



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1. Arrival In Korea:

You must have a tourist or no fee passport before leaving the states. You can apply for your A-3 SOFA visa after your arrival (within 90 days). You may arrive by Commercial Airlines at Incheon International Airport, Seoul or on Patriot Express at Osan Air Base. Regardless of arrival location, you will be bused to Yongsan in Seoul, to the Dragon Hill, for Central In Processing before either settling there or moving on to your assigned location.

2. Hand Carry All Important Documents:

Marriage/birth certificates (must be enrolled in DEERS), shot records, school records, pet health certificates, college transcripts, social security cards, resumes, passports; enroll Family members into EFMP, if applicable, etc.

3. Pet Requirements:

Pets must have a microchip and rabies vaccination valid >30 days, but < 1 year, Rabies Neutralizing Antibody Test (FAVN) must be completed not < 3 months & not > 24 months, Health Certificate w/in 10 days of flight, signed by a USDA Veterinarian. If arriving outside of Osan AB, pet might be quarantined. Contact local installation Vet Clinic for more information. Be sure to carefully coordinate with Patriot Express or the designated commercial airlines regarding rules, reservations and cost.

4. In-processing:

All Service Members (SM) assigned to Korea must In Process centrally in Yongsan for a minimum of 2 days. After the minimum is completed, SM and the families will be bused to the assigned community. Upon arrival in your assigned community, SM must attend Newcomer's Orientation after reporting to their assigned unit. To obtain a driver's license (for Camp Humphreys) or Ration Control Card (for Daegu) it is MANDATORY for Spouses to attend the Newcomer's Orientation (Humphreys) or Spouse Orientation (Area IV Daegu)

5. Driver's License:

Make sure your stateside driver's license is valid for the entire tour. If not, go online to verify if your issuing state is able to renew online for SM/families assigned overseas (most are). You will need your stateside driver's license to receive a SOFA (military issued) Korean driver's license.





6. Hotel Reservations and Mail:

Reserve Hotel rooms on post at least 90 days in advance if possible. You will need to reserve at least the first few days at the Dragon Hill on Yongsan then reserve the lodging in your Area. Ask your Sponsor to assist. If applicable (depending on your unit) have your Sponsor open a mailbox for you to forward your mail at least two weeks prior to leaving. (provide the mailroom with a copy of the orders) The mailroom will hold mail.

7. Housing:

Korean housing sizes depend upon the assigned location. Mostly high rise apartments in Seoul and Daegu (some villas available) and Humphreys has more villas available. Installation Housing Division will provide specifics pertaining to on/off post availability. On average, housing takes approximately one (1) month to receive, depending upon assigned location and time of the year. Families residing in private rentals receive Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and COLA, amount depends upon rank and size of family. Off post housing is equipped with 220Voltage, 50Hz, however, the landlords will provide you will some transformers. On-post housing is equipped with 110 Voltage. Contact local Installation Housing Division for more information or visit <https://www.housing.army.mil> and select your installation.

8. Banking:

Notify your bank/credit union that you will be overseas and the duration of your stay. Some institutions, upon receipt of a copy of your orders, will waive foreign transaction fees and possibly reduce your interest rates on credit cards (under SCRA). If you are planning to live off post, have your bank raise your daily ATM limit to allow you to withdraw your rent each month (USAA requires you to send an email to the banking department). The only two banks physically located on post are Navy Federal Credit Union and Community Bank.

9. Culture Shock:

Research the culture before arriving. Koreans are blunt (sometimes), honest, friendly and kind people. South Korea is wired....internet is fast and often open and free most places. They take their technology very seriously. Also, high definition CCTV is EVERYWHERE. You will feel safe here. Keep this in mind as you embark on this journey to Asia, 'It's not wrong, it's just different'.

10. Relocation Readiness Program Services:

Korean Language, English as a Second Language, Multi-Cultural Courses and trips are offered and varies upon installation. Visit your local Army Community Service to pick up Installation maps, guides to on and off post activities (ie. Humphreys Happenings, FMWR Outlook, Daegu Compass, etc), class calendars. Ask lots of questions. Your ACS team is here to help.

