

# JAPAN AND KOREA A FAR EAST ADVENTURE

## April 5-23, 2024

### With Franciscan Fr. Mario DiCicco

*In conjunction with Santours (#2092786-40)*

**Land Only with Double Occupancy: \$6,875 (If paid by check.)  
(4% surcharge if paid by credit card)**

**Single Supplement: \$1,735**

**Air fare is separate and based on the city of departure.**



### ***Myeongdong Street***

Myeongdong is a dong in Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea between Chungmu-ro, Eulji-ro, and Namdaemun-ro. It covers 0.99km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 3,409 and is mostly a commercial area, being one of Seoul's main shopping, parade route and tourism districts. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, Myeong-dong was listed as the ninth most expensive shopping street in the world.

Dinner at local restaurant.

At 18:00, Back to hotel.

Accommodation in Seoul at the same hotel.

### **April '17 (Wednesday) : Seoul – Gongju - Daejeon**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 9:30 a.m. meet our guide in hotel lobby.

Transfer to Gongju.

Lunch at local restaurant.

### ***Magoksa Temple***

Magoksa Temple was founded by Monk Jajangyulsa in 640 and was repaired multiple times throughout the different dynasties. The temple has many treasures and cultural properties. Interesting fact about the temple is that it was never damaged by any major wars, including the Imjin War and the Korean War.

### ***Gongsanseong Fortress***

Located in Gongju-si, Gongsanseong Fortress is a mountain castle which was established during the Baekje Period (234-678). The fortress is more than 2.6 kilometers long at 110 meters above sea level. Built using earthen fortifications during the Baekje dynasty, the fortress was strengthened during the Joseon dynasty with stones.

### ***Tomb of Muryeong King***

The tomb of king Muryeong is perhaps one of the most impressive tombs from the Baekje kingdom of ancient Korea, both in its design and the treasure found inside it. Muryeong-Wang (also Munyeong or Muryong) reigned from 501 to 523 CE.

***Seokjangni Museum*** (Gongju National Museum is closed on Mondays)

Located in Gongju, Chungcheongnam-do, Seokjangni Museum was established in September 2006 to preserve and introduce the culture of the Old Stone Age. There are a variety of exhibitions of relics excavated from the Seokjeong-ri area as well as educational programs available for visitors to learn more about the Paleolithic Period.

Dinner at local restaurant.

At 20:00 Transfer to Daejeon and Check-in and take a rest.

### **April '18 (Thursday) : Daejeon - Andong - Gyeongju**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 9:30 a.m. meet our guide in hotel lobby and transfer to Andong

Lunch at local restaurant.

### ***Andong Hahoe Village***

Hahoe Village is one of the most famous folk villages in Korea. Surrounded by the Nakdonggang River, the village is home to descendants of the Ryu clan of Pungsan, which still makes up 70 percent of the villagers.

Transfer to Gyeongju.

### ***Cheomseongdae Observatory***

Cheomseongdae Observatory, constructed during the reign of Queen Seondeok (r. 632-647), is one of the landmark of Gyeongju. The observatory was built in a cylinder shape at approximately 9 meters in height.

### ***Hwangridangil street***

Hwangnidan Street is the new hangout in Gyeongju that has been rising in popularity. Originally one of the many alleyways in the Hwangnam-dong area known as “Hwangnam Keungil” (Big Street in Hwangnam), the alley became a hipster hangout with restaurants, cafes, and photo studios housed in renovated hanok (traditional Korean house) buildings.

Dinner at local restaurant.

At 19:00, Transfer to Hotel and Check-in.

### **April '19 (Friday) : Gyeongju**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 9:30 a.m. meet our guide in hotel lobby.

### ***Bulguksa Temple***

Bulguksa Temple is a representative relic of Buddhist culture from the Silla kingdom. The temple was built during the 15th year of King Beopheung's reign (514-540) to wish for peace and prosperity for all. The temple now holds seven national treasures and a number of additional important heritages and was designated a World Cultural Heritage Site along with the nearby Seokguram Grotto by UNESCO in December 1995.

### ***Seokguram Grotto***

The Seokguram Grotto (Sokkuram) is a Buddhist cave temple constructed during the Unified Silla Period (668-935 CE) of ancient Korea.

Lunch at local restaurant.

### ***Gyeongju National Museum***

Gyeongju National Museum houses numerous historical and cultural artifacts of the Silla dynasty (57 BC-AD 935). The newly renovated Silla Art Gallery and Silla History Gallery lobby by Teoyang Studio are popular among visitors.

This multi-complex center provides the history of Silla with various artifacts.

### ***Daereungwon Tomb Complex***

Within Daereungwon Tomb Complex is Cheonmachong Tomb, which was excavated in 1973. Cheonmachong Tomb consists of a wooden coffin placed inside an underground chamber mounded with boulders and earth, characterized as a typical upper class tomb of the Silla period.

