



WELCOME TO the PACIFIC 2017-18

YOUR GUIDE TO BEING STATIONED IN

KOREA

Yongsan

Seoul

Kunsan

Daegu

Chinhae

- ✓ Local culture & language
- ✓ How to get around town
- ✓ Must-see attractions
- ✓ Schooling essentials
- ✓ How to get a vehicle
- ✓ Legal ins & outs
- ✓ Local cuisine



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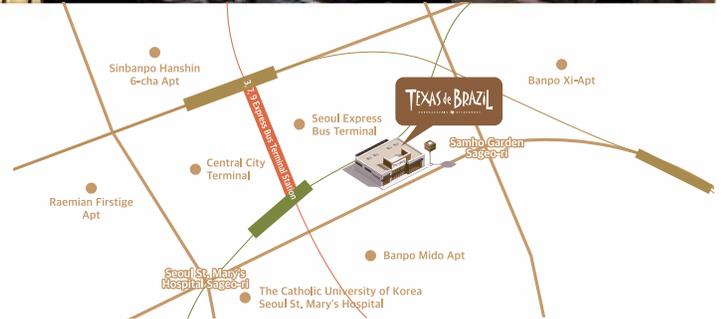


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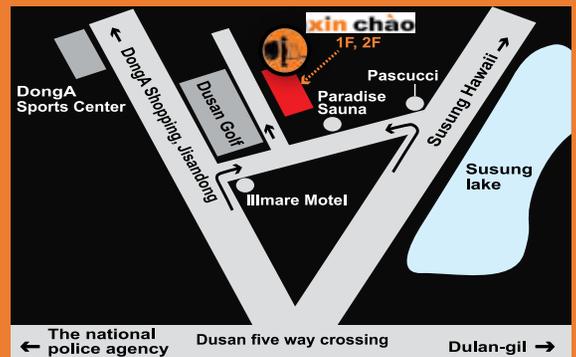
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If you're reading this magazine, you've likely already arrived and have been welcomed to your new duty station by any number of people. Well, on behalf of the Stars and Stripes family, we'd also like to welcome you as you begin your stay in the Asia-Pacific region. No handshakes or hugs here though – just some good ol' useful information you're going to want to know.

In this Welcome to the Pacific 2017-18 magazine, we really try to help you as you begin your journey overseas. Curious about the food here? We've got that covered. Need to find a new car? Flip a few more pages and find some of the top dealerships in your area.

And all of this useful information Stars and Stripes offers doesn't end with this magazine. Please use this as a guide to help you get settled in your new country. It's a big change and hopefully this can provide some help as you learn the lay of your new land. But, to go along with the Welcome to the Pacific magazine, Stripes also has four community newspapers that hit the blue boxes on your base each and every week. Stripes Japan, Stripes Okinawa, Stripes Guam and Stripes Korea (bi-weekly) are there to give you the 411 on that new zip line course, hot restaurant or road trip you just have to take. So, make sure to grab a copy and check us out the next time you pass a blue box.

We even cater to the clothing deficient. Need something to do this weekend and you just can't get out to grab the latest paper? No worries. StripesJapan.com, StripesOkinawa.com, Stripes.Korea.com and Guam.Stripes.com allow you to research that next outing as you sit half naked at your computer screen. We don't mind.

At Stripes, we like to emphasize that we are community newspapers and community websites. So, as any good community does, we love to hear from you, the reader! Have a story idea? Visit one of our websites and let us know. Better yet, do you have a great story to tell? Maybe it's about that person on base who's out there making the community better. Submit your story and we just might publish it in the paper!

Finally, make sure you take the time to like us on Facebook. Go www.facebook.com/StripesPacific/ to stay up to date on all of the latest news relating to the U.S. military community stationed in the Pacific. And make sure to keep an eye out for our giveaway promotions, because who doesn't love free stuff!

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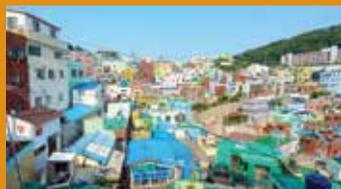
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Welcome to the Pacific 2017-18
4
KOREA

Stripes WELCOME TO the PACIFIC 2017-18 KOREA



Culture & Language - 06

- 06 The cultural lay of the land
- 08 Language guidelines
- 10 Wondering about Won?



Cell phone - 12



Education - 16

- 16 DODEA homework
- 20 College 101 for servicemembers
- 24 On-base college opportunities



Transportation - 25

- 25 By train, by subway
- 28 By taxi
- 29 By car, by bus, by plane



- 32 Buying, registering
- 34 Road rules
- 35 Camp coordinates

Private Vehicles - 32



Legal - 38

- 38 Law and order on the ROK
- 38 Understanding SOFA
- 40 Dos and don'ts with pets
- 40 Garbage disposal
- 41 Off-base living



Food - 42

- 42 Exploring Korea's true flavor



Online - 46

- 46 Websites to bookmark



Leisure - 48

- 48 AFN serving across generations
- 50 USO connects you to family & home
- 54 Korean markets have it all
- 58 Going 0 to 100 in Korea

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When in Korea

Cultural lay of the land

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

Korea has also spawned some great inventors. Its first printing systems predate Gutenberg's, the famous "Turtle Ship" was the first ever iron-clad battleship, and the Korean alphabet, devised by a group of scholars in the 15th century, was so effective that it remains largely unchanged today.

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 Panjon in Haeinsa Temple, where Buddhist scripture is engraved on 80,000 wooden panels; and Pulguksa Temple and Sokkuram Grotto in Kyongju, which was built more than 1,000 years ago.

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 "coffice" to describe the use of cafés as ad hoc office spaces.

Other recent English-language influences in Korean – or "Konglish" – include: "Eye shopping" (ai syopping) 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.

Korean names

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

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

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

Etiquette and dining

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

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

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

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

You will see young men walking in the street with their arms around each other's shoulders and women

walking hand in hand. This means nothing more than simple intimacy. Touching close friends while talking to them is perfectly acceptable in Korea. Koreans will touch children to show their warm affection for them. This is a compliment to let the child know how cute he or she is. Bumping into other people while passing is mostly understood unless you shove him or her offensively.

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

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

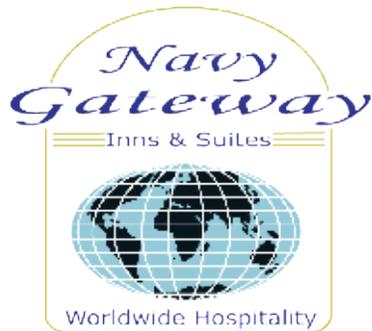
During the meal, rest your chopsticks and spoon on top of a dish. When you finish eating, lay them on the table to indicate that you have completed the meal. Never stick chopsticks or spoons in a bowl of rice; this is associated with prayers for the dead. Also, never refill a partially, but not completely empty glass for the same reason. Don't worry about reaching in front of others or asking for a dish to be passed.

The hostess may put your gift aside without opening it in order to save you the embarrassment if your gift is small. They'll open it if you politely ask.

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.

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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 with a short "e" sound like "beg." The letters "oe" together sound

like the word "way." The letter "a" is pronounced as a short "a" like "ah." The letter "o" is pronounced long like "boat." The letter "u" is pronounced like in "tube."

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

VOWELS

ㅣ	ㅔ	ㅚ	ㅓ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅜ
i	e	oe	ae	a	o	u
ㅟ	ㅡ	ㅟ	ㅞ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅟ
eo	eu	ui	ye	yae	ya	yo
ㅠ	ㅟ	ㅟ	ㅞ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅟ
yu	yeo	wi	we	wae	wa	wo

CONSONANTS

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



Korean Character
Romanized

"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 "pija" (pizza).

DAYS OF THE WEEK

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

* For months and dates see "Korean by Numbers" on page 9.

RELATIVE DATE

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

PRONOUNS

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

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

INTERROGATIVE

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

CONJUNCTIONS

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

ADJECTIVES

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

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

VERBS

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

BASIC KOREAN VOCABULARY

GENERAL VOCABULARY

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

SOME USEFUL KOREAN PHRASES

Introductions/greetings

Hi/Hello

An-Nyeong-ha-se-yo/

An-nyeong-ha-shim-ni-kka (formal)

It is nice to meet you.

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

It is nice to meet you / It is a pleasure

Ban-gop-sub-ni-da

Goodbye (if you leave)

An-nyeong-hee-kye-se-yo/

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

Goodbye (if someone else leaves)

An-nyeong-hee-ga-se-yo/

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

My name is ~.

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

What is your name?

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

I am ~ years old.

Nan ~ saal ib-ni-da.

How old are you?

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

How are you?

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

Yes, I am fine.

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

I am just so-so.

Gu-jeo-gu-reh-yo

An-nyeong-hee-kye-se-yo/



An-nyeong-hee-ga-se-yo/

Requests

What time is it?

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

What is that?

Jeo-geon mwo-jo?

What day is today?

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

Please show me.

Bo-yeo-ju-se-yo.

That's OK.

Gwaen-chan-ayo.

You're welcome.

Chun-man-e-yo.

Could you please take me there?

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

Please drop me here.

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

Follow me.

Tta-ra o-se-yo.

I didn't know.

Mo-llatss-eum-ni-da.

Where is the restroom?

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

Korean by numbers

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

Number use

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Courtesy of *The Morning Calm*

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

Culture & Language

Wondering about won?

A look at the colorful currency of Korea

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 noticed 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 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 and 50,000 won 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 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, the 100 won coin

features Admiral Yi Sunshin (1545-1598) who almost single-handedly defeated the invading Japanese force in the Imjin War, and the largest coin with a value of 500 won has a flying crane, which was the symbol of scholars. In addition to these four coins, there are two other coins no longer in circulation.

– Korea Tourism Organization



Did You Know?

South Korea is among the most densely populated countries in the world. With over 1,300 people per square mile, South Korea is more than 15 times that of the United States (86).



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Getting connected with a cell phone

So, you've just PCS'd 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.



Did You Know?

McDonald's delivers in South Korea. They also serve up specialties like the Crispy Oriental Chicken Burger and McSpicy Shanghai Deluxe.

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I What is 001 Free?

Subscribers of '001 Free' plan may make international calls with your Basic Voice Minutes!
Now, enjoy your international calls like domestic calls!



I Recommended to

- Customers in need of a lot of international calls for business purpose or toward family.
- Customers who want to use remaining calls effectively with international calling.

I Service information

- Service fee : ₩5,000/month (VAT is not included)
※ Regardless of subscription period, this service will be charged on a monthly basis.
- Enjoy international calls within your LTE/3G Rate Plan
- Service Area : Main 22 countries

Countries	22 countries	
	A Group (10 Countries)	B Group (12 Countries)
	USA(Include Alaska/Hawaii), China, Canada, Hongkong, Thailand, Singapore, Guam, Mongolia, Bangladesh and Malaysia	Japan, Australia, Indonesia, England, India, Germany, Norway, Spain, Saipan, Austria, Denmark, Bulgaria
Within Basic free voice plan	Deducted from Basic Voice Minutes	Deducted twice* from Basic Voice Minutes
Exceed basic free voice	₩1.8 / second	₩3.6 / second

※ If you use international call of B group 1 second, it will be deducted 2 second.
※ Other countries : apply '001 알파 Plan'

001Free Q&A

- Can any customers subscribe '001 Free'?
 - Service is limited to selective smartphone rate plans.
 - Only KT customers can subscribe.
 - The subscribers-customers of 'Completely Unlimited Plan' are given 150 min international calls.
- In case of using the international calling plan, is it possible to use '001 Free' additionally?

No, other services will be terminated when subscribing 001 free service. The amount of usage used before subscribing to '001 Free' will be charged with '001 Basic Plan(알파요금제)' (if the name of nonvoice differs from the subscriber. It is impossible to terminate other services automatically).
- Is it possible to make international calls with basic voice minutes to any countries?
 - Only selective 22 main countries are available within the '001 Free'.
 - Other countries will be charged with '001 Basic Plan (알파 요금제)'
 - Main 22 countries
USA(Include Alaska/Hawaii), China, Canada, Hongkong, Thailand, Singapore, Guam, Mongolia, Bangladesh and Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Indonesia, England, India, Germany, Norway, Spain, Saipan, Austria, Denmark, Bulgaria
 - If you exceed the basic voice minutes, ₩1.8 per second will be charged in A group countries, ₩3.6 per second will be charged in B group countries.
- Would you explain the deduction sequence in plan?

Regardless of domestic and international calls, it will be deducted in the order of used from your basic voice minutes.
- Is it possible to use 001 free to 00345 or 00727 services?

No, you should only use 001 service.
- How can users check the usage in real time?

You can check the amount of usage of '001 Free' by login to www.olleh.com/ollehmobile customer center App.
※ Only available when customer has certificate of Alien Registration
- In case of subscribing or cancelling in the middle of month, how will service fee charged?

'001 Free' is charged on a monthly basis. So anytime you subscribe, ₩5,000 for month will be charged. This policy is for blocking subscribers who used international calls with basic voice minutes in a short time and cancel. If your basic voice minutes is not enough, we recommend subscribing on next month.
- Is it possible to re-subscribe after termination '001 Free'?

Yes. BUT, it is impossible to resubscribe on the same month and can resubscribed on the following month.

카탈로그이 1 (국번 없이) 100번 또는 올레닷컴 (olleh.com)

I Applicable mobile Rate Plan

(unit : min)

Rate Plan	Basic Voice Minutes	Available International Voice Minutes
Y24 32.8/38.3/43.8/49.3/54.8/60.3	Unlimited	150
LTE Data Choice 32.8/38.3/43.8/49.3/54.8/60.3/66.3/71.8		
Completely Unlimite 67/77/79/87/97/129		
Soon Completely Unlimited 51/61/67/77/99		
LTE Safe Data		
Everyone olleh 35/45/55/65	130/185/250/350	
Soon Everyone olleh 28/34/41	130/185/250	
LTE 340/420/520/620/720	160/200/250/350/450	
Super-Broad band data Unlimited 67/77	100/300	
Soon Super-Broad band data Unlimited 51	100	
3G i-Slim/Light/Value/Medium	150/200/300/400	
Soon i-Slim / Value	150/300	

※ The subscribers of used 'Completely unlimited plan' are offered 150 min international calls.

