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STARS AND STRIPES

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Stars and Stripes is asking readers to write about their own piece of paradise. Yes, that means you! Our annual Destination Paradise magazine highlights must-see travel spots across the Pacific – and your bit of paradise could be included in our 2025-26 edition that hits the streets on Pacific bases in September. Submit your story and photos to paradise@stripes.com by July 15. We'll make you famous! Check out our previous Destination Paradise magazines

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Don't mind education gap, but do understand it

A million years ago, I was a litigation attorney with a bright professional future and significant earning potential. That was before I married a Navy man and began moving to U.S. states and foreign countries where my law licenses weren't worth the paper on which they were printed.

Despite these challenges, I maintained hope that one day, I'd rekindle my law career. However, military family life marched on, and it wasn't until our youngest entered high school after our ninth move that I drafted a new résumé.

That day, I dropped the kids at school, then grabbed the only available table at Starbucks -- next to the restrooms. When I had something important to do, I couldn't start until I spent a requisite amount of time dawdling. So, I removed crumpled gum wrappers from my purse, checked email and people-watched.

Finally, I opened a blank document, sighed dramatically and thought, "The kids are old enough now. It's time to find a paying job."

"RÉSUMÉ [return] ... Lisa Smith Molinari," I keyed onto the top of the page. I picked up steam, quickly tapping out my address, phone number and email, adding aesthetically pleasing fonts, underlining and bold. After a few thumps on the return key, I typed "EDUCATION" and enjoyed a trip down memory lane to the ivy-tangled architecture of Miami of Ohio, and the endless racks of thick casebooks at Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan.

I added "law review" and "cum laude," feeling a surge of confidence. But, no sooner did I type "WORK EXPERIENCE" when my hands began to tremble. "It's just the caffeine," I thought, and strained to recall the details of my last paying job.

"Hmm ... was it 1995? When I worked for that law firm in California while Francis was assigned to the Naval Postgraduate School? I can't put a job from two decades ago on my résumé ... I'll be a laughingstock!" I realized that, since marrying my Navy husband in 1993, I had no paid "work" experience except a few short-lived legal jobs between military moves. Recognizing that my skinny vanilla latte had nothing to do with my shaking hands, I pressed on, trying my best to make 25 years as a stay-at-home military mom read like a thriving professional career.

As I filled my résumé gap with various volunteer gigs I'd had through

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



the years, I tasked. How is a milspouse supposed to convince an employer that she is capable of a challenging job because managing an active duty military family IS her "work experience"?

Despite the bonbons-and-soap-operas stereotype for stay-at-home parents, any milspouse who has successfully managed a full household through stateside and overseas

moves, lengthy deployments and various TDYs, broken hot water heaters, clogged gutters, HHG damage claims, Scout meetings, soccer tournaments, EFMP paperwork, orthodontist appointments and parent-teacher conferences -- is most definitely worthy of gainful employment.

I resisted the urge to add the cutesy moniker "Domestic Engineer" in hopes that potential employers would respect me for putting my own career aside to help my husband serve his country. Instead, under the heading "REMARKS," I wrote, "Despite gaps in my job history, I have always exemplified hard work and dedication, whether as a lawyer, writer, volunteer, mother or military spouse," pounding the period button with a self-righteous poke.

A few years later, I gave up my job search because each promising lead had ended in final-round rejections due to "lack of work experience." Instead, I co-founded a military nonprofit, Orion Military Scholarships, and created my own dream job, helping military children find stable educational experiences.

Frankly, I'd grown tired of "mil-splaining" the impact that active duty Navy life had on my career to civilian employers who would never understand what I knew -- that military life requires higher-level competence, determination, selflessness, work ethic and executive problem-solving skills.

Employers, when considering a military spouse, don't mind the gap. Being frequently moved to new locations, managing complex circumstances and shepherding a family through constant unknowns gives milspouses the gritty "must-do/can-do/will-do" mentality that you'd do well to appreciate.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com

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in Korea

Balance in Life

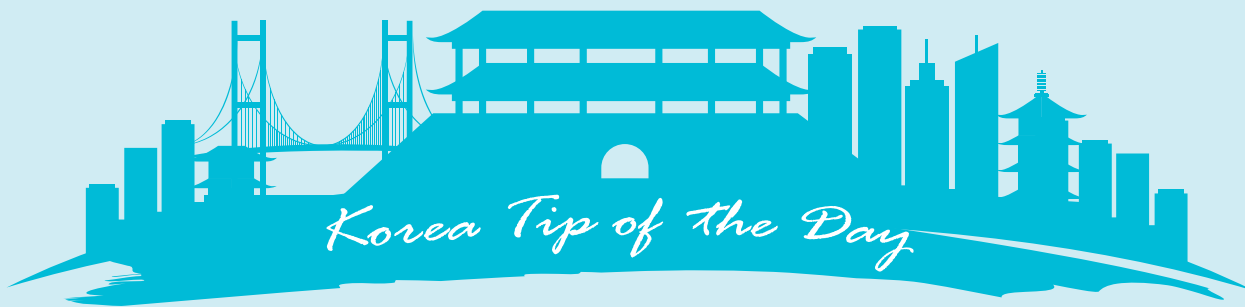
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Get ARC card to make life easier in Korea!

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Alien Registration Card (ARC) is an official ID for foreign residents in Korea. It functions like a social security number and serves as proof of immigration status. While foreigners staying in Korea longer than 90 days are required to get an ARC, SOFA members are exempt from the requirement. Still, obtaining an ARC can unlock full access to many everyday services.

Just like other foreigners in Korea, SOFA members can also easily obtain one and it does not affect their visa or legal status. Servicemembers and their family members may each get an ARC, which is useful for obtaining a Korean bank account and using other local services off base and online.

You may have already heard guidance here and there, but the process can still feel overwhelming. So, here's everything you need to know including a step-by-step guide to help you get started!

WHY YOU NEED AN ARC?

