

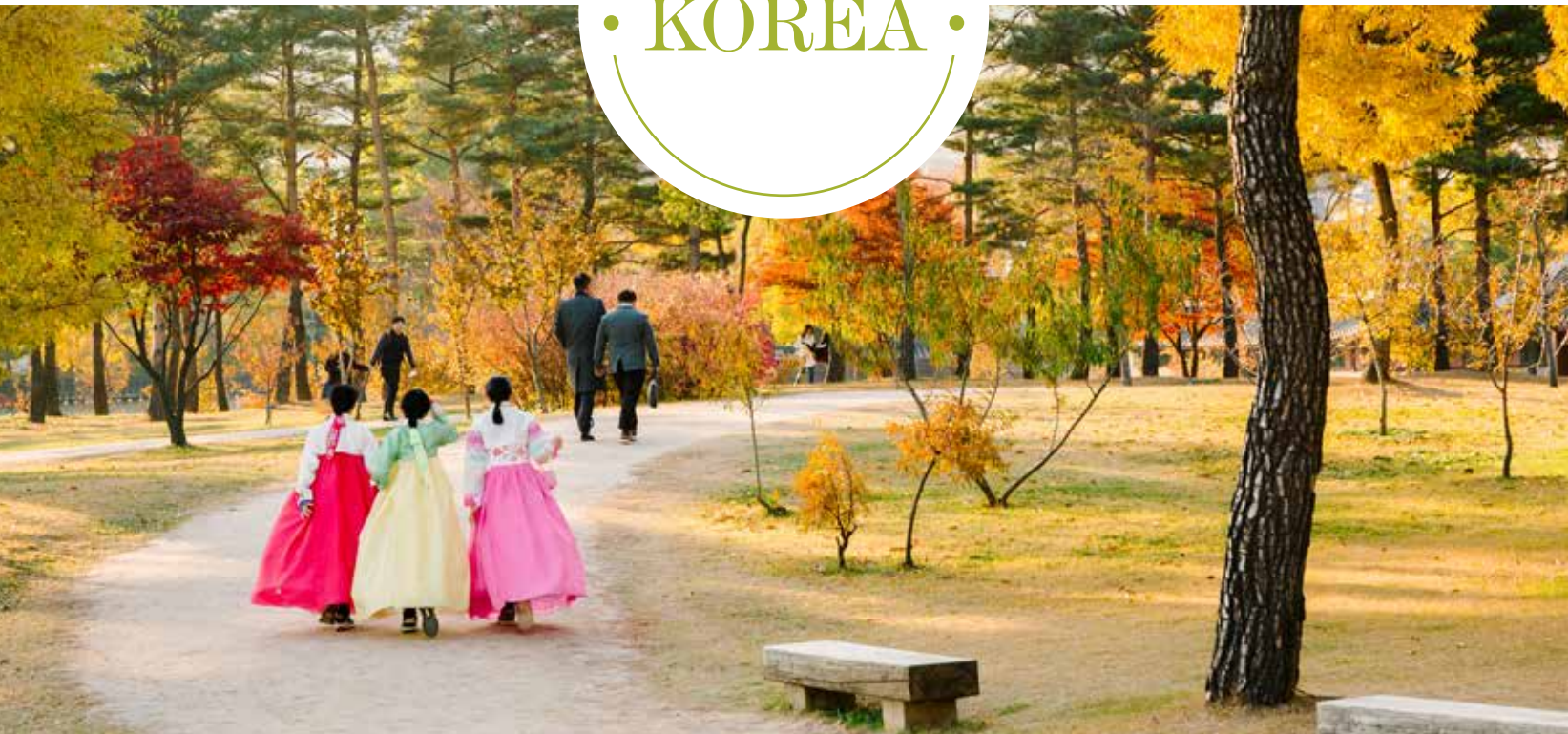
# ASIAN DREAMS



SPECIAL EDITION

**MARCH****2018****PHOENIX**  
VOYAGES

## • KOREA •



Like the famous Asian principle of Yin and Yang, Korea is a single cultural entity now divided into two. If South Korea is already well known to tourists, North Korea is a new destination that few travelers have the opportunity to visit. Phoenix Voyages is especially proud to introduce you to this amazing country.



