

20 Years of Experience

The greatest possible adventure....
Until you have been it is difficult
to tell how mind-blowingly
wonderful it all is!

- Andy Kershaw, BBC Radio 3

[mt. paekdu]



Read more >

> Information Pack 2012



Travel to the DPRK

Tours, dates, visa application,
costs, etc



About Koryo Tours

Our film clips, books &
other projects



DPRK Profile

All you need to know about
your next holiday destination

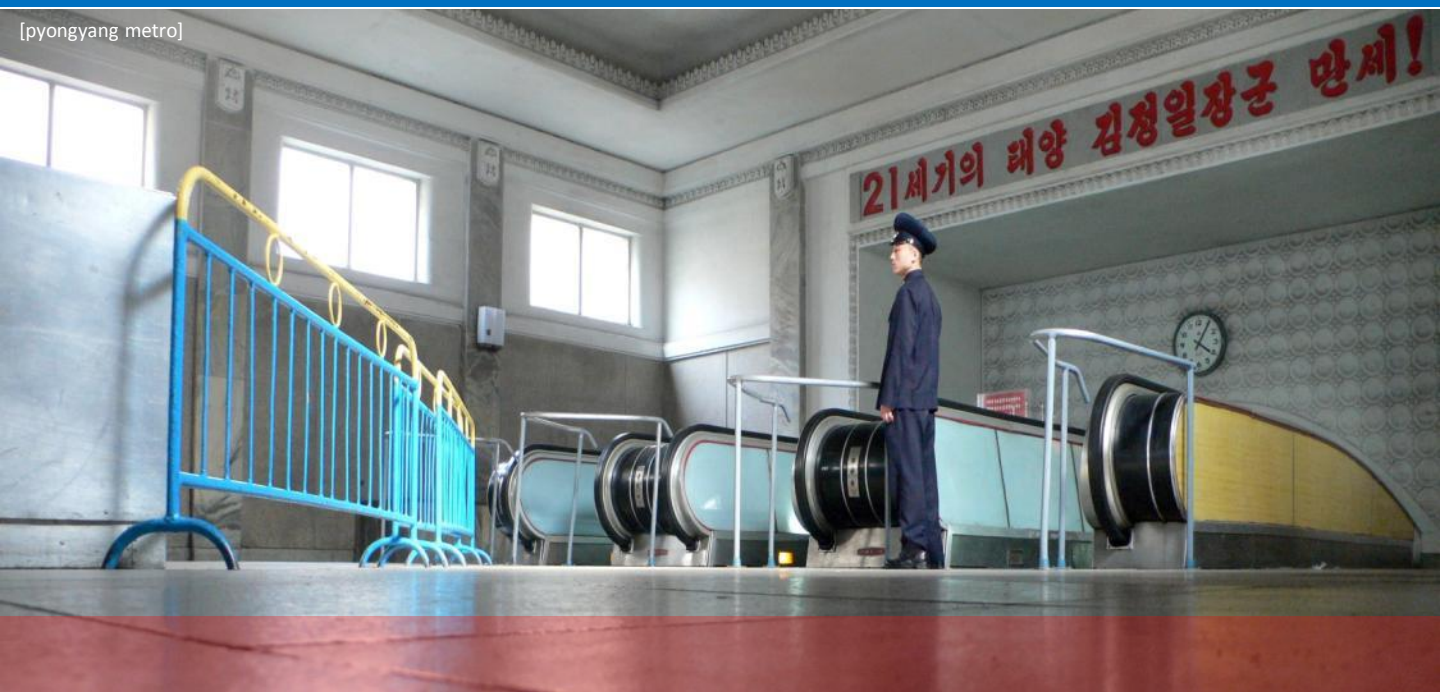


Unprecedented Access

The only company that could
answer all my questions
- Ben Davis, Travel Writer



[pyongyang metro]



Contents



p9 how to apply

p10 what the tour cost covers

p10 terms & conditions



p5 tourism in the dprk

p6 group tours & independent tours

p7 mass games

p8 dandong option



p11 important information
– visas
– itinerary
– insurance
– before you travel

p13 travelling Information

p3 a background to koryo tours

p4 dprk (north korea) today



Thank you for requesting information on travel to North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea). Below you will find information on tours, visas, dates, prices and all the options that exist when travelling to the DPRK. If you have any questions that are not answered here or by the information on the website then please let us know.

