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**21Oct - 2 Nov 2018 (13-Days) South Korea Autumn Foliage (Seoul, Suwon, Sokcho, Gangneung, Samcheok, Gyeongju, Busan)**

**Cost Rm4300 per pax (14 pax group), Rm4100 (16 pax and above)**

**Trip Cost does NOT include Air Asia flight**

**Update 27 Nov 2017** AA return including taxes is RM1245 as of today.

**BEFORE BUYING YOUR FLIGHT TICKETS, PLEASE CHECK WITH US IF PLACES ARE AVAILABLE.**

Details for Air Asia (AA) Flight Bookings

**Depart** 21 OCT 2018 SAT D7 506 KUL(KLIA2) to ICN(Seoul) **0100 0820**

**Return** 02 NOV 2018 FRI D7 519 PUS(Pusan) to KUL (KLIA2) **1035 1610**

### **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 right attitude 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.

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 0 Mon KLIA2** Meet at KLIA2 at **9PM 20 Oct Sat** for after midnight flight departing **1AM on 21 Oct Sun** to Seoul. Arriving 0820 6hr20 flight time.

**Day 1 SEOUL** Arrived Seoul 0820, make our way to downtown Seoul and leave luggages. We do a full day sightseeing including **Gwanghwamun Square**, **Cheongyecheon stream**, **Jogyesa Buddhist Temple** and **Bukcheon Village**. We adjourn at night to **Insadong Market**, the premier place for antiques, arts and crafts. ON Seoul.

**Day 2 SEOUL** We visit the **UNESCO World Heritage site Gyeongbokgung Palace** and the **National Folk Musuem**, have a peek at the **Blue House** (official residence of Korea President) 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 3 SUWON** We take subway to Suwon, 31km south of Seoul, 1 hour journey by metro. After checking into our hotel, we visit the **Hwaseong Fortress** which inscribed in UNESCO world heritage list. Korea is the world champion in **Archery** sport, within the Fortress, you can experience the sport itself with guide. On the way back to hotel, we visit **Yeongdong Market**, a local market opened since 1917. ON Suwon.

**Day 4 SUWON** Morning we depart by bus to **Korean Folk Village**, which is a tasteful reconstruction of traditional Korean village. 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. Later, if time permit, we visit "Mr. Toilet House" - a two-story toilet-shaped building (**Toilet museum**) constructed by a former mayor of Suwon. Optional visit to **Everland Park**, this is a huge Theme Park, closes at 9PM and members can stay as early or as late as they wish. ON Suwon.

**Day 5 SOKCHO** We check-out and bus 3.5 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 also visit the town **local market**. ON Sokcho.

**Day 6 SOREAKSAN NP** We depart for **Soreaksan National Park** (30 mins) for a full day tour in this most popular National Park. We cable car up to **Gwongeumseong** for amazing views of the park. We also 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. For those who like to view the sunset or sunrise next morning, Sokcho Lighthouse Observatory is the right spot to go which can be easily and freely explore by yourself. ON Sokcho.

**Day 7 JEONGDONGJIN - GANGNEUNG** Morning bus 1.5 hours to Gangneung, the largest coastal city in Gangwon Province, third largest overall. It is nestled at the east side of South Korea's longest mountain range, Taebaek. With brief rest, we change bus to **Jeongdongjin Beach**. The sandy beach stretches over 250m with several nice swimming spots. There is a popular sunrise view spot next to **SunCruiseResort** (Ship-shaped Resort) over the cliff in the background. Once we check-in hotel, it's free & easy to explore the beach town. ON Jeongdongjin.

**Day 8 SAMCHEOK** Early morning **Sea Train ride** 1.5 hours to Samcheok. This Sea Train 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. It travels 58 kilometers, connecting Gangneung, Donghae and Samcheok. After checking in, we bus to **Hwanseon Caves**. This is the largest limestone caves in South Korea. ON Samcheok.



Jeongdongjin Beach / Folk Village Suwon

**Day 9 GJEONGJU** We check-out hotel and visit **Haesindang Park** aka 'The Penis Park' is around 30km from the centre of Samcheok, and is, as the name would suggest, a park full of penises!!! Before you write this off as some kind of sleaze fest, or scoff at the immaturity of wishing to visit the area; take a moment to digest the story behind the park. Afternoon, we bus 5 hours to UNESCO World Heritage Gyeongju city with a stopover at **Folk Village of Yangdong**, a living working village with many centuries old buildings and dwellings. ON Gyeongju.

**Day 10 GJEONGJU** Gyeongju is described as an open museum because of it's many tombs and UNESCO listed historical places. Today, we chartered private transport for full day visiting **Seoguram Grotto** and **Bulguksa Temple**. We break for lunch before visiting **Gyeongju National Museum**, **Anapji Pond**, and Tombs of Silla kings in **Royal Tumuli Park** - the Daereungwon Tomb Complex and **Cheomseongdae**, an ancient astronomical observatory. Cheomseongdae (built 647AD) means star-gazing tower and is the oldest surviving astronomical observatory in Asia. ON Gyeongju.

**Day 11 BUSAN** 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 house, 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 paintings (cemented on the street) of famous movie celebrities include Zhang Yimou, Oliver Stone and Kitano Takeshi. ON Busan.

**Day 12 BUSAN TOWER and SHOPPING** After breakfast, we bus to **Huinnyeoul Culture Village** located along the scenic **Jeoryeong Coastal walkway**. Afternoon would be free and easy time and it's last chance to clear your shopping list before heading home tomorrow. It's a perfect area to shop and eat too, including **Gukje Market** (International Market), **BIFF square**, **Bupyeong Kkangtong Night Market** and **Lotte Departmental Store**. Other nearby attraction includes **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 stands proudly 69m above sea level at a height of 120m. The observation deck offers city and sea views. The best visiting hour is late afternoon (5pm+) before sunset when you can view Busan at day light and sit around until it gets dark for night scenery. ON Busan.



Unesco listed Bulguksa Temple / Forest in Gyeongju

**Day 13 Home:** Transfer to airport for AA flight depart 1035 Arrive KLIA2 on **Fri 2 Nov 2018 410PM**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Cost cover Yongo guiding, accomodation and travelling to sites mentioned above.
2. Accomodation will be in local budget motels.
3. Inter-town travel is covered which will be by trains and public buses. South Korea's public transport is excellent and very modern.
4. Not covered are Air Asia flights, in-town taxis subways or buses, meals (approx Rm100x12=Rm1200), entrance fees to theme parks, museums, etc. and travel insurance.
5. Entrance fees to museums and palaces are very reasonable. Entrances to Unesco Bulguksa is W5,000 or Rm20. Entrances to theme Parks Everland and Lotte World are higher at about Rm200 each.
6. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates.
7. A deposit of Rm850 will be payable to confirm your place. If you want us to purchase the Air Asia flight tickets, please deposit another Rm1400. The excess will be returned.

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