

NATIONAL PROFILE

2025-2026 SOUTH KOREA



Welcome! 환영합니다!



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Welcome to 5,000 years old country, Korea

We are very happy to welcome you to spend a year in the Republic of Korea.

This national profile is a brief introduction about what you can expect during your exchange year. This will give you a basic idea on how the Korean society is and how it is living in Korea. Obviously, this book will not cover all the issues you may be curious about but if you read it carefully it will be a step in the right direction.

Living in another country is completely different from travelling. Therefore your effort and commitment to adapt to foreign culture will give you rewards of deep cross-cultural understanding.

Please read this National Profile carefully so that you can get a great deal of important information.

We hope you are all set to experience exciting Korea!

Best wishes,

ICYE South Korea Team

Korea in Brief

General Information

Capital city : Seoul

Official language : Korean

Area : - Total 100,210 km² (109th)
- Water (%) 0.3 (301 km²)

Population : 50,219,669

GDP : € 1.412 trillion

Currency : South Korean won (₩, KRW)

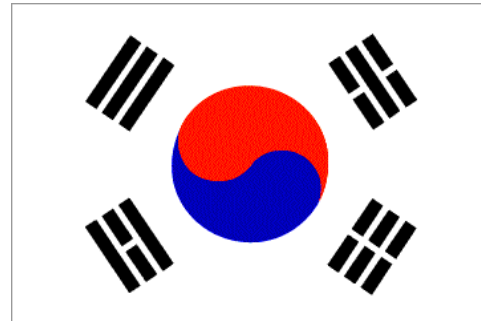
Time zone : Korea Standard Time (UTC+9)

Calling code : +82

Religion : None(46%), Christianity(29%), Buddhist(23%), Folk(1%), Other(1%)

Plugs : 220V

Korean Flag [Taegukgi]



Etymology

The name Korea derives from Goryeo, itself referring to the ancient kingdom of Goguryeo, the first Korean dynasty visited by Persian merchants who referred to Koryŏ (Goryeo; 고려) as Korea. The term Koryŏ also widely became used to refer to Goguryeo, which renamed itself Koryŏ in the 5th century. (The modern spelling, "Korea", first appeared in late 17th century in the travel writings of the Dutch East India Company's Hendrick Hamel.)

After Goryeo fell in 1392, Joseon became the official name for the entire territory, though it was not universally accepted. The new official name has its origin in the ancient country of Gojoseon (Old Joseon). In 1897, the Joseon dynasty changed the official name of the country from Joseon to Daehan Jeguk (Korean Empire). The name Daehan, which means "great Han" literally, derives from Samhan (Three Hans). However, the name Joseon was still widely used by Koreans to refer to their country, though it was no longer the official name. Under Japanese rule, the two names Han and Joseon coexisted. There were several groups who fought for independence, the most notable being the Daehan Minguk Imsi Jeongbu.

Following the surrender of Japan, in 1945, the Republic of Korea (Daehan Minguk) was adopted as the legal name for the new country. Since the government only controlled the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, the informal term South Korea was coined, becoming increasingly common in the Western world. While South Koreans use Han (or Hanguk) to refer to the entire country, North Koreans use Joseon as the name of the country.

Geography



South Korea occupies the southern portion of the Korean Peninsula, which extends some 1,100 km (680 mi) from the Asian mainland. This mountainous peninsula is flanked by the Yellow Sea to the west, and Sea of Japan (East Sea) to the east. Its southern tip lies on the Korea Strait and the East China Sea.

South Korea can be divided into four general regions: an eastern region of high mountain ranges and narrow coastal plains; a western region of broad coastal plains, river basins, and rolling hills; a southwestern region of mountains and valleys; and a southeastern region dominated by the broad basin of the Nakdong River.

About three thousand islands, mostly small and uninhabited, lie off the western and southern coasts of South Korea. Jeju-do is about 100 kilometres (about 60 mi) off the southern coast of South Korea. It is the country's largest island.