They are only a few hundred Western tourists to visit North Korea each year - the other Korea. But all agree to say that this journey is an experience to share, to discover the kind of "off the beaten path" that you can do only once in a lifetime. In addition to its stunning capital, its 5,000 years of cultural heritage, the

wonders of its natural landscapes and its rich flora and fauna, North Korea also offers a unique opportunity to experience the reality of the "bamboo curtain" at the site of the Demilitarized zone of Panmunjom - result of the conflict that now divides the country since the early 50s'.

Sharing an important cultural dynasty with its southern neighbor, North Korea does not only offer visitors the specific culture that it had developed over the past half-century, but also the many temples scattered throughout its territory and whose visit is essential to understand the Korean reality - unity through the harmonizing principle of Yin and Yang. Whether you are interested in its socialist urban developments, natural wonders, or art shows, Phoenix Voyages offers the North Korean experience.

## PRACTICAL TOOLS TO KOREA



### NORTH KOREA



#### VISA



Obtaining a visa for North Korea is relatively easy. Once the procedure is completed, the entry into North Korea could either be through Beijing (by plane) or via Dandong Beijing (by train).

#### MONEY



It is recommended to bring coins or small bills in Euro or Chinese Yuan (U.S. dollar is also accepted, but more difficult). No payment can be made by traveler's check or credit card.

#### SHOPPING



Souvenirs shopping are possible only in state stores or small stalls at the places visited. Postcards, stamps, propaganda posters, colorful dolls, books and brass are the main souvenirs for sale.

#### ELECTRONIC DEVICES



Mobile phones are no longer recorded on arrival as in the past, but there is still no possibility to access foreign telephone networks. However, it is possible to buy a SIM card in Pyongyang, if necessary. This card can be used to make and receive calls from abroad only. Cameras and camcorders are allowed without restriction.



### SOUTH KOREA



#### VISA



In principle, anyone wishing to visit South Korea must have a valid passport and visa issued by the Korean authorities. However, nationals of European countries can travel to South Korea without a visa for a maximum period of 90 days.

#### TRANSPORTS



South Korea has 7 international airports: Seoul (Gimpo Airport and Incheon Int. Airport), Busan (Gimhae Airport), Cheongju, Daegu, Jeju, Muan. Travel from North Korea (and hence anywhere else in Asia) to South Korea by train remains impossible in practice.

#### MONEY



The currency of South Korea is the won (₩). As of January 2017, the exchange rate is approximately 1 USD = 1 080 won and 1 EURO = 1 328 won.

ATM are ubiquitous, but most Korean ATMs don't accept foreign cards, only Citibank ATMs and special Global ATMs do. These can be found at airports in some areas frequented by foreigners in major cities, including Hongdae, some subway stations, and in many CU convenience stores.

#### FOODS



Korean food is largely based on rice, noodles, tofu, vegetables, fish and meats. At every meal, your food will always be accompanied by a soup and a bunch of small dishes (named banchan). Moreover there is no food that is not accompanied by kimchi (based on Korean cabbage) or marinated vegetable such as cabbage, turnip, radish or cucumber. The Korean food is on the rise, owing in part to the increased recognition of the health benefits of Korea dishes.

## NATURE AND LANDSCAPES ...



Between the sea and the mountains, the two Koreas offer a variety of landscapes and allow a choice of activities during a journey.

### MOUNTAINS

#### *Mounts Seoraksan & Oadesan*



In the south Mount Seoraksan shares with Mount Odaesan the title of the most beautiful mountain in the province of Gangwon. It is here where the 2018 Winter Games were held. For over 30 years the site is classified as a biosphere reserve. It hosts several specimens of rare plants but also more than 2,000 local animal species. The legend around this mountain tells how two men, Gwon and Kim, who have left their villages to escape the war, took refuge at the top and built a fortress to protect themselves from possible attacks. Taking turns, they used river currents to transport stones and ended their work in one night.

#### *The Diamond Mountain*

In the north, the Kumgang Mountain range is better known as the "Diamond Mountains" due to the flickering lights on the sides of the mountains at sunrise. The Kumgang Mountain range is undoubtedly the most impressive scenery in the country and known for its waterfalls, mineral springs, lagoons, the many temples and retreat areas for the hermits. According to a legend, eight fairies came to bathe in the waterfalls. A young man fell in love with one of them. So much so that he hid the winged gown of his beloved fairy and thus, she lost the right to return to paradise: the peak of the mountain.