### ***Dongung and Wolji***

Gyeongju Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond was a secondary palace used by the crown prince of the Silla Kingdom. It also served as a banquet site for important national events and important visitors. The pond was created in 674, during the reign of King Munmu.

Dinner at local restaurant.

At 18:00 back to Hotel.

Accommodation in Gyeongju at the same hotel.

### **April '20 (Saturday) : Gyeongju - Busan**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 9:30 a.m. meet our guide in hotel lobby and transfer to Busan.

### ***Haedong Yonggungsa Temple***

Haedong Yonggungsa Temple is situated on the coast of the north-eastern portion of Busan. This superb attraction offers visitors the rare find of a temple along the shore line; most temples in Korea are located in the mountains. Haedong Yonggungsa Temple was first built in 1376 by the great Buddhist teacher known as Naong during the Goryeo dynasty. Haesu Gwaneum Daebul (Seawater Great Goddess Buddha), Daungjeon Main Sanctuary, Yongwangdang Shrine, Gulbeop Buddhist Sanctum (enclosed in a cave), and a three-story pagoda with four lions can all be seen looking out over the ocean.

Lunch at local restaurant.

### ***Dongbaek Island***

Dongbaekseom Island (Island of Camellias) is an island located off one end of Busan's famous Haeundae Beach. Although the years of sedimentation have connected the island to the mainland, Dongbaekseom was originally an island and is still referred to as one.

### ***Gwangalli Beach & Bridge***

Gwanggan Bridge (Gwangandaegyo) is the most recognized landmark of Busan. And Gwangalli Beach is the best place to enjoy this beautiful bridge over the horizon of the ocean.

Dinner at local restaurant.

At 19:00, Check-in and take a rest.

### **April '21 (Sunday) : Busan**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 9:30 a.m. meet our guide in hotel lobby.

### ***Gamcheon Cultural Village***

Gamcheon Culture Villiage is formed by houses built in staircase-fashion on the foothills of a coastal mountain, earning this village the nickname "Machu Picchu of Busan." Many alleys that cut through this community are vibrantly decorated with murals and sculptures created by the residents.

Lunch at local restaurant.

### ***Songdo Yonggung Suspension Bridge***

Songdo Suspension Bridge, which had been destroyed by the typhoon before, was rebuilt as the Songdo Yonggung Suspension Bridge 18 years later. The bridge connects Amnam Park to the uninhabited “Dongseom Island” on the other side. It measures 127.1m long and 2m wide.

### ***Busan Tower***

Loved by Busan citizens and tourists alike, the tower offers a stunning night view and plenty to see, such as the Statue of the Great Admiral Yi Sun-sin, the Bell of the Citizens, a flower clock and a bust of the Busan-based independent activist, Baeksan An Hee-je.

### ***UN Memorial Park***

The UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea honors UN soldiers from 16 countries and UN aids from five countries that were killed in battle during the Korean War from 1950-1953. It is the only memorial cemetery in the world dedicated to UN soldiers.

Dinner at local restaurant.

At 20:00, Check-in and take a rest.

Accommodation in Busan at the same hotel.

### **April '22 (Monday) : Busan - Seoul**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 09:30 a.m., Meet our guide in hotel lobby and transfer to Busan Station

BUSAN - SEOUL by KTX Bullet Train

Arrive at Seoul Station and transfer to Hotel.

At 15:00, Check-in and take a rest

Accommodation in Seoul at Ibis Insadong or Similar.

### **April '23 (Tuesday) : Seoul departure**

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 12:00 p.m., Meet our Guide and driver in the lobby and transfer to ICN airport.

Departure by UA892 at 16:35.



## ITINERARY

### April 5 (Friday): Departure

### April 6 (Saturday): Tokyo

Arrival in Tokyo Narita airport by air.

Pick up at the airport and transfer to hotel.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Tokyo at Toyko Inn Tokyo Shinjuku Kabukicho or similar.

### April 7 (Sunday): Tokyo

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day sightseeing of Tokyo with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Imperial Palace Garden**

The Tokyo Imperial Palace is the main residence of the Emperor of Japan. It is a large park-like area located in the Chiyoda district of the Chiyoda ward of Tokyo and contains several buildings including the main palace, some residences of the Imperial Family, an archive, museums and administrative offices.

#### **Tokyo Tower (Include Ticket)**

Tokyo Tower, the symbol of Tokyo, offers a great 360 degree panoramic view from its main deck.

#### **Sensoji Temple and Nakamise shopping street**

Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest temple, offers plenty to see including the bright red Kaminarimon Gate, a statue of the god of thunder, and a five-story pagoda.

The bustling street known as "Nakamise" stretches for about 250 m from Kaminarimon Gate to Senso-ji Temple and is filled with a plethora of shops.

