

2025 CHERRY BLOSSOMS KWAVE & DRAMA "9 NIGHT" KOREA LAND TOUR

Get swept up in the **KWAVE** of **K-Drama** & **K-Pop** in this special tour!

9 Nights / 11 Days • 24 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
March 27 – April 06, 2025 • Tour Manager: Brenda Fischer

VISIT:

Seoul • Cheongju • Gongju • Nonsan • Gwangju • Suncheon
Tongyeong • Geojedo Island • Busan • Gyeongju • Mungyeong • Yongin

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

HI-KR Ground • Deoksugung Palace • Changing of the Guard Ceremony
Bukchon Hanok Village • Seoul Herb Medicine Museum • Cheongju Early Printing Museum
Ancient Tombs in Songsanri • King Muryeong's Tomb • Yangnim-dong History & Culture Village
Suncheon Nagan Eupseong Folk Village • Dongpirang Wall Painting Village • Windy Hill
Historic Park of Geoje POW Camp • Yongdusan Park • Busan Tower • Busan Cinema Center
Bulguksa Temple • Tumuli Park • Hwanglidangil • Donggung Palace • Wolji Pond
Mungyeong Brewery • Lotte World Tower • Seoul Sky

K-POP HIGHLIGHTS:

Yongin Everland Amusement Park • BT21 Line Friends • Gangnam Street

K-DRAMA HIGHLIGHTS:

Sunshine Land • Suncheon Drama Center • Mungyeongsaejae Open Set Studio

SHOPPING HIGHLIGHTS:

Gwangjang Market • Tongyeong Central Market • Jagalchi Market • International Market
Busan Shinsegae Store Centum City • Lotte World Mall • Insadong Antique Street

YOUR ESCORTED KOREA LAND TOUR INCLUDES:

Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu • 9 Nights "4-Star" Hotel Accommodations
Seoul (4 Nights Total) – Courtyard By Marriott Seoul Namdaemun
Gwangju (1 Night) – Holiday Inn Gwangju • Tongyeong (1 Night) – Stanford Hotel & Resort Tongyeong
Busan (2 Nights) – Shilla Stay Haeundae Busan • Gyeongju (1 Night) – Lahan Select Gyeongju
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Tips for Local Tour Guides and Bus Drivers • All Taxes and Fees

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Day 1: Thur, Mar 27 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Fri, Mar 28 – SEOUL. Arrive Seoul, South Korea. After entry formalities depart the airport for the hotel. Enjoy a boxed dinner after checking into the hotel. COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT SEOUL NAMDAEMUN (2 Nights) (D)

Day 3: Sat, Mar 29 – SEOUL. After breakfast, begin the day of touring at **HI-KR Ground**, which takes a new approach to integrating Extended Reality (XR). The space is filled with technology aimed for the younger generation with smart technology applied to diverse Korean content. Then, at **Deoksugung Palace**, watch the **changing of the guard ceremony**. Later, explore **Bukchon Hanok Village**, a residential area in Seoul with countless hanoks (traditional Korean houses). Next visit the **Seoul Herb Medicine Museum** – which was established to preserve and pass on the history and knowledge of traditional Korean medicine. Visitors will be able to see everything from the herbs and plants used in traditional medicine, to antique medical records and tools. Stop at **Gwangjang Market**, the national's first market, where you'll have the chance to eat various street food, like freshly prepared seafood pancakes or kimbab (Korean sushi), on your own. (B, L)

