

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, Inc.
presents a study tour to

SOUTH KOREA & MONGOLIA

THURSDAY 19 JUNE to TUESDAY 15 JULY, 2014 - 28 DAYS, 26 NIGHTS

TWIN-SHARE COST: \$11,660 Single Supplement Cost: \$1,630



THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NSW SOUTH KOREA AND MONGOLIA STUDY TOUR, 2014

ITINERARY

Day 1. Thu. June 19, 2014 Sydney to Seoul, South Korea. Depart Sydney 07:55, arrive at Incheon International Airport 17:25, meet guide and transfer to the hotel. 2 nights: Hotel.

Day 2. Fri. June 20. Seoul city tour, evening cultural show.
Visit includes Gyeongbokgung Palace, National folklore museum, Insa-dong (famous for antiques and art) and Gwangjang market (try some tasty local snacks for lunch) and the view from Namsan Tower. In addition, take in the view of the bustling city from the bus - Gwanghwamun Plaza, Cheonggyecheon stream, city hall, Seoul plaza, East Gate and Dongdaemun market complex, etc. Evening is dinner and traditional dance and music at Korea House. (B,D)

Day 3 Sat. June 21. Seoul – Hwajinpo – Goseong – Seoraksan
(310km). An early morning start. Drive past small farming villages, mountains and valleys to the east coast of Korea. Tour the Unification observatory looking over North Korea. Travel on to Hwajinpo a charming coastal town, for a visit of Kim Il-sung Villa, then to Geojin fishing village. Arrive at Seoraksan National Park. 2 nights: Hotel. (B)

Day 4. Sun. June 22. Seoraksan National Park. The word of the day is hiking. The rugged peaks, fantastic cliffs, numerous waterfalls, unique rock formations, and scenic valleys altogether make this park and surrounding area some of the best scenery on the Korean peninsula. A cable car takes you from the valley floor to enjoy the panoramic view across to the Pacific Ocean. There are many well-signposted, graded trails to choose from. Or simply visit the huge Unification Buddha and Sinheungsas, Korea's oldest Zen temple. (B)

Day 5. Mon. June 23. Seoraksan – Jeongdongjin – Punggi – Andong
(340km). Drive past a North Korean submarine wrecked in 1996 and stop at Jeongdongjin, a tiny fishing village. Enjoy morning tea at a surreal cruise liner hotel - on a cliff top. Travel to Sosu Seowon, the first private institute in Korea, established in 1543. Then on to Punggi, a small town famous for its ginseng market, and stop at Jebiwon Buddha at the northern entrance way to Andong. 1 night: Hotel. (B)

Day 6. Tue. June 24. Andong – Gangneung – Jeongdongjin – Punggi – Andong
(140km). Visit Hahoe Folk Village, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nestled in a bend of the Nakdong River, it is the best-preserved traditional village from the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). Some 480 Korean traditional houses, large and small, are still fully functioning. The village is also known for famous Hahoe Mask Dance and we will visit the Mask Museum. Stop off at a traditional paper-making workshop. Travel two hours to Songnisan National Park. See Beopjusa temple dating back to AD 553 and the Dharma bell striking ceremony at sunset. 1 night: Hotel (B)

Day 7. Wed. June 25. Songnisan – Gayasan – Gyeongju (290km). Travel through scenic countryside to Gayasan National Park to see a magnificent Haesimsa temple, one of the most important temples in Korea dating from the 9th century. It houses the world's oldest collection of Buddhist sutras. (Unfortunately the 15th cent. Ganggyeong Panjeon, housing 81,258 wood-blocks, is currently closed to visitors.) Travel to the Goryeong Tumuli Museum to see a replica of an early tomb. The nearby Daegaya Museum exhibits a huge collection of artefacts excavated in Gyeongju. Travel on to Gyeongju. 2 nights: Hotel (B)

TOUR OPERATOR

ACR International Travel & Tours
Lower Ground, Suite D
280 Pitt St
Sydney, NSW 2000
Travel Agents Licence No.: 2TA 5384



AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL RESOURCES PTY LTD T/A/S ABN 82 065 794 452

Day 8. Thu. June 26. Gyeongju. Full day tour in Gyeongju, ancient capital of Silla (BC57-AD935) often dubbed the 'Museum without Walls'. Explore two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Seokguram Grotto, home of the serene, 8th century stone Buddha, reached by a 10-minute walk through a lovely wood, and the Bulguksa temple. Visit the modern Gyeongju National Museum, which contains thousands of priceless archaeological and historical artefacts. See Anapji, the royal pleasure garden and pond with lotus blossoms, followed by a relaxed walk through the ruins of Banwolseong or Half Moon Fortress. There is a Seokbinggo, a freezer made of stones, built half underground. Stop at Cheomseongdae, the world's oldest existing astronomical observatory. Nearby Tumuli Park encompasses 23 huge tomb mounds where Silla rulers were buried. One tomb is open to the public. See Poseokjeong, a summer pavilion for the later Silla kings, and Bunhwangsa temple with 10m-high three-storyed rectangular pagoda. A Western style dinner is planned in the hotel. (B,D)

Day 9. Fri. June 27. Gyeongju – Gampo – Busan (150km) Travel to Gampo to see the ancient twin pagodas of Gameunsa Temple, and unusual underwater Tomb of King Munmu, about 200 metres off the coast. Journey to Busan, Korea's second largest city. Make a photo stop at Haeundae beach, then on to the UN memorial cemetery where 2,300 deceased soldiers from 16 Korean War allies rest, including 281 Australians. Explore the fascinating and bustling Jagalchi fish market located on the downtown docks. The market offers a huge variety of fish. Visit BIFF square packed with trendy shops, movie theatres and even a Walk of Fame, and nearby Gukjesijang where thousands of shops spill out into the busiest districts of Busan. 1 night. Hotel. (B)

Day 10. Sat. June 28. Busan – Jeju (340km). After breakfast, go to Gimhae airport. An hour flight takes you to the most famous of the 3,300 Korean islands. Once a place of exile, Jeju has become a popular tourist destination. Stop at Gwandeokjeong, the oldest building in Jeju. Visit Jeju Folklore and Natural History Museum with indoor and outdoor exhibitions covering the history geology and culture of Jeju. A short walk from the museum is Sansoonghyeon, a very symbolic spot for the islanders. Enjoy an evening performance of 'NANTA', a combination of traditional Korean rhythms with comedy. 3 nights: Hotel. (B)

Day 11. Sun. June 29. Full day tour of western Jeju (140km). Visit Bunjae Artpia to see the Korea's only park specialising in bonsai with more than 2000 bonsai trees of 100 different species. Visit Sanbandsan, a magnificent cone abruptly rising 395 metres from the sea, with lovely temples on the lower grounds, or take the short steep climb up to the tiny cave with pool and stone Buddha. Tide permitting, explore Yongmeori Coast, a tuff outcrop with fascinating views of seaside cliffs and sea caves. A replica of Dutch East India Company ship, The Sperwer, wrecked in 1653 is nearby. View the spectacular 1km stretch of coastline with hexagonal rock columns, formed by the rapid cooling of lava, at nearby Jisatgae. In the afternoon, a possible hike to Oedolgae, a needle rock standing alone off the cliffy coast. The trail features scenic ocean vistas and abundant wild flowers. Later walk through subtropical woods, home to more than 400 individual species of plants and animals to Cheonjiyeon waterfall. (B)

