Travel with The Met

Land of the Morning Calm: Ancient to Modern Korea
with Christopher Noey, Lecturer

October 18–26, 2020
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

South Korea commands the global stage with its bold innovations, from K-pop to Samsung. Yet the magnificent ancient treasures and vibrant contemporary art of this intriguing land are far less well known. Join me next October in Korea on an immersive journey into its colorful past and eclectic present. As an Asian art scholar who contributed to The Met's landmark *Silla: Korea's Golden Kingdom* exhibit in 2013, I invite you to discover Korea and its often-overlooked splendors.

We will spend four days exploring flamboyant Seoul, where hulking skyscrapers, neon signs, and 15th-century palaces compete for attention amid buzzing streets. We will enjoy access to this city’s wealth of classic and contemporary art in museums, galleries, and private studios. A curator-led visit to the vast National Museum of Korea will dazzle us with its thousands of priceless artifacts and artworks, including a tremendous, ten-story marble pagoda.

For a look at Old Korea, we will travel to the ancient Silla capital of Gyeongju, where highlights include a breathtaking, 8th-century granite Buddha housed in a grotto and grass-covered tombs as tall as hills. Founded in 57 B.C., the Silla dynasty eventually unified Korea across the peninsula for the first time and ruled for nearly 1,000 years. The Met's 2013 exhibit on this powerful and cosmopolitan kingdom displayed extraordinary archaeological finds, including bejeweled daggers and sumptuous gold crowns that were buried with their royal patrons to assure them a luxurious afterlife. Archaeologists discovered these spectacular gold regalia, precious goods from places as distant as Rome, and exquisite Buddhist art in tombs that we will experience up close on this trip.

Next autumn, when Korea is in its most beautiful season, I hope to see you on this remarkable tour, which will delight and surprise you at every turn.

Sincerely,

Christopher Noey
Lecturer
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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**Trip Highlights**

- Enjoy special access to Seoul’s most fascinating galleries, private studios, and art institutions, including a curator-led visit to the National Museum of Korea, home to more than 140,000 Korean relics and artifacts
- Visit Seoul’s Changdeokgung Palace, one of the “Five Grand Palaces” constructed by the kings of the Joseon Dynasty, with its beautiful “secret” garden designed for the royal family
- Explore the exhibition buildings and sculpture garden of Seoul’s Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, which was designed by internationally acclaimed architects Jean Nouvel, Rem Koolhaas, and Mario Botta. Peruse its collection of works by esteemed Korean and international artists including Damien Hirst, Andy Warhol, and Jeff Koons
- Discover the 15th-century Yangdong Folk Village, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Gyeongju, and its authentic, well-preserved collection of more than 160 traditional Korean homes
- Delight in a private tea with a local monk in Gyeongju, and visit the 8th-century Bulguksa Temple, with its colorful wooden buildings on stone terraces, and Seokguram Grotto, a cave temple displaying astonishing granite sculptures of the Buddha, bodhisattvas, and deities

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**Traveling with You**

Christopher Noey is an art historian, author, and Emmy Award-winning producer of films on art and culture. At The Metropolitan Museum of Art, he created video installations for a diverse array of exhibitions including *Jerusalem 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven*. An expert in Asian and Islamic art, Mr. Noey has taught at Williams College and at the City College of New York. Noey contributed to The Met’s exhibit *Silla: Korea’s Golden Kingdom* (2013).
Photos clockwise from top right: Gallery at Dongdaemun Design Plaza, Seoul; National Museum of Korea, Seoul; Map of the region; A man in hanbok, traditional costume weaving in Yangdong Folk Village; Spiral staircase at the Leeum Samsung Museum of Art; and Gyeongju, photo by Jay Hunt. Front cover: Gyeongbok Palace, Seoul. Back cover: Interior, Gyeongbokgung Palace, Seoul (top) and Dongdaemun Design Plaza, Seoul (bottom).
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**Departure**
Sunday, October 18
Depart on an overnight flight to Seoul.

