



# ANNUAL MANUAL 2014-15

YOUR GUIDE TO BEING STATIONED IN

# KOREA

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Legal ins, outs of the land  
Local culture, language  
Public transportation  
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# ANNUAL MANUAL 2014-15 KOREA

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So, here you are. You've landed yourself a tour of duty in the Asia-Pacific region. Now what?

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Relax. If you're reading this, then you're on your way to finding answers to these questions and more.

Stripes Annual Manual 2014-15 is expanded and updated – in three editions for Guam, mainland Japan/Okinawa and Korea – to help thousands of military personnel, Defense Department civilians and family members like you get your bearings at your new permanent change of station. Just read on.

You'll find newcomer information ranging from local culture, customs and language to public and private transportation, and the best places to sightsee and shop once you're mobile. Speaking of "mobile," we've got local cell phone information covered, too.

Well into its second decade, Annual Manual is part of Stars and Stripes' 70-year mission to assist your transition to the Pacific with news from home, and more recently, news you can use about your new location – both inside and outside the gates.

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Community members just like you regularly contribute to these four 24/7-live websites and their corresponding free newspapers – Stripes Guam, Stripes Japan, Stripes Korea and Stripes Okinawa – ensuring they are current with, and specific to, the needs and interests of your U.S. military community in the Pacific.

So visit your local Stripes community website and enhance the Annual Manual experience for everyone. You'll not only glean useful intel from what others have learned about your new surroundings, but you can also share your own discoveries for others to enjoy. You never know, you just might see your ideas – maybe even in your own words – in our next Annual Manual.

Oscar Johnson  
Editor, Stripes Annual Manual  
Summer 2014

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# WHEN IN KOREA ...

## The cultural lay of the land

**K**orean culture has blossomed during its long history. Though affected by other Asian cultures, its roots lie deep within the creative Korean psyche, and it has tended to spread rather than be encroached upon. The delicate styling and fine craftsmanship of celadon pottery well illustrates the refinement of the culture, even from as far back as the Three Kingdoms Period from A.D. 57 to 668.

Korea has also spawned some great inventors; its first printing systems predate Gutenberg's, the famous "Turtle Ship" was the first ever iron-clad battleship, and the Korean alphabet, devised by a group of scholars in the 15th century, was so effective that it remains largely unchanged today. The reasons behind Korea's rapid economic development can be found in this innate creativity.

Three Korean cultural assets to the World Heritage List designated by UNESCO are Chongmyo Shrine, where memorial services to the kings of the ancient Chosun Dynasty are held; the Great Changgyong Panjon in Haeinsa Temple, where Buddhist scripture is engraved on 80,000 wooden panels; and Pulguksa Temple and Sokkuram Grotto in Kyongju, which was built more than 1,000 years ago.

### Korean names

Koreans place the family name first, and the given personal name second. Family names are traditional clan names and each has a village from which it comes. Thus, there is a difference between a Kim who comes from Kyong-ju and a Kim who is from Kimhae.

The five most common names are Kim, Pa(r)k, Lee, Choi (Choe) and Oh. Because of the inconsistencies of translating names from Hangeul to Roman characters, spellings of these names vary. For instance, Lee is also spelled in English as Yi and Rhee.

If at all possible, Koreans avoid calling a person directly by their name. Instead they use their title, position, trade, profession, scholastic rank or some honorific form such as "teacher." Parents often are addressed as the equivalent of "Jimmy's mommy" or "Susie's daddy," rather than "Mrs. Kim."

### Etiquette and dining

Although many of the Koreans with whom you come into contact will be familiar with American habits and mannerisms, the traditional values are still strong.

Koreans shake hands and bow at the same time. The depth of the bow depends on the relative seniority of the two people.

When passing a gift or any other object to someone, use both hands and bow. The right hand is used to pass the object, while the left is used in support. If the person receiving the gift is younger or lower in status, passing with one hand is acceptable.

Koreans believe that direct eye contact during conversation shows boldness, and out of politeness they concentrate on the conversation, usually avoiding eye contact.

You will see young men walking in the street with their arms around each other's shoulders and women walking hand in hand. This means nothing more than simple intimacy. Touching close friends while talking to them is perfectly acceptable in Korea. Koreans will touch children to show their warm affection for them.

This is a compliment to let the child know how cute he or she is. Bumping into other people while passing is mostly understood unless you shove him or her offensively.

If you attend a wedding or funeral, it's customary to take a white envelope containing a sum of money. Handing cash to someone is considered rude except when paying a shopkeeper for merchandise.

Dinner in a traditional Korean home or restaurant is quite different from American-style dining. Guests sit on cushions around a low table. Many different foods are served, each cut into bite-sized pieces. Each person has his own bowl of rice, but helps himself to other foods directly from the serving dishes. Koreans traditionally use chopsticks and a large-bowled spoon, although today forks are also used.

During the meal, rest your chopsticks and spoon on top of a dish. When you finish eating, lay them on the table

to indicate that you have completed the meal. Never stick chopsticks or spoons in a bowl of rice; this is associated with prayers for the dead. Also, never refill a partially, but not completely empty, glass for the same reason. Don't worry about reaching in front of others or asking for a dish to be passed.

The hostess may put your gift aside without opening it in order not to possibly embarrass you at the smallness of the gift. She'll open it if you politely ask her to.

At a restaurant, "going Dutch" is not customary – Koreans just take turns paying, although it is becoming more common among young people to split the check. In most hotels, a service charge is included in the bill.

Be conscious of Korean customs and etiquette, but don't become obsessed with adopting Korean ways.

FOR MORE ON  
WHERE, AS WELL AS HOW, TO DINE LOCALLY,  
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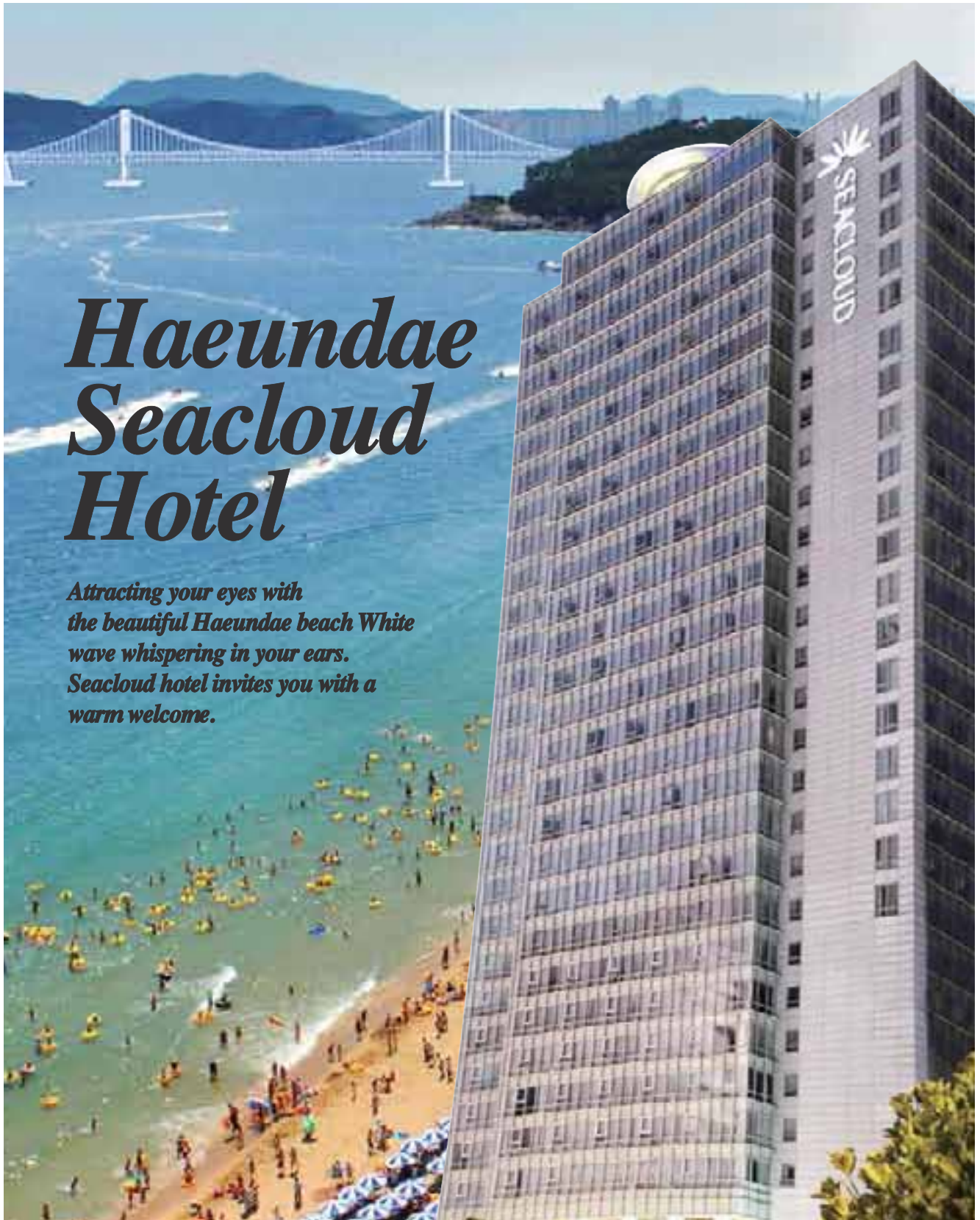
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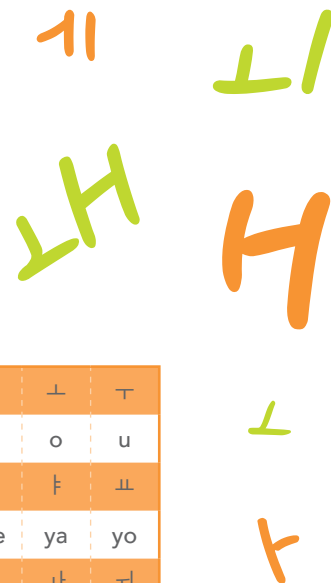
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# Korean language guidelines



The Korean written language, Hangul, is very easy for newcomers to learn. Knowing how to sound out words can help with reading street signs, subway station names and names of businesses. Many English and other foreign words are written in Hangul in Korea. You'll be amazed at how many signs you can read and recognize English words written in Hangul.

## Romanized Korean pronunciation guide

Consonants in Korean sound similar to English consonants. Generally, hard consonants in Korean like “k” and “p” are not as hard as the English versions unless a double consonant like “kk” or “pp” is used. There are exceptions.

Vowels: The Romanized Korean letter “i” is always pronounced with a long “e” sound like in the word “seen.” The letters “e” and “ae” are pronounced with a short “e” sound like “beg.” The letters “oe” together sound like the word “way.” The letter

“a” is pronounced with the short “a” sound like in the word “blah.” The letter “o” is pronounced like the vowel sound in the word “boat.” The letter “u” is pronounced like the vowel sound in “swoon.”

The vowel combination “eo” is pronounced like “aw” in “saw.” The vowel combination “eu” is pronounced like the vowel sound in “good.” The vowel combination “ui” is pronounced like “whee.” All of the vowel combinations that start with the letter “y” and “w” are pronounced with a “y” or “w” sound added to the beginning of the sound.

## VOWELS

ㅣ	ㅔ	ㅚ	ㅞ	ㅏ	ㅜ	ㅠ
i	e	oe	ae	a	o	u
ㅓ	ㅡ	ㅛ	ㅟ	ㅝ	ㅢ	ㅥ
eo	eu	ui	ye	yae	ya	yo
ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅖ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ
yu	yeo	wi	we	wae	wa	wo

## CONSONANTS

ㅂ	ㄷ	ㅈ	ㄱ	ㅍ	ㅌ	ㅊ
b,p	d,t	j	g,k	pp	tt	jj
ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㆁ	ㄴ	ㅇ
kk	p	t	ch	k	s	h
ㅃ	ㅆ	ㄴ	ㅇ	ㄹ		
ss	m	n	ng	r,l		

Korean Character
Romanized

## BASIC KOREAN VOCABULARY

### GENERAL VOCABULARY

- Water ----- Mul
- Outdoors ----- Bakk
- Half ----- Ban
- Night ----- Bam
- Fire ----- Bul
- Mountain ----- San
- Hand ----- Son
- Clothes ----- Ot
- Sleep ----- Jam
- House ----- Jip
- Car ----- Cha
- Book ----- Chaek
- Gun ----- Chong
- Knife ----- Kal
- Tour ----- Gwan-gwang
- Hospital ----- Byeong-won
- Newspaper ----- Shin-mun
- Bank ----- Eun-haeng
- Student ----- Hak-saeng
- Cash ----- Hyun-geum

### DAYS OF THE WEEK

- Monday ----- Wol-yo-il
- Tuesday ----- Hwa-yo-il
- Wednesday ----- Su-yo-il
- Thursday ----- Mok-yo-il
- Friday ----- Geum-yo-il
- Saturday ----- To-yo-il
- Sunday ----- Il-yo-il

\* For months and dates see “Korean by Numbers.”

### RELATIVE DATE

- Today ----- O-neul
- Yesterday ----- Eo-je
- Tomorrow ----- Nae-il
- This month ----- I-dal
- Next month ----- Da-eum-dal
- Last month ----- Ji-nan-dal

### PRONOUNS

- I ----- Na-neun
- My ----- Na-ui
- Me ----- Na-reul
- He/She ----- Geu
- His ----- Geu-ui
- Him ----- Geu-reul
- Her ----- Geu-nyeo-ui
- This ----- i-geots-eun

- These ----- i-deul-eun
- That ----- Jeo-geots-eun
- Our ----- U-riui

### INTERROGATIVE

- Who ----- Nu-ga
- What ----- Mu-uts-eul
- When ----- Un-je
- Why ----- Wae
- Where ----- Eo-di-se-o
- How ----- Eo-tteo-ke

### CONJUNCTIONS

- And ----- Geu-ri-go
- So ----- Geu-rae-seo
- Or/Also ----- Tto-neun
- But ----- Geu-reo-na

### ADJECTIVES

- Light ----- Ga-byeo-un
- Heavy ----- Mu-geo-un
- Dirty ----- Deor-eo-eun
- Strong ----- Gang-han
- Weak ----- Yahk-han
- Different ----- Da-reun
- Similar ----- Dal-meun
- Hot ----- TTeu-geo-eun
- Cold ----- Chu-eun

- High ----- Nop-eun
- Low ----- Naj-eun
- Numerous ----- Man-eun
- White ----- Huinsaek
- Black ----- Geomjeong
- Red ----- Ppalgang
- Blue ----- Parang
- Green ----- Chorok
- Yellow ----- Norang

### VERBS

- Go ----- Ga-da
- Stop ----- Seo-da
- Walk ----- Geol-ou-ga-da
- Run ----- Da-li-da
- Drive ----- Un-jeon-ha-da
- Meet ----- Man-na-da
- Sit ----- An-dda
- Stand ----- I-reo-seo-da
- Like ----- Jo-a-ha-da
- Hate ----- Shi-reo-ha-da
- Depart ----- Chul-bal-ha-da
- Arrive ----- Do-chak-ha-da
- Near ----- Ga-kkap-da
- Enter ----- Deu-reo-ga-da
- Go out ----- Na-ga-da
- Turn on ----- Kyeo-da
- Turn off ----- Kkeu-da

Culture & Language  
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# USEFUL KOREAN PHRASES

## Introductions/greetings

### Hi/Hello

An-Nyeong-ha-se-yo/  
An-nyeong-ha-shim-ni-kka (formal)

### It is nice to meet you.

Man-na-seo-ban-gop-sub-ni-da

### It is nice to meet you / It is a pleasure

Ban-gop-sub-ni-da

### Goodbye (if you leave)

An-nyeong-hee-kye-se-yo/  
An-nyeong-hee-kye-ship-shi-yo (formal)

### Goodbye (if someone else leaves)

An-nyeong-hee-ga-se-yo/  
An-nyeong-hee-ga-ship-shi-yo (formal)

### My name is ~.

Che I-rum-un ~ ib-ni-da.

### What is your name?

I-rum-un mu-eo-sib-ni-ka?

### I am ~ years old.

Nan ~ saal ib-ni-da.

### How old are you?

Yeon-se eo-toh-kye-dwe-shib-ni-ka?

### How are you?

eo-toh-kye-ji-nae-sheo-sseo-yo?

### Yes, I am fine.

Neh, Chal-iss-ub-ni-da.