Many essential platforms in Korea such as delivery apps, ticketing services and mobile verification systems either require ARC verification or work much more smoothly with it. In Korea, most mobile services are tied to a personal identification number linked to your phone, so without an ARC, accessing these features can be frustrating. I've run into this issue when writing guides on services like Baemin and Coupang since many features are not available for users without an ARC. Most short-term service members in Korea skip getting an ARC. But trust me, if you have family, live off-base or simply want to enjoy life in Korea like locals do, having an ARC makes a world of difference.

Having an ARC provides access to many essential services such as:

- Opening Korean bank accounts.
- Signing mobile phone contracts. Although you can use mobile service without ARC, having one allows for full access to mobile ID based services.
- Using mobile identity verification including PASS and Kakao
- Easier access to essential Korean-lifestyle apps such as Baemin, Yogiyo and Dangeun (Karrot).
- Creating a Naver account and receiving discounts through Naver Pay when making restaurant reservations, booking event tickets and more.
- Full access to Coupang, Korea's top delivery app, which features services including fast shipping, food delivery without delivery fees and Coupang Play (OTT streaming service).
- Easier set up for internet, utilities and any services

that require identity verification.

WHAT TO PREPARE

Here are seven documents to prepare before heading to the immigration office. The first five documents on the list are relatively easy to gather, while the others might require a little more work to obtain. Please note that each applicant must prepare a full set of documents individually even when applying as a family.



1. Completed ARC application form – Available on-site
2. One passport-sized photo (3.5cm x 4.5cm) – Most immigration offices have a photo booth.

3. Physical passport
4. Copy of passport data page
5. Copy of military ID and dependent ID card – Front and back together on the same page and clear photo required.
* Sponsor's CAC card, Dependent ID for family members
6. Copy of lease agreement
 - **Off-base:** Copy of housing contract with applicant's name.
 - **On-base:** Housing Assignment Memo or memo from barracks manager.
7. Copy of PCS orders or equivalent official documents showing DEROS
 - Bring original and extension orders if extended (must be less than 30 days old at the time of appointment).
 - For dependents, orders must show family member names and DEROS. If not, provide additional official documents verifying the

Where to apply

PYEONGTAEK AREA

■ OSAN AIR BASE

LOCATION: AMC Terminal, Bldg. 648, 1st Floor
HOURS: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
/ Closed on U.S. and Korean holidays
CONTACT: 031-666-2672

■ CAMP HUMPHREYS

LOCATION: One-Stop, 2nd Floor, Room I-201
HOURS: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Wed, Thu) /
Lunch break: 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. / Closed
on U.S. and Korean holidays

■ PYEONGTAEK BRANCH IMMIGRATION OFFICE (OFF-BASE)

LOCATION: 3rd floor CK Tower,
1375 Gyeonggi-daero,
Pyeongtaek-si
(near Songtan Station)
RESERVATION: Required



NAVER MAP

SEOUL IMMIGRATION OFFICE (FOR THOSE IN YONGSAN AND SEONGNAM)

LOCATION: 319-2 Sinjeong-dong,
Yangcheon-gu, Seoul
(near Omokgyo Station)
RESERVATION: Not required



NAVER MAP

YANGJU IMMIGRATION OFFICE (FOR THOSE IN DONGDUCHAEON)

LOCATION: 23 Pyeonghwa-ro 1475
beon-gil, Yangju-si, Gyeonggi-do
RESERVATION: Required except the
third Tuesday of each month



NAVER MAP

DAEGU IMMIGRATION OFFICE (FOR THOSE IN DAEGU)

LOCATION: 1152-1 Shinseo-dong,
Dong-gu, Daegu (near Ansim
Station)
RESERVATION: Required



NAVER MAP

GUMI IMMIGRATION OFFICE (FOR THOSE IN WAEGWAN)

LOCATION: 188 Sinpyeong-dong,
Gumi-si, Gyeongbuk
RESERVATION: Not required



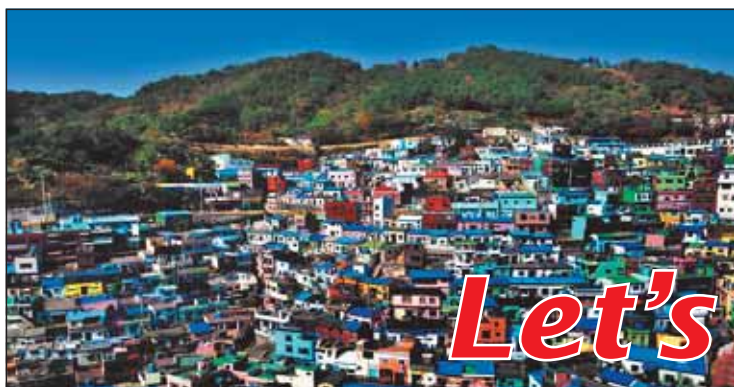
NAVER MAP

CHANGWON IMMIGRATION OFFICE (FOR THOSE IN JINHAEE)

LOCATION: 86-1 Sinpo-dong 1-ga,
Masan Hapoo-gu, Changwon-si,
Gyeongnam
RESERVATION: Required



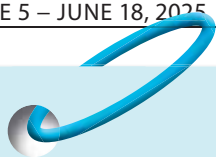
NAVER MAP



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- information.
- DoD civilians and their dependents: Letter of employment
 - Contractors and their dependents: USFK Form 700-19A-E

HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY

ARC cards are issued by Korean Immigration Offices. In the Pyeongtaek area, on-base immigration services are available for the U.S. military community. These services do not require a reservation, but arriving early is strongly recommended due to long waiting times.

For off-base immigration offices, reservations are usually required via www.hikorea.go.kr. Business hours are 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday (Closed Korean holidays). The office is closed for lunch from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION AT HI KOREA

- 1 Visit www.hikorea.go.kr.
- 2 Click “Apply” in Reserve Visit
- 3 Choose “Visit Reservation Application (Non-member)”
- 4 Under “Identity verification using passport number,” enter DoD ID number instead of the passport number.
- 5 Select your region and choose the ARC option when booking.

NOTE: CALL 1345 FOR ASSISTANCE!

