

Seoul Memorial Day Omiyage Weekender 2022
with Daisy Komeiji

May 24th – 30th, 2022



5nts/7days from: \$2195 double/triple \$2450 single

Cancel for any reason up to 60 days prior-FULL REFUND!

Maximum Tour size is 24 tour members



Seoul- Whatever you want, at any time of day or night, Seoul can provide. An early morning temple visit can lead to a palace tour followed by tea sipping in Bukchon and gallery-hopping in Samcheong-dong. Snacks in a street tent bar will fuel you for shopping at the buzzing Dongdaemun or Namdaemun night markets. By the time you look at your watch, it will be dawn again.

Talk about location, 5 nights' accommodation in a 4-star hotel in the heart of Myeongdong, a destination in itself, Approximately two million people visit this area each day. Whether its eating, shopping, or entertainment, it is all available to you, steps from our hotel.

Come, join Daisy on this fun filled Seoul Memorial Day Omiyage and Sightseeing Weekend Tour!

Itinerary/Details

Day 1 – May 24th, 2022, Tuesday – Depart from Honolulu

Hawaiian Airlines #459 Departs Honolulu 1:35 pm – Arrive Incheon 7:00 pm +1

Meet up with Panda Travel's escort, Daisy Komeiji at the Hawaiian Airlines International check-in counters, Lobby 1, a minimum of 3 hours prior to the departure time.

Day 2 – May 25th, 2022, Wednesday – Incheon-Seoul (D)

On arrival at the Incheon, please make your way to the baggage claim area as we need to clear immigration and customs. On exiting, our local English-speaking guide will be there to meet us. The drive into the city is approximately 1 hour, but first we will give you time to exchange currency.

Accommodations in Seoul for our five nights is at the 4-star Seoul Sejong Hotel, ideally located in the heart of Myeong-dong, the epicenter of fashion and culture. Famous Namdaemun Market and Seoul City Hall are within a 15-minute walk. Facing famous Namsan Mountain, enjoy spectacular panoramic views.

The remainder of the evening is free. A dinner bento box with bottled water will be provided on arrival at the hotel.

Seoul Sejong Hotel



Day 3 – May 26th, 2022, Thursday – Seoul (B/L)

After breakfast, please meet Daisy and our local guide in the lobby by the designated time. We have a fun day planned out.

The morning begins with a Korean cooking class at Korea House. Learn to cook two of the most beloved dishes, kimchi and bulgogi, After the cooking experience, enjoy the fruits of your labor for lunch! There's no better way to experience Korean culture, than to dress up in hanbok, traditional Korean clothes.

We begin with kimchi, a staple food in Korean cuisine, traditionally a side dish of salted and fermented vegetables. It is also used in a variety of soups and stews. And then, buigogi, thinly sliced beef that is marinated in a delicious soy sauce mixture and grilled. It is usually eaten wrapped up in lettuce or over a bowl of rice.

From here, a visit to a zzimjilbang, a Korean bath house, most open 24 hours, and a popular family weekend getaway. This public bathhouse has separate men and women areas. They typically feature traditional Korean kiln saunas, hot tubs, ice rooms, heated salt rooms, and a massage area with showers.

Nos, back to our hotel, arrival by 4:00pm. Our local guide and Daisy have some shopping ideas for you, steps from our hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening.

Our hotel is in the heart of Myeongdong, without a doubt, Seoul's most famous neighborhood. This area takes shopping and eating to new heights, with hundreds of shops, restaurants, and cafes to choose from. Do try the tasty and unique street foods. The best part about street food here is that you can walk from stall to stall finding whatever looks and smell the best.

If your love is shopping, you can find an almost unlimited number of mid to high-end retail stores such as the Lotte Department Store and Shinsegae Department Store and as well street carts and small boutiques. Here, you can find just about anything related to clothes and the latest fashion trends.

Great bargains are to be had if you are willing to hunt for them. To find great deals, look past the large department stores and most major brands towards the street carts and smaller shops found tucked away in smaller alleys.

One of the best times to experience Myeongdong is after the sun goes down when the streets are packed, the neon lights are brightly lit up and the smells of street food make your mouth water. With an estimated two million people visiting this area on a typical day, just people watching can be a fun experience.

Seoul Sejong Hotel



Day 4 – May 27th, 2022, Friday – Seoul (B)

After breakfast, please meet your guide by 9:45am as we are off for a total leisurely fun filled day!

The day begins with a visit to Insadong Antique Street. Insadong-gil is “well known as a traditional street to both locals and foreigners” and represents the “culture of the past and the present”. It contains a mixture of historical and modern atmosphere and is a “unique area of Seoul that truly represents the cultural history of

the nation.” Most the traditional buildings originally belonged to merchants and bureaucrats. Some larger residences, built for retired government officials during the Joseon period, can also be seen. Most of these older buildings are now used as restaurants or shops.

