# KIMCHI BUDGET TOUR 3

## TOUR

August 29 –September 2/3 2017
4 nights in the DPRK + 1 on the train

## OVERVIEW

Kimchi Tours are Koryo's line of basic introductory tours for the frugal traveller in search of adventure. This no-frills alternative to our more advanced tours offers a great way to see a tightly edited package of the country's most interesting sights, including a city tour of Pyongyang and a visit to the DMZ, where North and South Korea continue their decades-old face-off. You'll also visit the lively town of Pyongsong, where you can jump in on an English Language class at Kim Jong Suk Middle School and see a performance by talented young pupils at Pyongsong Conservatory of Performing Arts. Whilst in Pyongyang, you will be staying at the Sosan Hotel, a newly renovated hotel on Sports Street.

Please note that we are unable to offer any discounts on this particular tour, including students and groups.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride on the Pyongyang Metro, visit the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and other Pyongyang highlights
- Panmunjom/DMZ – the border with South Korea

*Please note that the itinerary may differ slightly to what is below but your tour leader will do their best to ensure that as much is covered as possible and will also add in extras when there is time such as a visit to a local bar or a funfair. We visit the DPRK regularly and know all the best places to go to make your trip even more unique. We will make the most of your time in the DPRK to guarantee the experience of a lifetime.*

## DAILY ITINERARY

## AUGUST 28 – MONDAY (BRIEFING DAY)

**AM**

- *Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.*

**PM**

- **16:00: Our group assembles for a pre-tour group briefing at the Koryo Tours office in Beijing.** This briefing will last approximately one hour and designed so that you will get the most out of your tour. It will cover travel etiquette, safety, and practicalities for travel in the DPRK. Have your last minute questions answered and meet your fellow travelers. *Please be punctual - you can come early, pay any outstanding tour fees and browse our collection of Korean art.*

**OVERNIGHT**

- Hotel in Beijing not included in the tour. Contact us for recommendations near our office.

## AUGUST 29 – TUESDAY (ARRIVAL IN PYONGYANG)

**AM**

- **Free bus** from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2. *Exact time TBC at the pre-tour briefing. Alternatively meet the group at the Air Koryo check-in counter.*

**PM**

- Flight departure from Beijingon **Air Koryo flight JS 152** at 12:55. *A 1.5 hour flight with basic lunch (no vegetarian option).*

- **Arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport** (FNJ) at 15:25. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.

- **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.

- **Mansudae Fountain Park** -The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens afterschool and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient, socialist, and modern architecture.

- **Mansudae Grand Monument** -Enormous bronze statues of President Kim Il Sung and Leader Kim Jong Il overlooking downtown Pyongyang. A presentation of flowers and bow by the group is customary here (*5 EUR*). Here we will also see the **Chollima Monument**, or 'thousand *ri* (*400 km or 250 mile*) horse' -a symbol of speed- commemorating the quick rebuilding of the country in the 1950's following the Korean War.

**OVERNIGHT**

The Sosan Hotel - A sports-themed hotel located in West Pyongyang's Sports Village. Sport shop, bookstore, numerous bars, spa and small gym. Renovated in 2015.

## AUGUST 30 – WEDNESDAY (KAESONG AND DMZ TOUR)

**AM**

- Drive 160 km south the 'Reunification Highway' to **Kaesong**, historic capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and today located near the Korean Demilitarised Zone. *2.5 hour drive.*

- **Panmunjom Armistice Village and DMZ** - The site of the signing of the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War and demarcation line between north and south. On some days it is possible to visit the hut straddling the line, where negotiations between both sides once took place. Here we will be accompanied by military guides from the Korean People's Army.

- **Kaesong Koryo Museum** - Once the Songgyung Academy, a Confucian school, and now a museum on the Koryo Dynasty exhibiting historical objects, statues, pagodas, and porcelain from that era. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- **Kaesong Korean Stamp Exhibition Hall** - Store selling stamps, postcards, local *ginseng*, souvenirs, art, and more! One of the best postcard collections in the country and friendly staff.

- **Traditional Royal Korean Lunch (*pangsanggi*)** - A meal made of 12 dishes served in brass bowls fit for the kings of old. The more dishes, the more distinguished the guest! Traditional Korean 'sweet meat soup' is an option here (*5 EUR*).

**PM**

- Drive back to Pyongyang. *2.5 hours.*

- **Golden Lane Bowling Centre** - Where Pyongyang locals go for their ten-pin fix (*2.5 EUR per person per game*). Also has billiards and arcade games. Non-bowlers can head next door to the **Kumrung Leisure Centre** for an airgun shooting range (*approximately 6 EUR per 20 round cartridge*) and some of the best coffee in Pyongyang

**OVERNIGHT**

Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

## AUGUST 31 – THURSDAY (PYONGYANG CITY TOUR)

**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 collared shirt with tie, dark non-jean pants, and dark shoes. Women require covered shoulders, knee-length dress 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.*
- **Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery** - Hilltop cemetery with dozens of bronze busts of those who took part in the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule. It is customary to present flowers here.
- **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.