Koryo Tours



Background to Koryo Tours

Koryo Tours specialises in travel to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), commonly known as North Korea. We are expert in getting you into the country and making sure you have the best itinerary and are aware of the restrictions and behaviour required whilst touring such a unique destination. We ensure you see the highlights of the country and have as much contact with the public as possible. Because of our long history of tourism to the DPRK (we started running tours in 1993) there are certain tour sights and activities only available to Koryo Tours. Unlike some travel agencies we won't just hand you a ticket and wish you luck. We know more about North Korea tourism than anyone and we do not disappoint: most of our custom is return visitors or introductions from previous tourists. As well as English, we can provide French, Spanish, German, Japanese,

>> We know more about North Korea tourism than anyone and we do not disappoint

Chinese, Polish, Hungarian and Russian speaking guides. We assist the Lonely Planet, Bradt Guides and Rough Guides with their travel publications and are the only recognised specialists in DPRK tourism. We have been running regular trips to the remote Chilbo and Paekdu mountains, even staying in the homes of local Koreans in Chilibosan. In 2010 we took our first ever tourists to Hamhung and Rason.

We are proud to be a member of PATA, the association for travel agents in Asia, as well as of the European Business Association in North Korea. We also regularly organise cultural and sporting events in the DPRK including football tournaments, school trips, ice hockey matches and even cricket! We are always looking for new challenges and ways to create links between the DPRK and other countries.

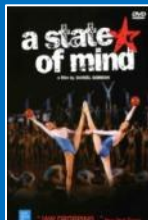
>> Our Films

The Game of Their Lives (2002)



- Story of the DPRK 1966 World Cup football team
- Broadcast in North and South Korea (unedited)
- Won Royal Television Society award for Best Sports Documentary 2002
- Brought surviving team members back to UK (DPRK's biggest ever cultural event in the West)

A State of Mind (2004)



- Follows 2 young gymnasts and their families in the lead up to their performance in the Mass Games
- www.astateofmind.co.uk
- Footage used for the Faithless track 'I Want More'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyJZOvgWIWo>

Crossing the Line (2007)



- Story of the last remaining US military defector still living in Pyongyang
- Premiered at Sundance, USA
- www.crossingthelinefilm.com





The following is 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 annually according to which festival is the biggest of that year. We make sure there is a group tour running over each of these holidays, if you are doing an independent tour it is a good idea to try and coincide your trip with one of the dates below.

February 16th – Birthday of Leader Kim Jong Il (1942)
 April 15th – Birthday of President Kim Il Sung (1912)
 May 1st – International Labour 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)

