Discover the highlights of captivating South Korea, the ‘Land of the Morning Calm’. Explore Seoul - the nation’s vibrant capital city before heading south to see the sights of cultural Andong and Gyeongju - the historical heart of the country.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**
- Seoul - the nation’s captivating capital; Gyeongbokgung Palace, National Folk Museum, Jogyesa Temple, Insadong Antique Alley, Cheonggyecheon Stream and Seoul Tower
- Andong - UNESCO World Heritage listed Hahoe Folk Village and Andong Folk Museum
- Gyeongju - former capital of the Silla Kingdom and historic heart of the nation; Gyeongju National Museum, Tumuli Park and the Sill royal tombs, Anapji Pond, the ancient Cheomseongdae Observatory
- UNESCO Listed Seokguram Grotto - one of Asia’s finest Buddhist shrines and Bulguksa Temple

**What’s Included**
- 5 nights 3, 4 or 5 star hotels (specific to your chosen itinerary)
- Breakfast daily
- Services of an English speaking guide/driver for all scheduled sightseeing
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 6
- All transfers and transportation in private air conditioned vehicles
- Touring of Seoul, Andong and Gyeongju
- Entrance fees to all included sites

**What’s Not Included**
- International flights and visa
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

**DETAILED ITINERARY**

**Day 1 : Seoul**
Upon arrival at Incheon International Airport in Seoul you will be met by local tour guide and escorted to Seoul. As the nation’s capital with over 500 years of history, Seoul serves as the political, economic and educational hub of Korea. After check-in at hotel, the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

**Overnight - Seoul**

**Day 2 : Seoul sightseeing**
Enjoy a tour of Seoul’s most famous landmarks today. After driving around Blue House - the presidential residence of Korea, visit the beautifully ornate Gyeongbokgung Palace which served as the main palace of Joseon Dynasty(1392-1910), the last dynasty of Korea. The palace has a turbulent history, destroyed twice by the Japanese it has recently been restored to its former glory. After exploring this beautiful site, proceed to National Folk Museum located in grounds of the palace, which provides a fascinating insight into the legacies of Korean culture and history.

Next stop is the enchanting Buddhist temple of Jogyesa, which is the headquarters of the Jogye sect. Adjacent to the temple is Insadong, a lively antique alley which is lined with art galleries, antique shops, crafts shops, pottery shops, traditional restaurants and teahouses. Enjoy a leisurely walk through Insadong and along the picturesque...
Seoul & Silla Kingdoms

Cheonggycheon Stream which runs through the heart of downtown Seoul before stopping at a local amethyst or ginseng shop for shopping. The final stop of today's tour is the lofty Seoul Tower located on Mt.Namsa, which offers spectacular panoramic view of the city from its observatory.

Overnight - Seoul (B)

Day 3 : Seoul to Andong

Seoul - Andong. This morning travel to Andong which is considered the spiritual home of Korea as well as the cradle of Korea's cultural tradition. Enjoy an afternoon tour of Andong which includes the charming UNESCO Listed Hahoe Folk Village, where approximately 130 traditional houses of varying size and standard have been immaculately preserved by the same families for generations. Also visit the Andong Folk Museum which has several interesting exhibits relating mainly to Korea's folk traditions, the ritual standards of Confucianism and folk plays.

Overnight - Andong (B)

Day 4 : Gyeongju

Andong - Gyeongju. Travel on to Gyeongju today. Serving as the capital of Silla Kingdom from 57BC to 935AD, the entire city of Gyeongju is a living museum containing the remnants of the Silla Kingdom as well as relics pertaining to Buddhism, the national religion at the time.

Your afternoon tour of Gyeongju includes visits to Gyeongju National Museum which is home to the 23ton Emille Bell cast in AD771 and numerous priceless treasures; Tumuli Park, with its collection of Silla royal tombs; Cheomseongdae Observatory, one the world’s oldest astronomical observatories and the scenic Anapji Pond where the Silla royal family spent their leisure time.

Overnight - Gyeongju (B)

Day 5 : Gyeongju

This morning visit two magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Listed temples - Seokguram Grotto, one of the Asia’s finest Buddhist shrines, surrounded by Bodhisattva, disciples, devas and the guardian king; Bulguksa Temple which was built during the glorious period of Silla Kingdom. The architectural design of Bulguksa Temple is one of constrained dignity and peaceful harmony and the temple still remains one of the most remarkable achievements of the ancient Far East. Depart for Seoul this afternoon and spend your final evening at leisure.