Administrative Units

There are three administrative tiers in South Korea. The highest tier includes seven metropolitan cities and nine provinces(do). Designated metropolitan cities are those urban areas with a population of over one million. Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is the largest urban center, having 10 million residents. Busan is the second largest city, with a population of over four million. Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon and Ulsan, in descending order, are each home to more than one million people. At the second administrative tier, provinces(do) are subdivided into cities(si) and counties(gun). A city has a population of more than 50,000. A gun consists of one town (eup) and five to ten myeon. Although they are administrative units, provinces(do) also play an important role in the regional identification of the



people and many Koreans often identify themselves by the province in which they were born and raised.

Metropolitan cities are subdivided into districts(gu). The lowest units are dong in cities and ri in provinces. In the last several decades, South Korea has witnessed the rapid growth of its urban centers. The population of these areas now constitutes over 85 percent of the national total. Urban growth has been particularly spectacular along the Seoul-Busan corridor, the Seoul metropolitan area and the Gyeongsang Province area. By contrast, the southwestern and northeastern regions have sustained a considerable loss in population.

People

The Koreans are one ethnic family speaking one language. Linguistic and anthropological studies as well as legendary sources clearly distinguish Koreans from the Chinese and the Japanese. Sharing distinct physical characteristics, Koreans are believed to be descendants of several Mongol tribes that migrated onto the Korean Peninsula from Central Asia. Koreans were a homogeneous people by the beginning of the Christian era.

Climate

Korea lies in the temperate zone and has four distinct seasons. In late March or early April, the trees burst into leafy splendor to make the beginning of spring. Mostly sunny days can be expected from March to May.

During the relatively hot and rainy summer season, the vegetation is lush. By June, average temperature is over 20°C(68°F). Monsoon rains usually begin around the end of June and last until mid-to-late July. August is hot.

The coming of autumn in late September brings continental winds and clear, dry weather, making the fall months perhaps the most pleasant time of year. October's vivid golds and vibrant reds create colorful panorama.

December to February are cold and dry with occasional snow or rain. During the winter months, three or four days of cold weather are often followed by a few warmer days



Language

The Korean language, like Hungarian, Turkish, Mongolian, and Finnish, is classified into the Ural-Altaic Language group. Hangeul, the Korean alphabet, is composed of 10 simple vowels and 14 consonants. A group of scholars under the patronage of King Sejong developed this systematic rendition of spoken sound in 1443. It is widely acclaimed by linguists as an ingenious invention.

The chart on the next page presents the Romanization of the 24 hangeul letters. This Romanization is based on the new Romanization system proclaimed in 2000 by the Korean government.

However, because all road signs and information boards that are based on McCune-Reischauer system, the old official Romanization cannot be changed immediately, there might be some coexistence of two systems through 2005.

Consonants								
ㄱ	g, k	ㅂ	b, p	ㅋ	k			
ㄴ	n	ㅅ	s	ㅌ	t			
ㄷ	d, t	ㅇ	ng, silent	ㅍ	p			
ㄹ	r, l	ㅈ	j	ㅎ	h			
ㅁ	m	ㅊ	ch					
Vowels								
ㅏ	a	ㅜ	o	ㅡ	eu			
ㅑ	ya	ㅠ	yo	ㅣ	i			
ㅓ	eo	ㅗ	u					
ㅕ	yeo	ㅠ	yu					
a g Silent			Hangeul is written in syllabic Units made up of two, three, or Four letters					
h	한	u				국	어	eo
n		k						
han		guk					eo (Korean language)	

History

The habitation of early man in Korea appears to have started about half a million years ago. The first kingdom, named Go Joseon, was formed in 2,333 B. C.

By the first century B.C., Korea's three ancient kingdoms of Goguryeo (37B.C.-A.D.668), Baekje (18B.C.-A.D.660), and the Shilla (57B.C.-A.D.676) ruled the whole Korean Peninsula and much of Manchuria; they were very far the most powerful and eminent kingdoms in the area. The period of their rule, 57B.C.- A.D.668, is known as the Three Kingdoms period. Goguryeo and Baekje were ultimately vanquished by Shilla in A.D.668.

In A.D.676, Shilla unified the peninsula for the first time. The Unified Shilla period, A.D.676-935, was a golden age for Korean culture. The advancements in the area of

Buddhist art are especially noteworthy.

In the succeeding Goryeo Dynasty, A.D.918-1392, an aristocratic government was instituted. Buddhism was established as the state religion and came to have great influence in the political and administrative spheres. The name "Korea" is a derivative of "Goryeo".

