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29 OCT - 10 NOV 2023 (13D) South Korea Autumn Foliage (Seoul, Sokcho, Gangneung, Andong, Gyeongju & Busan)

Cost Rm4500 per pax (14 pax group), Rm4700 per pax (10-12 pax) EXCLUDE FLIGHT

Based on KRW1000 = Rm3.508 on 6Mar23 Final adjustment on trip cost is based on exchange rate at time of final collection.

DO NOT PURCHASE FLIGHT TICKET UNTIL YOUR TRIP BOOKING IS CONFIRM.

UPDATE 06 Mar 2023 Indicative Air Asia return fare Rm1525 **WITHOUT** check-in baggage both ways. Whatsapp Wong Chun Fook +82 10 57113989 OR Tan Yeow Lim +6016 2093360 for booking and information.

Air Asia (AA) Schedule (as of 6Mar23)

29 OCT 2023 SUN KUL (KLIA2) to ICN (Seoul) **2300 0630+1**

10 NOV 2023 FRI PUS (Busan) to KUL (KLIA2) **0745 1535**

IMPORTANT NOTICE This is meant to be a "free and easy" adventure trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humour, and above all, have the de for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similiarly assorted types! We had a couple of those before and it wasn't pleasant for us or them. Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun.



Gyeongbokgung Palace Seoul

This trip is different from my other trips in that we will use **public transport** i.e. trains, subways, buses and taxis to move about. Cost of private transport is prohibitive and one also has to content with bad traffic jams. Therefore its essential that participants pack light and preferably use backpacks. This is most definitely not the "touch-n-go" Korea 4-8 days tours. Its for people who like to travel like locals, taking local transportations and stay in local accommodations. Tour leader is living in Korea for over 20 years. His in-depth knowledge of cities and country-side made this itinerary uncommon and travel experience unparalleled.

South Korea is the place to travel if one desires modern facilities and comfort while loving both nature and cultural experiences. This trip is thoughtfully tailored to cover in and around Seoul (4 days), the modern, vibrant city with futuristic touch and the latest trendsetting city in lifestyles and technology. Savouring East Coast fishing town of Sockho to famous Soreaksan National Park and "city of coffee" i.e. Gangneung. The highlights include the SEA-TRAIN running along the coast facing Sea of Japan and a stay in UNESCO heritage site of Hahoe Folk Village.

Autumn in Korea, with its mild temperatures and gentle breezes, is a perfect time to travel. There are plenty of spots to enjoy the beauty of autumn with its surrounding foliage burst with magical colours of red, orange, yellow and more. This itinerary takes you in and around Seoul, then guides you to venture out into the countryside to taste the stunning beauty of South Korea's autumn.

Day 1 KLIA-2 Meet at KLIA2 at **8PM SUNDAY 29 OCT 2023** for AA flight to Seoul departing at 11PM.

Day 2 SEOUL GWANGWAMUN SQUARE Arrived incheon airport 630AM MONDAY, make our way to downtown Seoul and leave luggages. We do the rest of the day sightseeing on foot within the vicinity of 600-year history Gwanghwamun Square, including Cheongyecheon stream, Bukcheon Village and Insadong Street, the premier place for antiques, arts and crafts. And not to be missed Gwangjang Market, one of the oldest & largest in Korea, to taste some local most popular traditional foods. ON Seoul. ON (Overnight) Seoul

Day 3 SEOUL LANDMARKS We visit the UNESCO World Heritage site **Gyeongbokgung Palace** & Changing of Guards Ceremony and the **National Folk Musuem**. Then, we visit the renown **Seoul Tower, aka Namsan Tower**, it is a communication and observation tower located on Namsan Mountain in central Seoul. At 236m, it marks the highest

point in Seoul. Then, we move to **Namdaemun** "Great Southern Gate", it has the large traditional market selling various affordable goods from personal items, indoors and outdoors items. Shopping continues to nearby trendy **Myeongdong** shopping district, and upmarket Hyundai Duty Free Departmental Store. ON Seoul.

Day 4 SEOUL GANGNAM STYLE Gangnam literally means 'South of the river', and this district in Seoul that lies along the south banks of the Han River (or Hangang in Korean). This is an upscale modern area home to gleaming skyscrapers, designer brands and stylish nightclubs and as popular depicted in PSY's hit song 'Gangnam Style'. It's also home to country's top plastic surgery clinics and K-Pop entertainment companies. We visit the **COEX Mall** (largest underground shopping mall in Asia) in Gangnam, to experience Gangnam-style neighbourhood. And follow by **Lotte World Tower-Mall**, with 123 floors and 555 meters in height, it's the tallest in Korea and world's 5th tallest building. On the way back to hotel, we visit Seoul's biggest seafood market - **Noryangjin Fishery Market**. ON Seoul.

Day 5 SUWON FORTRESS & KOREAN FOLK VILLAGE We have a full day-trip by Subway to Suwon, located 31km south of Seoul, to visit the **UNESCO-listed 18th century Hwaseong Fortress** and the **Korean Folk Village**. The Village is a 250 acres of tasteful reconstruction of 260 traditional houses from Joseon Dynasty (1392 to 1897). There are scheduled shows including a farmer's dance to the sound of gongs and drums, acrobatics and tight rope dance. There are also very good eateries served in traditional village environment. ON Seoul.



Yonggoers at Seoul Namsan Tower / Hugging Autumn Trees

Day 6 SOKCHO (EAST COAST) Morning is Free & Easy, then we check-out and re-group before noon to **bus 2.5 hours to Sokcho**, which is a coastal town by the East Sea (or Sea of Japan). This pleasant fishing town is well known for its raw-fish eateries. We take leisure walk to local market and rest early tonite. ON Sokcho.