If you have any questions before applying, you can contact the Immigration Contact Center by dialing 1345. The service is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and agents will kindly assist you with any inquiries regarding ARC.

Things to know

- ARC validity usually matches the duration stated in your orders (DEROS).
- Those married to Korean nationals or Korean Americans born in Korea may follow a different process. For more details, contact the immigration contact center at 1345.
- Always inform staff at the immigration office of your SOFA status as most offices have a designated window for SOFA applicants.
- Cards are usually ready within 2-3 weeks and must be picked up in person at the designated immigration office.

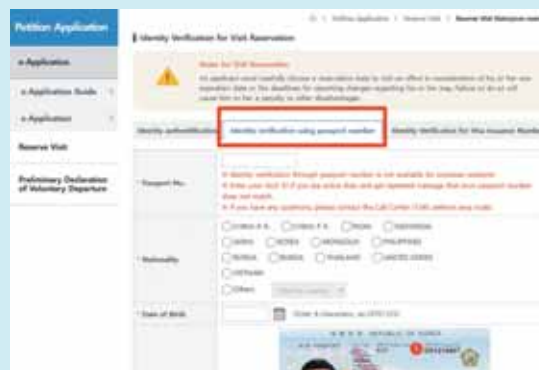
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The Hangang River, a recreational spot for Seoulites.
Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Hangin' at Hangang River



KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION

The Hangang River, a piece of nature within the city, is a popular recreational area for Seoulites. There are a total of 11 Hangang Parks along the river, making it an ideal place for a picnic, as well as other activities such as watching the fountain show. Why not spend a day like a local and enjoy everything by the river?

File Photo

Go on a picnic!

Hangang park picnic

The Hangang River is a representative picnic spot in Seoul. There are many rental shops that offer tents, mats, tables, speakers and more, so you don't have to prepare too much in advance. Convenience stores within the park also offer picnic essentials for sale. You can freely use picnic mats in the parks. Small sunshade tents (up to 2mX2m) are allowed in 14 designated areas. You can set up tents between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from April to May and September to October, and between 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. from June to August.

- 1 Yeouido Hangang Park**
ADDRESS: 330, Yeouidong-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 영등포구 여의동로 330)
- 2 Banpo Hangang Park**
ADDRESS: 40 Sinbanpo-ro 11-gil, Seocho-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 서초구 신반포로11길 40)
- 3 Mangwon Hangang Park**
ADDRESS: 67, Maponaru-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 마포구 마포나루길 67)
- 4 Ttukseom Hangang Park**
ADDRESS: 112, Jayang-dong, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 광진구 자양동 112)

Picnic on the water

Enjoy a special picnic on the water on a Tubester at Some Sevit in Banpo Hangang Park. A Tubester is a circular boat which you can steer it yourself in an exclusive zone for maximum fun. There is a table inside the Tubester for a cozy picnic, but no alcohol is allowed.

Tubester. Photo by Lee Song-eun, Travel Leader 13th



- 5 Tubester**
ADDRESS: 2085-14, Olympic-daero, Seocho-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 서초구 올림픽대로 2085-14)
HOURS: Monday-Friday 4 p.m. - midnight / Saturday-Sunday 2 p.m. - midnight
TEL: +82-70-4288-1363



WEBSITE

- 6 Waikiki Market**
ADDRESS: 332, Maponaru-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 마포구 마포나루길 332)
HOURS: 11:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
TEL: +82-2-854-8000
- 7 Arisu Manchan**
ADDRESS: 111 Nodeul-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 영등포구 노들로 111)
HOURS: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
TEL: +82-2-2632-2100
- 8 Jamdubong The Nine**
ADDRESS: 582 Maponaru-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 마포구 마포나루길 582)
HOURS: Noon - 10 p.m.
TEL: +82-507-1385-8903



WAIKIKI MARKET
INSTAGRAM

Must-eats at Hangang

One of Koreans' favorite combos, chicken and beer is a must-eat menu for an ideal picnic at a Hangang Park. You can find various chicken franchise within Hangang parks for a quick pick-up. Ordering a boneless chicken will make cleaning up after easier as all you need is a fork for to enjoy the savory taste.

Instant ramyeon is another must-eat at a Hangang Park. It is easy to find ramyeon anywhere in Korea, but the clear view of the river makes the meal all the more special. A special ramyeon cooking machine makes cooking ramyeon in Hangang Park even more unique. The instructions with pictures are easy follow, so be sure to try this tasty meal.



Ddareungi Seoul Bike.
Photo courtesy of Clip Art Korea

Bike ride

Bike trail along the river makes it easy for anyone to go on a fun bike ride. There are many bike rental shops within the Hangang Parks. Just put your ID or passport on deposit and rent your choice of bike, available in single, double, or kids-friendly seats.

Ddareungi or Ttareungyi, a public bike rental offered by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, can be rented and returned using a mobile application. An exclusive foreigner rate is available on the official website where travelers can purchase the ticket online and use it in any of the rental shops.

Ddareungi Seoul Bike



WEBSITE



Google Play Store



App Store

Water sports

Activities to cool off the summer heat is always welcoming. To experience various water activities, head to Jamwon Hangang Park. Water sports including waterskiing, wakeboarding, paddle boarding, kayaking, and windsurfing as well as other activities such as banana boats and peanut boats are available with lessons for beginners. Ttukseom Hangang Park also offers paddle board, windsurf and kayak rentals. If you'd prefer a yacht tour, head to Banpo Hangang Park or



Outdoor swimming pool.
Photo courtesy of Clip Art Korea

Yeouido Hangang Park.

The Hangang Park outdoor swimming pools located in the city are not only easy to get to, but also affordable. Currently, there are three outdoor swimming pools (Yeouido, Ttukseom, Jamwon) and three water playgrounds (Nanji, Yanghwa, Jamsil) that offer their own unique theme and atmosphere. Yeouido outdoor swimming pool is the representative pool of Hangang Park with a capacity of 3,600 people, while Ttukseom outdoor swimming pool offers a lazy river pool. Nanji water playground has an infinity pool designed to look as if it's connected to the Hangang River. Swimming pools and water playgrounds only operate during summer season, with pools open at night from mid-July.