I Specific Information

- You can subscribe this service at Customer center, ollehstore, www.olleh.com or call 100/080-2080-001
- You can check the amount of usage at (BX/PX) KT Shop
- Other international Services will be terminated automatically after subscribing 001 Free service.
- In case of termination, it is impossible to resubscribe on the same month, and can be subscribed on the following month.

Date of Issue | 2016/04/01

001 Free

Enjoy your international calls like domestic with your Basic Voice Minutes!

How To Use
001 - Country Code - Area Code - Phone No.
(No Text message / No roll-over)

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 CRC Business Hours Mon-Sat 10:00 - 18:00 (CLOSED: SUNDAY)
 Stanley Business Hours Mon-Fri 11:00 - 18:00 / Sat 11:00 - 16:00
 (CLOSED: WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY)

OSAN AB, Cp HUMPHREYS, KUNSAN AB, YONGSAN Mon-Sun 10:00 - 19:00
 Cp WALKER, Cp CARROL: Mon-Fri 10:00 - 19:00 / Sat & Sun 10:00 - 18:00
 Casey: Mon-Fri 10:00 - 19:00 / Sat & Sun 10:00 - 18:00
 CRC: Mon-Sat 10:00 - 18:00 (CLOSED: SUNDAY)
 Stanley: Mon-Fri 11:00 - 18:00 / Sat 11:00 - 16:00
 (CLOSED: WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY)

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Soon PLAN	Price (won)	Local outgoing call&text	Data	
			Basic	Additional
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LTE DATA CHOICE 65.8	59,900	Unlimited (Local Only)	Unlimited	After 10GB + 2GB (4G LTE + 3G Unlimited per day)
LTE DATA CHOICE 75.8	69,900		Unlimited	After 15GB + 2GB (4G LTE + 3G Unlimited per day)
LTE DATA CHOICE 87.8	79,900		Unlimited	After 20GB + 2GB (4G LTE + 3G Unlimited per day)
LTE DATA CHOICE 109	99,900		Unlimited	After 30GB + 2GB (4G LTE + 3G Unlimited per day)

★ Portable Wifi Plan

PLAN	PRICE (won)	Data
LTE EGG +11	15,000	11 GB
LTE EGG +22	22,000	22 GB



Doing your DODEA homework

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

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

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

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

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

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

Students preparing to enter kindergarten must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling school year. Evidence must be presented to verify age requirements. Birth certificates or passports are adequate verification;

permanent change of station orders are not.

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

Records

Parents should hand-carry all academic, immunization and special education records if possible. Some schools may require records to be mailed; if so, ask them to send records via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail to the military address of the receiving DODEA-Pacific school. Sending priority mail to the Pacific usually takes about seven to 10 days while other methods could take several months. The sending school can also ship records to the commercial address of the DODEA-Pacific school, but you will need to contact the school in advance as commercial addresses are not available online for security reasons.

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 listed below, navigate to the Pacific School websites to find your school, and then click on the Food Services section.

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. This information is also available on the website in the same section as the Free and Reduced Meal Program mentioned above.

School liaison officers

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

Special needs children

If your child has special needs, be sure to research the available support options

See DODEA on page 24

You can also visit:

DODEA-Pacific:

www.dodea.edu/Pacific

Exchange Student Meal Program

www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program/

Exceptional Family Member Program

www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp

Let's Move's (nutrition and exercise tips)

www.letsmove.gov

Tutor.com (Free online tutoring for military families)

www.tutor.com/military





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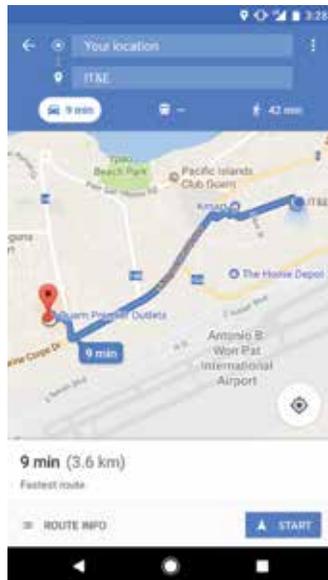
Stay Connected When You Travel To Guam

Guam, Where America's day begins and the data speeds are fast and reliable. Even if you're not a part of the #hashtag generation with an insatiable desire to post a selfie every day for every occasion, you can still take advantage of the robust 4G/LTE cellular and data networks in Guam and stay connected while you're on island.

How so? Here are two cool things you can do with your phone while you're connected.

Finding it hard to navigate? Use Google Maps or Street View to find your way around?

Back in September of 2014, Google, in partnership with the Guam Visitors Bureau launched their first street view images. It's a convenient way to get around or virtually explore before embarking. Just open Google Maps, type in the place you want to go to, and hit the directions button. Or you can track your progress in real time as you make your way to your destination.



Need a ride? Book a Stroll.

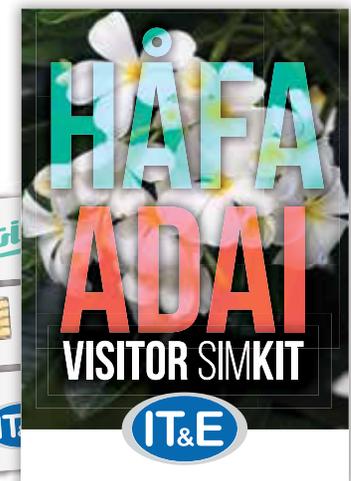
Guam doesn't have Uber, but we do have Stroll. As they explain on their website (<http://strollguam.com>), "Stroll is a transportation network, providing ride services for anyone living or traveling in Guam." All it takes is 4 simple steps:

1. Download the app and Register on it.
2. Select your pick-up and drop-off destinations
3. Get your ride
4. Stroll



What's the best way to stay connected?

The Hafa Adai Visitor Sim Kit from IT&E is an amazing deal. It's just \$20 and gives you unlimited talk, text and data and \$10 of long distance to anywhere in the world. You can purchase one at any of IT&E's 5 retail locations or at any Shell Foody's Station. IT&E also has great prepaid rates that can be found at ite.net.



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College 101 for servicemembers

Editor's note: Tyler Hlavac is an active-duty Marine and full-time dad assigned to Stars and Stripes' Yokosuka Bureau in Japan. He attends classes regularly at University of Maryland University College's Yokosuka Campus and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications.

There are a lot of benefits to being a servicemember, but it's possible you're not taking advantage of one of the best: tuition assistance. I'm talking about free money.

Tuition assistance (TA) is provided to servicemembers through the Department of Defense to help cover the cost of school. It's not a loan and it comes with very few stipulations, yet it often seems like many servicemembers don't use it.

There are a multitude of reasons for not pursuing an education, some good and some bad. Some servicemembers have intense jobs that don't leave many hours for school and others have large families and simply cannot devote the time. However, I've heard a few pretty weak excuses for not going to school. Visit any base general recreation center and you will see plenty of servicemembers aimlessly surfing Facebook or binge-watching reruns of television shows.

While some leaders do a good job of encouraging their juniors to pursue educational opportunities, others don't mention school at all. Even worse, I've unfortunately encountered a few leaders who actively discouraged attending school for various reasons.

Going to class can be intimidating, whether you are a 19-year-old junior servicemember or a senior leader in your 30s or older. Educating yourself about your options beforehand can make starting school a less intimidating endeavor. It's hard work and you may not always get the best encouragement, but

keep in mind it's your future you are working for. For me, the thought of my own future and my family's future keeps me motivated. Going to school allows me to be a better provider for my family down the road and allows me to leave my GI Bill untouched and pass it on to my son to secure his eventual college education. No one else can create a better future for you. The best way to get started is simply to start.

Getting started

For servicemembers, the topic of attending college while on active duty is somewhat common. College is brought up even before attending basic training, as recruiters often use the TA program as a selling point for potential applicants. A lot of information about the GI Bill is presented during basic training and, generally, every substantial military base has an education center and even satellite college offices.

However, this information can often be very broad or vague and sometimes doesn't cover the most basic questions in the simplest way. How much does school cost? What can I go to school for? What does TA cover? Do I have time to go to school while serving in the military? These are some of the important questions that servicemembers should consider before beginning their journey as an active-duty college student.

Picking the right school

After you decide what degree you want to pursue, the next thing you should do is decide what school to attend. The first

factor to consider is whether or not the school has a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defense. A school has to have this memorandum, otherwise a servicemember cannot use TA.

You also need to find a school that offers the degree you want while fitting within the amount of TA you are offered. Each service has a cap on how much you can spend per credit hour and how much you can spend per year. This is generally \$250 per credit hour and \$4,500 per year. If the school you are looking at charges more than \$250 per credit hour, TA won't pay for it.

Next, do you want to take online classes or attend face-to-face classes? Personally, I think the best option for a servicemember just starting college is to attend a college located on base and take a few face-to-face classes. Some servicemembers prefer online classes because of their availability and the flexibility to take them without having to go to a classroom. The downside of online classes is that you miss out on a lot of instruction from the teacher and networking with fellow students who can help you with your work.

Colleges located on base work with servicemembers regularly and have a good grasp on your paperwork requirements and work schedules. Their classes are tailored to servicemembers and the costs all fit within the DOD's TA requirements. These

on-base schools are ideal for beginners and are a good place to at least get a start on your general education requirements.

Using tuition assistance

TA is a benefit provided by the DOD to help pay for college. Generally, every active-duty servicemember is eligible for it. The DOD has some guidelines for TA, namely that schools have a memorandum of understanding with the DOD, but each service has its own unique requirements.

For example, the Marine Corps requires, among other things, a minimum time in service of 24 months per active duty base date and the completion of the Marine Corps Institute Personal Financial Management course. The Navy requires that sailors have not received a non-judicial punishment in the last six months and have served at least one year in their first duty station.

All of the services have some sort of general grade requirement as well. If you end a class below a certain grade, such as a "C," you have to pay back the money you received for that class.

The amount of TA offered each fiscal year may not seem like much, but \$4,500 can actually go a long way if you pick the right school. For example, the University of Maryland University College, located on many military bases, charges



Going to school allows me to be a better provider for my family down the road and allows me to leave my GI Bill untouched and pass it on to my son to secure his eventual college education.

\$221 per credit hour, or roughly \$663 per class (most classes, with a few exceptions, are three credit hours). This means TA will fully pay for six classes per year and approximately two-thirds of a seventh class.

Assuming you don't want to go out of pocket and want to use as much of your benefits as possible, this means TA will pay for a UMUC student to take at least one class per semester, and one semester you can take two classes (UMUC has five semesters in a year). This is a fairly substantial course load for a working servicemember; two classes at one time is considered "full-time student" status by UMUC.

Most servicemembers I talk to have their hands full balancing their job and just one class at a time. TA also allows you to obtain your degree without touching your GI Bill, which means you can pass it on to a spouse or child.

How much of a commitment?

College can be a serious time commitment for active-duty servicemembers. This depends on both the courses you choose and how many you are taking per semester. As mentioned, a two-class commitment is considered

"full time" by many schools, so balancing two classes at once and a full-time job is tricky.

Individual courses tend to become more difficult the higher level they are. A level 400 class is generally harder than a level 100 class, for example, but even classes of the same level can vary. I took a Psychology 100 class that only required one to two hours of work outside the classroom each week. On the flipside, I took a Math 103 class that required five to seven hours of homework each week.

A common syllabus guideline I've seen in many of my classes is that students should expect to spend two to three hours of reading, studying or doing homework for every one hour they spend in class. Although I can't say I've spent that much time doing schoolwork, it is a useful guideline to keep in mind.

I would recommend only taking one class at a time for your first two or three semesters and then trying two classes if you feel you can handle it. Even with one class, don't expect to have your entire weekend free. A lot

of your time will be spent doing schoolwork. Fortunately, most schools have semester breaks, so you will get time off periodically throughout the year.

Benefits of going

There are a lot of benefits to going to college, beyond just obtaining a degree. Having off-duty education looks great on servicemembers' evaluations.

I've personally found that just going to school and taking classes has kept my brain engaged and has stimulated my desire to learn, which has had positive effects on my job performance.

Balancing work, school and family life has also greatly improved my time-management skills and I feel I waste less time each day. Staying busy with school has also had a positive

effect on my bank account. As I've had less free time, I've spent less time aimlessly shopping or sitting in bars or restaurants.

School has also been a great opportunity for me to network and to meet new people each semester. Everywhere I go on base I constantly run into former classmates. The overall best benefit of going to college is investing in one's future.

Whether you spend four or 30 years in the military, everyone must eventually leave and seek outside employment. Separating from the military with a bachelor's or even a master's degree will help you secure a solid post-military career.

– Tyler Hlavac

See Page 24 for a list of on-base colleges

Education Centers

Camp Casey

Bldg. S-1757
DSN: 730-3107

USAG Daegu

Unit 15746
DSN: 768-7919 (Henry)
DSN: 765-7729 (Carroll)

Kunsan Air Base

Bldg. 1051
DSN: 782-5148

Camp Red Cloud

Bldg. S-1757
DSN: 730-3107

Fleet Chinhae

Bldg. 606
DSN: 762-5310

Camp Humphreys

Unit 15592
DSN: 753-8905

Osan Air Base

Bldg. 789
DSN: 784-4220

USAG Yongsan

Bldg. P2212
DSN: 723-8098

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"Lakeland University Japan Campus (LUJ) is a school that provides an environment with students from all around the world, which was perfect for me after graduating from high school at an American military base. There are a variety of classes from which to choose from. These classes help guide me to seek my future major."



