



SOUTH KOREA

THE LAND OF THE MORNING CALM

October 22 – November 03, 2026
Led by Tour Manager, David William

South Korea is often recognized for its bustling capital, Seoul, and cutting-edge technology, but the country offers far more than its modern image suggests. With a history stretching back thousands of years, South Korea is home to a wealth of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, from the ancient city of Gyeongju, often called a "museum without walls," to the majestic palaces of the Joseon Dynasty in Seoul. The country's culture is a vibrant blend of tradition and innovation, with Confucian, Buddhist, and shamanistic influences still visible in rituals, festivals, and daily life. South Korea also boasts remarkable natural beauty, from the volcanic landscapes of Jeju Island and the striking granite peaks of Seoraksan National Park to serene Buddhist temples nestled deep in forested mountains. Its cuisine, celebrated for bold flavors and diverse dishes like kimchi, bulgogi, and bibimbap, reflects the importance of communal dining and seasonal ingredients. South Korea is not only a destination of dynamic cities but also of tranquil countryside, sacred sites, and living traditions that continue to thrive alongside its fast-paced modern culture.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Thursday, October 22

Arrive in Seoul (SOUTH KOREA)



Upon arrival in **Seoul**, meet the local representative and transfer to the *BOTANIK Sewoon Myeongdong Hotel or similar* for check-in. The rest of the day will be free to relax and overnight.

Friday, October 23

Seoul (City Tour)



Begin the day with a city tour of Seoul, starting at **Gyeongbok Palace**, the grand royal residence of the Joseon Dynasty, where visitors can admire traditional Korean architecture and the ceremonial changing of the guard. Explore the **National Folk Museum**, located on the palace grounds, to gain insight into Korea's cultural history and everyday life across the centuries. Walk through **Gwanghwamun Plaza**, a symbolic public space featuring statues of King Sejong the Great and Admiral Yi Sun-sin, then continue to **Bukchon Hanok Village**, where hundreds of traditional Korean houses, or hanoks, line narrow streets amid modern Seoul. Stroll along **Insadong Antique Street**, known for its art galleries, tea houses, and craft shops, and enjoy the tranquil **Cheonggyecheon Stream**, a restored urban waterway winding through the heart of the city. Conclude the day at **Namdaemun Market**, one of Korea's largest and oldest traditional markets, offering a vibrant shopping and culinary experience. Transfer back to the *hotel* for dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Saturday, October 24

Seoul (DMZ)



After breakfast, begin the day with a tour of the **Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**, a unique and historically significant area dividing North and South Korea. Visit **Imjingak Park** and the **Freedom Bridge**, both important symbols of the Korean War and the hope for eventual reunification. Explore the **3rd Infiltration Tunnel**, a secret passage dug by North Korea, followed by the **DMZ**

Theater and Exhibition Hall, which provides historical context and insight into the conflict. Stop at the **Dora Observatory** for a view across the border into North Korea, and pass by the **Unification Village**, a poignant community near the frontier. Return to Seoul in the afternoon for a visit to the **Korean War Memorial**, a moving tribute to the country's history and those who served. Return to the *hotel* in Seoul for dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Sunday, October 25

Seoul – Gongju – Jeonju (4 Hrs.)



After breakfast, begin the drive to **Gongju** and visit **Gongsanseong Fortress**, a historic hilltop stronghold offering panoramic views, followed by the **Royal Tomb of King Muryeong**, an exquisitely preserved burial site showcasing ancient Baekje Dynasty craftsmanship. Continue to **Buyeo** to explore the Five-story Stone Pagoda of **Jeongnimsa Temple Site**, a testament to Korea's early Buddhist architecture, and **Busosanseong Fortress**, a historic citadel overlooking the surrounding landscape. In the afternoon, transfer to **Jeonju**. Upon arrival, transfer to *Lahan Jeonju Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Monday, October 26

Jeonju (City Tour)



Begin the day in **Jeonju** with visits to the **Jeondong Catholic Cathedral**, an exquisite example of Romanesque and Byzantine architecture, and **Gyeonggijeon**, the royal portrait hall preserving the legacy of the Joseon Dynasty. Stroll through **Jeonju Hanok Village**, where traditional Korean houses and narrow alleys offer a vivid glimpse into the country's heritage and artisanal culture. In the afternoon, transfer to **Damyang** to explore the serene **Jungnongwon Bamboo Garden**, a peaceful retreat filled with towering bamboo groves. When touring has concluded, return to the *Hotel* for dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Tuesday, October 27

Jeonju – Suncheon – Yeosu (2 Hrs.)



Travel onward to **Suncheon**, where the journey begins at the **Suncheonman Wetland**, one of the world's most well-preserved coastal wetlands and a haven for migratory birds. Continue to the **Suncheonman National Garden**, a beautifully designed landscape showcasing themed gardens from around the world. Later, head to **Yeosu** and visit **Odongdo Island**, known for its scenic coastal paths, lush camellia groves, and lighthouse views over the sea. Continue the journey to Yeosu, and upon arrival transfer to *Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Yeosu Hotel or similar* for dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Wednesday, October 28

Yeosu – Andong – Gyeongju (5 Hrs.)