9 Yeouido Hangang Park Outdoor Swimming Pool

ADDRESS: 82-3, Yeouido-dong, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 영등포구 여의도동 82-3)
TEL: +82-2-785-0478

10 Ttukseom Hangang Park Outdoor Swimming Pool

ADDRESS: 112, Jayang-dong, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 광진구 자양동 112)
TEL: +82-2-452-5999

11 Jamwon Hangang Park Outdoor Swimming Pool

ADDRESS: 145-57, Jamwon-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 서초구 잠원로 145-57)
TEL: +82-2-536-8263

12 Nanji Hangang Park Water Playground

ADDRESS: 162, Hangangnanji-ro, Mapo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 마포구 한강난지로 162)
TEL: +82-2-3151-0256

13 Yanghwa Hangang Park Water Playground

ADDRESS: 99, Nodeul-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 영등포구 노들로 99)
TEL: +82-70-8805-3117

14 Jamsil Hangang Park Water Playground

ADDRESS: 65 Hangaram-ro, Songpa-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 송파구 한가람로 65)
TEL: +82-2-3431-8475

*Operating hours are same for the outdoor swimming pools and water playgrounds

*Opening period: June-August, 2025. (Exact schedule to be confirmed)



Moonlight rainbow fountain

The most well-known nightscape spot among the many Hangang Parks is the Moonlight Rainbow Fountain by Banpodaegyo Bridge. The colorfully lit water dancing to fun music will leave spectators in awe. The fountain nozzles are installed in a row on a 1,140 meter-long bridge and was registered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's longest bridge fountain in 2008.

15 Moonlight Rainbow Fountain

ADDRESS: 649-1, Banpo-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 서초구 반포동 649-1)
HOURS: April-October Noon, 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 9 p.m. (20 min per session) / July-August Noon, 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. (20 min per session)
TEL: +82-2-3780-0578

Hangang cruise

The view of Seoul on a cruise is a sight to behold. There are three main options available: Sunset Cruise, for viewing sunset that colors Seoul in a hue of red; Starlight Cruise, for soaking up the evening atmosphere by the river; and Moonlight Music Cruise, where you can enjoy the nightscape with live music. Cafeteria within the cruise provides food and drinks for sale for those looking for a grub. You can get on the cruise at the dock within Yeouido Hangang Park or Jamsil Hangang Park.

16 Yeouido E-land Cruise

ADDRESS: 280 Yeouidong-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 영등포구 여의동로 280)
TEL: +82-2-6291-6900

17 Jamsil E-land Cruise

ADDRESS: 2 Baekjegobun-ro, Songpa-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 송파구 백제고분로 2)
TEL: +82-2-6291-6900



E-LAND CRUISE
TICKET



Exploring Korea at memorial m

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

The War Memorial of Korea is hands down my favorite destination. If you’re a U.S. military member, a member of the UN forces stationed in Korea or simply a history buff, mark it as an absolute must-visit spot! In South Korea, June serves as the month of honoring and commemorating patriots and veterans who were dedicated to protecting the country. Specifically, June 6th is Memorial Day, a public holiday to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the country’s freedom. The War Memorial of Korea is one of the most insightful places to learn about the Korean War, offering a powerful and accessible window into the nation’s significant history, completely free of charge.

The museum and memorial pay tribute to the veterans and those lost protecting the nation during the Korean War. As you wander through, you’ll witness heartfelt expressions of gratitude not only towards the Republic of Korea forces but also towards the UN forces who bravely defended Korea during the war.

Though Korea still remains a divided nation, many Koreans continue to strive for peace, a theme you’ll see throughout the museum.
lee.hyemin@stripes.com

5 notable outdoor exhibits

Statue of Brothers

Imagine the intense emotions of two brothers reunited as enemies on the chaotic battlefield of the Korean War. This statue was inspired by a true story of a Korean War veteran and shows the tragedy of the divided nation. The statue of the brothers embracing each other, symbolizes Korea’s collective aspirations for reconciliation, love, and reunification.

Korean War Monument

As you enter the museum area, you will be overwhelmed by the massive and magnificent sculptures. They serve as a reminder that the pain of the Korean War should never be forgotten and of the hope for future peace and reunification.

Monuments for UN Forces

They are established to express gratitude to the 22 countries that participated in the Korean War and commemorate the fallen soldiers. On the opposite side, there are flags of the ROK military branches’ units that fought in the Korean War.

Open-air exhibition area

You will be delighted to explore this vast field filled with a fascinating collection of over 70 large-scale weapons that were used during and after the Korean War. This area is renowned as the museum’s largest photo zone, making it the perfect spot for both children and adults to enjoy.

Exhibition ROK’s PKM-357 Chamsuri

When you step into the model vessel, you will travel back to the intense moments of the Second Yeonpyeong Naval Battle in 2002, triggered by a preemptive attack from North Korea. The battle led to the sinking of the PKM Chamsuri-357, resulting in the death of six and injury of 18. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing conflicts and the fact that the Korean War has not officially ended.



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THINGS TO KNOW

Admission: FREE

Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

(Closed on Mondays. If Monday is a holiday, closed on Tuesday instead)

Address: 29 Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul



NAVER MAP



INFORMATION

Korean War Museum



Indoor exhibition halls

Korean War Rooms

Exploring the Korean War Rooms, you can learn in detail about the Korean War, including its historical background and significant events in chronological order. Also, you can see how ROK forces aided and fought alongside ROK. This will help you catch a glimpse of the beginning of the ROK-US alliance and the UN Command.



KEY EVENTS

Illegal invasion of South Korea

North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, and overpowered the South Korean military, occupying Seoul in three days. The NK forces, armed with strong weapons and tanks, recklessly broke through the 38th parallel to nearly Busan. **Battle of Nakdong River:** The river was technically the final defense line as the South Korean government was driven from Seoul to Busan. The only hope was for UN forces to join the war and fight alongside ROK. Countless South Koreans including the ROK forces, young students around 13 to 15 years old with no prior combat experience, and civilians died to defend the area. Soon, UN forces joined the battle.



