

STARS AND STRIPES  
2019-20

# Welcome to the Pacific



**Your guide to being stationed in**

# KOREA



The New Sanno Hotel, situated in the heart of one of the world's most dynamic cities, offers 149 luxurious rooms, superb dining options, in a helpful, English-speaking environment. We offer numerous private meeting and function rooms for your business or social needs. Utilize our indoor pool all year round, with Jacuzzi and his and her saunas, or shop in one of our many retail stores. Please join us at one of our signature special events or plan on spending a holiday with us. We look forward to serving you the next time you are in Tokyo.



**THE NEW SANNO  
TOKYO, JAPAN**

229-8111 03-3440-7871 from Outside Japan 81-3-3440-7871

Restaurant and Event Reservations 229-7151 [events@thenewsanno.com](mailto:events@thenewsanno.com)  
Room Reservations 229-7121 [room\\_rsv@thenewsanno.com](mailto:room_rsv@thenewsanno.com)

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





# OUR CAVALRY COMES WITH A 10% DISCOUNT.

The special offer by BMW Military Sales is exclusively for US service personnel stationed in Korea. Open to all active-duty military personnel, DoD Civilian ID Card holders and DoD contractors on temporary (TDY) or permanent (PCS) orders abroad at the time of purchase.

**10%** off MSRP on BMW and BMW M Models:

★ BMW 1 Series
★ BMW 2 Series
★ BMW 3 Series
★ BMW 4 Series
★ BMW 5 Series
★ BMW 6 Series

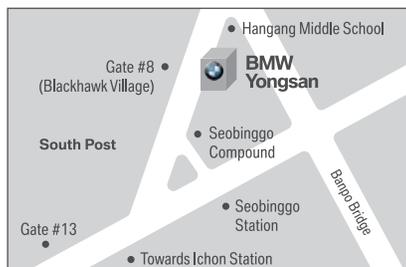
★ BMW 7 Series
★ BMW 8 Series
★ BMW X1
★ BMW X2
★ BMW X3
★ BMW X4
★ BMW X5
★ BMW X6

★ BMW X7
★ BMW M2
★ BMW M3
★ BMW M4
★ BMW M5
★ BMW M6
★ BMW X5 M / X6 M
★ BMW Z4

**5%** off MSRP on MINI Models:

★ MINI Cooper Hardtop 4d
★ MINI Cooper Hardtop 2d
★ MINI Cooper Convertible
★ MINI Clubman
★ MINI Countryman

Visit BMW Yongsan and Pyeongtaek Showroom for more details.



BMW Yongsan Showroom



BMW Pyeongtaek Showroom



Please contact us for more special offers!  
Korea spec available in stock with 25% discount.

**BMW Military Sales 1577- 2696**

\*FREE CHECK-UP SERVICE (The 1st Thursday of every month)

BMW Military Sales Website <http://www.bmwddskorea.com/>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/BMWDirectandSpecialSales/>

**MILITARY SALES**



# KOREA

STARS AND STRIPES  
2019-20  
Welcome  
to the  
Pacific

STARS AND STRIPES

## Welcome to the Pacific Staff

**Denisse Rauda**  
Editor

**Ayako Kamio**  
Layout Designer

### Writers and Photographers

ChiHon Kim Shoji Kudaka  
Jun Sakahira Takahiro Takiguchi

**Max D. Lederer Jr.**  
Publisher

**Lt. Col. Richard E. McClintic**  
Commander

**Joshua M. Lashbrook**  
Chief of Staff

**Michael Davidson**  
Revenue Director

**Marie Woods**  
Publishing and Media Design Director

**Chris Carlson**  
Publishing and Media Design Manager

**Kentaro Shimura**  
Production Manager

**Rie Miyoshi**  
Engagement Manager

**Area Managers**  
Monte Dauphin, Japan/Guam  
Scott Wheeler, Okinawa  
Rick Villanueva, Korea

**Multimedia Consultants**  
Max Genao Doug Johnson  
Jason Lee Hans Simpson  
Chae Pang Yi Gianni YOUNG  
Robert Zuckerman

**Sales Support**  
Kazumi Hasegawa Hiromi Isa  
Ichiro Katayanagi Yoko Noro  
Yoichi Okazaki Yusuke Sato  
Chae Yon Son Saori Tamanaha

**Graphic Designers**  
Yukiyo Oda Kenichi Ogasawara  
Yuko Okazaki Kayoko Shimoda  
Yosuke Tsuji

Stripes Welcome to the Pacific 2019-20 is an exclusive Stars and Stripes community publication for members of the U.S. military community serving overseas. The content herein is unofficial and is not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, Stars and Stripes, the U.S. government, or the Department of Defense. The advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. All rights reserved. Cover and contents may not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior written permission.

Email: carlson.chris@stripes.com with questions or comments. To subscribe to Stars and Stripes, email: SSPcirculation@stripes.com. Mailing address: Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002

## This is your guide!

If you're reading this, then you've likely already arrived in Korea. On behalf of the Stars and Stripes family, we'd like to welcome you as you begin your stay in the Asia-Pacific region. No handshakes or hugs here though – just some useful information you're going to want to know.

Our aim with the Welcome to the Pacific 2019-20 magazine is to get you acquainted as you begin your new overseas journey. Need a set of wheels and insurance? Flip a few more pages and find some of the top dealerships and insurance agents in your area. Looking to take a day trip? We'll tell you where to go!

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 the land.

Proceed knowing Stars and Stripes has you covered beyond the valuable information in this magazine. Every other week pick up a new edition of Stripes Korea inside the blue boxes you'll see around base. This community newspaper will give you the run down on off-base events, interesting must-see sights and even that new lunch spot you were curious about but haven't tried. So, make sure to grab a copy and check us out the next time you pass a blue box.

Forgot to pick up this week's copy? Fear not, StripesKorea.com is stocked with thousands of travel, food and culture stories for all your adventure-planning needs.

At Stars and Stripes, our community newspapers and community websites are actually your community newspapers and community websites. Keeping with that theme, this year we sought out community contributions for this edition's front cover. We were pleased to receive many photo submissions from the people in your new community. It was a tough decision, but Chevon Workman's photo was chosen to grace the cover of the magazine you're holding now. And photos submitted by others appear inside.

We are really interested and would love to hear from you on what you want to read about. 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 a fun trip you took or a group of students working on cool project. Submit your story and photos and you might just find yourself published in the paper!

While you check out our websites, don't forget to like us on Facebook @StripesPacific. Give us a thumbs up to stay up-to-date on all the latest news relating to the U.S. military community stationed in the Pacific. And if free stuff is your jam, make sure to keep an eye out for our photo contests and giveaway promotions.

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

*Denisse Rauda*  
Publishing and Media Design Editor  
Stars and Stripes  
Spring 2019

“ To make the most of your time in Korea, you really have to start off with this mindset: just be thankful. Many people who live in the states will never get an opportunity like this, a chance to be immersed in another culture! And then I would say, even if you're nervous, even if your scared, get out there and explore! ”

– Chevon Workman  
Spouse on Camp Humphreys

When in Korea 6  
Language guidelines 8  
The wonders of won 10  
Korean chopsticks 12  
Lunar New Year and Spam 13  
Giving gifts and tipping 16

Doing your DoDEA homework 18  
On-base colleges 20

Mastering mass transit in Korea 21  
Space-A travel 26

Buying & registering a POV 30  
Local twist to road rules 31  
Camp coordinates 32

Law and order on the ROK 34  
Understanding SOFA 34  
Dealing with the law 36

Off-base living 37  
Dos and don'ts with pets 38  
Garbage disposal rules 38  
Medical & TRICARE overseas 39  
Getting connected with a cell phone 40

Exploring Korea's true flavor 42

The USO connects you 44  
AFN is here to serve 46  
Websites worth bookmarking 46  
Helpful travel tips 48  
Exploring Korea 49

Culture

Education

Transportation

Private vehicles

Legal

Living

Food

Leisure

WE'RE HERE TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS.



PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE NEW SANNO



Whether business or social, for a seamless experience, let The New Sanno set the stage for success. Let us host your next Dining In / Dining Out, Off-Site training, Wedding, Command Function or Ceremony in the heart of Tokyo.

Our professional team understands your needs and we have the resources to help you accomplish your goals.



**BOOK NOW !**  
Catering Office 229-7120  
03-3440-7871 from Outside Japan 81-3-3440-7871  
[www.thenewsanno.com](http://www.thenewsanno.com)



**THE NEW SANNO**  
TOKYO, JAPAN



# When in Korea

## A cultural lay of the land

**T**hough 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 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

## Did You Know?

In South Korea, when you turn 19, you can legally smoke, drink and vote. Like in the States, you will be asked to show ID before purchasing alcohol.

dining. Guests sit on cushions around a low table. Many different foods are served, each cut into bite-sized pieces. Each person has their own bowl of rice, but helps themselves to other foods directly from the serving dishes. Koreans traditionally use chopsticks (**Read more on chopsticks on Page 12**) and a large-bowled spoon, although today forks are also used.

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.



Seoul  
Photo submitted by Steve Tucker

Culture

Education

Transportation

Private vehicles

Legal

Living

Food

Leisure

# Take Command of Your Finances

Our members earn and save more with lower fees, better rates and discounts. Enjoy:

- checking accounts that earn dividends and offer ATM rebates
- savings rates that are two to six times higher than national rates\*
- help when you need it from 24/7 stateside member reps

Start improving your financial future and join **TODAY.**



ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
VETERANS

For more information, visit [navyfederal.org](https://navyfederal.org) or stop by a local branch.

Insured by NCUA. \*Rates compared to national rates for similar products with deposits less than \$100,000 as reported by the FDIC on Feb. 11, 2019.  
© 2019 Navy Federal NFCU 11888 (2-19)

# 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	ㅟ	ㅟ	ㅟ	ㅟ
eo	eu	ui	ye	yae	ya	yo
ㅠ	ㅟ	ㅟ	ㅟ	ㅟ	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
ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ
kk	p	t	ch	k	s	h
ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅍ
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	TTeu-geo-eun
Cold	Chu-eun

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

## VERBS

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

# 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

Culture  
Education  
Transportation  
Private vehicles  
Legal  
Living  
Food  
Leisure

# SOME USEFUL KOREAN PHRASES

Hi/Hello

**An-Nyeong-ha-se-yo/**

**An-nyeong-ha-shim-ni-kka**

- The first of these is casual while the second is more formal and polite.

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.**

I'm meeting you for the first time (How do you do?).

**Cheo-eum-beob-gesseub-ni-da.**

Goodbye (to someone who is staying)

**An-nyeong-hee-kye-se-yo** (casual)

**An-nyeong-hee-kye-ship-shi-yo** (polite)

Goodbye (to someone who is leaving)

**An-nyeong-hee-ga-se-yo** (casual)

**An-nyeong-hee-ga-ship-shi-yo** (polite)

How are you? (how have you been?)

**Chal-ji-nae-sheo-sseo-yo?** or **Eo-toh-kye-ji-nae-sheo-sseo-yo?**

(Are things going well?)

My name is XXX:

**Che lrum-un XXX ip-ni-da.**

What is your name?

