

FAQ

For many, South Korea is a new and undiscovered travel destination.

We hope that the information outlined in these commonly asked topics will help you when planning a visit to our wonderful destination.

Topics include

- Consulate & Embassy of the Republic of Korea
- Visa & Travel Authorization
- Getting to South Korea
- Internal Travel
- Currency & Payment Methods
- Accommodation
- Food Options
- Other Travel Tips
- Useful Resources



Consulate & Embassy of the Republic of Korea

What can the Consulate of the Republic of Korea offer?

Consulate of the Republic of Korea's website is the best place to get updated information about visa and other requirements for visiting South Korea.

Website: <https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/nz-auckland-en/index.do>

Email: auckland@mofa.go.kr

Tel: +64 9 379 0818

Address: 12/205 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010

What can the Embassy of the Republic of Korea offer?

Embassy of the Republic of Korea plays an important role in facilitating the relationship between the two countries. For travellers, the website provides rich information about recent Korean news, general information, and cultural events relevant to Korea.

Website: <https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/nz-en/index.do>

Email: ea-nz@mofa.go.kr

Tel: +64 4 473 9073

Address: Level 20, 171 Featherston Street, Wellington 6011

Visa & Travel Authorization

* For more detailed information, please visit the website of the **Consulate of the Republic of Korea**.

Do New Zealand travellers need a visitor visa?

For New Zealand passport holders whose **final destination** is South Korea, it is possible to stay up to **90 days without a visa**.

https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/nz-auckland-en/wpge/m_2638/contents.do

For New Zealand passport holders whose **stopover destination** is South Korea, it is possible to stay up to **30 days without a visa**.

https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/nz-auckland-en/brd/m_24949/view.do?seq=19&page=1

Do New Zealand travellers need a travel authorization?

K-ETA is an electronic travel authorization that visa-free foreign visitors need to obtain for entering South Korea. However, New Zealand passport holders (along with 21 countries) do **not require K-ETA application through to 31st December 2024**.

https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/nz-auckland-en/brd/m_24949/view.do?seq=18&page=1

Is there a benefit for applying for K-ETA?

For K-ETA applicants, there will be no need to submit arrival cards upon entry.

How do I apply for K-ETA?

For those who want to apply, visit the **K-ETA organization's official website** (www.k-eta.go.kr) for application, details, and questions. Since there has been cases of several fraud websites charging extra costs, please visit the official website for application. K-ETA registration costs KRW 10,000 (NZD 11~12), and it is valid for 3 years.

Getting to South Korea

Which airlines provide direct flights from New Zealand?

Korean Air provides direct flights throughout all year (three flights per week ~ daily operation).
Air New Zealand operates direct flights from late October until March (Mon, Thu, Sat).

How long does the flight take?

It takes approximately 12 hours by direct flight.
The flights from both airlines depart before noon and arrive in Korea in the late afternoon.

What is the time difference between the two countries?

There is 3 hours difference between the two countries. During the daylight-saving term, the gap increases to 4 hours.

What are the travel options between South Korea and Japan?

There are a number of flight options between South Korea and Japan.
You can also take the high-speed Queen Beetle ferry that connects Fukuoka and Busan in 3 hours and 40 minutes!
A slower overnight ferry is also available from Osaka. Here are the links to more info and booking.
<https://www.directferries.com/ferries from japan to south korea.htm>

Internal Travel

What is the best way to navigate around Korea?

In Korea, Google map often does not provide suitable routes and contains a lot of outdated information. **Kakao Map** and **Naver Map** are the most common local apps.

<https://map.kakao.com/>

<https://map.naver.com/>

What are the ways to travel from Incheon International Airport to Seoul?

Options include Airport Railroad Express (AREX), Seoul Subway, Airport Limousine Bus, Private shuttle and taxis (international taxis available).

Time and cost may slightly vary depending on location.

For more information

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/contentsView.do?vcontsId=140654&menuSn=469>

(1) AREX Express

-The seat is designated and there is space for luggage. Directly connects to Seoul Station.

Time: 45 minutes

Cost: 11,000 won (NZD 13.00)

www.airportrailroad.com

<https://www.arex.or.kr/main.do>

(2) Seoul Subway

-Local navigation apps, such as Naver Map and Kakao map, are highly recommended.