2. UN Forces march north

Through a resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on June 27, 1950, UN member countries were urged to provide essential aid to the ROK. With the participation of UN forces and the success of Operation Chromite, the tide of the war was a complete reversal. By October 1950, North Korea was almost fully occupied by UN forces, leaving only a small portion of their

territory. The ROK government under President Syngman Rhee was filled with excitement and believed that reunification was within reach.

• **Operation Chromite:** On Sept. 15, 1950, General MacArthur successfully led UN forces of 75,000 troops to land in Incheon. The UN forces subsequently recaptured Seoul and other territory. This was the greatest turning point in the Korean War. To this day, General MacArthur is still remembered as the ultimate hero of the Korean War.

3. Chinese Forces and a war of attrition

At the very moment when the prospect of reunification seemed close, Mao Zedong, after gaining the upper hand in China, sent troops to assist North Korea, a fellow communist regime. The Chinese forces, with tactics such as human wave attacks, shifted the overall situation of the war again. The UN forces launched a full-scale counterattack. From that point, the war transformed into a brutal war of attrition with no gain for either side.

4. Truce talks and the Korea-US Mutual Defense Treaty

Amid the ongoing war of attrition for nearly three years, both sides grew significantly weary. The Korean War was finally halted with the signing of an armistice on July 27, 1953. Koreans who had hoped for reunification were greatly disappointed. Also, the ROK government had great concerns about the future after the war. As a result, South Korea entered into the Korea-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty, which provides a war deterrent against further aggression from the North.

■ ROK Armed Forces Rooms

In these exhibition rooms, you will gain comprehensive understanding of how ROK forces have evolved after the Korean War. They also highlight the history of ROK forces participating in UN peacekeeping activities in various countries. It shows the transformation of this country from the one that received aid, to a nation that now provides aid to others.



Vietnam War

As an ally of the United States, ROK forces participated in the Vietnam War, deploying a cumulative total of approximately 310,000 troops in the span of about eight years. The exhibits vividly show the challenging conditions of the battles such as mountainous terrain and jungles.

■ War History Rooms (Before the Korean War)

Korea, throughout its history, has endured invasions from various powerful nations including China, Mongolia, Japan, the United States, and France. Despite these challenges, the nation has preserved its history and identity. Through exploring these halls, you'll learn thousands of years of Korean history from the prehistoric era to Japanese occupation.

Imjin War and Turtle Ship: In 1592, Joseon faced a major crisis against strong Japanese forces for seven years during this war. However, the invasion was ultimately repelled through the courageous efforts of Admiral Yi Sun-sin and other notable figures. Admiral Yi's Turtle Ships achieved remarkable victories in numerous naval battles, becoming a source of great pride for all Koreans. Yet the war resulted in widespread devastation, with brutal massacres and enslavement of many Koreans kidnapped by Japanese.



The U.S expedition to Korea: In 1871, during an era of Western imperial ambitions in Asia, the United States launched an invasion of Korea as retaliation against the General Sherman incident and to forcibly open Korea to trade. It marked the first and only war between the United States and Korea. This event portrayed in the hit K-drama series "Mr. Sunshine," which features a Korean-American Marine Corps officer as the protagonist.



TIPS FOR EXPLORING INDOOR EXHIBITION HALLS

1. The vast indoor exhibit is divided into seven sections. Grab a pamphlet at the entrance to help navigate the three-story museum.
2. Free lockers are available at the entrance, some of which are spacious enough to accommodate large backpacks.
3. Most exhibitions provide English explanations. Also, you can join a free English guided tour. For more information, inquire at the information desk or call +82-2-709-3077
4. Take enough time to explore the entire museum. There is a wealth of information about the entire history of Korea to absorb. Remember that the last admission is at 5 p.m. and the museum starts closing by 5:40 p.m.

Guide to big-size shopping in Itaewon

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA



Speakin'
Korean

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Useful phrases for shopping

■ When shopping for clothing

“Do you have a bigger size?”= Deo keun-size isseoyo? (더 큰 사이즈 있어요?)

“Do you have a smaller size?”= Deo jak-eun size isseoyo? (더 작은 사이즈 있어요?)

“Do you have this in large?”= Igeo large isseoyo? (이거 라지 있어요?)

“Can I try this on?”= Igeo ibeo bwa-do dwaeyo? (이거 입어 봐도 돼요?)

“Where is the fitting room?”= Piting-room eodi isseoyo? (피팅룸 어디 있어요?)

“It fits well!”= Jal majayo! (잘 맞아요!)

“It doesn't fit”= An majayo. (안 맞아요.)

■ When paying

“How much is this?”= Igeo eolma-yeyo? (이거 얼마예요?)

“Can I pay by card?”= Ca-deu-ro gwaenchanayo? (카드로 괜찮아요?)

“I have cash”= Hyun-geum (or just say cash) isseoyo. (현금 있어요.)

“I don't have cash.”= Hyun-geum eopseoyo. (현금 없어요.)

“Where is ATM?”= ATM eodi isseoyo? (ATM 어디 있어요?)

“Thank you.”= Gamsa-hamnida. (감사합니다.)

My husband isn't much of a fashion guy. When he came to Korea, he brought just a few shirts, some pants and three pairs of shoes, while I had an entire room packed floor-to-ceiling with clothes. I tried ordering clothes and shoes for him on my favorite shopping app Coupang, but most had to be returned. The pants didn't even cover his ankles, and the shirts were too tight. He really wanted to keep the nice shoes I picked out, but after squeezing his feet into them more times than we could count, he had to give up.

Part of the military



community, he's not alone in this struggle. Finding clothes that fit in Korea can feel like a mini battle, especially for American newcomers because Korean fashion usually runs on the smaller side. But don't worry, Itaewon, a multicultural neighborhood in Seoul, remains one of the best places in Korea to find larger sizes that are not only comfortable but also stylish!

Just a short walk between Itaewon Station and the Yongsan Garrison area, you'll find several blocks filled with clothing and shoe shops offering everything from casual wear to button-up shirts, winter coats and even footwear in larger sizes for both men and women.

