



## The Korean Odyssey

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **12-02-2026** and is subject to change without notice based on availability and currency fluctuations.

### Escorted Experience

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24-Hour Local Assistance      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guaranteed Departures         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fixed Dates                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Guide Throughout |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modern Airconditioned Vehicle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Class Hotels            |

**Visit:** Seoul-Daegu-Mt. Songnisan Nat'l Park -Gyeongju -Busan-Chungju-Temple stay-Mt. Seorak National Park-Seoul

### Detailed Itinerary

**Day 01: Arrival in Seoul.**

Upon arrival at Incheon International Airport, you will be greeted by our driver and transferred to your hotel.

The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy at your leisure or to rest.

### **Day 02: Seoul City Tour**

After breakfast, you will be picked up from the hotel lobby and begin your Seoul city tour with a visit to Changdeok Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site. After the palace tour, explore Gwangjang Market, one of Korea's largest traditional markets. Next, head to the National Museum of Korea, which is the sixth largest museum in the world, and houses previous Korean cultural assets showing Korea's fascinating history, from ancient days to the modern era. Following that, visit COEX Mall which is famous for its instagrammable Byeolmadang Library, one of the hottest places in Seoul with its impressive 13m high bookshelves lined with over 70,000 books across 2 floors. The final stop of today's tour is N Seoul Tower on Mt. Namsan, where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the bustling city of Seoul.

#### **Meal Plan**

Breakfast

### **Day 03: Seoul - Korean Folk Village - Mt. Songnisan Nat'l Park - Daegu**

After check-out, you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the Korean Folk Village, located outside of Seoul. Here, you can experience traditional 18th-19th century Korean life, with villagers practicing old customs and living in traditional homes. Next, head to Mt. Songnisan National Park to visit Beopjusa Temple (UNESCO World Heritage site), home to the tallest Buddha statue in Korea. Afterward, drive to Daegu via expressway. Overnight in Daegu.

#### **Meal Plan**

Breakfast

### **Day 04: Daegu - Gyeongju Tour**

Visit the Daegu Yangnyeongsi Museum of Oriental Medicine, located in Yangnyeongsi medicine herb market, which has been a hub for herbal medicine since it first opened in the 17th century. Next, visit Seomun Market, one of the representative markets in Daegu. Afterward, transfer to Gyeongju. Gyeongju was the capital of the ancient Silla Kingdom for close to a thousand years, and is home to a great concentration of Buddhist temples, royal tombs, pagodas and palaces. Next, you will enjoy traditional tea at a local tea café. Then, visit the Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory and the Royal Tumuli Park, which houses the royal tombs of the Silla Dynasty. You will have the opportunity to enter one of the excavated tombs to explore the construction and burial process behind the royal tombs. Overnight in Gyeongju.

**Meal Plan**

Breakfast

**Day 05: Half day Tour of Gyeongju - Busan**

After breakfast, embark on a full-day tour of Gyeongju starting with visits to Bulguksa Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Seokguram Grotto (also UNESCO World Heritage Site). Seokguram Grotto established in the 8th century on the slopes of Mt. Toham features a monumental statue of a seated Buddha gazing out toward the sea and it is considered a masterpiece of Buddhist art in the Far East. Continue your journey to Busan, the second-largest city in Korea. Upon arrival, begin your half-day tour of Busan with a visit to Haedong Yonggungsa Temple a rare seaside Buddhist temple offering breathtaking views of the ocean. Unlike most temples located in the mountains, Haedong Yonggungsa sits along the rocky coastline, making it one of the most picturesque and unique temples in Korea. Next visit Haeundae Beach for your relax time and enjoy the atmosphere of this popular beach destination. A walking tour of Dongbaekseom Island, a scenic coastal park known for its lush pine trees and beautiful ocean views. Visit the Nurimaru APEC House, the modern conference hall that hosted the 2005 APEC Summit, and enjoy panoramic views of Haeundae Bay.

??? Notice for updated tour schedule in 2026 : The stay in Gyeongju has been reduced to one night, and a Busan tour has been added by allocating two nights in Busan instead.

