

Enchanting South Korea 9 Days

~~£4,999.00~~ **\$2,499.00**

Asia's third largest economy and the country which brought the world "Gangnam Style", South Korea is a high-tech, trend setting nation with a reverent, old soul.

With tranquil national parks boasting picturesque landscapes, a rich cultural history, delicious local cuisine, a bounty of the latest technological advances, fashions and more, a visit to the Land of the Morning Calm should be on every traveller's list.

Introduction to Korea

Synonymous with the global phenomenon Gangnam Style, South Korea is a dream destination for many travellers. The capital, Seoul, is a fast-paced cosmopolitan centre with an appetite for fashion, pop culture and the latest in high-tech gadgets. Yet just an hour away from the cityscape, travellers here can find themselves enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the various national parks encompassing gorgeous hiking trails and dense mountain landscapes, and with the ancient cultural traditions also retaining a strong presence throughout the country, travellers seeking a cultural experience are also sure to be satisfied. Friendly people, delicious food and delightful contrasts between the modern and the traditional, ensure that the indomitable spirit of South Korea will encapsulate and inspire travellers from all walks.

Seoul

South Korea's capital city is home to a population of 10.5 million people. A dynamic city blending ancient traditions with modern hi-tech advances, it offers the visitor plenty of sightseeing opportunities; from the famed Gyeongbok Palace, to Seoul Tower to Insadong Antique Alley and beyond.

Gyeongju

The Silla Dynasty reigned during what many would consider the most important period in Korean history. With Gyeongju as its capital, the city itself is often thought of as an open air museum housing an endless array of tombs, temples, pagodas and ruins dating back as early as 57BC.

Andong

The home of Confucianism in Korea, scholars flocked to the city during the Jeonson Dynasty. Also home to a significant number of the noble class during this time, many of their residences have been preserved and the city is a great place to experience the core of Korea's traditional lifestyles.

Tour Highlights:

- Stroll through the Changdeokgung Palace grounds
- Gaze into North Korean territory at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)
- Immerse yourself in the bustling crowds of Myeongdong
- Explore the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom, Gyeongju
- Experience the serenity of Seokguram Grotto

In stock

Categories: Asia, South Korea Tag: South Korea

Guaranteed Departure Dates

2016 Dates			Price Per Person	Single Supplement
07 Mar	18 Apr	05 Sep*	\$4,999 From \$2,499	\$550
14 Mar	02 May	17 Oct*		
21 Mar	16 May	31 Oct		
28 Mar	13 Jun	07 Nov		
04 Apr	25 Jul			
11 Apr	08 Aug*			
2017 Dates				
08 Mar	31 May	06 Sep		
15 Mar	14 Jun	20 Sep**		
22 Mar*	28 Jun**	04 Oct*		
29 Mar*	12 Jul*	18 Oct		
12 Apr*	26 Jul*	01 Nov*		
03 May	09 Aug			
17 May	23 Aug*			

Package Inclusions:

- Economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Sydney or Melbourne flying China Southern Airlines or China Eastern Airlines (subject to availability)
- 6 nights hotel accommodation (twin/double occupancy)
- Daily meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Coach transportation
- Round trip airport and hotel transfers
- Entrance fees to scenic attractions
- English speaking tour guide(s) service

Package Exclusions:

- Tipping and gratuities prepaid in Australia: \$70
- Optional tour extensions
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

Price Guide:

- *** Shoulder Season Surcharge:** \$200
- **** Peak Season Surcharge:** \$400
- ^ Japan extension is not available
- **Interstate Surcharge:** Brisbane/Adelaide \$300, Perth \$600 (interstate flights may be via Sydney or Melbourne)
- **Early Arrival/Stay Behind/Stopover Surcharge:** From \$200 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- **Pre/Post-Tour Accommodation:** From \$200/twin room/night (subject to availability)
- **Triple Share:** Not available
- **Child Price:** Same as adult
- **Visa:** Australian passport holders are exempt for a stay of up to 90 days
- **Airline Upgrade (economy class)~:** Cathay Pacific or Singapore Airlines from \$500, Asiana Airlines/Korean Air from \$300 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- **Premium Economy Upgrade~:** Cathay Pacific from \$2200 (subject to availability)
- **Business Class Upgrade~:** China Southern Airlines from \$3000, Singapore Airlines from \$4300, Cathay Pacific from \$5300 (subject to availability)
- **Please Note:** Flight itineraries are not available until approximately 3 weeks before departure and

involve transits

(~) International long haul sectors only.

