

North Korea's New Beach Resort

July 2025

North Korea has just opened a huge new beach resort called the Wonsan-Kalma tourist zone. It's on the country's east coast and was built to help the economy by bringing in more tourists. The government says the resort has space for nearly 20,000 people.

Even though the resort is ready, it is only open to people who live in North Korea. Foreign tourists are still not really allowed to visit, and the country hasn't said when it will fully reopen to international visitors. This is a problem because most of the money from tourism usually comes from people visiting from other countries.



State media showed pictures of North Korean families enjoying the new resort. Kids were playing with beach balls and floating in the sea, and people wore bright swimsuits while relaxing under umbrellas. At the opening ceremony, leader Kim Jong Un said the resort was one of the country's biggest achievements this year. He also said it was just the beginning, and that more tourist areas like this will be built around the country.

Before Covid-19, most of the tourists who came to North Korea were from China. But Chinese group tours have not started again, and there are some problems in the relationship between the two countries. North Korea allowed a few foreign tourists to visit a different city called Rason earlier this year, but that trip option ended quickly. Right now, only a small number of Russian tourists are being allowed in. In fact, only about 900 Russian tourists visited North Korea last year, which isn't enough to really help the tourism industry.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the article?
 - a) North Korea wants to keep tourists out forever.
 - b) Beach resorts are popular tourist destinations.
 - c) North Korea hopes to grow tourism with its new beach resort.
 - d) Only Russian tourists are allowed to visit North Korea.
2. State media showed pictures of families enjoying the new resort. What is "state media"?
 - a) TV from the United States of America
 - b) A type of social media.
 - c) News controlled by the government
 - d) International news reporters.

3. The country hasn't said when it will fully reopen to international visitors. What does "reopen" mean?
- a) To close permanently.
 - b) Let people come back again
 - c) To change the location.
 - d) Close down for repairs
4. Why is North Korea not earning much money from tourism right now?
- a) They closed all resorts permanently.
 - b) Foreigners are not interested in visiting North Korea.
 - c) Because people are afraid of seeing Kim Jong Un in a swimsuit
 - d) Most foreign tourists are still not allowed to enter.
5. Why does North Korea want to build more resorts in the future?
- a) So more people can leave the country.
 - b) To improve the economy through tourism.
 - c) Because there are too many tourists now.
 - d) To compete with Chinese tourist companies.
6. What can you guess about North Korea's relationship with China now?
- a) It has gotten better.
 - b) They are building resorts together.
 - c) It is more difficult than before.
 - d) China is sending more tourists than ever.
7. Which of these statements is false?
- a) Foreign tourists are currently the main visitors to the resort.
 - b) North Korea wants to build more tourist areas.
 - c) The resort is open to people in North Korea.
 - d) Before Covid-19, most tourists came from China.
8. How does Kim Jong Un feel about the new resort?
- a) He is proud of it and wants more like it.
 - b) He thinks it is a failure.
 - c) He wants to destroy it.
 - d) He doesn't care about tourism.
9. What is true about how North Korea controls tourism?
- a) It is very easy to visit.
 - b) The government decides who can visit.
 - c) Anyone with money can come.
 - d) Tourists can travel freely inside the country.
10. What does it suggest when Kim Jong Un says this is "just the beginning"?
- a) The resort will close soon.
 - b) The resort will be open only one month.
 - c) Other countries will build resorts too.
 - d) More tourist projects are planned in the future.

Speaking and Writing Activities:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
 - Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. Would you want to visit the beach resort in North Korea? Why or why not?
 2. Do you think tourism is good or bad for a country? What are the benefits and problems?
 3. What do you know about North Korea?