

SOUTH KOREA

ANCIENT AND MODERN IN
THE LAND OF THE MORNING CALM

NOVEMBER 6 – 18, 2025



**Exclusive Departure
November 6–18, 2025**

Tour membership limited to 20 guests

South Korea

Ancient and Modern
in the Land of the Morning Calm

13 days from \$6,992 per person

Discover the ‘Land of the Morning Calm’ as you journey through South Korea’s tranquil villages and vibrant cities. Uncover its rich history, from the grandeur of the Joseon and Silla Dynasties to modern complexities at the DMZ and National Museum of Contemporary History. Stroll traditional streets that contrast with modern skyscrapers, immerse yourself in local life at mountain monasteries and villages, and marvel at the beauty of Jeju Island, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Experience Korea’s stunning landscapes, adorned in autumn’s brilliant hues, while gaining an insider’s perspective on its culture and history.



TRIP-AT-A-GLANCE

IN-COUNTRY	LOCATION	HOTEL	 Tripadvisor
3 nights	Seoul	Nine Tree Insadong	●●●●
2 nights	Gyeongju	Lahan Select	●●●●
2 nights	Busan	Shilla Stay Haeundae	●●●●●
3 nights	Jeju Island	Maison Glad Jeju	●●●●●
1 night	Seoul	Nine Tree Insadong	●●●●

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ✓ Small group: 20 guests or less
- ✓ 11 nights’ accommodations
- ✓ 26 Meals: 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners
- ✓ Private motorcoach transportation throughout the journey
- ✓ 1 high-speed train transfer
- ✓ 2 internal domestic flights Busan/Jeju/Seoul
- ✓ Luggage handling for one bag per person
- ✓ Enrichment by expert speakers to build foundational knowledge of the destination
- ✓ In-depth country exploration as described; heritage sites, history and local culture, including all entrance fees
- ✓ Gratuities for local guides, restaurant servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- ✓ Services of local Conservancy Travel Trip Leader

ACTIVITY LEVEL

MODERATE / ACTIVE    

- Walk 3-6 miles per day, often on uneven terrain
- Korea is seventy percent mountains, therefore walking up and down hill during visits is unavoidable
- Many stairs at temples
- Need to take shoes off to enter various temples and sites
- Embarkation/disembarkation of one train and two airplanes

FREEDOM OF CHOICE FLIGHTS

Fly your way! Our trips are land-only, giving you the flexibility to choose your travel dates, airline, route, class, or use miles, and your arrival transfer is still included. Need help? Our Travel Desk has you covered!

Conservancy Travel’s one-of-a-kind journeys support social responsibility and environmental conservation programs through sustainable, meaningful travel.

Sustainability Promise: Support local individuals and small businesses

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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Two Lectures presented by university academics provide in-depth learning on Korean culture and Korean Buddhism.
- ✓ At the Demilitarized Zone, delve into the complex relationship between North and South Korea and catch a rare glimpse into North Korean villages through high-powered telescopes.
- ✓ Stroll through autumn foliage in Changdeok Palace's Secret Garden, home to 56,000 tree and plant species, and uncover its rich history.
- ✓ Enjoy tea with locals in a village, and delve into a hands-on cooking class to learn about the ingredients and process of creating a typical Korean meal.
- ✓ Explore Jeju Island's unique geographical features that include natural volcanic lava sculptural formations, columnar basalt, waterfalls and parasitic cones.
- ✓ Wander rural villages and meet the amazing Haenyeo – women free-divers.
- ✓ Your educational journey is enhanced with diverse dining experiences, from street markets to Royal Cuisine and modern fine dining; traditional dishes and regional specialties such as Jeju's famed seafood, locally sourced meats, and seasonal delights.

PRE-TOUR OPTIONS

NOVEMBER 6: 1 Extra Night Seoul

Fly a day early to Seoul, with time to relax and recover from the long flight and time zone change.

Spend a morning strolling in the Garden of the Morning Calm, with lunch. \$472 per person double; \$694 single

NOVEMBER 5-6: 2 Extra Nights Seoul

Enjoy an additional day to relax and recharge, added to the above.

