Welcome to the Pacific

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<th>5% off MSRP on MINI Models:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ BMW 1 Series</td>
<td>★ MINI Cooper Hardtop 2d</td>
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<td>★ BMW Z4</td>
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- **Roppongi Crossing**: 1 km (12 min walk, 10 min train ride)
- **Tokyo Midtown**: 0.9 km (10 min walk)
- **Roppongi Hills**: 0.9 km (10 min walk)
- **Shibuya**: 2.3 km (30 min walk, 15 min train ride)
- **Tokyo Tower**: 2.2 km (30 min walk, 20 min train ride)
- **U.S. Embassy Tokyo**: 2.3 km (30 min walk, 20 min train ride)

Welcome to the Pacific

This is your guide!

Every year, our staff at Stars and Stripes undertakes a quest to gather all the important information you need to begin your journey to your new overseas post. We look for updates to new laws, base policies and rules so you don’t have to go about it on your own. And, every year, for the last couple of decades, we have compiled this guide you’re holding for quick reference. We know you have questions and concerns, but we want you to know that we have your back.

This year is an exceptionally special one as Stars and Stripes marks its 75th year in the Pacific Theater. This is a big one for us as we mark decades of history and this labor of our current staff and those who have come before and worked on for 75 years. This is a year of celebration, but also one that only reinforces how Stars and Stripes’ mission to support you continues. You are the reason why we work hard to compile this magazine every year, the newspapers every week and update the websites every day. This is, after all, YOUR magazine, YOUR newspaper, and YOUR websites. We are here to support you and the mission. Without you there is no us.

Every day, we hope to reinforce our commitment to you with the work we do and the publications we bring you. You’ll see it in these pages, as we highlight the talent of members of your community through the wonderful photographs they’ve contributed. Check out Kelly Curtis’ stunning cover photo and the carefully composed shot Brigitte Patton took on Page 19.

Beyond the beautiful photos used throughout the magazine, you’ll find all of the information you’re looking for. Worried about where to get a car? Flip to Page 32 in this magazine. Curious about the laws in Korea? Head over to Page 38 for more.

And for everything else not covered in this intro guide, don’t forget to pick up copies of Stars and Stripes Korea on base or visit our websites, stripesKorea.com, where there’s plenty more to discover! Want to try some traditional Korean food? Visit our website for all the local spots to get your hands on some bibimbap, a local delicacy. Count on our writer, ChiHon Kim (learn more about him on Page 8), to bring you great restaurants to try, museums and attractions to visit, as well as the 411 on the local culture.

And, anything else we haven’t covered—we’re always open to suggestions from you. So, pick up the phone, give us a call, or send us an email, we love feedback and story ideas.

On that note, we’d love to tell your story! Are you a volunteer at the local orphanage or is your spouses’ group working on a cool project? Do you know of an exceptional military child who deserves to be spotlighted? Is travel photography your thing? Send us your stories, photographs or ideas and we’ll make you famous!

As you navigate your new home, do not forget Stars and Stripes is with you every step of the way. Join us on Facebook as we continue to bring you the latest information you want to know as well as fun travel and food stories you won’t want to miss.

As we look toward the next 75 years and beyond, our mission will be to continue to seek out and adapt to the needs of our servicemembers, military families, DOID civilians and staff in the Pacific. We are here for you!

Thanks for reading and as they say here in Korea: 어서 오세요!

Denisse Rauda
Publishing and Media Design Editor
Stars and Stripes

Background Photo
Rebecca Schochenmaier took this shot of traditional Korean clothing during a day trip to Seoul.

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Cover photo
Kelly Curtis shot this photo of Haedong Yonggungsa Temple on the northeastern coast of Busan. Curtis said this is her favorite temple in South Korea and definitely worth the trip. She and her family were stationed at USAG Humphreys through June of 2020. Curtis said her family enjoyed living in Korea: “Korea is a great place to be broadened your horizons. Our family has grown and learned about a culture that is beautiful and rich in history. We have shared experiences with our children, who will always remember the beauty of the people, the food, the traditions and the places to visit.”
There’s never been a better time to join Stars and Stripes!

The mission of Stars and Stripes is to provide news and information to active-duty servicemembers, veterans, government civilians, contractors and their families. Stripes award-winning journalists file reports from military bases around the world on topics the matter most to our audience.

Stars and Stripes’ mission relies on the support of its many readers. In order to provide the most valuable content, we count on members to read, share and contribute— that’s how we know what matters most to our military community at home and abroad.

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DIGITAL ACCESS

COMMUNITY NEWS
Living here presents many opportunities to explore and experience the diverse Pacific region. To help you make the most of them, Stars and Stripes brings you a wealth of information about travel, culture, restaurants and local happenings. Our local military community news and information publications arrive weekly in Guam, Japan and Okinawa, and biweekly in Korea. You can pick up your free copy at one of the 800 locations throughout the Pacific region: just look for the bright blue Stripes boxes located on base.

You can also contribute—whether in the form of stories, reviews, suggestions or comments. Much of this incredibly useful information is captured in special publications such as Best of the Pacific and Destination Paradise and Welcome to the Pacific, published in three separate editions for Guam, Japan and Korea.

Companion websites are updated regularly and include useful stories and commentary from community members. We invite you to join in the discussion! Website access is free.

Stars and Stripes Guam - guam.stripes.com
Stars and Stripes Japan - japan.stripes.com
Stars and Stripes Okinawa - okinawa.stripes.com
Stars and Stripes Korea - korea.stripes.com
Welcome to Korea! I know you might be nervous and intimidated right now being in a foreign country, but don’t be afraid because I am here to serve as your guide. I’ll do my best to ensure you don’t waste your time and money finding things to do. I’ll point you in the right direction.

If you want to experience something special in Korea, please remember my name: ChiHon Kim. I’m the writer for Stripes Korea, which comes out every two weeks and can be found in the blue boxes on base. All my articles and videos can be found on Stripekorea.com.

You may know BTS (BangTan Boys), kimchi and bulgogi, but my country has so much more to offer. I have a plan to show you Korea’s true colors.

I was born and grew up in Daegu. Some say Daegu and Gyeongsang province are famous for unappetizing food. Those who say that, are people who have never visited a good restaurant. I know many holes in the wall in Daegu. The interiors may not be fancy at these places, but the cooks take much care in perfecting the taste of their dishes. So, for the folks stationed in Daegu, let me steer you to some of the best food Korea has to offer.

I worked at Camp Carroll before I came to Pyeongtaek to work at Camp Humphreys, so I am familiar with Waegwan. You need to check out Chilgok Dam, which takes less than 10 minutes by car to get to from Camp Carroll. It’s the best place to refresh yourself. It is also a popular place to take a date. If you cross the dam, you will find a camping area with a peaceful river view that you can enjoy at a reasonable price.

If you are a serious cyclist, I recommend the mountain bike course that links to the dam. And, although I have yet to climb it, there is a 9-meter tall climbing wall next to the main gate. Sooner or later, I’ll give it a try and let you know if it’s fun. Or, if you try it, tell us about it. Of course, I travel all across Korea and give you my take on where to go, what to see and what to eat.

My country has been called “Geumsu Gangsan.” It literally means that the river and mountains are embroidered on silk. No doubt, Korea has countless scenic spots. Among many other things, I want to tell you about the famous and not-so-famous temples that are scattered all over the country.

There are some bloggers who exaggerate about different places in Korea. But as a Korean, I give our readers the real deal so you can enjoy your time in my country. Listen, there are unique aesthetics and beauty that only Korea has. I want to show you the beauty of my country and help you make lasting memories here. So, read my stories in the upcoming weeks and months and then go out and explore. You won’t be disappointed. I promise!

- ChiHon Kim
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My name is Thien and I am a 1st-term student at Lakeland University Japan. As a student veteran, I think I have a fairly unique background. I was born in Denver, Colorado, from immigrant Vietnamese parents and as I grew up, I learned to appreciate my heritage and wanted to begin my own legacy as an American.

I enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 17 and left home to boot camp right after high school graduation. Stationed in southern California, I served 4 years as a Field Wireman and deployed multiple times on Marine Expeditionary Units and Unit Deployment Programs.

Those deployments gave me the opportunity to explore many different countries, cultures, and cities throughout the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asia. However, one country stood out to me from the rest during my enlistment and it was Japan.

Drawn in by the unique culture and people, I decided to return. During a rainy day in the chow hall line, I read about LUJ off of an advertisement in the Stars and Stripes Magazine. The school was an opportunity for me to pursue a college education while experiencing Japanese culture. So I applied.

Now having parted from my friends and family state-side, I am studying and taking university level classes while creating new connections with locals, international students, and other fellow veterans. LUJ gave me a chance to utilize my G.I. Bill and experience the unique and robust lifestyle that is found only in Tokyo.
When in Korea
A cultural lay of the land

Though affected by other Asian countries, Korean culture’s roots lie deep within the creative Korean psyche; it tends to spread rather than be encroached upon. The delicate styling and fine craftsmanship of celadon pottery 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 battle ship, and the Korean alphabet, devised by a group of scholars in the 15th century, was so effective that it remains largely unchanged today.

Korean cultural assets to UNESCO’s World Heritage List include Chongmyo Shrine, where memorial services to the kings of the ancient Chosun Dynasty are held; the Great Changgyong Panjiong 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.

Modern Korea, however, is not without its Western influences, particularly from the United States. For example, pizza is one of the nation’s favorite foreign foods (albeit with a Korean twist on toppings like corn, sweet potato, mayonnaise and bulgogi). Western fast food chains are also popular. As in the U.S., coffeehouses have multiplied in recent years resulting in the term “coffee” to describe the use of cafés as ad hoc office spaces.

Other recent English-language influences in Korea – or “Konglish” – include: “Eye shopping” (at shopping) for window shopping, “hand phone” (hendeu pon) for cell phone and “one shot,” a drinking term for downing your drink in one quaff.

As with modern-day fashion, contemporary Korean pop music is also heavily influenced by the U.S. It has contributed to the global rise of “K-pop” since the 1990s, which in turn has influenced the West with successful artists like Psy of “Gangnam Style” fame and BTS.

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 Hangul 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,” or “Mr. Lee.”

Greetings
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.

Walking the streets
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 a 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 etiquette
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 their own bowl of rice, but helps themselves to other foods directly from the serving dishes. Koreans traditionally use chopsticks (Read more on chopsticks on Page 14) and a large-bowled spoon, although today forks are also used.

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.

National Flag
Taegeukgi: The current design of Taegeukgi was finalized on October 15, 1949. It symbolizes the principles of the yin and yang in oriental philosophy. The circle in the center is divided into two equal parts, where the upper red responds to the positive cosmic forces of the yang. Conversely, the lower blue section represents the negative cosmic forces of the yin. The flag’s background is white, representing peace and purity valued by the people of Korea. The circle is surrounded by four trigrams, one in each corner, characterizing continual movement, balance and harmony.

National flower
Mugunghwa: The national flower of Korea is mugunghwa, or rose of Sharon, which comes into bloom from July to October. A profusion of mugunghwa blossoms gracefully decorates the entire nation during blooming season, providing a view that has been loved by Koreans for many years. The flower’s symbolic significance stems from the Korean word mugun, which means immortal.

National Anthem
Aegukga: Aegukga literally means “a song expressing love towards their country” in Korean. It was originally meant to foster patriotism and raise awareness for the nation’s independence. The anthem had undergone several changes since it was first introduced until it took its current form. Maestro Ahn Eak-tai (1906-1965) rearranged the piece in 1935, which was then officially adopted by the Korean Government as the national anthem. Since then, the anthem has been used at all schools and official functions.
Useful guidelines for speaking Korean

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 in English unless a double consonant like “kk” or “pp” is used. There are exceptions.

Vowels: The Romanized Korean letter “i” is pronounced as a long “e” like “seen.” The letters “e” and “ae” are pronounced as a long “e” like “seen.” The letter “i” is pronounced like “ah.”

The vowel combination “eo” together sound like “beg.” The vowel combination “eu” is pronounced long like “boat.” The vowel combination “ui” 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 “wheee.” All 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.

Because the Roman or English alphabet has letters that its Korean counterpart doesn’t, some letters are substituted for others when referring to certain English words. For example, the letters “f” and “z” are replaced with the letters “p” and “z,” respectively such as in the words “kopi” (coffee) and “piza” (pizza).

