this year.**

North Korea (DPRK) is the least visited country in the world... if you can visit then go.... and go now.

New Korea Tours can refer you to a consolidated travel agency which will help you to book air tickets from your home town in USA to Beijing using bulk fares and to book inexpensive but good quality hotel close to our office in Beijing. A complimentary bus will be provided from our Beijing office to the airport in the morning of your departure to DPRK.

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## **NORTH KOREA(DPRK) TODAY**

2001 marked the end of what the Koreans have called the 'Arduous March' - the food and economic crisis of the past few years. Though still extremely serious the situation has 'stabilized' due to foreign aid agencies' relief efforts. For the first time foreign hard currency is being actively sought and there is greater contact with the outside world.



North and South Korean relations have improved and this has allowed the reunions of families separated since the division of the country (sadly only a few hundred when there are thousands waiting) and there are new opportunities for the two Koreas to trade. The talks in June 2000 between Kim Jong Il and Kim Dae Jung, then ROK president, were a significant step in terms of trying to break the 55 year old deadlock.

Talks have resumed, stalled and resumed again and the agenda (which includes plans to bridge the division of the country and to continue the family reunions) is still a long way off being put into practice. However part of the rail network has been reconnected which will hopefully allow South Korean goods to pass through North Korea and into Russia/Europe and if it succeeds it will mark a significant step forward. On the international front, of significance is the establishment of diplomatic links, starting with Italy and most recently with Ireland, meaning that DPRK has diplomatic links with most European nations (except France) as well as Australia and Canada among others.



We run group tours (i.e. you join other independent travelers in Beijing and we go as a 'group' into DPRK). Tourism to DPRK is expensive but prices are ***all inclusive*** from Beijing and for the service you get from the Koreans it is money well spent. We can offer discounts (10%) to students, groups of 3 or more booking together, children (under 16) and return travelers. You will only require money for gifts and beverages. The tour is in relative luxury although this contrasts with the fact that the country is still having a serious food shortage (though experts are saying that this has now 'stabilized') and infrastructure/potable water supply in the more rural areas, etc. is poor. We have taken advice from experts in Korean politics and international organizations and the majority tell us the greater exposure North Korea has to the outside world, the better. **During our previous tours we never had any unwanted incidents with DPRK officials**, though vast majority of our tourists usually follow the suggested rules and try not to antagonize our hosts. Please remember that not you, but our guides are responsible for the smoothness of the tour. The itinerary will continue to reveal the catalogue of revolutionary exhibits and miraculous feats all under the watchful eye of the 'Dear Leader' and the Juche Idea. Tours include visits to monuments of 1950's reconstruction and through a fantasia of architecture and sculpture. The highlights are the contact (albeit limited) that we have with the Korean public. **Every tourist who has traveled with us has said it has been one of the highlights in their world travels and we can assure you this is true.**

We ***cannot*** take journalists into North Korea, though we are very willing to assist them in finding out the current situation in the DPRK. We are in no way prepared to compromise the safety of our Korean guides for journalists who attempt to pass themselves off as tourists. We cannot allow the writing of articles or publishing of photographs from our trips without prior permission and we would be obliged to take proceedings against anyone who breaks our trust.

## MASS GAMES UPDATE!!!



**This year DPRK will host again full scale Mass Games as a part of Arirang Festival.** This event will involve over 100,000 performers in a synchronized mass gymnastics and dance extravaganza, the likes of which it is impossible to see anywhere else, this is an art form that the DPRK has developed over the decades and takes place in the May Day stadium (the world's largest). The Mass Games will be taking place over the following two months - **from August 1st to October 10th.**

\* August 15th - National Liberation Day (In 1945 Korea freed from Japanese occupation)

\* September 9th - National Day (In 1948 DPRK was founded)

\* October 10th Foundation of the Workers Party of Korea (1945)

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## WHAT THERE IS TO SEE AND DO

### PYONGYANG the capital of DPRK (North Korea)

CITY TOUR WILL INCLUDE:

**Grand Monument on Mansu Hill** (flowers presented at statue of Kim Il Sung) **Chollima Statue** (the fabled horse that could achieve vast distances and is linked to Korean rebuilding post war)

**Arch of Triumph** (bigger than the one in Paris!) and mosaic of Kim Il Sung's address to the people 1945.

**Workers Party Foundation Monument** (Hammer, sickle and the calligraphy brush representing the worker intellectual)- all in a revolutionary surrounding of concrete apartment blocks.

