



Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different



Itinerary correct as at 17 Oct 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 for three nights. You'll arrive in the early afternoon, with time to rest before exploring Seoul tomorrow. Welcome Dinner at our hotel. *D*



Day 2, Saturday 18th April SEOUL

Spend a full day exploring South Korea's vibrant capital. The 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 Gwongseumseong 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, 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

Museum of Contemporary Art, 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 – TAIPEI, TAIWAN

This morning, we'll fly from Jeju to Taipei (total travel time approx 1.5 hours), arriving in time for a quick lunch near the airport.

Welcome to Taiwan!

We'll meet our new driver and guide, and continue to our hotel where we stay four nights. We'll visit historic Dihua Street, Xia-Hai City God Temple and explore the vibrant Ningxia Night Market for some excellent food in a truly local style. **B/L/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 NORTH COAST DAYTRIP

Today, we'll explore the island's North Coast on a day 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 Yehliu Geopark, famous for its bizarre rock formations. After lunch at local restaurant we'll head to Shifen Old Street in Pingxi to stroll along the historic railway and release a "Sky Lantern", a popular local tradition. Returning to Taipei, dinner is at your leisure. **B/L**

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. Access to the Shrine is via a 550m staircase and can be considered challenging, but worth it for the view. Then we'll visit the famous Chung Tai Zen Monastery and the magnificent Buddhist Art Museum. For a truly local experience, we'll have an early vegetarian dinner at a local monastery. **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, Fort Zeelandia 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 (CHHPEN)

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 CHHPEN – 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. On our drive, we'll visit Siaoyeliou, Dulan Bay, Donghe, the marvellous Sansiantai, and



the Stone Steps. Near Hualien, we'll visit the beautiful Pine Garden and Gang Tiang temple, then stay one night in Hualien. **B/D**

Day 24, Sunday 10th May HUALIEN - TAROKO - TAIPEI

The magnificent Taroko Gorge is a striking ravine dotted with ancient temples and spectacular scenery. We'll take a scenic drive through the gorge, passing highlights such as the Eternal Spring Shrine, the Tunnel of Nine Turns, and the Cimu Bridge and Pavilion. The paths have not yet been restored for long hikes, but we'll take a short walk at the Xiangde Temple, a tranquil recreation area, surrounded by lush mountains.

We'll continue North to Nanfangau Observatory for its sweeping views. We'll conclude our day at Jiaoxi Hot Springs Park, where



you can enjoy a soothing foot bath. After our final dinner together, we'll return to Taipei, arriving in the evening. **B/D**

Day 25, Monday 11th May DEPARTURE

After breakfast, your day is free to explore Taipei independently. You'll receive a one-day metro ticket and we recommend asking your local your guide for suggestions on the best sights. Transfer to the airport for your evening 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.