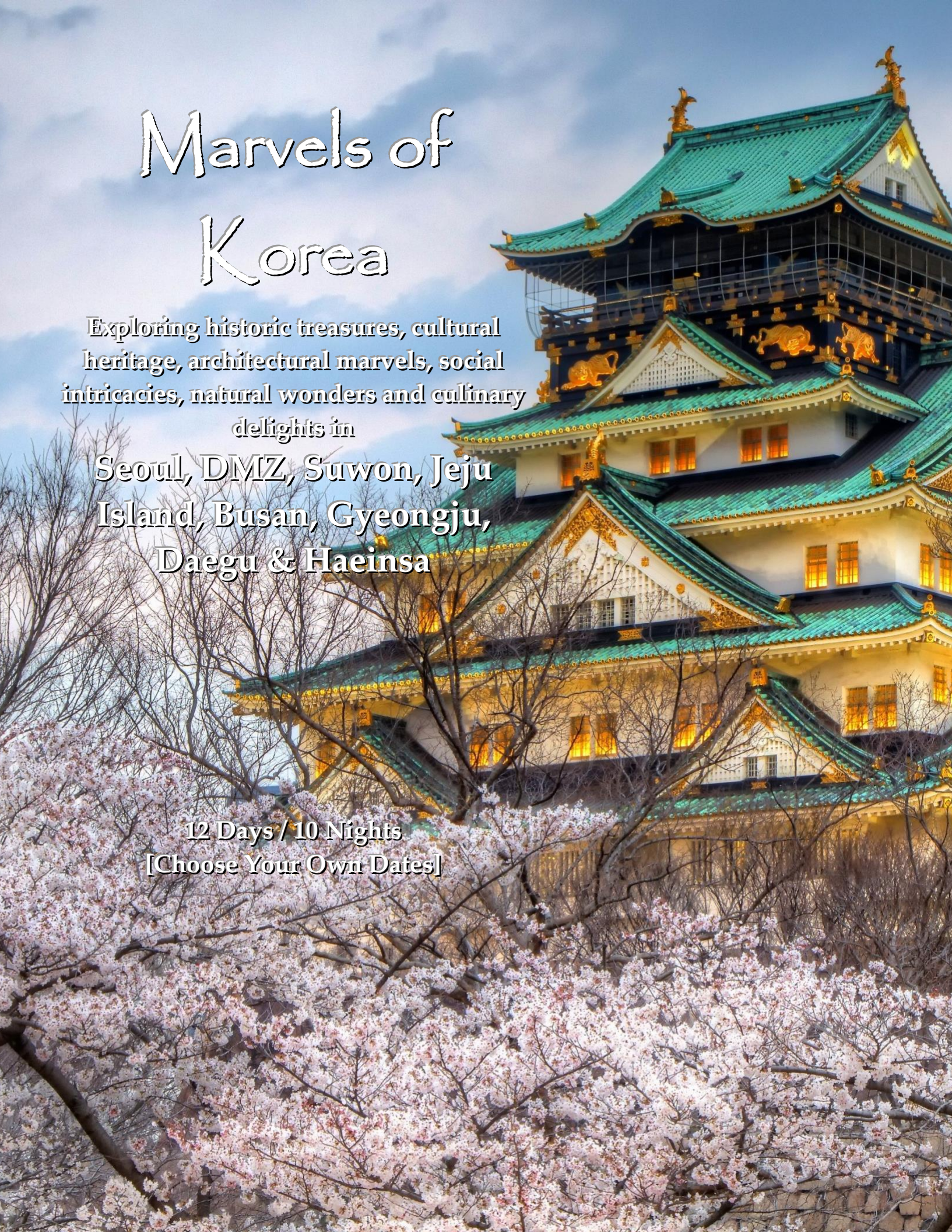


Marvels of Korea

Exploring historic treasures, cultural heritage, architectural marvels, social intricacies, natural wonders and culinary delights in

Seoul, DMZ, Suwon, Jeju Island, Busan, Gyeongju, Daegu & Haeinsa

12 Days / 10 Nights
[Choose Your Own Dates]



Tour Program Summary

The **Korean** peninsula is a tantalizingly unexplored slice of East Asia – a pine-clad land of mountains, misty archipelagos and rice paddies of emerald green, studded with urban pockets of incomparable *joie de vivre*. While its troubled history has made Korea's very existence nothing short of miracles, amazingly its traditions and customs have largely survived intact – and for visitors, this highly distinctive culture is an absolute joy to dive into.