**Seoul, South Korea**
Monday, October 19
Arrive in South Korea’s capital city in the early evening and transfer to the deluxe Lotte Hotel. You may choose to join an optional evening stroll to the nearby Seoul City Hall, a modern reinterpretation of traditional Korean design, and the illuminated Deoksugung, one of Seoul’s five grand palaces built during the Joseon dynasty (1392 to 1910). Gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

**Seoul**
Wednesday, October 21
This morning, visit 15th-century Changdeokgung Palace, the best-preserved of the city palaces and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch, tour Seoul’s National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. This multifaceted institution, equipped with facilities including a library, theater, and multipurpose hall, hosts world-class global contemporary art. Conclude with a private visit to a gallery and/or artist studio in the Samcheongdong neighborhood. The evening is at leisure.

**Seoul**
Thursday, October 22
Today, travel north of the city to tour the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the two-and-a-half-mile-wide, 160-mile-long buffer separating North and South Korea. Begin with a visit to Imjingak, a park dedicated to the Korean families who were separated when the peninsula was divided. Walk the park’s Freedom Bridge, and get a glimpse of North Korea from the Dora Observatory. An optional tour of the 3rd Infiltration Tunnel is arranged. This afternoon, stop at Heyri Art Valley, an artists’ village and home to over 370 painters, potters, photographers, musicians, architects, and writers. Discover this creative melting pot’s quirky buildings, galleries, museums, restaurants, and cafés. Return to Seoul in the evening for dinner.

**Seoul / Gyeongju**
Friday, October 23
Transfer to the city of Gyeongju, known as the “Museum Without Walls.” Following an introductory lecture from Chris Noey, tour the UNESCO-designated Bulguksa Temple and complex, followed by tea with a local monk. The Buddhist temple, and crowning glory of Silla architecture, suffered a destructive fire in the late 16th century and now stands restored, but is only a fraction of its original size. Nearby, visit the Seokguram Grotto, which is nestled in the upper southeastern slopes of the Tohamsan mountains, to admire superb granite carvings dating to the 8th century. The rest of the day is at leisure.

**D**

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**More Travels with The Met**

- **Legends & Landscapes of Peru : Lima, Machu Picchu & Cusco** April 20–28, 2020
- **The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma Aboard La Venezia** May 9–17, 2020
- **English Elegance: Majestic Manors of Bath & Cornwall** May 12–20, 2020
- **Sicily by Sail: Catania to Naples Aboard Sea Cloud II** October 11–19, 2020

For details and more trip information, please go to metmuseum.org/travel
Gyeongju
Saturday, October 24
Spend the morning touring the remarkable monuments of the ancient Silla Kingdom, which was founded in 57 B.C. Make your way to one of the Daereungwon Royal Tombs, which were excavated in 1973 and provide an incredible record of 5th- and 6th-century royal burials. Continue to the 7th-century Cheomseongdae Observatory, the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia. After lunch at leisure, visit the Gyeongju National Museum, South Korea’s greatest repository of archaeological and Buddhist art. Enjoy a group dinner this evening. B, D

Gyeongju / Seoul
Sunday, October 25
This morning, discover the UNESCO-designated Yangdong Folk Village for an intimate look at traditional Korean architecture in an authentic setting. Located deep in the countryside, northeast of Gyeongju and dating from the 15th century, the village is one of the largest and best-preserved Joseon-era communities, containing dozens of thatched-roofed homes that are more than 200 years old. Early this afternoon, take the Korea Train Express (KTX) to Seoul. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. B, L, D

Return
Monday, October 26
Transfer to the airport for flights home. B

Program Rate
$8,999 per person, double rate
$9,999 single rate

Rate Includes
— Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at included dinners
— Enrichment program of lectures and talks
— Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
— Korea Train Express (KTX) tickets Seoul/Gyeongju/Seoul
— Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
— Gratuities to local guides and drivers
— Taxes, service, and portage charges

Not included in rate
— International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations

Lotte Hotel Seoul
This five-star luxury hotel is in the heart of Seoul’s Myeongdong business district, within walking distance of Seoul City Hall and Deoksugung Palace. Enjoy its elegant modern rooms, five restaurants, spa, indoor swimming pool, and free Wi-Fi.

Hilton Gyeongju
Located on the shores of gorgeous Bomun Lake near Gyeongju’s remarkable historic sites, this stylish and modern oasis boasts mountain and lake views, free Wi-Fi, six dining options, and attentive service.

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Reservation Form
To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638), or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

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