DPRK (North Korea) Today

- 2000** talks between Leader Kim Jong Il and Kim Dae Jung, then ROK president - a significant step in terms of trying to break the 55 year old deadlock between the north and south
- 2001** the end of what the Koreans have called the 'Arduous March' - the food and economic crisis of the late '90s.
- 2002** Bush labels the DPRK as part of the 'Axis of Evil' and as one of the 'outposts of tyranny' - North Korean/US relations continue to be antagonistic and volatile
- 2003** After the announcement from the DPRK that they will withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the first round of Six-party talks held between the DPRK, the ROK, China, US, Russia & Japan in Beijing to seek a resolution to the nuclear issue. DPRK seals its border with China for several months during outbreak of SARS pandemic in Beijing and elsewhere. No cases reported in DPRK
- 2004** In April a train explodes while at the station in Ryongchon town, close to the border with China, massively devastating the town. Aid offers pour in from around the world. Red Cross is allowed access to the site and reports 160 fatalities
- 2005** Chinese President Hu Jintao makes official visit to Pyongyang and meets with Leader Kim Jong Il. Chinese investment in projects such as glass manufacturing increases greatly
- 2006** DPRK conducts first nuclear test
- 2007** ROK President Roh Moo Hyun visits Pyongyang and Leader Kim Jong Il – temporary improvement in relations between the two countries which then worsen after the new conservative President Lee Myung Bak comes to power
- 2008** the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Sept 9th) is marked by massive military parade on Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square, Kim Jong Il notably absent from this event giving rise to much international speculation regarding his health
- 2009** DPRK walks out of Six Party Talks and carries out underground nuclear test (May). Declares domestic invention of 'CNC' technology (precision machine tools)
- 2010** (Mar) sinking of South Korean warship the Cheonan – DPRK blames the west – the west blames the DPRK. Leads to more sanctions and worsening of relations.
 (Jun) DPRK national football team take part in only their second ever Football World Cup losing all three games despite a fairytale 1-2 'victory' over Brazil.
 (Sept) Kim Jong Eun (youngest son of Kim Jong Il) is given government and military positions – widely seen as being groomed to take over from his father.
 (Nov) DPRK shells Yeonpyeong Islands in the West Sea of Korea – heaviest military strike against South Korea since the end of the Korean War
- 2011** Kim Jong Il makes two visits to China and one to Russia, meeting national leaders – discussions had on these trips allegedly centres on securing legitimacy of his heir Kim Jong Un, and making agreements for Russian railways and pipelines through the DPRK to South Korea.
 A building boom continues in Pyongyang in preparation for the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Kim Il Sung in April 2012. Large numbers of new apartment buildings begin construction, university students are mobilised on construction projects, and much speculation takes place in the international press relating to DPRK's claim of becoming a 'Strong and Prosperous Nation' in 2012



We run group tours where you join other travellers from around the world and head together into the DPRK. We also organise independent travel according to your own itinerary and dates.

We cannot take professional or semi professional journalists or photographers into DPRK, though we are very willing to assist them in finding out the current situation in the country.

We are in no way prepared to compromise the safety of our Korean guides for journalists/photographers 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

All passport holders are welcome to join our tours, however, US citizens are not able to take the train in/out of the DPRK. Korean-Americans are also welcome to join our tours as long as they travel on US passports. Israeli passport holders are covered by the same restrictions as US passport holders. If you are an overseas Korean then please contact us. Unfortunately we are

unable to take in ROK passport holders. Tourism to the 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 to students and groups of 3 or more booking together, also for children (under 12). You will only require money for gifts and beverages and also for tickets to any special events that we may attend such as the mass games or circus. 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 'stabilised') and infrastructure / potable water supply in the more rural areas, etc. is not of the same standard as in Pyongyang. We have taken advice from experts in Korean politics and international organisations and the majority tell us the greater exposure North Korea has to the outside world, the better.

The itinerary will take you on the trip of a lifetime revealing a catalogue of revolutionary monuments, sculptures and spectacular architecture. You will learn about the Korean Juche Idea and how Koreans perceive the world as well as how they spend their day-to-day life. We travel from Pyongyang to various locations around the country including a visit

to the last of the Cold War frontiers at Panmunjom. The highlights include the contact (albeit limited) that we have with the Korean public. Every tourist who has travelled with us has said it has been one of the highlights in their world travels and we can put you in contact with previous visitors if you wish for a testimony – or see the website.



The tourism season in North Korea runs from February to November (early Dec/late Jan visits are possible but it is very cold). We run tours throughout the season, most of them coinciding with the dates of major festivals and commemorative dates in the DPRK. On our website you can find our list of group tours with itineraries. The group sizes for these tours vary greatly; tours on major holidays are obviously more popular. Generally speaking there are anything between 5 and 20 people on the tours. Unless otherwise stated, there is no minimum/maximum capacity for our tours to run. If we get more than around 25 applications for one tour we will simply split this into 2 groups and run as 2 separate tours. Provided you apply before the tour deadline you can be guaranteed of getting on but early booking is always recommended anyway!

> Independent Tours

An independent tour is a great way to travel to the country if you don't want to travel as part of a group, or if your travel dates don't match our group tour dates. With an independent tour you can choose your dates of travel, methods of entry and exit and also the itinerary can be tailored to suit your requests. As with our group tours, we offer different standards of independent tours for different costs. Independent tours are more expensive than group tours but do offer more flexibility:

STANDARD INDEPENDENT TOUR This tour is ideal for tourists on a budget. You will stay in a 3* hotel and follow a standard itinerary.