Includes: Private Arrival Transfer, Accommodation, breakfast, privately guided half-day tour with lunch
\$579 per person double; \$825 single



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 – Departure to Seoul, Korea

Depart on overnight flights to Seoul, South Korea.

Day 2 – Seoul Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel then gather for a welcome dinner. *D*

Day 3 – Seoul Begin your journey with a warm welcome and an enlightening lecture on Korean culture by a university professor. Stroll Insadong's Antique Street, lined with teashops, galleries, and Joseon-era architecture, before savoring vegetarian temple cuisine. At the Museum of Contemporary History, trace Korea's transformation from its tumultuous past to its rise as a modern, advanced nation. *BLD*

Day 4 – Seoul This morning, visit Imjingak at the edge of the DMZ, as your Trip Leader offers insights into Korea's history and geography. Explore the Third Infiltration Tunnel and peer into North Korea from Dora Observatory. In the afternoon, admire autumn's vibrant hues at Changdeok Palace and its Secret Garden, a favorite retreat of Joseon kings. *BL*

Day 5 – Gyeongju Take the KTX high-speed train to Gyeongju and explore UNESCO World Heritage site Yandong Village. Enjoy tea with a local in a traditional Hanok home as you learn Joseon-era traditions. End the



day with a royal dining experience at Gyeongju's most historic restaurant, savoring Korean Royal Court Cuisine served on elegant copper dishes. *BLD*

Day 6 – Gyeongju At the Geongju National Museum, learn the importance and main historical aspects of the ancient Silla Kingdom, which ruled two-thirds of the Korean Peninsula from this capital city from 57BC to 935AD. Walk through the Royal Tumuli Park and go inside the Flying Horse Tomb. This afternoon, head to Bulguksa Temple and Seokguram Grotto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that has some of the original pagodas dating from the year 751, then After dinner, enjoy a stroll around the illuminated Anapji Pond, taking in the scenic viewpoints and reflections. *BLD*

For reservations, call Commonwealth Club Travel at 415-597-6720



Day 7 – Busan A lecture with a university professor traces the history and importance of Buddhism and its relationship to Gyeongju's history. Next, in a hands-on cooking class, learn about the ingredients and process of creating a typical Korean meal, featuring beef bulgogi, then we enjoy what we've made for lunch. Depart to Busan, stopping for a visit Haedong Yonggungsa Temple — the only seaside temple in Korea. Check in at our hotel on Haeundae Beach. *BL*

Day 8 – Busan Discover Busan, where towering skyscrapers meet traditional charm. Visit the UN Memorial Cemetery, the world's only UN burial ground, and explore the vibrant Gamcheon Culture Village, adorned with colorful murals and sculptures. Stroll through the bustling Jagalchi Fish Market and traditional market streets before ascending Busan Tower for sweeping views of the city and harbor. *BLD*

Day 9 – Jeju Island Fly to Jeju Island and explore its rich heritage at the Folklore and Natural History Museum. Stroll through Dongmun Traditional Market, a bustling hub for local goods and fresh produce. For dinner, savor the island's renowned grilled Jeju beef, celebrated for its rich flavor and healthful qualities. *BLD*

Day 10 – Jeju Island Explore the east side of Jeju Island, where Mount Halla's foothills meet unique landscapes. Visit Jeju Stone Culture Park to admire sculptural stone art, then hike around Sangumburi Crater for panoramic views. Stroll through Seongeup Village, a 500-year-old community with traditional thatched-roof homes. Enjoy a delicious lunch of Jeju black pig "shabu-shabu"



before heading to Seongsan Peak for stunning coastal views and a chance to meet the Haenyeo, the island's legendary women divers. *BL*

Day 11 – Jeju Island Explore the south-west of Jeju Island, beginning with the stunning Cheonjyeon and Jeonbang Falls, Asia's only waterfall that drops directly into the sea. Enjoy a lunch of grilled mackerel and buckwheat noodles before visiting the unique Jusangjeolli Pillars, formed by volcanic lava. End your day with a peaceful stroll through a botanic garden created on reclaimed land. *BL*



Day 12 – Seoul, Korea Fly from Jeju to Seoul domestic airport. After lunch, check in to the hotel. The afternoon is at leisure. This evening we'll share a final Farewell Dinner together in a lovely traditional restaurant. *BLD*

Day 13 – Departure Transfer to Incheon International Airport for departure. *B*

NOT INCLUDED International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; Conservancy Travel Trip Leader gratuity; other items not specifically mentioned as included.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP CONTACT CLUB TRAVEL

www.commonwealthclub.org/travel/2025/korea

Email: travel@commonwealthclub.org

Tel: 415-597-6720



IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP

ELIGIBILITY

Membership to Commonwealth Club World Affairs is required to join this journey. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit commonwealthclub.org/membership or call 415-597-6720. People who live outside the Bay Area may purchase a worldwide membership. Please email or call us if this applies to you.