### I am just so-so.

Gu-jeo-gu-reh-yo

## Requests

### What time is it?

Shi-gan-jom al-yeo-ju-se-yo?

### What is that?

Jeo-geon mwo-jyo?

### What day is today?

O-nuel-eun mu-seun yo-il-ipnikka?

### Please show me.

Bo-yeo-ju-se-yo.

### That's OK.

Gwaen-chan-ayo.

### You're welcome.

Chun-man-e-yo.

### Could you please take me there?

Jeo jom de-ryeo-da ju-shi-gets-seum-ni-kka?

### Please drop me here.

Yeo-gi se-wo-ju-se-yo.

### Follow me.

Tta-ra o-se-yo.

### I didn't know.

Mo-llatss-eum-ni-da.

### Where is the restroom?

Hwa-jang-shil-i eo-di-jo?

## Eating out

### May I have a cup of coffee?

Coffee han-jan ju-se-yo.

### Thanks for the meal. (Before eating)

Jal-mueok-get-seum-ni-da.

### Thanks for the meal. (After eating)

Jal-mueok-geot s-seum-ni-da.

### It's on me.

Je-ga sal-kke-yo.

### Thank you.

Gam-sa-hap-ni-da.

### It's very delicious!

Neo-mu mat-itss-eum-ni-da!

### It doesn't taste good.

Mat-eopss-eup-ni-da.

### Not too spicy, please.

Neo-mu maep-ge ha-ji ma-ra ju-se-yo.

### Looks great.

Mash-it-getss-eum-ni-da.

### Sounds great.

Jo-a-yo.

### Would you like something to drink?

Eum-ryo-su jom deu-ril-kka-yo?

### What would you like to eat?

Eott-eon eum-shik-eul deu-shi-getss-eum-ni-kka?

## Directions

### Left side

Wen-Jok-eh

### Left turn

Chwa-hue-jeon

### Right side

O-run-jok-eh

### Right turn

Oo-hue-jeon

### In front of

Op-eh

### Before

Jeon-eh

### Beside

Yeop-eh

### Behind

Dwui-eh

### Go straight

Jik-jin ga-se-yo

### Stop here, please

Yo-gi se-wah-ju-se-yo



## Korean by numbers

There are two separate but equally important groups of Korean numbers. Pure-Korean numbers, generally used to denote cardinal numbers (1, 2, 3), and Sino-Korean numbers, generally used to denote ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd). The Sino-Korean numbers can also be written using Hanja (Chinese characters). As with English, double-digit numbers consist of one of the first nine numbers and a modifying prefix such as “yol”-hana (11), “sumu”-tul (22), or “soren”-set (33). Similar rules apply for larger numbers.

## Number use

Exceptions: In descriptive use of the Pure-Korean numbers 1,2,3,4 and 20, the last letter is dropped from the pronunciation. “Hana” becomes “han,” “tul” is “tu,” “set” is “se,” “net” is “ne” and “sumul” is “sumu.”

Money: Always use Sino-Korean numbers. \$30 is “sam-ship bul” (“bul” or “dolla” means dollar) and a \$20 bill is “ee-ship bul” (but when counting how many \$20 bills, use Pure-Korean numbers).

Time (shi gan): Use Pure-Korean for the hour (“shi”) and Sino-Korean for the minutes (“bun”). 3:30 is “se-shi – ee-ship bun,” a.m. and p.m. are “oh-jeon” and “oh-hu,” respectively.

Date: Use Pure-Korean for counting the months, but Sino-Korean for the month and day (“il”). “Ee wol, ee-ship il” is Feb. 20.

Age: Informally or when referring to yourself, your children, or someone much younger than yourself, use Pure-Korean with the suffix “sal.” Six years old is “Yosot sal.” In a formal situation or when referring to someone older, use Sino-Korean with the suffix “se.” Sixty years of age is “yuk-ship se.”

Counters: Pure-Korean numbers usually require “counters,” words used to associate numbers with subjects, like two “sheets” (“jang”) of paper or one “bag” (“bongji”) of groceries. A few worth remembering right away are: “Gae,” things (good for anything); “myeong,” people (informal); “sa ram,” person (casual); and “bun,” people (polite).

– Courtesy of *The Morning Calm*

English	Pure-Korean	Hangul	Sino-Korean	Hangul
1	Hana	하나	il	일
2	Tul	둘	ee	이
3	Set	셋	sam	삼
4	Net	넷	sa	사
5	Tasot	다섯	oh	오
6	Yosot	여섯	yuk	육
7	Ilgop	일곱	ch'il	칠
8	Yodol(p)	여덟	p'al	팔
9	Ahop	아홉	gu	구
10	Yol	열	ship	십
20	Sumul	스물	ee-ship	이십
30	Sorun	서른	sam-ship	삼십
40	Mahun	마흔	sa-ship	사십
50	Shween	쉰	oh-ship	오십
60	Yessun	예순	yuk-ship	육십
70	Irhun	이른	ch'il-ship	칠십
80	Yeodun	여든	p'al-ship	팔십
90	Ahun	아흔	gu-ship	구십
100	Baek	백	baek	백
1,000			Ch'eon	천
10,000			Man	만
100,000			Ship-man	십만
1,000,000			Baek-man	백만

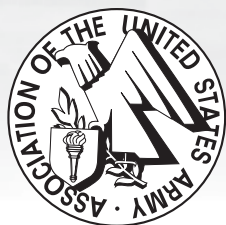
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# This is not your grandfather's AFN

The Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, more commonly known by its worldwide brand name, American Forces Network, or AFN, has a long and storied history of serving military personnel overseas.

AFN has grown from its earliest days during World War II at sites in Alaska and Panama to eventually bring information and entertainment from home to millions of service members, Department of Defense employees and family members around the globe. It did this first by radio broadcasts, and later by television as well.

AFN radio and TV stations across Europe, the Pacific, Central America and the Arctic informed and entertained audiences isolated by location and/or language through a combination of commercially and locally produced programs.

That was then, this is now.

It's 2014, and American military audiences overseas have considerably more choices for sources of information and entertainment at their disposal. Keeping up with technology and consumer habits can be a real challenge, and AFN is meeting those challenges head-on.

In January 2013, AFN launched the AFN Pacific website – [www.afnpacific.net](http://www.afnpacific.net) – to mirror its sister site, [www.afneurope.net](http://www.afneurope.net).

Together, these two websites capture the essence of military life at 95 percent of DOD's military bases overseas. At these sites, you can find the most current happenings in the form of news and feature stories produced for television broadcast, command messages from regional leaders, and links to a multitude of sites that have informative material for a military audience. (And don't forget the AFN parent site, American Forces Network Online, at [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)!)

Less than a year later, AFN brought its radio service into the 21st century by introducing AFN 360 Internet Radio, providing live streaming of radio services to members of our audience in most locations overseas on their computer desktops and mobile devices. Launched on Dec. 3, 2013, AFN 360 Internet Radio offers streaming radio channels that provide a local station along with seven additional streams of news, sports talk, political talk, and popular music including adult contemporary, classic rock, country, and urban hits.

In addition to music and talk shows, AFN 360 Internet Radio gives listeners local and regional information just like they get from their local AFN stations' AM or FM broadcasts. For example, listeners at Yokota Air Base, Japan, can hear announcements and spots tailored specifically for them, as can listeners in Yongsan Garrison, South Korea; Bavaria

Garrison, Germany; or wherever AFN Radio is broadcast. You can now listen to AFN virtually anywhere outside of the United States. Your radio listening pleasure is no longer bound by a limited-range over-the-air signal.

And it keeps getting better! Since its launch, AFN 360 for your mobile device has added the capability to see local or regional news stories from our websites, TV schedules for the AFN TV channels, local weather and traffic conditions, exchange rates, even gas prices on base.

Finally, we can't wrap up a talk about new ways AFN is reaching audiences without mentioning our presence on Facebook. Nearly every AFN radio and TV station has its own Facebook page, and these pages are loaded with up-to-the-minute information, conversations with our on-air disk jockeys, links to special notices and other timely information. During episodes of severe weather, our DJs go into 24-hour live on-air mode, providing information that will help you and your family stay safe.

So, we've come a long way since those first radio broadcasts during World War II, and we are not your grandfather's AFN. The future is an unpredictable road stretching out to the horizon. If the past is any indication, one way or another, you'll be listening to AFN as you travel that road.

– AFN Pacific



Airmen 1st Class Justin Stokes (front) and Patrick Cole conduct



Airman 1st Class Justin Stokes puts out command information to the Kanto



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jean Baker begins AFN Misawa's The Underground afternoon radio show June at Misawa Air Base, Japan



Senior Airman Kelvin Carr showcases his Morning Cruise Control lineup in AFN Tokyo's Eagle 810 radio studio on Yokota Air Base,





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Easy to Use*



Korea Telecommunication Group (KT) is a leading South Korean integrated wired/ wireless telecommunications service provider. KT focuses on information and communications business, and it has the largest portion of the South Korean telephone and high-speed Internet market. Originally founded in 1981 as a public corporation, KT actively led South Korea's transition to the Information era and played a key role in promoting the growth of South Korea into a globally recognized IT superpower.

KT, initially having introduced the Apple iPhone to South Korea, provides a variety of wireless services such as smartphones, tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, LTE service, TRS, and also provides Smart Home Service, uCloud Service, Mobile TV and Internet TV.

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161 USA \$20	161 USA \$20
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### 2. Bundle Purchase Benefit of 161Card & Phone

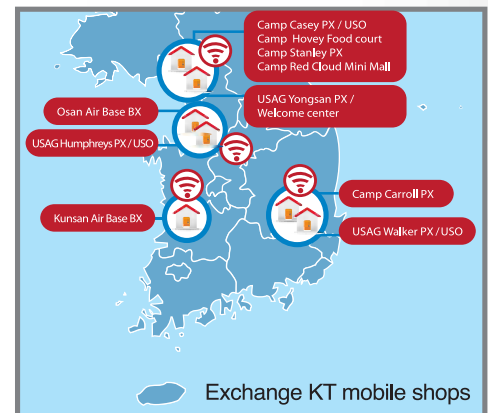
Bundle Activation Fee  
(with \$10 Int'l card)

5\$  
DC



Bundle Activation Fee  
(with \$20 Int'l card)

10\$  
DC



### 3. Contact Number in PX/BX

Camp	Location	Contact Number
Yongsan	Yongsan	02) 795-4884
Osan AB	Osan	031) 664-6776
USAG Casey	Dongducheon	031) 866-4554
USAG Humphreys	Pyeongtaek	031) 655-6556
Kunsan AB	Kunsan	063) 464-6226
USAG Walker	Daegu	053) 474-5665
Camp Stanley	Uijeongbu	031) 843-0041
Camp Red Cloud	Uijeongbu	031) 837-4343
Camp Carroll	Chilgok	054) 972-0380



## SMART PHONING

### Procuring the perfect cell phone plan

Immediately after a permanent change of station, the first step for most of us is to get reconnected with our friends and family electronically. And for many that means being rejoined at the hip to our smartphones, electronic pads and tablet PCs. Well, welcome to the Republic of Korea – you're in very good company.

South Korea is a country of more than 50 million people – and an estimated 55 million active cell phone service contracts at any given time. Korea also has the world's No. 1 smartphone diffusion rate, with more than 70 percent of all cell phone users opting for smartphones. So electronically inclined callers should feel right at home. But that doesn't mean all is as it is at home.

Before you hook yourself up, link up with the people who have been stationed at your new assignment for a while. You may find that they recommend going an alternate route for good reason.

There are three big service providers in Korea. SK Telecom is the biggest name in the business. Next is KT, followed by LG U+. They all have a number of agents on or near bases who work

closely with SOFA personnel.

For some, which smartphone to choose may boil down to computer preference – Mac (the iPhone) or PC (Android-based phones). Luckily, in the ROK, you have both to choose from. Unlike in the United States where the two often vie neck and neck, however, in Korea there's a clear winner for some pretty clear reasons.

The big winner in Korean electronics are Android-based phones. Korean manufacturer Samsung is the clear leader holding 60 per cent of the market share and Apple has only 14 percent share of the South Korean market. Even though KT and SK Telecom are the local platform for the iPhone and the iPad, people in Korea like to use Android because of the network speed.

The country's three main providers all offer the fourth-generation mobile technology known as Long Term Evolution (LTE), which more than 33 million Koreans or 60% of the population, have adopted. The trend has continued with the development of phones that have LTE-Advanced network.

LTE-A is currently only available for Android only, and can download data at speeds twice as

fast as 4G networks and 10 times faster than 3G services. LTE-A supports a theoretical maximum download speed of 150 Mbps, twice as fast as the LTE standard used on the iPhone 5, although real-world speeds are in general significantly slower than theoretical maximums.

Most LTE handsets are manufactured by South Korean firms like market leader Samsung and second-place LG and No.3 Pantech.

In addition to seeking input from those in the know at your duty station, shop around. The plans and cell phones available vary from agent to agent. There may be a minimum contract period or large deposit required in addition to the purchase of the phone. There are family and

friend group packages as well. The requirements to qualify for a particular phone or plan vary.

If you are on a tight budget or have a problem staying on a phone budget, a prepaid phone card or phone may be for you. For most, you only pay for calls you make; there's no charge for incoming calls. However, if you are making frequent in-country calls on your cell phone, you will probably save a considerable amount of money with a monthly plan.

Talk to people in a situation and lifestyle similar to your own. Their experiences should offer ideas on selecting a plan. They can advise you on which company in your area provides the best service, rates and phone selection.



# Voting absentee while overseas is easy!

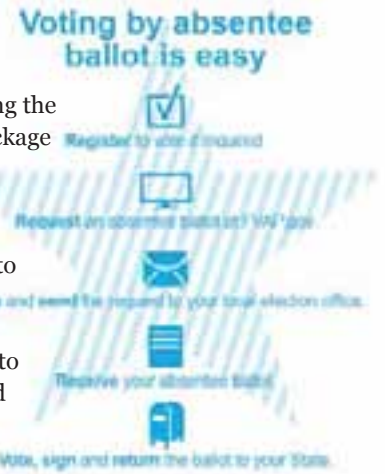
Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as U.S. citizens, and as a military Service member or family member living overseas, you are eligible to vote absentee. This means you can send your vote back home, from wherever you are stationed. It's easy, and the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is here to help. FVAP works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

Rules may differ from State-to-State, but the basic steps are simple:

1. Register to vote if required.
2. Request an absentee ballot at FVAP.gov.
3. Sign and send the request to your election office.
4. Receive your absentee ballot.
5. Vote and return the ballot to your election office.

Find your State's instructions at FVAP.gov by selecting your home State from the drop-down menu.

2. Fold and seal your FPCA. If using the online FPCA, print the PDF package (which includes a template for a postage-paid envelope), sign and mail it.
3. Address and mail the FPCA to your local election official. Contact information can be found at FVAP.gov. Be sure to include your return address, and affix postage if using a foreign postal service.



## Get Started! Send in Your Registration and Ballot Request.

The FPCA acts as both a voter registration and absentee ballot request form, and it only takes a few quick steps to help make sure your vote is counted no matter where you are in the world. The FPCA can be easily completed by using the online assistant at FVAP.gov, filling out the PDF or picking up a hardcopy version from your unit voting assistance officer.

*FVAP encourages absent military voters and overseas citizens to submit a new FPCA every year, with every change of address and at least 90 days before the election you want to vote in.*

1. Complete and sign the FPCA using your State's instructions.



## Return Your Voted Ballot.

Ballots are sent out by the States 45 days prior to the election. If you have requested, but not received a ballot from your State at least 30 days before the election, you may be eligible to vote using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB is a write-in backup ballot that can be completed for any Federal election. The FWAB can be easily completed by using the online assistant at FVAP.gov, by filling out the PDF or picking up a hardcopy version from your unit voting assistance officer. The assistants will guide you through the questions on the form and produce a printable form for you and will also provide a postage-paid envelope so you don't have to worry about finding stamps!

– Federal Voting Assistance Program

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# ACE THE TEST

## Do your DODEA homework

The Department of Defense Education Activity is a K-12 American school system for U.S. military and DOD civilian dependents. DODEA is composed of the overseas Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DODDS) and the domestic Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) – which includes the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and Guam.

DODEA-Pacific manages schools in the districts of Guam, mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea. While DODEA, DODDS and DDESS curriculum and grade-level standards are the same, their funding and legislative authorization mandate different eligibility requirements.

In the Pacific, schools in mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea adhere to DODDS eligibility rules; Guam adheres to DDESS rules.

