

North Korea to open beach resort to woo tourists

30th June 2025



North Korea will open a beach resort on Tuesday to provide a boost to its tourism industry. The Wonsan-Kalma tourist zone is on the east coast. Its gleaming new hotels can accommodate 20,000 guests. State media reported that the flagship

resort is the first of many developments planned throughout the country. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un cut the ribbon at a lavish opening ceremony. He called the new destination "the proud first step" toward fulfilling the nation's policy of expanding its travel sector. He added that the resort would "play a leading role in establishing the tourist culture" of North Korea. He also said it was one of the country's "greatest feats" of the year.

This new destination is North Korea's latest site for holidaymakers. It will initially cater to the domestic market, but officials say it will welcome foreign visitors. The Korean Central News Agency reported that Russian tours will start in late July. A state official stated that there could be an influx of Chinese tourists. "We are monitoring the potential resumption of large-scale Chinese group tours to North Korea, but no concrete signs have emerged yet." Chinese travellers constituted more than 90 per cent of visitors before the coronavirus pandemic. North Korea hasn't fully lifted a ban on foreign visitors that it imposed during COVID-19. It remains unclear when other international guests will be able to visit.

Sources: apnews.com / theguardian.com / koreaherald.com

Writing

Beach resorts are better than mountain resorts. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

North Korea / beach resort / boost / tourism / new hotels / flagship / ribbon / travel / destination / holidaymakers / domestic / tours / potential / coronavirus / ban / visit

True / False

- 1) The new beach resort is an attempt to boost N. Korea's tourism sector. T / F
- 2) The new resort can accommodate 20,000 visitors. T / F
- 3) There are many ships with flags moored at the new resort. T / F
- 4) North Korea's leader said the resort was one of the greatest feats ever. T / F
- 5) At first, the resort is open only to North Korean tourists. T / F
- 6) Russians will be the first international visitors to stay at the resort. T / F
- 7) Chinese tourists currently make up 90% of all visitors to North Korea. T / F
- 8) International visitors will be able to visit the resort from next month. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. boost (noun) | a. expensive |
| 2. gleaming | b. achievements |
| 3. lavish | c. rush |
| 4. fulfilling | d. established |
| 5. feats | e. stimulus |
| 6. cater | f. succeeding in |
| 7. influx | g. definite |
| 8. resumption | h. shiny |
| 9. concrete (adjective) | i. continuation |
| 10. imposed | j. serve |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of beach resorts?
- b) Which are better, beach resorts or mountain resorts?
- c) How is the tourism in your country?
- d) Would you like to visit North Korea?
- e) Are hotels the best types of accommodation?
- f) What are the good things about beach resorts?
- g) What is your country's greatest feat of recent years?
- h) What advice do you have for North Korea's tourism officials?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. accommodate | a. signs have emerged yet |
| 2. Kim Jong Un cut the ribbon at a lavish | b. in late July |
| 3. the nation's policy of expanding | c. feats |
| 4. the resort would play | d. to the domestic market |
| 5. one of the country's greatest | e. its travel sector |
| 6. It will initially cater | f. unclear |
| 7. Russian tours will start | g. of Chinese tourists |
| 8. there could be an influx | h. a leading role |
| 9. no concrete | i. 20,000 guests |
| 10. It remains | j. opening ceremony |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you like being a holidaymaker?
- Which beach would you like to visit?
- What do you think of tour groups?
- Which countries are top of your bucket list?
- Are beach resorts or city hotels better places to stay?
- What do you think of your country's top destination?
- What questions would you like to ask North Korea's leader?

Spelling

- provide a boost to its tourism industry
- accommodate 20,000 guests
- at a lavish opening ceremony
- the new destination
- establishing the tourist culture
- one of the country's greatest feats
- cater to the domestic market
- an influx of Chinese tourists
- monitoring the potential resumption
- no concrete signs have emerged yet
- travellers constituted more than 90%
- before the coronavirus pandemic

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. f	5. b
6. j	7. c	8. i	9. g	10. d

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is the new resort intended to boost?
2.	How many people can stay at the resort at any one time?
3.	What did North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un cut?
4.	What kind of opening ceremony was it?
5.	What did North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un call the resort?
6.	Who will the resort cater to at first?
7.	When will Russian tourists be able to stay at the resort?
8.	What does the article say there could be an influx of?
9.	Before COVID-19, what percentage of tourists in N. Korea were Chinese?
10.	When will international visitors get to stay at the resort?

Speaking – Resorts

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Beach resorts | • Desert resorts |
| • Mountain resorts | • City resorts |
| • Spa resorts | • Rainforest resorts |
| • Golf resorts | • Arctic resorts |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.