Your tour in South Korea starts from **Seoul**, one of the largest and most technically advanced cities in the fast developing Asia. The Korean capital regularly confounds expectations by proving itself steeped in history. Here, fourteenth-century palaces, imperial gardens, teeming markets and secluded tearooms continue to exude charm among a maze of skyscrapers, shopping malls, and express highways.

Take a day trip to the **Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**. The zone has been protected from human disturbance for about five decades and has become a haven for wildlife. The tourist destinations in this ecological area have been renamed as The Peace and Life Zone (PLZ).

Another day trip takes you to **Suwon**, the capital of Gyeonggi Province, which surrounds the nation's capitol. The city's main attraction Hwaseong Fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that encircles the old part of the city, complete with watchtowers, a Buddhist Temple and an Imperial Palace. Also visit an intriguing Korean Folk Village.

A short flight takes you to **Jeju Island**, the country's largest island and first and only autonomous province. Jeju also known as "Island of the Gods" is a Korea's most sought after vacation destination due to its mild coastal climate, beautiful beaches, highest mountain in the country – Halla-san, numerous and unusual theme parks, and unique local culture.

Your next destination is **Busan**. Bursting with mountains and beaches, hot springs and seafood, South Korea's second-largest city is a rollicking port town with tones to offer. From casual tent bars and chic designer cafes to fish markets teeming with every species imaginable, Busan has something for all tastes and diets.

A road trip will take you to **Gyeongju**, Known as 'the museum without walls', Gyeongju holds more tombs, temples, rock carvings, pagodas, Buddhist statuary and palace ruins than any other place in South Korea. Most visitors touring the city center are taken aback by the distinctive urban landscape created by round grassy tombs – called tumuli – and traditional architecture with colorful hip roofs set against a canvas of green rolling mountains.

Continue onto **Daegu**, Korea's fourth largest city, and visit Haeinsa Buddhist Temple. Haeinsa is located in Gaya-san National Park and is one of the Three Jewel Temples of Korea and represents the Buddha's teachings. Here you will find the Tripitaka Koreana, the whole of the Buddhist Scriptures carved onto 81,350 wooden printing blocks, which it has housed since 1398. The blocks as well as the building are both separate UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Return to **Incheon** for a stopover and fly home or continue your journey in Asia.

Tour Daily Itinerary

- Day 01 ✈️ depart Fly from north America to Seoul, South Korea on **your own booked flight**
- Day 02 **Seoul** Arrive at Incheon Airport of Seoul; met by your fluent English-speaking local tour guide and transfer to the centrally located [Grand Ambassador Hotel Seoul \(superior room\)](#) for check-in; **evening is free for your relaxation and/or exploration.**
- Day 03 **Seoul** Breakfast in the hotel; met by your local guide & driver in the lobby and begin a full-day Seoul City Tour, and here are the sites you will visit:
Cheongwadae (*Blue House/ Presidential Residence and office*), contains the residence and offices of the president of the Republic of Korea.
Jogyesa Temple, first established in 1395, is the chief temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. The current temple was built in 1910.
Gyeongbok Palace, first built in 1394 during the Choson Dynasty; you will see various halls used by the royal family for different functions in the old days. Most of the buildings, however, are reconstructed.



National Folklore Museum, displays the religious rituals, housing customs, household tools and implements, food and social dynamics of traditional Korean life.

Insadong Antique Alley, a narrow street lined with antique stores, art galleries and secondhand book stores, where visitors can wander and browses at leisure.

Cheonggyecheon Stream is where water from three nearby hills meet and pass through downtown Seoul. The Gwangtonggyo Bridge was constructed during the Choson Dynasty and remains in good conditions.