The Joseon Dynasty A.D.1392-1910, was the peninsula's final dynasty. During this period various political and economic reforms were enacted. The most prominent of there was adoption of Confucianism as the state ideology. The surge of creative literary endeavors and the invention of



hangeul, the Korean alphabet, in 1443, invest this period with special cultural significance. Hanyang, now known as Seoul, was established as the dynasty's capital city in 1394. Palaces and gates constructed during this period can still be seen in the city today.

The Japanese invasion of the peninsula in 1910 ended the Joseon Dynasty. Korea remained under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years until the end of World War II. On

August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies and withdrew from the Korean Peninsula, which was then decided into two: South Korea in the free world and North Korea in the communist bloc. The Republic of Korea in the south established an independent government three years later.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, the North Korea invaded the South. An armistice agreement was signed three years later in 1953.

South Korea's tireless post-war reconstruction efforts were highly successful in the promotion of national prosperity and stability.

Customs

Sense of Seniority – Although this is changing, the traditional Confucian social structure is still prevalent in Korea. Age or seniority is all important and juniors are expected to follow the wishes of their elders without question.

Therefore, people often ask you your age and sometimes your marital status (Interesting is that no matter how old you are at least among family members, you cannot be regarded as an adult if you are not married.) to find out their position relative to you. These questions are not meant to intrude on your privacy and you need not answer, if you don't want to.

Names – The majority of Koreans have one of a small set of family names: Kim (about 21% of all Koreans), Yi (or Lee or Rhee, 14%), Park or Pak, 8%), Choi (or Choe), Jeong (or Chung), Jang (or Chang), Han, Lim, etc. A Korean name consists of a family name, in almost every case one syllable, plus a given name usually of two syllables. The family name comes first. A Korean woman does not take her husband's family name, but their children take the father's family name. But, lately their children can take the father's family name and the mother's name.

Marriage – Koreans think marriage is the most important passage in one's life and a divorce is regarded a disgrace not only for the couple but also for their families – even though the divorce

rate is growing rapidly these days.

Today's typical wedding ceremony is somewhat different from what it was in old times: first a Western-style ceremony is usually held at a wedding hall or a church with white dress and tuxedo, then later in the day comes the traditional ceremony in a different room, in colorful traditional costume.

Jerye (Ancestral Memorial Rite) – According to a traditional Korean belief, when people die their spirits do not immediately depart; instead it takes four generations. For this period the deceased are still regarded as family members and Koreans reaffirm the relationship between ancestors and descendants through *jerye* on the special days like Seollal and Chuseok, as well as on the day the ancestors passed away. Koreans also believe that people can live well and happily thanks to benefits their ancestors bestow.

Body Language – When you beckon to a person, do with your palm down and fluttering fingers. It is not polite to beckon with palm up – especially using only one finger, because we do that way only for dogs.

Hanbok – The *hanbok* has been the Korean people's unique traditional costume for thousands of years. The beauty and grace of Korean culture can be seen in photographs of women dressed in the *hanbok*. Before the arrival of Western-style clothing one hundred years ago, the *hanbok* was everyday attire. Men wore *jeogori* (Korean jackets) with *baji* (trousers) while women wore *jeogori* with *chima* (skirts). Today, the *hanbok* is worn on days of celebration such as weddings, Seollal (lunar New Year's Day) or Chuseok (Thanksgiving Day).



Ondol – Traditional Korean rooms have multiple functions. Rooms are not labeled or reserved for a specific purpose; there is no definite bedroom or dining room for example. Rather, tables and mats are brought in as needed. Most people sit and sleep on the floor on thick mats.

Underneath the floors are stone or concrete flues. Traditionally hot air was vented through the flues to provide heat. Clay or cement would be placed over the stones to protect the residents from noxious gasses. This type of underfloor heating is called “*ondol*.” Nowadays hot water covered with linoleum.



Gimjang – *Gimjang* is the age-old Korean practice of preparing

winter kimchi that has been passed down from generation to generation. Because very few vegetables are grown in the three or four winter months, *Gimjang* takes place in early winter and provides what has become a staple Korean food.

For Koreans, a dinner table without kimchi is unthinkable.