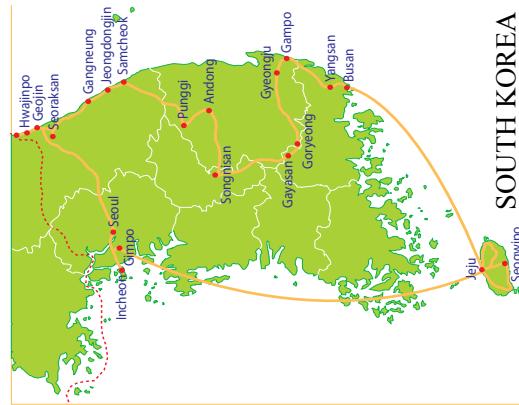


Day 12. Mon. June 30. Full day tour of eastern Jeju. (120km). Explore the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site of Marjang Cave, the world's longest lava tube (13.4km). Prepared for the cool and damp, you can easily cover up to 1km on foot, exploring weirdly shaped stalactites, stalagmites, flow ledges and lava stone pillar. Then visit Haenyeo Museum featuring the harsh work and life of women divers. After lunch tour Seongsan Ilchulbong (Sunrise Peak), another UNESCO site. It is the island's largest tuff cone surrounded on three sides by the ocean rising 182 meters straight from the water. You may wish to climb up to the spectacular crater. See Seongeup Folk Village from the Goryeo dynasty (918-1392) and where nearly 400 traditional thatched houses are still fully functioning. Stop at spectacular Sangumburi to enjoy an easy walk in this volcanic crater in which grows at least 420 species of sub-tropical, temperate and alpine zone plants. Views in every direction are breathtaking; stunning panoramas of the ocean, and volcanic cones dotting the island's landscape. (B)

Day 13. Tue. July 1. Jeju – Seoul – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Relax in the morning, before our early afternoon flight to Seoul (Gimpo). Transfer to Incheon International Airport for the 19.55 flight to Mongolia. Arrive Ulaanbaatar 22.30. Transfer to the hotel. 2 nights: Hotel. (B)

Day 14. Wed. July 2. Ulaanbaatar and City tour. Visit the National Museum of Mongolian History, the Museum of Natural History (see the fossilised skeleton of Tyrannosaurus Baatar, recently returned to Mongolia), and Sukhbaatar Square, the city's central square in front of the Mongolian Parliament building. Here we will provide you with some basic information about Mongolia and our capital, Ulaanbaatar. (B, L, D)

Day 15. Thurs. July 3. Fly to the Gobi - Yolii Am Strictly Protected Area - Bearded Eagle Canyon. Drive to airport and take a flight to Dalanzadgad, centre of South Gobi province. Visit Yolii Am – Bearded Eagle Canyon. Yolii Am has been a strictly protected area since 1965 and it is located in the Gobi Three Beauties National Park. Yolii Am is famous for its high & narrow canyons, frozen summer stream and wild life such as bearded eagles, wild Argali sheep, ibex, and Mongolian mice. The stream remains frozen even in July, the hottest month of the year. Visit a small museum of the Gobi Three Beauties National Park and enjoy the picturesque Bearded Eagle Canyon, its wildlife and frozen summer stream. Overnight in a traditional Mongolian ger. 1 night: Ger camp (B, L, D)



SOUTH KOREA



Day 16. Fri. July 4. Khongor Sand Dunes. Drive west to Khongor Sand Dunes, one of the largest sand dunes in Mongolia. Its height reaches to 300 meters and extends from the northwest to the southeast over 180 km. The place is famous for its magnificent sand dunes, 'Singing Dune', the highest, Green Oasis and beautiful sunsets. Visit and enjoy the hospitality of a camel breeder's family, learn about Mongolia's traditional nomadic way of the life and experience a ride on a camel. Visit the highest sand dune. Climb the 'Singing Dune' and enjoy the amazing view of the Gobi sand dunes and the Green Oasis from the top of the dune. Enjoy taking pictures, relaxing or trekking by the dunes and admire the Gobi beauty. Enjoy the beautiful Gobi sunset in the evening. 1 night: Ger camp (B, L, D)

