

SCENIC SOUTH KOREA

Classic Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 2

SEOUL – GWANGJU – SUNCHEON – BUSAN – GYEONGJU – MT SEORAK

With its complex history, soaring skyscrapers and centuries-old temples, this tour has something for everyone from bustling cities to stunning countryside and UNESCO world heritage-listed national forests. It is a tour full of contrasts.

- Explore modern Seoul
- Discover picturesque Busan
- Visit Mt. Seorak National Park
- Spend time In Gyeongju, 'the museum without walls'
- Visit the DMZ

TOUR MAP



SCENIC SOUTH KOREA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South Korea on an excellent value group tour travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Scenic South Korea' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On several days, there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time, often involving steps or uneven ground
- You will be required to get on and off various sizes of boat without assistance

Our National Escorts provide a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 14 days in duration including international flights. Please note, due to flight schedules passengers may depart/arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Seoul and end the tour on Day 13 in Seoul. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Fly to Seoul Meals: D



Flyovernight to Seoul, South Korea's dynamic capital. On arrival you will be met by a driver and transfer to your hotel. Please note your driver may not speak much English.

In the evening, meet your guide and enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Please note: Early check in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation consultant

Destination Information

Seoul – Capital of South Korea, Seoul is a dynamic metropolis where modern skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets. Seoul was the capital of the kingdom of Korea from 1394 until the country was split in two following WWII. However, Seoul's history stretches back over two thousand years. The name itself has come to mean "capital" in the Korean language.

Day 3: Explore Seoul Meals: B, L, D



Begin your adventure with a cable car ride up Namsan Peak to enjoy panoramic city views from N Seoul Tower.

Next, attend a Korean cooking class - making traditional bibimbap and enjoy your own creations for lunch!

This afternoon, head to Gyeongbok Palace to watch the 'Changing of the Guards' ceremony and then visit the palace and the surrounding grounds.

Finally, visit the UNESCO-listed Jongmyo Shrine, housing the spirit tablets of the royal Joseon Dynasty.

Please note that due to a change in local traffic laws, you will need to leave the coach and travel by public bus to/from the tower.

You will spend a total of 4-5 hours on foot today, and please note that some areas may be busy.

Please note, if today's date falls on a Tuesday, your itinerary may differ due to the Gyeongbok Palace being closed on Tuesdays.

Destination Information

N Seoul Tower – The N Seoul Tower, built in 1969, is a communication and observation tower located on Namsan Mountain. At 236 metres, it marks the second highest point in Seoul.

Bibimbap – A staple in Korea, it is pronounced as 'bee-bim-bap' which simply translates as mixed rice. This Korean bowl incorporates steamed rice as the base and topped with fresh, sauteed vegetables and meat, fried egg and optional gochujang (red chili paste).

Gyeongbok Palace – Built in 1395, Gyeongbok Palace was located at the heart of newly appointed capital of Seoul (then known as Hanyang) and was the main royal palace of the Joseon Dynasty. which ruled Korea for over 500 years. The palace has been rebuilt after destruction several times, and today houses a museum, ornamental gardens and some of Seoul's most outstanding architectural sights.

Jongmyo Royal Shrine - was a primary place of worship for kings throughout the Joseon Dynasty (1310-1910) and has been registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site.

Day 4: Seoul to Gwangju Meals: B, L, D

Journey around 4.5 hours by coach and visit a Bamboo Forest called Juknokwon, where you will stroll around parts of the forest for around 1 hour over a mix of flat and uneven terrain.



Next, head to Damyang and stroll around Soswaewon Garden, a private garden where the beauty of traditional Korea is preserved.

Continue around 1 hour by coach to Gwangju. You will spend a total of 3 hours on foot today.

Destination Information

Juknokwon Bamboo Forest – Juknokwon is a bamboo forest featuring a beautiful waterfall, pavilion, walking paths and an eco-exhibition centre. Whilst the forest is mostly flat, there will the occasional slope, steps and some uneven terrain to walk upon.

