

= Ryugyong Hotel =

The Ryugyong Hotel (Chosŏn 'gŏl : ????? ; sometimes anglicised as Ryu @-@ Gyong Hotel or Yu @-@ Kyung Hotel) is an unfinished 105 @-@ story pyramid @-@ shaped skyscraper in Pyongyang , North Korea . Its name (" capital of willows ") is also one of the historical names for Pyongyang . The building is also known as the 105 Building , a reference to its number of floors . The building has been planned as a mixed @-@ use development , which would include a hotel .

Construction began in 1987 but was halted in 1992 as North Korea entered a period of economic crisis after the fall of the Soviet Union . After 1992 the building stood topped out , but without any windows or interior fittings . In 2008 construction resumed , and the exterior was completed in 2011 . It was planned to open the hotel in 2012 , the centenary of Kim Il @-@ sung 's birth , but this did not happen . A partial opening was announced for 2013 , but this was also cancelled . As of 2016 , the building remains unopened .

= = Architecture = =

The Ryugyong Hotel has a height of 330 metres (1 @,@ 080 ft) , making it the most prominent feature of Pyongyang 's skyline and by far the tallest structure in North Korea . Construction of the Ryugyong Hotel was intended to be completed in time for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in June 1989 ; had this been achieved , it would have held the title of world 's tallest hotel . The unfinished building was not surpassed in height by any new hotel until the 2009 completion of the spire atop the Rose Tower in Dubai , United Arab Emirates . The Ryugyong Hotel is the world 's 49th tallest building (tied with the China World Trade Center Tower III) in terms of total height and has the seventh most floors . It is also the tallest unoccupied building in the world .

The building consists of three wings , each measuring 100 metres (330 ft) long , 18 metres (59 ft) wide , and sloped at a 75 ° degree angle , which converge at a common point to form a pinnacle . The building is topped by a truncated cone 40 metres (130 ft) wide , consisting of eight floors that are intended to rotate , topped by a further six static floors . The structure was originally intended to house five revolving restaurants , and either 3 @,@ 000 or 7 @,@ 665 guest rooms , according to different sources . According to Orascom 's Khaled Bichara in 2009 , the Ryugyong will not be just a hotel , but rather a mixed @-@ use development , including " revolving restaurant " facilities along with a " mixture of hotel accommodation , apartments and business facilities " .

= = History = =

= = = Construction = = =

= = = = First start = = = =

The plan for a large hotel was reportedly a Cold War response to the completion of the world 's tallest hotel , the Westin Stamford Hotel in Singapore , in 1986 by the South Korean company SsangYong Group . North Korean leadership envisioned the project as a channel for Western investors to step into the marketplace . A firm , the Ryugyong Hotel Investment and Management , was established to attract a hoped @-@ for \$ 230 million in foreign investment . A representative for the North Korean government promised relaxed oversight , allowing " foreign investors [to] operate casinos , nightclubs or Japanese lounges " . North Korean construction firm Baikdoosan Architects & Engineers (also known as Baekdu Mountain Architects and Engineers) began construction on a pyramid ? shaped hotel in 1987 .

= = = = First halt = = = =

The hotel was scheduled to open in June 1989 for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students , but problems with building methods and materials delayed completion . Had it opened on schedule , it would have surpassed the Westin Stamford Hotel to become the world 's tallest hotel , and would have been the seventh @-@ tallest building in the world .

In 1992 , after the building had reached its full architectural height , work was halted due to the economic crisis in North Korea following the collapse of the Soviet bloc . Japanese newspapers estimated the cost of construction was \$ 750 million , consuming 2 percent of North Korea 's GDP . For over a decade , the unfinished building sat vacant and without windows , fixtures , or fittings , appearing as a massive concrete shell . A rusting construction crane remained at the top , which the BBC called " a reminder of the totalitarian state 's thwarted ambition " . According to Marcus Noland , in the late 1990s , the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Korea inspected the building and concluded that the structure was irreparable . Questions were raised regarding the quality of the building 's concrete and the alignment of its elevator shafts , which some sources said were " crooked " .

In a 2006 article , ABC News questioned whether North Korea had sufficient raw materials or energy for such a massive project . A North Korean government official told the Los Angeles Times in 2008 that construction was not completed " because [North Korea] ran out of money " .

The halt in construction , the rumours of problems and the mystery about its future led foreign media sources to dub it " the worst building in the world " , " Hotel of Doom " and " Phantom Hotel " .

= = = = Second start = = = =

In April 2008 , after 16 years of inactivity , work on the building was restarted by the Egyptian company Orascom Group . Orascom , which has entered into a US \$ 400 million deal with the North Korean government to build and run a 3G mobile phone network , said that their telecommunications deal was not directly related to the Ryugyong Hotel work . In 2008 North Korean officials stated that the hotel would be completed by 2012 , coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the birth of the " Eternal President " , Kim Il @-@ sung . In 2009 , Orascom 's Chief Operating Officer Khaled Bichara noted that they " had not had too many problems " resolving the reported structural issues of the building , and that a revolving restaurant will be located at the top of the building .

In July 2011 , it was reported that the exterior work was complete . Features that Orascom has installed include exterior glass panels and telecommunications antennas . In 2012 , photographs taken by Koryo Tours were released , showing the interior for the first time . There were few fixtures or furnishings . In November 2012 , international hotel operator Kempinski announced it would be running the hotel which was expected to partially open in mid ? 2013 .

= = = = Second halt = = = =

In March 2013 , plans to reopen the hotel were suspended . Kempinski clarified its earlier statements saying that only ? initial discussions ? had ever occurred , but that no agreement had been signed because ? market entry is not currently possible ? . Kempinski gave no reasons , but commentators suggested that international tensions related to the 2013 North Korean nuclear test , economic risks , and delays in construction probably played a part .

= = = Progression of construction work = = =