



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different



Itinerary correct as at 27 Jun 2025, but subject to change. ALL flights to be confirmed. www.bluedottravel.com.au



\$15,490 pp

Twin-share, excluding
international flights
Single supp \$3,550

SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN

For too long, South Korea and Taiwan have flown under the radar for travellers.

South Korea is a compact yet captivating country that's easy to explore, making it the ideal travel destination. On our small group tour, you'll experience various cultural sites, from traditional villages and UNESCO-listed temples to majestic Buddha statues. While Seoul, the bustling capital, is a fabulous city in its own right, the true charm of South Korea lies beyond the city. The gorgeous countryside is a mix of rolling hills, lush forests full of native trees, and rice paddies that stretch across the landscape. Our in-depth tour includes Jeju Island with its unique lava formations and fascinating stories of its "Haenyeo", or female free-divers.

Timeless tradition meets vibrant modern life in the surprising island of Taiwan. Our group tour begins and ends in the lively capital of Taipei, a city brimming with energy, night markets, and towering skyscrapers standing alongside ancient temples. Outside the capital, Taiwan is known as the "Beautiful Isle" for its dramatic landscapes - towering sea cliffs, tropical forests, and breathtaking gorges. The most notable being at Sun Moon Lake, a jewel nestled in the mountains and the Taroko National Park with its marble gorges. Taiwanese food is a fusion of flavours, blending Chinese, Indigenous, Japanese, and Southeast Asian influences into a uniquely delicious cuisine, a treat for foodies!

If you enjoy unique Asian culture, scenic views, friendly people, and exploring lesser-visited places far away from the tourist crowd, grab your camera and join us!



Day 1, Friday 17th April ARRIVE SEOUL

Travel from Australia to Seoul, where we stay three nights. You'll arrive in the evening, with time to rest before exploring Seoul tomorrow. We will provide you with an individualised flight itinerary for your trip. *D*



Day 2, Saturday 18th April SEOUL

Spend a full day exploring South Korea's vibrant capital. First stop, Gyeongbok

Palace was built in 1395 and served as the main palace until the 16th century. We'll visit the National Folk Museum, which showcases the lifestyle of ancient Koreans, and the Insadong Antique Alley, featuring numerous antique stores, art galleries, and secondhand bookstores. Then on to Namdaemun Market, considered the best market for almost everything! Continue to Bukchon Hanok Village, with its traditional wooden homes, and Myeongdong, a

busy retail precinct with wonderful alleys, shops, and restaurants. Finally, we will take a walk along Cheonggyecheon Stream, which was once a waste catchment but, following urban renewal, is now a modern public recreation precinct. After dinner, we'll enjoy a 'Nanta' performance, a fun Korean-style theatre show. *B/D*

Day 3, Sunday 19th April SEOUL

This morning, we will tour the De-Militarised Zone (DMZ), a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula on the 38th parallel as a buffer zone between North and South Korea. The two countries are technically still at war, and a formal peace treaty has never been signed. We'll see the 3rd Tunnel, dug by the North and capable of dispatching 10,000 troops an hour. We'll also visit the Bridge of Freedom, DMZ Theatre, Dora Observatory, and train station, and we will conclude with a ride on the DMZ Gondola. After returning to Seoul, we'll visit



Gwangjang Market, established in 1905 and home to over 5,000 stores selling fabrics, bedding, handmade crafts, and hanbok (traditional Korean attire). Then we'll head to Itaewon, a popular district with the locals. **B/D**



Day 4, Monday 20th April
SEOUL – MT. SEORAK – SOKCHO

Today we will drive to Mt. Seorak National Park (about 3 hours east). Mt. Seorak is considered one of Korea's most beautiful mountains, with its granite peaks, lush green valleys, and dense forests. Weather permitting, we will take a 1,100m-long cable car that connects the park entrance with Gwongeumseong Fortress, an ancient mountaintop fortress of the Silla Kingdom. At the top is a 3km hike for those up to it - it's steep but worth it for the view! Alternatively, relax and enjoy the view from the observatory coffee shop. We'll continue to Sokcho for dinner and a one-night stay. **B/D**



Day 5,
Tuesday 21st
April
SOKCHO –
ANDONG –
GYEONGJU

After breakfast, we transfer to Andong (a 3.5-hour drive) and

visit Hahoe Village, which has preserved the Joseon dynasty's housing architecture and village structure. There are 180 families within the group village known as the village of the Pungsan Ryu family. We'll then drive to Gyeongju, where we stay for three nights. **B/D**



