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(these details are for trip correspondence only)

# South Korea & Japan 2009

**5 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2009**

Hi all,

After the hugely successful 2005 trip to Japan, it was only a matter of time before we returned. We wanted to visit the south of Japan, and in doing so we realised it would make sense to include parks in South Korea. This includes Everland, which is home to *T Express*, the Intamin coaster that recently topped the Internet Wooden Coaster Poll. In Japan we'll hit a lot of parks that weren't on the 2005 trip, plus just a few that were.

This trip is a little more adventurous than previous trips. It will contain two train journeys – up from one on the previous trip – as well as a ferry journey from South Korea to Japan.

## FLIGHTS

The price here does not include a flight, but a Club flight is available. We haven't listed a flight because a lot of people will be flying in from places other than London, and some may want to extend their stay, or start earlier. If though you are interested in a flight from London, we can help, and we may also be able to have flights that extend the stay by a few days. This is something that several members have requested.

## WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

The trip cost covers hotel accommodation including breakfast, park entry, coach transfers, two train journeys, a ferry crossing and a t-shirt. Other meals are not provided unless clearly stated in the final itinerary, which will be sent nearer the actual trip date. We will be trying to provide group meals at some parks.

## AGE LIMIT

Due to the intensity of the trip, I'm afraid we've put a minimum age of 12 for applicants. We need to make sure all participants are able to look after themselves reliably. Anyone under the age of 18 will have to travel with an adult member acting as a guardian who is responsible for the minor's conduct throughout the trip.

## TRIP INFORMATION

A separate email list has been created for this trip. It is strongly advised you join this list once your place has been confirmed on the trip. Lots of information about ERSs, changes to itinerary, etc, will be given on this list. Joining details will be sent with your confirmation letters after the deadline.

## SINGLE APPLICANTS

We do have a single room supplement for this trip, and the price for that can be found in the Pricing section.

## DEADLINE

If we have not received your application by the date listed at the top of the letter, you may not be able to get a place. No exceptions. Sorry.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

As always we strongly recommend you taking out travel insurance for the whole of the trip.

## NUMBER OF PLACES

There are limited places on this trip. We plan to use up to two coaches, which means 96 places overall, but we can go with one coach. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, then a draw will take place. The draw will take place two weeks after the deadline, and places will be confirmed via e-mail. It is, therefore, most necessary that you supply a valid e-mail address when applying. Please note that in all previous trips a draw has never had to be used.

## PASSPORTS

Everyone on the trip must be in possession of a full passport that doesn't expire until at least six months after the trip has ended. Please be sure to supply your full name and passport number on the booking form in case we need to supply certain hotels with it.

## EXTRA NIGHTS

If you wish to add extra nights at the hotel, please let us know as this can be arranged.

## FORCE MAJEURE

The European Coaster Club or its officers cannot be deemed liable in respect of any loss, damage or changes caused by force majeure. This covers such events as floods, strikes, fire, warfare, terrorism or similar actions beyond The Club's control.

## PRICING

The overall cost of the trip – in Sterling – is **£2,395** which includes everything bar the flight, which we can add if needs be. If you want a single room the cost is **£2,795**. The interesting thing here is that with the price of Sterling against the Dollar and Euro, the price may be cheaper for those who use the Euro and Dollar than it was in 2005!

For example, at the current exchange rate, £2,395 is around €2,610 or \$3,350. The 2005 trip was £1,975, but at the exchange rate then it worked out at around €2,860 or \$3,550! So unless there is a huge shift in the exchange rate, those using the Euro or Dollar will pay less. Sorry to all those in the UK, but if you happen to have a lot of Euros or Dollars sitting around, you can pay using them!

For payment we would prefer either a direct bank transfer or a credit card payment. Now the US bank system does seem to make it a lot harder to pay banks abroad using the Internet, so a normal bank transfer may have to be used. If this is the case, because of the rate the US banks charge for the service, it may be worth paying it all in one go.

Paying by credit card will unfortunately have to include a 4.1% surcharge to cover the amount we lose on the transaction. This pushes the prices to **£2,493** for sharing, or **£2,910** for a single room.

We will split the payment into three amounts, payable by set dates, but you can of course pay the whole lot in one go if you wish.

For now though, NO PAYMENT is required. We do this so that we know if we have enough people attending or if we have too many people attending. When the deadline arrives, a payment form will be sent out to all those that are attending.

The Payments will be split as follows:

|            | <b>Twin room</b> | <b>Single room</b> |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| April 3rd  | £500             | £500               |
| June 12th  | £1,000           | £1,400             |
| August 7th | £895             | £895               |

We can of course adjust the amounts on the dates to make it easier. Basically we just need all the money by August 7th.

If the pricing details don't seem to make any sense, please don't hesitate in calling or emailing.

We must warn you that this trip is going to be intense. It's 14 days of coaster riding, sitting on a coach, and sleeping. There are no rest days, and quite a few days are going to be very long. Please only apply if you think you can cope with living like this for two weeks. We don't want to sound negative, but as places are limited on the trip, we want to make sure you know what you're letting yourself in for. If you have any doubt about your stamina, then this trip may not be for you.

We hope the information above makes sense, but if you do have any questions about the trip or the application form, then please don't hesitate to contact us.

It promises to be the trip of a lifetime, so if you don't want to miss out, then don't be late sending your form in!

Best wishes

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## ITINERARY\*

- Day 1** Travel to Seoul
- Day 2** Arrive in Seoul - rest and recover
- Day 3** Children's Grand Park & Lotte World
- Day 4** Seoul Land & Doocoland
- Day 5** Everland
- Day 6** Kumdori Land & Zooland
- Day 7** Woobang Towerland & Gyeongju World
- Day 8** Boat to Japan
- Day 9** Uminonakamichi Seaside Park, Kashiikaen & Dazaifu Yuenchi
- Day 10** Mitsui Greenland
- Day 11** Harmonyland & Kijima Amusement Park
- Day 12** Space World
- Day 13** Universal Studios Japan
- Day 14** Fuji-Q
- Day 15** Seibuen Yuenchi & Toshimaen & Joypolis
- Day 16** Fly back

\*Itinerary is subject to change due to any unforeseen problems.

The payment of registration fees by, for, or on behalf of participants releases and hold harmless the European Coaster Club and its representatives from any and all liabilities related to those activities..