

The logo for Craig travel, featuring the word "Craig" in a white serif font with a small crown over the 'i', and the word "travel" in a white sans-serif font below it, all enclosed within a red circle.

Craig  
travel

# SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN

BOOK BY NOV 10, 2025  
SAVE \$300 PP

**SMALL GROUP: LIMITED TO 25 TRAVELLERS**

MAY 9-26, 2026 | 18 DAYS | 43 MEALS

JOURNEY LEADER: ROBERT CRAIG

Embark on an extraordinary journey through the heart of East Asia. Begin in South Korea, where sleek modern skylines stand beside centuries-old palaces and poignant reminders of the lasting conflict on the peninsula. Stroll the lively streets of Seoul, explore UNESCO World Heritage sites, and savour the bold flavours of Korean cuisine.

Continue on to Japan, a land of ancient temples, tranquil gardens, and dynamic cities alive with tradition and innovation. From the historic harbour of Nagasaki to the timeless beauty of Kyoto, discover the country's cultural treasures. Take part in hands-on cooking classes, witness the dramatic hot spring landscapes of Beppu, and unwind in traditional onsen baths. This carefully crafted journey promises an unforgettable adventure, blending cultural immersion, historical exploration, and modern cityscapes.

**LIMITED TO JUST 25 TRAVELLERS**  
For a truly immersive experience



### Tour Highlights

- See the ultra-modern and historic sides of Seoul, South Korea's capital
- Visit the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)
- Explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Gyeongju
- Admire Haedong Yonggungsa Temple in Busan
- Tour Andong Hahoe Folk Village
- Ride the bullet train trip across South Korea
- Attend a live sumo wrestling match with dinner
- Learn to make traditional Korea bibimbap and Japanese udon noodles
- Visit the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Memorial
- Discover the Beppu 'hells' and relax in onsen hot springs
- Visit Osaka Castle, an iconic symbol of Japan's feudal history

### Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from/to Canada
- 16 nights in first-class hotels as indicated or similar
- 43 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 16 Breakfasts, L - 12 Lunches, D - 15 Dinners)
- Transfers and intercity transportation by private coach and rail service, as indicated
- Services of your journey leader plus our professional tour and local guides
- All surcharges, taxes, and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

### Journey Leader

**Robert Craig** is of the third generation of the Craig family to pursue the love of travel and currently leads Craig Travel as its President. Over the past few years, he has travelled via rail, cruise ship, coach and car across three continents, exploring the fjords of Norway, the Alps of



Switzerland, the islands of the Caribbean and the wilderness of Canada. Among his favourites were the slopes above Interlaken and the inland waterways of Norway. Now, he looks forward to embarking on this exciting adventure to South Korea and Japan, ready to share his passion for travel and create unique memories with you.

### MAY 9, Saturday

Tour members from across Canada will gather for their overnight flights to Seoul.

### DEPART CANADA

### MAY 10, Sunday

We arrive in Seoul in the late afternoon and head to our hotel right in the heart of the city.

**Courtyard by Marriott Seoul Namdaemun** (3 nights)

### SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

### MAY 11, Monday

Our first morning in Seoul begins at Changdeokgung Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in 1405 during the Joseon Dynasty as the second royal palace, and its tranquil Secret Garden (Huwon). From there, we explore Bukchon Hanok Village, the only place in Seoul where hundreds of hanoks (traditional houses) line the streets, preserving a rare piece of the city's history. We then continue to Myeongdong Street for an exciting mix of high-end brand stores, local boutiques, and street vendors, before ending the day at Namdaemun Market, the largest traditional market in Korea. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

BLD

### MAY 12, Tuesday

After the Korean War (June 1950–July 1953), South and North Korea moved in opposite directions, establishing a border that split the Korean Peninsula in half. Stretching 2 km on either side of this line, the DMZ is the most heavily

### DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ)

armed border in the world. Today, it is safe and welcoming for visitors, offering rare glimpses into the enigmatic state of North Korea. Our tour includes Imjingak Park, the DMZ film presentation, the Freedom Bridge, the Exhibition Hall, the 3rd Infiltration Tunnel (almost one mile long), Dora Observatory, and Dorasan Station. Back in the capital, we take in the bold, modern architecture of the Dongdaemun Design Plaza. **BLD**

**MAY 13, Wednesday SEOUL / GYEONGJU**

This morning we board a KTX bullet train to Gyeongju, capital of the Silla Dynasty, which ruled Korea for nearly a millennium. We visit Bulguksa Temple, a masterpiece of Silla architecture and a testament to the Buddhist faith of the era. Together with the nearby Seokguram Grotto, it is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site and home to seven national treasures as well as other important relics. At the Daereungwon Tomb Complex, we see Cheonmachong Tomb, a typical upper-class burial from the Silla period. We also explore Gyeongju Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond, once a secondary palace for the crown prince and a venue for royal banquets and important guests.