*Discover the natural beauty of North Korea during a 10-day tour to explore the capital Pyongyang and the historic city of Kaesong, as well as to enjoy the magnificent sceneries of Kumgang Mountains.*

## SEA

Bordered by the Yellow Sea to the west and the Sea of Japan to the east, the two Koreas are also unknown for its beach destinations.

### *Wonsan & the East Coast*



In North Korea, major projects have been planned for the development of the seaside resorts: to the south of the city of Wonsan, a stretch of white-sand beaches alternating with jagged cliffs, a reminiscent of Corsica, as well as the volcanic rock formations.

Although the infrastructure is modest, the beauty and tranquility of the surroundings will more than compensate the lack of comfort.

### *The Volcanic Island of Jeju*

Jeju beaches are among the most popular beaches in South Korea: the island is acclaimed by the South Koreans in search of nature and sea breeze during the



hot summer months which is from June to August. Travelers will be delighted, not only while swimming in the cool, crystal clear waters of the eastern sea but, Jeju

also offers an extraordinary natural heritage for its volcanic origins, which have given birth to an exuberant fauna and flora.

The local culture, different from the mainland, has given rise to various monuments and events that must not be missed: the folk villages of Seong-eup and Jeju or the festival of fire are just a sample.

### *Busan and the East Coast*

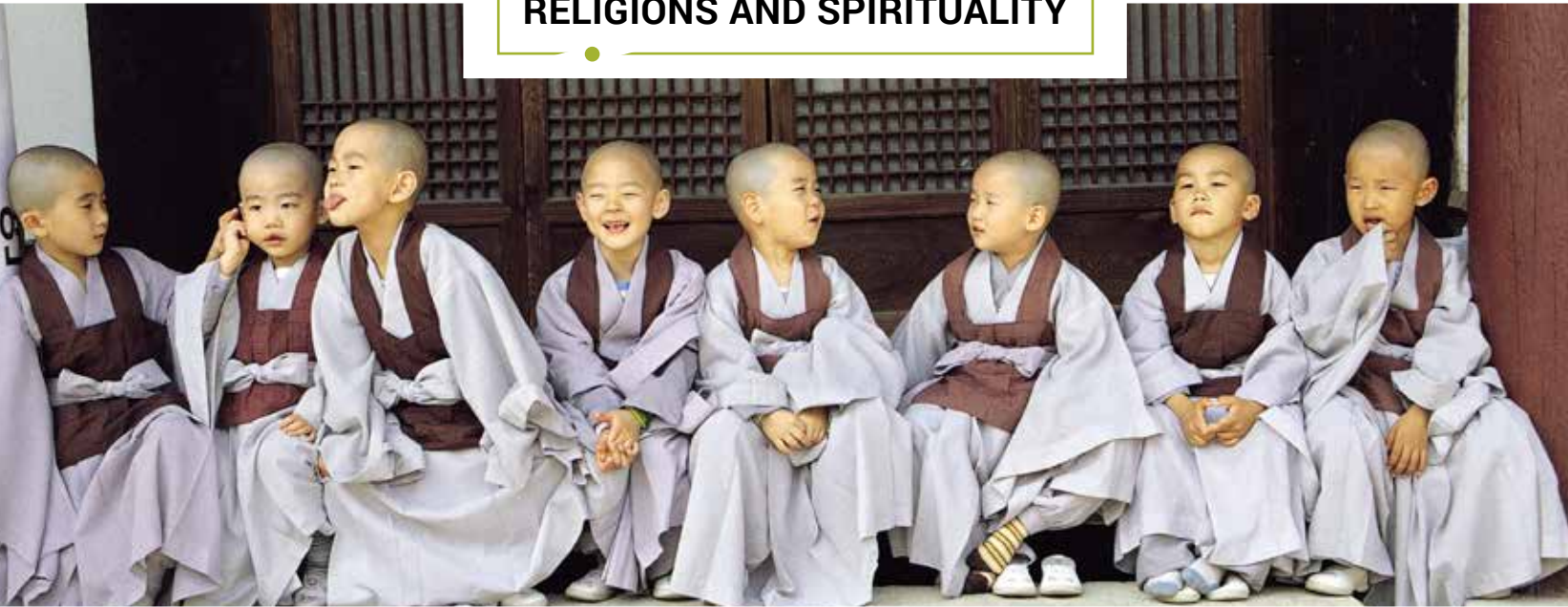


Busan is the country's second largest city in terms of population, but it is nonetheless pleasant. The kindness and multicultural of its people, its long stretch of beaches and extensive mountains are part of its charm.