Oriental Medicine – Oriental medicine considers decreased vital energy and a weakened immune system as the cause of disease – not a problem of a particular body part, but rather an imbalance of the life forces in the whole body. Therefore Oriental medicine seeks to treat disease by strengthening the immune system and restoring the



harmony within the body, not by removing pathogenic factors.
 Major fields of Oriental medicine include herbal medicine, acupuncture, moxa treatment, and cupping therapies.

Banks

You can open an account in any banks, but to change money the best bank is the Korea Exchange Bank (외환은행). They do not charge you for a commission and the exchange rate is usually very current and good. You also can make a cash card when you open an account to deposit or withdraw to/from your bank account through ATM(Automated Teller Machine) anywhere.

Foods



Typical Korean meal

- 1 : rice (밥)
- 2 : soup (국)
- 3 : spoon (숟가락)
- 4 : chopsticks (젓가락)
- 5 : side dishes (반찬)

The basic meal in Korea consists of a bowl of rice ('BAB'), soups ('KUK') and many side dishes ('Banchan'). There are many different types of side dishes: kimchi (always!), vegetables cooked in different styles, boiled dishes flavored with soy sauce, grilled meat or fish, pan-fried meat or fish, and raw fish or seafood. Koreans use chopsticks and spoons. Koreans are the only people in East Asia to eat their rice and soup with spoons.

No Korean meal would be completed without kimchi. Kimchi is a kind of fermented vegetable. It is preserved in a mixture of salt and other ingredients. Soon, you may realize how much Koreans love it and how often Koreans eat it. Then you will be one of two: love it or hate it. Eating out is quite common in Korea. Normally, Koreans eat lunch and dinner outside.



The food is just something, which you have to get used to - because it is part of the culture. There are few fatty foods in Korea. Normally food is very healthy. Welcome to Korean Cuisine. You may enjoy them!

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN ARE VERY UNUSUAL IN KOREA AND IT IS SO HARD TO GET VEGAN AND VEGETERIAN FOOD HERE. IF YOU ARE A VEGAN OR VEGETARIAN, YOU HAVE TO RECONSIDER YOUR PLAN OF STAYING IN KOREA. ICYE SOUTH KOREA CAN NOT SURPORT EXTRA FOOD MONEY FOR VEGAN OR VEGETARIAN. YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN MONEY FOR EXTRA FOOD.

Shopping

Shopping in Korea can be divided into 3 categories: shops, department stores, and markets. Things will be easier to find and select from in department stores, but they will also be more expensive. The shops will also be like this. So, if you have the time and energy to spare, it will be worth your while to go to any one of the several big markets to browse, pick something and haggle over the price.

calculated by US \$1 = ₩ 1,360 / Euro €1 = ₩ 1,410

ITEM	KRW ₩	USD \$	EUR €
A pair of Levi's	120,000	88.23	85.10
A bus/metro ticket in a city	1,250	0.91	0.88
A pair of Nike	140,000	102.94	99.29
A pack of cigarettes (Marlboro)	4,500	3.30	3.19
Cinema (film)	10,000	7.35	7.09
A BigMac(burger) in Mc Donald's	6,000	4.41	4.25
A canned beer (355ml)	2,200	1.61	1.56

National Holidays

New Year's holiday	January 1 st
Lunar New Year's holidays	Last day of the 12 th Moon - the 2 nd day of the 1 st Moon
Independence Day	March 1 st
Children's Day	May 5 th
Buddha's Birthday	8 th day of the 4 th Moon
Memorial Day	June 6 th
Liberation Day	August 15 th
Chuseok holidays	13 th to 15 th days of the 8 th Moon
National Foundation Day	October 3 rd
HanGul Day	October 9 th
Christmas	December 25 th

ICYE South Korea

Brief History

ICYE South Korea is one of the Seoul YMCA International Fellowship Projects. It was officially accepted as an Associate Member of ICYE in November 1986 at the General Assembly in Ghana. Then, in 1988, it was granted Full Member status at the General Assembly in Austria. And ICYE South Korea is continually striving to enhance the program for all people connected with ICYE.

The ICYE South Korea program is separate from Seoul YMCA in 2012.

We own an office at Seoul YMCA Building. ICYE South Korea handles all financial matters and operates all the issues on our own.



