

Immanuel Lutheran Journey
South Korean Soul: Culture, Faith & Spirit of Peace

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome to South Korea - Tuesday, June 15



Land in the afternoon at Incheon airport and meet your guide in the arrivals hall. Transfer to your accommodations.

After checking in, gather with the group and your guide for introductions, orientation and moments of spiritual intention.

Enjoy a group dinner at the hotel or nearby.

OVERNIGHT: *ENA Suites Hotel Namdaemun (D)*

Day 2: Korea: Tradition and Nation - Wednesday, June 16



Begin the day at Gyeongbokgung Palace, where the grandeur of the Joseon Dynasty provides an introduction to Korea's royal heritage and enduring cultural traditions.

Continue on foot to Bukchon Hanok Village, strolling among beautifully preserved traditional homes while reflecting on the challenges of balancing cultural preservation, sustainable tourism, and the everyday lives of local residents.

For lunch, experience Seoul's vibrant food culture, sampling a variety of Korean specialties at the Gwangjang Market. Visit the Seodaemun Prison History Hall in the afternoon, learning of Korea's struggle against Japanese colonial rule and gaining perspective on the values that shape modern Korean identity.

OVERNIGHT: *ENA Suite Hotel Namdaemun (B, L)*



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Day 3: The DMZ - Thursday, June 17



Travel north from Seoul for a full-day focusing on the past, present, and prospects for peace. Begin exploring the Demilitarized Zone at Imjingak Park and the Bridge of Freedom, where memorials and monuments reflect the human cost of Korea's division and continuing hopes for reconciliation. Reach the Third Infiltration Tunnel next and visit Dora Observatory, gaining insight into the military history of the peninsula and the physical reality of its continuing division. Over lunch, hear about conditions in North Korea, the experience of resettlement, and differing perspectives on reunification and peace. Conclude at Unification Village (Tongil-chon), meeting local residents or community representatives for perspective on everyday life within the Civilian Control Zone and how the legacy of Korea's division shapes this unique community.

OVERNIGHT: *ENA Suite Hotel Namdaemun (B, L)*

Day 4: Seoraksan: Nature, Spirituality & Community - Friday, June 18



Travel to Seoraksan National Park, one of Korea's most celebrated landscapes, known for dramatic granite peaks, forests, and spiritual heritage. Ride the cable car as a group to Gwongeumseong Fortress for panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, before returning to the valley and separating into two different experiences per your preference:

Track 1 – Hiking: Embark on a ~2 hours journey through scenic valleys and forest trails, taking in the beauty of the national park while learning about the region's natural and cultural significance.

Track 2 – Temples & Local Culture: Enjoy a more relaxed exploration of the area including a visit to Sinheungsa Temple to learn about Korean Buddhist traditions, followed by time in nearby Sokcho to experience local markets and everyday coastal culture.

Reconvene in the afternoon for a visit to a local honey farm operated by family and friends of the group leader, where participants will learn about beekeeping, rural traditions, and community life. Return to Seoul in the evening, enjoy a group dinner.

OVERNIGHT: *ENA Suite Hotel Namdaemun (B,L,D)*



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<u>Day 5: Faith Voices</u> - Saturday, June 19



Begin the day in conversation with a youth advocacy organization learning about local civic engagement, and the role of younger generations in promoting dialogue and cooperation across East Asia. Continue to Insadong, one of Seoul's most distinctive cultural neighborhoods, for a guided walk through traditional tea houses, artisan shops, and historic streets that reveal an evolving cultural identity. After time for lunch at leisure, choose your preferred afternoon activity:

Track 1 - Musicians and worship leaders join with counterparts from the group leader's home community to prepare for Sunday worship.

Track 2 - Explore Korea's Christian heritage and path toward modernization on a walk through the Jeongdong historic district, including the area around Deoksugung Palace and early missionary sites. Learn about the role of Christianity in education, social reform, and Korea's modern development.

Convene with the group in the evening for dinner along Cheonggyecheon Stream, a restored urban space symbolizing renewal and connection in the heart of Seoul.