**Ireumi mwoyeoyo?** (casual)

**Sseonghami eo-tteo-ke doe-sim-ni-kka?** (polite)

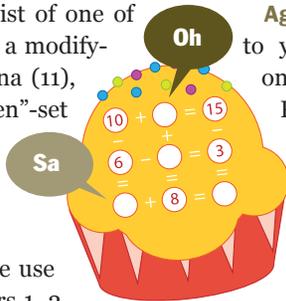
I am XX years old.

**Jeo-neun XX saal ip-ni-da.**



## Korean by numbers

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



## Number use

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

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

Pure-Korean numbers).

**Time (shi gan):** Use Pure-Korean for the hour (“shi”) and Sino-Korean for the minutes (“bun”). 3:30 is “se-shi – 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).

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	일흔	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

# The wonders of won

## A look at Korea's colorful currency

Korean currency can be largely divided into four coins and four bills, with denominations of 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 50,000 won, respectively. While traveling, it's possible all you 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 (about \$1) in a pretty blue color. The front of the bill features flowers, a hanok building, and a portrait of a man, with the back sporting a landscape painting of a river and wooded mountains.



### 5,000 and 50,000 won

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



### 10,000 won

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



### Coins

Like Korean bills, Korean coins also have various images that represent the nation and its history. The smallest coin, worth 10 won, displays an image of national treasure Dabotap Pagoda. This stone pagoda is one of the nation's most fantastic structures and is located at UNESCO-designated Bulguksa Temple in the city of Gyeongju. The 50 won coin has a single stalk of rice ready for harvest, the 100 won coin features Admiral Yi Sun-shin (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

COPYRIGHTS ©KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
www.visitkorea.or.kr



- How much does this cost?: **Eolma ipnikka?** (polite)  
**Eolma ingayo?** (casual)
- Where is the ATM?: **ATM gigege eodie isseupnikka?**
- Do you accept credit card?: **Sinyong-cad ba-deu-sipnikka?**
- Cash-only: **Hyeongseum-man bat-seup-nida.**





# **WHILE YOU SERVE YOUR COUNTRY, LET US SERVE YOU**



**Associates Understand Overseas Military Lifestyle**

**Services Designed for U.S. and Overseas Banking**

**Dedicated Locations in U.S. Military Communities**

**Help with Your Personal Financial Needs**

Visit [DoDCommunityBank.com](http://DoDCommunityBank.com) for  
more information and to find the  
banking center or ATM nearest you

**CommunityBank**

Operated by **Bank of America** 

## Korean chopsticks bring the metal, not the poison

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

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

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

Whether you’ve mastered the art of chopsticks back home before coming to Korea or not, you’ve probably noticed that the chopsticks here are a little different than what you’re used to.

In Korea, chopsticks come in a variety of metals or stainless steel. Though the reason behind this is often debated, it is believed that Korean royalty first introduced silver chopsticks as a way to detect poison

in their food. It was thought the metal would change color if the food was, in fact, poisoned. Later, brass and iron chopsticks would gain popularity amongst non-royals.

Diners will also find spoons with long handles accompany the chopstick set. In Korea, when it comes to rice and soup dishes, the spoon reigns king; chopsticks are used for the sides. “Suejo” is the term for the chopstick and spoon set. Suejo is a play on the Korean word “sutgarak” for spoon and “jeotgarak” for chopsticks. But be careful! Using both simultaneously is considered unsightly and rude.

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

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

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

- ChiHon Kim

## Planning a visit to Japan?

You’ll notice the differences of Japanese chopsticks both in aesthetic and in use.

- Hashi is the Japanese word for chopsticks.
- Japanese chopsticks are typically made of wood or bamboo.
- Because fish is an integral part of the Japanese diet, chopsticks there are sharp, making them perfect for deboning fish.
- For table setting, the chopsticks sit horizontally near the diner.
- On the scale of length, Japan’s are slightly shorter than Korea and China’s chopsticks. However, cooking chopsticks are long enough to ensure that the cook will not burn themselves while stirring the meal.

### Similarities to Korea

- Chopstick etiquette is something both cultures take very seriously and teach their children early on.
- Sticking your chopsticks into a bowl of rice is also a no-no in Japan. Here it is also a funeral rite.
- The same goes for sticking food with your chopsticks or passing food from chopstick to chopstick.
- Don’t suck on chopsticks.



## Lunar New Year and a can of Spam

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

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

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

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

despite having a population less than a sixth of the size of the U.S.

### Why Spam is popular here

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

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

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

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

– ChiHon Kim



**Jan 1** **New Year’s Day** (Jan. 1)  
As in other countries, the first day of the New Year is celebrated. Many Koreans visit the coast or the mountains to watch the first sunrise of the year.

**Feb 4-6** **Seollal** (February 4-6)  
Lunar New Year’s Day (Seollal) is one of the most important traditional holidays of the year; the holiday is much more significant than January 1st. Most businesses are closed, and people take several days off from work to visit their hometown to be with their family. On the day of Seollal, everyone gets up early, puts on their best clothes, and bows to their elders as a reaffirmation of family ties. Feasts are held with specially prepared food such as tteokguk (rice cake soup) and mandu guk (dumpling soup). Korean families enjoy spending time together by playing traditional games such as yutnori (traditional Korean board games), flying kites, or spinning tops.

**Mar 1** **Independence Movement Day** (March 1)  
This day commemorates the Declaration of Independence proclaimed on March 1, 1919, while under Japanese colonization.

**May 5** **Children’s Day** (May 5, substitute holiday May 6)  
This day celebrates children and their parents’ hopes for them to grow healthy and become good citizens. On this day, parents take their little ones to children’s parks, amusement parks, zoos, or to the cinema for a full day of fun and games.

**May 12** **Buddha’s Birthday** (May 12)  
Falling on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, elaborate and solemn rituals are held at many Buddhist temples across the country and lanterns are hung along streets leading to the temples.

**Jun 6** **Memorial Day** (June 6)  
Memorial Day serves to honor the soldiers and civilians who have given their

lives for their country. While memorial services are held nationwide, the largest ceremony takes place at the National Cemetery in Seoul.

**Aug 15** **Liberation Day** (August 15)  
This day commemorates Japan’s acceptance of the Allies’ terms of surrender in 1945 and the following liberation of Korea.

**Sep 12-14** **Chuseok** (September 12-14)  
Chuseok is one of the year’s most important traditional holidays. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month. Chuseok is often referred to as Korean Thanksgiving Day. It’s a celebration of another successful harvest year. Family members come from all over the country for memorial rituals, called charye, at the graves of their ancestors.

**Oct 3** **National Foundation Day** (October 3)  
This day commemorates the founding of the Korean nation by the legendary god-king Dangun. A simple ceremony is held at several regions throughout Korea, namely at Chamseongdan Altar on top of Manisan Mountain on Ganghwado Island; Dangunjeon Shrine in Gokseong, Taebaeksan Mountain, and Jeungpyeong, and at Dangunseongjeon Shrine in Seoul.

**Oct 9** **Hangeul Day** (October 9)  
Hangeul Day is a commemoration held to remember the creation of Hangeul, the country’s native alphabet as proclaimed by the publication of Hunminjeongeum on this day in 1446.

**Dec 25** **Christmas** (December 25)  
Christmas is observed as a national holiday in Korea as in many other countries. To celebrate the festive season, Christmas trees and lights can be seen all over Korea.

– Korea Tourism Organization  
COPYRIGHTS ©KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION.  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
www.visitkorea.or.kr

# Welcome to New Connections

A new environment with all new experiences can be stressful. Let GTA set you at ease and keep you connected to those close to your heart but far from your new home.

For over 60 years, GTA has been providing superior service and products to help keep you close to those that matter most. As you serve our country, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family's communication needs. For your added convenience, GTA stores are located on Andersen Air Force Base and Navy Base Guam for your ease of access.



**Wireless:**  
Fast and Reliable 4G LTE. Affordable voice and data plans, low roaming rates and the best prepaid wireless service.



**High Speed Internet:**  
Faster streaming speeds up to 50mbps with fiber optic technology.



**100% Digital TV:**  
HD Programming, popular premium movie packages and access to TV Everywhere streaming.



**24/7 Technical Support**



644-4482  
www.gta.net  
f t i

# How does HPO work?

HANDSET PAYMENT OPTION

GTA's exclusive HPO program is the best in Guam because you can upgrade your smartphone anytime!



## SELECT

A smartphone you like.



## CHOOSE

Your Wireless Plan



## LOWER

Your monthly payments.  
Add a down payment!



#hpoxgta

644-4482  
www.gta.net



# Giving gifts & tipping in South Korea

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

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

You don't *have to* tip anywhere in Korea, no matter how many stars your hotel is ranked or how fancy the restaurant where you're eating is. Service fees and tips are already included in the bill. Especially in restaurants, since 2013, when Korea's "final

payment price marking system" was implemented.

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

## When you may tip

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

If you're staying at a high-end Western-style hotel, it's acceptable to leave some money (around \$10 depending on your length of stay) underneath your

pillow after you check out of the room. But, again, it's not expected.

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

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

## Gifts of gratitude

Americans affiliated with the military often have questions regarding providing

gifts or tokens of gratitude to Korean people.

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

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

If you would like to offer a monetary tip, hand them envelopes you can buy at any convenience store with a small sum of money for their lunch to the company's representatives.

If you use the delivery contractor to the U.S. government, you are not expected to tip.

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

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



You don't *have to* tip anywhere in Korea, no matter how many stars your hotel is ranked or how fancy the restaurant where you're eating is.

## Toilet paper and detergent are lucky gifts

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

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



the detergent symbolize prosperity, wealth and stability for the recipient.

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

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

Aside from being a lucky gift, perhaps the most important thing is that your friend's cabinet will be filled with toilet paper and detergent, which could be a relief for them in the months to come. If you are invited to a Korean friend's housewarming party, don't forget the TP and the soap!

– ChiHon Kim

# CHANGE YOUR LIFE

## TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE IN JAPAN AND TWO YEARS IN THE U.S.

RECOGNIZED BY THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION IN THE US AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN JAPAN

### DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lakeland is an excellent transition university for military dependents finishing high school. Small class sizes and close supervision by faculty make transition from high school to university easy.

### AT LUJ, students can:

- Commute from home in many cases
- Enter competitive universities more easily as A.A. degree graduates than high school graduates
- Receive the two-year Associate of the Arts degree in 19 months
- Make new friends easily in the family-like atmosphere
- Automatically receive a scholarship upon transferring to the main campus in Wisconsin as LUJ graduates



I'm the one on the left.



LAKELAND UNIVERSITY · JAPAN

LUJ.LAKELAND.EDU

LAKELAND UNIVERSITY JAPAN CAMPUS

5-7-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022

EMAIL: admissions@japan.lakeland.edu

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

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

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

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

Drawn in by the unique culture and people, I decided to return. During a rainy day in the chow hall line, I read about LUJ off of an advertisement in the Stars and Stripes Magazine. The school was an opportu-

nity for me to pursue a college education while experiencing Japanese culture. So I applied.

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



# Doing your DoDEA homework

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

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

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

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

Some DoDEA Pacific schools offer a pre-kindergarten program called Sure Start. The program offers a comprehensive approach to early childhood education in the areas of 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, send records via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail to the military address of the receiving school. Sending priority mail to the Pacific usually takes about seven to 10 days, while other methods could take several months. The sending school can also ship records to the commercial address of the DODEA Pacific school. It is recommended that you confirm the current mailing address with the school.