Soswaewon Garden – Soswaewon is a typical Korean garden from the Joseon Period, built between 1503 and 1557. The garden is a scenic spot with a mix of natural and artificial features that blend well together. Trees are planted on either side of a stream, and clear water flows down the foot of the garden walls.

Gwangju – Gwangju is Korea's sixth-largest city. It is often considered the birthplace of Korean democracy due to a pro-democracy uprising in 1980. Art flourishes in Gwangju thanks to a wealth of museums, exhibitions and festivals.

Day 5: Explore Seonamsa Temple Meals: B, L, D



Drive approximately 1 hour to Boseong, the best tea producing area in Korea. Visit a green tea plantation and take a short hike up to the observation deck to enjoy the full view of the fields. During your visit enjoy the opportunity to refresh with some green tea or green tea ice cream.

Continue to Naganeupseong Fortress Village. This well preservied walled town retains its traditional Hanok-style houses, with their thatched roofs. The 300 remaining villagers are proud to retain centuries-old traditions, offering a glimpse into the bygone era of the Joseon Dynasty.

Later, visit the Seonamsa Temple complex, a collection of around 20 buildings nestled in the scenic foothills of Mount Jogyesan. The walk from the bus to the temple is around 30 minutes each way, with an incline. The terrain at the temple complex itself is uneven with some steps.

Drive 1 hour further to Yeosu, a port city on the south coast, and check in at your hotel.

There will be a total of 4-5 hours on foot today. Due to some longer drives through South Korea's rolling countryside, you may wish to bring a book.

Destination Information

Boseong Tea Plantation – Green tea has been produced in Boseong for the past 1600 years; the county is the largest tea-producing area in South Korea. The surrounding climate and soil lend this high-quality tea a distinctive aroma.

Naganeupseong Fortress Village – Naganeupseong is a historic village noted for its well-preserved architecture and proud traditions, preserved since the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897). It includes a fortress, government buildings and private houses. The population is approximately 300; most of the families here have lived in the village for generations, honouring their traditional lifestyle.

Seonamsa Temple – This 6th-century temple complex, resembling a rural village, has often been referred to as 'a little town deep inside a mountain'. It enjoys a tranquil setting in the foothills of Jogyesan, surrounded by forest-cloaked hills. It is famous for its picturesque stone bridge and springtime plum and cherry blossoms.

Day 6: Yeosu and travel to Busan Meals: B, L, D



Explore Yeosu and take a cable car, enjoying the beautiful ocean scenery and numerous islands of Yeosu. Descend the cable car at Odongdo Island, where you can stroll around and enjoy the scenery.

Continue 3 hours to Busan, the largest port city in South Korea. You will spend a total of 2 hours on foot today

During cherry blossom season only, a visit to Jinhae to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival is included en route to Busan. The cherry blossom is weather dependent and not guaranteed.

Destination Information

Yeosu Cable Car – Yeosu Maritime Cable Car is the first of its kind in Korea, connecting Dolsan Island and the mainland over the ocean.

Odongo Island – Odongo is a beautiful islet with over 70 species of wildflowers, a walkable breakwater and a lighthouse that offers beautiful views of the harbour.

Busan – With over 3.6m people, Busan is South Korea's second largest city and the largest seaport. However, the coastal city is full of character. As Busan was not captured during the Korean War, it offers a glimpse of Korea before the 1950s.

Day 7: Discover Busan Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day tour of Busan, starting with a visit to the observation deck at Busan Tower, followed by a visit to BIFF Street, a lively cultural district known for street food and film festival heritage.



Go on to stroll through the famous Jagalchi Fish Market, one of the largest seafood markets in Asia.

After lunch, head to Oryukdo Skywalk and then continue to Dongbaekseom Island stroll along the esplanade of Haeundae Beach, enjoying the ocean views. Later, transfer around 1.5 hours to Gyeongju, the 'Museum without Walls'.

You will spend a total of 5 hours on foot today.

Destination Information

Busan Tower – Busan Tower is a symbol of Busan that stands 69m above sea level at a height of 120m.

