

11N & 13D



Twin Nations, Timeless Wonders:

A Journey Through
South Korea & Japan

DEPARTURE DATE:

13 APRIL 2026

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR

SOUTH KOREA

- **DMZ Tour:** A powerful and unique experience exploring the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea, including the Third Tunnel and Dora Observatory.
- **Seoul's Mix of Tradition and Modernity:** Witness the Changing of the Royal Guard ceremony at Gyeongbokgung Palace, and then experience the modern side of the city by visiting the upscale Gangnam district, the impressive Starfield Library, and the bustling Myeongdong street.
- **Busan's Coastal Charm:** Discover the breathtaking Haedong Yonggung Temple situated on the coastline and explore the vibrant and artistic Gamcheon Culture Village.
- **High-Speed Train Travel:** A scenic and efficient journey on the KTX train from Seoul to Busan.

JAPAN

- **Hiroshima Peace Memorial:** A moving day trip by bullet train to Hiroshima, where you will visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum to reflect on the city's history.
- **Nara's Gentle Deer and Grand Temple:** Interact with the friendly, free-roaming deer in Nara Park and visit the magnificent Todai-ji Temple, home to a colossal bronze Buddha statue.
- **Kyoto's Ancient Wonders:** Stroll through the serene Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, admire the stunning gold-leaf exterior of the Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, and visit the historic Kiyomizudera Temple.
- **Mount Fuji's Beauty:** A tour of the majestic Mount Fuji area, including a visit to the traditional Iyashi no Sato old village houses.
- **Tokyo's Iconic Sights:** Experience the famous Shibuya Crossing, see the iconic Tokyo Skytree, and immerse yourself in the interactive digital art at the TeamLab Museum.



DAY 1: DEPARTURE FROM HOUSTON

Depart from Houston on an overnight flight to Seoul, South Korea.

Meals onboard

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN SEOUL & CITY INTRODUCTION

Upon arrival at Incheon International Airport (ICN), transfer to your hotel in Seoul. Enjoy some leisure time to settle in, followed by dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3: DMZ TOUR & SEOUL'S MODERNITY

After an early breakfast, embark on a comprehensive tour of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea. The tour includes a visit to the **Third Tunnel**, a secret passage built by North Korea, and the **Dora Observatory**, which offers a rare glimpse into North Korea. You will also see the Dora Train Station, the **DMZ Theater**, a **Unification Village**, and the **Imjingak Resort**, a park dedicated to hope for reunification. Lunch will be provided during the tour.

In the afternoon, explore Seoul's modern side, beginning with **Gwanghwamun Square**. Continue to the upscale Gangnam district to visit the **COEX Mall** and the stunning **Starfield Library**.

Conclude the day with a visit to the lively **Myeongdong street**, famous for its shopping and street food.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



DAY 4: PALACES, VIEWS, AND SHOPPING IN SEOUL

Begin your day with an early breakfast before heading to **Gyeongbokgung Palace**. Witness the traditional Changing of the Royal Guard ceremony, a captivating display of Korean heritage. After a **photo stop at the Blue House**, enjoy lunch. Later, take a **cable car ride to Seoul Tower** (entry to the tower itself is not included), offering panoramic views of the city. Spend some time indulging in cosmetic shopping. If time allows, you can also proceed to the trendy Hongdae neighbourhood for more shopping opportunities.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5: SEOUL TO BUSAN & COASTAL EXPLORATION

Enjoy an early breakfast and check out from your hotel. Transfer to Seoul Station to board the high-speed KTX train to Busan. After lunch, you will explore the city's coastal charm. Visit the **Haedong Yonggung Temple**, a rare and beautiful Buddhist temple situated on the coast with breathtaking ocean views. Next, wander through the colorful houses of **Gamcheon Culture Village**, a former slum that has been transformed into a vibrant artistic community. Conclude the day with a relaxing yacht tour before checking into your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