**Meal Plan**

Breakfast

**Day 06: Full day Tour of Busan**

After breakfast, start your day at the vibrant Gamcheon Culture Village, often referred to as the “Machu Picchu of Busan.” Wander through the maze-like alleys lined with colorful hillside homes, art installations, murals, and charming cafés, all offering stunning views of the city and coastline. This artistic neighborhood is a favorite for both photographers and culture enthusiasts. Next, head to Songdo Beach, one of Busan’s most scenic beaches. Enjoy a ride on the Songdo Marine Cable Car (Air-cruise cabin), which glides over the sparkling water and offers panoramic views of the coastline and nearby cliffs — a unique and unforgettable experience. Continue to Jagalchi Fishery Market, where roadside vendors sell a wide variety of fresh seafood, offering visitors a glimpse into the bustling daily life of the locals. Then, visit BIFF Square (Busan International Film Festival Square), a lively cultural and entertainment district. Stroll through this bustling area filled with street food vendors, local shops, and handprints of famous film stars. Make your way to Nampodong Shopping Street for some shopping. Afterwards, visit Busan Tower in Yongdusan Park, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the city from the observation deck. Overnight stay in Busan.

??? Note: If the cable car is not operating due to inclement weather, the itinerary may be adjusted and replaced with alternative destinations.

**Meal Plan**

## Breakfast

**Day 07: Busan - Haeinsa Temple - Andong - Chungju**

After breakfast, transfer by highway to Mt. Gayasan National Park. In the national park, you'll visit Haeinsa Temple, home to the renowned Tripitaka Korea – a priceless collection of Buddhist scriptures carved onto over 80,000 wooden printing blocks. Created during the Goryeo Dynasty to invoke spiritual protecting against Mongol invasions, the Tripitaka Koreana has been designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Following your temple visit, continue to Andong, approximately two hours away. Known for its well-preserved traditional culture and noble houses, Andong is home to Hahoe Folk Village, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its mask dance performance. After exploring Andong, proceed to Chungju for your overnight stay.

**Meal Plan**

Breakfast

**Day 08: Chungju - Temple stay**

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and board a sightseeing boat to enjoy the lakeside scenery. (Note : This activity is subject to local weather and water conditions, and may be replaced with an alternative attraction if necessary.) Next, proceed to one of the following temples - Samhwasa Temple, or Woljeonsa Temple, or Shinheungsa Temple – based on availability at the time of booking, depending on availability at the time of booking) for a unique Temple Stay Experience. Upon arrival at the temple, you will change into the provided temple uniform. A brief orientation will be given to explain the rules and schedule for your stay. A simple vegetarian temple dinner will be served, followed by a guided temple tour and participation in the evening Buddhist ceremony. Accommodation for the night will be a traditional Korean-style room, without a bed. A thin mattress and blanket will be provided for sleeping on the floor. Rooms are organized as shared male or female group rooms, with a maximum of six guests per room. An overnight stay at the time is included

- Optional Accommodation : Guests who prefer not to stay at the temple may request hotel accommodation when booking the tour. Those opting for a hotel stay will have breakfast at the hotel the next morning, instead of participating in the morning Buddhist ceremony.

**Meal Plan**

Breakfast and Dinner

**Day 09: Templestay / Gangneung DMZ - Mt.Seorak National Park**

Wake up at 3:00 AM for Morning Worship service (available to volunteers only). After breakfast, depart from the temple and travel to Goseong to visit the DMZ Unification Observatory, the closest vantage point to view Mount Geumgangsan (Kumgang) in North Korea. The DMZ Museum located within the

observatory offers valuable insights into the history of the Demilitarized Zone and its ecological significance. Next, continue to Sokcho's Daepo Harbor and Fish Market – a vibrant coastal destination known for its fresh seafood, bustling market stalls, and local delicacies. Overnight stay at Mt. Seorak(Sokcho).

??? Note: The visit to the DMZ Unification Observatory may be canceled due to local conditions and replaced with an alternative attraction if necessary).

??? Notice for updated tour schedule in 2026 : The visit to the Gangneung Seongyojang House has been replaced with a visit to Daepohang Port and the Fish Market in Sokcho.

### Meal Plan

Breakfast

## Day 10: Mt. Seorak National Park - Seoul

Tour Mt. Seorak National Park, including a visit to Shinheungsa Temple and a cable car ride to Gwongeumseong Fortress. Renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, Mt. Seorak is home to rugged peaks, dense forests, and crystal-clear streams that change colors with the seasons. The park is also a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, preserving its rich biodiversity and unique landscapes. Next, drive to Gapyeong to explore the Garden of Morning Calm, a tranquil flower and tree park showcasing unique Korean wildflowers and trees in a serene mountain valley setting. Afterward, transfer back to Seoul.

### Meal Plan

Breakfast

## Day 11: Depart Seoul

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Guests will proceed to Incheon International Airport independently

(Please note that airport transfers are not included in the tour package, but can be arranged upon request for an additional fee).

