



Scenic South Korea

Classic Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

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



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 (From dinner on the day of arrival to breakfast on the last day)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

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

Classic Tours:

See the classic sights in the company of expert guides so you can really understand the history and culture of the destination. On our classic tours we take care of everything, leaving you to sit back and enjoy the experience to the full. The tours are fully inclusive with all meals and a comprehensive touring programme.

Physical Level 1:

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 1** 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

Of course, our National Escort will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Country Profile: South Korea

South Korea is a charming nation situated on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. It is well-known for occupying one of the world's most heavily militarized borders; that it shares with North Korea. However, South Korea is a peaceful country covered in green, hilly countryside, centuries-old Buddhist temples and coastal fishing villages. It has an eclectic mix of ancient culture and modern technology and celebrates Cherry Blossom season every March – April.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 15 days in duration including international flights. Please note that due to flight schedules passengers may depart/arrive on day 2.

Travelers 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.

Itinerary – Scenic South Korea

Days 1-2: Fly to Seoul

Fly overnight to Seoul, South Korea's dynamic capital. On arrival you will be met by a driver and transfer to your hotel. 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 Reservations 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 Korea from 1394 until the formal division of the country in 1948. However, its history stretches back over two thousand years. The name itself has come to mean “capital” in the Korean language.

Day 3: Seoul

Take a full day tour of Seoul. Start by heading to Gyeongbok Palace to watch the Royal Palace Guard Changing Ceremony and visit the Palace itself. Explore the National Folk Museum before attending a Korean cooking class – making the traditional dish Bibimbap and enjoying your own cooking for lunch! Next, visit Insadong Antique Alley, where many antique stores, art galleries and secondhand book stores can be found. Visit Jongmyo Royal Shrine, registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Finish the day at N Seoul Tower, where you can enjoy great panoramic views of the city.



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 today houses a couple of museums, ornamental gardens and some of Seoul's most outstanding architectural sights.

National Folk Museum – The National Folk Museum is located within the grounds of the Gyeongbokgung Palace and displays the history of traditional life of the Korean people.

Insadong Antique Alley – Insadong Street, stretching over 700 meters, offers rich opportunities for visitors to experience Korean traditional culture and arts. Stores here specialize in a wide variety of Korean goods, including hanbok (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), traditional teas, pottery, and folk crafts.

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.

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.

Day 4: Seoul – Damyang – Gwangju

Journey around 3.5 hours by coach to Damyang and stroll around Soswaewon Garden, a private garden where the beauty of traditional Korea is preserved. Visit a Bamboo Forest called Juknokwon, where you will stroll around parts of the forest for around 1 hour. Continue around 45 minutes to Gwangju and see the old town called Yangnim-dong.



Destination Information

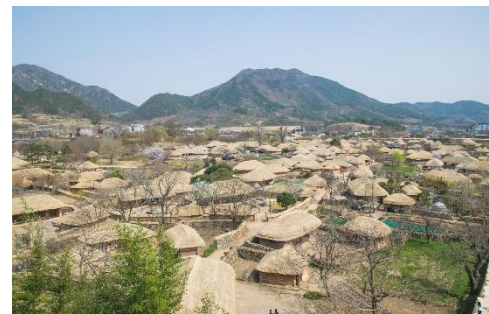
Soswaewon Garden – Soswaewon is a typical Korean garden from the Joseon Period, built between 1503 and 1557. The garden is a scenic spot with a mix of natural and artificial features that blend well together. Trees are planted on either side of a stream, and clear water flows down the foot of the garden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

Juknokwon Bamboo Forest – Juknokwon is a bamboo forest featuring a beautiful waterfall, pavilion, walking paths and an eco-exhibition centre.

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: Gwangju – Boseong – Suncheon

Transfer around 1 hour to Boseong and visit a green tea plantation, Boseong is the best tea producing region in Korea. To enjoy the full view of the field, you will need to make a short walk up to the observation deck which involves climbing some steps. However, if you do not wish to make the walk up, you can also see the field from the bottom. A green tea or green tea ice cream taster is included in your visit. Proceed around 1 hour to Suncheon and visit Seonamsa Temple, famous for Korea's most beautiful arched stone bridge. The walk from the bus to the temple is around 10-15 minutes on a flat road. Also visit Nakaneupseong Fortress Village where you can observe the indigenous lifestyle of the southern area of Korea and try your hand at traditional handkerchief dyeing.



