

Far East Asia Discovery 22 Days

~~\$5,999.00~~ **\$4,999.00**

Korea: Seoul, Andong, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan

Japan: Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Nagoya, Mt. Fuji, Tokyo

Taiwan: Taipei, Sun Moon Lake, Kaohsiung, Kenting, Taitung, Hualien, Taroko

Highlights:

- In Korea
 - Stroll through the **Changdeokkung Palace** grounds
 - Gaze into North Korean territory at the **Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)**
 - Immerse yourself in the bustling crowds of **Myeongdong**
 - Explore the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom, **Gyeongju**
 - Explore **Busan**, and discover the gorgeous seaside **Haedong Yonggungsa Temple**
- In Japan
 - Discover **Osaka**, with a day free at leisure and a selection of optional activities
 - In **Nara**, visit the **Great Eastern Temple** – the world's largest wooden building
 - Feed the gentle sika deer that wander freely through **Nara Park**
 - Visit **Nagoya's Inuyama Castle**, and explore the ancient **Atsuta Shinto Shrine**
 - Drink from clear springs at the foothills of **Mount Fuji**
 - Enjoy optional activities or free time in **Tokyo**
- In Taiwan
 - Visit **Taipei 101**, the world's sixth tallest building
 - Stroll through the famous bustling **Night Markets** of Taiwan
 - Cruise across **Sun Moon Lake** and experience its tranquil beauty
 - Explore the largest Buddhist monastery in Taiwan, **Fo Guang Shan Monastery**
 - Immerse yourself in the natural splendour of **Taroko National Park**

Immerse yourself in an incredible journey covering three fascinating countries, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Discover South Korea's capital city, Seoul. Seoul is Korea's financial, political, commercial and cultural centre with over 600 years of history. Travellers can explore the many archaeological sites and temples before enjoying the beautiful natural landscapes this country has to offer. After an enchanting tour of South Korea, you will explore one of the most beautiful countries in the world, Japan. Uncover a new level of cool with a journey through cherry blossoms, mountains, bustling cities and ultimately, history. Then discover the many sides of Taiwan, from picturesque towns and villages in the stunning countryside to modernist skyscrapers in the vibrant metropolis Taipei. The combination of places visited in these three countries will provide you with an unforgettable life-time experience. Start packing already!

South Korea: South Korea has become a dream destination for many travellers. The capital, Seoul, is a fast-paced cosmopolitan centre with an appetite for fashion, pop culture and the latest in high-tech gadgets. Yet just an hour away from the cityscape, travellers can find themselves enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the various national parks encompassing gorgeous hiking trails and dense mountain landscapes, and with the ancient cultural traditions retaining a strong presence throughout the country, travellers seeking a cultural experience are also sure to be satisfied.

Friendly people, delicious food and delightful contrasts between the modern and the traditional, ensure that the indomitable spirit of South Korea will absorb and inspire travellers from all walks.

Japan: We love for our customers to experience and Japanese culture & history. From the ancient temples and Zen settings of Nara and Kyoto, to the manic energy of Tokyo, this country has something for everyone. We will spend few nights of the tour in a traditional Japanese hotel, sleeping on rice straw mats called *tatami*. You will also visit restaurants on this tour where it is customary to remove your shoes and be seated at low tables called *kotatsu*. It's all part of the Japanese experience!

Taiwan: Taiwan remains a mystery to many Australians. The 'renegade province' remains close to its ancient cultural roots, yet it's super-contemporary, with the urban action sitting comfortably alongside pristine natural settings. Having escaped the Cultural Revolution on the mainland, in some ways it's 'more Chinese than China' on this beautiful island. Emerging from military dictatorship in 1987, Taiwan is now a thriving democracy. Tourism has boomed, attracting travellers who come to enjoy a thriving indigenous folk culture, museums bursting with treasures, bustling night markets with a unique food culture, and the latest in high-tech gadgets. But what really makes visiting Taiwan such a pleasure is the friendly outlook of the 23 million people who call the island home.