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

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

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

**Special needs children**  
If your child has special needs, be sure to research the available support options for your desired location. To the greatest extent possible, we follow an inclusion model

and work to provide individualized support as needed.

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

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](http://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

## You can also visit:

DoDEA-Pacific  
[www.dodea.edu/Pacific](http://www.dodea.edu/Pacific)

Exchange Student Meal Program  
[www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program/](http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program/)

Exceptional Family Member Program  
[www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp)

Let's Move's (nutrition and exercise tips)  
[www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)

Tutor.com (Free online tutoring for military families)  
[www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)

Celebrate April's  
Month of the Military Child  
with us!

Each year,  
Stars and Stripes teams up with  
DODEA to give our wonderful military brats  
a platform to be heard. Kids of all ages from  
across Pacific bases submit stories, poems,  
drawings and photos about what life is like  
as a military child. All of these run in our  
community newspapers in mainland Japan,  
Okinawa, Guam and Korea.  
They are also all published at  
<https://militarychild.stripes.com/>. We hope  
you and your children join in on the fun!



See DODEA on page 20

# STUDY IN KOREA & EARN YOUR US DEGREE

[asiacampus.utah.edu](http://asiacampus.utah.edu)  
[asiacampus@utah.edu](mailto:asiacampus@utah.edu)



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
ASIA CAMPUS



- Scholarship opportunities
- FAFSA and GI Bill accepted
- Apply as freshman or transfer
- All classes in English

**TWO CAMPUSES  
ONE GREAT EXPERIENCE**

# 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



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

programs 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.

## Education Centers

### Camp Casey

Bldg. S-1757  
DSN: 730-1826

### Fleet Chinhae

Bldg. 711  
DSN: 762-5566

### USAG Daegu

Henry Bldg. 1840  
DSN: 763-4923  
Carroll Bldg. T-236  
DSN: 763-5406

### Camp Humphreys

Bldg. 657  
DSN: 755-3600

### Kunsan Air Base

Bldg. 1051  
DSN: 782-5148

### Osan Air Base

Bldg. 789  
DSN: 784-4220

### USAG Yongsan

Bldg. P2212  
DSN: 723-8098

DODEA from page 18

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 Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (Guam District) on a tuition-free basis. Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must also

meet the same eligibility requirements as dependents enrolled in DODEA schools who use or receive the same auxiliary services.

Eligible home schoolers are not required to attend a specific number of courses to receive auxiliary services, including

participating in extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

DoDEA encourages DoD sponsors who wish to home school

their dependents to communicate the desire to their commanders in order to determine if there are any command policies or other rules ensuring that home schooling practices meet host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory requirements. Sponsors are responsible for complying with applicable local requirements. Contact your local School Liaison Officer or command representative to learn more.



– DoDEA-Pacific



# Mastering mass transit in Korea

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

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

## Travel by train

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

The fastest and most expensive is the Korean Train eXpress. KTX trains normally run at speeds up to 300 kilometers per hour (186 mph). KTX pricing on tickets was

Don't forget to try the AREX for a quick train ride from Incheon Airport to Seoul Station. The fare is comparable to that of buses, and much cheaper than taking a taxi. Incheon to Seoul should be just about 8,000 won, which is just around \$7.10 and takes around 45 minutes on the express train. From Gimpo airport to Seoul Station, the all-stop ride is a short 22 minutes and costs about 230 won, or around .20 cents.

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 Saemaoul

trains – the next lower level of service.

Saemaoul 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. Saemaoul trains offer amenities such as a dining car, restrooms and "tukshil," or special cars.

Mugunghwa trains are yet another step down in both speed and luxury. They cost less than the Saemaoul 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 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

See TRANSIT on page 24

Culture

Education

Transportation

Private vehicles

Legal

Living

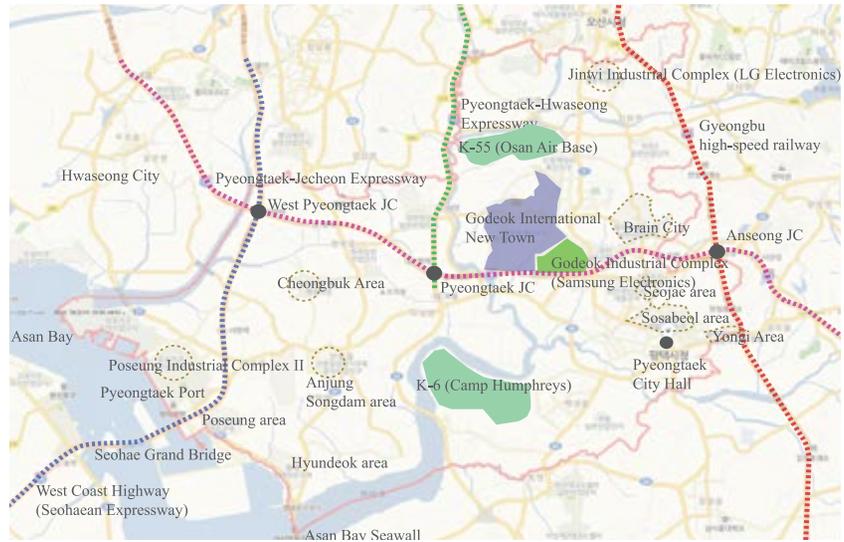
Food

Leisure

# Prospect of Real Estate Market in Pyeongtaek; Land of Opportunities

Pyeongtaek is a city located in the southern part of Gyeonggi province. It is 453 km<sup>2</sup> in size with a population of 490,000. It will soon be the home of a Samsung Semiconductor Manufacture facility, expected to be the biggest such facility in the world. In addition, there are also other big development projects on the way, including LG Town in Jinwe-myeon, SRT bullet train transit station in Jije and Starfield Shopping mall in Ansung city. Also, USAG Yongsan in Seoul is moving to Camp Humphreys. With these favorable factors, Pyeongtaek has a very bright future in the real estate business.

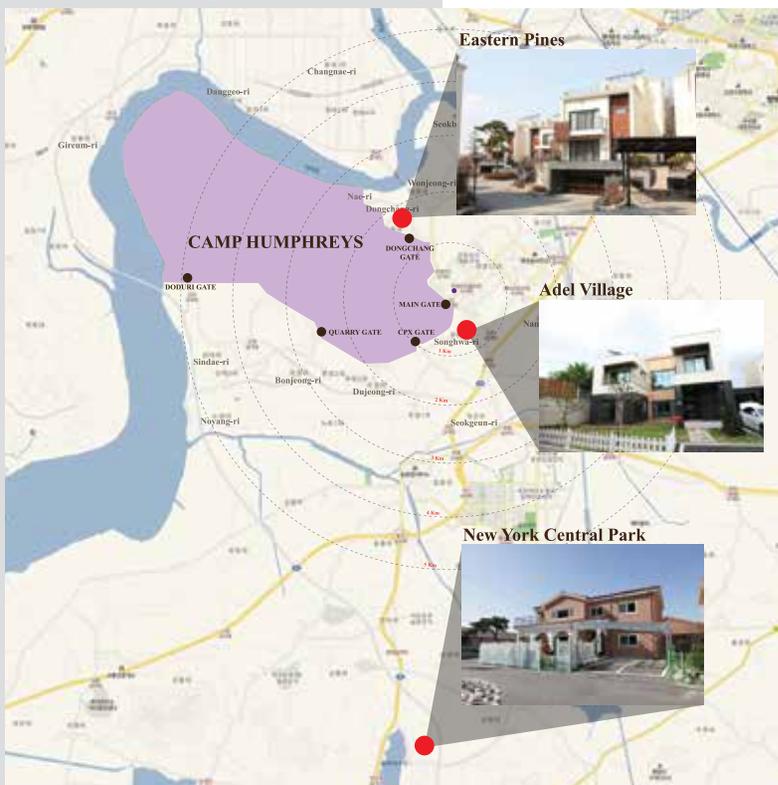
According to recent news articles, Samsung will push forward to activate their semiconductor production line in Pyeongtaek in the near future. Each Samsung line requires 3,000 to 5,000 construction workers. Samsung electronics conducted a survey with their employees and 45% replied that they would move to Pyeongtaek when Godeok International Town is completed. Moreover, Samsung Electronics' business partners are expected to move to Pyeongtaek as well. With these factors, the population of Pyeongtaek city will grow to be over 500,000. As the population increases, the real estate market will thrive with many new apartment openings.



Starfield, one of the famous franchised shopping mall / entertainment centers, will open in 2020 in Ansung city, which is close to the Yongi area. Generally, shopping mall/entertainment centers bring more customers than regular stores and give more value to an area's general real estate market in Pyeongtaek.

The U.S. 8th Army has been moving down to Camp Humphreys (K-6) from Yongsan Garrison, which also brings a positive influence on the Pyeongtaek real estate market. About 45,000 U.S. soldiers and their 80,000 family members have moved to Pyeongtaek, and more are on their way. The U.S. Army needs off-post housing and the demand for rental houses has increased. There is an increased need for off-base housing and the demand for rental houses continues to increase.

Christine Realty, which specializes in finding rental properties for the U.S. military community, would like to introduce three popular properties to you.



1. Eastern Pines – Located near Dongchang-ri gate, it's a prime location. Complex includes 80 units of villas, duplexes and single houses. Prompt on-site maintenance system and friendly staffs.

2. New York Central Park – Located in Asan. Complex with about 20 single houses. Takes 10-15 minutes by car from Camp Humphreys. Right after construction was completed in 2018, every unit was rented out. More units are currently under the construction and will be ready in October 2019.

3. Adell Village – Located in Songhwa-ri, Pangseong-eup. Complex with 10 single houses. Only 3 minutes from Anjung-ri gate. Low vacancy rate due to steady demand by renters. High value for investment.

As described above, the property value in Pyeongtaek is expected to continue to rise. Thus, Pyeongtaek has reasonable investment value compared to Seoul and other cities near metropolitan areas. Pyeongtaek's future real estate investment value will continue to rise. So please come to Pyeongtaek, land of opportunities, and look for Christine Realty!

# Rent & Relocation for Military Community



# Christine Realty

(주)크리스틴부동산중개법인



## Your Success is Our Success!

Hello!

My name is Christine Park and I'm a real estate agent for Pyeongtaek City & the Camp Humphreys.

As a resident of Pyeongtaek, I am familiar with the most appealing aspects of the neighborhood. I am also a good listener and can provide the best rental properties for military families and U.S. civilian based off their!

I am also specialized in home sales and purchases in Pyeongtaek, and I am available to assist with all your home buying or selling needs.

If it is time to sell your home or find the home of your dreams, I can make it happen. I am able to answer your questions and can provide you with the guidance you need for a smooth transition. My knowledge and expertise in local real estate can help you get the best deal possible on a new home!

Please call me today if you are ready to get started, or give my contact information to a friend who may need my real estate service. I appreciate your consideration and referrals, and I look forward to hearing from you!