Destination Information

Tea Plantation – Boseong is known as the green tea capital of Korea and recognised for its great quality. Green tea has been produced in Boseong for the past 1600 years and the county is the largest tea-producing area in Korea. It is the surrounding climate and soil that provide good conditions for growing this unique green tea that has a distinct taste and aroma.

Suncheon – Suncheon is a scenic agricultural city of around 280,000 people near Suncheon Bay.

Seonamsa Temple – Seonamsa Temple, built in the 6th century, is a beautiful Buddhist temple located at the west end of Mt. Jogyesan. It is famous for South Korea's most beautiful arched stone bridge.

Nakaneupseong Fortress Village – Naganeupseong is a historic village noted for its well-preserved cultural landscape and traditional lifestyle continued from the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). It includes a fortress, government buildings and private houses. Currently 288 people live in 90 households. Many families have lived in the village for generations, keeping their traditional lifestyle.

Day 6: Suncheon – Yeosu – Busan

Transfer just under 1 hour to Yeosu and take a cable car, enjoying the beautiful ocean scenery and numerous islands of Yeosu. Visit Odongdo Island, where you can stroll around and enjoy the scenery. Continue around 2.5 hours to Busan, the largest port city in South Korea.

During cherry blossom season only, a visit to Jinhae to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival is included en route to Busan.



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.

Odongdo Island – Odongdo 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 city is full of character and is known for its beaches, mountains and temples. Because Busan was not captured during the Korean War, it gives a glimpse of Korea before the 1950s in a way that other places don't.

Day 7: Busan - Gyeongju

Take a tour of Busan, visiting Busan Tower, Kukje Market, Jagalchi Fish Market, one of the largest seafood markets in Asia, and the Oryukdo Skywalk, a 15-metre glass bridge set up over a 35-meter-high coastal cliff which you can walk over. Continue to Dongbaekseom Island and visit the Nurimaru APEC House before strolling along the esplanade of Haeundae Beach, enjoying the ocean views. Later, transfer around 1.5 hours to Gyeongju, called the 'Museum without Walls' and stay overnight at Bomun Lake, which is famous for its cherry blossoms.



Destination Information

Busan Tower – Busan Tower is a symbol of Busan that stands 69m above sea level at a height of 120 m. The top of the tower is modelled after the Bulguksa Daboh tower in Gyeongju.

Kukje Market – Steeped in decades of history, Kukje Market was established during the Korean War in 1950, intended to be a place for refugees to set up shop to make a living. It soon grew into a thriving, popular market. You can find vendors selling both new and old affordable items here.

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. Walking on the bridge, you can watch the waves hit the cliffs underneath you.

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. It is noted for its beautiful, natural landscape.

Nurimaru APEC House – The round, glassy Nurimaru APEC House was the site of the 2005 APEC Leaders' Meeting. The house is now a museum dedicated to the 2005 meeting. There are also gorgeous views of Gwangan Bridge and the Busan coastline from here.

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 remain in the city.

Day 8: Gyeongju

Enjoy a full day tour of Gyeongju, starting at the Gyeongju National Museum which preserves much of the Silla heritage. Visit Tumuli Park, where you will enter the excavated tomb, and stroll along Anapji Pond. Later, explore the Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, both designated as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.



Destination Information

Gyeongju National Museum – preserves much of the Silla heritage, including magnificent gold crowns, pottery, Buddhist artifacts, stone sculptures and the Bell of King Seongdeok (commonly known as the Emile Bell), one of Asia's largest and most resonant bell's - 25 tons of bronze standing 11 feet high.

Tumuli Park – Right 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.

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.

Day 9: Gyeongju – Mt Seorak

Journey around 4 hours by coach to Sokcho and visit Naksansa Temple that boasts a 1,300-year history. See the 15-metre high Buddha statue standing on a hill, gazing out over the East Sea.