Seasonal Variations – Japan:

From the end of March through early April, when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, people gather in parks in a Japanese tradition known as *hanami* (flower viewing).

From the end of October through early November is the best season of the year for viewing the vibrant crimson maple leaves in Japan. You can feel the fragile beauty of the changing seasons from observing nature. The fiery red is a true spectacle.

NOTE: Cherry blossoms and crimson autumn leaves are highly seasonal and subject to climatic conditions. These are historically the best times to view the blooms, but we can't guarantee they will flower on these dates.

In stock

Categories: Asia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan Tags: Disney Collection, Japan, Nexus Collection, South Korea, Taiwan

Departure Dates

2019			Package Price Per Person	Single Supplement
14 Mar*	02 May	01 Aug	From \$4,999	\$1,800
21 Mar**	16 May	15 Aug		
28 Mar**	30 May	22 Aug		
04 Apr**	13 Jun	29 Aug**		
11 Apr**	04 Jul**	31 Oct*		
18 Apr*	18 Jul*	07 Nov		
* = Shoulder Season Surcharge: \$500 ** = Peak Season Surcharge: \$900				

Package Inclusions:

- Economy airfares, taxes & fuel surcharges from Sydney or Melbourne with a full service Chinese or other Asian carrier (e.g. Vietnam/Thai/Malaysia Air)
- Internal flights (operated by local carriers)
Note: Baggage allowance for the flight between Seoul and Osaka is 1 piece max weight 15kg
- 19 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
- Internal flights (operated by local carriers)
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- English-speaking tour guide(s)

Package Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$290
- Optional Taipei 101 Observatory Fee: From \$25 payable to the guide
- Optional recommended programs
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

Price Guide:

- **Seasonal Surcharges:** * = Shoulder Season Surcharge: \$500, ** = Peak Season Surcharge: \$900
- **Interstate Surcharge:** Brisbane/Adelaide \$300, Perth \$600 (interstate flights may be via Sydney or Melbourne)
- **Early Arrival/Stay Behind/Stopover Surcharge:** From \$300 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- **Pre/Post-Tour Accommodation:** From \$350/twin room/night (subject to availability)
- **Triple Share:** Subject to availability
- **Child Price:** Same as adult
- **Visa:** Australian passport holders are exempt for a stay of up to 30 days
- **Airline Upgrade (economy class)^:** Cathay Pacific from \$700 (subject to availability)
- **Premium Economy Upgrade^:** Cathay Pacific from \$2400 (subject to availability)
- **Business Class Upgrade^:** China Southern Airlines from \$3000, Cathay Pacific from \$4100 (subject to availability)
- **Please Note:** Flight itineraries are not available until approximately 2 weeks before departure and involve transits
- **Land Only (no flights included):** Land Only (flights not included, except airfare from Seoul to Osaka): From \$4299 per person twin share plus seasonal surcharge

(^) International long haul sectors only

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land. Please check all information before booking. By booking, you accept all **Booking Conditions**.

Stopovers

Hong Kong Stopover from \$389

Once a sleepy fishing village, Hong Kong has developed into one of the premier financial powerhouses of the Far East. It is a city which boldly blends modernity with Chinese heritage and British colonial influence. A safe, well organised, fast paced shopping paradise, it also offers up some unmatched cuisine experiences.

For details, tap the image above or [click here](#).

Japan Optional Programs

For more optional activities and tours, [please click here](#).