**Registration** There are two ways to register your child for any DODEA-Pacific school depending on your family situation:

If you are new to DODEA-Pacific or your child is moving to another school district within DODEA-Pacific, use the online pre-registration process outlined on our website and bring all required documents to the school to finalize registration.

If your child is advancing to the next grade at their current DODEA-Pacific school or they are staying within the same district, contact the school directly to re-register. To finalize registration, you will need to re-validate enrollment eligibility by providing a copy of your orders or an employment letter along with any required and updated

immunization records for each child.

In either case, you must still visit the school in person to finalize registration. School offices are open during regular hours throughout the year.

Students preparing to enter kindergarten must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling school year. Evidence must be presented to verify age requirements. Birth certificates or passports are adequate verification; permanent change of station orders are not.

Some DODEA-Pacific schools offer a pre-kindergarten program called Sure Start. It provides academically at-risk children extended services in the areas of education, health, social services and family involvement. Contact the school directly to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply for Sure Start.

**Records** Parents should hand-carry all academic, immunization and special education records if possible. Some schools may require records to be mailed; if so, ask them to send records via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail to the military address of the receiving DODEA-Pacific school.

Sending priority mail to the Pacific usually takes about seven to 10 days while other methods could take several months. The sending school can also ship records to the commercial address of the DODEA-Pacific school, but you will need to contact the school in advance as commercial addresses are not available online for security reasons.

**Free and Reduced Lunch** All families with

students enrolled in DODEA-Pacific schools are eligible to apply for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

The Exchange or lead military service for an installation manages the Student Meal Program for schools.

Parents and sponsors are encouraged to set up prepaid accounts at the local exchange customer service counter.

**School Liaison Officers**

School liaison officers can help your family with transition issues. SLOs operate independently of DOD schools and have expertise in transition support and advocacy for incoming families. Consider making contact with the SLO early in your PCS process.

**Special Needs Children**

If your child has special needs, be sure to research the available support options for your desired location. To the greatest extent possible, we follow an inclusion model and work to provide individualized support as needed.

However, overseas locations may not have the specialized medical or other support services necessary to fully meet your child's unique needs. Parents should consider how limited services may impact the growth and development of their special needs child. DODEA-Pacific staff members are available to help parents with special needs children make informed choices throughout the school year.

*Continued on page 22*

## Directory for special needs

The Education Directory for Children With Special Needs provides military families with children with special needs the information they need to make informed assignment decisions and easier transitions. It consists of two components: **1)** The Early Intervention Directory focusing on early intervention services for children birth through 3 years old, and **2)** The School-Age Directory focusing on education services for children with special needs, 3 through 21 years old

Both provide tools and resources to help with the transition to a new location. The Early Intervention Directory summarizes national and state level early intervention trends and includes descriptions of local early intervention service providers. The School-Age Directory summarizes national and state level trends for special education and includes descriptions of individual school districts. See the Education Directory for Children with Special Needs at:

[apps.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/?p=EFMP\\_DIRECTORY:HOME:0](https://apps.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/?p=EFMP_DIRECTORY:HOME:0)

– [MilitaryOneSource.com](http://MilitaryOneSource.com)



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**JAN VALLARTA, cum laude**  
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For more information call UOG Admissions and Records at 735-2201/2 or email [admitme@ug Guam.uog.edu](mailto:admitme@ug Guam.uog.edu).

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**DOWNLOAD COURSE CATALOGS AT [WWW.UOG.EDU](http://WWW.UOG.EDU).**

Continued from page 20

Please contact the DODEA Pacific District Superintendent's Office and District Special Education Instructional Systems Specialist (ISS) in the location you are considering before accepting a new assignment.

### Home School Support

DODEA-Pacific schools offer auxiliary services to eligible military families who choose to home school their children. Auxiliary services include use of academic resources, access to the library of the school, after hours use of school facilities, and participation in music, sports, and other extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is limited to students who are designated as space-required (mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea Districts) or DOD dependent students eligible to enroll in DDESS on a tuition-free basis (Guam District). Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must also meet the same eligibility requirements applicable to dependents enrolled in DODEA schools who use or receive the same auxiliary services. Eligible home schoolers are not required to attend a specific number of courses to receive auxiliary services, including participating in extracurricular and interscholastic activities. DODEA encourages DOD sponsors who wish to home school their dependents to communicate their desire to their commanders to determine if there are any command policies or other rules ensuring that home schooling practices meet host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory requirements. Sponsors are responsible for complying with applicable local requirements. Contact your local School Liaison Officer or command representative to learn more."

### Staying Engaged

Reading is a good way

for youngsters to keep their minds sharp over summer break when they can lose up to 20 percent of their learning from the previous school year. It is important to incorporate reading into a child's daily schedule.

DODEA-Pacific offers online resources on its website that give parents ideas for continued summer learning in specific content areas such as math, science and college readiness.

During the school year, parents can help their children at home by assisting with homework, reading together with their child, and prompting children to apply what they've learned to real-life scenarios.

Our schools are always open to parent volunteers in the classroom, for field trips, during after-school academic clubs, or during athletic seasons. We also encourage parents to serve on the School Advisory Committee or Parent-Teacher Organization. Contact your local school to learn more. Parents who wish to volunteer for school activities must complete a basic background check and health screening.

### Being Ready for School

Research shows that a steady routine, restful sleep and a healthy diet contribute to children's health, well-being and school success. Camping, festivals, fireworks and travel are great summer fun, but they also disrupt normal sleep and meal schedules.

Parents should re-introduce a learning-friendly sleep schedule at least a few weeks before school begins in the fall. Experts recommend that children ages 3-6 get 10-12 hours of sleep per day; ages 7-12, 10-11 hours; and ages 12-18, 8-9 hours.

Children also need a regular and healthy diet with fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Avoid sugary snacks and sodas which provide a short-term rush and can contribute to lack of concentration.

- DODEA-Pacific: [www.dodea.edu/Pacific](http://www.dodea.edu/Pacific)
  - Exchange Student Meal Program: [shopmyexchange.com/Community/Schoollunch](http://shopmyexchange.com/Community/Schoollunch)
  - Exceptional Family Member Program: [www.militaryhomefront.DOD.mil/sp/efmp](http://www.militaryhomefront.DOD.mil/sp/efmp)
  - Let's Move's (nutrition and exercise tips): [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)
    - Tutor.com (free online tutoring for military families): [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)
  - DODEA Home Schooling Policy: [www.dodea.edu/upload/02OD002.pdf](http://www.dodea.edu/upload/02OD002.pdf)

A hearty, balanced breakfast ensures your child is fueled up and ready to learn all day long. Quality sleep and a healthy diet are further strengthened by a daily exercise routine. Regular exercise will help your child develop lifelong healthy habits for improved mood, cognitive function and physical fitness. The Let's Move website offers great nutritional and exercise advice.

Be sure your child's

immunizations are current. Up-to-date immunizations are required for enrollment; the school nurse can answer any related questions. Contact your health care provider or local military treatment facility for immunization needs. The summer is the ideal time to arrange for a sports physical, which is required before students can begin practicing athletics.

— DODEA-Pacific



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### Helpful Links:

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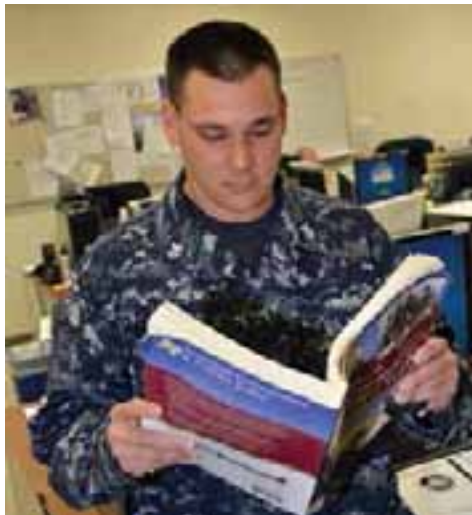
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**- SFC JAMES CARROLL  
CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN**

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**PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

CTC offers classroom courses in our Pacific and Far East locations that lead to applied science degrees and certificates designed to improve skills or prepare students for a new career. Classroom courses offered vary at each location.



**POPULAR CTC PROGRAMS**

- Business Management
- Child Development
- Criminal Justice
- Fire Protection
- Homeland Security
- Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts
- Legal Assistant
- Information Technology

**CLASS SCHEDULES**

Our academic year begins in August with five terms per year, generally eight weeks in length. Your Education Center or Navy Campus office publicizes term dates, registration periods, and course offerings. Local CTC PFEC representatives are available to assist students with registration.

**PAYING FOR COLLEGE**

In addition to tuition assistance, CTC students may apply for federal loans and grants by beginning a FAFSA application. Students may also have access to Veteran’s Benefits and scholarships. CTC is a “Yellow Ribbon” school for non-Texas resident GI Bill students. Military spouses may also be eligible to use MyCAA funding.

**HOW TO ENROLL**

- Fill out an application (online or through a CTC field rep)
- Army students apply and register through the GoArmyEd portal



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- Camp Henry
- Kunsan Air Base
- Osan Air Base

**OKINAWA**

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- Camp Foster
- Camp Hansen
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- Camp Schwab
- Futenma Marine Corps Air Station
- Kadena Air Base
- Torii Station

**GUAM**

- Andersen Air Force Base
- COMNAVMAR

**MAINLAND JAPAN**

- Atsugi Naval Air Facility
- Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station
- Misawa Air Base
- Sasebo Naval Base
- Yokosuka Naval Base
- Yokota Air Base
- Camp Zama

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# EDUCATION CENTERS

## Where lifelong learning continues



### Air Force

Air Force base education and training services in the Pacific provide on-base degree and distance education programs that support recruitment, retention and readiness along with personal and professional goals.

In mainland Japan, Base Education and Training centrally manages administration of all education and training matters at Yokota Air Base. Similarly, there are education centers and/or representatives at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa and Misawa Air Base as well as Osan Air Base and Kunsan Air Base in South Korea. The same services are also available at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam.

These services include educational opportunities, academic guidance and counseling, tuition assistance for active-duty military members and their spouses, and educational testing services to military members, family members and Department of Defense civilians. Opportunities to begin and complete secondary certificates, as well as associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees are available at the various colleges and universities offering on-base programs.

Enlisted Air Force members can complete requirements for job-related certificates or associate of applied science degrees through the Community College of the Air Force. General college information, college entrance and certification examinations, testing for college credit, enrollment in professional military education courses, career counseling and counseling on, and application for, commissioning programs are also provided.

— U.S. Air Force sources



### Army

The Army Continuing Education System mission is to vigorously promote lifelong learning opportunities to sharpen the competitive edge of the Army by providing and managing quality self-development programs and services.

In South Korea, education programs and services are delivered through five Army education centers: Camps Red Cloud, Casey, Yongsan, Humphreys and Henry and four Army learning centers at Camps Stanley, Hovey, K-16 and Carroll. In Japan, the Army Education Center at Camp Zama provides a variety of educational opportunities as does U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa Education Center for soldiers there. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Lifelong Learning Center services Kure Ammunition Depot.

Education services are available for active-duty military and their adult family members, members of the RC and their adult family members, military retirees, or survivors of retirees and their adult family members. These services are also available for DACs, other federal employees, retirees, U.S. contractors whose contracts include such services and programs, local nationals whose employment considerations include such services and programs and their adult family members. Adult family members may participate on an equal basis for ACES services for soldiers, family members, sister services and Department of Defense civilians.

Services may include soldier development programs such as functional academic skills training, high school completion programs and English as a

Second Language. Self-development programs, leader skill enhancement courses, postsecondary programs, service-members opportunity colleges and GoArmyEd are also available. Tuition assistance, financial assistance, academic counseling on learning goals and the GI Bill may be provided as well.

Testing services include Army personnel testing, academic testing, DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) testing, certification testing and TABE testing. Other services include multi-learning facilities with multimedia computers with Internet access to support collaborative learning, access to Army correspondence course programs, access to self-development courses and preparation for NCOES training, and access to online college programs.

— U.S. Army sources



### Marine Corps

The Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program provides personal and professional learning opportunities for Marines regardless of duty station.

In Okinawa, Japan, the Base Education Office at Camp Butler is the headquarters for Marine Corps lifelong learning centers on camps Courtney, Foster, Hansen, Kinser, Schwab and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. In mainland Japan, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni also has a Lifelong Learning Center and Camp Fuji's Marine and Family



Services offers limited adult education service at the library. Camp Mujuk, South Korea, also has limited services via the library.

Services offered at lifelong learning centers include: college reference resources, guidance counseling, the Discover Program (computer-based, career planning program), tuition assistance, SOC (Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges) information, financial aid information, distance education and DANTES testing. Commissioning programs information, USMAP (United Services Military Apprenticeship Program) and SMART (Sailor/Marine ACE Registry Transcript) assistance may also be available.

The U.S. Marine Corps Voluntary Education Program provides service members the opportunity to complete their high school education, earn an equivalency diploma, improve their academic skills or level of literacy, and enroll in vocational and technical schools. They can also receive recommended college credit for military training and experience in the armed forces, take tests to earn recommended college credits, complete an apprenticeship in a trade, and enroll in post-secondary education programs.

Numerous post-secondary school courses are available ↗

at full-service lifelong learning centers through college field offices offering curriculum from your school of choice. Even master's degree programs are available. Programs such as counseling, community services, and business administration are among the many choices offered.

– U.S. Marine Corps sources



## Navy

Navy Navy College Offices form a network of professional education services specialists, education technicians and guidance counselors located at 36 installations around the world. These professionals counsel and advise Navy members on all matters relating to academic programs, authorize tuition assistance, and administer all on-base education programs.

In Japan, Navy College Offices (NCOs) and/or representatives are on Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Yokosuka Naval Base, Sasebo Naval Base and Misawa

Air Base. Naval Base Guam also has an NCO. Visit an NCO and find out how to: complete a high school diploma, work on a technical or occupational certificate, improve your academic skills in reading, math and English, and earn a college degree.

Through Navy College offices you can reach your educational goals while on active duty. We can help: analyze and define education goals and capabilities, review previous college work and plan future education and training, select courses and programs needed to succeed, enter a suitable college, university, or technical training school, either off base or aboard ship. NCOs can also assist with financial aid, obtaining college credit for Navy training and experience, earning credit by examination, obtaining and reviewing your transcript (SMART) and reviewing and discussing your rating roadmap.

The Navy College Program (NCP) provides opportunities to earn college degrees by providing academic credit for Navy

training, work experience, and off-duty education. The NCP mission is to enable sailors to

obtain a college degree while on active duty.

– U.S. Navy sources

## TA won't cover fees, bad grades

The Department of Defense's Tuition Assistance (TA) program – which pays up to 100 percent of tuition for eligible troops to approved institutions – will no longer support military students with poor grades, and will cease paying related fees, altogether.

DOD announced in July 2014 that after Sept. 5 troops must reimburse TA if they fail to get a "C" grade or higher in an undergraduate course or a "B" grade or higher in a graduate-level course, or if they fail pass/fail courses. The same applies for cumulative grade point averages under 2.0 after 15 undergraduate

semester hours, and under 3.0 after six graduate semester hours.

Some exemptions may apply on a case-by-case basis for unavoidable circumstances such as deployments and duty schedule changes.

Under the announced revisions, TA now only covers tuition submitted by educational institutions. Any cost not directly related to course instruction – such as admissions and registration fees, room and board, equipment and supplies, textbooks and instructional materials, parking and transportation, and fines – must now be paid out of pocket by students.

# Your college branch office on base

The majority of colleges and universities offering on-base courses will have an office in your base's education center with a counselor available. The counselors can also provide information on scholarships and other financial assistance specific to their program or school.

The most common are the University of Maryland University College and the University of Phoenix, which have branches on installations throughout the Pacific and beyond. Alabama-based Troy University is on some Air Force bases in Japan and Korea as well as Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, while Central Texas College offices can be found on Army installations throughout Korea and Japan as well as Camp Foster,

Okinawa, and at the Navy and Air Force bases on Guam.

Together, such colleges offer a variety of training, undergraduate and graduate programs – including many online distance-learning programs for those stationed on bases where they do not have

offices. They also have longstanding relationships with the military and cater to the specific needs of service members and their families such as the application of military benefits, academic credit for military training and

experience, and military educational programs.

Contact your education center to learn what in-residence and distance-learning programs are available on your base.

