South Korea and Jeju Explorer
12 days | Seoul to Jeju Island

SEMI INDEPENDENT TOUR: Take in the highlights of South Korea on this 12-day group tour which starts in Seoul and ends on Jeju island. Meet a North Korean defector at the Demilitarized Zone, see the Blue House and Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul and enjoy an incredible diving experience with the UNESCO-protected Haenyeo women divers. Spend a night in a traditional bath house, stay at Golgulsa Temple and end your trip with a beach BBQ on Jeju island.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
• DMZ - peek into the reclusive state of North Korea, explore the Third Tunnel of Aggression and meet a North Korean defector
• Seoul - explore South Korea's enigmatic capital to see the changing of the guard at Gyeongbokgung Palace and the iconic Blue House
• Jeju - dive with the famous Haenyeo women divers and enjoy a short hike to the cylindrical and UNESCO-listed Sunrise Peak
• Golgulsa Temple - stay at a traditional Buddhist temple in Gyeongju where you can practice martial arts, meditate and enjoy tea with a Buddhist monk
• Gyeongju - take a bicycle tour to highlights of the city including the Cheonmachong Ancient Tombs and Gyerim Forest
• Jjimjilbang - spend the night in a traditional Korean bath and sleeping house where you can relax in the sauna or an onsen hot bath
• Busan - enjoy a ride on the Marine Cable Car for amazing views of the city shoreline and indulge in the city's thriving nightlife
• Seoraksan National Park - hike to Ulsanbawi Rock and visit the North Korean refugee village of Abai by cable pulley boat

What's Included
• Airport departure transfer to Jeju airport on day 12
• 1 breakfast, 1 lunch & 3 dinners
• 8 nights in hostels and dorm accommodation
• 1 night at a traditional jjimjilbang (bath and sleeping house)
• 1 night at Golgulsa Temple in Gyeongju
• Unlimited travel between cities on buses, trains and ferries
• DMZ excursion and meeting with a North Korean defector
• Visit to Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul
• Cycling tour of Gyeongju
• Busan Marine Cable Car ride
• Haenyeo Divers Experience on Jeju island
• Day trek along the Jeju Olle Trail
• Beach BBQ on day 12

What's Not Included
• International flights and visas
• Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature and any meals not included in the itinerary
• Optional activities

ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome to South Korea

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Welcome to Seoul! On arrival in South Korea's capital, make your own way to our starting hostel. There's a pre-departure Welcome Meeting before we head out for a delicious Korean barbecue.

After our meal, we make our way using public transport to the top of Namsan Mountain, where we can enjoy incredible views of Seoul illuminated at night. For an even better view, you may wish to head to the top of the N Seoul Tower, which is the second highest point in the city. We then return to our hostel where the rest of the evening is at leisure.

**Overnight - Seoul (D)**

**Day 2 : Exploring the DMZ**

Today we enjoy an excursion to the Demilitarized Zone, which is a 2.5 mile wide buffer zone between the hostile states of North and South Korea. Our bus journey to the DMZ takes around three hours and we stop at Dorasan Station en route. The train station was built with the intention of connecting the two Koreas, in times when relations were better.

Arriving at the DMZ, we visit the Dora Observatory where you can peek into reclusive North Korea and perhaps catch a glimpse of some North Korean villagers in the streets. We then descend into the Third Tunnel of Aggression, which was built by the North as a means of infiltrating South Korea.

After our visit to the DMZ, we board the bus to return to Seoul. We'll be joined onboard by a North Korean defector. You have a once in a lifetime opportunity to speak with someone who has experienced life in the closed-off country of North Korea. Arriving back in Seoul, the rest of the day is at leisure, or you may wish to visit a local cat cafe. **Overnight - Seoul**

**Day 3 : Seoul sightseeing**

We have an early start this morning, for a full day of exploring Seoul. We'll ride on the metro to the grand Gyeongbokgung Palace, which was once the main residence of the Joseon Dynasty. Watch the Changing of the Guard here before we enter the palace grounds. We also see the Blue House, which is the equivalent of America's White House for South Korea.

Later, we visit Bukchon Hanok Village, where you can opt to change into hanbok, traditional Korean clothes, to explore this historic village. We also enjoy a relaxing walk down the Cheonggyecheon Stream, an area of peace and tranquility in the bustling city. Visit Insadong Art Street and opt for Kimchi tasting at the Museum Kimchikan. The evening is free to relax or you could head out for a drink on Hongdae Street. **Overnight - Seoul**

**Day 4 : Seoraksan National Park & jjimjilbang stay**

This morning we head out of Seoul for a day trip to Sokcho, in the north east of the country. Arriving in Seoraksan National Park, we pay a visit to Sinheungsasa Temple and hike up to Ulsanbawi Rock for incredible views over the national park.