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land. Please check all information before booking. By booking, you accept all **Booking Conditions**.

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Japan Golden Route 8 Nights

From \$2,599 pp. twin share

Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Mount Fuji, Hakone, Kamakura, Yokohama, Tokyo

Nexus Holidays has partnered with the Japan Tourism Board to provide travellers an immersive experience in Japanese culture and lifestyle to go with the sights on your unforgettable trip to Japan. We would love for our customers to experience Japanese culture and history. We will spend few nights of the tour in a traditional Japanese hotel sleeping on rice straw mattresses called "Tatami Mats". You will also visit restaurants on this tour where it is customary to remove shoes and be seated at low tables called "Kotatsu". It's all part of the Japanese experience!

Tour Highlights:

- Pray for your fortunes at the World Heritage listed Kiyomizu-dera Temple
- Feed the gentle Sika deer at Nara Park
- Race to Mount Fuji on a high speed Shinkansen bullet train
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of Mount Fuji
- Loosen your muscles overnight at a traditional hot spring hotel
- Explore the bustling capital Tokyo, boisterous night life & hearty street food

For details, please click here.

Hotel Accommodation

Seoul	The Palace Hotel Seoul	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Daegu	Daegu Grand Hotel	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Gyeongju	Gyeongju Commodore Hotel	★★★★★ local rating or similar
Mount Seorak	Inje Speedium Hotel & Resort	★★★★★ local rating or similar

Supplementary Information

When is the best time to travel to Korea?

Generally, the best time to visit Korea is during autumn (September to November) when the country experiences warm, sunny weather, beautiful skies and spectacular foliage. Winters are cold and dry and are a good time to visit if you are interested in winter sports as there are numerous ski resorts. Spring (April to May) is also beautiful with all the cherry blossoms in bloom. The summer months can be quite hot and humid.

What types of meals are served on tour?

In general, all meals will consist of local cuisine. While we aim to meet the special medical, religious and dietary requirements of our customers, we cannot guarantee they will always be catered for.

What are the coaches like on the tours?

Most coaches used while on tour are comfortable air conditioned coaches.

Can I extend my time in Korea?

Yes, you may certainly extend your time in Korea before the tour commences or after the tour ends. However, please be aware that there will be a minimum stay behind fee from \$200 and your preferred return date will be subject to availability and applicable fare and tax difference.

Time

South Korea is 2 hours behind Australian EST.

Language

The official national language is Korean.

Entry Requirements

Passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the length of stay. Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Korea for stays of up to 90 days.

Day 1: Australia ✈ Seoul

Board an overnight connecting flight via an intermediate city to Seoul.

Day 2: Seoul

Arrive in Seoul. You will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel.

Day 3: Seoul 🚗 Mount Seorak (B, L, D)

Designated a UNESCO Biosphere Preservation District in 1982 due to the many rare species found in the national park, **Mount Seoraksan National Park** is Korea's most famous national park. This morning, tour **Shinheungsa Temple** and take the cable car to **Gwonkeumseong Fortress** to experience the beautiful natural landscapes on offer. Continue to **Sokcho Fishing Village** this afternoon.

Day 4: Mount Seorak 🚗 Andong 🚗 Gyeongju (B, L)

This morning visit the traditional **village of Andong**, with its well preserved traditional houses and unique mask dancing performance. Later, travel to **Gatbawi Shrine**.

Day 5: Gyeongju (B, L)

Today, explore the many archaeological sites and temples, **royal tombs and monuments of Gyeongju**, the capital of the ancient **Shilla Kingdom**. Visit **Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory**, **Royal Tumuli Park**, **Gyeongju National Museum**, **Bulguksa Temple**, and **Seokguram Grotto Temple**.

Day 6: Gyeongju 🚗 Seoul (B, L)

This morning, visit **Changdeokgung Palace**, one of the "Five Grand Palaces" built by the Kings of the Jeonson Dynasty and **Insadong**, a street full of traditional Korean antiques and tea houses. Continue to **Cheonggyecheon Stream** and admire its unique beauty, before visiting **Myeongdong**, one of Seoul's main commercial districts. Then visit a Korean Ginseng Centre to learn about Ginseng, which has existed for thousands of years to improve people's overall health. This evening, experience the city's best night view at **Namsan Tower**.