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

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 that connects the park entrance with Gwongeumseong Fortress and enjoy around 1 hour of easy hiking on flat terrain along the valley. Also visit Sinheungsa Temple.



Destination Information

Seorak National Park – Seoraksan, meaning Snowy Peaks Mountain, is the third-highest mountain in South Korea. Seorak National Park is 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.

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 the 7th century but was destroyed and reconstructed several times since.

Day 11: Mt Seorak - Seoul

Transfer around 1 hour to Gangneung to board the high-speed train back to Seoul. The journey is around 2 hours. After arriving in Seoul, enjoy lunch and then check in to your hotel for some time at leisure. In the afternoon, watch the 'Nanta' show, a non-verbal performance.

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 Fringe Festival, where it received an award for best performance. Since then it has been staged in multiple countries around the world.

Day 12: Seoul

Today, take an interesting morning tour to the DMZ, a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula that serves as a buffer zone between North and South Korea. Visit the Bridge of Freedom, the DMZ Theatre & Exhibition Hall, The 3rd Infiltration Tunnel, Dora Observatory and Dorasan Station. After returning to Seoul, stroll through Gwangjang Market before enjoying a farewell dinner at a local restaurant this evening.



Please note that while visiting the DMZ, photos can only be taken in the designated area and direction. You must bring your passport to enter the DMZ (a photocopy is not sufficient) and you must dress conservatively for this excursion. The visit to the DMZ does not include a visit to the Joint Security Area and the blue hut on the border itself.

Destination Information

DMZ – The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) 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.

The Bridge of Freedom – The Bridge of Freedom is the bridge South Koreans used when crossing the border when they came back from North Korea after the signing of the Armistice Agreement. It can be seen from the Imjingak Park.

DMZ Theatre & Exhibition Hall – At the DMZ theatre & Exhibition Hall you can watch a video explaining about the 3rd tunnel, other tunnels and the history of the division of Korea.

The 3rd Infiltration Tunnel – The Third infiltration Tunnel is a 1,600m long North Korean-dug tunnel which was planned as a pathway for invasion to the South if war had re-erupted and the tunnel had not been discovered until 1978.

Dora Observatory – Dora 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.

Dorasan Station - Dorasan Station is a railway station on the Gyeongui Line, which used to connect North Korea and South Korea. The Station is located 650 meters from the southern boundary of the Korean Demilitarized Zone and is currently the northern terminus of Korail's Gyeongui Line. North, the former Gyeongui Line continues as the Korean State Railway's P'yŏngbu Line, but this connection is not in regular service. The current purpose of the station is largely symbolic of the hope for eventual Korean reunification.

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, bedding, handmade crafts and hanbok (traditional costume). It is also one of the best places to go for authentic Korean street food in Seoul.

Day 13 - 14: Depart Seoul

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.



Please inform our Reservations Team of any allergies and/or special dietary requirements at time of booking.

Scenic South Korea Travel Information

Visas

Passports must be valid for six months beyond the length of stay. A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into South Korea for stays up to 90 days.

Insurance

We strongly encourage all customers be adequately covered by insurance for the duration of their travel arrangements. We advise to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with the 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 originals.

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 Australia.

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.

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 Australia 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. 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.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when use transportation such as trains and coaches.

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.

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.

Air: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Pre-flight seat allocation is unavailable on international and internal flight sectors

Development in South Korea

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

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 fairly 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.

Public Holidays in South Korea

If you are travelling with the below South Korean Public Holidays; please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some business will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. Seollal (Lunar New Year) is 11th – 13th February 2021, Buddha's Birthday is 19th May 2021, Children's Day is 5th May and Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving) is 20th September – 22nd September 2021.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrates 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.

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.

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.

Packing list and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com

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.

Exchanging Cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Seoul. US Dollars and Australian Dollars can be exchanged at Incheon Airport and in some hotels, provided the Australian currency is new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

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 \$250AUD 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 of the 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.

Vaccinations & Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian 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 an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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