After our hike, we take the bus to Sokcho town and cross the river by cable-pulley boat to Abai, a small village of North Korean refugees. Explore the historic village and climb to the Lighthouse Observatory for amazing views of the surrounding area. We then return to Seoul and arrive at our accommodation for the night. We'll be staying at a jjimjilbang, a traditional Korean bath and sleeping house. Enjoy an onsen bath or relax in the sauna this evening. **Overnight - Seoul**

**Day 5 : Gyeongju**

Seoul - Gyeongju. Say goodbye to Seoul as we take the train to the city of Gyeongju. This afternoon we head out on a bicycle tour of the city. Ride to numerous highlights including the Cheomnachong Silla tomb in Tumuli Park. We then make our way to Cheomseongdae, the oldest surviving astronomical observatory in East Asia. We also explore Gyerim Forest and the Hyanggyo Confucius School. **Overnight - Gyeongju**

**Day 6 : Golgulsa Temple stay**

Rise early this morning for an optional visit to the UNESCO-listed Bulguksa Temple, on the slopes of Mt Toham. We then transfer by public bus to Golgulsa Temple, where we will be staying tonight. There's an included meditation class and you can opt to join archery or horse-riding classes.

Later, we watch a thrilling traditional arts performance and Sunmudo demonstration. Sunmudo is a Korean Buddhist martial art. After the demonstration, you may wish to lend yourselves to archery or horse-riding classes.
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Day 7 : Busan

Gyeongju - Busan. Join the morning chanting service and meditation, then tuck in to a traditional breakfast. Afterwards, we meet a Buddhist monk and enjoy a relaxed chat over some tea. There’s a final chance to practice your Sunmudo skills and enjoy an included lunch at the temple before we return to Gyeongju and make our way by bus to Busan. On arrival, check-in to our accommodation and spend your first night in bustling Busan at leisure - perhaps head to the Haeundae beachfront to make the most of the city’s thriving nightlife. Overnight - Busan (B, L)

Day 8 : Busan sightseeing

We spend today exploring the sights of Busan. Browse Jagalchi Market, which is the biggest seafood market in South Korea. You can opt for a delicious fresh seafood lunch here. We also take in BIFF Square in Nampo-dong, the city’s famous movie district and you can choose to take part in a cutting edge Virtual Reality gaming experience or enjoy some free time to explore the city further.

Later in the day, we enjoy an included ride on the Marine Cable Car for incredible views of the shoreline and the city. You can return to the city via a cliff walk or ride back down on the cable car. The evening is then free to head out for dinner with your fellow travellers. Perhaps admire the impressive light show on Gwangan Bridge. Overnight - Busan

Day 9 : Busan free time & Jeju

Busan - Jeju. This morning is free to relax or further explore Busan as you please. Optional activities available include a Korean cooking class, a visit to the clifftop Buddhist temple of Haedong Yonggungsa or you may wish to head to Spa Land in Busan’s largest shopping complex for a few more hours of saunas and onsen baths. Tonight we take the overnight ferry to Jeju, the small volcanic island dominated by the towering volcano of Hallasan. Overnight - Overnight ferry to Jeju

Day 10 : Diving experience & Sunrise Peak hike

Arriving in Jeju, we enjoy an incredible Haenyeo Divers Experience with the famous women divers of Jeju. These women, some in their 80s, practice centuries-old diving customs which are protected by UNESCO. They dive without the aid of breathing equipment to collect seaweed, shellfish and other seafood to eat and sell. Join the women on a diving experience to discover more about this incredible tradition.

Back on dry land, we enjoy a traditional liquor making experience, and you’ll get to sample a variety of different types. There’s also an included hike to the top of Seongsan Ilchulbong, better known as Sunrise Peak. A UNESCO World Heritage site, this cylindrical hill was formed by hydrovolcanic eruptions. On the way back to the hostel, we watch a Haenyeo Diver’s performance by the beach. Overnight - Jeju Island

Day 11 : Jeju Olle Trail & BBQ beach party

We spend our final full day in South Korea exploring Jeju further, beginning at Jeongbang Waterfall, which flows directly into the ocean. From this incredible natural wonder, we enjoy a day-long trek along the Jeju Olle Trail, which winds through incredible scenery of volcanic cliffs and bright yellow fields of canola. See the towering column of Oedolgae Rock, which emerges dramatically from the waves. There’s time after the trek to relax on the beach or try your hand at surfing or paddle boarding.

To celebrate our final evening, there’s an included BBQ party on the beach tonight. Relax and enjoy delicious food as we watch the sun go down. Overnight - Jeju Island (D)

Day 12 : Jeju Island

Today our South Korean adventure comes to an end. There is an included departure transfer to Jeju airport at a scheduled time.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The ‘Single supplement’ applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price.
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### PRICES / DATES 2020

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