

Each private luxury tour is custom to the wishes of each client. This itinerary is a sample. Our Sister Company, TRAVNET, may provide assistance with mileage points conversion. Do not hesitate to call Randy to create your custom tour.

Overview

We feel Korean novelist Shin Kyung-sook’s description of continuously changing Seoul is right on the mark: “In Paris or New York, when you have an appointment with a friend, you can meet her in the same place that you did a year ago. In Seoul, you can’t, because there will be something new there”. Considering the Korean War ended less than 70 years ago, it is unimaginable that Seoul has emerged as one of the great high-tech forward-looking global urban centers of the 21st century.

In terms of advanced technology/electronics, K-pop, design and unique native food options, Seoul now rivals our beloved Tokyo in its rapid cultural ascendancy. During our last visit here, we were most impressed with the city’s expanding green spaces, particularly the lush greenery alongside the central Cheong-gye stream and Han River. Did we mention that Seoul is now the global center of plastic surgery!

SOUTH KOREA

Temperature Range

Highs: Low 80’s

Lows: Low 30’s

Area

99,313 sq. km

38,345 sq. miles

Population

48.6 million

Language

Korean

Capital

Seoul

Currency

South Korean Won

Day 1

Fly U.S./Seoul

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assisted with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Day 2

Arrive Seoul

Upon arrival in Seoul, you will be welcomed to Seoul by our local representative and be subsequently driven to the Rakkojae Hanok.

Rakkojae Hanok

Being big fans of Japan’s luxury ryokans in Kyoto, we are excited to recommend Korea’s version, the “hanok”. Both hanoks and ryokans are traditional inns conceived to provide the visitor with a complete cultural immersion experience. Hanoks and ryokans share similar characteristics: welcoming guests with a hot cup of green tea, a choice of western or Korean/Japanese breakfasts, futon-style bedding and a sincere sense of hospitality. Resembling an aristocratic home in the Chosun Dynasty (1392-1897), Rakkojae Hanok offers a quiet, tranquil Korean cultural experience, in the midst of the noise and traffic of bustling Seoul.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodations: Rakkojae Hanok

Day 3

Seoul Private Touring

Following breakfast, you will be met by your private guide for a full day tour of Seoul. Based on your interests, you may visit Insadong Atique Alley, Gyeongbok Palace, and Gangnam District (yes, the same as the video!).

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Rakkojae Hanok

Day 4

Bullet Train Seoul/Gyeongju

Following breakfast at the Rakkojae, you board the KTX F-Class Bullet Train to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gyeongju. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to a private tea class to experience another facet of Korean culture. Thereafter, you will explore the Gyeongju, with compelling stops such as the famous Seokguram Grotto and Golgusa Temple. Late in the afternoon, you will be privately transferred to Busan, an approximately 90 minute drive.

Park Hyatt Busan

The 269-room Park Hyatt Busan is a legitimate 5-Star hotel located in the Haeundae marine city overlooking the ocean and Gwangan Bridge. The rooms are quite large with aesthetically pleasing granite bathrooms (with tv's), and all modern amenities. The very spacious spa, fitness, center and beautiful indoor pool project, a more futuristic design vs the other Busan hotel alternatives. A+ breakfast buffet!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Busan

Day 5

Busan Free Day + Discretionary Spa Day

Following breakfast at the Park Hyatt, you have a free day to rest and explore Busan. There are plenty of unique Korean spa experiences that we will happy to suggest! In the evening, we recommend Sikdang Izo Restaurant, having various Korean delicacies.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Busan

Day 6

Busan Free Day

Free day to enjoy the amenities of the Park Hyatt or further explore Busan!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Busan

Day 7

Bullet Train Busan/Seoul

Following Breakfast at the Park Hyatt, you will be met in the lobby by your private guide and driver for the short drive to Haedong Yonggungsa Temple. Being one of the few Korean Buddhist Temples set on the seaside, we feel a stop here is well worth your time After lunch at seafood restaurant, you will transferred back to Seoul via the KTX Bullet train and arrive at the Banyan Tree Club & Spa for your stay.

Banyan Tree Club

This 70-room 5-Star hotel is ideally located near Mount Namsan, just 10 minutes from the downtown area. In addition to an incredible 12 dining establishments, The Banyan Tree features two pools, tennis and basketball courts, a golf range, and a fully equipped fitness center. Staying here in January, you may experience the skating rink that is converted from the outside pool during the winter. The Premier Suites are recommended; only two per floor with a 1033-1120 sq. ft. luxury space with nice views (including your own “relaxation” pool) overlooking the forests of Mansan. A major plus for staying here is The Banyan Tree Spa. Having stayed at several Banyan Tree properties throughout Asia, my family and I can attest to the Banyan’s unique, comprehensive spa services. All the therapists here (a number from Thailand) are trained at Banyan Tree Spa academy in Phuket, Thailand.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Busan

Day 8

Seoul Private Tour

Following breakfast at the Banyan Tree, we are arranging for you to be taken to a local restaurant for a private Kimichi-making class. Rest assured you will be in garlic heaven! Following your kimchi-making experience, you will be driven to a choice of noteworthy Korean teahouses. An afternoon stopover will include the Korean Furniture Museum, showcasing the history, architecture, and culture of Korean life.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Busan

Day 9

Seoul Free Day

Enjoy your free day to rest and further explore Seoul on your own.

Gwangjang Night Market Option

Though during the day the area serves as a place to buy second-hand clothes, Gwangjang is transformed into Seoul’s largest food alley by night. With over 200 stalls, this is a fun experience to sample much of Korea’s unique food; crispy, thick nokdu bindaetteok, nice bowls of bibimbap, or boribap. Enjoy!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Busan

Day 10

Fly Seoul/Home

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: --