**Manyongdae** (birthplace of Kim Il Sung),

**Pyongyang Metro** (which doubles as a nuclear bunker),  
**Grand Peoples Study House** (people's library),  
**USS Pueblo** (captured US spy ship for a breath of the cold war,)  
**The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum** (Korean War) with animated 1:200 models, including moving soldiers, blasting bombs (sounds) and revolutionary music.

**Schoolchildren's Palace** - After school children study in hard sessions harp playing, taekwondo, gymnastics... - normally it includes a final performance for the visitors,.

**Juche Tower**, a 150m high view over the city, with its wide boulevards and communist city planning.

**Pyongyang Army Circus**- has to be seen to be believed

**Kim Il Sung Square** - Large Lenin, Marx and, Kim Il Sung posters substitute the ads from other capital **cities**

#### **OTHER GOOD SITES:**

**Central Art Gallery** (for historical pieces fine anti-imperialist art).

**Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery** (revolutionaries who fought against Japanese occupation),

**Walking in Moran Park** - Walking along Taedong River from Kim Il Sung Square.

#### **IF TIME or PERMISSION ALLOWS:**

Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Mansudae Assembly Hall (Parliament- not always possible), No1 Department Store (not always possible), Funfairs (usually open over festive occasions only), Three Revolution Exhibition (technical cultural and ideological halls), Kim Il Sung University (museum only), Metro Museum, Kim Il Sung's bunker used in the Korean War, Film Studiotown - village sets for film making, Revolutionary Museum - revolutionary exploits of Kim Il Sung.

**MYOHYANG SAN MOUNTAINS** very pretty mountain landscape about 2 hours drive (100 miles) from Pyongyang. Can be done in one day but we recommend overnight stop. Hiking- various lengths of walk up valleys- relatively easy

#### **RECOMMENDED SIGHTS:**

**International Friendship Exhibition** (gifts from around the world to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il),

**Pohyon Temple.**

### **KAESONG and PANMUNJOM/DMZ**

**Kaesong** was the capital city of the Koryo Dynasty, it changed hands 3 times in the Korean War but survived largely intact and still with traditional buildings. Koryo Museum (Confucius University). Stay at the Kaesong Minsok (Folk) hotel- sleep in traditional style on heated floor.

**Panmunjom/DMZ** is the border between North and South Korea and the Korean People's Army will introduce us to their view of the division of the Korean peninsula. Visitors have the opportunity to cross into South Korea in the meeting room which straddles the demarcation line.

#### **RECOMMENDED SIGHTS:**

**Koryo Museum** (Confucius University), Concrete Wall- see the South **Korean fortifications,**

**Tomb of King Kongmin**- very beautiful. Note: If on a one day visit you only have time for Concrete wall or Tomb of King Kongmin.

#### LIMITED INTEREST:

**Tomb of Wanggon**- largely restored,

**Pakyon** waterfalls

#### WEST COAST: NAMPO and KUWOL MOUNTAIN

**Nampo** is the West coast port and the main attraction is the West Sea **Barrage** (dumb preventing sea water entering the River Taedong). The Barrage is half a day's trip and of limited interest unless you are going to Kaesong via Kuwol

Mountains. There is however the opportunity to stay overnight at the **Sinchon** hot spa which is near Nampo - where you take your own room with a bath fed with warm spring water. This is a great days journey, a this picturesque route with time for strolling, visiting the **Songbul Temple**. You need all day for this route therefore you will stay one night in Kaesong.

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#### EAST COAST: WONSAN and KUMGANSAN MOUNTAIN

If you have time it is worth making the 4.5 hour journey to the east coast, not because of the sights but the journey in itself, driving across Korea is not what many people have done. You will need to stay at least one night. RECOMMENDED SIGHTS: swimming in the East Sea of Korea, mud bath at the Sijung Hotel. Co-operative farm, fish farm en route for trout lunch (one of the fish tanks was built by your Korean tour guides!)

#### IF TIME or PERMISSION ALLOWS:

Hiking in the **Kumgansan mountains**

Visit **Phyohun Temple** in one of the most beautiful valleys in Korea complete with old Chinese calligraphy of visitors names carved throughout.

