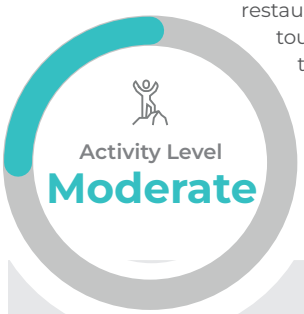
Discovering *South Korea*



South Korea is a vibrant country that perfectly balances ancient traditions with cutting-edge modernity. Known for its exceptional cleanliness, safety, and warm hospitality, the nation welcomes visitors with open arms.

English is widely spoken in major hotels, restaurants, and tourist areas, though locals appreciate a friendly greeting in Korean. In dynamic cities such as Seoul and Busan, centuries-old palaces stand alongside soaring skyscrapers, while tranquil tea houses offer a calm retreat from the bustle. Beyond the cities, UNESCO World Heritage sites, scenic coastal villages, and lush landscapes showcase the country's natural and cultural beauty.

From sampling spicy kimchi at bustling night markets to relaxing in a traditional spa, hiking through breathtaking mountains, or admiring views from serene coastlines, South Korea promises an unforgettable journey of discovery and exploration.



Many tours require moderate walking and steps, particularly at palaces, markets, and temples. Comfortable footwear is recommended. Please inform us in advance of any mobility concerns so we can advise accordingly.

Visa Process

U.S. citizens can typically enter South Korea for up to 90 days without a visa for tourism or business. However, travelers must apply online for a Korea Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA) before departure.

Entry requirements are subject to change, so confirm the latest guidance prior to travel.

Credit Cards

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, shops, and restaurants, with Visa and Mastercard being the most common. However, smaller markets and local eateries may prefer cash, so it is advisable to carry South Korean Won for convenience.



Plug Sockets

In South Korea, the standard plug types are **Type C (two round pins)** and **Type F (two round pins with grounding clips)**, similar to those used across much of Europe. The standard voltage is 220V with a frequency of 60Hz.

Travelers from countries with different plug types or voltage standards should bring a suitable adapter and, if necessary, a voltage converter.



Navigation

In South Korea, Google Maps is less reliable than in many other countries due to security restrictions. For accurate directions and local information, Naver Maps or KakaoMap are recommended.

Gratuities

Tipping is not customary in South Korea and is generally not expected in restaurants or taxis. Some upscale hotels or guided tours may accept gratuities, but they are entirely optional.

Currency

The official currency of South Korea is the South Korean Won (KRW). ATMs are widely available, though not all accept foreign cards. For reliability, use machines located at major banks or airports.

Check in Process

Most hotels in South Korea offer check-in from 3:00 PM and require check-out by 11:00 AM.

Early check-in or late check-out may be available but is not guaranteed; confirm directly with your hotel in advance.

Bed Configuration

Twin bedding is the most common configuration in South Korean hotels. Double bedding can be requested; however, availability cannot be guaranteed and is subject to each hotel's arrangements.

Cultural Norms

South Koreans place high value on politeness and respect. It is customary to remove shoes before entering a home. In public spaces, avoid speaking loudly and always observe proper queue etiquette. When handing over money or items, use both hands as a sign of courtesy and respect.



What to pack

Packing depends on the season, as South Korea experiences four distinct climates. Always check the weather forecast before you travel.

Regardless of the time of year, bring comfortable walking shoes, layered clothing, and modest attire suitable for visiting temples and places of worship.

Emergency

Dial **112** for police and **119** for fire or medical emergencies.

Always carry your hotel's address written in Korean, and keep your passport secure yet accessible. For additional support, local assistants or your hotel concierge can provide guidance.