After breakfast, set out for **Andong** to explore **Hahoe Hanok Village**, a beautifully preserved traditional village showcasing Korea's architectural heritage and folk culture. Visit **Byeongsan Seowon**, a historic Confucian academy reflecting centuries of scholarly tradition, and admire the panoramic views from **Buyongdae Cliff**, overlooking the village and surrounding river. Continue to **Gyeongju** and transfer to *Kolon Hotel Gyeongju or similar* for check-in, dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Thursday, October 29

Gyeongju (City Tour)



After breakfast, begin the day in **Gyeongju** with a visit to **Bulguksa Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its elegant architecture and serene courtyards, followed by the **Seokguram Grotto**, home to a magnificent Buddha statue carved into the mountainside. Explore **Daereungwon**, the ancient royal tomb complex, and continue to **Cheomseongdae Observatory**, one of the oldest astronomical observatories in Asia. Conclude the day at **Anapji Pond**, a beautifully restored historic site offering tranquil reflections and scenic views. Return to the hotel for dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Friday, October 30

Gyeongju – Busan (1 Hr.)



After breakfast, start your journey to **Busan** and begin your day at **Haedong Yonggungsa Temple**, a stunning seaside temple perched on rocky cliffs overlooking the ocean. Visit **Dongbaek Island**, a scenic peninsula known for its walking trails and picturesque views of the coastline, then relax at the famous **Haeundae Beach**. Explore **Jagalchi Fish Market**, Korea's largest seafood market, followed by a stroll through **Gukje Market** and **BIFF Street**, vibrant areas full of local shops, street food,

and cultural energy. When touring has finished, transfer to *Asti Hotel Busan or similar* for dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Saturday, October 31

Busan – Jeju Island



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to **Jeju Island**, and upon arrival, begin your exploration with a visit to **Hyupjae Beach**, known for its white sand and turquoise waters. Continue to the **O'Sulloc Tea Garden**, where rolling green tea fields and cultural exhibits showcase Korea's tea traditions. Marvel at the striking **Jusangjeoli Cliff**, a natural formation of hexagonal basalt columns, and visit **Jeongbang Waterfall**, one of the few waterfalls in Asia that falls directly into the ocean. Transfer to Ocean Suites Jeju Hotel or similar for check-in, dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Sunday, November 01

Jeju Island – Seoul



Begin the day on **Jeju Island** with a visit to **Seongeup Folk Village**, a traditional village showcasing well-preserved hanok houses and local customs. Continue along the scenic **Seopjikoji Coast**, known for its dramatic cliffs and ocean views, and hike up **Seongsan Sunrise Peak**, a volcanic crater offering panoramic vistas of the island. Explore **Jeju Dongmun Market**, a lively marketplace filled with local foods, crafts, and souvenirs. After the tour, transfer to Jeju Airport for a domestic flight back to **Seoul**. Upon arrival, transfer back to the *BOTANIK Sewoon Myeongdong Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner on own and overnight. **(B,L)**

Monday, November 02

Seoul



After breakfast, enjoy a day free at leisure in the capital city of South Korea, visiting places you may not have had the chance to while initially in Seoul. Overnight at the *hotel*. **(B)**

Tuesday, November 03

Seoul - USA



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to the US. **(B)**

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".

Tour Cost (Land Only)

6 - 7 travelers \$6,995.00

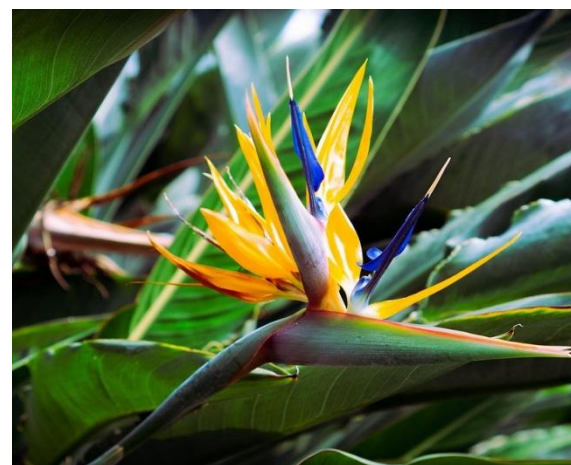
8 - 10 travelers \$5,995.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single supplement \$995.00

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 10 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: ****



Tour Includes:

- Private Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Accommodation in standard first-class hotels (3-4*).
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Local English-speaking guides during tours.
- Transportation by A/C vehicles (sedans, 4x4's, or vans depending on region & group size).
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites and activities as per itinerary.
- Escort of a Tour Lecturer (*provided minimum number of travelers is reached*).
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and porters (*provided minimum number of travelers is reached*).
- Busan - Jeju - Seoul flights.

Trip Grade:

II Active: Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

Lodging Level:

*****-***** Superior:** Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards (4 Stars)



Tour does not include:

- International airfare USA - Seoul - USA.
- South Korean Visa (US citizens do not need a visa for stays up to 90 days)
- Drinks with or without meals and meals not mentioned.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Travel protection insurance **(HIGHLY Recommended).**

