



Australian Institute of International Affairs Exclusive Private Study Tour to Korea

13 DAYS SEOUL-GYEONGJU-BUSAN-SEOUL | 13-26 September 2014

Itinerary

Day 1 - Saturday 13 September 2014 Sydney-Seoul

(X/X/D)

Board our international flight for Seoul. Upon arrival at Incheon International Airport we will be met and greeted by the local guide and transfer to our hotel by private bus (60km, 70min).

We stay 9 nights at: Kukdo Hotel (4- star) offering standard twin bed rooms with private facilities.

<http://www.kukdohotel.com/>

Day 2 - Sunday 14 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/D)

WALKING TOUR SEOUL:

After breakfast, we will walk via City Hall towards the Cheonggyecheon, an age-old canal in downtown Seoul that was filled with concrete in the 1960's but reopened in 2005 in its original state. We then continue to Tapgol Park, the historical place where a huge popular uprising against the Japanese occupation began (1919). It was crushed by the Japanese and the Korean people had to wait until 1945 before Korea regained their independence.

Insadong is the artisan street where traditional teahouses and souvenir shops abound in a cosy, traditional atmosphere. The Jogyesa Temple is one of the most beautiful temple complexes in the heart of Seoul. At Gwanghwamun we view the impressive statues of Admiral Yi and King Sejong. Both men played a vital role in Korean history. Our final stop is the Gyeongbokgung Palace, which was built by the Joseon Dynasty in 1394. For centuries, this immense complex was the centre of power, until the Japanese occupied the country at the start of the last century. At the Palace we may see the changing of guards. From the back gate we view the "Cheongwadae", the presidential palace and the Cheongwadae Museum.



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Day 3 - Monday 15 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/X)

Meetings to be arranged by AIIA.*

Day 4 - Tuesday 16 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/X)

Meetings to be arranged by AIIA*

Day 5 - Wednesday 17 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/D)

09:00-17:00 KOREAN FOLK VILLAGE & HWASEONG FORTRESS (SUWON)

This morning we drive to Suwon to visit the Korean Folk Village. Here we witness displays of the customs and lifestyles of the Korean people throughout the centuries.

In the afternoon we will visit the Hwaseong Fortress and Castle. This impressive structure from the Joseon Dynasty was the official defence wall to protect Suwon City, south of Seoul. The fortress wall stretches for a total of 5.52 km and has a great variety of ancient military facilities. It was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1997.

Day 6 - Thursday 18 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/X)

Meetings to be arranged by AIIA*

Day 7 - Friday 19 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/X)

Meetings to be arranged by AIIA *

Day 8 - Saturday 20 September 2014 Seoul

(B/L/X)

08:00-14:30 Excursion to the North-Korea border DMZ, the world's most heavily guarded border. It was established in 1953 after the Korean War. We will see the Freedom Bridge, the 3rd infiltration tunnel illegally dug by the North Koreans. At the Dora Observatory, we view the North Korean village of Gijeong-dong with a 160 meter tall flagpole. Today's lunch we feature the authentic Korean dish bulgogi, which is listed 23rd on the World's 50 Most Delicious Foods readers' poll compiled by CNN Go in 2011.

Day 9 - Sunday 21 September 2014 Seoul

(B/X/D)

After breakfast, we will travel to the War Memorial that depicts the sad history of the Korean War (1950-1953) and the enormous impact it had on global affairs. Outside the exhibition area, there is a large display of arms, tanks and airplanes used during the Korean War.

We will also visit the Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art.

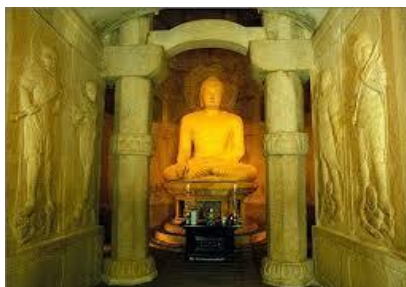
Day 10 - Monday 22 September 2014 Seoul - Busan by bus

(B/X/D)

Today we travel from Seoul to Busan by bus. We visit the Jakalchi Fishmarket, Kukjae Market and Busan Tower. The Jakalchi Fishmarket is one of the largest markets of its kind, selling a dazzling variety of fish. Here we taste the world-famous Korean sashimi. Adjacent to the fish market is the Kukjae Market, where we can shop for souvenirs, glasses and clothing.