Day 6, Wednesday 22nd April
GYEONGJU – MT. GAYA – GYEONGJU

This morning we'll drive to Mt. Gaya National Park to visit Haeinsa Temple, home to the Tripitaka Koreana, a set of 80,000 wooden printing blocks engraved with one of Asia's most comprehensive compilations of Buddhist scriptures. We'll return to Gyeongju, considered one of the country's highlights. The city is teeming with stunning architecture and ancient artefacts. The historic area is a UNESCO-listed site, and the city has become known as the "Museum without Walls". In the afternoon, there'll be free time to enjoy this wonderful city (bicycle rental is available if that's your thing), and dinner is at an excellent family-run restaurant. **B/D**



Day 7, Thursday 23rd April
GYEONGJU

After breakfast, we'll enjoy a full-day tour of Gyeongju. The Gyeongju National Museum preserves much of the Silla heritage, including magnificent gold crowns, pottery, Buddhist artefacts, stone sculptures and the legendary Emille Bell. At 3.3m high and weighing 25

tonnes, it is one of Asia's largest and most resonant bronze bells. We'll visit Tumuli Park, a collection of royal Silla tombs, Cheom-seongdae Observatory, the world's earliest known existing observatory, and Anapji Pond, where the Silla royal family relaxed. Next, we'll visit the UNESCO-listed Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple, a monument to both the skill of the Silla architects and the depth of Buddhist faith at the time. **B/D**



Day 8, Friday 24th April
GYEONGJU – TONGYEONG

After breakfast, we'll begin our drive to Tongyeong (about 3 hours drive). Often called the Naples of the Orient, Tongyeong has many islands spread along the oceanfront front, with lovely buildings of varying heights along the port. We'll take a 2km long cable car to the top of Mt. Mireuk for beautiful views over the islands of Hallyeo Haesang National Park, then visit Hansando Island by boat. Continue to our hotel in Tongyeong for a one-night stay and dinner. **B/D**



Day 9, Saturday 25th April
TONGYEONG – GEOJE

This morning, we'll travel to Geoje, Korea's second-largest island. Oedo-Botania is a marine botanical garden where we'll take a short hike for beautiful views of the crystal-clear South Sea, the surrounding landscape, and the massive rocky structures of Haegeumgang. In the afternoon, an optional visit to the pebble-strewn Mongdol beach, or relax and enjoy the beautiful panoramas of Geoje, where we stay for one night. **B/D**



Day 10, Sunday 26th April
GEOJE – BUSAN

After breakfast, we'll drive to the port city of Busan, South Korea's second-largest city

(approximately a 2-hour drive south). We'll visit the quirky and artsy Gamcheon Cultural

Village, the Busan Tower with its panoramic view of the city, and head to the internationally renowned, enormous Jagalchi Fish Market. This is a great spot for taking photos of the unusual and fascinating fish and other sea creatures being sold to the locals. Our hotel is located in a fantastic local neighbourhood, and we will be staying here for two nights. After check-in, we'll head down for dinner in the Nampodong area, the most popular spot for locals to congregate for a meal. **B/D**





Day 11, Monday 27th April BUSAN

This morning we'll visit Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, first built in 1376 and situated on the coast of the northeastern part of Busan. Next, we'll explore stunning Dongbaekseom Island, famous for its lush camellia and pine trees, breathtaking views and Haeundae Beach. We'll conclude our day at the Oryukdo Skywalk, a 15-meter-high glass bridge offering spectacular views of the coastline. **B/D**



Day 12, Tuesday 28th April BUSAN – JEJU

This morning, we will fly to Jeju Island (approximately 1 hour). We'll visit some of the island's natural attractions, including the volcanic Mt. Songaksan, the rock formations of the Yongmeori Coast (also known as Dragon Head Cliff) and Jusanggeolli Cliff, a spectacular volcanic rock formation created when Mt. Hallasan erupted into the sea. Check into our hotel for a two night stay. **B/D**



Day 13, Wednesday 29th April JEJU

Our full-day tour of Jeju today includes Manjanggul Cave, one of the finest lava tunnels in the

world, the Haenyeo Museum, a great source of information on haenyeos (women divers) and the island's fishing industry, Seongsan Ilchulbong (Sunrise peak), which rose from under the sea in a volcanic eruption over 100,000 years ago, Seongeup folk village and the Jeongbang waterfalls. **B/D**

Day 14, Thursday 30th April JEJU – BUSAN – TAIPEI, TAIWAN

After an early breakfast, we'll fly from Jeju, via Busan, to Taipei (total travel time approx 5.5 hours), arriving in the early afternoon.

Welcome to Taiwan!