## Christine Park

| CEO, License Realtor

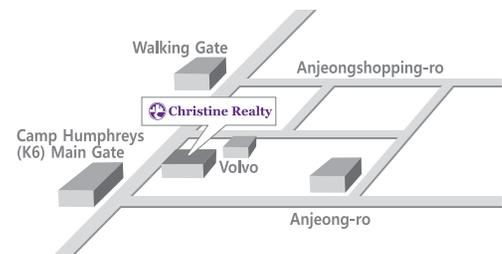
Mobile: 010-2166-3677

Office: 031-692-3677

[christinerealty.co.kr@gmail.com](mailto:christinerealty.co.kr@gmail.com)

[www.christinerealty.co.kr](http://www.christinerealty.co.kr)

 **Christine Realty in Korea**



98-5, Anjeongsunhwan-ro, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea (Zip Code:17983)

line. There are some trains that do not start or finish at the “terminal stations” listed on maps, so check the destination listed on the front and sides of the train.

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

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

**No. 4 (Blue) Line:** Trains run from Northern Seoul’s Danggogae to Oido, south of Seoul. This line has stops for shopping at both 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 Gaeхва 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 south 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



- Hello, where can I b
- Gichapyo-reul eodi**
- Where is the bus st
- Gakkaun bus jeon**
- Where can I find th
- Gichayeogeun eodie**
- Hello, can you plea
- to \_\_\_?

### Annyeong hasipnikka? jusigesseupnikka?

- How many more stops until I reach \_\_\_
- kkaji myeot jeonggeojang deo**
- I’m lost. Can you help me?
- Gireul il-ut-sseupnida. Jom dowa-jusi-gesseupnikka?**
- I am trying to get to (camp) \_\_\_ (base).
- Jeoneun \_\_\_ro garyeogo hamnida.**
- Thank you!



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

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

## Online help to get around Korea

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

**Bus zones, numbers, stops, fares:**  
[english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP\\_ENG\\_5\\_1.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP_ENG_5_1.jsp)

**Subway how-to information, maps, stops, fares:**  
[english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP\\_ENG\\_6.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP_ENG_6.jsp)

**Plane flights, schedules, booking:**  
[www.koreanair.com/global/en.html](http://www.koreanair.com/global/en.html)

**Hi-Pass On Board Unit (in Korean):**  
[www.excard.co.kr/main.do](http://www.excard.co.kr/main.do)



uy a transit card/train ticket?  
**eseo sal su isseupnikka?**  
 op?  
**gryujang-eun eodie isseupnikka?**  
 e train station?  
**itseumnikka?**  
 se help me find the train platform going

**ro ganeun seunggangjang-eul allyeo-**

h \_\_\_\_ station?

**gaya hapnikka?**

- Would you please call a taxi for me?  
**Jeo daesine taeksireul bulleo ju sigetseumnikka?**
- I would like to go to \_\_\_\_.  
**ro gajuseyo.**
- What is the fare?  
**Yogeumeun eolmaimnikka?**

**Gamsahamnida.**

at major hotels, subway and bus stations.

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

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

SOFA personnel will find Exchange taxis available on base. (Some bases have a limited number of off-base taxis authorized to come on the bases.) These on-base taxis are very convenient and make life easier in and around bases. Though the rates for these taxis is higher, unlike the ilban, they accept dollars and the drivers can answer some questions you may have 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 in Korea is reliable and the schedules are more convenient than the trains. Some expressways have bus-only lanes for peak travel times such as weekends, rush hour and major holidays. The bus companies also run extra buses on such peak days. One bus fills up and pulls out, and another immediately pulls in for more passengers.

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

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

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

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

**Blue buses** serve major roads

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

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

**Red buses** serve wide areas and connect the outlying suburbs with Seoul’s sub-centers.

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

Bus fares, like train and subway fares, are based on the distance traveled. Transfer discounts are also available, but only when using a T-Money Card rather than buying tickets for each ride. This rechargeable card is the easiest way to pay for bus, subway and even taxi travel in and around Seoul. It can be purchased from subway or bus ticket vendors and machines. The basic charge is 3,000 won (about \$2.70), and it can be recharged with up to 90,000 won.

As an example, if you take local buses and subways five times within 10 kilometers in 30 minutes or less and pay the fares with T-Money, it will cost only 1,050 won because the five rides are counted as a single trip. However, if you pay cash for tickets following the same itinerary, it will cost 5,750 won. To get this transfer discount, scan the card on the

sensor at the front of the bus when getting on, and then use the sensor at the rear door when exiting the bus.

Seoul Metropolitan Subway recently replaced many of its ticket windows with automated vending machines. You can use them to purchase tickets as well as buy and recharge T-Money Cards. The vending machines are easy to use and have instructions in Korean, English, Chinese and Japanese. Subway staff is also available at stations 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!



# Space-A travel

## A way to see the world

A privilege to Uniformed Forces personnel, their dependents, retirees, and others who support the mission, the Space-Available travel program may be a great option for seeing the world on a budget ... if the timing is right. The program is nicknamed Space-A, and although that A is short for "available," it could also mean "attitude." Learning how to navigate the program with a positive attitude, plenty of leave and a back-up plan is key for a successful "hop."

### What is Space-A?

The Space-A program allows authorized passengers to occupy surplus DoD aircraft seats after all space-required duty passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Most Space-A flights are offered through the Air Force's Air Mobility Command (AMC) or the Navy and are usually free of charge, except for a small tax (usually under \$30) charged per seat and per leg, when seats are on commercial, they are through Patriot Express flights. Common destinations include the Continental U.S. states, Hawaii, Alaska, Germany, England, Spain, Italy, Japan and South Korea. Flights may even go to South and Central America, Africa and Australia. The best time to obtain seats is when DODEA schools are in session.

### Have a back-up plan

Because this program is a privilege and not an entitlement, it is imperative to understand the circumstances may change due to mission mobility. Flying exactly where you want to go at the time or day you want to fly is not always possible. The first obligation of the AMC is to fill seats for military missions, therefore available seating fluctuates and could change at any time on any part of your destination. So, if you have a specific itinerary, event or obligation waiting for you at your destination or on your return, you may want to reconsider using Space-A for those travel plans. This program is designed for those who have enough available leave, time and flexibility to wait or change their schedule.

For example, it may be a breeze to sign up and get seats on the first flight, but when you try to return, you could wait several days for available space. Or, you could even be dropped off in another country to wait for a flight.

Remaining calm, positive and being flexible will help. Sometimes travelers attempt to catch a hop at neighboring base terminals. For example, it is not uncommon to travel between Ramstein and Spangdahlem Air Bases to attempt to get a seat. Or, travelers drive between terminals in Dover and Baltimore on a regular basis seeking seats. When flying Space-A, be ready for anything. Create a back-up plan and have available funds in case you need to make other travel arrangements and accommodations when space just isn't available.

### Who can fly Space-A?

The program was created as a way to enhance the lives of Uniformed Services duty personnel by creating an avenue of respite; recognize the careers of veterans who have served; and extend a privilege to other categories of passengers such as dependents of Uniformed Services personnel, Red Cross and USO personnel who also support the

mission. Passengers may not use the flights for personal gain, in relationship to employment, to find a house or for other prohibited activities.

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

### How do you register?

You may register in person at each Space-A passenger terminal

## U.S. Airline Alliance travel packages

If you don't feeling like using Space A, you can always try U.S. Airline Alliance, the travel agency for official and leisure travel on all USFK installations. Check out their website for office locations, phone numbers and hours of operation.

Airlines American Airlines..... Phone: 050-3323-8790

Asiana Airlines ... Phone: 050-3323-8790

Delta Airlines..... Phone: 050-3323-854

Korean Air ..... Phone: 050-3323-8549

United Airlines ... Phone: 050-3323-8790

Koridoor Tours .... Location: USO Sentry Village, Building 375  
Phone: 050-33-53-6249/6281

**Website:** [www.ustraveloffice.com/main/index.php](http://www.ustraveloffice.com/main/index.php)

at either the helpdesk, or through self-help kiosks. You may also register through email, fax or online, for up to five departure airports and five countries of destination. The website [www.takeahop.org](http://www.takeahop.org) offers a free service to help you register for five departure airports as well as five countries at the same time. Recently, the site rolled out both a Take-A-Hop iPhone and Android app for smartphone users. For a few dollars, you have instant access to all Space-A terminal contacts, flight information and the ability to quickly sign up for up to five flights through your phone. You can also monitor available activity at the terminals through the app to save you time and keep you mobile.

Once registered, your information remains active for either 60 days, or for the duration of your leave orders or authorization of flight, whichever occurs first. Print a copy of your registration to keep on hand at the terminal. The time and date stamp of your registration determines your position and priority within your Space-A category.

Each passenger is assigned a passenger category for travel. These categories designate the order by which you may be boarded on Space-A flights. The following list is generalized. For a detailed list, please see the Space-A handbook link mentioned above:

**Category I** – Emergency travel on a round-trip basis in connection with serious illness, death, or impending death of a member of the immediate family.

**Category II** – Environmental Morale Leave (EML) and dependents.

**Category III** – Active duty ordinary Leave and dependents; convalescent leave; permissive TDYs; Unaccompanied dependent of deployed Servicemember for more than a year.

**Category IV** – Unaccompanied dependent of deployed Servicemember on EML status.

**Category V** – Unaccompanied

## PACIFIC LOCATIONS

### OKINAWA

#### KADENA AB

733 AMS, Unit 5145 Box 10  
Phone: 634-5806 / 098-962 6487

Facebook.com/AMCKadena

### Mainland JAPAN

#### MISAWA AB

Bldg. 943  
Phone: 315-226-2370/2371  
Commercial: 011-81-176-77-2370/2371

Facebook.com/  
MisawaPassengerTerminal

### NAF ATSUGI

Bldg. 206  
Phone: 0467-63-3118  
Facebook.com/AtsugiTerminal

### MCAS IWAKUNI

Bldg. 727  
Phone: 315-253-5509  
Facebook.com/  
IwakuniPassengerTerminal

### YOKOTA AB

Bldg. 80  
Phone: 315-225-5660/5661/5662

Facebook.com/  
YokotaPassengerTerminal

### KOREA

#### OSAN AB

Bldg. 648  
Phone: 315-784-6883  
Facebook.com/  
OsanABPassengerTerminal

### KUNSAN AB

Bldg. 2858  
Phone: 063-470-4666

### GUAM

#### ANDERSEN AFB

Bldg. 17002 Unit 14008  
Phone: 671-366-5165

military dependent of non-deployed Servicemember.

**Category VI** – Retirees, Reservists.

### Baggage requirements

Passengers may check two pieces of checked baggage, 70 pounds each, up to 62 linear inches in size. You and your family can pool your baggage allowances as well. Carry-ons must fit in overhead bins (if they're available on the type of flight) or under your seat. Hand-carried baggage must fit under the seat or in the overhead compartment, if available. As always, it is best to travel light because due to aircraft or other restrictions, baggage weight could be restricted for your flight.

### Getting a flight

Decide which terminal you think would be the best chance for Space-A departure and head out. It helps to phone the terminals that you requested for departure and monitor their recent departure schedules. For OPSEC reasons, Space-A flight schedules were removed from many online resources. However, terminals usually record a short-term flight schedule, and information is slowly being released by electronic means again. Check with Facebook for your favorite

Space-A terminals. Some terminals are creating fan pages to improve accessibility and help travelers plan their travel.