**Days of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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**Relative Date**

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**Pronouns**

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**Adjectives**

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**Conjunctions**

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<td>Or/Also</td>
<td>Tto-neun</td>
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<td>But</td>
<td>Geu-reo-na</td>
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**Interrogative**

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<td>Where</td>
<td>Eo-di-se-o</td>
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<td>Eo-tteo-ke</td>
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**Vocabulary**

**General**

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<td>Knife</td>
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<td>Gwan-gwang</td>
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<td>Byeong-won</td>
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**Days of the Week**

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<thead>
<tr>
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**Pronouns**

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<td>Na-ui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me</td>
<td>Na-reul</td>
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<tr>
<td>He/She</td>
<td>Geu</td>
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<td>Geu-reul</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Geu-reul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Her</td>
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<td>This</td>
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**Adjectives**

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<td>Mu-geo-un</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dirty</td>
<td>Deor-eo-eun</td>
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<td>Strong</td>
<td>Gang-han</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Yakh-han</td>
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<tr>
<td>Different</td>
<td>Da-reun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Similar</td>
<td>Dal-meun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>TTeu-geo-eun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>Chu-eun</td>
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**Conjunctions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So</td>
<td>Geu-rae-seo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or/Also</td>
<td>Tto-neun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But</td>
<td>Geu-reo-na</td>
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**Interrogative**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Un-je</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>Wae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Eo-di-se-o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How</td>
<td>Eo-tteo-ke</td>
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Be sure to like us on Facebook! Just search for @StripesPacific
The wonders of won
A look at Korea’s colorful currency

Korean currency can be largely divided into four coins and four bills, with denominations of 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 50,000 won, respectively. While traveling, it’s possible all you will notice is how quickly money seems to fly from your hands. However, if you take a closer look at the characters and designs on the bills, you will be greatly surprised! There are many tiny details about the important historical figures they present and their related tourist sites.

1,000 won
Korea’s most common bill is the 1,000 won (about $1) in a pretty blue color. The front of the bill features flowers, a hanok building, and a portrait of a man, with the back sporting a landscape painting of a river and wooded mountains.

5,000 and 50,000 won
The 5,000 won ($5) and 50,000 won ($50) bills have a secret that cannot be found on any other forms of currency throughout the world! The special point of these bills is in the relationship between the two figures depicted; they are the only two figures to be related as mother and son! Shin Saimdang (1504-1551), featured on the 50,000 won bill, is also the only female on Korean currency, and is perhaps best well-known as being a good wife and wise mother.

10,000 won
The last Korean bill to examine is the green 10,000 won ($10) bill. The figure on this bill is Joseon Dynasty’s fourth king, King Sejong (1418-1450). He is known as being a monarch who, when it came to politics, always considered the needs of the people first. Thanks to this love of the people and his many achievements, the people began to attach the title “the great” to the end of his name.

Coins
Like Korean bills, Korean coins also have various images that represent the nation and its history. The smallest coin, worth 10 won, displays an image of national treasure Dabotap Pagoda. This stone pagoda is one of the nation’s most fantastic structures and is located at UNESCO-designated Bulguksa Temple in the city of Gyeongju. The 50 won coin has a single stalk of rice ready for harvest, while the 100 won coin features Admiral Yi Sun-shin (1545-1598) who almost single-handedly defeated the invading Japanese force in the Imjin War. The largest coin with a value of 500 won has a flying crane, which is the symbol for scholars. In addition to these four coins, there are two other coins no longer in circulation.

Traveler’s checks
Traveler’s checks can be exchanged for cash at banks or exchange booths. A number of stores still accept the checks instead cash. Nonetheless, the forms of credit cards and debit cards have become a more preferred means of payment by travelers.

Credit cards
Most of the businesses in Korea widely use and accept payment by credit cards, including at major hotels, department stores, and general shops. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and other credit cards can be used; however, check the service availability before making purchases as some stores may not provide this service.

Money exchange
When you need to exchange your foreign currency into Korean won, visit a bank or authorized exchange service center. Banks are generally open 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. on weekdays, with the exceptions of Standard Chartered Bank, operating 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., and EVERRICH Bank, with hours of 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Currency converter
www.xe.com/currencyconverter

• How much does this cost?: Eolma ipnikka? (polite)
Eolma ingayo? (casual)

• Where is the ATM?: ATM gigea eodie isseupnikka?

• Do you accept credit card?: Sinyong-cad ba-deu-sipnikka?

• Cash only: Hyeongeum-man bat-seup-nida.
WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY BANK

While You Serve Your Country, Let Us Serve You
Associates Understand Overseas Military Lifestyle
Services Designed for U.S. and Overseas Banking
Dedicated Locations in U.S. Military Communities
Help with Your Personal Financial Needs

Talk to an associate today or visit
DoDCommunityBank.com
to find out more

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Korean chopsticks bring the metal, not the poison

Since their invention in ancient China more than 3,000 years ago, chopsticks have been widely used in Asian countries. In South Korea, “jeotgarak” means chopsticks.

Being an important tool for dining, Koreans learn to use “jeotgarak” as infants. Koreans consider the handling of chopsticks a necessity for good table manners, and for children and adults alike, table manners are very important. This even extends to the manner in which the chopsticks are presented in the table setting: in Korea they are placed vertically on the table.

Growing up, I remember my father teaching me how to pick up black beans he had scattered on the table with only chopsticks. I also remember getting scolded for sticking chopsticks straight into rice. Same as in Japan, this is a no-no as it resembles a funeral rite.

In Korea, we love to share our food, so our chopsticks are slightly longer, making it easier to share dishes and reach across the table for that last piece of juicy bulgogi.

Since metal tends to be a little slippery for picking food up, the chopsticks in Korea come flat, rectangular and rough at the ends for good gripping purposes.

Despite all the scolding and the rigorous training I had to endure, like many Westerners, I still feel uncomfortable using stainless steel chopsticks. But, at least I won’t have to worry about my food being poisoned.

- ChiHon Kim

Shuttle Delivery hooks you up

There are going to be times that going off base to a restaurant or cooking a meal at home feels like too much effort or too time-consuming. In the States, there are many food delivery options. In Korea, if you’re an English speaker, you may feel left out of the food delivery phone app craze.

A quick search through the app store will bring up many food delivery options like Yogiyo, Baedal Minjek or Baedal Tong – but they are completely in Korean. To top it off, Uber, the U.S. platform you may be familiar with, had to pull out of Korea after being unable to compete with homegrown apps.

But, don’t despair, Shuttle Delivery is here! Shuttle, a bilingual delivery app, launched in the Itaewon area of Seoul in 2016. Craving a juicy burger, zesty wings, or Korean food? Shuttle Delivery extended its coverage to restaurants outside of Camp Humphreys’ gates.

As expected, if you live on base, you will have the minor inconvenience of having to meet the delivery person at the gate.

The app is free to download and delivery fees for your order vary depending on distance and area. You can also order from their web platform if you don’t have the app downloaded on your phone. Pay in won, U.S. dollars, using all major credit cards, Korean debit card, PayPal or Bitcoin. Delivery service runs from 11 a.m. to midnight.

Don’t let a busy schedule, or a language barrier, stop you from enjoying the convenience of food delivery. Try this app next time you’re in a pinch.

- ChiHon Kim

# Food delivered to your door

Information: https://www.shuttledelivery.co.kr/en
Available on Android and iOS

For more food stories, go to stripeskorea.com
Lunar New Year and a can of Spam

For many, the word “Spam” may conjure up images of junk e-mail or a cheap substitute for fresh meat. But the canned pink meat has a different position in some parts of the world, especially in Korea.

Seollal, celebrated starting Feb. 4, is one of Korea’s biggest holidays, and Feb. 5 is the start of the lunar year in 2019. Growing up in Daegu, Seollal meant visits to my grandparents’ home and lots of rice cake stew. During the holiday, which is observed over the course of three days, Koreans travel back to their hometowns to pay respects to their ancestors, wear traditional hanbok and exchange gifts with their loved ones.

You’ll know it’s time for the Lunar New Year again when the local grocery stores push the infamous can of Spam to the prime real estate at the front of the store, where it sits side-by-side with the imported wine or expensive organic mushrooms.

Though gifts include tuna, cooking oils, and local beef (Hanwoo), the best-selling gift is Spam. So much so, it’s even an incentive for company workers during the holiday and Chuseok, Korea’s harvest festival in September. The country is now the second biggest consumer of Spam after the U.S., according to Hormel Foods, despite having a population less than a sixth of the size of the U.S.

Why Spam is popular here

The popularity of Spam in Korea is a leftover from the Korean War, when it came over with U.S. soldiers in the 1950s. By the end of the war, South Korea had plunged into crushing poverty. Meat was scarce, and for many, Spam smuggled from U.S. Army bases was the only source. Since Koreans could barely afford to eat meat during the country’s two major holidays, Spam quickly became a special treat, becoming a symbol of wealth.

After all these years, Spam remains an integral part of the Korean food culture and is an indispensable ingredient in budae jigae, Korean for Army Stew, which is popular with both the older and younger generations of Koreans.

The taste of Spam produced in Korea, which a Korean producer said is different to the flavor of Spam produced in the States, and its ability to pair with kimchi and rice is what keeps Koreans hooked.

Spam is also known for its extremely popular TV commercials in Korea. Since 1980, when Spam was officially imported into Korea – not smuggled in – the company began advertising the pink meat block as the example of luxury. Although in recent years Spam’s popularity has declined, in Korea, bowls of warm rice topped with Spam and kimchi still conjure great memories for generations of Koreans. And Lunar New Year just wouldn’t be the same without it.

– ChiHon Kim

2020 official Korean holidays

Jan

New Year’s Day

As in other countries, the first day of the New Year is celebrated. Many Koreans visit the coast or the mountains to watch the first sunrise of the year.

Feb

Seollal (2021)

Lunar New Year’s Day (Seollal) is one of the most important traditional holidays of the year; the holiday is much more significant than January 1st. Most businesses are closed, and people take several days off from work to visit their hometown to be with their family. On the day of Seollal, everyone gets up early, puts on their best clothes, and bows to their elders as a reaffirmation of family ties. Feasts are held with specially prepared food such as tteokguk (rice cake soup) and mandu guk (dumpling soup). Korean families enjoy spending time together by playing traditional games such as yutnori (traditional Korean board games), flying kites, or spinning tops.

Mar

Independence Movement Day

This day commemorates the Declaration of Independence proclaimed on March 1, 1919, while under Japanese colonization.

May

Children’s Day

This day celebrates children and their parents’ hopes for them to grow healthy and become good citizens. On this day, parents take their little ones to children’s parks, amusement parks, zoos, or to the cinema for a full day of fun and games.

May

Buddha’s Birthday

Falling on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, elaborate and solemn rituals are held at many Buddhist temples across the country and lanterns are hung along streets leading to the temples.

Jun

Memorial Day

Memorial Day serves to honor the soldiers and civilians who have given their lives for their country. While memorial services are held nationwide, the largest ceremony takes place at the National Cemetery in Seoul.

Aug

Liberation Day

This day commemorates Japan’s acceptance of the Allies’ terms of surrender in 1945 and the following liberation of Korea.

Sep

Chuseok

Chuseok is one of the year’s most important traditional holidays. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month. Chuseok is often referred to as Korean Thanksgiving Day. It’s a celebration of another successful harvest year. Family members come from all over the country for memorial rituals, called charye, at the graves of their ancestors.

Oct

National Foundation Day

This day commemorates the founding of the Korean nation by the legendary god-king Dangun. A simple ceremony is held at several regions throughout Korea, namely at Chameongdan Altar on top of Manisan Mountain on Ganghwa Island; Dangunjeon Shrine in Gokseong, Taebaeksan Mountain, and Jeungpyeong, and at Dangunseongjeon Shrine in Seoul.

Oct

Hangeul Day

Hangeul Day is a commemoration held to remember the creation of Hangeul, the country’s native alphabet as proclaimed by the publication of Hunminjeongeum on this day in 1446.

Dec

Christmas

Christmas is observed as a national holiday in Korea as in many other countries. To celebrate the festive season, Christmas trees and lights can be seen all over Korea.

– Korea Tourism Organization

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www.visitkorea.or.kr
About Pyeongtaek

Pyeongtaek is home to Camp Humphreys, the biggest U.S. military installation in South Korea. The city has developed and grown as the base has also expanded. From Camp Humphreys, Osan AB is about 20 km south and Kunsan AB is 80 km north. As the area continues to grow, there are many types of properties available for newcomers including single homes, town houses, villas, high rise apartments and more.

Below are three of the most popular Pyeongtaek properties:

#01
DREAM HILLS
- 6 min.-drive from Doduri-gate
- 2-story single house with yard
- 4 bedrooms, 4 baths
- Folding door to the yard
- Land 4768.15 sq ft/ House 3060.15 sqft

#02
Elysium
- 5 min.-drive from Dongchang-ri gate
- 3-story single house w/ rooftop
- 4 bedrooms, 4 baths
- High ceiling with big windows
- Private yard
- Third-floor master suite
- About 2,846.65 sqft

#03
Humphreys Hills The Castle
- 5 min.-drive from Dodu-ri gate
- Villa with balcony or yard
- Different sizes, floorplans available
- Attic for top floor unit
- Playground and fitness center
- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths
- The largest unit is 3,767 sqft

About Kunsan

Kunsan is a small city located near West Sea with a population of 280,000. The most common type of properties available in Kunsan are inside high-rise buildings. Single homes are a rarity in this city. Here, Kunsan Dream Vill and Kunsan Miryong Benestar Apartment are two of the most popular rental properties.

Dream Vill was built with single servicemembers in mind. The units in this high-rise have 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Find this property a 5-minute-walk from Kunsan AB.

Kunsan Miryong Benestar Apartment is a high-rise building with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Getting to base from this property is a 5 to 10-minute drive.

