



# 7-Day Mosaic of Seoul Tour



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Korea, a peninsula located in one of the globe's oldest known land area surrounded by China, Japan and the former Soviet Union. With its forested land and hauntingly beautiful mountains enshrouded in clouds, the country is also referred to as 'Land of Morning Calm'. The culture of Korea goes back about 4,300 years ago in the Old Joseon Period when its mythical founder Dangun began his reign. Between the years 57 BC to 668 AD, the land was divided into three kingdoms, Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla. They were strongly influence by the Han Dynasty in China and Buddhism and Confucian study was introduced to the kingdoms. Between 660-668, the Kingdom of Silla defeated the others and unified the peninsula, beginning a cultural, artistic and religious golden age centered in Gyeongju; the unification, lasted 1,280 years until 1948. In 1279, the Mongolians had taken over China and adopt the dynasty of Yuen, and Korea became a tributary State of China. During the early 20th century, Japan had modernized and became a major power while the Ching Dynasty in China is deteriorating; in 1905 Tokyo forced Gojong, the Korean emperor, to sign a treaty transferring partial sovereignty to Japan. The country eventually became a Japanese colony. In 1945, after WWII, Japan surrendered and withdrew. Concern that the country may fall into the hands of the ambitious Soviet Union, the U.S. proposed an international trusteeship to direct Korean affairs through a provisional government. In 1948, it inevitably split into two: the UN-recognized Republic of Korea in the South and the Soviet backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the North. In 1950, the North invaded the South and began a brutal 3-year war that devastated the country. In 1953, an armistice was signed and the country divided in two with a demilitarized zone in between. The North became a totalitarian state with the backing of the former Soviet Union and the China Communist party. The South has gone through a period of military rule under President Rhee and a junta lead by President Park Chung Hee. In 1987, Roh Tae-Woo became the first democrati-

cally elected president of the country. With political stability, the country experienced impressive economic growth and in 2004, South Korea joined the trillion dollar club of world economy. Geographically, South Korea is a land of diversity; from the volcanic island of Jeju in the South to the mountains of Seoraksan National Park in the North, there is a wealth of sights to behold.

Seoul is the capital city and the largest city of South Korea. The greater Seoul area include the city of Incheon and the province of Gyeonggi-do, is the second largest metropolitan area in the world after Tokyo. Almost half of the country's population lives in the area, making it the country's economic, political and cultural center. It was first settled in 18 BC when Baekje, one of Korea's three ancient Kingdoms, established its capital there. Due to its strategic location on the Han River, it was a city that all the rival kingdoms competed for. The city's official history goes back more than 600 years when it became the capital of the Joseon Dynasty. It was called 'Hanyang' in that era; and 'Gyeongseongbu' in the Japanese colonial period. The current name Seoul was adapted in 1945 after WWII. It officially became the capital city of the current Republic of Korea (or South Korea) in 1948 when a post-war government was established. The city was heavily damaged in the Korean War and gone through more than a decade of reconstruction. In the following decades, the country made significant economic improvement by industrialization; being its capital city, Seoul had gradually grown into a sprawling, modern metropolis. The city came under the global spotlight when it hosted the Summer Olympics in 1988; and co-host the 2002 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. Today, when you visit the city, you call feel the vibrancy of the country's impressive economic development; on the other hand, you can also feel the pull of the past and the rich Korean culture by its calm and splendor.



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### Tour Itinerary:

**Day 01:**

Depart Honolulu for Seoul.

**Day 02:**

Arrive Seoul's Incheon Airport; after entry formalities, transfer to hotel.

**Day 03:** (B/L)

Seoul city tour, visiting Gyeongbok Palace, National Folklore Museum, Chogesa Buddhist Temple, Insadong Antique street, N-Seoul Tower and East Gate Open Market.

**Day 04:** (B/L)

Day tour to the city of Yongin and Korea Folk Village, an open air museum model according to the Late Joseon Dynasty, provide visitors with a broad aspect of Korean food, clothing, and housing style of the past.

**Day 05:** (B)

Day tour to the Panmunjeom Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the border that divides South and North Korea. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Korea is the only divided country in the world. The DMZ, cuts the Korean peninsula roughly in half with a 2-kilometer stretch on either side, could be considered one of the last relics of the Cold War. Visitors will get to visit an observatory, one of North Korea's infiltration tunnels, a military base, and right into Panmunjeon, the Joint Security Area in the middle of the DMZ where negotiations between the two sides are held.

**Day 06-07:** (B)

Days free at leisure for you to explore the city at your own pace.

**Day 08:** (B)

Transfer to Incheon Airport for departure.

### 2011 Tour cost per person

**Air cost:**

Airfares are seasonal and depending on availability and fuel surcharge levels; please call for information.

**Land cost:**

Double occupancy	\$2,289
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**Family discounts (per person)**

4-6 people travel together	\$409
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7-10 people travel together	\$567
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Single room supplement	\$1,020
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Accommodation: Hotel Lotte.

**Tour cost included:**

- Six nights of hotel accommodation based on double occupancy.
- All transfers and tours on private vehicles with English speaking tour guide with the exception of DMZ tour which is on a sit-in-coach basis.
- Attractions entrance fees.
- Daily breakfast.

