



South Korean Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to South Korea Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders may usually enter South Korea as a tourist without a visa for a period not exceeding 90 days. Travellers are advised to have at least six months validity on their passport from the time they expect to leave South Korea. Travellers should be able to provide evidence of their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay and show confirmed onward/return tickets within 90 days of their arrival.

Dual Nationals may be liable for military service upon their return to South Korea. For further information and to confirm that you are eligible to enter South Korea without a visa, please contact a Korean mission on the details below.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in South Korea (the Republic of Korea). Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour. Relations between South Korea and North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) can deteriorate with little notice. More provocations by North Korea directed at South Korea, its neighbours or allies, are possible. See [Safety and security](#).

Regular large-scale public gatherings and demonstrations occur. Avoid protests and demonstrations as they may turn violent. See [Safety and security](#). South Korea screens all arriving passengers at airports for infectious diseases. If you have symptoms, you could be examined or quarantined. See [Entry and exit](#). The monsoon season is from late June to late August. Typhoons can occur in August and September. During severe weather, monitor media for the latest information and follow the advice of local authorities. See [Natural disasters](#).

Travel to the Northern Limit Line Islands, near a disputed maritime boundary, is strictly controlled. Read advice on [preparing for emergencies](#) produced by the Australian Embassy in Seoul.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in South Korea at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to South Korea. Vaccination against Typhoid should also be considered, particularly if travelling to areas with poor sanitation. Persons staying in South Korea for extended periods or frequent travellers should consider immunisation against Hepatitis B and Rabies (especially if working with animals). Those spending at least 4 weeks in rural areas may require vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis or Tick-borne encephalitis if visiting risk areas. There is also a low risk of Malaria in South Korea, depending on their itinerary travellers may require antimalarial drugs and insect avoidance measures. Cholera is reported in South Korea, but immunisation is usually not recommended. Food and water precautions are also advised.

Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to South Korea should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

South Korean Representation in Australia

South Korean Embassy, Canberra

113 Empire Circuit
YARRALUMLA, ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6270 4100
Web: <http://aus-act.mofat.go.kr>

South Korean Consulate General, Sydney

St. James Centre, L 13, 111 Elizabeth St
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9210 0200 (Consular Section)
Web: www.koreasydney.net

South Korean Consulate, Melbourne

Level 10, 636 St Kilda Road
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Tel: (03) 9533 3800
Fax: (03) 9533 3801



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Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in South Korea Time Differences between South Korea and Australia

South Korea is Greenwich Mean Time +9 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone used in Korea is called Korea Standard Time (KST).

Korea, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 11am; Darwin 12:30pm; Brisbane 1pm; Adelaide 1:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2pm.
Korea, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 11am; Darwin, Adelaide 12:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 1pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for South Korea: +82
To Dial Australia Call:
001 or 002 followed by 61 <City> <Number>
Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
Korea Telecom - 00 722 610
LG U+ - 00 309 611
Onse Telecom - 00 36 9610
Users may need to insert phone cards or coins.
Travelex Card Services: - 00 798 443 1170
Visa Global Assistance: - 00 798 11 908 8212
MasterCard: - 00 79 811 887 0823
American Express Travellers Cheques:
080 779 0880
Emergency Services:
Ambulance - 1339
Fire - 119
Police - 112

These services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it is best to seek the assistance of an Korean speaker to call the emergency services.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports
Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _
Credit Cards
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _
Travel Insurance
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in South Korea

Australian Embassy, South Korea
19th Floor, Kyobo Building
1 Jongro-1-Ga, Jongro-Gu
SEOUL 110-714
Tel: (+82 2) 2003 0100
Fax: (+82 2) 722 9264
Web: www.southkorea.embassy.gov.au

Australian Honorary Consulate
General, Busan
Room 802 Samwhan Officetel
830-295 Bumil 2-dong, Dong-Ku
BUSAN
Tel: (+82 51) 647 1762
Fax: (+82 51) 647 1764

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in South Korea are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Seoul, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering South Korea:

Alcohol: 1 L of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes.
 Perfume: 60 ml.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of US\$400.

Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry. Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Please go to www.customs.go.kr for further details on South Korean Customs and Duty Free regulations.

South Korean National Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day	13 Jun: Local Election Day
15-18 Feb: Seollal (New Year)	15 Aug: Liberation Day
01 Mar: Independence Day	23-26 Sep: Chuseok
05/07 May: Children's Day	03 Oct: National Foundation
22 May: Buddha's Birthday	09 Oct: Hangeul Day
06 Jun: Memorial Day	25 Dec: Christmas Day

Other days of note:

01 May: Labor Day	17 Jul: Constitution Day
08 May: Parents' Day	01 Oct: Armed Forces Day

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to www.border.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug: European (the British and Japanese sockets are also used but are being phased out).