(Lunch is not included)

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Tokyo at the same hotel.

### April 8 (Monday): Tokyo

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day sightseeing of Tokyo with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Shibuya Crossing**

An iconic landmark in Tokyo, head to Shibuya Scramble Crossing to see upwards of 1,000 people crossing the multi-cornered intersection at a time.

Despite converging in mass from all directions, pedestrians skillfully manage to avoid colliding with one another.

#### **Hachiko Statue in Shibuya**

One of Japan's unofficial landmarks, the Hachiko statue in Shibuya is a homage to the faithful Akita dog who waited at Shibuya Station every day for his master, even after his death. Today, it's one of the most popular meeting places in Tokyo.

#### **Ueno Park**

Ueno Park is a large public park next to Ueno Station in central Tokyo. The park grounds were originally part of Kaneiji Temple, which used to be one of the city's largest and wealthiest temples and a family temple of the ruling Tokugawa clan during the Edo Period.

(Lunch and dinner are not included)

Accommodation in Tokyo at the same hotel.

### April 9 (Tuesday): Tokyo - Hakone

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer & sightseeing of Hakone with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Mt. Fuji 5th Station**

The 5th Station is situated at 2,300 meters (7,546 ft) above sea level. At this height, participants will be amazed at spectacular, breathtaking views from above the clouds.

#### **Lunch (Japanese style)**

#### **Ashinoko lake Cruise (Include Ticket)**

At Lake Ashi in Hakone, customers can ride a cruise ship. Spend a relaxing time while gazing at the beautiful lake and Mt. Fuji.

#### **Hakone Shrine ropeway (Include Ticket)**

Take a cableway ride up to the spiritual Hakone Shrine Mototsumiya (original shrine) that nestles at the mountaintop. Enjoy the scenery of Lake Ashi spread out below.

Dinner & accommodation in Yamanashi at Hotel Mystays Fuji Onsen Resort or similar.

### April 10 (Wednesday): Hakone - Kyoto

Breakfast at the hotel.

Private transfer to Odawara train Station.

Bullet train to Kyoto.

Light lunch.

Sightseeing of Kyoto with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine**

Fushimi Inari Taisha is the head shrine of 40,000 inari-jinja shrines located all over Japan. The bright red Senbon Torii gates are a must-see attraction.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Kyoto at Hotel Granvia Kyoto or similar.

### April 11 (Thursday): Kyoto

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day sightseeing of Kyoto with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Kyoto Imperial Palace**

See the Kyoto Imperial Palace, which was used as the Emperor's residence until about 150 years ago.

#### **Kinkakuji Temple**

A World Heritage site. The wooden architecture is covered in thin layers of pure gold and is surrounded by a beautiful pond.

#### **Kiyomizu-dera Temple**

The view of Kyoto from the World Heritage Site Kiyomizu-dera is superb. The historic shopping lane that leads to the temple adds to a wonderful experience.

#### **Sanjusangendo Temple (If time allows)**

A temple built by the famous warlord Taira no Kiyomori for Emperor Go-Shirakawa in 1164, Sanjusangen-dō is primarily famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of compassion in her thousand-armed incarnation, lined up along the entire length of the thirty-three ken (unit of measurement) hall from which the temple gets its moniker.

Temple gets its moniker.

(Lunch is not included)

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Kyoto at the same hotel.

### April 12 (Friday): Kyoto

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day sightseeing of Nara & Kobe with English speaking guide by Private bus.

Full day sightseeing of Nara & Kobe with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Nara Park**

One of Nara's most famous destinations, is famous for being able to interact with deer that roam in the park.

#### **Todai-ji Temple**

A World Heritage site. This is the symbol of the Nara Period and one of the world's largest wooden structures. Its huge main hall and bronze Great Buddha are impressive to behold.

#### **Kasuga Taisha Shrine**

This Nara Period shrine is designated as a World Heritage Site. The deer of Nara Park are thought to be the shrine messengers.

**Kobe Mount Rokko** (931 meters) is the highest peak in the Rokko mountain range, which provides the pleasant green backdrop to the city of Kobe.

**Meriken Park** is a nice waterfront park in Kobe's port area. Built on an outcropping of reclaimed land, the park is covered in grassy lawn and open courtyards dotted with a collection of modern art installations and fountains.

(Lunch is not included)

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Kyoto at the same hotel.

### April 13 (Saturday): Kyoto - Osaka

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 08:00 a.m., transfer to Osaka and sightseeing with English speaking guide by Private bus.

#### **Osaka Castle (Include Ticket)**

Osaka Castle was founded in 16th century by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, a remarkable shogun in the Sengoku period, and is known as the symbol of his power.