Available seats are now identified as early as five hours and as late as two hours prior to departure. Being at the terminal early for a flight will help you vie for seats. As soon as you physically arrive at the terminal, visit the passenger desk to be sure you are indeed registered with the correct date, time of registration and number of seats. Use your previous printed email or documentation to help correct any discrepancies. Then, let the desk personnel know you are interested in available flights. Be "travel-ready" with the proper luggage, any dependents and paperwork, your car parked or rental returned, etc.

### It's showtime for roll call

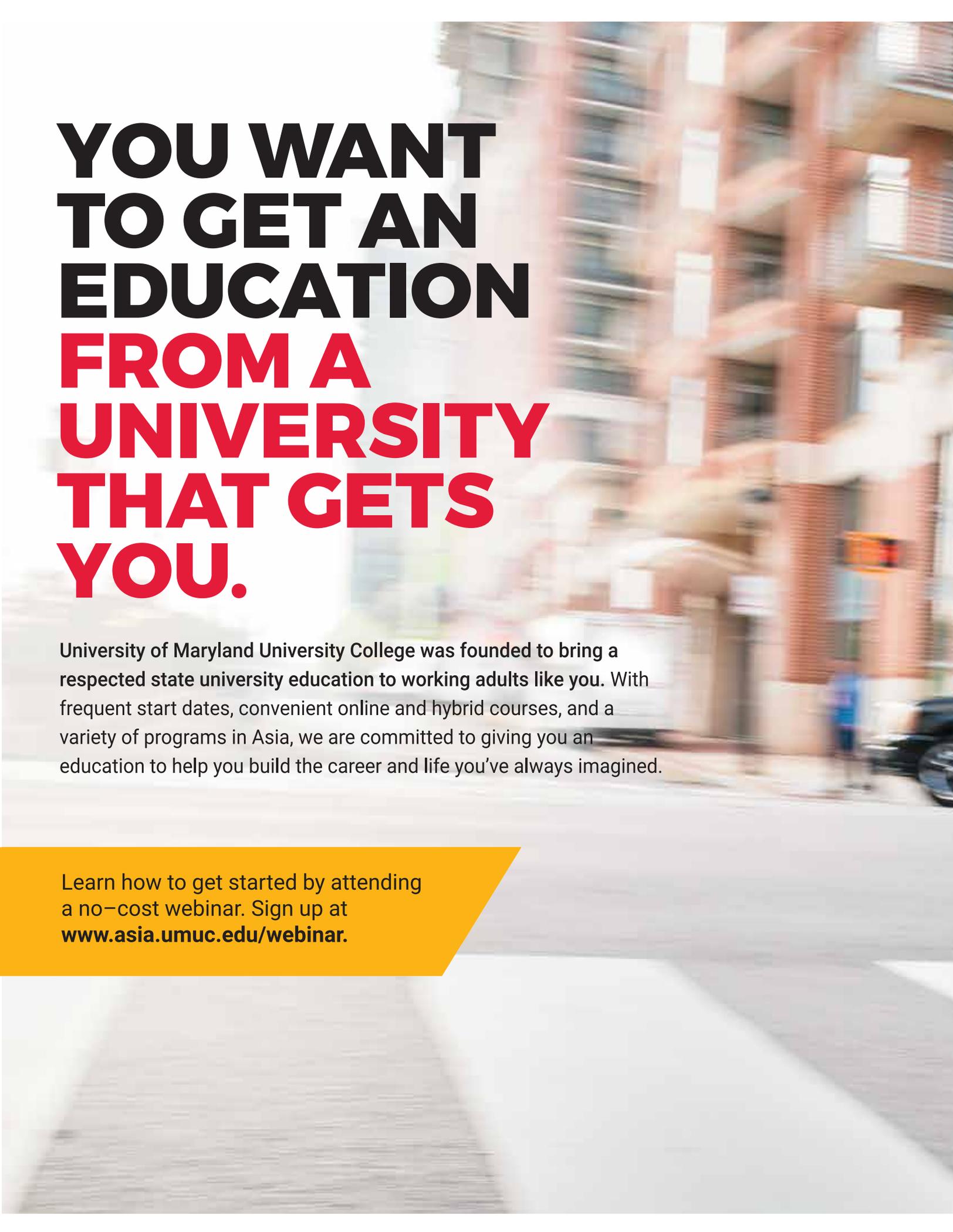
You now wait for the "showtime" of the particular flight you'd like to be selected (manifested) for, as well as the upcoming flight's "roll call" of names of those who are designated for the flight's Space-A seating. The priority of your assigned category, the day and time that you signed up to travel and number of available seats will determine if your name makes the roll call. Remember, be travel-ready. If

your name is called and you are not physically present to hear the roll call and manifested (readied for flight and allowed to travel), your name will be put at the bottom of your category list, and you may not make that flight.

### Parting tips

A hop flight could be either on a military plane or commercial airline. If you travel on a military plane, be aware that accommodations and services are different, from fold-down jump seats along the wall, cargo in front of you and a plane that is either pretty warm or cool, depending on the time of year of travel and location. Open-toed or open-heeled shoes should not be worn on military planes. So, wear appropriate footwear, bring jackets, blankets, snacks, bottled water and things to keep you busy, like books, games or electronic devices. Available plugs for charging are along the walls. Remember to stay flexible. Travel during off-peak seasons (stay away from summer break and major holidays) and keep a positive attitude about this great privilege. If you look at the program as an opportunity for a new adventure, plan accordingly and have a back-up plan, you are sure to have a great time, wherever you land.





# **YOU WANT TO GET AN EDUCATION FROM A UNIVERSITY THAT GETS YOU.**

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

Learn how to get started by attending a no-cost webinar. Sign up at [www.asia.umuc.edu/webinar](http://www.asia.umuc.edu/webinar).



**MADE FOR YOU**  
[www.asia.umuc.edu](http://www.asia.umuc.edu)

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**  
 **University College**  
STATE UNIVERSITY • GLOBAL CAMPUS

# Buying & registering a POV on the ROK



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

To drive a privately owned vehicle (POV) in Korea, you need a United States Forces Korea driver's license. Active-duty personnel, civilian employees and family members age 18 and older are potentially eligible. The expiration date of USFK licenses depends on the person's "date eligible to return 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 and many are usually trying to sell their vehicles shortly before departing. These vehicles often have a sign in the window indicating their features and price. Many bases have designated areas for these vehicles, which are often called "lemon lots." This can be more than a mere moniker.

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

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

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

- Vehicle insurance policy

- USFK 134 EK driver's license (POV)

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

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

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

Buying a used car off base is more complicated. Accompany the seller to the local government office (Yongsan Ward office in Seoul, Pyeongtaek City

office in the Camp Humphreys area) and deregister the vehicle. They will issue a bill of sale as well as a new license plate. Take it to Pass & Vehicle Registration on base with the same documents needed for a used vehicle purchased on base. They will issue a decal.

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

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

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

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

## On-base vehicle registration offices

### Camp Humphreys

Bldg. 6400; Tel: 757-4001  
Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

### Yongsan Garrison

Bldg. 4304; Rm#114  
Tel: 724-4811  
Mon - Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch)

### Osan Air Base

Bldg. 765  
Tel: 784-4489 / 784-1853  
Mon, Tue, Thurs: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wed: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Fri: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Kunsan Air Base

Bldg. 1310; Tel: 782-4900  
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Camp Walker

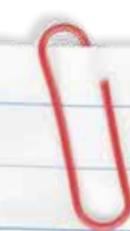
Bldg. 1712; Tel: 768-6108  
Mon - Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

### 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 4:30 p.m.



Culture  
Education  
Transportation  
Private vehicles  
Legal  
Living

Food  
Leisure

## Where to purchase a vehicle

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

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

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

**Craigslist** ([seoul.craigslist.co.kr/cta/](http://seoul.craigslist.co.kr/cta/)) is growing more popular as a way to find a used car in Korea. The well-known site lists vehicles 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/](http://usfkclassifieds.co.kr/)) (010-8222-5573), a Yongsan-area dealer which claims to cater specifically to U.S. Forces Korea. Its easy-to-use site

offers looks at an inventory of early-to-late model cars priced in U.S. dollars, with more than 200 vehicles available at its consolidated dealership and access to many more. The firm offers on-base pickup to the dealership and full repair services.

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

## Camp Humphreys Area

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

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

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

**Johnny's Used Cars** (010-5356-3065). Ask for Johnny Kim.

## Yongsan Garrison Area

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

**Mr. Bill's Cars** ([www.mrbillscars.kr.com](http://www.mrbillscars.kr.com)) (010-4555-6266) is actually located by Yongsan's Gate 6. The dealer, which was named Best of the Pacific by Stars and Stripes for 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012, gives its customers personal service, from finding a car to getting it purchased and registered. It keeps a complete record of inventory on its website.

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

**GRIT Motortainment** offers various auto tuning parts, from tires and rims to exterior body kits. It is well-known for being a one-stop shop that you can consult on maintenance, repairs, used and new car purchases, plus tuning parts. They are dealers of Rotiform, Hamman Motorsports and Kahn Designs in Korea, and their aftermarket parts fit numerous domestic and import car brands. Their showroom is located near Costco Gongse and is open Monday through Saturday. For more info, go to [www.gritmotortainment.com](http://www.gritmotortainment.com) or call 031-285-9500.

## Osan Air Base Area

**HANMMI AUTO SALES** Ask for Jack (010-6202-8256), 37, Jungangsijang-ro, 6 Beon-gil, Pyeongtaek-si.

# 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.



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

### 1. Camp Casey

#### Main Gate

37.917666 (latitude), 127.056608 (longitude)