CLASSIC INDEPENDENT TOUR You will stay in a 4* deluxe hotel and there are more itinerary options available to you to ensure you have an in depth experience of the DPRK.

EXCLUSIVE INDEPENDENT TOUR This is for those of you who want to experience the DPRK in the most luxurious way possible. You will fly in on Air Koryo business class*, accommodation is in the best rooms in the best hotels that the DPRK has to offer, and the itinerary will allow you to have the most intimate and in-depth experience of the DPRK.

**business class tickets are limited and we cannot guarantee reservation, however, with advance notice we are almost always successful. If we fail we of course refund the difference between standard and business.*

> Group Tours

In order to cater to all budgets and tastes, we have organised our tours into 2 different categories:

SCHEDULED GROUP TOURS Most people travel to the DPRK only once, therefore we strongly believe you should get the most out of your trip and our group tours are the best way of doing this. We offer visits that are unique to Koryo Tours and are also accompanied by one of our western staff - a DPRK specialist – which ensures you have access to those opportunities that cannot be pre-arranged. These tours will get you closer to the real Korea.

EXCLUSIVE TOURS These tours offer the same in-depth visits that are unique to Koryo Tours but EXCLUSIVE tour travelers can experience the country in the most luxurious way available - we stay in the best boutique hotel and eat at the best restaurants. The tour will be accompanied by a DPRK specialist to allow you to get the most out of your trip.

Visit our website for full list of our group tours and detailed itineraries
www.koryogroup.com/travel_Group_tours.php

Information on independent tours, pricing, and sample itineraries can be found on our website
www.koryogroup.com/travel_independent.php



> Tours in General

Tours can be as short as 3 days up to one week – the maximum that we recommend you stay is 8 nights. On the website there are sample itineraries for a 4 night trip, these are only to give you an idea of what is possible, if you would like to go for shorter or longer, please let us know and we can send you an itinerary tailored to your needs. If you would like a particular focus or if you have a 'wish list' of things you would like to include then we will do our best to fit it all in. We will also make recommendations as to how you can get the most out of your trip. We are the specialists and as we actually visit the DPRK regularly we are in the know as to what is possible. We can also organise special interest tours such as football tours, golf tours, etc. If you have any special suggestions we would be glad to hear them. **Please note that 'independent' still means being accompanied by your Korean guides everywhere you travel!**



Mass Games



Since 2002, the DPRK has hosted the full scale Mass Games named 'Arirang'. The mass games involves over 100,000 performers in a synchronised mass gymnastics and dance extravaganza, the likes of which 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 games usually run throughout August and September but we expect special mass games in 2012 to mark the 100th birthday of President Kim Il Sung on April 15th. Please check our website for details.