Time: 70 minutes

Cost: 5,050 won (NZD 6.00)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/subway-korea/id325924444>

(3) K-Limousine

Time: 25~35 minutes

Cost: Adults -18,000 won (NZD 21.30), Children (Age 6~12): 12,000 won (NZD 14.20)

www.klimousine.com/eng

(4) Private Shuttle

Time: 60~70 minutes

Cost: ~3pax - approx.166,000 won (NZD 196.25), ~5pax - approx.208,000 won (NZD 245.90)

www.k-shuttle.com

(5) Taxis & Rideshare

Time: 60~70 minutes

Cost: 60,000~70,000 won (NZD 70.90 ~ 82.75)

-UT (Uber icon will be automatically changed to UT)

<https://www.ut.taxi/kr/en>

-Kakao T (Kakao Taxi)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/kakao-t/id981110422>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kakao.taxi&hl=en_AU&gl=US

Although Kakao T offers different types of taxis, only General Request is available for foreigners as others require in-app Korean card payments.

Select Pay to the driver under Select payment method as in-app card payments are only available for Korean cards.

- Foreigner-exclusive taxi app TABA

<https://www.tabataxi.app/>

Allows international credit card.

Public transport card

T-money Card is the local transportation card like a HOP card for train and bus.

It costs ₩4,000 (NZD 4.75). People usually purchase and charge the card at convenience stores (CU, GS25, Ministop, 7-Eleven, etc) and subway stations. Also, you can charge at newsstands near a bus stop with a T-money sign (usually next to subway station exits and entrances).

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/contentsView.do?menuSn=479&vcontsId=140663>

How can I book intercity trains?

KTX is a high-speed train that people take for long-distance travel. While it is possible to purchase the ticket at train stations, it is recommended to book in advance at KORAIL website.

<https://www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizBfTicketSearch.do>.

What is KORAIL Pass?

If you are going to enjoy a large amount of rail travel, the KORAIL Pass can be the most convenient and affordable option.

<https://www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizBfKrPassAbout.do>

How long does the KTX high-speed train take from Seoul to Busan?

The train takes approximately 2.5 hrs.

How do you get to Jeju from mainland Korea?

There are affordable flights from most major airports in Korea.

Passenger ferries also depart from Busan, Nokdong (Goheung), Wando & Yeosu.

https://www.directferries.com/jeju_island.htm

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/contentsView.do?menuSn=483&vcontsId=140669>

Is it possible to visit the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea?

Yes, the DMZ in Paju, Gyeonggi province, is the most renowned one. There are several exclusively tour-operated services that include hotel pickup and an English tour guide. The tour does not go into the DMZ itself, or to the Panmunjom/Joint Security Area. The Panmunjom is currently closed to tours.

Besides Paju, there are DMZ attractions in Goseong and Cherwon, Gangwon province.

Currency & Payment Methods

What is the currency used in Korea?

The South Korean won (KRW) is the official currency.
KRW 1000 is a little bit above NZD 1.00. (KRW 1000 = NZD 1.18)

What are the accepted cards?

At most places, you can use your credit card (visa, MASTER, JCB, AMEX, UnionPay, etc.) without any limits.

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/contentsView.do?menuSn=212&vcontsId=140734>

Do travellers need cash?

While credit cards are accepted at most places, it is good to be prepared with cash. At least KRW 50,000 (NZD 60) is recommended. Some traditional markets, food stalls and small-scale stores (especially in country locations) only take cash. It is reasonably easy to find ATMs.

What are the major banks in Korea?

KB (Kookmin Bank), KEB Hana Bank, Shinhan Bank, Woori Bank.

Accommodation

Where can I find unique and high-quality accommodation options in Korea?

-Visit the stayfolio website

<https://www.stayfolio.com/en>

-Hanok (traditional Korean architecture) hotels in Downtown Seoul

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/contentsView.do?menuSn=219&sContsTtl=&sort=r egDt&page=2&vcontsId=185084>

-Templestay Stay

https://eng.templestay.com/reserv_search.aspx

Where should my clients stay in Seoul?