#### Back Gate

37.925343, 127.056331

### 2. Camp Hovey

#### Main Gate

37.898553, 127.081548

### 5. Suwon AB

#### Main Gate

37.245974, 127.013330

### 6. Osan AB

#### Main Gate

37.079084, 127.049969

#### Back Gate

37.086756, 127.050803

### 7. Camp Humphreys

#### Anjeong-Ri Gate (Main Gate)

36.957884, 127.045043

#### Anjeong-Ri Gate (Pedestrian gate)

36.959117, 127.043068

#### Dongchang-Ri Gate

36.969125, 127.037009

#### Hamjeong-Ri Gate

36.951142, 127.018124

#### Dodu-Ri Gate

36.960906, 126.990362

### 8. Kunsan AB

#### Main Gate

35.925842, 126.615635

### 9. Camp Walker

#### Gate #4

35.839972, 128.588496

#### Gate #6

35.841656, 128.583400

### 10. Camp Henry

#### Front Gate

35.850272, 128.599680

#### Back Gate

35.849102, 128.604473

### 3. USAG Yongsan

#### Gate #1 (Dragon Hill Lodge)

37.530496, 126.984413

#### Gate #3 (Noksapeyong Station)

37.534849, 126.983015

#### Gate #6 (Commissary Gate)

37.527395, 126.991405

#### Gate #16 (Samgakji Station)

37.537828, 126.974749

### 4. K-16 AB

#### Main Gate

37.448649, 127.104741

#### Songnam Golf Course

37.478171, 127.156384

### 13. Camp Mujuk

#### Main Gate

35.961750, 129.422196

### 14. Chinhae Naval Base

#### Main Gate

35.155258, 128.655048

### 11. Camp George

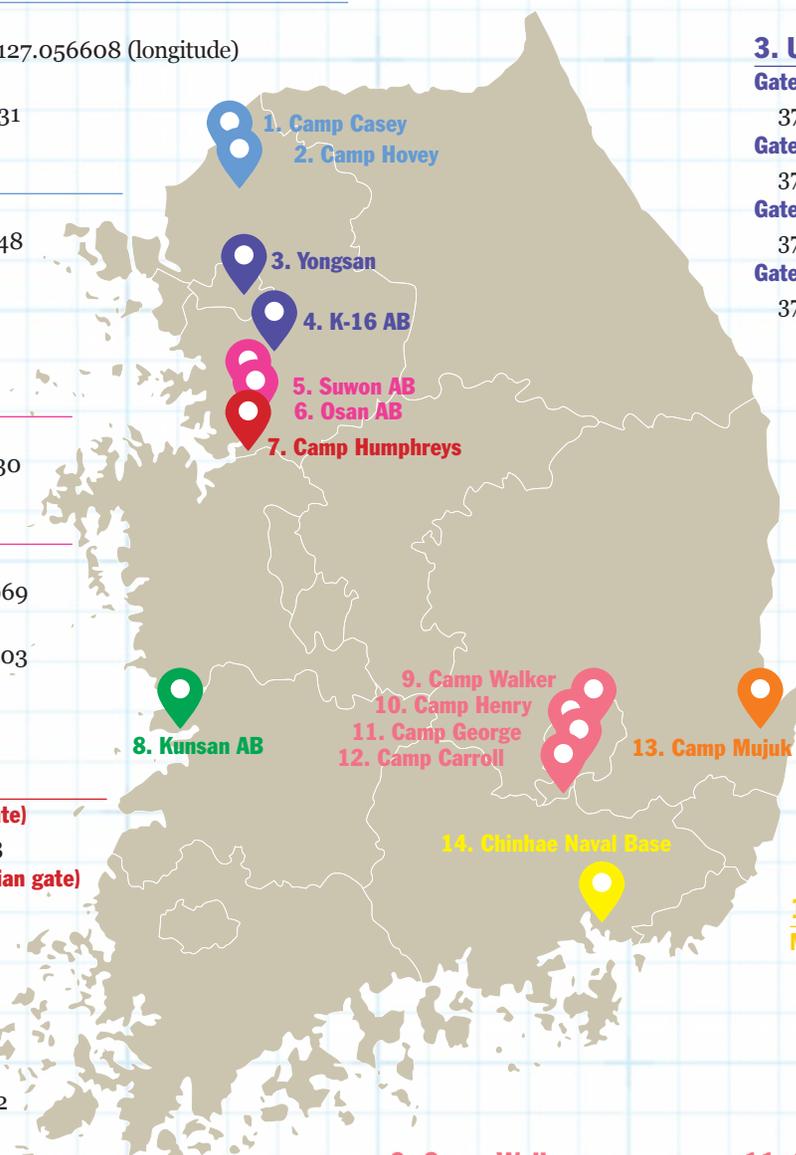
#### Main Gate

35.849856, 128.595182

### 12. Camp Carroll

#### Waegan

35.989317, 128.405329



Camp Hovey Bulldog DFAC  
Photo submitted by Nate Harris

Culture  
Education  
Transportation  
Private vehicles  
Legal  
Living  
Food  
Leisure

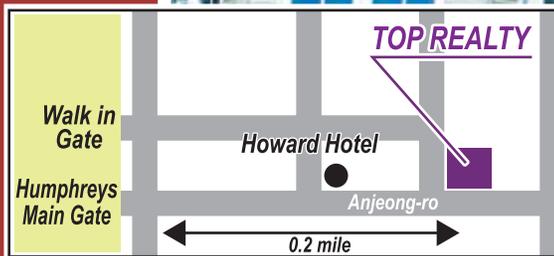


SINCE 1996

# TOP REALTY

USFK APPROVED

**Looking for Off-Post Housing?  
Top Realty is Your Answer!**



## USAG Humphreys

We have been working for the Humphreys community since 1996.

Tel: 031-691-0700 / Hot Line: 010-4286-5119 / Email: [toprealty1@yahoo.com](mailto:toprealty1@yahoo.com) / [www.toprealty.or.kr](http://www.toprealty.or.kr)

# Law and order on the ROK

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

Your base chain of command or legal office should be the first place you go with legal questions or concerns.

Here are a few local laws and legal customs you might want to consider:

## Assaults

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

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 authorities in order for the apprehended person to communicate with a representative of the U.S. government. (See Page 36)

## Understanding what SOFA means for you

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

Personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty in Korea and their dependents are covered

by the U.S.-ROK SOFA. U.S. civilians employed by, serving with or accompanying U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents are also covered by the U.S.-ROK SOFA.

Persons in Korea to perform contracts or render services exclusively for the U.S. Armed Forces are designated invited contractors or technical representatives. They and their dependents are

Culture

Education

Transportation

Private vehicles

Legal

Legal

Food

Leisure

### 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*

## What to do if you run into trouble – Page 36

### 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 instal-

lation. 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*



# Dealing with the law

If you are out in town and run into trouble, there a few things you need to do.

## HQ, UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA SOFA CARD

### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

구원 요청

**There has been a traffic accident.**

교통 사고가 났습니다.

**Please notify Korean police and US military police.**

한국 경찰 및 미군 헌병대에 연락해 주십시오.

**Please call an ambulance or doctor.**

구급차나 의사를 불러 주십시오.

**Where can I find a telephone?**

전화가 어디에 있습니까?

### STATEMENT OF SOFA STATUS:

본 카드 소지자는 주한미군 사령부 소속으로서 한미 행정 협정 규정에 의한 처우를 받는 사람이며 대한민국 경찰당국의 지시에 따르도록 본 카드에 기재되어 있습니다.

한미 행정 협정에는 소지자가 한국당국에 의하여 체포되면 한국 당국은 미군당국에 즉시 통고 하도록 규정되어 있습니다.

가까운 미군당국의 전화번호는 뒷면에 기재되어 있습니다. 즉시 연락해 주시기 바랍니다.

### FOR THE COMMANDER

사령관의 명에 의하여:

1. Carry this card at all times. If you are apprehended by or become involved with Korean law enforcement authorities, SHOW your ID CARD and THIS CARD.
2. OBEY ROK AND U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL INSTRUCTIONS.
3. If you are involved in an accident:
  - ① Attend to injuries, if any. Take steps to prevent any further accident from occurring at the scene.
  - ② Telephone the nearest civil and/or U.S. military police office (See below for telephone numbers to reach U.S. facilities).
  - ③ DO NOT LEAVE THE SCENE until authorized to do so by the police.
4. If you are detained by Korean authorities:
  - ① Show the Korean authorities the statement of SOFA status (to the right) and request that the nearest U.S. military police be notified.
  - ② Cooperate with Korean authorities at all times.
  - ③ You may refuse to sign any statement that you cannot read or understand.



### EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS - USFK DSN 911 (MP/Fire/Ambulance)

### COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO U.S. FACILITY 05033 + DSN last six digits (ex. 05033-24-4258)

U.S. FACILITY	AREA	U.S. MILITARY	
		POLICE	MEDICAL
CAMP CASEY	DONGDUcheon	DSN 110/730-4417/4418	DSN 116/730-6142
YONGSAN	SEOUL	DSN 110/724-4258 DSN 724-6695/3004	DSN 116/737-5545
HOST NATION NURSE LIAISON		Contact the <b>Red Cross</b> at DSN 738-3670/737-4196	
CAMP HUMPHREYS	PYEONGTAEK	DSN 110/753-3111/3112	DSN 116/753-8111
CAMP WALKER	DAEGU	DSN 110/764-4141	DSN 116/764-4222
CAMP CARROLL	WAEGWAN	Contact Cp Walker	DSN 116/765-7954
CAMP MUJUK	POHANG	Contact Cp Walker	NONE
OSAN AB	OSAN	DSN 911/784-5515 Comm. 031-661-5515	DSN 911/784-2500 Comm. 031-661-2500
SUWON AB	SUWON	Contact <b>OSAN Air Base</b>	
KUNSAN AB	KUNSAN	DSN 911/782-4944 Comm. 063-470-4944	DSN 911/782-4323/4333 Comm. 063-470-4323/4333
CHINHAE	JINHAE	DSN 762-5345 Comm. 055-540-5345	DSN 762-5415 Comm. 055-540-5415

Culture  
Education  
Transportation  
Private vehicles  
Legal  
Living  
Food  
Leisure

# 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 includes 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 skipped in public buildings.



## Dos and don'ts with dogs and cats

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

### Pet registration

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

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

### Pet policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Garbage disposal rules & regs

**T**he 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.) can be used. Proper bags may be purchased at any off-post grocery store, department store (Lotte Mart, E-Mart, Home Plus), and many convenient stores, or on-post at the Commissary.

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



# Medical & TRICARE overseas

Troops and family members receive medical and dental care in both military treatment facilities and host nation facilities upon referral from their primary care manager. The military hospital at Yongsan, in Seoul, also provides services for soldiers and family members. All eligible patients receive access to high-quality health care governed by DoD and TRICARE regulations and guidelines. Access to care has been designed to support active-duty dependents to help them obtain care easily, and thus make it possible for active-duty members to perform their military service without worrying about health care for their dependents. The priority of care is based on the following categories:

- Priority 1: Active-duty service members;
- Priority 2: Active-duty family members who are enrolled in Tricare Prime;
- Priority 3: Retirees, their family members and survivors who are enrolled in Tricare Prime;
- Priority 4: Active-duty family members who are not enrolled in Tricare Prime;

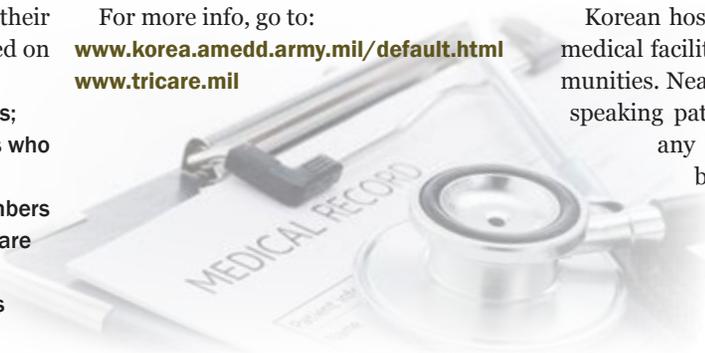
- Priority 5: All other eligible persons.

It is also important to manage expectations as there is at times limitations in some fields of medicine or limited providers. You can generally expect to obtain an appointment for an acute/same day care within 24 hours. Emergency care is available at several nearby hospitals.

- Open Access - same calendar day
- Routine - 7 calendar days
- Wellness (physicals and well woman exams) - 28 calendar days
- Specialty Care - 28 calendar days
- Dental Routine - 21 calendar days

For more info, go to:

[www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.html](http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.html)  
[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)



## Self-care at on-post pharmacy

Need an over-the-counter medicine for a minor issue? Grab a number at the installation clinic's pharmacy and a pharmacist will help take care of you. No appointment needed!

