

South Korea in Fifteen Days - Private Tour

Seoul, Gyeongju, Busan, Jeju & Seoul (with English Guide)

Itinerary



Day 1 - Arrival Incheon Airport

Arrival at Incheon Airport. Meet your guide.
Transfer to Hotel by private Limousine Bus
Overnight at Kukdo Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 2 - Seoul

Visit to the Jogyesa Temple and Gyeongbokkung Palace. The Palace was built by the Joseon Dynasty in 1394. For centuries, this immense complex was the center of power, until the Japanese occupied the country at the start of the last century. At the Palace we may see the changing of guards. From the back gate we see the "Cheongwadae", the presidential palace and the Cheongwadae Museum.

At the Gwanghwamoon Square we can see the statues of King Sejong and Admiral Yi, two national heroes of the past. Insadong has been home to a dozen art galleries, antique shops, traditional tea houses and souvenir shops.

The Tapgol Park is of great historical value as it was the starting point of the 1st March 1919 Independence Protest against the Japanese occupation.

Then visit the Seoul Tower, to enjoy an impressive view over the giant capital.

Final stop at the Cheonggyecheon Stream, an ancient canal, flowing for centuries through the heart of Seoul. For half a century the canal was filled with concrete to make way for a busy road, but the 5.3 km long canal has been restored in 2005.

Note: on Tuesdays we visit the Changdeokkung Palace instead of Gyeongbokkung Palace. The Sarangchae Museum is closed on Mondays. Optional shopping possibilities can be included in the itinerary.

Overnight at Kukdo Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 3 - Seoul Excursion

KOREA FOLK VILLAGE & HWASEONG FORTRESS (SUWON)

Transfer to Suwon to visit to the Korean Folk Village. Here you can witness the customs and lifestyle of the Korean people throughout the centuries. Fishermen, farmers but also the noblemen's life can be experienced.

In the afternoon visit to the Hwaseong Fortress and Castle. This impressive structure from the latter Joseon Dynasty was the official defence wall to protect Suwon City, south of Seoul.

The fortress wall stretches for a total of 5.52km and has a great variety of ancient military facilities. It was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1997.

Overnight at Kukdo Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 4 - Seoul - DMZ

Excursion to the North Korea border DMZ, the world's most heavily guarded border. It was established in 1953 after the Korean War.

We will see the Freedom Bridge, the 3rd infiltration tunnel illegally dug by the North Koreans.

At the Dora Observatory we can see the North Korean village of Gijeongdong with a 160 meter tall flagpole. (Lunch is inclusive: Bulgogi)

Overnight at Kukdo Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 5 - Seoul - Gyeongju via Andong

Andong Hahoe Folk Village

Transfer from Seoul to Gyeongju via Andong by private car/bus.

Visit to the Andong Hahoe Village where century old traditions, influenced by the teachings of Confucius,

are still alive.

The inhabitants live in the same way their ancestors did; in simple houses for the common farmers and in richly decorated houses for the "Yangban", the aristocrats.

Overnight at Commodore Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 6 - Gyeongju

Seokguram, Bulgugsa, Ceramic Village

The Seokguram Grotto was being discovered by a postman who was sheltering from the rain. Inside the manmade cave he found a astonishing beautiful statue of Buddha, which was constructed during the Shilla Dynasty.

The statue is listed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Visit to the Bulgugsa Temple, the royal temple constructed in the same period.

In the ceramic village we visit a workshop where they make the world famous ceramic in the same way as during the Shilly Dynasty.

Overnight at Commodore Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 7 - Gyeongju

Tumuli Park, Cheomseongdae, Anapji Pond

Visit the Tumuli Park with the royal tombs dating back to the Shilla Dynasty. The numerous artefacts

being found in these tombs show a remarkable technological and cultural advancement in that period (600900 CE).

The Cheomseongdae is the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia. The 362 stones used to build the Cheomseongdae represent the 362 days in the lunar calendar.

The Anapji Pond is an artificial pond constructed for the royal family for leisure and study.

Around the train station we visit the Gyeongju food market.