Namdaemun Market, crowded streets are lined with tiny shops selling almost every product imaginable and there are buildings which specialize in a category of products such as home wares, clothing, jewelry.

North Seoul Tower, located on Namsan Mountain in the heart of the city, provides outstanding panoramic views of Seoul's metropolis from its observation deck. A cable car will take you to the base of the tower.

Transfer back to your hotel in late afternoon; enjoy a Korean Cuisine Dinner in a local restaurant. **Evening is free at your leisure. <B-L-D>**

- Day 04 **Seoul 🚗 ↔ DMZ & JSA** Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide & driver in the lobby and transfer to DMZ by vehicle (60kms, about 1 hour); upon arrival, start your exploration of this one of a kind attraction. First visit the [JSA Training Field at Imjingak](#)

Pavilion, located 7 km from the Military Demarcation Line, is now at the forefront of tourism related to the Korean War. Then, stop by ID Check Point and Camp Bonifas for a slideshow & briefing. Other sites that you may visit today at the DMZ are:

ISA Panmunjeom, including the Freedom House, MAC Building, Pagoda, Bridge of No Return, and Ax Murderer Ancient site.

The Freedom Bridge, a former railroad bridge, which was used by repatriated POWs/soldiers returning from the north.

The 3rd Infiltration Tunnel was discovered in 1978 by Korean forces. It spans over 1635m in length, 2m in width, and 2m in height and is located 52km from Seoul.

DMZ Theater & Exhibition Hall now stands as a symbol of peace, contemporary efforts to mend the damages wrought by Korea's tumultuous history, and even ecological preservation.

Dorasan Observatory, visitors can overlook North Korea and its various locations including Gaeseong, Songaksan, Kim Il-Sung Statue, and Cooperation Farm (Geumamgol).

Dorasan Train Station, a railway station on the Gyeongui Line, is the northernmost stop on South Korea's railway line.

Unification Village (pass by), where you can observe the daily life of this small farming community, which specialized in creating soybean milk, traditional soy sauce and corn goods.

Transfer back to your hotel in late afternoon; **remainder of the day is free at your leisure.** <B-L>



Day 05 **Seoul** ↔ **Suwon** Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide & driver in the lobby, transfer to Suwon (approximately 45 minute drive south of Seoul), which is the capitol city of Gyeonggi Province surrounding Seoul. Attractions to visit include:

Hwaseong Fortress, which was brilliantly planned by the 22nd king of the Joseon Dynasty, King Jeongjo; as well as the Korean Folk Village which re-creates the lifestyles of the mid to late Joseon Dynasty.

Transfer back to your hotel in the afternoon; **remainder of the day is free for your own exploration, shopping, and/or relaxation.** <B-L>

Day 06 **Seoul** → **Jeju Island** Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide & driver in the lobby, transfer to Gimpo Domestic Airport for your flight to Jeju City, the capital of Jeju Province. Met by your guide and driver upon arrival; transfer to Seogwipo KAL Hotel Jeju Island (superior room) for check-in.

Enjoy lunch on your own. Afterwards, set out for an afternoon tour including Yongduam Rock, Ghost Road, Cheonjeyeon Waterfall, and Bunjae Artpia. Transfer back to your hotel in the late afternoon; **remainder of the**

day and evening are free at your leisure. <B-L>

Day 07 **Jeju Island** Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide & driver in the lobby, set out for a full day Jeju Island tour including Seongsan Sunrise Peak, Seongeup Folk Village, Sangumburi Crater, Moksokwon Park, and Manjanggul Cave, as well as the Haenyeo (woman diver) Museum.

Transfer back to your hotel in the late afternoon; remainder of the day is free at your leisure. <B-L>

Day 08 **Jeju Island** Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide in the lobby and transfer to the airport for your flight to Busan; met by guide upon arrival and transfer to Haeundae Grand Hotel Busan (superior room) for check-in; enjoy a Local Cuisine Dinner in a nice restaurant; evening is free for your own relaxation.



