



Information for Visitors to DPRK

1. Geography

The Korean peninsula is situated in central East Asia. It is bordered to the north by China and Russia across the Rivers Amnok and Tuman, and by seas to the east, west and south.

Korea has an area of over 222,200 km² and its population is about 70 million.

It is a homogeneous nation and its official language is Korean.

With a 5,000-year history and brilliant culture, Korea is called a golden tapestry of three thousand-ri (about 1,200 km) for its gorgeous mountains and clear water.

Korea has many celebrated mountains such as the highest Paektu (2,750 metres), Myohyang, Kumgang, Chilbo, Kuwol, Jiri and Halla.

The East, West and South Seas of Korea are all linked with the Pacific Ocean.

It has four distinct seasonal changes of spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each season has its own beauty.

The average annual temperature is around 8° to 12°C and average annual rainfall is about 1,000-1,200 mm.

The numerous monumental edifices exemplify the present-day DPR Korea.

2. VISA for DPR Korea

Any travel to Pyongyang should be planned at least 2 months in advance as the entry visa is granted only by the Government of DPRK which takes about 3 weeks time and Embassy in your country can grant a visa only after the clearance from the Government has been obtained. Request for this clearance is forwarded to the Government by the WHO Representative office for which the intended traveler has to provide by fax or email the passport details like name, date of birth, nationality, passport number, and place of issue and the date of expiry.

As soon as the Government clearance is obtained the WR office informs the traveler or WHO country office by e mail or fax.

Please inform your travel itinerary to the WHO Representative office in Pyongyang by fax No: 00 850 2 3817916 or e-mail at waliat@whodprk.org with a copy to sukhyonc@whodprk.org.

3. Flights to Pyongyang

Pyongyang is connected to Beijing by Air Koryo, the national carrier of DPRK which operates two flights a week from Beijing to Pyongyang. These flights leave Beijing on Saturday and Tuesday in the morning time. Flight from Pyongyang to Beijing is JS-151, while vice versa is JS-152.

4. Transit in Beijing

The incoming flights to Beijing may due to flight connections warrant a night stop in Beijing. In such cases Chinese visa must be obtained prior to departure. As you come out of the Beijing Airport there are licensed metered taxis lined up and uniformed personnel can help you in hiring one. The fare from airport to the center of the city should not exceed RMB 100 including RMB 15 for expressway surcharge. Unlicensed taxis should not be hired as they may overcharge and are not safe. It is advisable to carry the name of the hotel where you wish to go on a small card preferably in Chinese.

Hotel bookings in Beijing should be done directly thru e-mail or thru the travel agent who is responsible for making travel arrangements; our office in Beijing is normally not involved in these arrangements.

The following hotels are recommended for stay at Beijing with their tariff and distance from the airport.


| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| ***** hotel | Tel; | E-mail: |
| Swissotel | 86 10 6553 2288 | reservations.beijing@swissotel.com |
| Sino-Swiss Hotel | | |

Airport tax at Beijing is 90 RMB approx \$ 10 which has to be paid in local currency. Exchange can be obtained from the bank counter next to the air port tax payment counter. No other taxes or service charges are to be paid at Beijing airport.


5. Arrival at Pyongyang

Taxes are generally not available at the airport and upon arrival, WHO vehicle will be available for pickup and you can check into the hotel already booked for you by the WR office/Ministry of Public Health. The following hotels are recommended for stay at Pyongyang with their tariff and distance from WHO office:


Koryo Hotel (45 storied) Tel: 00850-2-3814397

| | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|---|
| Suite | single | 170 Euros |  |
| | double | 190 Euros | |
| De luxe | single | 120 Euros | |
| | double | 140 Euros | |
| Economy | single | 90 Euros | |
| | double | 110 Euros | |
| | double | | |
| * Higher storey rooms are 10 Euros more expensive. | | | |
| Distance from WHO office: 10 minutes drive | | | |

Yanggakdo Hotel (47 storied) Tel: 00850-2-3812134

| | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|---|
| Suite | single | 180 Euros |  |
| | double | 200 Euros | |
| De luxe | single | 140 Euros | |
| | double | 160 Euros | |
| Economy | single | 70 Euros | |
| | double | 95 Euros | |
| * Higher storey rooms are 10 Euros more expensive. | | | |
| Distance from WHO office: 15 minutes drive | | | |