BIFF Street – BIFF Street is the vibrant heart of Busan's film and street food culture, created to celebrate the world-famous Busan International Film Festival. Lined with cinemas, celebrity handprints, and food stalls, this lively pedestrian street offers a true taste of modern Korean city life.

Jagalchi Fish Market – Jagalchi is the largest fish market in Korea, offering a huge variety of live seafood and restaurants. The name is said to originate from jagal (gravel in Korean), as it used to be surrounded by gravel.

Oryukdo Skywalk – Oryukdo in Korean translates to 'walking in the sky'. The 15-metre horseshoe-shaped glass bridge is set up over a 35-metre high coastal cliff, located on the dividing point between the East Sea and the South Sea. Oryukdo refers to a group of rocky islands. Depending on the time of day and teh tide, it may appear to be five or six islands, hence teh name 'o' meaning five and 'yuk' meaning six in Korean.

Dongbaekseom Island – Dongbaekseom, meaning island of camellias, is an island located off one end of Busan's famous Haeundae Beach. Although years of sedimentation have connected the island to the mainland, Dongbaekseom is still referred to as an island.

Haeundae Beach – Haeundae Beach is considered one of Korea's most famous and beautiful beaches. The white sandy beach stretches 1.5km, creating a beautiful coastline.

Gyeongju – Known as 'the museum without walls', Gyeongju was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Silla (57 BC – 935 AD) and was at one point the 4th largest city in the world. A vast number of archaeological sites and cultural properties, including tombs, temples, rock carvings, pagodas and palace ruins.

Day 8: Explore Gyeongju Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day tour of Gyeongju starting at the Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, both designated as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. At both places, the terrain is uneven with steps, but there are handrails.



After lunch, head to Gyeongju National Museum, where much of Silla's heritage is preserved. Visit Tumuli Park, filled with the burial mounds of Sillan royals and nobility, and can enter an excavated tomb. Later, stroll along Anapji Pond.

You will spend up to 5 hours on foot today.

Destination Information

Seokguram Grotto – Seokguram Grotto is part of the Bulguksa temple complex, lying four kilometres east. It is an artificial stone temple made of granite, which was completed in 774. Seokguram Grotto contains a statue of Buddha looking at the sea, as well as other portrayals of gods, Bodhisattvas and disciples.

Bulguksa Temple – Bulguksa Temple was built in 528 during the Silla Kingdom but has undergone numerous renovations and reconstructions throughout history. It was designated as a World Cultural Asset by UNESCO in 1995 and it is home to many important cultural relics.

Gyeongju National Museum – preserves much of the Silla heritage, including magnificent gold crowns, pottery, Buddhist artifacts, stone sculptures and the legendary Emille Bell, one of Asia's largest and most resonant bells - 25 tons of bronze standing 11 feet high.

Tumuli Park – In the centre of town, the walled-off Tumuli Park contains over two dozen large and small tombs from the Silla period. Until quite recently this was a functioning, though quiet, part of town, but in the 1970s the buildings were removed, and the area beautified.

Anapji Pond – Anapji, or Wolji, is an artificial pond in Gyeongju National Park. It was part of the palace complex of ancient Silla, where the Silla royal family relaxed and enjoyed themselves. After the fall of Silla, the site was abandoned and forgotten.

Day 9: Visit Naksansa Temple Meals: B, L, D



Journey around 4.5 hours by coach to Sokcho, the gateway to Mt Seorak National Park. Visit Naksansa Temple complex. Boasting a 1,300-year history this is one of the few temples in Korea to overlook the East Sea.

Here you will see the 15-metre-high Buddha statue standing on a hill, gazing out over the East Sea. At the temple complex, there are some steps and slopes to ascend/descend, but the views are well worth the effort.

You will spend a total of 2 hours on foot today.

Destination Information

Naksansa Temple – Naksansa Temple is a Korean Buddhist temple complex that stands on the slopes of Naksan Mountain. It was founded in 671 by a Buddhist monk after he returned from studying abroad during the Chinese Tang Dynasty. It was rebuilt several times after, and the current building was erected in 1953.