**Lahan Select Gyeongju (2 nights) BLD**

**MAY 14, Thursday ANDONG**

Visit the UNESCO-listed Hahoe Folk Village, founded in the 14th–15th centuries and known for its well-preserved Joseon-era architecture and arts. Stroll across Woryeonggyo Bridge, Korea's longest wooden pedestrian bridge, stretching 387 metres over the Andong Dam. Then, make your way to the Hahoe Mask Museum, home to an impressive collection of masks from Korea and beyond, including the iconic Hahoe masks. **BLD**

**MAY 15, Friday GYEONGJU / BUSAN**

Our next stop is Busan, South Korea's second-largest city, known for its beaches, temples, shopping, and fresh seafood. We'll begin at Haedong Yonggungsa, one of the country's few seaside Buddhist temples, before visiting Haeundae Beach. Nearby on Dongbaekseom Island is the Nurimaru APEC House, built for the 2005 APEC summit and now open to visitors. Back in the city, we'll stop at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, the only one in the world dedicated to UN forces. We'll also visit the National Memorial Museum of Forced Mobilization under Japanese Occupation, which shares the stories of Koreans forced into labour or military service under Japanese rule.

**Ramada Encore by Wyndham Haeundae (2 nights) BLD**

**MAY 16, Saturday BUSAN**

Learn about Korean cuisine with a hands-on bibimbap-making experience—a traditional dish of rice, vegetables, protein, and gochujang (chili paste). Pair your meal with makgeolli, a light, sparkling rice wine. Next, we'll visit Jagalchi Fish Market, Korea's largest seafood market, before strolling through the bustling streets of BIFF Square and Gukje Market. Later, we'll head up Busan Tower for panoramic city views. **BLD**

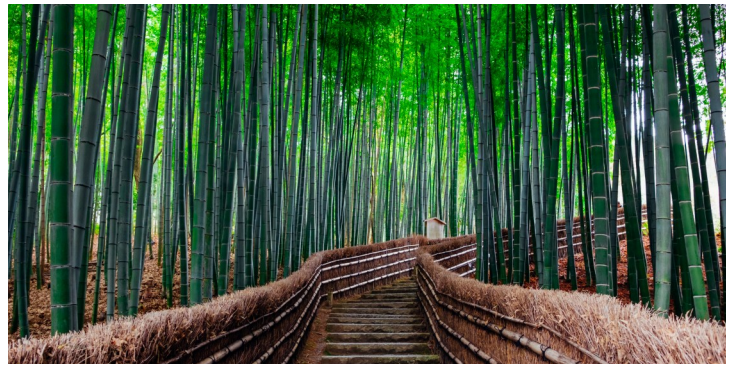
**MAY 17, Sunday BUSAN / FUKUOKA, JAPAN**

Bid farewell to South Korea as we take a flight across the Korea Strait to Japan's Kyushu Island. Our gateway and first stop is Fukuoka. Explore the Hakata district famous for its ramen shops and bustling side streets. Fukuoka Tower offers great skyline views and views of the nearby Ohori Park.

**Hotel Monterey Fukuoka (3 nights) BD**

**MAY 18, Monday NAGASAKI**

Embark on a scenic journey to Nagasaki, a city on Kyushu Island that blends Eastern and Western influences. Upon arrival, we'll visit the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace



*Wander through the ethereal Arashiya Bamboo Forest*



*Visit Fushimi Inari Shrine, voted a top must-see spot in Japan*



*Haedong Yonggungsa Temple in Busan, South Korea*

Memorial Park, two moving sites that offer deep insights into the events that shaped the city. Later, we'll explore Glover Garden, an open-air museum with beautifully preserved 19th-century Western-style buildings, picturesque grounds, and panoramic harbour views. **BLD**

**MAY 19, Tuesday KUMAMOTO**

Journey inland to Kumamoto, home to the magnificent Kumamoto Castle. Although the main keep was damaged in the 2016 earthquake, the surrounding grounds and impressive stone walls remain a splendid example of Edo-era architecture. You'll have time to take in the castle's majesty and see the ongoing restoration work. Next, we'll visit Suizenji Jojuen Garden, a meticulously maintained traditional Japanese garden with miniature landscapes, clear ponds, and charming tea houses — an ideal spot for a peaceful stroll and reflection. **BLD**

**MAY 20, Wednesday FUKUOKA / BEPPU**

Beppu is a city on Kyushu's eastern coast, renowned for its hot springs. Visit the Chinoike Jigoku (Blood Pond Hell) and Umi Jigoku (Sea Hell), captivating geothermal spectacles with vividly coloured ponds and active steam vents. Then, take in sweeping views of the city from Beppu Tower before returning to our hotel to unwind in the onsen (hot spring bath), a quintessential Japanese experience.

