



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

North Korea

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Pyongyang
- ✓ **Language:** Korean
- ✓ **Population:** ± 25.5 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 120.54
- ✓ **Currency:** Won ₩ (*forbidden for tourists*)
- ✓ **Country code:** +850
- ✓ **Visa:** Yes, it's very complicated. [Check!](#)
You can't go without a guide.
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 999 (*police*), 998 (*fire*), 997 (*ambulance*)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A & Typhoid...
(*Hep-B, Japanese Encephalitis, Rabies*)



History Recap Over 1 Drink

'45: After WWII end of Japanese occupation → Soviet troops occupy north, US troops south. '46: NK Communist Party inaugurated, Soviet-backed leadership. '48: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Il Sung leader. Soviet troops withdraw. '50: South declares independence → NK invasion, Korean War. '53: Armistice ends Korean War. '60s: Rapid industrial growth. '72: North & South issue joint statement on peaceful reunification. '85: Joins int. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (in '93 accused of violating it). '91: North & South join UN. '94: Death Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il succeeds. '94: Signs Agreed Framework with US. '96: Floods → severe famine, 3mln die from starvation. NK no longer abides armistice: 1000s of troops to DMZ. NK submarines around SK. 2000: Inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. SK grants amnesty to 3500+ NK prisoners. '02: NK/SK gun battle in Yellow Sea. Reactivating nuclear facilities. '06: UN imposes economic and commercial sanctions (nuclear). '07: SK sends 50mln \$ for flood relief. '07: 2nd Inter-Korean summit (SK president Roh Moo-hyun first to walk across DMZ line). '08: Relations deteriorate with president Lee Myung-bak. Propaganda broadcasts at DMZ zone. '17: China imposes import bans '18: NK at Olympics. Kim-Jong Un meets president Moon-Jae-in in SK & with Trump (US) in Singapore.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget	Traveling	to	North	Korea	is	always	going	to	be	expensive		

Altitude: 2743m (*highest point*). Climate: Humid Continental (Dwa/Dwb).

Border Zone Activities

☺ **Sights:** Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Joint Security Area (JSA), Bridge of no Return, Military Armistice Commission Conference Room, Freedom House, UN Guard Post, Imjingak Park, Unification Park, North Korea Center, DMZ Theater and Exhibition Hall, Dora Observatory, Dorasan Station, 2nd & 3d Infiltration Tunnel, Panmunjeom, Odusan Unification Observatory, Ganghwa Peace Observatory, [Goseong DMZ Museum](#). See all sights border-wide [here](#).

Passport is necessary for entry to DMZ/JSA.

Budget Bites

⌘ Your guide will order all your food for you, and you will eat in hard-currency only restaurants. Vegans / people with allergies will need to make arrangements in advance. In the DMZ there's a CU Store.

Festivals

⌘ **Dragon Boat Festival:** June.

⌘ **Victory Day:** July-27.

⌘ **Liberation Day:** Aug-5.

Mama Said

- ☠ Tourist travel to North Korea is only possible as part of a guided tour. Independent travel is not permitted. You'll be accompanied by two state-employed guides at all times and hear a one-sided account of history while being bussed from sight to sight.
- ☠ Hotel rooms, telephones, and fax machines may be monitored, and personal possessions in hotel rooms may be searched. If you are not prepared to accept severe limitations on your movements, behaviour, and freedom of expression, you should not travel to North Korea.
- ☠ Tourists are forbidden from using the local currency, won. Rather, they must use Euros, American dollars or Chinese Yen. There are no ATMs and credit cards and travellers checks are not used.
- ☠ Under no circumstance you can criticize the leader or government. There are undercover agents to check upon this. Punishments are severe.
- ☠ This is not the country to rebel. Punishments of minor offences vary from labour camps and lengthy prison sentences to death penalty.
- ☠ Don't mention South Korea, China or capitalism.
- ☠ For taking photographs, one needs to exercise restraint, caution and common sense. Negative images are prohibited.
- ☠ Nobody is allowed to leave the hotel unescorted, and any meet-ups with others there must take place in hotel confines. Any unauthorized activities can and will be seen as an attempt at espionage.
- ☠ Absolutely don't bring books about the DPRK or the Korean Situation (*that includes travel guides*) in addition to American flags, anything from South Korea, radios or clothes with political or coarse slogans (*these will require translation*). Religious material is also banned.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ You may only stay at "designated tourist hotels", for which you will need to pay in hard currency. There may be discounts if you ask for lower class accommodation, if you are travelling as part of a group. Costs for your tour, which will include accommodation, all sightseeing activities and meals, will range from US \$70 to US \$200 a day, depending on these factors.

Next?

- ➔ **International destinations close by:** China. You can't cross the border to South Korea, neither are there flights in between North and South Korea.

The Earth Becomes My Throne