Day 7 SOKCHO SOREAKSAN NATIONAL PARK Wedepart early morning by local bus to **Soreaksan National Park**, the most popular National Park in Korea. There are various ways to explore the place for half day. One can cable car up to Gwongeumseong for amazing views of the park. The Sinheungsa Temple and surrounding area just nice to wander for its nature. Others can trek to **Heundelbawi (Tottering Rock)** and for fitter ones, proceed on to Ulsanbawi, which are the huge stone mountains, accessible via long and steep metal stairways. After lunch, we re-group and bus 1.5 hour to the **Gangneung** City. Gangneung is well-recognized as the "city of coffee" with its popular Coffee Street along the coast. ON Gangneung.

Day 8 SEA-TRAIN & EAST SEA (Sea of Japan) Early morning 1hr **SeaTrain ride for about 50km to Donghae**. This SeaTrain running along the beautiful East Coast, every seat is tailored to face the ocean and windows are larger than those of regular trains for visitors to overlook the majestic waves, elegant beaches, and the emerald-blue ocean. In Donghae, after some refreshment, we catch an intercity **train to Andong city**. Andong is known as a centre of culture and folk traditions. West of the city, UNESCO World Heritage Site **Hahoe Folk Village** has tile-roofed centuries old buildings and homes, and been visited by late Queen Elizabeth and President George Bush. We will stay a nite in the traditional house (hanok) inside the UNESCO Village itself. ON Hahoe Folk Village, Andong.

Day 9 UNESCO ANDONG HAHOE FOLK VILLAGE Morning after breakfast, free & easy explore the village on foot. The living working village is surrounded by Nakdonggang River, and it preserves Joseon-style architecture (1392 to 1897). Nearby Buyongdae Cliff offers nice spot for taking pictures. After check-out, we bus to Andong city for a late lunch, and later to board another train heading further south to Gyeongju City. The journey takes about 2 hour. ON Gyeongju.



Gyeongbukgung Garden / Suwon Fortress Bell

Day 10 UNESCO GYEONGJU CITY Gyeongju, an ancient capital of Silla Kingdom (57BC to 935AD), is described as an open museum because of it's many tombs and UNESCO listed historical places. After breakfast, we will have full day explore of this historical city starts with **Tombs of Silla Kings in Royal Tumuli Park** - the **Daereungwon Tomb**

Complex and Cheomseongdae, an ancient astronomical observatory. **Cheomseongdae** (built 647 AD) means star-gazing tower and is the oldest surviving astronomical observatory in Asia. After **Gyeongju National Museum**, we break for lunch before visiting UNESCO-listed **Seoguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple**. If time allows, to visit Daldongnae, a previously slum village during Korean War (1950's) but now turned into a historical theme park to remember the old times and hard life of Korean people. ON Gyeongju.

Day 11 BUSAN FISH MARKET & GAMCHEON VILLAGE Early morning 1 hour bus to Busan city, and further 40mins of subway to our Hotel in Nampo area, which is the central commercial and shopping area in Busan. Once settled our luggage at hotel, we visit the **Fish Market of Jagalchi** (Korea's largest seafood market) and sample some typical local lunch nearby. With short bus ride, our next stop is **Gamcheon Culture Village**. The area is known for its steep streets, twisting alleys, and brightly painted houses, which have been restored and enhanced in recent years to attract tourism. On the way back to hotel, we visit **BIFF square** - a "Star Street" dedicated to film, related to the world-famous Busan International Film Festival. And spot the hand printings (cemented on the street) of famous movie celebrities include Zhang Yimou, Oliver Stone and Kitano Takeshi. ON Busan.

Day 12 BUSAN COASTAL WALKS & SHOPPING After breakfast, we enjoy the natural beauty of Busan begins with coastal walk in **Igidae Park**, and the scenic view of Oryukdo Islets and Skywalk. Visitors will be thrilled with the view of the waves while looking down through the transparent floor. Afternoon is free & easy time, and it's last chance to clear your shopping list before head home tomorrow. Indeed it's a perfect area to shop and eat includes Gukje Market (International Market), Bupyeong Kangtong Night Market and Lotte Department Store. Other nearby attractions include **Yeongdo Bridge**, the iconic bascule bridge in Busan, which will lift at 2pm to allow ships to pass between ports. **Busan Tower** is a symbol of Busan that at height of 120m, its observation deck offers city and sea view. The best visit hour recommended is late afternoon (5pm+) before sunset when you can view Busan at day light and sit around until it gets dark for night scenery. Alternatively, for theater lovers, simply watch **NANTA**, an award-winning nonverbal action-comedy live performance. ON Busan.

Day 13 HOME (BUSAN-KUL) Transfer to Busan Gimhae airport for flight home depart **10 NOV FRIDAY 0745AM** landing KUL 1535PM.



Gyeongju Royal Tombs / Gamcheon Cultural Village

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Trip Cost cover accommodation, transportation to sites mentioned in itinerary.
2. Accommodations will be in budget to mid-range hotels, local homestays and guesthouses, usually on twin share basis except Hanok Folk Village, multi-share.
3. Not covered are Flight cost Rm1500 (estimates) and Meals KRW40,000 per day (Rm140 x 11d=Rm1540 estimate), Entrance Fees Rm300 (estimate), optional activities.
4. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates.
5. Non-refundable deposit of **Rm2000** is payable to secure your booking on first-come basis.
6. Participants are responsible to purchase TRAVEL INSURANCE prior to departure, and be adequately insured.

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