



Asia Pacific Travel, Ltd.

[www.northkorea1on1.com](http://www.northkorea1on1.com)

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**For Immediate Release – June 5, 2006**

**Historic Tour to NORTH and SOUTH Korea**  
**First ALL KOREA tour in 65 years!**  
***September 2-14, 2006 Only!***

**New York and Chicago...June 5, 2006 ...** The New York-based **Korea Society\*** in cooperation with Chicago-based tour operator **Asia Pacific Travel, Ltd\*\***. is offering what they believe to be the first tour to KOREA – both South and North of the Demilitarized Zone – in more than 65 Years! This one time only 13-day itinerary will depart on September 2 and run through September 14, 2006. According to Fred Carriere, Vice President of the Society, “This is an historic tour that represents a significant step in the inevitable journey toward a peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.”

The full itinerary for the trip appears below and on the [website](#). Highlights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) or “North Korea” include: the Korean Central History Museum, the Korean Art Gallery, Kim Il Sung Square, the Grand People’s Study House, the Grand Monument (statue of Kim Il Sung), the Arch of Triumph (erected on Kim Il Sung’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday), the port city of Nampo, the West Sea Barrage (at the mouth of the Taedong River), the International Friendship Exhibition in Myohyang (housing tens of thousands of gifts to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jung Il), the restored Pohyon Buddhist Temple (1042 AD), Mangyongdae (birthplace of Kim Il Sung), the USS Pueblo, the Pyongyang Metro, the Juche Tower, the Koryo Museum, Panmunjom (along the DMZ, site of the armistice signing in 1953), the Mangyongdae Children’s Palace, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, the Rakwon Department Store, and the amazing 100,000 performer “Arirang Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance”. Highlights in The Republic of Korea or “South Korea” include: the Changdeokgung Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage Site),

Changgyeonggung Palace and the adjoining Jongmyo Royal Ancestral Shrine (also a World Heritage Site), Chongdong Theater for a performance of traditional Korean arts, and a farewell dinner at Yongsusan Restaurant (serving Korean Royal cuisine).

Adds, Asia Pacific Travel President, Walter Keats, “In our efforts to make this tour as special as possible, very strong efforts are being made to allow this tour to depart North Korea for South Korea via land.” As of April 2006 this was not permitted.

For this special tour, The Korea Society welcomes the participation, not only of its members, but interested members of the public who wish to share in this momentous event. The tour will be escorted by **Dr. Sun Joo Kim**, Associate Professor of Korean History, Harvard University. See her [biography](#).

The 13-day tour is available with Deluxe accommodations -- including the Peninsula Palace Hotel in Beijing and the Shilla Hotel in Seoul (priced at \$5,399 per person) or First-Class accommodations – including the Novotel Peace Hotel in Beijing and the Sofitel Ambassador in Seoul (priced at \$4,649 per person). Prices are based on a 20 person minimum group number and exclude international air, but do include round-trip Beijing to Pyongyang and one-way Beijing to Seoul airfares, first class tickets to the Arirang performance (normally \$150 per seat), group travel insurance, and all site and attraction admissions in North and South Korea. Also included are nine of each -- breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and an arrival reception.

The Korea Society chose to work with Asia Pacific Travel Ltd, because of its nearly 30 years of experience working in Asia and designing custom trips to the continent, and because Asia Pacific Travel Ltd, has also been authorized by North Korea to bring foreign tourists to North Korea.

For more information on The Korea Society’s landmark tour to the “two Koreas” visit Asia Pacific Travel’s itineraries [page](#). This page also features APTL’s other itineraries to North Korea connecting through China. There are currently six open departures to North Korea alone running from August 10 through October 10, 2006. (These tours start at \$4,199 per person.) Photographs are available online on each different website page, country, city and attraction by clicking on the “Photo Gallery” button on the left panel of each page.