National Committee



The ICYE South Korea National Committee as a whole will be responsible for the receiving and sending of exchangees. All of these responsibilities include the following; promotion of the program, screening selecting candidates, organizing conferences and other meetings. The members also serve as consultants to the exchangees, host families and work projects.

The office of ICYE South Korea is in the Seoul YMCA. It has one full-time staff with several co-workers. Most of the co-workers are volunteers who have been exchangees themselves through ICYE program.

The office is open at 9:30am and closed at 6:30pm from Monday to Friday. Saturday and Sunday are off days.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXCHANGEE?

- Age 19-26 years
(Exchangees can't attend high school in Korea, they must be at least 19)
- Interest and Open mind to Korean culture and life style
- Willing to work voluntarily and regularly
- Mature enough to get along with others
- Willing to learn Korean
- Positive attitude to know and experience new things

What do we expect from you? - Three goals for exchange program



The first goal is an easy one to make friends and experience fellowship in a foreign society. The second is more difficult and complex to develop international understanding. To do this, it is basic that the exchangees work to overcome the language and cultural barriers, then they may begin to learn what human issues are important to Korean society and how they are dealt with here.

Further, exchangees can learn what international cooperation can do for all human issues. The third responsibility involves putting ideas into action, whether it would be during their exchange year abroad or when they return home.

Annual Programmes

Orientation (On-Arrival Camp / On-Arrival Programme)

There are two sections in the Orientation which are the On-Arrival Camp and the On-Arrival Programme. (You don't need a slipping bag during the stay in Korea.)

- **On-Arrival Camp**

For 3 days, we will provide you with a chance to adapt yourself to Korean culture with returnees or out-going exchangees. We would love to hear a 10-15 minutes short presentation from you about yourself and your country. Please be prepared for it.

- **On-Arrival Programme**

For 5 days, you will have a Language Course from 9am to 1pm, and Korean culture exposure with returnees or out-going exchangees in the afternoon. If you would like to learn more about Korean language, we will provide the on-going language course in the evening, once a week.

Middle camp

During the middle camp, all of the exchangees, returnees and ICYE staffs will gather together somewhere in Korea to enjoy beautiful Korean landscapes and outdoor activities as well as evaluate your past six months in voluntary work, staying, ICYE program and so on, and find the way to enjoy rest of the year.

Final evaluation camp



Final evaluation camp will take place just before your vacation. It provides you an opportunity to evaluate your experiences throughout the year and to make suggestions for the improvement of the ICYE program in the future.

Practical Advice

Visa information from South Korea 2025-2026

General remarks

All exchanges going to South Korea need to apply for visa. Like other countries, you can get your visa issued in Korean Embassy in your country or nearest countries available.

The Korea Immigration Service has a treatment period of up to 3 weeks – starting from the date they receive the offline application.

IMPORTANT : All Exchanges have to apply D-6 Visa

Please scan all the documents(application form, Certificate of Health, CRB, passport copy etc), Sexual Offender History Check Report(NEW) and send by e-mail to ICYE South Korea

- Jan/Feb program for Exchanges only 6 months.

The Police at the airport will reject the exchangee if departure or arriving with out visa to South Korea and the exchange will have to return home or own country of origin. Please make sure that the visa has the correct period.

The Republic of Korea has recently changed the law for visa regulations. The followings are new regulation and procedure of issuing visa.

WHO DOES WHAT WHEN? – For arrival in August

Sending National Committee, latest by April 30th

- Scan of all documents and send by e-mail to South Korea
 - Application Form
 - Certificate of Health
 - First page of the passport
 - Diploma
 - Criminal Record(CRB)
 - Project Preference
 - Agreement on Participation
 - Motivation letter
 - Front-faced full coloured picture(3.5X4.5cm)
 - Sexual Offender History Check Report(NEW)

ICYE South Korea, by late May

- Makes an official visa cooperation letter for the candidate, and ICYE South Korea staff will applies visa permit number to the Immigration Office in South Korea
ICYE South Korea will be apply 'Application for confirmation of Visa Issuance Form'

- In three weeks(maximum), the Immigration Office sends the visa permit number or the documents for Visa.
- ICYE South Korea sends the visa permit number or the documents for visa to sending NCs by e-mail
 - If ICYE South Korea received the documents of Visa from Immigration Office we would send it by airmail.(It takes less than 7 days.)