TRIP DETAILS

TRIP NAME: South Korea: Ancient and Modern in the Land of the Morning Calm

DATE: November 6 – 18, 2025

TRIP PRICE: \$6,992 per person in a double room; \$8,223 single room

DEPOSIT: \$900

FINAL PAYMENT DUE DATE:

100 days prior to departure
July 29, 2025

CANCELLATION FEES:

- Deposit to 99 days prior to departure: \$900
- 98-60 days: 50% of tour price
- 59-0 days: No refund

Cancellation is effective upon receipt of written notification.

Please note that registrations are on a per person basis and substitutions may not be possible.

- You may make final payment by check. Write your Trip Name and Departure Date on the check memo. Payments by check must be received in the Conservancy Travel business office at least two weeks prior to the final payment deadline

Conservancy Travel reserves the right to cancel any reservations not paid in full by the final payment due date. Reservations accepted after the final payment date require payment in full upon reservation.

A minimum number of guests is required to operate the trip and to include the services of the Sponsoring Organization's lecturer or host. Please call your Travel Planner for details.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tour Price Includes: Accommodations based on double occupancy, private transportation; meals, sightseeing, and airport transfers described as included in the detailed itinerary; hotel taxes; cruise line fees and port charges (where applicable); entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an in-country tour manager; English-speaking guide(s); luggage handling for one bag per person (where available); specific items and gratuities as described in each Trip Price detail as included.

Not Included in The Trip Price: International airfare and baggage fees; passport fees / visa fees; Travel Insurance, DAN insurance (Diving only); items of a personal nature, laundry, communications charges; immunizations and inoculations; beverages not detailed as included, increases or additional government fees implemented after the published tour price, gratuity to (as applicable) Conservancy Travel Tour Manager, Safari Guides, safari camp personnel, ship personnel; specific items described as Not Included or Optional in the specific Trip exclusions.

Participant agrees to pay Conservancy Travel the designated Trip Price, the required Deposit Amount, and the balance of all monies due by the final payment due date as specified in each trip's detailed itinerary and on the order confirmation.

Published Rates: Rates are in US dollars and based on current rates of exchange at time of publication. Changes in tour rates are rare, and caused by extraordinary circumstances outside Conservancy Travel's control. All prices are per person based on Double or Single Rate. All prices, fuel surcharges, included fares and government levies are subject to change without prior notice. Conservancy Travel reserves the right to adjust published rates according to fluctuations in exchange rates.

Single Rate: Accommodations are priced on two people sharing one room. If single occupancy is requested, or if you request to share a double room but we cannot assign a suitable roommate, the single rate applies. If a reservation changes from double to single occupancy for any reason, the single rate applies. If you are assigned a roommate but request to change to a single room during the trip, the pro-rated single rate applies.

Changes to Reservation: If a Participant makes changes to a registration after confirmation and before the final payment due date, a \$100 per person fee will be charged. If changes are made after the final payment due date, a \$300 per person fee may apply. Any additional fees or penalties associated with the change are the responsibility of the Participant.

Travel Protection: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour price. Commonwealth Club Travel will provide you information about travel insurance upon booking.

Air Arrangements: Participants may choose to make their own air arrangements, or request assistance from Conservancy Travel's Air Desk. All flight purchases are transacted between the passenger and the Air Desk service provider, whose fee schedule is independent of Conservancy Travel. All changes and/or cancellations for purchased air arrangements are the responsibility of the Participant.

Trip Cancellation by Conservancy Travel: In the rare event that a Trip is canceled by Conservancy Travel for reasons other than force majeure or extraordinary causes beyond CT's control, all monies paid to Conservancy Travel will be refunded in full including

PAYMENT

The trip deposit is payable by credit card in the Conservancy Travel Registration portal.

