

Instructions & Tips – South Korea

General information

Time difference	<p>Korea Standard Time (KST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> =Singapore Time (SGT): +1 hour =Central European Summer Time (CEST): +7 hours =Central European Time (CET): +8 hours =Coordinated Universal Time (UTC): +9 hours =Greenwich Mean Time (GMT): +9 hours
Currency	<p>Korean Won (KRW), CHF 1 is roughly equivalent to KRW 1'884.76 (11.03.2026)</p> <p>Withdraw: Note that most but not all foreign debit & credit cards work in every bank in South Korea to withdraw cash.</p> <p>➔ Please, make sure you have a small amount in cash upon arrival (at least 20'000 KRW).</p> <p>Currency Exchange: Ordering Korean Won in a Swiss bank before leaving may take up to one week.</p> <p>➔ You may not be able to exchange CHF for KRW on arrival, but you will be able to exchange euros or dollars at the airport.</p> <p>Payments: Digital payments and credit cards are the most common form of payment. According to our experience with foreign visitors, as national foreign cards might not always work, getting a free basic plan digital card (Revolut or Wise) to make sure you will be able to pay with your card at restaurants and for leisure might also be considered.</p> <p>➔ Digital cards may take 2 weeks to arrive to your Swiss address (make sure to plan in advance). Some visitors experienced cards not working in some facilities (restaurants, etc.) but working in others.</p> <p>Tips: Cash is mainly used in street markets and to recharge your Transportation card used for public transportation.</p>
<p>Entering South Korea</p> <p>(Click here to have more specific info about the K-ETA exemption, and to see the requirements for other countries)</p>	<p>Switzerland is temporarily exempted from the K-ETA requirement until 31. December 2026.</p> <p>PLEASE check for your nationals and if yours is not exempt, apply for the K-ETA BEFORE you board the flight.</p> <p>However, without the K-ETA the Korean Electronic Arrival Card must be completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No fee is required - Easy to write online - Must be completed and submitted within 3 days before arrival in Korea <p>The e-Arrival Card can be done online through the link below.</p> <p>➔ https://www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr/portal/main/index.do</p>
<p>FYI</p> <p>(entering South Korea)</p>	<p>✓ K-ETA</p> <p>The K-ETA is an electronic travel authorization that all <u>visa-free foreign visitors*</u> need in order to enter Korea. It is compulsory to receive the authorization before starting check-in procedures. Without K-ETA, check-in and boarding will be denied. K-ETA is valid for multiple trips over a period of 2 years and the application fee is 10,000KRW/person (less than 10 CHF). You should obtain a confirmation under 72hours via e-mail. The K-ETA is a tourism VISA (equivalent to the US ESTA). In addition to your personal information, you will need to fill in your address of stay and a local contact number. You can input the hotel details for both. ➔ Apply here: https://www.k-eta.go.kr</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">✓ ARRIVAL CARD</p> <p>If you apply for a K-ETA, you will be exempt from submitting the e-Arrival card. However, if you are exempt from K-ETA and therefore decide to not apply for K-ETA, then you should submit the e-Arrival card online within 72 hours before the arrival. →Apply here: https://www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr/portal/main/index.do</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>If you wish to travel through Seoul, the fastest option remains to use the subway and buses. In order to use public transportation in Seoul, please follow these steps:</p> <p>1. Buy and reload a Climate card: Where: Can be bought at the counter of convenience store. What: Is a comprehensive transportation card providing unlimited use of public transportation (e.g., subway, bus) and Ttareungi(Seoul Bike) for short periods (1,3,5,7 days) or long period of 30 days after charging with a one-time fare. How to reload: By using cash only (KRW) at the machines in the subway stations. FYI: <u>Foreign credit cards are not accepted to recharge.</u> → Make sure to have enough cash. → Consider this option only if you stay longer than the program duration and for the additional days only.</p> <p>2. Alternative: Buy and reload a T-money card: Where: Can be bought at the counter of any convenience store. (The T-money card has the same concept as the oyster card used for the London Subway system). What: Is a transportation card you can use everywhere. You can choose the amount of money to be charged on the card. Hence, it can be used on each trip based on how much you loaded and available credit. How to reload: By using cash only (KRW) at any convenience store or by using the machines in the subway stations. → Tips: Make sure to have at least 20'000 KRW at the moment of purchase (in addition to the cost of the card itself) to be able to charge it. - One way trip will generally cost 1'400-1'500 KRW. It increases on very long distances. - English guidelines to fill your T-money card is available on the reloading device located in the subway stations.</p> <p>3. Taxis: Are very convenient, but you could encounter some issues due to language barriers, so make sure to have your final destination address clearly written in Korean. Payments can be made through credit cards, T-money card or cash, depending on how you ordered your ride. - Uber or K.ride (Kakao Taxi version for Foreigners) apps can be used to order a ride online.</p> <p>Tips: Download the Naver maps app to go wherever you want; it's the Korean version of Google maps.</p> <p>People are usually quiet on public transportation, so please be mindful of your noise level.</p> <p>Usually, you get on the bus through the front door and get off through the back door. Also, prepare your transportation card as you have to tap it when entering and leaving the bus.</p> <p>For the language barrier, you can download the Papago app, which works well for the Korean language.</p>