**You can also visit:**

- **University of Maryland University College:** [www.umuc.edu/military/](http://www.umuc.edu/military/)
- **Troy University:** [www.troy.edu/military](http://www.troy.edu/military)
- **University of Phoenix:** [www.phoenix.edu/colleges\\_divisions/military.html](http://www.phoenix.edu/colleges_divisions/military.html)
- **Central Texas College:** [military.ctcd.edu/index.htm](http://military.ctcd.edu/index.htm)





“ After spending eight years with the 220th Transportation Company, and deploying twice to Iraq, I am now living in Tokyo as a full-time student at TUJ on the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The Post 9/11 GI Bill is an amazing benefit for former service members and their families, enabling veterans to achieve their educational goals with minimal cost.

Since I came to TUJ in 2012, I have had the wonderful experience of working closely and networking with expert faculty in International Affairs, Political Science, and Asian Studies, all of whom take an active interest in students' educational goals and career ambitions.”



**Jharrod Meade-Frazier**  
Senior, GI Bill Student

## Frequently Asked Questions about GI Bill and Veterans Benefits

### **Can I change from SOFA status to a student visa?**

Yes, you can. If you are separating in Japan, please consult your admissions counselor for more information on the transition to TUJ.

### **My GI Bill doesn't cover 100% of school costs. Can I get loans or financial aid?**

Yes. American citizens and green card holders are able to use federal financial aid.

### **Can I transfer my GI Bill benefits to my child?**

Yes, it is possible for veterans or active military personnel to transfer their educational benefits to their children/dependents. The GI Bill Certificate of Eligibility (COE) needs to be issued in the student's name. Contact your VA office to find out how to transfer benefits.

For more information:

[www.tuj.ac.jp/ug/gibill](http://www.tuj.ac.jp/ug/gibill)



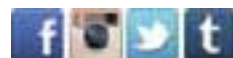


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## Mastering mass transit in the Land of Morning Calm

You can get almost anywhere on the Korean Peninsula with minimal effort and for a very reasonable price via public or private transportation. Whether by train, taxi, bus, plane or your own privately owned vehicle, there is an adventure out there with your name on it. Here are the basics for getting started.

South Korea's mass transit system is a nearly seamless combination of planes, trains, buses and taxis that can get you within a short walk of nearly any destination, while not having to worry about parking or what might happen to your POV. Seoul is the central hub for domestic and international travel.

### Travel by Train

Korea's trains are a great alternative to air travel. They offer many more destinations and traveling times than airlines. Add in the time and money spent getting to and from airports and it makes even more sense. Similarly, time, cost and destination should be the three deciding factors for which of Korea's three basic types of trains to use.

The fastest and most expensive

is the Korean Train eXpress. KTX trains normally run at speeds up to 300 kilometers per hour (186 mph). KTX pricing on tickets was originally designed to provide an option halfway between airfares and the lower priced trains. It is still a fast and economical way to travel between major cities in Korea. The KTX is limited to major cities, so you may have to get creative depending on your final destination.

The Gyeongbu (Kyoungbu) Line starts in Seoul and ends in Busan (Pusan). The Honam Line passes through Seoul (Yongsan Station) and ends in either Gwangju (Kwangju) or Mokpo. The standard fare to Busan on the Gyeongbu Line is about 55,500 won (about \$55). The fare on the Honam Line to Gwangju is around 38,400 won. (Special compartments are 140 percent of the basic fare.) KTX fares are 15 to 35 percent higher than the Saemaedul trains – the next lower level of service.

Saemaedul trains offer a wider range of schedules and destination choices. The KTX may get you from Seoul to Busan lickety-split, but its schedule is limited and it doesn't stop at many popular

### Online help for getting around Korea

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Train how-to information, maps, routes, schedules, booking: [info.korail.com/mbs/english](http://info.korail.com/mbs/english)

Bus zones, numbers, stops, fares: [english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TR/korea\\_terminal.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TR/korea_terminal.jsp)

Subway how-to information, maps, stops, fares: [english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TR/TR\\_EN\\_5\\_1\\_4.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TR/TR_EN_5_1_4.jsp)

Plane flights, schedules, booking: [www.koreanair.com/local/na/gp/eng/tp/sd/eng\\_tp\\_sd.jsp](http://www.koreanair.com/local/na/gp/eng/tp/sd/eng_tp_sd.jsp)  
[kr.flyasiana.com/C/en/main.do](http://kr.flyasiana.com/C/en/main.do)

Hi-Pass On Board Unit (in Korean): [shopping.daum.net/main.daum](http://shopping.daum.net/main.daum)

tourist destinations. Saemaedul trains offer amenities such as a dining car, restrooms and “tuk-shil,” or special cars.

Mugunghwa trains are yet another step down in both speed and luxury. They cost less than the Saemaedul and stop at even more locations. When riding the Mugunghwa it's well worth it to pay extra for a special car, because a standard-car ticket on a heavy travel day will likely have you standing in the aisles.

Korea's trains are comfortable

and offer a great way to mingle with the locals. Contact your local TMO for tickets.

Don't forget to try the AREX for a quick train ride from Incheon Airport or Gimpo Airport to Seoul Station. The fare is comparable to that of buses, and much cheaper than taking a taxi. Incheon to Seoul should be just about 8,000 won, or just around \$8.

### Travel by Subway

Several cities operate subway systems. Almost all signs are in



Korean and English. The Busan subway system has three lines. Daegu, home to Camp Walker, Camp Henry and Camp George (neighboring Camp Carroll), has two subway lines. Gwangju, in the southwest, is a great place to visit if you are looking to relax, and it also has two subway lines.

Incheon's subway system is connected to Seoul's. It also has an additional line. From Seoul, the No. 1, or Dark Blue, line goes to Incheon, connecting to the Incheon No. 1 line at Bupyeong (Pupyong.)

The subway in the Seoul metropolitan area is run by the Seoul Subway System. Lines connected to it from outside the city are controlled by Korean National Railroad. There are now 14 or 15 subway lines in or around Seoul, depending on how you count..

**No. 1 (Dark Blue) Line:** Trains on this line run from Soyosan, just north of Dongducheon (Camp Casey), to either Incheon or Seodongtan. The line separates at Guro (Kuro) Station. Those going to – or coming from – areas near either Osan Air Base or Camp Humphreys will need to be on the Seodongtan portion of the line. There are some trains that do not start or finish at the “terminal stations” listed on maps, so check the destination listed on the front and sides of the train.

**No. 2 (Green) Line:** This line forms a great circle around some of the best places to go in Seoul. If you are shopping you can get to either the Dongdaemun (Tondaemun) or Namdaemun (at City Hall Station) market areas. You can get to a number of universities or the Jamsil Sports Complex on this line as well. Check the map well before boarding; going the wrong direction full circuit will make for a very long ride to your destination.

**No. 3 (Orange) Line:** The line runs from Ogeum, south of the Han River, to Daehwa out in the “Western Corridor.” It will get you to Jongno 3 Ga, where there are some good bookstores

and shops selling musical instruments. It will also take you to the Express Bus Terminal and Apgujeong, a popular gathering area for a night on the town.

**No. 4 (Blue) Line:** Trains run from Northern Seoul's Danggogae to Oido, south of Seoul. This line has stops for shopping at both Myongdong and Namdaemun (Hoehyeon Station). It also stops at Seoul Station. The four stops south of Seoul Station – Sookmyung Women's University, Samgakji, Shinyongsan and Ichon – are all near entrances to Yongsan Garrison.

**No. 5 (Violet) Line:** The line runs from either Sangildong or Macheon to Banghwa via Gangdong. Gimpo (Kimpo) Airport is on this line, two stops before Banghwa.

**No. 6 (Ochre) Line:** This line runs from Bonghwasan to Eungam. The stops at Itaewon and Samgakji are located next to Yongsan Garrison.

**No. 7 (Olive) Line:** Running from Jangam to Onsu this line has notable stops at Grand Children's Park and the Express Bus Terminal.

**No. 8 (Pink) Line:** The line runs from Amsa to Moran. There are stops at Jamsil (Lotte World) and also at Garak Market (Garak Shijang)

**No. 9 (Dark Yellow) Line:** The line runs from Gaehwa to Shinnonhyeon. However, the major stops are just one or two stations from the terminal. At one end is Gimpo Airport and at the other is the Express Bus Terminal.

**Bundang (Yellow-Orange) Line:** Bundang is a newer commuter city with plenty of shopping and interesting places to see. Starting at Gangnam, the new Bundang Line, or Sinbundang, will eventually end up at Suwon.

**Jungaang (Light Blue) Line:** This line runs from Yongsan Station in central Seoul to the eastern reaches of Gyeonggi Province ending at Yongmun. This line is handy for getting out of town for sledding and other

*Continued on page 34*



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# Northern Mariana Islands

The Northern Marianas are a chain of 14 island pearls running in a lazy north-south arc in the western Pacific. Saipan, Tinian and Rota islands, each unique, offer a perfect balance of comfortable amenities, lush flowered jungles and sparkling clear water.

Saipan's turquoise lagoon hides wrecks and remnants of the Pacific War and is a snorkeler's and scuba diver's paradise found. Towering cliffs and a pristine jungle lures hikers with caves still filled with the detritus of a war now remembered by year round ceremonies held at inspiring peace memorials of many nations. World class golf is to be found on five 18-hole and two 9-hole courses, all overlooking majestic seaside cliffs or the placid western lagoon.

A trip to the "Last Command Post" of the Japanese Imperial Army or the Suicide Cliff where thousands tragically leapt to their deaths or the old Japanese Jail where aviatrix Amelia Earhart was thought to be held captive are worthwhile and exciting attractions. Learn more about the rich history of the islands at the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture.

Tiny Managaha island inside Saipan's lagoon is a must-see and boasts crystal waters ideal for first-rate snorkeling and water sports. The cavernous Grotto is rated as the #2 scuba dive anywhere in the Pacific, and numerous shore dives await the eager diver. Underwater wonders of the Saipan lagoon can also be enjoyed in the air-conditioned comfort of the Submarine Deepstar. Enjoy the wonders of the deep through large viewpoints, beautiful corals, schools of tropical fish in their natural environment, and historical sunken wrecks.

For the adventure-minded, see the sites with Marianas Trekking. Bike down from Suicide Cliff, trek to Forbidden Island, or

kayak to a secret snorkeling spot, then have lunch right on the beach. See beautiful views of the north coast of Saipan as you explore dirt roadways, hidden trails, and a secluded beach via All Terrain Vehicle.

Alongside all of Saipan's amazing 4,000-year history and prehistory resides a fringe of new, modern resort hotels, restaurants and shopping venues worthy of a spot on 5th Avenue. In the heart of the main tourist district, enjoy shopping at DFS Galleria, Joeten Shopping Center, Isla Moda, and other fine stores.

Much more awaits the happy visitor to Saipan. Tinian, the island closest to Saipan, is home to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino,

Micronesia's only full scale international standards gaming casino. An opulent, marble lined resort houses the casino, luxury accommodations and many other amenities.

As in Saipan, history abounds on Tinian. From prehistoric stone monoliths called Taga Stones to the very runways and loading docks that put atom bombs aboard the Enola Gay to stop WWII, Tinian is all that, and more. By inexpensive commuter plane, or high tech jet-powered sea cruising catamaran, Tinian lies only minutes away from Saipan and is worthy of a trek to see its varied wonders. Tinian was an agricultural engine for the NKK, a Japanese company that marketed refined sugar and rum during the years before and during WWII. Abandoned Shinto shrines, canons in caves and ruins in the jungle tell the tales of that storied past.

Rota Island is also accessible via air from Saipan or Tinian and boasts an eco-tourism adventure second to none. Charming, small scale, visitor friendly hotels or a top rate golf resort hotel await scuba divers, birdwatchers, lovers on secluded honeymoons and visitors who just want a relaxed and beautiful place to

see and explore. The diving is some of the best in the world.

For the avid athlete, Saipan, Tinian and Rota are an athlete's paradise year round. Home to the Saipan Marathon, Tagaman triathlon, XTERRA Saipan Championship and many more competitions. The Spring Flame Tree Arts Festival and May Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden highlight a calendar of annual festivals.

The northernmost 3 islands in the chain rest at the heart of the newly designated Marianas Trench Marine Monument, one of the world's largest environmentally protected areas.

White sand beaches, scuba diving with visibility measured in hundreds of feet, native dancing, jungle tours, duty-free shopping, fine dining, parasailing and relief from the Japanese era all are within your reach when visiting the Northern Marianas. The islands sport Commonwealth status as a protectorate of the United States. Her residents are citizens of the U.S.; the official languages are English, Chamorro and Carolinian. A U.S. Postal service and phone system is in place, along with high speed, worldwide internet connectivity. The economy is U.S. Dollar based.

Come and explore the perfect island getaways in the Northern Marianas.

A modern international airport gets you there from anywhere on the planet.

Photos contributed by Leah Wain



# Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

Micronesia's only international gaming establishment  
TINIAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



[www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com)

Continued from page 30  
winter adventures.

### Gyeongui (Aquamarine)

**Line:** This line begins in Seoul and ends in Munsan, out in the western corridor. It is a great line to use to explore that area.

### Sinbundang (Brown) Line:

Some 17 kilometers long, the new Sinbundang line is essentially a shortcut from Gangnam Station down to the Bundang/Seongnam area, which runs from Gangnam Station in Seoul to Jeongja Station in Bundang, with Yangjae, Yangjae Citizen's Forest, Cheonggyesan and Pangyo stops in between. Taking the Bundang (yellow-orange) Line does indeed get you to the same area, but it takes longer.

### Travel by Taxi

In Korea, you will find taxis very convenient and inexpensive compared to many other places in the world. There are two main types of taxis in Korea: the "ilban" (basic) taxi and the "mobom" (deluxe) taxi.

The ilban taxi starts at 3,000 won (about \$3), while the mobom starts at 5,000 won. Rates start from the basic fare and go up either by the distance traveled or the time elapsed. Fares of the ilban taxis increase by 20% between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. You can catch cabs at a taxi stand or hail them on the street. During rush hour or in bad weather expect a long wait.

If you are near a base, or if the driver works near a base, you should not have much problem getting to your destination. If not, you can get "taxi cards" from the USO. A bilingual staff member will write your destination in Hangul (Korean) for the driver. Make sure you get one for the way back as well.

Tipping the driver is not normally expected in Korea. However, it's also not customary to expect small change after paying. On the other hand, drivers who often work around military bases are more likely to expect a small gratuity.

Mobom (deluxe) taxis are



normally dark in color and have a yellow sign on top. There is no late-night fare differential. Many of the Mobom taxis have stands at major hotels, subway and bus stations.

Many of the drivers speak some English or at least enough to get you to and from well-known locations. However, it would be wise to look for taxis with a "translation services available" sticker on the side.

It is also wise to ensure that the driver is using the meter when you start your trip, unless you have (willingly) agreed upon a set price prior to starting your ride.

SOFA personnel will find Exchange taxis available on base. (Some bases have a limited number of off-base taxis authorized to come on the bases.) These on-base taxis are very convenient, and make life easier in and around bases. The prices are higher than the ilban taxis. However, they do accept dollars and the drivers can answer some questions about the area.

### Travel by Car

Driving around Korea has become much easier with GPS systems available in both English and Korean. At the same time, improvements to the highway system have made driving less of a nightmare than it once was.

If you plan on spending time on the highways, consider shelling out a little money for the Hi-Pass system to pay your tolls. Hi-Pass allows you to pay the tolls without having to stop and count

out the money each time.

Hi-Pass requires an "On Board Unit" (OBU) and a Hi-Pass Card. The OBU can be purchased at prices ranging from less than the equivalent of \$20 online and at highway business offices, shopping malls and even at some highway rest stops.

The Hi-Pass card can be purchased and charged at many of the same locations. There is a 5,000 won deposit required when the card is purchased, and the card can be charged and recharged in amounts from 5,000 won to 500,000 won.

### Travel by Bus

Bus travel is reliable and the schedule is more convenient than the trains. Some expressways have bus-only lanes for peak travel times such as weekends, rush hour and major holidays such as Lunar New Year and Chusok. The bus companies also run extra buses on such peak days. One bus fills up and pulls out, and another immediately pulls in for more passengers.

All major cities and most towns in Korea have a main bus terminal. Transportation to other cities is possible via the "kosok bus" express system. In Seoul, the main hub is the Gang-Nam Express Bus Terminal. Express buses do not have toilets on board, but they do make frequent stops at rest areas. Seats are comfortable enough for travel, but are not quite as roomy as those on a Greyhound cruiser.