Day 17. Sat. July 5. Bayanzag Flaming Cliffs – Ancient Dinosaur Land. Drive to Bayanzag – ‘Flaming Cliffs’ via Western Beauty mountain range. This place is famous for its dinosaur fossils, eggs and the special Gobi tree, the saxaul. In 1922 American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews and his expedition members found the first dinosaur eggs as well as numerous fossil skeletons of dinosaurs that lived 70-80 million years ago. Visit the Flaming Cliffs and walk in the Gobi saxaul forest and enjoy its natural beauty. 1 night: Ger camp (B, L, D)

Day 18. Sun. July 6. Ongi Temple and monastery ruin. Experience an early morning Gobi sunrise. After breakfast we will drive north to the Ongi Monastery ruins over the vast 80 km long Ongi Steppe. Visit the Ongi Monastery ruins. The monastery was established in the 1760s by Bari Yonzon Khamba. During its peak use, the monastery had over 1000 monks and a complex of around 30 temples. The Ongi Monastery is still active but now only a few monks perform its functions. 1 night: Ger camp (B, L, D)

Day 19. Mon. July 7. Kharkhorin – Ancient capital of Great Mongolian Empire of Genghis Khan. In the morning drive to Kharkhorin, the ancient capital of Mongolia. Kharkhorin (Karakorum) was the capital of Great Mongolian Empire of Chinggis Khan in the 13-14th Centuries. Visit Museum of Kharkhorin and surrounding sites of Kharkhorin: the Great Khan's monument, the legendary Turtle of Kharkhorin and the Phallic Rock statue. 3 nights: Ger camp (B, L, D)

Day 20. Tues. July 8. Enjoy Local Naadam Festival in Kharkhorin. Today is the Naadam Festival day. After having breakfast we will drive to the Naadam field of Kharkhorin to see the Naadam Festival! Enjoy seeing the Mongols' Three Manly Games: wrestling, archery and glorious horse races with young jockeys. See how locals celebrate the Naadam and what they like to eat during the Naadam time. Great photo opportunities. (B, L, D)



Day 21. Wed. July 9. Tuvkhun Monastery or Ugii Lake - Kharkhorin. A choice of activities: Group 1: Drive and hike to Tuvkhun Monastery, located on top of the 2312 metre Undur Shireet Mountain. The monastery was established by the first Mongolian Buddhist saint, Zanabazar in 1654. There are 14 small temples, a hermit's cave and several pilgrimage sites. Enjoy amazing views of the natural surroundings from the peak. Have packed lunch on the way. Drive back to Kharkhorin. Group 2: Drive to Ugii Lake. The lake covers 25 square km and is rich in perch and pike. Crane, duck and other species migrate to this area beginning in May. Enjoy bird watching and walking by the lake shore. Have packed lunch on the way. Visit Khushuu Tsaidam – Ancient Turkic inscribed monument. Drive back to Kharkhorin. (B, L, D)

Day 22. Thurs. July 10. Kharkhorin – Ulaanbaatar.

In the morning visit one of Mongolia's

two largest monasteries, Erdenezuu.

This monastery has a complex of 108 stupas and over

10 temples that contain rich displays of Mongolian Buddhism.

The Erdenezuu Monastery and

ruins of Kharkhorin were registered as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996. Then drive back

to Ulaanbaatar. Have packed lunch on the way. Arrive in Ulaanbaatar and check in to a hotel.

Refresh and relax. 2 nights: Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 23. Fri. July 11. Enjoy Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar. Today is the day of State Naadam Festival. After breakfast we will drive to the central stadium of Ulaanbaatar to see the delightful opening ceremony of the Naadam Festival. Enjoy seeing the traditional archery and anklebone shooting competitions before the opening ceremony. After the opening ceremony we will enjoy seeing the Mongolian traditional wrestling which is one of the Three Manly Games of the Mongols. Have lunch. Then free time and enjoy the Naadam evening (evening fireworks etc) near Sukhbaatar square. (B, L, D)



Day 24. Sat. July 12. Ulaanbaatar – Terelj National Park.