Considering the range of accommodation available, accessibility to tourist areas, shopping and nightlife, public transport connections, atmosphere, **Myeongdong** and **Hongdae** (Hongik University Station) neighbourhoods are ideal locations.

Food Options

Does Korea have vegan and vegetarian food options?

Yes, there are vegan and vegetarian food options, and we recommend trying temple food (Buddhist temple stay programmes may include trying Korean temple food).

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/infoBscView.do?vcontsId=140732>

Do you have a list of halal friendly restaurants in Korea?

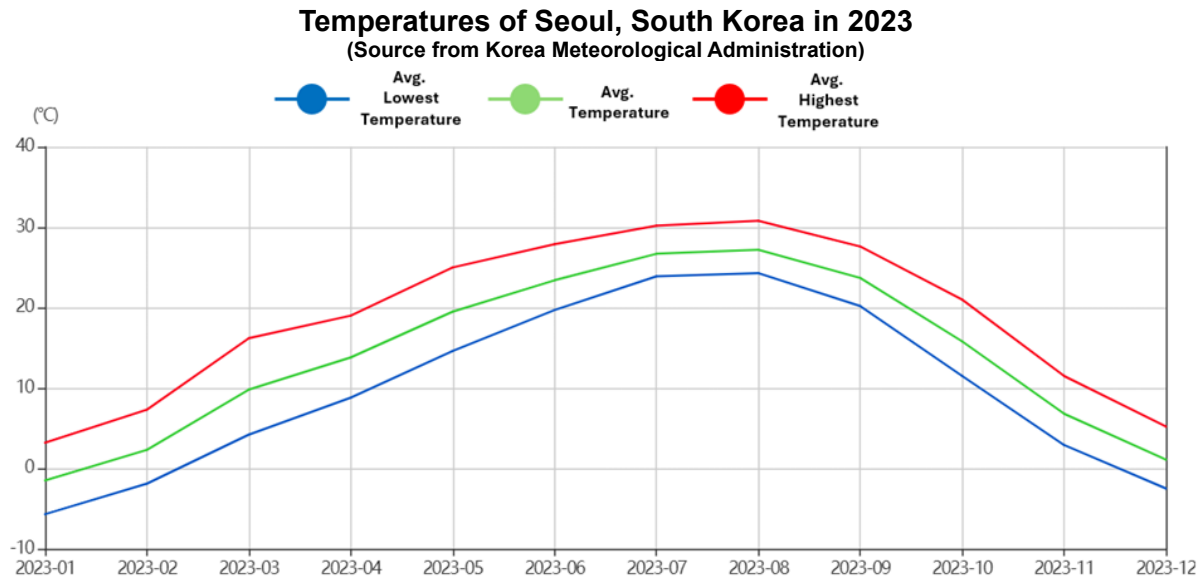
Yes, there are halal friendly restaurants in Korea.

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/contents/contentsList.do?menuSn=448>

Other Travel Tips

What is the best season for visiting South Korea?

Some of the best times to visit South Korea are **Spring** (April, May) and **Autumn** (September, October). The average temperatures of April and October are around 15°C, and May and September are around 20°C.



Koreans try to make the best out of the short, ideal seasons. Local parks host various **music festivals** and **night markets**, which can provide great insight into local lives. Also, many places attract people to scenic arrangements of **cherry blossom trees** (spring) and **ginkgo trees** (autumn).



Night Market at Banpo Han River, Seoul



Gyeonggijeon Shrine, Jeonju, Jeollabuk-do

Is Korea safe at night, for women and for solo travellers?

Yes, Korea has a relatively low crime rate.

Useful Resources

-Visit Korea website

<https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/svc/main/index.do>

-Official travel guide e-book: Korea Travel Guide (2024)

https://english1.visitkorea.or.kr/e_book/ecatalog5.jsp?Dir=913&catimage=

-Map

(Google Map)

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/South+Korea/@35.81905,127.8733,7z/data=!3m1!4m6!3m5!1s0x356455ebcb11ba9b:0x91249b00ba88db4b!8m2!3d35.907757!4d127.766922!16zL20vMDZxZDM?hl=en&entry=ttu>

(Naver Map)

<https://map.naver.com/>