

North Korea

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Korean

Population: 25,778,816

Currency: North Korean won (KPW)

Area: 120,540

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Kumsusan Palace of the Sun', 'writeup': 'The mausoleum where the bodies of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il lie in state, serving as a significant political and cultural site.'}
- {'name': 'Juche Tower', 'writeup': 'A monument symbolizing the Juche ideology, located in Pyongyang, representing self-reliance.'}
- {'name': 'Mount Paektu', 'writeup': 'A sacred volcanic mountain considered the mythical birthplace of the Korean people and important in North Korean propaganda.'}
- {'name': 'Arch of Triumph', 'writeup': 'Built to commemorate Korean resistance to Japan from 1925 to 1945, it is one of the largest triumphal arches in the world.'}
- {'name': 'Mansudae Grand Monument', 'writeup': 'Features large statues of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il, a central site for public homage.'}

Head of State / Government:

Kim Jong-un

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Mass Games', 'writeup': 'A large-scale gymnastics and artistic festival showcasing synchronized performances that promote state ideology.'}
- {'name': 'Day of the Sun', 'writeup': 'Celebrates the birth of Kim Il-sung on April 15, marked by parades and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Arirang Festival', 'writeup': 'A mass gymnastics and artistic festival held in Pyongyang, emphasizing unity and patriotism.'}

Food & Cuisine:

North Korean cuisine features staples like kimchi, cold noodles (naengmyeon), and rice dishes, often characterized by simple, hearty flavors with an emphasis on locally available ingredients.

Brief History:

Established in 1948 following the division of Korea after World War II, North Korea developed as a socialist state under Kim Il-sung. It has since been ruled by the Kim dynasty, maintaining a strict centralized government and isolationist policies.

Important People:

- Kim Il-sung - Founding leader of North Korea
- Kim Jong-il - Former Supreme Leader

- Kim Jong-un - Current Supreme Leader

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing tensions with South Korea and the international community over North Korea's nuclear weapons program and human rights issues.

Youtube Links:

- North Korea: Inside the Secretive State
- Life in North Korea: A Rare Glimpse
- The History and Politics of North Korea
- North Korean Culture and Traditions Explained
- Understanding North Korea's Nuclear Program