My husband found a nice black shirt for 30,000 won, perfect for a fancy dinner date and a stylish jacket for 75,000 won that he's worn almost every day since. With its quality and design, it doesn't feel expensive at all. Please keep in mind that some shops may prefer cash.

If you've been struggling to find jeans that won't suffocate your legs or jackets that actually zip up, take a walk through Itaewon. You might leave with a full outfit that fits like a dream!

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Shops worth visiting!

For a more accurate direction to the fashion street, please refer to the address of the shops below. You'll discover all the big-size shops nearby.

Kukje Bigsize (국제큰옷)

In the International Underground Market, Kukje Bigsize is one of the largest big-size shops in Itaewon. Whatever style you're looking for, you'll find a variety of options! You can check out their items on Instagram.

ADDRESS: 148 Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul or near Itaewon Station Exit 4

HOURS: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Closed on Thursday)



NAVER MAP



INSTAGRAM



Modern Big Clothes (현대큰옷)

This store offers trendy, stylish clothing for men, from comfortable summer shorts to cool winter jackets.

ADDRESS: 156 Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul or near Itaewon Station Exit 4

HOURS: 10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily



NAVER MAP





A Turkish culinary journey in Itaewon

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

If you've ever wandered the multicultural streets of Itaewon, you already know it feels like holding a passport to places around the world, especially through their food. Among the many international dishes you'll find in Itaewon, Turkish cuisine stands out with bold flavors and

rich spices! Rooted in Mediterranean tradition and Central Asian heritage, it is more than just a cuisine but a cultural bridge between East and West.

Here's how I enjoyed my Turkish food journey in the heart of Itaewon without ever leaving Korea!

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Seoul

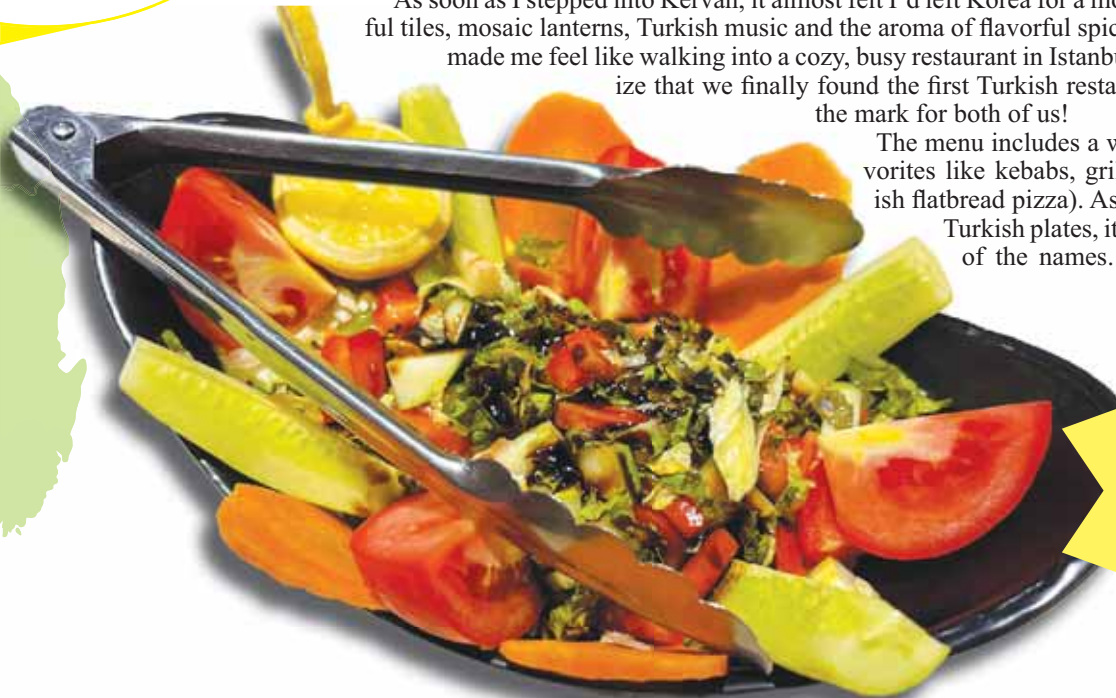
Kervan

Authentic Turkish restaurant

Every time I visit Seoul with my husband Ryan, it's almost tradition for us to head to Itaewon. For my husband, a true Turkish food lover, Itaewon is like a dream come true where he can hunt for new Turkish dishes. This time, I found a spot with the best reviews that I hoped would impress us both.

As soon as I stepped into Kervan, it almost felt I'd left Korea for a moment. Surrounded by colorful tiles, mosaic lanterns, Turkish music and the aroma of flavorful spices, the atmosphere instantly made me feel like walking into a cozy, busy restaurant in Istanbul. It didn't take long to realize that we finally found the first Turkish restaurant in Korea that truly hit the mark for both of us!

The menu includes a wide selection of Turkish favorites like kebabs, grilled meats, and pide (Turkish flatbread pizza). As most dishes were authentic Turkish plates, it was hard to recognize many of the names. Thankfully, the menu was



See **TURKISH**
on Page 12

TURKISH: Restaurant perfect for dates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

clearly written in both Korean and English with ingredient descriptions. Whether you're new to Turkish food, vegetarian, or seeking halal options, it's easy to find a perfect dish that suits your taste.

They also had great starters like a

Mediterranean-style Greek avocado salad and creamy hummus. But for my meat-loving husband, I let him choose Sac Kavurma—a lamb dish braised with onions, tomatoes, and peppers and a mixed Turkish BBQ set.

The set came with fresh Turkish bread, warm soup, and a drink—either soda or Ayran, a traditional salty yogurt beverage. I asked the waiter if Ayran would taste

okay for foreigners like us. He smiled and said, "You'll find out only when you try." I asked my brave husband to try Ayran while I ordered soda. A bit strong for us, the ayran was the only part of the meal we didn't finish.

