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KOREA CHERRY BLOSSOMS TOUR

2 Week Conducted Tour
for **\$4,780** per person twin share
This price includes airport taxes & levies

This is fantastic value for a destination such as Korea, as the price includes all of the following:

- Air fares with Singapore Airlines from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Busan and out of Seoul, South Korea.
- A 12 day overland tour of South Korea during the popular cherry blossoms period. The tour includes Jinhae Gunhangje Cherry Blossom Festival and several other places of interest.
- Many meals, as per the itinerary.
- Accommodation in mainly 3½ to 4 star hotels with private facilities.
- All transfers and transport, and entrance fees to many attractions.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guide and driver.
- Services of local tour guides and if there are 15 or more participants there will be an Australian tour escort.



The tour will visit South Korea in Spring, when the cherry blossoms should be in bloom, but this is dependant on seasonal weather conditions and cannot be guaranteed.



If you don't have anyone to share with but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra cost of \$1315.

This is a small group tour with a maximum of about 22 passengers.

Tour departs Australia on the 28th March and returns 10th April 2020

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Korea Cherry Blossom Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

28.03.20 Australia – Singapore – Busan, South Korea

Depart Brisbane at 2.45pm on flight SQ 236, arriving in Singapore at 8.45pm.
Depart Sydney at 4.10pm on flight SQ 222, arriving in Singapore at 9.20pm.
Depart Melbourne at 4.40pm on flight SQ 228, arriving in Singapore at 9.20pm.
All passengers then depart Singapore at 11.15pm on Silk Air flight MI 876, arriving in Busan, South Korea at 7.00am the next morning (29.03.20).

29.03.20 Busan, South Korea

(B) Upon arrival in Busan we are transferred to our hotel, where we can get straight into our rooms to rest from the overnight flight, or explore the nearby area.
Accommodation: Shilla Stay Haeundae or similar

30.03.20 Busan – Jinhae – Busan

(B/L) Today we visit the Jinhae Gunhangje Festival, which is a world-class cherry blossom festival held annually at the beautiful naval port city of Jinhae. At the festival we will see the Bugwon Rotary, with the commemoration of Admiral Yi Sun-Shin.
Lunch today is at a local restaurant.
Afterwards we visit Gyeonghwa Station, also known as Cherry Blossom Road. Railway services in and out of Gyeonghwa Station have been discontinued since 2006 and we can walk along the tracks which are surrounded by rows of cherry blossom trees, making a tunnel effect filled with flowers. The area is very scenic and is often featured in Korean movies. At the conclusion of the touring we are returned to our hotel in Busan, with the remainder of the day at leisure.
Accommodation: Shilla Stay Haeundae or similar

31.03.20 Busan – Gyeongju

(B/L) This morning we visit Jagalchi Fish Market, Busan Tower (Yongdusan Park) and the UN Cemetery.
Jagalchi Fish Market is Korea's largest seafood market. After the Korean War the market solidified itself as a fish market. Most of the people who sell fish are women, so the women who sell here are called 'Jagalchi Ajumma'.
Busan Tower was built in 1973. The tower provides us a panoramic view of the area, and also has a café and souvenir shops.
The UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea honours UN soldiers from 16 countries that were killed in battle during the Korean War from 1950-1953. It contains 2,300 graves and is the only United Nations cemetery in the world. The park is spread across 35 acres.
In the afternoon we visit Taejongdae recreation area, which is designated as a Busan Monument. Featuring its highest peak at 250 metres, there are forests of pine trees and 200 varieties of trees. It is especially famous for its rock beach. Taejongdae was named after the 29th king of the Silla Kingdom, which reigned from 57B.C. – 935 A.D. King Taejong had travelled to many places but this was the place he enjoyed shooting arrows. Afterwards we continue to Gyeongju and check into our hotel for a two night stay. Lunch today is included.
Accommodation: Hotel Hyundai Gyeongju or similar

01.04.20 Gyeongju**(B/L)**

Today we have a full day Gyeongju tour visiting Bulguksa Temple and Seokguram Grotto. Bulguksa Temple was designated as a World Cultural Asset by UNESCO in 1995. The beauty of the temple itself and the artistic touch of the stone relics are known throughout the world. Seokguram Grotto is an artificial stone temple made of granite which is known to have been built with Bulguksa Temple and was designated as a National Treasure in 1962. The construction commenced with Kim Dae-Seong (700-774). Lunch today is at a local restaurant. At the conclusion of today's touring we are returned to our hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Hyundai Gyeongju or similar