Overnight at Commodore Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



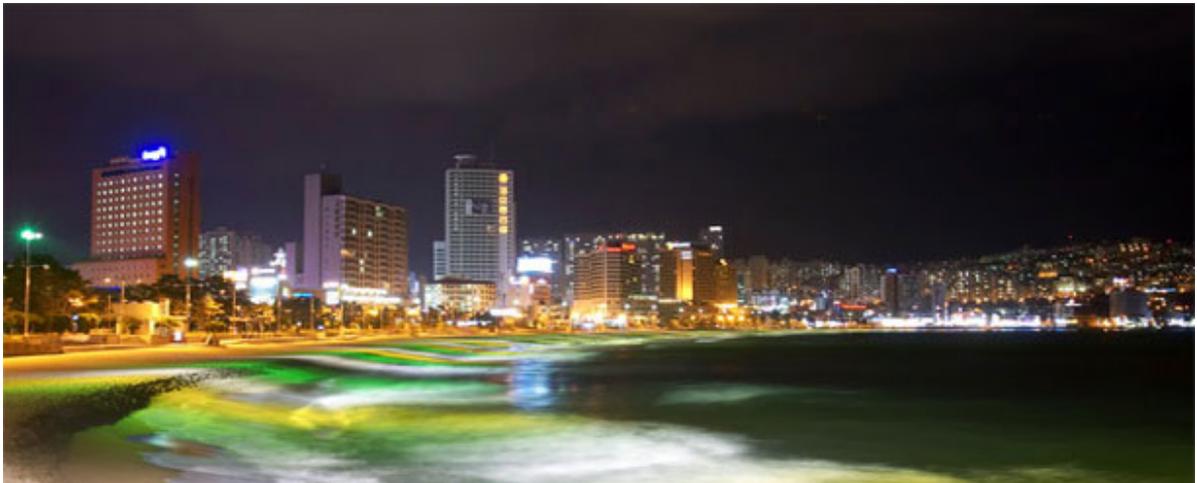
Day 8 - Gyeongju - Busan

Transfer from Gyeongju to Busan via Haeinsa Temple

Visit to Haeinsa Temple in the Southern part of the Korean peninsula. Located in an isolated, mountainous area the temple has miraculously survived war and destruction.

Most famous are the 800 year old Tripitaka Koreana, wooden textblocks, the most complete buddhist work of its time and listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Overnight at Busan Ibis Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 9 - Busan

Busan Tour

Via the impressive Gwangalli Bridge we can enjoy the breathtaking view of the Busan shoreline. At the

UN War Cemetery the sad history of the Korean War (1950-1953) is depicted. UN Troops from different nationalities were among the casualties.

The Busan Museum shows the interesting history of the city of Busan and the history & culture of Korea. Continue the tour and visit the Nurimaru APEC House, a wonderful location with a breathtaking view over the Ocean. The Nurimaru was built specifically for the APEC Summit, a major political gathering of Asian political leaders.

Final stop at the Haeundae Food market and Haeundae Beach, where one can enjoy the boulevard and the beautiful shoreline.

Overnight at Busan Ibis Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 10 - Busan

Jagalchi Fishmarket, Kukjae Market

Visit the Jagalchi Fishmarket, Kukjae Market and Busan Tower.

The Jagalchi Fishmarket is one of the largest markets of its kind, selling a dazzling array of fish, often alive. Here you can taste the famous Korean sashimi.

Adjacent to the fishmarket is the Kukjae Market, where you can shop for souvenirs, glasses (very cheap in Korea!) and clothing.

Overnight at Busan Ibis Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 11 - Busan - Jeju Island

Transfer from Busan to Jeju Island by domestic flight.

Visit to the Spirited Garden: What started as a wasteland on the Island of Jeju has become one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. Roughly 100 rare species of trees can be found in this garden, and the spectacular display of bonzai trees, some of them as old as 300 years, is truly amazing!

The impressive Jusangjeolli lava coast we can see the turbulent volcanic activities that took place in the past.

While we cross the Brigde of 7 Nymphs, we descend to the Cheonjeyeon Waterfalls, a masterpiece of nature. Via the Yakcheonsa Temple we continue to the Oedolgae, a huge, lonely rock projecting out of the blue see.

Next stop is at the Cheonjiyeon Waterfalls in Seogwipo City

We then visit the Hamel Ship, which tells the story of the first European in Korea, a Dutchman named Hamel (1653). After surviving the shipwreck, he was washed ashore on the coast of Jeju Island, where the Koreans held him captive for 13 years, before escaping to Japan. After returning to the Netherlands he wrote a book about his adventures in Korea, the first foreign publication on the mysterious country Korea

Overnight at Sunshine Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 12 - Jeju Island Tour

North & East Jeju & Udo island

We visit the Manjanggal Cave, the only horizontal lava tube in the world.

Continue to the Haenyeo Museum where you learn about the life of the island's brave fisher-women. By fishing, they became a vital source of income for the islanders.

We also visit the Ilchubong Crater, an inactive volcanic crater erupted out of the sea and connected to the main island. On top of the crater you have an amazing view of Jeju Island.

Final stop at the Seopjikoji Rock on Phoenix Island, one of the most scenic places in Korea!

On Udo Island a unique poplution still inhabit the island. In this small community not the men, but women are the main source of income. The women dive in the sea, catching sea urchins, shell fish, seaweed and octopus. The old profession is not popular among the younger generation, so the average age of these strong womens is 75! On Udo Island we may witness them work in the sea. On foot or by bike we can explore the wonderful island.

Overnight at Sunshine Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 13 - Jeju Island

Walking Tour of Jeju Hamdeok. (Optional - Aqua Planet)

We meet the guide in the hotel at Hamdeok Village. Walk along the beach and towards the small fishing villages

Undoubtedly the best aquarium in Korea, and probably one of the best in the world. Based on scientific research they have created an amazing underwater world.

The impressive aquaria host numerous sharks, rays and spectacular other species out of the ocean, it also houses sea lions, penguins, dolphins and other sea mammals. Daily dolphin shows make a visit to the Aqua Planet complete!

Overnight at Sunshine Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)



Day 14 - Jeju Island - Seoul

Return flight to Seoul. Arrival Gimpo Airport (Seoul). Transfer to Incheon Hotel. (optional stop at Shilla Duty Free Shop)

Overnight at Kukdo Hotel - 4 Star (or similar)

Day 15 - Departure

Transfer to Incheon Airport by Airport Limousine Bus. (No Guide)