



## 2024 Korea Bridge Tour

Tuesday, June 18 – Friday, June 28, 2024

ASIA Families, Inc. is pleased to announce that we are planning our 2024 summer Korea Bridge Tour! ASIA Families is a DC based organization that supports adopted persons from Korea, and brings extensive knowledge of the language, culture, and international adoption experiences. ASIA Families has facilitated several outstanding homeland tours in the past which have received rave reviews. In the words of previous tour participants:

*“The best part of the trip was the personalized tour to my children's birth cities with super-helpful volunteers and the opportunity to meet our child's foster mom.”*

*“My Korea trip will impact the rest of my life. In ways, I have yet to discover. It was a beautiful trip. I enjoyed it immensely. I loved the diversity of experiences. I loved the connections with other adult adoptees. It was so comforting to have so many people who just knew “what it's like to be adopted “. I've never met that many people. It was a wonderful experience.”*

*“I was blown away by the Korea Tour. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I am so thankful for ASIA families.”*

### Explore Your Roots in Korea

We work with every family on the tour to arrange a visit to Korean adoption agencies (ESWS Holt Korea, SWS, KSS, or orphanages) and when possible adoption file review and/or a visit with the adopted person's foster family. We are excited to partner with the Barker Adoption Foundation to bring clinical support for the tour participants.

### Experience Korea as a Tourist — and as an Insider

You will visit the traditional tourist sites in Seoul, such as a palace, Namdaemun Market, Insadong antique alley, traditional and modern sections of cities.

### Build Life-Long Friendships in Korea

During the tour, you will have an option of spending an evening with a local Korean host family. For many participants, this is one of the most memorable parts of the trip: spending time in a Korean home or apartment, sharing a meal, and enjoying the boundless hospitality for which Koreans are famous. You will also get to know local Korean volunteers who assist with various aspects of the tour.

### Share Your Experiences in a Supportive Environment

Travel with adoptive families as well as adoption professionals and members of the Korean-American community, who understand and support each other through a journey that you will treasure forever.

## **Korea Tour Dates**

Tuesday, June 18 – Friday, June 29, 2024

## **COVID-19 Protocol**

ASIA Families will follow COVID-19 recommendations and guidelines from the CDC and local governments, including ones from the Korean government that are in place at the time of travel to Korea. The proof of vaccination is NOT required to participate in the tour.

If you test positive prior to departure and need to cancel your participation, ASIA Families is unable to refund any fees. If you test positive during the tour, you will be responsible to pay for all of your medical expenses, medical evacuation, and additional hotel housing cost needed for isolation. Please check with your traveler's insurance and health insurance to see if they cover any travel-related medical emergencies.

## **Tour Costs**

Our Korea tour cost will be \$4,000 per participant. This fee will include all lodging, most meals except those on free days or during outdoor market time, charter bus transportation, all admission fees to attractions, and post adoption support services during your trip.

The tour fee doesn't include your round-trip airfare to and from Korea (Approximately \$2000-\$2600 per person), side trip expenses, gifts you take to Korea, personal shopping, and mandatory traveler's insurance cost (Approx \$75-\$150 per person depending on your state).

## **Airfare and Ticket Booking**

In January 2024, we will provide you with a designated travel agency's contact information to book the non-stop Korean Air flights from Washington Dulles International Airport together and receive a group discount rate. Korean Air costs approximately \$2300-2600 per person with a group discount.

While we recommend traveling on the IAD-ICN Korean Air flight as a group, you are not obligated to do so. You can book your flight through your preferred airlines but we might not be able to offer airport pick up if you arrive at a different time (4:00-6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 19) than the rest of the participants on the Korea Air flight. *You will be responsible to manage your own transportation to join the rest of the tour group at the hotel in Seoul.*

The tour officially ends on July 28 at 9:00 AM after airport drop off. You can book your flight through your own preferred airlines but we might not be able to offer airport drop off if you depart at a different time (9:00-11:00 AM on Friday, July 28) than the rest of the participants on the Korean Air ICN-IAD flight. *You will be responsible to manage your own transportation to the airport if your flight departs at a different time.*

### **Dietary Restrictions**

We are not able to accommodate vegan diets and other dietary restrictions as the tour arranges dining options for a large group. Korean cuisine has nuts and nut oils, fish-based sauces, and soy products as underlying bases for most foods. Please check with us if you have any food allergies before registering.

### **Trip Extensions**

On previous ASIA Families tours some families have chosen to visit sites not on the group schedule including visits to their children's birth cities. If you wish to make a side trip away from the group schedule or extend your trip, we will be happy to assist you in making arrangements. However, you will be responsible for the additional costs of such trips.

### **To Register**

Please fill out the online registration form and submit a \$1000 non-refundable deposit per family. The registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you complete the online registration, you will receive an email with payment instructions.

\*ASIA Families will refund the deposit if the US or Korean government prohibits international travels between the US and Korea.

\*In the case of the tour cancellation due to unforeseen natural disaster or travel restrictions by the State Department, the deposit will be refunded to the participants.

\* In all other cases, the tour deposit is not refundable.

### **Tour Fee Payment Schedule**

The full payments are due to February 1, 2024.

If you cancel your participation within 60 days before the travel dates, we will refund you 75 percent of your prepaid tour fees.

If you cancel your participation within 30 days before the travel dates, we will refund you 50 percent of your prepaid tour fees.

If you cancel your participation within the 2 weeks before the travel dates, we won't be able to refund your prepaid fees.

### **Register [HERE!](#)**

[Korea Tour 2024 Registration Form](#)

### **After registering,**

After you have registered, please keep in mind:

Apply or Renew All of Your Passports. All passports should be valid through December 2024. Korea doesn't require you to have any immunization shots or a separate travel VISA as of August 2023.

## Contact

For more information on the 2024 tours, please email Grace Song at [info@asiafamilies.org](mailto:info@asiafamilies.org) and Hyun Kim at [kreatour@asiafamilies.org](mailto:kreatour@asiafamilies.org).

## Tentative Itinerary

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Tues, 6/18	Departure Day
Wed, 6/19	Arrive in Korea (Seoul)
Thurs, 6/20	National Memorial Hall of the Korean War Abductees, Dora Observatory, Seoul Fortress Wall (Paju, Seoul)
Fri, 6/21	Agency Visits, Namdaemun Market, Performance (Seoul)
Sat, 6/22	Gyeongbokgoong, Kimchi Making (Seoul, Jeonju)
Sun, 6/23	Dinosaur Tracks, Visit with Community Organization (Jeonju, Goseong, Busan)
Mon, 6/24	Blueline Park, Ananpji/Wolji Pond (Busan, Gyeongju)
Tues, 6/25	Seok Gu Ram Grotto/Bulguksa Temple, Cheomseongdae, Daereungwon Tomb Complex, Underwater Tomb of King Munmu (Gyeongju)
Wed, 6/26	Seoul Free Time (Seoul)
Thurs, 6/27	Free Day, Farewell Party (Seoul)
Fri, 6/28	Departure Day