"Being an LUJ student changed my perspective significantly. It certainly has shown me a diverse environment as the campus is located in the city of Tokyo and many opportunities are filled within this college. For example, there are temples and shrines to visit not too far from school. Also, the size of each class is quite small, which makes it easier to get individual help from the professors. There is nothing comparable with studying in a delightful locale in a beautiful country."

— Tyeis Kemp, Kinnick High School Alumna and a LUJ Graduate



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TEL: 03-3225-0425 Fax: 03-3225-0428

URL: luj.lakeland.edu

Take advantage of on-base colleges

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

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

Many also have long-standing relationships with the military and cater to the specific needs of service members and their families. This includes the application of military benefits, academic credit for military training and

experience, and military educational programs.

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 for seven years.

The current contracted institutions are:

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

For aviation programs (undergraduate and graduate)

University of Maryland University College

For high school completion (GED), academic skills, undergraduate degree programs, Master of Business

University of Maryland University College:
www.umuc.edu/military

Troy University:
www.troy.edu/military

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University:
www.erau.edu

Administration/Management (graduate) programs and National Testing Center services.

Troy University

For international relations (graduate program).

Undergraduate and Vo-Tech programs are offered at 32 locations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Graduate programs are only available at a few locations.

International relations graduate programs are available at: Osan Air Base, Yongsan Garrison and Camp Humphreys, South Korea; and Kadena Air Base and Misawa Air Base, Japan.

MBA/graduate management

program are offered at: Osan Air Base, Yongsan Garrison and Camp Humphreys, South Korea; Kadena Air Base, Yokota Air Base, Camp Zama, and Yokosuka Naval Station, Japan; and Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

In-resident undergraduate and graduate aviation programs are now available at: Camp Humphreys and Kadena Air Base.

Undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs are no longer offered in the region.

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

DODEA from page 16

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. You can easily access this information at: www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp

Home school support

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

Eligibility is limited to students who are designated as space-required (mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea Districts) or DOD dependent students eligible to enroll in DDESS on a tuition-free basis

(Guam District). Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must also meet the same eligibility requirements 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."

– DODEA-Pacific

Did You Know?

In Korea, there is Birthday Age and there is Korean Age. Birthday Age is the exact same way Americans decide ages. Korean Age says that you are one year old the day you are born. Then, your age increases at the turn of each year.

Mastering mass transit in Korea

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.

Don't forget to try the AREX for a quick train ride from Incheon Airport or Gimpo Airport to Seoul Station. The fare is comparable to that of buses, and much cheaper than taking a taxi. Incheon to Seoul should be just about 8,000 won, which is just around \$7.10.

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

The Gyeongbu (Kyoungbu) Line starts in Seoul and ends in Busan (Pusan). The Honam Line passes through Seoul (Yongsan Station) and ends in either Gwangju (Kwangju) or Mokpo. The standard fare to Busan on the

Gyeongbu Line is about 58,800 won (about \$52) 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.

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

Continued on page 28



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

UNIBETSEDĀT GUAHAN



Located in the village of Mangilao in central Guam, the University of Guam sits on a 110-acre campus which boasts a breathtaking ocean view, cool breezes and modern, island-inspired architecture. Home to nearly 4,000 students per year, UOG offers 34 undergraduate degrees and 15 graduate degrees in Business, Nursing, the Sciences, Liberal Arts and Education.

UOG is a public U.S. land-grant institution accredited by the Senior Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). UOG has also obtained program specific accreditation from nationally recognized professional accrediting organizations such as: Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN); Council on Social Work Education; Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education.

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For more information, visit online at www.uog.edu or contact UOG Admissions at +1 (671) 735-2214 or send an email to admitme@triton.uog.edu.

Helpful Links:

Admissions

www.uog.edu/admissions

Financial Aid:

www.uog.edu/financial-aid

Degree Programs:

www.uog.edu/degrees

Course Catalogs:

www.uog.edu/course-catalog

Campus Map:

www.uog.edu/campus-map

Apply Online:

www.uog.edu/apply





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www.uog.edu/admissions

Financial Aid Office:
www.uog.edu/financial-aid

Degree Programs:
www.uog.edu/degrees

Apply Online:
www.uog.edu/apply

Connect: www.uog.edu |      

Continued from page 25

to Incheon, connecting to the Incheon No. 1 line at Bupyeong (Pupyong.)

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

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

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

No. 3 (Orange) Line: The line runs from Ogeum, south of the Han River, to Daehwa out in the “Western Corridor.” It will get you to Jongno 3 Ga, where there are some good bookstores and shops selling musical instruments. It will also take you to the Express Bus Terminal and Apgujeong, a popular gathering area for a night on the town.

No. 4 (Blue) Line: Trains run from Northern Seoul’s Danggogae to Oido, south of Seoul. This line has stops for shopping at both Myongdong and Namdaemun (Hoehyeon Station). It also stops at Seoul Station. The four

stops south of Seoul Station – Sookmyung Women’s University, Samgakji, Shinyongsan and Ichon – are all near entrances to Yongsan Garrison.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jungaang (Light Blue) Line: This line runs from Yongsan Station in central Seoul to the eastern reaches

of Gyeonggi Province, ending at Yongmun. This line is handy for getting out of town for sledding and other 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 taxis increase by 20% between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. You can catch cabs at

a taxi stand or hail them on the street. During rush hour or in bad weather expect a long wait.

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

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

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

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

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

SOFA personnel will find

Online help to get around Korea

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

Bus zones, numbers, stops, fares:
english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TR/korea_terminal.jsp

Subway how-to information, maps, stops, fares:
english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TR/TR_EN_5_1_4.jsp

Plane flights, schedules, booking:
www.koreanair.com/local/na/gp/eng/tp/sd/eng_tp_sd.jsp
kpr.flyasiana.com/C/en/main.do

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





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

Travel by car

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

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

Hi-Pass requires an "On Board Unit" (OBU) and a Hi-Pass Card. The OBU can be purchased 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.

Travel by bus

Bus travel is reliable and the schedule is more convenient than the trains. Some expressways

have bus-only lanes for peak travel times such as weekends, rush hour and major holidays. 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 travelled. Transfer discounts are also available, but only when using a T-Money Card rather than buying tickets for each ride. This rechargeable card is the easiest way to pay for bus, subway and even taxi travel in and around Seoul. It can be purchased from subway or bus ticket vendors and machines. The basic charge is 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 to help.

Travel by plane

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

Some airports, especially those in smaller cities such as Kunsan, offer few flights and destinations. (To get to Seoul you may have to go to Jeju.) You may find that other means of travel better suit your needs.

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

There are plenty of places to visit in the Land of the Morning Calm. Why not make getting to them part of the adventure? Try them all!



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All Navy Lodges in Japan feature air conditioned rooms, queen-size beds, flat screen TVs, DVD players, free internet, direct dial telephone service, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, and radio frequency ID locks. Coin operated guest laundry and vending machines are conveniently located on the property. Fax and copying services, DVD rentals and free coffee are available in the lobby. Connecting rooms and fully equipped kitchenettes are also available.

Renovation projects are planned to begin soon and will include the addition of family suites and large capacity refrigerators which will help PCSing families be more comfortable during a longer stay.



Atsugi



Yokosuka



Yokosuka



Sasebo

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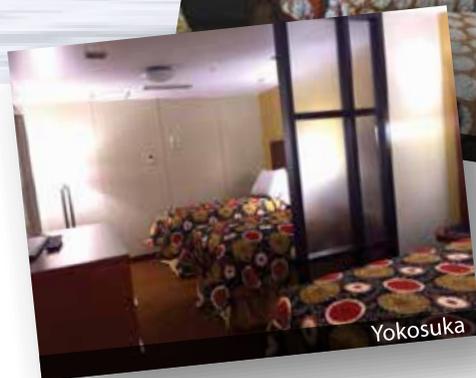
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Private Vehicles

Buying & registering a POV on the ROK



On-base vehicle registration offices:

Yongsan Garrison

Camp Kim

Bldg. 1230; Tel: 724-4811
Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Osan Air Base

Bldg. 765; Tel: 784-4489
Mon – Thurs: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Camp Humphreys

Bldg. 544; Tel: 753-6609
Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Camp Walker

Bldg. 1712; Tel: 768-6108
Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Camp Carroll

Bldg. 946; Tel: 765-8575
Mon, Wed, Fri: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tue: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thurs: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Camp Casey/Area I

Bldg. 2440, Maude hall
Tel: 730-4472
Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kunsan Air Base

Bldg. 590; Tel: 782-4900
Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tue, Thur: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

U.S. military commands in Korea have varying policies regarding who may purchase vehicles. The registration process also varies, 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. Many are usually trying to sell their vehicles shortly before departing. These vehicles often have a sign in the window indicating their features and price. Many bases have designated areas for these vehicles, which are often called "lemon lots." This can be more than a mere moniker.

The risk of buying a used vehicle from a fellow SOFA-status person is that the vehicle may have had numerous owners, many of whom may have done minimal maintenance because they only planned to use it for a short time. Inspect it carefully. There is more to check than the required safety inspection items. (See box on page 33)

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

Unfortunately, your "follow-on"



orders may not include vehicle shipment. It may also be difficult to get what your car is worth if you 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

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

Where to purchase a vehicle

There are many car dealers in Korea anxious for military business, one of which is even located on base. **Military AutoSource** (www.militaryautosource.com), which has served the military community abroad for more than 45 years, offers the finest Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Ford, Lincoln and Harley-Davidson vehicles to military personnel stationed, or on TDY assignment, abroad for at least 30 days, through independent sales representatives on 11 bases in Korea.

There are others with close connections to the military overseas, among them **US Military Sales** (www.usmilsales.com), selling Volvos at discounted prices. They're located in Seoul across from Gate 8 of Yongsan Army Garrison (02-792-9393), and in Pyeongtaek-City near Osan Air Base (031-663-2604) across from the Asia Hotel and next door to the Pizza Club; **BMW Military Sales** (bmwdsskorea.com) (02-755-7301), near Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, serving the military in Korea since 1984 through **Kolon Motors**; and **Hansung Motor** (www.hansung.co.kr/Eng/MSP.asp) (02-709-3800), offering Mercedes Benz.

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.

Yongsan Garrison Area

James Garage, located only 2 minutes walking distance from Commissary Gate, has been serving USFK community 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 has been named Best of the Pacific by Stars and Stripes for 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012, gives its customers personal service, from finding a car to getting it purchased and registered. It keeps a complete record of inventory on its website.

AceMotors (acemotors.net/default.asp) (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/) (010-5742-5741) offers two ways to purchase a vehicle: from inventory or ordering one based on your requirements. It's easy-to-use website, which lists vehicles according to size and type, shows photos of the cars in its extensive inventory and quotes prices in dollars.

Osan Air Base Area

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

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

Camp Humphreys Area

OMG Motors (sites.google.com/site/omgmotors/services/home/omg-motors-used-car-sales) (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

Tips for used-car shopping

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



facility, it has since branched out into used car sales. Ask for Lee, Sung Min.

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

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

Private Vehicles

Road rules with a local twist

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

- Drive defensively. There are often more cars across a road than there are lanes. And at intersections, the traffic rules concerning lanes are sometimes merely guidelines.
- Don’t get caught using bus lanes on expressways, which are marked

off by a blue line. The fines are steep.

- The rule of thumb is that, in merging traffic, the vehicle in front has the right of way. So, in the face of a certain tendency toward aggressiveness by Korean drivers, it is good practice to yield even if you’re first.
- Pedestrians and bicycles have the right of way over cars. You don’t even have to hit anyone to get in trouble. If you scare someone on

a bike and they fall, you are liable.

- Be particularly careful when driving in rural areas as people’s homes exit directly on the street, and children often race out without thinking. The roads there are also very narrow and have no sidewalks, so yield at all times.
- Get physical landmark-type directions when driving somewhere new as few streets have names and most houses/businesses do not have addresses visibly posted.



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CAMP COORDINATES

Travel base to base

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 item of choice, and you're sure to make that 7 a.m. tee time.

1. USAG Yongsan

Gate #1 (Dragon Hill Lodge)

37.530496 (latitude), 126.984413 (longitude)

Gate #3 (Noksapeyong Station)

37.534849, 126.983015

Gate #6 (Commissary Gate)

37.527395, 126.991405

Gate #16 (Samgakji Station)

37.537828, 126.974749

Gate #19 (Coiner Visitor Gate)

37.545327, 126.978673

2. Camp Kim

USO / AAFES Car Care Center

37.538785, 126.973532

3. FED Compound

Dongdaemun

37.566944, 127.005631

4. K-16 Air Base

Main Gate

37.448649, 127.104741

Songnam Golf Course

37.478171, 127.156384

5. Camp Casey

Main Gate

37.917666, 127.056608

Back Gate

37.925343, 127.056331

6. Camp Hovey

Main Gate

37.898553, 127.081548

7. Camp Red Cloud

Main Gate

37.736000, 127.010148

8. Camp Stanley

Main Gate

37.718843, 127.099658

Back Gate

37.720268, 127.091448

9. Camp Jackson

Main Gate

37.697809, 127.045197

10. Suwon AB

Main Gate

37.245974, 127.013330

11. Osan AFB

Main Gate

37.079084, 127.049969

Back Gate

37.086756, 127.050803

12. Camp Humphreys

Front Gate

37.958191, 127.044019

Back Gate

36.959236, 127.042569

13. Camp Walker

Gate #4

35.839972, 128.588496

Gate #6

35.841656, 128.583400

14. Camp Henry

Front Gate

35.850272, 128.599680

Back Gate

35.849102, 128.604473

15. Camp George

Main Gate

35.849856, 128.595182

16. Camp Carroll

Waegan

35.989317, 128.405329

17. Camp Mujuk

Main Gate

35.961750, 129.422196

18. Chinhae Naval Base

Main Gate

35.155258, 128.655048

19. Kunsan AFB

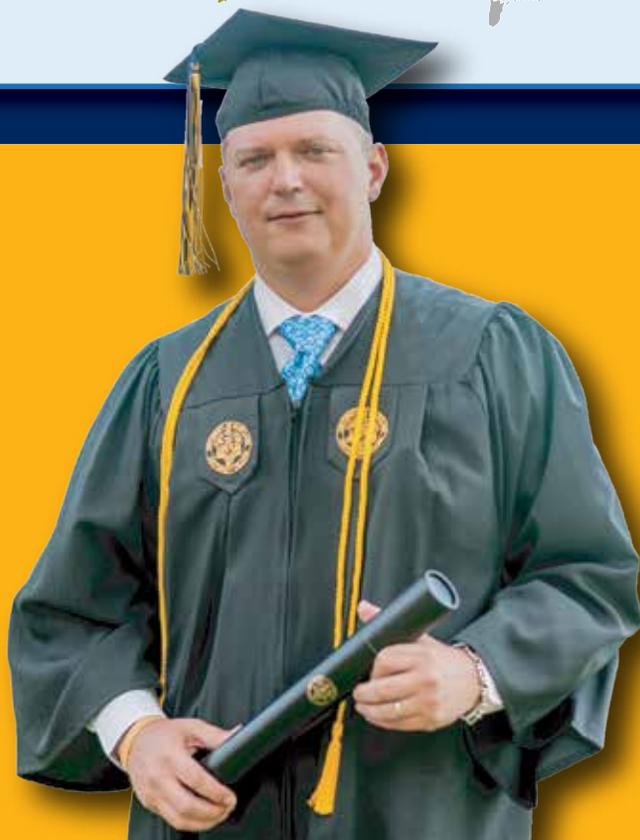
Main Gate

35.925842, 126.615635



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Legal Law and order on the ROK

Welcome to the Pacific 2017-18
KOREA
38

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

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

Assaults

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

Black marketing

U.S. regulations and Korean customs laws prohibit 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.

