

SPICE ROADS





CYCLING



ANCIENT KOREA BY BICYCLE

Tour Code
KOR-AKO

9 DAYS
8 NIGHTS

 Destinations	South Korea
 Tour Meets Tour Ends	Seoul Seoul
 Fly in to Fly out of	Incheon International Airport (ICN) Incheon International Airport (ICN)
 Group Size Minimum Age	4-16 riders 18 (on scheduled departures)

ACTIVITY PROFILE



5 Cycling days	316 ^{km} Total cycling distance
72 ^{km} Avg distance / day	m Avg climbing / day

PRICING



Price	US\$ 3,350
Bike Hire (Hybrid)	US\$ 250
Single Supplement	US\$ 500

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ SpiceRoads jersey
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Snacks and drinks

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Domestic flights
- ✗ Airport pick up
- ✗ Airport drop off
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Tips

DEPARTURES



03 April - 11 April 2021
15 May - 23 May 2021
04 September - 12 September 2021

TRIP PROFILE

On this tour, we cycle 316 km in five cycling days on newly built paved bicycle trails. These paths are separate from vehicles and are very safe. There are already more than 1,757 km of cross-country cycling paths completed and 1,000 km more bicycle paths are still under construction.

A support vehicle follows us on this tour to carry our luggage and has seats available in case of an emergency. However, spaces in the vehicle are limited, so cyclists will be expected to ride the daily distances listed. The guide will accompany us on two transfers by train and bus.

Please note this join-in tour is open to riders from other tour companies. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of cyclists to guarantee a departure quickly. This tour meets our quality standards, and the only difference to our other SpiceRoads tours will be the jersey the guide wears.

Suitability: This trip is suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness. This trip is not too arduous; however, it is a point-to-point ride, and cyclists will be encouraged to complete the riding distances. Riders with less experience are more than welcome, but the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy it.

Biking Conditions: This trip is primarily on dedicated bicycle paths in very good condition. The terrain is flat, and the surfaces are smooth. We'll stop often to visit sites, for photo opportunities or to have a water break



Day 1 Arrive in Seoul

We meet you at our hotel lobby at 1 pm for a city tour that includes the famous Gyeongbokgung Palace, Samcheongdong street, and a shopping excursion to Insa-Dong street. In the evening, we have a trip briefing and welcome dinner.

 Kensington Hotel  Dinner

Day 2 Seoul – Namyangju

We cycle on a bike path along the scenic Han River to Namyangju. The terrain will be flat as we leave the city, riding past Yeo-ido, the heart of politics, banking, and finance of South Korea, and Hangang Park, a local favourite to stroll along the river, and the National Assembly

Building, which took six years to build and was finished in 1975. The pillar and the dome symbolise varying public opinions emerging as one. We continue riding another leisurely 20 km along the river bank before having a Hanjeongsik lunch, a meal that consists of many side dishes. Our next stop is at the Dasan Heritage site, commemorating a famous scholar from the late Joseon Dynasty. We ride on to our overnight in Namyangju.

 Heimat Hotel  Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

 Ride 62km

Day 3 Namyangju – Chuncheon

After breakfast, we continue on the bike path to Chuncheon. We cycle upstream along the Bukhangang River and start to see some mountains in the distance. We visit Jara Island, which was created in 1943 due to the construction of the Cheongpyeong Dam. After lunch, we keep riding north along the river to our overnight hotel in Chuncheon. The town is perhaps most famous for being the setting for the enormously popular TV drama, Winter Sonata.

 Chuncheon Hotel  Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

 Ride 61 km

Day 4 Chuncheon – Yeoju

We take a short train ride to cover more ground. We continue our bike tour cycling to Chuncheon station and then catch a local train for just over an hour, disembarking at Daeseongli. We ride south to Dumulmeori, where the two rivers of Bukhangang and Namhangang meet. We pass three 400-year-old Zelkova trees that appear as one giant tree as we make our way down to Yeoju and then keep riding south to visit royal tombs that are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Yeongneung is the first joint royal tomb of the Joseon Dynasty. The fourth ruler of the dynasty, King Sejong (1397-1450, reign 1418-1450) and his wife Queen Soheon (1395-1446) are buried there. Nearby is Nyeongneung, the joint royal tomb of the 17th ruler of the dynasty, King Hyojong (1619-1659, reign 1649-1659), and of his wife Queen Inseon (1618-1674). After our lesson in Korean dynasties we cycle on to Yeoju and our hotel.

 Sun Valley Hotel  Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

 Ride 70km

Day 5 Yeoju – Sangju

A visit to Silleuksa Temple begins our day. Built during the Silla dynasty circa 580, this Korean Buddhist temple is a sacred pilgrimage site and a repository of seven treasures. We learn about Korean Buddhism at this religious site set amidst a 500-year-old juniper tree and a 600-year-old ginkgo tree. After our visit, it's time to get on our bikes and again follow the Han River bike path. Lunch will be a local specialty – Oritang, duck and vegetable soup. We finish riding at Chungju and transfer by bus to Sangju, nicknamed Sam Baek, or three whites, referring to the primary agricultural products of the region – rice, silkworm cocoons, and persimmons. We arrive in time to explore Sangju, and dinner is your choice.

