

ENCHANTING SOUTH KOREA

SEOUL > ANDONG > DAEGU > GYEONGJU > BUSAN



9 DAYS FROM NZD

\$3,399

per person twin-share



Asia's third-largest economy and the country which brought the world 'Gangnam Style', South Korea is a high-tech, trend-setting nation with a reverent, old soul. With tranquil national parks boasting picturesque landscapes, a rich cultural history, delicious local cuisine, a bounty of the latest technological advances, fashions and more, a visit to 'the Land of Morning Calm' should be on every traveller's list.

Image: Namsan Tower night view





HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll through **Changdeokgung Palace** grounds
- Gaze into North Korean territory at the **Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)**
- Immerse yourself in the bustling crowds of **Myeongdong**
- Explore the ancient capital of the **Silla Kingdom, Gyeongju**
- Experience the serenity of **Seokguram Grotto**

Day 1: Depart for Seoul

Fly to Seoul via a connecting city. Note: some flights may depart the next day.

Day 2: Arrive in Seoul

On arrival, you will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel.

Day 3: Seoul Andong Daegu (B, L)

Visit the traditional village, which features **traditional houses of the Joseon Dynasty period** (1392-1897). In Daegu, take a stroll in **Dongseongno Shopping District**, a major fashion retail district. The streets are packed with hundreds of stores full of personality that reflect the city's fast-paced fashion trends. Enjoy magnificent views by taking a **cable car to Palgongsan Natural Park**.

Day 4: Daegu Gyeongju (B, L)

Today we explore the many archaeological sites and temples, royal tombs, and monuments of Gyeongju, the capital of the ancient Silla Kingdom (57 BC - 935 AD). Visit **Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory, Royal Tumuli Park, Gyeongju National Museum, Bulguksa Temple, and Seokguram Grotto Temple**.

Day 5: Gyeongju Busan (B, L, D)

In Busan, we visit **Haedong Yonggungsa Temple**, situated on the coast of the north-eastern portion of Busan and overlooking the ocean. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to view the waves through the transparent floor of the 15 metre high **Oryukdo Skywalk**, which is set over a 35 meter-high coastal cliff. Travel to **Gamcheon Culture Village** situated on the foothills of a coastal mountain and nicknamed 'Machu Picchu of Busan'. You will be thrilled by the many alleys cutting through this village, vibrantly decorated with murals and sculptures created by the local residents. Stop at one of Korea's largest markets, **Nampo Dong Gukje Market** for a wide variety of goods at affordable prices. Then visit **Nurimaru APEC House**, a memorial hall and prestigious international conference hall located near Haeundae Beach, offering visitors spectacular views of the nearby natural landscape.

Day 6: Busan Seoul (B, L)

This morning, visit **Changdeokgung Palace**, one of the 'Five Grand Palaces' built by the Kings of the Joseon Dynasty, and Insadong, a street full of traditional Korean antique and art shops, restaurants and tea houses. Continue to **Cheonggyecheon Stream** and admire this urban oasis before visiting **Myeongdong**, one of Seoul's main commercial districts.

Day 7: Seoul DMZ Seoul (B, L, D)

Visit **North Korea's 3rd Infiltration Tunnel**, located within the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), a 44 km drive northwest of Seoul. In the event of an invasion from the North, an entire infantry division could have moved through the tunnel in an hour. View North Korean territory, including the **Propaganda Village, People's School, and Gaeseong City** - the old capital city of the Goryeo Kingdom - from the **Dora Observation Platform**. Also visit **Freedom Park**, dedicated to the 5 million people who left their families and homes in North Korea. **North Hall** contains displays of North Korean lifestyle, and the **Exhibition Hall** houses old tanks and planes from the Korean War. Later, try on a hanbok, the traditional attire of the Korean people at **Namsan Hanbok Culture Experience Centre** before experiencing the Seoul's best night view at **Namsan Tower**.

Day 8: Depart Seoul (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Incheon International Airport for your homebound flight via a connecting city.

Day 9: Arrive Home

Images: 1. Changdeokgung Palace, 2. Andong Village, 3. Myeongdong, 4. Seoul city view, 5. Astronomical Observatory, 6. Bullet train with Mt. Fuji view, 7. Osaka Castle, 8. Gamcheon Culture Village, 9. Dotonbori



6



7

HIGHLIGHTS OF JAPAN EXTENSION

fr \$2199; single supplement \$770; includes + Economy class flights + 7 nights 4 star hotel accommodation (twin-share) + 5 breakfasts (B) & 1 dinner (D) + Coach transportation & transfers + Entrance fees to scenic attractions + English speaking tour guide Excludes prepaid tipping: \$155

Day 8: Seoul ✈️ Osaka (B)

After breakfast, board a direct flight operated by a local carrier to Osaka. Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to an airport hotel. **Note: Baggage allowance for this sector is 1 piece max weight 15kg per person.**

Day 9: Osaka 🚗 Nara 🚗 Osaka (B)

This morning, travel to Nara and visit **Todaiji** (Great Eastern Temple), with its **Great Buddha Hall** - the world's largest wooden building. This impressive building houses the world's largest (15m) bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through Nara Park, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling to Osaka. Visit **Osaka Castle**, a graceful castle with elaborate defensive features before being dropped off at **Dōtonbori**, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture.

