SEOUL

3 Days Citytrip



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GOOD TO KNOW

Intro - Seoul - the capital of South Korea, with its mix of tradition and modernity, is an ideal destination during your trip to Asia.

This megacity is home to 10 million people, making it one of the largest cities in the world. Here you will find traditional temples, a lively nightlife, and a great food scene.

While Seoul is certainly one of the main destinations during a trip to South Korea, a visit to the city can also be combined with travels to neighboring countries.

From Europe, there are direct flights to Incheon International Airport that take approximately 13 hours, and from Shanghai in China, for example, it takes only 2 hours to fly to Seoul.

From the airport, you can reach the city center in about 45 minutes by express train or in about 30 minutes by Uber.

In Seoul, some places are easily accessible by foot, but the bus and metro networks are also very well developed.

While a trip here is worthwhile at any time of year, the autumn colors and cherry blossoms in spring are particularly worth seeing.

Seoul is considered the origin of many movements that are now spreading worldwide, such as skin care, Korean food, and K-pop music.

T-Money Card - The best way to get around in Seoul is by bus and metro, and this is where the T-Money Card comes into play. You can purchase the card physically in supermarkets or, as of recently, load it into your mobile wallet. However, it is not yet possible to load the card digitally; you can only do so with cash. To do this, place your cell phone with the activated T-Money Card (in service mode) in a machine at a metro station and then insert cash to charge the card.

cash - This brings us straight to the next challenge, because cash isn't available everywhere. First, you need to find an international bank where you can withdraw money using an international credit card. The best place to do this, is at the airport.

Safety - There is no need to worry about safety in South Korea and Seoul. Even women traveling alone can move freely around the city streets at night. Immigration - With regard to the current immigration rules, you should always check the current regulations online before traveling, for example on the website of the respective State Department.

In 2025, no visa was required to enter for tourist purposes and stays of less than 30 days.

Internet - As with all trips outside Europe, I recommend pre-installing an eSIM, e.g. from Airalo. Unlike in China, Western apps can be used normally here, so you can also use public Wi-Fi as usual.

Navigation - However, there is one exception to my previous comment, as Google Maps does not work regularly in Seoul.
Although you can find some places, you cannot display routes from A to B. For this, you should use either Apple Maps or the local map KakaoMap.

Power outlets - A power outlet adapter is not usually necessary for Europeans in South Korea. Here, too, type C and F power outlets are common (like in Europe).

Language - In Seoul, Korean is spoken, as it is throughout the country. However, many people in Seoul, especially in tourist areas, also speak English.

Culture & Behavior -

Koreans are generally very polite and courteous people. Tipping is uncommon and is sometimes even considered rude, as is sticking chopsticks vertically into your food. Respect for elders is also important to Koreans.

HIGHLIGHTS







01.Gyeongbokgung
Palace

02.Bukchon Hanok
Village

03.Changdeokgung
Palace

Gyeongbokgung Palace is definitely one of the city's top highlights. The first of Seoul's five royal palaces, where kings were once crowned, translates as "Palace of Shining Happiness."

Tickets for the palace complex can be easily purchased on site, and at 10 a.m. you can watch the ceremonial and traditional changing of the guard on the palace forecourt.

Another highlight that gives you an impression of traditional Seoul is Bukchon Hanok Village. Here you can stroll through streets lined with traditional houses. The upper end of Bukchon-ro 11 ra-gil is particularly worth seeing, with its view down the city and to Seoul Tower in the background. To protect the residents, the neighborhood is only open to tourists from 10 a.m. onwards.

Changdeokgung Palace is also worth a visit.
Tickets can also be purchased on site.
However, if you want to visit the beautiful gardens in addition to the palace complex, you should consider buying a ticket online in advance, as they are often sold out at the box office.
Changgyeonggung
Palace is also located just around the corner.



04.

Namsan Hill

The view from Namsan Mountain, and the Seoul Tower built there, is particularly worth seeing at sunset. An alternative would be the Lotte Tower in Gangnam.