Important addresses

- Hotel (only of applicable)
- Swiss Embassy
- Global Startup Center

Hotel (only if applicable): Shilla Stay Seodaemun (hotel close to the Embassy).

Address:

76, Chungjeong-ro,
Seodaemun-gu, Seoul
Postal Code 03738
Tel. +82 2 6388 9000

Naver link:

<https://naver.me/FsRpVSgL>



Incheon Airport to hotel:

You can use various means of transportation to reach the hotel from Incheon Airport.
If needed: Incheon Airport Help desk (Eng) +82 32 741 0441

1. By bus (Airport Limousine Bus no. 6002 / 6015)

- Terminal 1: Bus stop no.5 or 6
- Terminal 2: Bus stop no. 30

Get off at **Seodaemun** (make sure to request the stop)

How: Buy the tickets at the counter or machines in the terminal following the bus signs in the arrival hall – airport)

Trip length: ~1h 15min

Cost: about 17'000 KRW.

2. By train/Subway

- Take Incheon Airport **Line AREX** train
- Get off at **Gongdeok Station**
- Transfer to Line 5 (purple line, Seodaemun)

Get off at **Seodaemun Station at exit 7 or 8**

How: Buy the tickets at the machines in the airport (follow the signs towards the railway and you will find the machines)

Trip length: ~1h30 min

Cost: 4'000-6'000 KRW

➔ **Tips:** At this moment you will be able to pay with Revolut or Wise for your ticket, make sure to buy a transportation card right after if it is not already done.

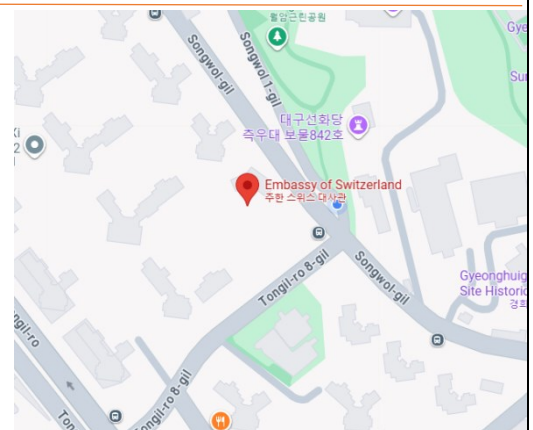
Swiss Embassy

Address:

Embassy of Switzerland
in the Republic of Korea
77 Songwol-gil, Jongno-gu,
Seoul 03165

Naver link:

<https://naver.me/FV75uapA>



	<p>Global Startup Center Office space/hot desks are free to use after on-site registration at the Global Startup Center.</p> <p>Address: 65 Yeoksam-ro, Gangnam District, Seoul, South Korea</p> <p>Get off at Yeogsam station Exit 2 9min walk to the center.</p> <p>Operating hours Monday-Friday 9am-6pm Saturday-Sunday: Closed</p> <p>Naver link: https://naver.me/xVBx1z5S</p>	
<p>Other tips</p>	<p>Wi-Fi / Network: You can purchase an e-SIM / SIM at the airport arrival, or you can use an app such as Ubigi or Airalo to buy some data (10 GB is enough to use Naver / WhatsApp constantly. Moreover, there are some city Wi-Fi to which you can connect your phone, and almost every place has free Wi-Fi).</p> <p>Payment: Korea is credit card friendly.</p> <p>However, please remember that the only thing which has to be paid exclusively in cash is the transportation recharge. It's easier to purchase it upon your arrival (Climate card or T-money card). N.B. The Climate card cannot be used everywhere (but almost). Generally, there is a poster of the Climate card in front of the bus indicating its usability.</p> <p>Again, cash is used in food markets, so if you want to try them, make sure to have some with you.</p> <p>Business: Koreans are compulsive business card exchangers. Make sure to bring a lot, we suggest you to bring the box because, according to some experiences with other delegations, the business card holder is not enough for a week.</p> <p>Business attire is highly appreciated in Korea. Since air conditioning is common everywhere in summer, we recommend bringing a jacket for visits, as meeting rooms can sometimes be quite cold.</p>	