Day 7: Seoul (B, L, D)

Visit **North Korea's 3rd Infiltration Tunnel**, located within the **Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)** a 44 km drive northwest of Seoul. An entire infantry division can move through the tunnel in an hour. View North Korean territory including the **Propaganda Village**, **People's School** and **Gaeseong City**, the old capital city of the Goryeo Kingdom from the **Dora Observation Platform**. Also visit **Freedom Park**, dedicated to the 5 million people who left their families and homes in North Korea. **North Hall** contains displays of North Korean lifestyle, and the **Exhibition Hall** houses old tanks and planes from the Korean War.

Day 8: Seoul ✈ Australia (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Incheon Airport for an overnight connecting flight via an intermediate city to Australia.

Day 9: Australia

Arrive in Australia this morning.

Optional Post-Tour Extension

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For details, please [click here](#).

Day 8: Seoul ✈ Osaka (B)

Board a direct flight from Seoul to Osaka (operated by a local carrier). Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to the airport hotel.

Day 9: Osaka (B)

Today, visit one of Osaka's most famous landmarks, **Osaka Castle**; which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the sixteenth century of the Azuchi-Momoyama period, before being dropped off at **Dotonbori** a street known to exemplify Osaka's vibrant night life.

Day 10: Osaka 🚗 Nara 🚗 Kyoto (B, L, D)

This morning, travel to Nara and visit **Todaiji Temple**, one of Japan's most famous temples, with its Great Buddha Hall housing the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through **Nara Park**, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free before heading onwards to Kyoto, one of the country's oldest cities. In the afternoon, visit **Nishijin Textile Centre** and enjoy a traditional kimono show, before capping off your day at the UNESCO World Heritage **Kiyomizu-dera Temple** and drink to your fortune from the streams of the Otowa Waterfall.

Day 11: Kyoto 🚗 Mount Fuji (B, L, D)

This morning, visit **Nijo Castle**, the Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shogunate and **Kinkakuji: Golden**

Pavilion, a Zen temple and World Heritage site with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai and Zen. Also visit **Togetsu Bridge**, the landmark of Western Kyoto's Arashiyama District for over four hundred years, before travelling onwards to Mount Fuji by bullet train (maximum speed 320km/h).

Day 12: Mount Fuji 🚆 Hakone 🚆 Atami (B, L, D)

Today, visit **Oshino Hakkai**. Known as the Springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by the locals. Later, visit **Gotemba Peace Park** to capture a breathtaking view of **Mount Fuji**, before taking a cruise on **Lake Ashi**, and savour the numerous delights of nature. Visit **Owakudani Valley**, an active volcanic zone with hot springs and hot spring rivers. Also visit **Hakone Shrine**. Standing at the foot of Mount Hakone along the shores of Lake Ashi, the shrine buildings are hidden in dense forest, its location given away only by the temple's huge torii gates.

Day 13: Atami 🚆 Kamakura 🚆 Yokohama 🚆 Tokyo (B, L, D)

This morning, visit **Odawara Castle**. Then travel to Kamakura and visit **Daibutsu**, the Great Buddha which is the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan, surpassed only by the statue in Nara's Todaiji Temple. Then head back to Tokyo this afternoon to visit **Yokohama China Town**, the largest Chinatown in Asia.

Day 14: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You may spend a day in Tokyo **Disneyland** or **DisneySea** (admission \$120). Or alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs (**Tea Ceremony**, **Pottery-making Experience**, **Golden Joinery**, **Kimono Photo Shoot**, **Cooking Class**). All activities are not guided and transportation is self-arranged.

Day 15: Tokyo (B, L, D)

Visit **Meiji Shrine** in the morning, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Later, stroll through the **Asakusa Kannon Temple**, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples and browse for souvenirs at **Nakamise Shopping Street**. Relax on a **Sumida River Cruise**. Your last stop today is **Tokyo Tower**, before heading to a hotel near Narita Airport. (Optional: For guests staying behind in Tokyo, consider an upgrade of tonight's group accommodation to a hotel in Tokyo CBD from \$250/twin share room, transfer is not included).

Day 16: Tokyo ✈ Australia (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board your flight via an intermediate city to Australia. If you are flying Cathay Pacific, you will be transferred to Narita Airport (approx 10 min). If you are flying China Southern Airlines, you will be transferred to Haneda Airport (approx 70 min).

Day 17: Australia

Arrive home this morning.