

Korea Fact Sheet

Your cheat sheet for business travel in South Korea

Basics

Size: 99,720 sq km (38,502 sq mi) - land (96,920 sq km) and water (2,800 sq km)
Population: 51,635,256
Time zone: UTC+9 (KST)
Capital city: Seoul (population: 10,054,979)
Largest cities:¹Seoul, Busan, Incheon, Daegu, Daejeon, Gwangju
Language: Korean
Religion: Non-religious (56.9%); Protestantism (19.7%); Korean Buddhism (15.5%); Roman Catholicism (7.9%)

Geography

Location: Southern half of the Korean Peninsula, on the far-east side of China.
Climate: **Four distinct seasons.** Mild and short spring and autumn.
High amplitude: 28°C (82.4°F) in the summer to -6°C (21.2°F) in the winter.

Organisation

Government type: Presidential republic
Executive function: Chief of state: President, 5-year term
Head of government: Prime Minister
Cabinet: State Council appointed by the president on the prime minister's recommendation
Legislation: Unicameral National Assembly

Economy 12th largest economy in the world by GDP

Currency: Won (₩), KRW
GDP: US\$ 1,619,423.70
Services (58.3%); Industry (39.3%), Agriculture (2.2%)

Highest-valued exported products: semiconductors, petrochemicals, automobile/auto parts, ships, wireless communication equipment, flat displays, steel, electronics, plastics, computers.

Transport

Rail: **KTX, Korea's train express network.** Fast & reliable, between major cities.
Key airports: Incheon International Airport (Seoul)—largest international airport.
Taxis: Popular & inexpensive, easy to flag on the street. Red light means available.

¹ Ordered by highest number of people, rest of rows are districts within these cities or whole administrative districts.

Visas

South Korea holds visa waiver agreements with 107 countries. Most nationalities, including USA & UK passport holders **don't need to apply for a visa before travelling** to Korea, and can stay in the country for **90 days**.

For some activities within the country you might need special visas, here is a selection of most relevant visa types if you want to engage in paid work in South Korea:

- **Corporate Investment/Treaty Investor (D-8)** visa— for those who plan to engage in the administrative management of a foreign investment company.
- Treaty Trade Visa (D-9)—for people who want to establish a company and manage or engage in a profit-making business such as trading.
- **Working Holiday Visa (H-1)**—for young-adult (18-30 years old) foreigners enabling them to stay in South Korea for up to one year and engage in some employment and educational activities.
- **Overseas Study visa (D-2)**—for those planning to study at the undergraduate or above level.
- **Foreign Language teaching visa (E-2)**—for citizens of countries where English is the primary language who intend to work as foreign language teachers in South Korea.

For the full list of visas and their requirements inquire at the South Korean embassy or consulate. The procedures can take a long time and will typically require you to prepare specific documents.

Fun Facts

- A traditional South Korean birthday dish is... a **seaweed** soup.
- South Koreans also **count age differently**—babies are considered to be one year old immediately after birth.
- With the average **alcohol consumption of 10.2 liters per year**, South Korea holds the 37th place in the world for most alcohol consumption.
- As a way of asking *How are you?* South Koreans would ask *Have you eaten well?*
- The South Korean flag has a name! It's called **Taegukgi** and incorporates symbols of Buddhism and Taoism.
- South Korea is home to the **most crowded domestic flight path** on Earth—from Jeju to Seoul International. Almost 65 thousand flights have been processed on this route in 2017!

1) Population, Households and Hous

Data Updated on : 2018-08-27 / Term : Annual

Setting Criteria + ITEM[20/20] By adminis

| By administrative divisions(eup, myeon, dong) | 2017 | |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| | Total population (Person) | |
| Seoul | 9,741,871 | |
| Total for myeons | 4,835,090 | |
| Total for eups | 4,794,377 | |
| Busan | 3,416,918 | |
| Gyeongsangnam-do | 3,345,293 | |
| Total for donges | 3,260,357 | |
| Incheon | 2,925,967 | |
| Total for donges | 2,842,936 | |
| Gyeongsangbuk-do | 2,677,058 | |
| Daegu | 2,453,041 | |
| Total for donges | 2,213,801 | |
| Total for donges | 2,164,314 | |
| Chungcheongnam-do | 2,162,426 | |
| Jeollabuk-do | 1,826,174 | |
| Jeollanam-do | 1,792,319 | |
| Chunacheonabuk-do | 1,611,009 | |
| Daejeon | 1,525,849 | |
| Gangwon-do | 1,521,386 | |
| Gwangju | 1,496,172 | |
| Total for donges | 1,433,141 | |
| Total for eups | 1,357,641 | |
| Total for donges | 1,294,961 | |
| Suwon-si | 1,216,996 | |