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia)

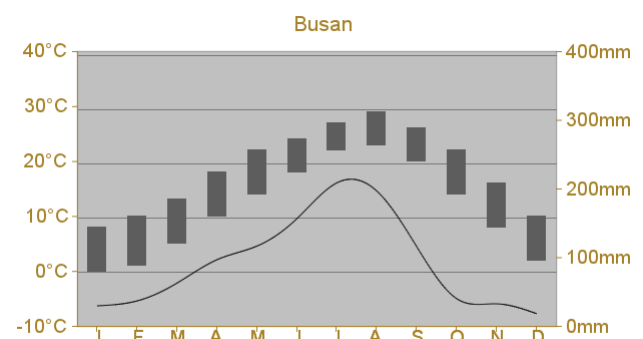
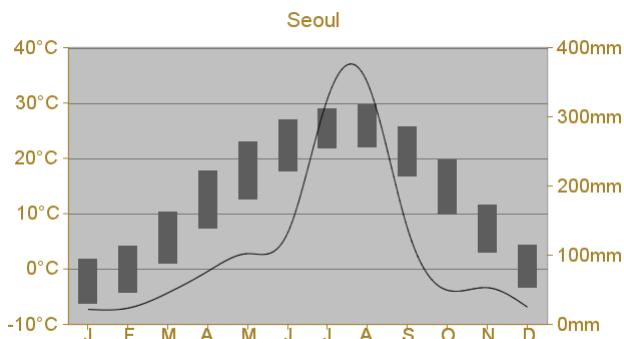
Modem Plug Type: USA

Special Tip: Outlets that use British or Japanese plugs may be 110-120 volts. Please check before using.

Source: Korjo Travel Products. Please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au for further information on this matter.



Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in South Korea



Source: Korea Meteorological Administration. For local forecasts please go to <http://web.kma.go.kr/eng>

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Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 804 Korean Won
 1,000 Korean Won (KRW) = 1.24 Australian Dollars

Buy Rate (average rate when buying KRW cash in Australia)

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 731 Korean Won
 1,000 Korean Won (KRW) will cost 1.37 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "Buy Rate" adds 10% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the South Korean Won and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 4,783 Korean Won
 Big Mac South Korea: ₩4,400 (KRW) = 5.47 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in South Korea is therefore 8% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

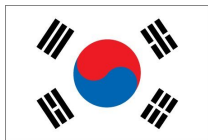
Currency Cheat Sheet

W500 = \$0.68 AUD		W10,000 = \$13.68 AUD		W100,000 = \$136.84 AUD	
W1,000 = \$1.37 AUD	W2,000 = \$2.74 AUD	W3,000 = \$4.11 AUD	W4,000 = \$5.47 AUD	W5,000 = \$6.84 AUD	W6,000 = \$8.21 AUD
W7,000 = \$9.58 AUD	W8,000 = \$10.95 AUD	W9,000 = \$12.32 AUD	W10,000 = \$13.68 AUD	W20,000 = \$27.37 AUD	W30,000 = \$41.05 AUD
W40,000 = \$54.74 AUD	W50,000 = \$68.42 AUD	W60,000 = \$82.10 AUD	W70,000 = \$95.79 AUD	W80,000 = \$109.47 AUD	W90,000 = \$123.16 AUD
W100,000 = \$136.84 AUD	W200,000 = \$273.68 AUD	W300,000 = \$410.52 AUD	W400,000 = \$547.36 AUD	W500,000 = \$684.19 AUD	W600,000 = \$821.03 AUD
W700,000 = \$957.87 AUD	W800,000 = \$1,094.71 AUD	W900,000 = \$1,231.55 AUD	W1 million = \$1,368.39 AUD		

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of South Korea is the Won, which is abbreviated using the symbol W or ₩ (for example W1,000). The subunit of the Won is the jeon, but it is now obsolete for day to day transactions. The following units of currency are the most common in Korea but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised not to take the below images with them when travelling.





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About South Korea

Full Name: Taehan-min'guk (Republic of Korea).

Independence: 1945 (from Japan).

Size: 99,720 km² (45% the size of Victoria).

Population: 49 million (2.2 times larger than Australia).

Ethnicity: Homogeneously Korean.

Language: Korean (English is widely taught in schools as a second language).

Religion: Christian 26%, Buddhist 23%, other or unknown 1.3%, none 49%.

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$32,100 (Australia US\$41,000)

Significant Dates:

- 2333 BC - Kingdom of Gojoseon is founded by Dan-gun (according to legend).
- 57 BC-676 AD - Three Kingdoms Period. (Goguryeo, Silla & Baekje).
- 676-935 - The Unified Silla Kingdom.
- 698-926 - The Balhae Kingdom.
- 918-1392 - The Goryeo Dynasty.
- 1392-1910 - The Joseon Dynasty.
- 1595-98 - Japanese Invasion.
- 1910-45 - Japanese Colonial Period.
- 1948 - Nth & Sth Korea established.
- 1950-53 - Korean War.
- 1988 - Seoul hosts the Olympics.
- 1993 - First civilian president elected.

Largest Cities:

Seoul	pop - 10.4 million
Busan	pop - 3.6 million
Incheon	pop - 2.7 million
Daegu	pop - 2.5 million
Daejeon	pop - 1.5 million
Gwangju	pop - 1.4 million
Ulsan	pop - 1.1 million