But normally Immigration Office send to ICYE South Korea visa permit number.

Make sure :

- That the exchange has a passport valid for at least 6months after planned return.

Sending National Committee/Exchangee

- When sending NCs receive the visa permit number or the document for VISA, sending NCs must visa permit number to the Korean Embassy in sending NCs' countries.
- All exchange must apply 'Application for visa' form in your country.

WHO DOES WHAT WHEN? – For arrival in February

Sending National Committee, latest by November 30th

- Scan of all documents and send by e-mail to South Korea
 - Application Form
 - First page of the passport
 - Criminal Record(CR)
 - Agreement on Participation
 - Front-faced full coloured picture(3.5X4.5cm)
 - Sexual Offender History Check Report(NEW)
 - Certificate of Health
 - Diploma
 - Project Preference
 - Motivation letter

ICYE South Korea, by late December

- Makes an official visa cooperation letter for the candidate, and ICYE South Korea staff will applies visa permit number to the Immigration Office in South Korea
ICYE South Korea will be apply 'Application for confirmation of Visa Issuance Form'
- In three weeks(maximum), the Immigration Office sends the visa permit number or the documents for Visa.

- ICYE South Korea sends the visa permit number or the documents for visa to sending NCs by e-mail
 - If ICYE South Korea received the documents of Visa from Immigration Office we would send it by airmail.(It takes less than 7 days.)

But normally Immigration Office send to ICYE South Korea visa permit number.

Make sure :

- That the exchange has a passport valid for at least 6months after planned return

Sending National Committee/Exchangee

- When sending NCs receive the visa permit number or the document for VISA, sending NCs must visa permit number to the Korean Embassy in sending NCs' countries.
- All exchange must apply 'Application for visa' form in your country.

IMPORTANT :

Information of filling **out Application for Visa form** in your country

▪ **Address in Korea :**

ICYE South Korea, 2nd floor, Seoul YMCA, 69, Jong-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

▪ **Phone No. in Korea :** +82 2 734 7823

▪ **Who will pay for the expense for your stay? :** ICYE South Korea.

▪ **Guarantor or Reference in Korea**

Relationship : Chairman of ICYE South Korea.

Nationality : Republic of Korea

Name : KIM, IN BOK (MR)

Date of Birth : 24/DECEMBER/1944

▪ **Visa permit number**

Residence Permit (Alien Identity Card)

In order to stay in Korea, exchangees must obtain a residency card within 3 months of their arrival in Korea. **You need to bring more than 1 picture (passport-sized recent front-faced full coloured)**, 1 letter from the sponsoring organization (ICYE South Korea). Practically, you will visit the immigration office to register during the orientation with ICYE staff. The registration fee is 30,000 KRW.

Age limits

- - Age 19-27 years
(Exchangees can't attend high school in Korea, they must be at least 19)
- Interest and Open mind to Korean culture and life style
- Willing to work voluntarily and regularly
- Mature enough to get along with others
- Willing to learn Korean
- Positive attitude to know and experience new things

Medical Insurance

Refer to the ICYE Handbook for the participant.

※ Korean government changed a health insurance system at 16th July 2019. If foreigner get the Alien card, they have to pay health insurance fee a monthly.(around 100 USD) but, ICYE South Korea is prepared to translate international health insurance and prepare an exemption application form and waive the payment.

Luggage

Do not bring too many things with you. You need to carry your luggage on your own. PACK LIGHT!

Clothes

When coming to Korea, You should be prepared for all kinds of weather. Summer is baking hot and humid in Korea (35°C hottest) and it rains a lot. You might need a raincoat. In the autumn, the temperature is still hot, but it drops down very fast in the nighttime. So it is the best to have layers of clothing - such as cotton T-shirts and warm pullovers. There are many opportunities to climb mountains. Winter is very cold (-15°C coldest). You might need a warm coat, gloves and a hat. If you are from hotter country, long under wear or duck down jumper would be essential. You can buy all season's clothes in here. You can get practical advice from ICYE staffs or your host family. Usually, clothes are inexpensive in here, but second hand shop is not so popular.

Travelling

During your stay in Korea you will travel around Korea for camps.

You will visit many places for weekend trips with your friends and your host family. But remember, you are an exchangee not a tourist.