Day 24. Sat. July 12. Ulaanbaatar – Terelj National Park. After breakfast we will drive to the beautiful Terelj National Park and giant Statue of Chinggis Khaan. First we will visit the Chinggis King's Statue and enjoy the view of the surrounding area from the open balcony on Chinggis Khaan's horse's head. Then continue driving to Terelj National Park. Terelj National Park is a picturesque place with high granite cliffs eroded by natural forces creating a wonderful landscape of granite tors as if carved by some giant sculptor. Visit the Turtle Rock formation, the symbol of the national park and Aryabal meditation temple where you will enjoy the best view of the park. 2 nights: Ger camp (B, L, D)

Day 25. Sun. July 13. Terelj National Park and return to Ulaanbaatar. A full day to explore the park: horse-riding (optional), you will pay directly to the ger camp or horse owner), hiking, writing up the diary, or just chilling out with a good book amid beautiful scenery. (B, L, D)



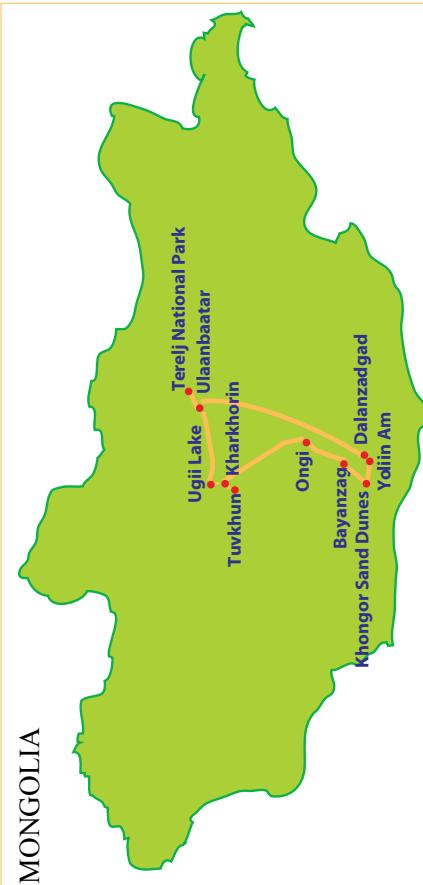
Day 25. Sun. July 13. Terelj National Park and return to Ulaanbaatar. After breakfast we will drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Visit the Bogd Khaan Palace Museum, the last Mongolian king's winter palace; Buddha Park, featuring a 23 meter tall statue of Buddha, and the Zaisan Hill War Memorial. The huge monument on the top of the hill was created as a memorial to soldiers who died in WWII. Zaisan Hill overlooks the city and offers the best panoramic view of Ulaanbaatar and its surrounding sacred mountains. Later we will go shopping at a cashmere factory outlet store, a souvenir shop or whatever else you want to do. Enjoy a traditional Mongolian folklore performance of song (including the amazing throat singing), dance, music and contortionists at 18:00. Farewell dinner at a fine Mongolian restaurant. 1 night: Hotel (B, L, D)



Day 27. Tues. July 15. Departure. Meet at the hotel and transfer to the airport for 08:45 flight. Arrive Seoul (Incheon International airport) 12:50. In transit until 19:10 departure. Plenty of time for souvenir shopping and lunch at the airport.

Day 28. Wed. July 16. Arrive Sydney at 06:25.

MONGOLIA



STUDY TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Transport: The party will travel with Korean Air and Aero Mongolia. Land transport will be by coach (South Korea) and comfortable 4WD mini-vans (Mongolia).

Accommodation:

South Korea: 3 & 4 star hotels (twin/double share).
Mongolia: 4 star hotels in Ulaanbaatar; tourist ger camps (twin/triple share). Ger camps have separate tents (rooms) with basic facilities, an amenities block and dining room.