Tokyo Day Tour	<p>\$250</p> <p>This tour will take you to visit Asakusa, Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku, Shibuya, Tokyo Tower and experience a Tokyo bay cruise.</p> <p>Japan's capital, Tokyo, is packed with so much to see and do. First stop on this tour is Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples. Afterwards visit Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Proceed to the fashion district Harajuku and Shibuya, an affluent and trendy shopping hotspot. Then proceed to Tokyo Tower, where you will observe the amazing city of Tokyo from up above. Then, relax on a Tokyo bay cruise en route to the beautiful and serene landscaped Hamariky Garden beside Tokyo Bay.</p> <p>Note: this tour is subject to minimum numbers</p>
-----------------------	---

Osaka Day Tour	<p>\$250</p> <p>This optional tour will take you to Osaka Castle which was built in 1583 as the intended capital of Japan, before the capital was moved to Edo (now known as Tokyo). Walk through the majestic castle while learning from the exhibit detailing life in old Osaka. From there, walk to the nearby river boat dock to board the Osaka River Cruise for a cruise around Nakanoshima. Explore Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori, the vast restaurant districts, with eateries offering a variety of Japan's most famous street foods. Then travel down to Umeda Skybuilding, where you will get a sweeping view of Osaka. Tour finishes in Osaka.</p> <p>Note: this tour is subject to minimum numbers.</p>
-----------------------	--

Hotel Accommodation

Seoul	Stanford Hotel Seoul or similar
Daegu	Daegu Grand Hotel or similar
Gyeongju	Gyeongju Commodore Hotel or similar
Busan	Crown Harbour or similar
Osaka Airport	Bellevue Garden Kansai Airport or similar
Osaka	Hotel Alexander Namba or similar
Nagoya	Loisir Hotel Toyohashi or similar
Tokyo	Hotel Rose Garden Shinjuku or similar
Taipei	Taipei Grace Hotel or similar
Nantou	Nantou Hotel Formosa or similar
Kaohsiung	Kaohsiung City Suite Hotel or similar
Taitung	Chihpen Century Hotel Hot Spring or similar
Hualien	Hualien Park City Hotel Hualien or similar
Tamshui	Tamshui Park City or similar

Day 1: Australia ✈ Seoul

Fly to Seoul via a connecting city. Note: some flights may depart the next day

Day 2: Seoul

On arrival in **Seoul**, you will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel.

Day 3: Seoul 🚗 Andong 🚗 Daegu (B, L)

Visit the traditional village, **Andong**, which features **traditional houses of the Joseon Dynasty** period (1392-1897). In Daegu, take a stroll in **Dongseongno Shopping District**, a major fashion retail district. The streets are packed with hundreds of stores full of personality that reflect the city's fast-paced fashion trends. Enjoy magnificent views by taking a cable car to **Palgongsan Natural Park**.

Day 4: Daegu 🚗 Gyeongju (B, L)

Today we explore the many archaeological sites and temples, royal tombs, and monuments of **Gyeongju**, the capital of the ancient Silla Kingdom (57 BC – 935 AD). Visit **Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory**, **Royal Tumuli Park**, **Gyeongju National Museum**, **Bulguksa Temple**, and **Seokguram Grotto Temple**.

Day 5: Gyeongju 🚗 Busan (B, L, D)

In Busan, we visit **Haedong Yonggungsa Temple**, situated on the coast of the north-eastern portion of the city and overlooking the ocean. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to view the waves while looking down through the transparent floor of the 15 metre high **Oryukdo Skywalk**, which is set over a 35 meter-high coastal cliff. Travel to **Gamcheon Culture Village** situated on the foothills of a coastal mountain and nicknamed 'Machu Picchu of Busan'. You will be thrilled by the many alleys cutting through this village, vibrantly decorated with murals and sculptures created by the local residents. Stop at one of Korea's largest markets, **Nampo Dong Gukje Market** for a wide variety of goods at affordable prices. Then visit **Nurimaru APEC House**, a memorial hall and prestigious international conference hall located near Haeundae Beach, offering visitors spectacular views of the nearby natural landscape.

Day 6: Busan 🚗 Seoul (B, L)

This morning, visit **Changdeokkung Palace**, one of the 'Five Grand Palaces' built by the Kings of the Jeoson Dynasty, and **Insadong**, a street full of traditional Korean antique and art shops, restaurants and tea houses. Continue to **Cheonggyecheon Stream** and admire this urban oasis before visiting **Myeongdong**, one of Seoul's main commercial districts.