Day 10: Mt Seorak Meals: B, L, D



Spend the day in Seorak National Park, considered one of Korea's most beautiful mountains with its granite peaks, lush green valleys, and dense forests.

Take a 1,100m-long cable car and then hike up to Gwongeumseong Fortress. Sections of the walk are over a flat walkway, however there are also sections which can be rocky and uneven, but the exceptional views are well worth it !

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before going on to enjoy a two hour round-trip hike through the valley to Biryong Falls, surrounded by lush forest. End your day with a visit to Sinheungsa Temple before returning to the hotel.

Please note, the walk is mostly over reasonably flat ground, however, the last section is over uneven terrain. A round-trip hike to Biryong Falls is approximately 3 km and can take approximately 2 hours to complete. Please note some sections of this hike include stairs.

You will spend a total of 3-4 hours on foot today.

Destination Information

Seorak National Park – Seoraksan, meaning Snowy Peaks Mountain, is the third-highest mountain in South Korea. Seorak National Park is in the surrounding area. It is one of the most beautiful and iconic parks on the entire Korean Peninsula and a UNESCO Biosphere Protection site.

Gwongeumseong Fortress – Gwongeumseong Fortress is the site of an old mountaintop fortress of the Silla Kingdom located on Seoraksan Mountain which is reached by a cable car, followed by a short hike over a mixture of a flat walkway as well as some uneven, rocky terrain.

Biryong Falls – Biryong Falls is one of Seoraksan National Park's most picturesque waterfalls, reached by a scenic forest trail surrounded by dramatic mountain landscapes, cascading from a height of around 16 metres.

Sinheungsa Temple – Sinheungsa is a head temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism situated on the slopes of Seoraksan in Seorak National Park. The temple was built in in the 7th century but was destroyed and reconstructed several times since.

Day 11: Return to Seoul — Meals: B, L, D



Transfer around 1 hour to Gangneung to board the train back to Seoul. The journey takes approximately 2 hours.

After arriving in Seoul, enjoy lunch and then check in to your hotel (rooms available from 3pm) for some time at leisure. If time permites, you may like to head to Insadong Alley independently to pick up some souvenirs.

Round the day off by watching an award-winning 'Nanta' show, a famous nonverbal comedy.

When taking the high-speed train, your luggage will be transferred separately and arrive later the same day.

Destination Information

Nanta – Nanta is a South Korean non-verbal comedy show created and produced by Song Seung-whan and incorporates traditional samul nori rhythm. It first premiered in 1997 and made its international debut at the 1999 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where it received an award for best performance. Since then, it has been staged in multiple countries around the world.

Day 12: Seoul — Meals: B, L, D



A 7.00 a.m. start is required today, as tickets to enter the DMZ are extremely limited and on a first come, first served basis. (Please note, the start time for today may be earlier if required and a breakfast box will be provided. This will be advised locally). Whilst every effort will be made to get the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead take a ride on the DMZ gondola and visit the Odusan Unification Observatory.

Take an interesting morning tour of the DMZ, a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula that serves as a buffer zone between North and South Korea. Explore the DMZ Theatre & Exhibition Hall, walk along the 3rd Infiltration Tunnel, visit Dora Observatory & Station and see the Bridge of Freedom.

Later, return to Seoul and stroll through Gwangjang Market before enjoying a farewell dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

- The DMZ is a tightly controlled international border and can only be visited as part of a join-in tour led by DMZ staff. Therefore, your visit may be with clients who are not from Wendy Wu Tours. You MUST bring your physical passport to join this excursion. Copies are not sufficient. Conservative clothing is required at the DMZ. Should you not wish to visit the DMZ, then your day is at leisure in Seoul.

- The DMZ, along with other areas of South Korea, is under close observation by the South Korean Government. As such, changes may need to be made to your itinerary at short notice. Should this occur, your guide will advise locally of any touring changes.