Day 4: Sun, Mar 30 – SEOUL – CHEONGJU – GONGJU – NONSAN – GWANGJU. Begin the day at the **Cheongju Early Printing Museum**, which has a copy of the *Jikji*, the oldest book in the world printed with moveable metal type. Here, visitors can also learn about the history of the Korean printing technologies and culture. The **Ancient Tombs in Songsanri** contain the graves of the kings from the Baekje period (234–678), when Gongju was Baekje's capital. It is believed to contain a total of 17 graves – although only seven graves have been discovered so far. There are two types of tomb designs: traditional Baekje-style rock and earth fortification tomb and Chinese-influenced rock tomb. The tombs number one to five were made using the traditional Baekje-style design. While tombs number six and seven (King Muryeong's tomb) were made using the Chinese-influenced design. Even though many artifacts were stolen from the tombs, the tombs serve as an important evidence of Baekje culture and the foreign exchanges during that period. **King Muryeong's tomb** is the sole royal tomb built during the Three Kingdoms Period where the identities of the buried persons are accurately known. The tomb was discovered inadvertently during the drainage work on tombs five and six in 1971, around 1,500 years after it was originally constructed. Because it was discovered with the original structures completely intact, it provided a great deal of resources for research on not only the history of Baekje but ancient history. The tomb also yielded a memorial stone revealing that the deceased buried in the tomb was King Muryeong, which astonished the world. One of the most visited places in Nonsan is **Sunshine Land**. The 17,830 square meter space recreates early 20th century Seoul with rows of period houses and buildings. Originally established as a set of 2018 hit drama *Mister Sunshine*, it has fast become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Chungcheongnam-do Province, attracting some 410,000 visitors a year. HOLIDAY INN GWANGJU HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 5: Mon, Mar 31 – GWANGJU – SUNCHEON – TONGYEONG. **Yangnim History and Culture Village** is located in the area where Western items and ideas first entered Gwangju over 100 years ago. As such, the neighborhood has a unique collection of Western architecture mixed with traditional hanok houses. **Suncheon Nagan Eupseong Folk Village** is a Korean village where times stands still – home to more than 200 Koreans who still live out their daily lives much the same as Koreans did during the height of the Joseon Dynasty. This small village is considered the best preserved example of a Korean fortress town and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011. The **Suncheon Drama Center** is the largest film set in Korea with background of Korea in the 1960s–1980s. Both K-Drama and K-Pop fans may find that the sets appear familiar as they have appeared in several popular dramas and videos – among them are: *Gangnam Blues* (1970), *Love and Ambition* (2006), *East Eden* (2008), *Running Man* (2012), *Ode to My Father* (2014) and a Monsta-X MV (2016). STANFORD HOTEL & RESORT TONGYEONG (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Tue, Apr 01 – TONGYEONG – GEOJEDO ISLAND – BUSAN. Once on the verge of being destroyed by redevelopment in the area, Dongpirang was saved thanks to the civil group TYagenda 21 and their "Paint The Streets of Dongpirang With Colours and Sketches" campaign. Have your camera handy as you explore the explosion of color that decorates the streets and walls of **Dongpirang Wall Painting Village**. With almost 400 years of history, **Tongyeong Central Market** is popular to both locals and visitors alike. You can find various things such as fresh seafood, dried fish, veggies, specialty products, clothes, shoes, honey bread (kkul-bbang), and a lot more! **Windy Hill** is a steep cliff side overlooking the sea, with a lush lawn and a wooden at its edge. The location has been made popular by several Korean dramas such as *Carousel* (2003, MBC) and *Eve's Garden* (2003, SBS). The **Historic Park of Geoje POW Camp** was built to hold prisoners during the Korean War. The camp was closed upon the signing of the 1953 armistice which ended the war. Remains of the war, such as tanks, trucks and other relics are on exhibit here. The camp was turned into a park in 1997 to ensure that the Korean War is not a forgotten war. SHILLA STAY HAEUNDAE BUSAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 7: Wed, Apr 02 – BUSAN. Begin the day at **Yongdusan Park**, a park located in Jung-gu, Busan, South Korea. The 120-meter-high **Busan Tower**, a symbol of Busan, is located here. "Yongdu" means "dragon's head" and "san" means "mountain." The name is an allusion to the similarity of the mountain park, which is said to resemble a dragon's head. Next, explore **Jagalchi Fish Market**, Korea's largest seafood market. Visit the **International Market** shooting location of the K-Drama *Gukje Sjang*, before touring the **Busan Cinema Center**, which holds the Guinness World Record for the "longest cantilever roof" in the world. Another Guinness World Record holder is the **Busan Shinsegae Store Centum City** (department store) which is registered as the largest department store in the world. It is the proud landmark of Busan and a world-class shopping hub not to be missed. (B, L)

Day 8: Thur, Apr 03 – BUSAN – GYEONGJU. **Bulguksa Temple**, one of Korea's best known temples, is a testimony to both the skill of Silla architects and the depth of Buddhist faith at the time. Except for the wooden buildings, all the stone bridges, stairways and pagodas are original. The temple, originally built in 535, was enlarged in 752. The numerous hills you see at **Tumul Park** are actually tumuli, burial mounds for the elite of the Silla Dynasty, which made the city of Gyeongju its capital for about almost a thousand years, from 57 BC to AD 935. Explore **Hwanglidangil**, home to numerous restaurants, cafes, photo studios, and shops in traditional hanok buildings, making it popular among the younger generations in Korea. **Donggung Palace** was a secondary palace used by the crown prince of the Silla Kingdom. It served as a banquet site for important national events and important visitors. **Wolji Pond** was created in 674, during the reign of King Munmu. The pond features three small islands, and a landscape of 12 small hills to the northeast. After the fall of Silla, the site was abandoned and forgotten. Originally referred to as "Anapji," the name was corrected to Wolji when a pottery fragment was found in the 1980s with the letters "Wolji" ("a pond that reflects the moon") carved into it was found, revealing the true name of the pond. LAHAN SELECT GYEONGJU (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Fri, Apr 04 – GYEONGJU – MUNGYEONG – YONGIN – SEOUL. Travel from Gyeongju to Mungyeong this morning to explore the **Mungyeongsaejae Open Set Studio**, a film set primarily used for KBS sageuk (period) dramas since its opening in 2008 – including the drama *Kingdom*. It consists mostly of various kinds of village set-ups, such as thatched houses, traditional hanoks, and city pavilions. You're in for a treat today! At **Mungyeong Brewery**, you'll have the chance to learn about and taste **omija makgeolli rice wine**. Makgeolli (also known as takju and nongju), is a milky, sweet alcoholic drink made from rice. It is one of Korea's most-popular alcoholic drinks. Makgeolli is served in a bowl, rather than a cup. There are six distinct flavors: sweet, sour, pungent, roasted, bitter, and spicy. When the flavors are balanced, the alcohol is considered good quality. With relatively low alcohol by volume (6–9%), it's often considered a "communal beverage" rather than a "hard liquor." Since makgeolli is usually unpasteurized, and wine continues to mature in the bottle, many exported makgeolli undergoes pasteurization, which deprives the beverage of its complex enzymes and flavor compounds – changing the taste of the wine. **Taste some makgeolli** after the tour.



