

DUKE of EDINBURGH

ADVENTUROUS JOURNEYS

SOUTH KOREA 2025 & 2026

**BACKPACKING
COURSES**



Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey's in Korea

Bronze, Silver & Gold Medal Backpacking Courses by HIKE KOREA

The prices in this document are only for International Schools in South Korea. Overseas international schools should contact me about how to arrange your AJ in Korea.

For the past fifteen years part of my work as a professional hiking guide and owner of HIKE KOREA (120-10-81984), has been providing international schools in Korea and from other parts of Asia (Vietnam & Singapore), adventurous journey backpacking courses for their Duke of Edinburgh Award programs.

Hike Korea plays the role of an External Activity Provider and is qualified at L2 for Delivering the Award.

I have three custom designed courses set up for bronze, silver and gold medal. The courses have been tried and tested by AJ participants. The courses are designed with a mixture of recreational trails and forestry roads that pass-through villages and over mountains. They come with custom made maps and trail notes for the students, and gpx files for the staff. The courses are checked and updated regularly according to the needs of the groups using them. I can design new courses for specific locations.

During the adventurous journey expeditions, I am there, working with the students and staff, offering assistance and support. I am your link to the area and all its facilities. I do not walk with the groups but try to join them at certain spots. My main role during the AJ is to shadow the groups movements with my vehicle, so to assist them if they need attention.

I fix all the campgrounds and accommodations. I can get you set up to operate a DofE adventurous journey backpack in South Korea.

The courses can be completed with tents or without tents. The non-tent accommodations are a range of private pensions, minbaks, hanok jips, and guesthouses.

Student teams and their award leaders should be well prepared and independent. They must have their own outdoor equipment, including backpacks, tents, meals etc, for an overnight or multi-night DofE AJ medal course. The scenic courses are totally achievable.

Please contact me to discuss how to plan your groups backpacking adventurous journey.

YouTube Videos of DofE Medal Courses

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTeNq62Kueay4GtJrWA67y1RyUVOvCulv&si=PHmygzRd_eDCGBSz



Bronze Medal 1N/2D – 25km

Set in Hwasun-gun, Jeollanamdo, the 25km course is split into two days. Two teams can start from opposite ends and merge to meet at the campsite in the middle. The two main features the students traverse on this beautiful course are Baekasan 817m and Ongseongsan 574m. The trail also has a cable suspension bridge. The campsite is run by the local village of Nochi-maeul. It has running water, toilets, and lights. It can also accommodate staff with ondul rooms with their own showers. This course also has a third route for an extra group. Nearest service city is Gwangju.

Bronze Medal Group Sizes and Costs

30 or less students plus 3 staff: Can be split into 3 groups – 4,000,000KRW + 10% VAT

20 or less students plus two staff: can be split into 2 or 3 groups – 3,500,000KRW + 10% VAT

10 or less students plus two staff: Can operate as one group – 3,000,000KRW + 10% VAT

Cost includes the campsite, trail prep, custom maps, notes & GPX files, vehicle support during the AJ, my presence and support. I can also go to your school and provide an introduction on what to expect during the adventurous journey.

It does not include the groups meals, ondul rooms, other accommodations, or the groups transportation to and from the AJ area. But I can arrange all of that.



Silver Medal 2N/3D – 38km

Set in the Cheongryangsan Provincial Park and the Andong Lake region. This areas terrain has mountain peaks as high as 869m, a cable suspension bridge, and river trails that pass-through villages. Depending on group sizes, it can be done with tents, otherwise in local accommodations, including ancestral homes. Nearest service city is Andong.

Silver Medal Group Sizes and Costs



30 or less students plus 3 staff: Can be split into two or three groups – 5,000,000KRW + VAT

20 or less students plus two staff: can be split into two groups – 4,500,000KRW + 10% VAT

10 or less students plus two staff: Can operate as one group – 4,000,000KRW + 10% VAT

Cost includes trail prep, custom maps, notes & GPX files, vehicle support during the AJ, my presence and support. I can also go to your school and provide an introduction on what to expect during the adventurous journey.

It does not include campsites, accommodations, meals, or transportation for the groups to and from the AJ area. But I can arrange all of that.



Gold Medal 3N/4D – 44km

Set in Sobaeksan National Park, this course traverses over the Baekdu-daegan ridge twice in its three days. It includes a summit to Sobaeksan's highest feature Birobong 1439m and involves undulating sections of the Sobaeksan Jarak-gil as it passes through temples, villages and orchards. It can be done with local accommodations, or outside the parks boundary with smaller groups in tents. Nearest service city is Punggi-eup and Yeongju-si to the south and Danyang on the northern side of the park.

Gold Medal Group Sizes and Costs

20 or less students plus two staff: Can be split into two groups – 6,000,000KRW + 10% VAT

10 or less students plus two staff: Can operate as 1 or 2 groups – 5,000,000KRW + 10% VAT

Cost includes trail prep, custom maps, notes & gpx files, vehicle support during the AJ, my presence and support. I can also go to your school and provide an introduction on what to expect during the adventurous journey.

It does not include campsites, accommodations, meals, or transportation for the groups to and from the AJ area. But I can arrange all of that.





HIKE KOREA was formed in December 2010 by New Zealander Roger Shepherd. He offers custom-made guided hiking tours for foreign visitors to Korea. He has also published six serious guidebooks and photo art books on mountains and trails of North & South Korea. He held several photo exhibitions of his work from North Korea. The videos he took there were also produced into two documentaries by MBC TV.

I dropped out of high school before starting an apprenticeship as a car painter. Completing that, I left my native New Zealand for work in England. A travel stint through Europe inspired me to see more, and I ended up hitch hiking in Southeast Africa for the next two years. Sensing there was more to do in Africa, I stayed on and began a career in the wildlife industries of South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia. I performed the duties of a game farm manager, a walking safari & fishing guide, and played an active role as a wildlife ranger in Zambia's Wildlife Services and National Parks services. I stayed in Africa for nine years.

I returned to New Zealand but ended up taking employment for a couple of years as an English language instructor in South Korea. There I saw for the first time Korea's plentiful peaks and trails. But I returned to New Zealand and joined the New Zealand Police. I stayed in the Police for eight years, performing the role of frontline Policing before passing selection to be a Diplomatic Protection Officer. During my time in the NZ Police, I attained a master's degree in strategic studies through Victoria University's School of Government.

In 2007, whilst on leave from the Police, I returned for a hiking holiday to Korea and discovered the 735km Baekdu-daegan mountain spine. I wrote an English guidebook (p.2010, 2017) about it. During my career in the NZ Police, I returned to South Korea for more long distant hikes, and decided to begin a new challenge as a foreign mountain guide, photographer, and writer in South Korea.

You can see more about me at <https://solo.to/hikekorea>

Thank you.

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