Understanding what SOFA means for you

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

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

covered by the US-ROK SOFA.

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

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

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

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

SOFA Card

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

Criminal court

As a defendant in a criminal trial, a U.S. service member is not entitled to representation by a JAG attorney. The U.S. government will pay for the services of an English-speaking Korean attorney. The court will appoint an interpreter. A U.S. official will act as a trial observer to ensure that the service member receives all the procedural safeguards to which he/she is entitled. The Department of Defense and the Department of State will be notified where it appears that the service member's SOFA rights are not being granted.

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.

Drunk driving

Korean law concerning driving under the influence of alcohol is much stricter than U.S. law. A blood alcohol percentage of .05 percent is a violation of Korean law. This is much stricter than the usual standard of .08 percent under most U.S. jurisdictions.

Elderly people

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

MERS quarantines

A sudden outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, in June 2015 and widely flaunted quarantine rules prompted Korean authorities to pass a stringent new quarantine law.

Under the law, anyone infected with the virus who defies quarantine orders or lies to investigators about how they may have come into contact with the disease, will face up to two years in prison or a fine of up to 20 million won (about \$18,000). The new law also requires police and firefighters to help enforce quarantine orders.

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.

— *Compiled from media and United States Forces Korea sources*

authorities in order for the apprehended person to communicate with a representative of the U.S. Government.

Civil court jurisdiction

The Korean courts have civil jurisdiction over all USFK personnel regardless of nationality. USFK military and civilian employees and their dependents can sue and be sued in Korean civil courts in cases concerning breach of a lease, support of illegitimate children, failure to pay just debts and damages and injuries from an accident. A Korean civil court judgment generally can be enforced against the money and personal property of USFK personnel while in Korea or when relocated in the U.S.

However, Korean civil court judgments cannot be enforced if the cause of action arises out

of the official duties of USFK personnel or if a claim was paid in settlement. Whenever an official Korean judicial document is received by USFK personnel on any civil action, they should immediately consult with a USFK legal assistance officer.

Criminal jurisdiction

Your SOFA standing is not a Get Out of Jail Free Card. Korea has exclusive or primary jurisdiction over almost all offenses committed in Korea by U.S. service members. The U.S. has exclusive jurisdiction only when no crime has been committed under Korean law; the U.S. has primary jurisdiction only in those limited instances when the alleged offense is solely against the property or security of the U.S., is solely against the person or property of another

person covered by the SOFA or arises out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duty.

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

— *United States Forces Korea*



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 taken outside housing unit, it must be accompanied by a member of resident's household who is capable of controlling 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.

Garbage disposal rules & regs

The Korean Government mandates trash disposal and requires all residents, including U.S. personnel and foreigners, 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.) will 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**.



YELLOW (food)

WHITE (standard)

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 lessee 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 (ie 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 include it with your safety inspection report.
- Bring Clearance Verification from old unit (to ensure the LL cleared you!)



Renters Insurance

- 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.

Did You Know?

The number 4 is an unlucky number in Korea. The fourth floor is often times skipped in public buildings.

Food

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 eumbok. 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, hedsarum 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. Samgye-tang is well known to foreign visitors as well. Japanese author Murakami Ryu and Chinese film director Zhang Yimou have both given extensive praise to the dish.

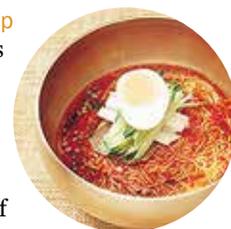
Bulgogi: Sweet treats for special days

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-jjigae: 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 Heoyeop, a magistrate of Gangneung 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 Heoyeop'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 "Ssanghwajeom" (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

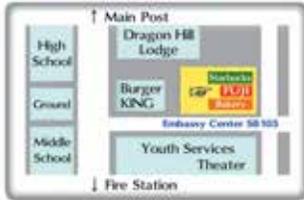
Galbi-jjim (braised short ribs) is made from the finest and most expensive cut of beef. As such, galbi-jjim is usually eaten on special occasions or holidays, when family members come together. Korean cooking consists of a large number of braised dishes that require considerable





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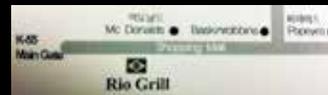
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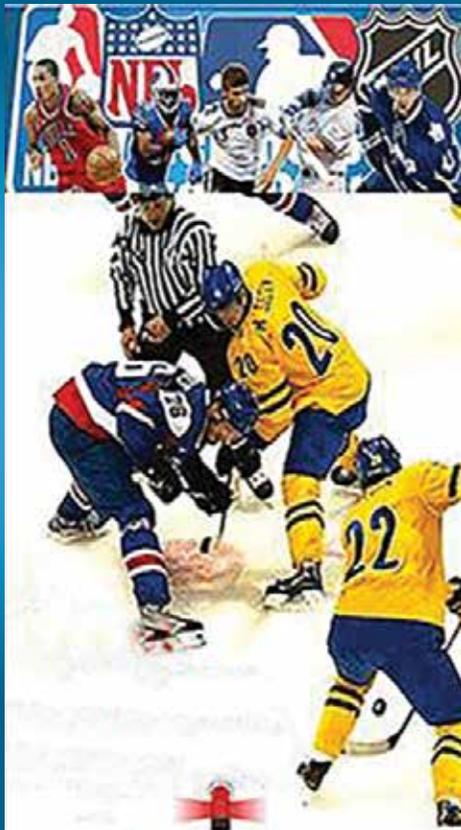
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Food

Continued from page 42

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.”



Pajeon: Perfect pair on a rainy day

Pajeon (green onion pancake) is a mixture of wheat flour batter and scallions, shallow-fried on a griddle. It goes well with chilled dongdongju (floating rice wine). Recently, restaurants specializing in pajeon have increased with the revived popularity of maegeolli (Korean rice wine). For some reason, people associate rain with pajeon. Some say it's because the sound of raindrops hitting the ground or a window sill reminds people of the sizzle of spattering oil as the pajeon is fried. And, this theory may not be as far-fetched as you might think. According to an experiment conducted by a sound engineering lab, the two sounds have almost identical vibrations and frequencies.



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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Online Websites worth bookmarking while in Korea

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

Busan Haps, if you're visiting Busan, has you covered on what's happening there. busanhaps.com

Community Korea lets English speakers sign up for language exchange classes, join community events and build cross-cultural friendships. This site is becoming increasingly popular with the military community. www.communitykorea.com

Easy Korean Food is for do-it-yourselfers, offering a plethora of Korean recipes for those who want to cook Korean food at home. www.easykoreanfood.com

EatYourKimchi is the brainchild of a Canadian couple determined to help foreigners acclimate to South Korea via an understanding of its pop culture. www.eatyourkimchi.com

Groove Korea, as the name suggests, is guaranteed to help those in the know get their groove on, from arts and culture to news and nightlife. groovekorea.com

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

Hotels: In every major city and resort area there are a number of hotels from which to choose. This is a good place to start looking. www.asiahotels.com/south-korea/cities-list

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

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

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

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

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

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

SMRT's (Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit) website provides details on the city's subway system including maps, fares, timetables – even commuter etiquette. Choose English at the top of the homepage. www.smrt.co.kr

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

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

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

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

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

Virtual Tourist offers a lot of valuable, up-to-date insights about a variety of locales – but few English-language sources rival its information on South Korea's nightlife! www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/South_Korea/TravelGuide-South_Korea.html

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

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

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Did You Know?

The song “Gangnam Style” was the first YouTube video to be watched 1 billion times. That's billion with a B. Now, that's something for South Korean musician Psy to dance about.



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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.

The Armed Forces Radio service began May 26, 1942. In the 75 years since, America's military broadcast network has operated under many different names, following service members wherever they are, even on U.S. Navy ships afloat. 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, the network has served as a crucial tool for commanders to reach the force and their families, both on and off military installations. From mobile radio vans communicating to American forces advancing through Europe in World War II, to AFN Benelux's crucial force protection messaging via radio and social media during the 2016 terrorist attack at the Brussels airport, AFN remains the U.S. military's trusted source for real-time information.

Today's AFN stations enjoy advantages unimagined generations ago. Once a single channel, radio now offers a dozen

different audio services and streams over the internet. To listen to your favorite sound online, visit www.AFNPacific.net/AFN-360 or install the AFN Pacific mobile app on your Apple iOS or Android device. AFN Eagle radio is also available over the air. By early 2018, AFN radio stations in Korea will be consolidated into three operating locations: AFN Dae-gu, AFN Humphreys and AFN Kunsan. Tune in to the provider nearest you.

A single channel of AFN television was a big deal a generation ago. Now, the network offers eight, and more enhancements are on the way. This year, AFN will begin broadcasting all eight television channels in high definition. We'll also field a new decoder allowing direct-to-home customers to record programs on two channels while watching, pausing and fast-forwarding a third. Sailors serving afloat will also get their AFN sports, news and entertainment in dramatically-improved clarity.

What hasn't changed in the past 75 years is that American Forces Network continues to provide the most deserving audience in the world with a touch of home by providing real-time force protection messages and the very best live entertainment, news and sports.

— George A. Smith

Welcome to the Pacific 2017-18

KOREA

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Saipan

Saipan, as the capitol, is the largest and most populated island in The Marianas. This tropical paradise offers beautiful white sand beaches with crystal clear water and pure, fresh air. Warmth is in the air and in the people you will meet. It is a throwback to a relaxed lifestyle coupled with modern hotels,



incredible sights, adventurous activities and shopping.

Garapan is the epicenter of activities with many restaurants, bars, and shopping options.

Although only about 12 miles long and 5.5 miles wide, Saipan has a nearly 4,000-year history. The array of natural life encased in double rainbows, if you are lucky, makes The Marianas a magical destination. The indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people welcome you to these islands with open arms.



Tinian

Home of the annual "Pika Festival," Tinian, a neighboring island just three miles south of Saipan, is easily accessible through a short hop on a plane.

Stretches of secluded beaches await your footsteps. The crystal-clear water, colorful marine life, and pristine coral reefs surrounding the island offer excellent snorkeling, scuba diving, and fishing. Explore Tinian's rich historic sites. See pre-historic remains of ancient indigenous Chamorro culture, including the ruins of the House of Taga.

World War II relics abound, including the Atomic Bomb Pits used to load the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During WWII Tinian had the busiest airport in the world, and you can still drive those extensive runways today that played a pivotal role in ending the deadliest war known to mankind.



Rota

Nicknamed "The World's Friendliest Island," Rota is known for its friendly

nature, sweet potatoes and coconut crabs. If not the local delicacies, Rota's people will soon charm you with their smiles and warm hospitality. A sense of family will soon overtake you. Dip your toes in the Swimming Hole or book a round of golf. The Wedding Cake Mountain and Tweksberry Beach are sights to behold, all accompanied by ceaseless songs of local birds. Rota will enchant all visitors with its wealth of natural and cultural beauty. A wide variety of diving sites feature wall dives, underwater wrecks, and coral formations. For those who want to spend time on land, you can visit the Bird Sanctuary, and fascinating historic sites like the As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry, where latte stones seemingly come alive.



The Marianas

| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |



The USO connects you to family, home & country

Your service to our country can take you to the far corners of the earth, but the appreciation of America follows you wherever you go, both figuratively and literally. That literal accompaniment comes to you through the organization that has been taking care of America's service members for more than 76 years now: the USO. With 5 physical centers up and down the peninsula, this is where you go



for a place to relax and connect. Friendly staff and volunteers will greet you with a hot cup of coffee or ice-cold soda to enjoy while you call home on their free Skype phones, send emails on the many available computers or hook up on your device to their free high-speed WIFI. Oh, and if you're really looking to escape, jump on one of their many PS4s and Xbox Ones or catch a movie in one of their in-house movie theaters.

While you're there, be sure to grab a calendar to keep up with their programs. With everything from Pot Luck Mixers to Taco Night, salsa dancing to Korean lessons, the USO has plenty of

planned activities to help you learn something, get wired into the community or just eat a home-cooked meal. And be sure to sign in! It's your signature on that paper that shows the millions of folks back in America who donated money to the USO that their donor dollars are hard at work making sure that YOU are connected to family, home and country while you serve here in Korea. The USO is now offering digital sign in on iPads and rolled out their mobile app in July for iPhones and debuted it for Androids in September 2017.

