



Beijing, China

2017 Beijing-Xian-Shanghai-Seoul



DRAGON HILL LODGE[®]



Seoul, Korea



1st Program → 14 October – 1 November 2017

Experience the timeless splendor of China and South Korea on a unique, custom-designed 19 Day / 18 Night package for Military Retirees. A nostalgic walk unlike any other to relive the memories, share them with your loved ones, see how much has changed, and witness first-hand your contribution toward the growth and prosperity of the two most dynamic and vibrant countries in East Asia. All you have to do is get here; we'll take care of the rest!



Day 1

Welcome to China



Schedule:

1300 - 1800 → Arrive in Beijing

***Travelers from USA will cross the International Date Line. Please note, East Asia is one day ahead of U.S. Please keep this in mind when booking your flight reservation to arrive at the start day of the program. Consult with our Discover Seoul Team prior to purchasing your airfare!*

You will arrive at Beijing International Airport and be greeted by a representative. Enjoy some time to mingle with your fellow retirees and stretch your legs after the long flight before boarding a private coach bus en-route to Beijing.

During the drive, watch as the dynamic city landscape forms around you before arriving at the heart of China! The rest of the afternoon is yours to get checked in, unpack and relax.



Day 2

Historic Beijing



Schedule:

0600 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1500 → Tiananmen Square
Imperial Palace

The Forbidden City (Imperial Palace) in the heart of Beijing is the largest complete imperial palace and the world at large. Its construction began in 1406 and was completed 14 years later, having a history of nearly six centuries. Twenty-four emperors from the Ming and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties lived and ruled China from the imperial palace. Most of the buildings in the Forbidden City were rebuilt many times, although they maintained the original architectural style.

Set against a backdrop of rapid economic and social changes in post Mao-era China, the Tiananmen square protests reflected anxieties about the country's future in the popular consciousness and among the political elite.



Day 3

The Great Wall of China



Schedule:

0600 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1300 → Great Wall

1700 – 1900 → Chinese Traditional Show
The Golden Mask

No matter what you think it'll be like, the Great Wall will still blow you away. You can't prepare yourself for the awe. Centuries after its construction, China's Great Wall remains one of humankind's engineering marvels. At over 21,000km (13,048 mi) in length, the Wall is a trip in and of itself. You won't tackle the whole thing on this trip, but you'll return home with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the great lengths and time it took to build one of the wonders of the world.

At night, experience Beijing's popular musical – The Golden Mask. The show tells a fairy-tale like story of war, royal banquets, and romance. The play has 20 different dance scenes, representing a soul-stirring and romantic mixing of themes that have captured audiences around the world!



Day 4
Free Day



Schedule:

0630 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1600 → Free Day

The day is yours! Relax at the hotel or recommended activities you may enjoy include:

- See the Giant Panda's at the Beijing Zoo
- Visit the Summer Palace – a retreat for China's royalty
- Take in the breathtaking scenery at Shichahai / Wangfujing Street
- Try roast duck -- the epitome of Beijing cuisine in one of Beijing's Restaurants
- Explore Beijing's outdoor markets for a variety of souvenirs, old arts, and crafts.



Day 5
Historic Xian

Schedule:

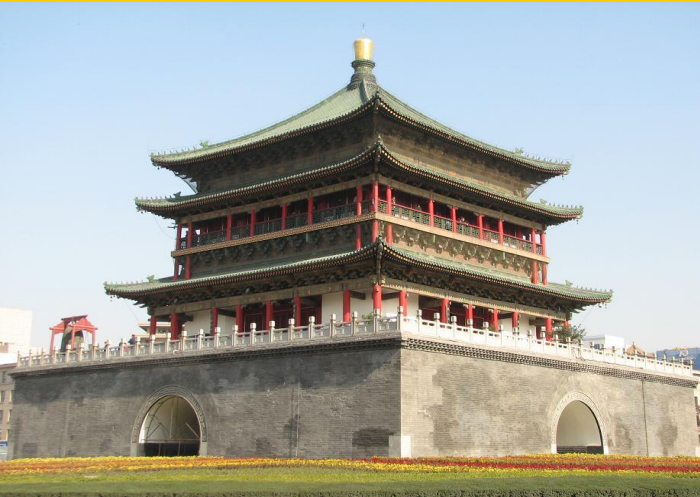
0600 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1600 → Fly to Xian

Jianfu Temple

Fly to Xian -- capital of Shaanxi Province in central China. Once known as Chang'an (Eternal Peace), it marks the Silk Road's eastern end and was home to the Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang dynasties' ruling houses. At archaeological sites in Xi'an's surrounding plains are the famed Terra Cotta Army, thousands of life-size, hand-molded figures buried with China's first emperor, Qin Shi.