Want to be a landlord?

Did you know that you can be a landlord in South Korea? With your OHA/LQA, you can buy a real estate property in Korea. To take advantage of this great benefit there are a few things to keep in mind:
- Once you find the right house, a down payment of at least 10% is required. A 60% loan from bank and a 30% payment is required.
- This means that in order to become a landlord, you must pay 40% of the price to have ownership.
- After the purchase, you can request OHA/LQA within 10% of property price, which will be paid by the military as monthly rent. Currently, Korea’s interest rate had decreased, so it is a great opportunity to increase your personal assets.

As you prepare for your PCS move to South Korea, keep Christine Realty for your home-finding needs. Our agents are experienced, and we are ready to serve you and your family. Contact us today to get started!
With Christine Realty, you can be whichever you want! We will help you to find a home away from home and walk you through the entire process including all the paperwork involved.

**US Military Bases in Korea**
In Korea, there are 14 US military bases. These are divided into the following regions: Camp Casey and Camp Hovey in Dongducheon (Gyeonggi-do); USAG Yongsan in Seoul; K-16 AB in Seongnam (Gyeonggi-do); Suwon AB in Suwon (Gyeonggi-do); Osan AB and Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek (Gyeonggi-do); Kunsan AB in Kunsan (Jeolla-buk-do); Camp Walker, Camp Henry, Camp George in Daegu; Camp Carroll in Waegwan (Gyeonggabuk-do); Camp Mujik in Busan; and, Chinhae Naval Base in Chinhae (Gyeongnamdo).
Demand for rental homes is rising in Pyeongtaek and Kunsan (Jeolla-buk-do).

Christine Realty’s service areas include Dongducheon and Kunsan, but the majority of our business is in Pyeongtaek. Feel free to contact us via email, our website or our Facebook page prior to your arrival in South Korea, so we can get started helping you find a home.

When our clients are looking for a new place, we ask a few questions to better assist us in the search:

• **Are you a servicemember, contractor or GS civilian?** If you are in military and stationed/deployed to Korea and you are a single, it is mandatory to stay in single barracks on post. If you are PCSing with your family, USFK requires you check family housing on post before. If on-base family housing is full, then families are allowed to live off base. Contractor and GS civilians can live off-base within budget/LQA limitations.

• **What type of property are you looking for and what other factors are important to you?** Are you on the market for an apartment, villa, and house? What size of property and/or number of rooms? Do you require a furnished or unfurnished home? What distance from base, school bus route, neighborhood or area are you interested in? What is your desired move-in date?

From your needs and wants, we can narrow down the available properties in the area. You pick the place and let Christine Realty do the leg work! We will negotiate with the landlord, navigate the necessary paperwork to get your new lease. Once you’re in your new place, our commitment to you isn’t over. We will also label all the appliances and remote controls in English for your convenience. And, later, when it’s time to service your apartment or maintenance issues arise, we will also contact the property handyman or technician and arrange the schedule. From move in to move out, count on Christine Realty to make you feel comfortable in your home away from home!
Giving gifts & tipping

For foreigners new to South Korea, guidance toward tipping is usually straightforward: Don’t do it. While this is a good general rule, the tipping situation is a bit more complex than that.

There are a few circumstances when it is appropriate or expected to provide either a tip or some form of extra compensation in the form of gifts or treats. Travelers should keep in mind that, like in the U.S., local customs can change and there is no set-in-stone rule on tipping or compensation, just general guidelines. But remember, if you’re at an on-base restaurant, you are expected to tip.

You don’t have to tip anywhere in Korea, no matter how many stars your hotel is ranked or how fancy the restaurant where you’re eating is. Service fees and tips are already included in the bill. Especially in restaurants, since 2013, when Korea’s “final payment price marking system” was implemented.

A tip is your choice if you feel you received service beyond what you expected, however it is not required.

When you may tip

It’s not uncommon to tip the concierge and/or housekeeping staff of a Western-influenced hotel.

If you’re staying at a high-end Western-style hotel, it’s acceptable to leave some money (around $10 depending on your length of stay) underneath your pillow after you check out of the room. But, again, it’s not expected.

Additionally, if you find yourself taking a taxi and the ride comes to around 11,000 won (around $10) it’s not uncommon to hand the driver 15,000 won and tell them to keep the change.

Don’t be surprised if in any of these situations, the tip is politely refused.

Gifts of gratitude

Americans affiliated with the military often have questions regarding providing gifts or tokens of gratitude to Korean people.

The most common examples are usually neighbors, or workers from the Korean moving companies who move household goods to or from the base. In these situations, it is acceptable to provide some sort of gift or treat.

In Korea, it is common to offer light refreshments such as sports drinks, fruit and bread to movers who move household goods to or from the base. The food expenses of the workers are generally included in the total delivery fee – but this varies by company.

If you would like to offer a monetary tip, hand them envelopes you can buy at any convenience store with a small sum of money for their lunch to the company’s representatives. If you use the delivery contractor to the U.S. government, you are not expected to tip.

In the case of trying to give a gift to someone like a Korean neighbor, good ideas include any American snack, including chips, nuts or chocolates. However, the ideal gift to give your new neighbors is Korean rice cakes.

Keep your gifts simple and thoughtful and they will be well received no matter what you decide on.

Get lucky

Toilet paper, detergent make great gifts

One of the advantages of living in a foreign country is the fact that you get to experience a totally different culture than what you’re used to. If you are invited to a housewarming party in the States, what gift would you bring? You might bring food, snacks or a bottle of wine. But, in Korea, a roll of toilet paper and laundry detergent are the most common gifts to bring. For Koreans, cleaning supplies bring luck and good fortune to the person who just moved into a new home.

Among both toilet paper and laundry detergent, the roll of paper is the most common. Just as easily as the paper unravels from the roll, so is the gift-giver’s desire for the recipient’s continued success and good health. The bubbles from the detergent symbolize prosperity, wealth and stability for the recipient.

Other customs according to local folklore, say taking the remaining embers from the previous house’s fireplace to a new house will also continue the prosperity.

In addition, Koreans used to hold a purification ritual to drive away bad luck and bad spirits from the new house. Due to this, matches and candles were a popular housewarming gift in the 1960s and ‘70s but were replaced with detergent and toilet paper over time.

Aside from being a lucky gift, perhaps the most important thing is that your friend’s cabinet will be filled with toilet paper and detergent, which could be a relief for them in the months to come.

If you are invited to a Korean friend’s house warming party, don’t forget the TP and the soap!

– ChiHon Kim

Thank you for the gift.
seonmul gomawo. (informal,) Seonmul gomapseupnida. (formal style)
I wish you good fortune.
Haenguneul bipnida.
Hope to see you soon.
Jomangane dasi boepgireul barapnida.

Thank you for inviting me.
Chodaehae jusyoseo gamsahapnida
This is for you.
igeon neoreul wihan geoya. (informal),
igeon dangsin-eul wihan geopnida. (formal style)
Traditional Korean houses

Hanok refers to houses built in the traditional Korean style. While tile-roofed and thatch-roofed hanoks were equally common, the former were typically noblemen residences while the latter were mostly houses of the commoners in the past. These days, most traditional hanok that are still used for housing have modern facilities installed within.

There are two main charms to hanoks. The first is the unique heating system of ondol. A layer of stone is laid down below the flooring and when heated, the heat spreads up into every room of the house, keeping both the floor and the air surprisingly warm in winter. The use of ondol has influenced the Korean culture to a lifestyle of sitting on the floor, even in modern times. Because the floor is used for eating, sleeping, and general leisure time, people take off their shoes when entering a Korean home. This custom started with hanok and the ondol system.

The second attractive point to hanok houses is that they are environmentally friendly. The materials needed to build a hanok house are free from chemicals, making it a healthy environment. The pillars, rafters, doors, window frames, and floor are wooden, while the walls are a mixture of straw and dirt. The paper to cover the frames of doors and windows was made from tree pulp. As the building materials used are all natural, hanok houses have excellent breathability, perfect for escaping the summer heat.

Experience the traditional culture for yourself through the many hanok villages in Korea, including Jeonju Hanok Village, Andong Hahoe Folk Village, Bukchon Hanok Village, Namsangol Hanok Village and Naganeupseong Folk Village.

Traditional Korean clothes

Hanbok is the traditional attire of the Korean people. Worn daily up until just 100 years ago, hanbok comes in various shapes and colors, reflecting the culture and lifestyle of the its time.

While the traditional hanbok was beautiful in its own right, the design has changed slowly but surely over the generations. The core of hanbok is its graceful shape and vibrant colors, which have had a major impact on the modern fashion industry. It is hard to think of hanbok as everyday wear but it is slowly being revolutionized through the changing of fabrics, colors and features, reflecting the latest trend. Many aspiring hanbok designers have altered hanbok for everyday wear with traditional elements at the base of the garment but having a distinct modern feel.

Features of hanbok

The unique lines of hanbok appear at their greatest when the wearer is in motion. Hanbok is creative and expressive in its design. Another special feature about hanbok is the shape, having a slim top and wide bottom, similar to a bell. The jacket should be tight and fitted while the skirt is. The tightly fitting jacket attractively reflects the shape of the upper body. The wide and flexible skirt flatter the wearer's gracefulness by hiding the movements of the lower body, so the wearer appears to be floating on air. Hanbok fabric is colored using natural dyes. The colors of nature are imbued in the cloth, giving hanbok a depth and richness not found from artificial dyes. A full set of hanbok for men consists of a vest, jeogori (top jacket), and a pair of pants while women’s include a jeogori, undershirt, skirt, and a pair of pantaloons.

Modern hanbok

For modern Koreans, hanbok are the formal clothing worn during Korean holidays or on special occasions. Children wear hanbok on their first birthday and adults wear it for their wedding ceremony or major events within the family, including funerals.

Although hanbok have become the ritual dress of choice worn only on traditional holidays, Koreans’ love for hanbok is tremendous. The number of people wearing stylish hanbok modified to suit as an everyday wear continues to increase, and many enjoy outing in hanbok by renting one from hanbok rental shops.

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www.visitkorea.or.kr

A stroll though Jeonju in hanbok rentals.
Photo by Brigitte Patton
Do your DoDEA homework

The Department of Defense Education Activity is a K-12 American school system for U.S. military, DoD civilian dependents and other eligible families. DoDEA Pacific manages on-base schools in Guam, mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea.

Registration
Families can register online using the DoDEA Online Registration System (DORS). This system allows sponsors to complete required documentation and include uploads of required forms prior to arriving at the new duty location. A visit to the assigned school is necessary to verify eligibility and enrollment documents, and to finalize registration. Families may also complete their registration in-country upon arrival to the new PCS location. Contact the school website for office hours.

Enrolled students who are advancing to the next grade level will need to revalidate enrollment eligibility by providing a copy of orders or Letter of Employment verification along with any required and updated immunization records for each child.

Students preparing to enter kindergarten must be five years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling school year. Proof of your child’s age must be provided through documentation such as birth certificate or passport.

Some DoDEA Pacific schools offer a pre-kindergarten program called Sure Start. The program offers a comprehensive approach to early childhood education in the areas of development, health, social services and family involvement. Students must be four years old by September 1 of the enrolling school year. 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, send records via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail to the military address of the receiving 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. It is recommended that you confirm the current mailing address with the school.

Student meal / free and reduced lunch program
All families with students enrolled in DoDEA Pacific schools are eligible to apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Completing this application is an annual requirement for families, if eligible, to continue to receive either a free or reduced lunch. To find the correct Free and Reduced Meal Program point of contact for your family’s school, please visit the DoDEA Pacific website.

To pay for school lunches, parents and sponsors will need to set up and fund a prepaid account with the agency that operates your school’s lunch program. Contact your school for additional information.

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.

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. You can reach out to the District Special Education Instructional Systems Specialist (ISS) by contacting the DoDEA District Superintendent’s Office in the location where you are considering your next assignment.

A very helpful source for information to families can also be accessed through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

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) or DoD dependent students eligible to enroll in Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (Guam) on a tuition-free basis. Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must also meet the same eligibility requirements as 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 the desire to their commanders in order 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.

Welcome to the Pacific 2020-21
Take advantage of on-base colleges

The Defense Department has contracted colleges and universities to provide in-resident college and graduate programs on military installations in mainland Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and Guam.

The current contracted institutions are:

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s award-winning undergraduate and graduate degrees are available in the Pacific! They can help you select the right degree to match your career goals in the aviation, management, safety, logistics, and engineering industries. The school offers local and online courses to accommodate your busy schedule.

**University of Maryland Global Campus**

UMGC is one of 11 regionally accredited, degree-granting institutions in the University System of Maryland (USM). The university brings quality higher education wherever the military needs it, with cutting-edge degree programs and classes offered both online and on-site at military installations worldwide.

As the first university to serve military overseas, UMGC has earned a global reputation for excellence. Headquartered in Adelphi, Maryland, UMGC has on-site classroom locations in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Offering both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, UMGC Asia’s mission is to provide top quality education and services to U.S. military communities in Asia and the Pacific.