- At registration, you may set automatic payment by credit card for the final payment due date
- You may make final payment by credit card by returning to the My Account feature of your trip registration, if you set up a username and password when you paid your Trip Deposit

change fees on air tickets purchased from Conservancy Travel. Conservancy Travel cannot accept responsibility for any other expenses incurred in preparing for the journey, including non-refundable or non-transferable airline tickets not purchased or provided by Conservancy Travel. If a journey is canceled by Conservancy Travel for reasons of force majeure or extraordinary causes beyond Conservancy Travel's control, Conservancy Travel will make every attempt to recoup the maximum reimbursements from operators and will in turn refund all recoverable costs.

Travel Documents and Immunizations: For International Trips, Participants must possess a passport valid for six months after the trip end date, and any visas or entry permits required by the trip destination(s). Any permits required for the included trip activities are included in the trip price. Immunizations required or recommended for travel are the responsibility of the Participant. Information on destination requirements and recommendations for climate, clothing, baggage, gear, and similar matters are given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Conservancy Travel.

Health: A Participant must be in good overall health to participate. International Travel is physically demanding and may involve extended air travel, time zone changes, climate and dietary conditions that differ from home and may impact Participant health. All trips require that a Participant be capable of independent personal care and physical mobility. Independent physical activities include embarking and disembarking all trip conveyances with minimal assistance; climbing stairs and stepping over raised thresholds.

Other physical activity requirements as specified in the Trip detailed itinerary. Participants requiring assistance must travel with a companion who is solely responsible for providing such assistance, including handling any personal equipment a Participant requires. Any physical or mental health condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be disclosed in writing prior to registration so that Conservancy Travel may evaluate whether participation is feasible. All Participants should consult with their personal physician about the suitability of the destination and must complete and return any personal information and/or medical forms required.

Conservancy Travel will assist when possible with changes due to undisclosed health conditions or services required due to injury or illness during the trip, but any associated costs are at the Participant's expense.

Dietary Restrictions: Participant dietary restrictions must be stated in writing to Conservancy Travel prior to the final payment due date. Conservancy Travel may not be able to guarantee medically required special diets. Some destinations are unable or unaccustomed to some dietary restrictions. Conservancy Travel will request in advance, but does not guarantee delivery of specifically catered dietary restrictions for all meals in all circumstances. Any special dietary requirements should be discussed with Conservancy Travel in advance of registration to ensure trip suitability.

TSA Secure Flight: For airline tickets to be issued in conformity with the requirements of Secure Flight, Participants must provide their full name exactly as it appears on their government issued passport, date of birth, and gender. Incorrect information may result in penalty fees, delays or denial when trying check in or board an air carrier. To comply with this mandate, Conservancy Travel requires a clear scan of the picture page of your valid passport prior to issuing any tickets. Any penalties or additional costs incurred due to incorrect information, delays or denial of travel are the sole responsibility of the Participant. To learn more visit www.tsa.gov/SecureFlight.

RESPONSIBILITY

Conservancy Travel and Commonwealth Club World Affairs do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, Conservancy Travel and the Commonwealth Club World Affairs are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, Conservancy Travel and the Commonwealth Club World Affairs are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for

any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby.

Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and BASED ON TARIFFS, EXCHANGE Rates and other information CURRENT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT OR BEFORE THE TIME OF DEPARTURE. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger.

In the event of an act of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorism, accident, natural disaster, outbreak of disease, or other event or circumstance beyond its control that results in the cancellation of all or a portion of a travel program, Conservancy Travel reserves the right to issue a credit to the passenger in lieu of a money-back refund, applicable to a future Conservancy Travel program. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is cancelled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund.

By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

Seller of Travel:

California Reg. 2156687-50;
Florida Reg. F23000006372;
Washington Reg. 605 355 687

The full Passenger Waiver Agreement may be read and downloaded here:

www.conservancytravel.org/terms-and-conditions







The Center for Conservation and Community d/b/a **Conservancy Travel** is a not-for-profit organization that creates experiential journeys to explore the Earth's greatest natural and cultural destinations on every continent.

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