Jianfu Temple is an ancient Buddhist shrine surviving from the Tang Dynasty when soon-to-be emperor Zhongzong made the area his personal residence. Converted into a temple in 684, many of the Tang buildings were ruined during a period of Buddhist persecution. Today the area is a scenic respite from the bustle of Xian City streets and provides a retreat to a simpler way of life centuries past.



Day 6

Terra Cotta Warriors



Schedule:

0600 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1600 → Terra Cotta Museum

Giant Wild Goose Pagoda

The Terracotta Army, aka Terracotta Warriors and Horses, are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century. The collection of sculptures depicting the armies of Emperor Qin. It is a form of funerary art buried with the emperor in the 1st Century and whose purpose was to protect the emperor in his afterlife.

As the symbol of the old-line Xian, Giant Wild Goose Pagoda is a well-preserved ancient building and a holy place for Buddhists. As a World Heritage Site, the pagoda attracts numerous visitors for its fame in the Buddhist religion and its simple but appealing style of construction.



Day 7

Downtown Shanghai



Schedule:

0600 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1800 → Fly to Shanghai

Underground Market

The Bund

Fly to Shanghai -- with a population of more than 23 million (with over 9 million migrants), is the largest and traditionally the most developed metropolis in Mainland China. The Financial center and hub, the heart is "*The Bund*", a famed waterfront promenade lined with colonial-era buildings. Across the Huangpu River rises the Pudong district's futuristic skyline, including 632m Shanghai Tower and the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, with distinctive pink spheres. Sprawling Yu Garden has traditional pavilions, towers and ponds.

One of the popular markets in Shanghai, the underground market is the recommended stop for souvenirs and last minute shopping in China. Put your negotiation skills to the test and remember to bargain and bargain hard....



Day 8
Free Day



Schedule:

0600 – 0830 → Breakfast at Hotel

0900 – 1600 → Free Day

The day is yours! Relax at the hotel or recommended activities you may enjoy include:

- *See the Jin Mao Tower– a landmark skyscraper commanding the skyline in Shanghai*
- *Enjoy the 120,000 pieces of artifacts at the Shanghai Museum*
- *Yu Gardens – a place of peace and comfort during the fabled Ming Dynasty*
- *Stroll along Nanjing Road – Shanghai’s answer to NYC Fifth Avenue*
- *Watch the captivating special effects, martial arts, and acrobatic show - “Era - Intersection of Time”*



Day 9

Onward to Seoul, Korea

Schedule:

0600 – 0800 → Breakfast / Checkout
Load Bus to Airport

1300 – 1800 → Arrival in Seoul / DHL

The private coach bus will depart the hotel to the Shanghai Airport. Relax on the 2 hour flight connecting these two dynamic cities and get ready to arrive to your new home for the next ten days!



Day 10

Seoul City Tour

Schedule:

0630 – 0930 → Breakfast at DHL / DBIDS
Registration / ID Cards
0930 – 1500 → Seoul City Tour

Spend the day getting acquainted with your home for the next ten days. Your guide will take you along the downtown district pointing out historic buildings, monuments, architecture, shopping spots and more throughout this dynamic city.

You'll start with a ride through the heart of Seoul - a part of what was once home to Korean royalty. Now a thriving business district, enjoy the contrast between the old and modern before arriving at Gyeongbuk Palace. You will learn the history of the Joseon Dynasty, peruse the royal grounds, a nearby marketplace and time to enjoy a hearty and invigorating Korean favorite, "Bibimbap"



Day 11

Historic Seoul

Schedule:

0630 – 0930 → Breakfast at DHL

1000 – 1600 → Jeongdong Tour

Dubbed the “Hermit Kingdom”, the Sino-Japanese War marked the rapid decline of any power the Joseon Dynasty of Korea had managed to hold against foreign interference, as the battles of the conflict itself had been fought on Korean soil and the surrounding seas. Subsequently and fittingly, during the reign of the last Royal Joseon Monarch, King Gojong in which Jeongdong was his residence, many of Seoul’s first encounters with Western education, medicine, diplomacy, imperialism, and religion took place here on the western edge of the walled city.

