CineAsia

# Seoul Delegate Travel Guide

Everything to know before you fly, and once you land!

**7–10 December 2026 · Seoul Dragon City**

FilmExpoGroup



# Seoul at a glance

### Convention

7–10 December 2026 at Seoul Dragon City, Yongsan

### Currency

Korean won (₩). Cards accepted almost everywhere

### Power

220V, plug types C/F.

### Weather

Around -4°C to 5°C, dry and windy; snow is possible

### Emergencies

112 police · 119 fire and ambulance · 1330 tourist helpline (English, 24/7)

### Tipping

Not expected anywhere: restaurants, taxis or hotels

# Entry requirements depend on your passport

### Passport
Valid at least six months beyond your return date

### K-ETA or e-Arrival Card
Which one depends on nationality (see table).
Use only official .go.kr sites

### Customs
Declare cash over US$10,000.
No fresh meat, fruit or plants

| Your passport | What to do |
|---|---|
| **UK, US, Canada, Australia, NZ, Japan, France, Germany and 14 other exempt countries** | No K-ETA needed. Submit the free e-Arrival Card online within 72 hours of arrival |
| **Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland, Czechia, Greece, Hungary and other visa-waiver countries** | Apply online for a K-ETA (about ₩10,000) at least 72 hours before flying. Link below |
| **Any other nationality** | Check visa rules with your nearest Korean embassy now |

**K-ETA:** www.k-eta.go.kr
**e-Arrival Card:** www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr

# On landing at Incheon, do four things

**1**

### Pick up your SIM

Collect a pre-booked SIM, eSIM help or pocket Wi-Fi at the telecom counters in arrivals

**2**

### Get some cash

Use ATMs marked “Global”. ₩50,000–100,000 covers markets and street food

**3**

### Buy a T-money or a WOW card, you can register before arrival.

At any convenience store, about ₩3,000–4,000. Top it up with cash

**4**

### Head to Dragon City

Airport bus 6001 or the AREX train. Routes are on the next slide

*Incheon has two terminals, and Asiana moved to Terminal 2 in January 2026. Confirm yours with your airline.*

# Getting from Incheon to Seoul Dragon City

**95 Cheongpa-ro 20-gil, Yongsan-gu** 서울드래곤시티, 용산구 청파로20길 95 · 3 min walk from Yongsan Station Exit 3

| Option | Route | Time | Adult fare |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Airport bus 6001** | T1: 1F stop 5B, T2: B1 platform 29. Get off at Sinyongsan, walk via the Yongsan Station Exit 3 bridge | ~90 min | ₩17,000 |
| **AREX Express + Line 1** | Express to Seoul Station, then Line 1 two stops to Yongsan, Exit 3 | 60–70 min | ~₩13,000 + ₩1,550 |
| **AREX All-Stop + Gyeongui–Jungang** | All-Stop to Hongik Univ., change to the Gyeongui–Jungang Line to Yongsan | ~75 min | ~₩5,000–6,000 |
| **Taxi** | Official taxi rank only. Show the Korean address above | ~55 min+ | ₩60,000–75,000 |

*AREX Express stops running around 22:45. From Gimpo Airport, a taxi takes 20–30 minutes.*

# Getting around Seoul

## Pick a transit card

**T-money**
Best for Subway, buses, many taxis. Top up with cash

**Climate Card (1–7 days)**
Unlimited Seoul rides; buy by foreign card. Not valid on AREX

**WOWPASS**
Prepaid payment card with T-money built in

## How it works

- Tap in and out on the subway and buses; base fare ₩1,550
- Transfers within 30 minutes are free or discounted
- Last trains run around midnight
- Use Naver Map or KakaoMap, not Google Maps
- Book taxis with Kakao T and show your address in Korean

# Most of Seoul is one ride from Dragon City



Yongsan Station is next door: Line 1, the Gyeongui–Jungang Line, KTX trains and I'Park Mall, all under one roof. Sinyongsan (Line 4) is a 10-minute walk.

| Destination | How | Time |
|---|---|---|
| **Seoul Station (AREX, KTX)** | Line 1, 2 stops | 5 min |
| **Myeongdong / City Hall** | Line 4 or Line 1 | 10–15 min |
| **Gyeongbokgung Palace** | Line 1 to Jonggak, or taxi | 20 min |
| **Itaewon** | Taxi | 10 min |
| **Gangnam / COEX** | Taxi, or train + Line 2 | 25–40 min |
| **I'Park Mall (shops, cinema)** | Inside Yongsan Station | 3 min walk |