**Troy University**

The University proudly counts some 60 flag officers among the ranks of its alumni, has a presence on or near over 30 military installations worldwide and participates in online learning programs with all service branches. For generations, Troy University has understood the needs of the military student and has built a military inclusive institution offering a broad range of high quality, very affordable undergraduate and graduate academic programs supported by outstanding student services. Contact your education center to learn what in-residence and distance-learning programs are available on your base.

**University of Maryland Global Campus:**
www.umuc.edu/military

**Troy University:**
www.troy.edu/military

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University:**
worldwide.erau.edu/pacificmil

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**Education centers**

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Take advantage of on-base colleges

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has provided education for active-duty military and veterans around the globe for 50 years.

Our locations at Osan and Camp Humphreys provide award-winning in-person instruction that prepares you for industry-relevant careers, featuring programs ranked in the top five since 2014.

Students also receive individualized support from local academic advisors who understand the challenges of military service. Our dedication to your success includes tutoring, financial aid assistance, career resources, and an alumni connection to more than 130,000+ successful graduates worldwide.

Find out more:
worldwide.erau.edu/pacificmil
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) or Pohang. 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 59,800 won (about $50.04) for designated seating and 50,000 won ($44) for unguaranteed seating. The fare on the Honam Line to Gwangju is around 34,300 won and 29,200 won, respectively. (Special compartments are 140 percent of the basic fare.) KTX fares are 15 to 30 percent higher than the Saemaeul trains – the next lower level of service.

Saemaeul 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 tourist destinations. Saemaeul 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 Saemaeul 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 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 9,000 won, which is just around $7.56 and takes around 45 minutes on the express train. From Gimpo airport to Seoul Station, the all-stop ride is a short 22 minutes and costs about 1450 won, or around 1.22 cents.

Travel by subway
Several cities operate subway systems and 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 (Puppyong.)

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 Sooyusan, 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
OPERATION:
Join and Get More

We were founded with one simple purpose—to meet the financial needs of servicemembers and their families. How? We invest in our members by providing better rates, lower fees and exceptional service.

Join today at navyfederal.org or visit a branch near you.
BRINGING YOU CLOSER
TO THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST

We at DOCOMO PACIFIC understand that making a permanent move may be stressful. Let us help you stay connected while you settle into your new home.

1. I just arrived in Guam and need quick access to the internet. What do I do?

Getting a MiFi is the perfect bridge. A MiFi is a compact wireless Internet device that you can take with you on the go. Depending on your needs, one MiFi can provide Internet connectivity to multiple phones, tablets and computers at once. You stay connected while deciding which telecommunications plan is best for you.

2. I’m not sure what services I need. What does DOCOMO PACIFIC offer? What is unique about DOCOMO PACIFIC?

a. As the region’s leader in innovation, telecommunications & entertainment, DOCOMO PACIFIC offers a variety of products and services, including mobile, internet, TV, and telephone. Our customers rated us Guam’s best Mobile, Internet and Cable Provider 4 years in a row (Pika’s Best 2016-2019) and best Cellphone Service Provider for 3 years (Pacific Stars & Stripes 2014, 2016, 2018). Global Wireless Solutions, a network benchmarking company who rates national carriers, also named DOCOMO PACIFIC Guam’s most reliable and fastest network with the best coverage! For our service members, we are happy to offer exclusive mobile plans and quad-play bundles.

3. Do you offer any special discounts?

a. Yes, we do. Select from our “Service Member Plans”, and get your first month’s service for free. We also offer a savings of up to $800 for any iPhone or Samsung flagship device that you choose.

4. I need more information about DOCOMO PACIFIC. Where can I go?

a. For our Army & Air Force customers, our store is conveniently located within the exchange at Andersen Air Force Base. For our Active Duty Navy customers, our closest store is located at Agana Shopping Center. For more information on store hours and other locations, please feel free to visit docomopacific.com.

5. I still have some questions before I make a decision. Who can I speak with?

a. DOCOMO PACIFIC is dedicated to delivering an unmatched customer experience 24/7. If you have any questions, we are just a quick phone call away! Contact us at 671-688-CARE or email: customercare@docomopacific.com.
Let our network be your best move

MOST RELIABLE NETWORK IN THE MARIANAS
FASTEST INTERNET SPEED | AWARD-WINNING SERVICE

688-CARE | docomopacific.com
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 several 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 Myeongdong and Namdaemun (Hoehyeon Station). It also stops at Seoul Station. The four 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.

**Jungang (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 sledging and other 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. It 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 taxi 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 customary to not 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.

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**Online help to get around**

**Train how-to information, maps, routes, schedules, booking:**
info.korail.com/mbs/english

**Bus zones, numbers, stops, fares:**
english.visitkorea.or.kr/en/TRP/TP_ENG_5_1.jsp

**Subway how-to information, maps, stops, fares:**
english.visitkorea.or.kr/en/TRP/TP_ENG_6.jsp

**Plane flights, schedules, booking:**

**Hi-Pass On Board Unit (in English):**
http://www.morningstation.co.kr/en/portfolio-item/hi-pass/

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**English visitkorea.or.kr**

**Train how-to information, maps, routes, schedules, booking:**
info.korail.com/mbs/english

**Bus zones, numbers, stops, fares:**
english.visitkorea.or.kr/en/TRP/TP_ENG_5_1.jsp

**Subway how-to information, maps, stops, fares:**
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**Transportation**

**Education**

**Private vehicles**

**Legal**

**Living**

**Food**

**Leisure**

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*Enjoying a refreshing hike to the top of Palgongsan Mountain in Daegu, Photo by Paul Hendrick*

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*Speak to locals in Korean*

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*Understanding signs in Korean*

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*English Visit Korea*

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*So far*
Travel by bus

Bus travel in Korea is reliable and the schedules are more convenient than the trains. Some expressways have bus-only lanes for peak travel times such as weekends, rush hour and major holidays. 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 and are 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 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 traveled. 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 3,000 won (about $2.70), 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. 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 or check with your local Morale, Welfare and Recreational Center. They will have information in English, Chinese and Japanese. Tickets are available in subway or bus ticket vendors and machines. The basic charge is 3,000 won (about $2.70), and it can be recharged with up to 90,000 won.

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 for 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 to 500,000 won.

You can buy a prepaid Hi-Pass card that is only available to pay highway tolls in South Korea. The handy Hi-Pass system allows you to pay tolls without having to stop at every toll gate. For this collection system, you’re required to have both an On Board Unit (OBU) placed at the front part of the vehicle (normally on the car dash board or around rear-view mirror), and a Hi-Pass card which should be inserted into the OBU.

If your car has a rear-view with ETC unit (Electronic Toll Collection), you can get a Hi-Pass card from any store selling OBU. You can buy a prepaid Hi-Pass card that is only available to pay tolls or get a credit card that is linked to Hi-Pass service. Both cards are available at rest stops on highways. Toll fees are varied by the distance you’ve traveled, the type of roads, and the type of vehicle.

Electronic Toll Collection system

Highway tolls can be paid using credit cards, cash, or a Hi-Pass card in South Korea. The handy Hi-Pass system allows you to pay tolls without having to stop at every toll gate. For this collection system, you’re required to have both an On Board Unit (OBU) placed at the front part of the vehicle (normally on the car dash board or around rear-view mirror), and a Hi-Pass card which should be inserted into the OBU.

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Space-A travel
A way to see the world

Space Available travel offers a way for Armed Services personnel, their dependents, retirees and others who support the mission to see the world on a budget... if the timing is right. Below is what you need to know about this great privilege:

What is Space-A?
It is a program that allows authorized passengers to occupy surplus seats after all cargo and space-required duty passengers have been accommodated.

Who can fly Space-A?
Uniformed services duty personnel, their dependents, Red Cross personnel, USO personnel who also support the mission, and veterans. Passengers may not use the flights for personal gain, in relationship to employment, to find a house or for other prohibited activities.

What do I need to qualify?
• Qualified travelers must have completed the proper procedures and have the required documentation for travel.
• Active duty must be on leave before they can register for Space-A.
• Dependents of active duty flying unaccompanied need an Unaccompanied Command Sponsorship from his or her spouse's commander. The letter is valid for one round trip travel via military aircraft, describes the reason for travel and the category of passenger travel.
• Also mandatory for travel: military ID cards, passports, social security numbers and emergency contact information at the final destination.

How much does it cost?
Most flights offered through the Air Force’s Air Mobility Command (AMC) or the Navy and are usually free of charge. Patriot Express flights are commercial, so a small tax (usually under $30) is charged per seat and per leg.

Where can I go on Space-A?
Common destinations include the Continental U.S. states, Hawaii, Alaska, Germany, England, Spain, Italy, Japan and South Korea. In spring of 2020, flights between Seattle and Guam were added on a bi-weekly, proof-of-concept basis. Flights may even go to South and Central America, Africa and Australia.

When is the best time to fly?
The best time to obtain seats is when DODEA schools are in session.
Because the program is a privilege, it is imperative to understand the circumstances may change due to mission mobility. Flying exactly where you want to go at the time or day you want to fly is not always possible. So, if you have a specific itinerary for your destination or your return, you may want to reconsider using Space-A for those travel plans. This program is designed for those who have enough available leave, time and flexibility to wait or change their schedule.

What are the categories?
Each passenger is assigned a passenger category for travel. These categories designate the order by which you may be boarded on Space-A flights. The following list is generalized:
• Category I – Emergency travel
• Category II – Environmental Morale Leave (EML) and dependents.
• Category III – Active duty ordinary Leave and dependents; convalescent leave; permissive TDYS; Unaccompanied dependent of deployed service-member for more than a year.
• Category IV - Unaccompanied dependent of deployed service-member on EML status.
• Category V – Unaccompanied military dependent of non-deployed servicemember.
• Category VI – Retirees, Reservists.

What baggage can I bring?
• Two pieces of checked baggage; 70 lbs each; up to 62 linear inches in size. (families can pool baggage allowances)
• Carry-ons must fit in overhead bins (if available) or under your seat
• Travel light as baggage weight could be restricted for your flight.

What else should I know?
If your flight ends up being via military plan, be aware that accommodations and services are different, from fold-down jump seats along the wall, cargo in front of you and a plane that is either pretty warm or cool, depending on the time of year of travel and location.
• Wear appropriate footwear, bring jackets, blankets, snacks, bottled water and things to keep you busy, like books, games or electronic devices.
• Available plugs for charging are along the walls.
• Remember to stay flexible. Travel during off-peak seasons (stay away from summer break and major holidays).
• Sometimes travelers attempt to catch a hop at neighboring base terminals to maximize chances of getting on a flight.
• For your return flight, you could wait several days for available space. Or, you could even be dropped off in another country to wait for a flight.
• Remaining calm, positive and being flexible will help.
• When flying Space-A, be ready for anything.
When you think of some discomfort of overseas travel, maybe the first thing comes to your mind is the hustle to get to the gate and the horrifyingly long lines to get through the ticket line and security.

Now, travelers through Incheon International Airport can get some reprieve from the stress of traveling at the City Airport Terminal inside Seoul Station.

This terminal, in the second basement of the station, offers early check-in including immigration clearance and baggage services for overseas travelers.

Use this convenient service to ditch your suitcase and buy you more time to explore the popular areas around Seoul Station like Myeongdong, Namsan Tower and Seoullo7017 before you board a train to the airport.

Passengers on South Korean flag carriers like Korean Air, Asiana Airlines and low-cost carriers like Jin Air, Eastar Jet, and Jeju Air can use this service. (The codeshare flights operated by these airlines except for Jeju Air are also available.)

Check-in through this Seoul Station terminal must be done at least three hours before your flight departs. For Korean Air, check-in closes three hours and 20 minutes before flight take off, so arrive earlier for this airline.

To use this service, you must purchase an AREX ticket first as this is the express train service that will ensure you reach the airport and your gate on time. Passengers are required to present their ticket in order to check in at City Airport Terminal. Tickets cost 9,000 won (about $7.56) for adults and 7,000 won for children under 13 years of age.

Flights to the U.S. including Guam and Saipan are only eligible for this service if you are flying Asiana Air or Jeju Air due to enhanced Aviation Security Regulations from TSA (Transportation Security Administration of the U.S.), according to the terminal website. This is only temporarily, so stay tuned for when other major airlines are added for travel to the States.

After checking in at the City Airport Terminal counter, passengers then move to the Immigration Office. Once cleared, it’s a short elevator ride down to the AREX platform for a 40 to 50-minute trip to the airport.

Another good thing about this service is that you enter through the designated entrance for diplomats and flight attendants on the third floor of Incheon International Airport, giving you quick access to the departure lounge after passing through the security.

Keep this convenient service in mind the next time you travel to save you time and headaches of traveling abroad.

- ChiHon Kim
YOU WANT TO GET AN EDUCATION FROM A UNIVERSITY THAT GETS YOU.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded to bring a respected state university education to working adults like you. With frequent start dates, convenient online and hybrid courses, and a variety of programs in Asia, we are committed to giving you an education to help you build the career and life you’ve always imagined.

Learn how to get started by attending a no-cost webinar. Sign up at www.asia.umgc.edu/webinar.
Buying & registering a POV on the ROK

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 to 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, so 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 and 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.