The face of Insadong changes three times a day. In the early morning, it is a quiet and peaceful street, in the afternoon it becomes busy with tourists and at night Insadong is a place where people, Korean and foreigners alike enjoy taking a stroll and simply hanging out. Enjoy free time to shop and have lunch on your own.

From here, we are off to Gwangjang Market, one of Korea's largest traditional markets and is renowned for its quality silk goods, bed linen and hand-made goods. These days, the vintage clothing arcade in the market has become a very popular attraction among young people and wholesalers searching for unique vintage fashion.

Gwangjang Market has over 100 years of history that can be traced back to the establishment of the Gwangjang Corporation in 1905 which was created with the purpose of reclaiming Korean sovereignty during the period of Japanese occupation. At that time, traditional Korean markets were only temporary marketplaces that were periodically held every few days. Gwangjang Market was the first permanently established market that was open every day. In 1962 the market was divided into Dongdaemun Market and Gwangjang Market and modern buildings were constructed.

The market continues to thrive today and is especially popular among young people for its vintage clothing arcade. The vintage arcade offers a variety of unusual, unique designs that attract many people including many famous Korean celebrities.

A visit to this market is a must for Korean couples planning their wedding and setting up their new home. Couples can purchase everything they need under one roof at good prices: home furnishings, bedding, yedan (wedding presents given by the bride to the groom's family), hanbok (traditional Korean attire), silk, etc. The market is also famous for its abundance of street food.

Now, back to our hotel, the remainder of the afternoon and evening is free.



Seoul Sejong Hotel  **free**

Day 5 – May 28th, 2022, Saturday – Seoul (B)

After breakfast, please meet Daisy and our local guide in the lobby by the designated time.

We begin with a visit to Lotte Mart at Seoul Station, one of the leading discount chains in Korea. Being that over 100,000 travelers pass through the station each day, its no surprise that this store is the top in sales to foreign visitors.

They offer groceries, clothes, fashion accessories, electronics, toys, household goods, cosmetics, and more. Bring along a list or arrive ready to shop, shop, and more shopping!

Korean snacks are popular and make for excellent munching food. Match it up with the Korean liquor drink of choice, soju and you have put together an awesome omiyage gift.

If you are a fan of K-beauty and follow a Korean skin care regimen, then Lotte Mart will feel like a wonderland to you. The second floor of the Seoul supermarket is full of Korean beauty brands. You will find rows and rows of cosmetics and makeup with eye-catching promotions. There is also a vast area for clothing

and accessories on the same floor. It is literal heaven if you are a fan of both Korean fashion and Korean beauty!

From here, a visit to the War Memorial of Korea, a museum opened in 1994 on the former site of the army headquarters to exhibit and memorialize Korea's military history.

This museum really captured the sights and shifting moods of war, down to General MacArthur's comb-over in one of the dioramas. It is a great learning place, a spot to reflect and pay respect to the people who fought and shaped the world we live in today.

From here, back to our hotel and the remainder of the afternoon and evening is free.

Seoul Sejong Hotel  free

Day 6 – May 29th, 2022, Sunday – Seoul (B)

After breakfast, a complete free day to explore on your own and enjoy great shopping. Your Panda Travel escort, Daisy will be available to assist you.

Seoul Sejong Hotel  free

Day 7 – May 30th, 2022, Monday – Seoul - Incheon(B)

After breakfast, free leisure time until we meet in the lobby at 11:30am.

It's our last day, but still much to enjoy before our flight home later this evening. The day begins with a visit to Hondo, a neighborhood known for its youthful and romantic ambience, underground culture, and freedom of self-expression. Unique cafes, cozy galleries, accessory stores, fashion shops, live cafes and clubs, art markets, and gourmet eateries make this a popular hang-out for local youth and a fascinating place to walk around. Enjoy free time here to shop, explore and have lunch on your own.

Next, a visit to the Grevin Museum, a wax museum and brainchild of journalist Arthur Meyer and caricaturist Alfred Grevin. Musee Grevin, France's famous wax museum opened its fourth venue in Seoul in 2015, the first Asian subsidiary. As such, here you will find many South Korean hallyu, a "Korean Wave" of celebrities. There are over 80 wax figures are presented in different themed spaces, including historical figures. Celebrity figures that you can take photos with include Yu Jae-seok, G-dragon, and PSY to name a few.

Now, off to the Incheon Airport to begin the check-in process and time for duty free shopping.

Hawaiian Airlines #460 Departs Incheon 9:25 pm – Arrival Honolulu 11:20 am