Travel back in time as this walk through Jeongdong will highlight some of the first formalized contacts that Korea had with the west – diplomatic, religious and educational – through the remarkable preservation of the buildings since the late 19th Century!





Day 12

2018 Winter Olympic Village

Schedule:

0600 – 0700 → Breakfast at DHL

0700 – 1800 → Pyeongchang

Head to Alpensia Resort, the main venue for the 2018 Olympics for a tour of the facilities to see why Korea beat out Germany and France for the rights to host the 2018 Winter Olympics! From there, a private tour will take you to Woljeongsa Temple – The head temple of the Jogye Order and a crisp nature walk around the pristine surroundings and herb gardens. Enjoy “Sanchae”- a traditional temple meal with a myriad of vegetable dishes. This region of Korea with its picturesque landscapes, traditional *hanok*-style architecture, cozy villages, and untouched natural surroundings make it a huge draw among foreigners and the setting makes for a peaceful retreat amidst the hustle and bustle of Seoul.



Day 13

Nanta!

Schedule:

0630 – 0930 → Breakfast

1400 – 1600 → Nanta Performance

Nanta is the longest-running show in Korean History. Since 1997, this non-verbal performance has been staged in 18 countries around the world and on NYC's Broadway's musical circuit. The musical has a simple back story of three cooks attempting to finish preparing a wedding banquet within a strict time limit while the manager installs his incompetent nephew among the kitchen staff. The show involves acrobatics, magic tricks, comedy, and audience participation. The unifying element throughout the musical is the use of traditional Korean music, which in this case is performed with improvised instruments, such as cutting boards, water canisters and kitchen knives.



Day 14

Joint Security Area & Demilitarized Zone

Schedule:

0630 – 0730 → Breakfast at DHL

0730 – 1800 → JSA / DMZ Tour

Korea is the only divided country in the world. After the Korean War (June 25 1950 – July 27 1953), South Korea and North Korea established a border that cut the Korean peninsula roughly in half. Stretching for 2km on either side of this border is the **Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**. As one of the last relics of the Cold War, the DMZ attracts a great deal of public interest, and is a popular destination for travelers visiting Korea. Despite the fact that this is the most heavily armed border in the world, it is extremely rare that any hostilities take place. These days the DMZ is a safe destination that we would thoroughly recommend to any traveler. The DMZ and its surroundings contain many interesting historical sights and pristine untouched natural surroundings.



Day 15

Free Day

Schedule:

0630 – 0930 → Breakfast at DHL

0900 – 1700 → Free day

The day is yours! Some activities you may enjoy include:

- *Attend Religious Services (info provided upon request)*
- *Walk to the National Museum / War Memorial (recommended)*
- *Take the subway to City Hall to see*
 - ✓ *Cheongyecheon Stream*
 - ✓ *Gwanghamun Square*
 - ✓ *Myungdong Shopping District*
- *Work out in our Point Health Club*
- *Receiving a relaxing massage/facial from our Beauty Shop*



Day 16

GEN Douglas MacArthur's Famous Incheon Landing

Schedule:

0630 – 0730 → Breakfast at DHL

0730 – 1700 → Incheon Tour

The most successful amphibious sea-landing operation in military history masterminded by the legendary General MacArthur, the operation involved over 75,000 troops, 261 naval vessels, and led to the recapture of the capital Seoul two weeks later. At the end of this full-day tour, you will have learned a great deal of Korea's past and how this battle shaped its future. In the end, a decisive victory to reverse the strategic momentum in favor of U.N. allied forces during the Korean War.

Chinatown > Starting in 1884 with the opening of the consulate in Incheon, the town has gone through boom/bust cycles due to Korea's turbulent past. Today, an enduring boom cycle is spreading roots in this major tourist attraction and due to its close proximity to the battlegrounds, Chinatown is a must-see for those on the tour and lunch (yes, chinese food) is highly recommended.