**\*About The Korea Society**

The Korea Society is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) organization with individual and corporate members that is dedicated solely to the promotion of greater awareness, understanding and cooperation between the people of the United States and Korea.

**\*\*About Asia Pacific Travel, Ltd.**

**Asia Pacific Travel, Ltd.** is an upscale, wholesale tour operator specializing in deluxe and first-class travel to the Asia-Pacific area. The company was co-founded by **Walter L. Keats** as the Mid-America China Exchange, Inc. in 1978. All tours and travel arrangements have been sold under the Asia Pacific Travel, Ltd. name since 1988 with Mr. Keats as its president.

**Mr. Keats** is a 1967 graduate of Harvard College. He earned his Certified Travel Counselor (CTC) designation in 1988 and his Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation in 1990. He is or has been a member of the Skål Club of Chicago, the Association of Official Tourist Offices, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the China Roundtable of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. He has served in various capacities, including Chairman, for the East Asia Travel Association Central Regional Chapter, and has been or is a director or officer of the Midwest Chapter of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, the Harvard Club of Chicago, the International Visitors Center of Chicago and the Mozart Society of Chicago.

**Ms. Winnie Wan-Er Lu** is Vice President of Asia Pacific Travel. She is a native of Shanghai, PRC and attended Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois.

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## ***The Korea Society - 13-Day Itinerary*** **Historic Tour of Korea, including both North and South**

### **Sat Sep 2 USA / Air.**

Depart hometown for Beijing via air. (Participants may use whatever air carrier and class of service, including award miles, that they prefer. In addition, APTL has arranged with United Airlines to provide 15% off any published coach or business class fares on United flights; see details in the complete tour packet.) *Cross the International Date Line.*

### **02 Sun Sep 3 Air / Beijing (Night 1 of 2). R**

Arrive in **Beijing**. Be met outside Chinese Immigration and Customs area by an English-speaking guide. Transfer via private car (at your own expense; if arriving independently of the group) or coach to one of the group hotels (the **Peninsula Palace Hotel** or the **Novotel Peace Hotel**, conveniently located across the street from each other.) Evening welcome reception.

### **03 Mon Sep 4 Beijing (Night 2 of 2). B**

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a **required** briefing on North Korea. (Passports will be collected before breakfast and a staff member will obtain the physical North Korean visas at the DPRK Embassy during the day.) Optional afternoon tour to less visited areas of the Forbidden City, or balance of day free for rest, individual sightseeing and/or shopping. Evening free.

### **04 Tue Sep 5 Beijing / Pyongyang (Night 1 of 3). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport via private coach. Depart Beijing for Pyongyang via

**Air Koryo flight #152** at 11:30 a.m. Lunch on the plane.

Arrive in **Pyongyang** at 2:25 p.m. Go through North Korean Immigration and Customs. Be met by our local, English-speaking guides. Transfer by private coach to the **Pyongyang Koryo or Yanggakdo Hotel**. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

### **05 Wed Sep 6 Pyongyang (Night 2 of 3). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. Day of sightseeing via private coach with English-speaking guides to include the **Korean Central History Museum** for an orientation on Korean History, the **Korean Art Gallery**, the **Kim Il Sung Square**, the **Grand People's Study House**, the **Grand Monument**, a 65 foot bronze statue of Kim Il Sung, and the **Arch of Triumph**, erected in 1982 on the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Kim Il Sung to commemorate his struggles from 1925-1945 for National Liberation. *Please note that due to the number of visitors in North Korea at this time the exact date and time scheduling of activities may vary.*

### **06 Thu Sep 7 Pyongyang / Nampo / Pyongyang (Night 3 of 3). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning travel by private coach with English-speaking guides stopping first at the **Kumsusan Memorial Palace**, the final resting place of Kim Il Sung (only open on Thursdays and Sundays), and then continuing on approximately 27 mi./43 km. to the port city of **Nampo**. Visit the **West Sea Barrage**, spanning 5 mi./8 kms. at the mouth of the

Taedong River. The mammoth project has provided irrigation water, drinking water, flood control and better navigation on the Taedong all the way to Pyongyang. Lunch in Nampo. Return to Pyongyang in the late afternoon. Evening viewing of the **Arirang Mass Games Performance** with approximately 100,000 performers, a highlight of our visit.