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- Free Skype telephone calls.
- Free drinks and snacks.
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Individual centers have a variety of great facilities. Hours listed are minimal hours and the hard-working volunteers often arrive early and stay late to serve you better. Many centers also have extended hours during exercises. Visit all five!

USO Camp Casey

Building #2648 beside the Casey Bus Terminal
DSN: 730-4813

Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- 5,000 square-foot center
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- 11 computers with CAC readers
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- A 12-seat movie theater with over 100 DVDs for viewing
- Outdoor front patio with awning-covered picnic tables and barbecues
- Library of books available to read in the center or take
- Cell phone sales desk



USO Seoul

Building #4034 next to the 19th HRC
DSN: 723-5364

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Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.,
Sat. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun. noon - 9 p.m.

- 2,500 square-foot center
- Lounge area with leather recliners and large-screen televisions
- 6 computers, all complete with webcam and headset
- Multimedia room with 5 televisions, Xbox, Xbox One, PS3 and PS4 consoles
- Large outdoor deck with 8 picnic tables and barbecue grill
- Cell phone sales and tickets & tour sales desk



T360 program has you in mind

The only constant in life is change," as the old saying goes. When you are in the military you deal with change on a scale most civilians can't even fathom; constantly changing superiors, coworkers and friends; moving from place to place, changing homes and changing communities. The one constant in the equation is family: your fam-

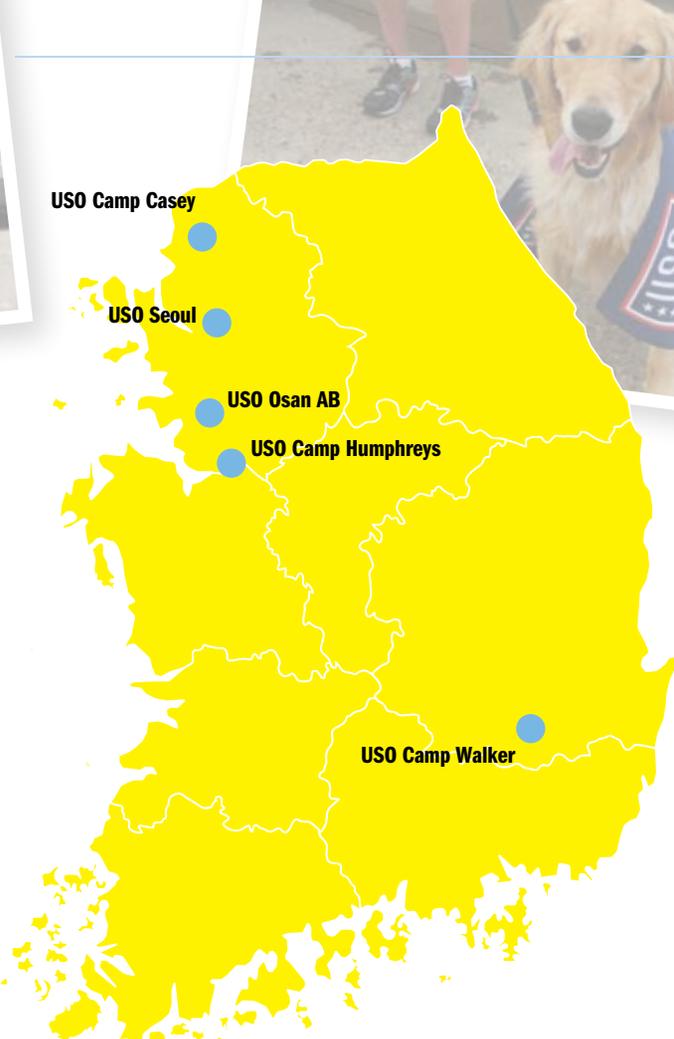
ily, the US Military family and the USO family - which is never far away and always there to support you whether you're stuck in the mountains of Afghanistan or posted to an island off the coast of Korea.

The USO wants to help you transition to civilian life when your military career ends, so be sure to stop by your nearest cen-



ter as soon as you arrive on the peninsula. There's a lot more to what the USO can do for you than help you get WIFI and make

new friends though. The USO has made it a priority to help you and your family deal with the many transitions that impact mili-



USO Camp Casey

USO Seoul

USO Osan AB

USO Camp Humphreys

USO Camp Walker

USO Osan AB

Bldg #916, across from Chili's

DSN: 784-3491

Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fri. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

- NEW 3,000 square-foot center
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- Movie room



USO Camp Humphreys

Building #375 across

the street from Burger King

DSN: 753-6281

Hours:

Everyday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- 1,000 square-foot center
- Internet café with 6 computers, webcams, headsets & CAC readers
- Lounge area with leather recliners and large-screen HDTV
- Xbox One & PS4 gaming systems
- Library of books available to read in the center or take
- Cell phone sales desk & tickets and tour sales desk



USO Camp Walker

Building #318

across the street from the PX

DSN: 764-4437

Hours:

Everyday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

- 4,800 square-foot center
- Lounge area with leather recliners and a high-definition large-screen television
- Internet café with 6 computers, webcams and headsets
- 4 high-speed gaming computers
- Wii room with 2 Wii gaming consoles
- 14-seat theater room



tary families. They have done so through a program they call Pathfinder, which assists the transitioning troops to develop a unique

pathway to the services and resources that individuals need for a successful transition.

USO Scouts work one-on-one

with service members and their family. They serve as a bridge to the USO's coordinated network of public, private, and independent sector partnerships, connecting service members and their families to opportunities that will help them achieve their personal and professional transition goals via an individualized action plan. The USO Pathfinder Programs and Innovation Team develops opportunities such as workshops and events for Transition Sites to implement in the field. USO Path-

finder programming surrounds eight different focus areas that service members and their families are confronted with as they transition: employment, education, financial readiness, VA benefits, housing, legal, family strength & wellness, and volunteerism.

While there are plenty of resources from the USO, they're all meaningless until you take the first step. Click on that address bar on your device and type USO.org/pathfinder right this minute and learn what's next today.



Dusit Thani Guam Resort is also home to Devarana Spa, Dusit International's signature spa. Inspired by the concept of the garden in heaven, Devarana Spa provides luxurious pampering and healing treatments in a soothing and stress-relieving environment.

The new facility offers ten deluxe treatment rooms and suites plus a couples' suite, hydro-jet massage pool, hot/cold plunge pools and a Himalayan rock salt meditation room.

Experience a world of luxury and hospitality at Dusit Thani Guam Resort that will enliven the individual spirit, no matter the journey.



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Exclusive villas include six styles of suites each one featuring a living room, pantry, an en-suite bathroom with premium amenities and a luxurious spa treatment room. Enjoy private terraces and a plunge pool to soak in the spectacular beauty of Tumon Bay. Guests are also entitled to the full range of Dusit Club privileges.

In addition to lavish rooms, guests can indulge in an array of culinary delights and refreshments in every outlet.

Aqua offers the freshest and finest of ingredients that are woven into an exciting buffet tapestry of local and international fare with live-cooking stations, seafood, cured meats and cheeses, handmade dim sum and one of the largest dessert selection on the island.

Now open for dinner only is Alfredo's Steakhouse, premium steaks, live lobster and wine list to intrigue any connoisseur.

Or savor the flavors of world-renowned Thai street food at Soi which means "street" in Thai. Expanding its hours to accommodate guests for lunch and dinner, the focus at Soi is on small plates that are perfect for sharing and pairing. Elements of trendy Bangkok shop houses are infused throughout this casual yet polished Thai bistro.

Tasi Grill is where tropical gardens and white sands surround this open-air beachside grill. Guests can enjoy the art and style of traditional local barbecue. Cravings for late night fare and live entertainment can be met at the Lobby Lounge featuring artfully crafted cocktails and spectacular sunsets inside or from the spacious outdoor terrace.



From food to fun and everthing else

Korean markets have it all

Traditional markets in Korea offer a variety of unique scenes every day. Marketplaces bustle with life, activities and the voices of vendors bargaining with customers. These traditional markets provide a livelihood for many Koreans. Vendors serving customers no matter the weather, the culture of “deom” (adding additional items to the purchase for no extra charge) and affectionate haggling are a few of the unique aspects of the Korean marketplace culture.

Popular traditional markets in Seoul

There’s no better place to get a taste of real Korean life than the market. The biggest and most popular markets in Seoul are Namdaemun Market and Gwangjang Market, which not only sell Korean comfort foods, but also bustle with vendors of all kinds. When looking for a place to either shop or eat, a visit to one of these Korean marketplaces is a must!

Namdaemun Market

Opened in 1964, Namdaemun Market is the largest traditional market in Korea with various goods in store. Products are sold at affordable prices and the stores in this area also function as a wholesale market. Selling variety of clothes, glasses, kitchenware, toys, mountain gear, fishing equipment, stationery, fine arts, accessories, hats, carpets, flowers, ginseng, and imported goods, Namdaemun is just right for fun scavenger hunt! Famous comfort foods like guksu (noodle), jokbal (steamed pig trotters) and galchijorim (braised cutlessfish) are musts, as well as some nearby attractions (Myeong-dong, Deoksugung Palace, Gwanghwamun Gate).

Gwangjang Market

Gwangjang Market was the first permanent market to be established in Korea, dating back to 1905. In its early days, the market only offered agricultural and fish products, but has since expanded

its selection to include silk, clothing, fabrics, hanbok, imported clothes, lacquerware, kitchen goods, imported products, fruits and vegetables, dried goods, and items for memorial rituals (food, dishes and other items necessary for performance of memorial services). The market also specializes in traditional wedding items like hanbok and pyebaek (wedding food that brides prepare for their future in-laws).

Despite all these products, the first thing that comes to mind when one hears the words ‘Gwangjang Market’ is food. The endless line of food vendors all along the market pathways is quite unique and each place always has a few people lined up waiting to get a taste. The market serves popular comfort foods like bindae-tteok (mung bean pancake), gimbap, bibimbap, and sundae (Korean sausage).

Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market

The Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market is the nation’s largest wholesale fish market and has been around for more than 80 years. Though the market is open 24 hours a day, the already bustling marketplace really picks up around dawn, when the fish auctions begin. The market is connected to Noryangjin Station (Seoul Subway Line 1) by a bridge, meaning that even first-time visitors to Seoul will not have too much trouble finding their way around.

About 800 vendors selling fresh seafood populate the marketplace, which has prices lower than supermarkets. After mak-

ing a purchase, you can take your fresh fish to a nearby restaurant to have it sliced raw, grilled, or deep fried for a small fee. Restaurants serve fresh raw fish at much more affordable prices, explaining why the market tends to be popular among locals and tourists alike.

Garak Market

Opened in 1985 as the first public wholesale market in Korea, Garak Market offers independent sections for fruits, vegetables, garlic, fish, dried foods, and meat. Run by the Seoul Agricultural & Marine Products Corporation, the market is where agricultural and fishery products from around the nation are gathered for distribution and standard prices determined.

The market receives lines of freight trucks filled with fresh food all night long and the auction breaks into a tizzy at daybreak. Perhaps though, the best time to visit is during evening hours when auctions take place with trucks and merchandises pouring in. Because the market is so big, it may be too time-consuming and tiring to look around the entire market, so make sure to get a map and decide which sections you want to visit.

Popular traditional markets outside of Seoul

Jeju Dongmun Traditional Market

Established after the liberation in 1945, Dongmun Market continues to hold its traditional feel, despite several updates over time. The market is known for providing the freshest ingredients straight from Jeju’s sea-



Namdaemun Market



Gwangjang Market



Noryangjin Fisheries
Wholesale MarketNoryangjin Fisheries
Wholesale Market

shores. Being one of the most popular traditional markets in Jeju, Dongmun also serves the region's specialty items such as omegi-tteok (Jeju traditional millet ball cake), gogi-guksu (noodle soup with meat) and hallabong (large tangerine with a protruding stem).

Busan Gukje Market

This very large market has almost everything including foreign products that are hardly seen elsewhere, hence the name 'Gukje (International) Market'. It is a popular place to shop for foreign residents in Korea and visitors from abroad. For that reason, it is an attractive filming spot for many K-movies and K-dramas. Items sold here includes industrial products such as machinery, electronics, kitchen appliances, as well as clothing, food, agricultural products, fish, and dairy goods.

Buypyeong (Kkangtong) Market

Busan's Buypyeong Market is also known as Kkangtong (tin can) Market. It earned the name when it had a variety of imported canned goods from the U.S. during the Korean War. Nowadays, the market greets customers with fun events like an international food exhibition, exciting street performances, LED light shows and so on. Jagalchi Market, Yongdusan Park and Bosu-dong Book Street are also located nearby, providing plenty of opportunity for visitors to explore the neighborhood.

Chuncheon Romantic Market

Chuncheon Romantic Market

(formerly called Jungang Market) is a traditional market in Chuncheon that sells hanbok, bags, shoes, clothes, electronic appliances, jewelry, and food. The market's modern look is a product of a development project that started in 2002. The market also takes steps to attract more visitors by organizing various events and programs.

Jeonju Nambu Traditional Market

Jeonju is famous for a handful of attractions as it hosts the annual Jeonju International Film Festival, and presents beautiful villages filled with traditional charm. In addition to these, another place highly recommended to visit for local and international visitors alike is the city's Nambu Traditional Market. This commercial area added a mall in 2011 as part of the city's continuous growth and fostering cultural development.

Gyeongju Jungang Market

One of the top destinations, the Jungang Market in Gyeongju officially opened in 1983. Nearly 700 stores sell clothing, oils, rice cakes, vegetables, general household goods, and other local specialties.

Incheon Sinpo International Market

Often referred as a landmark representing Incheon, Sinpo International Market boasts a long history tracing back more than 100 years. The place is now more known for tasty treats, having diverse traditional snacks in addition to the famous dak-gangjeong (sweet and sour chicken), jinjbang (steamed bun with red bean

stuffing), and mandu (dumpling). Adjacent to Incheon Port International Passenger Terminal, lighthouse and a number of public parks, it is a destination for shopping and leisure walks.