Day 09 **Busan** Breakfast in the hotel; met by your guide & driver in the lobby and set out for a full-day city tour visiting the following sites:

Jagalchi Fish Market is Korea's largest seafood market. After the Korean War the market solidified itself as a fish market. Busan Tower, symbol of Busan that stands proudly 69m above sea level at a height of 120m. Yongdusan Park, one of the most popular mountains in Busan. UN Cemetery, honors UN soldiers from 16 countries that were killed in battle during the Korean War from 1950-1953.

Also tour Kukje Traditional Market & Taejongdae Marine Park. Make a stop at Haeundae Beach, the white sand is rough and sticks easily to your skin. Haeundae Beach is also famous for the various cultural events and festivals held throughout the year.

Transfer back to your hotel in the late afternoon; remainder of the day is free at your leisure.

Day 10 **Busan** 🚗 Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide & driver in the lobby and transfer to Gyeongju by vehicle (90kms, about 1.5 hours) and tour the following sites:

Cheomseondae Astronomical Observatory is the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia. Constructed during the reign of Queen Seon-deok (632-647), it was used for observing the stars in order to forecast the weather in ancient times.

Tumuli Park (known as Daereungwon in Korean) has more than 20 large and small tombs from the Shilla period and has been designated as Historic Site #175. Anapji Pond was originally constructed in February 674 during the reign of Munmu, the 30th king of Silla. Anapji means "Goose and Duck Lake." Bulguksa Temple is the representative relic of Gyeongju and was designated as a World Cultural Asset by UNESCO in 1995.

Seokguram Grotto, located on Tohamsan Mountain, is the representative stone temple of Korea and designated as World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1995.

Transfer to Daegu in the late afternoon; check-in to [Grand Hotel Daegu \(superior room\)](#); evening is free at your leisure. <B-L>



- Day 11 **Daegu** ↔ Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide & driver in the lobby and drive to Mt. Gaya National Park to visit Hainsa Temple; tour the world famous collection of more than 80,000 wooden printing blocks which compose the Tripitaka Koreana (Buddhism Scripture). The Tripitaka along with the structure built to house them over 800 years ago are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- ↔ **Haeinsa** In the afternoon, transfer to Daegu airport and fly back to Gimpo Airport; transfer to Seoul and check back into the centrally located [Grand Ambassador Hotel Seoul \(superior room\)](#) for relaxation. <B-L>
- **Incheon**
- Day 12 → **Return** Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide and driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to Incheon International Airport for your homebound flight.

Changes to Itinerary: Access Asia Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.

Deluxe or First Class Hotels Selected for This Tour



Grand Ambassador Seoul



Seogwipo KAL Hotel Jeju Island



Haeundae Grand Hotel Busan



Grand Hotel Daegu

Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

Tour Land Price: from **\$5,580 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for a group of 2-3 travelers*)
from **\$5,350 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for a group of 4-5 travelers*)
from **\$4,980 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for a group of 6-9 travelers*)

Single Supplement: from **\$1,550 USD** for single occupancy throughout the tour

[We will quote the exact price for your tour depending on the season and availability once you have chosen your tour dates](#)

Tour Payment Schedule: **\$600 USD per person** deposit is required at sign up. Tour Balance is due **90 days** prior to tour date.

What's Included in Tour Land Costs:

- Deluxe & first class category hotel double occupancy accommodations with breakfast
- All domestic flights as specified in the tour itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person for domestic flights) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, visits, cultural events, and activities listed in the itinerary
- All meals as specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private English-speaking local guide in each city/region
- Private motor vehicle with AC and a professional driver on tours

What's Not Included in Tour Land Costs:

- Cross-Pacific int'l air tickets (*will quote separately if requested*)
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Most lunches and dinners
- Gratuities local guides and drivers
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

Cancellation Policy: **20% of trip cost deposit per person is required at sign-up.** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by *Access Asia Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure * 10% of Total Tour Price
89 to 60 days prior to departure * 30% of Total Tour Price
59 to 30 days prior to departure * 50% of Total Tour Price
29 to 15 days prior to departure * 70% of Total Tour Price

* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

Access Asia Tours will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, *Access Asia Tours* will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.). However, *Access Asia Tours* will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).