**Ulim Waterfalls** - en route, worth a brief visit.

**School Children's Palace** – visit only when in season.

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#### MOUNT PAEKDU and MOUNT CHILBO

If you have time and can get a group of ten upwards we can arrange an internal flight to these stunning mountain ranges and the associated revolutionary sights. **Paekdu** is an extinct volcano on the border with China and DPRK, the birthplace of the Korean people and the 'sublime mountain of the Korean revolution. It comes complete with cable car access if you cannot face the hike and you get right down to the crater lake **Chon**. The trip includes Revolutionary sights where pre 1945 Kim Il Sung and wife fought the Japanese. Also the Koreans have kept the timber cabin which they say is Kim Jong Il's log cabin birthplace. If time and money allows we can add a flight to **Chilbo** which is a very relaxed visit - virtually no foreigners visit this beautiful coastal range, ideal for hiking.

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#### INDEPENDENT TOUR INFORMATION

We also offer independent tours of DPRK, these can take place on any date when Mass Games are on (please refer to the transport schedules in and out of DPRK). On the day before travel you will meet up with us or our North Korean

representatives at our Beijing Office and you will travel unescorted into DPRK and met by your Korean guides in DPRK. Independent tours are generally more expensive than scheduled group tours but if you can find some friends to travel with you at the same time then the price can be reduced. The price basically depends on how many people are in the group, how long you wish to stay, and what transport methods you wish to use to get in and out of DPRK. We will then send you a quote and some suggestions as to how to improve your itinerary and make the most of your time in the DPRK. Tours can be from as short as 4 days to as long as 5 days you - this will allow you to cover most of the sights... and you can always come back!

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The main advantage of independent tourism is that it gives you greater flexibility in terms of where you visit and what you do while in DPRK, however it all needs to be arranged in advance. If you decide on this option then feel free to design your own itinerary, then send us a list of what you want to do and see and we can put something together for you, all we need is a general idea of what sort of things you are interested in and we can send you some suggest itineraries. Please remember that 'independent' still means being accompanied by two guides and a driver is required by law.

## IMPORTANT DATES IN NORTH KOREA

The following are a list of the major holidays in DPRK, on most of these days each year there are public holidays and associated events, the exact nature of these events changes year by year according to which festival is the biggest of that year.

January 1st – New Year

February 16th – Birthday of Kim Jong Il(1942)

April 15th – Birthday of Kim Il Sung (1912)

May 1st – International Labor Day (May Day)

July 27th – Anniversary of Korean War Armistice (1953)

August 15th – Liberation Day (1945)

September 9th – National Day (1948)

October 10th – Anniversary of Workers Party Foundation (1945)

## HOW TO APPLY

### Documents required for DPRK visa:

- 1) The **Tour and Visa Application form** on our website to be completed in full and sent to us, please be sure to include your full passport name and date of birth in the European style (yy/mm/dd). Please fill out the **online form**.
- 2) A **signed last page only of the Legal Notice**, located on the Home page of our website just below DPRK profile push button, be faxed or transmitted electronically to our office before your reservation is confirmed.
- 3) A **photo page of your Passport** (color, good quality) be transmitted electronically to our office before your reservation is confirmed.

4) **One color passport size photograph** (2"x2", good quality) be transmitted electronically to our office. This will help to ensure that your DPRK visa is approved in advance.

#### **Picking up your DPRK visa.**

Once we have confirmed you have been accepted to visit DPRK we will apply on your behalf in Beijing with DPRK embassy. We will confirm your visa was approved 10 to 7 days prior to your tour. We will meet you at our office in Beijing at the orientation meeting one day prior to your tour's start date. Your DPRK visa and airline tickets will be handed over to you at the meeting after DPRK visa fee and your balance are paid in full.

*Though chances for that are extremely slim, but if New Korea Tours cannot arrange visas or for whatever reason it is not possible to travel to DPRK at the specified dates (or you cannot make them rescheduled) - **a full refund will be issued.** Unfortunately, **we will not be able to compensate you for your travel expenses to or inside China.***

You will require a **double or multiple entry Chinese visa**. It is possible for the Chinese Embassy in DPRK to issue a tourist re-entry visa, if this service is required you will need a **minimum of 6 months validity** of your passport for this as well as a blank passport page and one passport size photo, also please note that sometimes the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang will only issue a visa good for 10 days upon return to China. The Chinese embassy in Pyongyang is closed during major China and DPRK holidays.