Destination Information

DMZ – The Korean Demilitarized Zone is a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula, dividing the Korean Peninsula roughly in half. It was established by the provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement to serve as a buffer zone between North Korea and South Korea. Please note that while visiting the DMZ, photos can only be taken in the designated area and direction. The visit to the DMZ does not include a visit to the Joint Security Area or the blue hut on the border itself.

The 3rd Infiltration Tunnel – The 'Third Tunnel of Aggression' is one of four known tunnels situated within the DMZ. The 265m long, steeply sloping tunnel was built by North Korea in the 1970s and is located more than 70m underground. North Korea initially denied its existence when South Korea discovered, then later claimed that it was a coal mine. It was eventually revealed that they had dug the tunnel to launch a surprise attack on Seoul. The South eventually took control of the tunnel, blocking off the demarcation line with the North via concrete barricades.

Dorasan Observatory – Located at the top of Mt Dora, the Dorasan Observatory looks across the Demilitarized Zone. Visitors can catch a rare glimpse of the reclusive North Korean state through binoculars from the observatory and will be able to see the North Korean propaganda village situated in the DMZ, a remnant of the old prosperity of the North.

Gwangjang Market - Gwangjang Market is one of the oldest and largest traditional markets in South Korea, with more than 5000 shops and 20,000 employees selling fabric, handmade crafts and hanbok (traditional costume).

Day 13-14: Depart Seoul Meals: B

This morning is free at leisure before you transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Seoul, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



SOUTH KOREA - TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for South Korea if they are travelling for less than 30 days for tourist purposes. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

South Korea Entry Requirements - All guests travelling to South Korea required to complete an entry declaration form (arrival card) when travelling to South Korea. This can be completed online, up to 72 hours before arrival in South Korea. For more information on the e-Arrival card, please visit the following website: https://www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr/portal/main/index.do

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

If the flights that you are booked on are transiting via a different country, please ensure you check the entry requirements for that country, as they may differ to the requirements than your destination.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary.

Roads in South Korea are well maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia*. Please remember to always wear your seatbelt. Toilets, water bottles and USB/power sockets are not available on coaches*.

High-speed trains: Second class reserved seats are booked for our groups on high-speed trains; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on the trains, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities.

Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and South Korea.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, TV and telephone. Some hotels in South Korea have hot water restrictions, operating for a few hours at a time, usually in the morning and evenings. Hotels in South Korea often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/local guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

EATING IN SOUTH KOREA:

Korean cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and a bowl of soup and consist usually of banchan (side dishes) including Kimchi (seasoned and fermented vegetable), fish and meat. Most food is eaten with chopsticks so best get practicing as cutlery is not always available at restaurants. Korean food is generally hot and spicy compared to Chinese and Japanese cuisine.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Korea

Breakfast will mostly be buffet style but may be a set-menu. Lunches and dinners are mostly pre- set options as is custom in many local restaurants. We usually find this style of dining suits the wide and varied tastes of our customers on tour. These are also pre-booked in advance prior to your arrival by your guides. All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available. Please note: if you have any dietary requirements, you must inform us before your tour starts, and please be aware that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. Gluten-free food may not be as readily available as in New Zealand

On some days where lots of sights are covered, dinner times may be early, and your tour group may head directly to the restaurant after sightseeing without stopping at your hotel to freshen up.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

South Korean society and culture is built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in South Korea more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the regular occasions when they must be removed. It is also more polite to use both hands when giving or receiving things, such as money or change. Your National Escort will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour.

GROUP SIZE:

The group size on our Classic Tours is on average 21 passengers, with a maximum group size of 28. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort. All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a several days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open; but may be crowded.

South Korea: Seollal (Lunar New Year) is 16th - 18th February 2026, Buddha's Birthday 24th May 2026 and Children's Day is 5th May 2026 and Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving) 24th to 26th September 2026.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Local tipping is customary in Asia. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people.

The amount is stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in USD and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH KOREA:

South Korea is a developed country and as such matches the west in modernity and technological advances. South Korea is a very safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in South Korea. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of NZD300 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing at nearly all palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Some Buddhist Temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside. People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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