Few cities with 3.5 million people can boast a coastline as beautiful as Busan! The climate is serene - mild in the winter and airy in the summer – travelers can venture on the beaches of Haeundae or Gwangalli in all the seasons: cooling off in the summer or watching the sea ballet of boats in the winter, when swimming is not possible.

Travelers can also enjoy the numerous food stalls selling fresh or cooked seafood, which can be found everywhere in town.

## RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITY



Despite the separation of the two countries, Buddhism brings together millions of devotees on one side or the other. Many holy places recall the spiritual wealth of the Korean People.

In the north, nestled in the heart of Mounts Myohyang, the Pohyon Temple, listed as a national treasure by the government, is one of the most important places for the Korean Buddhists. Built in the 11th century, there were once up to 360 buildings, many of which were destroyed during the wars. Today, 24 pavilions and pagodas remain, with richly decorated wooden frames.

It is also the place to discover the unique printed copy of



the original Korean Buddhist bible, the "Tripitaka Koreana", of the three historical copies, one disappeared and another was destroyed during the Japanese invasion. This masterpiece was printed in the late 15th century, with 81,258 wooden printing tablets, and were written since 1236 in order to invoke the protection of Buddha from the Mongol invasions. This masterpiece is the oldest written scripture in the world and preserved as such in the Haeinsa Temple, located in the Gaya National Park and was added in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The temple offers a magnificent view of the surrounding landscapes. Built in 802, the building was designated a national shrine during the Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392). Apart from this valuable cultural property, the temple is also famous for its Iljumun Gate. In ancient architecture, it symbolizes the first step towards wisdom.

Try to experience meditation, with an introduction to Buddhism and spend a night in the temple of Haeinsa, during a tour of three days and two nights including Seoul, Gyeongju and Haeinsa.

## THE ART OF THE SHOW

### Pyongyang Circus Troupe

The circus is one of the most popular cultural activities in North Korea: the first circus in Pyongyang, with 3,000 seats, was full every night and its program was renewed every week. Designed to ensure the international influence of North Korea and establish itself as an export value, it has been a major political issue since the end of the 1980s.

Recognized internationally, the Pyongyang Circus has repeatedly received the Golden Clown at the Monte Carlo Festival. In December 2007, the number of trapeze artists "Diverse Flight" received the Golden Lion at the 11th International Festival of Acrobatics in Wuqiao.



### Nanta !

A totally amazing show that has been staged in Seoul since October 1997. This performance showcases the adventures of 4 chefs in action at an endless wedding banquet. Without words but with a hectic rhythm, the show mixes the percussion of instruments and acrobatics with cooking utensils.

Since its introduction almost 15 years ago, Nanta has been praised by critics around the world for its originality and is voted every year as one of the 10 activities not to be missed during a visit to Seoul.



## K-Pop

Characterized by a wide variety of audio-visual elements, the term "K-Pop" refers to all kinds of South Korean "popular music", mainly a modern form of South Korean pop music including pop-dance, pop-ballad, electronics, rock, hip-hop and R&B genres.

But to say K-pop is just about South Korean pop is degrading: K-pop is both synthesized music accompanied by millimeter-sized choreography, carried-out by seductive singers at the forefront of fashion, and a very standardized cultural product.

The K-pop is an integral part of what is known as the Korean wave, or "hallyu". This name characterizes the spread of South Korean entertainment culture (television series, movies, music) beyond the borders of the country of the "Morning Calm".

In the mid-1990s, H.E. the former President Kim Young-Sam, who was South Korea's President at that time, reads in a report that Jurassic Park's export-related earnings were the equivalent of exporting nearly 1.5 million Hyundai cars. It did not take any less for the government to identify the cultural industry as the future growth engine of the country's economy! Many government research agencies were created, and projects were funded to find ways to energize the nation's cultural industry.





## SIC KOREA



In addition to the “à la carte” trips that we regularly organize for your individual customers, we plan group departures every year. These tours will delight travelers looking for encounters, exchanges and conviviality.

These group departures will be an opportunity for your customers to discover Korea with the expertise and quality of our services at an attractive price!



## NORTH KOREA



A unique experience!

North Korea is the perfect destination for those who want to combine travel and singularity. This trip will not only be an opportunity for travelers to witness the changes taking place there, but also to determine their own ideas about this mysterious country.

● CONTACT US TO OBTAIN THE DETAILED PROGRAMS ●