- **Kim Il Sung Square**- Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museums, and The Grand People's Study House.

**PM**

- **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.

- **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 artifacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and captures equipment from the US military, including the USS Pueblo. Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.
- **Schoolchildren's Palace** -Tour one of Pyongyang's centres of extracurricular excellence with study rooms for fine arts, dance, sports, and music, then watch a spectacular performance put on by the students.
- Drive north to **Pyongsong**, a satellite city of Pyongyang and centre of scientific research. *A 45 minute to 1 hour drive.*

**OVERNIGHT**

Jangjusan Hotel - The only hotel in Pyongsong open for tourists, the excellent bar with one of the best bartenders in the country makes this hotel one of the most fun in the whole country! Basic facilities with fairly reliable electricity and hot water. Billiards, karaoke, haircut, and outdoor eateries in summer.

## SEPTEMBER 1 – FRIDAY (PYONGSONG AND PYONGYANG CITY TOUR)

**AM**

- **Pyongsong City Square** - Central square of Pyongsong City with statues of the DPRK leadership and flanked by the provincial revolutionary museum. Presentation of flowers customary.

- **Kim Jong Suk Higher Middle School** - One of the DPRK's top middle schools for gifted students, tourists are encouraged to help teach an English class!

- **Pyongsong Arts School** - local school focusing on talents in the performing and visual arts, see an excellent performance here.

**PM**

- **Paeksong Revolutionary Site** - Location of Kim Il Sung University during the Korean war. Tour the old classrooms and hear about how students lived during the war.

- Drive back to Pyongyang. *45 minute - 1 hour drive.*

- **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*).

- **Mangyongdae Native House** -Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.

- **Maeri Shooting Range** -Shoot at targets with low caliber sports pistols and rifles in the facility that trained Olympic medalists. Pay by the bullet (*0.50 -1 EUR*) depending on the type of gun and target.

- **Taedonggang Bar No. 3** - Upscale bar across the street from the Tower of the Juche Idea. There are a variety of beers on tap produced at Pyongyang's Taedonggang Brewery outside of town (*2-2.5 EUR per glass*).

- Farewell dinner at South Pyongyang's **Duck Barbecue Restaurant**.

**OVERNIGHT**

Sosan Hotel, Pyongyang.

## SEPTEMBER 2 – SATURDAY (DEPARTURE DAY)

Departure Day from Pyongyang and return to Beijing by flight or train. Please indicate your preferred exit method upon booking.

**AM**

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS** 151 at 08:25 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55. *Please note there is a 50 EUR surcharge for flight return.*

OR

- Train departure by **international sleeper train to Beijing** at 10:10 with scheduled arrival to **Beijing Station** on Sunday September 3 at 08:30. *We typically book soft sleeper (four beds per cabin) for the return journey. Please note that in some rare instances, soft sleeper tickets may sell out and we will book hard sleeper (six beds per cabin) instead.*

**End of Tour**

## TOUR PACKAGE

### INCLUDED

- Flight Beijing – Pyongyang
- Train Pyongyang – Beijing
- All meals on the tour apart from the meals on the train back to Beijing
- Hotel accommodation
- A Koryo Tours tour leader, two local Korean guides, and a driver per group
- All transportation in the DPRK

### NOT INCLUDED

- DPRK visa fee
- Optional flight back to Beijing at end of the tour
- Skiing extension
- Optional single room supplement
- Tips for the local Korean guides and driver
- Optional activities such as the lift up the Juche Tower (5 EUR) or a visit to the funfair (approx. 2 EUR entrance fee per person)
- Entry tickets for special events if applicable – for example Pyongyang Circus (approx. 20 EUR per person)
- Meals include a complimentary beer and water, but you will need to purchase extra drinks if needed
- Spending money for souvenirs
- SINUIJU EXTENSION: RMB 50 for the bus across the bridge to Dandong to be paid on the spot to the local guides

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Please note that when on tour your day-to-day itinerary may differ to what is advertised above. Your tour leader will ensure, however, that everything available at the time is covered, and replacement options are provided where needed. We will also add in extras when there is time (such as a visit to a local bar or amusement park).

- We visit the DPRK regularly so know all the best places to go, and how to make the most of your days there to guarantee the experience of a lifetime.

- After the tour, we will send out a list of all participants' emails so you can keep in touch, swap photos etc. If you do not wish to be on this list then please let us know.

- Our Kimchi Tours are capped at 25 people per group.