We did, however, devour the sac kavurma. If you enjoy lamb, you must try it. The tender lamb pieces were deliciously soaked in tomato-based broth. We started wrapping mouthfuls of the juicy lamb with soft lavash bread, just the way my husband loves. That moment was a genuine Turkish experience. Later, as I insisted, we mixed Turkish fried rice with the warm, savory leftover broth. The fusion of western and Asian flavors was incredible and delicious.

The assorted Turkish BBQ was even more impressive—a flavorful platter of five kinds of grilled meat served with fried potatoes. Each bite,

whether lamb, chicken, or beef, was tender, smoky, and perfectly seasoned. It was a large dish, but once we wrapped them in lavash bread with a spoonful of tzatziki (yogurt sauce), it disappeared in no time. It was a bite of heaven!

The restaurant also serves a variety of delightful Turkish desserts like Kaymak, a thick and clotted cream served with honey. You can enjoy it there after your meal or take some home.

Kervan is perfect for date nights, friend or family gatherings or anyone curious about an authentic Turkish experience — no passport required. What makes this place so special is the Turkish chefs truly bring the heart of their homeland to every dish. My husband is still dreaming of their Turkish BBQ platter. Just make sure to come hungry and bring someone to share with because they have many good options!



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 192 Itaewon-ro, Youngsan-gu, Seoul or near Line 6. Itaewon Station Exit 3
HOURS: Open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 a.m. (next day) – year-round
PRICES FOR TWO: Approximately 40,000–70,000 won



Alpedo Turkish bakery and café

Our Turkish food journey wasn't complete until we finished dessert time at Alpedo, a beloved Turkish bakery and café just a short walk from Kervan. This café truly felt like discovering a hidden gem in a small Istanbul alley.

Beautifully filled with the scent of honey and an array of sweets, cakes and pastries, Alpedo is a feast for the eyes. They looked not only delightful but also uniquely exotic. Many items were very affordable, priced around 1,000 won to 3,000 won which was also an exciting part.

Before entering the shop, we promised ourselves that we'd order only one small item as we were so full from the big Kervan meal. However, when we stepped into this dreamy dessert spot, we couldn't help but said, "Maybe we can take it to go if we can't finish." In the end, we left the café with empty hands but dangerously full bellies.

The café's pre-packed cookies looked perfect for gifting or enjoying at home. It's easy to see why many locals and Turkish people in Seoul stop by to

grab their favorite sweets.

One of the must-try items at Alpedo is baklava, a sweet, crispy pastry made of thin layers of phyllo dough, filled with pistachios or walnuts soaked in honey or syrup. Make sure to grab a free sample of baklava that is sure to entice you to purchase



some more treats. Kaymak, a clotted cream dessert served with honey and bread, is another dessert at Alpedo and reason why there's always a long line at peak time.

Alpedo's Turkish coffee, brewed over hot sand and served with a piece of Turkish delight, a sweet confection, wasn't just a simple drink. It was more like a cultural experience. Watching the brewing process in the traditional way was both fascinating and fun!

Please note that Turkish desserts tend to be on the sweeter side, so they may not suit everyone's taste. But if you enjoy rich, exotic treats that bring a taste of another culture, Alpedo is a fantastic spot to end your Turkish food journey!



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 174 Itaewon-ro, Youngsan-gu, Seoul or near Line 6. Itaewon Station Exit 4
HOURS: Open 24 hours daily (year-round)
PRICES: Cookies and pastries: 1,000 won–10,000 won / Beverages: 2,500 won–8,000 won



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KOREA KIDS' CORNER

A wild, wonderful day at Daegu's Nature Park

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

If your little ones dream of feeding furry friends or strolling past colorful flowers, Nature Park in Daegu is where all those dreams come to life. Just a 15-minute drive from the Daegu base area, this lush, family-friendly park offers the best of both worlds: a safe haven for animals and a blooming garden — where families can reconnect with nature.

What makes this park especially heartwarming is its mission: offering a second chance to hundreds of animals that were once rescued from poor conditions such as basements or cramped containers. Today, they happily live across nearly 400,000 square meters of land and thoughtfully designed natural habitats. Known as a “Walking Safari,” this space allows visitors to meet animals face to face, from curious capybaras and sleepy meerkats to elegant peacocks wandering the paths alongside you.



Beyond meeting animals, families can also enjoy seasonal festive atmospheres and join in fun activities throughout the park. So don't forget your camera and the energy to chase as your little ones dash off to greet their new furry friends. After feeding animals, sliding, paddling boats and eating ice cream, many kids still aren't ready to leave!

Note: Nature Park is operated by the same business as Daegu's largest waterpark, Spa Valley, located next to each other. However, the two attractions are managed separately.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

LOCATION: 891 Gachang-ro, Gachang-myeon, Dalseong-gun, Daegu

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily (Last admission 5 p.m.)

TICKETS: Adults: 20,000 won / Children (24 months–elementary): 18,000 won

Discounts available through Naver / Free for those under 24 months with proof

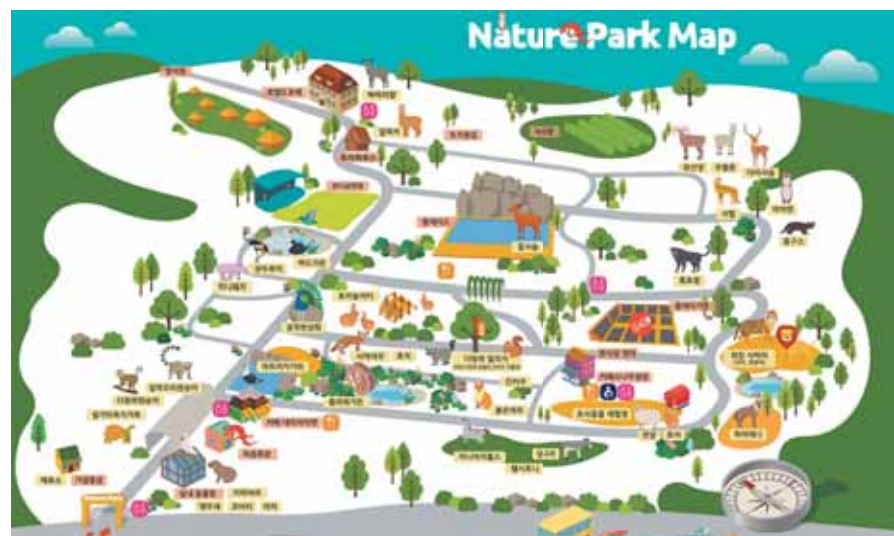
PARKING: Free for weekdays / 4,000 won for weekends —Make sure to ask staff for a parking voucher.



