



SOUTH KOREA
**ON THE
BORDER**

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GANGHWA-EUP, GANGHWADO ISLAND (SOUTH KOREA). FARMERS AT WORK IN THE FIELDS NEAR THE FENCE THAT MARKS THE BORDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA



THE LAST WALL OF THE COLD WAR IS A FUNFAIR CLOSELY WATCHED BY SOLDIERS. ITS NAME IS KOREAN DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ), AND IT IS THE BUFFER ZONE CREATED AT THE END OF THE WAR IN 1953.

FIVE HUNDRED KILOMETRES ALONG THE 38TH PARALLEL, OPEN TO TOURISTS AFTER HALF A CENTURY OF ISOLATION, WHICH BECAME A COAST-TO-COAST TRIP THROUGH PRISTINE NATURE RESERVES, UNDERGROUND TUNNELS AND OBSERVATION TOWERS.

HERE, BINOCULARS POINTED AT NORTH KOREA ARE THE METAPHOR OF A SIXTY-YEAR-OLD OBSESSION: THE ENEMY MUST BE STUDIED, SPIED UPON, PHOTOGRAPHED. ALSO BY KIDS ON A SCHOOL TRIP. EVEN THOUGH, LIKE IN GODOT, NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN THE END.

YET, FOLLOWING THE DMZ IS NOT JUST A PATRIOTIC PILGRIMAGE: THE TRIP OFFERS THE PORTRAIT OF A COUNTRY WHERE LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF A BARBED WIRE FENCE HAS BECOME THE NORMALITY.

GWANGSAM-RI (SOUTH KOREA).
TOURISTS VISIT THE SO CALLED
"2ND INFILTRATION TUNNEL"



CHEORWON PEACE OBSERVATORY
(SOUTH KOREA). TOURISTS WATCH NEARBY
NORTH KOREA WITH BINOCULARS



GANGHWA-EUP, GANGHWADO ISLAND (SOUTH KOREA).
A SOLDIER ON A WATCH TOWER ALONG THE BORDER



GWANGSAM-RI (SOUTH KOREA).
TOURISTS VISIT THE SO CALLED
"2ND INFILTRATION TUNNEL"



HWAJINPO BEACH (SOUTH KOREA). TOURISTS COLLECT MUSSELS NEAR THE FENCE OF THE HWAJINPO HISTORY AND NATIONAL SECURITY MUSEUM, HOUSED IN THE VACATION VILLA OF SOUTH AND NORTH KOREAN LEADERS. THE BORDER IS 16 KMS AWAY



GANGHWADO ISLAND PEACE
OBSERVATORY (SOUTH KOREA).
TOURISTS WATCH NEARBY
NORTH KOREA WITH BINOCULARS





YEONCHEON (SOUTH KOREA).
WOMEN EXERCISE AT THE RHYTHM
OF MUSIC. THE BORDER
WITH NK IS A FEW KMS AWAY

AEGIBONG PEAK OBSERVATORY, GAGEUM-RI
(SOUTH KOREA). A TYPICAL NORTH
KOREAN HOUSE HAS BEEN REPRODUCED
IN THE OBSERVATORY MUSEUM



북조선생년
주막 (거실)
North Korean
Living Room

주막의 모습
북조선의 특색
North Korean
Living Room

북조선생년 주막 (거실) - North Korean Living Room



SEOWA-MYEON (SOUTH KOREA). SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS SHOP IN THE VILLAGE

HYEONNAE-MYEON (SOUTH KOREA).
A TOURIST TAKES A SELF-PORTRAIT AT
THE UNIFICATION OBSERVATORY
WITH NORTH KOREA BEHIND HIS BACK



CHEORWON-EUP (SOUTH KOREA).
NEW BUILDINGS NEAR THE RICE
FIELDS. THE CITY IS A
FEW KMS AWAY FROM THE BORDER



JANGHEUNG-RI (SOUTH KOREA). TOURISTS
GET READY TO A RAFTING TRIP ALONG
THE HANTANGANG RIVER, A FEW KMS FROM
THE BORDER WITH THE NORTH



A SCHOOL CLASS CLIMBS
TOWARD THE PEACE
OBSERVATORY ON GANGHWADO
ISLAND (SOUTH KOREA)



GWANJEON-RI (SOUTH KOREA). A TEACHER TALKS TO
A PUPIL OUTSIDE THE REMAINS OF THE BUILDING
THAT ONCE WAS THE LABOR PARTY OFFICE,
WHICH BEFORE THE WAR WAS IN NORTH KOREA



GANGHWADO ISLAND PEACE
OBSERVATORY (SOUTH KOREA). A
TOURIST WATCHES NEARBY
NORTH KOREA WITH BINOCULARS



SEONGDONG-RI (SOUTH KOREA). A
WOMAN FARMER RESTS AT A BUS STOP
RIGHT BESIDE THE BORDER FENCE



TAEPUK OBSERVATORY, HOENGSAN-RI
(SOUTH KOREA). SOLDIERS SHOW
THE REPRODUCTION OF A BARRACKS
IN THE OBSERVATORY MUSEUM





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