### **07 Fri Sep 8 Pyongyang / Myohyang (Night 1 of 1). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning travel by private coach with English-speaking guides approximately 96-mi./155 km. to the scenic **Myohyang** mountains, site of the **International Friendship Exhibition** housing tens of thousands of gifts given to Kim Il Sung or Kim Jung Il. The gifts are displayed in 100 rooms arranged geographically and chronologically. In the afternoon visit the restored **Pohyon Buddhist Temple** dating from 1042 AD and take a short walk in the beautiful mountains with a series of waterfalls. Overnight at the **Hyangsan Hotel** located alongside the placid Myohyang River in a peaceful mountain setting.

### **08 Sat Sep 9 Myohyang / Pyongyang (Night 1 of 3). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning return to Pyongyang. Sightseeing in Pyongyang to include **Mangyongdae**, the birthplace of the late Kim Il Sung, the **USS Pueblo**, the **Pyongyang Metro**, the **Juche Tower**, and time permitting the Pyongyang Film Studios.

### **09 Sun Sep 10 Pyongyang / Kaesong / Pyongyang (Night 2 of 3). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning drive approximately 84 mi./135 km. to the historic capital city of **Kaesong** on the northern side of the DMZ. Visit the **Koryo Museum**. Lunch at the **Kaesong Folkloric Hotel** where you can experience a traditional Korean *ondal*, a heated floor. In the afternoon visit **Panmunjum** in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the site of the armistice signing in 1953. Drive back to Pyongyang with a stop at the impressive **Mangyongdae Children's Palace**, time permitting.

### **10 Mon Sep 11 Pyongyang (Night 3 of 3). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. Day of sightseeing via private coach with English-speaking guides to include the **Pyongyang Maternity Hospital**, the **Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum**, and the **Rakwon Department Store**. Farewell dinner and **acrobatic show**.

### **11 Tue Sep 12 Pyongyang / Beijing / Seoul (Night 1 of 2). B,L,D**

Early morning transfer via private coach to the airport. Depart Pyongyang for Beijing via **Air Koryo flight #151** at 8:10 a.m. Breakfast on the plane. Arrive in **Beijing** at 9:00 a.m. Transfer to **Asiana flight #332** departing Beijing for Seoul at 12:20 p.m. Lunch on plane.

Arrive in **Seoul (Incheon)** at 3:00 p.m. Be met outside customs and immigration by an English speaking guide and a private coach. Transfer (approx. 50-70 mins.) to one of the group hotels (the **Shilla Hotel** or the **Sofitel Ambassador Hotel**, conveniently located near each other.) Celebratory activities and dinner at the hotel.

### **12 Wed Sep 13 Seoul (Night 2 of 2). B,L,D**

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day of sightseeing via private coach with English-speaking guide to include the **Changdeokgung Palace** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) with its beautiful "Secret

Garden” (also called Biwon or Huwon), the nearby **Changgyeonggung Palace**, and the adjoining **Jongmyo Royal Ancestral Shrine** (also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.) Lunch at **Top Cloud** restaurant. Transfer by private coach to the **Chongdong Theater** for a performance of traditional Korean arts. Farewell dinner at the **Yongsusan Restaurant** serving Korean Royal cuisine (*These arrangements may be modified based on the participants in the tour and official arrangements made by South Korean entities after this itinerary was prepared.*)

### **13 Thu Sep 14 Seoul / Air / USA. B**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport via private car (at your own expense; if departing independently of the group) or coach as appropriate. Depart Seoul (Incheon) for hometown via air. *Cross the International Date Line.* Arrive in **hometown**. Go through U.S. Customs and Immigration.