

ALL ABOUT SOUTH KOREA

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Contents

1	FOOD
2	COTHING
3	FESTIVALS
4	RULES AND REGULATIONS
5	Schools



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- ❖ Rice was used to pay taxes.
 - ❖ You can find some of the same foods from the royal cuisine {a style or method of cooking} in temple food.
 - ❖ Korea is one of the world's largest consumers of garlic.
 - ❖ Koreans don't have a Western approach to dessert.
 - ❖ You can find exact displays of menu items displayed outside of restaurants.
 - ❖ In different provinces of Korea, its ingredients and dishes are different, too. The Korean royal court cuisine used to serve all the best dishes from each province for the royal family. People follow special rules when they eat meals in Korea.

❖ It's hot! Korean food is hot and spicy , one of the important ingredients being gochujang (fermented red chilli paste). Onions, garlic, scallions, ginger, sesame oil, doenjang

(fermented soybean paste) and powdered red pepper are popular spices.

❖ It is also harmonious. The strong Korean belief in eumyangohaeng (yin and yang) is reflected in its food as well, which is nutritionally balanced in terms of colours, textures and flavours. A traditional Korean table includes dishes or garnishes of five different colours to represent the earth's five elements.



Clothing

- ❖ South Korea is a country that values its customs. When it comes to outfit, Korean most famous traditional attire is called “hanbok” and it symbolizes the beauty of Korean tradition. Hanbok consists of a blouse shirt or a jacket called “jeogori” and a skirt “chima” for women or loose pants “baji” for men.
- ❖ Hanbok has been a great part of Korean culture though history. The trace of Hanbok is found even before Three Kingdom period of Korea. The oldest form of hanbok can be seen in tomb mural paintings from the Goguryeo Kingdom (37 B.C.-668 A.D.). Korea had two kinds of clothing tradition. The rulers and noblemen usually wore clothing of different kinds of foreign styles. But subjects continued to use a distinct style of indigenous clothing that today is known as Hanbok.
- ❖ Hanbok had a long history. But the ancient one that is similar with today’s Hanbok would be that in Three Kingdom period. During this time, noblewomen started wearing full-length skirts and jackets, and noblemen began to wear roomy trousers bound in at the ankles and belted at the waist, and thus, aristocrats began to wear what is similar with Hanbok in these days.



Festivals

- ❖ Until the mid-20th century, Korea was primarily an agricultural society, and the seasonal rhythms of daily life were organized by the lunar calendar. As a society where farming was hugely important for the subsistence of its members, it developed a great variety of semi-religious events where prayers were offered for a good harvest and abundant food, and which gradually developed into communal celebrations and festivals.
- ❖ The Lunar New Year's Day (*Seol* or *Seollal*), which is generally regarded as the most important of all the traditional seasonal festivals, is celebrated with a special festival food called *tteokguk*, or “rice flake soup”. Eating it signified becoming one year older (this means that a child born on the 29th of the twelfth lunar month becomes two years old only two days later). The festival is also related with the ceremony of performing the *Sebae* (New Year's Bow) before the elders of one's family and neighborhood. After *Sebae*, the elders present New Year's gift money to their juniors.

❖ Another important seasonal festival called *Daeboreum* (Greater Full Moon) celebrates the fifteenth day of the first month of the year by the lunar calendar. On that day, people eat special festival food called *ogokbap*, a dish made with five grains and served with an assortment of cooked vegetables, play games aimed for the unity of the local community and perform rituals for good harvest.



Rules and Regulations

❖ In most countries, enlisting in the military is voluntary. However, in Korea, it's mandatory for men between the ages of 18-35 to enlist in 21 months of military service.

❖ South Korea has a free press and a lively civil society. However, successive South Korean governments and large corporations (chaebol) have limited critical scrutiny of themselves through a variety of laws.

❖ In both parts of Korea, human rights are legally protected by the Constitution, although the practise and execution of these rights are negligible in the Northern part of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



Work and Schools

- ❖ Education in South Korea is provided by both public schools and private schools. Both types of schools receive funding from the government, although the amount that the private schools receive is less than the amount of the state schools.
- ❖ South Korea is one of the top-performing OECD countries in reading literacy, mathematics and sciences with the average student scoring 519, compared with the OECD average of 493, placing it ninth in the world.
- ❖ The country has one of the world's highest-educated labour forces among OECD countries.
- ❖ A strong investment in education, a militant drive for success, as well as the passion for excellence has helped the resource poor country rapidly grow its economy over the past 60 years from the effects of the Korean War.