



Classic South Korea Extension

Short Stay | 5 Days | Physical Level 1

Stumble upon the temples and palaces scattered amongst the glittering skyscrapers of Seoul and explore the living museum that is Gyeongju.

- See the beautiful royal Gyeongbok Palace and witness the Royal Guard Changing Ceremony
- Taste delicious Korean street food
- Explore historic Gyeongju
- Admire the UNESCO-listed Bulguksa Temple
- Visit the oldest surviving observatory in East Asia, the 7th-century Cheomseongdae Observatory

TOUR MAP

**CLASSIC SOUTH KOREA EXTENSION INCLUSIONS:**

- Transportation and transfers as stated
- Daily tours and entrance fees
- Meals as stated
- Accommodation
- English speaking guide

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

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: Arrive Seoul

Arrive in South Korea's capital, Seoul, where you will be met by a driver and transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

This dynamic city is particularly fast-forward for everything from fashion to technology, but it is still deeply rooted in tradition.



Destination Information

Seoul – Seoul is a dynamic metropolis where skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets. Seoul was the capital of Korea from 1394 until the formal division of the country in 1948. Its history stretches back over two thousand years, the name itself has come to mean “capital” in the Korean language.

Day 2: Explore Seoul

Meals: B

Enjoy a full-day private tour of Korea's vibrant capital, todays sightseeing is comfortably paced there are a few stairs and wherever there are stairs there are ramps available. The first stop will be at the Gyeongbok Palace built in 1395.

During the Japanese invasions of 1592-1598, the palace was burnt to the ground and slowly reconstructed. It is the largest of the five royal palaces in Seoul and is considered to be the most beautiful. You will witness the Royal Guard Changing Ceremony and explore the many halls and pavilions.



Next, head to Gwangjang Market; it is one of the best places to try authentic Korean street food. Have your fill of mungbean pancakes, dumplings and bibimbap (at your own expense) before heading to visit the symbolic Namsan Park and N Seoul Tower.

If you are travelling during Cherry Blossom Season (approximately from 23rd of March until 14th of April), you will also visit either of these areas: Seokchon Lake or Yeido Park, to view the spectacular Cherry Blossoms.

Please note, if you are visiting on a Tuesday, the Gyeongbok Palace is closed and will be replaced with Changdeok Palace. Built in 1405, it is also known as Donggwol, the Eastern Palace, because of its location to the east of Gyeongbok Palace. For 270 years, the palace was home to the Joseon government and was also the favored residence of many Joseon Dynasty kings. This makes Changdeok Palace the longest-serving royal residential palace. Compared to other palaces, it is well-preserved and still has many of its original features. A feature of Changdeok Palace is the way its buildings blend into the surrounding landscape. In 1997, Changdeok Palace was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Destination Information

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. The palace has been rebuilt after destruction several times, and houses museums, ornamental gardens and some of Seoul's most outstanding architectural sights.

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).

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

Day 3: Historic Gyeongju

Meals: B, L

This morning after breakfast, you will be met in the hotel lobby by your driver and transferred to Seoul Railway Station for your train journey to Gyeongju by KTX train (Korea's Express Train). The KTX is a high-speed train designed to reach speeds of up to approximately 305 km per hour, this train journey is approximately 2 hours and 6 minutes in duration.

Upon arrival at Gyeongju Railway Station you will be met by your local English-speaking driver guide for an afternoon tour.



Gyeongju is the historical centre and capital of the former Silla Kingdom. The whole city has been included on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list and is commonly known as a “museum without walls” thanks to its many artefacts. Your first stop will be Bulguksa Temple the most important Buddhist temple complex in Korea, which contains numerous relics from the former Silla Kingdom. The temple dates from the 8th century but has been rebuilt on numerous occasions since then.

(There are many stairs at Bulguksa Temple but there are also ramps available. You will spend approximately 1-1.5 hours sightseeing here).

The Seokguram Grotto, which is nearby, is a hermitage and holds some of the best Buddhist sculptures in the world, including the main Buddha. It is an easy walking distance from the car park to the grotto, however in front of the grotto there are some stairs (approximately 30 steps), unfortunately, there is no ramp available at the grotto.

Please pack an overnight bag for your overnight stay in Gyeongju. Your luggage will be securely stored at your hotel in Seoul until your return.

Destination Information

Gyeongju – Known as ‘the museum without walls’, Gyeongju was at one point the 4th largest city in the world.

Bulguksa Temple – Originally built in 528 during the Silla Kingdom, Bulguksa Temple has undergone numerous renovations and reconstructions throughout history.

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

Day 4: Depart Seoul

Meals: B

This morning after breakfast, you will meet your local Englishspeaking driver guide for your half-day tour of Gyeongju. First visit the National Museum, which houses a permanent collection of over 3,000 artefacts of the Silla Kingdom's most valuable treasures.

At Tumuli Park you will see clusters of tumuli (burial mounds) from the Silla Dynasty. The only burial site that has been identified to date is the tomb 'Michuwangneung,' the resting place of King Michu, the thirteenth ruler of Silla (262-284).



From here, you will continue to Anapji Pond now restored to its former glory as an exotic garden fit for royalty. Your final stop today is Cheomseongdae the oldest existing observatory in Asia, constructed of stone during the reign of Queen Seon-deok (632-647).

(The later part of touring involves comfortable paced sightseeing, with a total of 2.5-3 hours walking around the attractions.)

After your sightseeing has ended transfer to Gyeongju Railway Station for your KTX train journey back to Seoul. Upon arrival at Seoul Railway Station, transfer back to your hotel.

The rest of the evening is free at your leisure to enjoy your last night in Seoul.

Destination Information

Gyeongju National Museum – The museum preserves much of the Silla heritage, including magnificent gold crowns, pottery, Buddhist artifacts, stone sculptures and the legendary Emille Bell.

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 but after its fall the site was abandoned and forgotten.

Cheomseongdae – The oldest astronomical observatory in East Asia, dating back to the 7th century during the Silla Dynasty. This unique stone structure was used to observe the stars and track celestial events, playing a key role in the kingdom's scientific advancements. Standing 9.17 meters tall, Cheomseongdae consists of 362 stones, symbolizing the days of the year. It remains a significant cultural landmark, offering insight into Korea's ancient astronomical knowledge and architectural ingenuity.

Day 5: Depart Seoul

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight.



CLASSIC SOUTH KOREA EXTENSION TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into South Korea for stays up to 90 days.

South Korea Entry Requirements - All travellers are 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 be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

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.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

TRANSPORT:

Bullet trains: Second class reserved seats are booked for travel on bullet trains; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on bullet trains, you will need to pack an overnight bag to carry on the train to Gyeongju. Your luggage will be stored in your hotel in Seoul until your return.

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