

# KOREA



Flag of South Korea

- Population: 51.8 million people live in South Korea (2020). The majority of the people live in the province surrounding Seoul in the north west of the country.
- Capital: Seoul with 10 million inhabitants is also the country's biggest city
- Name: 대한민국 Republic of Korea (ROK)
- Government: Presidential Republic
- Official Language: Korean
- Literacy: More than 95% can read and write.
- Religion: Main religions are Christianity (27%) Buddhism (15%), however many practise Confucianism regardless of their religious beliefs
- Currency: 1 South Korean Won equals 100 Jeon



Map of South Korea

## Where is South Korea?

South Korea is located in Eastern Asia and sits on the southern half of the Korean peninsula. The only land borders are with North Korea with which South Korea shares the Korean peninsula.

## Seoul is the Capital

South Korea has a coastline of about 2413 km/ 1500 miles in length. The capital city of South Korea is Seoul. Seoul is the country's capital and largest city. It is situated by the Han River. A quarter of South Korea's population live in Seoul and the surrounding area.



Seoul on the Han River



Beautiful night of Seoul

## Korean Pop Music

Korean pop music, also called k-pop, has become famous worldwide especially BTS.



## Korean Language

Korean is the official language. The Korean alphabet has 24 letters and the language does not have any articles and does not follow a word order.



## Holiday & Tradition

Koreans celebrate the new year twice! The New Year celebration are on 1 January as most countries do and for Lunar New Year which is celebrated in February each year. 2020 is the year of the rat, 2021 will be celebrated as the year of the ox.

Children look very much forward to the Lunar New Year celebrations which are three days long. Over the new year children get gifts, often money wrapped in red envelopes or red packets, from family and friends. People in Korea will wear their traditional costumes, such as the hanbok, for national and regional cultural festivals.



Typical Korean hanbok dress

## Korean Food

Many Korean dishes are rice, vegetable, soya and meat based.

Sesame seeds, chillis, kimchi and rice products are the most common ingredients in Korean dishes. Koreans mainly eat with spoons and metal chopsticks. The spoon is used for rice, stews and soups only.