When you are away for a while from your hosting place or go travel, please remember following points.

- Our policy about travel is the same as that of ICYE internationally.
- You are allowed to travel freely on your own four weeks holiday at the end of your exchange year. You can also travel during weekends. But we recommend you not to do it every weekend in order to share some of your free time with your host family.
- Always inform your host family when you will be back and keep up with the time.

- ICYE insurance DOES NOT COVER accidents if you have been hitch hiking or driving a motor vehicle and your travel abroad.

Emergency Numbers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| - Fire, Emergency and Ambulance | 119 |
| - Police | 112 |
| - Medical Emergency* | 1339 |
| - National Intelligence Service | 111 |
| - Tourism and Translation Service | 1330 |
| - Coast Guard | 122 |
| - Immigration Contact Centre | 1345 |
| - Volunteer Service for Translation | 1588 5644 |

*Medical Emergencies

There is an emergency medical information centre which is available 24 hours a day by dialing 1339. English-speaking doctors are available to provide medical information in an emergency, as well as advice on finding an open pharmacy (yakguk), some of which are open 24 hours a day, or hospital. To reach this service from a mobile telephone or from outside Seoul, Tel: 02 1339.

Things you may need to bring...

- Passport & Visa
- Photograph for making an Alien Registration Card 2 photos
(3.5cm x 4.5cm, passport photo style recent front-faced full coloured)
- Photographs for general use
(3cm x 4cm recent front-faced full coloured)
- Materials to introduce your country ; flags, maps, pictures, etc.
- Some extra cash(KRW) for your very first days in Korea
- An umbrella
- Towel
- Sleeping Bag
- Swimming suit
- Small souvenirs as a gift for your friends you will have here
- Comfy clothes, shoes and thick coat for winter.
- Traditional spices and foods from your country
- Items for your personal use

Public transportation system

In order to take metro/bus, you should buy a “T-money Transportation Card”. With this card, you can take bus/metro with discounted price and transfer for free or with a little money. Bus fare is 1,250 KRW with cash and 1,150 KRW with T-



money card for one way, and it is a distance scale rates system. Metro fare is also a distant scale rates system and it costs 1,350 KRW with cash and 1,250 KRW with T-money card. First, you need to buy your T-money card at the metro station or at the convenient store. It costs about 2,500 to 3,000 KRW. Then you need to prepay for your transportation card. When you are getting on or off the bus/ metro, you should touch your transportation card to the card reader.

Money

The Korean Currency is Won : Korean Won (₩)

Banknotes : ₩50,000 / ₩10,000 / ₩5,000 / ₩1000

Coins : ₩500 / ₩100 / ₩50 / ₩10



Agreement on Participation

Please read the following rules carefully and after you understand, please send the form with your signature to ICYE South Korea.

1. I am prepared to adapt to the life style / culture of the Republic of Korea and will make an effort to learn Korean.
2. I aware that it is most likely not to have host family in Korea and I wouldn't complain about any assignment / host situation provided by ICYE South Korea.
3. All travel, including the travel month, can only take place after consultation with the project and with ICYE South Korea.
4. I agree that during my exchange period, it is not possible to change assignment / host situation in the first six months and I would not ask to change my assignment / host situation more than one time.
5. I understand that I will get my pocket money from my project, and will never ask any money from the ICYE South Korea.
(Pocket money from the project includes Transportation fee and Food allowance)
6. I will attend all the camps and the meetings arranged by ICYE South Korea.
7. I will NOT SEEK / WORK for any paid job.
8. I will definitely return to my home country at the end of my exchange period.
9. I will take all responsibilities for any problem caused by my disobedience.
10. I understand that ICYE South Korea and my project are not responsible for providing me with food and accommodation during my travel month.
11. I will keep my accommodation tidy at all times. No excuses.
12. As an informal representative of my country, I will be nice, punctual and faithful.

I hereby confirm that I have understood ICYE South Korea's National Profile and agree the above rules.

Date (YYYY/MM/DD) : _____ / Home Country : _____

Name & Signature : _____

ICYE South KOREA

#208, Seoul YMCA, 69, Jong-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea. 03164.

Tel. (+82) 2 734 7823 / Fax. (+82) 2 732 2067

e-mail : icesk@naver.com / web : www.icye.or.kr