

9. Public Safety & Emergency Contact

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Korea is generally a safe place. Possession of firearms is not allowed in the country so the chance of meeting someone with a gun is highly unlikely.

- * International Crime Reports or Consultation: 111
- * Traffic Accident Hotline: 112 (no area code is required)
- * Emergency Rescue: 119 (no area code is required)



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Life in Korea



- 1) Shopping
- 2) Tips for Dining-out in Korea
- 3) Cultural Sites

1. Shopping

Shopping

Korea is a shopper's paradise! Great prices can be found for shoes, clothes, handbags, suitcases, leather goods, silk, antiques, reproductions, and all kinds of souvenirs. You can easily find makers of custom-made clothes and shoes of varying quality. Although department stores and most shops have fixed prices for items, bargaining can usually get a lower price with street vendors and in the major open air markets such as Namdaemun and Dongdaemun. However, do not expect the same level of haggling conditions that exist in Thailand. Also, do not forget about Korea's duty-free stores and Life in Korea's own Online Shopping sections for Products and Services and Online Reservations.



Shopping Center in Suwon

AK Plaza Suwon Station (Shopping)	031-240-1000
Bus routes : 11-1, 46-1, 720-2, 730	
Homeplus (Mart)	031-252-2080
Bus routes : 85, 81, 80, 82-1, 18, 99-2	

Prices of Goods

Some goods sold in Korea have fixed prices; others do not. Large discount stores and department stores apply fixed prices. The same goods may be priced differently at different stores or in different regions. Generally, discount stores sell goods at lower prices than department stores. At traditional markets, you may bargain over the prices as they do not apply fixed prices. If you become a regular, you may buy goods on credit.

Tax Refunds

Each and every product sold in Korea includes sales tax in the purchase price. These taxes are collected and invested in social welfare for Korean residents. Non-residents, or visitors to Korea, may be eligible for a tax refund on purchased goods they will take out of the country. Make a purchase of 30,000 won or more at a participating retail store. Participating stores are designated by the "Global Blue Tax Free" or "Global Tax Free" logo. Be sure to keep your VAT refund receipt when purchasing items. You can get a tax refund at Airports and Seaport terminals after issuing your boarding pass.



Exchanges and Refunds

You can refund or exchange all manufactured goods if they are found to be defective. Since the conditions and period for refund and exchange vary at different stores, it is necessary for you to check the conditions beforehand and keep the receipt.

Many merchants may tend to refuse a refund and insist on an exchange of the same item or other items of similar value instead. For this reason, you are advised to confirm that the item is in good condition at time of purchase.

Useful Information for Shopping

- There are many 24-hour convenience stores in the residential areas, so necessary goods can be purchased even at late hours.
- There are many corner stores open until late at night as well.
- Retailers speak limited English, except in areas frequented by foreigners, such as Itaewon.
- Although some retailers may be willing to take U.S. dollars or other foreign currency for purchases, expect a worse exchange rate than you would find at a bank.

- * For any major problems with merchants, the Korea National Tourism Organization investigates complaints through its Tourist Complaint Center in Seoul. Telephone them at (02) 735-0101.

2. Tips for Dining-out in Korea

Tips for Dining-out in Korea

Dinner in a Korean home or restaurant is quite different from western style dining. Although you can find western food and fast food without much difficulty, food court is one social area in which Koreans have remained 'Korean'. All meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner, are hearty and basically all follow the same pattern. Korean meals are usually not served one course after another but set with all the dishes at the same time. With the exception if pricy restaurants, waiters/waitresses usually do not lead guests to their seats. When you take an empty table, they will come to take your order. Basic side dishes can be refilled without charge upon request.

Since it is quite often the case that you are not continuously served by waiters/waitresses, especially in the small mom and pa's business kind of restaurants, which you can see a lot around Ajou, you may need to call the waiter/waitresses out loud to get their attention to be served by saying some things like 'Sil-re-ham-ni-da(Excuse me)' or 'Yeokiyo(Here!)'. Don't get too embarrassed. Tipping is not required. Usually, Koreans don't tip. Tipping is not a part of Korean culture. In addition, in Korea, they don't pay additional sales tax. You can keep in mind that it is already included in the price of the food you order. In most small restaurants, the bill is paid at the cashier near the door.