Some buses run between

cities on secondary roads. These dependable inter-city buses make plenty of stops, making them an interesting way to see Korea. There are also buses that run from Incheon International Airport to key cities such as Gunsan (Kunsan).

Each city has its own bus system. Ask people who might know or check with your local Morale, Welfare and Recreation center. They should have information on bus routes, points of interest and other matters.

In Seoul, there are four different color-coded bus systems (bus numbers indicate specific routes):

Blue buses serve major trunk roads between downtown Seoul, its outskirts and sub-centers. Routes are usually direct and efficient, with few detours from main roads.

Green buses run between blue bus routes and subway lines, usually using less direct routes. Their terminal stops will be in adjacent zones.

Red buses serve wide areas





and connect the outlying suburbs with Seoul's sub-centers.

Yellow buses move through the downtown areas and shopping districts of the metropolitan area. They usually follow circular routes in limited zones.

Bus fares, like train and subway fares, are based on the distance travelled. Transfer discounts are also available, but only when using a T-Money Card rather than buying tickets for each ride. This rechargeable card is the easiest way to pay for bus, subway and even taxi travel in and around Seoul. It can be purchased from subway or bus ticket vendors and machines. The basic charge is 2,500 won (about \$2.50), and it can be recharged with up to 90,000 won.

As an example, if you take local buses and subways five times within 10 kilometers in 30 minutes or less and pay the fares with T-Money, it will cost only 1,050 won because the five rides are counted as a single trip.



Many of the taxis are linked to a system which provides free interpretation to foreign passengers.



Buses are some of the most reliable means of transportation in Korea.

However, if you pay cash for tickets following the same itinerary, it will cost 5,750 won. To get this transfer discount, scan the card on the sensor at the front of the bus when getting on and then use the sensor at the rear door when exiting the bus.

Seoul Metropolitan Subway recently replaced many of its ticket windows with automated vending machines. You can use them to purchase tickets as well as buy and recharge T-Money Cards. The vending machines are easy to use and have instructions

in Korean, English, Chinese and Japanese. Subway staff is also available at stations to help.

### Travel by plane

Roundtrip domestic airfares between major cities should cost less than the equivalent of \$200 depending on when you travel and which airline you use. Travel agencies can often save you money on airfares, while tour packages may reduce lodging costs.

Some airports, especially those in smaller cities such as Kunsan, offer few flights and destinations.

(To get to Seoul you may have to go to Jeju.) You may find that other means of travel better suit your needs.

Airports are far from downtown areas which, along with security checks, can increase travel time significantly. Travel plans should include the time it takes to get to, from and through an airport.

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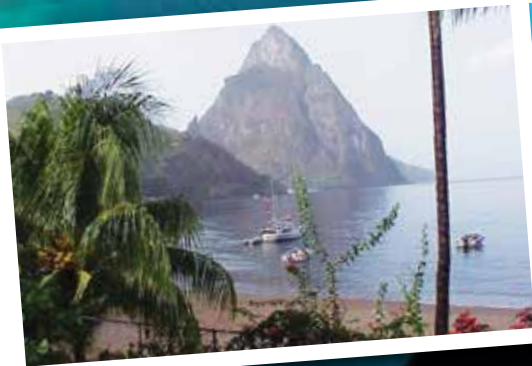


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# Buying and registering a POV

The roads of Korea may offer plenty of adventure, but first get a car that will get you where you want to go and back.

To drive a privately owned vehicle (POV) in Korea, you need a United States Forces Korea driver's license. Active-duty personnel, civilian employees and family members age 18 and older are potentially eligible. The expiration date of USFK licenses depends on the person's "date eligible to return from overseas," or DEROS. For military personnel, licenses are normally good for two years. For Department of Defense civilians, it's up to five years.

U.S. military commands in Korea have varying policies regarding who may purchase vehicles. The registration process also varies. Before making plans, check your local restrictions. Next, determine your needs and budget as well as such variables as length of duty tour and planned frequency of travel.

Insurance is required prior to registering a vehicle with USFK. When purchasing, discuss your needs in depth with an agent. It's best to have more than the minimum required coverage.

Finding vehicles to purchase is the easy part. On U.S. military bases, there is always someone PCS-ing out. Many are usually trying to sell their vehicles shortly before departing. These vehicles often have a sign in the window indicating their features and price. Many bases have designated areas for these vehicles, which are often called "lemon lots." This can be more than a mere moniker.

The risk of buying a used vehicle from a fellow SOFA-status person is that the vehicle may have had numerous owners, many of whom may have done minimal maintenance because they only planned to use it for a short time. Inspect it carefully. There is more to check than the required safety inspection items. (See box)

Many bases have Auto Hobby Centers that will inspect the vehicle for a nominal sum before you buy it and advise you of the car's defects before you hand over your hard-earned cash. The centers can also conduct the official safety inspection and issue the certificate needed before you can register the vehicle.

The benefit of buying a used vehicle from a SOFA-status seller is that these vehicles are easy to register. Go with the current owner and registration to the Pass & Vehicle Registration office.

You will need:

- **Vehicle insurance policy**
- **USFK 134 EK driver's license (POV)**
- **Valid safety inspection**

At Pass & Vehicle Registration, complete the application for registration and bill of sale. The office will cancel the old registration and transfer ownership. An authority will place a decal on the windshield, but the license plates remain the same.

A more reliable option is Exchange New Car Sales. Vehicles come with an import license and bill of sale. Take the bill of sale to an O-4, GS-12, NF 4 grade or higher. Have that person sign as a witness. Take the documents to the registration office and fill out a registration application. The office will issue a decal and license plates. New vehicles don't require a safety inspection. You're ready to roll in a vehicle with a warranty, U.S. specs and an English-language owner's manual.

Unfortunately, your "follow-on" orders may not include vehicle shipment. It may also be difficult to get what your car is worth if you

## On-base vehicle registration offices:

### YONGSAN GARRISON

**CAMP KIM**  
BLDG. 1230; TEL: 724-4811  
MON – FRI: 8:30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

### OSAN AIR BASE

BLDG. 765; TEL: 784-4489  
MON – THURS: 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.  
FRI: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

### CAMP HUMPHREYS

BLDG. 544; TEL: 753-6609  
MON – FRI: 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

### CAMP WALKER

BLDG. 1712; TEL: 768-6108  
MON – FRI: 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

### CAMP CARROLL

BLDG. 946; TEL: 765-8575  
MON, WED, FRI: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.  
TUE: 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.  
THURS: 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

### CAMP CASEY/AREA I

BLDG. 2440, MAUDE HALL  
TEL: 730-4472  
MON – FRI: 9 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.;  
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### KUNSAN AIR BASE

BLDG. 590; TEL: 782-4900  
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must leave it behind.

Buying a used car off base is more complicated. Accompany the seller to the local government office (Yongsan Ward office in Seoul, Pyeongtaek City office in the Camp Humphreys area) and deregister the vehicle. They will issue a bill of sale as well as a new license plate. Take it to Pass & Vehicle Registration on base with the same documents needed for a used vehicle purchased on base. They will issue a decal.

If you buy a new car off base, the dealer will provide you with a manufacturer's certificate. It's written in Korean, but ensure your name is correctly typed in English. In the space requiring your KID (Korean ID) number, put your Social Security number. If there are mistakes on the form, Pass & Registration will not issue a decal.

When delivery of the new car is made, a temporary license plate will be placed on the vehicle. The temporary plate is normally valid for 10 days, but may be valid for up to 30 days. You may be subject to fines if you fail to complete the registration process within that time. At the registration office, you will need:

- **Manufacturer's certificate**
- **Temporary license plate**
- **Valid insurance policy**
- **USFK driver's license**

Under new rules, license plates for a new car bought off base or one that has been deregistered must be issued by a Korean governmental authority.

## Where to purchase a vehicle

There are many car dealers in Korea anxious for military business, one of which is even located on base. Exchange New Car Sales ([www.encs.com/default.aspx](http://www.encs.com/default.aspx)), which has served the military community abroad for more than 45 years, offers the finest Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Ford, Lincoln and Harley-Davidson vehicles to

*Continued on page 44*

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## CAR ACCESSORIES YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER

### English/Korean GPS Navigation System : HN700



Driving in a new place with unfamiliar driving rules and road signage can be daunting. An English/Korean GPS navigation system can help guide you to your driving destination in English. All you need to know is the exact name of the POI (point of interest) or the address of your destination. Model HN700, which is sold at Exchange stores, includes the locations of U.S. military bases as 33 additional POIs that are not available in conventional GPS systems with local Korean maps. This GPS system is customized for the US military community – it is a must-have item.

### Driving Recorder : AXB610



You may not be worried about a car accident now, but these days it is common practice in South Korea for vehicles to be equipped with driving recorders. They can provide legal protection and very important proof for determining who is at fault in the event of a car accident. Police and car insurance companies routinely request recordings from these devices. Some car insurers offer discounted rates for vehicles with driving recorders, as the devices can reduce their work load. Sometimes these recorders can even assist you as a witness to an accident.

Before installing a driving recorder, you should determine what type is the best for your vehicle. The 1Ch model has one simple forward-viewing camera that plugs into a vehicle's cigarette lighter, but if you want the 2Ch model with front and rear cameras you will need to have it installed at a repair shop. The 2Ch model connects directly to the vehicle battery (or an additional external battery) because most 2Ch users want a recorder that continues to operate while their vehicle is parked. Even damage that occurs when a vehicle is parked and unattended, can be recorded by the driving recorder.

If you decide on the 1Ch model, make sure the unit is expandable to the 2Ch model in case you change your mind later. The memory card in a driving recorder continually records and deletes footage, while saving any accident footage in a separate "Event" file folder when it detects an impact. Professionals recommend formatting the SD card in every three to six months to prolong its longevity. Selected Exchange stores sell HD driving recorders with English-language software and manuals that make adjusting recording settings easy.



### External Battery with Car Jump Starter : ABT400J

This is a very new and useful product. You can use it to charge your mobile phone or tablet PC – but when your vehicle battery is exhausted – you can also use it to jump start your vehicle with the handy clamps and cable that are included in the package. You will no longer need to wait for special emergency roadside assistance in such cases. And since staff from Korean companies that provide such services need to be signed on military installations, this item is particularly useful on as well as off base. You can find this amazing package in main Exchange stores from the end of August 2014.



### Headrest Mount for Tablet PC : IK-2030

This device was created with the kids in the backseat in mind. Let's face it, sometimes that tablet PC can be a welcomed distraction for young passengers when a little peace and quiet is needed in the car. With this device, just put your tablet PC on the headrest mount and show backseat passengers cartoons, movies or whatever else keeps the peace. There are many similar items available locally but the Exchange offers the safest model with adjustable height and angle so two to three kids can view one tablet.

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military personnel stationed, or on TDY assignment, abroad for at least 30 days, through independent sales representatives on 11 bases in Korea.

There are others with close connections to the military overseas, among them International Motors ([military.volvocars.com/Korea](http://military.volvocars.com/Korea)), selling Volvos at discounted prices in Seoul across from Gate 37 of Yongsan Army Garrison (02-792-9393) and in Pyeongtaek-City near Osan Air Base (031-663-2604) across from the Asia Hotel and next door to the Pizza Club; BMW Military Sales ([www.bmw-military-korea.com](http://www.bmw-military-korea.com)) (02-755-7301), near Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, serving the military in Korea since 1984 through Kolon Motors; and Hansung Motor ([www.hansung.co.kr/Eng/MSP.asp](http://www.hansung.co.kr/Eng/MSP.asp)) (02-709-3800), offering Mercedes Benz.

But if you are not looking for a new luxury car to see you through your deployment in Korea, and want something a cut above what can be found in a base lemon lot, here are some dealers who want your business:

### Yongsan Garrison Area

**Mr. Bill's Cars** ([www.mrbillscars.com](http://www.mrbillscars.com)) (02-798-6222) is actually located by Gate 20 on Camp Coiner, though its inventory is kept a 20-minute drive away. The dealer, which has been named Best of the Pacific by Stars and Stripes for 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012, gives its customers personal service, from finding a car to getting it purchased and registered. It keeps a complete record of inventory on its website.

**AceMotors** ([acemotors.net/default.asp](http://acemotors.net/default.asp)) (011-654-7777), located across the river from Yongsan near the Gayang Bridge, has been serving the foreign community since 1997. It claims to have more than 2,000 cars on its lot, from luxury to inexpensive, foreign to Korean made. The firm offers to help buyers from A to Z, from getting your driver's license to registering the car you buy and purchasing insurance. It even rents cars, short or long term, until you buy one of your own.

**Karstart Inc.** ([www.karstart.co.kr/](http://www.karstart.co.kr/)) (010-5742-5741) offers two ways to purchase a vehicle: from inventory or ordering one based on your requirements. It's easy-to-use website, which lists vehicles according to size and type, shows photos of the cars in its extensive inventory and quotes prices in dollars.

### Osan Air Base Area

**Sunny Auto Sales** (017-266-8000 or 031-667-0004) in Osan is a professional dealer of used cars. Ask for Sunny Park.

Hanmi Used Cars (017-202-8256) Ask for Tony.

### Camp Humphreys Area

**OMG Motors** ([sites.google.com/site/omgmotors/services/home/omg-motors-used-car-sales](http://sites.google.com/site/omgmotors/services/home/omg-motors-used-car-sales)) (031-655-7911), a self-styled foreign car specialist, is located less than half a mile from the main gate of Camp Humphreys. Though it started as a car repair facility, it has since branched out into used car sales. Ask for Lee, Sung Min

**Johnny's Used Cars** (010-536-3065). Ask for Johnny Kim.

**Craig's List** ([seoul.craigslist.co.kr/cta/](http://seoul.craigslist.co.kr/cta/)) is growing more popular as a way to find a used car in Korea. The well-known site lists vehicles put for sale by owners and dealers, and usually displays a photo of the car as well as basic details about it.

Another popular website for cars is **USFK Classifieds** ([usfk-classifieds.co.kr/](http://usfk-classifieds.co.kr/)) (010-8222-5573), a Yongsan area dealer which claims to cater specifically to U.S. Forces Korea. Its easy-to-use site offers looks at an inventory of early to late model cars priced in U.S. dollars, with more than 200 vehicles available at its consolidated dealership and with access to many more. The firm offers on-base pickup to the dealership and full repair services.



## Tips to avoid buying a lemon

- Bring a trusted mechanic to inspect the vehicle
- Use a checklist
- Check exterior for signs of repair
- Check interior for rust and body work
- Check hoses and fluid levels
- Warm up engine and check for smoke or noise
- Check high-mileage vehicle's timing belt
- Ask to see car maintenance log
- OR go to your base Auto Hobby Center for a pre-purchase inspection at rates starting around \$20.

## Road rules

Every place you drive there are local "rules" not found in driver's manuals and/or on license tests, but which should be learned for safety's sake. Here are some for Korea.

- Drive defensively. There are often more cars across a road than there are lanes. And at intersections, the traffic rules concerning lanes are sometimes merely guidelines.
- Don't get caught using bus lanes on expressways, which are marked off by a blue line. The fines are steep.
- The rule of thumb is that, in merging traffic, the vehicle in front has the right of way. So, in the face of a certain tendency toward aggressiveness by Korean drivers, it is good practice to yield even if you're first.
- Pedestrians and bicycles have the right of way over cars. You don't even have to hit anyone to get in trouble. If you scare someone on a bike and they fall, you are liable.
- Be particularly careful when driving in rural areas as people's homes exit directly on the street, and children often race out without thinking. The roads there are also very narrow and have no sidewalks, so yield at all times.
- Get physical landmark-type directions when driving somewhere new as few streets have names and most houses/businesses do not have addresses visibly posted.