# Stay connected and pay with ease

## Download before you go

**Naver Map / KakaoMap**
Walking and transit directions

**Papago**
Translation, including menu photos

**Kakao T**
Book taxis without explaining addresses

**KakaoTalk**
Korea's main messaging app

## Connect and pay

**eSIM (recommended)**
Install at home; 5 GB covers a typical week

**Visa and Mastercard: yes**
Accepted almost everywhere; make one your main card

**Some cash**
₩50,000–100,000 for markets and T-money top-ups

**American Express: partly**
Big hotels, duty free and chains; not markets or T-money

# How an eSIM works, and why it beats roaming

## Set it up in four steps

**1 Check your phone**
Unlocked and eSIM-ready: look for “Add eSIM” in settings (iPhone XS/XR+, Pixel 3+, Galaxy S20+)

**2 Buy a Korea plan online**
You receive a QR code by email; 5 GB covers a typical week

**3 Install at home on Wi-Fi**
Scan the QR code, but switch it on only when you land: validity starts on activation

**4 Use it for data**
Set the eSIM for mobile data; keep your home SIM on for calls and texts

## Why choose an eSIM over roaming

- **Usually much cheaper**
  Korea isn't covered by typical “roam like at home” deals
- **Keep your number**
  WhatsApp, calls and bank text codes still reach you
- **No airport queue**
  It's working the moment you land
- **Fast local networks**
  Runs on Korean 4G/5G (KT, SKT, LG U+)

*Watch out: most travel eSIMs are data-only, with no Korean phone number.*

# Seoul is UTC+9 all year, with no daylight saving

| Asia-Pacific | Diff. | 09:00 Seoul = |
|---|---|---|
| **Auckland** | +4 | 13:00 |
| **Sydney, Melbourne** | +2 | 11:00 |
| **Adelaide** | +1.5 | 10:30 |
| **Brisbane** | +1 | 10:00 |
| **Tokyo, Osaka** | 0 | 09:00 |
| **Beijing, HK, Taipei, Singapore, KL, Manila, Perth** | -1 | 08:00 |
| **Bangkok, Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh City** | -2 | 07:00 |
| **Mumbai, Delhi** | -3.5 | 05:30 |
| **Dubai** | -5 | 04:00 |

| US and Europe | Diff. | 09:00 Seoul = |
|---|---|---|
| **US Eastern (New York)** | -14 | 19:00 prev. day |
| **US Central (Chicago)** | -15 | 18:00 prev. day |
| **US Mountain (Denver)** | -16 | 17:00 prev. day |
| **US Pacific (Los Angeles)** | -17 | 16:00 prev. day |
| **Alaska** | -18 | 15:00 prev. day |
| **Hawaii** | -19 | 14:00 prev. day |
| **Dublin, London** | -9 | 00:00 |
| **Paris, Berlin** | -8 | 01:00 |

*Calling home: 07:00–09:00 in Seoul reaches the US West Coast the afternoon before; 21:00–23:00 reaches the US East Coast in the morning and Europe at lunchtime. Figures are for December.*

# What the won is worth

**₩10,000**

**is about US$7.50 · €6.80 · £5.70**

## Typical prices

- Subway ride: ₩1,550
- Specialty coffee: ₩6,000–8,000
- Casual lunch: ₩10,000–15,000
- BBQ dinner: ₩25,000–45,000 per person

| Currency | 1 unit in won | ₩10,000 buys |
|---|---|---|
| US dollar (USD) | ₩1,327 | US$7.54 |
| Euro (EUR) | ₩1,478 | €6.77 |
| British pound (GBP) | ₩1,767 | £5.66 |
| Australian dollar (AUD) | ₩932 | A$10.70 |
| New Zealand dollar (NZD) | ₩754 | NZ$13.30 |
| Japanese yen (JPY) | ₩8.41 | JP¥1,190 |
| Chinese yuan (CNY) | ₩199 | CN¥50 |
| Hong Kong dollar (HKD) | ₩170 | HK$59 |
| Singapore dollar (SGD) | ₩1,040 | S$9.60 |
| Taiwan dollar (TWD) | ₩41 | NT$245 |
| Thai baht (THB) | ₩39.90 | THB 251 |
| Indian rupee (INR) | ₩13.95 | INR 717 |
| UAE dirham (AED) | ₩361 | AED 28 |

*Mid-market rates, late Oct 2026. Check before you change money.*

# A few words of Korean go a long way

| English | Korean | Say it like |
|---|---|---|
| **Hello** | 안녕하세요 | an-nyeong-ha-se-yo |
| **Thank you** | 감사합니다 | gam-sa-ham-ni-da |
| **Excuse me / sorry** | 죄송합니다 | joe-song-ham-ni-da |
| **This one, please** | 이거 주세요 | i-geo ju-se-yo |
| **How much is it?** | 얼마예요? | eol-ma-ye-yo? |
| **The bill, please** | 계산해 주세요 | gye-san-hae ju-se-yo |
| **Cheers!** | 건배! | geon-bae! |
| **Delicious** | 맛있어요 | ma-shi-sseo-yo |

### English

Common in hotels and the airport. Thinner in small restaurants and taxis.

### Learn Hangul

Just 24 letters: 20 minutes on the flight lets you sound out signs.

# Korean Etiquette

## Business meetings

- Slight bow with a handshake
- Give and take cards with both hands
- Use title + surname, e.g. Director Kim

## Dining

- Let the most senior person start
- Never stand chopsticks in rice
- Side dishes are shared and refilled free

## Drinking

- Pour for others, not yourself
- Lift with two hands when a senior pours for you
- A full glass politely signals you're done

## Out and about

- Shoes off where floors are raised
- Leave subway priority seats empty
- Keep voices low on public transport

# Do's and don'ts

## Do

- Sort your K-ETA or e-Arrival Card before flying
- Download Naver Map, Papago and Kakao T
- Carry some cash for markets
- Use two hands for cards, gifts and drinks
- Bow slightly when greeting and thanking

## Don't

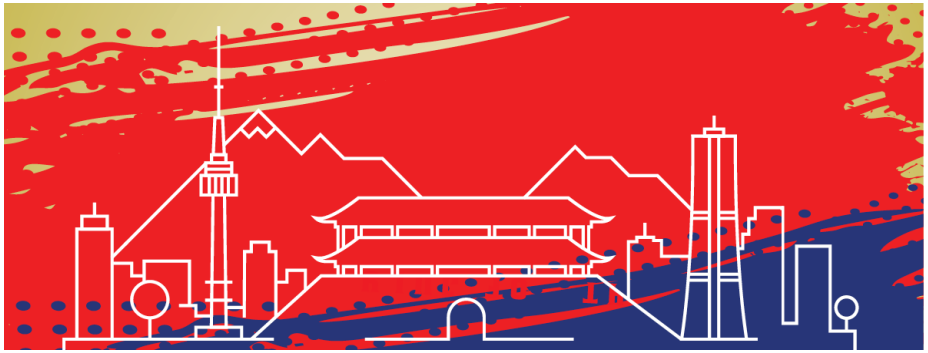
- Assume you're K-ETA exempt
- Rely on Google Maps for directions
- Tip; it can cause confusion
- Write someone's name in red ink
- Point or beckon with one finger

# Pack for real cold and warm interiors

## -4°C to 5°C

Typical December nights and days. Wind chill can make it feel near -10°C; indoors is well heated.

- Warm, windproof coat
- Thermals, hat and gloves
- Grippy shoes for ice
- Pack layers for flexibility
- Lip balm and moisturiser
- Type C/F plug adaptor
- Power bank
- Business cards



# Safety, health and the law

## Medication

- Up to 3 months' supply, original packs, English prescription
- Narcotic or psychotropic medicines (some ADHD drugs, strong painkillers, sleeping pills) need an MFDS permit before travel

## Laws to know

- Severe drug penalties; poppy seeds are illegal
- Carry your passport; no photos of military or government sites
- Foreigners are barred from protests

## Staying safe

- Low crime, but watch for pickpockets and card skimming
- Never leave a drink unattended in nightlife areas
- Official taxis or Kakao T only

## Health and alerts

- Evacuation cover; hospitals want payment upfront
- Emergency Ready app gives English alerts
- No civil defense drills expected in December

# Register your trip with your government

| Government | Register with | Extra advice they flag |
|---|---|---|
| **United States** | STEP | Poppy seeds illegal; amphetamine-based (ADHD) medicines, narcotics and opioids need pre-approval |
| **Australia** | Smartraveller | Medicine permits: use the generic name, allow 2+ weeks. Masks in hospitals. No political social posts |
| **New Zealand** | SafeTravel | Plan for protest disruption; comprehensive insurance |
| **Singapore** | MFA eRegister | Never carry packages through customs for others |
| **Japan** | Tabireg (たびレジ) | Email alerts, including warnings before demonstrations |
| **Hong Kong SAR** | 1868 hotline | Social order normal; avoid large gatherings |
| **Canada** | ROCA | Drink spiking in nightlife areas; avoid paid e-Arrival sites |
| **Ireland** | Citizens Registration | Irish passports need a K-ETA |

*The US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand all rate South Korea at their lowest risk level: exercise normal precautions.*

# Embassy contacts in Seoul

| Country | Embassy phone | After-hours emergency |
|---|---|---|
| **United States** | +82 2 397 4114 | Same number |
| **Australia** | +82 2 2003 0100 | Consular Emergency Centre +61 2 6261 3305 |
| **New Zealand** | +82 2 3701 7700 | SafeTravel +64 99 20 20 20 |
| **Singapore** | +82 2 774 2464 | Duty officer 010 7204 6240 |
| **Canada** | +82 2 3783 6000 | Emergency Watch 001 800 2326 6831 |
| **China** | +82 2 755 0572 (consular protection) | Global consular hotline +86 10 12308 |
| **Hong Kong SAR** | Immigration Dept. | +852 1868 |

*Other nationalities: save your own embassy's number before you travel.*

**In Korea, dial**

**112**

Police, with interpreters

**119**

Fire and ambulance

**1330**

Tourist helpline, English, 24/7

# Before you fly: checklist

- ✓ Passport valid 6+ months
- ✓ K-ETA or e-Arrival Card done
- ✓ Trip registered with your government
- ✓ Insurance with evacuation cover
- ✓ Medication checked; permit if needed
- ✓ eSIM installed
- ✓ Apps incl. Emergency Ready
- ✓ Hotel address saved in Korean
- ✓ Airport transfer chosen
- ✓ Visa or Mastercard packed
- ✓ Adaptor and warm layers packed
- ✓ Business cards packed
- ✓ Embassy and emergency numbers saved
- ✓ Convention: 7–10 Dec

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