[www.korea.amedd.army.mil/WEBAPP/RXREFILL/DEFAULT.HTML](http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/WEBAPP/RXREFILL/DEFAULT.HTML) (need CAC card to access)

[www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.html](http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.html) (need CAC card to access)

## Emergency room services & off-post medical care

Korean hospitals serve as the emergency medical facilities for the U.S. military communities. Nearly all hospitals have English-speaking patient liaisons to assist during any hospital visits. Service members and families are provided a local map and contacts in the event of an emergency during in-processing.

- U.S. Forces Korea

## THE BEAUTY OF AN ABANDONED MINE GWANGMYEONG CAVE



*Explore this fantastic cave theme park located less than 50 minutes from both Seoul and Incheon Airport!  
 Thrilling VR train is kicking off now!*

# 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.



• Hello  
**Yeoboseyo**

• Hello. May I please speak to \_\_\_?  
**\_\_\_wa tonghwa-hal-su-isseulkkayo?**

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

**Memo (or meseji) namgyeo deu-ril-kkayo?**

• Yes, this is \_\_\_ speaking.  
Please tell \_\_\_ to call me back.  
Thank you.

**Ne, Jeoneun \_\_\_ ipnida.**  
**\_\_\_ ege jeon-hwa-hae dallago jeon-hae-juseyo.**  
**Gomap-seupnida.**

• Okay. Good bye.  
**Ne alge-sseupnida. Sugohaseyo.**

Large or small, standard or custom, we have a wide range of printed products to suit your project!

STARS & STRIPES DoD authorized printer

**PRINTSHOP**  
printshop.stripes.com

Get a quote or place your order at [printshop.stripes.com](http://printshop.stripes.com) or call (315) 227-7315.

Get the news that matters to you, delivered free to your inbox

Sign up now from [Stripes.com](http://Stripes.com)

**FREE E-mail newsletters**

- STARS & STRIPES DAILY HEADLINES
- STARS & STRIPES WEEKLY UPDATE
- STRIPES OPINION
- VETERANS NEWS
- MILITARY HISTORY
- Stripes SCOPE

STARS AND STRIPES



## Special Rate for DoD & Military Families



Dear Friends,

I take immense pleasure in introducing to you Sun Optical, which has been in the eye glass business delivering name-brand fashion eyewear to U.S. troops and their families since 1974.

We have a well-established track record and our services have always been met with great customer satisfaction.

We offer superb service at competitive prices, and never compromise on the quality of our service. Please come visit us!

CEO Pak, Chu Sop



Dior

J.F. Dupont



HERMES



# 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



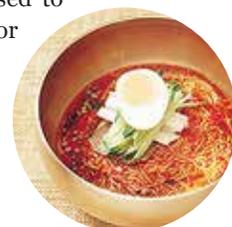
Samgye-tang is made by simmering a whole young chicken stuffed with ginseng, hedysarum root, jujubes, and sweet rice. Considered an energy-boosting dish best eaten on hot days, it is a classic Korean dish that has become popular among international diners as well. Many restaurants even add samgye-tang to their menu during the summer, an example of its popularity. 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

• Welcome! For here or to go?

**Eoseo oseyo!**

**Deusigo gasinayo animyeon pojanghae deurilkkayo?**

• For here, please./ To go.

**Yeogiseo meokgo galgeyo / Pojang haejuseyo.**

• May I take your order?

**Joomoon hashi gessoyo?**



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



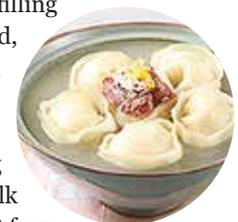
Kimchi is a fermented dish made with vegetables and a variety of seasoning ingredients. There are over 300 varieties, but when it was first made prior to the Three Kingdoms Period (AD 57-668), it required a very simple recipe of salting and storing napa cabbage in a ceramic container for fermentation. 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.

# 100 Korean

## Key phrases for food at a restaurant

- Do you have an English menu?  
**Yeongeoro doen menyupani isseupnikka?**
- Yes, we have an English menu./ No.  
**Ne isseupnida. / Anio eopsseupnida.**
- Where is the toilet?  
**Hwajangsil-eun eodie isseupnikka?**



### Galbi-jjim: Soft and tender, the quintessential holiday food

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

### Jeyuk-bokkeum: Plenty to share with while sizzling hot

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

### Japchae: A classic dish on festive days

Japchae (glass noodles with sautéed vegetables) is made by boiling glass noodles, then draining and mixing them with stir-fried spinach, carrots, mushrooms, beef and onions. The term japchae is a combination of jap, meaning “mix, gather, or plentiful” and chae, meaning “vegetables.” Thus, it can be translated as “assorted mixed vegetables.” No Korean festivity is complete without japchae. It has

long been perceived as a luxurious and elegant dish, and was always served on birthdays, weddings and 60th birthday celebrations. Japchae was first created in the 17th century when King Gwanghaegun hosted a palace banquet. It is recorded in the Gwanghaegun Ilgi (Daily Records of King Gwanghaegun's Reign) that Yi Chung, one of the king's favorites, had the habit of personally presenting unusual dishes to the king. Gwanghaegun relished these dishes so much that he would not start a meal until they arrived. Among these unique dishes was japchae, which the king favored over all the rest.



### Gimbap: A full meal in a single roll

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



### Tteok-bokki: The most popular snack

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



### Dakgangjeong: Second to none and goes with any drink

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



– Korea Tourism Organization

COPYRIGHTS ©KOREATOURLS ORGANIZATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
www.visitkorea.or.kr



STARS AND STRIPES

Unlimited Digital Access

Web+Mobile

Get access at [stripes.com/digital-access](http://stripes.com/digital-access)



# The USO connects you to family, home & country

Your service to our country can take you to the far corners of the earth, but America's love and support follow you wherever you go. The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home, and country throughout their service to the nation. USO Korea is a place where you will find your "home away from home." It is the ideal place for newcomers to get their bearings, local military families and guests to gather, for those on deployments to connect to loved ones, and for those in transit to relax and unwind. You can enjoy all the amenities provided at our five centers around the peninsula with everything from Pot Luck Mixers and Taco Night, to salsa dancing, Korean lessons and unique events like Special Delivery baby showers with What to Expect Author Heidi Murkoff (coming October 2018). USO



Korea

Korea offers a wide variety of free programs and services to keep you and your family connected to those things you often miss while rendering service to our country.

To see the full scope of our amenities, programs and events, check out USO Korea website at <https://korea.uso.org/> or the USO Centers' Facebook pages. Center hours listed below are minimal hours, and many centers also have extended hours during exercises. Visit all five!



## Rest & Relaxation

Air Conditioning, Cozy, Relaxing Environment with Recliners, Couches, Beanbag Chairs and AFN Cable Television.

## Food & Beverages

Free Drinks and Snacks, Coffee & Tea, Food Programs.

\*Amenities may slightly differ from location to location

## Multimedia & Gaming

DVD & Blu-ray Player, PS4, TV & Cable, Wii U, Xbox 360, Xbox One.

## Connectivity

CAC Readers, Computers & Laptops, DSN Phone, Charging Stations, Desk & Work Areas, Printers, Wi-Fi, Print, copy, scan services, Skype telephone calls.

## 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.

Facebook.com/CASEYUSO



## USO Osan AB

Bldg #916, across from Chili's

DSN: 784-0469

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

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

Facebook.com/USOatOSAN



## USO Camp Humphreys - North

Building #6400 Rm #H105

DSN: 723-5364

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat. and Sun. Closed

Facebook.com/uso.humphreys



Learn more about USO Korea

Welcome to your USO Pacific



USO Camp Casey

USO Osan AB

USO Camp Humphreys North  
USO Camp Humphreys South

USO Camp Walker

Culture

Education

Transportation

Private vehicles

Legal

Living

Food

Leisure



### USO Camp Humphreys - South

Building #375  
Across the street from Burger King  
DSN: 753-6281  
Hours: Mon. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Facebook.com/uso.humphreys



### USO Camp Walker

Building #318  
Across the street from the PX  
DSN: 764-4437  
Hours: Daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Facebook.com/USO.CampWalker



**VOLUNTEERS:** Interested in joining an awesome family during your time away from home? We are always looking for passionate volunteers at all our locations! Please register online at [volunteers.uso.org](http://volunteers.uso.org) to join the team. We can't wait to meet you!



**USO Mobile App:** To learn about USO programs and services near you, make sure to download the USO Mobile App, for both iPhone and Android.





## Here to serve the overseas American military community

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

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

While millions of Americans serving overseas have tuned in to AFN for popular entertainment over the years, the network has

served an equally crucial role for commanders, helping them reach the force and their families, both on and off military installations. From mobile radio vans communicating to American forces advancing in World War II, to crucial force protection messaging via radio and social media during terrorist attacks, typhoons and emergencies, AFN remains a trusted source for real-time information.

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

Korea.

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

What hasn’t changed since 1942 is that AFN continues to provide the most deserving audience in the world with real-time force protection updates and the very best radio and TV entertainment, news and sports. Let us know what you think. Give us feedback at [myafn.net](http://myafn.net). Click on the “contact us” tab!

— George A. Smith

# Japan's Tropical Side Welcome to Okinawa

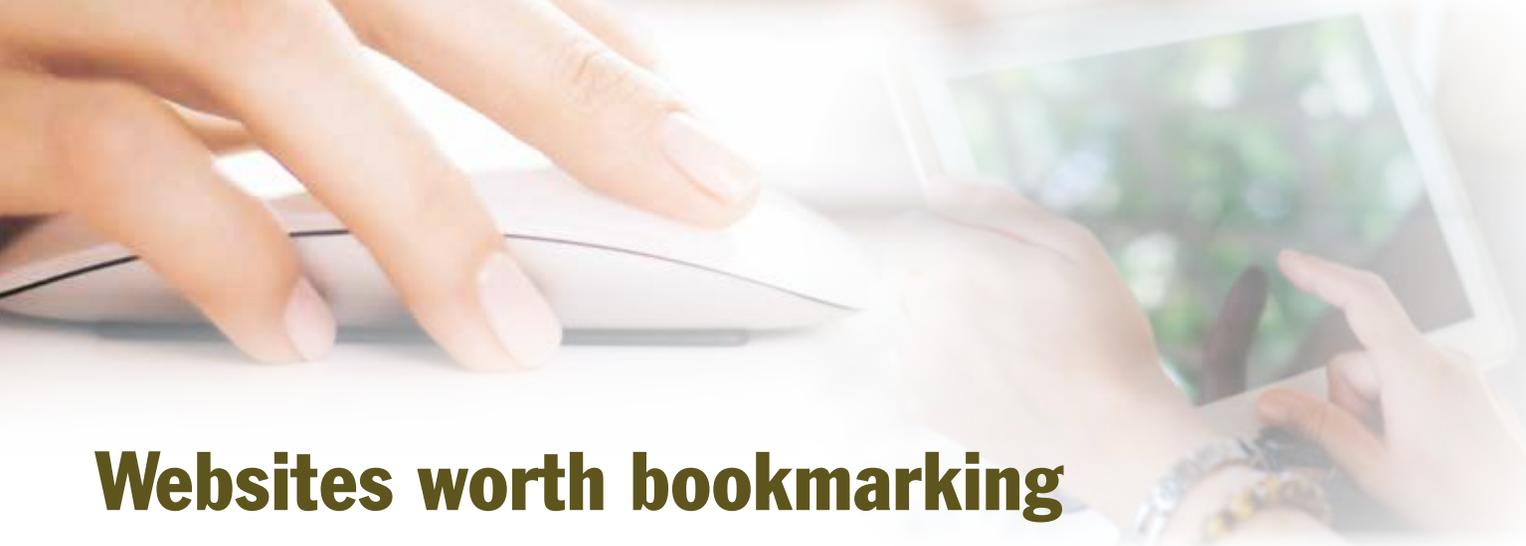
Snorkeling and Diving, Sightseeing Bus, Tour, Marine Sports, Island Tour, Rent-a-car