Overnight - Seoul (B)

Day 6 : Seoul

After breakfast and hotel check out, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Visas

UK, EU, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and US passport holders do not require a visa to enter South Korea for touristic purposes for a stay of up to 90 days. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival enter for a stay of up to 30 days. A full passport with two full blank pages and at least 6 months validity beyond date of exit from South Korea upon entrance is essential. Please Note: Visa information is subject to change. Contact your nearest South Korean Embassy for the most up to date information. Visa procurement remains the responsibility of the passenger and not that of On The Go.

Health

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven’t had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for Typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). There is a malarial risk in some remote areas and from June to October Japanese encephalitis can be transmitted from mosquitoes in rural areas, so do check the current situation and medical requirements before travelling.

Vaccination information can change regularly so please visit your local health care provider for the most up to date information.

Tap water is safe to drink in South Korea although it may be best to avoid this when staying for short periods. It's possible to purchase bottled mineral water at a reasonable price.

Avoid stomach upsets, by only eating freshly prepared, well-cooked meat and fish. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Climate

South Korea’s climate is typically temperate with four distinct seasons. Late March or early April signals the start of Spring when mostly sunny days can be expected throughout March and May. Summer can be rather hot and wet and by June the average temperature is 20°C, monsoonal rains can begin around the end of June lasting through to middle or late September. After a typically humid summer continental winds move in bringing dry and clear weather for autumn and making the month of October the most pleasant time to visit. December to February signals the
onset of winter which is cold and dry with occasional snow.

Currency
The currency of South Korea is Won (KRW).
USD$1 - KRW1060 GBPE1 - KRW1780 AUD$1 - KRW960 Euro1 - KRW1470
Please Note: Exchange rates are subject to change.

Notes are in denominations of 50,000, 10,000, 5,000 and 1,000.
Coins are in denominations of 500, 100, 50 and 10.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be converted into South Korean Won locally, or you can purchase currency in advance. Foreign currency and traveller’s cheques can be converted into Korean Won at foreign exchange banks and other authorized money changers.

Most major credit cards are accepted in large restaurants, shops and hotels and there are ATM’s in all cities. In remote rural areas and at small businesses, credit card may not be accepted.

Time & Voltage
Time: South Korea is 9 hours ahead of GMT. During British Summer Time (end March - October), time is 8 hours ahead.
Voltage: 220v 60Hz. South Korean plugs are of the European variety with two round prongs. If travelling to South Korea with a device that does not accept 220 volts at 60 Hertz a voltage converter will be required.

Food
Largely based on rice, noodles, tofu, vegetables and meat, Korean cuisine is delicious. Traditionally with main meals a quantity of side dishes are served known as banchan, the most popular of these being kimchi. Kimchi is a traditional fermented dish made with vegetables, typically cabbage, radish, onions or cucumbers and flavoured with salt, garlic, ginger, and gochujang – a fermented chilli paste, it can have a very salty and spicy flavour.

One of the best known Korean cuisine exports is the Korean barbecue. This usually involves grilling of beef, pork or chicken. The grilled dishes are typically prepared at the diner’s table on a gas or charcoal grill built into the centre of the table or on a portable grill if built in barbecues are not available. One of the most popular dishes served is galbi, beef short ribs, often marinated in spices before grilling. In a specialised restaurant the diner will request from a menu the types of meat they would like, these are brought to the table and the diner cooks them to their liking. For those diners that are new to Korean barbecue the waiter is always on hand to offer help, though typically it is only ever foreigners that need help.

Shopping
Considered a shopper’s paradise, great deals can be had in South Korea on shoes, clothes, leather goods, silk, antiques, handbags, suitcases and so much more. Clothes can be tailor-made and range in quality depending on the amount of money you are willing to part with. Many department stores have fixed prices but can still be bargained over within reason. The major open air markets such as Namdaemun or Dongdaemun in Seoul offer everything imaginable from well known brand names to near perfect rip offs and it is here where the true haggling takes place, just be sure you know whether you are haggling over a fake or a genuine item! Those shopping for arts, crafts, jewellery, antiques or souvenirs, should head to the wonderful markets and shops of Insa Dong.

Shopping tip: You can claim 70-80% of your paid VAT and SET (special excise tax) back at certain retail outlets. For purchases of more than ₩30,000 at outlets with ‘Tax Free Shopping’ or ‘Tax Refund Shopping’ signs, you can collect your refund in cash at the tax refund counters at the airport, have it mailed to you or sometimes refunded to your card. Participating retail shops will issue you a ‘VAT Refund Check’ and you should get a certificate stamp on it at the customs desk when you leave Korea.