Day 7: Seoul (B, L, D)

Visit **North Korea's 3rd Infiltration Tunnel**, located within the **Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)**, a 44 km drive northwest of Seoul. In the event of an invasion from the North, an entire infantry division could have move through the tunnel in an hour. View North Korean territory, including the Propaganda Village, People's School, and Gaeseong City – the old capital city of the Goryeo Kingdom – from the Dora Observation Platform. Also visit **Freedom Park**, dedicated to the 5 million people who left their families and homes in North Korea. North Hall contains displays of North Korean lifestyle, and the Exhibition Hall houses old tanks and planes from the Korean War. Later, try on a hanbok, the traditional attire of the Korean people at **Namsan Hanbok Culture Experience Centre** before experiencing the city's best night view at Namsan Tower.

Day 8: Seoul ✈ Osaka (B)

After breakfast, board a direct flight operated by a local carrier to **Osaka**. Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to airport hotel. *Note: Baggage allowance for this sector is 1 piece max weight 15kg per person*

Day 9: Osaka 🚗 Kyoto 🚗 Nara 🚗 Osaka (B)

This morning, travel to Kyoto and visit **Fushimi Inari Shrine and Nijo Castle** before heading to **Nara**. Visit **Todaiji (Great Eastern Temple)**, with its **Great Buddha Hall** – the world's largest wooden building. This impressive building houses the world's largest (15m) bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through **Nara Park**, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling back to Osaka.

Day 10: Osaka (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You may spend the day visiting one of the most spectacular Japanese aquariums, Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan; or taking a day trip to Hyogo to visit Himeji Castle (pictured), an enormous and unique castle decorated in white. An optional day tour is available for some departure dates. Please see optional programs for more information.

Day 11: Osaka 🚗 Nagoya (B)

This morning, head to **Nagoya** and visit **Inuyama Castle**. Then, head to **Atsuta Shinto Shrine** (covering 200,000 square meters and established almost 2000 years ago) before enjoying some time for shopping in the **Osu Kannon Shopping Quarter**. Transfer to your hotel in the evening.

Day 12: Nagoya 🚗 Mount Fuji 🚗 Tokyo (B)

Today, visit **Oshino Hakkai**. Known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Afterwards, visit **Hakone Shinto Shrine**. Standing at the foot of Mount Hakone along the shores of Lake Ashi, the shrine buildings are hidden in dense forest. Finally, visit **Owakudani** – ‘Great Boiling Valley’ is a valley formed by the explosion of Hakone volcano more than 300 years ago, and contains hot springs and steaming sulphur vents – visitors usually eat eggs cooked in the boiling, sulphurous waters. At the end of the day we head to Tokyo.

Day 13: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at leisure. You may wish to visit **Tokyo Disneyland** or **DisneySea** (admission \$120) or join the **Tokyo Day Tour** or **Nikko Day Tour** (\$250). Alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs; tea ceremony, kimono photo shoot, cooking class. NOTE: All activities are not guided and transportation is self-arranged.

Day 14: Tokyo ✈ Taipei (B)

Spend today free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to Taipei. On arrival at Taipei Taoyuan International Airport, you will be greeted warmly at the airport by your local tour guide and transferred to your hotel. Standard hotel check-in time is 3pm.

Day 15: Taipei (B, D)

Today's highlight is a visit to the **Presidential Building** (outside) and **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall**. This afternoon, visit Tamsui – a laidback waterfront town on the northern part of Taipei city. Enjoy lunch today at **Tamsui Old Street**, where you can feast on many famous Taiwanese snacks. Visit **Lin An Tai Historical House and Museum**. This elegant building is built in the style of prosperous houses in China's Fujian province, where many Taiwanese migrated from, and the paving stones in the courtyard were once ballast in merchant ships. In the evening, explore the bustling night life of Taipei. Have a traditional Taiwanese dinner of Xiao Long Bao, then proceed to colourful **Huashi Night Market**.