> Dandong

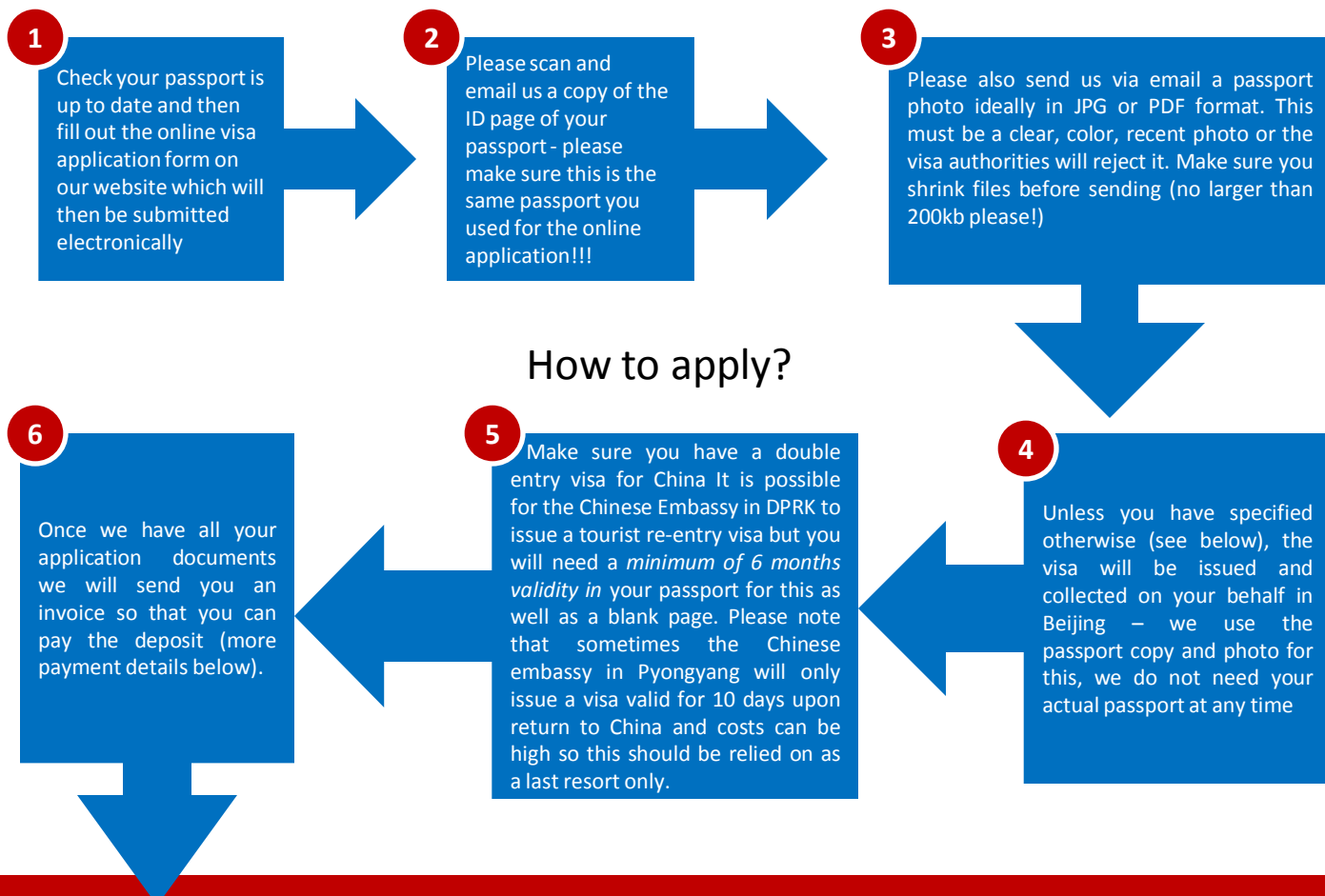
On all tours exiting the DPRK by train we offer a special 24 hour North Korea-themed extension of the tour in the Chinese border city of Dandong – a fascinating small city on the Chinese side of the Yalu river, facing across to Sinuiju. Dandong is your point of exit from DPRK after the tour. If you choose the Dandong extension instead of returning directly to Beijing you get off the train at Dandong (around 17:30) where you are met by a local Chinese guide and transferred to your hotel. The next morning in Dandong includes a trip to the Great Wall at Tiger Mountain overlooking North Korea. Here you can take an optional boat trip at the 'one metre hop' which is the narrowest point between China and DPRK (you can see Korean People's Army border guards up close, as little as 5m away!). You also visit the snappily-named 'Museum of War to Resist America and Aid Korea', otherwise known as the Korean War Museum, which charts the events which led to the deployment of over 2 million Chinese 'volunteers' to Korea in 1950. Lunch is in a North Korean restaurant complete with song and dance show from the waitresses.

In the afternoon you will take a boat trip on the wider Yalu river – the boat sweeps up and down the river in and out of North Korean waters, great for photos! This is followed by a visit to the broken bridge which was half destroyed by the US air force in the Korean War and extends to exactly the halfway point between China and DPRK. Around the bridge area all manner of North Korean goodies can be bought, from badges and cigarettes to currency and other knick-knacks! At 18:30 you will board the overnight sleeper for Beijing which arrives at 08:34 the next day. This extension is fully guided – please see the website for details of costs and application. Note that this extension is only available to those who choose to travel out of DPRK by train at the end of the tour. The perfect way to end a tour of North Korea, and a unique look at a fascinating part of China!