Day 10: Osaka (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You may visit one of the most spectacular Japanese aquariums, Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan, or **take a day trip to Hyogo to visit Himeji Castle, a unique, white, enormous Japanese castle** (at your own expense). Please check the attached optional program for information.

Day 11: Osaka 🚗 Kyoto 🚗 Nagoya (B)

This morning, travel to Kyoto by bullet train to visit **Heian Jingu Shinto Shrine**. Next, visit **Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion**, a Zen temple and World Heritage site with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold, and incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen. Travel to Nagoya to visit **Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology**. Here you will learn about the history of Toyota as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automotive technology, including robots.

Day 12: Nagoya 🚗 Hakone 🚗 Mt. Fuji (B, D)

Today, visit **Oshino Hakkai**. Known as the springs of Mt. Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mt. Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Afterwards, visit **Gotemba Peace Park** to capture a breathtaking view of **Mt. Fuji**, and from there on to **Hakone Shrine**. Standing at the foot of Mt. Hakone along the shores of **Lake Ashi**, the shrine buildings are hidden in dense forest.

Day 13: Mt. Fuji 🚗 Tokyo (B)

In the morning, visit **Meiji Shrine**, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Later, stroll through the **Asakusa Kannon Temple**, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples, and browse for souvenirs at **Nakamise Shopping Street**. Your last stop today is **Tokyo Tower**, to enjoy a panoramic view of enormous Tokyo city.

Day 14: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at your leisure. You may spend a day in **Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea** (admission \$140) or you can join the **Nikko Day Tour** (\$280). Alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs (**tea ceremony, pottery-making experience, 'golden joinery', kimono photo shoot, cooking class**). All activities are not guided and transportation is self-arranged.

Day 15: Depart Tokyo (B)

Today, transfer to the airport to board your homebound flight via a connecting city.

Day 16: Arrive Home

2018 DEPARTURES

19 Jun** 13 Aug 03 Oct*
11 Jul* 11 Sep 31 Oct*

*Shoulder Season Surcharge: NZD\$220

**Peak Season Surcharge: NZD\$440

Single supplement: \$NZD\$610

✈️ DEPARTURE OPTIONS

· AKL: Airfare included

⊕ INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier airfares & taxes
- + 6 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
- + 6 breakfasts (B), 5 lunches (L) & 2 dinners (D)
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$80
- Optional programs
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈️ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

· On request only.

🕶️ EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Break fee: fr \$220
- Hotel w/breakfast: \$110 twin-share, \$220 single

🏨 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (local rating)

Seoul	The Palace Hotel Seoul	4★
Daegu	Daegu Grand Hotel	4★
Gyeongju	Gyeongju Commodore Hotel	4★
Busan	Crown Harbour	4★



8



9

All prices are per person twin-share in NZD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final itineraries and flight info may not be available until 2 weeks before departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver18APR2018

Nikko Day Tour with Japanese-style Lunch \$280

Please contact us for the available dates.

Nikko is a major centre for Buddhism and the Shinto religion. This optional tour will take you to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nikko Toshogu. This area is well known for its distinctive architecture made up of a large number of wood carvings and gold leaf decorations on the buildings. You will also visit Kegon Waterfall (around 100m high) which is the main natural attraction in Nikko. This is the best spot to view maple leaves during autumn.

Tokyo Disneyland Day Ticket \$140

Tokyo Disneyland is a 115-acre (47 ha) theme park, near Tokyo. Its main gate is directly adjacent to both Maihama Station and Tokyo Disneyland Station. The park has seven themed areas: the World Bazaar; the four classic Disneylands: Adventureland, Westernland, Fantasyland and Tomorrowland; and two mini-lands: Critter Country and Mickey's Toontown. Many of the games and rides in these areas mirror those in the original Disneyland as they are based on American Disney films and fantasies. Fantasyland includes Peter Pan's Flight, Snow White's Scary Adventures, Dumbo the Flying Elephant and more based on classic Disney films and characters.

Tokyo DisneySea Day Ticket \$140

Tokyo DisneySea is a 176-acre (71.22 ha) theme park at the Tokyo Disney Resort. In 2002 Tokyo DisneySea won a Thea Award from the Themed Entertainment Association for the concept, design, and construction of the theme park. Tokyo DisneySea also won the 2012-2015 Theme Park Insider Awards "Best theme park". There are seven uniquely themed areas or "ports of call". The entrance to the park is Mediterranean Harbour, which opens up to six additional nautically-themed ports: American Waterfront, Lost River Delta, Port Discovery, Mermaid Lagoon, Arabian Coast, and Mysterious Island.