02.04.20 Gyeongju – Daegu**(B/L)**

After breakfast we depart our hotel to visit the Cheomsungdae Observatory, which was constructed in the 7th century and is the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia, and possibly even the world. The name 'Cheomsungdae' means 'star-gazing tower' in Korean. The tower was originally used for observing the stars in order to forecast the weather. This stone structure is a beautiful combination of straight lines and curves. Cheomseongdae's original appearance and shape has remained unchanged for over 1300 years, however the structure now tilts slightly to the north-east. Next we visit Chunma Royal Tumuli, which is the Daereungwon Tomb Complex. Located within the park are ancient tombs/mounds, where ancient kings and their artefacts are said to be buried. The main area is scattered with cherry blossom trees.

We also visit Bomun Lake, which is a man-made lake built on the site of an old fortress in Mount Myeonghwalsan. There are many leisure facilities and parks around the lake, featuring cherry trees.

Afterwards we continue to Daegu and check into our hotel for an overnight stay.

Lunch today is included at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: The Grand Hotel Daegu or similar

03.04.20 Daegu – Andong – Yeongju - Seoul**(B/L)**

This morning we drive to Andong to visit Hahoe Village, which is well known for its traditional houses. The village is home to descendants of the Ryu clan of Pungsan and was the birthplace of renowned scholars of the Joseon Period, such as Gyeomam Ryu Un-ryong and Saoae Ryu Seong-ryong. The village became famous after Queen Elizabeth II visited on the 21st April 1999. The name of the village translates to 'Village Enveloped by Water', as the Nakdong River flows around the town's perimeter. The village is located at the foothills of Hwasan Mountain. The centre of the village is populated by large tile-roofed houses belonging to the Ryu clan, adding their own unique charm to the surrounding thatched houses.

Afterwards we visit Buseoksa Temple, which is considered a 'masculine' temple. It differentiates itself from other temples by its huge size and the scenery is refreshing and beautiful. Buseoksa Temple was built in 676, when King Munmu (661-681) ruled the Silla Kingdom (57BC-AD 935), by the founder Uisang (625-702) after he received orders from the King. Lunch today is included at a local restaurant.

Following this we proceed to Seoul, with an evening arrival. We have a six night stay in the nations capital.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

04.04.20 Seoul**(B)**

The city of Seoul is a huge metropolis where modern skyscrapers, high-tech subways and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets.

This morning we visit Gangnam Subway Station area, which is widely known for its very high standard of living, and has been compared to Beverley Hills in California.

Following this we have some free time at Yeouido Park, which is a large recreational area located on Yeouido Island in the central part of Seoul. The park has many cherry trees which should be in bloom over this period

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

05.04.20 Seoul - Gwangneung Tumuli & Forrest – Garden of Morning Calm – Seoul**(B/L)**

This morning we travel out of Seoul to visit Gwangneung Royal Tumuli & Forest.

Gwangneung is the royal tomb of King Sejo (1417-1468) and Queen Jeonghui (1418-1483). The area is surrounded by forest where an abundance of wild plants grow. These well managed forests have been designated as a national Arboretum by the Korean Forest Service. Gwangneung is also famous for being the habitat of the Korean redheaded woodpecker, with many evergreen trees such as pine trees and fir trees growing here.

In the afternoon we visit the Garden of Morning Calm. The garden was founded by professor Sang-Kyung Han while he was serving as an exchange professor in America. His vision was to create a garden that would become world-famous and spread the concept of Korean beauty throughout the world.

The garden covers 330,000 Square Metres and attracts one million tourists each year. There are 5,000 kinds of plants in the garden, and it is the oldest private garden in Korea.

At the conclusion of the visit we are returned to our hotel in Seoul.

Lunch today is included at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

06.04.20 Seoul**(B/L)**

Our first stop this morning is a photo stop to the Blue House, which is the presidential residence. The first things to catch your attention are the blue tiles and the smooth roof, which both blend beautifully with Mt Bugaksan in the background.