This option is now available to tourists who fly out of the DPRK on Sat or Weds – please see website for more details.



The following information tells you how to apply for your North Korean visa! We ask for all documents to be submitted a minimum of 4 weeks in advance of tour departure (in some circumstances this can be shortened so please do contact us if you are unsure).



IMPORTANT – We require travellers on ALL tours to come to our office at 4PM (16:00) on the day before departure for a tour briefing and the final visa preparations regardless of whether you have had the visa issued overseas or not. If you absolutely cannot attend this meeting then please let us know as early as possible and alternative arrangements can be made. We will need about 1.5 hours of your time at this point. This applies to both group & independent tours.

***Please note that once we have confirmed receipt of your tour application form it becomes a confirmed booking and from that moment all charges apply. If you do not intend to go ahead with the trip then you must inform us more than 30 days ahead of departure or you will be subject to relevant cancellation fees.**

COLLECTING YOUR DPRK VISA

We arrange for the vast majority of visas to be issued in Beijing, this is the simplest and most convenient place to get everything done. However, we can also arrange to have the visas issued in a DPRK Embassy overseas if you live in the UK or Hong Kong. If you choose to have the visa issued in your home country then please be aware you will be required to go to the Embassy shortly before the tour to collect the visa in person. If you are leaving the country more than a few days before the DPRK tour begins then we suggest you opt to have the visa issued in Beijing. Please note that when you apply for the tour (ie have sent us your application form and passport copy) we consider this to be a solid booking, if you then cancel the trip the cancellation fee policy will be invoked if relevant, please see TERMS & CONDITIONS for further details. **IMPORTANT:** If we have to change the place of visa issuance because you leave your home country early or if you have given us incorrect passport details we will have to pass on the charge of EUR 100 (which the Koreans charge us).

What the tour cost covers

GROUP TOURS

Tour fee includes the following:

- Transportation from Beijing to the DPRK and back
- All meals on the tour except on the train into/out of the DPRK
- Hotel accommodation
- Two Korean tour guides and a driver per group
- All transportation in the DPRK
- All entry fees for attractions such as museums etc in the DPRK

Not included in the tour fee:

- Optional single room supplement (EUR 40 per night)
- Spending money for drinks and souvenirs
- DPRK visa fee (EUR 50 if issued in Beijing , fees at other embassies vary)
- Tip for the guides (ask us for recommended amount)
- Meals on train in/out of DPRK (bring your own food, or eat dinner / lunch in the buffet car approximately EUR 5 per person)
- Entry tickets for Mass Games and special events (if applicable) – for example Revolutionary Opera , or a visit to the funfair
- The lift up the Juche Tower has to be paid in the DPRK (EUR 5)
- Meals include a complimentary beer, but you will have to pay for extra drinks above those provided (these are inexpensive though)



INDEPENDENT TOURS

Same as for group tours, but in addition you will have to cover the following costs:

- Flowers to present at statue of Kim Il Sung at Mansudae (EUR 5) and Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery (EUR 2)

Terms and Conditions

A deposit of 50% of total cost of your tour should be made on booking with the other half paid in cash (EUR/RMB/USD) at the meeting in our office prior to departure to DPRK. Alternatively you can opt to transfer the full amount. Please contact us for bank details. **NOTE: ALL bank charges should be paid by the remitter.**

Please put only your name as the reference – DO NOT WRITE DPRK/NORTH KOREA.

CANCELLATION

If Koryo Tours cannot arrange visas or for some 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. If the tourist cancels themselves the charges laid out in the table below apply. We realize that in many instances, cancelling a trip is due to circumstances beyond your control. If you do cancel but are able to make another trip at a later date we will do our best to offer you a discount. Note that with all refunds Koryo Tours will not be held liable for any bank charges.