OVERNIGHT: *ENA Suite Hotel Namdaemun (B, D)*

<u>Day 6: Fellowship & Community Exchange</u> - Sunday, June 20



Begin the day in worship with a local Korean partner congregation, sharing in a meaningful experience of faith while learning about the role of Christianity in contemporary Korean society. Enjoy a community lunch with members of the congregation, including an exchange with church elders. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure with options geared towards younger travelers/families:

Option 1 – Namsan Family Afternoon: Explore the lower slopes of Namsan Park and visit the Seoul Animation Center, an interactive cultural space introducing Korea's creative industries through family-oriented exhibits and activities.

Option 2 – Namdaemun Market & Myeongdong Exploration: Discover two of Seoul's most vibrant shopping and cultural districts at an easy pace, beginning with Namdaemun Market near the hotel and continuing toward Myeongdong.

OVERNIGHT: *ENA Suite Hotel Namdaemun (B, L)*



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Day 7: Journey to Busan - Monday, June 21

Travel by high-speed rail from Seoul to Busan, Korea's vibrant coastal city and historic gateway to the world. Begin the afternoon at Yeongdodaegyo Bridge, a powerful symbol of Busan's wartime history, to learn about the experiences of refugees who fled south during the Korean War, the families separated by conflict, and ongoing efforts to preserve collective memory. Continue to Jagalchi Fish Market, Korea's largest seafood market, for an immersive exploration of one of Busan's most iconic centers of daily life and commerce. Engage in a conversation with Jagalchi Ajumma (women vendors), hearing firsthand stories of economic entrepreneurship and resilience.

OVERNIGHT: *Shilla Stay Haeundae (B, D)*



Day 8: Regional Significance - Tuesday, June 22

Begin the day at Gamcheon Culture Village, a hillside community founded by wartime refugees to hear stories of community renewal through the neighborhood's unique architecture and art-led transformation. Continue to the Provisional Capital Memorial Hall, the former wartime seat of South Korea's government, to learn how Busan became a center of national survival during the Korean War. After lunch, visit the United Nations Memorial Cemetery to reflect on the international sacrifices made during the conflict and the ongoing pursuit of peace on the Korean Peninsula. Conclude on a lighter note along the Oryukdo Skywalk, where sweeping coastal views offer a chance to appreciate Busan's dramatic landscape. Return to Haeundae in the mid-afternoon for time at leisure to relax, enjoy the beach, and explore the neighborhood independently.

OVERNIGHT: *Shilla Stay Haeundae (B, L)*





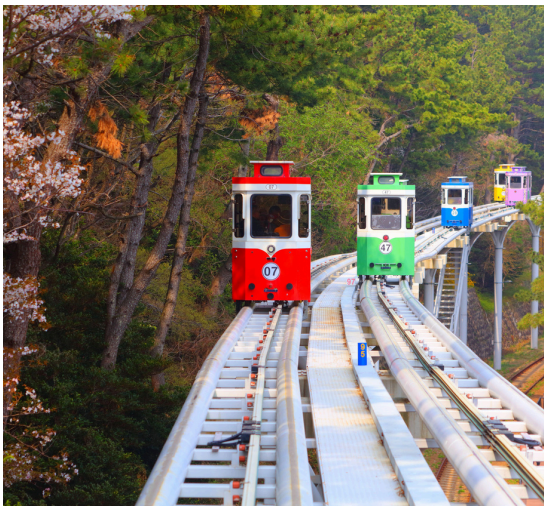
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Day 9: Conclusions in Seoul - Wednesday, June 23

Enjoy a slower morning of rest and relaxation at Haeundae before returning to Seoul by high-speed rail. Spend the afternoon at leisure, with options to check out unseen city highlights such as the the Seoullo 7017 elevated park (within walking distance from the hotel); or sites within a short taxi or subway ride such as National Museum of Korea with its Children's Museum; Seongsu/Seoul Forest; or the Jongmyo Shrine.

Gather with the group for a festive farewell dinner and closing reflections in the evening.

OVERNIGHT: *Four Points by Sheraton Josun, Seoul Station (B, D)*



Day 10: Departure - Thursday, June 24

Enjoy a morning for leisure and further exploration (as flight schedules allow). Transfer to the airport for afternoon- evening departing flights to the US*.

*Optional 4-nights extension to Japan departs in the morning.

OVERNIGHT: *N/A (B)*

