
GEEO ITINERARY

NCTA South Korea 6/21/2026

Day 1: Seoul Arrive in Seoul at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrival Arrive in Seoul at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The nearest airport is **Incheon International Airport (ICN)**. The city's secondary airport is Gimpo International Airport (GMP).

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the welcome meeting, join your tour leader for an orientation walk down Cheonggyecheon Stream, a 6.8-mile waterway and public space running through the heart of downtown Seoul. Learn about Seoul while walking past small waterfalls and nearly two dozen overhead bridges. Then explore the dense grid of streets in the bustling neighborhood of Myeongdong, which is packed with people at all hours of the day looking to enjoy some of the best shopping, street food, and nightlife in all of Korea. Opt for a group dinner to get to know your tour leader and travel companions.

Joining Instructions

From Incheon International Airport

Taxi: (~70 mins): Use the Seoul Taxi stands outside the arrivals area. All taxis are metered. Prices start at \$50 USD (₩65,000) for a Regular taxi (max 2 passengers) or \$85 for a premium or Jumbo taxi (3 and 9 max passengers, respectively). For a flat rate of ~\$90 USD, English-speaking [International taxis](#) are also available.

Note: a night surcharge (120% of the regular fare) may apply between midnight and 4:00 am. Tipping is not customary in South Korea.

AREX Express Train: (~45-51min | ₩11,000 ~\$7-9 USD) Take the non-stop AREX Express Train to **Seoul Station**. The train is comfortable and clean with English signage, and runs every ~30 minutes from 05:15 to 22:40. From Seoul Station, take a taxi to your hotel (<10 min). Total cost for train and taxi is approximately \$12-13 USD. Note: a small refundable deposit (₩500 KRW) is required when purchasing a single-journey card.

Bus: [6001 Airport Limousine Bus](#) (~90 min | ₩17,000 / ~\$13 USD) Operates every 30 minutes from 06:55 to 22:50. Purchase tickets at the arrivals-level ticket booth. Get off at Myeong-dong Station, a 2-minute walk from the hotel.

Day 2: Seoul Enjoy a bus tour of the bustling metropolis, where modern skyscrapers, high-tech subways, and pop culture meet Buddhist temples and street markets. Visit Gyengbokgung Palace, the National Folklore Museum, Bukchon Hanok Village, and Insadong Alley.

During a private bus tour of Seoul, you will visit Gyeongbokgung Palace, the main royal palace of the Joseon Dynasty built in 1395. The palace has been destroyed many times, but more than half of the original buildings are still standing or are restored. The complex is also home to the National Palace Museum and the National Folk Museum, where you can learn about the history and traditions of the Korean people during the Joseon era.

Continue on to Bukchon Hanok Village, where you will be transported 600 years into Seoul's past. The village boasts the largest cluster of privately owned traditional Korean wooden homes (*hanok*) in Seoul. Keep an eye out for the half-dozen alleys with beautifully restored architectural features like small courtyards, decorative outer walls, and dark tiled roofs.

Explore the narrow and hidden twists and turns of one of the most memorable places in Seoul, Insadong Alley. Now filled with antique shops, galleries, tea houses, and traditional restaurants, this area once housed the royal studio for painters during the Joseon Dynasty.

After exploring the city, opt to see a show, explore a local museum, or hit the pavement and eat your way through street markets trying local fares such as bibimbap, soondae, and kimchi.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Seoul/Gyeongju-si Travel by train to Gyeongju, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Silla for nearly 1,000 years. Experience an overnight stay in a local temple.

After breakfast, board a high-speed bullet train for a relaxing morning ride through the countryside to Gyeongju. The city was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Silla, which ruled about two-thirds of the Korean Peninsula at its height, for close to one thousand years. Several of Gyeongju's historical buildings are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

You will experience an overnight stay in a local temple, which starts with a steep climb uphill. The group will learn about temple etiquette, watch a monk's martial arts performance (*sunmudo*), experience the daily prayer ritual (108 prostrations), and enjoy a temple-style dinner (sitting on the floor). Stay in rooms called *ondol*, which are traditional yet heated to be cozy and comfortable, with beds made up directly on the floor. The rooms are multi-share, divided up between males and females. Please be aware that you will spend a fair amount of time sitting cross-legged on floor mats at the temple.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by bullet train

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 4: Gyeongju-si/Busan Enjoy a peaceful morning meditation, martial arts practice, and drum and bell ritual. Visit Yangdong Folk Village in Gyeongju National Park. Transfer to Busan.

Enjoy a peaceful morning at Gulgalsa Temple, located amid the natural beauty of Hamwolsan Mountain. Take an easy hike up to the only stone cave temple in Korea for a morning meditation.

During a tour of Gyeongju, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bulguksa Temple, a head temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism located on the slopes of Mount Toham. Admire the temple's six national treasures: the Dabotap and Seokgatap stone pagodas, Yeonhwagyo and Chilbogyo bridges, Cheongungyo and Baegungyo bridges, and two gilt-bronze statues of Buddha.

Enjoy a visit to Yangdong Folk Village, a 500-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Gyeongju National Park, where you can get a feel for life during the early Joseon Dynasty. Founded in the early 1400s, the village boasts well-preserved buildings and has more than 160 homes displaying traditional Joseon architecture within a gorgeous natural setting.