Fans of BTS (the ARMY), will recognize **Yongin Everland Amusement Park** as the location of the BTS' record-breaking *Dynamite* (2020) video. Enjoy dinner (on your own) at the park before returning to Seoul. COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT SEOUL NAMDAEMUN (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 10: Sat, Apr 05 – SEOUL. Start the day in the Hongdae University area. Walk to the nearby **BT21 Line Friends Store** to shop for your favorite characters: Koya, RJ, Shooky, Mang, Chimmy, Tata, Cooky, and Van. Take a stroll on **K-Pop and Gangnam Streets** – noted for being the location of more than half of Korean entertainment companies and the "birthplace" of many Korean K-Pop stars. Have your cameras ready – if you're lucky, you may see a star on their way into or out of a building! Also be on the look-out for the 18 Gangnam Dol (compound word of "Gangnam," "idol," and "doll") that are symbolic images of famous K-Pop groups (BTS, B1A4, KARA, INFINITE, Miss A, SHINee, and many more!) printed on human-scale bear dolls located around the area. The **Lotte World Tower**, with 123 floors rising 555 meters above the city of Seoul, is the country's first building to exceed 100 floors and the sixth tallest building in the world. A pair of double-deck elevators take just 60 seconds (traveling at 10 meters per second) to ascend to **Seoul Sky**, the seven floor observatory. Located at the base of the Lotte World Tower is the **Lotte World Mall**, which includes many local and international retailers, a department store, duty free shop, aquarium, Himart (electronic goods store), cinema, bowling alley, and much more. Return to the hotel for the evening. A special Farewell Dinner has been planned for tonight. An optional activity will be available for those that wish to participate: try your hand at singing K-Pop and K-Drama songs at a noraebang (Korean-style karaoke room) after dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Sun, Apr 06 – SEOUL – HONOLULU. Enjoy a morning of leisure. Get some last minute shopping done at **Insadong Antique Street** is where you can experience the traditional culture of Korea while remaining in the heart of the city. With art galleries, traditional craft stores, antique art dealers, traditional tea houses and restaurants, it is simply the place in Seoul for tourists wanting to experience traditional Korea. Transfer to Incheon International Airport for your return flight to Honolulu. Depart Seoul, South Korea. Arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

* Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and include all airline taxes and fees. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject to change and tour member is responsible for any increases. Some airline-imposed personal charges, including but not limited to baggage, priority boarding and special seating, may apply. For details visit www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees. After initial deposit, a \$75 per person Non-Stop Travel (NST) Cancellation Fee will apply. Group departures may be cancelled, if there are less than 24 tour members. Final Payment to NST for "non-cruise-line" Air and Land Package must be made by money order or personal check. NST does not guarantee that all tour members will fly together with Tour Manager. Tour Manager assignments, number of meals offered on tour, tour price, discount, and the "final" tour itinerary are subject to change with/without notice. **NST reserves the right to correct errors or omissions including but not limited to, fares, fees and surcharges at any time.** Deposit: \$500 per person. Final Payment Due: 11/15/24. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. † Early booking discount is per person. Purchase of NST's complete Air and Land Package is required. ‡ Earn rewards every time you refer a friend. For each "new-to-NST" customer you refer, both you and your referral can receive a \$25 discount off your next NST escorted group. **Special Assistance:** You must notify NST, at time of reservation, of any disability requiring special attention. NST reserves the right to cancel your booking or terminate your vacation if your special needs or disabilities are not suitable for the vacation or if you are not traveling with a companion who will provide all the assistance you require. **Wheelchair and electric scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted.**