We stay 1 night at: Nonshim Hotel (4-star) offering twin share rooms with private facilities.

<http://www.hotelnongshim.com/>



Day 11 - Tuesday 23 September 2014 Busan - Gyeongju**(B/X/D)**

Today we transfer from Busan to the Hyundai automobile factory in Ulsan (65 km / 1.5 hours) and then we transfer from Ulsan - Gyeongju via Bulgugsa (70 km / 2 hours).

After lunch, we travel to the famous Seokguram Grotto, which was discovered by a postman sheltering from the rain. Inside the man-made cave he found an astonishingly beautiful statue of Buddha, constructed during the Shilla Dynasty. The statue is on the World Heritage List of UNESCO. We will visit the Bulgugsa Temple, the royal temple constructed during the same period. In the ceramic village, we visit a workshop which makes the world famous ceramics using the same methods as during the Shilla Dynasty.

We stay 2 nights at: Gyeongju KOLON Hotel (4-star) offering twin share rooms with private facilities.

www.kolonhotel.co.kr

Day 12 - Wednesday 24 September 2014 Gyeongju - Pohang**(B/X/D)**

Today we visit the Pohang Steel Factory (40 km, 1h). POSCO (formerly Pohang Iron and Steel Company) is a multinational steel-making company headquartered in Pohang, South Korea. It had an output of 39.1 million tonnes of crude steel in 2011, making it the world's fourth-largest steelmaker. In 2010, it was the world's largest steel manufacturing company by market value.

In Gyeongju we will visit the Tumuli Park, with its royal tombs dating back to the Shilla Dynasty. The numerous artefacts unearthed in these tombs display a remarkable technological and cultural sophistication for that period (600-900 CE). The Cheomseongdae is the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia; the 362 stones used to build the Cheomseongdae represent the 362 days in the lunar calendar. We then travel to the Anapji Pond, an artificial pond constructed for the royal family for leisure and study.

Day 13 - Thursday 25 September 2014 Gyeongju - Incheon Airport - Sydney**(B/X/X)**

11:00 Departure from Gyeongju - Incheon Airport (400 km, 5 hours) several stops on the way

19:00 Departure flight to Sydney

Day 14 - Friday 26 September 2014 Arrive Sydney

Arrive in Sydney at 7:00 am.

Itineraries may change if flight schedules, site availability and other inclusions have to be amended prior to departure.



Inclusions:

- 4* Hotel accommodation on a twin shared basis with private facilities in Korea.
- Private coach & transfers as in schedule.
- Public transport as in schedule.
- 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 7 dinners.
- Train rides as in schedule.
- All field trips and associated entry fees as per the itinerary.
- English-speaking guides.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.

Exclusions:

- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Return economy flights with Korean Air ex Sydney (\$970AUD+airport taxes /per person, approximate taxes \$500 AUD per person (please note taxes are subject to change without notice).
- Limited seats available for business class, price on request.

Costs

Price from	\$3,335 AUD per person (16-19pax) for AIIA members
	\$3,585 AUS per person (16-19 pax) for non-members
Single Supplement	\$1,040 AUD per person

** Days 3, 4, 6 & 7 Meetings to be arranged by the AIIA: The essence of any AIIA NSW study tour is the unprecedented opportunity to have high-level private meetings with people who either are involved in running South Korea, or who are in close contact with them. We are arranging a program of meetings to include Korean government officials, historians and political scientists, as well as experts on the relationships with North Korea, Japan and China. We will spend time with Australian embassy officials, including those who have been involved in finalising the details of the new free trade agreement between Australia and South Korea. We will visit think tanks, defence experts, economists and the local representative of the World Bank. Most of these meetings will be held under Chatham House rules, giving us a privileged insight into Australia's fourth most important trading partner.*

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