Many bases have Auto Hobby Centers that will inspect the vehicle for a nominal sum before you buy it. They 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 Military AutoSource. 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 are forced to 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

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

On-base vehicle registration offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address/Phone</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Humphreys</td>
<td>Bldg. 6400; Tel: 757-4001</td>
<td>Mon – Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osan Air Base</td>
<td>Bldg. 765; Tel: 784-4489 / 784-1853</td>
<td>Mon, Tue, Thurs: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wed: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fri: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yongsan Garrison</td>
<td>Bldg. 4304; Rm#114; Tel: 724-4811</td>
<td>Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Closed for lunch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunsan Air Base</td>
<td>Bldg. 1310; Tel: 782-4900</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Walker</td>
<td>Bldg. S-330, Rm. 128A; Tel: 763-4708</td>
<td>Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Casey/Air I</td>
<td>Bldg. 2440, Maude Hall; Tel: 730-4472</td>
<td>Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Carroll</td>
<td>Bldg. 946; Tel: 763-2575</td>
<td>Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tue: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where to purchase a vehicle

There are many car dealers in Korea anxious for military business. Military AutoSource (www.militaryautosource.com), which has served the military community abroad for more than 46 years, offers the finest Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Ford, Lincoln and Harley-Davidson vehicles to military personnel stationed, or on TDY assignment for at least 30 days, through independent sales representatives on 11 bases in Korea.

US Military Sales (www.usmilitarysales.com), selling new U.S.-specification Volvos, will help you save thousands of dollars on Stateside MSRP. Their showroom is located near the Dong Chang-ri gate at USAG Humphreys, with additional sales offices at the U.S. Embassy Association Building at USAG Yongsan Garrison and near Osan Air Base’s walk-in gate. They also take trade-ins and sell used cars. Call 010-3098-4507 for more information.

BMW / MINI Military Sales help you to save up to 25 percent from MSRP for all U.S. military members when purchasing a BMW/ MINI while stationed in Korea. Your choices can vary, Korean specs, as well as U.S. specs, are available depending on your status. Visit their office located in Yongsan (Across from Yongsan Garrison’s Gate #8) and their Pyeongtaek office, located less than a mile away straight from Anjeong-ri Gate. For more details, go to www.bmwdskorea.com, Facebook and Instagram, or call 1577-2696 (BMW M).

Craigslist (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 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 (usfkclassifieds.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 access to many more. The firm offers on-base pickup to the dealership and full repair services.

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

Camp Humphreys area

Kang’s Auto Sales & Service is only a 2-minute drive from Dongchang-ri Gate. They have been serving the Camp Humphreys community for more than 10 years. Tel: 031-691-2255 or 010-5691-6243; Address: 17911 80, Paengseongdaegyo-gil, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do.

CarMax Humphreys (www.carmaxcenter.com) (010-9474-0619), is located about 5 minutes away, halfway between the Anjung-ri and Dongchang-ri Gates. They have been serving the Camp Humphreys community for more than 20 years.

OMG Motors (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 (010-5356-3065). Ask for Johnny Kim.

Yongsan Garrison area

James Garage, a 2-minute walk from Commissary Gate, has been serving the USFK community for more than 30 years. This facility is not only a used car selling agent but also a professional auto repair shop. You can have a look at pre-screened used cars available right on the spot at James Garage. Call 02-796-6062 or 010-3742-6062.

Mr. Bill’s Cars (www.mrbillscars.kr.com) (010-4555-6266) is actually located by Yongsan’s Gate 6. The dealer, which was 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 (acementors.net/default.asp) (011-8875-8881), 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/) (Alex 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.

GRIT Motortainment offers various auto tuning parts, from tires and rims to exterior body kits. It is well-known for being a one-stop shop that you can consult on maintenance, repairs, used and new car purchases, plus tuning parts. They are dealers of Rotiform, Hamman Motorsports and Kahn Designs in Korea, and their aftermarket parts fit numerous domestic and import car brands. Their showroom is located near Costco Gongse and is its extensive inventory and quotes prices in dollars.

READ MORE AT: Head to Stripes.com to stay up to date on all breaking news 33
Thanks to GPS, getting lost is nearly a thing of the past. Unfortunately, with military bases, and the sometimes countless entrance gates, finding your exact destination via GPS can often prove harder than it should. Below, you’ll find the exact latitude and longitude coordinates for many of the gates located in Korea. Need to find the gate near the golf course at K-16 Songnam? Just input the coordinates below (37.448649, 127.104741) into your GPS device of choice, and you’re sure to make that 7 a.m. tee time.

1. Camp Casey
   Main Gate
   37.917666 (latitude), 127.056608 (longitude)
   Back Gate
   37.925343, 127.056331

2. Camp Hovey
   Main Gate
   37.898553, 127.081548

3. USAG Yongsan
   Gate #1 (Dragon Hill Lodge) Pedestrian only
   37.530496, 126.984413
   Gate #3 (Noksapeyong Station)
   37.534849, 126.983015
   Gate #6 (Commissary Gate)
   37.527395, 126.991405
   Gate #13 (Ichondong Escort Gate)
   37.522376, 126.974329

4. K-16 AB
   Main Gate
   37.448649, 127.104741
   Songnam Golf Course
   37.478171, 127.156384

5. Suwon AB
   Main Gate
   37.245974, 127.013330

6. Osan AB
   Main Gate
   37.079084, 127.049969
   Back Gate
   37.086756, 127.050803

7. Camp Humphreys
   Anjeong-Ri Gate (Main Gate)
   36.957884, 127.045043
   Anjeong-Ri Gate (Pedestrian gate)
   36.959117, 127.043068
   Dongchang-Ri Gate
   36.969125, 127.037009
   Hamjeong-Ri Gate
   36.951142, 127.018124
   Dodu-Ri Gate
   36.960906, 126.990362

8. Kunsan AB
   Main Gate
   35.925842, 126.615635

9. Camp Walker
   Gate #4
   35.839972, 128.588496
   Gate #6
   35.841656, 128.583400

10. Camp Henry
    Front Gate
    35.850272, 128.599680
    Back Gate
    35.849102, 128.604473

11. Camp George
    Main Gate
    35.849102, 128.604473

12. Camp Carroll
    Waegan
    35.989317, 128.405329

13. Camp Mujuk
    Main Gate
    35.961750, 129.422196

14. Chinhae Naval Base
    Main Gate
    35.155258, 128.655048

Above: Members of the Republic of Korea Air Force high-altitude low-opening (HALO) jump team present the flags during the opening ceremony of Osan Air Power Day on Sept. 21, 2019. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ramon A. Adelan/ U.S. Air Force

Left: The Gingerbread Brawlers and Candy Cane Crushers compete in a roller derby scrimmage at Collier Community Fitness Center on Camp Humphreys. Photo by Matthew Keeler/Stars and Stripes.
Driving around Korea you may notice the parking lots have many different colored spots with a variety of symbols. Is it okay for you to park in them? Here is a break down of who these spots are for and when it’s okay to use them:

**Private vehicles**

Be sure to like us on Facebook! Just search for @StripesPacific

**Driving around Korea you may notice the parking lots have many different colored spots with a variety of symbols. Is it okay for you to park in them? Here is a break down of who these spots are for and when it’s okay to use them:**

**Women-only**

Established to make women feel safer, women’s parking spaces can be found nationwide. These spots are usually in an area under closed-circuit surveillance and are wider and longer, allowing women with children and strollers to have enough space to get out of their vehicles.

You’ll recognize these as they tend to have hot pink outlines and are marked with the standard woman symbol.

**Senior citizens**

These spaces marked in yellow are for elderly drivers, especially those who have mobility difficulties. These spots, while necessary, are not easy to distinguish from other parking spaces, as they are marked with ‘어르신 우 선 주차구역’ meaning “elderly parking space.” Recently, signs with an elderly person logo have gradually started to appear, but they vary by region.

**Electric Vehicle**

The rapidly increasing number of electric vehicles or plug-in hybrid vehicles has made parking spots of this nature more common. Usually marked in English as EV or an simple plug logo, parking in these spots could get you a fine as there are limited parking spots for recharging.

**Military vets, police, firefighters**

Military veterans and police officers can park in these blue spots marked with a ying-yang symbol and dove logo. These spaces are for those who participated in the war or pro-democracy movement in South Korea, and public servants who suffered severe physical injury and mental problems in the line of duty.

- Chihon Kim

**Exploit on a bike**

Bike-sharing services have taken large cities globally by storm, and Seoul is also a host to its own fleet of wheels. Bicycles are a good option for exploring the city, while reducing pollution and helping to alleviate traffic congestion. Seoul installed its public bike service called “Ttareungyi” in 2014, with about 24,000 bikes now in circulation.

Reserve your own set of wheels ahead of time by using the Seoul Bike app or website for a mere 1,000 won (about $0.85) per hour. You don’t have to be a member to use the service and they even offer longer-term rental tickets by the week, month, six months and full year.

You’ll recognize Ttareungyi bikes by their white and green color. Each bike is equipped with a lock and card reader.

Both the app and website are available in English as well. Register your T-Money card or transportation card for quicker service. Once you’ve registered your card, you can tap your card on the bike’s card reader and go!

The best part of a Ttareungyi is that you’re not required to return the bike you’ve rented to the spot where you picked it up. Bikes can be returned to any of the Ttareungyi spots near where your exploring takes you. A “Return is completed” message will appear on the bike’s screen to let you know you’ve returned it correctly. And don’t forget to lock the bike to prevent theft.

- Chihon Kim

**Seoul Bike**

**WHERE:** There are more than 3,000 bike rental centers.

**HOW TO RENT:** Credit, T-money and mobile payment including PAYCO and KAKAO PAY are available.

**TIP:** If traveling with multiple people, you can buy a group ticket for multiple bike rentals. See website.

**WEBSITE:** https://www.bikeseoul.com/ (ENG)

You can see a QR code to download the Seoul Bike app from your phone.

- Chihon Kim

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**Know where NOT to park**

Like a women’s priority parking lot, these parking spaces are wider than regular parking lots and are bordered with hot pink outlines and marked the pregnant woman logo.

**Expectant mothers**

This type of space is increasing in many government office parking lots around South Korea. Like a women’s priority parking lot, these parking spaces are wider than regular parking lots and are bordered with hot pink outlines and marked the pregnant woman logo.

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- Chihon Kim
VISIT KOREA’S MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLAND, JEJU... AND, WHILE YOU’RE THERE, DON’T MISS OUT ON JEJU SHINHWA WORLD

One of Korea’s most iconic vacation destinations is a UNESCO-recognized natural beauty. Jeju Island was designated a National Biosphere conservation area in 2002, a World Natural Heritage site in 2007 and received Global Geopark Network certification in 2010. It is the only area in the world that has achieved these three accolades at the same time. These three are only some of the reasons why travelers flock to this beautiful location.

Jeju Shinhwa World, located in the southwest region of Jeju, is Korea’s largest integrated resort standing on an area of 2.5 million square meters. The resort is home to four hotels (Marriott Resort, Shinhwa Resort, Landing Resort, and Somerset), a theme and Water Park, dozens of restaurants and bars, and state-of-the-art MICE facilities guaranteed to accommodate all types of travelers.

UNRIVALED NATURAL BEAUTY – ONLY IN JEJU!

Jeju Shinhwa World is just a short drive away from some of the island’s most beautiful attractions including coastal areas carved from volcanic activity dating back millions of years and Gotjawal, volcanic symbiotic forests you can only find in Jeju.

Make sure to stop in at the “Mosul” Clubhouse at Jeju Shinhwa World Marriott Resort, inspired by Jeju’s famous Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak, one of 12 UNESCO World Global Geoparks. Another must-see is Somerset Jeju Shinhwa World, enveloped by the lush Gotjawal forest, one of the most pristine forests in the world.

TAKE YOUR PICK FROM JEJU SHINHWA WORLD’S FOUR UNIQUE HOTELS

Jeju Shinhwa World has four hotels and condos to choose from to fit any of your travel needs.

Marriott Resort awaits international travelers seeking the comforts and services only the Marriott name can provide. At the Marriott’s “Mosul” Clubhouse, soak in the heated outdoor pool year-round, and treat yourself at the spa featuring 8 private treatment rooms. The resort also offers easy access to Landing Casino, the largest foreigners-only casino in Jeju.

Traveling with your family? Somerset Resort offers three-bedroom suites equipped with two bathrooms, a spacious living room, and a kitchen stocked with smart home appliances including a refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine and even a wine cooler.

Smaller families and couples will fall in love with Shinhwa Resort’s junior suites that can connect to other rooms. This resort offers an outdoor, year-round Sky Pool and the island’s largest Sony PlayStation Zone.

On a girls’ trip or relaxed couples’ trip? Landing Resort is also a great choice those who just want to relax and enjoy the island without any unnecessary frills.

GREAT GOURMET BROUGHT TO YOU BY WORLD-RENOWNED MASTER CHEFS

At Jeju Shinhwa World, know you’ll not only get a relaxing experience but also a delicious one! Enjoy authentic Cantonese cuisine served by award-winning star chef Alan Chan at Le Chinois. Savor some classic family favorites such as Beijing Duck, or embrace variety with Dim Sum Brunch including a selection of more than 20 juicy xiaolongbao buns and dumplings.