DAY 6: DEPARTURE FROM BUSAN TO JAPAN & ARRIVAL IN OSAKA

After breakfast and checking out, transfer to Gimhae International Airport (PUS) for your flight to Kansai International Airport (KIX). Upon arrival, proceed to visit **Osaka Castle**, a magnificent landmark with a rich history. Afterward, transfer to your hotel in Osaka. Enjoy a European and Oriental buffet dinner in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7: HIROSHIMA DAY TRIP

After an early breakfast, travel by bullet train from Osaka to Hiroshima for a day tour. Hiroshima is a city of peace and remembrance, home to the **Peace Memorial Park and Museum**. After the tour, take the bullet train back to Osaka for dinner and an overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 8: NARA EXPLORATION, OSAKA EXPLORATION & SHOPPING IN DOTONBORI

After breakfast, travel to **Nara Park**, home to hundreds of friendly, free-roaming deer. While there, you will visit the awe-inspiring **Todai-ji Temple**, which houses a massive bronze **Buddha statue**. Enjoy a traditional Japanese lunch before participating in an authentic tea ceremony.



Take in panoramic city views from the **Umeda Sky Building**. Later, you will have time for shopping and exploring the vibrant Dotonbori area, famous for its neon lights and delicious food. Dinner is at your own allowance.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9: KYOTO'S ANCIENT WONDERS

Following breakfast, check out and transfer to **Kyoto**. Proceed for a guided sightseeing tour of Kyoto, Japan's former imperial capital. Begin with a stroll through the serene **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest**. Next, visit the magnificent **Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion**, a Zen temple with a stunning gold-leaf exterior, and the historic **Kiyomizudera Temple**, known for its wooden stage that juts out from a hillside. Dinner and Overnight stay in Kyoto.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 10: MODERNITY AND JOURNEY TO HAMANAKO

After breakfast, check out and proceed to visit the famous **Fushimi Inari Shrine** in Kyoto, known for its thousands of vibrant red torii gates that form a network of trails up the mountain. After lunch, depart for Nagoya to visit the **Toyota Museum**. You will then have dinner before transferring to Hamanako to check into your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



DAY 11: MOUNT FUJI'S BEAUTY & TOKYO TRANSFER

After breakfast and checking out, embark on a sightseeing tour of the majestic **Mount Fuji** area. The tour includes a visit to the traditional **Iyashi no Sato old village houses**, which have been beautifully restored. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant with views of the surrounding landscape. In the afternoon, transfer to Tokyo. In the evening, explore the bustling nightlife of **Shinjuku Street**. You will then check into your hotel in Tokyo.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 12: TOKYO'S ICONIC SIGHTS

After breakfast, a chartered bus will take you on a guided city tour of **Tokyo**. Experience the famous **Shibuya Crossing**, one of the busiest pedestrian intersections in the world, and see the iconic **Hachiko statue**. You will also see the impressive **Tokyo Skytree**, offering breathtaking city views. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant.

Next, you will visit the immersive **TeamLab Museum**, known for its interactive digital art exhibits. In the afternoon, explore the **Akihabara area**, a hub for anime, manga, and electronics. Enjoy dinner at a restaurant before returning to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 13: DEPARTURE FROM TOKYO

Enjoy a final breakfast at your hotel before transferring to Haneda Airport (HND) for your departure flight back home.

INCLUSIONS

- Economy class airfare including taxes from Houston
- Flight from Busan (PUS) to Osaka (KIX).
- 11 nights of first-class accommodation as per the itinerary.
- High-speed KTX train from Seoul to Busan.
- High-speed Shinkansen bullet train from Osaka to Hiroshima and Hiroshima to Osaka.
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Services of a Professional Tour Manager.
- All necessary ground transfers by chartered bus or other specified transport.

EXCLUSIONS

- Tips to the Driver & Guides (USD 100/- Per Person for the whole tour)
- Travel Insurance
- Any meals other than specified in the itinerary.
- Porterage, laundry, mineral water, mini bar, telephone Charges
- Anything not mentioned on "Cost Includes".

Note: On certain days, due to the tour's hectic schedule or unforeseen circumstances, lunch may not be covered at regular restaurants. In such cases, a lunch allowance of \$20 USD per person will be provided to allow you to grab a meal on your own.



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