Also visit the oldest surviving astronomical observatory in Asia, Cheomseongdae Observatory. Cheomseongdae may not appear to be a monumental landmark, but the observatory tower dates back to the seventh century and is actually the oldest existing astronomical observatory in all of East Asia. Cheomseongdae was used for observing the stars in order to forecast the weather in the ancient scientific hub of Gyeongju. Later in the tour, visit the Daereungwon Tomb complex, another UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains 23 tombs located inside large mounds. The complex is beautiful with its rolling mounds and gardens, and you can pay a visit inside the tombs, the most famous of which are Cheonmachong and Hwangnam Daechong. Each tomb holds thousands of relics that provide a window into the Silla Dynasty and its royal family. The contents of the tombs are over 1,500 years old and a testament to the rich history and cultural heritage of Korea.

At the end of the day, travel by private bus to Busan.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5: Busan Visit Haedong Yonggungsa, a seaside temple in Busan, and then enjoy a city tour of Busan, stopping at Gamcheon, Jagalchi Fish Market, Gukjesijang, and Yongdusan Park.

Visit the picturesque 14th-century seaside temple, Haedong Yonggungsa, originally known as Bomun Temple. Originally built in 1376, this picturesque, cliffside Buddhist temple overlooks the East China Sea.

After visiting the temple, explore the pastel-colored village of Gamcheon, nestled in the side of a mountain, with uniquely painted houses, murals, cafes, and shops.

Next, visit Jagalchi Fish Market, a major attraction at Nampo Port. Wander through the rows of stalls selling everything you can dream of from the sea. Watch as locals haggle for the best price and fishmongers hawk their wares. Then check out Gukjesijang, or Gukje Market, near Biff Square, a well-known modern movie district. The market was once a place for refugees to earn a living during the Korean War. It is now a bustling international market full of food, home goods, clothes, souvenirs, and more. The tour will also take you to Yongdusan Park, home to more than 70 different types of trees and the 387-ft-high Busan Tower.

In the evening, treat yourself at a Jjimjilbang spa, or sing your heart out at a popular noraebang (the Korean word for karaoke) bar.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Busan/Seoul Visit Haeundae Beach and Dongbaekseom Island before traveling back to Seoul by train. In Seoul, check out Namdaemun Market, and then make your way by cable car to N Seoul Tower. Opt to make the trip up to the observation deck, see Banpo Bridge, visit the floating islands, or hang out in the Gangnam district.

In the morning, visit Haeundae Beach and Dongbaekseom Island, before traveling by bullet train back to Seoul. After arriving in Seoul, visit Namdaemun Market, Korea's oldest traditional market, dating back to 1414. It is also the country's largest market, with over 10,000 vendors spanning several city blocks. Get ready to shop! Then take a cable car up to the most iconic landmark in Seoul, N Seoul Tower, located at the top of Mt Namsan. The tower used to be a broadcasting station and is now a beautiful observatory open to the public. Opt to pay an additional fee to go up the tower to the observatory.

During the evening, spend some free time visiting Banpo Bridge, home to the Moonlight Rainbow Fountain Show, and three artificial islands (Sebitseom) located near one end of the bridge. Or hang out in the Gangnam district, an historically rich, fast-developing neighborhood with plenty to do and see. Gangnam Station is the busiest subway station in Seoul and has a huge underground shopping center, or

you could visit Bongeunsa, a Buddhist temple in the center of Gangnam.

Approximate travel time: 2.5 hrs by bullet train

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Seoul Visit the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), in place since 1953 to separate North and South Korea. After 3-4 hours at the DMZ, head to The War Memorial of Korea. Later, return back to Seoul for one last night in the city.

Visit the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), in place since 1953 to separate North and South Korea. It is the most heavily militarized border in the world, with over a million soldiers standing guard every day at one of the last remnants of the Cold War era. The 160-mile long and 2.5-mile wide buffer zone has had very little development, and nature and wildlife have taken over the area. After spending about 3-4 hours visiting the DMZ, the group will visit The War Memorial of Korea, with indoor and outdoor exhibits containing about 9,000 artifacts. The memorial building serves to exhibit and memorialize the military history of Korea and preserve materials related to the Korean War.

Later, return back to Seoul for another night in the city. Opt to visit the Samsung Leeum Contemporary Gallery, explore the Itaewon neighborhood, or pre-book a kimchi making and hanbok experience.

Approximate travel time: 2-3 hrs by private vehicle (Seoul to DMZ round trip)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Seoul Depart Seoul at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Seoul at any time. The nearest airport is **Incheon International Airport (ICN)**. The city's secondary airport is Gimpo International Airport (GMP). If you wish to extend your stay in Seoul, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.

Interested in extending your time abroad? We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures' larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

Accommodations List

The hotels listed below reflect the properties *expected to be used* for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. **The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:**

Day 1 Seoul (Jun 21): Hotel Prince

Day 2 Seoul (Jun 22): Hotel Prince

Day 3 Gyeongju-si (Jun 23): Golgalsa Temple Stay

Day 4 Gyeongju-si (Jun 24): Swiss Rosen Hotel Gyeongju

Day 5 Busan (Jun 25): Felix Hotel by STX

Day 6 Seoul (Jun 26): Hotel Prince

Day 7 Seoul (Jun 27): Hotel Prince

****Itinerary Disclaimer:*** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.