### Meal Plan

Breakfast

## Inclusion

- 9 nights of accommodation on twin sharing basis and 1 night of temple-stay.
- Daily breakfast at the hotel and temple, 1 dinner at the temple.
- English speaking guide for full commentary at attractions from Day 2 to Day 10.

- Transfer service for whole journey except for airport departure transfer.
- Tour admission according to the itinerary.

### **Exclusion**

International / Domestic Airfare

Optional activities.

Meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified on the program.

Travel insurance.

Gratuities.

Voluntary tips for guides or drivers.

Travel and medical insurance.

Entrance Fees to Archeological sites & museums.

Personal expenses.

Airport departure transfer.

### **Note**

#### **Hotels Used Or Similar**

##### **Seoul**

Standard - 3\* IBIS INSADONG

Upgrade A - 5\* NOVOTEL AMBASSADOR DONGDAEMUN

##### **Daegu**

Standard - 4\* GRAND HOTEL

Upgrade A - 4\* GRAND HOTEL

##### **Gyeongju**

Standard - 4\* COMMODEORE

Upgrade A - 5\* LAHAN SELECT

##### **Busan**

Standard - 4\* AVANI CENTRAL BUSAN

Upgrade A - 4\* AVANI CENTRAL BUSAN

##### **Chungju**

Standard - 3\* CHEONGPUNG RESORT

Upgrade - 3\* CHEONGPUNG RESORT



### **Temple Stay**

Standard - SAMHWASA TEMPLE OR SIMILAR

Upgrade - SAMHWASA TEMPLE OR SIMILAR

### **Seoul**

Standard - 3\* IBIS INSADONG

Upgrade A - 5\* NOVOTEL AMBASSADOR DONGDAEMUN

Airport Transfers at additional costs

- The hotels indicated may be replaced with others of the same category.
- The excursions are subjected to re confirmation depending to the weather conditions, or the service date may change.
- The tour operator is entitled to change the itinerary of the excursion if it considers it appropriate or due to force majeure.
- No refund will be made for those unused parts of the tour.
- One-way transfer from airport to hotel is provided as the complimentary service on Day 1 only if clients book the Korea Coach Tour and arrive at Incheon International Airport on the same day as Day 1.
- Complimentary airport transfer on Day 1 is based on shared service. (If the estimated arrival time at Incheon Int'l airport is less than 1 hour, one vehicle will be shared with other clients booked for this tour).
- Complimentary airport transfer is NOT provided to clients arriving at airports other than Incheon Int'l airport, as well as on days other than Day 1.
- When you book the tour by sharing a room but arrive with two different flight schedule, only 1 time of complimentary airport transfer will be providing.
- Surcharge will be applied additionally for early morning and late departure transfer service.
- Clients should leave their hotel in Seoul for Incheon airport approx. 4 hours prior to their departure time.
- Transfer from Busan to Seoul on Day 7 can be arranged by coach or train depending on the local circumstance.

### **Templestay (only for 10 nights 11 days participants)**

- Temple provides shared rooms only; however, participants can choose to overnight at the hotel for private room. Accommodation at a tourist-class hotel can be arranged without a surcharge. Clients who overnight at the hotel will have breakfast at the hotel instead of participating in the Morning Buddhist ceremony.
- Templestay participants will stay in a traditional Korean-style room called an Ondol room (no bed) with a private toilet and bedding (including a mattress and a blanket to be spread on the room floor for sleeping at night).
- There is no refrigerator, TV or telephone in the guest room. Free WIFI-service is available at some

temples, and there are electrical outlets (220V) to recharge cell phones in the guest rooms.

- Comfortable temple attire (vest and pants) is provided by temple during your stay.
- What to bring at Templestay : Toiletries (toothbrush & toothpaste, shampoo), towels, a personal water bottle and socks, comfortable shoes (no slippers or flip-flops), clothing to wear underneath the temple uniform (vest and pants).

### **Temple Etiquettes**

Smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly forbidden in all Buddhist monasteries.

Appropriate wear is recommended: Please avoid wearing clothing that is too revealing such as sleeveless shirts and shorts. Please wear socks at all times while staying at a monastery.

Please be punctual on meal time and do not leave any food behind. You should clean your own dish after having meal by yourself.

The monastery is a community of spiritual practitioners. Therefore, please try to avoid making loud noises.



## Tour Dates &amp; Pricing

23 Feb 2026

## Standard

AU\$5,568.00 Per Single

AU\$3,994.00 Per Twin

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BOOK

## Upgrade

AU\$7,124.00 Per Single

AU\$4,860.00 Per Twin

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09 Mar 2026

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AU\$3,994.00 Per Twin

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# The Korean Odyssey #2495

From AU\$3,994.00 pp

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