NAVER MAP



WEBSITE



■ Garden paths & seasonal fun

The small gardens throughout the park add a colorful rhythm to the experience. Although it's not a full-scale botanical garden, families can still enjoy every corner of walking paths beautifully filled with seasonal blooms. These flower gardens paired with benches and open spaces, make the stroll feel refreshing and photogenic.

Throughout the year, the park also hosts seasonal festivals from Halloween-themed gardens to Christmas light displays, adding a festive touch to your visit.

Visitors are welcome to bring outside food (just not for the animals!). The park provides plenty of rest areas with benches, perfect for enjoying a quick snack or taking a break between adventures.

■ Fun family activities

Don't forget to pack extra energy as there's so much more to enjoy here beyond the animals!

In the Play Garden, kids can bounce high on large trampolines while the Rainbow Slide Zone offers a thrilling ride that will have them asking to go again and again.

Families can also enjoy a peaceful moment at the artificial lake, where transparent kayaks are available for rent.



PLEASE NOTE: Rainbow Slide (10,000 won per hour) and kayaking for 2 people (15,000 won) each require an additional fee.

■ Interacting with adorable animals

This isn't a usual zoo. With over 50 species and 300 animals, children can walk freely among gentle creatures like peacocks, rabbits, squirrels, and ducks — no cages, no barriers. Beautiful peacocks stroll gracefully beside visitors, showing off their colorful feathers and sometimes even leading their chicks like royal escorts.

Of course, the park also houses larger animals such as black leopards, Asiatic black bears, tigers and lions, all safely kept within their habitats.

In the herbivore animal zone, kids can gently hand-feed animals like meerkats and alpacas. You'll hear giggles and squeals as little hands hold out snacks. Visitors can purchase an animal food kit for 5,000 won.



Photos by Nature Park

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Who is the Liverpool forward that won the EPL Player of the Season Award in 2018?

Answer
Mohamed Salah



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DID YOU KNOW?

For Koreans, June is a month to honor those who fought for the nation's freedom. The month features various ceremonies, patriotic events and historical TV programs emphasizing national defense. Memorial Day on June 6 is a public holiday dedicated to remembering fallen heroes. On June 25, Korean War Day commemorates the day when North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel in 1950, initiating the Korean War. This day honors Korean War heroes, recognizes the contributions of UN forces and the importance of the ROK-U.S. alliance. Many Koreans visit the National Cemetery and the War Memorial of Korea in Seoul as well as the U.N. Peace Memorial in Busan during this month.



Hangul of the week

참전용사
Chamjeon-yongsa (War veteran)

Language Lesson

My grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

Uri harabeoji-neun Hanguk jeonjaeng chamjeon-yongsa-ya.
(우리 할아버지는 한국전쟁 참전용사야.)

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 It may be slipped
5 Island greeting
10 Everett or Lowe
14 Hang ____ (keep)
15 Constrain
16 Latvia's capital
17 "It's ____ real!"
18 Like some milk
20 Fellow church-goers
22 Aristocratic bunch
23 "Baby Blue" singer George
24 Out-of-date
25 Loads, as software
28 Reuben's bread
31 Mere
34 Annulment of slavery
36 Away from the wind
37 Like Liberace
38 No walk in the park
39 Written account
41 Beds on base
42 Angry music genre
43 Skilled boater
45 Puppeteer Lewis
47 Does an IRS job
51 Tariff target
53 CDC worry
55 Like some garden paths
57 Word after "cut" or "second"
58 Walk the floor
59 Verso's opposite
60 Alaska's first governor
61 Downhill racer
62 Web destinations
63 Bodywork target

DOWN

1 Former newsman Lou
2 Type of gas
3 Animal in a roundup
4 Tupperware product
5 Gives a heads-up
6 As it happens
7 Middle Eastern gulf
8 Cheer starter
9 Without much harmony
10 Shore dinner entree
11 Nazi-like
12 "The Morning Watch" writer James
13 A&W competitor
19 Mantegna's "Criminal Minds" role
21 Touch
24 One who works on snow days
26 South Pacific island
27 Overhead

Answers to Previous Crossword:

C	A	S	T	E	S	U	B	S	C	H	A	P
A	L	C	O	A	O	P	I	E	H	A	L	L
M	A	R	E	S	C	O	N	T	R	A	L	T
P	R	E	F	I	X	I	N	G	A	L	L	A
A	L	E	X	A	T	I	L	E	R	S		
P	A	M	S	I	L	I	C	A	T	E		
A	L	E	R	T	I	C	E	L	A	N	D	I
C	O	R	E	O	Z	O	N	E	G	I	G	O
T	E	S	T	A	M	E	N	T	A	E	S	O
R	O	A	D	S	I	G	N	P	R	I		
A	S	T	E	R	N	P	E	A	C	E		
P	L	E	A	T	G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G
S	U	S	T	A	I	N	E	D	O	N	S	E
I	S	L	E	C	A	N	E	L	E	E	R	Y
S	H	A	D	E	W	E	S	E	S	S	E	X

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

				3		6		
	2			7		5	4	
	8					1		
	4				8			5
1								
			5			4		7
	6				9			8
9		3						
			7	2		3		

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HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

4	5	1	6	9	2	8	7	3
2	8	6	7	3	4	5	9	1
9	7	3	5	1	8	2	6	4
5	6	8	3	4	9	7	1	2
3	4	2	1	8	7	9	5	6
1	9	7	2	6	5	4	3	8
6	2	4	9	5	1	3	8	7
7	1	9	8	2	3	6	4	5
8	3	5	4	7	6	1	2	9

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