There are more bars and restaurants to check out including handcrafted Korean restaurant Jeju Seon offering amazing dishes using only the freshest of local ingredients. Steak lovers will want to try SKY on 5 Dining.

FUN-FILLED THEME PARK AND WATER PARK

Thrill and adventure-seekers will want to head to Shinhwa Theme Park, which offers fun rides for all ages, performances and shows throughout the day. In the winter, enjoy the ice-skating rink or in the summer, a refreshing bumper car ride. The park also has a 4D theater and VR zone. Also in the summer months, enjoy Jeju’s largest water park at Shinhwa with 13 different types of waves, slides and pools including two slides that stretch 230 meters long, the first of their kind in Asia. 😍
JEJU SHINHWA WORLD

Travel your moments

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+82-64-908-8888 | 1670-1188 in Korea
@jejushinhaworld
Law and order on the ROK

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.

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. Usually, but shoving is not tolerable. Avoid being provoked into pushing a Korean at all cost. Usually, but shoving is not tolerable. Avoid being provoked into pushing a Korean at all cost. Usually, but shoving is not tolerable. Avoid being provoked into pushing a Korean at all cost. Usually, but shoving is not tolerable. Avoid being provoked into pushing a Korean at all cost. Usually, but shoving is not tolerable.

**Black marketing**

U.S. regulations and Korean customs laws prohibit U.S. 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 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 U.S. 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.

**Drug stores**

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

**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 U.S. It is not uncommon for children to play in the streets, people to cross the street outside a crosswalk without looking or 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 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.

Don’t drink and drive!

In 2019, South Korea lowered the legal limit for blood alcohol content to 0.03%, down from the 0.05% that had been the standard for the past 57 years.

An individual who weighs approximately 140 pounds and consumes just one 12-ounce beer will likely have surpassed the legal 0.03% threshold.

If caught and tested by Korean authorities, the maximum penalty for impaired driving will be up to five years of imprisonment and/or 20 million won in fines (about $17,325). For civilians, servicemembers and their families on the peninsula, this law also includes electric scooters, bicycles and electric skateboards. If caught operating these devices on a military installation with a blood alcohol content equal to or greater than 0.03%, individuals may be charged with driving under the influence.

Servicemembers in Japan also must abide by a 0.03% limit; the threshold in the U.S. is set at 0.08% in all 50 states.

Compiled from media and United States Forces Korea sources
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 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 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 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
Off-base living

If you decide that base living just isn’t for you, there are many off-base options available. But, with the option to live off base comes some rules and regs to consider. Here are some things to keep in mind if you plan to sign a lease off base.

Property manager/maintenance: Your realtor is your property manager and POC for all maintenance problems. Your realtor is the liaison between LL and you. You should be able to contact them whenever you need their assistance. It is also a requirement for all realtors to speak English.

Utilities: Your realtor will provide you your utility bills and usage. Your base housing office can translate your bills for you if needed.

Lease negotiations: Once you have signed a lease in the housing office, the realtor/landlord and leasee cannot request changes to the signed lease. This is a signed contract! No lease negotiations will be done outside of the housing office. If your realtor/landlord is asking for additional money that was not on your signed lease or asks to modify your signed lease in any way without approval from your housing office, contact housing.

Military clause: Your lease agreement will contain a military clause. A military clause alerts the tenant that they are protected under the Service Members Civil Relief Act. The act provides protection, such as terminating a rental agreement prior to the end of the lease term for reasons such as permanent change of station, deployments exceeding 90 days, separation from active duty or offer of government quarters.

Joint Domicile (JD) and Military to Military (Mil to Mil) Statement Reminder: I understand that if my spouse PCS’s, retires, departs, or separates, I am still obligated to fulfill my lease contractually between the landlord and myself at the same rent cost until expiration of lease. As stated, if one service member remains they are contractually obligated to fulfill lease to term and Military Clause does not apply to remaining service member.

Renewal lease (same unit):
• Go to your realtor – they will provide you the renewal lease (with their stamp) for you to bring to HSO to renew your lease.
  *Note: If you are extending your DEROS (i.e. AIP, medical etc.) bring orders/amendments that states your new DEROS.

Leasing a different unit once current lease is up:
• Obtain realtors list from housing office (if not using same realtor)
• Once you have found a place to live, it’s mandatory that you schedule a safety inspection at the base housing office. Once scheduled, inform your realtor of date and time.
• Also, schedule a lease signing at the housing office after safety inspection, either same day (in the afternoon) or next day. This is to ensure your realtor provides the housing office a property deed and includes it with your safety inspection report.
• Bring clearance verification from old unit (to ensure the LL cleared you!)

Did You Know?

• Protect yourself and your personal property (household goods, etc.)
• Renters insurance may be the most overlooked asset by residents!
• Landlords have insurance, but only for their buildings; Landlords are not responsible for protecting the renter’s personal property.
• The U.S. government does not provide or take responsibility for personal property insurance.
• Off-post residents are strongly encouraged to secure personal property insurance for their protection in both private sector and on-base housing.

Village where U.S. soldiers live outside Camp Humphreys.
Photos by ChiHon Kim/Stars and Stripes

Renters Insurance

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The Korean Government mandates trash disposal and requires all residents, including U.S. personnel and foreigners, to comply with these laws. Failure to comply may result in severe fines (up to 1 million won). Trash must be separated into four categories: common garbage, food waste, recyclables and large waste items. Also, Korean garbage bags must be used. No U.S.-style bags (Hefty, Glad, etc.) or plastic shopping bags (AAFES, Commissary, etc.) can be used. Proper bags may be purchased at any off-post grocery store, department store (Lotte Mart, E-Mart, Home Plus), and many convenient stores, or on-post at the Commissary.

NOTICE: Disposing of trash, garbage, or other solid waste in on-post dumpsters by off-post residents is strictly PROHIBITED.

If PCSing is in your near future, you are moving to a new place or are simply in the process of decluttering, knowing how to dispose of large items is a must if you live off base in South Korea. First, figure out the quantity and size of the items you want to get rid of and then contact your local district office to request a specific sticker certificate for oversized garbage disposal.

Once you obtain the stickers and you have secured them onto the items, they are ready to be placed in your designated trash disposal area or on the curb. The price of the stickers (KRW 1,000 to 18,000 or $0.84 to $15.00) is different for each district office. You can save time by buying your disposal tickets at markets, but you will still need to contact the district office to pick up items. Pickup days vary by district as well, but in Pyeongtaek, items can be placed out for collection from Sunday to Friday after 8 p.m. Note that setting out items on Saturdays or during the day is prohibited. Other items that require special attention are broken glass and ceramics. For these, a special trash bag, which can be purchased at local supermarkets, convenience stores or city council, is required. This bag is also for other non-flammable trash tiles, brick, etc. Depending on the size, in Pyeongtaek, the bags come in 5 to 50 kg sizes and vary in price (KRW 2,000 - 6,000). While decluttering is gaining popularity or you’re anxious to update your home decor, in South Korea, it’s important to know before you throw!

For more information on garbage disposal visit Pyeongtaek.go.kr

Tossing a sofa? Use sticker

• Do you have standard waste garbage bags? Il-ban sseu-le-gi bong-tu iss-eo-yo?
• Do you have food waste garbage bags? Eum-sik-mul sseu-le-gi bong-tu iss-eo-yo?
• How many bags do you need? Myeot-jang pi-ryo-ha-se-yo?
• I would like to have (ten) bags. (Yeol)-jang ju-se-yo. (Five: Tasot, Thirty: Seo-reun)
• What (liter) size bag do you need? Myeot ri-teo-jja-ri pi-ryo-ha-se-yo?
• I would like to have (10) liter-sized garbage bags. (Sip)-ri-teo-jja-ri-ro ju-se-yo. (Five: O, Twenty: Isip)
Traveling with your pet

We all love our furry friends! Traveling with a pet is a great way to share some nice memories with Fido, but be prepared for some minor inconveniences along your journey. In South Korea, every transport company has particular rules regarding pets, so it’s important to plan ahead. If you’ve traveled with pets before or are just beginning to, you’ll want to take note of the tips below.

Taking your pet on a train

Korail and SRT trains allow cats and dogs smaller than 23.62 inches long on their express or slower trains. However, your pet must fit comfortably in a pet carrier under the seat in front of you or on your lap.

The carrier must not exceed 45cm x 30cm x 25cm for Korail and SRT’s carry-on requirements and the total weight of the carrier and pet must be less than 22 pounds.

Among the list of prohibited pets or animals are fighting dogs, such as pit bull terriers, Dobermanns and German shepherds, as well as rodents, reptiles, and birds of prey. None of these rules apply to registered service dogs as they are allowed on the train for passengers with disabilities.

Follow the rules

• Your carrier must be covered.
• Carry your pet’s vaccination certificate and card at all times.
• Your carrier must be covered.
• Your pet must remain in the carrier.
• Avoid blocking aisles or doorways with the pet carrier.
• Etiquette: Bath your furry travel companion and control feed 4 to 5 hours before boarding a train.

TIP: Though the KTX’s first-class ticket (for an adult) is more spacious and a little more expensive, it could be a good choice if you want some space for the carrier. If you’ve spent enough time on the rail system in Korea, you may have noticed many pet lovers place their travel kennel at the end of a train car or spacious luggage space between first-class and business-class train, standing close by them.

On the subway

Most of the subway providers around the nation don’t have accurate animal policy for boarding a pet, but the companies allow you to travel if you have your small pet in a carrier. Visit the line’s own website for more information.

On the express bus

Most of the bus companies allow only small pets weighing under 11 pounds on board and only if they are in a carrier. Some companies’ policies state they reserve the right to refuse pets on their vehicles. If your pet is allowed on the bus, make sure they’re on their best behavior as drivers have discretionary power.

Dos and don’ts with dogs and cats

Private Sector Housing may authorize pets. Always go through your LL/Realtor (property manager) regarding pet information for your residence. You are also authorized pets on base.

Pet registration

All those assigned to USFK must register their pets with their base veterinary within 10 days of arrival. The importance of pet registration is as follows:

• Installation Command and Housing Policy
• Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)
• Heartworm area (Korea) – Keep your pet healthy!
• Priority for sick pet appointments/wellness appointments
• Routine surgeries
• Boarding and doggie daycare requires medical record documentation
• Preparation for PCSing from Korea

Pet policy

Microchip program: USFK Veterinary Services requires the mandatory implant of microchips in all newly acquired pets belonging to Status of Forces Agreement personnel, in all adopted animals, and in any impounded stray animal prior to releasing the pet to owner. Microchipping will be at owner’s expense.

Leash law: Pets will be on a leash at all times when outside the housing unit. If pets are outside, they must be accompanied by a member of resident’s household who is capable of controlling them at all times. Cats will not be allowed to roam uncontrolled and must be on a leash when outside of the housing unit.

Fecal droppings: Residents shall clean up the waste left by their pets during walks and ensure that common areas are not littered with fecal droppings. All feces will be disposed in the correct location of their resident-appointed areas.

Barking & howling: Please be aware that we are guests in a foreign country and to control your animals at the proper times of the day.

Insect infestation (fleas, ticks, lice etc.): All costs associated with delousing and disinfecting private sector or on-base housing will be paid by the resident.

Balconies: Balconies will not be used as kennels to house pets. Use of the balcony for fecal droppings is prohibited and will be grounds for immediate termination. Private sector residents should respect the rented property of the landlord.

– U.S. Forces Korea

Master Sgt. Mason Bergeron recruited more than 150 troops to volunteer at Gunsan Dog Land after arriving at Kunsan Air Base in March 2019.
Eighth Army and personnel managers want to make sure military spouses have as many opportunities as possible to achieve employment while serving with their service member in the Far East Region. Eighth Army has made strides to ease the process of hiring military spouses such as policies emphasizing spouse preference in hiring procedures. These policies include use of an "expedited referral list" and authorizing candidates for select Eighth Army positions to complete drug testing and physical examinations AFTER they arrive to the peninsula rather than beforehand – with exceptions being for positions which are Testing Designated Positions and those with mandatory requirements for physical examinations.

Additional changes authorize all areas in Korea to be one commuting area.

Other initiatives are still in the works to give managers direct-hire authority without having to advertise positions on www.usajobs.gov.

Additionally, to help with spouse employment, Army Civilian Human Resources Agency at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys has created a resume repository where spouses can submit resumes for future employment consideration. Upon receipt, candidates will receive a direct response from one of the local human resources specialists and afforded the opportunity to meet one-on-one to review qualifications and help guide spouses through the federal hiring and employment process. Spouses can email their resumes and supporting documents to us-army.humphreys.chra-fe.list. military-spouse-hiring@mail.mil. Questions can also be directed to the same email box.

People can also drop by in person to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center in bldg. 6420, next to the One Stop bldg., if they have questions.