Suwon Paldalmun Market

Paldalmun Market in Suwon is worth noting for its history, and is located closely to Hwaseong Haenggung Palace and Paldalmun Gate, which functions as the central commercial area as well as main tourist sites of current city of Suwon. Shoppers young and old enjoy finding vintage items that are not only unique but also cheap. Due to its convenient location, visitors can also partake in Moonlight Tour at Suwon Hwaseong Fortress and Suwon Hwaseong Cultural Festival held throughout the year.

Daegu Seomun Market

Seomun Market of Daegu is steeped in history, and by far the largest and the oldest establish-

ment found in the city. The market is sectioned into six major districts, housing roughly 4,000 vendors and stores in total. It is second to none for offering high quality of fabric-related items like silk, satin, linen, cotton, knitted goods, and men's and women's wear.

– Korea Tourism Organization



Daegu Seomun Market

Incheon Sinpo
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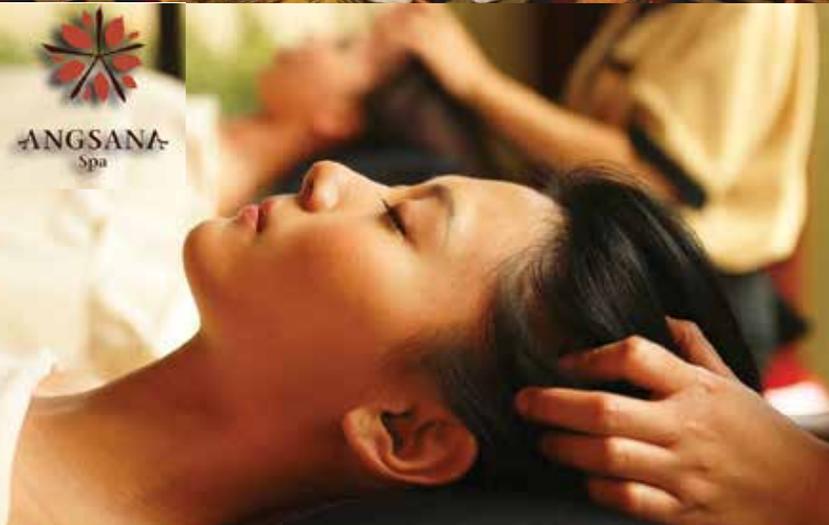
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Korea has been good to our family both times we've been stationed here. We have enjoyed the small town feel of Osan Air Base; running into friends at the BX and Post Office daily, biking and walking everywhere and having a squadron full of people to rely on. But that isn't the entire Korea experience.

We've learned to read Hangeul, eaten everything imaginable and traveled almost every inch of the peninsula. Throughout our experiences, it has been the interactions with Korean people or spontaneous hilarity of Korean methods that make an Osan (or Yongsan, Humphreys, Kunsan or Red Cloud, etc.) assignment memorable.

This is a beautiful country! Get out and enjoy it. Set aside any preconceived notions and embrace the opportunity living abroad has offered you.

So, without further waxing nostalgic, here are my top 100 things to do in Korea! They are triflingly organized by region. One caveat before we get started: I appreciate unique cultural experiences and beautiful times outdoors way more than urban nightlife and shopping that I can experience elsewhere. Visit my blog at RamblingFamily.com for a Korea map with all these places, and more!

Also, the Official Korean Tourism Organization (KTO) has a thorough website and numerous ways to get involved (www.visitkorea.or.kr). The KTO also offers the amazing 1330 phone number; call it anytime you need translation help or travel information like bus or ferry times.

MUST-SEE SITES

This is the absolute must-do list. If you are brand new to Korea, these would be good firsts. And if you have family come visit, this list makes a great introduction to the country. They are all easily accessible via public transport, inter-base bus, or base travel offices.

Korean Folk Village

This may shock some as the No. 1 thing on this list, but the folk village in Yongin is a wonderful introduction to old Korean culture that truly helps build an appreciation for the Korean people. I love it in the fall and spring. This place fed my obsession with how pre-industrial cultures heated their homes; ondol floors are the best.

DMZ

An absolute must-do for an in-your-face look at the reason our armed services are in this country. This is it, folks, the real deal. Book a tour through the travel office on base

or the USO. Make sure your trip includes the tunnels and the JSA.

Gyeongbokgung (Seoul)

Again we are back to ancient Korea with a visit to Gyeongbokgung. Seoul has four palaces, but this is the biggest that allows you to explore on your own. Changdeokgung is a close second and includes the pretty Biwon (secret garden), but must be visited on a joined tour from the ticket office, which can be a bit prohibited for those on a time crunch or with kids. The palace is the first of four must-dos that are in Seoul, and the Dragon Hill Lodge at Yongsan is my absolute favorite home base for touring around the city.

N'Seoul Tower (Seoul)

A trip up to N'Seoul tower at sunset is absolutely wonderful. On a clear night you can watch the entire city light up and soak up the feeling of being part of the gigantic whole that is Seoul. There are a few options to get up Namsan Mountain: Taxi to the cable car, take a Namsan bus, or hike from one of the parking lots. It is not necessary to go up the tower for a fun experience, but to see the 360 views of the city it can't be beat. For a very special date, a visit to N'Grill is incredible – make reservations for 20 minutes prior to sunset. Directions and varying costs at www.nseoutower.co.kr

Going 0 to 100 in Korea

A run through the top things to do on the ROK



Nandaemun or Dongdaemun (Seoul)

Shopping is not a favorite of mine, but this shopping is a cultural experience. Namdaemun is an incredible collection of buildings and underground spaces crammed with stall after stall of vendors selling everything under the sun. Dongdaemun has a gigantic fabric market nearly bursting with trendy fashion designer subordinates running around with lists; plus two more sections feature the fashions of the day (or night) with half open daily and half open nightly. Namdaemun is my pick. www.namdaemunmarket.co.kr

Korean War Memorial (Seoul)

Here is another sober reminder of what Korea has been through in its recent past. This well-done museum walks visitors through the entire history with many interactive exhibits and videos; all in multiple languages. The actual memorial at the center is simplistic and very symbolic. There is also an extensive outdoor section featuring vehicles and equipment, plus two very large wings with carved memorial names of the fallen. With some parental guidance and discretion, I find it appropriate for all ages. www.warmemo.or.kr

Magoksa

Magoksa is my absolute favorite regional temple to visit. It is situated along a stream near Gongju and has a very serene setting. Like all Korean Buddhist temples, the approach is part of the mindfulness involved in a visit. At Magoksa, you are treated to a nearly 1-kilometer forested walk along a

stream. It is absolutely bursting with color in the fall. Unfortunately, public transport is not simple to most Korean temples as they are conventionally up in the mountains. Magoksa is no different, so driving by car is best. Go south on I-1 or 39 and choose a connector to 329. The parking lot is located at 36.556542, 127.020494. A close second choice for Korean temple is Guinsa, which has a steep mountainous approach, but accessible to everyone via ITT trips.

Seoraksan

Seoraksan National Park truly is a gem in the northeastern part of the country. It features enormous granite outcroppings and durable pines perched precariously high. The main entrance to the park has a large temple complex and cable car up to a windswept outcropping. There are many hiking options, but our favorite is in the southern portion along the Heullimgol Valley boardwalk trail to the Yaksuteo Ranger Station, and then returning via a taxi. Note that the Seoraksan camp ground is outside the park and not ideal for trail access. I highly recommend visiting mid-week as it gets insanely crowded on weekends.

Eat Korean street food

This can be done anywhere! Walk out the main gate at Osan or trek to the Gwangjang market in Seoul, and try it all. Dip the eomuk fish cakes, sit at a metal barrel on the plastic stools and partake of soju and raw squid with old men. Have some fried corn dog goodness

or even go the distance and eat “pundaeggi” (silkworm larva).

See a Show (Seoul)

There is a lot of talent and creativity in Korea! Go to a concert, watch a play, see the symphony, or watch a non-verbal performance such as Bibop, Jump or Nanta. Seoul gets major acts and does excellent Broadway. Easy booking at ticket.interpark.com

DAY TRIPS

So, now you are here! This is a real assignment, treat it as such, and find your niche. There is a lot to do in Korea that has nothing to do with the downtown scene, and a significant portion of it is nearby. All of these sites are worthwhile to visit and most of them can be seen via public transportation. Some are obviously kid-specific, but Korean attractions are typically both single and family friendly alike. I have taken my children to every one of these places. When traveling in Korea with kids, it's generally easier to navigate without a stroller; if you must bring one, smaller is better.

Begin right outside Osan Air Base with a bike ride along the Jinwi river bike trail. Pedal out the Morin Gate, turn left and follow the road as it curves right out of town, turn left onto route 306 at a light; the trail access is at the next bridge over the river. You could even follow the trail northward to the [Jinwi Community Campground and Pool](#).

Continued on page 62



Food in Dongdaemun



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TOGETHER



Continued from page 59

This campground is open year round and it makes a fun mid-week campout when it is completely empty, though a faint sewage smell wells up with westerly winds. It's also fun (and crazy loud) to watch the airplanes just overhead! The public pools are open during summer only. Korea has numerous bike paths along their rivers, including another close by in Osan City and the extensive peninsula-wide **4-rivers trail system** that includes biking along the Han river in Seoul. You could even bike all the way from Seoul into the mountains near **Chuncheon** and take the subway back, or go the distance to Busan! Visit www.riverguide.or.kr for further details.

If you would prefer using your own feet to get into nature, then the **Songtan Buraksan Trail** system is perfect and so close. There are many access points, but the closest is via a connector trail near the city library. Exit the main gate, turn right and then left at the triangle, continue straight over the tracks and past the bus terminal. The trailhead is behind the city library on the right side of the road: 37.078602, 127.059540. Another great day trip is the **Pyeongtaek City Tour**; this is a free day trip offered by the PIEF (Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation) six times a year to see the local sights and history in our area (www.pief.or.kr).

A little further afield, up in Osan City, are many wonderful options for day trips (www.osan.go.kr). You could take a hike around the cute ancient **Doksanseong hilltop**

fortress where views can extend down to Songtan on a clear day. Nearby is the location of a more recent military skirmish: the **UN Forces First Battle Memorial**. This is the location of the first battle fought with UN soldiers, mostly American, as part of Task Force Smith during the Korean War.

There is a small, very informative and interactive museum, plus some outdoor static displays, a lower level remembrance park, and the new memorial itself. You can also (very cautiously) cross the street to see the original memorial erected in the 1955. I highly recommend seeing this place! For a different kind of family day out, visit the **Osan Eco Park** at the southern part of the city, where you can enjoy the outdoors or go inside the tower for exhibits on water life and views over the city. Another highlight is the **Osan Arboretum**; a huge formal garden with beautiful trails, labeled trees, ponds and greenhouses. It is right across the street from the Osan College train station and the nearby **Super HomePlus** with its extra-large kids play land. While most department stores have kid lands for cheap babysitting, this one takes the cake for sheer size and options. It costs more for these features and is a special treat for my kids. Even without children, this extra-large HomePlus is worth a wander or just to visit the food court for lunch.

SHOPPING

Speaking of shopping, there are numerous options right outside the gate. First, of course, are all our friends and good neighbors who own businesses along

Sinjang Shopping straight out the Osan Main Gate. This is the place to make personal friends with talented Koreans who can sew you a custom fitted dress or suit, create a painting you've always wanted, make that blanket, embroider that bag, engrave that award, or even find that special purse you've been longing for.

It's also a great place to shop for gifts to send home and traditional Korean crafts. This is where you will go for lunch and the place to be in evenings. If you get to the end of the road, swing left and walk under the train tracks, you will be near the **4/9 Market**, where the local shops are always fun to explore. On days that end in four or nine, the area gets crammed with the colorful umbrellas and seasonal produce from a local farmers market.

Buying seasonally is still very much a way of life here, and it doesn't get much better than purchasing a bag of sweet potatoes from a little old ajuma at the 4/9 Market. In an utter contrast, a visit to a **Korean Department store** like Emart, Homeplus, or Lotte Mart is also a worthwhile venture to explore Korean groceries, see the modern appliances, and ride the moving sidewalk. Drop your kids in the playland and eat at the food court.

KID FRIENDLY

If you do have kids, there are certainly many options for them. Off base there are numerous playgrounds hidden along back alleys and tucked into apartment complexes; the **Songtan International Community Center** park is easy walking distance out the front



Tongyeong

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gate, through Sinjang shopping, and left along the train tracks toward the Morin gate.

If it is too cold or too hot, then a **Kid Café** is a must! Not only are the local kid cafés fun for your children, but they all have free Wi-Fi for moms and dads, and minders to watch the kiddos play while you sit back and sip your coffee. In Songtan, my kids and I prefer Kizzly for a good price, trampolines, train table and decent food. If you have a kid who loves trains, then a quick trip up the subway to **Uiwang Railroad Museum** will be a highlight.

There are numerous outdoor static displays of full size locomotives, plus an indoor museum with a large model. Then there is the **KidZania**. Whew – this indoor theme park up in Seoul is a mini kid-centric city where your children can try their hand at numerous occupations. It's a wild place and gets crowded, but a favorite for special occasions. Visit www.kidzania.co.kr for specials.

When it's time to take the children out and about, though, you simply can't beat **Everland**! It is our favorite amusement park in Korea, and the season passes were well worth our investment during the years we have lived here. If you can go mid-week, you will have dramatically fewer crowds. Of course, it's not just for kids and has the absolute best wooden coaster I've ridden: the T-Express!

If you are ready to venture further north, then the **Seoul Grand Park Zoo** is a great place to take the kids and has easy access via public transportation. This place is large and hilly, so bring the stroller. It can be done on a tight budget by walking to the gate, or take the little tram, which is cheaper than the chairlift. Even deeper into the city is the **Children's Grand Park and Zoo** – where the small zoo is free, the animal show hysterical, the playgrounds large, and the amusement rides pricey (but avoidable).

