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GUIDE

# YOUR DESTINATION

Everything you need to know about your destination



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## STUDY DESTINATION

# SOUTH KOREA

Living in Seoul for 10 weeks will be a great experience! Here are some tips to help you navigate daily life and make the most of your time:

## 1. ACCOMMODATION

**Goshiwon:** Affordable, small rooms commonly rented by students. They usually include basic amenities like internet, a bed, and a small desk.

**Guesthouses or Share Houses:** Good options for short stays, where you can meet other travelers or students.

**Airbnb:** If you want more privacy, check Airbnb for short-term rentals, often available in central areas like Hongdae, Itaewon, or Gangnam. Our partner language academy can also help you find a place to stay. For available options, you may click [here](#).



## 2. TRANSPORTATION

**Subway:** The Seoul subway system is efficient and easy to navigate. Get a T-money card to pay for buses, subways, and even taxis.

**Kakao Maps or Naver Maps:** Since Google Maps isn't as reliable in Korea, use Kakao Maps or Naver Maps for directions and public transportation info.

**Public Bikes:** Seoul has a bike-sharing system called Ddareungi (따릉이), which is affordable and convenient for short trips.

## 3. FOOD & GROCERIES

**Convenience stores:** Places like GS25, CU, and 7-Eleven offer quick meals like 김밥 (gimbap), 떡볶이 (tteokbokki), and ready-to-eat food at affordable prices.

**Traditional markets:** Explore markets like Gwangjang Market for local food and snacks.

**Supermarkets:** For groceries, check out Lotte Mart, E-Mart, or Homeplus.

**Delivery apps:** Use apps like Coupang Eats or Baemin (배달의민족) to get food delivered, but remember they're mostly in Korean.

## 4. CULTURAL ETIQUETTE

**Honorifics:** Be mindful of age differences and use polite language like "-요" at the end of sentences.

**Bowing:** Bow when greeting or thanking someone. Even a slight bow shows respect.

**Shoes:** Always take off your shoes before entering someone's home or traditional spaces like guesthouses.

## 5. ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIALIZING

**Cafés:** Seoul has a vibrant café culture. Popular districts for cafés include Insadong, Gangnam, and Hongdae.

**Korean language meetups:** You can find language exchange meetups or events in neighborhoods like Itaewon or through apps like Meetup.

**Hiking:** Seoul has many mountains and hiking trails like Bukhansan, Namsan, and Inwangsan with beautiful city views.

## 6. MONEY & BANKING

**Currency:** The Korean currency is the won (₩). Always carry some cash, as not all places accept cards.

**Exchange rates:** Use services like Korea Exchange Bank or local banks for currency exchange with better rates than at airports.

## 7. HEALTH & SAFETY

**Emergency number:** Dial 119 for emergencies and 1339 for medical emergencies.

**Pharmacies:** Pharmacies are plentiful and can be found in every neighborhood. They carry most basic medications.

**Health insurance:** Consider short-term travel insurance or the National Health Insurance if your stay is covered through your school or language academy.

## 8. SIM CARD AND INTERNET

**SIM card:** Purchase a Korean SIM card at the airport or major telecom stores like KT or SKT for mobile data and calls.

**Wi-Fi:** Seoul has extensive free Wi-Fi coverage in cafes, subway stations, and public areas. You can also rent Wi-Fi eggs for portable internet.

## 9. CULTURAL SITES AND ACTIVITIES

Visit Gyeongbokgung Palace, Bukchon Hanok Village, Namsan Seoul Tower, and Dongdaemun Design Plaza.

Enjoy the Han River parks for outdoor activities like picnicking, biking, or renting paddle boats.

Explore different neighborhoods like Myeongdong for shopping, Insadong for traditional culture, and Hongdae for nightlife.

## 10. STAY ORGANIZED

Stay connected with fellow students and teachers via KakaoTalk. It's widely used for group chats, sharing documents, and making plans.

Keep track of your daily routine, study progress, and any upcoming events to make the most of your time in Seoul.

By planning ahead and embracing local culture, your 10 weeks in Seoul will be an enriching experience both for learning Korean and immersing in the city life!



# YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences  
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

*Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student*

