

Local Information

1. Climate



Korea has four distinct seasons. August in Korea is in end of summer. The average temperature is 23 ° C to 30 ° C (74 ° F to 86 ° F) and the humidity is 77%, . The weather is generally sunny and isolated rainy. For more details, visit the Korea Meteorological Administration website at www.kma.go.kr.

2. Currency and Credit Cards



The unit of Korean currency is the Won. Coin denominations are ₩10, ₩50, ₩100, ₩500. Bank notes are ₩1,000, ₩5,000 and ₩10,000. Bank checks are circulated in denominations of ₩100,000 and over. Foreign currency and traveler's checks can be converted into Korean Won at foreign exchange banks and other authorized money exchangers. Credit cards, including VISA, American Express, Diners Club, Master Card and JCB, are accepted at major hotels, department stores, and large restaurants. The exchange rate is subject to fluctuation. Please refer to exchange rate (<http://www.xe.net/ucc/>).

3. Quarantine



All live animals and animal products entering Korea must be accompanied by valid certificates issued by the exporting country's government. Declare all import animals and animal products upon arrival to the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service, where they must be inspected. Cloven-hoofed animals and their products that are shipped from import-restricted areas will be sent back or destroyed. For details, please contact the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service (<http://nqs.mohw.go.kr/english/index.html>).

4. Electricity



In Korea, outlets for 220 volts 60 Herz are dominant. Always check the power supply before using your equipment.

5. Passport and Visa



Any foreign visitor wishing to enter the Republic of Korea must have a valid passport. Visitors with confirmed outbound tickets may stay in Korea up to 30 days without visas. Exceptions to this may apply to citizens of some countries. Please confirm the requirement of visas.

6. Tax and Tipping



Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on most goods at a standard rate of 10%. In major tourist spots, a 10% VAT plus a 10% service charge is added to the bills.

7. Transportations

• Subway

The subway is the most efficient and convenient way to get around Seoul, Busan and Daegu. The subway system has developed into these cities main transport system and continues to provide a fast, safe, and comfortable means of transportation. In Seoul, it links Seoul with its outlying areas and satellite cities. On the intercity network, trains



operate at intervals of 2.5 to 3 minutes during the morning and evening rush hours, and intervals of 4 to 6 minutes during non-peak times. You can get a subway map at the web site, <http://www.seoulsubway.co.kr>.

- **Bus**

- Local City Buses**



Inter-city bus networks connect virtually all cities and towns in the country and are an economical way to travel. Exclusive bus lanes are enforced in the daytime, which makes it less time-consuming to travel by bus. City buses are numbered according to their routes, but since signs are only in Korean and no English timetables are available, it is advisable to know the bus number in advance.

- Long Distance Express Buses**



Two services, regular express buses and deluxe express buses, provide efficient access to all major towns in Korea. Deluxe buses offer spacious seats and amenities such as mobile phones and VCRs. Late-night deluxe express buses run on some lines. Seoul Express Bus Terminal and East Seoul Express Bus Terminal are the two busiest terminals in Seoul, which are located within the central city.

Busan's Express Bus Terminal is located in the eastern part of downtown.

- **Train**



Passengers trains operated by the Korean National Railroad are reasonably fast, reliable, and very inexpensive by world standards. The trains run on a strict schedule and are not affected by traffic congestion during the holiday seasons. An extensive network covers almost every part of the nation. For more information, please refer to the Korean National Railroad website,

<http://www.korail.go.kr>.

- **Air**



Korean Air and Asiana Airlines provide domestic air transport service, connecting Seoul with other major cities, involving one-hour flights at most. They also connect Jeju Island with major cities in Korea. Gimpo Airport is used for domestic flights only, while Incheon International Airport had replaced it as the gateway for international flights. The Airport website is

<http://www.airport.or.kr>.

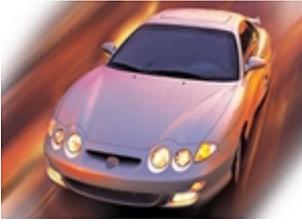
- **Taxi services**



There are two kinds of taxis - regular and deluxe. Fares are based on distance and time. The fare for deluxe taxi is somewhat higher than that of regular taxi, but more convenient as they can be ordered by phone.

- **Car rental**

Driving in Korea can be an exciting and effective way of getting around. An extensive road and expressway network is available, which means you can visit every corner of the



country. Road numbers and destinations are clearly indicated on road signs. Drivers must meet the following requirements: one year of driving experience, an international driver's license valid for a year from the date of entry, at least 21 years of age, and valid passport.

The speed limit is 60km/hr for most roads in the city and 80km/hr for city expressways including Olympic Expressway.

Driving while intoxicated involves a very heavy penalty. You can reserve the car rental service at <http://www.avis.co.kr>.