We'll meet our new driver and guide, and continue to our hotel where we stay four nights. Sample Taiwan's excellent cuisine with dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 15, Friday 1st May TAIPEI

Today, we will take a tour of this fabulous, dynamic city. Sites will include the Chang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, which mimics Beijing's Heavenly Temple, and the Presidential Square, built in the post-Renaissance style. This will be followed by visits to Lungshan Temple and its neighbourhood Herb Lane. Then we

will visit the city centre and Taipei 101, once the world's tallest building. Dinner is at the famous Din Tai Fung dumpling restaurant. **B/D**

Day 16, Saturday 2nd May TAIPEI

We'll start the day with a visit to Yangmingshan National Park, featuring a stunning mountainous and volcanic landscape. There's a great light trek for those up to it. (Those who don't wish to walk can enjoy the view at a nearby scenic spot). Next, we'll visit Beitou, a hot spring resort with a Japanese flavour. Finally, we'll visit the world's fourth-largest museum, the National Palace Museum, and see the collections of the



Chinese imperial artistic treasury. We will also see the Martyrs' Shrine and the changing of the guard. There'll be free time before we meet for dinner at a renowned specialty rice restaurant. **B/D**

Day 17, Sunday 3rd May TAIPEI – NORTH COAST

Today, we'll explore the island's North Coast on a trip from Taipei. We'll drive along the scenic Northern Coast route and then visit the Juming Museum, where Master Ju's amazing outdoor artistic work is displayed. We'll continue to the seaside town of Tamsui with its buzzing vibe. Next, we will head to Bali and visit the Bali pier, old streets, shops with interesting wares, an ancient fortress with banyan trees, and the Shihsanhang Museum of Archaeology. We'll return to Taipei for an early dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 18, Monday 4th May TAIPEI – LUKANG – SUN MOON LAKE

This morning, we'll take the HSR, high-speed rail, capable of speeds well over



300 km/h, to Lukang. This charming 3-century-old town was once the second largest city, and it still retains its traditional atmosphere. We'll visit the market, the lovely old streets, and the Matsu Temple. Next, we'll drive to stunning Sun Moon Lake, in the heart of Taiwan. We'll visit the Wen Wu Temple and Peacock Garden before checking in to our hotel for a two-night stay. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/D**



Day 19, Tuesday 5th May
SUN MOON LAKE

Today we'll take a motorboat ride around the lake and visit the Holy Monk Shrine. If you would like to, you can bike-ride along the well-established cycling path (It's a round-lake bike trail, moderate to easy). Then we'll visit the famous Chung Tai Zen Monastery and the magnificent Buddhist Art Museum. Dinner tonight is at an atmospheric local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 20, Wednesday 6th May
SUN MOON LAKE – TAINAN

This morning, we will drive southward to the first capital city of Taiwan, Tainan. With its beautiful colonial architecture, Tainan offers a unique glimpse into Taiwan's past and vibrant present. We'll visit the ancient temples, the iconic Chihkan Tower, and Confucius Temple, then continue to the fishing port and visit the Anping Fort. We'll stay here for one night, and you'll love wandering the charming streets near our hotel. Dinner is at a local restaurant tonight. **B/D**



Day 21, Thursday 7th May
TAINAN – KAOHSIUNG

We'll continue travelling South towards the harbour city of Kaohsiung. We'll visit the impressive Fo Guan



Shan Monastery and its surroundings. Then, we went on to Dragon and Tiger Pagoda and the graceful Spring and Autumn Pavilions,

which stood in the waters of Lotus Lake. We'll then visit Cijing and take a ferry ride with the locals. We have a one-night stay in Kaohsiung, and after dinner, we'll visit the vibrant night market, a favourite with locals. **B/D**



Day 22, Friday 8th May
KAOHSIUNG – TAITUNG (CHIH PEN)

Today, we'll enjoy a train journey on the South-Link Line towards Taitung, passing sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean against a mountainous backdrop on the other side. Check in to our hotel for a short refresh. In the afternoon, we'll walk through the nearby Chihpen Forest recreation area, which is rich in natural scenery, including hot springs, waterfalls, banyan trees, and tropical forests. After dinner, we can relax in the pools at our hotel and enjoy indigenous music and dance performances. **B/D**



Day 23, Saturday
9th May

CHIH PEN – TAROKO or HUALIEN

Much of today, we are transferring northward to

Taroko along the East Coast. Sadly, this region was severely impacted by the 2024 earthquake, and our itinerary is running on a modified route via Hualien. If Taroko National Park reopens in time, we will revert back to the original plan and visit the National Park. On our drive, we'll visit Siaoyeliou, Dulan Bay, Donghe, the marvellous Sansiantai, and the Stone Steps. The magnificent Taroko Gorge is a striking ravine dotted with ancient temples and spectacular scenery. We'll have a one-night stay in the nearby city of Hualien. **B/D**



Day 24, Sunday 10th May
TAROKO or HUALIEN

This area is full of natural beauty to appreciate, and we'll take a light trek there. We'll also visit some of Hualien's highlights, including the

Pine Garden, Ji'an Qingxiu Temple, which features Japanese-style architecture, and the Hualien Culture and Creative Park. In the afternoon, we'll return by train to Taipei for our final night and a farewell dinner. **B/D**



Day 25, Monday 11th May
DEPARTURE

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**

Tuesday 12th May
ARRIVE HOME



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.