## Websites worth bookmarking while in Korea



**Stripes.com** and **Korea.Stripes.com** are of course the most accessible sources of military and local military community news, respectively. More English- and Korean language newspapers can be accessed online via: [www.w3newspapers.com/south-korea](http://www.w3newspapers.com/south-korea)

**Buzz Korea** has a variety of bite-size nuggets of info on Korea travel, culture, sites and events via tweets, posts, videos and a few interactive bells and whistles. [www.ibuzzkorea.com/eng](http://www.ibuzzkorea.com/eng)

**Community Korea** lets English speakers sign up for language exchange classes, join community events and build cross-cultural friendships. This friendly new site is becoming increasingly popular with the military community. [www.communitykorea.com](http://www.communitykorea.com)

**Easy Korean Food** is for do-it-yourselfers, offering a plethora of Korean recipes for those who want to cook Korean food at home. [www.easykoreanfood.com](http://www.easykoreanfood.com)

**Eat Your Kimchi** is the brainchild of a Canadian couple determined to help foreigners acclimate to South Korea via an understanding of its pop culture. [www.eatyourkimchi.com](http://www.eatyourkimchi.com)

**ESL Korea** is intended for English teachers travelling the country, but also offers a wealth of info on Korean culture for all native English speakers. [www.eslsouthkorea.net/south-korea-culture.html](http://www.eslsouthkorea.net/south-korea-culture.html)

**Groove Korea**, as the name suggests, is guaranteed to help those in the know get their groove on, from arts and culture to news and nightlife. [groovekorea.com](http://groovekorea.com)

**Hike Korea** is a great little website for the serious and casual hiker alike to start researching their next walkabout in the Land of the Morning Calm. [www.hikekorea.com](http://www.hikekorea.com)

**Hostels:** Seeing South Korea on a shoestring budget is a better experience if you are well rested. In Korea you can find accommodations well below \$20 per person per night. [www.hostels.com/south-Korea](http://www.hostels.com/south-Korea)

**Hotels:** In every major city and resort area there are a number of hotels from which to choose. This is a good place to start looking. Choose a city and then check out the options and prices. [www.asiahotels.com/south-korea/cities-list](http://www.asiahotels.com/south-korea/cities-list)

**Korea 4 Expats** is a cornucopia of English-language information – from events and public transportation to business and daily life – for foreigners living in the ROK. [www.korea4expats.com](http://www.korea4expats.com)

**Life in Korea** is a great source for finding out more about the local scene – from sports, shopping, travel – even food. Just select a food type from “Grilled,” “Soups,” etc. for the pronunciation and specific descriptions of what you are about to enjoy. [www.lifeinkorea.com](http://www.lifeinkorea.com)

**lifeinkorea.com**

**Seoul Eats** is a comprehensive collection of restaurant reviews that lets users search and read about eateries by type of cuisine, location and price. Users can also post their own reviews. [www.seouleats.com](http://www.seouleats.com)

**Seoul Magazine**, though apparently not regularly updated, offers a wealth of articles on this city's culture, sites, fashion, food and more. [www.seoulselection.com/seoul](http://www.seoulselection.com/seoul)

**Shipitapo.com** helps ensure that online shopping is alive and well in Korea. [www.shipitapo.com/home.php](http://www.shipitapo.com/home.php)

**SMRT's** (Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit's) website provides details on the city's subway system including maps, fares, timetables – even commuter etiquette. Choose from five languages at the top of the homepage. [www.smrt.co.kr](http://www.smrt.co.kr)

**Temple Stay** is a way to get away from the rat race and find some inner calm by participating temple life. This experience is not for everyone, but for some it is a real vacation. [eng.templestay.com](http://eng.templestay.com)

**The Jeju Weekly** is more than this resort island's only English newspaper. It has comprehensive news and information on all things Jeju – from arts, culture and conventions to tourism, attractions and business. [www.jejuweekly.com](http://www.jejuweekly.com)

**The Korea Blog** is a well-honed collection of polished prose that offer valuable insights on all things Korea – travel, culture, art and more. [blog.korea.net/?p=6076](http://blog.korea.net/?p=6076)

**The Man in Seat 61** is a British creation devoted to travel by train, bus and ferry. As such, it is a portal to sites with this kind of travel and schedule info to and from, as well as within, South Korea. [www.seat61.com/SouthKorea.htm](http://www.seat61.com/SouthKorea.htm)

**10 Mag** is more than the sum of its parts with regularly updated events, ranging from high art and fun for the family to concerts, films and nightlife. [10mag.com](http://10mag.com)

**Virtual Tourist** offers a lot of valuable, up-to-date insights about a variety of locales – but few English-language sources rival its information on South Korea's nightlife! [www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/South\\_Korea/Nightlife-South\\_Korea-TG-C-1.html](http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/South_Korea/Nightlife-South_Korea-TG-C-1.html)

**Visit Korea** is the Korea Tourism Organization's official site. It is an inexhaustible source of detailed information on what The Land of the Morning Calm has to offer – attractions, natural beauty, hotels, travel, shopping and more. [english.visitkorea.or.kr](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr)

**Zen Kimchi** is for those who like exploring a country through its food – who are just looking for a good place to eat. It offers pithy restaurant reviews and info on food-related events and tours. [www.zenkimchi.com](http://www.zenkimchi.com)



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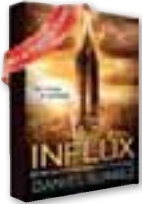
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## Law and order in the ROK

POLICE

While in the Republic of Korea, all U.S. military and civilians under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between Korea and America are subject to both U.S. and Korean laws as well as U.S. Forces Korea regulations. While many Korean laws are similar to those back home, some local laws, regulations and legal customs may catch you off guard.

Your base chain of command or legal office should be the first place you go with legal questions or concerns. But here are a few local laws and legal customs you might want to consider.

### Assaults

In Korea, verbal altercations (shouting matches) are not unusual, but shoving is not tolerated. Avoid being provoked into pushing a Korean at all cost. Under Korean law, this is an assault.

### Black marketing

U.S. regulations and Korean customs laws prohibit US personnel from transferring duty-free goods to persons not entitled to duty-free privileges except under limited circumstances. Duty-free goods are those imported into Korea by a SOFA person, brought in through the APO or obtained at post exchanges, commissaries, shoppettes and Class VI stores.

Transferring includes selling, bartering, pawning, loaning and giving a gift; however, gifts of duty-free goods are permitted, if the

gift is under \$50.00 and is not alcohol or tobacco, was not purchased from a commissary and is not a subsistence item. Service members may also be required

to show continued possession or lawful disposition of high-value duty-free purchases. If there is a question about a proposed transfer, prior approval from the command should be obtained.

### Counterfeit products

Many "brand name" items can be purchased cheaply in Korea, but they may be counterfeit; and if so, they may be confiscated when taken or mailed back to the US. Personnel on leave to China or Southeast Asian countries may be tempted to purchase "bargain" goods that may be seized by Korean customs officials if they are determined to be counterfeit upon re-entry to Korea. And there have been cases of Korean prosecutors seeking criminal indictment for smuggling when large quantities of counterfeit goods were involved.

### Criminal court proceedings

As a defendant in a criminal trial, a U.S. service member is not entitled to representation by a JAG attorney. The U.S. government will pay for the services of an English-speaking Korean attorney. The court will appoint an interpreter. A U.S. official will act as a trial observer to ensure that the service member receives all

the procedural safeguards to which he/she is entitled. The Department of Defense and the Department of State will be notified where it appears that the service mem-

ber's SOFA rights are not being granted.

### Drug stores

Korean drug stores and simi-

lar establishments are off-limits to US personnel. This restriction is imposed because some controlled substances under US law can be purchased without prescription in Korean drug stores.

### Drunk driving

Korean law concerning driving under the influence of alcohol is much stricter than US law. A blood alcohol percentage of 0.05 percent is a violation of Korean law. This is much stricter than the usual standard of 0.08 percent under most U.S. jurisdictions.

### Elderly people

Elderly people in Korea are treated with great respect and service members should make sure to treat them likewise. Violence or abuse of the elderly is a serious crime in Korea.

Police questioning U.S. constitutional law and Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice do not apply to the interrogation of SOFA persons by Korean officials. Specifically, although a suspect has a right to have an attorney present during questioning, the Korean government need not provide an attorney for the suspect during questioning. During questioning, persons under SOFA are entitled to the presence of an U.S. representative appointed by USFK. SOFA persons have an absolute right to refuse to make a statement; and they should be highly discouraged against signing any purported statement unless it has been translated into English.

A person subject to custody upon arrest (e.g., caught in the act for murder) may not be interrogated until both a U.S. representative and a lawyer representing the accused is present. Statements taken without their

presence are not admissible in court. Korean authorities also may not question an accused in custody after indictment, except about totally unrelated matters; even then, a U.S. Representative must be present.

### Traffic accidents

Traffic in Korea is different than in the US. It is not uncommon for children to play in the streets, people to cross the street outside a crosswalk without looking and drivers to do the unexpected. Under Korean law, drivers are responsible for the safety of pedestrians and other drivers. If a driver is involved in an accident, it will almost always be considered his/her "fault" and may be treated as a criminal offense.

In case of an accident not involving a fatality where the damage or injury is paid for, the Korean government will usually not press charges unless alcohol, fleeing the scene, gross negligence (extreme carelessness or recklessness) or another major traffic offense is involved. The command can assist the service member in making a settlement; and no action should be taken which could aggravate the Koreans.

If an accident occurs, the driver should stop immediately and not attempt to flee the scene. If the Koreans believe a driver has attempted to flee the scene, they are more likely to begin criminal proceedings. Anyone who is injured or may be injured should be transported to a hospital. The military police (MPs) should be notified immediately so that they can conduct their own investigation. If the driver cannot gain access to a telephone, he or she should ask the Korean police to call the MPs.

— United States Forces Korea

FOR NEWS ON EVENTS IMPACTING U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA, VISIT: [STRIPES.COM](http://STRIPES.COM)

# Understanding what SOFA means for you

The United States-Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement is an international agreement designed to serve the mutual interests of the U.S. and the ROK and to protect the basic rights of U.S. citizens who are subject to its provisions.

Personnel of the U.S. armed forces on active duty in Korea and their dependents are covered by the U.S.-ROK SOFA. U.S. civilians employed by, serving with or accompanying U.S. armed forces and their dependents are also covered by the U.S.-ROK SOFA.

Persons in Korea to perform contracts or render services exclusively for the U.S. armed forces are designated invited contractors or technical representatives. They and their dependents are afforded SOFA protections.

SOFA status personnel must abide by Korean laws except where the SOFA explicitly supersedes or abridges Korean laws. Examples are the waiver of passport and visa requirements for active duty military person-

nel and exemptions from Korean taxes on wages and salaries paid to SOFA status personnel by the U.S. government.

SOFA Article VII established the principal that SOFA status personnel are obliged to respect the laws of the Republic of Korea and to abstain from any activity inconsistent with the spirit of the agreement and, in particular, from any political activity

## SOFA Card

All U.S. Forces Korea personnel should carry an HQ USFK, SOFA Card (USFK FL 1EK) at all times. The SOFA Card is designed to assist USFK personnel in the event they become involved with Korean law enforcement officials. The ROK authorities have agreed in cases of apprehension, to promptly notify the USFK authorities in order for the apprehended person to communicate with a representative of the U.S. Government.

## Civil court jurisdiction

The Korean courts have civil jurisdiction over all USFK personnel regardless of nationality. USFK military and civilian em-

ployees and their dependents can sue and be sued in Korean civil courts in cases concerning breach of a lease, support of illegitimate children, failure to pay just debts and damages and injuries from an accident. A Korean civil court judgment generally can be enforced against the money and personal property of USFK personnel while in Korea or when relocated in the US.

However, Korean civil court judgments cannot be enforced if the cause of action arises out of the official duties of USFK personnel or if a claim was paid in settlement. Whenever an official Korean judicial document is received by USFK personnel on any civil action, they should immediately consult with a USFK legal assistance officer.

## Criminal jurisdiction

Your SOFA standing is not a Get Out of Jail Free Card. Korea has exclusive or primary jurisdiction over almost all offenses committed in Korea by U.S. service members. The U.S. has exclusive jurisdiction only when no crime has been committed under

Korean law; the U.S. has primary jurisdiction only in those limited instances when the alleged offense is solely against the property or security of the U.S., is solely against the person or property of another person covered by the SOFA or arises out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duty.

Unless an alleged offense falls within one of these exceptions, Korea has exclusive or primary jurisdiction even where the offense occurs on a military installation. The U.S. always requests the Korean government to waive jurisdiction in cases involving U.S. military members where Korea has primary jurisdiction. If Korea elects not to exercise jurisdiction or does not respond within a given time period the U.S. military may exercise jurisdiction. Korea is most likely to exercise jurisdiction over serious violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, etc.), serious black-marketing offenses, hit-and-run driving, and attempts to commit such offenses.

— United States Forces Korea



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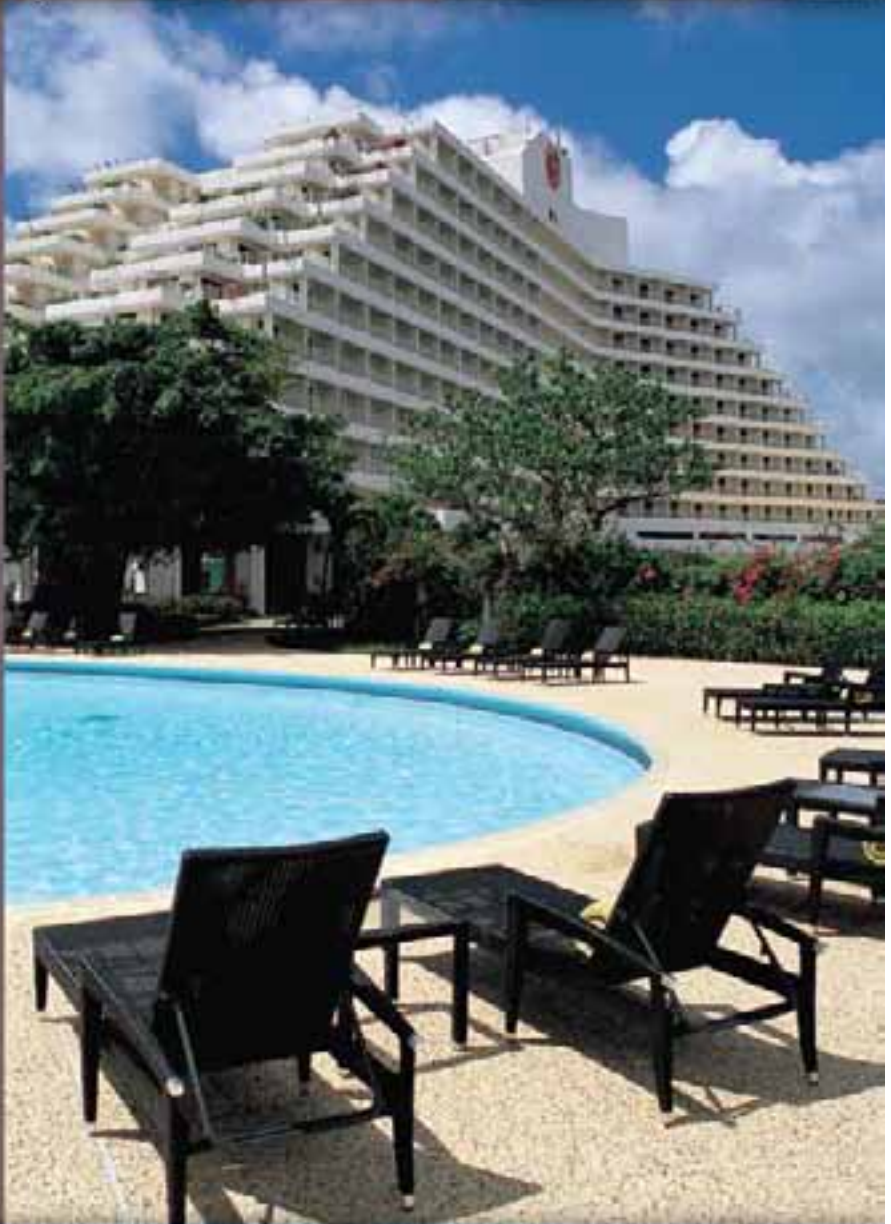
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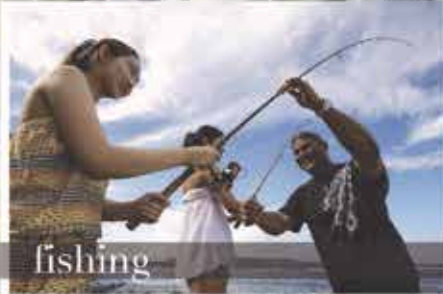
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# SEOUL SEARCHING

Meandering the right market for your needs

Some of it's pretty obvious — like Dongdaemun Market — and some is a little off the beaten path — like Gangnam's "Snowboard Street." Hopefully the following list will save you some time and money.

## Jewelry District

If you have someone to love and money to burn, head to Seoul's Jewelry District on Boseok-gil (street). It's in Jong-no (Jongno sam-ga Station, Line 3) so make a day of it and go to nearby Insadong for dinner.