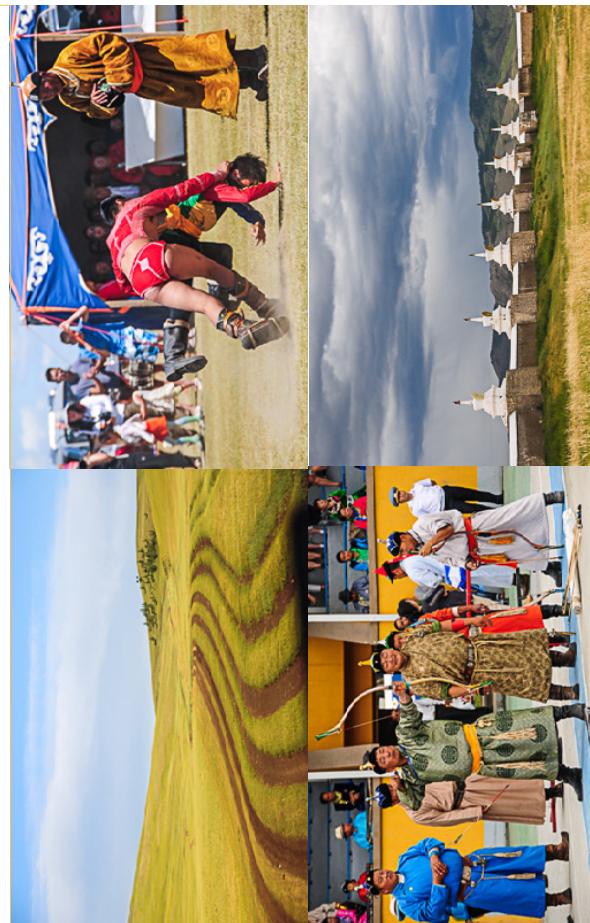
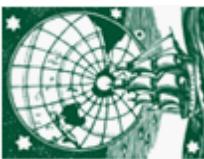


Tour Leader: The Study Tour will be led by Sandy Smith. She has travelled with Colin Sale on about 20 Geographical Society Study Tours in addition to her other travels, and has visited about 100 countries on all 7 continents. Sandy undertook a reconnaissance tour to South Korea and Mongolia in July 2013. As a part-time newspaper photographer and retired teacher, Sandy is keen to assist others to improve their photographic skills, and to be able to capture the best images of their travels.

Included in tour price: All transport, transfers, admissions, and performances as itemised; meals as specified (all breakfasts and some dinners in South Korea; all meals in Mongolia); accommodation in good quality hotels and tourist ger camps; sight-seeing with English-speaking guides, baggage handling at each hotel (one bag per person), and applicable taxes. **Not included in tour price:** Single room cost (if required), passport charges, visa (required for Mongolia only), meals not specified in the itinerary, photography and video fees, & all personal items eg, beverages, phone, laundry, insurance, medical expenses, excess baggage, gratuities to drivers and guides.

APPLICATION: A tour application form may be obtained from ACR Travel, or by contacting Sandy at sandy@acrtravel.com.au. Return the completed form with a deposit of \$250 per person, to the ACR Travel office: Lower Ground, Suite D, 280 Pitt St Sydney 2000.

TOUR ORGANISED ON BEHALF OF
THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES, Inc.
School of Social Sciences,
University of Western Sydney
<http://www.geogsoc.org.au>



All photos: Sandy Smith. Cover: Man at Korean Folk Village; local man at Kharkorin Naadam Festival. P2: Seoul city buildings; Mt. Seoraksan; Hahoe folk mask. P3: Royal Pavilion, Anapji, Gyeongju; United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan. P4: Ulaanbaatar city skyline; P5: Tarbosaurus Bataar; Horse racing (2) and wrestler, Kharkorin Naadam Festival. P6: Archery, opening ceremony (2), spectators at ankle bone shooting, Ulaanbaatar Naadam Festival; Fireworks, Ulaanbaatar; Terelj National Park (2), Traditional dancers, Ulaanbaatar. P7: Tsenker steppes; Wrestling at Kharkhorin; Archery, Naadam Festival, Ulaanbaatar; Erdene Monastery, Kharkhorin. P8: Mitsubishi 4WD Minivan, Guru Travel Ger Camp, Terelj National Park.