 Nakgangmasil Korean Traditional House stay  Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

 Ride 66km

Day 6 Sangju – Andong Hahoe Village

Today is our last day of riding, and we switch rivers as we cycle along the Nakdong River. Be sure to have your camera ready! Back on the bike, we ride by the Donam Confucian School, founded in 1606. Then we stop at the Sangju Bicycle Museum where a large collection of bicycles of all types and sizes from all over the world are on exhibit, including, of course, a history of Korean two wheelers. In the afternoon, before we reach Hahoe Folk Village, we stop on the outskirts to visit the Mask Museum and gain insight into how these are used in traditional

Korean mask dances. We spend the night in a traditional Korean guest house that dates back to 1797.

 Hahoe Village  Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

 Ride 57km

Day 7 Andong Hahoe Village

A full day off the bikes to explore this traditional village from the Joseon Dynasty. This UNESCO World Heritage site has preserved Joseon period-style architecture, tiled and thatched roof houses, and folk traditions of clan-based villages. Later, we visit the mask museum before we hike to Buyongdae, a cliff about 64-m high situated where the Taebaek mountain range ends.

 Hahoe Village  Breakfast

Day 8 Andong Hahoe Village – Seoul

After breakfast, we transfer to Andong Hot Spring to relax and enjoy the sensation of soaking in the mineral hot water before we catch our express bus to Seoul. We meet for a farewell dinner, our last feast of traditional Korean cuisine. We head back to the hotel via the Han River, so we can see how beautifully the bridges spanning it are lit up.

 Kensington Hotel  Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Departure

After breakfast, depart for your onward journey. Those looking to extend their trip can visit Seoul's traditional Hanok village, take a day trip to discover the cliffs in Busan, or venture to the beaches of Jeju Island!

 Breakfast

Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

NUTS & BOLTS

Bikes

The bikes are Scott Sportster X40 hybrid bikes with lightweight alloy frames, light gears, disc brakes, and Shimano components. You're free to bring own pedals, (rail type) seat, and handlebar extensions.

Bike Repairs

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Passports and Visas

Passport holders up to 101 countries do not require a visa to visit South Korea from 30 – 90 days. A complete list of visa-exempt countries is [here](#).

Health

No vaccinations are needed.

Weather

Korea has four very distinct seasons: spring from mid-March to the end of May; summer from June to August can be very hot and sticky; September through end of November is fall; and winter from December to mid-March. The best time of year to visit is autumn, when skies are blue, the weather is usually sunny and warm and the forested mountainsides are ablaze with astonishing fall colours. Spring, from April to June, is another beautiful season, with generally mild temperatures and cherry blossoms spreading north across the country in April. Winters in the north are colder than in the more southerly Busan or Jeju Island.

Food

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Korean cuisine is largely based upon rice, vegetables, and meats. Traditional Korean meals are noted for the number of side dishes. Kimchi (traditional fermented vegetables) is served often, sometimes at every meal. Any special dietary requirements can also be catered for as well. Please let us know at the time of booking.

Drink

Keeping you completely hydrated is a job we take very seriously. Cold water, some energy-restoring local fruit and soft drinks are included in the tour price while riding. Soft drinks and other beverages during meals are not included. Beer is freely available everywhere in Korea, but is NOT included in the price.

Solo Travelers

SpiceRoads does not require you to pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

Extra Expenses

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra dollars, perhaps US\$30 a day for incidentals. Tipping is not customary in Korea. Guides have received and accepted tips on a voluntary basis.

Money

The currency in South Korea is the won (W) ATMs with a 'Global' sign often accept foreign cards. Most Global ATMs have basic instructions in English and mostly have a W700,000 limit. Motels, hotels, shops and restaurants in cities and tourist areas accept foreign credit cards, but there are still plenty of restaurants and small businesses that don't. Be prepared to carry around some cash, especially when we are touring outside the main cities.

GENERAL BOOKING INFO

Booking

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place: Read our [Booking Conditions](#)

From the tour page click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If you are unsure about the trip status, please [email us](#) or call our office. For the next steps you'll need to know the names of the people traveling and have either a Visa or a MasterCard. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height, or you can add that later by logging into [Manage My Trip](#) (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). However, if you wish to get a children's discount, please do fill out the date of birth of the riders. If you are having any problems, [please send us an email](#), or give us a call (+66 2 381 7490) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

Deposit

When booking your tour, you'll be required to pay a deposit to guarantee your place. For tours less than 7 days, the deposit amount is 100% of the tour price, per rider. For tours 7 days or longer, the deposit amount is 30% of the tour price, per rider.

Read more about booking and paying for your trip [here](#).

All SpiceRoads trips require proof of travel insurance when booking your holiday. Besides covering you during your trip, travel insurance will also enable you to claim any fees that you have paid to us, including your deposit, if you have to cancel your trip

Balance

Day tours and tours shorter than 7 days require full payment at the time of booking. For tours 7 days or longer, full payment must be paid 45 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights. Our confirmation will include personal details you provided us (including your flight information), visa application advice, a packing suggestion list and a detailed tour itinerary. It will also include a checklist to ensure you get everything ready for your holiday.

Cancellation Policy

On the rare occasions when we, SpiceRoads, must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be 100% refunded, which constitutes full settlement. There will be absolutely no deductions. If you, the client, must cancel your reservation, your cancellation fee will be determined according to when you cancel. For full details, please read our [cancellation policy](#).

Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts can not be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for loyalty discount.

International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your [travel insurance](#) that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel [e-newsletter](#) is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

The information in this document is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, however, we will always do our best to adhere to this original itinerary

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