A final kid-specific place in Seoul that we found worthwhile

was the **National Museum's Children's Museum**. There are many children's museums in Korea, but this one was uniquely done and focused on Korean art and architecture; on actual items found in the adjacent National Museum. We loved it.

SEOUL

Seoul is chock full of places to visit and things to do. You could easily take a day trip to Seoul for something new each weekend and occupy a year-long tour with fun outings. There are the museums: **The National Museum, Seodaemun Natural History Museum, the Trick Eye Museum, Gwacheon Science Museum**, and many more.

There are outdoor options like the **Seoul Forest** and hiking **Bukhansan**. There is also shopping: **The Flower Market, Namdaemun, Dongdaemun, the Christmas Market, Insadong, Itaewon, Myeongdong**, and the **Antique Market**. Do it all!

There are plenty of other worthwhile day trips in the vicinity. Suwon's **Hwaseong Fortress** is a UNESCO heritage sight, and a fun way to spend a day walking along the walls within the city. Instead of roughing it, how about visit the nearby **Asan Spa**? The spa is huge and rivals the famous **Dragon Hill Spa** in Seoul.

Though **Asan Spavis** doesn't have an accompanying jjimjilbang (co-ed relaxation space) it makes up for that with a full outdoor waterpark – the hot springs sections of which is open year round. But, if a huge waterpark is what you are after, you have come to the right peninsula; a quick search on visitkorea.or.kr will give you many results. Some are even indoors!

Woongjin Playdoci even has an accompanying indoor ski hill. So, in the heat of summer you can be cool or lounge in the pool. Always be sure to bring your swim cap to Korean pools; and suits tend to be conservative.

ROAD TRIPS

Now, let's talk road trips. Korea

is small, but so big on culture and sights that it's incredible how a little weekend or weeklong road trip away from base will reward you. Always travel with an open mind and be ready to pop into any information booth for a map to find the funky attractions off the beaten track. Nearly every province, county and even town has their own tourist sites. With an open schedule and a little practice finding lodging, you will be ready for adventure.

Remember, there are tourist hotels (expensive and Western), motels / love motels (cheaper and themed), "minbak" (cheap homestays) and "hanok" (traditional homestays that range wildly in price). Pack up, plan little, and be ready for fun. All of these places can be reached by public transportation, but the further reaches will need taxi access to and from the nearest bus or train station. Remember, the KTO 1330 phone number can help with those details! Driving is easiest.

GO WEST

The western portion of Korea is perfect for a first venture away from base. Though not as scenic as the rest of the country, it is close and features some of the most family-friendly beaches in the area. Follow route 34/32 westward to the **Taeanhaean National Park** where you can camp along the beach, swim in the gentle West Sea waters, and watch the tide go out – way way out.

The western coast has tidal flats like nowhere else, which makes warmer shallow waters and gentle waves for splashing and play. You will also see Koreans digging for clams. The **Gurypo campground** is a perfect spot with a nice beach edged by scenic cliffs where you can hike the coastal trail to visit other beaches and the large sand dunes at **Sinduri**.

Further south, near Gunsan, is the **Byeonsanbando National Park** and more beaches like **Gosapo** to camp on. You can even drive

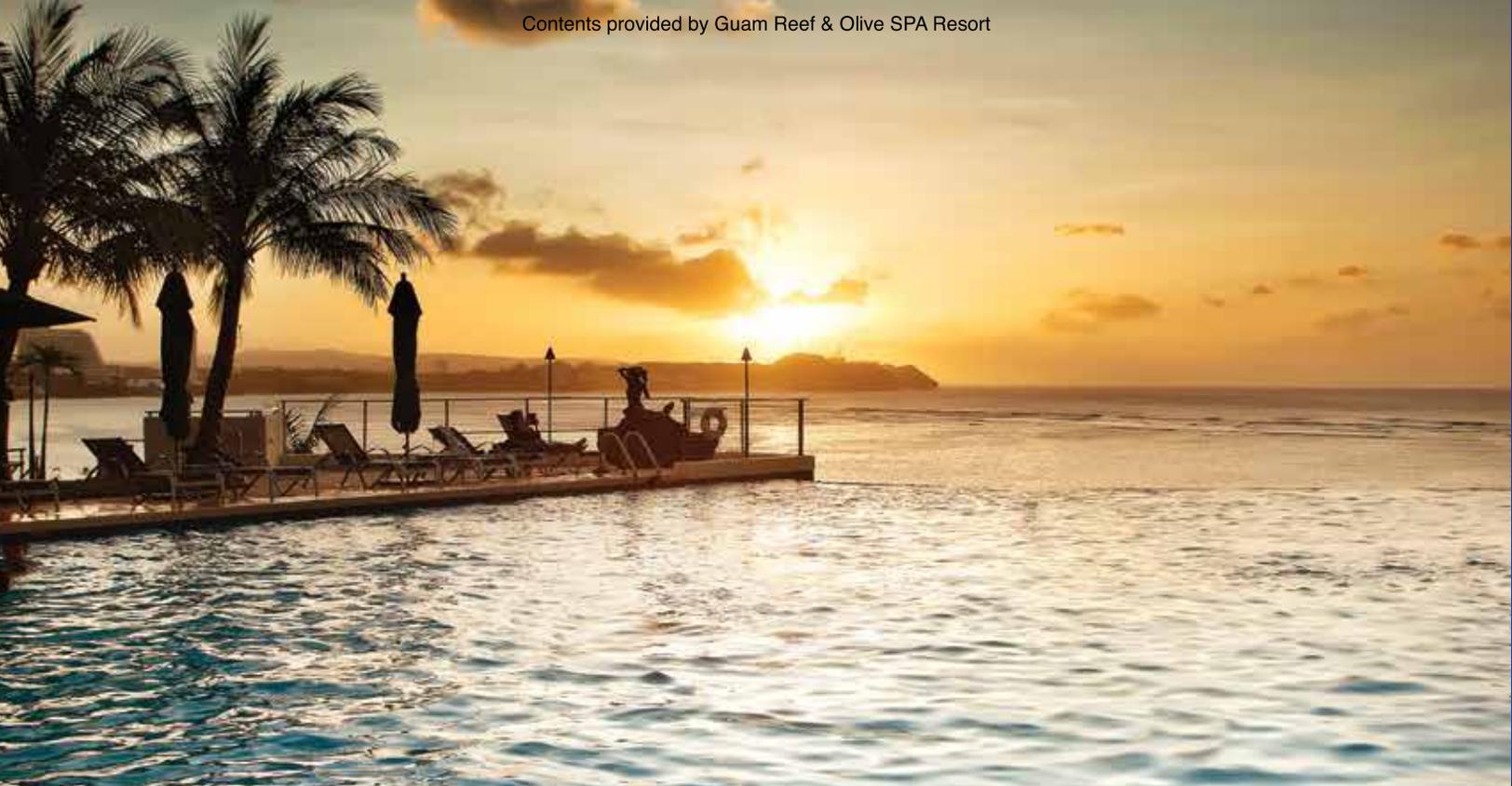
Continued on page 66



Everland



Everland



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Hansando



Taebaek

Continued from page 63

along the 33-k.m. seawall on the way! For inland adventures, an easy drive on I-1 will get you to Daejeon. The city has some great museums like the **National Science Museum** and the **Expo Park Exhibits**, and the **Yuesong Hot Springs** area on the west side of town, where you can dip your feet in the hot water at the roadside park, or visit a sauna for a full dip.

Nearby **Gyeryongsan National Park** has hiking trails, a campground, and a pretty temple to enjoy, plus there are ice climbing waterfalls in the winter. If you would rather see cultural sights, travel down to **Gongju**, where the fortress walls surround a natural hilltop overlooking the river. You can hike around the entire fortress and see traditional pavilions in the interior.

There is also an excellent Korean restaurant opposite the entry. While you are down south, the provincial forest of Chilgapsan offers some great hiking and an astronomical observatory where you can spot stars and constellations on clear evenings.

THE NORTHEAST

Branching out and heading northeast in Korea means instant mountains—steep, tall, precipitous and beautifully remote. If you follow I-50 eastward, you can visit the highlights of a well-touristed area with easy access via Seoul.

This area can get very crowded on weekends, especially during Korean holidays and in the summer.

Our go-to spot for a long weekend has been, for a long time, the small recreation area of **Ganhyeon**. This is a canyon with **rock climbing**, camping, a river to explore, and an old railroad to walk along or pedal a rail bike. Rock climbing in Korea is crowded on weekends and sometimes the Koreans' safety is a bit sketchy, but the opportunities are amazing in such a mountainous country. So bring your own gear, a buddy to belay, and enjoy the rock.

Continue along I-50 to the coast and find the rough and wild **East Sea**, where the mountains drop into the ocean and surfers find their waves. The beaches of the east coast are small and scenic, camp-able, and chilly. Be sure to bring a wetsuit if you plan to surf. From here, it's a quick jaunt up to **Seoraksan National Park** and beyond it into the wilds of the north.

This is where people brave the whitewater of the **Naerincheon River**; ITT has a flawless trip that is a blast! Further off the beaten track is the town of **Hwacheon**, which has quickly become a favorite of ours for nearby camping, river activities, and a great bike trail along the scenic waterway. Even in the winter, it is a fun place to be with its famous **ice fishing** festival and a great ice climbing wall.

There are lots of outdoor activities in Korea and ice climbing is really taking off. In fact, my husband has said his only regret in leaving here is not starting ice climbing earlier!

EAST MOUNTAINS

To get deeper into the mountains, travel east along I-40, and subsequently route 38, toward the mountain town that made us fall in love with Korean mountains even in slushy weather. This is **Taebaek**, a cute old mining town nestled in a crescent shaped valley surrounded by mountains and things to do.

There are **caves** to visit (the best being **Hwanseolgul**), there are hikes to hike (like along the **Dakpoong** valley,) and there are museums to see (the **Taebaek Paleozoic Museum** or **Coal Museum**). In addition, this is home to the **O2** and **High1 ski resorts!** On the way east you will pass picturesque **Guinsa** temple; a unique branch of Korean Buddhism crafted this temple built along the edges of a steep valley.

If scenery is what you are after, a ride on Korea's **O-train** can't be missed. Take two days and ride through the tiny mountain towns, along old curvy tracks, and through tunnels galore. Stop and hike straight from the train to any of the tiny villages, including Taebaek. Stay at a minbak and hop back on the train the next day.

It makes a loop from Jecheon with an access link from Seoul and Pyeongtaek. It can be booked, with a bit of difficulty, from the Korail English website (www.letskorail.com); have a Korean friend help or call the Korail number for phone booking (1599-7777). For a faster way to travel, try the **Jeongseon ZipRider** at Arie Hills resort (the O-train stops here, too). This zipline goes 60 mph and 3,900 feet!

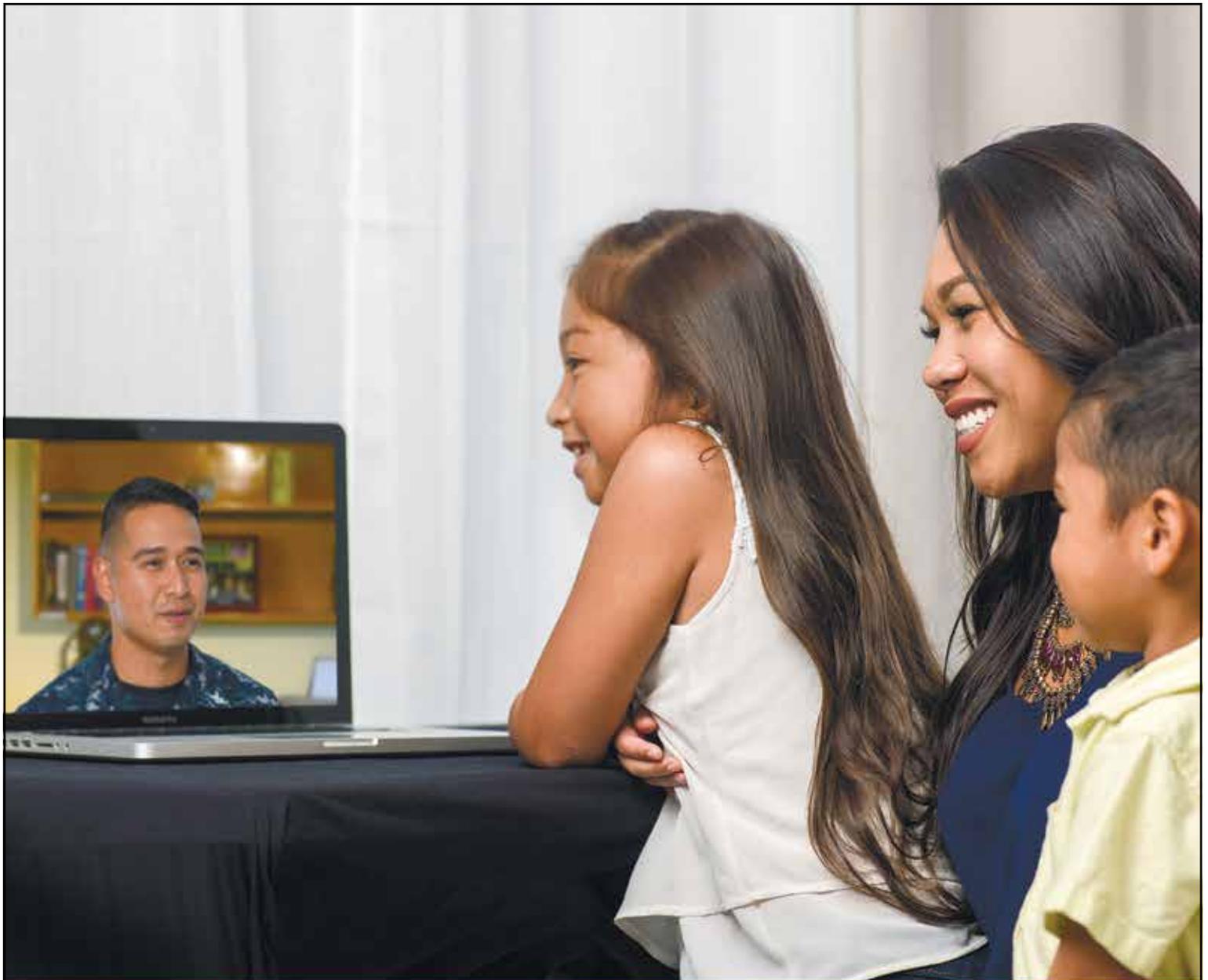
SOUTHEAST

Going southeast along I-1 can get you to the other major city in Korea: Busan. But there is so much more, with a little diversion. Choosing to go south along I-45 can get you to the UNESCO World Heritage site at **Haeinsa Temple**. The Tripitaka Koreana, a full copy of Buddhist texts carved onto wooden printing blocks in the 1200s, is contained within this complex.