**Kamenoi Hotel Beppu (1 night) BLD**

**MAY 21, Thursday****BEPPU / MATSUYAMA**

After breakfast, we'll take a ferry from Beppu Port to Yawatahama on Shikoku Island, then continue to Matsuyama to visit Matsuyama Castle, one of Japan's twelve original castles, known for its rich history and sweeping views. We'll end the day at Dogo Onsen Honkan, a historic bathhouse with striking traditional architecture.

**Hotel Mystays Matsuyama** (1 night) BLD

**Note:** Luggage will be transported separately. Please bring a small overnight bag for your stay in Matsuyama.

**MAY 22, Friday****MATSUYAMA / TAKAMATSU**

This morning, we travel by coach to Takamatsu, about two hours away. Enjoy a hands-on udon-making workshop, crafting our own noodles for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we visit the celebrated Ritsurin Garden, regarded as one of Japan's most exquisite gardens. Afterward, we'll transfer to our hotel for check-in and some time to relax.

**JR Hotel Clement Takamatsu** (1 night) BLD

**MAY 23, Saturday****TAKAMATSU / KYOTO**

Kyoto is Japan's historic capital, a title it held from 794 to 1868. When we arrive, we'll explore the city's iconic beauty, beginning with the magnificent Kinkakuji Temple, famously known as the Golden Pavilion. Next, we'll wander through the ethereal Arashiya Bamboo Forest, an unforgettable sight as sunlight filters through its towering stalks. We then continue with a peaceful stroll along the Philosopher's Path, a charming, cherry tree-lined canal pathway dotted with temples and steeped in a tranquil, traditional ambiance.

**Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo** (3 nights) BLD

**MAY 24, Sunday****KYOTO**

Discover the timeless allure of Kyoto as we explore its unparalleled treasures. Our day begins at the historic Kiyomizu Temple, perched on a hillside, offering sweeping panoramic views of the city below. Next, we'll walk through the enchanting Gion district, particularly the atmospheric Hanamikoji Street, where you might just catch a fleeting glimpse of a geisha. We conclude our day at the awe-inspiring Fushimi Inari Shrine, renowned for its thousands of vibrant red torii gates that seemingly wind endlessly through a serene forested hillside—a truly unforgettable photographic opportunity.

BLD

**MAY 25, Monday****OSAKA**

Today, we take a delightful excursion to Osaka, Japan's dynamic culinary capital and a bustling modern metropolis. We begin with a visit to Osaka Castle, a powerful symbol of the city's historical might. Then, prepare your taste buds as we explore the lively Dotonbori area, a vibrant hub famous for its dazzling neon lights and an array of delectable street food, including the must-try *takoyaki* and *okonomiyaki*. Osaka is the perfect place to experience Japan's contemporary energy and world-class shopping. Tonight, we enjoy a special sumo performance dinner at a local restaurant—a captivating cultural experience watching Japan's ancient sport come to life. We then return to Kyoto for our final overnight stay.

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**MAY 26, Tuesday****KYOTO / OSAKA / CANADA**

After a final Japanese breakfast and leisurely start to the day we transfer from to Osaka Kansai International Airport for our flight(s) back to Canada. B

**CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging:** This journey is designed to provide an in depth exploration of South Korea and Japan's southern main islands. Some travel days will be long and require multiple transportation types. Meals with feature traditional local cuisine. By its nature, this journey involves walking (sometimes long) and numerous visits involving many steps. To fully enjoy this journey, members should be fully mobile with **no walking limitations** and be in good physical health.

**Special Note:** For one night our luggage will not be accessible. It will be required that you bring a small overnight bag for clothing and personal items during this stay. Please be aware that porter services are limited at some locations. Full details will be provided in the final travel documentation.



**Book by November 10, 2025  
and save \$300 per person**

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person**

|                                                      |          |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Land Only (Join Seoul hotel / Leave Kyoto hotel) ... | \$12,245 |
| Vancouver.....                                       | \$13,995 |
| Victoria.....                                        | \$14,165 |
| Calgary / Edmonton .....                             | \$14,245 |
| Winnipeg / Halifax .....                             | \$14,725 |
| Regina / Saskatoon .....                             | \$14,345 |
| Toronto.....                                         | \$14,445 |
| Montreal / Ottawa .....                              | \$14,565 |
| St. John's .....                                     | \$14,765 |
| Single Supplement.....                               | \$2,695  |

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Tour price is based on sharing a twin room at hotels and on a minimum of 15 members, based on rates, taxes and fees effective August 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted from Canada with a minimum of 15 members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment will be due February 5, 2026  
Deposit is \$800 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:

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