It is not uncommon for guests to sit on cushions/floor around a low table, which is the traditional way of dining. However, you can find many restaurants with tables and chairs. Many different foods are served, usually each cut into bite size pieces. Each person has his own bowl of rice, but helps himself/herself to other foods directly from the serving dishes by using chopsticks without transferring the food to a "dinner plate" as in western countries. Although Koreans traditionally use chopsticks and a spoon, today forks are used, too. Depending on the kinds of dishes, it might be not appropriate to handle food with fingers.

Sometimes, you may be served a pale, yellow-colored drink with your meal. This may be 'bori-cha', barley tea or 'oksusu-cha', corn tea. People prefer to boil their water adding either barley or corn to give it a flavor, rather than drink tap water without purification.

It is needless to say that you should find out before you order, how much the various dishes will cost. Beef is usually an expensive dish in Korea. Galbi(ribs) is sold by the piece and can end up being rather expensive dish.

Daily Korean Dishes

불고기/Bulgogi	Broiled slices of beef
갈비/Galbi	Broiled short marinated beef ribs
돼지갈비/Duaeji Galbi	Broiled slices of pork, often barbecued at your table
돼지불고기/Duaeji Bulgogi	Broiled short ribs, often barbecued at your table
닭갈비/Dak Galbi	Fried chicken and vegetables with spicy sauce.
삼겹살/samgyopsal	barbecued pork often served with salted sesame oil. You can wrap it in a lettuce or sesame leaf with soybean paste.
갈비탕/Galbitang	Soup or stew, made with beef short ribs and some vegetables. Not spicy.
곰탕/Gomtang	Soup made with long boiling beef bones and some meat. Not spicy.
설렁탕/Sol-long-tang	Hot bland soup made by long-boiling beef bone and meat. Salt and black pepper are added to taste. Not spicy.
삼계탕/Samgye-tang	Ginseng chicken stew. Not spicy.
군만두/Goonmandoo	Steamed dumpling, mixed vegetables with meat wrapped with dough, with vegetables and meat
찜만두/Jinmandoo	Steamed dumpling with vegetables and pork.
만둣국/Mandooguk	Dumpling soup. Not spicy.
떡국/Dokguk	beef soup with Dok (steamed and pounded rice powder)
비빔밥/Bibimbap	Vegetables and meat with rice mixed with soy sauce, sesame oil, and red pepper paste - a little spicy
김/Gim	Dried seaweed
김밥/Gimbap	Rice with various vegetables rolled in dried seaweed (Gim) or plain rice wrapped in dried seaweed similar to Sushi.
칼국수/Kalguksu	Hand-made noodles in chicken broth with shellfish/ anchovy and vegetables. Not spicy.
냉면/Nengmyun	Noodles in cold seasoned beef broth with vegetables and steamed beef. Usually served during hot weather.
자장면/Jajangmyun	Noodle in black bean paste sauce with chunks of potatoes and onions. You can get it at Chinese restaurants. Not spicy.
잡채/Japchae	Noodles with meat and vegetables seasoned with soy sauce and sesame oil
순두부찌개/Soondubu Chigae	Soft tofu stew with shellfish and vegetables. Spicy
김치찌개/Kimchi Chigae	Kimchi stew with pork and onion. Hot and spicy just like Kimchi.

3. Cultural Sites

Fun Places

- **Sinchon (신촌)**

Sinchon is one of the main commercial districts in Seoul and it is home to some of Korea's major universities. Sinchon has been a very popular place for all young Koreans with its shopping districts and a lot of places to have fun such as bars and clubs. It is nearby Hongdae.



- *** Ewha Womens University Street**

This area is popular with young Korean women who seek the newest and the most fashionable style. The street is full of hair salons, shops for cheap clothing, and restaurants.

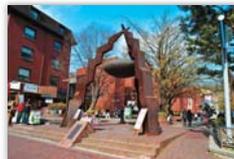
- **Myeongdong (명동)**

Myeongdong is the mecca of Korean fashion and it is full of boutiques, shops for cheap clothing, and restaurants. Myeongdong is always crowded with fashionable young Koreans and this makes this place the most lively place in Korea.



- **Daehakro (대학로, University Avenue)**

Daehakro is another place where young people can find a lot of fun places. This place is a center of Korean university culture and is always crowded with college students. Daehakro is very famous for various types of cultural facilities such as theaters and parks. In addition, this place has a lot of restaurants from Korean, American, and Italian restaurants to a Vietnamese one.



- **Gangnam Station (강남역)**

If you want to experience real energy and excitement come to the area surrounding Gangnam Station. The entire area is densely packed with restaurants, cafes, bars, clubs, boutiques, fast fashion stores and movie theaters.