No. of days before tour departs	% of cost to be paid as cancellation fee:
0 (day of departure)	100%
1 day	70%
2-10 days	40%
11-30 days	10%

Please note that once we have confirmed receipt of your tour application form it becomes a confirmed booking and from that moment all charges apply. If you do not intend to go ahead with the trip then you must inform us more than 30 days ahead of departure or you will be subject to relevant cancellation fees.



Important Information

VISAS

As is standard in the tourism industry we need to make all our tourists aware that Koryo Tours can offer no guarantee of the success of the visa applications, or that the tour itself will be operated as advertised. We cannot confirm the DPRK visa until it is actually stamped and issued which takes place only a few days before your departure to DPRK. Do note that in our many years of operation and thousands of tours we have had only a handful of applications refused, and arbitrary denial of permission to travel is exceptionally rare indeed and we expect to be able to secure a visa for all applications that we make. If for any reason we cannot get you a visa Koryo Tours cannot be held liable for the travel and hardship expenses incurred in getting to Beijing. You will of course receive a full refund of any money paid to Koryo Tours.

ITINERARY

Koryo Tours will do their best to ensure the itinerary is as near as possible 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 Korea International Travel Company and their decision is final. We cannot offer refunds for tours once you are in the DPRK.

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 cover for baggage, medical expenses and the cost of repatriation should you become too ill to continue. Any claims must be directed to your insurers. If you have a medical condition which may affect your health or safety in North Korea you must inform us before visa application. Koryo Tours offers an insurance package to cover you for the tour. Please contact us or see our website for details.



BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Please read the points below and inform us immediately if any affect you:

- 1) Do you have any medical condition that could cause a problem in the DPRK?
- 2) Are you allergic to anything or do you take any medication that we should be aware of?
- 3) You are responsible for your personal travel insurance which must cover you for any medical /personal emergency in the DPRK including evacuation. We cannot take you into North Korea unless you have personal travel insurance to cover any emergency.
- 4) You must have a dual entry Chinese visa before you visit DPRK (or a multi entry visa).
- 5) If you are a professional or semi-professional journalist or photographer we cannot take you to the DPRK on a tourist visa – please contact us.
- 6) Before your tour we will send you a more detailed list of behaviour whilst in the DPRK and we will also give you a 1.5 hour briefing at our office the day before your trip commences.



Travelling Information

GIFTS

You will be assigned two guides and a driver when in the DPRK. It is worth bringing in three relatively good gifts for these people who will be with you throughout the week. We suggest you give these during the first few days as a small gesture. Korean males smoke like chimneys and if you do not mind promoting smoking then it is a good idea to bring a carton or two of Western cigarettes or Chinese brand Zhong Nan Hai (about RMB 60/EUR 6 for 10 packets) to share amongst the driver and guides. If you do not want to promote smoking then coffee/chocolate or another gift would be appropriate. You might also have a female guide so bring in something suitable for them such as chocolate or some cosmetics gift such as hand cream. Gifts which are a specialty of your home country/hometown are always a good idea. You will also meet several individual guides who guide you at the major sights and also waitresses and hotel staff. Small gifts such as pens, cigarettes, lighters, cosmetics, packets of biscuits, chocolates, etc are worth having to hand. It is probably advisable to make sure what you do take in is of reasonable quality as opposed to quantity. Most people are happy to receive a gift, though sometimes it is easier to ask your guides to offer them. It is also worth taking in fruit for you and the guides as there is not so much available in the DPRK. We realise this all sounds a bit excessive however there are very few goods available in the DPRK and it is a great way of thanking people who really do make an effort for you. It is more the act of *giving the gift than of the content*. Also bring in luxuries for yourself - it is an *intensive trip* and also worth having a good book to take time off!

BRING A BIT OF HOME TO SHOW THE KOREANS

We recommend you bring a selection of photos to let them see a little of how you live. If you have a Polaroid camera the giving of a photograph makes a great gift - or you can post photos to us once you are back home and we will take them in next time we visit.

TIPS FOR GUIDES

If you have enjoyed your tour you can show your appreciation by tipping the guides. We recommend budgeting for EUR 5 per day on a group tour – more for independent tours.

>> It is more the act of giving the gift than of the content.