Day 16: Taipei 🚗 Sun Moon Lake (B, D)

This morning travel to **Sun Moon Lake**, situated 762 meters above sea level in the lofty mountains of central Taiwan. Cruise across the lake and take in the view of Xuanguang Temple & Lulu Island, as you relax on the lake's tranquil waters. Then, take Sun Moon Lake Ropeway to the **Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village** and observe Taiwan's traditional indigenous lifestyles and traditions. After a dinner of Taiwanese-style roasted chicken, check in to the hotel.

Day 17: Sun Moon Lake 🚗 Fo Guang Shan 🚗 Kaohsiung (B, D)

After breakfast, we will head to an Oolong Tea Farm before continuing south towards Kaohsiung and **Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Centre (BMC)**. Completed in 2011, BMC has enshrined a relic of the Buddha, gifted by Tibetan Lama Kunga Dorje Rinpoche, since the beginning of contraction in 2001. We will be spending most of our day at this place to enjoy the serene atmosphere and explore the entire area at our leisure. Then, learn how to make Pineapple Tarts at the popular **Vigor Pineapple Factory**. Later we will enter **Kaohsiung City** and explore Pier 2 Art Central, where 25 former warehouses have been converted into a thriving arts precinct. After dinner (Taiwanese Shabu Shabu hotpot), explore one of Kaohsiung's bustling night markets.

Day 18: Kaohsiung 🚗 Kenting 🚗 Taitung (B, D)

The highlight today is a visit to **Kenting National Park**, Taiwan's first nationally recognised park and undoubtedly one of the most spectacular landscapes you will see. Be awestruck by the vastness of the natural reserve and stand on the southernmost tip of the island at **Maopitou** and **Longpan Park**, also known as 'The Light of East Asia' as its lighthouse is one of the most powerful along the Taiwan coast. This afternoon, head to **Kenting Main Street** in the heart of Kenting, an area bustling with locals, tourists and vendors. Spend lunch time discovering the numerous stalls and restaurants offering a variety of local snacks and cuisines. **Travel up the scenic Southern Link Highway** to Taitung Country, ending the day with dinner at the hotel.

Day 19: Taitung 🚗 Hualien 🚗 Taroko National Park (B, D)

The highlight today is a visit to the **East Coast National Scenic Area**, known as 'Taiwan's last unspoiled land', stretching 170 kilometres down the east coast of Taiwan. Weathering and erosion have produced a wide range of breathtaking landforms here which can only be appreciated first-hand. Stop at **Siao-ye-liou** ('little wild willow' geological formations), **San-sien-tai** (Three Immortals Island), **Shi-ti-ping** (Stone Steps) and take in the spectacular views. Proceed to Hualien, to **Taroko National Park**. Encompassing Taroko Gorge, Swallow Grotto, and Shakadong Trail, the park covers over 120,000 hectares and rises from sea level in the east to heights of over 3700m further west. The aquamarine Liwu River cuts through the centre, forging deep slit valleys before joining the sea.

Day 20: Hualien 🚗 Taroko 🚗 Taipei (B, D)

Today, visit a **Marble Factory** on the return trip to Taipei. Depending on the size of the group, visit **local scenic towns** Yilan or Shifen. These towns are both rich in culture and local history, and provide a nice glimpse of Taiwan's beautiful natural scenery. Later, visit **Taipei 101** (admission fee at your own expense,

payable to the guide). Experience soaring heights and impressive views at the tallest building in Taiwan, and the 6th highest in the world. Taipei 101 was the first building to exceed 500m in height and has a unique design that mimics the shape of bamboo. Dinner will be at Takao Restaurant hotpot (or similar, depending on availability).

Day 21: Taipei ✈ Australia (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home via a connecting city.

Day 22: Australia

Arrive back in Australia this morning.