Robot Restaurant \$110

Not just any restaurant and bar, Tokyo's Robot Restaurant is most famous for its late night robot-themed dancing and battle shows. Behold an outrageous and electrifying live spectacle featuring Japanese taiko drum performances as well as mock battles between bikini-clad dancing girls, giant robotic dinosaurs, cyborgs, ninjas and a host of other bizarre characters, staged in a theatrical LED-fitted room bursting with kaleidoscopic neon-lit laser beams, virtual fireworks, explosions and energetic techno music. Please choose from the times below: 17:55, 19:50 or 21:45~ \$100 for show tickets & be there at least 30 minutes before. Please enquire if you wish to add a meal package.

Note: Transportation is not included for optional programs & are subject to availability.

Tea Ceremony (30 minutes) \$85

The Japanese tea ceremony is a traditional ritual influenced by the principles of Zen Buddhism, in which powdered green tea, or matcha, is prepared and served to a small group in a quiet setting. Traditional Japanese confectionary is often served to balance out the bitter taste of the green tea.

Highlights:

- > Learn the process of the Japanese tea ceremony from a qualified tea instructor
- > Learn which utensils to use to prepare green tea in a traditional Japanese room (tatami)
- > Discover the customs, culture and hospitality of the Japanese people

Physical considerations: The tea ceremony is performed in a kneeling position (seiza) on the floor. This puts pressure on your knees and ankles. Please be cautious of joining this optional program if you have a condition that prevents you from kneeling on the floor for a short period of time.

Optional: Wear traditional Japanese garment (kimono) and experience a tea ceremony

Pottery Making Experience (60 minutes) \$110

Pottery is the oldest art form in Japan, and earthenware traditions in Japan are believed to have started around 12,000 years ago. Today, there are thousands of potters who make a living out of producing pottery-wares across the country. The pottery produced in each region varies in design because of the type of clay found there.

Highlights:

- > Try your hand at making your own cup or bowl by using a spinning wheel and clay.
- > Receive a pre-made sake cup made by the instructors as a souvenir.

Golden Joinery (60 minutes) \$120

Learn the art of golden joinery (kintsugi or kintsukuroi), a technique of repairing broken cups, bowls, or plates using lacquer resin laced with gold powder. As a philosophy the mended flaws become part of the object's design. The result is that the object looks more beautiful than the original after being broken and repaired.

Highlights:

- > Mend broken cups, bowls or plates using powdered gold.
- > Take home the object you repaired as a unique souvenir.

Himeji Castle and Akashi Kaikyo Bridge Walking Day Tour \$280

Please contact us for the available dates.

Himeji Castle is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and is well-known for its elegant white decorations and magnificent appearance. Unlike many other Japanese castles, this early 17th century castle is an original; never damaged by war, earthquakes or fires. Its complex structure was designed as an advanced defence mechanism and continues to draw in many visitors today. After lunch, walk on the world's longest suspension bridge – Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, which is almost 4 kilometres long. Walk along the Maiko Marine Promenade underneath the bridge, which is 50m above the water. *Lunch and return train tickets between Osaka Station and Sannomiya Station are included (your guide will meet you and send you off at Himeji Station, you will need to make your own way to/from Osaka station).

Images: 10. Toyko DisneySea, 11. Himeji Castle, 12. Kimono Photo Shoot.



Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes) \$140

The kimono is the traditional dress of Japan and is representative of its culture and heritage. The dress consists of a long robe with wide sleeves and is usually made of various materials and patterns. Today the kimono is only worn sparingly, on formal occasions such as weddings, funerals, tea ceremonies or other special events. Take part in a memorable photo shoot at a studio where you can dress up in a kimono of your choice. You can take photos with your own camera or you may choose to purchase a photo package plan from the photographers.

Highlights:

- > Dress up in a kimono of your choice for the photo shoot.
- > Have your photos taken for free with your own camera or purchase the photos from the professional photographers.

Cooking Class (120-180 minutes) HOT! \$150

Japanese cuisine (washoku) is well known for its refined taste and elegant presentation. Take part in a Japanese cooking experience and learn from one of Tokyo's most popular cooking instructors, whose book has been published in English. Bring home with you a set of new cooking skills and culinary techniques that will leave your friends and family impressed.

Highlights:

- > Learn to cook different types of Japanese food, such as sushi, soup, and various side dishes.
- > Learn the ingredients, culinary techniques and methods used in creating home-made Japanese dishes.
- > Enjoy your own cooked dish for lunch.