

# South Korea

# Travel Facts



## US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens exercise normal precautions in South Korea. Consult its website via the link below for updates to travel advisories and statements on safety, security, local laws, and special circumstances in this country.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

## Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport is valid at the date of their entering the country and during the length of their entire visit. They should also make sure they have at least 1 blank page in their passport for any entry stamp that will be required. A visa is not required for stays of less than 90 days.

## US Embassy/Consulate

[82] (2) 397-4114; US Embassy Seoul, 188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea; seoulinfoACS@state.gov; <https://kr.usembassy.gov/> 03141

## LGBTQ+ Travelers

When venturing abroad, LGBTQIA+ travelers can face unique challenges since laws, attitudes, and legal protections vary from country to country. Consult the website via the link below to learn what precautions to take before and during your trip.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbtqi.html>

## Telephone Code

82

## Local Emergency Phone

Ambulance: 119; Fire: 119; Police: 112

## Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for South Korea: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, COVID-19, and influenza.

<http://www.who.int/>

## Climate

Temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer than winter; cold winters

## Currency (Code)

South Korean won (KRW)

## Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 60 Hz / plug types(s): F



Type F

## Major Languages

Korean, English

## Major Religions

Protestant, Buddhist, Catholic

## Time Difference

UTC+9 (14 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

## Potable Water

Yes, but some opt for bottled water

## International Driving Permit

Suggested

## Road Driving Side

Right



## Tourist Destinations

Gamcheon Culture Village; Jeonju Hanok Village; Bridge of No Return; Hwaseong Fortress; Ganghwa Peace Observatory; Jindo Sea Parting; Seoraksan National Park; Seokguram Grotto & Bulguksa Temple; Jongmyo Shrine; Boryeong Mud Festival

## Major Sports

Taekwondo, soccer, baseball

## Cultural Practices

It is regarded as rude to point with your fingers. Better to gesture with your arm or hand. Casual physical contact, such as back slapping, is considered rude.

## Tipping Guidelines

South Korea has a no-tip culture. Staff in restaurants and hotels, as well as taxi drivers, porters, and bellhops do not expect tips. Telling the taxi driver "keep the change" is appreciated. Most hotels add a compulsory 10% service charge to the bill.

## Souvenirs

Hanbok fashion and dolls, decorated masks, leather goods, jewelry, lacquerware/woodcarvings, cosmetics, seaweeds and teas, Soju stationary, electronics

## Traditional Cuisine

Kimchi - various vegetables (cabbage, radish, or scallion are commonly used) seasoned using ginger, brine, garlic, etc., and put through a fermentation or pickling process; Bulgogi - thinly sliced, prime cuts of meat marinated in a mixture of soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic, onions, ginger, sugar, and wine and then grilled