The Jewelry District was established after the Korean War (1950-1953) and now crams in over 1,000 jewelry stores, some 300 design and manufacturing stores, and more than 20 licensed evaluators. You can get a good deal here — but you have to know your stuff.

## Antiques

Antiques are harder to come by in Korea than in most other countries — mostly because the country was obliterated during the war then achieved spectacular growth in the post-war decades. Nonetheless, if you know where to look and are willing to spend quite a bit of money, there are beautiful antiques to be had.

### Start at Insadong

It's often said that half of the country's antiques are here. In the market for a 17th century Jeoson Dynasty sword? You're in luck — there's a whole store of 'em. Traditional goods such as pottery, hanbok (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), and folk crafts could all make good gifts. To get to Insadong, take Exit 6, Anguk Station, Line 3; or Exit 5, Jongno sam-ga Station.

### Janganpyeong Antique Market

Go here if you'd like anything from old record players to furniture. There're about 150 stores. Even if you don't want to buy, this is a great market to stroll through — not nearly as many tourists as the other big markets in Seoul. Directions: Google it.

## Hwanghak dong Flea Market

Who doesn't like flea markets? With a little digging, you'll find something special here. Sift through piles of antiques, "ancient" artifacts, junk from the war — old watches, cameras and tacky jewelry — anything you can imagine. To get here go to Sindang Station, Line 2, 6, and exit 2.


### Antique furniture in Itaewon

This is where to go if you're in the market for foreign antiques. Furniture from Europe, China and Japan can be yours for millions of won. To get here, go to Itaewon Station and take Exit 4.

## Flowers

An easy way out if there ever was one: Buy your girlfriend some flowers for Christmas. Go the extra mile at Yangjae Flower Market, Gangnam Flower Market or Hansan Flower Market, where you can get custom made bouquets that will blow her away. Or do something special — buy some flowers wholesale and make the bouquet yourself. It won't be as nice, obviously, but it will be from the heart (and you'll save some money, too!).

### Yangjae Flower Market

Quite a few nurseries in and around Seoul come here to sell their fresh flowers. Their auction room is quite a sight in the early hours of the day. Available here are flowers wholesale and retail. To get there from Itaewon, take bus 470, 471 and 140. 



### ➤ Gangnam Flower Market

Across from the terminal building, Gangnam Flower Market is located on the third and fourth floors of the Daehae building. You can get any kind of flower here you can imagine. Also check Terminal Flower Market in the underground shopping mall connected to Express Bus Terminal Station.

### Hansan Flower Market

While not the biggest flower market in Seoul, its 50 or so shops will probably have what you need. Prearranged bouquets and the like are easy to come by here, as well as a large assortment of artificial flowers. The easiest way to keep your flowers alive in the winter — buy fake ones.

### Electronics

Seoul has one of the biggest electronics markets in the world. Yongsan Electronics Market has over 5,000 stores in about six main buildings selling computers, cameras, game consuls, appliances and cell phones. If it uses electricity — it's here.

Annoying for some people: Be prepared to bargain for whatever it is you're buying. Before you leave your house, price check on the Internet or risk getting fleeced. To get there, go to Yongsan Station, Line 1.

Another option is Techno Mart

— a 39-story shopping center known for its electronics stores and shaky foundation. Warning: In June, 17 middle-aged gym rats literally shook the building during a warm-up exercise, causing 500 people to flee. The mall hasn't been quite as robust since the incident. If you still want to risk it, go to Gangbyeon Station, Line 2, Exit 1,2.

### Behemoth malls

Korea does everything big — especially malls. If you love shopping, there aren't many places in the same league as Seoul.

### COEX Mall

COEX in Samseong-dong claims to be the largest underground shopping center in Asia. COEX is in every guidebook written for Seoul, so I won't waste more space here. To get there, take the subway to Samseong Station, Line 2, Exits 5,6.

### Lotte

Go to Lotte Department Store, then go ice skating, see a movie, go to Lotte World —the world's largest indoor theme park, a duty free shop and folk museum. If you have kids, or if you're a kid at heart, don't miss the daily Christmas Parade at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Adventure Theme Course.

### Yeongdeungpo Times Square

Having just opened in 2009, Yeongdeungpo

Times Square hasn't made its way yet into Seoul's shopping folklore in the same way that Lotte Department Store, COEX, Hyundai Department Store and Shinsegae have. It will. It's two times bigger than COEX Mall — making it the biggest shopping center in the capital (I think there's someplace bigger in Busan — a port city in the southeast, but media reports are scant). To get there, go to Yeongdeungpo Station, Line 1.

### Shinsegae Department Store

Shinsegae was Korea's first department store. Now it's the biggest chain in the country, with three locations in Seoul. This is the place to go if you're looking to pay full price for luxury brands. Directions: Google it to find the location nearest you.

### I'Park Mall

I'Park Mall makes up about half of the Yongsan Electronics Market in terms of the number of stores. There's mostly electronics, but you can also find furniture and clothes.

### Fashion

### Rodeo Drive

Known as Rodeo Drive, this area is a hotspot for the latest high-end fashions. There are independent shops, department stores, theaters, upmarket cafes and parks. Come here to spend and be seen. It's a 10-minute walk

from Exit 2, Apgujeong Station.

### Edae

The shopping area between the Ewha Train Station and Ewha Woman's University is a popular destination for young women, as most shops specialize in affordable fashion. There are plenty of cafes and restaurants, too. Go to Ewha Woman's University Station.

### Myeong-dong

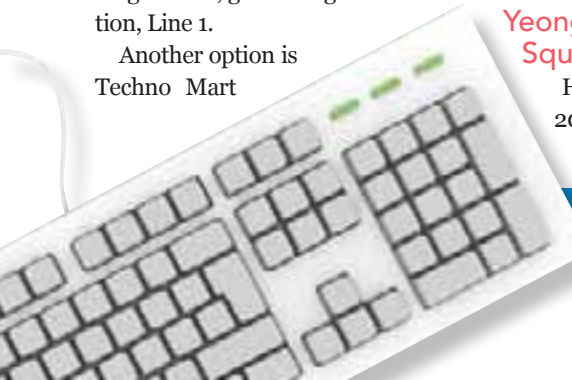
Myeong-dong is another of Seoul's shopping areas that's in pretty much every guidebook, so I'm not telling you anything you already don't know. Go to Euljiro 1-ga Station, Line 2, Exit 6 or Myeongdong Station, Line 4, Exit 6.



### Hongdae's Sunday Bazaar

Similar to the Edae shopping area, Hongdae is a hotspot for the young and beautiful (and those that can't afford to shop south of the river). Here you'll find a maze of small fashion shops, dozens of art galleries, cafes and restaurants. Find bargains at the weekly flea market. Go to Hongik University Station, Line 2, Exit 5.

Continued on page 56



FOR MORE ON WHERE TO SHOP IN THE ROK, VISIT:

**KOREA.STRIPES.COM**



Gwangjang Market



Dongdaemun Night Market

Continued from page 55

## Markets

What would a list on shopping in Seoul be without a couple of its markets?

### Gwangjang Market

This is the country's first-ever market — or that's what a marketing firm will have you believe. Here you can pick up some great Christmas presents: silk anything or satin hanbok (traditional dress). Go to Euljiro 4(sa)-ga Station, Line 2,5, Exit 8.

### Dongdaemun Night Market

A classic outing — even if you're not into shopping — is the Dongdaemun Night Market. Come here to find some bargains, take photos, drink, or wander through an endless maze of fashion stalls. Go to the hilariously named Doota Department Store to stay warm. Get off at Dongdaemun Station, Line 1, 4, Exit 14.

out of the way whilst sitting in your underwear in the comfort of your own home; save money and time by shopping online. Check out Gmarket, one of the biggest e-commerce sites in Korea (and the only one that's in English!) Check it out at [www.gmarket.com](http://www.gmarket.com).

Expats have been waiting for Ikea to open its doors in Korea for years. Rumors persist that the global titan has purchased — or is looking for — land in Paju, north of Seoul. But until that actually happens, you'll have to settle for [www.icompany.tv](http://www.icompany.tv) and [www.diykorea.biz](http://www.diykorea.biz).

### Toys "R" Us

This Toys "R" Us is the real deal. They have a brick-and-mortar location in Mok-dong, western Seoul and can be found online at [www.toysrus.co.kr](http://www.toysrus.co.kr).

— *George Kim, groovekorea.com*

### Online: Fake Ikea & Gmarket

Get your shopping







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# Shopping in Daegu

## Seomun Market

Seomun Market (formerly known as 'Daegu-Keun Market') of Daegu is steeped in history. Along with Pyeongyang Market and Ganggyeong Market, Seomun Market was one of the three main markets during the Joseon Dynasty. It is situated only 300m from the West Gate of the city, and is befittingly named 'Seomunsijang' or 'West Gate Market.'

Though the market has grown from its small size, the historic names of the alleyways such as Hongdukkaejeon and Daekjeon have remained unchanged. Current market specialties include fabric-related items like silk, satin, linen, cotton, knitted goods, and men's and women's wear.

There are also decent selections of crafts, silver products and dried seafood. While still

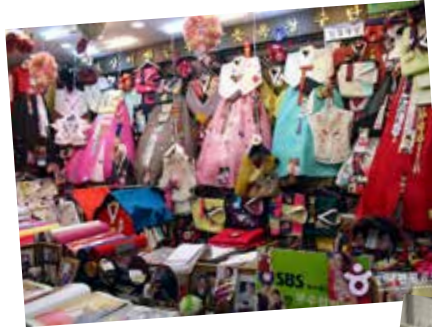
traditional in many respects, Seomun Market offers modern conveniences including a heating and cooling system and a large parking lot.

**Directions:** Seomunsijang Station (Daegu Subway Line 2), Exit 1. Go straight to Dongsan Intersection. Turn left and go straight for 300 meters. Turn left, and continue straight for 50 meters.

## English Street

English Street (E-Street) recently opened in the underground shopping mall at Beomeo Intersection in Daegu.

The street consists of 39 stores out of a total of 72 shops at the underground mall, including a convenience store, travel agency, food court, bookstore, coffee shop, and a traditional



tea house. Every store on E-Street has at least one store clerk whose native language is English.

The remaining 33 shops of the underground mall will become part of a Culture and Art Street, which will include culture centers for various countries, cultural items shops, and art education experience centers.

– Korea Tourism Organization



## Open market shopping tips

There are open markets as well as a multitude of indoor shops. The smells can be very strong. Contrary to what others believe, Korea can be a very expensive place to shop.

Be prepared to bargain with shopkeepers in the open markets and small shops. Do not be rude if the shopkeeper does not come down to your price. Compromise is the name of the game. Bargaining may not be appropriate in larger stores, or exclusive shops.

If prices are marked on items, the price is usually non-negotiable.

If you order something from a Korean shopkeeper, and it is not ready on the designated date, be patient. They may have given you an earlier date than possible, because they wanted to please you, not because it was realistic.

It is a good policy to put as little money down as possible for a deposit on any item ordered at a shop. If you decide you do not want the item, or are displeased with the item, you will generally not get your deposit back. Satisfaction is not guaranteed.

Many shopkeepers speak some English. Some do not. There is much room for miscommunication. If you are in a dispute with a vendor, avoid a shouting match or physical exchange. This would only exacerbate the situation.

– United States Forces Korea

# BEAUTY AND THE DMZ

A part of the 38th parallel guaranteed to inspire

After the Korean War ended in July 1953, a 250-kilometer-long, 4-kilometer-wide cease-fire zone known as the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was established across the middle of the Korean Peninsula at the 38th parallel north. In addition, a Civilian Control Line called “Mintongseon” was created bordering the DMZ to restrict access to that area of land. The mountains and valleys in this area were restored to a more pristine state and the area was once again opened to the civilians.

Bordering the Demilitarized Zone in the northeast area of the Republic of Korea, Yanggu County in Gangwon-do gives visitors a chance to experience the reality of the two divided nations on a DMZ tour. Some of the most well-known tourist destinations in Yanggu include the Eulji Observatory overlooking the iconic battle scene of the Punchbowl, the 4th Tunnel, the unspoiled natural environment of Dutayeon Pond, and the Korean Goral Restoration Center and Eco-Botanical Garden where visitors can come face to face with Korean gorals and the rare plants inhabiting the unscathed mountainous areas. Read on for a healing tour amidst the pristine nature of Yanggu!



a letter from home shells near the exit

## Nearby Attractions The Punchbowl at Haean Basin & Eulji Observatory

To visit Eulji Observatory and the 4th Tunnel, visitors are required to apply for admission at the Yanggu Unification Hall. You need to fill out an entry application and submit it with your identification.

We recommend looking around the War Memorial Museum in Yanggu before going to Eulji Observatory and the 4th Tunnel. The war memorial provides detailed information on the fierce battles that took place throughout the Yanggu region during the Korean War. The featured battlefields include Dosolsan Mountain, Daeusan Mountain, Bloody Ridge, the Punchbowl, Gachilbong District Battlefield, and Christmas Hill. The nine pillars standing at the entrance symbolize nine battles, while the slanted exhibition hall represents a collapsing building after being hit by a shell. In the pond filled with yellow irises sits a sobering statue of a soldier reading a letter from home. The exhibition halls feature displays explaining the details of the nine battles and exhibit the weaponry used at that time. The hallway lined with iron helmets hanging from the ceiling and the heaps of empty shells carpeting the ground beneath the tempered glass floor leading out of the exhibition hall are a final reminder of the cost of war.

It is approximately 7 kilometers from Yanggu Unification Hall to Eulji Observatory. Located on the ridge of Gachilbong Peak, the observatory can be reached by climbing up a steeply winding track. Before you get to Eulji Observatory, there is another observatory overlooking the Haean Basin, other-

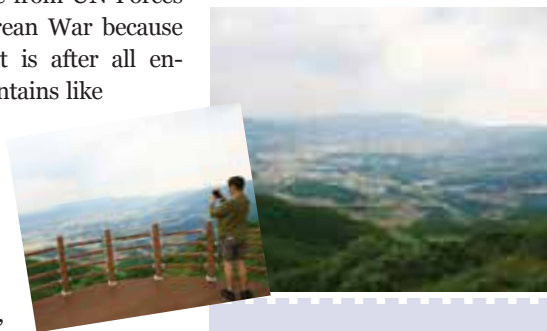


Dutayeon Pond

wise known as the Punchbowl. The name Haean, “hae” standing for “pigs” and “an” meaning “comfort”, originates from an old story that there were once so many snakes in this region that villagers started raising pigs to ward the snakes off. This basin’s other name, the Punchbowl, received its name from UN Forces during the Korean War because of its shape—it is after all encircled by mountains like Gachilbong, Daeusan, Dosolsan, and Daeamsan.

At the Eulji Observatory, visitors can watch a detailed video about the surrounding landscape and get a sense of the situation in North Korea along with details on the terrain on the northern side of the Military Demarcation Line. To the left of the observation platform, the ridge of Gachilbong Peak is visible, as well as Dosolsan and Daeusan mountains, where brutal battles took place during the Korean War. Beyond the glass window, you can even see the nearby mountains in North Korea such as Stalin Hill, Maebong Peak, Unbong Peak, and Ganmubong Peak. In particular, the mountain range faintly

visible in between Bakdalbong Peak and Ganmubong Peak is the famous Geumgangsan Mountain in North Korea. It is said that Geumgangsan Mountain can only be seen 80 days of the year, when the weather is the clearest, so try your luck in catching a glimpse of this splendid mountain range.



Hours: 09:00-16:00 (Tour is restricted after 4 p.m.)

Admission Fee: Adults 2,500 won / Children 1,300 won / Parking fee 2,000 won (The admission fee includes entrance to Eulji Observatory and the 4th Tunnel.)

Yanggu Culture & Tour Homepage: [www.ygtour.kr](http://www.ygtour.kr) (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

Inquiries: +82-33-480-2674 (Korean)

1330 Korea Travel Hotline: +82-2-1330 (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

## The 4th Tunnel

The 4th Tunnel is an underground passage dug by North Koreans beneath the Demilitarized Zone in preparations for a sneak attack on South Korea. A total of four tunnels have been discovered: the 1st Tunnel in Yeoncheon, Gyeonggi-do, the 2nd Tunnel in Cheorwon, Gangwon-do, the 3rd Tunnel in Paju, Gyeonggi-do, and the 4th Tunnel in Yanggu, Gangwon-do. The 4th Tunnel was unearthed in 1990, just 26 kilometers northeast of the town of Yanggu. The 4th Tunnel measures 1.7 meters in both width and height and is 145 meters below ground. The approximately 2 kilometer-long tunnel is located a mere 1.2 kilometers away from the Military Demarcation Line, and its discovery came as an unnerving shock to locals.

