

Korea

HAAPI: Did You Know?



One Country split in two

The peninsula was ruled as a dynasty known as, Choson, which existed for more than five centuries, until 1910. Korea's diplomatic relations with China and Japan ended with Japan's annexation of the peninsula. Japan surrendered to the Allies in 1945. Korea split into two zones - US controlled South Korea and Soviet controlled North Korea.



Korean Flag - Taegukgi

There are three parts to the flag:

1. **White rectangular background** - the color White represents peace.
2. **Red and blue center** - positive and negative cosmic forces.
3. **Four trigrams** - together they represent movement and harmony as fundamental principles.



People

As of May 14, 2021, the population in South Korea is 51,307,377 people.

There are many foreign residents in South Korea today. These residents are people from China, Vietnam, Thailand, US, Japan, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Russia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Nepal, Taiwan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Canada, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Australia, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, and Others.

National Symbols

National Symbols of the Republic of Korea

- National flag: Taegukgi**
Constitution parts: White background, taeguk symbol, and four trigrams
 Basic: Act on the Flag of the Republic of Korea (Act No. 10749, May 30, 2011), Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Flag of the Republic of Korea (Presidential Decree No. 24425, March 23, 2013), etc.
- National anthem: Aegukka**
Composer: Kim Gak-hui (November 1935)
 Lyrics: Four parts and refrain * Writer unknown
 Background: Conventionally recognized as the national anthem
- National flower: Mugunghwa**
Meaning: Eternal blossom that never fades
 Background: Conventionally recognized as the national flower
- National emblem: Naramunjang**
Constitution parts: Mugunghwa, taeguk mark, the ribbon, and the letters '대한민국'
 Basic: Regulations on the National Emblem (Presidential Decree No. 22398, November 09, 2011)
- National seal: Guksae**
Dimensions: 10.4 centimeters on all sides, 3.28 kilograms
 Form: Oval shape, Royal Naramunjang style seal
 Basic: Regulations on the National Seal (Presidential Decree No. 24425, March 23, 2013)

Popular Korean Foods

- **Kimchi:** fermented cabbage, usually served with every meal
- **Bulgogi:** marinated thin sliced beef
- **Kalbi:** marinated beef short ribs
- **Bibimbap:** six vegetables, beef, and a fried egg on top of rice served with a spicy sauce for mixing.
- **Mandoo:** Korean dumplings
- **Bossam:** Korean style pork belly

Fun Facts

- There are 5 dialects.
- Babies are considered 1 yr old at birth.
- Urban legend: if you sleep with an electric fan on at night, you may never wake up.
- South Korea is the largest market for plastic surgery.
- The Crane is a symbol of good fortune.
- Men receive gifts on Valentine's day and women receive gifts on White day (March 14)

Interesting Traditions

- **Baby's 1st birthday:** the baby will pick their "destiny".
- **Lunar New Year:** Koreans eat tteokguk (soup with rice cake) to bring good fortune for the upcoming year.
- Before dating, you may be asked, "What's your blood type?" It is believed that a person's personality traits are tied to the different blood types.

Koreans in the US and TN

There are about 1.8 million Korean Americans in the US and is the 5th largest Asian American subgroup.

Top 5 Cities in TN where Koreans reside:

1. Memphis - 729,307 ppl
2. Nashville - 413,511 ppl
3. Knoxville - 346,766 ppl
4. Clarksville - 116,465 ppl
5. Murfreesboro - 111,654 ppl