Army Community Service offices around the peninsula also have an Employment Readiness Program which offers info on contractor jobs, employment classes and career advice. The best way for spouses to apply for jobs is still www.usajobs.gov. Spouses can build their resumes, attach documents and also use settings to build automated job referrals. Once a search is built, the system will automatically send job opening announcements via email. Be sure to select the "military spouse preference" option.

U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys Army Community Service has information on home-based business opportunities and requirements including classes and applications. Home Base Business Training is provided every second and fourth Friday of each month at Army Community Service (ACS) from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The program guidance is U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Policy Letter #78, which is signed by the U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys commander. ACS is located on the first floor in Bldg. 6400 (Maude Hall), room B107. Call DSN 315-757-2369 for more information.

Spouses who are permitted to telework back to their Private sector companies located in CONUS does not trigger SOFA visa issues. Republic of Korea employment permits are required if the Military Spouse is working on the Korean economy, but not for telework for CONUS located companies.

Daegu employment Info

For USAG Daegu and Area IV community members interested in employment opportunities and learning more, visit the Army Community Service office at the Soldier Support Center on Camp Walker and sign up for the Spouse Newcomers Orientation held the 2nd Thursday of every month. There is also a separate Employment Readiness Workshop held the same day each month in the afternoon.

The spouse orientation starts at 9 a.m., a meal is provided to attendees at lunch, and the employment workshop begins at 12:30 p.m. Community members may choose to attend one or both.

For more information or to register for one of the upcoming employment readiness program events, workshops or job fairs, visit ACS or call 0503-363-4497 or DSN 763-4497. To search for federal jobs in USAG Daegu and Area IV, go to www.usajobs.gov and type "Taegu" in the location block.

– U.S. Forces Korea
So, you’ve just PCSd to Korea, and now you need to get a new cell phone. Well, first off, they have those here, so you’re in luck. Now, where do you start? As you’ve likely already noticed, most bases in Korea already have a branch where you can get a phone without leaving your installation. There are definitely benefits to staying on base, but just because it’s the easiest, doesn’t mean it makes the most sense for your situation. There are plenty of off-base locations throughout the country, but if you do go this route, you might consider bringing someone who can speak Korean. In Korea, there are three main providers: SK Telecom, LG U+ and Korea Telecom (KT). If you want to weigh your options and see all of what Korea cell providers have to offer, here is a quick breakdown.

**SK Telecom**

SK Telecom operates several authorized stores with signs that say ‘T World’ or ‘SK 텔레콤 (Telecom)’ as well as a customer call center exclusively for foreigners. Please call the customer center beforehand in order to find out which stores provide interpretation services, since not all of them do.

**Korea Telecom (KT)**

KT operates three service centers throughout Seoul and a customer call center exclusively for foreigners. The most representative KT center, located in Gwanghwamun, provides mobile phone subscription manuals in foreign languages. Moreover, in partnership with the volunteer translation service organization, BBB Korea, the Gwanghwamun service center offers consultation in 17 different languages.

**LG U+**

Formerly known as LG Telecom, LG U+ is owned by the LG Corporation. The company is known for its G series of smartphones as well as a variety of other electronics including TVs. With roughly 20% of the market, the No. 3 mobile service in Korea trails its two main rivals.

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**Speaking Korean**

**Speaking on the phone**

• Hello
  *Yeoboseyo*

• Hello. May I please speak to ___?
  *____wa tonghwa-hai-su-issueullkayo?*

• ____ is not here. May I take a message?
  *Jigeum an-ge-sipnida.*

  *Memo (or meseji) namjyeo deu-ri-kkayo?*

• Yes, this is ___ speaking.
  *Please tell ___ to call me back.*

  *Thank you.*

  *Ne, Jeoneun ____ ipnida.*

  *____ ege jeon-hwa-hae dallago jeon-hae-juseyo.*

  *Gomap-seupnida.*

• Okay, Good bye.
  *Ne algo-seupnida. Sugohaseyo.*
Troops and family members receive medical and dental care in both military treatment facilities and host nation facilities upon referral from their primary care manager. All eligible patients receive access to high-quality health care governed by DoD and TRICARE regulations and guidelines.

Once sponsor has been assigned a Primary Care Manager (Provider), family members go to either the Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital (Humphreys Only) or to the USAG Daegu Medical Clinic if assigned to Daegu. Note: Areas I and II are non-command sponsored areas with only clinics at K-16 and Casey for soldiers only.

If you do not register, when you call the centralized appointment line your appointment may be at another location.

Medical care and services are routinely available to active-duty military and their eligible dependents utilizing Tricare Overseas Prime. Eligible retirees or non-command sponsored family members can receive medical care on a space available basis.

Any specialty care not available on-post will be referred through the local TRICARE office to either local Korean Hospital or the Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital (BDAACH) at Humphreys.

If you require specialty care and cannot be seen at the BDAACH, you could be sent to a local Korean Hospital. Tricare has agreements with many hospitals in Korea and going to these hospitals, as Command Sponsored active duty family members, is no different than going to a military treatment facility as there is no co-pay or deductible costs.

Non-command sponsored families or civilian employees and their families going to an off-post hospital will have to pay the cost of the visit in full, prior to departing the hospital. You will then have to submit the bill to Tricare or your insurance company for reimbursement. There are several local hospitals and clinics now that will process through Tricare and civilian insurance companies.

– U.S. Forces Korea

Related links
65th Medical Brigade & US Army MEDDAC-Korea
Tricare Overseas

Dental care

There are military dentists available on-post in each of the areas in Korea except in Area II. These dentists mostly work on soldiers. Family members are required to get the bulk of their dental treatment off-post utilizing the same dental insurance and the same cost/deductibles as in the States. Family members are seen for non-pediatric cleaning from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. depending on availability. A great many of the Korean Dentists have also been trained and are board-certified in the U.S. You can expect the same treatment and services off-post in Korea as you had in the U.S. One exception is for children aged 12 and under at USAG-H. There are pediatric dentists on staff who see all command sponsored children under age 12 for basic dental procedures. Please note for orthodontic care, unless you are military, plan on getting this care off-post.

Korean Network Hospitals

AREA 1
Uijeongbu St. Mary’s 1.4 miles from Casey Clinic

AREA 2
Adaptable Human Solutions 2.3 miles from USAG Yongsan
Asan Medical Center 9.9 miles from USAG Yongsan
Samsung Medical Center 12 miles from USAG Yongsan
Seoul National University 5.4 miles from USAG Yongsan
Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital 4.2 miles from USAG Yongsan
Severance Hospital 5.4 miles from USAG Yongsan
The Mind Care 5.3 miles from USAG Yongsan
Yesudo St. Mary’s Hospital 3.1 miles from USAG Yongsan
You & Me Psychological 4.7 miles from USAG Yongsan

AREA 3 (Camp Humphreys)
Aju University Medical Center 28 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
CHA Bundang Medical Center 42 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Dankook University Hospital 20 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Good Morning Hospital 8.1 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Hallym University Dongtan 28 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Pyeongtaek St. Mary’s Hospital 8.7 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Seoul National University Bundang 36 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
St. Vincent Hospital 28.5 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Yonsei Dawoom Hospital 8.5 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Seoul Counseling Center – 1 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate
Pyeongtaek Branch You and me (YP) Pyeongtaek Office 8.5 miles from Anjeong-ri Gate

AREA 4
Chilgok Kyungpook National 13 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Daegu Catholic University Hospital 3 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Daegu Fatima Hospital 5.5 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Gumi CHA Hospital 34 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Hyoosung Hospital 2 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Kimryung University Dongsan 4.2 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Pohang St. Mary’s Hospital 59 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Samsung Changwon Hospital 60 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Women Medi Park Hospital 4 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Gunsan Medical Center 140 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Wonkwang University Hospital 114 miles from Camp Walker gate 4
Yeungnam University Hospital 140 miles from Camp Walker gate 4

Remote Area (Busan)
Aei Pediatrics 0.4 miles from Zenith Towers
Queen’s Park Women’s Hospital 2 miles from Zenith Towers
Mindcare Center Institute 2.5 miles from Zenith Towers
Pusan National University Hospital 14 miles from Zenith Towers
Busan St. Mary’s Hospital 7.7 miles from Zenith Towers
Inje University Haeundae Paik Hospital 5.1 miles from Zenith Towers
Exploring Korea’s true flavor

In Korea, there is no end to what people can see and experience, but trying Korean food is on the top of most visitor-to-do lists! So let’s explore some of the dishes that are sure to impress you with Korea’s true flavor!

Bibimbap: Rice with nutrient-packed flavor
Bibimbap, or cooked rice mixed with vegetables, sautéed beef, and twigak (dried seaweed or vegetables fried in oil) is one of the definitive Korean dishes in the eyes of Koreans and also globally. There are three common beliefs about the origin of bibimbap. One theory is that it stemmed from the practice of mixing bap (cooked rice) with other dishes used for the ancestral rite of eumebok. Others say that bibimbap originated from mixing leftovers together as a midnight snack on Lunar New Year’s Eve. The last theory is that farmers out working the fields would each bring a portion of food to be mixed together and divided evenly.

Samgye-tang: Rejuvenate yourself during the sweltering summer
Samgye-tang is made by simmering a whole young chicken stuffed with ginseng, hedysarum root, jujubes, and sweet rice. Considered an energy-boosting dish best eaten on hot days, it is a classic Korean dish that has become popular among international diners as well. Many restaurants even add samgye-tang to their menu during the summer, an example of its popularity. Japanese author Murakami Ryu and Chinese film director Zhang Yimou have both given extensive praise to the dish.

Bulgogi: Sweet treats for special days
Bulgogi is prepared by marinating thin slices of beef before grilling them. In the past, the royal court and yangban (nobles) in Seoul called it neobiani, meaning “wide meat slices.” Traditional grilled meat dishes in Korea originated from a dish called maekjeok. Maek was the name of the northeast region of China, and is also a reference to Goguryeo, one of the earliest Korean kingdoms. Maekjeok is made with barbecued beef skewers, and according to folklore, evolved into present-day bulgogi through the introduction of grills, which made skewers obsolete.

Naengmyeon: Cool and refreshing noodle soup
Naengmyeon, cold buckwheat noodles, is considered a summer food, but that wasn’t always the case. It used to be enjoyed over a warm ondol floor (subfloor heating system) during the freezing winter temperatures. The broth was made with the brine of dongchimi (radish water kimchi) scooped out of a large jar half-buried in the ground during the winter. Although its origin remains unclear, based on the fact that buckwheat was introduced by the Mongol Empire during the Goryeo Dynasty, it is theorized that Koreans first began eating it around that time.

Kimchi: Over 1,500 years of fermented tradition
Kimchi is a fermented dish made with vegetables and a variety of seasoning ingredients. There are over 300 varieties, but when it was first made prior to the Three Kingdoms Period (AD 57-668), it required a very simple recipe of salting and storing napa cabbage in a ceramic container for fermentation. In the old days, kimchi was an important source of vitamins in the winter, when fresh vegetables were unavailable. What was originally a simple salted pickle has now become a complex dish requiring assorted seasonings and varying according to climate, geographical conditions, local ingredients, methods of preparation and preservation.

Sundubu-jigae: The best source of protein
Sundubu starts out being made in the same manner as ordinary tofu; first boiling soy milk then coagulating it by adding brine. But it leaves out the later steps of draining and pressing the lumpy bean curds, giving it an easy-to-digest silky, light texture. In Chodang Maeul, a village famous for its sundubu, clean water from the East Sea is used as brine for thickening. It started when Chodang Heo yeop, a magistrate of Ganganung region during the mid-sixteenth century of Joseon Dynasty, discovered that the water from a spring in the front yard of his office tasted so fresh that he made tofu from the spring water and used sea water instead of brine. The name Chodang was then adopted from Heo yeop’s pen name.

Mandu: A dish dating back to the Goryeo Dynasty
Mandu (dumpling) is made by placing a filling of ground meat and vegetables onto a round, thinly rolled wrapper and sealing the edges. They were initially prepared for ancestral rites or banquets and enjoyed as a special dish for cold winter days. When discussing the origin of Korean dumplings, a famous folk song called “Ssanghwajeon” (dumpling shop) from the Goryeo Dynasty is frequently mentioned. The song describes how a group of Uighurs arrived and opened up dumpling shops, and also how the people of the day greatly enjoyed the dish. Some people refer to the song and joke that a Mongol who opened a dumpling shop in 1279 may have been the first foreign investor to live in Korea.
Galbi-jjim: Soft and tender, the quintessential holiday food

Galbi-jjim (braised short ribs) is made from the finest and most expensive cut of beef. As such, galbi-jjim is usually eaten on special occasions or holidays, when family members come together. Korean cooking consists of a large number of braised dishes that require considerable culinary skill. Galbi-jjim is one such dish, growing in popularity among international diners as well. When making galbi-jjim, the fat on the short ribs is carefully removed before braising. Carrots, ginkgo nuts and chestnuts are added, and finally pyogo (shitake mushroom) and egg garnish are sprinkled on top to complete the preparation process. Glazed with soy sauce, galbi-jjim not only has a rich taste, but a mouth-watering visual presentation.