Enjoy an Adventure-Filled Stay  
Year-Round Activities Available on both Land and Sea  
Feel the Colors and Rhythms of Okinawa

Contact / Korea: Tel : +82-2-521-7246 (24h)  
Okinawa: Tel : +81-98-941-6828

Facebook address: [www.facebook.com/wowokinawago](http://www.facebook.com/wowokinawago)  
<http://www.wowokinawa-tour.com/>



# Websites worth bookmarking

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

**Bustago** is an integrated electronic service for intercity buses. It offers mobile and Internet intercity ticket reservations and home ticketing without visiting terminals. [www.bustago.or.kr/](http://www.bustago.or.kr/)

**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](http://www.communitykorea.com)

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

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

**Gb** is a local government run website in Gyeongsangbuk-do area, offering information about local festivals, events, government activities more. [www.gb.go.kr/eng/main.jsp](http://www.gb.go.kr/eng/main.jsp)

**Haps Korea**, if you're visiting Busan, has you covered on what's happening there. [hapskorea.com](http://hapskorea.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Live in Korea** is a Ministry of Gender

Equality and Family run website. It has comprehensive information on daily life in Korea, from Korean language to culture.

[www.liveinkorea.kr](http://www.liveinkorea.kr)

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

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

**Seoul Metro** provides details on the city's subway system including maps, fares, timetables – even commuter etiquette. Choose English at the top of the homepage. [www.seoulmetro.co.kr](http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr)

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

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

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

**The 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](http://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](http://10mag.com)

**Zen Kimchi** is for those who like exploring a country through its food. It offers restaurant reviews and info on food-related events and tours. [zenkimchi.com](http://zenkimchi.com)

## Did You Know?

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

# Helpful travel tips

Yep, you are now in Korea! Things are a little bit different here, but below are some tips to help you adjust to your new environment.



## Explore Seoul with special pass

Purchasing a SEOUL TRAVEL PASS will allow you to get the most bang for your buck if you plan on exploring the South Korean capital. Exclusively for foreigners, the pass will get you free admission or a discount to 96 major tourist attractions, including Gyeongbokgung Palace and Namsan Seoul Tower. Cardholders will also get discounts for performances at various venues and duty-free shops across the city. You can also use the card for public transportation, adding money to it as needed to pay for the subway, bus or taxi conveniently. Designated local dealers (Incheon, Gimpo Airport and the Myeong-dong Tourist Information Center) sell the pass, which can be used for 24 to 72 hours depending on which pass you purchase.

The Seoul Travel PASS app brings the convenience of the card to your phone, however, the app will not work for train, taxi or bus fares. The app and card also include 24-hour use of Seoul's public bicycles, a one-way ride on the Airport Express Train from Incheon to Seoul and one free ride on a Seoul city tour.

**PRICES:** 24-hour pass 39,900 won / 48-hour pass 55,000 won / 72-hour pass 70,000 won



## Fine dust and pollution? There's an app for that!

Living in South Korea, you may find yourself coughing and choking under the thin layer of dust sweeping the country. The fine dust, which most Americans commonly refer to as "Yellow Dust," originates in the deserts of Mongolia and China and is a major health hazard. Despite its name and visual similarity to city smog, it should not be taken lightly.

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

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



## Use app for train travel

Public transportation in Korea is abundant and on the cheap side when you are looking to get off base and explore. Of course, there is always the language barrier. But don't worry, if you are traveling on the train, there is a handy mobile app that will help you navigate the rail system in English.

KorailTalk is used by many foreigners, so you should give it a try. Just type in "Korail" in the app store and KorailTalk will pop up. Set the app to English and off you go. You can book a ticket on the app and just show your reservation info from the phone if the train man asks for your tickets.

If you are not into apps, here's a helpful English website that will help with train travel: [www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizbfForeign\\_pr16100.do?gubun=1](http://www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizbfForeign_pr16100.do?gubun=1)

To make a reservation on the website, you have to print the ticket out yourself or show your reservation info from your phone at a train station ticket window.

## How to do it

1. Type 'Korail' in the app store search bar and install it.
2. Tap the icon circled in red in top-right of the app screen.
3. Tap the icon circled in red in the top-right of the app screen again.
4. Tap the language setting and make your pick.
5. Type required information and book a ticket.

STARS AND STRIPES  
Presents  
**FORCE FOR HIRE**  
A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST

A new podcast from the unique perspective only Stars and Stripes can provide.

Explore the culture, history, myths and facts of private military contracting and the new reality of modern warfare.

Listen Now on



and at [Stripes.com/podcasts](http://Stripes.com/podcasts)

# Exploring Korea

## The top things to do on the ROK

### MUST-SEE SITES

If you are brand new to Korea, here is an absolute must-do list. And if you have family come visit, this list makes a great introduction to the country. The attractions are all easily accessible via public transport, inter-base bus, or base travel offices.

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

### 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 may not be convenient for those on a time crunch or with kids. The palace is the first of four must-dos that are in Seoul.

### 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



Korean folk village

Photo submitted by Koua umeno

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](http://www.nseoutower.co.kr)

### Nandaemun or Dongdaemun (Seoul)

Whether you're into shopping or not, a stop here provides 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](http://www.namdaemunmarket.co.kr)

### Korean War Memorial (Seoul)

Here is another sober reminder of what Korea has been through in its recent past. This 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](http://www.warmemo.or.kr) (Korean)

### Magoksa

Magoksa 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 campground 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 corndog goodness or even go the distance and eat "pundaeggi" (silkworm larva).



Gwangjang market

### 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 [globalinterpark.com/main/main](http://globalinterpark.com/main/main)

### DAY TRIPS

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. 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**.



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 KTO (Korea Tourism) 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.pyeongtaek.go.kr/tourEn/contents.do?mid=0107000000](http://www.pyeongtaek.go.kr/tourEn/contents.do?mid=0107000000)).

A little further afield, up in Osan City, are many wonderful options for day trips ([www.osan.go.kr](http://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 gate, through Sinjang shopping, and left along the train tracks toward the Morin gate.

If it's 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 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](http://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 will be well worth your investment. 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's worthwhile is 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 site, 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](http://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

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.

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 **Guryopo 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 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.

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. 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

EXPLORE on page 54

Find local restaurant reviews,  
travel information,  
community news and events in

STARS AND STRIPES.  
Community Publication

KOREA



Submit your own reviews, articles and organization's information at  
[korea.stripes.com](http://korea.stripes.com)





# Guam Reef Hotel

*On The Beach in The Heart of Guam*

Guam Reef Hotel offers hospitality and high quality entertainment venue. Located in the center of the shopping and entertainment district and within walking distance of all the exciting Tumon attractions.



## RESTAURANTS

Guam Reef Hotel offers a selection of restaurants. Guests can experience the culinary bliss of Sango, Western Food / Japanese Style and Rica & Rico, Pacific Rim Cuisine. Enjoy "Sky Breakfast" at Bayview located on the 18th floor, where you can see a great ocean view.

## ROOMS

Guam Reef Hotel has 427 well-appointed stylish rooms and is located in the heart of Tumon Guam. Our Beach Tower and Infinity Tower offer you a wide range of rooms from modern minimalist to rooms with panoramic views of Tumon Bay. All rooms include a flat-screen TV, hot/cold water dispenser and free Wi-Fi for your pleasant stay.



## BARS

Century XXI Poolside Bar & BBQ serves a selection of light dishes and refreshing drinks to complete your Poolside experience. Do not miss our happy hour at the Top of the Reef with beautiful sunset and night views to make your time on Guam more memorable.

## FITNESS & AMENITIES

A fitness room (678 sq ft) is available to help you unwind and further enhance your stay with us. We also have a microwave on every floor and a coin laundry facility located at the lobby level, available 24 hours for your convenience.



# Guam Reef Hotel

*On The Beach in The Heart of Guam*



# Guam Reef Hotel

*On The Beach in The Heart of Guam*



*Bay View*  
Sky Breakfast

**For Reservations**

Tel: 1-671-649-2229 / 1-671-646-6881

E-Mail: [reservations@guamreef.com](mailto:reservations@guamreef.com)

*\*Military Rates available*



1317 Pale San Vitores Road, Tamuning, Guam 96913

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 trails 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](http://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 Arii 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 capi-

tal; 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.

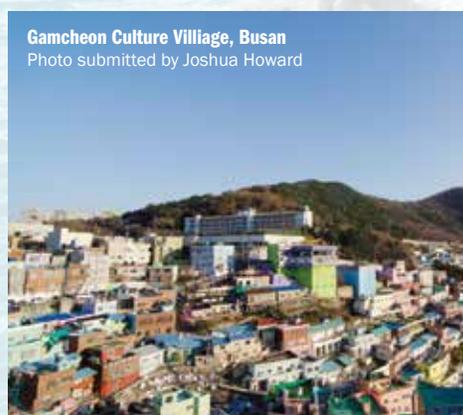
For camping and outdoors, the eastern side of **Jirisan National Park** has trail access and a wonderful campground called Somakgol near a creek to play. It is so colorful in the fall. Continuing your southerly drive will drop you into Goseong county – dinosaur country they call it – and the very informative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



Gamcheon Culture Villiage, Busan  
Photo submitted by Joshua Howard

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



Hansando



Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, Busan  
Photo submitted by Kelly Curtis

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.

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](http://www.jejuolle.org)) It is essential to have a car

here, but cheap rentals can be found online. 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 surrounded 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 Dae 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](http://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](http://eng.templestay.com)
- **Have clothes custom made.** This is the place! For reasonable cost, 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](http://www.meetup.com)
- **Go to a festival.** My favorite by far is the Lotus Lantern Festival in Seoul. The Hwachon 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. Pilsung!

– Kat Nicola



# LAKELAND UNIVERSITY·JAPAN



## An American University in Japan

- Located in convenient Shinjuku
- Small Class Sizes
- Individualized Guidance
- Enrollment Three Times Each Year
- College credits can easily be transferred to other institutions in the U.S.
- All FAFSA programs available



### Military Benefits Available!



USE YOUR MILITARY EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS  
AS WELL AS VETERANS AT LAKELAND UNIVERSITY JAPAN

(POST-9/11 BILL / YELLOW RIBBON, VET ED,  
DMA 189, MONTGOMERY GI BILL)

Contact us and find out how to  
begin your college education in Japan...



Lakeland University Japan Campus

5-7-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022

E-mail: [admissions@japan.lakeland.edu](mailto:admissions@japan.lakeland.edu)

TEL: 03-3225-0425 FAX: 03-3225-0428

URL: [luj.lakeland.edu](http://luj.lakeland.edu)