Next we visit Gyeongbok Palace, which was originally established in 1395 as a royal palace of the Chosun Dynasty. It was rebuilt under Emperor Kojong in

1868. Gyeongbok Palace still keeps its beauty of 500 years of Chosun Dynasty's

history by having many stately buildings. Within the grounds of the palace is the

National Folk Museum of Korea, which we will visit. The buildings design is based

on various historical buildings from around Korea. The museum has three main

exhibition halls with over 98,000 artifacts. The first hall covers the history of the

Korean people and features materials of everyday life in Korea from pre-historic

times. The second hall covers the Korean way of life which illustrates Korean

villages in ancient times. The third hall illustrates the life cycle of Koreans and

depicts the deep roots of Confucianism in Korean culture. The museum also features

open air exhibits such as spirit posts, stone piles for worship, grinding mills and rice

storage shelters etc. Following this we will enjoy an included lunch at a local

restaurant.

In the afternoon we will visit Myeongdong shopping district, one of the primary

shopping areas in Seoul with many brand names shops and department stores lining

the streets and alleys.

Our last stop today is at Seoul Tower, which opened to the public in 1980 and has since become a major tourist attraction. The 236 metre building sits atop Namsan Mountain which contains hundreds of cherry trees, and the tower offers panoramic views of Seoul and the surrounding area. Afterwards we are returned to the hotel.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

07.04.20 Seoul – Suwon – Seoul

(B/L)

This morning we visit Korean Folk Village. Set in a natural environment occupying approximately 243 acres, visitors can experience the natural atmosphere with over 260 traditional houses reminiscent of the late Joseon Dynasty, including various household goods from different regions. All these features have been relocated and restored to provide visitors with a broad understanding of Korean food, clothing and housing styles of the past.

This afternoon transfer to Suwon Hwaseong Fortress, an impressive structure from the latter part of the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) and the official fortress of Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do. The fortress (constructed from 1794-1796) was built as a show of the King's filial piety towards his father Jangheonseja and to build a new pioneer city with its own economic power. Lunch today is included.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

08.04.20 Seoul – DMZ Tour - Seoul

(B/D)

Today is at leisure in Seoul. For those who wish there will be an **optional** tour to the demilitarized zone of Korea. We travel to the Korean Demilitarized Zone to see the border that divides North and South Korea. Learn about the troubled history of the country, from the time of the Korean War to modern day. The tour includes Imjingak Park, which is located 7km from the Military Demarcation Line, and is now at the forefront of tourism related to the Korean Conflict. It was built in 1972 with the hope that someday unification would be possible. The park is surrounded by several monuments. If open, we will also visit Panmunjeom Joint Security Area (JSA), which is located in the demilitarized zone, 50km north of Seoul. The area is most commonly known for the peace talks that were held here on the 25th October 1951 and was designated as the Joint Security Area on the 27th July 1953, when the armistice agreement was signed. It is the only place where North Koreans and South Koreans can come in contact on a daily basis and make efforts toward the peace of Korea. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant for those persons taking the optional tour. At the conclusion of the tour we are returned to Seoul.

Price for DMZ optional tour is \$130 per person

Please note the JSA can be closed over intermittent periods. If this is the case during our visit, we will still visit the DMZ, but not the Joint Security Area.

This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Best Western Premier Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

09.04.20 Seoul – Singapore - Australia

(B)

After breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.

Depart Seoul at 11.20am on SQ 611, arriving in Singapore at 4.55pm.

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 7.45pm on flight SQ 247, arriving in Melbourne at 5.10am the next morning (10.04.20).

Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 8.20pm on flight SQ 221, arriving in Sydney at 5.55am the next morning (10.04.20).

Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.30pm on flight SQ 235, arriving in Brisbane at 7.05am the next morning (10.04.20).

Note: The tour guide used for this tour has general knowledge only and is not a trained botanist. Therefore they may not be able to answer all your questions.

Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

1	2	3	4	5
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Tour Difficulty Level 3

This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, walking distances of over 500 metres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as early departures.



Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Korea Cherry Blossoms Tour

Deposits and Payments: A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable 8 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel often has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable.

Refunds and Cancellations: Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Airline Tickets - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

Insurance: Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports: All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. No visas are required for Australian passport holders.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes: Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost: All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. Also travel insurance. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa / MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2.75% surcharge for American Express.

Cherry Blossoms: The tour dates have been selected to time with the proposed blooming period of the cherry blossoms, however the specific blooming dates are subject to weather conditions and seasonal variations. As such we cannot guarantee that you will see cherry blossoms in bloom, although it is likely.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$105 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings – If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Passport Nationality _____ Preferred Name: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Special Dietary Requests – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

Any existing medical conditions – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details and severity: _____

2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided?

Yes / No

3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain?

Yes / No

If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____

4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details: _____

5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No

If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____

6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details: _____

7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details: _____

8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____

9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No

10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No

If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No

11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____

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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____