Before going into the 4th Tunnel, visitors must first drop by the Security Exhibition Hall. The tour begins with a viewing of a security video about the four infiltration tunnels. After the showing, you can look around the security exhibition hall, which displays a range of war relics along with information on the battles that took place in Yanggu during the Korean War and exhibits giving a detailed outline of the 4th Tunnel. On the way to the entrance of the 4th Tunnel, there is a grave and a statue of Second Lieutenant Hunt, a German shepherd dog that passed away after stepping on a landmine while helping with the initial discovery of the tunnel. Visitors are allowed to enter the 4th Tunnel under the guidance of soldiers. Walking about 300 meters down a separate access tunnel leads to the infiltration tunnel's entrance where you can ride the electrically powered carts to the Southern Limit Line (2 kilometers away from the Military Demarcation Line). Inside the tunnel, you can see the dynamite holes used by North Koreans and rails that had been used for carrying the excavated stones. The tour is not available during between 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.



Hours: 09:00-16:00 (Closed on Mondays)  
 Admission Fee: Adults 2,500 won / Children 1,300 won / Parking 2,000 won (The admission fee includes entrance to Eulji Observatory and the 4th Tunnel.)  
 Yanggu Culture & Tour Homepage: [www.ygtour.kr](http://www.ygtour.kr) (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)  
 Inquiries: +82-33-480-2674 (Korean)  
 1330 Korea Travel Hotline: +82-2-1330 (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

## The Natural Side of the DMZ, Dutayeon Pond

Dutayeon Pond was named after a Buddhist temple called Dutasa, which is said to have existed in the area around 1,000 years ago. To visit the pond, visitors need to apply for entrance either at Imokjeong Information Center or Bideuk Information Center. Most people choose to start their tours at Imokjeong Information Center as it is located near from the town of Yanggu. At the information center, you will receive a necklace with a location tracking device upon submitting the entry application along with proper identification. It is about 3.7 kilometers from the



Location tracking necklace given out after applying for entrance to Dutayeon Pond



Entrance to Dutayeon Pond Trekking Course

Imokjeong Information Center to the Dutayeon Pond parking lot. Visitors can choose to travel by foot, car, or bicycle. Bicycles are available for rent at Imokjeong Information Center for a fee of 4,000 won.

At the Dutayeon Pond parking lot are brochures offering detailed information on Dutayeon Pond and the surrounding area. In addition to these brochures, a tour guide service is available 11 times a day, and brief introductions are also available by the Dutayeon guide map near the entrance to the pond. There are no set courses for exploring the area around the pond, but we suggest, for a



Dutayeon suspension bridge

short yet culturally fulfilling trek, to begin at the parking lot, pass by the Yanggu Battle Memorial, the Sculpture Park, and then finally cross the stepping-stones and the suspension bridge to get to Dutayeon Pavilion, offering spectacular views of Dutayeon Pond. The estimated trekking time for this nice loop trail is about an hour and a half to two hours.

The Dutayeon Pond Trekking Course offers breathtaking scenery every step of the

way. From the stepping stones of Suipcheon Stream past the sculpture park, you can enjoy views of the clear mountain stream and Dutajeong Pavilion in the distance, and a stunning look at Suipcheon Stream flowing briskly through the imposing mountain terrain can be found as you stand in the middle of the suspension bridge.

There is also a unique experience zone along the trek. After the suspension bridge is a small area dedicated to educating visitors on the dangers and horror of landmines and claymores, as they were both used extensively in the Korea War, and remains of the former can

still be found in the area around the DMZ. The site is loaded with a series of simulation anti-personnel and anti-tank mines that recreate the sound made by their explosion if visitors walk in the radius of their blast zone. Visitors can also experience laying or detecting fake mines for themselves.

After the experience zone, you will pass a small pavilion overlooking Dutayeon Falls. At the pavilion is a sculpture of Hallyu actor So Ji-sub's hand reaching out for a handshake with a caption reading, "Walk not with your body, but with your mind."

Continued on page 60



Continued from page 59

Continue along to reach the most picturesque views in the area at Dutajeong Pavilion, which offers an impressive spectacle of swirling currents falling relentlessly down the cliff into the pond.

If you are a fan of So Ji-sub, don't forget to drop by the So Ji-sub Road 51k Dutayeon Gallery located at the entrance to Dutayeon Pond. The Hallyu celebrity first visited Yanggu for filming and ended up publishing a photo essay book titled "The Road of So Ji-sub" in 2010 covering the DMZ area of Gangwon-do. The 51 kilometer-long So Ji-sub Road extends throughout Yanggu County, and the 8 kilometer-long course leading from the gallery to the Dutayeon Pond is So Ji-sub Road Course 1. The gallery is packed with goods and photos of So Ji-sub, as well as clothing that the actor wore in movies and dramas.

**Address:** 8, Dutayeon-ro, Bangsan-myeon, Yanggu-gun, Gangwon-do (So Ji-sub Gallery)

**Inquiries:** +82-33-482-8449 (Korean / Imokejong Information Center)

**Hours:** 09:00-17:00 (09:00-16:00 from November to February)

**Admission Fee:** Adults 2,000 won / Children 1,000 won (Admission to the So Ji-sub Road 51k Dutayeon Gallery is free)

**Dutayeon Tour Homepage:** [www.ygtour.kr/duta](http://www.ygtour.kr/duta) (Korean only)

**1330 Korea Travel Hotline:** +82-2-1330 (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)



## An Encounter with Nature at the Korean Goral Restoration Center

Korean gorals ("sanyang" in Korean) have been designated as Natural Monument No. 217 and are a level-2 endangered wildlife species. Resembling goats in appearance, they reside in rugged mountainous areas like the demilitarized zones in Yanggu, Inje, and Hwacheon in Gangwon-do, and the Civilian Control Line and Woraksan Mountain in Chungcheongbuk-do. The Korean Goral Restoration Center was established to protect and propagate the endangered Korean gorals that were driven to the brink of extinction as a result of poaching and destruction of their ecosystem. The natural rock face area in Pallang-ri where the restoration center is located has been designated as a Korean goral sanctuary and features a variety of facilities including a farm, care center, recovery room for rescued gorals, and more.

As Korean gorals reside in the mountainous areas at altitudes above 600 meters, they are one of the most rarely encountered animals, but at the Korean Goral Restoration Center, visitors can see the gorals up close and personal. The center has over 20 gorals, most of which have been brought to the center either due to injury or donated by individuals or groups protecting this endangered species. There is a trail allowing visitors to take a walk around the grounds and see other animals living at the center.



**Address:** 266-60, Punch Bowl-ro, Dong-myeon, Yanggu-gun, Gangwon-do (Korean Goral Restoration Center)  
**Inquiries:** +82-33-480-2665 (Korean)  
**Hours:** 09:00 - 18:00 (Closed on Mondays)  
**Admission:** Free  
**Korean Goral Restoration Center Homepage:** [goral.or.kr](http://goral.or.kr) (Korean only)  
**1330 Korea Travel Hotline:** +82-2-1330 (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

## Korea's Unique Yanggu Eco-Botanical Garden

Yanggu Eco-Botanical Garden is located at the foot of Daeamsan Mountain. It is the northernmost eco-botanical garden in Korea. The garden is divided into three zones. The lower section sits at an elevation of 420 meters and is comprised of different themed gardens like the Story Flower Garden, Root Flower Garden, Indigenous Flower Garden, Succulent Garden, and more. The lower section also has a space science playground, a pond, an open-air theater, and a picnic square that provides a great place to take a stroll. The upper section is at an elevation of about 480 meters and can be reached by crossing the Chorong Bridge. The upper section is a place to learn more about forests with over 90 tree species and 170 flower species featured in a variety of zones like the Secret Forest, Meditation Forest Trail,



Marsh Eco Park, the Daeamsan Mountain area, and more. A 7.9 kilometer Eco Trail stretches from Yanggu Eco-Botanical Garden along Daeamsan Mountain climbing up to Solbong Peak and extending to Kwangchi Recreation Forest. You can also take the Eco Trail leading to Yongneup Swamp, which has been designated as a Ramsar wetland and is the highest moor in Korea.

**Address:** 169, No. 310-gil, Sumgol-ro, Dong-myeon, Yanggu-gun, Gangwon-do (Yanggu Eco-Botanical Garden)  
**Inquiries:** +82-33-480-2529 (Korean)  
**Hours:** 09:00-18:00 (Closed on Mondays)  
**Admission:** Free  
**Yanggu Eco-Botanical Garden Homepage:** <http://yg-eco.kr> (Korean)  
**1330 Korea Travel Hotline:** +82-2-1330 (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

## Other Attractions

Park Soo Keun Museum, Center of Korea Observatory, Yanggu Prehistoric Museum, Yanggu White Porcelain Museum, etc.

## Major Festival Yanggu Center Festival

Doton-ri Village in Nam-myeon, Yanggu-gun is considered to be the geographical center of Korea. To promote its geographical significance, Yanggu hosts the Center Festival every year in August. This annual festival has





Cactus and Succulent Exhibition Hall of Yanggu Eco-Botanical Garden

grown into a one of the major events of the county.

## Specialty Food

Siraegi are dried radish greens. Yanggu grows an abundance of siraegi radish in order to make this regional specialty. Once a siraegi radish is ripe, the radish part is thrown away while its leaves and stalks are left to dry for about two months, normally starting in October. The large daily temperature during this time makes the dried radish greens characteristically tender. Siraegi is eaten as a side dish after boiling and seasoning it and is also used in cooking soups or stews. It is widely recognized as a well-being food in Korea as it is rich in vitamins and minerals.

## Tourist Information

**Yanggu County Tourist Information:** ygtour.kr (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

### Accommodations

Search via the Goodstay website highlighting Korea's reliable and affordable accommodations (Korean, English, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese)

### Transportation

-Intercity bus: Dong Seoul Bus Terminal – Yanggu Intercity Bus Terminal (06:30-19:35, bus runs 22 times daily) -Yanggu Unification Hall: From Yanggu Intercity Bus Terminal, take a bus bound for Haean and get off at the last stop (bus runs 3 times daily) / taxi fare costs around 25,000 won (additional fare required to get to Eulji Observatory and the 4th Tunnel)

– Korea Tourism Organization

# Korea's world heritage

UNESCO World Heritage refers to both cultural and natural heritage sites registered on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage committee established the list, which includes cultural and natural heritage with outstanding value whose conservation is recognized to be in the interest of all humanity. As of October 2010, Korea has nine cultural heritage sites and one natural heritage site.

Apart from this, UNESCO also has a separate program called 'Memory of the World' and 'Intangible Heritage of Humanity'. In Korea, there are seven and eight of them respectively.

### World Cultural Heritage Sites

Korea's Cultural Heritage conveys a genuine sentiment of simplicity and peacefulness. The historical background of the heritage is diverse, encompassing the history of Korea from ancient times (Dolmen sites) to the Joseon Dynasty. The sites embody a wide variety of values from tidy and neat artistic spirit to scientific rationality as witnessed in such traditional constructions as a royal palaces or temples.

A total of nine Korean cultural sites are registered on the list of World Cultural Heritage Sites including **Jongmyo Shrine (1995); Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon, the Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks (1995); Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (1995); Hwaseong Fortress (1997); Changdeokgung Palace Complex (1997); Gyeongju Historic Areas (2000); Gochang, Hwasun and Ganghwa Dolmen**

**Sites (2000); Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (2009); and, finally, Historic Villages of Korea; Hahoe and Yangdong (2010).**

### World Natural Heritage Sites

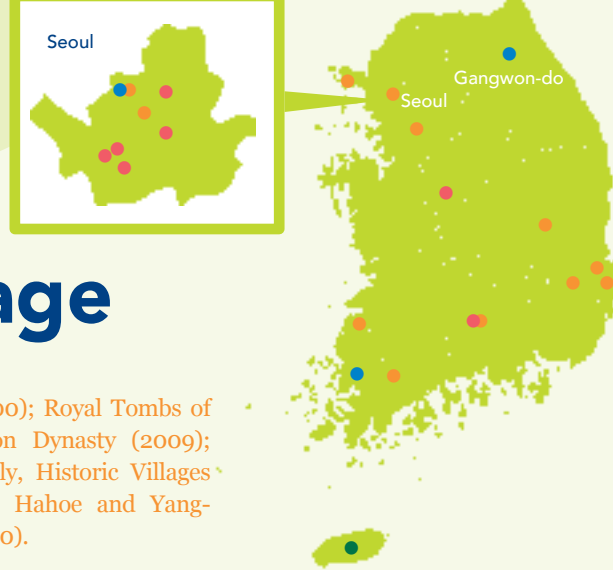
UNESCO chooses would-be World Natural Heritage Sites based on an objective evaluation of historic and academic worth, and then assists in ensuring their preservation.

The volcanic island of Jeju-do has an outstandingly beautiful natural environment that is significant for its geological features and ecological value. In 2007, Jeju-do Island was listed as a UNESCO Natural Heritage Site under the name of "Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes". This includes **Mount Hallasan Natural Reserve, the Geomunoreum Lava Tube System and Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak.**

### Intangible Cultural Heritage

An international assessment committee appointed by the UNESCO Secretary General reviews the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage every two years with the mission of safeguarding and protecting such intangible heritage as language, culture, music, dance, games, myths, rituals, customs and handicrafts.

A total of eight examples of Korean intangible heritage are on the list, including: **The Royal Ancestral Ritual in the Jongmyo Shrine and its Music (2001); The Pansori Epic Chant (2003); The Gangneung Danoje Festival (2005); Ganggangsullae Dance (2009); Namsadang-nori Performance (2009); Yeongsanjae**



- World Cultural Heritage Site
- World Natural Heritage Site
- Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Memory of the World Register

**Buddhist Ritual (2009); Jeju Chilmeoridang-yeongdeunggut Shaman Ritual (2009); and the Cheoyongmu Dance (2009).**

### Memory of the World Register

Korea possesses scrupulous historical records and archives that have become profoundly valuable in the upholding of traditions and reflecting upon the political, social, economical, and cultural situations of long ago. These documents have been quite well preserved and as such, are very precious assets to humanity.

The Korean documents declared UNESCO Memory of the World include **the Hunminjeongeum Manuscript (1997); Joseonwangjosillok, the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty (1997); Seungjeongwon Ilgi, the Diaries of the Royal Secretariat (2001); Jikji Simche Yojeol, the Second Volume of "Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings" (2001); Printing Woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and Miscellaneous Buddhist Scriptures (2007); Uigwe, the Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty (2007); and Donggubogam, the Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine (2009).**

– Korea Tourism Organization

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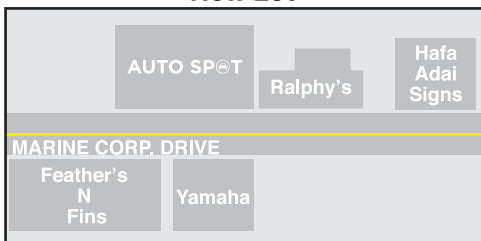


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**New Lot**



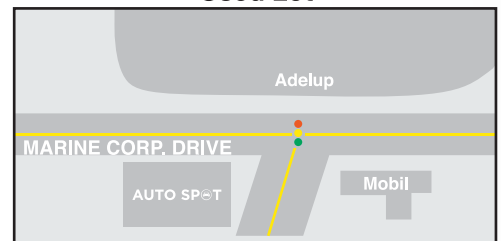
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Location	DSN**	Commercial	E-mail
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Kadena	634-0677	098-961-0677	ngis_okinawa@fe.navy.mil
Misawa	226-3131	0-176-77-3131	ngis_misawa@fe.navy.mil
Sasebo	252-3413	0-956-50-3794	ngis_sasebo@fe.navy.mil
White Beach	634-0677	098-961-0677	ngis_okinawa@fe.navy.mil
Yokosuka	243-7317	046-816-7317	ngis_yokosuka@fe.navy.mil
Diego Garcia***	370-4830		dg.ngis@fe.navy.mil

MISAWA



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# Today and "Tomorrow" . . .

\*1-877 number is not toll-free in all calling areas.

\*\*Add the 315 prefix when calling from outside of the Pacific DSN calling area.

\*\*\*Diego Garcia for Official Travelers Only, Restrictions Apply.

\*\*\*\*Restrictions apply for Space-A and are based on availability.



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