Gangnam Station Area is an important commercial and entertainment district. It is one of the most affluent areas of Seoul and it is located in the southeast of the city. Gangnam Main Street is also on the top ten list of the world's most expensive shopping streets. Gangnam Station is a great place to explore and enjoy the modern and young atmosphere of Korea.

- **Samseong COEX Mall (삼성역 코엑스몰)**

Located in Samseongdong, COEX Mall is the biggest underground mall in Korea. The mall is connected to Hyundai Department Store, Intercontinental Hotel, World Trade Tower, and Convention and Exhibition Center. The mall has many facilities: a 16-screen multiplex, dining places, shopping places, and an aquarium for people of all ages.



- **Apgujungdong (압구정)**

Apgujungdong is another fashion mecca, with Myeongdong, of Korea. Compared to Myeongdong, Apgujungdong has more luxurious boutiques and restaurants. This place is popular with people who are very interested in fashion and gourmet restaurants. Price of this place is fairly high and the atmosphere of the restaurants and bars is very modern and exotic.



- **Everland (에버랜드)**

Everland is a theme park where you can enjoy well-planned amusement facilities in a spacious area, view animals, and see beautiful flora. The total area of Everland is approximately ten million square meters and the average number of visitors per year comes is around 9 million. Everland is divided into different theme in Korea: 'Festival World' is a complex of various rides and festivals; 'Caribbean Bay' is a water park equipped with world-level pool facilities; and 'Everland Speedway' was reconstructed from Motor Park, the biggest domestic motor racing complexes. Everland is now ranked 8th among the world's theme parks.



- **Insadong (인사동)**

Insadong is a joint street of past and now where traditional and modern culture existing at the same time. You can enjoy various spectacles and food festivals, culture events that few traditional streets are left in Korea nowadays. Therefore, for a purpose to preserve from indiscreet development and non-cultural type of business the government had designated Insadong as a culture zone for the first.



- **N Seoul Tower (남산)**

"N Seoul Tower", a center of Seoul, a symbol of Seoul, and the highest place where you can see all the most beautiful scenery of Seoul. You can experience new cultural arts with various media art in the mixture of "art of lights" of which colors and patterns change every minute by the lighting of the newest LED technology.



Historical and Cultural Sites

- **Hwaseong Fortress (화성)**

Hwaseong Fortress in Suwon designated and managed as Historic Site No. 3 was initiated in January 1794 and completed in September 1796 during the reign of King Jeongjo, the 2nd King of the Joseon Dynasty. There were originally 48 facilities along the perimeter. Seven facilities have been lost due to war and rapid urbanization, and so only 41 remain today. Hwaseong Fortress has been proposed as a World Cultural Heritage. It underwent on-site inspections by UNESCO in April 1997. It was registered by the UNESCO Assembly held in December of 1997.



- **Korean Folk Village (한국민속촌)**

Located in Yongin City, about a 20-minute-drive for from Suwon City, Korean Folk Village is a place where you can explore old Korean lifestyle. Traditional houses from all parts of Korea are perfectly restored and preserved so that people can take a close look and better understand how Korean people lived a long time ago. Not only the houses, but also a variety of events such as a farm band's performance and traditional wedding ceremony attract visitors.



- **Ho-Am Art Museum (호암아트홀)**

Ho-Am Art Museum exhibits over 1,200 Korean works of art which make up the collections of Mr. Byung-Chull Lee, the founder of Samsung Group. This museum is the largest private museum in Korea and it has beautiful gardens around the museum as well.



- **Kyonggi Provincial Museum (경기도박물관)**

Located in Yongin City, Kyonggi Provincial Museum exhibits cultural and historical remnants found in Kyonggi Province. In addition, the museum offers various classes to the public so that they can better understand Kyonggi Province's culture and history.



- **Yeoju Ceramics Museum (여주도자기박물관)**



Yeoju is a pottery-manufacturing region with over 600 pottery places. The museum exhibits various kinds of celadons and porcelains of the Goryeo and Joseon Dynasty.

- **The Korea House (한국의 집)**

Feast on Korean royal cuisine from the period of Joseon Dynasty, enjoy traditional arts performances by top artists(Intangible Cultural Properties) and experience a re-enactment of a traditional wedding ceremony. You can also shop for traditional cultural products that are sure to please all of your five senses at this total cultural space.



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Miscellaneous



- Appendix 1. Useful Telephone numbers and websites
- Appendix 2. Foreign Embassies in Korea
- Appendix 3. Bus Information in front of Ajou
- Appendix 4. Useful Korean Conversation