

## **SOUTH KOREA HIGHLIGHTS 7 days**

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Day 1 : Arrive Seoul**

Upon your arrival in Seoul meet your guide before transfer to hotel to relax from your flight.

**Lodging:** Grand Hyatt Hotel

#### **Day 2 : Seoul - City Tour (B)**

After breakfast start the day with a walking tour of Korea's capital. First is the Gwanghwamun Plaza. The Gyeongbokgung Palace or "Palace of Shining Happiness" and lovely gardens. Next is the National Folklore Museum showcasing costumes, ornaments and handicrafts of Korean from the prehistoric age to the Joseon Dynasty. Later stroll down the cobblestone walkways and explore art galleries and antique shops in Insa-dong. The tour continues to Bukchon Hanok village famous for its large number of traditional Korean houses. From there to the Gwangjang Market, one of the few with still a true traditional Korean atmosphere. A block away from the market is Dongdaemun, once the east gate of Seoul originally built in 1398 and called Heunginjimun literally gate of "Uplifting Mercy". Enjoy a panoramic view of Seoul at the N Tower observatory. Near the tower base, you see the time capsule. In 1985 buried 15m under the ground, it holds 466 relics representing contemporary Korean lifestyle and culture. The capsule is scheduled to open in five hundred years 2485.

**Meals:** Breakfast **Lodging:** Grand Hyatt Hotel

#### **Day 3 : Seoul - Suwon - Songnisan (B)**

Today after breakfast drive to Songnisan national park. On the way stop at Suwon to explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Hwaseong Fortress from the 18th century where you learn of Korea's long history and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. As you make your way to the fortress you pass at Suwon's main commercial district with its conventional market retail outlets. Continue your journey onward to Songni passing through Maltijae, a 12 hairpin turn which leads to a 600-year-old pine tree. This tree was granted a ministerial title when it reportedly lifted its branches in order to let King's Palanquin pass in the mid 15th century. Next visit the Beopjusa temple, founded in AD 553, the temple houses national treasures and has a Dharma bell striking ceremony at sunset. The bell, which almost all Korean temples have, is one of the four Dharma instruments together with Dharma drum, wooden fish and a cloud-shaped gong.

**Meals:** Breakfast **Lodging:** Songnisan Lake Hills Hotel

#### **Day 4 : Songnisan - Gayasa - Goryeong - Gyeongju (B)**

In the morning after breakfast drive through a scenic countryside to Gayasan national park to see the magnificent Haeinsa temple from the 9th century, housing the world's oldest and complete collection of the Buddhist sutras. Tripitaka Koreana and Janggyeong Panjeon have been announced by the UNESCO as a World Heritage site for their artistic as well as religious value. Next is the Goryeong Tumuli Museum. Located below the group of ancient tombs, it is a

perfect replica of the Jisan-dong Tomb No. 44 a large-scale living burial first discovered in Korea. The nearby Daegaya Museum exhibits a huge collection of artifacts excavated in Goryeong. In the late afternoon continue to Gyeongju, the ancient capital of Silla (BC57-AD935), also called a museum without walls. Here you explore one of the ten most historically significant sites in the world with ancient temples, weathered stone pagodas, royal tombs, Buddhist bas-reliefs and fortress ruins.

**Meals:** Breakfast **Lodging:** Gyeongju Hilton Hotel

### **Day 5 : Gyeongju - Seokguram grotto (B)**

After breakfast explore two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Seokguram grotto and Bulguksa temple both built during the glorious period of the Silla kingdom. Seokguram grotto is the home of the serene stone Buddha of the eighth century. Only a short ride from the grotto is the Bulguksa temple. Following the one pillared gate and four guardian's gate reach two double level arched stone staircases, the symbolic bridges, leaving the world of sufferings behind and enter the land of Buddha land. Later head to the world's oldest existing astronomical observatory, Cheomseongdae. Up next is the World Heritage site of Yangdongmaeul, a traditional clan village sheltered by forested mountains. The homes and shrines here were built according to the harmonious theory of Yin and Yang and have been handed down from generation to generation.

**Meals:** Breakfast **Lodging:** Gyeongju Hilton Hotel

### **Day 6 : Gyeongju - Busan (B)**

After breakfast start your drive towards Busan. En route stop at Yangsan to visit the Tongdosa temple built in AD 646. Continue to Busan, Korea's second largest city surrounded by the ocean on one side and mountains on the other. Its deep harbor and gentle tides have allowed it to grow into the largest port in Korea and the fifth largest in the world. Enjoy a short break at Haeundae, a world-class beach resort before your Busan city tour begins. First is a visit to the UN memorial cemetery. Then explore the fascinating Jagalchi fish market. Located on the downtown docks this bustling market offers a wide variety of fish. Trying them here in the market is a visual and culinary treat. The neighbor block is BIFF square, packed with trendy shops, movie theaters and even a walk of fame where famous stars and directors have pressed their handprints into the sidewalk. From Yongdusan park, located at the head of a steep slope that looks over the city and harbor enjoy a breathtaking view. The 120m high Busan tower topped by an observatory offer as well a spectacular view of the different areas of the city and the harbour.

**Meals:** Breakfast **Lodging:** Park Hyatt Hotel

### **Day 7 : Busan - Seoul Departure (B)**

After breakfast transfer to Busan train station for high speed train KTX to Seoul. Upon arrival transfer to the airport for your international return flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast