

# THE SEOUL SURVIVOR 2010 - 2011



A publication of the

## **American Forces' Spouses' Club**

Twenty-Fourth Edition 2010-2011

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This publication was originally conceived, written and compiled by Judy Bridenbaugh in an attempt to ease the frustration experienced by military members and their families when moving to a new location, especially, a foreign country. Input for yearly issues has been gathered from the best available sources at the time of publication. While every attempt has been made to provide the most accurate and up to date information, inevitably, in this fast paced ever changing world, some information will have changed since this book was published. If you do note incorrect or outdated information, please contact the American Forces' Spouses' Club. The future editor will gladly appreciate any updates.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It is such an honor to bring you the Twenty-fourth edition of *The Seoul Survivor*.

This book was written and funded by military spouses who are part of the USAG-Yongsan community, primarily for military spouses and their families who are about to join the Yongsan community and embark on a wonderful adventure....Seoul, South Korea! This wonderful group of volunteers, between them, donated hundreds of hours writing and editing the following pages to ensure that the information passed on to you will be as helpful and accurate as possible. Throughout these pages you will find a wealth of information on how to prepare for your PCS, what to do upon arrival, places to shop, restaurants to enjoy, community services available, travel opportunities, maps and much more.

A big thank you must therefore go to the wonderful volunteers - The Seoul Survivor Committee and proof readers - who did such a fantastic job, especially since this was the first time most had researched and written anything meant for publication. What a wonderful book they produced.

An enormous thank you goes to Mr. Chong and his staff at Oriental Press, who have provided this book in all forms, from the initial single page leaflets, to this latest and very impressive publication, **free of charge**, for the past twenty five years. This great act of generosity has touched the lives of thousands of American service members and their families who have found their transition to life in Korea much easier because of The Seoul Survivor publication.

We hope this book will be a valuable resource to you during your time here in Korea, and allows you to explore and take in the sights and sounds of places and countries few people have the opportunity to see with ease and confidence. So....venture out! Explore Korea, climb the Great Wall of China, ride an elephant in Thailand, visit the Sydney Opera House, but most of all, wherever you go I know you will make many fun and unforgettable family memories that you will cherish forever.

**Tina Fox – 2010-2011 Editor**

## QUICK CHECKLIST

### WHAT TO DO WITHIN THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF YOUR ARRIVAL

While you are in the Dragon Hill Lodge (DHL) or other temporary quarters, effectively manage your time to maximize community exploration and in-processing tasks while minimizing walking for you and your children. Be prepared with copies of orders, a Power of Attorney, letters of employment, shot records, identification cards, school records and your passport(s). Bring them with you wherever you go for the first two weeks. Be flexible with your schedule. Be curious with the culture and Korean people you meet. Understand it is also helpful to call before you go anywhere to verify information and to check hours of operation. For a listing of building locations, telephone numbers, and hours of operation, walk across the street to the Army Community Services Building (4106) for a current USAG-Yongsan Telephone Book. The Dragon Hill Lodge should also have a copy in the room. Always remember to plan in some “down-time” or relaxation activities for your entire family.

- **Visit Army Community Service (ACS)** They are located in the Army Community Service Building (4106, room 115 ground floor) on South Post behind the Dragon Hill Lodge (behind Popeye’s Chicken). ACS has so much to offer a newcomer to the community. Be sure to pick up your welcome packet full of maps, schedules, and Korean tourism information. Sign up for a Korean class or the Introduction to Seoul Transportation or Korean Food Discovery Class. Get the schedule for play groups so you and your child can start making friends.
- **A3 Visa/SOFA Stamp** While you’re at ACS, sign up for an A3 Visa and/or SOFA Stamp appointment or have ACS show you how to go to one of the three convenient Seoul Immigration Office locations. Be sure and get the packet of information to complete for your appointments. If you are able to have one of the ACS coordinated appointments, ACS will email you with a reminder of your scheduled date and time. Take your passport, ID card, copy of identification card (front and back), copy of sponsor’s ID card, and verification memorandum to building 4106 on your scheduled appointment date to receive the Korean Immigration Stamp. Call 738-7505 for more information. ACS only offers service on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the

month so appointments are limited. It is so fast and easy to go directly down to an Immigration Office off-post; maybe get together with a few friends making it a fun day out. **Active Duty Family Members, Civilians Employees and their Family Members must have an A3 Visa and SOFA Stamp within 90 days of arrival in country.** The SOFA Stamp should be valid until your sponsor's DEROS date or the expiration date on the Sponsor's ID card, or the expiration of the individual's passport. If your A3 Visa and/or SOFA Stamp expires while in Korea, the Visa and Stamp will need to be reissued. **2ID family members** receive their SOFA Stamp through the 2ID Liaison NCOIC at the 1st Replacement Company (1RC) Building (4034), DSN: 723-5461.

- **Participate in the USAG-Yongsan Spouse & Civilian Newcomer's Orientation**  
The military sponsor must attend a mandatory 1st Replacement Company (1RC) Orientation packed full of training-required briefings that he/she must attend before reporting to the unit. Family members and civilians have the luxury of attending one of the ACS coordinated Newcomer's Orientations created to encourage exploration of the USAG-Yongsan Community and Seoul area. The Newcomer's Orientation includes a Yongsan Windshield Tour, Seoul City Tour, tour of the Namsan Folk Village and lunch at a Korean Restaurant. At the conclusion of the tour, there will be a "mini-Expo" of community agency representatives available for you to pick and choose for your family's needs. This Orientation is a great time for you to sign up for classes, enroll in programs, and get many of your Family's needs met right in the One-Stop Army Community Services Building (4106). The entire Family (yes! Children are welcome) are encouraged to participate in the Orientation. If you need childcare, talk with ACS about care options available. Other follow-on classes include Transportation 101 and the Korean Food Discovery Class. Both classes help the newcomer learn ways to get out and about in Seoul and are well worth it!
- **Enroll in D.B.I.D.S.** (Defense Biometric Identification System). The sponsor must be in the system before Family Members can be enrolled. You must have your identification card with you. You need to be in D.B.I.D.S. before you can register your vehicle or receive your ration control card. All Family Members must be enrolled in D.B.I.D.S. (Located in Building 4034, ID card Section). This office operates a pull a number and wait program, so please be patient. Depending on the time of year, wait time can be 30 minutes.
- **Obtain a Ration Card** Building 4034, ration control section. You will need a copy of the Service Member's orders showing assignment and command sponsorship number, a copy of passport(s) for all family members, and a copy of all ID cards front and back. Service Member must be present to

accomplish this task; a Power of Attorney cannot be substituted for the Service Member.

**Note:** Entry to the PX, Commissary and Chosun Gift Shop require a ration card. During the first two weeks in country, carry orders with Family Members names printed on them for access to above-mentioned purchase points. **Civilian Employees, Retirees and Family Members must have identification cards and ration cards to make purchases. Military members may enter and purchase items from the Commissary, PX and Chosun at any time by showing their ID card.** For more information, Ration Control USAG-Yongsan DSN: 738-4612. **2ID Family members** living in USAG-Yongsan receive ration control cards through the 2ID Liaison NCOIC, at the 1RC Building (4034), DSN: 723-5461.

- **Housing and Furniture** Active duty Service Members must complete the 1RC In-processing program before making a registration appointment at the Housing Division. Command-sponsored Family Members can come to Housing representing the military member within 48 hours of arrival. Family members must have a Power of Attorney. A Housing Brief is required prior to searching for off-post housing. Briefs are held Tuesday and Thursday at 1530 in the 1RC briefing room. For Housing information, stop by the ACS Building (4106), Room 205, DSN 738-4069.
- **Stop by Transportation** (Incoming Household Goods) ACS Building (4106), Room 120, call DSN 738-4818. Check on the estimated arrival date of your Hold Baggage, Household Goods and vehicle. Make sure and give them a local contact number so that they may notify you as items arrive. Track the date of arrival for your vehicle by visiting [www.wherismypov.com](http://www.wherismypov.com).
- **Driver's License** You will need a stateside driver's license, orders, and identification card to take the driving test. You need to study USFK PAM 385-2, "Guide to Safe Driving in Korea" before taking the test. Driver's Testing is located in the ACS Building (4106), Room 235, 738-5568/3235.  
**Note:** Monday - Thursday 8:00-10:30am are the hours available for testing and tests are by appointment only. If you pass the test, you return in the afternoon for a safety video, eye chart test and new driving license.
- **Seoul Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) & Registration** As a quality of life initiative for FY09, USAG-Yongsan combined all aspects of the Vehicle Processing Center and Vehicle Registration into one convenient stop. The Seoul VPC is located on the western corner inside Camp Kim, Building C-1244 through C-1255. You must have a Power of Attorney if you're not the Military Member, and you must be registered in D.B.I.D.S. in order to do this without your sponsor present. Registration and permanent plates

both require separate fees. You must have insurance for coverage in Korea prior to picking your vehicle up and you must have either a USFK driver's license or, if within 30 days of arrival, a valid US driver's license. Understand that your car will have only a small amount of gasoline, so plan on a trip to the gas station immediately after picking up your car (see map of Yongsan Garrison for directions to on post gas station). Camp Kim Vehicle Registration, Commercial number: (2)738-7091/7032, Fax number is commercial (02) 798-7033.

- **NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operation) Briefing and Packet** Go through the sponsor's unit. Active duty family members, civilian employees and their family members are deemed non-combatants and must have a completed NEO packet approved by a unit's NEO Warden and be ready for an evacuation. Also see section **N** in this book.
- **Stop by Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) Central Enrollment & Registration** to register children for activities. Army Community Services Building (4106) 738-5036/3001. Sign up for classes, activities, Child Development Center, Summer Camp programs, the Middle School/Teen Center, youth sports, and SAS Before/After School Care. You must bring proof of immunizations (recent PPD), orders, and an updated physical. Enrollment is free, but paperwork is required for each child. You might even be able to get your children into a program immediately thus enabling you to focus on other newcomer tasks. CYSS has many summer "friendship" camps offered for kindergarten through fifth grades to help integrate your student into their new home. There are also summer sports camps and swimming lessons offered.
- **TRICARE and the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (BAACH)** otherwise know as 121 Hospital South Post 7005. DSN, 737-3155. Visit the TRICARE Office to switch your enrollment area. Drop off medical records and transfer your digital records account at Patient Administration. In the hospital, refill any pharmaceuticals, and even establish your first appointment for school physicals, immunizations, PPDs, etc.
- **Drop off Dental Records at the Dental Clinic.** For Active Duty Personnel South Post 5107, call 736-4779. The Dental Clinic for adult family members is near the hospital and is called Dental Clinic #2 The TRICARE Dental Representative Mr. Suh has an office in the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (first office to the right of the main entrance) room 1150. Call, 736-5051 or email him at: [kyu.suh@amedd.army.mil](mailto:kyu.suh@amedd.army.mil).
- **The Dental Clinic for youth** family members is located behind the Elementary School Cafeteria (on Stoves Avenue), and is called Dental Clinic #3.

- **School Registration.** Located in the Army Community Services Building (4106) ground floor, room 121, DSN 738-7707. Be sure to speed up the process and pre-register online (<http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu>) and print the forms before you arrive in the office. If you have every form filled out beforehand, registration will be a snap. Don't forget shot records and at least three emergency contact numbers. All forms are turned into this office except transferred school records. These go directly to the school your child will be attending. If you are going to live off-post, it is helpful if you ask School Transportation (they share the office) what the bus routes are to help you plan where to live. Finally, ask the school registrar for youth transition assistance points of contacts so that your children can meet new kids their age. The elementary school has Dolphin Delegates, the Middle School has Bulldogs Ambassadors, and the High School has the Student-2-Student program. There will be at least one DoDDS Transition Representative available to help children in-process into the school system.
- **Drop off your pet records at the Vet Clinic** South Post 4728, call DSN 738-4261. Make sure you register your pets and get them micro-chipped.

## ONCE HOUSING IS ESTABLISHED

- **Telephone/Internet** The telephone provider you use depends on where you live:
  - **If you live in any of the on-post housing areas**, you must first establish line connectivity by visiting the 41st Signal Battalion (Bldg 2320, call 738-6900). The telephone/internet provider for all Yongsan housing areas (including Hannam Village and K-16 Air Base) is LG Dacom. Their office is located on the 1st floor of Moyer Community Activity Center, call 723-7023/7030 or 02-6355-5000. They offer several different plans, including VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone numbers.
  - **If you live off post**, your telephone/internet provider will be Korea Telecom (KT). To get to the KT office, leave post at Gate 19. Walk to the main road and take a right. The office is a short distance up this road on the right hand side call, commercial 02-797-0060. You may be put on hold (music). As soon as an operator hears you speak they will either; speak back in English, or transfer you to someone who does speak English....so don't hang up. See Telephone for more information.
- **Cable Hook Up** MWR cable is located in the Army Community Services Building (4106), room 236, call DSN 738-4310. Personnel living in government quarters are authorized to enroll in MWR Cable service. For personnel living off-post, MWR Cable is not available. Many of the rental agreements for apartments off-post include SKY satellite cable access. Military channels are not available through SKY, but there are many English-Asia stations available, including Disney, Australian networks and HBO Family.
- **Go to the School Transportation Office** to apply for school bus transportation pickup during the school year. If you did not have your off-post housing "squared away" when you dropped off your school registration forms, then you need to go back to the Army Community Services Building (4106), room 121 and put in the paperwork for your child's school bus pass.

## QUICK REFERENCES&EMERGENCY NUMBERS

To call a military phone number from a commercial or cell phone, dial 0505 then the number.

To call to a commercial phone/cell phone from a military phone, dial 99 then the number.

To call a commercial phone from a cell phone, dial 02 then the number.

### ON POST (Yongsan and Hannam Village)

Operator Assistance	0 or 723-1110
Police	110 (Commercial – 02-724-6695)
Fire	117 (Commercial – 02-738-0117)
Ambulance	116 (Commercial – 02-737-6132)

Emergency Housing Repair:

South Post	DSN 724-3360
Hannam Village	Commercial 02-794-4448
AAFES Taxi	Commercial 02-1544-9080

### OFF POST (Seoul Area)

Operator Assistance	Dial 114
Korean National Police (Central Interpretation Center)	02-313-0842
Seoul Metropolitan Police	02-738-9997
Fire and Emergency (Ambulance)	119
Seoul Help Center for Foreigners	02-731-6800
Cell phone Tourism Assistance	1330
BBB Volunteer Service for Translation (Enter 1 for English)	02-1588-5644

**Note:** All Yongsan organizational telephone numbers and hours of operation are available online at <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>.

## HELPFUL WEBSITE

- **[www.afsckorea.org](http://www.afsckorea.org)**: American Forces' Spouses' Club.
- **<http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>**: USAG-Yongsan provides services for Yongsan Garrison, Hannam Village and K-16 Air Base. This site offers invaluable general information on the living environment at Yongsan and in Seoul. The site features an online calendar of community events, telephone book, welcome guide, daily weather and stories about Yongsan activities.
- **[www.usfk.mil](http://www.usfk.mil)**: This is the homepage for the USFK. The site provides links to numerous military websites throughout Korea and the world, as well as other online information sources and publications. This website is wonderful and really gives you up-to-date information about life in the Yongsan community area. This site also includes a phone book.
- **[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)**: This is a military social service website and has information on all military installations worldwide. The installation section provides integrated maps along with useful web and email addresses. This site provides a 90 day calendar with pertinent information. It can print a 30-60 page info booklet on your new installation. Look up USAG-Yongsan.
- **[www.visitseoul.net/english\\_new/index.htm](http://www.visitseoul.net/english_new/index.htm)**: This website is provided by the Seoul Metropolitan Government. This site provides a wonderful publication for newcomers called Seoul's Best 100 (100 best things to do in the city.) Check it out and see where you can pick up a copy. Look for "HI Seoul" signs posted all over the city.
- **<http://english.seoul.go.kr>**: Lost in Seoul? This is the website for The Seoul Help Center for Foreigners. The center was opened by the city government to provide support to foreigners living in Seoul and is the official website of the City of Seoul. It offers information on what is happening in and around Seoul. Click on the English text version in the upper right hand corner.
- **<http://www-2id.korea.army.mil>**: This is the homepage for the 2nd Infantry Division. Included is the 2ID Handbook, division history, units, leadership, links to the 2ID posts, information for newcomers and families, and much more concerning 2ID.
- **<http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr/index.jsp>**: Are you a country "bumpkin" moving to the big city? Check out this website that teaches foreigners how to ride the mass transit system. It has an interactive site for trip planning.

Make sure you look in the upper right-hand corner to switch the site to “English.”

- **<http://english.tour2korea.com>**: Korean Tourism Organization. This site has everything you need to know about the what, where, and how of Korea; really a fabulous place to explore the culture virtually. Use the site to make sure you get out and explore all Korea has to offer.

## LINKS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES AND FAMILIES

- www.militaryonesource.com**: AFTB official site.
- www.armyonesource.com**: Find information on volunteering, AFTB, and Army Life.
- www.armyfrg.org**: Army Family Readiness Groups.
- www.talesmag.com/resources/military.shtml**: National Military Family Association.
- www.npa.go.kr/eng/index.jsp**: Korean National Police Agency has helpful information on local affairs.
- http://cpol.army.mil**: Employment-check the listings for Korea.
- www.nichcy.org**: Children with disabilities. This is a great site for information.
- www.milspouse.org**: Look for information on finding a job.
- http://aw2portal.com/** : Wounded Warrior Program.
- www.militarystudent.org**: Information for military children that helps them with moving, military life and more.
- www.va.gov**: Veterans Affairs website.
- www.military.com/spouse**: A great place for military spouses to find out about employment, schooling and intern opportunities  
Note: For more employment and visa information for spouses please refer to Employment in the E section.
- www.health.mil**: A site to look for combined medical information for the Service Member, TRICARE, and educational opportunities.

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*Chosun Gift Shop*

## THE AMERICAN FORCES' SPOUSES' CLUB

**The American Forces' Spouses' Club (AFSC)** is a combined community spouses' organization that operates on Yongsan Garrison in South Korea. This "Purple Club" is a mix of all services and civilians. We are Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine spouses, both active duty and retired. We are DoD civilian employees, DoDDS teachers and their spouses. We are American Red Cross, USO, and Special Service personnel and spouses. With the inclusion of United Nations Command Officers and spouses, we are truly a "purple" bunch.

### **The mission of the AFSC is two-fold;**

First, it is to enhance the lives of the spouses stationed here at Yongsan, as well as across the peninsula in the Republic of Korea (ROK). We do this by hosting monthly luncheons, which in addition to offering delicious food and shopping experiences with local Korean and American vendors, also provide quality programs. The luncheons also provide the opportunity to develop some wonderful friendships. We also offer many activities for our members: hiking and running clubs, a book club, and a cooking club, to name just a few. Each year

the AFSC also sponsors the Tour of Homes, USO (United Service Organization) Six Star Salute, which honors enlisted soldiers for their excellent service in maintaining the alliance between the U.S. and the ROK, and the Graduates Farewell, which honors our graduating seniors from all over the area. Finally, the AFSC writes and publishes *The Seoul Survivor*. This book is an invaluable resource that gives a comprehensive introduction to life in Seoul, Korea. To find out more about what the AFSC has to offer, check out our website at [www.afsckorea.org](http://www.afsckorea.org) or become a member and receive the monthly newsletter the "Chosun Chatter".

Second, our mission is to enhance the area in which we live through charitable giving to our local Korean and American communities. The main fundraising arm of the AFSC is the Chosun Gift Shop. Operated by AFSC volunteers, the Chosun Gift Shop sells goods from the Far East including China, Hong Kong, Japan, The Philippines and Thailand. The profits from the AFSC's Chosun Gift Shop are split equally between American and Korean Projects, and then distributed to worthy causes. The organizations that receive these funds are the direct beneficiaries of the hard work of the volunteers and staff at the Chosun Gift Shop and the AFSC. In addition to Korean and American Projects, the AFSC also awards educational scholarships each year to members who have graduating seniors, college students, or to adults wishing to pursue their own educational dreams in undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

The Chosun Gift Shop is located in building 4223 on South Post, (near the Movie Theater and Thrift Shop). Hours of operations are: Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to 3pm. A military ID card and ration control card are needed for entry. All children under the age of 10 yrs must be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the store. Baby carriages, back packs, packages and beverages must be checked at the door before entry. Children may not be left unsupervised in the foyer area. For updates on what's going on at the Chosun, please visit our website at [www.afsckorea.org](http://www.afsckorea.org).

There are many opportunities and ways that you can get involved by volunteering your time with The American Forces' Spouses' Club and the Chosun Gift Shop. You will meet many people along the way and form life-long friendships, but most importantly, you will be making a difference in the lives of so many Korean and American people in our communities. If you would like to volunteer at the Chosun Gift Shop, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at DSN 738-5058.

*Thank you to all of our members for your love and dedication over the years to make this club such a success!*

## **HISTORY OF THE CHOSUN GIFT SHOP**

Early in 1966, a group of ambitious military spouses started work on their dream, a gift shop here in Korea, bringing local Korean handicrafts and gift items from other places in the Orient to the American community stationed in Korea. Mrs. L.W. Schlanser, wife of the Chief of Staff, Eighth U.S. Army, spearheaded the drive. The ladies researched their project as to transportation, customs, locations and official regulations.

In March 1966, Mrs. James Simmerman, President of the OWC, submitted a formal application to General Schlanser who approved the project in principle. Official recommendations were to start a "Charity Bazaar" for six months from July until Christmas on a trial basis. Some Okinawa glassware and \$500 served as the initial investment. Handicrafts from the Paraplegic Village and the Vocational school for Girls, Young Chin, were added to serve a dual purpose to introduce Korean handicrafts to the American shoppers and to help these institutions gain extra income.

The project was an instant success. On Saturday, September 16, 1967, the Chosun Gift Shop held its grand opening in building 3599, a Quonset hut across from the high school. In addition to operating the shop in Seoul and its branch in Daegu, the ladies loaded their merchandise into trucks and periodically visited remote sites to enable soldiers stationed there to do their shopping. The Daegu shop (The Apple Tree) is now independent of the CGS and is run by the spouses' club on Camp Walker. Today, as in the beginning, the Chosun Gift Shop operates with the approval of the command. The Board of Directors must meet the guidelines of the Gift Shop, Army Regulations and polices pertaining to private organizations. The Chosun pays its own way including utilities and all transportation costs of merchandise purchased from other countries along with all delivery fees involved.

On April 10, 1997, the Chosun Gift Shop burned with a tremendous loss of inventory. With thanks to many benefactors and innumerable volunteer hours,

the Chosun Gift Shop reopened in a temporary location several weeks later. During this initial reopening, a salvage operation and inventory was conducted. The Chosun was again relocated to another temporary location and finally opened its doors to a newly built permanent location on May 26, 1998. The store was rebuilt with donations and its own money. The building was then given as a gift to the Army. The new store sits at the site of the burned store.

Nine paid staff members, and hundreds of volunteers, all of whom are AFSC members, operate the Chosun Gift Shop. The Shop currently stocks items from Japan, China, Thailand, Hong Kong and the Philippines. The Chosun has many departments and stocks items including: rugs, furniture, jewelry, linens, novelties, clothing, dishes and pottery. The Chosun Gift Shop no longer stocks Korean-made items, but you can still find excellent deals on the local economy. Thanks for your continued support of this great organization.

*See you at the Chosun!*



Eighth United States Army

## HISTORY OF U.S. FORCES AT YONGSAN

and immediately began a major building program to consolidate its political and military control over the country. It established the headquarters for the Imperial Japanese Army in Korea at Yongsan (Dragon Mountain) shortly after annexation. The Japanese compound included the areas known today as Yongsan Main and South Posts, Camp Coiner, Hannam Village, the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense, and the ROK War Museum. During its occupation from 1905-1945, the Japanese garrisoned the post with an infantry division headquarters, at least two infantry regiments, and a cavalry unit. In addition, they located the colonial administrative and governmental headquarters on South Post.

When World War II ended in 1945, the U.S. government sent Lt. Gen. Hodge's XXIV Corps to Korea to accept the surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th Parallel. Meanwhile, Soviet forces moved into the area north of the parallel. In September 1945, the U.S. 7th Infantry Division established its headquarters at Yongsan. It helped provide administration, order, and security of the southern

zone, pending establishment of a single government for the entire peninsula; however, a unified Korea proved impossible as the Soviets sealed the border at the 38th Parallel and created a communist North Korean state.

All U.S. forces, with the exception of the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG), departed Korea in mid 1949. At the request of the ROK government, the U.S. military formed the KMAG at Yongsan to develop and train ROK security forces. These security forces were first organized into police constabularies and later became the foundation of the ROK Army.

The North Korean invasion that began on 25 June 1950 turned Korea into a battlefield. Seoul changed hands four times between the communist and the United Nations forces. The opposing armies inflicted substantial damage on the city and garrison. In 1952, U.S. forces reestablished headquarters at Yongsan and began restoring the post. The Eighth U.S. Army moved its headquarters from Seoul National University (present day Seoul National University Medical School) to Yongsan on 15 September 1953.

On 1 July 1957, the United Nations Command (UNC) headquarters moved from Tokyo to Seoul in conjunction with an overall reorganization of U.S. military forces and command structures in the Pacific. The U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the ROK Minister of National Defense created the Combined Forces Command (CFC) in 1977. This two-nation command, headed by a U.S. four-star general, who also serves as the Commander of United Nations Command, USFK, and the senior U.S. Army officer in Korea, will serve as the war fighting headquarters in the event of any future hostilities between the two Koreas.

As the state of “No war, No peace,” embodied in the Armistice Agreement of 1953, stretched through the ensuing years, the garrison at Yongsan expanded its support facilities. Over the years the post went through three major building phases. From 1952 to 1955, the U.S. Army constructed many Quonset huts on Camp Coiner and other parts of the post for soldier billeting and offices. Through the 1960s to about 1972, the Army started replacing the Quonset huts with multi-story, concrete & steel barracks, concrete mess halls, and gymnasiums to improve the soldier living conditions. The third period of construction started

about 1977 and went on into the 1990s. Construction included: new troop facilities, family units, schools, the White House (Bldg. 2310), and the Dragon

Hill Lodge. Slowly, Yongsan changed from rows of olive drab Quonset huts to a modern installation.

Today, Yongsan garrison consists of 630 acres and has about 4,000 military personnel assigned to its headquarters and support agencies. The major tenant organizations on Yongsan are the UNC/CFC/USFK Headquarters, 8th U.S. Army Headquarters, U.S. Navy Forces Korea, U.S. Marine Forces Korea, Installation Management Command-Korea Headquarters, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade Headquarters, 1st Signal Brigade Headquarters, the 69th Medical Brigade, the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital, and the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group Korea (JUSMAGK). Approximately 1,200 U.S. and 6,000 Korean civilian employees augment the U.S. military. In addition, more than 1,000 KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the U. S. Army) Soldiers serve on post.

Some 7,000 military and civilian employee family members reside on South Post, in a contract housing area east of South Post called Hannam Village, or on the local economy in neighborhoods adjacent to the compound. Although the Headquarters for the 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) is north of Seoul, many 2ID family members live in Seoul or on USAG-Yongsan. The 2ID Combat Aviation Brigade resides at USAG-Humphreys, but has an aviation battalion assigned to K-16

Information in this section was provided by the USFK Command History Office. For more information, please contact the Heritage Center located on South Post, Bldg 4260, at 723-5213. They have an excellent brochure on a walking tour of the post.



Hyangwonjung - Photo by Brett Turner

## KOREA

Most Americans have little or no knowledge of Korea's history and culture, and much of what they do know may be an erroneous impression garnered from the news media or old newsreel footage from the Korean War. In reality, the Republic of Korea is a vibrant, vital country of more than 49 million people, all striving to keep up in this fast-paced, modern society. Koreans have become world travelers, world-class economic competitors, and they are highly regarded participants in world affairs. Underpinning all their vast economic and commercial accomplishments over the last twenty-five years though, lays the Korean people's spiritual wealth, their traditional respect for elders, their strong belief in community, their love of nature, and their sense of national pride.

Many newcomers find South Korea to be an exotic place. Keeping an open mind and being willing to experience and appreciate cultural differences will make your tour of duty here one of the most memorable of your military career.

Embark on your Korean experience with a sense of adventure and your journey may surprise you in new and wonderful ways. Soon after you arrive, you will realize the Korean people are very friendly. They will exert themselves to the utmost to understand you. Many Koreans, especially in Seoul, speak English. At times though, communication can be a frustrating task. The key is to exercise patience, speak slowly (not loudly!) and express gratitude. Your reward will be their readiness to cooperate and to support you.

Korea's history is an amazing mixture of events and trends. Against the backdrop of strong cultural uniformity that started to emerge in the seventh century and has continued up to the present day, we find a pattern of rich contrasts. Buddhist pagodas stand side by side with Confucian Shrines, cycles of great commercial growth are set against downturns of financial decay and numerous foreign invasions are countered by attempts at territorial expansion.

Aristocratic rulers enjoyed luxurious and extravagant lifestyles with funds gained from poverty stricken peasants. Within the Korean government, periods of factional strife and political coups contrast with long periods of stability. Learning about Korea's past helps put the present into true perspective.

On a busy day in Seoul, the capital city of 24.5 million people, we guarantee you'll notice the following:

- **The industriousness of the people** - The official work and school week is Monday through noon Saturday. The second and fourth Saturdays are not official work days.
- **Traffic** - Everyone tries to "get there first." The traffic in many parts of Korea is legendary and rivals the worst that New York, Paris, London, or Washington D.C. has to offer. Rather than a methodical, legalized culture of driving, Korea's driving habits have been described as currents in a vast river all flowing in the same general direction.
- **A myriad of smells** - Visitors quickly come to believe garlic must be the national food staple. It is used extensively in Korean dishes. Two very popular dishes are Bulgogi (barbecued marinated beef), and kimch'i (a fermented vegetable dish with as many variations as there are Korean cooks.) Once you acquire a taste for it, eating Korean-style can be inexpensive and delicious.
- **The clothing** - Koreans are much more formal in their dress than most Westerners and take great pains with their appearance. As the culture becomes even more westernized, the number of Koreans who still wear a traditional Korean dress called "Hanbok" (graceful, full-length garment in several pieces) is declining.

- **The Korean alphabet, Hangeul** - Learning to read this phonetic alphabet, invented by King Sejong and a group of scholars in 1443, is often the greatest challenge faced by foreigners who want to become well acquainted with Korea. The 1988 Olympics in Seoul encouraged the Koreans to print most major road and street signs in both Hangeul and English.
- **The jostling crowds** - Space is precious in Seoul. Koreans are accustomed to tight crowds, and they assume everyone else is too. Therefore, pushing and shoving is normal and not to be taken personally.
- **The markets** - Nowhere in the world, Hong Kong included, are there markets and shopping areas to rival those of Seoul. Itaewon, located just outside the U.S. Army Garrison at Yongsan, is probably the most famous of the Korean shopping Mecca. The true Korean markets, however, are not as Western in style as Itaewon. In the traditional markets like Dongdaemun (East Gate) and Namdaemun (South Gate), products are grouped according to type. Astonishingly you will encounter rows and rows of leather jacket vendors in one place, miles of fabric in another, and thousands of electronic gadgets in another. The range is truly amazing! See **Markets** under the **Shopping** section for more information.

As with any other prospective assignment, try to visit or correspond with others who have been stationed here before you come. Stay open minded, though, to form your own opinions. While you are here, take every opportunity to venture off Yongsan and explore this beautiful, mountainous country. Strike up conversations with the Korean people, taste the delicious and sometimes unusual food and enjoy the cultural arts. It will definitely be an experience you will never forget.

## FACTS ABOUT SOUTH KOREA

- **History** - Korea is said to have been founded about 4,300 years ago. Its recorded history dates back to 2,333 B.C. The Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established in 1948.
- **Language** - The Korean written language is referred to as Hangeul; the spoken language is simply called Korean (Hanguk-mal).
- **Geography** - Korea is a peninsula thrusting from the northeast Asian mainland in a southerly direction for about 620 miles/1,000 kilometers. The peninsula, contiguous to the two continental powers of China and Russia to the north and nearby oceanic Japan to the south, functioned for a long

time as a land bridge through which continental culture was transmitted to Japan. Its peninsula location has both the advantage of easy access to adjacent cultures and the disadvantage of becoming the target of aggressive neighbors. South Korea shares a land boundary with North Korea of about 150 miles/238 kilometers.

- **Topography** - Approximately 70 percent of South Korea's land area is comprised of mountains and uplands. Mount Halla (6,396 feet/1,950 meters) on Jeju Island is the tallest mountain. The longest rivers are the Naktong River, the Kum River, and the Han River, which flows through Seoul.
- **Area** - 8,452 square miles/ 99,237 sq. km (about the size of Indiana).
- **Climate** - Long, cold winters and short, hot, humid summers with late monsoon rains and flooding. Seoul's January mean temperature is 22 degrees F. to 35 degrees F. In July it is 73 degrees F. to 78 degrees F. The annual rainfall varies from year to year but usually averages more than 39 inches/100 centimeters. Of that total, two-thirds of the precipitation falls between June and September.
- **President** - Lee, Myung-Bak.
- **Capital City** - Seoul (Est. population of 24.5 million).
- **Monetary Unit** - Won
- **Population** - Approximately 48.74 Million (Jan 2010).
- **Largest Cities** - Seoul, Busan, Daegu, and Incheon.
- **Religions** -No affiliation 46%, Christian 26%, Buddhist 26%, Confucianism 1%.
- **Literacy Rate** - Over 98% (one of the highest in the world).
- **Industry** - South Korea's workforce is 20 million strong. Fifty-two percent of the labor force work in the service industry with 27% in mining and manufacturing. Exports include; agricultural products, electronics, machinery, textiles, steel along with metal and chemical products. Major products: clothing, textiles, processed foods, chemicals, and electronics.
- **Natural Resources** - Iron, copper ore, tungsten, and graphite.
- **National Bird** - Magpie.
- **National Flower** - Rose of Sharon.

## **KOREAN NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

- **January 1 (New Year's Day)** - The first day of the New Year is celebrated. Family members rise early and put on their best clothes. The younger members bow to their parents and grandparents as a reaffirmation of family ties.

- **Lunar New Year (Korean New Year's Day)** - celebrated on the first day of the first month by the lunar calendar. It is celebrated in a similar way to January 1, but on a grander scale. Families perform ceremonies to commemorate their ancestors. Various traditional games are played. There is much singing and traditional food is served.
- **March 1 (Independence Movement Day)** - Koreans observe the anniversary of the March 1, 1919, Independence Movement against the Japanese Occupation.
- **Buddha's Birthday** - Celebrated on the eighth day of the fourth month of the lunar calendar. Solemn rituals are performed at Buddhist temples, and the day's festivities are climaxed by a "lotus lantern" parade.
- **May 1 (Labor Day)** - This is not a government holiday, however many banks and businesses may be closed.
- **May 5 (Children's Day)** - This day is celebrated with various programs for children who spend the day enjoying themselves with their parents.
- **June 6 (Memorial Day)** - On this day, the nation pays tribute to its war dead. Memorial services are held at the National Cemetery in Seoul.
- **August 15 (Liberation Day)** - On this day in 1945, Korea was liberated from Japan after 36 years of colonial rule. It also marks the 1948 establishment of the government of the Republic of Korea.
- **Harvest Full Moon (Korean Thanksgiving Day known as Chusok)** - celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month by the lunar calendar (September/October). Chusok is Korea's most important national holiday. People visit family tombs and present food offerings to their ancestors. The tradition of Chusok dates back to an annual weaving competition that was started during the Shilla Dynasty. The losing team would prepare a feast for the winners, and all would share the food. Most Koreans will return to their hometowns during this holiday, so traffic is unusually heavy and travel times double.
- **October 3 (National Foundation Day)** - Marks the traditional founding of Korea by Tan'gun in 2333 B.C.
- **December 25 (Christmas Day)** - Christians and other citizens celebrate this holy day as in the West.



During your tour in Korea, you will find ample opportunity to study the Korean language. Many bases have on-duty and off-duty language classes that are offered without charge. Formal classes are also offered on post; check with the ACS for details (Also see the Language section in this book). If you would like to get a head start on learning some Korean, try the **free** Rosetta Stone Language courses available by registering at **Army e-learning**. Click the link **<https://usarmy.skillport.com>**. The courses are fun and great for learning the correct pronunciations.

**NOTE:** If you are not a member of the US Army you may encounter problems registering. If this is the case, wait until you arrive and go to the Yongsan Library and register/sign up on the computer system there.

The post libraries offer many language-learning books, along with audio and video cassettes for circulation. The AAFES Main Post Exchange carries similar products as well as useful phrase books and Korean language computer programs.

English has been taught in Korean schools starting in the 1st grade since 1998. In the past, English was taught in Korean schools beginning in the 7th grade with an emphasis on grammar instead of speaking. When you talk to Koreans in English, speak slowly to increase your chances of being understood.

## USEFUL KOREAN PHRASES

The following Korean phrases may assist you during your tour in Korea. They are simple conversational words and phrases designed for newcomers. Koreans will be impressed you have made the effort to learn even a little of their language. The key is not being afraid to try and have the ability to laugh at yourself.

### GREETINGS

Good morning	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good morning	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good afternoon	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good evening	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Hello (on the telephone)	Yo-bo-say-yo
May I have Your name?	Ee-ru-mee moo ot shim nee ka?

I'm glad to meet you  
Good-bye (by Host)

Mahn-nah-suh bahn-gah-wuh-yo  
Ahn-nyong-hee kah-say-yo

### SHOPPING

How much does it cost?  
Do you have \_\_\_\_\_?  
Show me another one  
It is expensive  
Can you reduce the price?  
I'll take this  
It's too big  
It's too little

Ol-mah yeh-yo?  
\_\_\_\_\_ it-suh yo?  
Darun-gut johm bo-yuh-ju-say-yo  
Bee-sah-yo  
Chom sah-keh-heh ju-say-yo  
Egut ju-say-yo  
Noh-moo kuh-yo  
Jjug-uh-yo

### AT THE RESTAURANT

It is very delicious  
It is hot (spicy)  
I would like a glass of cold water  
I would like a bottle of beer  
Please give me \_\_\_\_\_  
an English menu  
the bill

Ah-ju mah-sheet-so-yo  
Mae-wo-yo  
Mool ju-say-yo  
Mack-ju hahn-byong ju say yo  
\_\_\_\_\_ ju-say-yo  
Yong-oh menu  
Keh-sahn-suh

### CONVERSATION

Do you speak English?  
Where is \_\_\_\_\_?  
the police station  
the restroom  
Yes  
No  
Thank you  
You are welcome  
I am sorry  
Come here  
Please help me  
Call a policeman (an M.P.)  
for me please  
Call this number for me,  
please?

Young-oh hahm-nee-ka?  
\_\_\_\_\_ o-dee itsum nee-ka?  
Kyong-chal-suh  
Hwa-Jahng-shil  
Yeh (or Nay)  
Ah-ni-yo  
Kam-sah ham-nee-dah  
Chon-manh-neh-yo  
Mee-ahn hahm-nee-dah  
Ee-ree o-say-yo  
Jom, dough-wah ju-say-yo  
Kyung-chal (huhn-byung) bul-luh  
ju-say-yo  
Ee bon-ho-ro jon-hwa jom, heh-  
ju-say-yo

## TAKING A CAB

Please take me to the nearest  
military installation  
Stop here  
What is this place called?  
How much is the fare?  
Please take me to \_\_\_\_\_  
Itaewon shopping area  
South Gate Market  
East Gate Market

Kah-kah-woon mee-goon boo-dae-ka ju U.S.  
say yo  
Yo-gee se-wo ju-say-yo  
Yo-gee-gah-aw-deem-nee-ka?  
Ol-mah eem-nee-ka?  
\_\_\_\_\_ kab-she-dah  
Itaewon she-jahng  
Nam-dae-moon she-jahng  
Dong-dae-mun she-jahng

## WHEN TRAVELING

Give me one ticket to \_\_\_\_\_  
Western-style room  
Toilet  
Parking lot  
Reservation

\_\_\_\_\_ hahn-jahng ju-say-yo  
Cheem-dae bahng  
Hwa-jahng-shill  
Ju-cha-jahng  
Yay-yahk

## DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday  
Sunday

Wol-yo-il  
Hwa-yo-il  
Soo-yo-il  
Mok-yo-il  
Kum-yo-il  
To-yo-il  
Il-yo-il

## MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January Il-wahl  
February Ee-wahl  
March Sahm-wahl  
April Sah-wahl  
May Oh-wahl  
June Yu-wahl

July Cheel-wahl  
August Pahl-wahl  
September Guu-wahl  
October She-wahl  
November Shib-il-wahl  
December Shib-ee-wahl

## KOREAN NUMBERS

Chinese numbers are often used when counting sequentially. This includes money, telephone numbers, dates, mileage, etc. When shopping, listen for the Chinese numbers, particularly for the endings which mean hundred, thousand and ten thousand. Notice that Korean numbers go as far as 99. Beyond 100, Chinese numbers are used. When counting how many people, use Korean numbers. Sometimes in the smaller restaurants the prices will be written in the Chinese figures, usually from top to bottom. The following chart offers a brief glimpse of some of the differences in the two systems:

NUMBER	NUMBER CHINESE	KOREAN
1	il	hah-na
2	Ee	dool
3	sahm	set
4	sah	net
5	oh	tah-sot
6	ruk	yo-sot
7	chil	eel-gop
8	pahl	yo-dol
9	goo	ah-ope
10	ship	yol
20	ee-ship	sue-mool
30	sahm-ship	so-run
40	sah-ship	ma-hun
50	o-ship	She'en
60	rook-ship	yeh-soon
70	chil-ship	ee-run
80	pahl-ship	yo-dun
90	koo-ship	ah-hun
100	baek	baek
200	ee-baek	ee-baek
300	sahm-baek	sahm-baek
1,000	chon	chon
2,000	ee-chon	ee-chon
10,000	mahn	mahn
100,000	ship-mahn	ship-mahn

## KOREAN CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

South Korea's population shares a common ethnic and cultural heritage. Intense feelings of nationalism, so evident in athletic events like the 1988 Olympic Games held in Seoul and the World Cup soccer games of 2002, reveal a sense of pride concerning South Korea's place in the world. More than Western people, South Korean individuals tend to view themselves as a tightly knit national community with a common destiny. This chapter contains sections on Korean personality traits, factors that have contributed to making them the way they are, and discussions of important traditions, cultural attitudes, and etiquette. Your awareness of these factors will greatly reward you as you meet and interact with new Korean friends.

*The Seoul Survivor* Committee is grateful to Mr. Young K. Chang, instructor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, California, from whose publication, *Cultural Orientation (Korean)*, much of this chapter is extracted.

### KOREAN NON-VERBAL BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE

Customs and attitudes are different in Asia from those of Western countries. Korea has its own set of courtesies. If you take the time to learn and observe them, the rewards are significant.

The traditional bow has given way to the handshake, but friendly backslaps or arm squeezing is considered rude here. Koreans meeting for the first time introduce themselves only at the invitation of a third party. The formal ritual of introduction is similar to this: The person who knows everyone in the group invites his friends to introduce themselves. One says, "I am seeing you for the first time." The other repeats the same sentence, and the elder one suggests that they introduce themselves. The introductions and formal bows are followed by an exchange of calling/business cards. These cards are very important in Korea. They give an opportunity for each person to discover the other's position without rudely inquiring about them. Cards also do away with the need of asking someone's name twice. When someone presents you with a business card, take

a moment to read it before putting it away as a sign of respect.

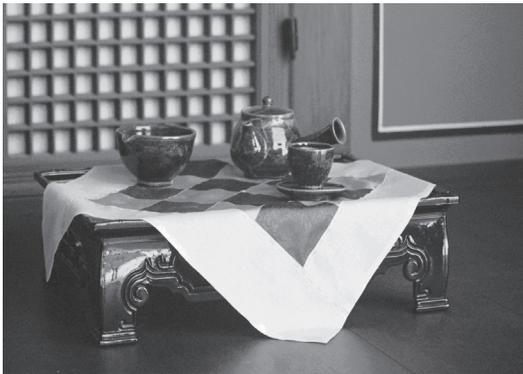
The proper use of names in Korea is also important. A person's name is considered his or her personal property. Koreans regard their name with reverence. The persistent wave of Westernization has accustomed Koreans to being addressed by their family name, but only intimate friends and family greet each other on a first-name basis. Koreans prefer titles rather than names. For example, you would call the company president "Sa-jang-nim" or someone with a Ph.D. "Bak-sa." Teacher or "Sun-saeng-nim" is an acceptable title for anyone.

Try to remember that no matter how "Western" many Koreans may appear on the surface, their thinking is still governed by traditions, which are based on a culture several thousands of years old. The following list covers some important traditions relating to etiquette:

- Avoid eye contact. Looking into an acquaintance's eyes was generally considered not polite. This is not necessarily true today.
- Use the right hand when performing tasks such as presenting gifts, paying a bill, or pouring a drink. Using the left hand is considered very impolite.
- Do not point the index finger toward a person or gesture with your foot, it is considered insulting.
- Do not write someone's name in red ink, i.e., endorse checks, letters, etc. (name written in red means death).
- If invited to dine at someone's home, bring a gift. When presenting the gift, use your right hand. Place your left hand on your right forearm near your elbow.
- Take your shoes off when entering a Korean house or restaurant with low tables.
- Do not start eating before your guest of honor or senior.
- Do not say, "I don't drink" when offered unwanted alcoholic beverages. It is more polite to say, "I'm not feeling very well today", "I am a designated driver", or "I'm on medication".
- Karaoke is very big in Korea. Sing one of your favorite songs when asked.
- Do not eat or drink without offering your food or beverage to your colleagues. Do not pour your own drink; pour for someone and let him reciprocate.
- Try to wear conservative clothes.
- Ask your Korean guest more than once to help himself to more food and drink.
- See your guest off at the gate, and stay there until your guest is gone.
- "Yes" is often used simply to acknowledge what is said by one's counterpart;

it does not necessarily mean one is in agreement or understanding.

- Do not suggest splitting the bill. Just remember when it is your turn to pay.
- You may often see two male friends or two female friends walking affectionately arm-in-arm. This is in no way an indication of their sexual preference.
- Remember the Koreans will want to touch and hold your children when you are out together (especially blondes and redheads). Koreans love children and in this culture, children are treated as “everyone’s treasure” to cherish and protect. If your children are uncomfortable with this, then remove yourselves from the situation as politely as possible. A simple “No, thank you” usually suffices.



Tea Set - Photo by Melinda Graper

## **TRADITIONAL KOREAN MEALS**

Either plain or cooked with other grain, rice is the main dish at most Korean meals. Rice is accompanied by a variety of side dishes. Favorite side dishes include bean paste soup, roasted beef and fish, as well as steamed and seasoned vegetables. Soy sauce, soybean paste, red pepper paste, ginger root, sesame oil and sesame seeds are other seasonings which are essential to Korean food.

Famed as a Korean treat is Kimch'i, a highly seasoned pickled cabbage or turnip served at most every meal. Koreans favor beef dishes, with Bulgogi being one of the most popular. It is known as "Korean barbecue" and consists of thin slices of beef marinated and then cooked on a grill over hot charcoal. The marinating sauce is made of soy sauce, sesame seed oil, garlic and other seasonings. Cooked in the same manner, but using short ribs instead of beef slices, is another well-known dish called Kalbi.

The traditional Korean homemaker believes that much of her family's happiness depends on her culinary expertise. She often begins her day by preparing a substantial breakfast of hearty soup, meat or fish, steamed rice and kimch'i. A light lunch follows which is similar to the breakfast fare. A generous evening meal is favored, consisting of up to 15 or 20 dishes for special occasions. Food is usually eaten with a pair of chopsticks and a large spoon. Holiday celebrations are an important part of family life in Korea. All celebrations, no matter how large, center on the home. Women can spend hours preparing the traditional dishes; sometimes a family's reputation depends on the amount and quality of the food.

At an elegant Korean dinner, the first course might be Gu-jol-p'an (nine compartments dish). It is somewhat similar to a French hors d'oeuvre tray. The cooked meat and vegetables are arranged on a large platter with a mound of pancakes in the center.

Homemakers in Korea, like many others in advanced nations, usually have little time to prepare these traditional foods and are well acquainted with frozen fare, microwave lunches, and other high tech cooking conveniences. Fast food restaurants, Chinese takeout/delivery (speedily brought on the back of a motor scooter with a heated box strapped to the back) and food stalls for the passerby are very popular for the busy Korean housewife.

The visitor to Korea will find native food offered in small restaurants, in the large hotels, and in gourmet sections of the large department stores, such as Lotte or Shinsegae. "TRY IT, you'll enjoy it!" The following is an alphabetical list of traditional foods and beverages that are served in many Korean restaurants:

- **Bap** - Rice.
- **Bibimbap** - (mixed rice) This Chonju specialty is a bowl of vegetables, rice, and chili paste; topped with a soft fried egg.

- **Bulgogi** - Thin strips of beef, marinated in sesame oil, soy sauce, sugar, and garlic, then grilled at your table.
- **Bin-de-ddok** - Vegetables, pork and spices cooked in batter; a North Korean pancake.
- **Bokkumbap** - Korean fried rice
- **Boricha (barley water)** - In lieu of tea, cups of this tepid drink are brought to the table as soon as you are seated in a Korean restaurant.
- **Bul Kalbi** - Literally roasted short ribs. Cooked the same way as Bulgogi.
- **Cha** - Tea.
- **Chaksol Cha (Solluk Cha)** - Different kinds of Nock-cha, Korean green tea.
- **Chapchae** - clear noodles, generally mixed with vegetables and soy based dressing. May be served hot or cold.
- **Dakagalbi** - Broiled spicy chicken and vegetables.
- **Ddok** - Rice cake.
- **Ddokguk** - Rice cake soup traditionally served on the Lunar New Year.
- **Dooboo** - Bean curd called tofu by the Japanese and dofu by the Chinese, it is the compressed white liquid squeezed from cooked soy beans.
- **Dolsot bibimbap** - Steamed rice mixed vegetable and egg (sometimes beef) with chili paste in a hot stone pot.
- **Ghim** - Paper thin sheets of salted seaweed.
- **Ghimbap** - This popular food consists of sticky rice rolled with assorted vegetables, egg, and meats into a sheet of seaweed, and sliced into bite-sized pieces. It's known as Korean Fast Food or the Korean MRE.
- **Goon Mandu** - Fried Mandu. A perfect hors d'oeuvre when served with a soy sauce. Yaki Mandu is the Japanese term.
- **In Sam** - Ginseng. A root long prized for its medicinal properties, it is also used in cooking. Paeksam is white ginseng; Hongsam is red ginseng.
- **In Sam Cha** - Ginseng tea.
- **Kalbi** - Pork or beef short ribs. (Kalbi Jhip - A Kalbi restaurant)
- **Kalbi Tang** - Kalbi soup, the least expensive way to eat Kalbi.
- **Kimch'i** - Cabbage, radishes or other vegetables pickled with garlic, chili pepper and ginger, then fermented in huge jars buried in the ground. NO Korean meal is complete without it!
- **Kimch'i jjigae** - Kimch'i stew
- **Ku-jol-pan ("Nine treasures")** - Strips of egg and vegetables are served in a compartmented dish with thin crepes in which you wrap the other eight treasures.
- **Mandu** - Dumplings, made of minced pork or beef and vegetables wrapped in thin pastry crescents, steamed and served with soy sauce.

- **Makkolli** - Rice wine, the drink traditional to farmers.
- **Maek-ju** - Beer.
- **Moo** - The large white radish used in summer kimch'i.
- **Mool** - Water.
- **Myon** - Noodles, sometimes thin and white if made from flour. Other myon are made with buckwheat, potatoes, or mung beans.
- **Nang Myon** - Cold noodles that are 70% buckwheat and served in a dish of cold water to which you may add a dollop of chili paste. This is considered a perfect complement at the end of a bulgogi meal.
- **Sam-kye tang** - Ginseng chicken soup. A summer specialty, the chicken is boiled with a piece of the medicinal root.
- **Sesame** - A herb frequently used in Korean cooking. Kae is Korean sesame. The leaves are added to soup, the seeds to vegetables and meat marinades, and the oil for flavoring in cooking.
- **Seolleongtang** - Beef soup served with rice.
- **Shinselo** - A casserole once served only to royalty. Fried eggs, fish, meat, and vegetables are cut into strips and simmered in broth in the distinctive charcoal brazier.
- **Soju** - distilled beverage native to Korea and traditionally made from rice.
- **Songpyon Chusok half** - moon shaped rice cakes.
- **Soy Sauce** - Made by fermenting the liquid of boiled soy beans, this is one of the most popular condiments in a Korean kitchen.
- **Uja Cha** - Citron tea, usually served in winter.
- **Yakchu** -Any kind of clear liquor.

You might like to prepare some of the traditional Korean hot and spicy or cool and crunchy dishes. Some basic recipes can be found in this section, which are easily prepared in your kitchen. Remember though, if you get frustrated in your attempt to cook these dishes, just go to the commissary or a local grocery store and you will find jars of Kimch'i and bags of ready-to-cook Mandu reasonably priced!

For additional recipes, try the AAFES cookbook section. There are many good Korean cookbooks on the market. Also, the Main Library has some cookbooks you might want to check out. Certain foods are associated with festivities as well as the seasons. ACS offers great classes. Take advantage of the Korean Food Discovery class. The class gives a general overview of what dishes consist of as well as a "kid meter" – what may or may not appeal to children. The class includes food tasting and lunch. Call the ACS at 738-7505 to sign up for the Korean Discovery class. Enjoy!!!

## TRADITIONAL KOREAN RECIPES

### MANDU (Dumplings)



1 lb. ground beef  
1 tsp. MSG  
1 TBSP. dry white wine (optional)  
1 TBSP. soy sauce  
2 10 oz. pkgs. gyoza skins  
(wonton wrappers)  
egg white  
oil for frying

1 tsp. salt  
8 minced green onions  
2 cups finely chopped cabbage  
1 cup bean sprouts  
1/2 cup bean curd  
3 large minced garlic cloves  
1 TBSP. toasted sesame seeds  
1 tsp. ground black pepper

Squeeze all liquid from bean curd. Combine the first 12 ingredients. Put 1 teaspoon of mixture in the center of a gyoza skin. Fold forming a half circle. Seal the edges with egg white and crimp the edges. Pan fry or steam them. Serve at once with dipping sauce (below).

#### DIPPING SAUCE

3/4 cups soy sauce  
1/4 cup water  
1 chopped garlic clove

1/2 tsp. dried hot chili flakes  
1 TBSP. rice vinegar  
1 TBSP. sugar  
1 tsp. sesame oil

Combine all ingredients and allow the flavors to blend for 30 minutes.

## QUICK WINTER KIMCH'I

This spicy cabbage pickle can be eaten after a few hours of chilling. You can substitute cayenne powder for the ground pepper (Kochu) and red hot chili flakes for the thread peppers (shile kochu) although the appearance will not be the same. After ten days the flavor begins to sour.



**2 lbs Chinese cabbage**  
**3 green onions, slivered**  
**3-4 inches daikon radish, shredded, with radish liquid**  
**2 tsp. shile kochu (red pepper)**  
**or to taste**  
**1 TBSP. toasted sesame seeds**

**1/2 cups sea salt water**  
**1 shredded carrot**  
**2 minced garlic cloves**  
**1 tsp. minced ginger root**  
**2-4 TBSP. kochu (ground pepper)**

Cut cabbage lengthwise into 2 or 3 strips. Put strips into a large bowl. Sprinkle with salt, working it between the cabbage layers. Add water just to cover cabbage. Soak several hours or overnight. Drain cabbage; rinse in cool water. Drain well. Add the remaining ingredients. Rub the mixture over the cabbage and between the layers. Fold cabbage into bundles and store in an air-tight container. Cut bundles into slices. Refrigerate leftovers for up to 10 days.

## CUCUMBER KIMCH'I

**10 small Korean cucumbers**  
**3 cloves garlic**  
**3 green onions**  
**1 tsp. vinegar**

**1 large carrot**  
**1 medium onion**  
**red pepper spice**  
**1 TBSP. sugar**

Sprinkle 1/4 cup salt on cucumbers and let sit 3-4 hours, turning every so often. Remove the cucumbers. Wash and cut them into bite size portions. Shred the carrot. Chop green onions and medium regular onion. Mix all together in a large bowl. Crush garlic cloves and add to mixture. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of red pepper, 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 teaspoon vinegar. Then add the salt to taste. Stir the mixture and you are ready to eat.

## **BEEF BULGOGI (Korean Beef Barbecue)**

**2 lbs thinly sliced beef rib eye,  
about 1/8 inch thick**

**Marinade:**

**5 TBSP soy sauce**

**3 TBSP sugar**

**4 green onions, finely shredded**

**2 TBSP sake or dry white wine**

**1 TBSP sesame oil**



**3 large garlic cloves, minced**  
**dash ground black pepper**  
**2 TBSP toasted sesame seeds**

Mix all ingredients except sesame seed oil. Add to sliced meat and marinate for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Add the sesame oil just before grilling. Barbecue the meat slices over a charcoal grill or a portable table top grill. Turn only once (thin slices cook quickly). A wok can be used if a grill is not available.

## **SPICY CHICKEN BULGOGI (Korean Spicy Chicken Barbecue)**

**4 half chicken breasts,  
skinned and boned**

**1 garlic clove, minced**

**2 TBSP dry white wine**

**1 TBSP Kochu Jang**



**2 TBSP soy sauce**  
**2 green onions, slivered**  
**1 TBSP toasted sesame seeds**  
**2 TBSP sugar**  
**(hot red pepper paste)**

Flatten the chicken breasts slightly with a meat pounder or a heavy rolling pin. Slice into thin strips on the diagonal. In a medium bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Add the chicken and mix well. Cook on barbecue grill for 34 minutes. Do not overcook. Serve with hot steamed rice and kimch'i.

# PLANNING YOUR PCS

## WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

Now that you know you are going to, South Korea...LET'S GET PACKING!!! Because of the ever changing circumstances in the military, you may not be able to count on a sponsor to provide you with all the necessary information about your upcoming change of station to Korea. Although, if you have a copy of this book PRIOR to your move, someone is obviously thinking of you and your family! It is, nevertheless, important that your advance planning be as comprehensive as possible in order to avoid undue stress upon arrival.

Take a trip to your Army Community Service (ACS), Air Force Family Service Center, or Navy and Marine Family Service Center to sign up for an Overseas Move Class for Korea. If you and your family belong to a service branch other than the Army, remember to tell the person helping you that Yongsan Garrison (known as USAG Yongsan) is in Seoul, South Korea and is an Army installation. In addition, be sure to look in your local bookstore or library and on the Internet for assistance. A bibliography and a list of Internet sites are provided at the end of this publication.

If you have not heard from a sponsor as your move draws near, definitely take the initiative and contact your gaining unit, either by email or telephone, and ask for any sponsorship information they can provide. A sponsor should be assigned automatically, but sometimes this is unintentionally overlooked. Korea is an assignment where a sponsor is necessary and a relocating family's biggest asset. Your sponsor can get your email and/or mailing address, assist with kennel reservations, check availability of quarters, provide you with Internet sites for learning more about relocation, as well as the bases and surrounding communities in Korea. A quick list of internet "Pre-Arrival" info is below:

- **U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Korea Region:** <http://imcom.korea.army.mil> this website is a great location to browse for community information and it includes links to the weekly Morning Calm newspaper and monthly Community Connection magazine. Many of your questions about life in Korea can be answered here.

- **U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan:** <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil> this community website includes a calendar of community events, news stories about the Garrison, podcasts, a Yongsan telephone book and a welcome guide. The Garrison web site is updated almost daily with news, alerts and weather.
- **U.S. Forces Korea:** <http://www.usfk.mil> the USFK website for the entire Korean peninsula. No matter the branch, you can find info on Korea today as well as the ever-changing Korea of the near future. You can watch videos, connect to major commands, and learn Korean culture. This website also includes a link for The Seoul Survivor on-line version.
- **8th U.S. Army Web site:** <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil> this is the 8th U.S. Army, Korea web site, which contains the electronic version of their Welcome Guide Steady magazine, as well as links to military information and the AFN-Korea website.
- **2nd Infantry Division Web Site:** visit <http://www-2id.korea.army.mil> this is the homepage for the 2nd Infantry Division. Included is the 2ID Handbook, division history, units, leadership, links to the 2ID posts, information for newcomers and families, and much more concerning 2ID.
- **KOHOM Housing Management Office:** <http://www.kohomm.org> this is the commercial website for on-post leased housing in Korea. There is local information here, as well as a link to the Army One Stop Housing website where you can see floor plans and get other information about housing.
- **Oconus.com Korea site:** <http://www.oconus.com/main/korea.asp> includes many links to different bases in Korea.
- **Plan My Move:** <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil> you'll find lots of information on moving to Korea, as well as many tips on family travel to Korea. Make sure you look for the Military Installations Section and download/save the "USAG-Yongsan" on your computer or laptop.
- **Air Force Crossroads:** <http://afcrossroads.com> this site includes a searchable database on installations, PCS, family and pet travel tips.
- **MyArmyLifetoo.com:** <http://www.armyonesource.com> the site provides general relocation information for families.
- **DoDEA:** <http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu> Pre-enroll your children and download the student handbooks.

## DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS!

As we all know, moving involves many details, and a successful move requires careful planning. The following is a checklist to assist you with your move to Korea:

- **Address Book** - Remember to bring this in your carry-on luggage. The internet is a wonderful thing! Once you arrive, if you need additional telephone numbers or addresses, etc it is very easy to simply use the “Google” search engine to locate such information. Computer access is available at the local library.
- **Power of Attorney** - It is wise for all Service Members and their Families to have a current Power of Attorney. Remote assignments, deployments, and NEO requirements make a Power of Attorney an absolute necessity in Korea. Whether your family will be coming with you to Korea or remaining in the United States, it is a good idea to have a Power of Attorney prepared before leaving your current duty station. If you are leaving a vehicle in the States, it’s a good idea to provide a special POA to the person keeping the vehicle for selling or dealing with your insurance provider. USAA, for example, has specific requirements for leaving your vehicle with someone. Take care of these issues early.
- **Automobile** - There are several options available to service members and their families, but regulations vary. (See the sections **What to Bring** and **Automobiles**). If your vehicle is financed, you will need permission from the lender to ship your vehicle overseas (contact your lender for specifics). If you are leaving a vehicle in the States, provide a special POA to the person keeping the vehicle for selling or dealing with your insurance provider. Contact your insurance provider to find out their requirements and take care of these issues early. Insurance is available in Korea through USAA, GEICO and CIGNA.
- **Computers and Electronics** - Check with the manufacturer of your computer or other electronic devices to ensure that you will be able to get parts and service. Know that technology changes in the blink of an eye and many times a newer, better product is also cheaper; the Korean Electronic market is close to USAG-Yongsan and might become your new “best friend.”
- **Driver’s License** - Make sure that your U.S. driver’s license is current and will remain current for your entire tour in Korea (and a few months beyond). Most Departments of Motor Vehicles will allow you to renew your license at

any time, so it is wise to do this before you leave the States. Within the first thirty days of your arrival, you will need to obtain a United States Forces Korea (USFK) license to drive on post or anywhere in Korea.

- **Expired U.S. driving license** - contact your state DMV online. They will usually make an exception for a military member to renew by mail. Finally, if you plan on extensive travel in Asia (Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.,) we strongly suggest you visit your local AAA office to obtain an international driver's license. International licenses are available in Korea, but it would be easier to obtain one before you arrive.
- **Employment Records** - Family members wishing to work in Korea should hand carry proof of previous employment, such as official personnel records, letters of recommendation, pay stubs, etc. Also, bring copies of any diplomas and transcripts and also have a copy of your marriage license to assist you in qualifying for Military Spouse Preference. Family members wishing to work on the Korean economy, for instance as English teachers should bring their original diplomas. Copies of diplomas are not sufficient for the required E-2 visa. Some employers and colleges require an official, sealed transcript, with a signature or stamp along the seal line of the envelope. It may be necessary to request this placement specifically over the phone from your educational institution, so consider making this phone call and obtaining the required sealed transcripts before leaving the United States. Also see the **employment** section under E in this book.
- **Eye Exam** - If you wear contact lenses, particularly the soft or extended wear type, have your exam and purchase contacts before leaving the States. The Optometry Clinic gives contact lens exams only for medical problems and existing prescriptions that may need changes, so you should have your initial exam and prescription done in the States. You can purchase lenses on the Korean economy, but if possible bring a supply of lenses with you. If you already order contacts online, be sure that your provider will ship to an APO address. Due to the pollution, many long-time contact lens wearers find that they are unable to constantly wear their lenses here. Prescription eyeglasses are available at The Gallery Optical Shop, the Dragon Hill Optical Shop, and throughout Seoul, so bring a current prescription. Optical shops are plentiful with on-sight eye exams completed using electronic evaluations. Try to use an optical shop that has been recommended by a friend.
- **Furniture** - Accompanied military members are either entitled to full furniture transport (depending on branch of the military and/or rank) or 50% furniture transport. If you are an accompanied military family living on post

(whether you brought all or partial household goods), you are authorized full furniture support from the Housing Office. *If you are an accompanied military family living off-post and are only entitled to bring partial household goods support, you are authorized furniture support from the Housing Office for your entire tour. If you are entitled to bring full household goods and live off post, you are only authorized furniture support for 6 months. Finally, if you are a **civilian family**, you are only authorized 6 months furniture support because you are automatically entitled to full household goods shipment.* Why is this important? Look in the “What to Bring” section to determine if you should bring certain items or put them in storage. Many feel that if they are stationed here in Korea and put their household items in Long Term Storage and then move to another overseas location, they would not be able to pull their household goods out of storage. This is simply not true. If you come to Korea and decide to put items in Long Term Storage and then find yourself in the position of taking a follow-on overseas assignment then you are entitled to have all your items shipped from Long Term Storage. The key is ALL the items. You cannot pick and choose which items will stay in Long Term Storage. They must all come out. Another factor to remember is that the Long Term Storage items cannot be released until you have a final address in your new assignment after Korea.

- **Hair Care Products** - It is highly recommended that if you have hair care products that you cannot live without...find a **supply source** that will mail to you. It is hard to find some items, especially salon brands; the PX does carry a range of hair care products. Some on-line stores will not ship hair and make-up products to an APO. Research!
- **Housing** - Contact your sponsor or gaining unit to learn what housing is available and when you can expect quarters. Go online and make reservations for yourself at the Dragon Hill Lodge (located on USAG-Yongsan). CONUS:011-822-7918-2222, FAX: 011-82-2-7901576 or at their website: <https://www.dragonhilllodge.com/>. Pets are not permitted in the Dragon Hill Lodge (See Pet Care Center) so make sure that either your sponsor will host “FIDO” or you have reservations at the Pet Care Center. When making your reservations at the Dragon Hill Lodge, err on the side of caution and book for 60 days. The Housing Office must approve stays longer than 10 days in the temporary quarters, but having the reservation for 60 day ensures that especially during the summer, you and your family will not be “wait listed” or moved to an off-post hotel during your transition.
- **Identification card** - Your military identification card is your lifeline overseas. You will need this to get on post and gain access to most facilities. If your

identification card expires during your stay in Korea, get it renewed before your move here. If your identification card expires while you're on tour in Korea, it affects the SOFA Stamp put in your passport and many more things. If you arrive and the card still hasn't been renewed, take care of the renewal of the ID card while you're still in-processing at the 1RC (Bldg 4034) call, 723-5461.

- **Immunizations** - The requirements on this can vary, so it is important that you contact your stateside medical facility for current information (Preventative Medicine is the best clinic to speak with). Do this immediately, because several of the immunizations may require a series of shots given over the course of a few weeks or months. It is important to get PPD testing done for every member of your family before coming to Korea. This is necessary for school and youth activities enrollment, and must be updated yearly. Make sure the results are recorded in your yellow shot record card. Refer to immunizations in Practical Information from A to Z section of this book. For more information on immunizations recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention visit the following website:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm>
- **Insurance** - Adequate automobile and personal effects coverage is essential. Check with your insurance company, and make sure your renter's and auto policies cover living abroad. Insurance is also available in Korea through **USAA, GEICO** and **CIGNA**. Also, see insurance in the **A to Z** section.
- **Legal Documents** - Make sure all necessary documents are up-to-date and copies are either left in a safety deposit box or given to a trusted friend, relative, or attorney. **Hand carry** original documents such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, wills, etc. on the plane. One of the first things you will need to do after arrival is create a Noncombatant Evacuation (NEO) packet, and these documents will be required.
- **Mail** - Have your sponsor or gaining unit assign a mailing address, so you can fill out change of address forms before you PCS. Most people stationed in USAG-Yongsan are required to receive personal mail through their workplace. The positive effect of this policy is that you will be able to obtain your permanent mailing address in Korea before leaving the States since your address is not based upon your housing unit. Mail is not delivered to offices on weekends or holidays (US and Korean). There are some post office boxes available for eligible personnel. **2ID family members living in USAG-Yongsan/Seoul** are eligible for a post office box at the South-Post Post Office (next to the movie theater). Your sponsor should take your orders as soon as possible to the post office to secure your new mailing address prior

to your arrival.

- **Medical Records** - You and all of your family members will be required to obtain a medical clearance and any EFMP screening required prior to approval of command sponsorship. Make sure your medical records are up to date and include International Certificates of Vaccination. It is always a good idea to have all of your vaccination and medical records accessible while going through Incheon Customs and Immigration. Arrange to have your annual medical examination and obtain extra refills for needed medications before you leave the States. This will give you a little less to worry about and enable you to get through the transitional period before your first medical appointment.
- **Money** - If you are coming to Korea from a major city with banks or private companies that deal in foreign currency, it may be possible for you to buy some Korean Won at an advantageous rate. Check with your sponsor or gaining unit to see what the current exchange rate in Korea is and then compare that to the exchange rates available stateside. Once you have made the drive from the airport to USAG-Yongsan, all the ATM machines dispense your choice of Dollars or Korean Won. A note of caution: Be aware of any fees or commissions that could cancel out any advantage of the quoted rate. Dollars are widely accepted in Korea, so you should not be concerned if you do not have any local currency upon arrival. Do not (unless, of course, you have to) exchange money at the airport; rates are generally poor. Check out this website for more information on exchange rates, and a calculator: <http://www.x-rates.com>
- **Mosquitoes** - These pests are a huge problem in Korea and are active from mid-spring well into the winter months. There are some options available on the economy to minimize mosquito problems, but it is highly recommended that you bring any products that have worked for you in the past. Probably the best and most effective mosquito plan is mosquito nets over the bed, so bring them with you if you possibly can although they can be purchased in the local stores and markets.
- **Orders** - Always have multiple copies of your orders (with amendments and pinpoint orders) and any separate orders for family members available for in-processing both at Korean Immigration and on-post. Make at least 10 extra copies so you will not be caught short-handed. If you need to make additional copies, your unit or 1RC can assist you.
- **Passport/Visa** - This is clearly a vital item. Although an active duty Service Member can generally travel with his or her military ID card accompanied by military orders or leave paperwork, this is not always the case in Asia

(China, for example, requires a passport with visa for entry). Family members are required to have a passport with a proper Korean A-3 Visa and SOFA Stamp per individual. Family passports are NOT recommended. Contact your local personnel office for the proper forms and information. The government will provide a no-fee passport with the A-3 Visa (which allows for multiple entries into Korea) to all eligible command-sponsored family members. The processing time is generally between 6 and 8 weeks, so.... get the ball rolling as soon as your orders for command-sponsorship comes through. The bonus to this no-fee passport is that it already has the A-3 Visa inside. Make sure that you enter the country of Korea with your "No Fee Government Issued Passport." Please do not depart your losing installation without receiving the Government passport. All family members, civilians, and even newborns must have an A-3 Visa and SOFA Stamp within 90 days upon arrival. Check with ACS to find out how to receive these stamps in your passport. Each person in the family (to include the military member) is encouraged to have a US Tourist passport as well. This allows you the option to travel in Asia and you most certainly will!

- **Pets** - Many people choose to bring their pets to Korea. Be aware, however, that pets are not allowed in the Hannam Village or Burke Towers housing complexes. There are currently **no** exceptions to this policy (under review). Korean apartments generally do not provide areas for walking pets; however, USAG-Yongsan does have a very nice dog park for use by all ID card holders. Check with the Housing Office to find out about the availability of housing and whether pets can be accommodated. Be sure and check with your airline about the cut-off dates for heat restrictions when shipping your pet. There are **very** specific rules and regulations on the importation of your pet and the size of pet carrier allowed. For more information see **PETS**, or contact the 129th MED DET (VM) Unit at 738-5145/4261 or from U.S. 011-822-7918-5145/4261. For boarding and/or grooming call the Yongsan Pet Care Center 736-6426.
- **School Records** - Make sure that copies of all school records are up-to-date and **hand carried**. For guidelines on the documents needed for the DoDD schools on post, visit; <http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu> School records (diplomas and/or transcripts) are required to take college-level courses at the university campuses on-post.
- **Telephone Calling Cards** - There are several options for long distance service from Korea to the States. Some can be somewhat expensive while others are quite reasonable. The most widely used system involves pre-paid phone cards sold by PX concessionaires. Many of these cards offer excellent

rates (6 to 8 cents per minute to the States and sometimes lower). There are also services available that allow credit card holders to make calls from Korea. The company simply bills your credit card each month and eliminates mailing you a statement of charges. AT&T, MCI, and Sprint also have credit cards that may be used and billed to you on a monthly basis. Whichever system you select, you should be aware that Korean phone service will charge about 15 cents per minute for general service. Prepaid cards for cell phones (local and international calling) or International Calling Rates from a Korean cell phone offer good rates as well and are available at the Dragon Hill Lodge and PX concessionaires. If you are looking for all your options to call home, there are many Voice over IP options in Korea.

- **Unaccompanied Tour** If you decide to join your sponsor on an unaccompanied tour, there are some things you will need to consider. School-aged children can DoDD schools, and are not guaranteed a space from year to year (many of these families choose to home school). Non-command-sponsored family members pay for their own transportation to Korea, as well as come on tourist passports receiving their A-3 Visas and SOFA Stamps in country, and will have to live on the economy. However, non-command-sponsored family members who are eligible for Identification cards and who are registered in DEERS are eligible for ration control cards, all on-post services, including medical and dental services. Contact your local TRICARE office for more details.
- **Changes to command sponsored policy** - Changes allowing troops to bring their families to South Korea on command-sponsored tours were signed by Pentagon officials in early 2009. Standard unaccompanied tours of 12 months will be unchanged for single soldiers. However, married Service members will be able to choose from a 2-year tour in Uijongbu or Dongducheon, a 3-year tour in one of five other cities, as well as the unaccompanied 12-month tour. Currently on post housing, routine medical and dental care, schools and child development centers do not exist or are extremely limited in the Uijongbu and Dongducheon areas. Tour normalization is making vast improvements for all command-sponsored families throughout the Republic of Korea. Whether you are here for one, two, three, or even four years, you and your family will fall in love with the Korean People and the quality of life your family will have; after all, Korea is “the assignment of choice.”

## WHAT TO BRING

With any PCS move, one of the biggest issues is what to move and when to move it. A word of advice - **Under pack** your household goods if possible. There are so many things to buy, both on the local economy, when traveling, and at the Chosun Gift Shop that nearly everyone goes home with more weight than they originally brought. This must be balanced, however, with the fact that there are some things that simply are not available (at least not at a reasonable price) in Korea. Therefore, prudent packing can be the key to a successful PCS.

When you first arrive, you may have to “live out of your luggage” for four to eight weeks or make purchases at the PX or on the economy. Before you leave the States, find out which of your favorite stores will ship to an APO address and find out their website addresses. On a positive note, clothing on the economy, particularly at the large markets, is relatively inexpensive and plentiful. Be aware that sizes are only available for men and women of small build and children’s sizes typically run much smaller than American children’s sizes.

## PLAN YOUR PACKING IN FIVE COMPONENTS

**1. HAND CARRY** - Pack passports, copies of orders, power of attorneys, medical, school, and immunization records, pet documents, personal toilet articles, any essential medicine, and all identification cards. Bring your car seats, even if they are merely checked. To ride on-post in personal vehicles or taxis, your children must be properly belted in. You may want to pack something to occupy yourself and your children (IPods, DS Lites, books, etc) and food to snack on during what may possibly be the longest flight of your life (11 to 12 hours nonstop from the West Coast and 15 to 16 hours from the East Coast).

**Due to increased airport security, please check with your airline or visit [www.usfk.mil](http://www.usfk.mil) or [travel.state.gov/travel/](http://travel.state.gov/travel/) for more information.**

**2. BAGGAGE FOR THE PLANE** - What you include will be limited by the baggage weight limits, but the following are some suggested “essentials”: current seasonal clothes and several pairs of comfortable shoes (You will do a lot of walking compared to what a typical American usually does). Remember to check your orders and ensure that you get the overseas baggage weight allowance with your PCS orders of two bags per person each bag weighing no more than 50 pounds. Seasonal “must haves” include: raingear (umbrella and

rain boots) during the summer months (monsoon season is no joke) and warm layers during the winter. Bring car seats (check booster seats) and if you use an umbrella stroller, check one as baggage. Check with your airline for specifics about overseas weight allowances. Each family member should have their own ticket, so each family member is entitled to luggage. If you must, bring the maximum number of suitcases to ensure you have all you and your children need.

**3. UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE (Hold/Express Baggage)** - Although this cargo plane shipment might be slightly delayed, it may still be the only shipment you receive for months if you have to live in a hotel or temporary housing until your permanent housing becomes available. Even if you move into your permanent housing right away, your household goods may not arrive for a few months. Plan your hold baggage carefully. While the Army Community Service (ACS) Loan Closet can help you with some items until your shipment arrives, consider sending the following items in “hold/express baggage”:

- Kitchen & eating necessities, including plates, utensils, pots and pans.
- Small appliances such as a microwave oven, toaster, and coffee maker.
- Household supplies (broom, vacuum)
- Shower curtain hooks
- Towels (bath and kitchen)
- Bed linens (extra long or sweat shirt material sheets are best, blankets and pillows) Clothing to span two seasons (rain gear for the summer monsoon season)
- At least one evening dress/suit, for various social functions
- Children’s items, particularly their favorite games and toys
- Baby: crib, changing table, jogger stroller etc definitely bring them with you.
- Computer equipment
- TV/DVD player and electronic accessories
- Small hand tools (hammer, screwdriver)
- Lightweight decorations

**4. HOUSEHOLD GOODS vs. STORAGE** - The government allows only a certain percentage of your total weight allowance to be shipped to Korea. The remainder of your items will need to be placed in storage at government expense. Weight allowances vary depending on branch of service and rank, so check with your Personnel Office, Travel Management Office, or Personal Property Office for the

correct information. Army families are typically allowed to ship only 50% of the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) allowed weight allowance. Your household goods shipment may take several months to arrive, so you may want to consider sending this shipment early. Inventory this shipment very carefully. If you are sending special items, take color photos prior to packing and hand carry those photos to help settle any claims.

Regardless of your weight allowance, think carefully when deciding what to ship. Bring the things that you cannot live without, but keep in mind that your life may become filled with “treasures” from Asia. Do not bring things “just in case” you might need them. Quarters are smaller than most State side homes and some have minimal storage space; you can quickly find yourself overcrowded. Understand housing varies widely.

### **CONSIDER BRINGING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- **Room air cleaners and filters** Plan on bringing enough filters (or find a website that ships what you need to an APO) for your entire stay in Korea. These are EXTREMELY necessary for those with breathing conditions and small children.
- **Small tools** Saw, impact-hammer drill (important as walls are concrete in most housing), mortar bits, etc. If you are sure you will be in Government housing, these tools are available at the Self Help Center on USAG-Yongsan but at times are difficult to reserve.
- **Baby items** Furnishing Management Office (part of Housing) **does not** have cribs, toddler beds, changing tables or any other baby furnishing items to loan. If you have a baby or are expecting **bring baby furniture** in your household goods.
- **Sports equipment** Golf clubs, tennis equipment, ski gear, and sports shoes for your children in the next size up if they prefer certain brands.
- **Sewing machine** Have your machine serviced before you come and bring all essential accessories.
- **If you bring a gas grill** be aware that you cannot ship your own tank (even purged). You can get propane tanks at the PX Mini Mall. See: Gas Grills and Propane.
- **Rugs and carpets** Floors in some quarters are linoleum over concrete, and they are cold. Beautiful but expensive Asian rugs are imported and available at the Chosun Gift Shop. Area rugs are available at the AAFES Furniture Store at reasonable prices though selection is limited. It is wise

- to bring your own carpets (and carpet padding) with you. See Carpets.
- **Christmas and other holiday decorations** are a must to bring. You may want to downsize the quantity due to the size of your new living space. Most of the Christmas decorations are available at the PX/Four Seasons and on the economy. Fresh Christmas trees have been sold through the Boy Scouts Organization. The prices are comparable to the U.S. or slightly higher but you must make a mental note to pre-purchase when you see the Boy Scouts pre-selling in the PX or Commissary.
  - **Craft supplies** Bring a sufficient quantity of regularly used items, especially water-based craft paint which is difficult to find here. USAG-Yongsan Arts and Crafts center does not have facilities for stained glass. They sell no stained glass supplies.
  - **Pictures, books and decorative items** that transform a house into a home. Be sure to include plenty of these because they are real morale boosters. You may want to consider leaving irreplaceable treasures in storage or with family members.
  - **An entertainment center/stand** for your TV. (Check with Housing to see if one will be provided with your allotted furniture, it depends on where you live.)
  - **A futon, air mattress,** or some type of sleeping arrangements for visitors you may have. Housing provides only enough mattresses and bed furniture for each family member. **A note about bedding:** The mattresses are hard, and the largest bed available is queen size. If you prefer a soft mattress or a king-sized bed, bring your own mattress, box spring, and frame. If you bring twin-sized mattresses for your children, bring the box springs, as the bed frames Housing provides are for extra long twin beds. Twin size sheets do not fit the twin beds provided by housing, so bring extra long twin sheets or you can purchase them at the PX. A feather bed or other mattress topper in queen size is a good alternative to shipping your own bed.
  - **Planter boxes or pots** The self help store has flowers, seeds, dirt, rocks, border materials, and mulch available free of charge in the spring, but planters have to be purchased.
  - **Dehumidifier/humidifier** Dehumidifiers are issued at Burt's Self Help, but quantities are very limited. If you have one, bring it. Dehumidifiers are also available on the economy and simple to identify as they have a "hippo" as a logo. Dehumidifiers are a necessity during monsoon season (95% humidity) as they reduce the moist sheet feeling in bedding or mold/mildew problems in your house. In the winter, you have the opposite

problem – you need moisture (15% humidity). Bring a humidifier to reduce bloody noses and dry coughs.

- **Slipcovers** for standard size living room furniture. Certainly not a necessity, but since all the furniture in housing looks the same. Slipcovers change your home from others.
- **Stepladder** (small).
- **Fans** Some housing areas have ceiling fans, but many do not. Pedestal fans are available at the PX seasonally.
- **Router for wireless net** Digital net is available with many Voice Over (VOIP) options, but bring a wireless router to connect all your gizmos.

### **CONSIDER NOT BRINGING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- **Large pieces of furniture**, since Housing provides basic household furniture (See Furniture under Housing Section).
- **Irreplaceable** or light colored upholstered items because the dust here will make them dingy.
- **Large outdoor toys** or play sets, because storage is an issue, and you may not have a downstairs housing unit to set up the item.
- **China and crystal** dinner services, unless you routinely do formal entertaining.
- **Major appliances** such as a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer (they are furnished by Housing).

5. **AUTOMOBILE** - (Also see “Automobile” in Practical Information A-Z Section). You must give thought to whether or not you will need a car in Korea. For most eligible individuals, the answer is usually YES. Although there are buses (free post shuttle) and taxis on post, using them can be time-consuming and expensive. Most areas on post are accessible by foot, but some housing areas can be as far as two miles from one’s workplace. If you are allowed to ship a vehicle, it will be indicated in your orders. If you are authorized to register a vehicle on post, you will be allowed to register one automobile and one motorcycle/moped per family. Since it is considered a recreational item, you are allowed to ship your motorcycle with your household goods but it will count against your weight allowance. Prior to purchasing a motorcycle locally, check with the vehicle registration office for details. If you are not authorized to ship a vehicle, check with your gaining unit to see if you are eligible to purchase one upon arrival. Send your vehicle as early as you can from the States...you’ll be glad you did. You will do a lot of walking while in-processing during the first two weeks! There are some used cars (hoopties) for sale, usually sold by outgoing personnel. These

are local Korean cars, often several years old but reasonably priced. Most of these cars have seen better days, but they are better than sending your new car from the States. Remember, if you drive off post the roads are very congested with narrow streets and small parking spaces. Expect many dings and dents on whatever car you decide to use. The single automobile policy is in effect, regardless of whether you ship or purchase one. There are certain exceptions to policy on POV entitlements. Generally E6 and below are not authorized to ship a vehicle on orders. In country, command-sponsored military families independent of rank are generally authorized to own and register a POV on a case by case basis. Exceptions to policy are granted for a second POV.

Several factors should go into your decision of whether to ship or purchase a vehicle:

- Inexpensive (\$500-\$3,000) used cars are normally available during PCS season. It can take six weeks to two months for a shipped car to arrive. Should you decide to ship your car, seriously consider the options that will enable you to ship your vehicle early. Though most areas of the post are accessible by foot, walking during the hot summer months can be exhausting, especially if you have young children. In addition, you may be required to live off-post, either permanently or until your quarters are available. Information about shipping vehicles is available at **www.whereismypov.com**.
- On the flip side-some people choose to ship their vehicle the day before they depart, since it is often easier to live without a vehicle for a few weeks here in Korea than it is to live without one in the U.S.
- You are authorized to sell one vehicle during your command-sponsored tour. This is a tricky area, so you should seriously consider this before making any shipping decisions based on intent to sell.
- Any vehicle must pass a safety inspection before installation pass and tags are issued. If your POV is coming from the U.S. and it has a crack in the windshield glass of 1" or more, be sure to replace it before shipment.
- If you decide to ship a vehicle, then consider including a supply of air filters, spark plugs, fuses, and belts in your shipment. The Car Care Center tries to meet individual needs, but its inventory is not inclusive of every make and model. There is an Auto Skills Center located on USAG-Yongsan if you enjoy doing your own repairs. For a fee, the Auto Skills Center will do minor repairs or they can recommend a garage off post.
- Finally, if you wish to ship a vehicle back to the States, you must have shipped one to Korea.



Incheon International Airport

## TRAVEL DAY

The flight to Korea from the United States is very long. If you have airline mileage points, this would be a good time to use them and upgrade your seats. Some layovers will require a rush to the next gate after processing customs. To make yourself more comfortable on your flight, you might consider bringing:

- Ear plugs
- Eye mask
- Eye drops
- Snacks, gum, lollipops
- Small skin lotion
- Books and magazines (if you travel through airports that have a USO you can take advantage of their book swap tables)
- Travel pillow (not all domestic flights offer them)
- Toiletry kit--always expect the unexpected!

**Note:** Due to increased airport security, please check with your airline or TSA prior to arrival at the airport for travel fluid sizes and restricted items. To avoid

dehydration, be sure to drink plenty of water during your flight and remember to stand up and stretch or walk around often during your flight.

**If you are flying with children:**

- Encourage your children to stand up periodically and stretch.
- Bring a car seat; you will need them on the plane for smaller children.
- Bring puzzles, notebooks, books, and small games, hand held electronics, i-Pods and portable DVD players. They can be a sanity saver.
- Give your children something to look forward to during a long plane or car ride, prepare surprise packets that will be opened by them periodically during the journey.

When you arrive in Korea at Incheon International Airport outside of Seoul, one thing is almost certain - you will be tired and wish you were anywhere else rather than dealing with Korean Customs and Immigration. **Do Not**, under any circumstances, try to bring weapons or contraband into Korea. While the customs inspectors are pleasant and helpful, they are also very thorough. Contraband items such as drugs and deer antlers will get you into trouble, not only with the Korean authorities, but also with the **Military Police**. Decorative swords should be shipped with your household goods. All other weapons should be left in storage. The Incheon International Airport website is [www.airport.or.kr/Eng/home.jsp](http://www.airport.or.kr/Eng/home.jsp).

**Important Note:** A military liaison must pick up all arriving Army personnel unless a sponsor has obtained the proper clearance from the 1st Replacement Company (1RC call, 723-5461) to transport the military member. For other branches of service a sponsor will need to pick you up or you can check in and utilize the Military processing transportation bus to USAG-Yongsan located in terminal section F. All family members (except pets) are allowed to accompany the military member on the Military Processing transportation bus to USAG-Yongsan.

# TOUCHDOWN!

## INCHEON INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL

To access the Incheon International Airport website: [www.airport.or.kr](http://www.airport.or.kr), choose the English toggle on the upper right hand corner and the site will magically become readable. As you exit your plane follow the rush of people through the hallways of the airport on the way to a health inspection point and Korean Immigration. For military members have your DA 31 and ID card ready; that's all you need. For family members, ***make sure they stamp your passport with an entry stamp. This is very important for the purposes of your SOFA STAMP later.*** It is better to go through Korean Immigration as a family and not individually.

**Army Liaison Pick Up** - After you arrive at Incheon, you will be met by an Army liaison near the luggage carousel areas. The liaison will then take you through Customs and will transport you via military bus to USAG-Yongsan (about a one-hour drive). If you do not see the liaison in the terminal, go ahead through Customs and then look for the U.S. Military Liaison Office located near exits E and F. If you don't see anyone, turn right and walk to the end of the terminal where the 1st Replacement desk is located in terminal section F. Once you arrive on post, the military member will have a short briefing and then check into lodging. If your pet was able to fly with you on your flight, follow the signs in the luggage carousel area for animal health services. You must have all your pet records handy for inspection. After your records and your pet have been cleared, the animal is all yours.

**Sponsor Pick Up** - If your sponsor is meeting you, be careful not to follow the military liaisons. They are highly visible and it is easy to get caught up with the flow. Even though they are calling for all military members, you will need to go through the regular lines like any civilian passenger. Once you have completed all the Customs and Immigration formalities, and have retrieved your luggage, go through the nearest exit door to your baggage claim carousel. There are several exits out of the baggage claim area. If someone is meeting you, be sure you are at the exit door posted for your flight. If you are unsure which exit is correct, go ahead and depart any exit. You should then turn around and look at the monitors located above the exit doors. Your flight number will be posted

along with an exit door letter. If you have exited the wrong way, don't worry, you will be able to easily walk to the correct exit. Once you have met your sponsor, they will most likely take you directly to your lodging. They will also be able to advise you of when and where you need to go for in-processing. Sponsor pick up is the only way to really have a stress-free arrival to your new home and is a must if you have pets flying with you.

**Individual Transportation** - If you need to go to USAG-Yongsan on your own, go through any of the exit doors. You can take either a taxi (expensive) or the military bus (free) to USAG-Yongsan. If you wish to take the bus, look for signs to Military Reception. If the desk is open, they can tell you when the next bus to USAG-Yongsan is departing. Since you will be in PCS status, you and your family members will have priority above anyone else wishing to ride the bus (aside from others in PCS status). Taxis are located just outside the terminal. The taxis allowed on-post all have English speaking drivers and will have a sticker that says "on-post access" posted in a variety of locations on the outside of the taxi. AAFES authorized taxi's park to the far right as you exit the airport near terminal section F. The AAFES Taxi Stand is in front of Exit Gate 14. All AAFES-authorized taxis have meters and accept US dollars. If you must take a Korean taxi, have Korean Won. Try to select a cab which has clearly visible identification about both the driver and vehicle. A taxi ride to post will cost you around \$50-\$60, and a van for the family will normally cost between \$60-\$70. AAFES-authorized taxi drivers appreciate and expect a tip whereas the Korean taxi drivers do not expect tips. USAG-Yongsan offers airport shuttle services throughout the day from the Dragon Hill Lodge (<http://www.dragonhilllodge.com>). Please check with the concierge and obtain a copy of the schedule. The Capital Hotel, which is located right outside of Gate 52 (Commissary) on USAG-Yongsan, has a shuttle that runs every 20 minutes from 5:30am-11:30pm. The cost is W16,000 (approximately \$15). The shuttle is located near Military Reception exit door 11. The shuttle service employees are very helpful and will assist you getting onto the Capital Hotel Shuttle. The journey will take about 90 minutes with several stops along way. The shuttle is extremely western and the recorded information on the route is in English. All military personnel are required to in-process shortly after arriving in Korea. Locations for in-processing vary depending upon branch of service. Your military liaison or sponsor should know exactly when and where you will need to go for in-processing. However, the following information is provided for your convenience.

- **U.S. Air Force** - Members of the Air Force will need to in-process with

the Air Force Element (AFELM). Call 723-8538.

- **U.S. Army** - Army personnel need to in-process at 1st Replacement Company (1RC) across the parking lot from the Dragon Hill Lodge, Bldg (4034), DSN: 723-5461. 2ID personnel and their family member's also in-process through 1RC. The 2ID Liaison NCOIC is the point of contact at DSN: 723-5617. The 1RC program is a four day Newcomers Program. Family members must attend day C and D. Childcare is provided, but must be requested.
- **U.S. Navy** - Naval personnel begin their time in USAG-Yongsan with the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) on Main Post. Please call 723-4651.
- **U.S. Marine Corps** - Marines arriving in Seoul in-process with the Administrative Office on Main Post. For more information, please call 723-7032 or 723-3385.

## ALL NEW ARRIVALS

Once you have checked in with your new unit and rested, there are many things you must do during your first days in Korea. These include visiting the housing office, ACS (Army Community Service), Schools, and Central Registration for Child, Youth, and School Services.



Army Community Service (ACS) Building

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

### FIRST 30 DAYS IN KOREA

Rations, Rations, Rations! One of the first and most important things you need besides a great pair of walking shoes is a **Ration Control Card**. Your Ration Control Card is just as important as your Military identification. In layman's terms it is a card that most businesses on post (AAFES, Class Six, the Commissary, and the Chosun Gift Shop, etc.) use to track your purchases to make sure that you are not purchasing huge quantities of any item in order to sell on the Black Market. Your Sponsor should be able to provide you with the 1RC in-processing schedule so that you can attend the Family Member or Civilian Newcomer's Orientation and then get your ration control card as soon as possible.

Many arriving in Korea don't understand that you cannot buy anything without an ID card and Ration Control Card and it's a rude awakening when you just want to grab a magazine or some aspirin at the Shoppette and they will not allow you to make a purchase. For the first two weeks of your stay in Korea, all you need is your ID card and a copy of the sponsor's orders with your name listed on them. If you do not have sponsor's orders with your name printed on them, you will need to go with your sponsor to get temporary Ration Control Cards. You will need ID cards for processing the application. The Ration Control Issue Point is located in the building (4034) Yongsan. Phone number: 738-4612. You will need a Ration Card for each family member that carries a Military ID (children 10 and up). Don't leave home without it. **2ID family members** receive their Ration Control Cards through the 2ID Liaison NCOIC, at the 1RC building (4034), phone number DSN: 738-4612.

**Walking Shoes** - You need to have a pair of comfortable walking shoes (large shoe sizes are hard to find here, so bring extras of your favorites in size 8 and up). You will do a lot of walking while in processing and getting to know the area. It usually takes a while for your vehicle to arrive and it can be difficult for many people to adjust to this way of getting around. Be prepared and you will enjoy walking much more. The Post Run Shuttle Bus can get you most places on post as well. It is best to just get on one day (there are many bus stops scattered throughout post) and make the full loop so you will know where all the stops are. It's a great way to get to know your new post. A backpack will be useful

for carrying all your paperwork, water, and an umbrella as you walk. There are AAFES taxis available on-post for a reasonable rate.

## IN-PROCESSING

Family members have a lot of things to do in the first few days after arriving in Korea. It is highly recommended that you go to Army Community Services Building (ACS) as soon as possible. They have a fantastic staff ready to help you as a newcomer. The ACS Building (4106) is behind Popeye's and Burger King. This will be your new home away from home. ***Be prepared***; carry your Identification Card, Ration Control Card, multiple copies of orders, a Power of Attorney, and your passport with you wherever you go for the first two weeks. It is also helpful to call before you go to verify information and to check hours of operation. This can help cut down on your frustration and save valuable time. The best thing to do is make a tentative game plan the day before and map out where you need to go each day so you can get it done quickly and have more family time! Detailed information can be found in Practical Information from A to Z for each of these items on the checklist.

- **NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operations)** Service members are responsible for obtaining the NEO briefing packet for his/her entire family within the first 30 days after arrival. NEO drills are conducted in the fall and spring to equip family members with specific scenarios in case of an evacuation operation.
- **Army Community Services (ACS), Building 4106 on South Post** is located behind Popeye's and Burger King (and less than 100 yards from the ground floor back door of the Dragon Hill Lodge). This is where you can take care of many of the items on your checklist. ACS has a great checklist to let you know what needs to be done so be sure to pick one up while you are there. ACS has lots of brochures and information; ask for the Welcome Folder full of Korean Tourism information and the Help Book our Community Telephone Book. Also sign up for Korean Language Class, Transportation 101 (How to use the Mass Transit in Seoul), and Korean Food Discovery Class. Now that's "one stop" shopping at its best!
- **SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) Stamp** - Dependents **MUST** acquire a SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) Stamp with an A-3 visa in their passports within the first 90 days after arrival in Korea. SOFA is the treaty between the American and Korean government that ensures certain privileges and rights to American military members and their families in the Republic

of Korea. All aspects of the American presence in Korea are dealt with under SOFA, which is continually undergoing reviews and revisions by a bi-national committee. American passports with the A-3 Visa also require a SOFA stamp. Family Members whose passports are not stamped with a SOFA stamp may experience detainment or fines when re-entering or exiting Korea. **Command-Sponsored and Non-Command-Sponsored family members need this stamp.** Check with ACS to sign up for an appointment at the onsite Korean Immigration. Sessions are held twice per month in the fall, winter and spring, and every Tuesday during the summer months. **You will need** to have the following documents when obtaining your A-3 Visa and SOFA stamp: an original Letter of Verification of Assignment from the unit commander, copy of sponsor and dependent ID cards (front and back), the Ministry of Justice Supplemental Visa Application Form, and passports. You must bring all required documents to ACS for verification the day prior to your appointment. Contact ACS for more information on the A-3 Visa and SOFA stamp, by calling DSN 738-7505. For 2ID family members contact the 2ID Liaison NCOIC at the 1RC Building, DSN: 723-5617, to receive your A3 Visa and SOFA Stamp.

- **Driver's License** - You can take your Korean Driver's License test in the Army Community Service Building (4106, second floor) but you will need to **study** USFK PAMPHLET 385-2, "Guide to Safe Driving in Korea" first. This document is available at the 8th Army website. **<http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil>**. Click on the SAFETY link, choose Motor Vehicle Safety, and then scroll down to find the link, or ask your sponsor to get you a copy from your unit. Alternatively you can check out a pamphlet from the USAG-Yongsan Library. You must have a USFK Driver's License within 30 days of arrival to drive in Korea even if you only plan to drive on the installation. When taking the test, you will need to take stateside license that hasn't expired, orders, and your ID card. Call 738-5568/3236/3235 for more information. Open: Monday-Thursday, 8:00-1700. If you pass the written test in the morning, you will need to return in the afternoon for a safety video and eye exam before the license is given to you.
- **Housing and Furniture Office** - Military members should not contact Housing until after they finish the four-day in-processing. Family members can contact Housing within 48 hours of arrival as long as they have a Power of Attorney. Check in with the Housing Office, located on the second floor of the ACS, for details and times of your Housing Brief. Call 738-4069 for information.
- **Cable Service** - This office is located in the Army Community Service

Building on the 2nd floor and is a pretty quick process once you have your housing location. They will give you your cable boxes and instructions. Ask for a listing of channels. DSN 738-4310.

- **School Registration** - If you have school-aged children, you will need to stop here to register your children for Seoul American Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. This office also has information on School Bus Transportation for eligible families (Hannam Village and off-post). When you register your child/children, the following information is required: *shot records, orders (must have dependent's names on orders), previous school records, kindergarten and 1st graders need a copy of their birth certificate or passport, and of course the applications and any supplemental information.* High School Students will need to report to room 108 at the High School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor. For more information see Schools in the Practical Information from **A** to **Z** section of this book.
- **Korean Language Class** - ACS has wonderful Korean Language classes. This is a great way to meet new people and get a handle on some of the culture questions you might have. The class is taught by Korean National Contractors and includes Korean cooking classes and culture lessons intertwined with the language lessons.
- **Car Delivery and Vehicle Registration** - Camp Kim Building 1230, call 724-6363 for detailed instructions before you begin. The service member **must** register the vehicle or the family member must have a Power of Attorney in order to pick up a vehicle. **Note:** Receiving and registering your vehicle can be a lengthy and complicated process. See automobiles in section A of this book.
- **Self Help** - South Post Bldg. 5274 (between Gate 17 and Collier Field house). If you will be living on post, stop by and see what they have to offer. Call DSN 736-7818. Self help closes early on Mondays.
- **Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital/Tricare** - Turn in your medical records, register for TRICARE, and complete immunizations if necessary. Call 737-5800. Also see **Medical**.
- **Central Registration** for Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) - South Post Bldg. 4106 (ACS Bldg) 738-5036/3001. Sign up for classes, activities, youth sports, and SAS, After School Care. You must bring proof of immunizations, PPD results, orders, and an updated physical before you can participate in any services offered.
- **Veterinary Services** - Located on South Post Bldg. 4728 (by the Gas Station) 738-4261/5145. Register your pet and turn in records (need health

certificates, rabies vaccination records, and proof of a microchip in your pet). Pets must be registered within 10 days of arrival.

- **Special note: for 2ID personnel and family members.** Because policies for command-sponsorship in areas north of Seoul are changing rapidly as the Army moves toward tour normalization in Korea, 2ID families must investigate where they will be living thoroughly. Visit <http://www-2id.korea.army.mil>: This is the homepage for the 2nd Infantry Division. Included is the 2ID Handbook, division history, units, leadership, links to the 2ID posts, information for newcomers and families, and much more concerning 2ID.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION FROM A-Z



## ACRONYMS

The military is notorious for its acronyms, and installations in the Republic of Korea are no exception. The following list may be useful during your stay:

<b>1RC</b>	1st Replacement Company
<b>AAFES</b>	Army Air Force Exchange Service
<b>ACS</b>	Army Community Service
<b>AFAP</b>	Army Family Action Plan
<b>AFN-K</b>	American Forces Network-Korea
<b>AFSC</b>	American Forces' Spouses' Club
<b>AFTB</b>	Army Family Team Building
<b>BAACH</b>	Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital
<b>BOSS</b>	Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers
<b>CLASS VI</b>	Package/Liquor Store
<b>CFC</b>	Combined Forces Command
<b>COLA</b>	Cost of Living Allowance
<b>CYSS</b>	Child School and Youth services
<b>DMZ</b>	Demilitarized Zone
<b>DPW</b>	Directorate of Public Works
<b>DSN</b>	Defense Switching Network
<b>DEROS</b>	Date Estimated Return from Overseas
<b>DoDEA</b>	Department of Defense Education Activity
<b>DoDDS</b>	Department of Defense Dependent School
<b>EML</b>	Environmental Morale Leave

<b>EUSA</b>	Eighth U.S. Army
<b>FED</b>	Far East District
<b>JUSMAG-K</b>	Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group, Korea
<b>KATUSA</b>	Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army
<b>MWR</b>	Morale, Welfare and Recreation
<b>NEO</b>	Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation
<b>OHA</b>	Overseas Housing Allowance
<b>POV</b>	Privately Owned Vehicle
<b>ROK(A)</b>	Republic of Korea (Army)
<b>SAES</b>	Seoul American Elementary School
<b>SAMS</b>	Seoul American Middle School
<b>SAHS</b>	Seoul American High School
<b>SOFA</b>	Status of Forces Agreement
<b>SUSLAK</b>	Special U.S. Liaison Advisor, Korea
<b>USAG</b>	U.S. Army Garrison
<b>USFK</b>	U.S. Forces Korea
<b>USO</b>	United Services Organization
<b>WRC</b>	Warrior Readiness Center

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

There are many programs available both on post and in Seoul. Check the Education Center located in Bldg. 2212 on Main Post (in the same building as the Main Post Office). Counselors are available for military and family members, or you can pick up pamphlets and brochures from the various colleges. For more information, call 723-4290. Classes meet at various locations. Programs vary but include:

- 2-year Program - Central Texas College 723-4296  
([www.pfec.ctdc.edu](http://www.pfec.ctdc.edu))
- 2-year Program - University of Maryland 723-4300/4295  
([www.ad.umuc.edu](http://www.ad.umuc.edu))
- 4-year Program - University of Maryland 723-4300/4295  
([www.ad.umuc.edu](http://www.ad.umuc.edu))
- Graduate Programs - University of Oklahoma 723-4181  
([www.ou.edu](http://www.ou.edu)) / University of Phoenix 723-7807  
([www.phoenix.edu](http://www.phoenix.edu)) / Troy State University 723-7508  
([www.tsupacific.net](http://www.tsupacific.net))
- Off-Post - There are many educational programs available in Seoul. Contact the local education counselors for more information.

- Korean Language classes - Check with ACS for free classes. There is a tuition cost for the on-post classes through the local colleges.

## **ADULT SPORTS**

Intramural sports activities, including basketball, softball and soccer are available for adults; contact Collier Field House (South Post) 736-4032. Information on **tournaments** in basketball, racquetball, power lifting, tennis, etc is available by contacting the sports director at 738-8606. For more information on equipment and class requirements for aerobics, racquetball, martial arts and certified personal trainers, contact the Collier Field House director at 736-7746 or Trent Gym on Main Post at 724-8466.

- **Running/Jogging** - There are 5k and 10k “fun runs” on South Post most weekends. Look for the advertising sign outside Collier Field House. Reflective vests or belts are required.
- **Bowling** - see Bowling.
- **Sports clubs** - see Clubs and Organizations for contacts on tennis, golf and other sports. Also see Fitness Centers for additional information.

## **AIRLINES**

For official travel and emergency leave contact the passenger travel office at DHL located on the second floor of the Moyer Center (Bldg. 2259) on Main Post. Numbers for the airlines are:

**Delta/Korean Air** (723-8549)

**Northwest/Asiana** (723-7834)

**United Airlines** (723-8790)

## **AIR POLLUTION AND YOUR HEALTH**

Although the air pollution problem in Seoul has improved over the last decade, those with respiratory conditions should be careful, limiting activities when pollution levels are high. The major contributor to air pollution in Seoul is automobile emissions. However, every spring an unwelcome addition to this problem blows in from the West. A Yellow dust or “HwangSa” in Korean comes from the deserts of China, Mongolia and Manchuria. This seasonal phenomenon occurs intermittently but is usually seen in the dry spring months, when meteorological conditions allow the sand picked up from deserts thousands of miles to the west and north of Korea to settle on the Korean Peninsula. It typically rises to a height of 3 to 5 km before blowing eastward at some 30 meters per second, crossing the West (Yellow) Sea and arriving in Korea a few days later.

**Yellow Dust** can cause visibility problems for pilots, hinder the operation of precision machines, and impair the growth of agricultural products. For humans, the small dust particles in the 1 to 10 micron size can cause respiratory diseases such as asthma and eye conditions like conjunctivitis or “pink eye”.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidelines for outdoor activity levels based on measured levels of dust particles in the air. According to the EPA, people with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children are at the highest risk, but everyone should try to minimize their exposure to this dust phenomenon as the concentration level increases. When the dust concentration level climbs above 200, people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children should try to avoid outdoor physical activity, everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Levels above 300 are a greater health concern, and those most at risk should remain indoors and keep their activity levels low, while others should avoid all unnecessary outdoor activity.

The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) issues an information notice at dust level concentrations above 200, a watch at concentrations above 300 and a warning at concentrations above 500. Check their website during peak season (end of March to beginning of May) for more information. Log on to [www.kma.go.kr](http://www.kma.go.kr) click on English to get the latest info. This is a weather website so it will only contain Yellow Dust information during that season.

To minimize the adverse effects of “Yellow Dust” observe the EPA cautionary statements, wash exposed parts of the body such as the hands and face, with soap and water after coming indoors and seek medical attention promptly if you experience adverse health effects. Yellow dust advisories are aired on Channel 3 and the USFK website.

If you have any further questions about Yellow Dust, contact your local health care provider or check the Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/airnow](http://www.epa.gov/airnow)

### **AMERICAN RED CROSS**

**Together, we can save a life.** The American Red Cross is the organization chosen by Congress to help carry out the obligations assumed by the United States under certain international treaties known as the Geneva Conventions. Specifically, the Red Cross Charter delegates to the American Red Cross the duties to act as the medium of voluntary relief and communications between the American People and their Armed Forces, and to provide a system of national and international relief to prevent and mitigate suffering caused by disaster.

The primary mission of the American Red Cross in Korea is to serve military

personnel and their families; to improve the quality of human life; to enhance self reliance and concern for others; and to help people avoid, prepare for, and cope with emergencies. The American Red Cross office at USAG-Yongsan is located in the Moyer Recreation Center on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 2259, Room 215, DSN 738-3670 Fax 738-9012, Commercial 02-7918-3670 Fax 02-7918-9012.

The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital and its clinics, host a wide spectrum of Red Cross volunteers. This volunteer pool supplements and assists with programs relating to the health, welfare, and morale of military personnel and their families. Additionally, American Red Cross services include Health and Safety services ranging from CPR, First Aid and AED classes, Life Guarding and Water Safety, Babysitter's Training, Instructor Training and Disaster Services. Red Cross volunteers are the back bone of this organization.

With each military community throughout Korea offering a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, any interested and motivated soldier, sailor, airman, marine or family member can find a place to contribute their skills to the community. Leadership positions, administrative positions within each Red Cross office, and casework positions (both paid and volunteer positions are instrumental in the delivery of emergency message traffic) are but a few of the unique challenges that await our volunteers and those interested in making a difference. Some of the services offered by the American Red Cross include:

### **ARMED FORCES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (AFEC)**

Red Cross provides rapid communications between military members, DoD civilians, and their families regarding death, serious illness, child care breakdowns, birth, health and welfare reports, and other personal or family problems.

You can help ensure that your message is passed in a timely manner by making sure your family has your current rank, social security number, and military address. Family members back home should call their local Red Cross to request emergency message service. To locate any local chapter visit the following site <http://www.redcross.org> and enter the zip code in the space provided. Another option is to call the toll free 24/7 number at: 1-877-272-7337. Answers to some frequently asked questions concerning this service are listed below;

#### **How do I send a Message?**

Call your installation Red Cross Office during duty hours 0800-1600 or the

USAG-Yongsan Office after hours 738-3670. The phones are manned 24 hrs. A Caseworker will process your message. To expedite service, please provide as much pertinent information related to the situation as possible. For example: local point of contact name and phone numbers, doctor's name and phone number, location of patient, your 1SG's name and phone numbers (on and off duty), anything else that will help to service your case quickly and efficiently.

### **What do I do if I get a message?**

If an emergency message comes into the Red Cross office for you, your 1SG will be called to copy its contents and deliver them to you. If a non-emergency message arrives, then every effort will be made to locate you in order to deliver its contents to you directly. Should this be unsuccessful, then your 1SG will be contacted to assist Red Cross in locating you. Once you have received your message, you should discuss the situation with your Chain of Command so that the proper leave determination can be made, and the subsequent paperwork can be completed for you.

### **Will the service pay my way home?**

If you have been given Emergency Leave with Funded Travel Orders, then the military will pay for your plane ticket to a port of entry on the west coast. Any follow-through travel will be your responsibility. Ordinary Leave under Emergency Conditions requires that you pay for the entire plane ticket. As situations vary case by case, it is suggested that you contact your Chain of Command regarding travel regulations for your family.

**Health and Safety classes** may vary within most military communities. Please contact your local area Red Cross station for class availability and cost.

Classes that may be offered in your area include:

- First Aid/CPR: Adult, Infant, Child, w/AED
- First Aid/CPR for Military Units
- Water Safety Courses
- Babysitting Training & Home on Your Own
- Pet First Aid

### **ARTS & CRAFTS**

The Yongsan Arts and Crafts Center is located on South Post, Bldg. 4253/4254 (near the Shoppette), call 738-4750. It is open every day from 9am to 7pm, except Tuesday. Classes offered include: ceramics, photography, pottery, cake

decorating, painting, flower arranging, and framing. Drawing and craft classes are offered for children, as well as birthday parties. The staff will also mount and frame any pictures or paintings at a reasonable rate. Yongsan is the first Arts and Crafts Center to purchase a computerized longarm quilting machine. The staff will do your quilting for a fee, or if you prefer to quilt it yourself, volunteers are available to train and assist you in doing so. If you choose to do your own quilt the quilting machine is rented out to you for an hourly fee. Batting is available for purchase at the center. Yongsan Arts and Craft center has a well-equipped woodshop and gallery. The staff will direct you to almost any type of art or craft supplies you may require. Local markets such as Dongdaemun, Namdaemun, E-mart, and the Alpha Store (chain of Art/Stationary stores) have a broad range of art, craft, stationery and architectural supplies available. (See the **Shopping** section for guides to these markets).

## **AUTOMOBILES**

**Picking up and shipping your car.** The Yongsan Vehicle Processing Center is located on Camp Kim (outside Gate 1 also called the PX gate), in building C-1244-CK-068, and is open M-F 0800-1700 hrs. All processing, pick-up, and outbound shipments are handled through this Center. For further information, call 02-798-7032/1.

- **Prior to picking up your vehicle**, you must have a USFK driver's license (See **Driver's License**). Your stateside license can be used to legally drive in Korea, but only for the first 30 days after your arrival. The Driver's Testing Facility can be reached at 738-5568/4592.
- **To pick up and register a shipped vehicle**, you will need an ID card, Vehicle Inspection Shipping Form (VISF-issued by port of embarkation to owner), a copy of your orders authorizing shipment to Korea, proof of insurance and your USFK driver's license.
- **You will need to obtain a vehicle safety inspection** from the Car Care Center located at Camp Kim (outside Gate 1 also called the PX gate) or the Auto Skills Center located on the hill behind Itaewon Acres housing area (take last left turn before you exit post at Gate 52 and take the first left).
- **Once your inspection is complete**, you must take the inspection form and the completed registration forms to the Provost Marshal Office (PMO) at Camp Kim (Bldg. 1230), 724-5768/4811. They will then give you your license plates, which you must mount (or have mounted at the Car Care Center). You will have to mount these standard-sized plates on the front and rear of your vehicle

**Note:** Sometimes vanity plate holders do not hold these plates properly. There

is a special bolt that must be affixed to your plates which can difficult, depending on your vehicle.

## **Motorcycles and Mopeds**

Each driver of a privately-owned or government-owned motorcycle or moped is required to complete an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Course. The Driver Testing Facility is located on the second floor of the ACS Building. Call 010-2296/8505. This facility will have the complete and up-to-date information on what the requirements are and how to sign up for the Safety Course. Once you have completed the course, you will receive a USFK Motorcycle or Moped License and Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course or Motorcycle Riders Course Completion Card.

**[www.safedriving@korea.army.mil](mailto:www.safedriving@korea.army.mil)**

**To register your motorcycle;** You will need to present the following documents to the PMO:

- Identification Card
- Proof of Ownership and Insurance
- A valid USFK POV Driver's License with motorcycle endorsement
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation (ERC/MRC) Completion Card
- Inspection Certificate (must be less than 30 days old)

## **OTHER USEFUL AUTOMOBILE INFORMATION**

**Buying Used Cars:** Used cars range in price from \$500 to \$3,000. The best places to look for used vehicles are the bulletin boards at the Main PX, Moyer Community Activities Center and the Townhouse (food court at the PX), or the BOSS lot, a small area in the commissary parking lot where used cars can be viewed. In order to register a used vehicle you need a record of vehicle inspection within the last 30 days from the Car Care Center (open weekdays only) or the Auto Skills Center on South Post, a USFK driver's license, a bill of sale and proof of insurance. If you have questions, call 724-4811, bldg 1230, Camp Kim.

These vehicles are generally well-suited to drive on-post however, caution must be taken if you plan on driving these vehicles off-post for any long distances as they truly are "hoopties" and breakdowns can prove to be very expensive.

**Note:** Korean law is very strict concerning car accidents and many soldiers have found themselves on International Hold, barred from leaving the country, for even the slightest fender bender.

- **Importing a New American Vehicle:** If you want to import a new American-

made vehicle, you can do so on your orders, but only during the first 6 months after your arrival in Korea. (Provided, of course, that you have not already shipped one.)

- **Importing a New Foreign Vehicle:** To import a new, foreign-made vehicle, you need a memorandum from the unit commander and the PMO, recommending approval. You will also have to pay shipping and customs costs. Also, remember to have in writing whether you want American specifications on your imported vehicle or not.
- **Buying a New Vehicle:** On post there are AAFES Exchange New Car Sales Offices located near the Community Bank (by the PX), the Gallery, and the Dragon Hill Lodge. You can email them at [exch@militarycars.com](mailto:exch@militarycars.com) or visit their website at [www.encs.com](http://www.encs.com). There are many dealerships off post, but be sure to choose a reputable one.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** There are several options available for maintaining your car:

**AAFES Garage** - The Car Care Center is a service operation located at Camp Kim. The center can perform most major maintenance. However, be sure to bring any auto parts you expect might need replacing during your stay here: brake shoes, water pump, fan belts, etc. This is especially helpful if you have a foreign or older American car. Some parts are available at the Center, but it is not possible for the garage to stock every part for every automobile, and special orders can be costly. For more information, call 724-6037. Parts can also be purchased over the Internet.

**Auto Skills Center** - Located on South Post near Itaewon Acres housing area. There are mechanics available for car inspections, oil changes, license plate mounting, etc. The facility also provides areas for vehicle owners to complete their own oil changes and minor repairs and maintenance. For more information, call 738-5042/5315/5319.

**Korean Garages** - There are many garages on the economy around Yongsan, and people prefer to use them for a variety of reasons. Word of mouth (The Auto Skills Center may also be able to refer you to a helpful garage) is generally the best way of finding a good mechanic on the economy, particularly if you know a person with a car similar to yours who has used local services.

**NOTE: Secure your personal property.** Although it is a common practice for many people to leave personal property in their cars for convenience, it is

against U.S. Army policy to pay a claim for items stolen from your vehicle unless it is something like a jack, a spare tire, a first aid kit, or a child car seat. Secure your personal property!



**BABY ITEMS**

Though the PX and Furniture Store carry most baby items, choice is extremely limited. If you want a nice stroller, baby jogger, high chair (with wheels) get it and ship it in your household shipment as most on-line vendors (including eBay sellers) won't ship large items to APO addresses. If they do, the shipping costs can be more than the actual item purchased.

See shopping guide **Dongdaemun, Toy Alley.**

You may want to consider bringing baby furniture items such as; cribs, mattresses, changing tables and rocking chairs since they are not supplied by the Furnishings Management Office (see Furniture under Housing for more information) and can be expensive to purchase in Korea.

Bring extra clothing for infants and toddlers. Stocks from the PX are quickly depleted, and newborn clothing, though available locally, is often very limited and can be very expensive at the department stores.

For mothers-to-be, bring plenty of maternity clothing. The PX does have a maternity section but, like infant clothing, items sell out quickly and local sizes run small for most American women.

The thrift store also carries gently used maternity clothes and baby items. Plan ahead, and bring ample amounts of undergarments to include: stockings, underwear, nursing bras, and slips. It may also be helpful to bring catalogs that carry maternity clothing so items can be ordered. Also see our listing of shopping websites in the Internet Shopping section and **Maternity** under **M.**

**BANKING/CHECK CASHING**

**The Community Bank** - Operates the banking facilities on all posts and bases

in Korea. The bank offers full service banking: direct deposit, won conversion, auto loans (new and used), and ATM access. The Community Bank ATM card offers 24/7 banking with no fees for withdrawing U.S. dollars, Korean won or for balance inquiries. Community Bank offers 13 full-time branches, two part-time offices and a network of 51 ATMs on the peninsula; ask for a flyer with listings at any branch.

**South Post** Dragon Hill Lodge houses a bank branch, 738-3520/5540; open M-F 9-3pm in addition to two ATM machines. There are also three ATM machine locations; one is located across from the Chosun Gift Shop, one outside of the Commissary and another inside the Brian Allgood Hospital.

**Main Post** has the main bank branch located next to the Four Seasons Mini-Mall, 724-4724/4725 open T-F 9:30-5pm, Sat 9:30-3:30pm, and Monday (paydays only). This branch also has two ATM machines. There is another ATM located at the back entrance of the Moyer Community Activities Center.

**Hannam Village** housing area has one ATM machine located next to the mini market at the Main Entrance.

**U.S.A. Federal Credit Union** - Services offered are online banking, credit and debit cards, auto loan, line of credit, signature loans, CDs and IRAs. There are, however, no ATM machines available. For more information call 725-4056/3282, or stop in bldg. 1479, located between the Main Post food court and Trent Gym, Office hours are; M-F 9-4pm. This Credit Union has agreements with many stateside Credit Unions that may enable you to perform immediate transactions with no additional fees. Contact your Credit Union for details.

**Bank Cards** - You may obtain cash or make account inquiries with your credit card, or any other ATM card which displays the AFFN or CIRRUS Network logo. Ask your bank about service fees that may apply. Many banks will not charge ATM or currency conversion fees if they are informed that you are on active-duty overseas orders.

**Cashing Checks** - Many people elect to keep their checking account at a U.S. bank or credit union since cashing checks on post is really not a problem. The Community Bank will cash a check for up to \$500 on a stateside account for a fee and more may be available with the manager's approval. (No third party checks.) Checks can also be cashed at customer service \$300 limits. The U.S.A. Federal Credit Union will cash checks on a stateside account up to the amount

in your account if you're a member. The 175th Finance office will cash only the first month's rent and security deposit checks. **Note:** The banks on post observe both U.S. and Korean Holidays so please plan accordingly.

## **BARBERSHOPS**

There are several barbershops on Yongsan. Current locations are Brian Allgood Community Hospital, South Post Bldg 7005, 737-5285, open M-F 9:00-5:00; Camp Coiner (Mini Mall) Bldg 1094, 724-5169, open M-F 9:00-7:00, Sat 10:00-5:00; JUSMAG-K/Navy Club, Main Post Bldg 1575, 725-6555, M-F 8:30-6:00, Sat 8:30-5:00; Main Post (Mini Mall/Four Seasons) Bldg 1447, 723-7858, Daily 9:00-8:00; South Post (Mini Mall/Shoppette) Bldg 4259, 738-8176, M-F 9:00-7:00; South Post (Behind One Stop Processing Center/1RC) Bldg 4035, 738-6976, M-Sat 9:00-6:00.

## **BEAUTY SHOPS**

There are many nice salons on post specializing in manicures, pedicures, massages, and hairstyling. Locations: Dragon Hill Lodge Clippers (newly renovated), 738-2222 ext. 6810, M-Sat 9:00-7:00, Sun 10:00-7:00; Stylique (Mini Mall/Four Seasons), 723-2066, Daily 9:00-8:00; South Post Stylique, which is located behind the Yongsan Fire Station on South Post, 738-4520, M-Sat 9:00-7:00, Sun 9:00-6:00; and Hannam Village, Bldg K, 723-4601, M-Sat 9:00-6:00. Prices vary but expect to pay U.S. prices, if not more; ask for pricing beforehand.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthday parties can be arranged at several places on post, such as Yongsan Lanes, the library DHL Sundae's and Burger King. To purchase birthday decorations, party favors and gifts, see **Dongdaemun** and **Toy Alley**, in the **Shopping** section. A **Toys-R-Us** store is located in the Lotte World complex (see section T) Party decorations and toys can be rented from the Moyer Community Activities Center. Some items available for rent include cotton candy and popcorn machines, various inflatable toys and a variety of fancy dress costumes. Call 723-3291/3192 for more information.

## **BLACK MARKETING**

Under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), the United States is allowed to import certain products, duty free, for the Commissary and Exchange services. These products are strictly for the personal use of authorized personnel. Black Marketing is the illegal sale of those goods into the Korean economy. This

practice can be cause for severe disciplinary action. The original goal of ration control was and still is today, to control black marketing. You can report anyone who is engaged in this practice to the Black Marketing Hotline: 738-5111.

## **BOSS**

Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers, or BOSS, is a dynamic Soldier program in Korea. It is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for single or geographically single Soldiers of all ranks by providing them an effective voice at the installation where they serve. Soldiers and MWR advisors work hand-in-hand with Commanders, Command Sergeants Major, and First Sergeants to provide superior leisure programs and help direct the resolution of quality of life issues for Soldiers. The BOSS program manager can be contacted at 738-5466/5254/5419 (Bldg 4253).

## **BOWLING CENTER**

Yongsan Lanes is located on Main Post. It offers numerous bowling leagues, including a youth league, and specials for the Yongsan community. The center can also be used for birthday parties or special events. They also have a Food Court offering pizza, burgers, and tacos. For more information and operational hours call 723-7830/5820.

## **BUSES (On and Off Post) - See Transportation**

## **BUSINESS CARDS**

Once you arrive you will quickly realize the value of having some business cards on hand. It is customary in the Korean culture to hand out a business card to a new acquaintance. It is also a lot easier to have some of your basic information to pass out at a moment's notice. Even if you don't have a cell phone or home phone yet, most people have email addresses. (Remember you can check your email for FREE at the Library).

Bring around 50 business cards made up ahead of time with your name, email and new APO address. You can write in phone numbers etc, as you get them. Keep a card for yourself and write on the back all of the important numbers you may want to keep on hand when you first get here (i.e., taxi service, CDC, Youth Services). It makes it a lot easier when you are first in-processing to quickly pull out a business card. If you have older children have them make some business cards up ahead of time as well; they will meet a lot of friends at the Dragon Hill and around post when they first get here. Use a reputable printer or you might

find yourself having the cards reprinted several times until they are correct. One way to avoid mistakes is to type the information to give to the printer.

Once you are established, getting business cards printed is very inexpensive. There are business card vendors located in the Moyer Community Activity Center and the Gallery (723-5347). The Oriental Press (Main Post) also prints business cards, printing information in English on one side and Hangul on the other. Call 738-5005 or contact: [oppress@kornet.net](mailto:oppress@kornet.net).



## **CABLE TELEVISION**

MWR Cable Television (MWR CATV) is available to those living on post. A variety of American Forces Network (AFN), U.S. and Asian channels, along with command channels which provide community information and force protection advisories, are available. A pamphlet on the basic and premium channels offered, as well as the fees (approximately \$35 a month plus \$5 for each additional converter box (Jan 2010)) is available at the CATV Business office located in the ACS building 4106, Room 236, Phone: 738-5163. Operating hours: 8am-12pm and 1pm-4:30pm. Another CATV office is located in building 4891 (South Post, beyond the Auto Skills Center); phone: 738-2288/4310.

**Service members, DoD civilians and their families who reside off-post** will need to lease a decoder box and purchase a Direct to Home (DTH) cable TV satellite dish in order to receive AFN programming. An **AFN DTH** satellite dish and other required equipment is available for purchase through the Power Zone/HiFi located in the Post Exchange. The Satellite dish will cost around \$109.99. Programming is limited to AFN channels which include: Sports, News, Pacific, Atlantic, Family, Guide, Spectrum, Prime, Movie and the AFN Pentagon Channel. With the cost of the satellite dish (\$109.99) and the monthly decoder fees (\$13) is an installation fee in the region of \$100-\$200, depending on the site conditions and currency exchange. Contact the PX Power Zone, 724-3244, or log onto [www.afn.net](http://www.afn.net) for further information on the satellite equipment required. Installation service in the Seoul area is available through NASA, an off-post

Korean company phone, 02-717-2256/2257.

**NOTE:** Many apartment complexes and rental properties **DO NOT** permit installation of AFN DTH equipment (refer to the list provided by the housing office). It is advisable to review AFN availability carefully before entering into a lease agreement since AFN is the source of many service force protection advisories (Military Internet Websites also carry many of the same advisories). All service members and DoD civilians who rent a property where DTH equipment installation is not available are required to sign a Housing Office statement of acknowledgement.

If the landlord does allow installation of AFN DTH equipment on his property, written permission must be obtained beforehand (see "Permission to Install AFN DTH Satellite Dish" memorandum). For further information on DTH Satellite Dish Installation, refer to "Off-Post Landlord Instructions for DTH Satellite Dish Installation". The USAG-Yongsan Housing Office is working with landlord/real estate offices to make the experience of serving and living off post in Korea a more positive and memorable one. For further information contact the Housing Services Office (HSO) Phone 738-3489.

- **Internet Television-** Another television viewing option available to both on and off-post residents in Korea is via the computer. Apple TV sells and rents current season TV shows and movies (in both high definition and regular format) via the iTunes website. An Apple computer is not required for this service; however, an Apple TV box must be purchased. The Post Exchange sells the Apple TV box. It is as simple to install as a gaming system and movies/shows are purchased/rented and downloaded in the same way as music and videos for MP3 players.
- **Inexpensive Television Sets** - During the first few weeks in Korea a quick and very inexpensive TV "fix" may be found at the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop. Television sets, DVD and VCR players are available, along with a huge selection of movies and children's programs at an incredibly low cost. Call 795-7675.

## **CARPETS**

Very few quarters or apartments have carpeting. The floors in some government quarters are linoleum over concrete and can be very cold. Off-post apartments, in contrast, generally have heated floors. If you desire carpeting there are several options available.

If you think you are going to want carpets, buy them at your local PX or

Furniture Store and bring them with you in your express shipment. It is a lot easier to lay carpet down in a fairly empty home than to add carpet once you have unpacked. Good color choices are hard to come by, particularly neutral colors. If you have room-sized rugs that are not too heavy, it is a great idea to include them with your shipment. You will be glad you did.

Check with departing personnel. Many may have purchased Korean carpets specifically for the Yongsan quarters and are willing to sell at a good price. The PX carries some area rugs. They sell out quickly so it's hit or miss. The AAFES Furniture Store stocks rugs and carpeting at a variety of prices and sizes up to 12'x15'. Padding is for sale also, subject to availability. Ask at the PX about ordering rugs for delivery to the local store from the Online Catalog.

Beautiful rugs are available at the Chosun Gift Shop on South Post. There are generally two shipments of rugs per year and they are available in many sizes; the largest is approximately 9'x12'. These are beautiful, but expensive. You may order some rugs and carpets from the Internet. While some companies may ship to APO addresses, shipping may be expensive and ultimately depends on the size ordered. Several off-post vendors will come in and lay down wall to wall carpeting, the cost varying with carpet choice and vender.

## CELL PHONES

A virtual necessity in Korea! Unfortunately, most American cell phones will not work in Korea (and vice versa). The good news is your Korean cell phone will work throughout the country (except at the DMZ), including subways and most buildings. The one frustrating dead zone is in the hilly area on post, which encompasses Watkins Ridge and the gas station.

## Where to Buy a Phone

- **The PX** has a concession in the lobby. New and used phones are available, ranging in price from \$50 to \$500. The sales ladies are very helpful and plans vary with the service and minutes you require. A basic plan starts for as little as \$10 per month plus the cost of the phone. Read all service agreements carefully, some plans charge for all calls made to cell phones operated by other service providers.
- **The Second Hand Rose Thrift Store** sells used phones (with pre-programmed number and charger) for around \$25.00.
- **The Business Center** in the Dragon Hill Lodge, and the ONE STOP Center, located above Starbucks in the U.S. Embassy Association Building # S-8105, sell new and used cell phones and plans. The ONE STOP Center

may have cheaper new phones, for as little as \$50, but both locations offer many different plans that are tailored for all; teenage plans, roll over minutes, roll over text, Bluetooth world roaming, whatever plan you require they will probably have it. The best thing is, you buy a phone and within minutes you walk out with a working cell phone, pre-programmed in **English**. You can choose your own 010 number and don't even have to pay the first month in advance to obtain the same day connection.

- **The ONE STOP Center** also services and repairs computers and laptops. Some other services at the ONE STOP include: fax, photocopying, wireless internet and designing and making military coins. For further information call 792-6695.
- **Service:** When you purchase a phone, you automatically get a particular service operator prefix. 010, 011, 016, 017, and 019 are some of the service prefixes used locally. You can often choose your own phone number. All cell numbers begin with one of these prefixes; e.g.010-xxxx-xxxx or 016-yyy-yyyy.
- **Payment:** It is very easy to set up a monthly billed phone service on-post. If monthly bill payment using a credit card is not an option, opening a Community Bank checking account could be a solution, since a checking account has Visa capabilities, as long as there are sufficient funds in your account.
- **“Buying time”** or purchasing a phone card (usually W10,000 minimum per month) that can be programmed into the phone is another convenient option. More time can be purchased and added, or have several months programmed in at a time (usually W10,000 minimum per month). Once you have used up your minutes, you cannot make outgoing calls until you add more, although you can still receive calls. The PX concession is a convenient place to buy “phone time,” and they will program your phone for you. Ask for details about programming cards and expiration dates when purchasing your phone so that you don't run into a problem later.

**Important Note:** The U.S. Military and the Korean government require drivers to use a “hands free” device (NO HEADSETS). If you must take a call while driving, find a safe place to pull over and take the call.

## **CHILD YOUTH AND SCHOOL SERVICES (CYSS)**

Child Youth and School Services located on Yongsan South Post, and Hannam

Village, serving children/youth from 6 weeks to 18 years of age. Programs include: Child Development Center (CDC), School-Age Services (SAS), Middle School/Teen Centers, Youth Sports and SKIES Unlimited Instructional Classes. Registration is open to dependants of U.S. Military, DoD civilians, N.A.F. and U.S. Embassy employees who are USFK ID card holders. Call beforehand to verify current requirements since a physical fitness form signed by a pediatrician and current immunization records are required with enrollment.

- **To register**, visit the CYSS Central Enrollment Registry Office, located opposite the Seoul American Middle School in the ACS building 4106, 736-5036/3001, M-F 8am-5pm.
- **Priority of placement** for children in the Full-day CDC program and the School-Age Services (SAS) is available to children from dual/single parent military families and dual DoD working civilians (AR 608-10, PARAGRAPH 1-6).
- **Child Development Center (CDC)** offers Full-day Care, Hourly Care, Part Day Preschool, and Sure Start/Kindergarten before and after school care. Located in building 4280, 738-3406/3407, front desk M-F 5am-6pm. The Full-day program runs M-F from 5:45am-6pm.
- **Part-day Preschool** hours are from 8:30-11:30am MWF,T/TH, or all 5 days. Hourly care is provided on a first come, first served basis with hours of care from 8am-3pm daily. Patrons can call for reservations as early as 5am, which is often a necessity as space is limited.
- **School Aged Services (SAS)** offers before and after-school care and activities for children in Grades 1-5 in building 4211, 738-4707.
- **Middle School Center** is located at Yongsan South Post building 4215 and serves youth in Grades 6-8, 738-4557/2310.
- **Teen Center** is located on Yongsan South Post (building 4270) next to the Family Fun Park, and serves youth in Grades 9-12. Hours of operation are M-F 2-8pm and Sat 1-8pm. For details call, 738-8113.
- **Hannam Middle School/Teen Center**, located in the Hannam Village housing area, serves youth in Grades 6-12, building 6150, 723-8765, M/W 3-7pm and Sat 1-9pm.
- **Youth Sports** are available year round and include: baseball, T-ball, softball, volleyball, basketball, flag football, swimming, and soccer. Sports clinics are offered during the summer months. Register at building 4106, 738-4581/811, or contact CYSS, 736-1536.
- **SKIES Unlimited** Instructional Classes are offered year round and include martial arts, piano lessons, driver's education, dance, gymnastics, and American Sign Language.

- **Volunteering for CYSS programs** CYSS is always in need of adult volunteers and coaches for the various youth programs scheduled. To volunteer for Youth Sports Program call 738-4581/8117 or 738-7510.

**Note:** Background checks are required for volunteers and this process may take some time. If you wish to participate with your child, start the paperwork early!

## **CHOSUN GIFT SHOP**

This beautiful shop on South Post offers a wide range of carefully selected merchandise from all over Asia. Rugs, jewelry from many countries, beautiful linens, cloisonné, rosewood furniture, wicker and Japanese Imari porcelain are just some of the items you can expect to find at the Chosun. No Korean-made items are sold in the store. The Gift Shop is located on South Post in Building 4223, near the Furniture Store and the Second Hand Rose. The shop is operated by the American Forces' Spouses' Club (AFSC) and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am-3pm (Closed for the month of July).

The Chosun is a multi-faceted operation whose mission is to generate funds to be used by the AFSC for Korean Welfare Projects and American Welfare Projects in Korea. These include: schools, orphanages, rehabilitation centers, scholarships, scouts, USO, youth activities, and the Red Cross. The Chosun is open to all individuals over 10 years old with valid ID and ration card (visitors need an authorization letter/ration card). Volunteers are the backbone of this operation.

Come by to pick up a volunteer application and find out how you can be part of this great team! This is a wonderful place to make friends and give back to the community. There is a great volunteer incentive program which allows you early bird shopping privileges or traveling overseas on a buying trip. Make this one of your top 10 things to do once you arrive and you won't regret it! Call 738-5058.

**Note:** Children under the age of 10 years old are not permitted inside the store unless they are accompanied by an adult at all times.

## **CHRISTMAS TREES**

The Boy Scouts sell live-cut trees imported from the U.S. The trees usually arrive early November and are sold at advertised locations on Main and South Post throughout late November and December. Artificial trees may be purchased at the AAFES Four Seasons Store in the Mini Mall on Main Post. Both

live and artificial trees are available on the economy, though they are much more expensive than those available on post. The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop (located across from the Chosun Gift shop, building 4222) usually has a selection of artificial trees along with a varied assortment of ornaments and other Christmas decorations at very reasonable prices.

## CLAIMS

There have been some changes to the claims process in the last 2 years.

**Full Replacement Value (FRV)** now applies to shipments picked up on or after 1 October 2007 for International Household Goods (HHG) (to/from CONUS), 1 November 2007 for Domestic HHG and 1 March 2008 for Non-Temporary Storage (NTS), and Direct Procurement Method (local moves). There is no additional cost to you for FRV coverage, but you are responsible for filing the claim directly with your Transportation Service Provider (TSP) (“moving company”). All lost or damaged items must be reported to the TSP within 70 days from the date of delivery. If you want to receive FRV, a claim must be filed with the TSP within 9 months. A claim is a written demand for a specific amount that you calculate is suitable reimbursement for the replacement of your lost or damaged goods. Refer to the section Filing a Claim for more details. If a claim is filed through the Military Claims Office (MCO) you will not receive FRV; the MCO will only be responsible for depreciated replacement costs on any lost or damaged items. You have the right to file a claim with both offices.

- **The transportation service provider (TSP)** is required to replace any item that is lost or destroyed with a new item, or pay the cost of a new item of the same type and quality without making a depreciation deduction. However, damaged items may be repaired by the TSP if repair is less than the full replacement value of the item. Repair will be to the extent necessary to restore the item to its condition when received by the TSP.
- **The TSP is only required to arrange for the repair** of those items or to pay for the cost of repairs. An item is considered destroyed if it cannot be repaired, or if the repair cost exceeds the cost of a new item.
- **If you notify TSP of loss or damage** of your item within the 70-day limit and a claim has been filed directly within the 9-month time limit, then TSP is responsible for obtaining estimates.

## Filing a Claim

The local TSP delivering your HHG or unaccompanied baggage should provide

you with 3 copies of a pink form for each shipment delivered, your DD1840. All damaged and missing items noticed at the time of delivery are to be listed on the DD1840 and signed by the carrier's (TSP) representative and you. **Do Not** let carriers suggest or push you into delaying listing and signing for any discrepancies on the DD1840R. Such a suggestion is self-serving on their part, and will not necessarily help you. It is best to find as much of the damage/loss, if any, on the day of delivery; however, damage/loss discovered later may be listed on the DD1840/DD1840R.

**Form DD1840R** is simply the back of the pink form and is used to record any loss or damage not discovered at the time of delivery. All military members and DoD civilians are entitled to claims assistance. Upon arrival at your residence, if the carrier does not provide a copy of Notification of Loss or Damage Form DD1840/DD1840R or, acts in a manner that may be questionable, you have the right to request the services of the Quality Assurance (QA) Office immediately. When contacted a QA officer may visit your residence or give advice and assistance over the phone. QA is a branch of the Transportation Division and can be reached at 723-8923 or 738-4818.

After filling out DD Form 1840/1840R take it to the Military Claims office (phone 738-8111) located in the Legal Services Division on the second floor of the ACS building (4106). They will advise you on how to file a claim with your TSP. They are extremely helpful.

***The completed DD Form 1840R must be mailed or emailed to your TSP no later than 70 days from the date of delivery. Failure to do so may result in a reduction of the amount payable on your claim.*** Keep a copy of this form for your records, receipted and dated by the claims office. Keep all damaged items for inspection, or, if repairs have been made prior to the item inspection make sure you have all repair receipts signed and dated.

The TSP will provide instructions on how to file a claim, and if problems arise or you have not heard anything from the TSP within 30 days of submitting the claim DD Form 1840 contact the Military Claims Office.

Submission of the DD Form 1840R form alone **does not** constitute a claim.

- A written demand must be submitted within 9 months of delivery and must list each item lost or damaged and give a general description of the damage, using DD Form 1844. You do not need to obtain estimates of repair in order to file your claim. If your claim is submitted directly to the TSP within 9 months, the carrier is responsible for obtaining estimates. Do not delay your claim past the 9-month deadline in order

to glean further information; additional information can always be added after the claim has been submitted.

- Before a Claim is filed you may call the TSP and request permission to dispose of items or for an inspection. This will give you a chance to repair or dispose of some of the damaged items while you are still working on the details of your claim. You will be notified by the TSP within 2 business days of contact either that the items will be inspected, or that you may dispose of them. When the TSP gives notice to inspect an item they should do so within 45 calendar days from the date you contacted them, unless you grant them an extension past the 45 days.
- Inspection of Items The TSP may inspect any damaged items of a claim prior to settlement, but cannot deny a claim solely because they were unable to inspect an item.
- Repaired or Disposed of Items If an item has been repaired before the TSP inspection, you must provide the repair bill or some evidence of the damage. It might be a good idea to photograph all damaged items before any repairs are made. If a damaged item is disposed of, the TSP requires evidence that the item was damaged beyond economical repair because once the owner has been reimbursed for any damaged item the TSP is then entitled to take possession of the item or sell it for salvage.

**Found Items** - If the lost item is located you may request or decline delivery of the item. If you elect to receive a found item, you must refund any amount paid to you for that item.

- If the TSP locates a lost item within 60 days of receipt of notice of loss, and a claim on that item has not been paid, you are obligated to accept delivery of the item in lieu of a claim, even if you have replaced the item.
- If the item is located more than 60 days after receipt of notice of loss, but the item has not been replaced, and no claim has been paid on the item, you are again obligated to accept delivery of the item in lieu of a claim. If however, a claim has been paid or the found item has been replaced you may then decline delivery of the item.
- If a found item is delivered damaged, the 70 day time limit to qualify for Full Replacement Value (FRV) protection and for filing claims on that item will not commence until the delivery date of the item.

**Disputed or Rejected Claims** - If the TSP denies the full claim, makes an offer that is not acceptable, or does not respond to your request to file a claim within

30 days, you may transfer your claim to the Military Claims Office (MCO) before the 9-month time limit expires. If the claim is transferred, the MCO will only be responsible for the depreciated replacement cost on the claim. The MCO will then attempt to recover the FRV from the TSP. If the MCO succeeds in recovering the FRV they will then pay you the difference between the depreciated cost already paid and the FRV cost they recovered from the TSP.

## **CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

- **American Forces' Spouses' Club** - The group is open to all military, civilians, and DoD spouses stationed in Korea. Meetings are held monthly (September through May) at the Dragon Hill Lodge. A welcome coffee is held in early fall, but new members are welcome throughout the year. Volunteers from this club operate and staff the CHOSUN GIFT SHOP. Proceeds from the Chosun Gift Shop fund the club's Korean and American Welfare Projects. The Chosun Chatter is a monthly publication of the AFSC, and The Seoul Survivor is updated, edited, and published every year. The AFSC also sponsors classes, trips, and other activities, such as bunko, book club, tennis, hiking, running, international cooking, lunch bunch, needlework circle, new attitude fitness (zumba and Pilates), scrapbooking, shop-n-tour, etc., based on member interest. Membership forms are available at club meetings and at the Chosun Gift Shop. Annual dues are \$35 for a family membership \$17.50 for half year app E4 and below . For more information, go to the AFSC website at [www.afsckorea.org](http://www.afsckorea.org) and click on "Membership Form" to join.
- **American Women's Club (AWC)** - Regular membership is open to all U.S. citizens and associate membership to all other persons. Annual dues are \$30. AWC provides many social and cultural activities for expatriate women and families in Seoul. It sponsors newcomer coffees (normally held the second Tuesday of the month), as well as monthly lunches featuring different themes and speakers. A very popular activity is one where members can go out of Seoul (all expenses paid) for a day to interact with school children in the morning and in the afternoon tour and shop.
- **The AWC also operates The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop** - (see Thrift Shop), located next to the Chosun Gift Shop on South Post. The proceeds from the shop are used to support AWC charities in both the USFK and Korean Communities. AWC also publishes Arirang Magazine [www.arirang.co.kr/english/index.asp](http://www.arirang.co.kr/english/index.asp). An outstanding quarterly magazine, containing articles on various aspects of Korean and other Asian cultures. For more

information, visit the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop and pick up a pamphlet or visit the website: [www.awckorea.org](http://www.awckorea.org).

- **AWANAS and Bible Studies** - see Religious Activities.
- **Military Clubs** - There are a number of clubs throughout post. Some, such as the Main Post Club, 723-5678/5685, and the Navy Club, 725-7731 (Food Delivery Service: 725-6108/6114), are open to everyone. The Hartell House is a members' club, although all are welcome to dine (discounts are offered for members).
- **Royal Asiatic Society (RAS)** - If you are interested in knowing more about Korea, you can join this non-profit organization. RAS programs address different aspects of Korean life and culture, such as dance, music, and mask drama. Events are free, and you are encouraged to bring friends with you. RAS also sponsors excellent tours and bi-monthly lectures (all of which are announced in the local papers). Members receive discounts on the various RAS tours to places of historic and scenic interest and on the society's publications, which include some excellent books on Korea. For more details, email the Royal Asiatic Society at [raskb@kornet.net](mailto:raskb@kornet.net). Commercial phone: 02-763-9483. Website: [www.raskb.com](http://www.raskb.com).
- **Scouts** - Membership in the Girl Scouts of USA is offered through the Overseas Council based at the Scout Hut on South Post. Membership in the Boy Scouts of America is offered through the Far East Council based at the Scout Hut beside the South Post Chapel. See SCOUTS for details.
- **Seoul International Women's Club (SIWA)** - Seoul International Women's Association is a non-profit, volunteer organization. It is the largest international women's organization in Korea, with approximately 700 members from over 50 countries. Meetings are held monthly to provide opportunities for international exchange of cultural and social activities for women residing in Korea. A wide variety of special interest groups are also offered. SIWA sponsors a large pre-Christmas bazaar with proceeds going to welfare assistance programs. Meetings are publicized in the local papers. You can also check its website at [www.siwapage.com](http://www.siwapage.com).
- **Special Interest Clubs** - There are several groups on post formed by people with specific interests, - such as quilting or other needlework. These groups meet at various locations. The best way to find out about these groups is by checking Cable Channel 3, AFN, bulletin boards, Morning Calm Newspaper, online search (Yahoo! Groups has Yongsan interest group links), or through word of mouth. If you have an interest, there is probably a group for you or... start one!

## COMMISSARY

The Yongsan Commissary is located on South Post near Gate 52, 736-7070/3311. This commissary is the largest overseas commissary under one roof.

Yongsan Commissary is open Tues-Sun 10am-7pm (Thurs/Fri until 8pm). It is closed Mondays (this is a tough adjustment for many. Plan ahead so you don't run out of essentials), all U.S. Federal holidays and several Korean holidays. A smaller commissary is located in Hannam Village, K bldg, 723-3892/6412. It is open Sun 1-5pm, Mon/Wed/Thurs 10am-6pm, closed Tuesdays, Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-6pm. The Hannam Village Commissary is closed Tuesdays, but provides a Monday option for the desperate that live on Yongsan!

The commissary offers Early Bird Shopping Tues-Fri 7-10am, 15 items or less. In Korea, patrons must present a valid ID and ration card to enter the store (visitors are NOT allowed to enter). The Command Unique Tracking System (CUTS) assists USFK law enforcement agencies in collecting data for inventory control and to curb black-marketing. For local commissary information, visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), and search the Geographical List under Locations. This site offers alphabetical and by-aisle product information, store hours, upcoming events, and much more! Also, check out [www.militarycoupons.com](http://www.militarycoupons.com). You can use coupons up to 6 months after they are expired. Many wise shoppers have family members send them the Sunday coupons from the states. It all adds up!

***Newcomers and Visitors Attention!*** In order to shop at the Commissary, Shoppette, or PX you **must** have an ID card and ration card. If you do not, you must bring your orders, which are good only for your first 14 days in country. Remember... **No Orders....No Shopping....No Exceptions!**

## COMMUNITY SERVICES/RESOURCES

- Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service is located on South Post, Bldg 3792 next to the South Post Chapel, 738-4579. This organization also offers courses and prevention groups in areas of life skills (self-esteem, relationships, and social skills), parenting and teen anger management. Counselors are also available in the middle school and high school.
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) the center offers rehabilitation counseling, individual and group therapy, education and smoking cessation for active duty, DoD civilians and family members. The Center is located in Building 5216, 736-5187/3291.

- Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous: Call 736-5187, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for more information on meetings. Alcoholics Anonymous has its own website: **www.AAinKorea.org**
- Alcohol Treatment Center located on South Post, next to the hospital Bldg T7163, call 737-5208.
- Army Community Service (ACS) ACS is the hub for programs informing and assisting military, DoD civilians, and their dependents. The ACS is staffed by professional civilian, military, and volunteer personnel. Some of the numerous programs offered are a lending closet, a Newcomer's Orientation and City Tour, Army Emergency Relief, a Cross Cultural School for Korean brides in conjunction with the USO, financial management counseling, employment information and referral services, family advocacy, a veterans' advisor, volunteer opportunities, and assistance in obtaining a SOFA stamp. ACS provides directions to many sites around Seoul, as well as worldwide installation files and computer data for future postings. ACS will send Welcome Packets to in-coming personnel upon request. ACS is located in building 4106 on South Post, across from the Dragon Hill Lodge:738-7505, M-F 8am-5pm.
- Army Emergency Relief (AER) This program offers financial assistance for rent, food, utilities, emergency travel expenses, and other verified emergencies. Call 738-4655, or visit **www.aerhq.org**. AER also provides scholarships for college students and spouses. For more information, click Scholarship Programs from the main webpage.
- Army Family Team Building (AFTB) AFTB was created for family members to help make military life easier. Open to all military service and DoD civilian family members, AFTB is a support program that offers free classes on such topics as stress management, leadership, problem-solving, military benefits, and time management. For details and information, call 738-3617 or visit their website at **www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org**.
- Chaplain Family Life Center (CFLC) South Post Bldg 5213, call 736-3018. CFLC provides confidential counseling for individuals, couples, families, and groups to include; complex life challenges, gambling and eating addictions, trauma recovery, battlefield stress, sexual assault and domestic violence, to name a few. Note: Marital "tune ups" are strongly encouraged, since regular maintenance here always helps to prevent major relational, off-road "break-ups/downs."

- Cross Cultural Training & Counseling Center located in Hannam Village, Bldg H, and Room 104, Phone 723-3239. Offers: marriage, couples and group counseling as well as parenting classes.
- Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) This program is designed to assist parents of children from birth to age three. Free developmental screenings are offered to assess if children are functioning at developmentally appropriate levels. A variety of services and programs are offered; for more information, call 738-4422.
- Employment Readiness (also see Employment) offers assistance with resume writing, employment opportunities, and job preparation, 738-8977 or Hannam Office, 723-8293
- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) 738-5311, located in the ACS Bldg 4106. This program offers information, referral, and resource identification for military and civilian family members with special needs. The EFMP Committee meets the first Thursday of each quarter to discuss EFMP issues. It sponsors monthly support groups and activities. It also coordinates medical, educational, community support and personal services with other military agencies.
- Family Advocacy Program (FAP) 738-5150/5151 The FAP is designed to promote effective family functioning. Its goal is to prevent and educate families about child/spousal abuse and neglect through support programs such as stress management, counseling referral, and crisis intervention.
- Financial Readiness 738-7505 this program offers consumer affairs assistance, information and advocacy, financial counseling, budgeting assistance, checkbook management, and personal financial management classes. Group counseling classes are available through ACS call for an appointment 738-7505.
- New Parent Support 723-7391 This group offers several programs including childbirth preparation classes, breast feeding support groups, Boots and Booties class for expectant soldiers, parenting classes, infant care, single parent support and a children's playgroup (currently at Hannam Village, ages 3 and under).
- Relocation Readiness 738-7999/7186 An ACS-sponsored program which provides relocation information to military personnel and families. The services of this program include newcomer orientations, welcome packets, SOFA stamp assistance, passports and visas assistance, and non-command-sponsored family member assistance, the loan closet,

emergency food bank, along with English Korean and Sign language classes. Contact this office if your group would like to reserve meeting space in the ACS building.

- VolunteersProgramDirectsinterestedpartiesto volunteer opportunities across the installation. Call the ACS Volunteer Coordinator at 738-7510.

## **CURTAINS/MINI-BLINDS**

Housing supplies mini-blinds for all quarters on South Post and Hannam Village. They come in various shades of off white. If you want drapes and/or sheers, you must supply your own. Custom made sheers, drapes, and woven blinds are easily ordered through the many decorator shops available. Fabric is inexpensive and readily available if you are inclined to sew. Many talented amateur decorators are among our number here. Look for ads in the Morning Calm weekly newspaper or ask around.

## **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS**

It is very important to know both U.S. and Korean customs regulations. The Korean government allows all U.S. Government employees (civilian and military) coming to Korea for an extended duty assignment to import certain goods duty free. This covers your household shipments and any items shipped to you through the APO system, providing they are for your own personal use. There are, however, some restrictions.

You will not be allowed to import the following items:

- Weapons (including ornamental replicas) such as firearms, knives, explosives or hazardous substances. Firearms for hunting may be cleared; speak with your travel management office for details.
- All illegal narcotics.
- Protected live animals and plants or articles manufactured from them. Examples: tigers, leopards, elephants, ostrich, owls, cobras, tortoises, crocodiles, coral, etc. or any part or products made from them. This includes deer antlers.
- Precious metal (excluding ordinary golden rings, pendants, etc.), and securities.
- Plants, vegetables, and agricultural products. For more information regarding Korean customs regulations, you can visit **[www.customs](http://www.customs)**.

[go.kr/eng](http://go.kr/eng).

**Upon return to the United States**, you will be allowed duty free entry providing all of the items you have purchased in Korea are for your own personal use, though again, there are restrictions. You will not be allowed to take back the following items:

- Drugs not approved by the FDA.
- Goods that violate trademark or copyright protections (fake designer clothes, watches, toys etc.).
- Heritage Items and Cultural Property unless you have the proper export permits.
- Dog and cat fur, fish, wildlife, and firearms.

When traveling to the States as a **“returning resident”** for people on TDY, vacation or returning from a visit in Korea, \$800 in foreign manufactured items may be carried back duty free. Children and infant travelers are entitled to the same dollar amount as the adults for duty free goods. Families travel under a combined total amount (a family of four is allotted \$3,200 total). Also, under current regulations, you and your visitors can mail up to \$200 worth of merchandise for personal use and up to \$100 worth of gifts to the States duty free per day. Additionally, there are many items, such as fine art and household effects that are considered duty free no matter the value, and will not be charged against your total. Visit the U.S. Customs website for further information [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov) (click on Travel, and then “Know before You Go”).



## **DELIVERY SERVICE**

A-Frame Delivery will pick up and deliver large household items for a fee of around \$35. They are located at the AAFES Furniture Store on South Post. Call 738-5051/5052.

## DENTAL SERVICES

Patients receive dental treatment in Korea through a combination of in-house care in military clinics and referral to Preferred Host Nation Providers. Because the **DENTAC** mission encompasses Soldier readiness throughout the peninsula, family member dental care in military clinics is limited. While there is some degree of space-available in-house family member care, the majority of family member care occurs through a network of Preferred Host Nation Providers. Selected providers practice dentistry in line with US standards, maintain modern facilities, engage in infection control and sterilization protocols in accordance with US standards and Center of Disease Control guidance. They sometimes accept UCCI insurance in lieu of upfront payment from the patient. **DENTAC** strongly encourages all sponsors to ensure coverage of their family members through participation in the TRICARE Dental Program.

**[www.tricare dental program.com](http://www.tricare dental program.com)** provides up-to-date dental information.

Active-duty family members comprise the only Other-Than-Active-Duty category that may obtain routine space-available care in military dental clinics. However, the **DENTAC** will always provide emergency care to address pain, infection, or trauma to members of all beneficiary categories. Patients may seek after-hours emergency dental care by reporting to the emergency room at the local military hospital or treatment facility.

The **DENTAC** objective is to ensure the best dental care for all patients and to make certain they successfully achieve their oral health and appearance goals. Contact the S. Korean TRICARE dental representative Mr. Suh Kyu Ho at **kyu.suh@amedd.army.mil**, DSN 736-5051 or COMM 0505-736-5051 for further information regarding insurance and off-post referrals. The TRICARE Dental Office at USAG-Yongsan is located inside The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital, Room 1150. Turn right after the main entrance reception desk, Mr. Suh's office is in the first hallway on the right. For additional information visit: **[www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.asp](http://www.korea.amedd.army.mil/default.asp)**

## DISEASES

- **Tuberculosis** is a significant health threat on the Korean peninsula. Each year about 30,000 cases of active TB are reported. To protect against this disease, have a PPD (Purified Protein Derivative is a test for tuberculosis infection) test prior to coming to Korea, every year while in Korea, and just prior to leaving Korea. This is a mandatory requirement for Active Duty service members and highly recommended for all others. DoDDS and Child

Youth and School Services require proof of PPD testing within 1 year for registration.

- **Vector-Borne Diseases** Similar to the US, diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, mites, ticks and rodents are present in Korea. Protection from disease is best provided by using Personal Protective Measures for the various disease vectors outlined below.
- **Vivax Malaria** is transmitted by mosquitoes and is present at relatively low levels, primarily in areas north of Seoul and near the DMZ, that do not currently warrant the use of chemoprophylaxis. For protection, all personnel should use repellents on exposed skin when in malaria risk areas during evening hours when mosquitoes are present. As mosquitoes can also bite through clothing, DEET repellent spray can be applied to the outer garments for protection. Soldiers should use permethrin impregnated BDU's during the malaria season.
- **Japanese Encephalitis** is transmitted by "rice paddy" mosquitoes and is present throughout Korea with higher numbers of cases reported in the south. Nearly all Koreans are vaccinated, so the number of cases reported annually is very low. Most of the cases are asymptomatic or very minor symptoms with only about 1/200 becoming symptomatic. While there have been no reported US cases for over two decades, personnel should use Personal Protective Measures.
- **The Common House Mosquito** *Cx. pipiens* is often found in abundance on military installations, including Yongsan Garrison. In Korea, it is not attributed to the transmission of any disease. It is difficult to control as populations breed in standing water on and off post and in government housing complexes, making pesticide applications ineffective. People have varying reactions to these mosquitoes from large welts that itch with subsequent scratching that can lead to scarring to no reaction. Mosquitoes are night time biters and enter houses through air conditioning systems or any small opening, e.g., under the door and through the drains. Thus, bed nets, drain covers, and indoor space sprays that can be obtained from the military self help supplies are often effective when used prior to going to bed. One Korean product that seems effective is called MOGSOL (needs a plug adaptor), and is available off post at grocery stores.
- **Korean Hemorrhagic Fever (KHF) or Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS)** is transmitted through dust particles contaminated with rodent feces, urine and saliva. The reservoir for KHF is the striped field mouse and is primarily associated with soldier activities during training where rodents are often abundant. Entering and cleaning buildings that

have rodent activity is one of the primary modes of transmission, as it creates dust. Floors of unused buildings or concrete hardstands with suspected rodent activity should be, at a minimum, wetted with water to avoid aerosolization of potentially contaminated dust particles. When possible, areas should be wetted with a 5% Lysol or bleach solution and let stand for, at least, 15 minutes prior to cleaning to kill the virus. Also, avoid lying on potentially contaminated ground and using vegetation on uniforms/helmets for camouflage.

- **Scrub Typhus** is transmitted by chigger mites that are nearly microscopic. The primary habitat of chigger mites is short to moderately tall grasses. Wearing trousers bloused inside boots, wearing impregnated uniforms, and not laying in grassy areas provides nearly 100% protection. When wearing civilian clothing and walking through grassy areas in the field, blousing trousers into socks and spraying with a DEET repellent on the lower legs provides protection.
- **Tick-borne Diseases** When in the field, personnel are exposed to ticks that can transmit a variety of diseases, to include spotted fever group Rickettsia, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, and bartonellosis. As human surveillance is lacking in Korea, the extent of these diseases is not readily available. Only one US person has been suspected to have ehrlichiosis. All are easily treatable with doxycycline if diagnosed. Ticks are found similarly to chigger mites in addition to forest litter. Avoidance is similar to that for scrub typhus.

## **DOG PARK**

A Dog Park is located on USAG-Yongsan, next to the Pet Care Center, near Gate 17 and the Quartermaster Laundry. Two large fenced areas are available for use by all valid ID card holders. Please be responsible pet owners and abide by the dog rules and pick up after your pet at all times. Pet pick up bags and trash cans are provided in certain locations in all community housing areas on-post as well as at the dog park.



Dragon Hill Lodge

## **DRAGON HILL LODGE**

The Dragon Hill Lodge is one of five Armed Forces Recreation Centers. Located in the center of Yongsan Garrison, it is the hub of activity for those living in or visiting Seoul. The hotel has 394 guest rooms, six restaurants and two lounges. The hotel guestroom contains a queen size bed, a sleeper sofa, refrigerator and microwave oven, TV with MWR cable, DVD/VCR player, ironing board, coffee maker, fireproof safe, and a complete set of utensils for in-room dining (cribs are available at no extra charge).

The Dragon Hill was built entirely with non-appropriated funds and has become the heart of community activities in Yongsan. PCS personnel have priority and may make reservations one year in advance. Market Square, the hotel's retail shopping area, offers a range of stores from the PX Shoppette, Flower Shop, Dynasty Furniture, clothing, Exchange New Car Sales, dry cleaners, beauty shop, cyber café, car rental, local tours and much more. The beautiful DHL Children's Park is a great place for the youngsters to play.

**Reservations** are accepted 24 hours a day. You can also make your reservations online at: [www.dragonhilllodge.com](http://www.dragonhilllodge.com). Reservation requests can be e-mailed to [reservations@dhl.korea.army.mil](mailto:reservations@dhl.korea.army.mil), or you can write to Dragon Hill Lodge, Reservations Dept. Unit 15335, APO, AP, 96205-5335. Phone/Fax: From U.S.: 011-822-7918-2222, Fax: 011-822-790-1576. From Korea: Commercial 790-0016, Fax: 790-1576.

## DRIVER'S LICENSE

There are various categories of driver's licenses in Korea, but most personnel will only need a USFK license. All applicants are required to take a written test regarding Korean traffic rules, so it is wise to stop by the Driver's Testing Office at the ACS Building (4106) and get a copy of the traffic manual to study. Call DSN 738-5568/3235. If you plan to drive in Korea, even on military installations, you must have a USFK license within 30 days of arrival. Your USFK license, along with a valid stateside license, will allow you to drive throughout Korea. Be sure to have a stateside driver's license which is valid for your entire stay here, it will certainly make things a lot easier. A Drivers Study Guide for Safe Driving in Korea (English Version) can be downloaded and printed from <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>. With the exception of the Military Drivers section, you should memorize the entire document. The current policy is to call 24 hrs in advance to schedule a test time. Tests are by appointment only. For further information on cars, driver's licenses, motorcycles etc, check the latest updates online and verify with the drivers license office when you arrive (see **Automobiles** for more details).



## EMBASSY INFORMATION

Most countries maintain an embassy or consulate in Seoul. They can be very helpful in providing you with travel information for their country and will assist in any visa arrangements if you are not traveling with a group that is handling details for you. Check with the Yongsan library or the American Embassy (Phone 721-4114, Commercial: 02-397-4114) for any current telephone numbers or addresses you may need. The embassies can also tell you of any necessary vaccinations/immunizations required for travel in their country. Do NOT expect them to warn you of potential difficulties/dangers of travel in their country; most are trying to encourage tourism. Check with the US Embassy or the USFK website for travel advisories for specific countries. The Community **Help Book** or post phone book (obtain a copy at the ACS building) has the phone numbers for

Embassies from many countries. The U.S. Embassy has a helpful website: [www.asktheconsul.org](http://www.asktheconsul.org).

**U.S. Embassy Association** is located on Yongsan South Post Bldg 8105, next to Starbucks. The U.S. Embassy Association is here not only for the American Embassy community but also for Military Members and Civilians assigned to or visiting USAG-Yongsan. The U.S. Embassy Association (USEA) can accommodate many of your needs. USEA offers a comfortable and quiet TDY suite at a low rate (\$100) on Yongsan Garrison. TDY suite guestrooms contain a queen size bed, sitting room, kitchenette, full bath, cable TV, a DSN telephone, and Internet service.

Also offered are Event Hall rentals for official functions or private parties; for either formal or non-formal functions. Several options are available, which are guaranteed to meet the needs of your meetings and special events. USEA logo items are available for sale in the Main Office. USEA vendors include; the Business Center, Quiznos, Starbucks, Fuji restaurant (sushi) and Black Angus.

From U.S.: 011-822-7918-6124

From Korea: Commercial 02-397-4487, Fax 796-9488

From Korea: DSN 738-6124

Normal business hours are; Monday through Friday between 8:30–5:00pm, closed on all Korean and American holidays. They are located on South Post, building 8105 (next to Starbucks). To find out more about the U.S. Embassy Association and the services they offer visit [www.useaseoul.com](http://www.useaseoul.com)

## EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency, critical accident, illness, or death in a service member or spouse's family, the nearest Red Cross should be called at once. The Red Cross is equipped to verify the situation and relay an emergency message, if necessary, to the proper military authorities. It is then up to the commanding officer to decide whether or not to grant leave. You can contact the Yongsan Area Red Cross at 738-3670. (Also see **American Red Cross** under Community Services).

## EMPLOYMENT

For spouses desiring to work on-post; it may take some time and patience to find a job. With determination, and a lot of networking, it can be done. Full-time or part-time jobs are listed through the Seoul Civilian Personnel Office (CPO). ACS has a Family Member Employment office, with an excellent staff,

which will assist you in your job search, and in filling out Form SF171 for GS positions. They are located in the ACS Building (building 4106 on Yongsan South Post). Telephone 738-8977. There is also a Hannam Village outreach center at 723-8293/6810/6821. Spouse Employment and Education Seminars are held semiannually. Look for banners and advertisements in the *Morning Calm* regarding the next planned seminar. The following websites can provide more information: Civilian Human Resources Agency at [cpoc-\*\*www.korea.army.mil\*\*](http://cpoc-<b>www.korea.army.mil</b>). For government service employment, try US Army Civilian Personnel On line at [cpol.army.mil](http://<b>cpol.army.mil</b>).

**Teachers** are always needed. If you wish to teach at the Seoul American Elementary, Middle, or High Schools, either full-time or on a substitute basis, make inquiries at the main office of the school at which you wish to work. Teaching positions are also available at public and private schools located in Seoul; you can either write to the schools directly or contact them as soon as you arrive in Korea. They often advertise in *The Morning Calm*, bulletin boards located throughout Yongsan, the Commissary, and the PX.

The following websites list some of the teaching positions available in Korea. you may wish to explore some of them before leaving the States.

**Informative Websites for Military spouse employment:**

[www.milspouse.org](http://<b>www.milspouse.org</b>)

[DoD/Monster.com](http://<b>DoD/Monster.com</b>)

[www.military.com/spouse](http://<b>www.military.com/spouse</b>)

[www.eslteacherboard.com](http://<b>www.eslteacherboard.com</b>)

[www.touch4teaching.com](http://<b>www.touch4teaching.com</b>)

[www.eslcafe.com](http://<b>www.eslcafe.com</b>)

[www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com](http://<b>www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com</b>)

[www.eslteacherboard.com](http://<b>www.eslteacherboard.com</b>)

[www.touch4teaching.com](http://<b>www.touch4teaching.com</b>)

[www.eslcafe.com](http://<b>www.eslcafe.com</b>)

[www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com](http://<b>www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com</b>)

It is to your advantage to contact schools before your arrival in Korea. Aspects of the E-2 visa process, which is required for any foreigner who teaches English, **must** be done outside Korea. The following website [www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com](http://www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com) contains a thorough review of the E-2 visa process.

It is suggested that you review any contracts carefully with the ACS Employment Readiness staff 738-8977 before accepting any position. Also, even though you will have 90 days to obtain a SOFA stamp, you must have it in your possession before you can apply for a job.

**Summer Youth Employment Program** This program is available for DoD military and civilian family members who are full-time students between the ages of 14 and 22. Although many of the jobs are general office helpers, there are also a variety of specialized areas where specific skills and background are required. Parents and students are reminded that one requirement to be eligible for summer employment with USFK activities is to possess a personal Social Security Number (SSN). Parents whose children are outside of Korea should ensure that their children obtain a SSN before traveling to Korea if they wish to work here during the summer. Students must also have proof of full-time student status in the States.

**Winter-Hire program** This is designed for after-school and weekend work for students 16-22yrs. Youth or spouses planning to work on the economy should check with the American Embassy beforehand to see what type of visas are required ([www.asktheconsul.org](http://www.asktheconsul.org)). For more information, check with the Student Hire Office at ACS (738-8977). There are always numerous babysitting opportunities for teenagers. Red Cross Babysitting Certification can be done at the Moyer Recreation Center.

## ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS

Ever wonder what the thriving city of Seoul could offer you? Seoul has all of the trappings of a metropolitan hub similar to that of New York City or Los Angeles. In addition to the many offerings on post, outside the gates there are numerous nightclubs, gambling casinos, and karaoke bars. If you love the performing arts, Seoul has many venues for drama, opera, ballet, and musical concerts. From the Sejong Museum of Fine Arts and Cultural Center to the Seoul Arts Center, you will find a wide variety of programs to intrigue and delight. Be sure to stop at any visitor information booth in Seoul and pick up the Seoul Metropolitan Government Visitors Guide Book. Other publications with good information are K Scene Magazine (was known as Seoul Classified) and Seoul Magazine. A great website is [www.seoulselection.com](http://www.seoulselection.com). The list of things to see and do is virtually endless, but takes note of several points:

- **Events normally cost** a bit more in Seoul than they do stateside. Concert tickets can be as much as \$150 to \$200.
- **The USO and MWR** frequently offer discount tickets, so always check with them first before you buy.
- **Most, but not all**, theatrical productions are performed in Korean. You may want to clarify what language the show will be performed in so that you will not be disappointed or surprised with the content of the program.

- **Alcohol costs *much*** more on the Korean economy than it does in American facilities. Be aware of the prices before you order.
- **Many nightclubs** welcome and encourage foreigners, while some do not. If you find yourself in what seems an uncomfortable situation promptly leave. There are some establishments which are off limits to military personnel. Lists are posted at all garrison gates or check with the MP station or garrison headquarters.

### **EXPRESS BUS TERMINAL (BANPO)**

To Westerners, the huge Express Bus Terminal just south of the Han River is sometimes called the Banpo. This bus terminal is the hub of all long-distance bus traffic in the Republic of Korea. It is busy on a normal day and jammed tremendously on Korean holidays. It also contains several floors of restaurants and interesting, inexpensive shops. Even if you're not planning a bus trip, the bus terminal is an interesting place to visit; particularly the fresh flower markets in the basement and second floors. Christmas items are available seasonally. Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal Station (Line 3 or 7, exit 1). Another option is to take the bus; it can be faster. At gate 52 (Commissary gate) take a right, walk to the stop light and cross the street to the bus stop. Take **bus 143** and get off at the second stop **after** you cross the river. For the return journey, make sure you are on the opposite side of the street and again take **bus 143**. Once the bus has crossed the bridge, get off at the first stop (Hangang Middle School) which is close to Gate 52.



### **FITNESS CENTERS**

Several fitness centers are located on-post and at Hannam Village. All are open seven days per week, but hours vary (see below). Each center is open to all USFK ID cardholders. Use of the facilities is free of charge with the exception of The Point, a state-of-the-art fitness center located in the Dragon Hill Lodge. For information on monthly membership fees, contact The Point at 738-2233

ext.6240 or commercial line 790-0016. Other fitness centers located on Yongsan and Hannam offer a wide range of services including; Nautilus equipment, separate free-weight rooms, multipurpose rooms, basket ball, squash courts, instructional classes and locker rooms with saunas.

- Collier Field House (South Post Bldg 5200)-736-4588
- Trent Gym (Main Post Bldg 1496)-724-8466
- Main Post Mini Gym (Main Post Bldg S2609)-724-7255
- Camp Coiner Mini Gym (Camp Coiner Bldg 1496)-724-7255
- Hannam Village Gym (Hannam Village Bldg 6147)-723-6849
- The Point - 738-2222 Ext. 6240; commercial line-790-0016
- K-16 Gym (K-16 Bldg S158)-741-6316

## **FLOWERS AND PLANTS**

If you would rather purchase flowers and plants on post, the Grace Flower Shop has a variety of fresh flowers and is conveniently located in the Main Post Mini Mall (Four Seasons). The shop is open from 10-8pm everyday. Call 723-2076. A second Flower Shop, Blossoms, is located in the Dragon Hill Lodge 738-2222 (x 6816). Operating hours are: Every day 10am-7pm. Ms. Moon who works at the shop will accept special orders and will make arrangements based on a picture you provide. The flower shop also has a variety of silk flowers from which to choose. If you live in government quarters, annual flowers and shrubs are available seasonally from Building Utility Repair Team Self Help (see Home Repairs/Self Help). These are free of charge, but there is usually a limit on the quantities given per unit.

## **FORCE PROTECTION/ DEMONSTRATIONS**

Korea remains a relatively safe country; however, in light of recent world events, it is important you are aware of the measures taken to ensure safety during your tour of duty. U.S. military installations are secure facilities. No one is allowed access to the post without a valid ID card. ID cards must be physically handed to the guards so they are able to view both sides. In addition, only vehicles with proper registration decals should be allowed access to the post. Both visitors and vehicles can be escorted onto the post by authorized ID card holders (see **Visitors**)

As with all military installations, USAG-Yongsan operates security procedures based upon levels of Force Protection (FP CON). FP CON levels change according to the level of threat. Force Protection levels range from FP CON Alpha (lowest threat) to FP CON Delta (highest threat). The current FP CON level will generally

be posted at the installation gates. You can also keep up to date on present and future events that may affect the FP CON by logging onto [www.usfk.org](http://www.usfk.org), which is the USFK Force Protection site. For those living on post, the commander's channel is another good source of information for the latest updates.

Another safety concern you should be aware of are the demonstrations periodically held throughout the peninsula. Protesters demonstrate for a variety of reasons, including opposition to the U.S. military presence in Korea. These demonstrations are sometimes held just outside the garrison gates. Warnings are issued by military officials on the post TV channels and the radio station 102.7FM, or 1530AM. Korean National Police are always present at these demonstrations to provide additional security.

**Note:** on the 15th of every month at 2pm there are civil defense drill off post where sirens brare and traffic stops for around five minutes.

Finally, as with any other large metropolitan city, you should practice common sense when venturing out. The buddy system is highly encouraged and at times is mandatory. The buddy system is strongly advised whenever venturing off-post for military members and dependents of legal age. There is a curfew for minor dependents during weeknights and on weekends. The curfew hours and days for all other personnel vary so be sure to check the current curfew times at <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>.

## **FURNITURE STORE**

The AAFES Furniture Store is located on South Post next to the Chosun Gift Shop, and carries a limited variety of U.S. furniture for living rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms. Appliances, lamps and bound carpeting can also be purchased at the store. The carpet stock is constantly in demand and a good rule of thumb is if you want it, buy it because it will be gone tomorrow, if not sooner. They carry 6x9's, 9x12's and 12x15's in two different grades of carpeting. Call 738-5051/5052. Be careful with any special orders because anticipated delivery dates can be anywhere from one to eight months.

## **FURNITURE SUPPORT**

Furniture support is available from the housing office for civilian, DoD, and military personnel. However, be aware that the authorized furniture support period varies and may only cover the first 6 months of your entire tour. Furniture support details are given below:

- If you are an accompanied military family living on post (whether you brought all or partial household goods), you are authorized full

- furniture support from the Housing Office.
- If you are an accompanied military family living off-post and are only entitled to bring partial household goods support, you are authorized furniture support from the Housing Office for your entire tour.
  - If you are entitled to bring full household goods and live off post, you are only authorized furniture support for 6 months (whether you brought all or partial household goods).
  - Finally, if you are a civilian family or DoD employee, you are only authorized 6 months furniture support because you are automatically entitled to full household goods shipment.



## **GALLERY**

(AAFES Concessionaires) The Gallery is a great place to get items from local vendors on post. The Gallery is located on the Main Post, Bldg 2209, DSN 723-7635. Hours of operation are Mon-Sat 10am-7pm and Sun 10am-5pm.

Some items sold include; art, blankets, lacquer ware, clothing, embroidery, shoe shop/shoe repair, furniture, jewelry, pottery, leather goods, clothing and so much more. You can ship packages from the Gallery FedEx desk that will arrive in the States within 2 days; however, this service is pricey, around \$30 for paperwork. Packages often cost upwards of \$50. There is even a 'Pack and Wrap' located here to help you get your items ready to mail. The Main **Post Office** and the **Library** is conveniently located right next door! See Post Office and Library for more details.

## **GASOLINE**

Always try to get your gas on-post since it is considerably cheaper than on the Korean economy. You must present your ID card and Ration Control Card before you pump your gas. If you must make a purchase on the economy, make sure you are getting the proper grade for your vehicle. Korean gas is measured and priced in liters and is expensive, so make sure you have enough Korean

Won with you before having your vehicle filled. The AAFES Gas Station is located near Gate 12, close to Itaewon Acres Housing area. Operating hours are; Mon-Fri 7am-7pm and Sat-Sun 8am-7pm call 738-7649. You can purchase drinks, some auto needs, oil, wiper fluid and some snacks at the small shop on site, but selection and quantities are very limited. AAFES Car Care Center is located at Camp Kim; please see Vehicle Maintenance under **Automobiles**.

## **GAS GRILLS AND PROPANE**

Propane tanks (even purged) cannot be shipped with your household goods. The Four Seasons, located in the Main Post Mini Mall, carries gas grills and propane tanks, and has a good supply during summer months. Currently, the Four Seasons is refilling tanks, but check with the sales associates about purchasing propane since policies are constantly changing. They also have maps with information on locations off-post where tanks can be refilled. Most picnic areas near the various housing complexes have charcoal grills that can be used by all.

## **GOLF**

The Sung Nam Golf Course and Driving Range is open to all military ID card holders and features an 18-hole par 72 course. The clubhouse has a dining room and pro shop and you will find on-course snack bars and refreshment stands. They also have practice putting greens, a driving range, and club facilities complete with daily-use lockers, club storage, showers, hot tubs, and rental power carts. The AAFES Four Season's Store, sells a variety of golf equipment, as does the Pro Golf Shop located at the Yongsan Golf Driving Range. Buses to Sung Nam leave from the parking lot situated between the MWR Arts & Craft Center, and the Burke Towers tennis courts. For tee times, annual memberships and bus schedules, call 736-3483/3490.

Sung Nam has a Ladies' Golf Association and Thursday mornings have been designated as ladies' day. The Ladies' season runs from April through October each year. Tee times will be set aside each Thursday morning for members of the Ladies' Golf Association. Open play is permitted prior to and immediately following the Association's use of these times. For more information, call 736-3483/3490 and check the board in the ladies' locker room at Sung Nam.

## **GOLF DRIVING RANGE/PRO SHOP**

The driving range at USAG-Yongsan is located off X Corps Blvd, South Post (Bldg 4271), across from the Fire Station. It is a fun place to practice your swing and

brush up on your putting skills. A pro Golf Shop on the range carries a variety of golfing accessories, shoes, clubs and clothing in American sizes. Call 738-4190 for more information.

## GUIDEBOOKS

A good guidebook is essential for getting around Seoul and Korea. For detailed information on what to do, how to get there by subway, and the cost and operating hours of most everything in Seoul, the Korean Visitor's Guide published by the Seoul Metropolitan Government Tourism Promotion Division contains the most complete information. To obtain a copy, stop at any Korean Information Booth located around the city, usually near subway entrances. The closest Information Booth is located in Itaewon. The USO is another great place to get helpful guidebooks, maps, and monthly magazines featuring what to do in Seoul, and the AAFES PX has a variety of other travel guides and maps for sale. As always, the ACS is an excellent source of information offering maps, great guide books, wonderful classes and great insider information.



## HAIRCARE

There are a variety of beauty salons and barbershops on post that offer standard salon services. Many people have found it helpful to take a picture of a favorite hairstyle with them when first using a new beautician. It is also advisable not to try major services such as hair coloring or perms until you have found a beautician with whom you are comfortable. There are also many salons in Seoul; some, however, are currently off limits by order of the area commander, so check before venturing off-post.

**Note:** If you have any special hair care products, check the on-line websites to see if your product can be ordered and shipped to an APO. Two sites that many ladies have had good luck with are [www.aveda.com](http://www.aveda.com) and [www.hairretail.com](http://www.hairretail.com). If your favorite products are not available for order, try to buy in bulk and bring them with you. Even though some products can be purchased off-post, they can

be hard to find and often cost almost twice the price.

## **HOME REPAIRS/SELF-HELP**

The self-help facility (Building Utility Repair Team Self-help-BURTS) Center is located in Bldg 5274 on South Post next to the **Quartermaster** laundry near Gate 17. They stock all of the unique items needed to maintain your post quarters (fluorescent tubes, glass light fixtures, kitchen drain baskets, etc.), along with a full range of hand tools and power equipment to check out for short time periods. For do-it-yourself landscapers and interior decorators, they also carry bedding plants (only in the spring time) and a variety of interior decorating supplies. Call 736-7818/5512/5513 for more information.

Hours of operation are; Mon 9am-noon, Tue-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 8am-5pm. Closed Sundays and Korean Holidays. For those with a "green thumb," there are many nurseries within a short distance of Yongsan where you can purchase a variety of flowers and other bedding plants.

**Note:** Self Help is **not authorized** to issue supplies to personnel living off-post.

## **HOTELS**

Most incoming military personnel stay at the Dragon Hill Lodge on South Post. Website: <http://www.dragonhilllodge.com> phone number 738-2222. If however you have to look for accommodations on the economy, Seoul has a wide variety of hotel accommodations with varying prices. You can request the Hotel Referral List from the Dragon Hill Lodge Guest Services Desk. A list is included in this section. To make reservations at hotels without DSN access, you can use pay phones in the lobby of the Dragon Hill Lodge. To make reservations at any of these hotels from the U.S., first dial 011-82-2 and then the commercial number listed. If the Dragon Hill Lodge does not have any rooms available, the Reservations Department will assist you in reserving rooms at the JW Marriott, call 02-6282-6282.

### **HOTELS IN THE YONGSAN AREA**

Elle Inn, \$110, phone 02-792-8700

Gaya Hotel, \$50-\$70, phone 02-798-510

Crown Hotel, \$100-110, phone 02-797-4111, DSN 723-7218

Capital Hotel, \$140, phone 02-792-1122, DSN 723-8661

Hamilton Hotel, \$130-140, phone 02-794-0171

Holiday Taejon, \$120-130, phone 02-792-3111

Seoul Grand Hyatt, \$220, phone 02-797-1234

**Note: *These rates can be slightly higher or lower depending on the exchange rate.***

Most of the above-mentioned hotels offer military discounts to U.S. service members and their families. When selecting a hotel, always ask to see your rooms before making your final decision, as some rooms have limited space. Many of the nicer hotel chains (Grand Hyatt Seoul and many others) offer great restaurants and shopping, don't be afraid to check them out. Even if you are not staying overnight, take the opportunity to enjoy their world class cuisine.

### **BILLETING ON POST**

Walker Center, Free, 736-1048

Religious Retreat Center, \$20(Leave), \$30(TDY), phone 723-7314/723-7593

US Embassy Association Suites (Bldg.8105), \$100 phone 02-397-4487 or 738-6124

### **KOREAN INNS**

Once you have become accustomed to the culture in Korea, you may want to try staying in a Korean Inn or "yogwan." An overnight stay at a Korean Inn can range from W12,000 to W25,000 per night. This depends upon your preference for a Western-style bed and bath or "Korean style accommodations." Be aware that some Korean Inns have bathrooms in the rooms, but many do not. This is definitely an experience that the adventurer will enjoy! For ideas and info on other hotels in Seoul, or travel needs in other parts of Korea, some websites are listed below;

E Korea Hotels: <http://www.ekoreahotels.com>

Korea Hotels.net: <http://www.koreahotels.net>

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS (JFTR) WEIGHT ALLOWANCE**

February 2009, US Army officials increased the JFTR weight allowance to 50% accompanied tour (except Chinhae Fleet Activity Command and Osan AFB, which are full JFTR weight allowance locations) and 25% unaccompanied tour for household goods to Korea for Army Service members. Service members are advised that Housing Offices have loaner furniture and appliances available for reporting personnel.

If you are an accompanied military family living on post (whether you brought all or partial household goods), you are authorized full furniture support from the Housing Office.

If you are an accompanied military family living off-post and are only entitled to bring partial household goods support, you are authorized furniture support

from the Housing Office for your entire tour.

If you are entitled to bring full household goods and live off post, you are only authorized furniture support for **6 months**.

Finally, if you are a ***civilian family or DoD employee, you are only authorized 6 months*** furniture support because you are automatically entitled to full household goods shipment (**See Furniture**). Government quarters on-post and leased quarters off-post may have limited storage capacity to accommodate entire JFTR weight allowance if shipped. No storage facilities exist in Korea for extra household goods. Service members are advised to contact the servicing housing office prior to shipping any household goods.

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

Many people choose to hire household help during their tour in Korea. The best way to find a reliable person is by word of mouth from friends and neighbors. Occasionally you can “inherit” household help from departing co-workers or neighbors. Do not hire anyone without a recommendation from a friend or former employer, and make sure all conditions are agreed upon before hiring.

Pay rates vary depending on the duties performed, but daily housecleaners request wages of \$60-\$70 per day. Some ask for payment in won, others in dollars; some want to be paid weekly, others prefer a lump sum once or twice a month. Housemen ask for around \$40-\$60 per day and will work inside or outside the house doing heavier work such as windows, floors, gardening, car cleaning, etc. Most want to work at least one day every week. It is customary for all hired help to receive a bonus at Chusok (Korean Thanksgiving), Christmas, and/or Lunar New Year. If you are not sure what would be an acceptable amount, ask friends or neighbors. It is at your own discretion to decide whether your household help will get American or Korean holidays off and whether they are paid holidays or not. You may want to talk with other families employing the same person to ensure consistency.

Although most household help already have post passes, it may be necessary for you to assist yours in obtaining one, unless you plan to pick them up at the gate each time they work for you. See **Visitors** section for information on obtaining a post pass. Pass renewals are required yearly, and it is your responsibility to collect expired passes from household help and return them to the Pass and ID Office so that they do not fall into the wrong hands.

Due to **SOFA** Agreement issues, there has been a huge debate on who can be hired as household help. Generally, ***you may not hire anyone who is sponsored***

**by the Embassy.** Please contact the post command for all rules and regulations concerning the hiring of babysitters or household help who may not be U.S. citizens or Korean Nationals. There are strict fines (up to \$10,000 US dollars) imposed by the Korean Government for those that hire help illegally. Also, due to the supply and demand of legal household help, pay rates (daily and monthly) are starting to rise dramatically.

## **HOUSING**

Where you live after your arrival in Korea is undoubtedly one of your largest concerns. The housing Office located in the ACS building (Bldg 4106) will do everything they can to make your transition into your new home as smooth as possible. Whether you are accompanied or unaccompanied, the one-stop housing office will take care of all your housing needs to include Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA), which you may be authorized prior to moving into your permanent residence. All service members regardless of Branch of service or status need to in-process with the Housing Office within 48 hours of arrival or completion of in-processing with 1RC. All **DoD civilians** eligible for a Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) are also required to in-process with the Housing Office. All civilians, unless designated as Key Essential Personnel with specific approval to reside on-post are required to live in off-post accommodation.

**The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC)** will advise you on your Temporary Quarters Subsistence Entitlements (TQSE) and LQA entitlements.

- **Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH)** - Unaccompanied personnel of all ranks and branches of service are normally housed in UPH on the installation. Personnel in the pay grade of E-4 and below will reside in the barracks. Personnel in the pay grade of E-5 and E-6 may reside in barracks if adequate space and privacy criteria are met, or they will reside in the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ). Service members in the ranks of SFC and above and unaccompanied officer personnel will be assigned Senior Enlisted Bachelor Quarters (SEBQ) OR Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ). Only in the event of adequate quarters being unavailable will an unaccompanied service member be authorized to reside off-post. Keep in mind that while all UPH meet or exceed the criteria for square footage, they may not be able to accommodate a full weight allowance of HHGs. Full furnishing support is available in all UPH. For additional UPH information please call 738-5506 or 011-82-2-7918-5506.
- **Accompanied Housing On-Post/Army Family Housing (AFH)** - Command-Sponsored accompanied personnel and certain designated Key and Essential

civilians are housed on-post in AFH. Your PCS travel orders will normally state concurrent travel to government quarters and indicate bedroom number and housing area location. Upon arrival at the Housing Office you will be briefed on projected quarters availability, Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) or TQSE and your name will be placed on the appropriate waiting list. Bedroom requirement is determined by the size of your family. Couples with no children and families (either married couples or single parents) with one child receive two bedroom units. Families with two children receive three bedroom units and those with three or more children qualify for four or five bedroom units. If Quarters are not projected to be available within 60 days of your arrival, or if granted concurrent travel to economy quarters, you may be authorized to reside off-post and receive Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA). Accompanied service members of all ranks and branches, as well as DoD civilians, are strongly advised not to seek economy housing quarters prior to in-processing with the Housing Office.

- **See Off- Post Housing** at the end of this section.

**There are several AFH areas in Yongsan, all located on South Post.** Below is a description of each type. To see photos and floor plans go to <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>, click on Community and follow the link to Housing.

- **Helo Acres** - Officers in the grade O-6 and above, with some O-5 in Battalion Command, reside in this area. Helo Acres is located between Seoul American Elementary School, Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital and Gate 19. Quarters are single story duplexes and all have major appliances (including dishwashers), window blinds, air conditioning units and outdoor storage areas. The majority of these homes do not have carpeting but linoleum floor tiles. There is limited parking with one designated uncovered parking space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Personnel assigned to these housing units may have two domestic pets and are responsible for the care, maintenance and clean up of their pets.
- **Watkins Ridge** - Command Sergeants Major (CSM) also live on South Post behind Burke Towers and Eagle Grove housing area. Sergeants Major (SGM) may also reside in Watkins Ridge if units available. These quarters are primarily one-story duplexes with some quadplexes. All units have window air-conditioning units, oil-heating systems, mini-blinds, all major appliances (including dishwashers), and outdoor storage areas. The majority of these homes do not have carpeting but linoleum floor tiles. There is limited parking with one designated uncovered parking space for each unit and

limited visitor parking. Personnel assigned to these housing units may have two domestic pets and are responsible for the care, maintenance and clean up of their pets.

- **Burke Towers** - This modern, state of the art apartment complex, opened in June 2004 is designated for O-3/5 and WO-4/5. The mid-rise 5 story towers, north and south, consist of thirty apartments each: twenty 3 bedroom units, nine 4 bedroom units, and one 5 bedroom unit, which is located on the first floor. Burke Towers is conveniently located near the South Post shopping district (food court, AAFES shops, movie theater, Chosun Gift Shop, Second Hand Rose thrift shop, the post office annex, and numerous other services and activities). Children will be within minutes of the schools and the youth soccer field is right across the street in front of the towers. The complex features a BBQ area, tot lot, playground, and basketball court. Two tennis courts with night lights are next to the South tower complex. Handicapped parking is available near the north tower. There are 6 elevators per building, which conveniently go down to the basement where the underground parking is located. Each apartment unit has an assigned underground parking space. Overflow/visitor parking is located in the middle garage between the two towers. Some of the features of the Burke Towers include: central air and heating system, ceiling fans in each room, Pergo no-wax floors, Corian kitchen and bathroom countertops, breakfast bar (bar stool size counter), sliding glass patio doors with vertical blinds, linen closet in hallway, laundry room containing a washer and dryer as well as utility sink and ample closets, fire suppression and alarm system, telephone, cable and internet ready hook ups, and a doorbell intercom system. Burke Towers is a “no pet” housing area and there are no exceptions. Call, 738-3211 for additional information.
- **Krzyzowski Hill (Itaewon Acres), Koelsch Grove (Eagle Grove) and Loring Village(Black Hawk Village)**
- These areas consist of multi-family townhouse style units. The units consist of 2, 3, or 4 bedroom homes. The four bedroom units are two stories and have ground floor access. The two and three bedroom units are either one story with ground floor access or two stories with second floor entrances. They are designated for field grade officers (O-3/5, and WO-4/5). The complexes are located in different areas of Yongsan South Post. The units have central air conditioning and heating, all major appliances (including dishwashers), and come furnished with mini-blinds on all windows. Each unit has one exterior storage area; however, storage space in all units is limited. None of these units have carpeting, all have linoleum floor tiles.

There is limited parking with one designated uncovered space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Personnel assigned to these housing units may have two domestic pets and are responsible for the care, maintenance and clean up of their pets.

- **Hannam Village** - This area is located about 2 miles from Yongsan Garrison. Built in 1982, it is composed entirely of apartments (low and high rise buildings). They are designated for company-grade officers (O-1 to O-3) and enlisted personnel (E-8 and below). Hannam Village has its own PX Annex, a small commissary, chapel, fitness center, library branch, swimming pool, and other recreational facilities. Apartments have a free standing or split air conditioning unit in each room and radiator heat with heat covers. Most apartments have linoleum floor tiles and new energy efficient windows, sliding glass doors leading to the balcony and limited storage space. In order to increase the number of larger quarters in Hannam Village, renovations are on going. Some apartments have been renovated and provide a larger amount of living space, storage space, spacious bedrooms, and modern kitchens, with uncarpeted, Pergo-style no wax floors.

All units have major appliances (including dishwasher) and mini-blinds.

There is limited parking with one designated uncovered parking space for each unit and limited visitor parking. Hannam Village is a “no-pet” Housing area and there are no exceptions. For additional information call 723-8950.

## **OFF-POST HOUSING**

**Housing** on the economy is plentiful and offers a wide variety of styles to include high rise apartments, villas, duplexes, and single family dwelling units. If you are eligible to reside off-post due to non availability of adequate government quarters, or if you are a DoD civilian, you will be issued a statement of non availability (**SNA**) from the Housing Office. Once you receive an **SNA**, you will be required to attend an Off-Post Housing Briefing. During this tri weekly briefing, you will be provided with a multitude of information about leasing on the economy, such as realtor information, security checklists, utility rates, housing allowance entitlements. Service members residing on the economy are entitled to a monthly Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and Miscellaneous Housing Allowance (MIHA). The MIHA is provided to help defray the costs of setting up the off-post residence. Once you choose your off-post unit, the Housing Office will assist you with all the contract negotiations. For more information, please call 738-3489.

***Note: Do not enter into a lease agreement without prior approval by the housing office.***



## IMMUNIZATIONS

The following table lists all the necessary vaccinations by your status. Check with your medical treatment facility, family doctor, or school nurse for recent updates on immunization requirements. For school immunization requirements visit the DoDEA website at [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu)

M=mandatory, R=recommended, HR=recommended only for persons at high risk, A=available, N/A=not available

Immunization	EEC (US)	DoD Civilians	Family Members & DoDDS Employees	DoDDS Students & CYSS
Anthrax	M	A	A*	-
Smallpox	M	A	A**	-
Hepatitis A	R	A	A	M
Hepatitis B	R	HR	HR	M
Influenza	R	R	HR	R
Measles	R	R	R	M
Meningitis	Required for all Military, Civilian Personnel and Dependents over the age of 11yrs.			
Mumps	R	R	R	M
Rubella	R	R	R	M
Polio	R	R	R	M
Tetanus	M	R	R	M
Diphtheria	M	R	R	M
Typhoid	R	A	A	-
Japanese Encephalitis	A	A	-	-
Varicella	HR	HR	HR	M
Hemophilus influenzae type b	R for over 2 yrs.			
Pneumococcal	23-valent R for > 65 yr, 7-valent R for young children			

**Acronyms used:**

- EEC (US): U.S Emergency Essential Civilian.
- DoD: Department of Defense.
- DoDDS: Department of Defense Dependents School
- CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services

\*Anthrax vaccination is available for family members 18 to 65 years of age. For active duty service members, at least 3 shots are required prior to coming to Korea.

\*\* Smallpox vaccination is available for family members age 18 and older. Active duty service members should receive this vaccination prior to coming to Korea.

**Tuberculosis** is a significant health threat on the Korean peninsula. Each year about 30,000 cases of active TB are reported. To protect against this disease, have a PPD (Purified Protein Derivative is a test for tuberculosis infection) test prior to coming to Korea, every year while in Korea, and just prior to leaving Korea. This is a mandatory requirement for Active Duty service members and highly recommended for all others. DoDDS and Child and Youth Services require proof of PPD testing within 1 year for registration.

If you plan to travel outside Korea, it is strongly recommended that you check with the Clinical Preventive Medicine Service (PM) for current requirements in other countries. PM is located at Building 5447, on Yongsan South Post, just inside Gate 52, on the corner close to the Commissary. For more information, call 736-3025. Websites for more information about immunizations and traveler's health:

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Traveler's Health: [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)
- World Health Organization: [www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en)

**INSURANCE**

The two types of insurance most commonly required by service members and their families in Korea are automobile insurance and household goods/personal effects insurance. Automobile liability insurance is mandatory to register a motor vehicle with the Provost Marshall. Many service members also choose to carry a "renter's policy" to cover their personal property against fire and theft. Insurance is available locally or through companies in the U.S. The insurance company you do business with in the U.S. may also provide coverage in Korea. You should confirm this prior to departing the U.S. There are also affordable, reputable companies in Korea who will provide coverage to Americans serving in Korea.

## INTERNET ACCESS

The internet/telephone provider you use will depend on where you live.

The internet provider for **all** on-post housing areas, including Hannan Village and K-16 Air base is LG Dacom, located on the 1st floor of Moyer Community Activity Center, call 723-7023/7030 or 02-6355-5000. First visit the 41st Signal Battalion to establish line connectivity (Bldg 2320, call 738-6900).

If you live off post, your internet provider will be Korea Telecom (KT). To get to the KT office, go out Gate 19. Walk to the main road and take a right. The office is a short distance up this road on the right hand side, call commercial 02-797-0060. See **Telephone** for more information.

## INTERNET CAFE

A Cyber Café is located at the Moyer Recreation Center. Usage rates are determined on a sliding scale, based on the amount of hours purchased. Operating hours are 9am to 9pm, 7 days a week. Call 723-7023 The Business Centre in the Dragon Hill Lodge (738-2222/6826) and the One Stop Center (02-792-6655) located above the Embassy Starbucks, also offers fee paying internet access call. Free Wi-Fi access is available at the Food Courts on both Main and South posts as well at the Navy Club and the library.

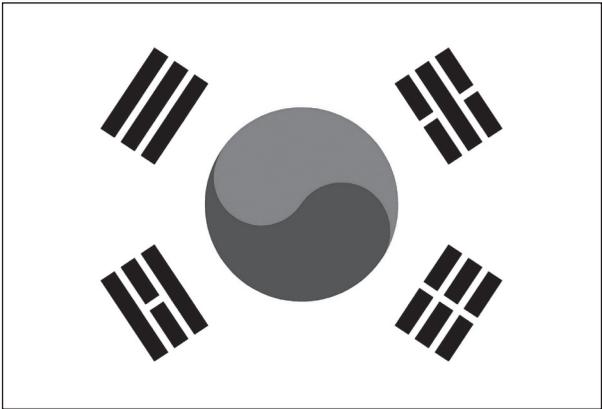
**INTERNET SHOPPING** - Please see the **Shopping and Restaurants** section of this book.



## THE KOREAN FLAG

Taegeukgi, the national flag of the Republic of Korea, consists of a blue and red yin-yang circle in the center, one black trigram in each of the four corners, and a white background. The white background symbolizes light and purity and reflects the Korean people's traditional affinity for peace. The yin-yang circle represents the dual cosmic forces of yin (blue) and yang (red). It symbolizes

universal harmony, in which the passive and the active, the feminine and the masculine, form a whole. The four trigrams represent Heaven, Earth, Water and Fire. Collectively, the yin-yang circle and the four trigrams represent universal harmony and unity. Taegeukgi embodies the ideals of all Koreans, who have pursued creativity and prosperity under universal principles and truth. For the Korean people their flag is a source of pride and inspiration. During the Japanese occupation period, beginning in 1910, the Korean flag was outlawed in public places. For the next 35 years the Taegeukgi flags were kept hidden until Liberation Day in 1945. The Korean flag has been a symbol of this country's struggle for independence and freedom.



**KOREAN LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Check with ACS for free classes. There is a tuition cost for the on-post classes through the local colleges. See also section L below.



## LANGUAGE

Korean language classes are offered periodically through ACS. These classes are usually free of charge but a small fee may apply for work books. The classes assist you in mastering enough Korean to get around the country. Koreans appreciate the fact that you are trying to learn their language and will often offer assistance. Korean Language Classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the ACS building. Call ACS for more info 738-7505, and Tuesday and Friday mornings at Hannam Village Call 723-6810. Classes are also advertised in the free weekly newspaper 'The Morning Calm'. The PX and the Mini-Mart book section at the Dragon Hill Lodge, maintain a good selection of books on learning the Korean language. Many come with audiotapes.

The University of Maryland campus at Yongsan Garrison offers university-level Korean classes. For information call the Yongsan Field Office representative at: DSN 723- 4300/723-4294/723-4295 or visit their website: <http://www.ad.umuc.edu/gen/disc/korn.html>.

Free Rosetta Stone Language courses are available by registering at Army e-learning. Click the link <https://usarmy.skillport.com>. The courses are fun and great for learning the correct pronunciations. If you are not a member of the US Army you may encounter problems registering. In this case, wait until you arrive and go to the Yongsan Library and sign on the computer system there.

## LAUNDRY FACILITIES

The Quartermaster (QM) Laundry Plant provides laundry and dry cleaning services for all U.S. ID cardholders. The QM is located in Bldg 5255 behind BURTS Self-Help Center. Services offered are a three day regular service or one day special service. All clothing is cleaned to stateside standards. For more information call 736-4397/4395.

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 0730-1800 and Saturday 0900-1300.

**Note:** The Quartermaster Laundry Plant will sew on unit patches free of charge when you first arrive on the Peninsula, but you must show a copy of your PCS orders.

A **24-hour AAFES launderette** is located in Bldg: 4220 near the South Post Mini-Mall. AAFES also provides other dry-cleaning and laundry services on Main Post and at Hannam Village.

## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE**

The Yongsan Legal Assistance Office is located in the Army Community Service (ACS) Building (4106) South Post (room 229, 2nd floor). The Office offers a wide variety of legal services in the following areas:

- **Family law**, including marriage, annulment, legal separation, divorce, financial nonsupport, child custody/visitation, paternity and adoption.
- **Estates** including; wills, living wills, health care powers of attorney, and the designation of beneficiaries under life insurance policies;
- **Real and personal property** including; purchase, sale, or rental of property.
- **Economic issues** including; debt, banking, credit and non-government claims.
- **Civilian administrative issues**, including immigration and naturalization;
- **Military administrative issues**, including line of duty investigations, reports of survey, evaluation report appeals and security clearance revocation.
- **Other Services** including; notarization services, power of attorney and assistance with marriage or adoption in Korea.

This is by no means a complete list and services in a particular listed area may be limited or available on a case-by-case basis.

**Eligibility for Legal Assistance Services** The following people are eligible to receive legal assistance at the Yongsan Legal Assistance Office: Active Component (AC) members of the Armed Forces of the United States, and their family members. Reserve Component (RC) members of the Armed Forces of the United States, serving on active duty pursuant to orders, and their family members; surviving family members of AC, RC, and retired members of the Armed Forces of the United States who would be eligible for legal assistance if the service or retired member were alive; DoD civilian employees and their family members, civilian contractors, if the Department of Defense is contractually obligated to provide such assistance. Contractors must provide a copy of their contract or accreditation letter to verify this obligation, and not all services are available to contractors.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Wednesday 0900-1630  
Thursday 1300-1530  
Friday 0900-1630

**LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Yongsan Library, located in building 2215 on Main Post, is the focal point of library services, functioning as the Main Post Library for HQs, Eighth U.S. Army and USAG-Yongsan installations. The library serves as the clearing house for all inter-library loans. Over 80,000 materials are available for circulation including; fiction, non-fiction, children’s books, reference books, DVDs, music CDs, language tapes and Audio books. If you want to read a magazine, a stateside newspaper, use the research computers, or take an Education Center class, then the library is the place for you. Located in the rear of the Yongsan library is a computer dedicated for internet access, this is popular with many patrons so a sign up system has been instituted. Free Wi-Fi is also available throughout the building.

**Children’s Programs**

The library offers weekly story time every Tuesday 10-11am for children ages 2-5.

**Yongsan Post Library:** Bldg 2215.    **Hannam Village Library:** Bldg 6150.

Mon-Fri	0900-2200	Sun-Tues	1100-1900
Sat & Sun	0900-1800	Wed-Sat	1100-200
Phone	723-7380/6862	Mon	Closed
		Phone	723-3348

**K-16 Library**

The Library is located at Sung Nam City (Bldg: S302) and offers access to a wide range of library materials and online databases.

Operating Hours;

Sat & Sun 1100-1900  
Tue-Fri 1100-2000  
Mon Closed  
Phone 741-6994



## **MILITARY POLICE**

The Military Police (Bldg 1397) can be reached on the following numbers; 724-3004/3005/6695/4258 open 24 hours daily. For Hannam Village, call 723-9131 or go to bldg S6201.

Off-post phone numbers are 02-797-4096/4097 or 050-5724-3004/3005.

The Provost Marshal's Administrative Office phone is 724-4281. The Provost Marshal's Office (PMO) has many phone numbers that are listed in the Community HELP Book, available at ACS.

## **MATERNITY CARE**

Maternity and birthing options available in Korea on and off post are discussed below in the Medical Services section.

## **MATERNITY CLOTHING**

A selection of maternity wear for the new mom-to-be can be found at the Yongsan PX and the Osan Air Base BX. However, as with infant clothing, maternity clothes tend to sell out quickly. The Second Hand Rose Thrift shop has a good selection of gently used maternity and baby wear, but it is best to plan ahead. Bring plenty of undergarments including; stockings/ pantyhose, underwear, nursing bras and slips. It may also be helpful to bring catalogs that carry maternity clothing, make sure they will ship to an APO address though. A list of internet sites that are known to ship to an APO are listed under the shopping section. Also see the maternity and birthing section under medical.

Below is a list of some Korean websites that carry maternity clothes, bras and underwear. Online prices are usually better. You will need a Korean friend to help you navigate most of these sites. Some do not deliver to APO addresses so have the goods delivered to a friend's address off-post. Items will arrive much quicker than if you order from the US websites. [www.gmarket.co.kr](http://www.gmarket.co.kr) This site is similar to Amazon, with different vendors for everything. There is also an English site, but not everything shows up when you search because of how the items are translated into English.

[www.lora.co.kr](http://www.lora.co.kr)  
[www.mizmami.co.kr](http://www.mizmami.co.kr)  
[www.mami.co.kr/shop/main/index.php](http://www.mami.co.kr/shop/main/index.php)  
[www.motherstyle.co.kr/shop\\_ca.php](http://www.motherstyle.co.kr/shop_ca.php)  
[laredoute.samsungmall.co.kr](http://laredoute.samsungmall.co.kr)  
[www.dintstyle.com](http://www.dintstyle.com)  
[www.momnuri.com](http://www.momnuri.com)  
[www.motherpia.co.kr/main/main.asp](http://www.motherpia.co.kr/main/main.asp)

## MEDICAL SERVICES

The Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (BAACH), formerly the 121 Combat Support Hospital is located on USAG-Yongsan, South Post near Gate 17 and provides medical care to active duty, family members and retirees, DoD employees, contractors and family members. Some Army and Navy facilities south of Seoul and USAG-Red Cloud provide general medical care for family members but any hospital services required are provided, either by BAACH, or by a local Host Nation Partnership Hospital. BAACH provides inpatient services, intensive care, and all the other specialty services listed below. For information and Appointments call 737-CARE (2273).

CLINICS	LOCATION	HOURS OF OPERATION	PHONE
ACC/Family Practice	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630 Thursday 1230-1630	737-8396/8251
Alcohol Treatment Center		M-F 0730-1630	737-5208
Audiology	Bldg 3577	M,W,F 0730-1130/1300-1630 Thursday 1300-1630	737-4099
Behavioral Health (Out-patient)	Bldg 7005	M-F 0800-1630 Thursday 1230-1630	737-2273
Behavioral Health (Inpatient)	Bldg 7005	M-F 0800-1630 Thursday 1230-1630	737-5570
Chaplain Services	Bldg 7005		737-335/3129
Dermatology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8396
EENT	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8287
EFMP	Bldg 3567	M-F 0800-1630	738-5000
EDIS	Bldg 3568	M-F 0800-1630	738-4422

Emergency Department	Bldg 7005	24hours /7 days a week	737-6132
Emergency Room	Bldg 7005		737-5545/6001
Family Practice	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-2273
General Surgery	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8392
Immunizations	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1530 Thursday 1300-1530	725-3264
Information Desk	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3155/3085
Internal Medicine	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8251
Laboratory	Bldg 7005	M-F:0730-1630	737-6918
Mental Health Clinic	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5508
Neurology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-8396
Neurosurgery	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5186
Nutrition Care	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5521/3614
OB/GYN	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-6558
Occupational Therapy	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5005
Optometry	Bldg 1625	M-F 0730-1630	725-3601
Oral Surgery	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3101
Orthopedics	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5186/0190
Pathology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-2273
Patient Representative	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3045
Pediatrics	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-3157/3158
Pharmacy-Inpatient *TRN H: Training Holiday	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-2000 Sat, Sun,*TRN H & H 0830-1700	737-4633/3055
Pharmacy-Outpatient *TRN H: Training Holiday	Bldg 7005	M,W-F 0730-1800 TUE 0830-1800 *0900-1700 CLOSED-Sat, Sun & H	737-7984
Pharmacy	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-7984
Physical Therapy	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-5092
Preventive Medicine	Bldg 5447	M-F 0730-1630	736-3025
Physical Medicine & Rehab	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	725-7619
Podiatry	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	736-2273
Radiology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-7976
Speech Pathology	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	738-4422
Social Work	Bldg 7005	M-F 0730-1630	737-550
Yongsan Health Clinic	Bldg 1663	M-F 0630-1600,Thursday 1300-1600	725-6232

**TRICARE** is the Department of Defense Health Care Program. Enrollment forms are available at all military treatment facilities and at the TRICARE Service Center Across from the Emergency Room at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital. For more information, please call 736-8558 or 736-7238.

**Mental Health Clinic** is located on the first floor of the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital and offers; individual and family counseling, psychological, psychiatric and social work services. Call 737-5508 for more information.

**Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Overseas** is a program designed to provide; nutritious food, tips on how to prepare a balanced meal, nutrition/health screening and access to resources to lead a healthier life. The program provides benefits to eligible pregnant women, and later, their infants for at least six months and possibly up to one year. Eligible children may participate up to age five. For more information and to find out if you are eligible call 736-6074 or 736-6106. WIC is located on South Post, Bldg 5210, across from the Emergency Room at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital.

You can make an appointment to have your eyes examined by calling the Optometry Clinic on Main Post at 725-3601/5432. No contact lens fittings are done at the hospital, so bring a valid contact lens prescription and a 6 month to a 1 year supply of lenses with you. You can reorder contacts at the Optical Shop with a valid contact lens prescription, on the Korean economy or over the internet. Optometry Optical Frames, lenses or complete pairs of eyeglasses can be purchased at a reasonable price from the Optical Shop in the Gallery on Main Post, at the Dragon Hill Lodge, or any off post optical shop.

**Off Post Medical Care** For individuals who require medical care off post; there are several doctors and clinics that service the foreign community. The 18th MEDCOM currently maintains partnerships with nineteen state-of-the-art Korean hospitals. These hospitals feature American educated and trained specialists, as well as English speaking staff members to assist American personnel and offer a wide array of services to those serving throughout the Korean peninsula.

- Seoul Help Center for Foreigners. English Help Line: 02-797 8212. Operating hours are; 09:30-12:30 & 14:00-17:00 weekdays.
- 24-Hour English Medical Referral Service: 010-4769-8212, 010-8750-8212. Emergency: 119
- Seoul Help Center: 02-731-6800, Fax: 02-731-6803. Open; 09:00-18:00 weekdays only.

### **SOME HELPFUL WEBSITES:**

**www.seoul.amedd.army.mil:** 18th MEDCOM Website

**www.embracingwomenhealth.com:** Women's Health Issues

**www.drugstore.com**

**OFF POST PATIENT HEALTH CARE GUIDE** - We welcome the opportunity to share information with you about our host nation partnership hospitals and clinics located across the entire South Korean peninsula. We understand that seeking and receiving health care in a foreign country at a civilian hospital can cause concern due to lack of knowledge, language barriers, transportation challenges, reluctance and stress associated with navigating in an unfamiliar environment/health care system. We have implemented a new patient program to ensure TRICARE Representatives, Nurse Case Managers and Host Patient Liaisons are assigned to the BAACH and each of the outlying health clinics are available to help. This is just one of our many ways of demonstrating our commitment to patient friendly access to quality health care.

Providers will refer (transport and guides are provided) you to one of our host nation partnership hospitals and/or clinics for the specialty care you require when the services are not available within our system. We want you to know that our host nation partnership hospitals and clinics provide the highest quality of health care and all are accredited by the Joint Commission International or the Korean Hospital Association. You may be pleasantly surprised to know that many of the medical staff speak English and a significant number were trained in America. We do recognize that cultural differences do exist (language, food, and medication management etc) and to assist our patients and partners in caring, we have Host Nation Patient Liaisons to assist you. Our Nurse Case Managers visit all our beneficiaries if they require hospitalization and conduct telephone follow ups with the Korean healthcare team providing your medical care.

We understand that some people are very concerned about driving or using public transit in Korea; it can be intimidating. There is great news though! We provide a free shuttle service for our patients and their family members to and from appointments at several of our host nation partnership hospitals. Visit the TRICARE section of the 65th Medical Brigade Website **www.korea.amedd.army.mil**. This site provides an overview of each of the host nation partnership hospitals, and maps, along with answers to frequently asked questions.

**HOST NATION PATIENT LIAISON** - While the practice of health care in the U.S. and much of Korea is very similar, there are some cultural differences that can make U.S. patients uncomfortable. Language, of course, is the most obvious and

challenging difference. To help bridge the cultural gap, we provide Host Nation Patient Liaisons to help you navigate the Korean healthcare system. The Host Nation Patient Liaisons are familiar with the Korean healthcare System and their primary role is to assist our patients in an outpatient setting. If you are admitted to one of our host nation partnership hospitals, a patient liaison will visit you and work closely with our Nurse Case Managers during your hospital stay. He or she can help answer questions you may have about your inpatient stay and subsequent follow up medical appointments. Most host nation partnership hospitals have International Health Clinics, staffed with personnel who speak fluent English, and are working there just to assist our patients. Together, the host nation patient liaison and the staff at our host nation partnership hospitals will work together to schedule your medical appointments, assist in insurance claims processing and help answer any questions or concerns you have about the healthcare you're receiving.

**REFERRALS** - Most visits to a host nation partnership hospital or clinic typically begin with a referral from your Primary Care Manager at the local Military Treatment Facility (MTF). If the needed care is not available at the Military Treatment Facility, a Host Nation Appointment Clerk or TRICARE Representative at your local TRICARE Office will assist in your appointment at one of our host nation partnership hospitals or medical clinics. Usually, the Host Nation Appointment Clerk will make your appointment, schedule transportation on one of the TRICARE courtesy shuttles, and provide you with a claim form and any necessary medical documentation or care authorizations needed for your medical appointment. Although our host nation partnership hospitals and clinics accept self referrals, it is best to work through your local 65th Medical Brigade TRICARE Office to coordinate your care. The payment for your care at the Korean facility will depend on your TRICARE status or other insurance plan you may have. When you call to make your appointment TRICARE staff will advise you on your coverage and financial responsibilities at that time.

- **If you have made a self-referral**, the host nation partner hospital or clinic will expect payment in full at the point of service for outpatient care or at the time of discharge if you were an inpatient for medical care.
- **If you are enrolled in TRICARE Overseas Prime**, you will not be required to pay up front for care in one of our host nation partnership hospitals or clinics. If you have to obtain care in a facility that is not one of our host nation partnership hospitals or clinics because of an emergency, you will be required to pay up front and file a claim with Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS), the TRICARE Overseas claims processor. Your local TRICARE

Benefits Counselors can assist you with any claims paperwork required for reimbursement.

- **If you are TRICARE Standard** and have been referred by a MTF provider, your care will be arranged by the TRICARE Service Center and your cost-share will be annotated so that the host nation partnership hospital or clinic only collects that portion at the time the services are provided. If you have to obtain care in a facility that is not one of our host nation partnership hospitals or clinics because of an emergency, you will be required to pay up front and file a claim with WPS, the TRICARE Overseas claims processor. You will be reimbursed for all but your cost-share and deductible. Your local TRICARE Benefits Counselor can assist you with any claims paperwork needed for reimbursement.
- **If you are going to be an inpatient**, it is a good idea to have some Korean currency on hand for incidentals or unexpected items that need to be purchased that may not be a covered charge by TRICARE. Also, in many of these hospitals there are bakeries, restaurants, and stores for you or your family to shop for treasures, needed supplies, or just a delicious treat. For your convenience, most Korean hospitals have ATM machines and banks which accept all major credit cards. If you need assistance with your bill or are unable to pay the bill upon discharge, please call for assistance and we can get in contact with individuals or organizations that are able to help. Our host nation partnership hospitals and clinics are wonderful facilities that offer and provide very valuable services to our beneficiaries and are great resources that deliver quality, patient-friendly access to healthcare. We ask that you assist us in preserving this very valuable partnership.

**OUR HOST NATION PARTNERSHIP HOSPITALS AND CLINICS** - When visiting one of our host nation partnership hospitals or clinics you can expect a modern design and atmosphere, and up to date technology as you would expect in the U.S. Most of the signs are in Hangul, the Korean language, with English translation to make it easier for their international visitors to navigate through the hospital. Many of the staff speak some English, and understand English as long as you speak slowly and clearly. They will make every effort to understand your needs and desires, and help you in getting what you need. Your health and well-being is their priority, and they want your stay at their hospital to be as comfortable as possible. We ask that you be patient and cooperative with the hospital staff as they work very hard to make sure you are taken care of in a timely manner and receive the best of care. Many of the hospitals have interpreters during normal business hours. If you need assistance, the international clinic will be glad to

help and make sure that communication is clear, minimizing unneeded stress. If you need assistance with communication and it is after normal business hours you may call your case manager or point of contact at your local clinic and they will be able to assist you. Bringing a trusted friend or colleague with Korean language capabilities is an option.

- **If you are going to be seen as an outpatient** and have an appointment time, sometimes unexpected delays may occur, for example a more urgent case; but usually you are seen promptly. Most of our host nation partnership hospitals and clinics serve a very large community and work hard to ensure that each patient is seen and receives the best healthcare possible. They have each individual's best interest in mind and focus on fulfilling your expectations. It is a good idea to bring something to read to pass the time in case you experience a short delay.
- **If you are admitted**, you can expect to share a room with other patients or in the more recently built hospitals, a private room may be available. TRICARE does not pay for private rooms unless a semi-private room is unavailable at admission time. If you're in a private room and a semi-private room becomes available, you will have to move since TRICARE will not authorize payment for the private room. The hospital staff will help move your belongings to your new room upon request. During your admission, a Nurse Case Manager or Host Nation Patient Liaison from the 65<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade will visit to evaluate how you are doing and to address any questions or concerns that you may have. You will receive a point of contact name and phone number that you may call anytime for assistance. We want to ensure that there is continuity of care and a seamless delivery of healthcare between our clinics/hospitals and our host nation partnership hospitals/clinics. While you remain an in-patient, the Korean families traditionally help hospital staff with the care of their loved ones, but many of our beneficiaries are without family assistance and the nursing staff understands that you may require more help due to your situation. If your loved one is admitted to an intensive care unit, the hospital staff assumes all responsibility for the care and hygiene of your significant other or child. If you are not accompanied by a family member, most hospitals recognize the need for additional assistance you may require and will accommodate your needs. It is a good idea to talk with your TRICARE representative to find out what you are expected to take with you and what to expect at the hospital for admission. This may help alleviate stress and confusion, and gives you the opportunity to be better prepared for a more pleasant stay at one of our host nation partnership hospitals. You may experience a longer stay at

a Korean Hospital than a Western Hospital as their approach to medicine and the healing process is different from what you are accustomed to, but the goal remains the same, returning you to your best state of health. Although many hospitals have relaxed visiting hours, 8pm is considered the traditional time to conclude a visit so that patients can get needed rest. If you happen to share a room with another patient, it is best to refrain from playing loud music (use earphones) and if you need to make a call using your cell phone and you are ambulatory, we recommend using the common area. Avoiding the use of strong aftershave, lotion, cologne, or perfume is also recommended as some patients may have allergies or sensitivities to strong smells. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in making your hospital stay as comfortable as possible.

**KOREAN HOSPITAL STAFF** - Many Korean staff members understand significant amounts of Basic English, but are often reluctant to speak English for fear of making a mistake or miscommunication. Be patient; speak slowly and clearly using basic English terms. They will be very appreciative of your efforts, and you will often be understood far better than you realize.

Korean medicine, as explained earlier, is different from Western medicine. In Western medicine the patient is involved in the planning of their care, always questioning the care received to comprehend a better understanding of their health state. But in Korean medicine the patient relies on the health professional's medical opinion and care administered without questioning or the desire to know the process. All of the clinical decisions are made by the doctor, who then gives guidance and direction to the staff (nurses, orderlies, administrators). It may seem at times that the staff are maybe not listening to you or ignoring your needs, but please know that this is not the case. They do understand your needs, but require the doctor to provide direction/approval before they can act upon your requests. Nurses, in particular, do not act as independent professionals like American nurses. If you are an in-patient and you need something to help you sleep or you are having pain, do not hesitate to advise the nurse as early as possible so that they may get the required order from your doctor.

Unlike American doctors, Korean doctors are more paternalistic and tend to engage their patients less in the management of their cases. Often, the discussions with patients and family are limited with the Korean doctor and may seem to be directive or uncommunicative due to limited English speaking ability or the reluctance to use their English. Again, be patient and try to develop a positive working relationship with your Korean doctor. Increasingly, many

physicians in Korea have been trained abroad or understand the special needs of their American patients. Keep in mind that the goal is the same for all healthcare professionals and that is, to deliver the best quality of care and return you to an optimal state of health.

**MEDICAL RECORDS** - Your Korean doctor understands that your MTF provider will need a report on your care and are glad to provide any documentation that is needed. Also, your medical records will be translated into English. If possible, try to get copies of X-Rays, CT scans and MRI's before you leave the facility. This will allow your Primary Care Manager the opportunity to review the results and update your electronic medical record. Sending the studies to the MTF after you leave can sometimes cause delays in receiving results from the studies that were performed. Most Korean hospitals have informed consent forms and many other documents written in English. Again, if you have any questions, please contact the TRICARE staff for assistance.

**MATERNITY CARE AND BIRTHING OPTIONS OFF POST** - Korea offers the full range of childbirth options, including midwifery care and homebirth. However, language and cultural factors make it imperative that you do your research and choose a provider and birthing facility carefully. Choose a provider recommended by a friend or person you know who received the kind of care you are looking for. Prepare a birth plan that covers all aspects of labor, delivery and post-partum to help prevent unpleasant surprises. Ask a lot of questions about the standard procedures since they are so different from the US. The following are a sample of issues that some people have had with prenatal care and birthing off post:

- **Many Korean doctors** will do ultrasounds at every appointment and even give you the recording on a DVD. However, they may refuse to tell you the sex of the baby due to legal restrictions. Foreigners are often, but not always, exempt from this policy. Asking indirect questions will often result in more cooperation.
- **Episiotomy** and enemas are considered routine at many hospitals. If you tell your Korean doctor that you would rather tear and she replies, "You will probably need an episiotomy because it is your first birth", please know that you will most likely end up having an episiotomy.
- **Labor rooms** are often communal. There are private rooms available for a higher cost at many hospitals but are generally not covered by TRICARE. Some hospitals have you move to another room when you are ready to push. Some foreigners have reported labor areas to be unclean at some hospitals. Please tour the facilities before you decide where to birth.

Women who are tall or overweight (by Korean standards) have reported being told that they are “too big to have an epidural” during labor. They are often urged to have c-sections, where, of course, they are given an epidural. If your doctor is uncomfortable with your size, keep looking around because even if you are planning for an un-medicated natural birth, it is good to have the labor epidural option available.

- **The C-section** rate in Korea is very high and many hospitals have Vaginal Birth after Cesarean (VBAC) bans, however, there are providers who will attend VBACS. Many hospitals do not allow husbands in the operating room during c-sections. Even if you are not planning to have a c-section, you should discuss your doctor’s and the hospital’s policy in this area beforehand if you would want your partner with you in the event that a C-section becomes necessary.
- **Families** are often expected to provide a lot of patient care such as moving and cleaning the patient that is normally done by nurses and orderlies in the US hospitals. Be sure you understand what is expected of you.
- **Many hospitals** require that newborns must be taken away right after birth for hours of observation or require babies to stay in the nursery overnight. Those same hospitals do not bring the baby to you to nurse, either, so you need to get up and go to the nursery or, have a helper take you to the nursery if you want to breastfeed.
- **Korean doctors** in general, are not used to answering a lot of questions from their patients. Some make exceptions for foreigners, but others are just annoyed and do not give straight answers. Please make sure you have all your questions answered to your satisfaction at your appointments or find another provider.
- **Standard hospital stays**, even for uncomplicated vaginal deliveries, are much longer in Korea than in the US. However, you can make arrangements to be discharged earlier. The above list might seem a little intimidating but it is far better to be informed and aware of the facts, so that you can ask all the relevant questions and feel comfortable with the provider you chose.

**HOSPITAL BIRTH** - There are many hospitals in Seoul (many of which have the same name but different policies), but Soon Chun Hyung Hospital in Hannam Dong is a favorite among foreigners because it is considered that the hospital has more respect for an individual’s birth plan and better English-speaking support. It is an older hospital, but many moms have had great experiences. Dr. Lee (Jeong-Jae) has privileges at Soon Chun Hyung Hospital, speaks English, attends VBAC, and appointments can be scheduled through the International

Clinic 02-709-9133

Dr. Hwan-Wook Chung speaks English and will attend vaginal births after C-section.

**www.ubclinic.com** 010-2954-9400. The clinic is located in Apgujeong near Apgujeong Station on Subway Line 3 (Orange Line), Exit 4 or 5.

No matter which hospital you choose, be sure to tour the facilities and have a clear understanding of the policies and procedures.

**BIRTH CENTERS AND HOMEBIRTH** - **www.birthinginkorea.com** this site has a list of birth centers in the Seoul and Kyunggi Provinces as well as contact information for the Korean Midwives Association to help you find a midwife or birth center in many areas of Korea.

**HOMEBIRTH** - Many midwives in Korea attend homebirths. Their level of English varies. Dr. Hwan Wook Chung, whose clinic is located in Apgujeong, will also attend homebirths and can be signed on post. He speaks English very well. Foreigners in many parenting groups report high levels of satisfaction with Dr. Chung's care. He is in favor of natural childbirth techniques. His fee is much higher than the homebirth midwives, but his English is much better and he has privileges at several hospitals, including SoonChunHyung in case you would prefer to birth at a hospital or you have a complication that requires transfer to the hospital. Several people have been successful in getting reimbursed for his fees by TRICARE in the past few years.

**ENGLISH SPEAKING HOMEBIRTH MIDWIFE**

Rosa (Kim Ok-Jin) OK Birth Center - **www.okbirth.com**; 019-447-8321

Lee Me-Sook (Very Basic English) - **mingkkong@naver.com**; 010-8848-7039

**CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION/LABOR PREPARATION CLASSES** - On post, the childbirth preparation classes are held once a month, except during December. The classes are currently offered in Yongsan, Red Cloud and Humphreys. Contact New Parent Support to sign up. Classes are free.

On Yongsan the numbers are: DSN 723-7391 or Com 010-4920-4135

For those choosing to birth off-post or just wanting a more in-depth childbirth course, Keun-Hae Park and Lisa Fincaryk offer a comprehensive childbirth class that covers issues specific to birthing as a foreigner in Korea. Additionally, they are both lactation counselors with a wealth of knowledge on where to find things in Korea.

Keun-Hae Park

Lisa Fincaryk

**keunhae2001@yahoo.co.kr**  
010-5416-5155

**birthinginkorea@gmail.com**  
010-7235-8667

**HYPNOBIRTHING** - This labor preparation method using self-hypnosis is taught by the following people:

- Lisa Fincaryk teaches regularly; **birthinginkorea@gmail.com**; 010-7235-8667
- Dr. Hwan Wook Chung teaches regularly at UB Clinic **www.ubclinic.com**; 010-2954-9400
- Annette B. (certified) **nette\_boese@yahoo.de**

There are several home study courses that you can order if you are an independent learner or want to save money.

- **Hypnobabies Home Study** is a complete childbirth preparation course that covers everything you need to know about labor as well as hypnosis for relaxation and natural anesthesia. The course can be ordered online. **http://www.hypnobabies.com**
- **The Psychology of Birth Program** is designed for home study and uses self-hypnosis as well. **http://www.birthdownload.com**
- **The Pink Kit** <http://www.birthingbetter.com>
- **Birth Outside the Box** <http://www.givingbirthnaturally.com>

**Doulas (Midwives)** -The following is a list of English-speaking doulas:

- Lisa Fincaryk-Canadian also speaks Korean, **birthinginkorea@gmail.com**; 010-7235-8667
- Amy Fuller-military spouse, [amyncarter@msn.com](mailto:amyncarter@msn.com); 010-5703-7900
- Jocelyn-American, does not speak Korean. Provides Reiki services [anjelkist@aol.com](mailto:anjelkist@aol.com)
- Yuri Han-English speaking Korean doula, **thespecialmoment@gmail.com**

Doulas can be signed onto Post for births at the BAACH.

**MATERNITY CLOTHES** - Ordering through US websites is probably the easiest and cheapest way to get maternity clothes. However, you can find some maternity clothes and bras in Korea.

In addition to the PX there are maternity clothes in specialty stores and in some baby sections of department stores. Here are a few to check out:

- Doota in Dongdaemun. It is very close to the Dongdaemun subway station exit. The maternity clothes are on the 6th floor with the baby clothes. There are individual vendors so be sure to go around the floor

to compare prices, they can vary a lot for similar items.

- Basement of the Shinsaegae Department Store.
- Sarah Mesa Department (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) in Namdaemun Subway line 4, Hoehyeon Station, exit 7.
- Baby Malls in Namdaemun (right around the corner from Mesa), there are some cheap women's shops on the second floors.
- Migliore in Myeongdong (Myeongdong station exit 6). There are quite a few maternity shops in the basement of Migliore.
- Lotte Department Store in Myeongdong on the 4th floor. It is called PRENATAL. They have a good selection of work pants and jeans.
- HwaGokDong (Hwagok Station, exit 1) within a 5 minute walk, you will find some nice baby product shops and many baby-mother hospitals with shops.

Below is a list of some Korean websites that carry maternity clothes, bras and underwear. Online prices are usually better. You will need a Korean friend to help you navigate most of these sites. Some do not deliver to APO addresses so have the goods delivered to a friend's address off post. Items will arrive much quicker than if you order from the US websites.

**www.gmarket.co.kr** This site is similar to Amazon, with different vendors for everything. There is also an English site, but not everything shows up when you search because of how the items are translated into English.

**www.lora.co.kr**

**www.mizmami.co.kr**

**www.mami.co.kr/shop/main/index.php**

**www.motherstyle.co.kr/shop\_ca.php**

**laredoute.samsungmall.co.kr**

**www.dintstyle.com**

**www.momnuri.com**

**www.motherpia.co.kr/main/main.asp**

## **BREASTFEEDING RESOURCES**

**NEW PARENT SUPPORT** - We are lucky to have the New Parent Support Program on post which provides free breastfeeding classes and help. Classes are held once a month. If you plan to breastfeed, it is advisable to take the breastfeeding class before you give birth. You may still need to make an appointment with the Home Visiting Nurse, but the class will help you with the basics so you can get started. Breastfeeding classes are run by the New Parent Support Home Visiting nurses. Sometimes the classes are run by social workers at BAACH. New Parent Support will arrange for help, visit your home or hospital, even if you live off-

post.

On Yongsan the numbers are: 723-7391 or 010-4920-4135

**BREAST PUMPS** - The Pediatric Department at BAACH has hospital-grade breast pumps for loan though priority goes to those with premature/NICU babies. **WIC** has hospital-grade breast pumps for loan; hand pumps to give out, and also provides breastfeeding counseling. However, you must qualify for WIC to receive breastfeeding help through the WIC office.

**LA LECHE LEAGUE (LLL)** - The La Leche League is a volunteer-based organization that provides mother-to-mother support. Help is free. There are currently La Leche League Leaders at Yongsan, Osan and Humphrys. Yongsan LLL meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at the Seoul International Baptist Church, located outside of Gate 3 (Kimch'i Pot Gate). The schedule is listed on the Yongsan Playgroups website under events. It is also listed on the LLL Seoul Face book page;

spousesinkorea.21.forumer.com

The current Humphrys LLL Leader is Clea Barenburg. Contact her by e-mail for information, help or meeting dates: **cleabarenburg@gmail.com**.

For Breastfeeding help at Osan, contact **osanbfsupport@gmail.com** or check the Osan Parent Network website for the schedule; **www.osanparentnetwork.com** or **www.osanparentnetwork.blogspot.com**

**Note:** On-post breastfeeding support is currently plentiful and free, but, many of the Home Visiting Nurses and LLL Leaders are scheduled to PCS in 2010. Hopefully, there will not be a break in staffing. If you cannot find the help you need on post, English-speaking midwives Keun-Hae Park and Lisa Fincaryk are available to come to your home for a fee.

Keun-Hae Park

**keunhae2001@yahoo.co.kr**

10-5416-5155

Lisa Fincaryk

**birthinginkorea@gmail.com**

010-7235-8667



South Post Movie Theater

## MOVIE THEATER

The Multi Purpose Training Facility (MPTF) located on South Post, (Bldg 4218) is a complex used for business meetings, Church services on Sundays, and family entertainment. It houses 3 movie theaters offering a variety of movies including recent releases. Movies are provided free of charge to valid ID card holders and for a nominal fee for others. For a listing of movies and times log on to:

**[www.aafes.com/ems/pac/kcapital.htm](http://www.aafes.com/ems/pac/kcapital.htm)** or call: 738-7389/3154. The center is located on South Post near The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop.

The Seoul Selection Movie Theater offers Korean films with English subtitles on Saturdays at 2:30pm and Sundays at 11:30am for W5,000.

It is located on the third floor of the Kumho Museum of Art, directly across from the Kyongbok Palace near the U.S. Embassy. Take the subway to Anguk Station (Line 3, Exit **[www.seoulselection.com](http://www.seoulselection.com)**)

## MOYER COMMUNITY ACTIVITES CENTER (MCAC)

This facility is located on Main Post Bldg 2259 near Gate 5, phone: 723-3291/3192.

MCAC is one of the largest multipurpose facilities on post, with game rooms, pool tables, darts, table tennis, foosball and Korean billiards. Various events are held throughout the year such as chess and card tournaments, Wii tournaments, flea markets and special holiday or family events. In addition, you can relax in comfortable chairs and watch movies, sports or your favorite shows on TV in

the lounge. **The Cyber Café** (723-7023) is located on the first floor. You can check email, talk to friends and family or just have fun surfing the web. Musical instruments and sound rooms (723-3266) are available for rent upon request and instruments include guitar, bass and drums. You can put on a show for your friends in the John Merlin Wood Community Theatre (723-5721) on the first floor. Also located on the first floor is a small food court where you can find; Anthony's Pizza, Baskin Robbins and Dunkin Donuts. There is a Trophy Shop located on the first floor which provides all your engraving needs for trophies, plaques, nameplates, and much more. **www.mwr.Korea.army.mil.**

MCAC is also the hub for all post bus transportation. Stop by and pick up the most recent Bus Schedule at The Military Bus Office and the Korean Bus Ticketing Office which are housed on the ground floor. Buses run to and from Osan air base and USAG Humphreys and many other places often running hourly throughout the day. The BOSS lounge is available on the second floor.

The American Red Cross is also located on the second floor, and is there to help you! It offers a variety of volunteer opportunities including at the hospital contact the American Red Cross at 738-3670 or email **arc\_yongan@korea.army.mil.** See section A for details and classes offered by the American Red Cross.



## **NEWSPAPERS**

Subscriptions for the Stars & Stripes, The Korean Herald, The Korean Times, or USA Today are available for delivery. The Herald Tribune and USA Today do not deliver papers on Sunday. When subscribing to a newspaper keep your receipts for proof of payment since many delivery people have limited English skills. The Stars & Stripes and USA Today are widely available in vending machines on post. The Morning Calm Weekly is a complimentary newspaper available every Friday throughout the Peninsula. The Yongsan Library is the most reliable source of news publications offering several large city newspapers arriving three to four days after publication dates.

Stars & Stripes: **www.stripes.com** 721-7140 or email **cirkorea@pstripes.osd.mil**

The Korean Herald: **www.koreaherald.co.kr** email;**subscribe@heraldm.com**

Korean Times: [www.koreatimes.co.kr](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr) 02-724-2715 or email subscription to [koreatimes.co.kr](mailto:koreatimes.co.kr)

Herald Tribune: [www.global.nytimes.com](http://www.global.nytimes.com)

USA Today: [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)

Morning Calm: <http://imcom.korea.army.mil> the link is under **News** on the bottom right corner 738-7352.

## **NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO)**

While Korea is a relatively safe location, it is important that all “noncombatants” be prepared to evacuate both quickly and safely. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) is directed by the U.S. Department of State, to evacuate eligible personnel from foreign countries where their lives are endangered by war, natural disaster or civil unrest, to safe haven. U.S. personnel considered noncombatants are; family members of U.S. DoD military and civilian employees, non-emergency essential U.S. civilian employees and DoD invited contractors and their families. Both command sponsored and non command sponsored families are eligible for evacuation assistance from Korea. Military members and emergency essential civilian employees are not considered noncombatants and will remain in Korea until directed otherwise. All DoD affiliated noncombatants must register for NEO with their NEO warden. To help noncombatants prepare for a possible evacuation, U.S. Forces Korea conducts a semi-annual Courageous Channel Exercise. All DoD affiliated noncombatants are required to participate in these exercises in order to rehearse evacuation procedures and to train personnel who support NEO execution. In addition to participating in Courageous Channel, each family is required to maintain a NEO kit which includes the following items; important documents, enough food and water for three days and protective gas masks (issued by the military). For more information see ***Force Protection***.

**NOTE:** For personnel with pets in Korea; although U.S. Government policy does not require pets to be evacuated, in practice the U.S. has supported evacuation of pets in all recent evacuations. USFK will make reasonable efforts to evacuate pets of DoD affiliated personnel. All non combatants must realize that the evacuation of people will always take priority over pets and those pets are likely to be separated from their families during an evacuation. In the event the family decides to transport their pets out of country commercially, all costs associated with commercial transportation are the sole responsibility of that family. If the U.S. government transports a pet on a military or chartered aircraft, the military covers only the cost of transporting the animal from Korea to the first CONUS port of entry. The family will then be responsible for all costs incurred from that

site to the family’s final destination. Those families unable to evacuate their pets should discuss their options with a veterinarian, for more details on pets see section **P**.



**OPTICAL**

Frames, lenses or complete pairs of eyeglasses can be purchased at a reasonable price from the Optical Shop in the Gallery on Main Post, the Dragon Hill Lodge, or on the local economy. Many optical shops can be found in Itaewon, Namdaemun and Dongdaemun. You can make an appointment to have your eyes examined by calling the Optometry Clinic on Main Post at 725-3601/5432. No contact lens fittings are done at the hospital, so bring a valid contact lens prescription and a 6-month to 1-year supply of lenses with you. Contact lenses can be reordered at the Optical Shop with a valid contact lens prescription, on the Korean economy or over the internet.

**ORIENTAL PRESS**

Located on Main Post in Bldg 1440, behind the Community Bank Oriental Press is a commercial printing and publishing contractor with a long-term presence and commitment to the U.S. military community in Korea. Since 1990, it has been a valued resource for a variety of services including printing of business cards and other stationary, military pride items such as unit coins, plaques and presentation items, including specialty projects of almost any description. Oriental Press prints and distributes the Morning Calm Weekly and The Seoul Survivor, free of charge, as a service to the community. Oriental Press is the recommended place to go for advertising, printing projects and specialty items. Contact: 738-5005, PSC 450, Box 758, APO AP 96206.

## **OSAN AIR BASE**

Osan Air Base is approximately 35 miles south of Seoul. The average travel time from Yongsan can take between one and one and a half hours one way (on certain days, 3 hours is not unheard of) depending on traffic conditions. An alternative to driving is to take a bus out of Moyer CAC. Make sure you are back at the Osan Bus Terminal in time for the return bus to Yongsan. Tickets can sell out fast so be prepared to catch a later bus if necessary. Maps, routes and schedules are available in Moyer Community Activities Center. Despite the possible hassles of the commute, an occasional trip to Osan can be a wonderful day out. Shopping in the surrounding local community Song-tan, can be cheaper for certain items such as sports apparel, purses and tailored suits, etc. There are several restaurants scattered throughout the Air Base, including Chili's, Burger King and Captain D's. Osan base has a BX that carries a wide selection of merchandise which is sometimes different from Yongsan (example: You can find queen bed sheets in Yongsan and the matching dust ruffle in Osan...true story). The Commissary at Osan also carries some different products from those sold in Yongsan. There are many places to shop and eat on the base and local economy, so set out and explore. AAFES taxi stands are conveniently located at all the popular restaurants and gates. For subway and driving information see **Transportation** in section **T**.



## **PETS**

Excellent veterinary services are available at USAG-Yongsan. The 129th Medical Detachment (VM) clinic is located on South Post, just north of the gas station (738-4261/5145).

If calling from the U.S. dial; 011-822-7918-4261/5145.

A full range of primary veterinary care services to include vaccinations, lab work, x-rays and ultrasound, microchips, surgery, dental cleaning, health certificates, sick call and emergency services. Services are provided at a nominal cost and are available to all eligible personnel. Veterinary Treatment Facilities

are also located at USAG-Red Cloud, Osan Air Base and Camp Walker.

**TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET** - You may well find that the most complicated part of your move to Korea will be transporting your pet, mainly because airline pet policies vary between airlines and are constantly changing. The policy for the importation of privately owned animals into Korea requires the following:

- **A USDA Health Certificate** issued by a USDA authorized veterinarian, **less than 10 days old**. When arriving in Korea, the original health certificate, plus two copies are required.

**NOTE:** It is recommended that you use a military veterinarian since they are representatives of the USDA and can issue the certificates directly to you. If you are not near a military vet when you depart for Korea, check for USDA authorized civilian vets in your area. If no military vet or authorized civilian vet is available, a regular vet can issue the Health Certificate, but you will have to send it to the nearest USDA department for an authorizing signature. The Health certificate has to be less than 10 days old when your pet arrives in Korea, so use an overnight mail carrier to get it signed and back to you in time for your pets' flight.

- **Rabies Certificate** (the original certificate, plus two copies). The vaccination must be current and at least 30 days old. Distemper is a problem here in Korea so it is recommended that you not bring a pet that is not fully vaccinated (at least 6 months or older). Animals arriving without a current rabies vaccination or one that is less than 30 days old will be quarantined at the owner's expense for up to a maximum of 30 days.
- **A Bill of Lading** or Certificate of Excess Baggage is required with the original signature (if the animal is traveling unaccompanied).

***If you correctly secure the three items above, your pet will not be quarantined.***

**TRANSPORTING YOUR PET** - Airline regulations regarding transport of animals tends to change frequently, so confirm the current regulations before travel. Try to have your pet accompany you on your flight to Korea. If your pet flies separately, the cost to you could be as high as \$1,000! It is important that you ask your airline about the breed, size and weight restrictions on your pet (some airlines will not transport certain 'snub nosed/short muzzle' breeds). Get confirmation and measurements on the type of travel kennel/carrier the airline will allow, some kennels may be too large for the airplane cargo hold, confirm! Further, in most cases, animals are not allowed to be transported during extreme temperatures in the summer and winter. Each airline has its own regulations, so check with your particular airline. **Most airlines will not fly animals in the**

**summer months at all** (May is often the cut-off before summer). However, some airlines will waive all temperature regulations for your initial PCS into Korea, or if the flight is direct and the plane does not have any lay over on the hot tarmac.

**When Preparing Your Animal's Cage for Transport**, attach the following to the cage:

- Forwarding Address to Unit
- 1 copy of the Rabies Certificate
- 1 copy of the Health Certificate
- 1 copy of your flight itinerary
- 1 copy of your orders assigning you to Korea
- Feeding schedule for your pet
- Personal Information about your pet

**REGISTERING YOUR PET** - If you live on-post you must register your pet within the first 10 days of arrival. If you living off-post, it is recommended that you register your pet within the same 10 day time frame. Take all information and certificates previously listed, as well as any additional vet records to the vet clinic. The more information the better so that the staff can get to know your pets and properly care for them.

**WHEN QUARANTINE IS REQUIRED** (only for pets that do not meet above requirements) - all dogs and cats are placed in the National Quarantine Station in Seoul. Upon arrival in Korea, go to the Yongsan Pet Care Center (YPCC). Present the following: your original rabies certificate, original health certificate, Bill of Lading or Certificate of Excess Baggage with original signature (if the animal is traveling alone), 1 copy of your orders assigning you to Korea and a power of attorney (the YPCC has a form to sign). They also require that you fill out paperwork for your animal to be picked up from the Quarantine Station.

**ONCE YOUR ANIMAL HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM QUARANTINE** - you will need to register them with the 129th Medical Detachment (VM) Veterinary Treatment Facility within 10 days of arrival. Owners are responsible for arranging housing for their pets. Most hotels, including the Dragon Hill Lodge, do not allow pets. It is recommended that arrangements be made with your sponsor or with the Yongsan Pet Care Center.

**NOTE:** The Yongsan Veterinary Treatment Facility has an adoption service open during regular office hours; Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm. Call 738-4261 for appointments or drop by the clinic. Every year during the PCS season, many animals are surrendered to the Veterinary Treatment Facility because of the

expense of returning with the pet. Please be a responsible pet owner and plan for the costs associated with preparing your animal for the journey to your next duty station. Many people leave Korea for postings in Hawaii, Guam, Japan, Europe, etc.

As soon as you have information regarding your next duty station, please consult with the Veterinary Treatment Facility to allow for adequate time to meet any new requirements of your follow-on assignment. If you are interested in adopting a pet after you arrive in Korea, check with the veterinary services before adopting a pet off the economy. Many people have brought home a cute puppy or kitten, only to have it die within a matter of days because of illnesses which were undetectable at the time of purchase.

**If You Adopt A Pet Off-Post** - please be sure to receive a certificate indicating that the dog is a not a pure bred Korean Jindo. The certificate must read “mixed breed” or you could run into trouble when it is time to PCS while transporting your new family member out of Korea. As a further precaution, do not allow your children to pet strange animals. Often pets carry diseases from missing their yearly vaccines. We recommend you contact both the airlines and the USFK customs office (738-5110) for up-to-date information.

### **PET CARE CENTER**

Yongsan South Post, Building 5256, near Gate 17, call 736-6426. They offer bathing, boarding, and grooming at reasonable prices. This center is located separately from the Vet Clinic. Many people assume in the beginning that the two places are in the same place so note the location. The Pet Care Center serves as the Yongsan quarantine facility and arrangements to transfer pets, for a fee, are made from the National Quarantine Station.

The pet care center is closed on Sundays and holidays. Hours of operation are 10am to 7pm. Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm on Saturday. Mr. Kim will also pick your pet up at the airport, clear customs, and deliver to the Pet Care Center for a nominal fee.

A Dog Park/Playground is located beside the Pet Care Center and has two large fenced areas designated for you to exercise and play with your pets off the leash. The park is open everyday 5am-10pm. Please observe the rules of ‘petiquette’ posted in the park; owners are responsible and liable for their pets actions, owners must pick-up and dispose of all pet waste, aggressive or pets on heat are not allowed in the park, and pet owners may have up to two dogs with them per visit. This is a wonderful place for those living off-post to exercise and socialize their dogs.

## **PET NEO PROCEDURES**

Please see the NEO section of this publication for an overview of all NEO procedures. Remember that pets are considered Family Members too. They are registered in and tracked by the NEO Tracking System. Pets, though, do not have priority over people. If they are less than 25 pounds, they will evacuate with the pet owner as carry-on. However, owners must bring a FAA approved pet carrier which can be carried on-board and fit under the seat as required for all carry on luggage and 10 days food supply. Larger pets will be shipped later by military transport. Pets cannot and will not be abandoned. USFK conducts two NEO exercises per year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

## **POST EXCHANGE (PX)**

There is a PX facility located at Yongsan on main most, surrounded by a series of smaller stores run by AAFES and AAFES concessionaires. The PX is noted for excellent seasonal sales on electronics equipment (stereos, televisions, cameras, and computers); men, women and children's clothing; health and beauty aids and many household items to furnish your home. Website: [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) Main Post 724-4365, Hannam 723-4461/4462.

The Mini Mall (also known as The Four Seasons) on Main Post, offers these AAFES stores:

- Alterations/Tailors 723-2080
- Barber Shop 723-7858
- Main Beauty Shop 723-2066
- Four Seasons/Toyland stocks toys, pet supplies, camping and outdoor cooking supplies, sports and exercise equipment, hardware, lawn and garden equipment 723-2072/2073
- Flower Shop has a variety both fresh and artificial flowers and plants for all occasions 723-2076
- Military Clothing 723-2079
- Shoppette 723-2069

## **POSTAL SERVICES**

For those of you stationed for the first time overseas, the APO (Army Post Office) system may be a new experience. The APO processes all mail coming to and from the Armed Forces Pacific (AP) Region, of which Korea is a part. Sending mail to and from this region costs the same as continental United States postal rates. However, you must use the United States Postal Service. Other carriers



buy on the economy.

## **PUBLIC RESTROOMS**

There are many public restrooms throughout Seoul. Many of them are in-ground toilets. However, most large department stores, fast food restaurants and modern buildings have western style toilets. For the last 10 years, Korea has had a policy that any new building must have western-style toilets installed, so finding a western style toilet is getting a lot easier. If you must use a local facility, just ask “Hwa-jahng-shil o-dee-eh i-suh-yuh” (Where is the restroom?). Always carry a small tissue packet for restrooms that do not have toilet paper. Paper in bathrooms is sometimes missed by foreigners, since it is often in large dispensers located outside of individual toilet stalls - watch out for it!

## **PYEONGTAEK**

This is a city south of Seoul where USAG-Humphreys and Osan Air Base are located.



## **RATION CONTROL & BLACK MARKET**

If you have never been overseas before, ration control will be a new experience. The Ration Control Program is set up to prevent the transfer of duty-free goods to those who are not entitled to receive them. As of January 1998, active duty military members were not issued a Ration Control Plate (RCP) and only need to present their military ID when making purchases. However, all family members entitled to a RCP require one to make any AAFES or Commissary purchases

To obtain Ration Control Cards, each family member must first be entered into the D.B.I.D.S system. The D.B.I.D.S and ID card issuing sections are both located adjacent to the Ration Control desk in building 4034 (1RC) DSN 738-4612. The sponsor must accompany all family members to the Ration Control Office (in 1RC) with their ID cards, and apply for the ration cards. About four hours later, the ration cards will be ready for pick up. You may show a copy of your sponsor's orders to purchase anything before obtaining your RCP. The service member

need only show his/her ID card.

The rules for using RCP's are simple. Cards must be presented when entering duty free facilities when an ID checker is present. When an ID checker is not present at the entrance to a duty free facility, then the cards must be presented at the point of sale (this includes items at the Chosun Gift Shop). You must also show your RCP to purchase items in Class VI stores, AAFES gas station, PX and commissary. Keep your receipts in case questions are raised about your buying habits. There are quite a few regulations controlling what constitutes black marketing. You will be given information on the current rules and regulations during in-processing. Remember, you may not purchase items in excess of your immediate family needs.

If you want to sell any controlled items or give a gift to personnel not authorized duty free import privileges, be sure you contact the Provost Marshall's Office: 723-5101 for information on how to do this legally. Many products are considered illegal for gift giving to Korean Nationals. You can also read USFK regulation 643-1 and USFK regulation 60-1 or call the Ration Control Office at 738-4612 in 1RC Bldg (4034), Room 105.

## **RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

There are many religious programs available to our community, tailored to meet the unique needs of all military and DoD civilian personnel and their families. Most chapels offer a variety of activities for all age groups to include religious education programs, choirs, Bible study groups and various chapel sponsored organizations.

The ministry teams of the Army, Navy and Air Force in Korea also offer a wide variety of religious services and worship opportunities to military members and their families. Chaplains offer daily morning devotions on AFN Monday through Friday. Also available are; counseling services, marriage enrichment programs along with outreach programs for non command sponsored spouses and family members. Virtually all religious faiths are represented by services held at the various chapels. Contact the Religious Support Office (738-3011) or the South Post Chapel (738-3917) for any information regarding religious activities.

In addition to the chapels, the Eighth Army Religious Retreat Center is a one-of-a-kind facility operated by the Chaplains of Korea. Unit chaplains and denominational groups offer religious retreats regularly at a minimal cost. The retreat center and chapel is located on a 5 acre site in the heart of Seoul and provides lodging, recreational activities, meeting rooms and an excellent dining hall. There are a number of religious programs in the metropolitan area that welcome new members.

## ON-POST RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### SOUTH POST CHAPEL

Building 3702 (across from the Dragon Hill Lodge) 738-6054/4043

Sunday:	Catholic Mass	0800
	Collective Protestant	1000
	Collective Protestant Gospel	1200
	Church of Christ (non-instrumental)	1400
	Collective Protestant Spirit-Filled	1800
Tuesday:	Perpetual Novena offered in honor Of Our	
	Lady of the Miraculous Medal	1900
Friday:	Jewish	1800

### MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Main Post, Building 1597. Call, 723-4076/8182

Sunday:	Collective Protestant	0800
	Episcopal	1000
	Catholic Mass	1130
Sunday:	United Pentecostal Church	
	International (UPCI)	1330
	Lutheran	1700
M/W/Th/F:	Catholic Mass	1205
Wednesday	Community Rosary	0745
Thursday	KATUSA Worship	1830
Friday	Catholic Holy Hour	1700
Saturday	Catholic Mass	1700
2/3Tuesday	Korean Christian Fellowship Assn.	13:45
Last Tuesday	ROK Catholic Mass	1800
1st Friday:	Catholic Exposition of the Blessed	
	Sacrament	1100
1st Saturday	Catholic Mass to the Blessed Mary	0900

### HANNAM VILLAGE

723-4524, Building 6108

Sunday:	Korean Protestant Service	0930
	Collective Protestant Service	1100

**BRIAN ALLGOOD ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CHAPEL**  
737-5000

Sunday:	Collective Protestant Service	0930
Tuesday:	Catholic Mass	1205

**K-16 CHAPEL**  
741-6687, Building T201 (next to the Post Office)

Sunday:	Collective Protestant	1030
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**MULTI-PURPOSE TRAINING FACILITY**  
723-5951, South Post Movie Theater

Sunday:	Relying on Christ in Korea (ROCK) Contemporary praise and worship	1000
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**BIBLE STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS CLUBS**

There are a large variety of bible studies and religious clubs offered on post. Call South Post Chapel for an up to date listing of these clubs at 738-6054. Depending on your interest you will find many activities available to you and your family. A small sampling includes, AWANA, Men of the Morning Calm, PWOC, Vacation Bible School, Club Beyond, and various bible studies according to faith and interests. The numerous activities these chapels have going on everyday is amazing so take the time to visit a service or just stop by one of the chapels and get involved.

**OFF-POST RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**PROTESTANT**

- **Anglican Church**, call 738-659.
- **Community of Christ** Sunday services at 11am English, young adult gatherings, located near Yonsei University, call 02-334-7912
- **International Lutheran Church** 726-39 Hannam-Dong, Yongsan-Gu, call 02-794-6274
- **Itaewon International Church** English services, call 02-798-4008

- **Kwang Lim Methodist Church** 571-2 Shinsa-Dong, Kangnam-Gu, call 02-546-0151/0152
- **Seoul International Baptist Church**, call 02-793-6268
- **Seoul Union Church**, English speaking, Sunday school at 11am, call 02-333-7393
- **Seventh-Day Adventist** English services, call 02-946-6124
- **Yoido Full Gospel Church** Senior Pastor: Dr. Yonggi Cho. English services, call 02-783-4135
- **Yongsan Baptist Church** Itaewon-Dong (near Crown Hotel), call 02-796-0284
- **Yong Nak Presbyterian Church** 2069 Jeo-dong, Chung-ku, call 02-2280-0228
- **Victory Christian Fellowship** 181-8 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, call 02-703-7418
- **Life More Abundant International Church**, Itaewon-dong, call 02-749-4568

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC

- **Catholic International Parish of Seoul** Across from Hannam Village Apts, call 02-793-2070
- **Myeongdong Cathedral** Myeong-Dong, Chung-Gu, call 02-774-3890
- **The Catholic International Parish** 707 Hannam-Dong, call 02-715-0141
- **St. Francis Chapel** Hannam-Dong, Yongsan-Gu, call 02-793-2070
- **Cathedral & Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Nicholas**, call 02-724-6597

#### ORTHODOX

- **St. Nicholas Cathedral** Some services are in English and some in Greek, call 02-365-3755

#### MORMON

- **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** English, President P.J. Rogers, call 02-723-3081

## **BUDDHIST**

- **Lotus Lantern Int'l Buddhist Center** Ceremonies in English, call 735-5347
- **Seoul International Zen Center** English, Meditation and Dharma talk, call 02-900-4326

## **ISLAM**

- **Seoul Central Masjid** Juma Prayers conducted in Korean, Arabic and English. Services are held at the mosque in Hannam-dong, Yongsan call 02-794-7307

## **JEHOVAH'S WITNESS**

- **Jehovah's Witnesses Seoul English Congregation.** Meetings held Friday and Sunday, the Kingdom Hall is in the Hannam Building, across from the Cheil Communications building.

## **CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

- **The Word of Faith Mission Center,** call 02-749-6995

## **REPAIRS**

For getting things repaired, word of mouth is always the best way. There are new shops springing up all the time. Check a shop's current reputation before leaving anything for repair.

### **ON-POST REPAIR SHOPS**

- **Bicycles** - Four Seasons on Main Post, call 723-2072/2073.
- **Computers** - The Gallery on Main Post, call 723-4030. One Stop Business Center, Bldg S8105, call 02-792-6695.
- **Shoes** - The Gallery of Main Post, call 723-5149.
- **Watch/Jewelry and Camera** - The Gallery on Main Post, call 02-749-9924.

### **OFF-POST REPAIR SHOPS**

#### **AUTO BODY/PAINT SHOPS**

- Charley's Auto Repair, call 793-7919
- Yang's Garage Company, call 322-6939.
- Kim's Garage, call 795-3712.
- Mr. Han's Garage call 797-0909 (outside Gate 52) For those of you who

you do not care to drive off post, Mr. Han's Garage will pick up and return your car for you.

### **GENERAL REPAIRS**

- **Do All Interior Co** For furniture, upholstery, glass, carpet cleaning, draperies, and many other odd job repairs; call, 797-3213/797-1237.

### **REUNION IN KOREA**

Reunion in Korea, a special program sponsored by the Korean National Tourism Organization, is probably one of the best ways to see the country in a hassle-free fashion. The program is designed as a token of gratitude to the U.S. Forces Korea and its personnel serving here. The program enables active duty American service personnel and U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees to bring their family members to Korea at an affordable cost, which varies depending on the point of departure in the United States. The cost per participant includes round-trip airfare and all costs for first-class hotel accommodations, regular meals, tours, and transportation while in Korea for either three days or five days. Air tickets are also available without the tour package. The in-country program includes visits to famous cultural and tourist sites, dinner parties with entertainment, and a presentation by the American forces. Reunion visitors are required to stay a minimum of 7 days, but may remain up to one year if desired (a visa is required for visitors staying longer than 30 days). Personnel already in Korea can join their family members for a minimal charge. Many families have found this to be an excellent way to be together with loved ones and see Korea at the same time. Applications for reunion visits may be obtained and submitted in person to the USO at Camp Kim. For questions concerning the reunion tour call the Reunion Desk at 723-3474.

Email: [reunion@ktbinc.co.kr](mailto:reunion@ktbinc.co.kr). Internet [www.korea.army.mil/pao/cr/reunion.htm](http://www.korea.army.mil/pao/cr/reunion.htm) Or write to: USFK Public Affairs Office, FKPA-CR (REUNION), PSC 303, Box 42, APO AP 96204-0042



## SCHOOLS

If you are coming to Korea as a command-sponsored family, your children are eligible to attend the Department of Defense Dependent Schools located on Yongsan South Post. Non command-sponsored children are accommodated on a space available basis. School buses are provided to certain areas off-post. Please check at the school registration office in the ACS building for bus schedules and pick up locations. Seoul American Elementary School (SAES), Seoul American Middle School (SAMS), and Seoul American High School (SAHS) are fully accredited schools that offer a wide variety of classes and services, including classes for talented and gifted, special education, and English as a second language. School registration is held in June. High School students should report to the High School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor prior to the start of the new school year.

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION

**DoDDS Seoul Registration Office:** 738-7707 (ACS). Only a sponsor or spouse may register the children for school. **Hand Carry** all school records when you PCS. You can only register for school when you are physically in Korea. For registration you need the following:

- **Shot Records** the Immunization Clinic at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital will ensure they are up to date.
- **Orders** one copy of the sponsor's orders verifying command sponsorship (must have dependent's names on orders) is needed for registration.
- **High School** students should report to the High School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor before the school year begins.
- **Kindergarten** and First Grade Students need to bring a copy of their birth certificate or passport.
- **Bus transportation** is provided for students who live in designated areas. For current information, contact the Bus Transportation Office,(bldg 4106, room 121), call 738-5032. Bus passes will be issued only to a parent. You will need to show paperwork verifying your student is registered. Limited bus transportation is offered for children

on post.

### **Korea District Superintendent's Office**

- U.S. Eighth Army Garrison, Yongsan
- Superintendent: Dr. Irby Miller/Deputy Superintendent: Mr. Peter Granier
- Email: KoreaSUPT\_DSO@pac.dodea.edu
- Phone: 738-6826
- From the U.S.: 11-82-2-7918-5922
- Web Site: <http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu>

### **Seoul American Elementary School** (grades K-5, PCSD, and Sure Start)

- Principal: Ms. Melissa Klopfer/Assistant Principle: Mr. Kris Kwietek
- Email: [PRINCIPAL\\_SEOUL\\_ES@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:PRINCIPAL_SEOUL_ES@pac.dodea.edu)
- Phone: 736-4613/5978
- From the U.S.: 011-82-2-7916-4613
- Web Site: <http://www.seoul-es.pac.dodea.edu>

### **Seoul American Middle School** (grades 6-8)

- Principal: Mr. David Dinges/Assistant Principle: Mr. Robbie Swint
- Email: [PRINCIPAL\\_SEOULMS@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:PRINCIPAL_SEOULMS@pac.dodea.edu)
- Phone: 736-7337/7364
- From the U.S.: 011-82-2-7916-7337/7364
- Web Site: <http://www.seoul-ms.pac.dodea.edu>

### **Seoul American High School** (grades 9-12)

- Principal: Mr. Richard J. Schleuter II/Assistant Principle: Mr. Bernard Hipplewith
- Email: [PRINCIPAL\\_SEOULHS@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:PRINCIPAL_SEOULHS@pac.dodea.edu)
- Phone: 736-5261/5263/5265
- From the U.S.: 011-82-2-797-3666/7
- Web Site: <http://www.seoul-hs.pac.dodea.edu>

## **Homeschooling**

Many families who have chosen to home school find their time in Seoul filled with great adventures, fun social groups, and a variety of activities. The cooperative nature of the DoDDS community provides opportunities for homeschoolers to be involved in school classes and activities. This is a special arrangement not always available in the States. Your student can register with the school and take single classes in Elementary, Middle and High School. For example, there are students who take only Korean or Chinese classes.

There are several homeschooling groups on post, both formal and informal. The St. George's Catholic Homeschooler's group is very active and there is also

a Protestant Homeschooler's group. There was recently a non-denominational group active, but the leaders moved. Perhaps you could take over! Because of the transient nature of our assignment, the contact numbers change frequently. Please contact Ms. Rosa Peralta at ACS for a centralized list of homeschooling activities; DSN 738-7123, email [rosa.peralta@korea.army.mil](mailto:rosa.peralta@korea.army.mil). Child Youth and School Services have a home school liaison who can be contacted through the outreach coordinator, at 738-8122.

Because of its urban setting and ease of transportation, Seoul provides more field trip opportunities than one could possibly find time to explore! Zoos, aquariums, markets, museums, fortresses, palaces and so much more! Two fabulous museums are located within walking distance of Yongsan, the Korean War Museum and the Korean National Museum, are located right outside the garrison. Please look at the "Places of Interest" section of this book to see all the exciting places. There is so much for you to do; you will find yourself having to prioritize!

In addition to the many field trip opportunities, we have a fabulous Art and Crafts Center (South Post, Bldg 4253/4254; call 738-4750). They have professional artists who teach such skills as woodworking, pottery, drawing, painting and much more! They offer special classes for homeschoolers.

The Youth Sports program provides your child with great opportunities to excel in sports. There is everything from baseball, soccer, and T-ball to volleyball, flag football, swimming and softball available for all age groups. Many homeschooling families are very active in the Youth Sports program. Coaches are always needed. You can contact Mr. Clark at 738-4581 for more information.

There are other opportunities to participate in physical activities including the Yongsan Fitness Club Program through Collier Field House. Currently, there is a Home School Soccer Club, the Dragons, who meet every Wednesday afternoon 2:30-3:30pm. Unique opportunities to participate in martial arts programs are also available.

To find out some of the legal issues concerning homeschooling overseas, please go to the Homeschooling Legal Defense Association website [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) and search "Military Homeschooling Overseas." The association offers discounts to military members. You will find that because the student of a U.S. military member or a DoD civilian does not reside in any of the 50 states, they are not subject to U.S. State Mandatory Attendance Statutes. Additionally because of the Status of Forces Agreement, they are not subject to homeschooling laws in the host country. However, families can be investigated on an individual basis. Of course, it is highly recommended that you keep thorough records, conduct school for the minimum number of days required by your permanent

state of residence, and document attendance as it will be needed should you either put your child in regular school or transfer to a state with more stringent homeschooling laws.

Having supplies sent to Korea is not always easy, or cheap. Most places charge a bit extra (as much as 10%) to ship to an APO address. Because many homeschooling supply companies are small family owned businesses, they do not always offer the discounted shipping available to State side customers. You cannot always have items you wish to purchase, shipped here either. Please consider bringing some of your supplies with you, especially hard to find items such as: globes, electronic educational toys, maps, religious materials (of any kind) and reference materials. Also, if you have several children, consider bringing the reusable text books you have used for older children. You never know, you may extend (AIP) and end up staying longer than you expected. You can mail some materials to yourself from the States and be reimbursed up to \$200 from the military (keep all post office receipts). This is especially helpful when moving during the summer. Your household goods may not arrive in time for the start of school.

Some companies who ship to APO addresses are listed below (also see Internet Shopping in the rear of this book).

Amazon.com  
Barnes and Noble  
Home Science Tools  
Seton Home Study  
Catholic Heritage Curricula  
Bob Jones

**JROTC PROGRAM** - The JROTC program of the Seoul American High School (SAHS) is vibrant, with on average, over 70 ROTC/Academy Scholarships awarded annually. Information is available by calling 738-7421/7423

**PRESCHOOLS** - There are three schooling options available on-post for preschool age children:

- Sure Start is a program designated for children ages 3 and 4 of parents ranked E-7 or GS6 and below or children who otherwise qualify. The school is run five days a week from 8am-noon. There is no fee for enrollment. Parents are encouraged to commit to a minimum number of volunteer hours, call 736-4378.
- The Yongsan Child Development Center offers a part-day preschool

program for children ages 3-5, a 3-day program (M/W/F) and a 2-day program (T/Thurs) from 8-11:30am. Register at Central Registration (738-5036) and they will provide information on availability and schedule of fees based on pay grade.

- Mustard Seed Christian Preschool is a South Post Chapel program. Classes for four-year olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Classes for three-year olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes are offered in the morning; 8:15-11:15am and afternoon; 12:15-3:15pm. Register as soon as possible since spaces for this school fill quickly. To check for current information call DSN 738-8503/4220.

### **OFF-POST SCHOOLS**

- **Centennial Christian School** (k-12), call 02-762-3160
- **International Christian School** (K-12), call, 792-4116/7
- **Seoul Academy** (K-8), call 02-554-1690
- **Seoul Foreign School** (K-12), call 02-335-5101/5
- **Seoul International School** (K-12), call 02-233-4551/2

### **OTHER DoDDS IN KOREA**

DoDDS Pacific Schools on the Korean Peninsula are constantly being upgraded. New schools are being introduced in some areas and projected to open August 2010, in time for the School Year 2010/2011. Listed below is information for all current DoDDs Schools throughout Korea, along with New Schools and their projected opening dates.

**CHINHAE**, U.S. Navy Base, Command Fleet Activities, Korea

- **CT Joy Elementary School** <http://www.ctjoy-es.pac.dodea.edu>
- DSN: 762-5466/5477, from US: 011-82-55-540-5466
- Fax DNS: 762-5465, Fax from US: 011-82-55-540-5465
- Email: PRINCIPAL\_\*JOYES2@pac.dodea.edu

**USAG-Daegu**, Daegu

- **Daegu American School, K-12** <http://www.daegu-un.pac.dodea.edu>
- DSN: 768-9501, from US: 011-82-53-473-4354
- Fax DSN: 768-7787, Fax from US: 011-82-53-470-7787
- Email: [principal\\_daeguehs@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:principal_daeguehs@pac.dodea.edu)

**USAG-Humphreys**, Pyongtaek

- **Humphreys American School, K-8** <http://www.humphreys-es.pac.dodea.edu>

### **dodea.edu**

- DSN: 753-6313, from US: 011-82-31-690-6313
- Fax DSN: 753-8992, Fax from US: 011-82-31-690-8992
- Email: **PRINCIPAL\_\*HUMPHREYES@pac.dodea.edu**

### **Osan Air Base, Osan**

- **Osan American Elementary School, <http://www.osan-es.pac.dodea.edu>**
- DSN: 784-6912, from US: 011-82-31-661-6912
- Fax DSN: 784-5733, Fax from US: 011-82-31-661-5733
- Email: **PRINCIPAL.OSANES@pac.dodea.edu**
- **Osan American Middle School, <http://www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu>**
- DSN: 784-2282, from US: 011-82-31-661-2282
- FAX: TBD
- Email: TBD
- Projected to open August 2010 for school year 2010/2011
- **Osan American High School <http://www.osan-hs.pac.dodea.edu>**
- DSN: 784-9076/9098/9096, from US: 011-82-31-661-9098
- Fax: DSN: 784-9121, Fax from US: 011-82-31-661-9121
- Email: **PRINCIPAL.OSANHS@pac.dodea.edu**

### **USAG-Casey, Dongduchon**

- **Casey American School, K-8. <http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu>**
- DSN: 738-6826, from the U.S.: 011-82-2-7918-5922
- Fax: TBD
- Email: **KoreaSUPT\_DSO@pac.dodea.edu**

Projected to open August 2010 for school year 2010/2011

### **SCOUTS**

Active scouting programs are available for boys and girls. Adult volunteers are welcome. Registration drives begin in the fall. Check with the school office, Channel 3 and Morning Calm for flyers and current contact information.

- **Girl Scouts** - The Girl Scout Hut is located next to the furniture store on South Post 738-6131 [gsocseoul@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocseoul@yahoo.com), [www.westpacificgirlscouts.com](http://www.westpacificgirlscouts.com) or [www.girlscouts.org/overseas](http://www.girlscouts.org/overseas)
- **Boy Scouts** - The Boy Scout Hut is located in Bldg S3646 next to South Post Chapel, 738-4860, [boyscout@zama.army.mil](mailto:boyscout@zama.army.mil), Far East Council contact Web Address [www.fareastbsa.org](http://www.fareastbsa.org)

## **SKIING**

Snow skiing is rapidly becoming one of the most popular sports in Korea. There are many ski resorts within South Korea and trips can be booked through the schools, USO and MWR. Rental equipment is available at the resorts. Osan AB. Outdoor Recreation Center also offers ski rental equipment. Please refer to **Travel in Korea** for more information.

## **SOFA**

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is the treaty between the American and Korean governments that ensures certain privileges and rights to American military members and their families in the Republic of Korea. All aspects of the American presence in Korea are dealt with under SOFA, which is continually undergoing reviews and revisions by a bi-national committee. American passports with the A-3 visa stamp should be stamped with a SOFA stamp also. Family members whose passports are not stamped with a SOFA stamp may experience detainment or fines when re-entering Korea. This stamp is NOT automatic it must be obtained within 90 days of arriving in Korea. Both **command and non-command** sponsored family members need this stamp. Check with ACS to get the time and day that the Korean Immigration Office will be at Yongsan to stamp passports. Check with ACS for all current information 738-7999/7186/7505.

**2ID family members** receive their SOFA stamp through the 2ID Liaison NCOIC, at the 1st Replacement Company Bldg (4034), DSN 723-5461.

## **SPACE AVAILABLE FLIGHTS**

Space 'A' Travel is available through Osan Air Base, located south of Seoul **www.osan.af.mil** Dependents of active duty members may travel within the continental United States when accompanying their sponsor on emergency leave or on permissive house-hunting trips incident to a permanent change of station move. Command sponsored dependents stationed overseas are allowed unaccompanied travel to, from, and within the overseas theater (in addition to environmental morale leave previously authorized). Travel restrictions may apply to certain overseas areas as determined by the unified commander.

Members traveling in non-command sponsored status must have documentation signed by their sponsor's commander verifying command sponsorship during their travels and show to air terminal personnel. Family members under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an eligible parent or legal guardian. Osan Air Base has limited traffic in and out, so patience is a must.

Smaller aircraft go to and from Yokota Air Base in Japan more frequently. **Note;** smaller planes limit baggage to 30 lbs total weight.

**To sign-up for space available travel:**

E-mail the following information to **OsanSpaceA@Osan.af.mil**

Name (Last, First, MI)

Grade/Rank

Branch of service

Local phone number

Number of required seats

Travel category

Date leave begun (**Note:** You must be on leave to sign-up for Space-A)

Date leave ends

Country choices (List up to 5; one choice may be "ALL")

Names of dependents traveling and type of passport (U.S. or foreign)

Once you register, you are assigned a category of travel and compete for seats within categories based on the date and time of registration. This date and time of sign-up is yours through to destination; you will receive a new date and time when you register for your return travel. For further information contact;

DSN 315-784-1854; Comm.: 011-82-31-661-1854

Fax: DSN 315-784-4897; Comm.: 011-82-31-661-4897

Email: **OsanSpaceA@Osan.af.mil**

Hours of Operation: 6:30am-9pm, 7 days a week

**SUBWAY**

See Transportation in section **T** of this book for details of how to ride the subway, fares and other subway details.

**SWIMMING**

There are four on post swimming pools. One is covered for year round use and located on Main Post (Just before Camp Coiner 725-6984). The Point Health Club at the Dragon Hill Lodge also has a year round pool, but is only available to hotel guests and fee paying members of The Point. The other two pools are located next to the high school (South Post, 738-4537) and at the Hannam Village Housing area (723-6849/6847), respectively. The swimming season for these two pools runs from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. A fifth pool is located adjacent to the gymnasium on K-16 Air Base, and is open year round to all ID card holders.



## TELEPHONES

The telephone/internet provider you use will depend on where you live.

**If you live in on-post housing**, you must first establish line connectivity by visiting the 41st Signal Battalion (bldg 2320, Phone: 738-6900). The telephone/internet provider for **all** Yongsan housing areas (including Hannam Village and K-16 Air Base) is LG Telecom, located on the 1st floor of Moyer Community Activity Center, call 723-7023/7030 or 02-6355-5000. They offer several different plans as well as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone numbers. This is a U.S. phone number that friends and family can use to call you at U.S. local/long distance rates instead of expensive international rates. You can even request the area code where your family lives, so all calls to you will be local calls!

**Note:** If your current telephone/internet provider is KT, you are not required to switch to LG Telecom. However, you will need to if you are interested in getting a VOIP phone number, since it is only available through LG Dacom.

**If you live off post**, your telephone/internet provider will be Korea Telecom (KT). To get to the KT office, go out Gate 19. Walk to the main road and take a right. The office is a short distance up this road on the right hand side (call commercial 02-797-0060). Bill payments can be made on post at the Business One Stop Center (above Starbucks in the Embassy Association building) or at any of the following locations (for a W2,000 service fee): 7 Eleven, Family Mart, or any Post Office.

If you do not have a telephone in your quarters, there are overseas telephone lines available for use at MCAC and at the USO. You can use the phones and pay for calls in; dollars, won or by using pre-paid telephone cards. The USO also has CALL FOR FREE phones at Camp Kim. Contact them at 724-7003/3301. You can use pre-paid phone cards in all local pay telephones and in Korean **cell phones**. Unfortunately, your U.S. cell phone will not work here. See Cell Phones, Section C, for more information on buying a Korean cell phone. Some cell phone plans also include calls to and from the States at reasonable prices so check your options before you buy.

## TELEPHONE DIALING INFORMATION

Offices and some housing areas in the Yongsan area have **DSN** (Defense Switching Network) phones.

**Military phone numbers (DSN)** in Korea have seven digits. The Yongsan Post is divided into six areas with six different prefixes; 723, 724, 725, 736, 737 and 738 Hannam Village prefix is 749 K-16 prefix is 741

### Commercial Phones

Your on-post home phone has a commercial phone line. Off-post apartments and local businesses also have commercial phone lines.

**Cell phones** have prefixes; 010, 011, 016, 017 and 018.

### CALLING FROM A MILITARY PHONE

- To call any military phone number in Korea from a military phone, just dial the seven digit number direct.
- To call to a commercial phone or cell phone from a military phone, dial **99** then the number.

### CALLING FROM A COMMERCIAL PHONE OR CELL PHONE

- To call a military phone from a commercial phone or cell phone, dial **0505** then the seven digit number.
- To call a commercial phone from a cell phone, dial **02** then the number.

### TO CALL SEOUL PHONE NUMBERS FROM THE UNITED STATES

To place a call from the U.S. to a commercial phone in Seoul, dial **1-011-822-XXX-XXXX**

From the U.S. to a cell phone in SEOUL, dial **1-011-82+last two prefix digits+rest of phone number.**

From the U.S. to a military phone in Seoul, dial **1-011-822-791X-XXXX**

## TELEVISION

AFN-K (Armed Forces Network-Korea) provides both radio and TV broadcasts to the American military community. Projected weekly schedules are given in area publications such as; Stars and Stripes, Korea Herald and Korea Times. Check the following website for the latest TV schedule:

**<http://afnkorea.com/tv.htm>.**

For a monthly service charge, viewers can receive the following channels:

AFN, CNN, Fox News, ESPN, TNT, HBO, Cinemax, Star World, Star Movies, MTV, National Geographic Channel-Asia, and several other channels. Various shows from some “major” networks (CBS, ABC, CNN and NBC) are also broadcast. Much more information on Cable TV packages and off-post installation can be found in section C of this book.

## TENNIS

Numerous courts are scattered around Main and South Posts. Adult and children’s lessons are available for a fee. For court reservations or information contact Collier Gym 736-4563/4588.

## THEATRES

**The Yongsan Performing Arts Center** (John Merlin Wood Community Theatre) currently located in the Moyer Community Activities Center is host to the Yongsan Players who perform several productions each year. Auditions are held periodically for community/amateur performers. The AFN-Korea “Community Calendar” gives information daily on Yongsan concerts and activities, as well as new listings of cultural events in the area. The Seoul Word also offers weekly information about cultural events in the area.

**The Sejong Center for the Performing Arts** is located across from the U.S. Embassy in downtown Seoul. Take the subway Line 5; get off at the Gwanghwamun Station 533, Exit 1. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket booth outside the main doors to the left. Visit their website at [www.sejongpac.or.kr](http://www.sejongpac.or.kr). Phone: 02-501-1377. Be aware that cultural events at the Sejong Center are more expensive for foreign performances than for local Korean performances.

## THRIFT SHOP

Volunteers from the American Women’s Club of Korea Thrift Shop Association in conjunction with the United States Military operate the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop. It is a non profit organization which is located in Building 4222 next to the Chosun Gift Shop. The Thrift Shop offers resale items, from clothing to furniture. All are welcome to shop and/or donate items. Donations are taken during store hours or there is a donation bin located near the side entrance of the shop available 24 hours a day. Consignment of items is also a service provided by the thrift shop, but only active American Women’s Club members (See **Clubs/Organizations**) or Governmental ID card holders can consign items. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop are used to support charities in the local community and on post. For more information call, 02-795-7675 or email [welfare\\_awctsa1@](mailto:welfare_awctsa1@)

hotmail.com.

**Operating hours;** Mon and Sat 10am-3pm, Wed 10am-6pm.

Consignment hours are by appointment only.

## **TOY ALLEY**

If you are looking for a wide selection of toys, games, arts& crafts and school supplies this area is a must to visit. For more information, and directions on how to get to Toy Alley, turn to the Shopping section **Dongdaemun (East Gate Market)** at the back of the book.

## **TOYS-R-US**

A store is located on the upper level of the Lotte Adventure World Complex.

**Directions:** From USAG-Yongsan take Subway Line 4 (light Blue) from either Gate 17 or 19 to Sadang Station. At Sadang Station, transfer to Line 2 (Green). Follow the signs for Line 2, be sure to go up the stairs at the very end of the station and make a sharp “U” turn to the right, this leads to the platform for line 2. Take the Line 2 train to Jamsil Station, and follow the signs to Exit 3-Lotte Adventure World. Continue walking underground past the information booth. At the second “intersection” turn left, the ticket counter for Lotte World is straight ahead. **Note:** If you continue to walk straight ahead at the second intersection, instead of turning left, you will see signs leading to the **Toys-R-U**s Store which is located on the upper levels of the complex.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Getting around Yongsan, Seoul and Korea as a whole, even as a one-car family, is not really difficult once you learn the available means of transportation.

### ***On-Post Transportation:***

**Shuttle bus** - This is a free bus service provided primarily for the convenience of active duty personnel, but it has become an important means of transportation for many family members as well. The buses run from the bus terminal at Moyer CAC on Main Post, to Camp Coiner and the South Post areas, with stops at the hospital, various housing areas, Commissary, and various other locations. Route maps are available at ACS and Moyer Community Activities Center. The newly constructed/renovated bus stops are easily seen throughout the post, marked by white “shuttle bus” signs and, at times, crowds of people. IDs are required to ride the bus. During duty hours, buses run every 20 minutes and after duty hours every 30 minutes until 1800. A special shuttle runs between Hannam Village and Yongsan, this shuttle runs approximately every hour. Bus schedules

are posted at all of the bus stops.

**Taxis** - AAFES provides taxi service for use by military ID card holders. These taxis are available for destinations both on and off post. AAFES cabs are the **only** taxis permitted on the post. The drivers speak some English, and the fare is paid in U.S. currency or Won. The telephone number for the **Taxi Dispatch Service is 1544-9080**, email **taxi@fnholdings.com**. Taxis stands are located at Dragon Hill Lodge, the BAACH, Commissary, PX (during operating hours) and the bus terminal on Main Post. The taxi service offers Regular Taxi Service in and around the Yongsan area as well as an Airport Taxi Service Area. Call hours are; 5:30am-11:30pm, seven days a week.

**Military Buses** - In addition to the on post shuttle bus service, there are buses that provide transportation to Osan AFB, USAG-Humphreys, USAG-Red Cloud, USAG-Casey, Camp Jackson, and all other local camps. The buses originate and terminate at the bus terminal located at Moyer CAC. Check at Moyer CAC for the most current information about routes, schedules and fares. Some hotels offer shuttle bus service to and from Moyer CAC on a regular basis; your hotel reception desk can provide information and schedules.

***Off-Post Transportation:***

**Local Taxis** - Though being fluent in Korean is not necessary, it is helpful to know a few directional words when riding with the Korean taxi drivers. Tipping cab drivers, like most other services in Korea, is not necessary, but accepted. AAFES taxi drivers, however expect a small tip. Local Korean taxis are not permitted on post, but the on post cabs will pick you up from wherever you are in and around Seoul. If you do take a local taxi to Yongsan you will be deposited outside one of the many gates leading into Main or South Post. Depending on where you are going or where your car is located, you can have quite a long walk, so make sure you know what gate you need. Most local taxi drivers know Yongsan if you say that, but you may end up on the other side of post so learn the landmarks! The local taxis are medium-size cabs, usually gray or white in color and recognizable by the blue sign on the roof. They seem to dart in and out of traffic at what appears to be appalling speeds. They are indeed fast and usually quite reliable as long as you know your desired destination in Korean (have someone write it out for you in Hangul). Look for "Free Interpretation" signs on cabs, some cabs now carry this service with an English speaking phone interpreter to help get you to your destination. There is also a Volunteer Translation Service called BBB that you can call wherever and whenever for help in communicating 02-1588-5644.

**Deluxe taxis** - These are the somewhat larger taxis seen in the city. They are black with a yellow sign on the roof and the words "Deluxe Taxi" written on the side. These cabs are more expensive, but the drivers generally speak some English. Again, make sure there is a meter or negotiate a price **before** you get into the taxi.

**City Buses** - Seoul is also served by an excellent bus system. In the city, the buses are plainly numbered and run frequently to most destinations. The fare is cheap, but the buses are extremely crowded during peak rush hours. Hotel personnel, as well as the information staff at Moyer Community Activities Center, can give you bus routings. The following website may be helpful

[www.lifeinkorea.com/information/trans/seoul-tran.cfm](http://www.lifeinkorea.com/information/trans/seoul-tran.cfm). Buses and taxis use the same T-Money cards as the subway so you can alternate payment between the bus and subway easily (see paragraph below for more information about T-Money cards).

**Subway** - Seoul has a comprehensive subway system that will get you easily and quickly to almost any part of the city. This is a great way to get around. At the Ticket Desk, ask for an **English Subway Map**. There is a list on the back of the map of the most popular places in Seoul, which exit to take once you are at the destination station, and even how long it will take to walk from that exit to your desired destination. It's a pocket guide to Seoul! Also see the subway map in this book. Subway fares are very reasonable around W900 each way, unless you transfer to a different line, then the fare is a little extra.

**There are two ways to pay:**

- You simply go to the ticket window, state your destination, pay the fare and receive a ticket. Validate the ticket at the turnstile with the lighted arrow. Do not destroy or lose your ticket because you will need it to exit the subway at your destination.
- Ask at the subway station booth for a T-Money card. There are advertisements for it on the booth window, just point to the advert if you encounter a language problem. It works like a credit card, you can put as much won on the card as you need, as little as W5,000 is enough. When you go to the turnstile lay your card flat, with the T sign facing up and swipe it. The machine will register the amount charged for the trip and show your remaining balance. It is so convenient if you ride the subway a lot (especially when shopping!) and it saves time at each place if you do

not have to get a new ticket. Just go and go until your card money runs low and then recharge the same card, hand the person at the ticket booth your money and point at the card or go to the T-Money machine located in most stations and add as much as you want. The machines are very easy to operate, instructions are in English.

**BOARDING THE SUBWAY** - Go downstairs to the tracks where you will board the next train. Stand behind the yellow lines (arrows indicate where the doors will be located on the subway car), and board the subway from the left or right side of the doors (you learn quickly not to board from the center when a throng of people pour out of the door!). All station stops are identified in Hangul and English along with station numbers. Pay attention, announcements are made in Korean and English, but you can easily miss your stop. Look at the big center number at the station stop, the name of the Station will be listed with smaller numbers to the left and right of center. These small numbers indicate the station the train just left, and where the train is going next. It is important to pay attention to which direction you want to go. Some stations signs only mention the beginning or ending of the line you are on, or line transfer station (signified by the multi-colored swirl on the map) along the way. For instance if you are going to shop in Namdaemun Market and leave post from Gate 19 (**E-Mart** gate), you will be on Line 4 (light Blue) at Sinyongsan Station (429). You would get your ticket for Hoehyeon Station and then get on the train going in the direction of Danggogae (because it is one end of the Blue Line and you know you want to go that direction) and then get off four stops later at Hoehyeon and look for your exit sign, which for the market is exit 5. To transfer to different color lines (easy), follow the color on the map with the color lines on the walls and watch for the Station names and numbers, once you get the hang of it, you will be hooked. If you end up going the wrong direction, just get off at the next stop and go over to the opposite side and hop on that train (no extra fare). Koreans are very helpful and will do all they can to point you in the right direction if you are lost or confused.

When you reach your destination follow the crowd up the steps, turn in your ticket/ swipe your card at the turnstile, pay attention to the exit numbers. Each station usually has numerous exits leading to different sides of the street. Refer to your map or look for the directory in each station, it will inform you (in English) which exit you need. The Koreans that ride the subway are very quiet, most read or sleep, so try to be respectful of there customs by not talking too loudly. During rush hour, it can become quite congested. If you have small children you will soon notice that a lot of older Korean women may look or reach out to

touch your child. They love children and mean well but obviously some parents find this uncomfortable. Just be aware and the simple gesture of pulling your child close to you lets them know the limits. There are designated areas at the end of each subway car reserved for pregnant women, handicapped and the elderly. You may sit in this area if no one fitting that description needs the seat... otherwise you will be expected to give the seat to an elderly person or pregnant mother.

**NOTE:** The subway closes at midnight! You will be forced to leave the subway at that time, regardless of your destination or present location. The subway website is [www.seoulmetro.co.kr](http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr) click on the English link. See the Subway Map at the end of this book.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT 101** - For those who feel they are a novice at public transportation Army Community Services (ACS) is there to help. Once a month and twice during the summer, ACS offers Transportation 101. This class provides classroom and "real world" experience on subways, buses and Taxis. Sign up for this class as soon as you arrive. All participants will receive a free T-Money card, but, take at least W5,000 to load onto your card, with about another W10,000 for your lunch out in Seoul. The class takes brief trips to the Express Bus Terminal, Namdaemun Market, Lotte Mart store or City Hall/Chang-dok Palace. Children are welcome, after all, they moved to Seoul too and besides you will need to learn to travel on the public transport system with them in tow.

**TRAINS** - Riding the train in Korea is a wonderful way to discover Korea without having to worry about the traffic or car problems in an unfamiliar area. A ticket office is located on Main Post, Bldg: S2664, at Gate 2. There are several different trains to choose from: the KTX Train is the fastest and most comfortable way to get to Daejeon, Daegu and Busan. It costs a little more, but it is more comfortable and does not make any other stops along the way. The green and orange lines will take you to the in between stops, but be prepared for a longer ride. You can purchase tickets at Seoul Station located just outside the subway stop of the same name. There is a ticket line designated for foreigners. For more information about the Korean National Railroad visit this website and click on English [www.korail.go.kr](http://www.korail.go.kr)

## TRANSPORTATION TO OTHER CAMPS/GARRISONS IN KOREA

**COMMERCIAL BUSES** - leave from Moyer CAC and schedules are available at the MCAC ticket office.

### SUBWAY

**To USAG-Casey** - Take Line 1 north, Soyosan direction; get off at Bosan Station number 104 (not to be confused with Busan). USAG-Casey main gate is about 3 blocks from the train station. Alternatively, take Line 4 (Blue) from Sinyongsan Station 429 (close to Gate 19) heading north in the direction of Danggogae. Change to Line 1 (Purple) at Chang-dong (412), in the direction of Soyosan and exit at Bosan Station (104).

**To USAG-Humphreys** - Take Line 1(Purple) south in the Cheonan direction, get off at the Pyeongtaek station (P164). Take a taxi or Bus 20 to the main gate.

**To Osan** - Take Line 1 (Purple) south in the Cheonan direction, get off at the Songtan station (P161), which is a few blocks from the main gate or about a W2,000 taxi ride. **Note:** Make sure the subway train you board goes as far as Songtan Station! Some trains stop in the service yards where the cleaning crew board and start to work and the drivers change shifts, before the train heads back the way you came....Yes! Been there, done that.

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

**To USAG-Red Cloud (CRC)** - From Gate 52 (Commissary Gate) turn right and move toward the center lane to cross the Banpo Bridge. At the traffic light at the end of the bridge turn left to merge onto the Olympic Expressway (Hwy 88). Stay on 88 and follow the signs for the 100 Expressway. There are two exits off Hwy 88....take the second exit in the direction of Guri. There are two toll booths along this route, expect to pay a total of about 2400won. Look for the Uijeongbu exit about 300 meters after passing through the second of two tunnels. Stay in the left lanes of the exit ramp and merge into city traffic, working your way over to the left lane. Follow the signs for Route 39 to a major intersection with two left turn lanes, and turn left at the light. Continue to follow Route 39 signs through one stoplight intersection and a major rock-drop. At the next light, a T intersection near a very large highway overpass, follow the left turn lane. Take the first right turn, just prior to the underpass support, onto the entrance ramp to merge onto Route 39. Stay on this road as it becomes an overpass. The PX

gate of Camp Red Cloud will be on your left. A left turn is not allowed at the traffic light so drive to the next light and make a U-turn. Drive back to the main gate and take a right at the light.

**To USAG-Casey/Camp Hovey** - Drive out of Gate 52 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge staying in the left lane. At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Continue to HWY 100 towards GURI. Stay on this highway (you will have two tolls) until you get to exit 14 Uijeonbu. Follow the ramp signs and make sure to stay under the Uijeonbu exit. Stay straight on this road until you to a major fork in the road, just follow traffic to right. Continue thru Uijeonbu city making no sharp turns left or right! Once you come to a tall building with mirrored outside walls, a sign that says YANGJU with a big screen TV, take a right at the light onto MSR 3. Take this road all the way to USAG-Casey which will be on your right hand side.

**To USAG-Humphreys** - Drive out of Gate 52 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge staying in the left lane. At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Stay to the right and take Route 1 South exit, this is a toll road. Stay to the LEFT as the road will split and you want to be in the center lanes going straight. Continue to exit 40. At exit 40, after the toll booth, get in the left lane and at the next light take a left onto Route 38. Follow this until you come to the ASAN exit, where you exit and at the 2nd light veer to the right which will then lead you directly to the main gate.

**To Osan Air Base** - Drive out of Gate 52 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge stay in the left lane. At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Stay to the right and take the Route 1 South exit, this is a toll road. Stay to the LEFT as the road will split, go straight ahead in the center lanes. Continue straight until you get to exit 42. After the toll booth continue straight until you see a tire shop (on your right), this will be at a light take a LEFT. Drive straight ahead until you see a sign for OSAN AIR BASE where you will take a right up onto an overpass. This road takes you directly to the gate, if that gate is closed, turn around and go back to your first RIGHT and follow that to the alternate gate.

**To Camp Stanley** - Drive out of Gate 52 (Commissary Gate) and take a right. Get into the left hand lane and go over the Banpo Bridge staying in the left lane.

At the light at the end of the bridge take a left onto the Olympic Expressway HWY 88. Continue to HWY 100 towards GURI. Stay on this highway through the first toll booth, at the second toll booth area get all the way to the right and exit at BYOLLAE and follow it off. Stay straight on this road until you come to a "T" intersection/light, make a LEFT and follow the signs, Camp Stanley will be on your left.

**TRAVEL SERVICES**

**Post Travel Services** - Are located at DHL and Moyer CAC (US Alliance) USO office (Camp Kim) offer information on Korean and overseas travel. Those stationed in Korea can also check out Space-A-Travel options available from Osan Air Base.

Popular destinations in Asia include China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan and Thailand. A brief overview of some destinations is given in the **Travel Outside Of Korea** Section in the back of this book.

Official travel service are located on the 2nd floor of Moyer CAC.

**USAG-YONGSAN TRAVEL SERVICES**

**USO TOURS**

**Location:** USO at Camp Kim, Building 1224  
Telephone 724-7003/3301  
Hours of Operation: M-F 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-5pm

**US Alliance:**

**Location:** Dragon Hill Lodge, Building 4050  
Telephone 738-2222 ext 6800  
Hours of Operation: M-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun and holidays 10am-2pm

**US Alliance:**

**Location:** Moyer CAC, 2nd floor  
Telephone 723-8790/2259  
723-8549/7834  
Hours of Operation: M-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun and Holidays 10am-2pm

Delta Airline 754-1921  
Northwest Airlines 732-1700  
United Airlines 757-1691  
American Airlines 734-8820

## **TRICARE Korea**

### **USAG-Yongsan, BAACH RM**

The office is located in the main building of the hospital.

Beneficiary Enrollment; 736-8071

Host Nation Appointment Clerks 736-8558/7238

Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinator or debt Collection Assistance Officer; 736-7236

### **USAG Humphreys, Bldg S555**

Located inside the US Army Health Clinic

Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinator; 753-7708

### **USAG-Daegu, Bldg S221**

Located inside the Wood Clinic on Camp Walker

Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinator; 764-4683

- **TRICARE Pacific** TRICARE Pacific is the health care program for active duty members, active duty family members, eligible retirees, retiree family members, and eligible survivors of all uniformed services. TRICARE is designed to assure access to quality health care, control health care costs, and improve medical readiness. The only program options available within the ROK are TRICARE Prime, Standard and TRICARE for Life. TRICARE questions can be directed to the 18th MEDCOM TRICARE Service Center at DSN 736-8558/7238 or commercial 02-7916-8558/7238.
- **TRICARE Prime** Effective 1 October 2005, Non Command Sponsored Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) are not eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime due to a change in the DoD policy. These family members are eligible for TRICARE Standard, which allows space available care in the Military Healthcare System. This new policy does not affect Non Command Sponsored ADFMs enrolled in TRICARE Prime in Korea prior to 1 Oct 2005, as they are grandfathered into Prime and will maintain their Prime benefit until the AD Service Member's DEROS. Active duty service members and their family members (who are with their sponsors in Korea) are the only individuals authorized to participate in TRICARE Prime in Korea. Active duty members must transfer their enrollment at their current duty station in order to receive services. Active duty members are not automatically transferred after relocating to a new duty station. Soldiers are briefed on TRICARE during in-processing at the 1st Replacement Company and are provided with an enrollment form for their family members. Enrollment forms can also be obtained from local military treatment facilities (MTF) and

the TRICARE Service Centers. Once completed, the enrollment form can be mailed through the Military Postal System (MPS), turned in to the nearest TMC or faxed. Eligible family members in CONUS may enroll at their local MTF. Everyone who enrolls in the TRICARE Prime program will be assigned a primary care manager. There are minimal out-of-pocket expenses for non-emergency care associated with this option. **Note:** OCONUS retirees may now register for TRICARE prime benefits. Call the TRICARE Service Center at DSN 736-8558/7238 or com 7916-8558/7238.

- **TRICARE Standard** All classes of individuals, except active duty service members and their family members who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime are automatically covered by TRICARE Standard. Those individuals covered by this option are seen on a space-available basis. If seen at host nation medical facilities, patients must pay upfront and submit the claims (current TRICARE deductibles and cost shares will apply.) They also abide by current TRICARE /Champus rules.
- **TRICARE For Life** For military retirees and their eligible family members who are 65 years and older. You must purchase Medicare Part B in order to keep TRICARE eligibility. OCONUS retirees may now register for TRICARE prime benefits. Call the TRICARE Service Center at DSN 736-8558/7238 or com 7916-8558/7238. For more information on TRICARE visit this website: [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).



## USAG-DAEGU

Daegu is one of the largest cities in Korea. Major tourist attractions include Mt. Biseulsan Provincial Park and Mt. Palgongsan Provincial Park. The azalea and purple Eulalie blossoms of Mt. Biseulsan Park offer exquisite views during the spring and fall months. Other nearby attractions include: Daegu National Museum, Donghwasu Temple and the Daegu Medicine Market.

### LODGING:

#### Camp Walker Lodge

Call DSN

764-5536

DSN Fax	764-5535
Calling from the U.S	011-82-54-475-6213
From the States Fax	011-82-53-470-5535
www.mwr.korea.army.mil	

### **Camp Carroll Lodge**

Call DSN	765-7722
DSN Fax:	765-8058
If Calling from the U.S.	011-82-54-970-7722,
From the States Fax	011-82-54-970-8058

### **GOLF:**

#### **Camp Walker**

Driving Range Open daily  
Hours 0530-1900  
Phone 764-4601

### **BOWLING:**

#### **Walker Bowling Center**

Sun-Thurs 1130-2230, Fri-Sat 1130-0100  
Phone 764-4334

#### **Carroll Bowling Center**

Mon-Thurs 1100-1300 and 1600-2230  
Fri 1100-1300 and 1600-0100  
Sat 1500-0100, Sun 1500-2230  
Phone 765-8409

### **POST CLUBS:**

Camp Walker	Evergreen	764-4060
	Hilltop	764-4985
Camp Henry	Henry's Place	768-7300
Camp Carroll	Hideaway Club	765-8574

### **OFF POST ATTRACTIONS:**

**DAEGU NATIONAL MUSEUM** was built to preserve and exhibit the unique cultural heritage of Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do province, featuring an Archeology Gallery containing relics from the Neolithic Era to Korea's Three Kingdom's period; an Art History Gallery focused on the Buddhist culture of

Daegu; and the Traditional Folk Life Gallery, where visitors can see traditional Korean houses.

**How to get there;** Address:70, Hwanggeum-dong, Suseong-gu, and Daegu.

At Daegu Train Station, take Bus No.349 or No.524.

At Daegu Express Bus Terminal, take Bus No. 514 or No. 814.

Get off at Daegu National Museum

Tel. 82-53-1330 [www.tgmuseum.org](http://www.tgmuseum.org)

**Open Times:**

Mar-Oct:9am to 6pm (7pm on Sat, Sun, Holidays)

Nov-Feb:9am to 5pm **Closed Jan 1, every Monday**

**Admission:** Adult W400, Ages 19-24 W200, Under 18yrs and Over 65yrs are free.

\*the first Sunday of the month admission is free for all.

**DONGHWASA TEMPLE** is located in Dohak-dong, Dong-gu Daegu. It was built by monk Geuk-Dal in the 15th year of the Silla King Soji's reign in 493. King HeungDeok renamed the temple "**Donghwasa**" during his reign. It means "even during the winter season, the paulownia tree still blooms."

**How to get there:** From Daegu Station (Daegu Subway exit No.3), take City Bus No.105 coming every 10 Min. or No.131 coming every 1 Hour. Get off at Donghwasa Mass Facility Area (Travel Time 1 Hour). Walk 7-8 min. Taxi takes 40-45 Min. From Daegu Station to Donghwasa Temple, about a 20 min. ride from Daegu Airport. Tel.82-53-985-0980

**Open times:** Sunrise to Sunset

**Admission:** Adult W2,500, Ages 13-18 W1,500, Ages 12 and under W1,000

**DAEGU MEDICINE MARKET** in Namseong-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu, is a major herbal medicine market specializing in Joseon Era medicine practices. Herb farmers, collectors, sellers and buyers line the streets. There are about 50 herbal medicine stores, 25 herbal clinics, 85 herbal doctors and 20 ginseng stores. It was the first Medicine Wholesale Market in Korea. At the exhibition on the 2nd floor of the wholesale market you can get baskets used to collect herbs, 'yakjanggi' to store herbs, scales and old books of herbal Medicine.

**How to get there:** Walk 20 minutes from the Daegu Train Station.

Take bus No. 439 or No. 535 from East Daegu Train Station (5 min travel time) or take the subway and get off at the Jungangno Station (5 min travel time)

Tel. +82-53-661-3324 <http://www.herbmart.or.kr>

**Open Times:** Monday-Friday 9am-6pm (Saturday) 9am-5pm.

**Closed Sundays and holidays.**

## **USAG-HUMPHREYS, CAMP LONG AND CAMP EAGLE**

The facilities at Suwon Air Base are undergoing vast changes to improve accommodation and services for U.S. military members and their families. Humphreys offers a unique range of activities; paintball, laser tag and swimming at the installation Splish 'N' Splash **Water** Park.

### **Lodging:**

Army Lodging

Phone 011-82-31-690-7355

DSN (315) 753-7355

Fax 011-82-31-690-8389

**[www.mwr.korea.army.mil](http://www.mwr.korea.army.mil)**

Billeting Office: Bldg T247, phone: 753-7355

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-noon

### **Bowling:**

Humphreys Bowling Center, phone 753-5722

Hours of Operation: Tue-Thu 4-10pm

Fri-Sat 11-1am

Sun 11am-10pm

Long Shot Bowling Center, phone 721-3336

Hours of Operation: Mon 5-10pm, Thu 3-10pm

Fri 5-10pm, Sat Sun 3-10pm

### **Driving Range:**

Hours of operation: Tue-Sun 11am-10pm, phone 754-6291

### **Post Clubs:**

**USAG- Humphreys**

Tommy D's, phone 753-7532

Alaska Mining Co, phone 753-3101

Macgregor's Market, phone 753-7532

### **Camp Eagle**

Eagle's Nest, phone 721-2277

### **POST ATTRACTIONS:**

**Laser Tag** is a new attraction at Humphreys. The facility is located in Building 1044 adjacent to Soldiers Park. Operating hours are Wed-Sun 11 am-7pm, Sat Sun 11am-2pm, call 753-3013

### **SPLISH 'N' SPLASH**

The Water Park is located on post and features waterslides and plenty of space to swim. The park opens in May, seven days a week from 11am-9pm.

Directions: Take the bus from Moyer CAC to USAG-Humphreys. The bus stops at Osan then continues on to Humphreys. Once you arrive at Humphreys buy your return ticket before going to the water park. Take a post bus from the bus stop just past the Burger King/PX area and get off at the stop opposite the Bowling Center. If you miss the post run bus, go to the Water Park in a Taxi....it is not within walking distance. The Taxi stand and Yongsan Bus stop are at the same place.

### **USAG-RED CLOUD**

The northern region of South Korea is flanked by sea and mountains. The land is full of natural attractions, including botanical gardens, beaches, rafting and skiing opportunities. For upcoming outdoor adventures, contact the USO or BOSS representative. The link to USAG-Casey can be found on the following website <http://ima.korea.army.mil/area1/sites/local>

#### **Lodging:**

USAG-Casey Army Lodging Phone: 011-82-31-8694247

DSN: 315-730-4247

Fax: 011-82-31-8694247

[www.mwr.korea.army.mil](http://www.mwr.korea.army.mil)

#### **Post Clubs:**

USAG-Casey: Gateway Club, 730-3400

Redwood Steak House, 730-2195

Warrior's Club, 730-2195

Camp Castle: Warrior's Club, 730-3400

Camp Hovey: Iron Triangle, 730-5167

USAG-Red Cloud: CG's Mess, 732-8797 Mitchell's, 732-8189

Camp Stanley: Reggie's, 732-5485

#### **Golf:**

USAG-Casey Indianhead Golf Course, Tee times are 8am to 4pm

Restaurant Hours are 6am to 8pm, phone 730-4885

USAG-Red Cloud Golf Course, Winter Hours are 8am-5pm

Summer hours are M-F 7am to dusk

Sat-Sun/Holidays 5:30am to dusk, phone 732-6843

**Bowling:**

USAG-Casey: Orion's, Sun-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-noon, phone 730-457

Camp Hovey: Mon, Wed, Thu 4-10pm, Fri 5pm-midnight, Sat 1-11pm, Sun 1-10pm, phone 730-5167

USAG-Red Cloud, Sun-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-midnight, phone 732-6930

Camp Stanley, Sun-Thu 11am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11am-11pm, phone 732-5370

**OFF POST ATTRACTIONS:**

In addition to the natural sights, this region also offers Korea's demilitarized zone which is one of the top attractions in Korea. As one of the last relics of the Cold War, the DMZ offers unique insight into the Armistice and the US/ROK Alliance. Visitors can get a bird's-eye-view of North Korea from the observation deck, explore the tunnels dug by North Korea and witness what its like to patrol one of the world's most heavily fortified borders. For information on DMZ tours, contact the USO office or website

**USAG-YONGSAN**

Yongsan is located in the heart of Seoul. The surrounding city offers an array of entertainment and cultural venues ranging from international cuisine and movie theaters to malls and outdoor markets. There is always something to do, see and eat.

**Lodging:**

The Dragon Hill Lodge is located on Yongsan's South Post which makes it very easy for people arriving, or preparing to leave Korea. Located in the hotel are; laundry facilities, restaurants, swimming pool, in-room kitchenettes, TV/VCR, video rentals and a shopping arcade. Guests of this facility find its central location very convenient. Should space not be available at the Dragon Hill Lodge, the staff will direct and assist you in getting to any one of a number of quality hotels located a short distance away.

**Billeting On Post:**

Walker Center, call, 736-1048

Religious Center, 723-7314

U.S. Embassy Association Suites, Bldg 8105, call, 02-397-4487 or 738-6124

**Driving Range:**

Driving Range & Putt Putt, 738-4190

**Family Fun Park:**

Batting cages, Skate Park, Mini-golf, Call for hours, 738-4190

**Bowling:**

Yongsan Lanes, call 723-7830

Sun 11am-10pm, Mon, Th:11am-10pm

**Tues Closed**, Wed 4-10pm, Fri 10am-midnight

Sat 10am-1am

**Post Clubs:**

Harvey's Lounge	738-5365
Main Post Club	730-5678
Navy Club	725-7731/6108/6114

**K-16****Bowling:**

Please call for hours 741-6473

**Clubs:**

K-16 Community Club 741-6830

**OFF POST ATTRACTIONS:**

**Itaewon** is a popular shopping district where eastern and western influences collide. It remains Seoul's largest multicultural district and is a virtual magnet for shoppers on the hunt for styles and sizes reminiscent to what they would find back home. Itaewon offers everything from athletic apparel, outdoor hiking gear, luggage, tailor-made suits, accessories, and baseball caps to a dizzying array of antiques and traditional souvenirs.

**How to get there:** Itaewon shopping district is a short walk or 5-minute taxi ride from USAG-Yongsan.

By Subway, get off at City Hall Subway Station (Line 1, exit 2) or (Line 12, exit 12) and walk for about 2-5 minutes.

**See Travel Within Seoul Section**

**USO (UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION)**

The USO has been in Korea since 1954. It provides a lounge, Cross Cultural School, Good Neighbor Program, language classes, information, referral, outreach services and is an excellent place to book wonderful tours, not only around Seoul, but also overnight package tours to many popular areas in Korea. Many wonderfully exotic overseas vacations can also be booked at reasonable prices. The USO usually has a comprehensive selection of helpful guidebooks

and maps. This is the go to place for information on how to get around town and travel in general! The office is located next to Camp Kim (across the street from Gate 1). Call 724-7003/3301, ***closed Sundays.***  
Visit **[www.uso.org/korea](http://www.uso.org/korea) for more information.**

**UIJEONGBU** - A City north of Seoul. USAG-Red Cloud is located here.



## **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs office located at Yongsan is identified as a Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Center. The focus of the operation is to provide separating and retiring military members of all services the opportunity to start the VA claim for service-connected disability compensation before they retire. Personnel also provide assistance to retirees as time allows. The VA office offers a wealth of information on Health Care, Disability compensation, Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment, Home Loan Guaranty, Survivors' Benefits and Insurance.

Veteran's residing on the Korean peninsula will be served by the regional office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The correspondence address is: Department of Veterans Affairs, Pittsburgh Regional Offices located at: 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

The local VA office is located near the barber shop, behind the 1RC building and across the parking lot from the DHL (Bldg.4037). Their primary mission is to prepare separating service members for enrollment into the VA. If you are already a veteran arriving to Korea, there is little they can do for you aside from offer you the above address. For further information call Veterans Affairs Office 738-5121, or toll free 800-827-1000 or visit one of the following websites:

**[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)**

**[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)**

**[www.turbotap.org](http://www.turbotap.org)**

**[www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign/index.htm)**

## **VIDEO RENTAL**

There are several locations to rent movies on post. They all have a good variety of movies, except on weekends, so rent early. Most new releases are rented for 3 days. South Post Shoppette Video Rental is the largest store and carries movie snacks and magazines as well as movies to rent/buy. It is located beside the Fire Station on south post, Bldg. 4209, DSN 738-7222. The Dragon Hill Lodge Shoppette and the Mini-mall Shoppette on main post carry a smaller selection of movies to rent in their stores. Hannam Village Video Store is located in Bldg K, call 723-4473. Yongsan Library has thousands of movies and TV Series for adults and children available to check out for free.

## **VISAS**

The best way to get accurate information on visas is to contact the relevant embassy several months prior to the time you are interested in traveling. Conditions are constantly changing around the world, so be prepared for some travel changes. Visas for group tours are arranged by the travel agent.

## **VISITORS TO KOREA**

You will certainly want friends and relatives to visit you while you are in Korea. Visitors will need a valid passport. A Korean visa is not required if their period of stay in Korea is 30 days or less. For longer visits, a ninety-day Korean visa must be obtained before arrival in Korea. Before your visitors purchase airline tickets, be sure to check with travel agents in Korea (both on and off post). Often they will be able to provide you with cheaper fares on flights from the U.S. to Korea. You should also look into the Reunion in Korea program (see Reunion in Korea.) It is a wonderful program that enables active duty American service personnel and U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees to bring their family members to Korea (during certain months of the year), at an affordable cost.

**Temporary Post Pass** - Visitors need a pass issued so that they can have access to the post. Prior to their arrival, stop by the Law and Order office located at the USAG-Yongsan Bldg 4305, Room 105. The office is located in the right back corner of the building, on the first floor, 738-4612. To get there take the road behind the Dragon Hill Lodge, go down the big hill until it dead ends, the building is to the left and the Legal Assistance Office is to the right. Pick up an application form for a temporary post pass, fill out the form and return it to the Pass and ID office. It takes about three working days to get processed and approved. Specify the dates you would like the pass to be valid (up to 30 days). Once the form

has been approved you will need to return to the same building to pick up the signed form, at this time you can also pick up a letter from them that will allow your visitors access to the PX and Chosun Gift shop as long as you accompany them. All of this can easily be done before your visitors arrive.

After your visitors have arrived in the country, take the completed paperwork, your visitors and their passports to the Pass and ID section of the Provost Marshal's Office located in Building 1230 on Camp Kim. Visitors must be present to have their thumbprint scanned for the D.B.I.D.S system. They will also have their photograph taken and will be issued a pass valid for their entire stay. The office is open M-F 0800-1800 except holidays. If your visitors arrive after hours or on a weekend you will be able to sign them on post for a 24 hour period. You will need to re-sign them in every 24 hours until you obtain a pass for them. This can be especially inconvenient if your visitors arrive just before a long holiday weekend. Thus you may want to have your guests plan their arrival dates carefully.

**Signing Visitors On Post** - To sign someone on post you will need to take them to a designated gate (this can vary so be sure to check for current sign-in gates). Your visitors need some form of identification that verifies citizenship (Korean ID or U.S. Passport etc.) they will be given a pass and their ID will be retained. U.S. citizens will be allowed to keep their passport, but need to provide some other form of identification, such as a driver's license, that will be retained.

One final note, visitors should contact their insurance company and add a special rider to their policy in the event that they need hospital care. Visitors not eligible for military benefits will be hospitalized in Korean hospitals. In some cases, Medicaid has refused to pay for hospitalization stays.



## **WATER**

The water on post is considered safe for drinking, however many residents choose to purchase water for consumption. **Water** is available by the bottle or case at the Commissary. Another option is home delivery by Diamond Pure Water. Deliveries are made weekly on and off post. The office is located on Yongsan main post in the PX Foyer. To schedule delivery, call 724-7567. Office hours; 10am to 6pm Tue-Sun, **closed Mondays**. Hot/cold water dispensers can be bought or rented. Hand pumps that fit over the bottles are available for purchase. If you already own a water dispenser, it is a good idea to bring it with you.

## **WEATHER**

The weather in Seoul is much like the weather in Washington D.C. or Philadelphia with very cold winters and hot, humid summers. Korea does have a monsoon season in mid to late summer when it seems to do nothing but rain. Take flood warnings seriously, the terrain is very hilly and rain water gathers quickly in certain areas during monsoon season.

The spring is beautiful, particularly with the cherry trees lining the streets, the fallen blossoms like snow. There are so many colorful flowers in bloom, it's a great time to get out and sightsee. In autumn, there are lovely colors all around, crisp clear skies and many opportunities to go for a mountain hike to see autumn in all its glory. Winter brings enough snow for mountain skiing. Parts of Korea, particularly the island of Jeju to the extreme south, are much warmer and experience milder winters. Other sections, such as the area around the DMZ, are much cooler and do not get the locked-in heat of a summer in Seoul.



## **ZOO**

There are many petting zoos and animal attractions in Seoul. Please refer to the TRAVEL IN KOREA section at the back of this book for more details.

## SHOPPING & RESTAURANT IN SEOUL

This chapter of the book is an overview, a newcomer's glance at what is available in Seoul. For in depth information look for local books and magazines or visit the tourist information booths located around the city.

### SHOPPING

For many, military duty in Korea somehow seems to be an intrusion on the *real mission*: shopping for yourself and everyone you know in the States. Shopping in Korea is so good, in fact, that it can easily become an addiction. However, before you buy loads to send back, be sure to check the U.S. Postal and Customs regulations (see **Customs**). With new automated equipment, the U.S. Customs Office has been cracking down on illegal exports, including military members sending illegal gifts stateside. Stiffer regulations from the Korean government have narrowed the counterfeit label distributors drastically. Still, if you intend to join the legions of shoppers attacking the stores with a vengeance (and almost everyone does at one time or another), keep a few simple guidelines in mind:

- **Always** know the exchange rate between dollars and won before you shop. You may be able to get a better deal using one currency over the other, depending on current economic conditions. Be aware that if you pay by credit card, the currency exchange rate is in the seller's favor.
- If you use a credit card, be cautious, and **never** pay a service charge to the merchant for using the card. If the merchant insists on doing this and you absolutely have to have the item, make them write the charge separately on your receipt and report them to the credit card company. This is an illegal practice and most merchants will back off if you stand your ground. Keep your credit card receipts and ensure the charge that shows up on your bill matches the receipt.
- Many U.S. banks now charge service fees for use of their cards overseas. Contact your bank for more information on this practice. It's generally easier (and cheaper) to shop with cash, whether in dollars or won.
- Most Korean stores **do not** have dressing rooms. Be prepared to slip things on over your clothes.
- If you find an item you like but are not prepared to buy at that time, ask the merchant for a business card so you can find the store again. However, keep in mind that the item may not be available even a day

later. When you see something you want, buy it!

- Also, if you really like the items and prices at a particular store, ask for extra cards to refer your friends. Many times, merchants will give discounts for your word-of-mouth referrals.
- Shopping bags are not free at grocery and some department stores. It's best to come prepared with some sturdy bags or a rolling cart if you plan to make many purchases.
- New stores open all the time and some old favorites may move or go out of business, so ask your neighbors, colleagues, and American and Korean friends to recommend shops that cater to your interests.

With the exception of some food and flower markets, most stores do not open before 10am, and many markets are closed on a particular weekday, so check before you go. The last week of July and the first week of August is traditionally vacation time, meaning that many markets will be almost completely closed for a few days or even a week.

## WHAT TO BUY

The following list, though certainly not complete, highlights a variety of products available for purchase in Korea:

### ANTIQUES

For those interested in Asian antiques, Korea offers one of the best shopping places in the region. "Treasures" are everywhere and although prices continue to climb, many things are still well within the average budget. Unless you are truly a connoisseur of Asian antiques, shop carefully. Before you buy, spend a lot of time looking and comparing items and prices. You will be overwhelmed at first. Visit a variety of shops over a period of several weeks. Ask questions! Reputable dealers will tell you if a piece has been repaired, what wood it is made from, where it originated in Korea, and how old it is. When looking at antique pieces, look for bamboo nails, tongue-in-groove joints, and cut-out or etched fittings and locks. When you purchase an antique, ask the shop owner for a certificate of authenticity that will describe the piece, list the materials and decorative metals used to make it, and detail its usage and measurements. **Always negotiate on the price!** Keep your receipt, the certificate, and a picture of your antiques, in case of damage or loss.

**Note:** National Treasures may not be removed from the country. In most cases,

they would be entirely too expensive to purchase. Information call, the Office of Cultural Affairs, Seoul City Hall at 02-731-6188.

There are five major areas for antique shopping in Seoul:

### **Insadong or “Mary’s Alley”**

Located in downtown Seoul between the U.S. Embassy and Pagoda Park, it can be easily reached by taking the subway to Anguk Station (Line 3, Station 328, exit 6) and walking about 50 feet straight ahead, then turn left, or....just follow the crowds!

Approximately 41% of Korea’s antique shops are located in this shopping area. It is not only a great place to shop for antiques, but also has many wonderful art galleries available to visitors. Prices are high, but the quality of goods is generally quite good. There are many good tea shops and restaurants to be found down some of the interesting side streets around this shopping area. On Sunday afternoons, the streets are closed to vehicle traffic and shopkeepers set up their wares in the street, along with various entertainers and artists. It’s a great place to spend a Sunday afternoon with the family. A cultural space called ‘Ssamziegil’ is a mall with handicrafts as its theme. This space was planned by fashion accessory maker Ssamzie. An area of three stores was forced to close, due to economics in the area. Ssamzie rebuilt this building, which now consists of 6 floors, housing 70 shops that are all connected by a long spiral path that leads to the Sky Park on the top floor, offering views of the streets below. This mall is located on the left, down towards the middle of the long main street.

### **Hannam-dong**

Located beyond the fire station in Itaewon and is the most easily accessible and well-known area. Most shops have reproductions in the front and better antiques in the rear. Generally, the shopkeepers speak excellent English, which can be a big factor in making a purchase. Go often, to look and compare. The shops are constantly replenishing their inventory. Ask if the shop has more items; there is often an upstairs or downstairs area which you would never find on your own.

**Janghanpyeong Antique Art Market** - located between Dapsimni (Line 5, Station 542, exit 4) and Janghanpyeong. (Line 5, Station 543). If you like flea markets interspersed with fine antiques and a few nice shops; this is the destination for you! Many furniture retailers purchase wholesale from this market. Also referred to as Dapsimni, there are three different buildings–

Songhwa, Woosung and Samhoe. English is not spoken by many of the shopkeepers here, so negotiating can be challenging.

### **Seoul Folk Flea Market**

Seoul Folk Flea Market (Hwanghak-dong Flea Market) is located along a few blocks, under the Cheonggye elevated road. This is Korea's oldest flea market dating all the way back to the Korean War. So you can imagine the antiques... books that are more than one hundred years old, ceramics, old LPs, and so much more. The famous saying goes, "If you can't find it at Hwanghak-dong, you won't be able to find it anywhere else!" The market has close to 1,000 shops selling hard to find antiques along with second hand goods. To some it may look like junk, but savvy shoppers may find antique treasures here. It is recommended that you go with someone who speaks Korean. Take the subway to Sinseoldong (Line 1, Station 126/Line 2, exit 9) and walk straight ahead for 100m. Open daily; 10.30am-7pm and closed the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month.

### **Minsok Gol-dong Pum Market**

This quaint market is located near the Hwanghak-dong flea market in Seoul. Take the subway to Sindang (Line 6, Station 635). You will pass a wedding hall before you exit the subway. Once outside, go immediately to the left across the steps, then behind the row of doors for sale. You will be in the market ready to explore for hidden treasures.

You can find antiques, character statues, (Similar to the statue found in Itaewon, across the street from McDonalds) kitchenware, old books and trinkets, etc.

### **ART**

There are several areas in Seoul to purchase art or browse in the galleries. Off-post between Gate 1 and Gate 19, you can find inexpensive art galleries that frame your purchases and create custom art from photographs. There are also galleries located in the following areas: City Hall (Line 1, Station 132), Gyeongbokgung (Line 3, Station 327) and Insadong-Anguk (Line 3, Station 328, exit 6).

### **BOOKS**

The Main PX on Yongsan garrison carries a wide variety of books and magazines, as does the Osan Air Base BX. Some local bookstores worth a visit are;

- **Kyobo Bookstore** In the basement of the Kyobo building located just two buildings south of the U.S. Embassy in downtown Seoul. Take the

subway to Gwanghwamun (Line 5, Station 533, exit 3). There is a large sign for the bookstore at this exit, which leads you immediately into the store. The foreigner's section here is excellent and some of the "coffee table" books are truly beautiful, though expensive. There is an entire section devoted to dictionaries for translating English and Korean. Within the "foreigner's section" is a very large wall of travel books (including the Lonely Planet and Seeing Eye series), and books on teaching English.

- **Jongno Book Center** is just across the street from the YMCA Hotel. Take the subway to Jongno 3(sam)-ga (Line 1, Station 130, exit 4).
- **Seoul Selection** is located near the U.S. Embassy. Take the subway to Gwanghwamun (Line 5, Station 533, exit 2). East side of Gyeongbokgung Palace, across from the parking lot. [www.seoulselection.com](http://www.seoulselection.com); phone: 02-734-9567.
- **Bandi and Lunis'** Located inside the COEX mall. Take the subway to Samseong (Line 2, Station 219, exit 6).
- **What the Book?** Conveniently located in Itaewon, this bookstore sells new and used English books. They also buy used books. To get to this store, go past the Hamilton Hotel on the main road in Itaewon, to the next intersection (fire station on the corner). Turn right, the bookstore is on your left, just past the 'Foreign Food Mart' [www.whatthebook.com](http://www.whatthebook.com).

## CELADON

This uniquely Korean art form has evolved into some of the most beautiful ceramics available anywhere in Asia. The celadon wares of the Koryo Dynasty, produced in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, surprised even the highly cultured Chinese. Koryo celadon pieces are now praised as rare art forms. While it is extremely doubtful that you will ever purchase an original Koryo celadon (and you probably would not be able to get it out of the country even if you could afford it), celadon copies abound. Prices range from a few dollars for a small, inexpensive copy to thousands of dollars for an original work by one of the current "living treasures," a designation given by the government to masters of ancient Korean arts. Pottery can be purchased at pottery villages, Insa-dong, the Hwanghakdong Flea Market, festivals or at the Gallery on USAG-Yongsan. The Icheon Pottery Village and the Yeosu Pottery Village are the most famous. USO offers shopping trips to the pottery village. A beautiful shop in Itaewon is Eden Pottery, phone: 02-793-0828, across the street from McDonald's and up a little way. Look for the sign because it is in a basement and just has the

staircase leading down. This shop is a little more expensive than the souvenir shops around it, but the quality of the pieces is quite evident.

## **CLOTHING**

There are many clothing shops that offer great prices. However, if you are larger than a size 8, you may have trouble finding clothing in Korea. Doota Mall has information about stores that carry larger sizes. Ask at the information booth on the ground floor and they will give you a slip of paper with list of store numbers. Many military personnel have found that Korea is an excellent place to have an Army mess dress uniform custom made. The tailor shop at the Dragon Hill Lodge is a good place to have uniforms and custom dress shirts made, they carry the authorized fabric but for Army Uniforms **only**. The Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS), located in the Mini-Mall on Main Post, carries fabrics and buttons authorized for Army uniforms **ONLY**. Air Force, Marine and Navy Uniforms have to be ordered from U.S. So make sure you plan ahead!! If you go off post, you may need to purchase your own fabric. After the tailor has taken all the necessary measurements, have him tell you how much fabric he will need to make the uniform. A man's jacket normally takes about 2½ yards and the pants require about 1½ yards. Check at the MCSS to make sure you have all the necessary trim and measurements for its placement. As is the case with so many things in Korea, word of mouth is a good way of finding out who specializes in this type of thing. Ask a friend who has been in Korea for a while, where they had their uniform or custom suit made.

## **TAILORS AND SEAMSTRESSES**

Selecting a good tailor from the hundreds available in Seoul is yet another one of those things where word of mouth is helpful. Most people who have been in Seoul for a few years have a favorite tailor, so when you see a person wearing a custom suit or uniform that you like, ask the wearer who made it. After you select a tailor, make sure you select a fabric that will be compatible with the style of garment you have chosen. Be sure to review all of the details of the garment (type of lapel, pocket flaps, cuffs, etc.) with the tailor so you will be pleased with the final product. Do not accept unsatisfactory workmanship, and do not pay for the garment in full until it is completed to your satisfaction. Ladies' clothing is more difficult to make than men's, and is more expensive, so ask to see samples and prices before committing to a garment. Some places to shop for clothing include department stores, outlets, brand shops, Namdaemun and Dongdaemun Markets, Myeongdong, Itaewon, and the stands in front of Ehwa Women's University offer a variety of clothing in small sizes. Please see

**‘Where to buy’** in this section for more details about how to get to these places.

For pre-made Korean apparel, there are some sizing differences that you should note. Basically, the sizes are: 44=Extra Small, 55=Small, 66=Medium (about a size 8), 77=Large, 88=Extra Large (extremely difficult to find in a small store). Pants are sized by the waist measurement in inches. Shoe sizes can be difficult since some shoes have Korean sizing and some have European. See the shoe sizing chart included in this section.

For ladies shoes, the largest size sold is 270, but good luck finding them. Most shops only carry up to a man’s size 10, 11, if you are lucky. There are no ½ sizes.

## **FLOWERS AND PLANTS**

Koreans, like Americans, value anything that makes their lives a little more pleasant and attractive. This attitude is clearly reflected in their love of flowers, which can be found in abundance and are very inexpensive. There are literally hundreds, possibly even thousands, of flower vendors in Seoul. One of the major areas is the Namdaemun (South Gate) Market. Take the subway to Hoehyeon Station (Line 4, Station 425, exit 5) at street level; take a right turn into the market on the Main Alley. The flower market is on the third floor of a large building on your right, about 300 yards into the market. In Dongdaemun (East Gate), there is a market for landscaping materials, flowers, bushes, and trees. Take the subway to Jongno 5(O)-ga (Line 1, Station 129) or Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9) and walk straight ahead for about two blocks. Another convenient area is underground at the Banpo in the Express Bus Terminal.

- **Express Bus Terminal**-The flower markets are located on the 3rd floor and in the basements (Line 3, Station 339, exit 1). You can take bus 143, 401 near the Commissary gate. Get off at the first stop after crossing the river. The shopping area is on your right.
- **Hatonae** or flower area is a great place to shop if your interests lie more with yard and houseplants. Seasonal yard plants are outside and houseplants inside. Some of these plants are rare and can be expensive, so always shop around and negotiate the price before purchasing. To get there take the Chamsu Bridge (lower section of the Banpo Bridge) to the south side of Han River. Drive straight through the traffic light at the intersection of the Express Bus Terminal, Palace Hotel, and hospital. Go up the hill on the other side where you will see greenhouses lining the street on both sides.
- **The Yangjae Flower Market** is a good place for yard and houseplants, gardening tools and cut flowers. To get there, drive across the Hannam Bridge. Go straight until you reach Yangjae-dong. The flower market

is a little bit out of town and is located on the right side of the road. These markets close around lunch time, so be sure to go early.

### **PICTURE FRAMES**

Many people choose to have artwork framed in Korea due to the relatively low cost. There are many places in Seoul that provide framing. The Frame Shop in the Gallery on Main Post has fairly reasonable prices and the owners speak English. They are familiar with the concept of double matting and work hard to accommodate American tastes. The MWR Arts and Craft Centers of every post offer custom matting and framing services for a reasonable fee, or you can do your own framing. For a more extensive selection of frames, there are approximately 30 shops located off-post between Gate 1 and Gate 19. The best deals to be had are off-post. The language barrier can sometimes prove frustrating or just something fun to write about in your journal. A nice store to have artwork framed is '0901'. To get to this store, go out of Gate 19 and turn right at the traffic light. The store is near Samgakji Station on your right hand side. Two shops before '0901' is a small shop selling unframed canvas artworks. The owner does the paintings and for a very reasonable fee will turn any treasured photograph you may have into a wonderful canvas oil painting.

**Note:** Plastic frames are widespread so if you are offered an unbelievably low price on the framing check for plastic!

### **GINSENG**

Ginseng is Korea's traditional medicinal herb. This herb, known to the Koreans as the "miraculous medicine" or "Koryo Ginseng" is believed to calm the mind and strengthen the body. There are many ginseng products including the root, tea, canned drinks, and even candy. It can be purchased at many markets in town, duty-free shops, and during regional ginseng festivals. It is definitely an acquired taste for the majority of Americans, so it is advisable to taste test before you purchase. Ginseng products can be costly. **Note:** The USO offers trips to pick your own Ginseng root and visit the local Ginseng markets.

### **HANBOK**

The hanbok is the traditional Korean attire of both men and women. Hanboks can be very elaborate depending upon the fabric and handwork involved. They are still worn on official occasions and holidays such as Chuseok, weddings, and other special family gatherings. If you are interested in having a hanbok made, there are hanbok tailor shops in Itaewon, Dongdaemun Market in the five-story white building (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9,), and on Osan Air Base.

## **JEWELRY**

Like most of Asia, Korea seems to abound with jewelry. The beautiful craftsmanship makes these articles very tempting buys. There are several important factors to remember when shopping for jewelry:

As in the States, deal with a reputable merchant if you plan on purchasing precious stones and metals. Know which countries specialize in what type of precious stones in order to get the best price. Korea's special stones are amethyst and topaz. True Korean amethyst has become very expensive, so you will find many shops sell the cheaper Brazilian amethyst. The Korean jade supply was mined out several years ago. Consequently, most of the jade you see comes from other Southeast Asian countries. Merchants can, and do, make high-quality synthetic stones. Comparison shopping is a must before you buy. The PX carries a variety of jewelry from different parts of Asia, check out their selection and prices. They always stand behind the products they sell and you may wish to eliminate any doubt when purchasing a high dollar item like fine jewelry. Payment plans are available or purchases can be made using most major credit card. All Seasons Jewelry, and Joy's Jewelry in Itaewon offer many beautiful pieces and does custom work. As with all things Korean, however, word of mouth advertising is the best way to go. Some shops specialize, so ask around before committing to any purchase. When purchasing expensive jewelry, ask for certificates of authenticity and carefully inspect all merchandise. Certificates of authenticity are required even from the PX and are needed for insurance purposes.

## **KIMCH'I POTS**

If you are thinking of buying a brown-ware Kimch'i pot, there are many places to buy them. A wide variety of Kimch'i pots are available right outside Gate 3, also known as the Kimch'i Pot Gate. Kimch'i pots make nice decorative crocks.

## **LEATHER**

Another popular item in Korea is leather-wear in luggage, jackets, handbags, or shoes. There are many good bargains, but a few words of caution apply: If you cannot tell the difference between cow, lamb, or pigskin, shop with someone who can! Good lamb leather is the most expensive and you certainly do not want to pay for lamb and end up with treated cow; this also applies for fleece linings. If you are placing an order, NEVER pay for the entire garment in advance. Make the smallest down payment possible, and the merchant will be much more interested in seeing that the final product meets your specifications, and is

completed in a timely manner. Do not accept a garment until you are happy with it. **NOTE:** It is not the merchant's fault if you picked a style that is unbecoming to you. Know what looks best before placing a customized order, or you could end up forfeiting your deposit. In most cases you will have to purchase the item since large sizes will be difficult for the tailor to sell.

### **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Many people have found good bargains in Seoul on various musical instruments. Nag Won Musical Instrument Arcade is located behind Tapgol Park (Pagoda Park) near Insadong. This large market has the widest variety and best selection of musical instruments, from piccolos to pianos. Korean-made guitars appear to be a good buy. Take the subway to the Jonggak Station (Line 1, Station 131, exit 3).

### **QUILTS AND FABRIC**

Korea is a nation filled with fabric, garment manufacturers, and innovative entrepreneurs who do not let a scrap of fabric go to waste. The Korean quilting industry was born literally from the remnants of other works. Most Korean quilts are sewn by machine and made of washable fabrics. Some are sewn by hand from ornate silks and satin fabrics, but these are usually not washable and more for decoration than everyday use. You can spend from a few dollars to several hundred on a Korean quilt. A quilt can be made to order, prices vary widely so shop around for the best prices, quality of fabric, and workmanship. Dongdaemun Market is the best place to purchase fabric, sewing notions and quilts. You will be amazed at the sheer volume of fabrics available. Fabric can be bought by the yard or by the bolt along with a huge selection of notions; tassels, thread, zippers, and really anything else you can imagine. Take the subway (Gate 17 or 19) to Dongdaemun History and Culture Park (Line 4, Station 422) or Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9).

Check on-post for quilting groups or classes if you would like to make your own quilt. One group, The Yongsan Quilt Group, participates in the Quilts of Valor program and makes baby quilts for donation to The Storks Nest (a pre-birth lodging facility for mothers-to-be who live outside of Seoul and wish to have their babies at the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital). The Group offers instruction and provides all quilting supplies (including sewing machines) to anyone wishing to volunteer to help make the donated quilts. A long arm quilting machine has been recently purchased, and is located on the second floor of the Arts and Crafts Center. For more information contact [YongsanQuilters@yahoo.com](mailto:YongsanQuilters@yahoo.com).

Some other popular Korean items to shop for include lacquer ware, paper craft called Hanji, calligraphic works and paintings, paper fans, masks, teas, and fashion accessories.

## WHERE TO BUY

There are so many shopping opportunities in Seoul that it is easy to become overwhelmed. The listing below is by no means complete, but it's a good place to begin your Korean shopping adventures. The locations are broken down into three categories: Markets, Shopping Districts, and Department Stores. A trip to a department store or a shopping district can be great fun, but the markets are where you will find the best deals if you have the time to spend.

## MARKETS

Korea is world famous for its shopping markets. Exploring these markets can be the adventure of a lifetime. The following covers the four major market areas frequented by many of the Yongsan community:

**NAMDAEMUN (South Gate Market)** - located just down the hill from the Hilton Hotel and across from Seoul Station. This market is a unique cornucopia of clothing, jewelry, appliances, dishes, folk art, flowers, gift bags, stationery items, and foods. The market serves as a major manufacturers' outlet opening very early at 2am and doesn't close until 6pm. One of the best features in Namdaemun is the huge wholesale flower market, but go early, that section does close around 1pm. Namdaemun is a good place to buy children's clothing, with many buildings selling nothing but children's clothes and shoes. The Alpha Store is located on Stationery Alley and has a great variety of crafts, art supplies and office needs. [www.enamdaemun.com](http://www.enamdaemun.com) (Korean language only).

The market is easily accessible by taking the subway to Hoehyeon Station (Line 4, Station 425, exit 5). You can also take bus 143, 149 (outside Gates 1 or 19) and bus 401 (outside Gate 7). Parking is available in the underground lot at the Hilton Hotel; fees can be high if you spend more than a couple of hours. If you would like to walk from Yongsan, exit post at Gate 20 (Camp Coiner) and take a left out of the gate. Walk up the hill to the Hilton Hotel and then down to the market. Detailed maps with building numbers and what areas of the market sell certain items are available at information booths located along the markets

main arteries.

**DONGDAEMUN (East Gate Market)** - is the largest of the shopping markets in Seoul and possibly the most popular with both Korean and foreign shoppers. Dongdaemun is famous for a variety of wares including: fabric, sweaters, lingerie, shoes, sports equipment, clothing, Korean bedding, jackets, leather items, handbags, jewelry, toys, and much more. It is located in the eastern sector of the city and is easily reached by taking a subway to Dongdaemun History and Culture Park (Line 4, Station 422) or Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421). It is also possible to drive and park in the FED compound. The market is well marked on almost all Seoul roadmaps.

**DONGMYO** - an area near Dongdaemun which is a good place to shop for toys, stationery, clothing, socks, etc.

**TOY ALLEY** - a favorite shopping area for toys, stationery, craft items, party supplies and more. Birthday gifts and party favors are fun to find here, as well as gift bags and cool school supplies. Also see **Toys-R-Us** in section **T**.

Take the subway to Dongmyo Station, (Line 6, Station 636, exit 6). As you exit to the street, Toy Alley is to your left.

**'MANGO' BUILDING** - is the best place to buy socks, clothes, etc. Take the subway to Dongmyo Station, (Line 6, Station 636, exit 6). The building is immediately to your right as you come out of the exit. Take the elevator to the 7th floor.

**THE FABRIC MARKET** - outside of Dongdaemun Station (Line 4, Station 421 exit 9) the market is a five-story white brick building, full of fabrics and notions of every imaginable sort. It is overwhelming at first, so plan to spend a few hours here. Look for the Happy Quilt fabric store, (5th Floor) the owner, Mr. Kang also sells his fabrics at the monthly AFSC Luncheons. **The fabric market is closed every Sunday.**

**BANGSAN MARKET** - a great place to shop for baking supplies. Take subway (Line 1, 2 or 5) to Jongno 5(O)-ga, Line 1, exit 7 or one of the other two subway lines to;

Euljiro 4(sa)-ga, Line 2, exit 5

Euljiro 4(sa)-ga, Line 5, exit 4

**DOOTA MALL** - is located across from Dongdaemun Market and directly across from the History and Culture Park that is currently under construction. Look for another large white building across the street (and stream). Many of the shops carry European size clothing. Ask at the information booth on the ground floor and they will give you a slip of paper with list of store numbers that sell the larger sizes. [www.donami.or.kr/English](http://www.donami.or.kr/English). There is also a very nice food court on the 7th floor.

**YONGSAN ELECTRONICS MARKET** - This market is located in Yongsan-gu, an easy walk out of Gate 19 (turn left at the traffic signal and follow the signs). If you are driving, exit Gate 19, turn left at the light and immediately get in the right lane and make a right turn at the next traffic signal. The lanes are confusing, so pay attention. Go straight ahead taking the underpass in front of you. Turn left at the first traffic signal after the underpass. The market is 300 yards on the left, behind the train station and E-Mart. There is a large parking lot in front of the building. The Electronics Market houses enough computers, stereos, cameras, and general electronic gadgets to keep an electronic whiz busy for months, maybe even years. Do not just shop in the main building. The entire market consists of more than two dozen buildings and the surrounding streets are packed with vendors selling thousands of electronic gadgets and gizmos.

**NOTE:** As with any other market, compare prices and bargain before you buy. Also, this is an important place to remember that a brand label is just that, a label. They can be put on or taken off very easily. Check for quality and performance.

Buyer Beware; most product information is written in Korean and warranties are not valid in the U.S. If you live on-post ensure all products you buy are dual voltage.

## SHOPPING DISTRICTS

Certain areas of Seoul have developed reputations as special shopping and commercial districts. The most popular among the American military community is Itaewon, mainly because of its convenient location to Yongsan Garrison. A list of some of the more popular shopping districts is below and a trip to any of them will be sure to provide an afternoon or evening of enjoyment.

### ITAEWON

This area is conveniently located outside Gate 12 (the gas station Gate) and across the street. It is a good place to venture off-post for your first

shopping adventure. Many of the vendors speak English, and it is not quite as overwhelming as some of the larger markets in Seoul. You can find numerous items such as; clothing, shoes, travel bags, luggage, leather and eel skin goods, brass, antiques, and reproductions.

- **The Underground:** Be sure not to miss the underground section of shops called 'The Underground'. About a block away from McDonald's, and across the alley from 'The Bag Man' purse shop. There are many entrances to 'The Underground' and once inside, you easily find your way around. There are hundreds of vendors selling an array of "brand name" clothing, shoes, jackets, underwear and souvenirs. There is a limited amount of children's clothing, but not at bargain prices compared to the sales available in the U.S. Some stores will not let you try on clothes, but most encourage you to, whether they have a changing area or not! Take the stairs, leading up or down, to see more floors packed with hundreds of vendors and their wares.
- **Boutique Area:** Follow the small street that leads to 'The Underground.' Keep walking until you pass a small 'Tag Store' on the right hand side. This store will sew your name (in Korean) on luggage and clothing tags while you wait. It's a nice shop and also sells hats and ready-made luggage tags. Once you pass the tag shop, you will see 'Monica's' Custom Tailor' store. Turn right in front of this store. Walk down a narrow, steep alley-way, leading downhill. At the bottom of the hill you will find boutiques lining both sides of the street. They sell a variety of beautiful clothing for both men and women. Note: On Tuesdays, a lot of these stores are closed.
- **Remix:** This store has a great selection of clothing. It is on the right side of the main street, towards the middle section of the Itaewon shopping area. Easy to walk by and miss the store.
- **Shoe and Boot shop (no name on store front):** This shop is located immediately before the 'Remix' cloths shop. You have to go downstairs to get to the store. It carries a good selection of ladies shoes and boots at reasonable prices.
- **A-One:** Another store that has a great selection of shoes and boots. It is located on the right side of the main street towards the middle of the shopping area.
- **The Morning Calm Antique Furniture Store:** This store has a huge selection of beautiful Korean antiques and reproductions. The store has very unique pieces of furniture and the owner is willing to make a deal.
- **Wow Lady Shoes:** Offers a great selection of shoes and is reasonably priced. You can bargain for a better deal.
- **Hamilton Shopping Center:** There are a wide variety of stores in this four

level shopping center. The lower levels sell watches, jewelry, purses and souvenirs. Top two floors are mostly clothing and purses/luggage. Have a specific item in mind when shopping the lower levels, as the vendors tend to be a bit aggressive as they pressure you to buy. Take the escalator to the top level where there are also bathrooms. There is a reputable rug dealer with a nice selection of Persian rugs. He also offers rug cleaning and repair. Some shops take U.S. dollars, but exchange rates can vary from store to store.

- **Samsung Leeum Museum of Art:** Further up the main street from the Hamilton Hotel is a wonderful art museum called the Samsung Leeum Museum of Art. You would never know it is hiding on a side street directly across from Dragon Antiques shop.

### **MYEONG-DONG**

This is one of the busiest and most fashionable shopping districts in Seoul. The narrow streets and alleys contain hundreds of clothing and accessory boutiques, shoe stores, tailors, dressmakers, huge department stores, specialty shops, and the Myeong-dong Cathedral. This district stretches for about a mile in any direction from the Myeong-dong Station, so everything is within walking distance. The area is popular with teenagers and has many familiar stores such as Gap, Old Navy, and Forever Twenty One. Some of the familiar stores even sell European sized clothing. There are many good restaurants here that represent the best of Eastern and Western establishments. Myeong-Dong claims to sell the biggest ice cream in the world at 16 inches high. There are always lines of people waiting to sample this mile high treat-even on bitterly cold winter days! During the warmer summer evenings the streets abound with hundreds of shoppers as the vendors stay open at least until midnight.

Take the subway to Myeong-dong (Line 4, Station 424, Exit 7 or 8).

### **APGUJEONG**

South of the Han River in Gangnam-gu, is this trendy, upscale fashion district, surrounded by many luxury apartments. You will find department stores, clothing stores, shoe shops, and boutiques. There are also numerous restaurants, cafés, coffee houses, nightclubs, cinemas, theaters, and other entertainment spots. Some stores you will recognize including, The Body Shop (one of many around town), and a block away from the Hard Rock Café is a 'Build-A-Bear' store. For directions to Build-A-Bear see their website at [www.buildabear.com](http://www.buildabear.com), it has a printable map. This area can be reached by taking the subway to either the Apgujeong or Sinsa Stations (Line 3, Stations 336 or 337).

## **EWHA WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY AND SINCHON**

These two areas are very close to one another. Both areas are fast becoming the new fashionable place to shop.

The shopping areas fan out from there. This is a quaint place to shop, with the feel of a small college town. Lots of fun little shops, hair salons, and small restaurants dot the area. Sinchon is supposed to be the up and coming Myeong-dong. With many universities adjacent to it, Sinchon has been called the "Street of Youth". Where else would they put the first Krispy Kreme donuts shop in Seoul? Theaters line the street near Sinchon Station (Line 2, Station 240), and an On the Border TexMex Restaurant can also be found there. Take the subway to EWha Women's University, (Line 2, and Station 241) and look for the exit that takes you near the actual University.

## **DEPARTMENT STORES**

Korean department stores are not only an excellent and entertaining way to learn what products are available here, but also give you a glimpse of the Korean way of life. While featuring the finest and most expensive items, the department stores are almost a microcosm of Korean society, with most also containing grocery stores and restaurants. The huge Lotte World Department Store on the south side of the Han River also has an amusement park and museum within its confines. Someone is usually available to answer questions in English.

**COEX Mall** - Everything can be found at this enormous shopping complex. In addition to the endless stores you will find restaurants, food courts, clubs, an aquarium, and a movie theater. Be prepared for an adventure and huge crowds! There's a lot to see, so plan to spend the entire day. It is easy to access from Samseong Station (Line 2, Station 219, exit 6). The subway exit leads straight into the Mall.

**GALLERIA DEPARTMENT STORE** - This department store is located on the south side of the river near the Olympic complex. The store is a large white building with wide steps leading up to the entrance. There is a great supermarket in the basement. The closest subway stop is Apgujeong (Line 3, Station 336, exit 2). Expect a 15-minute walk, or take a taxi. If driving: from Riverside Drive (Highway 88), turn right at the next bridge, go past Hannam Bridge, (also called Dongho Bridge) and turn left at the first traffic light. There is another, much closer branch of the store located at Seoul Station (Line 4, Station 426).

**LOTTE DEPARTMENT STORE AND LOTTE MART** - There are numerous locations for the Lotte Department Store and Lotte Mart in and around the Seoul area. They are good places to learn about Korean products and different foods. The stores have grocery and clothing departments and can be compared in quality to Stateside Target Stores. The closest store to USAG-Yongsan is beside the Seoul Station (Line 4, Station 426), with another, much larger store located in Jamsil (Line 2 or 8, Station 216, Exit 3).

**CENTRAL CITY/SHINSEGAE** - Located next to the Express Bus Terminal, Shinsegae Department Store is huge, with hundreds of shops on each floor. There are many places to shop in Central City, so you'll want to allow for a full day shopping excursion. Visit the large Korean food court, located on the basement floor. It is similar to the food courts in American Malls and offers a great variety of foods to tempt anyone's palate.

Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal. (Line 3 or 7, Station 339, exit 5 or 6) Or you can take the bus. For bus information see Express Bus Terminal section E.

**HYUNDAI DEPARTMENT STORE** - This is another beautiful department store with lots to offer and is located in Apgujeong (Line 3, Station 336).

**COSTCO** - Just like in the states, you can even find Kirkland's brand items in this Korean superstore. There is an annual membership fee, and it's a bit of a drive, but if you like to shop in bulk and get COSTCO deals, this is the place for you. The items in the store are geared toward the Korean shopper, so you will find different merchandise than is available Stateside. You can use your unexpired Stateside Costco card here, so be sure to take it with you. Visit the COSTCO Korea website at: [www.costco.co.kr](http://www.costco.co.kr) (click on English, then 'Locations' for maps and written directions). The Yangjae location is right off highway 1, across from the flower market. There is a large parking garage on the premises. The COSTCO sign is the same as the stateside store signs and is visible from the highway.

**E-MART** - This chain store has many locations throughout Seoul. The closest location to Yongsan is out of Gate 19, in the basement of the I-Park Mall Building. There is a parking garage, or you can walk from Gate 19 to the subway entrance. Use the subway to get on the other side of the busy street. You can't miss the building with a huge I-Park sign; also look for the distinctive yellow E-Mart signs. E-Mart is in the same building as Yongsan Station (Line 1, Station 135). This

department store has everything from pet grooming items to groceries, and is similar in quality to Stateside Wal-Mart stores. They even have a kimbap rolling machine, and you can watch while the deli attendant rolls perfect kimbap. You can purchase many ready to eat Korean food items, including already marinated bulgogi and kalbi meat, as well as frozen items like yaki mandu. An excellent place to buy fresh fruit, veggies and bread, also try some of the Korean chocolate covered cookies.

**I-PARK Mall** - A huge one-stop shopping/entertainment complex, this mall houses a great Multiplex containing 11 movie theatres, a putt-putt golf course, a skateboard and rollerblade ramp area. There is an open air stage within the courtyard of the complex, where bands and other entertainers perform during the summer months. There are two floors of nothing but restaurants -so you'll never go hungry. The Living Digital store carries an assortment of electronics, furniture, and a Korean bookstore. There is also a fashion mall, with shoes, clothes and accessories, nail and hair salons and hobby shops. The opposite end of the mall contains I-Park Department Store. In the basement of the I-Park Department Store is E-Mart. This mall is within easy walking distance to USAG-Yongsan.

## INTERNET SHOPPING

Many people who have never bought a single item on the internet find themselves die-hard internet shoppers after moving to Korea. There are many internet sites that ship to APO addresses. The following is a list of proven websites that are willing to ship to APO addresses:

AAFES	<a href="http://www.aafes.com">www.aafes.com</a>	variety
ABE Book	<a href="http://www.abebook.com">www.abebook.com</a>	books
Amazon	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>	variety
Barnes & Noble	<a href="http://www.barnesandnoble.com">www.barnesandnoble.com</a>	books, music, movies
Birthday	<a href="http://www.birthdayexpress.com">www.birthdayexpress.com</a>	party supplie
Beauty Store	<a href="http://www.beauty.com">www.beauty.com</a>	personal care
Crate and Barrel	<a href="http://www.crateandbarrel.com">www.crateandbarrel.com</a>	home
Bobs Redmill	<a href="http://www.bobsredmill.com">www.bobsredmill.com</a>	organic/ gluten free foods

Dillard's	<a href="http://www.dillards.com">www.dillards.com</a>	home, clothing
Drugstore	<a href="http://www.drugstore.com">www.drugstore.com</a>	personal care
Disney Store	<a href="http://www.disneyshopping.com">www.disneyshopping.com</a>	clothing
Eddie Bauer	<a href="http://www.eddiebauer.com">www.eddiebauer.com</a>	clothing
EToys	<a href="http://www.etoys.com">www.etoys.com</a>	toys
Fat Brain Toys	<a href="http://www.fatbraintoy.com">www.fatbraintoy.com</a>	toys - ask about military discounts
Fisher Price	<a href="http://www.fisherprice.com">www.fisherprice.com</a>	toys
The Gap	<a href="http://www.gap.com">www.gap.com</a>	clothing
Gymboree	<a href="http://www.gymboree.com">www.gymboree.com</a>	clothing
Hanna Anderson	<a href="http://www.HannaAndersson.com">www.HannaAndersson.com</a>	clothing
ITS Toys	<a href="http://www.itstoys.com">www.itstoys.com</a>	toys
Jo Ann Fabrics	<a href="http://www.joann.com">www.joann.com</a>	craft supplies
JC Penney	<a href="http://www.jcpenney.com">www.jcpenney.com</a>	variety
Kid Surplus	<a href="http://www.kidsurplus.com">www.kidsurplus.com</a>	clothes
Kohl's	<a href="http://www.Kohls.com">www.Kohls.com</a>	variety
Land's End	<a href="http://www.landsend.com">www.landsend.com</a>	clothing
L.L. Bean	<a href="http://www.llbean.com">www.llbean.com</a>	clothing
Macy's	<a href="http://www.Macys.com">www.Macys.com</a>	variety
Mountain Rose Herbs	<a href="http://www.mountainroseherbs.com">www.mountainroseherbs.com</a>	organic herbs, oils, butter, teas
Nordstrom	<a href="http://www.nordstrom.com">www.nordstrom.com</a>	variety
Old Navy	<a href="http://www.oldnavy.com">www.oldnavy.com</a>	clothing
One Step Ahead	<a href="http://www.onestepahead.com">www.onestepahead.com</a>	children's toys
Osh Kosh	<a href="http://www.oshkoshbgosh.com">www.oshkoshbgosh.com</a>	child clothing
Our Greenhouse	<a href="http://www.ourgreenhouse.com">www.ourgreenhouse.com</a>	organic baby care products /wooden toys
Payless Shoe source	<a href="http://www.payless.com">www.payless.com</a>	shoes
Piper Lime Shoes	<a href="http://www.piperlime.com">www.piperlime.com</a>	shoes
Plan Toys	<a href="http://www.planntoysusa.com">www.planntoysusa.com</a>	eco friendly toys and paints
Pixland	<a href="http://www.pixland.com">www.pixland.com</a>	electronics /frames
Pottery Barn	<a href="http://www.potterybarn.com">www.potterybarn.com</a>	home
Sears	<a href="http://www.sears.com">www.sears.com</a>	variety
Shop Organic	<a href="http://www.shoporganic.com">www.shoporganic.com</a>	organic products
Snap Fish	<a href="http://www.snapfish.com">www.snapfish.com</a>	photos

Sports Authority	<a href="http://www.sportsauthority.com">www.sportsauthority.com</a>	sporting goods
Talbot's	<a href="http://www.talbots.com">www.talbots.com</a>	clothing
Target	<a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a>	variety/discount
Victoria's Secret	<a href="http://www.victoriasecret.com">www.victoriasecret.com</a>	lingerie
Wal-Mart	<a href="http://www.walmart.com">www.walmart.com</a>	variety/discount
Williams-Sonoma	<a href="http://www.williams-sonoma.com">www.williams-sonoma.com</a>	home
Zappos	<a href="http://www.zappos.com">www.zappos.com</a>	shoes, free returns

## RESTAURANTS

### RESTAURANTS ON POST

**AAFES Food Courts on Yongsan Garrison** - There are food courts located on South Post by the Furniture Store (South Post), Main Post at the PX (Townhouse), and Camp Coiner. Each food court has a variety of restaurants, as listed below:

American Eatery - Camp Coiner, Townhouse

- Anthony's Pizza - Camp Coiner, Townhouse and South Post. For deliveries call, 738-3086/3087
- Baskin-Robbins - Townhouse and South Post
- Burger King - Townhouse
- The main restaurant is on South Post and contains a play place
- Charley's Steakery - South Post
- Starbucks - Townhouse
- Manchu Wok- Townhouse
- Popeye's - Townhouse and the main restaurant is on South Post. Delivery available by calling 738-3663/6228
- Subway - Townhouse
- Taco Bell - Townhouse

**Dragon Hill Lodge Restaurants** - There are a variety of food choices, from fast food to formal dining. Call 738-2222 for more information and restaurant reservations.

- Green Street - Casual dining for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with a buffet and menu choices all day. Located in the main lobby.
- The Oasis - Tex-Mex grill and bar with a Korean twist! Casual dining for lunch and dinner, with daily buffet and specials. Located downstairs next to the deli/bakery.

- Sables - An upscale restaurant for more formal evening dining with a great dessert buffet. Located in the main lobby. Reservations recommended. Closed Mondays.
- Pizza Hut and Subway - Located downstairs. Call 738-7494 for delivery on post only.
- Dragon Hill Deli and Bakery - Offers a delightful array of baked goods, hot meals, and sandwiches for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Located downstairs
- Sun Dae's - has Mr.G's ice cream! It is wonderful and made fresh daily. Sun Dae's also offers your favorite cappuccino, pastries, candy and more. It is located next to Clippers Hair Salon on the Lobby Floor.
- Whispers - Offers daily specials and is located beside the Green Street.
- Bentley's Pub - Located across from the Shoppette.

**Hartell House** - Located across the street from the Dragon Hill Lodge, this location offers a more formal dining atmosphere for both lunch and dinner. Everyone is welcome; memberships available. Member discounts apply for dining and other special events. Call 738-3872 for more information or to make reservations.

Harvey's Lounge - Located across the parking lot from the Dragon Hill Lodge. This lounge is a fun place serving pub food and drinks, also has pool tables and darts, **closed Sundays**. Call 723-7830.

**KATUSA Snack Bars** - There are 3 on post, located; near Collier Field House on South Post (Bldg 5211), Main Post (Bldg 2667), and in Camp Coiner (Bldg 1099), these snack bars are like a Korean cafeteria. KATUSA soldiers can eat here at a reduced rate, hence the name, but all are welcome. This is a great place to eat lunch on-post and try new Korean dishes!

**Main Post Club** - The club is located on Main Post behind The Moyer Community Activities Center. You can see the pyramid-shaped roof from the overpass bridge. The club is open to everyone regardless of rank. Reggie's Restaurant offers lunch and dinner (the menu is similar to Applebee's and has the best burgers in town). The Uptown Lounge is a pub. Call 723-5678 for hours of operation - they have odd hours, so call before you go.

**Moyer Community Activities Center** - Located on Main Post, next to the main bus terminal. Anthony's Personal Pizza, Baskin Robbins and Dunkin Donuts are

available here.

**Navy Club** - Located on Main Post up the hill behind Memorial Chapel and to the left. This is a popular restaurant with a truly unique atmosphere and is open to everyone. They offer an extensive dining menu as well as Mongolian BBQ every Thursday evening and breakfast on the weekends. Other activities include free Wi-Fi, billiards, darts, a cigar lounge and a game room. They also cater for special events. Navy Club Express (call 725-6108/6114) delivers on post, closed on Mondays. For more information, call 725-7731.

**Embassy Association area** - Starbuck's Coffee, Quiznos Subs, Fuji (Japanese sushi and roll), and Black Angus Steakhouse are adjacent to the Embassy Association Center, call: 797-3854 for more information.

### **RESTAURANTS OFF POST**

Virtually any type of food is available in Seoul. Prices vary according to the type of cuisine ordered. There is an abundance of good restaurants as well as thousands of little carryout, or "sidewalk" tents, where you can have a quick and inexpensive meal. If you have adventurous taste buds, you will love experimenting with the foods in Seoul. If not, stick to the more "moderate" facilities, which cater to the tourists' palate. To be on the safe side, ask for bottled water when dining out or order soda or beer in cans or bottles. Do not order alcoholic beverages unless you know how much they cost, beer and liquor can be extremely expensive. Most restaurants have menus displayed outside, that show pictures and prices of food. If a menu is not visible and you are concerned about prices, feel free to ask the hostess/host to see a menu before you are seated. As with any nice restaurants around the world, many of the fine restaurants in Seoul have a dress code. If you are planning an evening out, either check with someone who has been there before or call the restaurant to find out what is expected. But, remember you are not in an English speaking country, and if you cannot speak Korean communication can be difficult, especially over the phone. Your best bet when going out to eat is to wear nice, casual attire that is comfortable. Wear shoes that are both comfortable for walking and easy to remove when you arrive. Please enjoy the next few pages of restaurants. For your convenience, most of them are of Western or European style. As you become comfortable in your new surroundings, do check out some of the local Korean cuisine The Seoul Magazine consistently features new restaurants, so pick one up next time you are at the USO or visit the tourist booth in Itaewon.

## WESTERN FOOD

**BENNIGAN'S** - American style foods with some Mexican and Italian dishes. There are many locations in and around the Seoul area. For location and menu information visit their website at;

([www.bennigans.co.kr](http://www.bennigans.co.kr)), but this is not an English homepage.

**Location:** Closest one is in the Seoul station (Line 1 or 4, Station 133/426, exit 1).

**BISTRO CORNER BARBEQUE** - American style barbecue serving; ribs, pulled pork, coleslaw, onion rings, burgers and more.

**Location:** On Itaewon Hill across from the McDonald's Phone: 02-792-9282

**TGI FRIDAYS** - A favorite dining establishment of millions of Americans, especially on Fridays! There are numerous franchises all over the city of Seoul. Check the website for locations.

**Location:** Myeong-dong (Line 4, Station 424) is the closest.

Phone: 02-776-0071. [www.tgif.co.kr](http://www.tgif.co.kr)

**TONY ROMA'S** - American-style barbecue ribs and more.

**Location:** Next to the Seoul Art Center; drive out of Gate 52 (**Commissary Gate**), cross the Banpo Bridge and make a U-turn immediately before the Seoul Art Center. Valet parking is available. This restaurant has multiple locations in Seoul; Myeong-dong, Gwanghwamun, and Yeouido.

Phone: 02-587-4501. [www.tonyromas.co.kr](http://www.tonyromas.co.kr), English available.

**TOQUE DINER** - American menu, this restaurant also offers traditional meals for traditional Western holidays. Open for lunch, brunch and dinner.

**Location:** On the road towards Hannam Dong, across from the Leeum Art Museum, just before Yongsan International School. (Line 6, Station 631, exit 3).

Parking is available at the Hangangjin Subway Station Public Parking Lot.

Phone: 02-794-3834.

**OUTBACK STEAK HOUSE** - Outback offers high-quality food and service, generous portions at moderate prices and a casual atmosphere suggestive of the Australian Outback. Although beef and steak items make up a large portion of the menu, the steak house also offers a variety of chicken, ribs, seafood, and pasta dishes.

**Location:** About a 5 minute walk into Itaewon, right hand side, 2nd floor. There

are many locations throughout Seoul; Namdaemun and Express Bus Terminal, close to Gate 1, (PX Gate) toward Seoul Station.

Phone: 02-749-5101. [www.outback.co.kr](http://www.outback.co.kr).

**SUJI'S** - A reasonably priced restaurant, serving great American breakfasts, Spanish omelets, fish and chips, etc. Free valet parking is available.

**Location:** Itaewon, across the street from Gate 12, (gas station Gate). It is on the second floor on the right hand side of the street.

Phone: 02-797-3698. [www.sujis.net](http://www.sujis.net)

**19th St. NEAL'S YARD** - Neal's offers wonderful coffee, drinks and fabulous desserts. The portions are generous and the presentation is beautiful. You can enter Neal's Yard from the front or the side. In both cases you will need to go up a flight of stairs.

**Location:** About a five minute walk into Itaewon, on the left hand side, 2nd floor.

Phone: 02-794-7278.

**WOLFHOUND** - Great Western food, chicken or beef burgers, fries, fish and chips, etc. The food is inexpensive but drinks can be pricey. May take a while to catch the eye of a server, but once you have ordered, the wait won't be long and the food is really good. It tends to get crowded in the evenings and can also get smoky, as it is a bit like a 'pub' environment.

**Location:** In Itaewon, follow the main road to the intersection where the Hamilton Hotel and Cold Stone Creamery are located. Instead of crossing the road to Cold Stone follow it around to the right and walk a few feet. Turn right at the next street, past the small grocery store and go down the hill. It is on the second floor on the right hand side.

## KOREAN FOOD

**KOREA HOUSE** - The Korea House offers a "royal buffet" with performances that include the Korean court dance, mask dance, fan dance, Buddhist monk dance, and Korean classical music. Private dining rooms are available with reservations. You can make reservations for performances only, which are

wonderful.

**Location:** Chungmuro (Line 4, Station 423, exit 3), look for a big blue sign on the wall by the gas station.

Phone: 02-2266-9101, [www.koreahouse.or.kr](http://www.koreahouse.or.kr)

**YONGSAN FAST FOOD** - This restaurant offers good, fast, Korean food and is a great place to try Korean food for the first time. Serves lunch and dinner.

**Location:** Left out of Gate 3. (Kimch'i Pot Gate) The restaurant is very close to the Gate on the left hand side.

**CARNE STATION** - All-you-can-eat Korean buffet that you cook yourself. All you can drink soda, wine, beer, liquors and soju are also included with the price of the meal. Excellent value for around 25,000 Won with a huge selection of very fresh meat, fish, and veggies. Groups are welcome.

**Location:** There are two locations in Seoul;

Gangnam, Phone: 02-557-1239,

Myeongdong, Phone: 02-406-1239

[www.carnestation.co.kr](http://www.carnestation.co.kr)

**DON VALLEY** - A great Korean BBQ restaurant, a little pricey compared to other BBQ places maybe. If you don't speak Korean there are pictures on the menu to help. The food is good and served in huge portions. This is a "beef on a leaf" type of place, where the meat is cooked in front of you and you load up whatever you want on top of a lettuce leaf.

**Location:** Itaewon; across from the Hamilton Hotel, below the Coffee Bean.

Phone: 02-796-2384.

**MAPLE TREE HOUSE** - A Korean pork/beef BBQ, moderately priced, restaurant.

**Location:** Near Gyeongbokgung Palace in Samcheong-dong.

Phone: 02-730-7461.

## THAI FOOD

**PATTAYA THAI** - This restaurant offers a wide selection of Thai dishes, the lunch sets are a great value and include delicious desserts. They also offer simple rice and noodle dishes that children may enjoy.

**Location:** Itaewon; located in the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel, next to the store 'Amigos' and across the street from the Outback Steakhouse.

**THAI ORCHID** - This restaurant is one of the best for Thai food here in Seoul.

**Location:** Itaewon, on the far end of the shopping district, 3F in the building on the right side, across from Hana Bank. Take elevator up to third floor and it is immediately on your right.

Phone: 02-792-8836. [www.thaiorchid.co.kr](http://www.thaiorchid.co.kr).

**BUDDA'S BELLY** - A beautiful Thai restaurant in Itaewon offering food that is delicious and reasonably priced. BB has all the essential Thai dishes, some can be very spicy. Takeout is available.

**Location:** Alley behind the Hamilton Hotel, on a corner next to Scrooges Bar. BB is upstairs on first floor.

Phone: 02-793-2173.

**MY THAI** - Great Thai food. It is spicy though, yes....even when they say "no spice."

**Location:** Itaewon, in the alley beside the Hard Rock Café, on the right side of the street beside the restaurant Flying Pan Blue, and down a short flight of stairs.

## INDIAN AND PAKISTANI FOOD

**FOREIGN RESTAURANT** - Delicious Indian and Arabic foods with a very reasonably priced set lunch menu at W9,000.

**Location:** Itaewon, walk past the Hamilton Hotel and turn right at the Fire Station. The restaurant is about 2 blocks down, on the left side of the street.

Phone: 02-794-9292, [www.foreignrestaurant.com](http://www.foreignrestaurant.com)

**TAJ PALACE** - This is a popular Indian restaurant offering a wide selection of Indian delicacies. They have a buffet menu at weekends.

**Location:** Itaewon, past the Hamilton Hotel to the next intersection, (fire station on the corner) turn right and look up, across from the King's Club.

Phone: 02-790-5786.

**USMANIA** - This is an authentic Pakistani restaurant. The weekend buffet is an excellent way to sample a variety of delicacies.

**Location:** Itaewon, up the alley to the left of the Hamilton Hotel, the restaurant

is on the left.

Phone: 02-798-7155, <http://usmania.com.ne.kr>

**MOGHUL** - This Pakistani restaurant specializes in curries and fantastic breads. They offer a nice buffet.

**Location:** Itaewon, up the alley to the left of the Hamilton Hotel.

Phone: 02-796-5501

## CHINESE FOOD

**CHINESE FINE DINING CHUNG** - This Korean-Chinese style restaurant is very popular even though it's kind of pricey (₩28,000 and up). It has an outside seating area that is very popular so call for a reservation. Open: Mon-Sun 11:30-3:00; 5:30-10:00.

**Location:** Center of SamChunt Road about 10 minutes walk from the U.S. Embassy, near Kyungbok Palace.

Phone: 02-720-3396, [www.chinesechung.com](http://www.chinesechung.com)

**DIN TAI FUNG** - This is a chain restaurant in cities all around the world. They have delicious food, quick service and a nice atmosphere.

**Location:** Myeong-dong, near the Main Post Office and Chinese International School.

Phone: 02-569-2779, [www.dinaifung.co.kr](http://www.dinaifung.co.kr)

**GEUMHONG** - A Korean-Chinese style Restaurant. The menu offers authentic Chinese vegetable and noodle dishes, dumplings, soups and Dim Sum all with a hint of Korean spice. This is a small busy restaurant so reservations are recommended.

**Location:** Outside Gate 17(Hospital Gate) to the right across the railroad tracks. Turn left at the next light, then right at the next street. The restaurant is on your right. Valet parking is available.

Phone: 02-794-7378.

**HO LEE CHOW** – American style Chinese food, delicious but can be pricey.

**Location:** Itaewon, in the Hamilton Hotel on the second floor. You can also enter the restaurant from the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel.

Phone: 02-793-0802, [www.holeechow.co.kr](http://www.holeechow.co.kr)

## ITALIAN FOOD

**ITALONIA** - Italian restaurant run by the same management as TGI Fridays. Very warm Italian atmosphere. Nice wine collection. Set menus are the best value. Can be very expensive so check prices before ordering alcohol.

**Location:** 2nd floor over the Lexus dealership just outside of Itaewon. Go out Gate 3 (Kimch'i Gate), go right and cross under the under crosswalk until you are across the street. Continue going right on the sidewalk till you see the Jaguar dealership. They offer valet parking as well.

Phone: 02-795-7300. [www.italonia.co.kr](http://www.italonia.co.kr)

**CASANTONIO** - This is a restaurant serving authentic Italian cuisine, offering choices of meat or fish.

**Location:** Itaewon, in the alley across from the fire station, on your right hand side.

Phone: 02-794-8803, [www.casantonio.co.kr](http://www.casantonio.co.kr)

**LA CUCINA** - While specializing in Italian dishes, the menu here is continentally diverse and prepared with skill. The atmosphere is marvelous. Coat and tie recommended. Can be expensive, but worth it.

**Location:** Itaewon, directly across from the Hyatt Hotel, in the basement of an art gallery.

Phone: 02-794-6005.

**LA TAVOLA** - As advertised wood oven pizza, wine, music, and more. This is a fun place to go for lunch or dinner. It is nice to sit by the windows overlooking Itaewon. Delicious homemade pizza and even has a rotating art gallery.

**Location:** Itaewon, past the Hamilton Hotel and on your left. Look up for their sign; it is on the second floor of a three story building.

Phone: 02-793-6144.

**MAD FOR GARLIC** - Italian Wine Bistro serving delicious pasta dishes with subtle garlic flavorings. The food is fantastic and moderately priced. Open 11:30 to midnight.

**Location:** all over Seoul, check their website for locations near you.

Phone: 02-546-8117, [www.madforgarlic.com](http://www.madforgarlic.com)

**SORRENTO RISTORANTE ITALIANO** - This is a cozy little Italian eatery offering many spaghetti dishes and specialty pizza.

**Location:** Itaewon, just past the Outback Steakhouse on the right hand side.

## EUROPEAN STYLE RESTAURANTS

**CASA J.J** - Wine and dine, this restaurant serves incredible meat and fish dishes that will delight. A warm intimate atmosphere, the food is expensive, but worth it. A great little wine shop called Jell, is across the street and is also a do-not-miss!

**Location:** the hill towards the Hyatt Hotel, on left side of street, you can't miss the ivy covered building. They do have parking; take a taxi so you can enjoy their wonderful wine (Wine tasting on Sundays).

Casa J.J, 02-797-4343, [www.casajj.co.kr](http://www.casajj.co.kr)

Jell Wine Shop, 02-797-6846, [www.jell-wine.co.kr](http://www.jell-wine.co.kr)

**CHALET SWISS** - European style dishes of steak, chicken, and burgers.

**Location:** Across from the Itaewon Fire Station, between Itaewon and the Hyatt Hotel. A busy restaurant with a moderately priced menu, reservations are recommended.

Phone: 02-797-9664, 02-796-6379

**CHEF MEILI** - Austrian Deli and Café Restaurant with great Austrian food and very friendly service. Food is cooked to order, so be prepared to wait, it is certainly worth it! The restaurant is upstairs and the deli downstairs.

**Location:** Itaewon, follow the main road to the intersection where the Hamilton Hotel and Cold Stone Creamery are located. Instead of crossing the road to Cold Stone follow it around to the right and walk a few feet. The restaurant is at the corner of the first alley on your right side.

Phone: 02-794-7024.

**EL COMEDOR** - Great food from Paraguay. A must to try here are the Empanadas (dough pocket filled with beef, chicken, corn and cheese, or ham and cheese). They also serve chipas (soft doughy bread on the inside and crusty on the outside), Sopa Paraguaya (kind of like corn bread or hush puppies). It is small take-out place, but they have a few tables and Latin music in the background, closed Mondays.

**Location:** Itaewon, follow the main road to the intersection where the Hamilton Hotel and Cold Stone Creamery are located. Instead of crossing the road to Cold Stone follow it around to the right and walk a few feet. Turn right at the next

street; go past the small grocery store and down the hill. El Comedor is on the left hand side on the second floor.

Phone: 02-749-2827.

**THE FLYING PAN BLUE** - A sandwich and salad shop that also has delicious waffles, pancakes, and homemade desserts. They are famous for their weekend brunch menu. It's a little pricey but, the food is good.

**Location:** Itaewon, in the alley next to the Hard Rock Café. It is on the right side of the street down a short set of stairs. Phone: 02-793-5285.

**LA CIGALE MONTMARTE** - You can enjoy nightly specials and delicious mussels at this sidewalk café. Moderately priced menu with meat and fish.

**Location:** Itaewon, just past the Hamilton Hotel, you can't miss the bistro tables.

Phone: 02-796-1244

**LE SAINT-EX** - French wine bar and bistro. The chef prepares daily specials that change two to three times a week. Specials include meat or seafood dishes. They also offer wonderful homemade desserts. Afternoon tea and wine-tasting parties can be arranged.

**Location:** Itaewon, behind the Hamilton Hotel, but at the other end of the alley.

Phone: 02-795-2465, [www.lesaintex.com](http://www.lesaintex.com)

**PARIS GRILL** - This lavish restaurant is perfect for a special night out. It has been described as "tiptop white tablecloth establishment" Impeccable service. The chef puts his passion for cooking into every dish. Expensive, but the lunch buffet is considered a bargain. Sunday Brunches are special.

**Location:** Inside the Seoul Grand Hyatt.

Phone: 02-799-8161

**SANTORINI** - Greek Cuisine. Servings are pretty generous; make sure you enjoy a freshly made brownie on your way out.

**Location:** Itaewon, in the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel. Walk up behind the Hamilton Hotel, turn left and walk about half a block. The restaurant is on the left, on the second floor.

Phone: 02-790-3474/75

**ZELEN** - Bulgarian Cuisine. It can be a bit pricey, but is a great place for a special occasion or date night.

**Location:** Itaewon, in the alley behind the Hamilton Hotel. Go up the alley next to the store 'Amigos', across from Outback Steakhouse. At the end of the alley, look up the steps. Zelen is above Pattaya Thai.

Phone: 02-749-0600.

## JAPANESE CUISINE

**JOOCOOSHEE** - They have set lunch menus on weekdays of Donkatsu dishes; tempura, udon, sushi, sashimi a la carte. The restaurant is very small and gets full quickly so reservations are recommended.

**Location:** outside Gate 1 (PX Gate), turn right at the US Embassy Resource Center and turn right on 3rd alley. The restaurant is on the left, the sign is in Japanese only. The door to the restaurant is blue with a picture of fish.

Phone: 02-755-1213.

**CALIFORNIA ROLL & SUSHI** - This restaurant offers a wide variety of sushi that you can enjoy in the small stylish restaurant or order for takeout.

**Location:** Itaewon, on the first floor of the Coffee Bean Building, look for the colorful sign.

Phone: 02-749-4277.

## ARABIAN, MEDITERRANEAN AND TURKISH CUISINE

**PETRA** - A reasonably priced Middle Eastern restaurant, serving delicious dishes of; humus, tabouli, kebabs, and an assortment of Lamb dishes.

**Location:** Itaewon, outside Gate 7, go over the pedestrian overpass. You will see 'Petras' about 50m to the right after crossing the street. There is a very steep set of stairs leading up to the restaurant.

Phone: 02-790-4433

**ARABIAN RESTAURANT** - This is an inexpensive restaurant serving delicious food.

**Location:** Itaewon, past the Hamilton Hotel on the main street, next to Crazy Burger.

Phone: 02-798-1385

**ISTANBUL** - A fun Mediterranean restaurant that is close to post.

**Location:** Itaewon, go out Gate 3 (Kimch'i Pot Gate) and turn right, use the pedestrian under pass. As you come up from the underpass the restaurant is right there.

**SULTAN TURKISH KEBAB HOUSE** - This is a favorite place to grab a quick chicken or lamb kebab. It is very small, but the food is great, the service is fast and inexpensive.

**Location:** Itaewon, down the street past the Cold Stone Creamery, take the first alley on the left. It is on your left hand side.

Phone: 02-749-3890

## TEX-MEX CUISINE

**ON THE BORDER** - a TexMex chain restaurant from the States, offering a great selection of Mexican-American style meals.

**Location:** There are two locations;

Sinchon (Line 2, Station 240, exit 4). At the top of the stairs walk ahead about one and a half block. The restaurant is on the left on the 2nd floor, 02-324-0682.

The other is in The COEX mall, 02-565-0682, [www.ontheborder.co.kr](http://www.ontheborder.co.kr).

## TRAVEL IN KOREA



Photo by Melinda Graper

### THE ADVENTURE AWAITS

There is so much to see and do in Korea, besides shopping, that it can be a little intimidating for a newcomer to know where to begin. If you are the adventurous sort, buy a good map and an English/Korean dictionary, acquire some won, and just go explore. The vast majority of Koreans are friendly people, who often go out of their way to help you if you are trying to learn about their country. If you are somewhat more reticent, you might start your explorations by joining a group tour with the USO, The Royal Asiatic Society, or spend the day on the Seoul City Bus tour.

### TRAVEL WITHIN SEOUL

The majority of the sites in this section can be easily reached using the subway or bus. You may want to stop by the USO or ACS before heading out to pick

up English maps, information on local cuisine and culture, subway maps and bus schedules. Once out in the city, most tourist areas have Tourist Information booths with maps of the local neighborhoods. Keep an eye out for a monthly publication called The Beetle Map that features certain areas of interest. Another monthly tourist magazine called Korea Rainbow has easy to read subway and street maps.

The official website of the City of Seoul is <http://english.seoul.go.kr> and offers information on what is happening in and around Seoul along with interactive maps of Seoul and the surrounding area <http://gis.seoul.go.kr/englishMap/index.jsp>

Google Maps are a useful tool when searching for specific locations in Seoul. However, it often involves a little guess work. The search engine works better if you can copy and paste the Hangul name of the location or business into the search bar. The map itself is written in Hangul so keep an English map close by for translation.

## CITY TRANSPORT

Driving in Seoul can be extremely hazardous, especially if you are new to Korea. Case in point, Koreans who drive in Seoul are required to have a special driver's license to navigate the streets of their capitol. So it's a good thing Seoul is covered by an efficient and extremely comprehensive public transportation system.

### Subway

There are 8 lines and over 200 stations in this extremely comprehensive system. Line 1 runs over 100 km from Soyosan in the north and Cheonan in the south. It is possible to go to USAG-Red Cloud, USAG-Casey and Osan Air Base by subway. In 2007 an extension also reached Incheon International Airport. Fares start at W900 and rarely exceed W2,000.

When you purchase your ticket or T-Money Card ask for a Subway map in English at the kiosk. On the back of the map is a detailed listing of places to go in Seoul, what line to get on, what stop to get off at, which exit to take, and how far you have to walk on foot. The various admission fees and times of operation listed are subject to change.

If you are staying in the Seoul area for more than a few days it's a good idea to invest in a transport card like a T-Money Card or a Upass, available for W1,000 at all subway stations (also sold in convenience stores like Family Mart and 7-11).

You will have to load the card with at least W5,000 but will save W100 on each subway or bus ride, not to mention time waiting in ticket lines. Cards can be loaded at any convenience store or in the automated subway ticket machines. T-Money cards can also be used in some taxis.

### **Buses**

In comparison to the large but user friendly subway system, the bus system can be a little overwhelming and often proves too complicated for foreign visitors. The buses are split into four colored categories. Blue buses travel long distances along major arterial routes; green buses are for shorter hops; red ones travel to the suburbs; yellow ones travel in tight loops. Route numbers and colors are marked on the side and rear of the bus, e.g. Y is yellow, R is red, etc. Fares start at W550 for yellow, W900 for red, W1500 for blue and green and increase with distance traveled.

### **Taxis**

Seoul's taxis are cheap and ubiquitous. A cost of W2,400 covers the first, 2 km and increases by W100 for each 144 meters. For groups of three or four it often works out cheaper to travel short distances by taxi rather than public transport. There is a 20% surcharge between midnight and 4am. The military installations have contracts with specific taxi companies for on- post service. On-post taxis are plentiful and can be flagged down anywhere. There are taxi stands at the Dragon Hill Lodge, Moyer CAC, the commissary and the hospital. Coming back to post can be a little more complicated. From your cell phone call 1544-9080 to have a taxi dispatched to your location. A W1,000 dispatch fee will be added to your fare. Alternately, there are usually on- post taxis outside the Yongsan Train Station.

## **PLACES OF INTEREST**

**THE PALACE DISTRICT** - This area of central Seoul is bounded by five grand palaces (see Palace section for descriptions). While visits to one or two palaces may suffice there is much more to see in the area. Check out the traditional tea shops and trinkets of the major tourist center Insadong-gil; for art galleries try Samcheong-dong; and stroll through streets studded with traditional hanok buildings in Bukchon-dong. Also in the area is the official residence of the Korean President, Cheongwadae, also known as the "Blue house". Take subway line 3 to

Anguk or Gyeongbokgung Stations for easy walking access to these attractions.

**BUKCHON HANOK VILLAGE** - Bukchon Hanok Village is a village where traditional Korean houses called hanok form a group, which encompasses Gahoe-dong, Jae-dong, and Samcheong-dong in Jongno-gu. Bukchon has been a traditional residential district for more than 600 years of the history of Seoul. The name of Bukchon (meaning North Village) originated from it being the north village of Cheonggye-cheon and Jong-no.

The village is located between two palaces arranged on Sung Confucianism, which was the dominant ideology during the Joseon Dynasty, and has a large concentration of traditional Korean houses against an excellent landscape. The numerous branch-like alleys have been kept as they always were, dramatically showing the scene of the city with its 600 year history.

At that time, it was famous as the exclusive residential area where high-ranking officials or royal family members resided and a few houses still maintain the reputation of the past. The alleys that imitate flowing water, unlike Western square roads, are one of the old features of this area. Visitors can feel the warm heart of Korea from the landscape; the eaves of houses are connected and walls are shared. While walking through the village, visitors can feel not only the beauty of the line of the eaves, but also the friendliness of alleys.

The Gahoe-dong Traditional Village Cultural Festival is held in the streets of Bukchon Hanok Village by the Bukchon Nobility Life & Culture Pavilion and sculptures symbolizing Bukchon Hanok Village, where visitors can enjoy the lives of historical Koreans.

**Directions:** Take subway line 3 to Anguk Station 328, exit 3.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA** - Until October 2004, the National Museum was located in the Seokjojeon building in Gyeongbok Palace, in the former Imperial Household Museum. It re-opened in October 2005 in a new building within Yongsan Family Park. Inside the museum, benches and resting spaces have been installed in many places for tired visitors. There is a food court, cultural products stores, coffee shop and restaurants. No admission fee is required for the permanent exhibits, the Children's Museum, and temporary exhibitions except special exhibitions that require separate tickets for admissions. Visitors must get a free admission pass at the ticket booths before entering the museum.

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am-5pm; Wednesday & Saturday: 9am-8pm; Sunday & Holidays: 9am-6pm; **closed Mondays.**

**Directions:** Walk out gate 17 (Visitors Gate) turn left and walk about 150 meters toward Yongsan Family Park. Museum will be on the left.

**CHEONGGYECHEON STREAM** - This is a rebirth of nature in the middle of downtown Seoul. The stream, which opened in the fall of 2005, flows east from Cheonggyecheon Square 6.5 kilometers to the Gosanja Bridge. There are wonderful walkways and rocky areas to sit and have lunch. You can have very relaxing strolls in the midst of a busy city. It is a fun and relaxing way to spend an afternoon or evening. At night there are even lights that accentuate the fountains.

**Directions:** To access this area take Line 4, Dongdaemun Station 421, exit 4. If you are facing the tall white Dongdaemun Shopping Building the stream is to your left. Walk out of the exit and look for a staircase leading down to the stream.

**COEX MALL** - This is an integrated shopping, culture, education and leisure complex in the heart of Seoul. Connecting the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) and World Trade Tower with the Samseong subway station (line 2); the area contains over 85,000 square meters of underground dining, shopping, and family entertainment facilities. The COEX mall offers everything from international foods to the latest books and CDs in a traffic-free and all-weather environment.

The Mall has a 16-screen cinema complex and an aquarium, so the COEX Mall provides leisure activities for all ages. Enter a world where dining knows no borders; the two international food courts offer every kind of dining option, from snack bars to gourmet restaurants, serving up to 1,000 patrons at a time. The COEX Mall also includes a large, international bookstore stocked with books and periodicals in many languages.

**Directions:** Subway line 2, Samseong Station 219, exits 5 & 6 exit to COEX Mall.

**HAN RIVER BOAT CRUISE** - A boat cruise along the Han River is one of the best ways to view Seoul's river front areas. Several boats cruise the waters of the Han, making 1-way and round-trip tours. In addition to the regularly scheduled tours, the boats can be chartered for special occasions and parties. For reservations call 785-4411, or call the individual piers for more information or log onto; [www.hanriverboat.co.kr](http://www.hanriverboat.co.kr) or [www.pleasureboat.co.kr](http://www.pleasureboat.co.kr).

**DLI (DAEHAN LIFE INSURANCE) 63 BUILDING** - The tall, golden building south of the Han River is the tallest skyscraper in Korea. The 1st floor has a marvelous aquarium that features seal and sea lion shows and an IMAX theater. The 56th to 59th floors have Western, Chinese, and Japanese restaurants. An observation deck on the 60th floor offers a great view of the surrounding area.

Admission prices vary depending on the attraction visited.

**Directions:** Subway line 5, Yeouinaru Station 527, Exit 1, 20 minute walk on foot. They have a parking garage if you decide to drive.

**NANTA COOKING THEATRE** - This is an interesting theatrical show that features music created with cooking instruments. There will be flying food and flashing blades according to their pamphlet. Pick up their pamphlet at the USO or call the booking number, 02-739-8288. [www.nanta.co.kr](http://www.nanta.co.kr)

**NAMSANGOL TRADITIONAL FOLK VILLAGE** - Located in P'il-dong, just to the north of Namsan Park, the Seoul government recreated a small village that resembles the architecture and gardens of the area during the Chosun Dynasty (1392-1910). The area contains 5 restored traditional houses, decorated with authentic furniture and decorations from the period. Originally called Cheonghak-dong (area of faeries for the blue cranes), it is one of the 5 most beautiful areas of Seoul and a famous summer resort. The yangban (aristocrats) who lived in the area often composed poems about the beauty of Namsan (then called Mokmyok-san) and the surrounding landscape.

**NAMDAEMUN MARKET** - Named for its nearby namesake of Namdaemun (Great South Gate) and located near the downtown area, one of Korea's largest wholesale markets covers over 10 acres. It is filled with over 1,000 shops, stalls, retailers, street vendors, and has several department stores nearby. Here you can find clothes, shoes, fabrics, tableware, flowers, vegetables, ginseng products, toys and watches. Although many of Namdaemun's shops are within the buildings that make up the area, the most colorful aspect of the market is the group of street vendors that setup in the alleys and walkways between the buildings. Wholesalers operate from midnight to 6am., and retailers are open from 7am to 5pm. Although most retailers close their stores on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of each month, many street vendors operate stalls in the alleys. Due to its location near downtown and the convenient bus service to and from Itaewon, many foreigners visit here. Most of the vendors can speak a few words of English or Japanese.

**Directions:** Subway line 4, Hoehyeon Station 425 EXIT 5.

**SEOUL TOWER** - Seen from almost anywhere in Seoul, Seoul Tower serves as an excellent landmark. Built on a 262 meter peak in Namsan Park, the tower reaches to 480 meters above sea level. When the weather and pollution levels

cooperate, visiting the observation tower (370 meters above sea level) allows you to view the entire city and surrounding areas. Because of the vistas, many people enjoy climbing up here for early morning exercise or for a romantic stroll after dark. The complexes containing Seoul Tower also contains several other attractions for tourists. Several exhibit halls display pictures of old Seoul, local birds, and towers from other countries. Fairy Land has several exhibits with Disneyland-like robots depicting famous fairy tales and children's stories. The Global Village Folk Museum display products and handicrafts from around the world. The World Musical & Animal Land has life-sized robots similar to Fairy Land, depicting animals from around the world as if they were in a musical band.

**Directions:** By car - drive or use a taxi, park at the National Theater of Korea parking lot. You will see a food stand near the entrance to the National Theater, this is a bus stop. A main line bus (Namsan Circular Line) will come and pick you up and take you up to the Tower. You can use a T-Money card or the cost is approximately W600 per person. When you go to leave you will have to take the whole bus route to return to the National Theater, but it only takes about 20 minutes. You can also ride a cable car from the Namsan cable car station. There is a parking lot available there. By subway- get off at Chungmuro Station, exit 2 and transfer to the Namsan Circular Line (bus main line 402 or branch line 0014, 4012). To use the subway to get to the cable car station get off at Myeongdong Station 424, exit 3. It is a ten minute walk uphill to the cable car station. By foot-exit Camp Coiner (Gate 20), turn right at the stop light. Follow the road uphill until it becomes a path. Follow the path and signs all the way up. Take a bottle of water with you!!

**WAR MUSEUM** - Across the street from Korea's Department of Defense, and next to the U.S. Army's Yongsan Garrison, is a fitting place for Korea's War Museum. Its impressive granite facade and surrounding park with vintage airplanes and tanks catch the eyes of people passing by along the main road. The museum building has 6 display rooms showing an almost 5,000 year history of foreign invasions, from before the Three Kingdoms Period, through to the Korean War.

Hours: 9:30am-6pm, **closed Monday** - If a holiday falls on a Monday closed the next day.

Admission: Adults W3,000, School students W2,000, Kindergartners W1,000.

**Directions:** 10 minutes by walking from Subway line 1, Namyong Station.

**SEOUL ARTS CENTER** - This amazing center houses many concert halls and galleries and is located pretty close to post. You can spend a lot of time wandering from place to place in this extensive space. There is an Opera Theatre, Concert

Hall, Recital Hall, Hangaram Art Museum, Hangaram Design Art Museum (which features rotating exhibits), Seoul Calligraphy Art Museum, several gift shops and a small restaurant. There is always something going on so check their website [www.sac.or.kr](http://www.sac.or.kr) or call 02-580-1300.

**Directions:** It is an easy drive, straight across the Banpo Bridge to the last stop light and you will be facing it. Don't take the tunnel. It goes right under it. Turn left at the light and then an immediate right into the parking area where there is a nominal parking fee. Seoul citizens love the arts! This is one of many performing arts centers. Check local publications to see what new exhibit, ballet performance or musical concert is happening now.

**SEOUL CITY BUS TOUR** - This is a city tour on a bus that takes you all over the city. You have the luxury of not worrying about parking or driving and you can pick out places that you would like to return to later. The best part is; you can get on and off the bus as many times as you wish, visiting whatever interests you. There are English speaking guides as well as audio guides on the bus. A one day pass is approximately ₩10,000 for adults. Check this website for more details: [www.seoulcitytourbus.com](http://www.seoulcitytourbus.com)

You can catch the bus across the street from; the War Museum, outside Gate 10 (Look for the pole marked Seoul City Bus Tour) and also in front of the I-Park Mall. The bus is marked Seoul City Bus Tour. **No Buses run on Mondays.**

## **PALACES, MUSEUMS AND WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

Seoul is the ancient seat of Korean's Royalty and, as such, there are a number of palaces that offer a glimpse into the country's past. The Royal Palaces of Seoul are the pride of Korea. Although most of the buildings were damaged or destroyed by war, their historical and aesthetic significance are still appreciated throughout the world. All of the palaces and their contents date from the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) and restorations are ongoing as the government seeks to recreate the buildings as they once were. The Royal Palaces are located in downtown Seoul and public transportation such as bus, subway or taxis are easily available. At specific times during the day, there are special ceremonies performed such as the changing of the guard or a traditional Korean wedding ceremony. Most Palace admission fees are between ₩1,000 and ₩5,000 (so take won with you). The Palaces listed below open at 9am. and involve a lot of walking, so wear comfortable shoes.

**CHANGDEOKGUNG AND BIWON (SECRET GARDEN)** - A UNESCO World Heritage Site, was first built in 1405 and was the seat of power between 1618 and 1896. The buildings have all been recently restored and repainted. Buildings of particular note include the blue-roofed Seonjeongjeon, which was the king's office, and the Daejojeon ("Great Making Hall"), his bedchamber, but most famous of all is the Biwon ("Secret Garden") in the back. Access to the complex is by guided tour only (W3,000) except on Thursdays when only self-guided tours are available. English tours are offered at 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm; Korean language tours are available every half hour, located near Anguk Subway Station.

**Directions:** Take Line 3 (Station 328).

Hours: 9am to 5pm, November through February, 9am to 6pm, May through October, ***closed Monday.***

**CHANGGYEONG-GUNG PALACE** - Was built in 1104 as a summer palace for the kings of the Koryo Dynasty. It later became one of the main palaces during the Joseon Dynasty and was used as a temporary home for the king while Gyeongbuk Palace was being built. Unlike other palaces that have a north-south orientation, Changgyeong Palace faces East-West. Accessible on the same entry ticket is the UNESCO World Heritage site, **Jongmyo Shrine**. The two sites are connected by a foot bridge. **Directions:** Take Subway Line 4 Hyehwa Station (Station 420) or Jongno-3-ga or Jongno-5-ga Stations (stop 131 or 130). Hours 9am to 5:30pm, November through February and 9am to 6pm, May through October. Admission: Adults W1,000 (groups:W800), Children (7 to 18 years old):W500 (groups:W400), **closed Tuesdays.**

**DEOKSUGUNG PALACE** - Is a vivid contrast to other nearby palaces. Built during the mid-fifteenth century, the architecture is a fusion of both Korean (outside) and Western (inside) architecture, located across from City Hall.

**Directions:** Take Subway lines 1 or 2 to the City Hall Stop (Station 203 or 133).

Hours: 9am to 5:30pm, November through February and 9am to 6pm, May through October.

Admission: Adults:W1,000 (groups:W800) Children (7 to 18 years old)

Soldiers:W500 (groups:W400), ***Closed Mondays.***

**GYEONGBOKGUNG PALACE** - Is Seoul's grandest palace and was the seat of power for centuries before it was razed in 1592 and again in 1910 by the Japanese. Large parts have been restored and the vast grounds house the Joseon

Palace Museum and the National Folk Museum. Admission: ₩3,000. Hours: 9am to 5pm, November through February, and 9am-6pm, May through October. The Palace is located behind the Gwanghwamun Gate at Gyeongbokgung.

**Directions:** Take Subway Line 3 to Gyeongbok station (327), exit 5. Closed Tuesday.

**KYONGHUI PALACE** - Close to Sejong Cultural Center, this palace was commissioned by King Kwanghae in 1617. It was originally named Kyongdok until 1760, when King Yongjo renamed it Kyonghui.

Open daily. Conveniently located within the Kyonghui Palace grounds is the Seoul Municipal Museum of Art .

**Directions:** Take Line 5 to Sodaemun Station (532), exit 4, and walk 5 minutes northeast.

**UNHYEONGUNG PALACE** - This palace has several elegant buildings to tour. On the last Saturday of April and October, the wedding ceremony of King Gojong and Queen Myeongseong is reenacted here. Open daily.

**Directions:** Take Line 3 to Anguk Station, Exit 4.

## SEOUL FESTIVALS

**CHERRY BLOSSOM** – Generally occurs sometime in April. The exact days are hard to predict but “Seoul-ites” get their picnic gear together as soon as the soft pink buds start to open. The most popular place is Yeouido; bring a bottle of soju and a bunch of friends.

**HI SEOUL FESTIVAL** - 10 day celebration of the coming of summer, that takes place in early May. There’s no better time to be in Seoul. Events range from fireworks displays to tea ceremonies to men tight rope walking across the Han River.

**BUDDHA’S BIRTHDAY PARADE** - This is a must see! Seoul celebrates the birth of Buddha with a festival of paper lanterns. Before the festival, traditional lanterns are exhibited at Bongun-sa Temple. On Yeondeung-nori, the eve of the festival, there are traditional Buddhist celebrations at the 14th-century Jogyesa Temple in Insadong. The opening ceremony for the parade itself is held at nearby

Dongdaemun and the procession of lanterns then moves along Jongno Street. The festival is notable not only for its large colorful lanterns on the backs of trucks but for the thousands of delicate hand-held lanterns in the shape of lotus flowers carried by adults and children wearing traditional hanbok. The festival is in May. Check dates and a schedule of events at <http://www.lf.or.kr/eng/>

**SEOUL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL** - Although its main focus is to highlight Korean talent, there are acts from as far afield as Latvia and Israel. It takes place at various venues across Seoul during a three week period in late September and October.

**KIMCH'I FESTIVAL** - An event surprisingly popular with foreigners, get your hands and mouths around the many kinds of kimch'i. Check dates and locations at; <http://www.kimchifestival.org/2009/eng>



Everland Wooden Roller Coaster

## PARKS, THEME PARKS AND ZOO

There are several large theme parks in the vicinity of Seoul. A day out to these parks requires planning to avoid massive crowds (avoid public holidays and Saturday afternoons if you can) and take plenty of sun protection in summer. Some of the following descriptions were prepared by an expat mother of toddlers.

**CHILDREN'S GRAND PARK** - is a large, older park with a small zoo near the back. Along the way to the zoo there is a giant kids' play area in a sand pit. Around the corner from the play area, there is a water feature where kids play in a shallow, concrete stream running over steps and rocks. Toddlers can splash and play on a hot day. Located up the hill on the left is a dog petting area separated into small and large dogs. If you don't have a dog, your kids may enjoy just sitting with a little dog on their laps petting them or playing with the big dogs. The areas are well-supervised by dog trainers. Buy W1,000 tickets at the gift shop before going up.

**Directions:** Take line 5 to Ahasan Station (545), exit 4 or Line 7 to Children's Grand Park Station (726), exit 1.

**EVERLAND** - Composed of play facilities, shopping facilities, and restaurants, Everland is the seventh largest theme park in the world. It is divided into 3 areas: Festival World, Caribbean Bay, and Speedway. Festival World is a theme park complex consisting of 5 theme zones: Global Fair, American Adventure, Magic Land, European Adventure, Equatorial Adventure, and Safari World. Caribbean Bay is a water park offering a variety of fun and water attractions to include shipwrecks, pirate caves and old temple ruins. Everland Speedway is the "only" racing track in Korea. You can drive your car on the speedway as well as watch a race. This park also contains a full-scale zoo which includes a bus ride on a "mini" safari through the African animal complex.

Admission prices vary depending on your choices. Check out [www.english.everland.com](http://www.english.everland.com) or call 82-31-320-5000 for details. Hours are subject to change depending on the season.

**Directions:** Easy drive and ample parking. Take Highway 1 to the I-50 split. Exit onto I-4 toward Wonju (heading east) and follow signs to Everland. For your return, follow signs to Seoul, they will put you back onto Highway 1.

<http://www.everland.com/MultiLanguage/english/everland/transfortation/transfortation.html>

**LOTTE WORLD** - A giant indoor/outdoor activity complex and amusement center that includes; a hotel, department store, shopping mall and numerous

restaurants. In the complex itself you'll find an indoor ice-skating rink, (open year round-skate rental available) as well as an indoor swimming pool, folk museum and bowling alley. The main attraction however is Lotte World Adventure and Magic Island....Korean Disneyland! Lotte World Adventure offers indoor rides for the younger children, a monorail, musical acts and even a laser show that takes place nightly at 9pm. Thrill seekers should venture to Magic Island, the outdoor fun park, where they can free fall 70m on the heart stopping Gyro Drop ride, or experience the sensation of being in a tornado on the Gyro Swing. Other attractions include; Log Flume, Swinging Spanish Pirate Ship, Roller Coaster, music, singing, dancing and a variety of parades.

**Directions:** From USAG-Yongsan take Subway **Line 4** (light Blue) from either Gate 17 or 19 to **Sadang Station**. At Sadang Station, transfer to Line 2. (Green) Follow the signs for Line 2, be sure to go up the stairs at the very end of the station and make a sharp "U" turn to the right, this leads to the platform for line 2. Take the **Line 2** train to **Jamsil Station**, and follow the signs to **Exit 3-Lotte Adventure**. Continue walking underground past the information booth. At the second "intersection" turn left, the ticket counter for Lotte World is straight ahead. **Note:** If you continue to walk straight ahead at the second intersection, instead of turning left, you will see signs leading to the **Toys-R-Us Store** which is located on the upper levels of the complex.

Business Hours: 9:30am-11pm 365 days.

Inquiries: 82-2-411-2000/3400 (ask for English speaker), [www.lotteworld.com](http://www.lotteworld.com)

Admission: Day Pass (admission and fees for all rides).

Adults W35,000, Students (13-18) W30,000, Children (4-12) W26,000.

Big 5 (admission and fees for 5 rides): Adults W20,000, Students (13-18) W17,000, Children (4-12) W15,000.

Admission (no rides): Adults W24,000, Students (13-18) W21,000, Children (4-12) W18,000.

Night Admission:5pm-11pm (30% discount).

**HANGANG RIVER CITIZEN'S PARK** - A "development project" in the 1980s, Hangang River Citizen's Park covers a large area up and down the river's edge. A sports haven, you can see people strolling or jogging along the trail paths, in-line skaters, bicyclers, and soccer fields or basketball courts. Citizen's Park is composed of; Gwangnaru, Jamsil, Ttukseom, Jamwon, Banpo, Ichon, Yeouido, Yanghwa, Mangwon, Seonyudo, Nanji, and Gangseojigu - a total of 12 districts. Citizen's Park is a beautiful area to visit in the evenings, as it is filled with the lights from Hangang River and the surrounding city buildings.

**Directions:** Go out Gate 17, cross underground through Ichon Station, Exit 4

and continue walking 10 minutes to the river.

**NAMSAN PARK** - Seoul's main peak, Namsan or "South Hill", once marked the southern edge of old royal Seoul. Remains of the city walls can still be seen in some of the park's wooded areas. Nowadays, Namsan stands in the center of the city, surrounded by the major shopping districts of Namdaemun, Myongdong, and Itaewon. Located at the top of Mt. Namsan is the Seoul Tower. Standing (with the aid of the mountain) 483m above sea level, Seoul Tower is the city's most visible landmark. With its rotating restaurant and observation deck, Seoul Tower offers an excellent view of Seoul and the surrounding areas. Make sure to do this on a clear day so you can get the benefit of the spectacular view from the tower's upper deck. In addition to the Seoul Tower, Namsan Park contains many other places of interest such as Namsan Botanical Gardens, Namsan Public Library and several statues in memorial of Korean patriots. The park also contains a Paljakjung or octagonal pavilion, an aquarium and a cable car leading to Seoul Tower. Admission prices vary depending on attraction visited. Open daily at 9:30am. For more information visit [www.parks.seoul.kr/namsam](http://www.parks.seoul.kr/namsam)

**Directions:** Take subway Line 4 to Myongdong Station (424), exit 3. You will have to walk approximately 10 min. uphill and then take the cable car to the summit of Namsan Park. The cable car operates from 10:00-22:30, every fifteen minutes. It would probably be much easier to take a taxi and ask the driver to take you to the actual tower entrance or Cable car parking lot. You could then take the subway home. Or take subway line 4 to Chungmuro Station, exit 2, wait at the bus stop at the top of the stairs then transfer to Namsan Circular Line Bus (Main Line 40), it will stop at the snack stand closest to the tower, from there it is a short walk to the tower.

**NATURE PARK** - Near the Park Grand Hyatt in Itaewon is a series of stroller-friendly nature trails not be missed. Walking along the hilly trails in the thick woods you'll forget you're in a crowded city. You'll see more butterflies and birds than you ever thought could exist here. There is parking across from the high end fashion shops that are to the left and across from the Hyatt. It is also possible to find street-side parking on a weekday near the left side of the Hyatt. Start by crossing the pedestrian foot bridge there, behind a little pavilion where bus drivers wait.

**SAJIK PARK** - Originally built around a stone altar that was erected in 1394, this park was created in 1921 during Japan's occupation of Korea. Sajik Park is also home to other famous historical landmarks including Tangun Hall, Chongno

Municipal Library and Hwanghagdong. An archery range is located at the rear of the park, and every year a national competition is held. Visitors can hike to Mt. Inwansan from the main gate. Nearby is Gyeongbok Palace and Gyeonghui Palace.

**Directions:** Take subway line # 3 to Gyeongbokgung Station (327) and walk ten minutes toward Sajik Tunnel.

**OLYMPIC PARK** - One of the World's top five sculpture parks is in Korea's Olympic Sculpture Park. This park contains the World Peace Gate, the remains of a Mongchontoseong Earthen Fortress, an outdoor sculpture garden, sports facilities and walking trails. Olympic Sculpture Park was constructed not only to celebrate the 24th Olympics held in Seoul as a cultural event and to commemorate its spirit 'Harmony and Progress.' The Sculpture Park has over 200 large modern sculptures by world-class artists, all situated within a beautifully landscaped setting. **The Seoul Olympic Museum** is also located here. This museum has various displays for the avid sports fan and an AV theater where you can ride through space and time to share in the excitement of the Seoul Olympic Games. It is also the Home of the Doosan Bears, Korea's first baseball team, and the LG Twins baseball team. Check out the website below for game times at <https://www.doosanbears.com/eng/index.asp>. Both teams play at Jamsil Stadium at Olympic Park. For more information about the museum visit;

[www.seoulolympicmuseum.com](http://www.seoulolympicmuseum.com).

**Directions:** Take subway line # 5 to Olympic Park Station (P550), Exit 3.

**SEOUL GRAND PARK** - Located in the suburbs of South Seoul this enormous park is a large and sprawling affair with a number of attractions. It is definitely worth the trip for its two great zoos. It's a long, uphill walk from the parking lot, it might be better to take the tram up the steps to the station. The children's petting zoo on the left allows you to feed llamas and donkeys and pet free-roaming pigs and watch some pretty playful monkeys. The larger zoo on the right contains a good collection of animals many in roomy enclosures plus it has a fabulous dolphin and seal show. The Seoul Land Amusement Park is also located on these grounds. See directions to National Museum below.

**SEOUL LAND AMUSEMENT PARK** - offers theme areas each with its own special characteristics, and has over 40 rides and 5 outdoor amphitheatres. Performances, exhibitions and events such as flower festivals take place in the park. See directions to National Museum below.

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART** and Seoul Land Amusement Park are attached to Seoul Grand Park, so visitors can stop at all three places at the same time. Admission fees vary depending on your choices. Check out <http://grandpark.seoul.go.kr/eng> for more information. You may purchase tickets for the zoo and Seoul Land at the USO or inquire about the foreigner's discount at the Guest Services kiosk outside the entrance gate. Hours are subject to change, depending on season, call 82-2-5007882-3.

**Directions:** Take Subway Line 4 to Seoul Grand Park Station (437), exit 1. Walk to the tram and follow the signs to the zoo, amusement park or museum.

**TIGER WORLD WATERPARK** - Tiger world is equipped with an indoor golf field, indoor ski resort, wave pool, children's pool, spas, an Aqua Bar (where you can enjoy beverages while swimming), seven different kinds of slides, including a Body Slide, a Kiddy Slide, and a Space Ball-a massive water facility that is 33 meters in height that you go through at a high speed. Take Towels. You can rent towels but they are very small. When you check in you get an electronic watch which is the lock for your locker and also an electronic charge device for you to pay for the lifejackets and food. You don't need to carry any money around. When you check out, you pay for what was charged to your watch and don't forget to take advantage of the military discount.

**Directions:** From Exit No.2 of Bugae Station (Seoul Metro line No.1), take Town Bus No.579 or City Bus No.79 and then get off at Sangil High School (takes 5 min.), from the school, walk for 5 minutes to Tiger world. Alternatively, you can take a taxi at Bugae Station (W2,500).

Website: <http://www.tigerworld.co.kr>

**Driving Directions:** Go out Gate 19, Cross the Hangangyo Bridge, follow it until it turns into I-120, then take a left (South) on I-100. You'll see signs to exit for Tiger world. Parking is free. Below is a link to other water parks around Seoul.

<http://english.tour2korea.com/03Sightseeing/TravelSpot>

**YONGSAN FAMILY PARK** - Located next to the **National Museum of Korea** in Yongsan. The front parking lot is small, but you can also park in the museum parking lot and walk around the back way. This park is the former golf course for the U.S. Military here so it's all rolling hills and great open grassy spaces. There is a large exercise machine area, but no kids' playground. Large public art and Weeping Willow trees over the lake make for great pictures, so bring food and a picnic blanket and something to feed the ducks. [info@korea4expats.com](mailto:info@korea4expats.com).

**Directions:** Walk out of Gate 17 and take a left toward the National Museum

of Korea. You'll see it on the left.

## TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF SEOUL

Travel outside of Seoul can seem intimidating to say the least, but it is good to get out and see the different regions and terrains of Korea. This is a "get you started" list of places to go and see in South Korea.

### NORTHERN LOCATIONS

**DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ) AND PANMUNJOM** - This is such an important part of Korean History and very important to see in order to truly understand the effect of being so close to the most heavily fortified border on the planet. This tour is better with a group where somebody else handles the necessary clearances. There are tours available through the USO and the Dragon Hill Lodge. The USO has a great tour that is very affordable; reserve your spot early because the buses fill up fast. The Dragon Hill Lodge half-day tour does not take you to the Panmunjom area and is more expensive.

**TONG-IL (REUNIFICATION) OBSERVATORY, GOSEONG-GUN, GANGWON PROVINCE** -The Observation Platform (OP), located north east of South Korea, is one of the places that provides you with a living evidence of the division of the Korean Peninsula. The Unification and Security Park is located 10 km south of Tong-il OP and is used as the educational place for national security. At the Park are the Entrance Report, Tourist Bureau, Education Assembly, stalls with vendors selling various souvenirs (from North and South Korea), a Dining Room and Natural Mineral Museum. This is also where you fill out the paperwork to gain permission to continue on to the Observation Platform, located within "The Civilian Passage Restriction Line". Paperwork requires the following information; your family name, the license plate number of your car, and the first names and ages of those going to the OP; there is no age limit here (there is at Panmunjom). There is a parking fee along with the entrance fee.

Admission: Adults W3,000, Child W1,500.

Groups of 30: Adult W2,000, Child W1,200.

Parking: Vehicles up to 9 seats W3,000, Over 10 seats W4,000. Buses W3,000.

About 4 km down the road from the Unification and Security Park toward the OP is a military checkpoint. Show your paperwork and obtain another

pass which you put on the dashboard. To the left of the parking lot is the 6.25 Museum dedicated to the Korean War and the inevitable gift shop at the end of the museum tour. Wear sturdy shoes as there is a climb up to the Observation Platform, which is 700 meters above sea level; at the half way point you will pass the “Last Restroom”.

The views from the OP are breath taking! With the East Sea (Sea of Japan) to the right, views of South Korean islands and over 12,000 mountain peaks directly in front and to the left. To the right of the OP are three religious facilities: Mary, Mireukbul, and Jeongincheol, where you will find many people praying.

The Observatory was opened in February 1984, with the North Korea Hall opened June 1988. It provides a wonderful view of the 4 km wide DMZ, North Korea and Mt. Geum-gang, the mountain range that looks like the two humps on a camel’s back. There is also a view of an island in South Korea. Between the Observation Platform and the Unification and Security Park, is The DMZ Museum. This is a fairly new addition which opened in August 2009. Operating hours: Tues-Sun 0900-1700 (**closed Mondays**).

Admission fees: Adult ₩2,000, Teenagers ₩1,400, and Children ₩1,000.

**Directions:** Take National road No. 46, to National road No. 6, to National road No 44 this road will take you through Seoraksan, to National road No. 7 which runs along the East Coast. For more information call the Tong-il Security Park at (033)682-0088.

**GANGHWADO ISLAND** - Located approximately 50km to the west of Seoul, and less than 1 km off the coast of Incheon, Ganghwado Island is the fifth-largest island in Korea and rich in both history and natural beauty. Mt. Manisan and the Chamseongdan Alter are located here along with several temples and military sights. Visitors can easily find Ganghwado local products such as Hwamunseok, rice and ginseng at the town markets. Famous for its ‘stamina producing’ ginseng, Ganghwado is still a rural island that seems oddly distant from the bustle and craziness of Seoul, despite the fact that it is less than a two-hour bus ride away. Egrets stalk through verdant rice fields, gulls chase ferries and the pace of life is slow. Attractions include numerous small fortifications, one of Korea’s largest dolmens, a prehistoric burial chamber, which is a World Heritage monument, Mt. Manisan with an ancient stone altar on its summit, and a 10km coastal bicycle track.

**INCHEON** - A bustling, industrial port 36km west of Seoul is big enough to warrant its own subway line. The international airport sits on an offshore island,

so be sure (if you're heading to the airport) that you don't go to Incheon proper. The city has a nice waterfront area with amusement rides, sushi shops, stores and ferries, as well as a very accessible Chinatown. Come here for a great day trip out of Seoul, sample some different foods, stroll along with the dating couples or tour groups in Wolmido waterfront or use Incheon as a stepping stone to the more remote islands. The sight of MacArthur's famous landing, this busy port city on the western coast offers a park commemorating the event, a small museum that houses the city's collection of archeological and historical materials. It is also an excellent place for a great seafood meal. Take the train - it is much easier than driving in the bumper-to-bumper traffic from Seoul. The Memorial Hall for Incheon Landing Operation is located here. The hall was created by the Incheon citizens to honor those who sacrificed their lives to preserve democracy and freedom on the Peninsula. The hall contains lots of interesting war stories, uniforms and weaponry used during the invasion of the communist forces in 1950.

**POCHEON HERB ISLAND & SINBUK HOT SPRING** - These two travel destinations near USAG Casey are eco-friendly tours enhanced by the aroma of herbs. Both sites are within a 10 minute bus trip from each other, making a combined trip convenient and worthwhile. The Pocheon Herb Island houses both outdoor and indoor gardens, a bookstore that carries herb-related books and accessories, a craft store selling herb craftworks, a bakery selling herb bread and cookies as well as a restaurant and coffee shop all within an area of 8.3 acres. There is also an aromatherapy facility, making it a great place for a one-night, two-day trip. Visit [www.korea.net](http://www.korea.net) for more information.

## **SKI RESORTS**

There are currently eleven ski resorts in Korea. The ski season is rather short, generally between mid-December and early March. If the season is mild most resorts have facilities for artificial snow. Toward late February conditions tend to be wet and slushy by mid-morning, so go early. There are a lot of beginners on the slopes, so it is advisable to be cautious and to be aware of who is coming down behind you. Skiing is rapidly becoming one of the most popular sports in Korea. Although there are a variety of resort areas with ski slopes, the popular areas are very crowded on weekends. The USO frequently sponsors group trips. Ski clothing is abundant and inexpensive but the equipment is another matter. If you have ski equipment and plan on skiing a lot, bring your own. Rental items are available at most resorts, but buying ski items there can be expensive!

There are several resorts located within 2 hours of Seoul, but the more luxurious resorts are up to 5 hours away. Look into Yongpyong and Muju if you are interested in a “world class” resort. The following list describes just a few of the ski areas available:

- **BEARSTOWN** - Located an hour outside of Seoul in Pocheon, Gyeonggi Province. The resort has slopes for both beginners and advanced skiers. Lessons are available. Hours: 10:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00. Half day and nighttime packages are available. Take an Ildong bound bus from Seoul’s Sangbong, Intercity Bus Terminal. Get off at Naechon Station take a 2-minute taxi ride to the resort.
- **CHONMASSAN STAR HILL RESORT** - Located 1 hour northeast of Seoul, this resort has four slopes and lifts. 02-2233-5311 Resort: 031-594-1211. [www.starhillresort.com](http://www.starhillresort.com).
- **PHOENIX PARK AND MISAN VALLEY** - This resort is located 2 hours from Seoul in Gangwon-do. This resort was a candidate for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Resort information: 02-527-9511 [www.phoenixpark.co.kr](http://www.phoenixpark.co.kr) (click on the little gray E for English in the top right corner).
- **YANGJI PINE RESORT** - Definitely the closest resort to Seoul, just 40 minutes outside of Seoul in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province. The resort has a good mix of beginner and advanced ski slopes as well as some slopes for sledding. Yangji is 60 km (37 miles) from Seoul. Hours: 0900-1700 for a full day. Half day and night time packages are also available.
- **YONG PYEONG (DRAGON VALLEY)** - Korea’s “Skiing Mecca,” Yong Pyong hosted the World Cup Ski Competition in 1998 and 2000 and the Winter Asian Games in 1999. Yong Pyeong is 134 miles east of Seoul. Driving time is 3.5 to 5 hours. Information (resort): 033 335 5757. Shuttle bus service is available from Jamsil and Sports Complex stations (Line 2).

### HIKING MT. SORAK

There are various places to hike in Korea. One of the most renowned is Soraksan National Park. Soraksan means “Snow Summit Mountain”. This mountain is always busy, particularly during the peak season during the fall when the leaves change. By 6:00am the park is packed with thousands of Koreans ready for a day’s hike. Entrance fee is about ₩3,200 (\$3.00). There are restaurants, temples, and statues, including a big Buddha statue. A good souvenir to buy is a bandana stamped with a trail map of the park. The park is crowded and if you are looking for peace and quiet you will not find it here. It cannot be

denied, however that Soraksan is one of South Korea's 'Wonders' because of the breathtaking scenery. The USO has some hiking tours available during the fall hiking season. Check their calendar for upcoming events and the overnight tours to Soraksan.

## CENTRAL LOCATIONS

**ICHEON/YOJU CERAMIC KILNS** - Icheon village of Ceramics is a definite destination for those interested in pottery. It is famous for its Celadon manufacturing and there are numerous ceramic studios, ceramic shops and even a ceramic museum. Various experiences related to ceramics can be enjoyed at the Icheon Ceramics Festival held from the end of September to early October, where the superiority of Icheon ceramics will be evident. There will also be unusual ceramic sculptures on display that will certainly attract visitors. Icheon Ceramics Festival will provide a place for learning and experiencing the culture of ceramics through international exhibitions. The World Ceramic Exposition Foundation has a wonderful website that gives information on various museums including the Icheon Ceramic Festival. Log on to [www.wocef.com](http://www.wocef.com) and click English.

**YOJU** - is the site of King Sejong's tomb. It is east of Icheon and also has many pottery factories. Log on to [www.ceramics.or.kr](http://www.ceramics.or.kr) for more info. Phone: 31-635-7976 The USO offer tours throughout the year.

**INDEPENDENCE MEMORIAL HALL OF KOREA** - Located just south of Osan, the memorial hall commemorates the people who struggled for freedom against foreign invasions throughout Korea's long history. It is easy to navigate and there are lots of English descriptions.

Admission Fee: W1,600 (A) W1,100 (S) W700 (C) Open year round, **Closed Mondays.**

Website: [www.asiatour.com](http://www.asiatour.com)

**Directions:** Easy afternoon trip: Located off the Kyongbu Expressway.

**KYONGJU (GYEONGJU)** - Known as 'the museum without walls,' Kyongju was once the capital of the Shilla Dynasty and it remained so for nearly 1000 years. In the 7th century AD, under King Munmu, Shilla conquered the neighboring kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje, and Gyeongju becoming the capital of the whole peninsula. Gyeongju holds more tombs, temples, rock carvings,

pagodas, Buddhist statuary, palace ruins, pleasure gardens and castles than any other place in South Korea. Tumuli (grass-covered burial mounds) are the most conspicuous and accessible of the sights. One cannot truly know Gyeongju's charms without visiting its outlying districts. Gyeongju covers a vast 1323 sq km, and would require several days to take it all in. There is also a great amusement park here—Gyeongju World.

**KOREAN FOLK VILLAGE** - This beautiful folk village has a large collection of thatched and tiled traditional houses that take at least half a day to look around. Set around a quiet river are a temple, a Confucian school and shrine, a market, a magistrate's house with examples of punishments, storehouses, a bullock pulling a cart and all sorts of household furnishings and tools. In this historical and rural village atmosphere, artisans wearing hanbok (traditional Korean clothing) create pots, make paper and weave bamboo, while other workers tend to vegetable plots, pigs and chickens. Even the confections (some of them) are handmade: look for the 'magician' making dragon's beard candy – it's made from honey hand-pulled to widths of a human hair.

Admission; Adult W11,000, Child W8,000.

Hours 9am-6pm, Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm, Nov-Feb. Traditional musicians, dancers, acrobats and tightrope walkers perform, and you can watch a wedding ceremony, events happen twice daily and usually start around 11am and 3pm

Next to the Folk Village is a small children's amusement park. Admission; adult/youth/child W16,000/W14,000/W13,000, this price includes admission to the folk village, an art gallery (admission W3,000) and a world folk museum. A combo ticket to all three gives you a discount off the separate admission fees. [www.koreanfolk.co.kr](http://www.koreanfolk.co.kr)

## SOUTH EAST AND COASTAL LOCATIONS

**CHINHAЕ** - Chinhae is home to not only the Korean Navy, but is also the only U.S. Navy base in South Korea. Command Fleet Activities Chinhae comprises approximately 84 acres and is adjacent to the largest ROK Navy Base. Chinhae is also home to the ROK Naval Academy. Located on the southern coast Chinhae is approximately 7 hours drive from Seoul or around 4 hours by the KTX Train. Try to stay in one of the Billeting rooms if you visit Chinhae; DSN 762-5336 or COMM 055-540-5336.

**The Cherry Blossom Festival** is held annually in honor of Admiral Ye Sun-shin, a famous Korean naval hero who helped defeat the Japanese during the invasions

of 1592-1598. The Festival usually begins in early April and runs for 12 days. During the 12 days a profusion of the world's most beautiful cherry blossoms are in full bloom on the mountains, along the highways and all around town. It is the third largest cherry blossom festival in the world after Tokyo, Japan, and Washington D.C. During this time, food vendors and stands offering Korean goods for sale line the streets of Chinhae.

Korea's second largest island, Koje-do, lies just south of Chinhae and is an hour-and-a-half ferry ride away. The island was once a POW camp during the Korean War and has subsequently become home to a thriving fishing and shipbuilding industry, along with first-class beaches and resorts.

**HONGDO ISLAND** - Hongdo Island is located 115 km southwest of Mokpo Harbor and is composed of about 20 islands. The name Hongdo means "Red Island", a name derived from the unusual reddish brown color that glows all around when the sun sets over the island. With the blue sea and green forest, it remains the most spectacular sight in the Southern Sea. Hongdo Island has 33 officially designated beautiful sceneries, but the most famous of them all is the Hongdosipkyeong. Because the entire island of Hongdo has been declared a Natural Monument, people are not allowed to enter areas other than the villages and designated tourist areas. Because of this, you cannot remove even one stone or a blade of grass from the island. Visitors that break the rules will be fined.

**Directions:** Take the train to Mokpo which is in Southwestern Korea. From there, take the ferry to Hongdo Island. The only accommodations available are "yogwans", but are clean and pleasant for a night stay in good weather.

**JEJU ISLAND, JEJU-DO** - The largest of Korea's islands, has mild weather year round. Vacationers will find sandy beaches, hiking trails and even a new amusement park, 'Cheju World'. Natural attractions include the Samsonghyol Caves, waterfalls and the volcanic scenery of Songsanilchulbong Park. Other things to do on the island include golf, horseback riding, windsurfing, local restaurants, nightlife and shopping districts. The flights leave regularly and are short, making this island ideal for a quick getaway. Check with your travel agent or with the USO for booking details.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of things to do but it does offer some starting points. For additional information, consult the Yongsan Library or consider traveling with an organized group. One of the primary sources for travel information within Korea is the USO which offers a wide variety of trips,

both in Seoul and throughout the country. Schedules are available from the Moyer Community Activities Center, Camp Kim USO and the information desk at the Dragon Hill.

## PUBLICATIONS OFFERING SEOUL KOREA TRAVEL ADVICE

- ***The Seoul Selection*** is a weekly newsletter that has all of the current events happening in Seoul. Access it through their website at [www.seoulselection.com](http://www.seoulselection.com)
- ***The Korea Herald*** has a travel section in their weekend issue, featuring a thorough article and map of a different place each week. The Yongsan Library has back issues if you want to review them. <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr>
- ***Arirang Magazine***, published by the American Women's Club (AWC), many good travel articles. In addition, AWC sponsor trips to places off the beaten track although these are only open to members. <http://www.awcseoul.org>
- ***Discovery*** is a magazine published by the Seoul International Women's Association (SIWA) offering information on local activities. SIWA offers trips and social events to its members. <http://www.siwapage.com>
- ***Seoul City News*** has up to date information on local events. <http://www.seoulcitynews.com>
- ***The Korean National Tourism Organization (KNTO)*** is also an excellent source of information and assistance. Their main office is in downtown Seoul, Tel: 02-729-9600. A visit to the KNTO is time well spent; you will come away with information on festivals, museums, dining, and just about anything else you may want to know about Korea. Visit [www.english.tour2korea.com](http://www.english.tour2korea.com) for more information. Many other organizations in Seoul offer excellent tours. Check out the English language newspapers in the Local Events column for details.

Other helpful tourism websites:

<http://www.korea4expats.com>: Seoul 4 Expats

[www.lifeinkorea.com](http://www.lifeinkorea.com): Life in Korea

[www.seoulife.com](http://www.seoulife.com): Seoul Life (mostly real estate but some helpful info)

[www.welcome.korea.com](http://www.welcome.korea.com): Korea.com

**www.npa.or.kr/eng:** Korean National Parks Authority

**www.knto.or.kr:** Site for Korea National Tourist Information Center. Click on the English text version.

**www.english.seoul.go.kr:** Seoul Metropolitan Government

**www.korea.net:** Korean Culture and Information Service

## TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF KOREA

One of the greatest things about an assignment to Korea is its proximity to all the “exotic” places you have always wished to visit, but somehow they always seemed out of reach. Check into the package tours offered by the travel services located in the Dragon Hill Lodge, USO and Moyer Community Activity Center (See Travel Services). There are also many reputable travel agents off-post. Ask around for a recommendation.

Traveling to countries in Asia from Korea can be both rewarding and relatively inexpensive if you follow a few simple guidelines.

### GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS

Check that the area is not restricted by USFK due to terrorism, disease, etc. Below are some web sites and general information to help you with your travel plans:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory, <http://www.cdc.gov>
- World Health Organization (WHO) Advisory, <http://www.who.int/en>
- U.S. State Department Public Announcement, <http://travel.state.gov>
- Check with your travel agent on the visa/passport requirements for the country you are visiting. They vary from country to country. Leave ample time for processing these documents.
- Always know the immunization requirements of the country/countries you’re going to visit.
- Plan ahead. Dealing with travel agents or airlines in Korea is somewhat different than the experiences you may have had elsewhere, so you need to have plenty of time to make sure all details are in order and that you are getting the best deal possible.
- Research, research, research. Once you have selected a destination, find out everything you can about which airlines are available, which hotels may be having a special promotion, and what travel agent is the most competent. You will find you can save hundreds of dollars by shopping around.
- Talk with those who have traveled during their tour in Korea. Their experiences can often save you a lot of time, trouble and money.

- Don't allow your travel agent/group tour promoter to wait until the last minute to provide you with your tickets, accommodations confirmation, etc. It's not easy to get your military leave orders changed if a travel agent lets you down at the last minute.
- Check with the airline yourself to see what fares are and always ask about discount rates. Check with the international reservations center of the local hotels that give military discounts (Hilton, Hyatt, Sheraton, Ramada, and Intercontinental). You will often find that you can put your own package together for less than some of the tour operators are quoting.
- If it's offered, always buy baggage insurance when traveling in Asia. If your luggage does get lost, you can buy enough personal items to hold you over until it finally shows up. **Never check valuables** in your luggage, always hand carry them.
- Learn as much as possible about your intended destination and don't pay for a lot of "optional" tours to places you don't really want to see. Be aware of the fact that most of the airports in Asia have an airport tax, some of which have to be paid in the local currency. Always know what this is and put money aside to pay it.
- Study the international currency rates published in the local papers before going on your trip so that you will know what amount of local currency you expect for your dollars/won. Try not to change too much money in airports or hotels. They normally have the worst rates around.
- If you're going on your own without the assistance of an English-speaking tour guide, definitely consider buying an English-Whatever-language-you-need dictionary. Even if you can't speak the language, being able to point at the appropriate words normally helps.
- Particularly in light of the current world situation, try to blend into a crowd and not be offensive in your manner or dress. Many Westerners unintentionally offend people of Asian cultures by wearing "improper" clothing into temples and shrines. Know in advance what the customs are and dress accordingly. You will find that people are much nicer to you when you respect their culture and make an attempt, however small, to learn a few words of their language.
- Remember (as if you could forget) that many things are different in Asia (voltage for appliances, driving on a different side of the road, etc.) and you need to be prepared for these differences. Living in Korea, having many of the conveniences of home, tends to lull you into a false sense

of security that quickly goes away when you're in a country where your hair dryer won't work and you think the toilet paper is actually recycled sand.

- Travel light because you undoubtedly will find many "treasures" to purchase during your journey. Many veteran travelers travel with an empty lightweight bag folded into their luggage just so they'll be able to get their purchases home safely.
- Know the customs laws of each country you plan to travel in and the Korean laws as well. You can check with the embassy of your destination for current information on their laws and with the Customs Office on Yongsan for the Korean rules.
- If you are flying Space-A, always be prepared to pay for a commercial ticket back to Korea if the Space-A flights suddenly are not available. Also, be prepared to pay for lodging if you are forced to stay in an area longer than anticipated.

## **TRAVEL MEDICINE CLINIC**

Keeping up with all these notices is the mission of the Travel Medicine Clinic. The clinic staff provides a personal medical consultation to ensure an enjoyable and safe vacation for you. Call 736-3025 to schedule an appointment. Please bring shot records for each person traveling. It is best to schedule appointments 4-6 weeks before traveling to allow adequate time for any necessary vaccinations to take effect. The Travel Medicine Clinic is located in building 5447, near Gate 52 (Commissary Gate).

## **Healthy Travel Tips**

No matter where your travels may take you, be sure to observe the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it or forget it. Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. Check to make sure that bottles for water are not being reused. Bottle caps should be new and unopened.

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively. Avoid travel at night if possible and always use seat belts.
- Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents (applied sparingly at four-hour intervals), and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Never eat undercooked ground beef and poultry, raw eggs, and unpasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is particularly dangerous to persons who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.
- Monkeys, dogs, cats, chicken and ducks can be a source of serious diseases such as rabies, plague and bird flu so, avoid contact with animals whenever possible.
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.
- Practice safe sex.
- Don't share needles with anyone.

### **Recommended Supplies and Equipment**

- **Make sure you pack:**
- **A long-sleeved shirt and long pants** to wear while outside whenever possible, to help prevent sunburn and illnesses carried by insects.
- **Insect repellent** containing DEET (diethylmethyltoluamide), in 22% to 35% strength for adults and 6% to 10% for children, as well as a bed net impregnated with the insecticide permethrin (Bed nets can be purchased in camping or military supply stores).
- **Over the counter** anti-diarrhea medicine, to take if necessary. Iodine tablets and portable water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available.
- **Prescription medications;** make sure you have enough to last during your trip, as well as a copy of the prescription(s).

# EMERGENCY OR URGENT HEALTH CARE WHILE TRAVELING

TRICARE has contracted and partnered with International SOS, a worldwide company, to establish a network of quality healthcare providers and hospitals throughout the Western Pacific to assist with urgent and emergency medical and dental care for Active Duty Service Members (ADSM's). By using the ISOS network, ADSM's will not incur out-of-pocket expenses and there will be no claims to file. It is a cashless and claimless service. This service is available to ADSM's who are TDY, deployed or simply on leave in Pacific areas where a U.S. Military Treatment Facility is unavailable.

Active Duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime may use ISOS for emergency medical care only. ISOS can assist you in obtaining urgent medical or dental care but you will be required to pay for the services up-front and file a claim through the region you're enrolled to for reimbursement.

TRICARE Standard Active Duty family members as well as retirees and their family members **are not eligible** for this emergency travel benefit.

To utilize these services, call International SOS (ISOS) collect at 65-6-388-9277. When calling collect, it may be necessary to request an international operator. If you are in Singapore, call directly to 65-6-388-9277. If you are traveling within Korea, contact the international operator at (02) 7913-1110 and request to place a collect call to 65-6-388-9277.

For civilians and family members not eligible for ISOS, it is a good idea to purchase international or travel medical insurance before going abroad. If you already have international insurance, check with your current insurance provider to confirm coverage and procedures in case of emergency before departure.

## EMERGENCY CARE DEFINITION

Care provided for sudden and unexpected onset of a medical or psychiatric condition or the acute exacerbation of a chronic condition that is threatening to life, limb or sight and requires immediate medical treatment.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Seek care from the nearest medical facility.
- Dial the local number for ambulance service as provided by the American Embassy, military unit, or other source.
- Have a local address and phone number available. Do not hang up the phone until directed to do so by the host nation operator.

- When emergency treatment or hospitalization in a local civilian is received, contact International SOS as soon as possible.

### **URGENT CARE DEFINITION**

Treatment for a medical or psychological condition that would cause undue discomfort to the patient or that may worsen if not treated within 24 hours.

### **URGENT CARE**

If you need urgent care in Pacific locations, International SOS can provide several valuable services. By calling them before receiving care, you can:

- Find a qualified health care provide.
- Avoid paying up front costs.
- Avoid filing claims.
- Otherwise, expect to pay the host nation provider at the time of service. Then file a claim with TRICARE CENTER upon return from travel.

For more information, please stop by the TRICARE Service Center, Building 7102 or call 736-8558/7238/7236.

## **WHERE TO GO**

The following is a list of possible places to explore. Due to changing world conditions, always check with the embassy, USFK and the following website to see if travel to your country of choice is recommended. [www.asktheconsul.org](http://www.asktheconsul.org)

### **AUSTRALIA**

The “land down under” is beginning to enjoy a real surge in popularity from travelers from Korea. There are several package tours on the market. You can easily obtain your visa from the Australian Embassy in the Kyobo Building downtown near the American Embassy. Qantas Airline and KAL have direct flights to Sydney and many other cities.

If you want to enjoy some amazing blue skies, incredible snorkeling and swimming, a cosmopolitan atmosphere, breath-taking sights, superbly prepared seafood and Continental foods and desserts, then Sydney and the Gold Coast of Australia is just what you need!

**Sydney points of interest include;** Sydney Opera House; Harrys Cafe On Wheels (a favorite with celebrities like Elton John) famous for its meat pies and hot dogs; the Taronga Zoo which you get to by taking a ferry ride, a cable car ride up a hill to one of the most spectacular views of Sydney Harbor; the Blue Mountains or just some relaxed shopping in the restored Victorian buildings or

antique arcades that have become popular and unique shopping areas. Check out the Radisson Hotel Sydney, not only is it centrally located but also offers military rates, free hors d'oeuvres and best of all, the Subway runs under the hotel. A subway Pass is the way to go if you'd rather go it alone. A Circle pass is good for unlimited one day travel with stops at most of the famous Sydney sights. The Radisson Hotel is only a five minute walk from the Australian Naval Base, which you can enter as long as you have a military ID, and then you can walk on base straight down to the harbor.

If you are traveling on a loose itinerary try visiting a travel agency while in Sydney and check into their tours of the Gold Coast. They offer some wonderful specials for the **Great Barrier Reef** area. A tour might include travel to Cairns; a bus to Port Douglas, and trekking through an exotic rain forest. You can board a train for an incredible single track train ride around the mountains to the town of Kuranda, where there is a beautifully restored railway station, souvenir stands and for the brave at heart: bungee jumping. A trip to the Gold Coast would not be complete without a cruise out to the Great Barrier Reef where there is scuba diving, snorkeling, mini-submarine rides, helicopter rides and an underwater observatory. If you want to be pampered, try the exclusive resort on Haymen Island. It boasts having the largest swimming pool in the Southern Hemisphere. Haymen Island is very expensive.

Some other treats to try during your Australian visit are the delicious sponge cakes with strawberries and cream, Vegemite, (Australian kids eat Vegemite like American kids eat Peanut Butter) and their Yummy Chocolate and 'sweets'. If this sounds too good to be true, call the Australian Embassy 02-2003-0100 or visit one of the travel services on-post to book a trip.

## CAMBODIA

Siem Reap and the Temples of Angkor Wat are fast becoming a major destination. Korean Air has a direct flight into Seam Reap, which makes this exotic locale much easier to reach! Although the city is modernizing at a fast pace, this still may not be a trip to take children on. Healthcare is not easily accessible and there is a lot of walking through old stone ruins.

The temples date back to 800 AD and are mainly of Hindu origin with Buddhism influence in the later temples. Monks are walking around, incense is burning, people are praying, and children are selling native crafts. The land and culture surrounding the Angkor Wat Complex is equally as fascinating with rice paddies everywhere, traditional thatched roof housing (charming in a strange way, although many still have no electricity), people napping in hammocks on

the roadside, skinny livestock, such as water buffalo, scattered around, and beautiful lotus ponds.

## CHINA

Americans and other foreign visitors are touring China in increasing numbers in order to visit many of the wonderful ancient and historic sites this vast country has to offer. Some of the more popular destinations include; Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, and Hangzhou.

The USO and other Travel Services on or off post offer individual or group tours to many destinations in China for varying amounts of time and prices. These trips are excellent value for money with the USO and travel services arranging all visas, tours of your choice, and excellent 4 or 5 star hotel accommodations. A flight from Incheon Airport to Beijing is about one and a half hours. Beijing has an endless list of places of interest but some include; the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Olympic Village and Water Cube, pearl and jade markets, acrobatic shows and of course the pandas.

A variety of guidebooks can be purchased at the PX or visit one of the travel websites online. A shopping guide for Beijing is available on the AFSC website: [www.afsckorea.org](http://www.afsckorea.org)

## GUAM/SAIPAN

If you're looking for a tropical getaway, check out the islands of Guam or Saipan. Located off the coast of Japan in the Mariana Islands both destinations are just a 4 to 5 hour flight from Incheon International Airport. In addition to white sandy beaches and breathtaking views, Guam, a U.S. territory, is home to two military bases, where you can pick up discount tickets for local activities. There are 3 shopping malls (Macy's, Ross Dress for Less, K-Mart), and a Hard Rock Cafe. For a more tranquil setting consider Saipan. This U.S. Commonwealth is smaller and does not have the hustle and bustle of Guam. Both Guam and Saipan have a variety of luxury hotels and recreational activities. A family-friendly resort found on both islands is the Pacific Islands Club (PIC) [www.pacificislandsclub.com](http://www.pacificislandsclub.com). It is an all-inclusive resort/water park, with lots for children to do! You can book a trip online or go through one of the on-post travel agencies.

## HONG KONG

Hong Kong is an amazing city, with skyscrapers jutting out of the surrounding mountains and the bustling harbor down below. There is so much to see and do in this incredible city. Truly a shopper's paradise, since imported goods enter

Hong Kong duty free. Shop carefully, compare prices and quality. Always deal with reputable dealers. Look for the Hong Kong Tourist Association membership sticker, as it normally indicates an established merchant with a good reputation.

The Fleet Arcade shopping area is at Fenwick Pier, 1 Lung King St. Wan Chai. It is located on the Hong Kong island side of the city and can be easily reached from the Admiralty Subway Stop. The U.S. Navy Fleet Post Office (FPO) is located on the second floor of the Fleet Arcade. The FPO is a full-service U.S. Post Office. A commercial packaging facility is located next to the FPO; it makes mailing home your purchases very convenient! The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10am to 4pm, and 10am to 6pm when U.S. ships are in port. The FPO is closed on holidays and weekends. To use FPO services, identification is required. Payment is in U.S. dollars or personal check; no credit cards.

Other points of interest include Bird Street, where literally thousands of birds are available for purchase; the Star Ferry, for a leisurely ride across the harbor; the tram up Victoria Peak, where you get a spectacular view of Hong Kong; Ocean Park, the largest oceanarium in the world; and a trip to Aberdeen fishing village.

Upon arrival at the Hong Kong airport, pick up one of the free tourist travel kits available in the baggage claim area. The kit contains an excellent map and a good little guide book. The Hong Kong subway can get you just about anywhere you want to go ... buy a tourist pass. It's cheaper and you won't have to wait in the long lines to pay for a ticket each time.

If your mission is shopping, however, some favorite shops include:

**Raymond Ko Jewelry Ltd** - 80J Nathan Rd., Kowloon: 3-66-7144. Beautiful jewelry can be purchased at reasonable prices.

**The Red Chinese Department Stores** - There are several locations of this chain store, which carries a wide variety of Chinese products at good to excellent prices. They carry rosewood, rugs, screens and many other things and they mail to the U. S.

**Royal Rug** - 16B Camavon Rd., Kowloon: 3-66-4320. This is where the Chosun buys all its rugs. They will pack your rugs for you. You can mail the smaller sizes from Hong Kong, but nothing larger than a 6'x9' carpet.

**Stanley Market** - Hong Kong's Itaewon, this wonderful market is high up on a mountain with breathtaking views. So many things to see, and nearby is a row of cafes that on weekends close the road to cars and become outdoor cafes, so quaint and lovely; take Bus 6 or Bus 260 from outside Connaught Center. You can take a taxi but it is expensive, around \$40 one way.

**Toys** - Panda King at Tsim Sha Tsui Center. They are located out in the mall area and carry toys and electronic games. Barter with them. There is also a Toys 'R

Us.

**Jade Market** - If you love jade this is a must do. So many vendors under tarps selling their wares such as beautiful jade bracelets and jade jewelry of all shapes and sizes, pearls, and other gift items.

**Ladies Market** - and Temple Street (for Men) Both are night markets and fun to browse. Know what you want to spend and have your calculator ready. These vendors will start high and are a little aggressive so hold your ground.

**Harbor Tour** - You will not believe how busy this harbor is! The tour is a great way to see it up close. Ask your travel agent or hotel concierge.

**Disneyland** - Yes, that's right, Disney has recently opened its newest Disneyland right here in Hong Kong, so why not check it out!

Even the most diehard shopper eventually gets tired or hungry and this is where Hong Kong really offers a world of choice. Dim Sum (only served for breakfast and lunch and are little works of art) and Peking duck are readily found. You can eat for a few Hong Kong dollars from a street vendor or you can blow an entire year's entertainment budget by going to dinner one night at Gaddi's at the Peninsula Hotel. The Jumbo Restaurant is also recommended, although it can be touristy, it is a wonderful place to get a taste of Hong Kong.

## INDIA

When you consider India as a possible destination, you must take many factors into account. Obviously, there is a great deal to see in this ancient country, but many experienced travelers said they were depressed by the extreme poverty and social conditions in this overpopulated land. India's leaders are well aware of this social perception and are working hard to not only to solve their country's problems, but also to improve their public relations image.

For this reason, now may be the cheapest time ever to visit India if you have the desire. Special promotions are underway and the government is apparently going all out to see that tourists come away with a favorable impression. For information on possible tour packages contact the Indian Embassy.

## JAPAN

Traveling to Japan from Korea is relatively inexpensive and easy if you plan your trip carefully. There are several ways of going to Japan: commercial airlines, AMC flights from Osan, and by ferry from Busan. Try to use the U.S. military facilities in Japan (particularly the New Sanno in Tokyo) as much as possible because Japan is the most expensive country in the world. The New Sanno Hotel has an extremely high occupancy rate, so make your reservations well in

advance.

If you are using commercial transportation to reach Japan, consider buying a Japan Rail Pass while you are still in Seoul, they aren't available inside Japan. These passes (very similar to a Euro rail pass) allow unlimited travel on trains throughout the country and are a real bargain. You can purchase them from Global Travel near City Hall or other agencies in Seoul.

There is so much to see and do in Japan that you will want maximum flexibility in getting around. Also buy a tourist subway pass (you can get them at the New Sanno) for easy movement in Tokyo.

**TOKYO** - is one of the largest cities in the world. Its population is over 12 million and growing. Tokyo is the center for political, economic, and cultural activities in Japan. Some of the major attractions in Tokyo include:

- The New Sanno U.S. military facility DSN: 229-8111.for reservations.
- The Imperial Palace is surrounded by a series of picturesque moats.
- The Marunouchi section is the hub of Tokyo's commercial activities.
- The Diet building, the seat of Japanese government
- Ginza and Kihombashi are two of the busiest and most fashionable areas boasting many of the top ranking stores, restaurants and theaters.
- The Meiji Shrine with the Memorial Picture Gallery also various sports facilities.
- Tokyo Tower is a steel tower which is one of the world's highest and offers an excellent view of Tokyo.
- Ueno Park is filled with beautiful scenery, museums and a zoo.
- Tokyo National Museum, a MUST see whose walls encase some of the oldest relics in the world.

#### **OUT-OF-TOKYO EXCURSIONS**

**Kamakura** - The seat of a feudal government from 1192-1333 is a lovely seaside resort southwest of Tokyo and easily reached by frequent electric rail service. This ancient capital city is noted for its Daibutsu or Great Buddha, 42.2 feet tall.

**Hakone** - Famous for its mountain scenery, hot springs and many historic spots which include Lake Ashi (Lake Hakone), noted for its splendid reflections of Mt. Fuji; Hakone Shrine, said to have been founded in 757 A.D.; Owakudani and Kowakidani Valleys, where sulfurous fumes rise from crevices on the mountain side, and Mt. Koma, which commands a lovely view of surrounding scenery.

**Hakone Open Air Museum** - Since its beginning in 1969, this museum has enriched audiences. Situated on a grass carpet, the museum prides itself on its

priceless collections of masterpieces which are of both domestic and foreign origins.

**Disneyland and Disney Sea** - On the shores of Tokyo Bay, 7 miles from the center of Tokyo, the \$660 million entertainment complex of Disneyland dominates the landscape. Tokyo's Disneyland is the largest of the Disney complexes covering 110 acres. Disney Sea is unique to Japan and is based on the 7 seas.

Kyoto - This ancient city, which was deliberately spared damage during World War II because of its cultural significance, is like a huge museum. There are too many attractions to detail here, but some of the most important are:

**Nijo Castle** - Built in 1603 by Leyasu, the first Shogun, as his Kyoto residence. Surrounded by double moats, the castle boasts numerous beautiful structures and gardens. Ninomar-u Palace represents typical early 17th century Japanese architecture. An interesting feature of the palace is a wooden corridor so called the "nightingale floor." Designed to warn off possible intruders, it squeaks whenever anyone walks on it.

**Kiyomizu Temple** - This 355-year-old wooden temple is set in a traditional landscape and is constructed halfway up the side of a beautiful hill.

**Ginkatuji** - The silver pavilion temple was built by Yoshimasa Ashikaga in 1482 as a retirement home. It has beautiful gardens and smaller surrounding temples.

**Kinkakuji** - The Temple of the Golden Pavilion is one of the most famous sites in Kyoto and probably one of the most photogenic spots in all of Japan. Allow several days for Kyoto if you enjoy history!

**Nara** - The national capital of Japan during the 8th Century, Nara, is noted as the birthplace of Japanese art and literature. It is easily accessible by train from Kyoto and it is possible to stay in one hotel (possibly in Osaka, which is in the middle) and see both areas if you have a rail pass. Like Kyoto, Nara was spared as much destruction as possible in World War II because of its cultural heritage. Some of the most important attractions are:

**Akishino** - Temple founded in 780 A.D. by Emperors Konin Kammu.

**Hokkiji** - Among other attractions, there is a three story pagoda dating from 685 and is a fine example of 7th century Japanese architecture.

**Horyuji** - The oldest and largest existing temple in Japan, founded in 607 AD. It is considered to be the cradle of Japanese art and culture. This is A MUST SEE if you go to Nara.

**SHOPPING IN JAPAN** can be a VERY expensive experience if you shop on the Japanese economy. Many Americans have found they get better value by shopping in the arcade at the New Sanno or at the bases located throughout Japan. The Japanese Embassy can be reached at 02-733-5626.

**OKINAWA** - One of the four Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa is an easy destination for anyone wanting to use Space-A from Osan to Kadena. Call the Osan AMC terminal for information. (HINT: You will find the AMC terminal personnel much more helpful if you call at a time when they are not processing a flight. Ask when you call if this is the case and if so, when could you call back.) For more information on Space A travel look under section S in this book. The climate of Okinawa is subtropical and an interesting change from Seoul. Shopping for local crafts and fine china is excellent. Be aware of the fact that Japanese taxis are expensive. Use base transportation whenever possible to get close to your destination and then hike until you have too many packages to carry around.

The most logical, and cheapest, place to stay is Kadena Airbase, which has 24-hour billeting. Call Autovon 630-1110 to reach the operator. There is also occasionally Navy BOQ space available. You can check with the Navy Billeting office in Building 4198 before 4pm.

## **MACAU**

This tiny country on the tip of China is often a destination for tourists who have some extra time while they are in Hong Kong. Macau is easily accessible from Hong Kong by ferry or hydrofoil (which is definitely the best way to go). The Portuguese heritage of Macau gives it its own special flavor and is wonderful. Go to Macau, if for nothing else, to eat and drink the good, inexpensive wines. Gambling is also a big attraction here and huge casinos line the shore. Some of these casinos boast fabulous restaurants which aren't expensive when compared to Seoul prices. Excellent, inexpensive places to eat are also easily found. For additional information, write to the Macau Tourist Information Bureau; Travessa do Paiva, Macau. If you are in Hong Kong, call the Macau tourist bureau at 05-408-180.

## **MALAYSIA**

Malaysian Airlines, working in conjunction with the country's massive "Visit Malaysia" campaign, have made this country an inexpensive and marvelous place to visit. The Malaysians are a truly friendly people, anxious to please and eager to visit with foreigners.

**Kuala Lumpur**, the capital, contains many interesting attractions, including a fabulous museum. There are also beautiful, clean beaches throughout the country and there are now special package tours for golfers interested in playing on the lush Malaysian courses. Eating and shopping is inexpensive with the best buy possibly being the beautiful Selangor pewter, produced just outside Kuala Lumpur.

## NEPAL/TIBET

These ancient countries in North-central Asia are still considered to be “exotic” destinations and are visited by few of the personnel stationed in Korea. Those who have gone come back with varying reports. Some cite the primitive living and traveling conditions while others talk about the fascinating cultures. Neither country has an embassy in Seoul, so you will have to do your own research at the Yongsan library or find a good travel agent. Make sure any plans/itineraries are confirmed in writing before departure unless you are an Indiana Jones type of adventurer.

## NEW ZEALAND

This wonderfully scenic country is very affordable now that you live in Korea. Make sure your tour incorporates both the North and South Islands since they are both “must sees” Check out trips offered on and off-post at the various travel agencies or visit the New Zealand Embassy call 730-7794.

## SINGAPORE

This small country at the end of the Malay Peninsula is rapidly developing a reputation as the shopping destination in Asia. The city is experiencing a boom as a result. In addition to extensive duty-free shopping there are also some interesting things to see and do. These include:

**The Singapore Zoo** - This is possibly one of the finest zoos in the world. Developed on an “open” concept, the animals live in as natural environment as possible and artificial (metal) cages are rare. Instead the zoo has built a series of “natural” barriers so you see the animals much as you would if they were in the wild.

They also offer some other unique attractions.... “High Tea” with the orangutans (protect your cookies and cakes because these animals are professional at sneaking over your shoulder and stealing them), a stroll with a group of “Roadrunners” a photo session with boa constrictors. If you are traveling with children or are an animal lover, the zoo is “the” attraction in Singapore. Other points of interest include:

**Raffles Place**, a lavish old hotel, recently restored, reflects the British heritage of Singapore.

**Empress Place**, a marvelous museum and shopping complex in the old city; the Merlion, the symbol of Singapore, possibly best viewed on a harbor cruise.

**Botanical Gardens**, a truly beautiful place filled with thousands of rare tropical plants. The separate orchid garden is spectacular.

**Cruises in Singapore**, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines offer very affordable cruise options, embarking from Singapore for many travel destinations throughout Asia.

For additional information, check with the USO or your travel agent.

## **TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

One of the closest destinations from Korea, many people choose to tour Taiwan. Taipei is Taiwan's largest city and also its capital. Costs have increased dramatically in recent years, but you can still get a fairly good tour package from Seoul. With recent politics concerning Taiwan's desire to become independent of China and China's reluctance to let go, you really need to check before booking a trip.

If you are able to go, some of the things to see include: the National Palace Museum, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial, Taipei City, Taipei 101 - this marvel is the world's tallest building and just opened in March 2005, Wulai - a mountain village famous for the "commercialized" aboriginal village and waterfall, Taroka Gorge

**Shopping** - Although new department stores are popping up all the time, Taipei's best shopping areas are still the small stores, bazaars, arcades and curio markets. Popular items for Taiwan are painting reproductions, pottery with its traditional-styled design, other ceramic wares, furniture, jewelry made of coral and other semi-precious stones, marble products from the quarries in Hualien, and products made of Taiwan jade. Remember that the quality of this jade does not equal that of genuine antique jade. Also, consider dusty temple carvings, hand puppets, old coins, expensive porcelains, cloisonné, and rosewood furniture. During your shopping adventures be sure and visit a Taiwan Tea House, definitely a must do. For additional information check with the USO or your on/off post travel agent.

## **THAILAND**

Thailand is an attractive tourist destination and has long been a favorite vacation destination of Americans. With its 800 year old history, vast cultural attractions, exotic beaches, islands and national parks Thailand should have something for everyone. Not only are the Thai people very friendly and hospitable but the country also offers an abundance of amenities from excellent food to inexpensive quality accommodation, making it an ideal vacation spot for military families.

Many great family package tours are offered by the many travel services available on/off post. Booking in advance is very easy and reasonably priced.

Many great deals can be found on the internet as well as with the travel companies in and around Seoul, check out various options and do some research if you plan to go it alone.

Major tourism destinations in Thailand include:

**BANGKOK** - There is nothing quite like Bangkok! New buildings reach for the sky around the corner from ancient temples, many of which are home to enormous images of Buddha inlaid with gold and mother of pearl. Everything about the city seems exotic, especially the food.

Points of interest include:

**Floating Markets** demonstrate the art of buying and selling, as well as cooking and eating in small paddle boats on the canal.

**Mae Sa Elephant Camp**, located near the Floating Markets in Bangkok. A definite must for kids of all ages.

**The Grand Palace and Wat Po** (The temple of the reclining Buddha) with inlaid mother of pearl soles, are a stone's throw from one another. Along with beautiful architecture, they house some of the most revered and richly decorated images of Buddha.

**The National Museum** has 26 different buildings and traces Thai History from 5600 BC to present day.

**Thieves Market** is a unique place to buy almost any type of exotic plant; Suan Lum Night Bazaar sells everything from silk fabric, art and wooden items to lanterns.

**PATTAYA** - is only about 100 miles outside of Bangkok and is one of the most popular beach resorts, offering all the amenities you might desire, from first rate affordable lodging and restaurants to an assortment of water sports including: parasailing, snorkeling, windsurfing, skiing and much more.

**CHIANG MAI** - is a very popular destination for families with children. While Bangkok is a busy metropolis with about 80 million people, Chiang Mai is just the opposite. Its reasonable cost and abundance of activities geared to the family makes for a very relaxed and enjoyable vacation. The Chiang Mai cultural center has evening dinner shows geared to family entertainment. A khantoke and dance show is performed most nights with audience participation expected. The sword dance is always a big hit with the kids.

**PHUKET** - being Thailand's largest island is of course famous for its beaches. There are many beaches to choose from on the island but some are better than others (do some research before hand). Patong seems to be the most famous

but other popular beaches include Karon and Kata. There are many water sport activities available including all those mentioned above for Pattaya, and if you'd like some other water wonders check out the two beautiful waterfalls Tong Sai and Bang Pai.

**KORAT** - if it's the Khmer culture you are after then head about 80 miles north of Bangkok, to Korat where you will find several stunning examples of 12th century architecture. A must see is nearby Phimai, which is an amazing Khmer complex constructed on a man-made river islet. It is breathtaking in its beauty and from a distance, oddly futuristic to the eye. Its sanctuary tower is home to stunning Khmer artistry and the surrounding ornate buildings of the complex architecture. The best buys in **Thailand** historically have been silk, rubies and star sapphires. For more information:

[www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org) .Another great website is [www.nancychandler.net](http://www.nancychandler.net) which contains "Nancy chandler's map of Bangkok" that is most helpful.

## VIETNAM

Travel services on-post and at the USO (located next to Camp Kim) offer trips to cities throughout Vietnam. There are many places to see from Hanoi in the North, to Saigon in the South of the country.

**HANOI** - A flight from Incheon Airport to the northernmost city of Hanoi is only about a 5 hour trip and certainly worth taking. Hanoi is sure to be a hit with all members of your family. Some places of interest in and around the city of Hanoi are:

**Ho Lo Prison** - the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" where John McCain and other U.S. prisoners were held captive.

**Old Quarter** - with over a thousand years of history this area of the city remains one of Vietnams most lively and unusual places. The visitor can explore the fascinating maze of back streets where you can buy anything from gravestones to silk pajamas. Street vendors sell some unusual eats and treats to tantalize the taste buds, as well as an endless supply of wares such as; wool clothes, cosmetics, gold and silver jewelry, silk cloths and herbal medicines.

**Thang Long Water Puppet Theater** - Believed to date back almost a thousand years, roi nuoc or water puppetry is one of the most authentic expressions of Vietnamese culture. Performances were once held in villages using rivers, lakes or rice fields. Today they are staged in huge water filled tanks in theatres. Hiding behind the stage, the puppeteers stand waist deep in water and maneuver their wooden puppets to the music of a traditional Vietnamese orchestra. Special

effects, including fire-breathing dragons, smoke, and fireworks add excitement to the show. A great performance the whole family will enjoy.

**Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** - excavations at **Hanoi Citadel**, floating villages, pagodas, military history museums, art museums, temples, markets and a myriad of other tourist venues are scattered in and around this historical city.

**Halong Bay** - some tours offer a cruise aboard one of the many tourist junk boats that sail the Halong Bay. The bay is a 3 hour drive from Hanoi, but is a must see for everyone. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site with many magnificent pinnacles, caves and grottos that have been carved by selective erosion out of the limestone/dolomite outcrops that surround the bay. Visit some of the many caves and grottos or simply enjoy swimming in the emerald warm waters of this breathtaking area. Along with the tourist Junks, some lovely, traditionally made junks still sail the bay. Made from rough cotton and hand-sewn, the fan-shaped sails of the traditional junks are dipped in vegetable dye for protection and give them a unique dark ochre color. Legend has it that the many pinnacles, caves and grottos were created by a gigantic dragon (halong-means descending dragon) that jumped into the bay thrashing its huge tail. In honor of this legendary beast many brightly painted Dragon Boats also roam the waters.

**SAIGON** - This vibrant southern metropolis seems to be in sharp contrast to the northern area of Hanoi. Saigon teems with energy, activity and motion and everywhere you look seems to be the meeting of traditional and modern life. The emerging and modern skylines stand cheek to jowl with traditional temples and colonial buildings. Outside on the streets the young zip around on motorcycles and chatting on cell phones, while inside the quiet temple courtyards, the older more traditional people worship and pray amidst a cloud of incense. Visit the Unification Palace, formerly the Independence Palace of the South Vietnamese president that was famously stormed by tanks in 1975 and signified the fall of South Vietnam. Visit the bustling colorful markets and tour the many temples and museums of Saigon. For Tour destinations and prices visit one of the travel service offices listed in section T or visit [www.tourismvietnam.org](http://www.tourismvietnam.org).

## OUT PROCESSING

### An-young-he-ka-say-yo

In Korea, there are two different phrases for goodbye: An-Young-He-Kay-Say-Yo and An-Young-He-Ka-Say-Yo. What is the difference you may ask? Well, it depends on your perspective. The first goodbye is someone saying farewell to the person who is leaving. The second goodbye is from the person who is leaving, to their friends staying behind. A military lifestyle always means that someone is coming or going; we are a tribe of people in constant life change. Our hope is that someday we will meet up with the good friends we had, but, until then we pack up, say our goodbyes, move and of course we arrive at a new location and make new friends. So if you live here in Korea, you will eventually move to a new duty location. If you are lucky, it might be to another overseas exotic location. Let's dream for a minute. You might be moving to that dream location in the States. Or you could be moving back to the States knowing that the military member is just transitioning through on his/her way to a deployment. Finally, you could be on your way to a totally new lifestyle called retirement and or civilian employment. Whatever your move scenario, planning and preparation is key to making a successful move. The Seoul Survivor has always been a great guide for family members arriving to the USAG-Yongsan, Korea community. What has happened over the years is a devout readership that keeps their book with all its dog-eared pages from the start of their tour all the way to the end of their tour. So it's only natural that the Seoul Survivor address a few "get started" tips for planning your move from USAG-Yongsan to your new duty location.

Moving requires early planning and hard work to make it go smoothly. The more family members, the more complex the planning (the modern military family includes extended family as well as pets). Military Families must understand their entitlements and responsibilities with regard to shipment of household goods, unaccompanied baggage, shipment of a vehicle, transferring school records, medical records, vet records and much more.

An easy and fairly dependable method for estimating the weight of household goods is to figure 1,000 pounds per room. Most of us came to Korea on quarter weight allowance, so understand that you have probably made purchases that have increased your weight going out of Korea. At the beginning of FY09, the

weight allowance increased to 50% of the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR). If you need additional weight though, you must apply for an exception to policy to increase your total weight by 1,000. Remember the weight of professional books, papers and equipment does not count against your allowance as long as it is claimed as “professional gear”.

Get appraisals for expensive and valuable items, such as artwork, collectibles and heirlooms. The government will not pay to have appraisals done, but you’ll need them if you claim full value for loss and damage claims. Never ship small, extremely valuable items such as stocks, bonds, jewelry, coins, coin collections, or items of great sentimental value, such as picture albums. Pack them in hand-carried luggage; do not even think of checking the baggage. Take close-up still photos or record videotape pictures of the condition of furniture and other property before they’re shipped.

If you’re going to another weight-restricted area, the government will store the remainder of your household goods, up to your full weight allowance, or ship it to a designated location for the duration of your next overseas tour. When you move to your next location, and it happens to be overseas, you can opt to leave your items in Long Term Storage but you must notify the Transportation Office that put the items in storage so that they may coordinate the future of the items. For each move you make, you are allowed five pick-up locations totaling no more than your total amount of weight. However, you must have someone physically present at the location to meet the transportation company requirements.

As soon as you know you’ll be moving think about your family members: look for programs, referrals, and resources in the new town where you will soon be living. Gather information about schools in the new community if you have a school-age child and find out about school registration procedures. There may be a number of options to choose from. If you have older relatives who will be affected by your move, begin to plan what steps you need to take to be sure your relatives have the support and services they need. Talk with other family members.

Go online to **[www.militaryhomefront.com](http://www.militaryhomefront.com)** . Look to the lower left hand corner and you can log into Plan My Move or you can go directly to Military Installations and research information about your new military location.

Where do you want to live and what do you want in this new home? This

might need a family meeting. Do you want on-post quarters, rental, purchase of a home? Do you need 4 bedrooms, a yard, and garage? Start talking about needs versus desires. School districts sometimes determine where you live. Commute time? There are lots of factors to start talking about. Search online to begin determining likes and dislikes. While it is okay to begin communicating with Realtors online, understand that many will want you to commit by signing documents that state they will represent you. Please be wary without a face-to-face meeting. As well, purchasing a house over the internet has been and can be done, but in today's market, the house will most likely stay unsold until you can go and take a walk through; visually inspect the property and make measurements to be sure all your belongs fit.

**Organization:** Start a file to collect receipts and records of all moving expenses. Start a week-by-week checklist that you can download from "Plan My Move" to help you plan. Begin to clean out hard-to-pack areas. Pack seasonal items that you will not need right away, such as holiday decorations, clothes, and seldom-used items. If you are downsizing, put aside special items to pass along. Donate or sell (through Second Hand Rose) those items you will not be taking. Consider having a yard sale. Make a list of friends, relatives, schools, doctors, businesses, newspapers and others who should be notified that you are moving.

Moving to a new state? Check on insurance coverage, trusts, wills and many legal documents to make sure you will not need to arrange new policies, etc. Find out what the new motor vehicle and driver's license regulations are.

Here in USAG-Yongsan: Arrange for children's school records to be forwarded to the new school (or hand carried). Fill out change-of-address or postal "hold" forms for the post office. Collect birth certificates, passports, titles, and other important documents in a file or an envelope. Mark it clearly and keep careful track of it throughout the move. Stop by the ACS and speak with the **Relocation Readiness** Program Manager and maybe take the Smooth Move class or at least ask for the USAG-Yongsan checklist for pre-move readiness.

Make your travel plans for the moving trip. Do you need to pick up a vehicle in the States or visit family? Make plane reservations if flying, or choose your route if driving from point A to point B once you hit the ground in the States, and make hotel reservations if you'll be stopping overnight along the way. Remember to make any special arrangements for pets.

Before packing, take snapshots of your children's rooms and other places they

will want to remember. Talk with parents (for younger children) and see if they would be interested in a web-cam or emailing to keep your child connected to their “old” home and their “new” home. Encourage older children to get email addresses, numbers, etc. to accomplish the same. Talk to younger children about the move. Show them pictures of the new home or at least new location. And don’t forget yourself too! One of the best things about being a military spouse is meeting so many people. Keep some on your Christmas list, or as a FACEBOOK friend, and keep communicating with your contacts.

When transportation comes for your household goods pick-up: if you can, make arrangements for someone to watch younger children on moving day. And put pets in the kennel or at neighbors. Dispose of any items too dangerous to move, such as flammable liquids. Contact the USAG-Yongsan Safety Office and they can tell you how to do this safely.

Last Minute Details: Get any prescriptions refilled. Pick up dry cleaning. Return library books, videotapes, and DVDs. Return things you have borrowed to friends and neighbors. Give away the plants that you can’t take with you. Set aside valuables and important papers to carry with you during the move. Pack a box of personal items and necessities that you and your family will need on moving day and over the next few days. Keep this box with you, or place it in your bathroom tub so that the movers will not “accidentally” packet it. That way, you won’t have to dig to find the clothes, toiletries, medications, and important documents you’ll need in the Dragon Hill, on the plane or in your new home. If you have children, set aside their favorite toys and belongings, as well as any games, activities, or snacks you will need for the trip. Make sure security items, such as blankets and teddy bears, are close at hand. I like to pre-position belongings by mailing and using boxes that are standard price for unlimited weight. I send the boxes full of special games, toys and books to family members we’re planning to visit.

Clean out your refrigerator and give the “Friends and Neighbors Farewell Gift Basket” of partially used laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, half bottles of mustard and other refrigerator contents, batteries, candles, etc.

Take a final walk around the home with your children and family to say goodbye. A great idea is to always take a photo on the doorstep during your last days.

If you live on-post with government furniture, you will not move into the Dragon Hill until 3 days before your fly-date. Off-post gives you 3-7 days in the

Dragon Hill. This means your final days consist of a mad rush to turn-in furniture and clear your living space.

### **AFTER YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR NEW DESTINATION**

Celebrate your arrival by taking a walk in your new neighborhood. Spend time in a park. Visit the new school when classes aren't in session. Go for walks together, explore local parks. Arrange play dates with other children who live nearby. Look for social activities you might enjoy and interesting places to visit. Always take time for yourself and enjoy your new home.

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