POST AND TELECOM

IDD phone and fax is available, though monitored. Phone calls are expensive so check the rates before you call. We advise not to phone from the bedroom. A quick call can be made to your friends to give them your room number and they can ring you back. Post can also be sent from the hotel.

MOBILE PHONE/COMPUTER

Mobile phones will be confiscated at the border and returned on your departure, but if you are entering and leaving by different routes we recommend you leave your phone in Beijing at our office. It is permitted to take a computer into the country but please note there is no internet access.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is possible but it is limited. Bring as large a memory card as you will need for your trip – or more. You might take more photos than you expect and it is not possible to obtain more in the country. It is not possible to take in cameras with GPS function. Video cameras are allowed but as they arouse more suspicion than regular cameras you need to be extra careful when using them. Lenses over 150mm are officially not permitted in DPRK, but there's almost never a problem taking them in.

MEALS

All meals are provided inclusive on the tour. You will be able to try Pyongyang dishes such as *naemyong* cold noodles; *bulgogi* barbecued beef which you cook yourself; *kimchi* pickled cabbage. Local beer and, on occasions, ginseng wine or *soju* rice wine are available at meal times. Bottled spring water can be bought throughout the DPRK and should be used – do not drink the tap water. There is a limited menu for vegetarians but it is satisfactory – please inform us beforehand. You pay separately for additional beers (you get one included with each meal).



CLIMATE

Korea has a temperate climate with distinct seasonal changes. Early Spring (April) is sunny but chilly, late spring warms up considerably. Summer (June to August/September) is hot and humid and is the rainy season so do bring a light raincoat/umbrella. Autumn (October to November/December) has marked variations between warm and cold but it rarely rains. Winter (December to February/March) has clear skies, not much snow in Pyongyang but it's very cold!

CUSTOMS

The usual list of prohibited items applies ie; arms, drugs, pornography, etc. Immigration officers will examine your baggage and will frown on books/articles about North Korea and books/magazines from South Korea. Please do not bring in any item that may risk confiscation – we can look after these in our office in Beijing until you return. If you wish to take in Bibles or other religious material please contact us before you depart and we can advise.

MEDICAL

It is sensible to bring a small personal first aid kit – plasters, aspirin etc. In case of mild diarrhoea bring Immodium or activated charcoal tablets (more natural method) and oral rehydration salts. Hospitals in the DPRK can provide basic treatment. For more serious cases there is a surgery in the diplomatic compound and basic treatment here is possible. If the situation is very serious then your insurance should cover repatriation or a flight to an international hospital. Good international-standard hospitals exist in Beijing and Hong Kong. You **must have adequate medical insurance and personal insurance** before visiting DPRK.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP

The Koreans are very wary of foreigners but having re-met many time and time again it is clear that you can have a great impact if you are open and friendly. In 1993, the Koreans would be very wary and ignore you. However, they are now responding with 'hello' and often take a second glance at you. It really helps to smile and greet adults in Korean as well as wave frantically at children, etc.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts two round pin. If you forget to bring an adaptor the room maid will often be able to locate one – a small gift would be appreciated.

FREEDOM

You are free to walk around the grounds of the hotel but elsewhere you must have your guides with you. On group tours we make sure that we go for gentle walks where possible. On independent tours you can slow down the pace if you wish – just ask the guides. It is worth suggesting to the guides that you wish for a stroll along the river or in Moran Park, they will accompany you but it is a great way to see life as 'normal'. If you leave your camera on the bus etc the guides are a lot happier to give you more freedom.



SPENDING MONEY

Take EUR, USD or RMB cash into the DPRK. Official exchange rates are around USD 1 to 100 won but foreigners are expected to use foreign – not local – currency. Visa cards and other currencies cannot be used so please make sure you take enough cash to last you the whole trip. For spending money we would suggest that around EUR 250-300 per person is fine (for a week-long trip). Please note that this amount doesn't take into account the purchase of items such as mass games tickets (prices on website) or expensive souvenirs like gold coins, ceramics or paintings! Many thanks for reading our brochure. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Don't forget to check out our website and we look forward to seeing you on tour!

*Best regards,
Koryo Tours*



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