Jeyuk-bokkeum: Plenty to share with while sizzling hot

Jeyuk-bokkeum (spicy stir-fried pork) is one of the best-known dishes cooked with gochu-jang. It is a stir-fried dish with thick slices of pork shoulder marinated in hot gochu-jang and minced ginger. Before the 1950s, it was reportedly made using only scallion, black pepper, and soy sauce, but the current form of gochu-jang-marinated jeyuk-bokkeum is believed to have appeared sometime afterwards. Because it is a hearty yet inexpensive meat option, young people on limited budgets favor jeyuk-bokkeum. Youngsters often list it as their favorite food, and many Korean mothers will talk about how their son can “finish a pound of jeyuk-bokkeum in one sitting.”

Japchae: A classic dish on festive days

Japchae (glass noodles with sautéed vegetables) is made by boiling glass noodles, then draining and mixing them with stir-fried spinach, carrots, mushrooms, beef and onions. The term japchae is a combination of jap, meaning “mix, gather, or plentiful” and chae, meaning “vegetables.” Thus, it can be translated as “assorted mixed vegetables.” No Korean festivity is complete without japchae. It has long been perceived as a luxurious and elegant dish, and was always served on birthdays, weddings and 60th birthday celebrations. Japchae was first created in the 17th century when King Gwanghaegun hosted a palace banquet. It is recorded in the Gwanghaegun Ilgi (Daily Records of King Gwanghaegun’s Reign) that Yi Chung, one of the king’s favorites, had the habit of personally presenting unusual dishes to the king. Gwanghaegun relished these dishes so much that he would not start a meal until they arrived. Among these unique dishes was japchae, which the king favored over all the rest.

Gimbap: A full meal in a single roll

Gimbap is made by spreading white rice on a sheet of gim (dried laver), layering it with spinach, pickled radish, carrots, egg, and beef, and then rolling it up like sushi. It was in the 1960s and 70s that the gimbap we know today - rolled up into a cylindrical form - became popular. This rice-roll was the default picnic lunch for annual spring and autumn school outings. Many Koreans fondly remember eating the end pieces of the rolls while their mothers prepared gimbap on the morning of school field trips.

Tteok-bokki: The most popular snack

Originally, tteok-bokki was not a spicy dish. In the royal courts of Joseon, it was prepared by simmering beef, carrots, onions, pyogo (shitake mushroom) and other ingredients together with rice cakes in soy sauce. The colorful ingredients made it visually appealing as well as nutritional. It is believed that tteok-bokki seasoned with spicy gochu-jang paste first appeared in the 1950s and became widely popular later during the 1970s.

Dakgangjeong: Second to none and goes with any drink

Dakgangjeong is made by deep-frying chicken coated with flour. The fried chicken is then smothered in a sweet sauce that has been boiled down to a thick consistency. The dish, sold at Jungang Market, is unique in that it is served cold. The dakgangjeong is so famous because of its sweet and spicy taste, and despite being served cold, it is not soggy, but crisp and chewy.

— Korea Tourism Organization
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**USO Osan AB**
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The American Forces Network (AFN) provides overseas U.S. military, DOD civilians and their families force protection information and a touch of home with radio and television entertainment, news and sports.

Our “grand daddy,” the Armed Forces Radio service, began May 26, 1942. In the years since, America’s military broadcast network has operated under many different names, following service members wherever they serve, to include war zones and U.S. Navy ships at sea. Today, the overseas military audience we serve knows us simply as “AFN.”

While millions of Americans serving overseas have tuned in to AFN for popular entertainment over the years, the network has served an equally crucial role for commanders, helping them reach the force and their families, both on and off military installations. From mobile radio vans communicating to American forces advancing in World War II, to crucial force protection messaging via radio and social media during terrorist attacks, typhoons and emergencies, AFN remains a trusted source for real-time information.

Today’s AFN stations enjoy advantages unimaginable generations ago. Once a single channel, radio now offers a dozen different audio services and streams over the Internet. Visit www.AFNPacific.net/AFN-360 or install the AFN Pacific mobile app on your Apple iOS or Android device. AFN Eagle radio also broadcasts over the air in Japan and Korea.

A single channel of AFN television was a huge morale boost a generation ago. Now, the network offers shore-based audience members eight TV services, all in high definition. Sailors afloat in the Pacific receive three: a sports, news and entertainment TV service.

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– George A. Smith
Websites worth bookmarking

Stripes.com and StripesKorea.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

Bustago is an integrated electronic service for intercity buses. It offers mobile and Internet intercity ticket reservations and home ticketing without visiting terminals. www.bustago.or.kr/

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

E law is for those who like to invest in Korea and anyone who lives in Korea. It offers a good breakdown of Korean law. https://elaw.klri.re.kr/eng_service/main.do

Gb is a local government run website in Gyeongsangbuk-do area, offering information about local festivals, events, government activities more. gb.go.kr/eng/main.jsp

Haps Korea, if you’re visiting Busan, has you covered on what’s happening there. hapskorea.com

Daegu Compass is for foreigners who live in Daegu, offering local news and features on travel, food and culture. https://daegucompass.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

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

H ticket offers information about express buses of 42 routes throughout the country. If you are unable to find a suitable bus for your travel, check this website out. www.hticket.co.kr

Imagine Your 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

Korea Blog is a well-honed collection of polished prose that offers valuable insights on all things Korea – travel, culture, art and more. Koreanetblog.blogspot.jp/

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

Korea.Net is a government-run English site that has breaking news, features and great information on the history of Korea. www.korea.net/index.jsp

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

Live in Korea is a Ministry of Gender Equality and Family run website. It has comprehensive information on daily life in Korea, from Korean language to culture. www.liveinkorea.kr

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

My Korean Eats is not your ordinary food website. They provide authentic Korean cooking recipes, food reviews and food photography. http://mykoreanate.com/

Seoul Magazine, though apparently not regularly updated, offers a wealth of articles on this city’s culture, sites, fashion, food and more. www.seoulsellection.com

Seoul Metro provides details on the city’s subway system including maps, fares, timetables – even commuter etiquette. Choose English at the top of the homepage. www.seoulmetro.co.kr

ShipitAPo helps ensure that online shopping is alive and well in Korea. www.shipitapo.com/home.php

Templestay is a way to get away from the rat race and find some inner calm by participating in temple life. This experience is not for everyone, but for some it is a real vacation. 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

The Man in Seat Sixty-One 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

Adventurekorea allows you to sign up for events, daily trips, team building activities, as well as customize your own trip. www.adventurekorea.com/

10 Magazine 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

Zen Kimchi is for those who like exploring a country through its food. It offers restaurant reviews and info on food-related events and tours. zenkimchi.com

Gmarket is a shopping site based in Korea. Like the online shopping sites in States, you can find all the categories you can think of, with a large choice of Korea-made goods to choose from. global.gmarket.co.kr/Home/Main

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**Recommended apps**

KakaoTalk If you are traveling on the train, there is a handy mobile app that will help you navigate the rail system in English. Set the app to English and off you go. You can book a ticket in the app and just show your reservation info from the phone if the train employee asks for your ticket.

KakaoMap Google Maps app does not work on the peninsula. Try KakaoMap instead. KakaoMap will automatically track your current location, calculate and show an approximate distance to the final destination.

KakaoMetro KakaoMetro offers accurate estimated fares and quickest routes to get home. The app also provides real-time subway information based on location, and also lets you set an alarm so you know your stop is coming up. The app will even tell you which door leads to the fastest transfer during high-traffic commutes.

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Ride out the storm with Dave

Dave Ornauer has been with Stars and Stripes since 1981, and one of his first assignments as a beat reporter in the old Japan News Bureau was “typhoon chaser.” Pacific Storm Tracker is designed to take the technical weather lingo and simplify it for the average Stripes reader.

www.stripes.com/blogs/pacific-storm-tracker

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Overlooking Jeju island’s coast. Photo by Brigitte Patton
MUST-VISIT

01 Mt. Hallasan
Mt. Hallasan, which rises 1,950m above sea level, is the highest mountain in South Korea. Here you’ll find Baengnokdam, the crater lake located at the peak of Mt. Hallasan, and about 40 oreums, a beautiful sight of steep and fantastic rock cliffs designated as Nature Monument and National Park. As the peak of Mt. Hallasan is made of diverse volcanic characteristics, depending on the angle of one’s view, one can feel its uniqueness.

02 Seongsan Sunrise Peak (Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak)
On the east coast of Jeju is situated the 182m Seongsan Ilchulbong which looks like a grand old castle. It was formed 5,000 years ago by an underwater eruption on the shallow sea bed. With a background of sun rising in the east beyond the horizon, the beauty of Seongsan Ilchulbong is beyond words description. That is why many people gather in this places on New Year morning to see the sun rise.

03 Hyeopjae Beach
Hyeopjae Beach is one of the most popular places in the summer. The water is relatively shallow but beware of rip tides. The white sandy beach has extra fine sand mixed with shells that glitter with silver, and the emerald-colored water is crystal clear.

04 Jeju Fire Festival
The Jeju Fire Festival is one of the world’s greatest fire festivals. It reinterpret the cattle farming traditions of Jeju. The highlight of the event is the moment when a crater is set ablaze. The flames rise to the top of crater in spectacular fashion. This festival is one of the most popular attractions in Jeju, drawing more than 300,000 visitors each year.

MUST-EAT

05 Black Pork BBQ (Heuk Dwaegi Gogi)
Heuk Dwaegi Gogi is from the island’s domestic pig, the Jeju Black Pig. Grilled to perfection on top of burning charcoal, wrapped in vegetables together with rice.

06 Pork Noodles (Gogi Guksu)
The most common delicacy on Jeju is Gogi Guksu. It is noodle soup made by skimming pork bones until a cloudy broth forms.

07 Abalone Porridge (Jeonbokjuk)
Jeonbokjuk is a nourishing porridge. It is well-loved for its chewy texture of abalone and its subtle flavor.

08 Grilled Sea Bream (Okdom)
Okdom is a small red fish that is known for its delicate taste and texture. It is usually served broiled. One fish will feed 1-2 people.

10 Tangerine (Gyul)
Jeju Tangerines are very high in sugar content and less sour than most varieties, so they taste better. They are good for dieting and help absorb calcium. They are rich in vitamin C, which is good for skin beauty and fatigue.

UNESCO in JEJU

- Biosphere Reserve (2002)
- World Natural Heritage Site (2007)
- Global Geopark Network (2010)
- Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2016)

Inquiries

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How to get there

The easiest way to visit Jeju Island is by air. All domestic airports, including Gimpo, can get you there within an hour’s flight time.

- Gimpo/Busan/Daejeon/Gunsan etc. → Jeju: within 1 hour
- Tokyo → Jeju: 2 hours 30 mins | Osaka → Jeju: 1 hour 40 mins
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Must-have apps

If you’ve been in South Korea recently, you may have found yourself coughing and choking under the thin layer of dust sweeping the country. The fine dust, which most Americans commonly refer to as “Yellow Dust,” originates in the deserts of Mongolia and China and is a major health hazard.

Despite its name and visual similarity to city smog, it should not be taken lightly.

Every year, the dust sickens thousands. In extreme cases, it can be deadly. Those exceptionally vulnerable to the dust storm phenomenon include infants, pregnant women, and the elderly. During times of high dust counts, local governments issue warnings which include directions limiting vehicles on the road, limiting outdoor activities, and suggesting facemask use.

These warnings, unfortunately, are usually only issued in Korean. Not anymore! Monitor the air quality in your area (and in other parts of the world) in English with the AirVisual app. Not only will it help you plan out your day according to the dust index, but it will also send you notifications when your area is at critical levels. The app is available for iphone and android. More information: https://www.airvisual.com/air-quality-app

Established in 2002, the bbb is manned 24/7 by volunteers and provides quality, on-the-spot translation service to tourists and locals. Their interpretation service is not limited to English. They offer translation and interpretation services for 17 different languages and all at the cost of making a local phone call.

Take note: bbb translators are unpaid volunteers donating their precious time for the service. This service is not for use on homework assignments or document translation, nor commercial purposes, bargaining or any other business.

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Many frequent travelers want to make the most out of their limited budget, so they always try to hunt for bargains with travel apps. Check out the KLOOK app when planning your next trip.

The Hong Kong-based Klook is a travel-booking app you can use to explore Korea’s famous attractions. It also offers a wide range of unique tours and local activities like the Myeongdong Shooting Range, Hanbok photoshoot, Koran fabric dyeing workshop, Seoul pub crawl, K-pop dance class and much more.

It’s not just great for tours, you can also book rental cars, airport transfers, train and bus tickets, and even pick up some restaurant vouchers! Plus, the app holds paperless e-tickets so you don’t have to worry about losing your ticket.

Planning on traveling outside of Korea? Klook also has services and activities you can book in many Southeast Asian countries, including SIM cards, rail passes and tours. Conveniently browse the destination’s offerings using your home currency including the U.S. dollar, Korea won, or other currencies.

If you’re struggling to find your next getaway, this app will help you out. Download KLOOK for android or IOS devices in the app store or iTunes.

KLOOK also has a website where you can browse all of their services:

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