Potonggang Hotel (9-storied) Tel: 00850-2-3812229

| | | | |
|---|--------|-----------|--|
| Suite | single | 202 Euros |  |
| | double | 223 Euros | |
| De luxe | single | 131 Euros | |
| | double | 148 Euros | |
| Economy | single | 74 Euros | |
| | double | 90 Euros | |
| Distance from WHO office: 15 minutes drive | | | |

6. Health Services for Foreigners

The Friendship Hospital in Pyongyang serving foreigners has reasonable facilities and can in emergency cases undertake surgery. The diagnostic and treatment facilities are however limited and the services are not comparable to most large cities in Asia.

A UN Physician is presently working in Pyongyang assisting staff of international agencies. Travelers are advised to carry the basic medicines of general use and sufficient quantity of medicines which they may specifically need regularly as medicines are not readily available.

7. Vaccination

It is advisable to update the vaccination for typhoid and Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Japanese Encephalitis before commencing travel to DPRK.

8. Common Diseases

1. **Acute respiratory disease** common cold, flu and bronchitis may be more dominant during winter seasons. (December ~ February) No human case of SARs and Avian Influenza has been reported so far in DPRK.
2. **Diarrhoeal Disease** is also common during summer months. The main causes being poor water quality, lack of sanitary facilities and poor food storage. However, Pyongyang city and the hotel facilities strictly observe the sanitation standards, causing no harms to the foreigners. Only boiled water should be used for drinking, bottled water is also available in most cities. It might be practical to bring a small electric kettle for boiling water while traveling in the field.
3. **Malaria** outbreak was reported in DPRK in 1999, witnessed the peak of epidemiology in 2000, however, with the common efforts by the Government and the WHO, malaria cases have been decreased dramatically and confined only to the southern part of the country. Major dangers are not there, however, protection may be considered during the field trip to Kaesong City and the surrounding areas.

9. General

1. All financial transactions with foreigners are in foreign currencies mainly like Euros and USD. Diplomatic shops and hotels demand payment only in hare currency. Hotel bills can be settled by credit cards or travelers cheques, provided they are not on a US based company. It is therefore advisable to bring cash. As our regional office in New Delhi can pay a maximum of USD 500 in cash the balance should be requested to be paid thru the WR office in Pyongyang.
2. Internet and email facility, GPN phone system is available in the WR office in Pyongyang.
3. There is no mobile phone network in the country. Visitors are not allowed to bring mobile phones into the country and these have to be deposited with the customs upon arrival at the airport. An official receipt is issued by the custom authorities in acknowledgement of this deposit. Phones are returned by customs while leaving the country. However, foreigners residing in the country have access to mobile phones according to their request. WR's current mobile phone No is + 850 1938018370.
4. Local people generally do not understand foreign languages, the Government or WR office therefore arranges the services of an interpreter for all official matters.
5. All North Koreans are very respectful towards the Great leader President Kim Il Sung and the Great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il. All visitors are expected to be always respectful to the great leaders.

10. Weather Conditions in Pyongyang

There are 4 seasons in Pyongyang.

- Spring covers the months from March to May and average temperature during this season is between 13°C ~ 17°C.
- Summer includes June, July, and August. The average temperature goes between 25°C ~ 32°C and July and August are the rainy seasons in this country.
- September, October, November are included in Autumn, the average temperature goes between 10°C ~15°C.

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- Winter covers the months from December to February and its average temperature is between -15°C ~-25°C. The temperature usually does not go beyond -30°C but it is windy in winter.

11. Other Useful Information

- Pyongyang time: (GMT + 9 hours)
- Voltage : 220V Frequency : 60Hz
- Korean food: rice as staple food, cold noodle, all kinds of meat food, Kimchi, etc. vegetables, western & Chinese foods (available in hotels and some restaurants)
- There are museums like Korea Revolution Museum, Korean History Museum, Fine Art Gallery, National Folk Museum in Pyongyang.
- There is no national religion in DPRK, however, there are believers of Chondoism (folk religion) and Christians with their churches.