**PLEASE NOTE: We cannot take in journalists on tourist visas, please contact us for further details.**

**We also require the application form on our website to be completed in full and sent to us, please be sure to include your full name and date of birth in the European style (yy/dd/mm)**

#### **PAYMENT**

**A deposit of \$200.00**, paid with major credit card, check or money order, is required when booking the tour. **A partial payment of \$800.00 p/p for a Standard group tour, \$1,000.00 p/p for a Classic group tour or \$1,500.00 p/p for an Exclusive group or independent tour**, paid also with major credit card, check or money order, is due at least 40 days prior to the tour's start date. The remaining balance is due at orientation meeting in our Beijing office one day prior to departure to DPRK paid **in cash or travelers cheques only**. At your discretion you can prepay your tour in full while in US to avoid payments in Beijing.

Every tourist will be issued a voucher indicating his(her) itinerary, amount paid and balance outstanding. Hotels in Pyongyang are usually packed during Mass Games and need to be booked in advance. New Korea Tours can not guarantee that any upgrades or other changes will be honored at the last moment.

**Mount Paekdu option is possible only if at least 15 people sign up for the flight. Independent travelers also have this option available if they join a**

**group of at least 15 people for this tour. New Korea Tours can not guarantee that Mount Paekdu option will not be canceled at short notice for any reason. In this case a full refund for Mount Paekdu charter will be issued.**

## **CANCELLATION**

**A deposit of \$200.00 is refundable with \$30.00 refund processing fee. The partial payment becomes non-refundable 40 days prior to the tour's start date if the tourist cancels himself. If however New Korea Tours cannot arrange visas or for whatever reason it is not possible to travel to DPRK at the specified time (or you cannot make rescheduled dates) a full refund will be made. Should the client wish to cancel after deposit has been paid, charges imposed by North Korean side on New Korea Tours will be paid out of your deposit with the balance being returned to the client **minus \$100.00 processing fee. Please be sure that you will definitely be joining the tour when you send your payment and application details.****

**New Korea Tours strongly recommends obtaining Travel Insurance with trip cancellation and emergency medical options. New Korea Tours can help you to find such insurance with a reputable insurance company, which covers preexisting conditions if purchased within 15 days after making initial deposit.**

## **DISCOUNTS**

**We offer discounts to students, returning tourists and to groups of 3 or more that book altogether. If 3 to 5 people sign up for a group tour together we offer them 5% off the price, if they are students or returning tourists or 6 or more people signing up together - then we offer them 10% off.**

We still offer the very good value for money, our tours are the best available due to our many years experience, we accompany more tours than any other company so we are on the scene to make constant improvements and our long-standing relationship and weekly communication with our Korean counterparts means we are much more hands-on than anyone else. We also have a greater variety of destinations and sights available than other tour groups that stick one itinerary. You will find our tours to be of a high standard -from the briefing we give you, to the trip itself.

## **Important information on Visas, Itinerary, Insurance**

**VISAS.** We cannot guarantee we can get you a visa or that the tour will not be cancelled; however our contacts in the DPRK give us priority and the best opportunity of visiting this remarkable country. Please be warned that we cannot confirm visa issue until it has been stamped by the DPRK consul in Beijing. If for any reason we cannot get you a visa - you will be issued a full refund, but New Korea Tours cannot be held liable for the travel and hardship expenses incurred in getting to Beijing.

**ITINERARY.** New Korea Tours will do their best to ensure the itinerary is similar to the one we advertise however if on arrival it changes we cannot be

held responsible. Even in the case where we promote 'special occasions' such as Mass Games we cannot guarantee access to the event. We advertise and promote our tours according to the advice given by the Korean International Travel Company and their decision is final. We cannot offer refunds for tours once you are in the DPRK. It has to be understood that situations such as this can arise. If this is not acceptable we would advise you not to visit.

**INSURANCE.** We cannot be held responsible for any mishap to yourself or your property and in particular any consequence or effects of flight/train cancellation/delay, robbery, sickness, Government intervention or other such happenings. You are advised to insure yourself against any possible risk that may occur and in particular to ensure that sufficient insurance has been obtained in respect of any dependant relatives. It is your responsibility to be covered by insurance which must include adequate coverage for baggage, medical expenses and the cost of repatriation should you become too ill to continue. Any claims must be directed to your insurers. We will require you to sign a form stating that you have adequate insurance coverage and that New Korea Tours will not be held liable for any medical expenses you may incur. If you have a medical condition which may affect your health or safety in North Korea you must inform us before visa application.

**NOTE:** During orientation meeting at our office in Beijing we will require you to sign a form stating that you are not a journalist and that you will not publish anything about your trip. We are sorry to have to insist upon this but at the present time journalists are not permitted to enter the DPRK on tourist visas. If you are a journalist and are interested in traveling to the DPRK then please let us know and we will be sure to let you know of any future opportunities.