Light Lunch

#### **Sky Building (Include Ticket)**

The 173 meter tall building consists of two towers that are connected with each other by the "Floating Garden Observatory" on the 39th floor. The observatory offers great views of the city through its windows and from its open-air deck.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Osaka at Washington Hotel Plaza Shin Osaka or similar.

### April 14 (Sunday): Osaka

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Train Station by foot.

Shinkansen (Bullet train) Nozomi to Hiroshima.

Transfer with English speaking guide by Private bus.

Take ferry to Miyajima.

#### **Itsukushima Shrine**

A World Heritage site. Established in the 6th century, this shrine is one of Japan's finest, and is famous for its beautiful Shinden-zukuri style structure (architecture representative of a nobles' residence in the Heian period). The contrast of the green of Mount Misen behind the lacquered shrine pavilion and the blue of the Seto Sea is beautiful and evocative of the underwater palace of Ryugujo

#### **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park**

This large-scale park was established in 1949 after the Pacific War ended, and is visited by countless visitors as a symbol of peace. The museum within the park is an Important Cultural Property of Japan, and was built to remind future generations of the terror wrought by atomic bombs.

#### **Atomic Bomb Dome**

The Atomic Bomb Dome is a symbol of the disastrous atomic bombing during WWII, the first atomic bombs used in human history, and has been preserved as it was to promote peace and elimination of atomic weapons around the world.

Shinkansen (Bullet train) Nozomi to Shin-Osaka

(Lunch is not included)

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation in Osaka at the same hotel.

### April 15 (Monday): Osaka

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Kansai Airport with English speaking guide by Private bus.

Leave Osaka for Seoul by OZ111 at 10:50 a.m.

### April 15 (Monday): Seoul

Arrive at Seoul (Incheon) Airport by OZ115 at 11:00 a.m. from Osaka at 12:00 p.m. Meet our English speaking Guide and driver at the gate. Transfer to Seoul.

#### **Gyeongbokgung Palace with guard changing ceremony**

In the Joseon dynasty, the royal guards of the palace were gatekeepers who were responsible for guarding the the main gates of Gyeongbokgung Palace as well as the main gates of the city such as Heunginjimun Gate and Sungnyemun Gate.

#### **National Folk Museum**

Located inside Gyeongbokgung Palace, the National Folk Museum of Korea presents historical artifacts that were used in

the daily lives of Korean people in the past.

#### **N Seoul Tower**

The tower's observatory offers an unobstructed view of the whole city, allowing it to become one of the all-time favorite attractions of Seoul citizens as well as domestic and international tourists.

Dinner at local restaurant.

Transfer to Hotel. Check-in and take a rest.

Accommodation in Seoul at Ibis Insadong or Similar

### April 16 (Tuesday): Seoul

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 9:30 a.m. Meet our guide in hotel lobby.

#### **Bukchon Hanok Village**

Bukchon Hanok Village reflects 600 years of Seoul's history.

The village is situated between Gyeongbokgung Palace and Changdeokgung Palace, and its streets are lined with traditional hanok.

#### **Insa-dong Street**

The abundance of wooden tea houses (nearly 40), boutique galleries and street vendors offering traditional Korean snacks makes Insa-dong street in Seoul a true magnet for visitors of the Korean capital. Alongside the free entertainment the area is famous for, Insa-dong is also one of the key destinations in the city for buying traditional Korean art, products and souvenirs, such as hanbok (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), traditional teas, pottery, and folk crafts.

Lunch at local restaurant.

#### **Jogyesa Temple**

Jogyesa Temple is the chief temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. The building dates back to the late 14th century and became the order's chief temple in 1936. It thus plays a leading role in the current state of Seon Buddhism in South Korea. The temple was first established in 1395, at the dawn of the Joseon Dynasty; the modern temple was founded in 1910 and initially called "Gakhwangsa". The name was changed to "Taegosa" during the period of Japanese rule, and then to the present name in 1954.

#### **Starfield COEX Mall (incl. starfield library)**

COEX Mall, Asia's largest underground shopping mall, is located in the Gangnam district of Seoul and has over 260 different stores. The mall houses a wide range of stores and brands for all ages and offers a wide variety of different experiences. *(Continued on back cover.)*

**For additional information and reservations, please contact:**

**Fr. Mario DiCicco, OFM**

**St. Peter's Church**

**110 West Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60602**

**Cell (312) 888-1331**

**email: mmdicco@gmail.com**

**www.FrMarioTours.weebly.com**

## REGISTRATION FORM

**Fr. Mario DiCicco**

## *Japan and Korea A Far East Adventure*

**April 5-23, 2024**

Room Preference:

Single

Double

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME CLEARLY AND EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 deposit per person)

**Make deposit payable to  
Santours Inc.**

**Send registration form, deposit  
and copy of passport to:**

**Fr. Mario DiCicco, O.F.M.  
St. Peter's Church  
110 West Madison Street  
Chicago, IL 60602**