Day 17

Han River Area Tour and Cruise

Schedule:

0630 – 1300 → Breakfast

1300 – 1600 → Fish Market / 63 Tower

2000 – 2200 → Night Cruise

Nestled in the shadow of the 63 building on the edge of Yeoido lies the Noryangjin fish market. It's a must see destination that shines among the tourist spots in Seoul. It's an all out assault on the senses from your first eager step inside the market until you drag yourself away stuffed with seafood delights... every kind of cut, size, and types of fish imaginable.

Bisecting the capital, the Han River is Seoul's most iconic symbol. In one of the best ways to enjoy the panoramic views, seeing Seoul from its main waterway at night is a great way to get your bearings in this dynamic capital city!



Day 18

Free Day

Schedule:

0630 – 0930 → Breakfast at DHL

0930 – 1700 → Free day

1800 → Farewell Dinner

The day is yours! Some activities you may enjoy include:

- *Take the subway to City Hall*
- *Walk to the National Museum / War Memorial*
- *Riding the cable car to Namsan Seoul Tower*
- *Receiving a relaxing massage/facial from our Beauty Shop*

In the evening, join us for a final farewell dinner to share memories, photographs and enjoy the company of your fellow retirees one last time before heading home.



Day 19
Farewell!

Schedule:

0500 – 0600 → Check out

0530 – 0600 → Breakfast

0600 Load Bus for Incheon Airport

Thank you for choosing to visit Korea / China for your special retiree vacation. The private coach bus will depart Dragon Hill Lodge at 0600 – this will get you to the airport on time to catch morning departure flights

Ahn-yong!





The Retiree Package Includes:

- *Transportation and transfers (Beijing and Incheon International Airport) via private coach bus*
- *10 nights in a Standard Room at the Dragon Hill Lodge (Seoul)*
 - *In China:*
 - ✓ *4 Nights @ Four Points by Sheraton Beijing (or Similar Grade Hotel)*
 - ✓ *2 Nights @ Sheraton Xian Hotel (or Similar Grade Hotel)*
 - ✓ *2 Nights @ Renaissance Putuo Shanghai (or Similar Grade Hotel)*
- *Breakfast each morning*
- *Special Tours given by professional guides (exception: Free Days)*
- *Farewell Dinner the day before your departure*
- *“Ahn-yong” gift upon departure*
- *Network and share experiences with other retirees*

Getting Around During Your Visit:

Chinese Visa and International Airfare is not included with the package (Beijing – Xian – Shanghai included). Upon making reservation for the package, our team will consult you on your options to facilitate airport transfers (stops must be included at Beijing (China) and Seoul (Incheon) respectively on the prescribed dates). Due to the complexities of connecting flights, we must consult, review, and approve on your choice of flight itineraries before coordinating airport transfers. **Please contact us for before making your flight reservations and for recommendations to apply / obtain a visa for entry into China. Flight reservations made without our consultation and approval is ok, but you may be responsible for all transfers to the airport / hotel.**

If you arrive before or depart after program start and end dates, you will be responsible for transportation arrangements and cost to hotels plus all associated charges for extra accommodations

During your stay, all transportation to and from tours is provided via private coach (exception – free / option days)



\$4,499 for singles (one person in a room)
\$5,799 for couples (two persons in a room)

Only 30 spots are available on this special program! To reserve your spot, please contact our Reservations Team at Reservations@dragonhilllodge.com

If you would like to receive additional information prior to booking, please contact: Discoverseoul@dragonhilllodge.com

- The package does not include lunch, dinner and airfare in the total price (farewell dinner included)*
- The itinerary is subject to changes (due to inclement weather / reasons beyond control). A finalized schedule will be provided to you upon arrival.*
- Military retirees (Blue DD Form 2) and their guests are eligible to participate in this program.*
- Retirees and their guests will be processed through DBIDS on the second day of arrival (Korea only). Retirees sponsoring civilian guests will be required to make an extra stop at an ID processing center the morning following arrival.*
- Package prices are based upon two adults in a Standard Room. Retiree ID Card holders may sponsor a maximum of two rooms at each property.*
- You will receive an e-mail confirmation from our Vacation Planning Center once you make your reservation. At the time of the reservation, you will be charged a \$2,500 non-refundable deposit and you will receive a confirmation email for the package. At that time we suggest researching your plane tickets with our consultation following for airport transfers. If we do not sell the required minimum 5 months prior to the program, you will receive a notification for the potential cancellation and refund of deposit (due to popularity, we have not cancelled any programs to date)*