Not far from Haeinsa is the old Gaya capital; during the Three Kingdoms Period of Korean history, a tiny fourth kingdom made its unique stamp on this central part of the country. The largest funeral mounds, and one left open and excavated, are found at the **Daegaya Museum**. It is fascinating to learn about, and picturesque to hike around, the ancient tombs.

For camping and outdoors,

Continued on page 68



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Continued from page 66

the eastern side of **Jirisan National Park** has trail access and a wonderful campground called Somakgol near a creek to play. It is so colorful in the fall. Continuing your southerly drive will drop you into Goseong county – dinosaur country they call it – and the very informative and entertaining **Sangjokam County Park and Dinosaur Museum**.

Here is where you can, quite literally, walk in the dinosaur footprints along the edge of the sea cliffs, or even camp out along the shore. It's a dino dream! A bit further east along the seashore is the port town of **Tongyeong**, where you can board one of the famous Korean turtle boats and ride a ferry out to the island of **Hansando**. There you can explore (by car) the islands, stay in a minbak along a pebble beach, and learn about Admiral Yi, the famous Korean naval innovator.

BUSAN & BEYOND

From this south area, it's a straight shot along route 2 to **Busan**. This alternate to Seoul is known for its beach and the nightlife in that area. **Haeundae Beach** is pretty, uniquely smack-dab in the city, and has a great park along the western edge; summertime it is insanely wall-to-wall crowded. There are better beaches in this country, so what else is in Busan?

Well, a walk along the old city wall at **Mt. Geumseong** is certainly worthwhile for the views, and a visit to the **Haedong Yonggungsa** seaside temple is interesting. My favorite thing in Busan, however,

was the immense Hurshimchung sauna with its themed pools, relaxing rooms and cave swimming. If you visit only one Korean sauna, this could be it!

The associated jjimjilbang is, however, small and easily outdone by others. Busan is just another big city, so head north for some culture! Near Ulsan, there are ancient Korean petroglyphs in the Daegok Valley if you find that as fascinating as I do. Korean cavemen carved these fish and whales into the rock thousands of years ago, and you can still walk up and see them today!

A super museum makes a good introduction before driving out on country roads to the sights. Back north along I-1 is the culture capital of Korea: **Gyeongju**. Here is where you will find a one-stop town for ancient Korea. With an old fortress, cute town center, royal tombs from the Silla Kingdom and a formal garden, you could spend a full day wandering the ancient sites in this pretty UNESCO heritage town. Visit the museum on the way in to know what you are looking at!

SOUTHWEST

Venturing to the southwestern portion of the Korean peninsula nearly brings you back in time, and certainly takes you to places rarely visited by western tourists. This area is mostly flat farmland tilting westward into the sea, but still has some steep mountains. Heading south along I-25 can get you to the **Juknokwang Bamboo Forest** in the small town of Damyang.

This grove of bamboo has numerous trails, a playground, and

even a small traditional village and is well worth a stopover. Even further south is **Wolchulsan National Park**, a mountain oasis, where you can actually backpack into a campground. It's only 500 meters from the parking lot, but the **Gyeongpo campground** feels remote without the excessive tents found in typical Korean camping.

Not far from here is **Dehean Green Tea Plantation**, where the tea bushes are lined row after row up the steep hillsides. You can walk along the trails, up and down the hills, and even visit a small bamboo grove. The drive along route 18 south from the tourist plantation is quite scenic with other hills covered in green tea rows.

Further west you will be approaching Jindo Island, famous for its special breed of dogs. But along the way, be sure to stop at the **Uhangri Dinosaur Fossil Site**. This is the best fossil site and dinosaur museum Korea has to offer, with gigantic fossilized footprints preserved in situ under climate-controlled buildings. There is also a sculpture park, big playground, huge and high tech museum, and gardens with a very large lotus pond.

This place is a dino lover's dream. From Jindo, Mokpo or Wando, you can board ferries of all kinds to the southern islands that make up the **Dadohaehaesang National Park**. It is the largest park in Korea and spans the vast seaside, islands and marine area on the southwestern coast of the country. You must ferry to an island to truly appreciate and experience the park; my suggestion

is a trek out to **Gwanmae-do**.

Leave the car at the dock, pack up camping supplies on a cart or backpack, and take the 2 ½-hour ride ferry as it hops into ports on other islands along the way. On Gwanmaedo, you can camp in the pines along the large beach to the left of the port, explore tide pools and cliff caves, wander the tiny roads through the village and hike trails along cliff edges to beaches unused. This is relaxation and a Korea rarely seen!

KOREAN ISLANDS

There are tons of other islands in Korea; most famously, Jeju, and it is worth the visit! Jeju island has a whole other feel to it than mainland Korea, and while there are kitschy attractions out the wazoo, there are also some legitimate sites to see. There is a lava tube cave system and the **Manjanggul** cave, the mini-crater at **Seongsan**, peak bagging at **Hallasan**, orange groves, waterfalls and the unique **southern cliff pillars** along the coast.

There is even a walking trail around the entire island if you have that kind of time. (www.jejuolle.org) It is essential to have a car here, but cheap rentals can be found online to book at the airport. Not as easy as Jeju is **Ulleungdo** (pronounced woo-loong-doh). This island far out in the East Sea, is another volcanic sight to behold and a beauty of nature; unlike Jeju, Ulleungdo does not have the mark of tourism on it.

Instead of hundreds of overdone attractions, you will find an incredible coastal trail perched along the edge of the island's cliffs, and a central valley sur-

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rounded by the ancient volcano's crater. Getting there is a challenge, as you need to take a long ferry ride from the port at Mukho just north of Donghae town.

You need to book ahead of time, so call the Daea Ferry Lines (033) 531-5891 via the KTO 1330 helpline. Once on Ulleungdo, the bus system is easy to navigate, but most sites and the trailhead are right in the port town. There are lots of minbak available, so booking ahead isn't necessary or possible. Just go!

MUST-DO EXPERIENCES

There are many things in Korea that have no location, but truly give you the Korean experience. Here is a list of things you must do, and they can really be done anywhere on any excursion – from just outside the gate, to Seoul, to the farthest reaches of the islands. Don't stay on base!

- **Stay in a minbak and a love motel.** They are so very different, but require the same skills at booking on the spot. A minbak is a room in someone's home, while a love motel is a super-themed motel that will have all the essentials for a 'spontaneous' visit. I've taken my whole family to both; preview rooms and be wary of TV channels in love motels.
- **Go to a sauna and jjimjilbang.** The gender-segregated saunas range in fanciness from small local bathhouses to gigantic super trendy spas. A jjimjilbang is an additional co-ed area, often affiliated with

a sauna, where you relax in different themed rooms in a shorts and shirt uniform. Relaxation to the maximum is a family event!

- **Buy food at the market.** Whether produce grown by a little old lady squatting on the ground or live fish from a tank, there is nothing more Korean than getting super fresh in-season food. Even better: buy it from a roaming blue truck!
- **Eat Korean food.** Cook your own "bulgogi" or "galbi," have some regional cuisine like "dolsat bibimbap," and come to love all the hundreds of kimchi.
- **Stop at a highway rest stop.** Experience the incredible service. These places have cafeterias, clean toilets, gas stations, shops of all kinds, coffee shops, and often massage chairs and kids playgrounds. They are rest stops of the future.
- **Space-A off the ROK for a break.** Hawaii, Japan and even Singapore are reasonable destinations.
- **Do something outdoors!** This country is insane with its mountains, and the activities are often considered upper-class – as those folks have spare time. Get out and ski, rock climb, hike, raft, camp, or ice climb.
- **Get involved locally with the PIEF** (Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation). Take Korean language classes, join a talk group, go on the free tour and encourage your child to

attend the Korean-American Summer School for amazing memories. www.pief.or.kr

- **Go to a cat or dog café.** This is Asia at its quirkiest. There are a couple in Myeongdong in Seoul and there's a cat café across from the train station in Pyeongtaek.
 - **Join a temple stay.** Try either of these: a day visit at the Jogyesa in Seoul or a weekend retreat at one of the numerous mountain temples in Korea. eng.templestay.com
 - **Have clothes custom made.** This is the place! For reasonable cost, the vendors in Itaewon and along Songtan shopping road can create a special mess dress shirt, entire suit, or evening gown. It will fit like a glove.
 - **Join a meetup group in Seoul for fun.** Get to know some people outside the military base bubble and find some new activities at the same time. www.meetup.com
 - **Go to a festival.** My favorite by far is the Lotus Lantern Festival in Seoul. The Hwacheon Ice Fishing festival or Boryeong Mud Fest are fun regional events, while the U.S.-ROK Friendship Festival in Songtan is an absolute must-do just outside the gate. For a crazy time, New Year's Eve in Seoul is wild!
- Enjoy all this little country has to offer; get off base and don't let the time go by too quickly. Pil-sung!

– Kat Nicola



Jeju Island



Jeju Island



“ I retired after 23 years in the U.S. Army, having deployed three times to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan. I have been a full-time student at Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ) in Tokyo since 2014. As a recipient of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, I am able to enjoy the amazing benefits it offers veterans and their dependents, including a basic living allowance here in Japan.



Ciro Bravo, Junior International Affairs Major

I enjoy studying with fellow veterans and both international and local Japanese students, and TUJ faculty are a tremendous help as I pursue my degree in International Affairs.”

Frequently Asked Questions about GI Bill and Veterans Benefits

Besides paying for education costs, what else does the GI Bill offer?

Living in Japan can be expensive at times, but with the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) that comes with the GI Bill, it makes living in Japan much easier. We have little to worry about paying for rent, food or utilities, which makes studying much more stress free.

What's the most difficult thing about adjusting to university life?

Getting out of the military mind frame can be tough, but with a lot of patience and having fellow veterans to learn from, university life can be a rewarding experience. Remember that you are not alone.

How difficult was it to obtain your student visa?

The first thing you need to have is an updated U.S. Passport. Once you have been accepted to go to TUJ, the TUJ staff will send you more information on your visa application process. It may take about 4-6 weeks before you will receive your Certificate of Eligibility that you will need to take to your local Japanese Embassy or Consulate. The process is easy and the admissions center will guide you all the way.

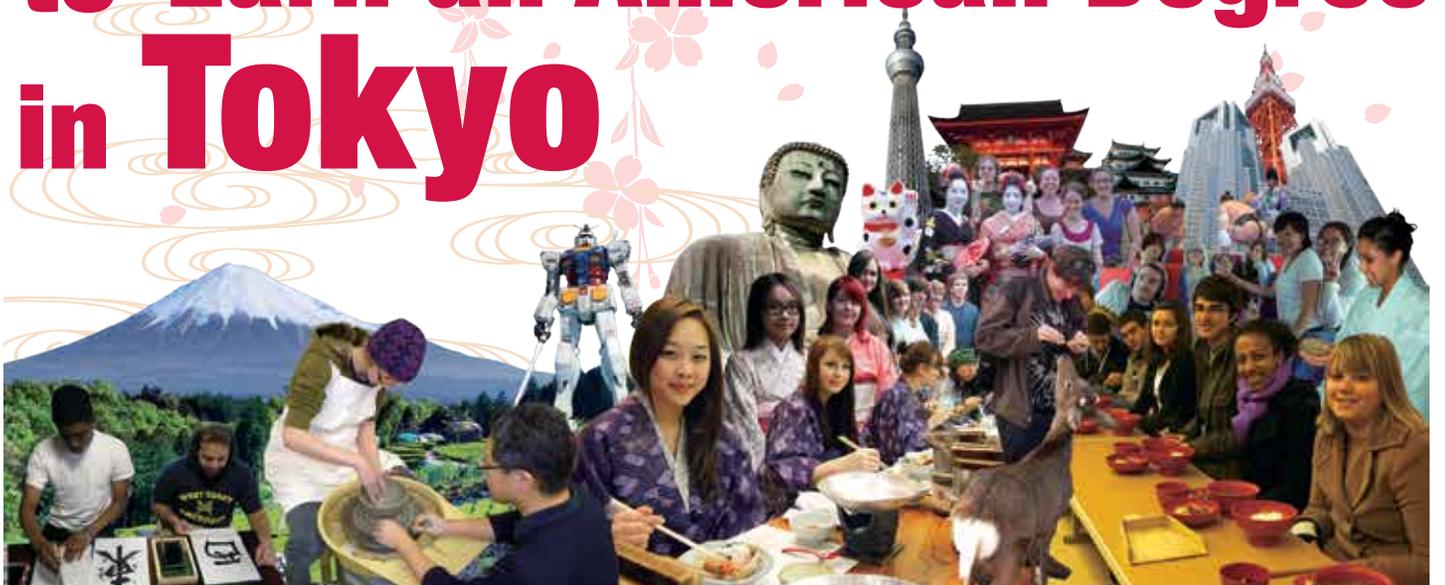
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