

Main spots to visit in North Korea

Kaesong

Located 160 kilometers South of Pyongyang, Kaesong is a charming city divided between modern and ancient districts. This historical city remains significant as it was the capital of Koryo, Korea's latest kingdom when the territory of Korea was one (from the 10th century to the end of 14th century). There are still several vestiges remaining from that period. Located on the Military Demarcation Line dividing the territories of Korea into two, Kaesong is very close to the small rural village of Panmunjon.

Mount Kumgang

As part of the range of Taebaek Mountains Range, the "Diamond Mountains" have a peak at 1,600 meters above the sea level. Every season, the color of the mountains changes and offer new, unique and wonderful scenery. Ideal for a moment of rest and relaxation, these mountains are home to a spa resort known of its benefits.

Mounts Myohyang

Situated in the North-West of the Korean peninsula Mt. Myohyang is famous for its luxuriant valleys and waterfalls. It is rich with natural treasures and also known for its cultural heritage: some 20 Buddha temples, among which the Pohyon Temple which is one of the 5 largest in Korea. At the foot of the mountain stands the International Friendship Exhibition, displaying gifts offered to President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il.

Nampo

Located 55 kilometers of Pyongyang on the delta of Taedong River Nampo is a modern harbour city which offers many sporting facilities such as swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis courts, etc... It is also known for its impressive 8-km long West Sea Dam, as well as for the three tombs of Kangso built in the mid 7th century. Those tombs are the only site in North Korea recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its magnificent mural paintings.

Panmunjom

Located 8 kilometers southwest of the ancient capital city Kaesong, the rural village of Panmunjom is a highlight of a stay in Korea, as this is the place where the Armistice negotiations began and the ceasefire agreement was signed between USA and Korea in 1953. Each side of the demarcation line, two different and deeply opposite worlds are neighboring in a high security atmosphere. A unique place where to feel the weight of History and to discover the "Bamboo Curtain" realities!

Pyongyang

Pyongyang, which means "the flat land", is the capital city of North Korea and its economic and cultural centre. Pyongyang has many monumental structures such as the famous Arch of Triumph, the 150-metre high Juche Tower, the Pothong and Taedong Gates, and the Mangyongdae Native House where President Kim Il Sung spent his childhood.... Pyongyang is also a city within the park and each avenue is bordered with rows of overarching trees. There are many parks and leisure grounds in every district of the city.

Wonsan-Sijung

200 km east of Pyongyang lies Wonsan which means the city surrounded by mountains. This modern harbour city is one of the major tourist beach resorts of the country and is divided into 10 districts, each one having their own attraction such as: sea bathing district, pine forest district, etc... It is also reknown as an important cultural city with more than 10 universities and art institutions. Sijung is a small city located 48 km away from Wonsan. Composed of 7 islets, its lake offers visitors breath-taking landscapes. Once connected to the sea, the lake is a preserved natural site and its mud, rich in calcium and magnesium, is used in medical treatments.

Arirang Show

North Korea's Arirang Festival (Otherwise Known as the Mass Games) are usually held in August and September. Visitors travelling during this period will have the opportunity to witness one of the biggest and most impressive performances in the world. Not less than 100,000 people are involved twice a week in a choreographed show of simultaneous dancing and gymnastics.

Dynastic culture

Viewed on a time perspective, Korea was always united but those last 60 years. Korean culture, might it be in North Korea or in South Korea, thus is born from the same 5'000 years old dynastic culture. Most recent relics of this important heritage are stunning pieces of art work, and show a historical interest not only for Korea, but for understanding the whole region's history, which was unfortunately too often affected by cruel wars. The last independent Korean dynasty faded and died in 1910.

Modern monuments

Pyongyang concentrates grandiose monuments and places and buildings dedicated to enhance the socialist model and the two nation's historical leaders, the Eternal President Kim Il-sung and his son Kim Jong-il. Triumph Arch, Juche Tower, Kim Il-sung's Mausoleum and Statue, Mansudae fountain, gigantic propaganda posters and even some of the capital city's subway stations; here are so many point of interests for whom wants to know more about the architectural realism and the socialist culture.

Nature

North Korea is packed with many various natural sites. A mountainous country with its highlands and average 2'000 meters' altitude summits under a continental climate, and some 2/3 of its territory covered with forests, North Korea offers a range of brand new landscapes to discover, from waterfalls to volcanoes, from farming flatlands to beaches. Fauna is very dense; there can be found some very famous predators such as tigers and bears, some endemic birds' species and plants and flowers too.