05.

Gwangjang Market

As a food capital, Seoul naturally also offers many local markets that are worth visiting. The best known is probably Gwangjang Market, where you can enjoy fresh local food.

06.

Starfield Library

Located in Gangnam is what is probably the country's most famous bookstore. With its meter-high bookshelves reaching up to the ceiling, the Starfield Library in the CoEx Mall has gained popularity through social media.

07.

Cheonggyecheon Stream

The tree-lined stream running through the center of town offers great opportunities for walking and relaxing. The atmosphere here is also wonderful in the evening.



09.

Myeongdong

Myeongdong is also

definitely worth a visit.

Here you will find shops, restaurants, and skin care clinics.

The neighborhood really comes to life in the evening with its bright neon signs all around.



08.

Gangnam

Gangnam, the district of
Seoul that gained
particular fame through
the song "Gangnam Style,"
features numerous
highlights. In addition to the
Gangnam Hands in front of
the CoEx Mall and Lotte
Tower, the district offers
many small shops, cafés,
and restaurants.



10. Neighborhoods

Seoul thrives on its vibe, and neighborhoods that are definitely worth visiting including Hongdae and Euljiro, with their vibrant nightlife, and trendy Seongsu, with its vintage shops and cafés. Ikseon Dong Hanok Village is also worth a visit.



DAY TO DAY

Day 1 - After arriving, head to Gwangjang Market for a midday snack.
Then continue exploring the city with a stroll along the Cheonggyecheon Stream.

In the evening, go to

Myeongdong for dinner at

Kyoja Main Restaurant.

If you're still feeling

energetic, grab a drink or
two at a bar in trendy Euljiro.

Day 2 - The next day, the traditional part of the trip is first on the agenda.

After breakfast at Café
Onion Anguk, grab a coffee to go from tonti
and make your way to
Gyeongbokgung Palace.

It is best to arrive before 10 a.m. to watch the traditional changing of the guard.

Afterwards, Bukchon
Hanok Village is open to
tourists, so you can stroll
through the streets. Not far
from here is
Changgyeonggung
Palace, which is also worth
visiting.

After lunch at the Bibimbap Specialty Store, enjoy the view from Namsan Mountain (where you can also get further up on the Seoul Tower), then head to Hongdae in the evening for Korean fried chicken at Kyochon.

Day 3 - On the last day, return to Café Onion for breakfast, but this time in Seongsu. From here, you cross the river to Gangnam. After lunch, you'll visit Gangnam Hands, Starfield Library and browse the small shops. Finish off the day with Korean BBQ at Barbecue Yul.

Extra Days - If you have an extra day or two to spare, you can spread out your itinerary a little and explore other districts and the surrounding area. There are also numerous hiking opportunities around Seoul.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurants:

★ BBQ Yul

Authentic & delicious Korean BBQ 1330-14 Seocho-dong, Seocho District

• Bibimbap Specialty Store

Very good, freshly prepared Bibimbap 22 Eulji-ro 14-gil, Jung District,



• Kyoja Main Restaurant

Nice typical dishes (Kimchi!) 29 Myeongdong 10-gil, Jung District

Kyochon Chicken

Korean BBQ, various stores 6 Yanghwa-ro 16-gil, Mapo-gu





Cafés:

★ Café Onion Anguk

Very good baked goods, great selection 5 Gyedong-gil, Jongno District, Seoul

• A twosome Place

Nice Café, various stores 19 Dosan-daero 37-gil, Gangnam District

• Cafe Pokpo

Amazing atmosphere, waterfall 262-29 Yeonhui-ro, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul

• tonti

Great coffee, also to go 6-8 Bukchon-ro, Jongno District

Gwangjang Market

A wide variety of fresh dishes in an authentic atmosphere 88 Changgyeonggung-ro, Jongno District

WHERE TO SLEEP

Seoul also offers a wide range of good hotels and Airbnbs.

During our visit, we opted for a great Airbnb with a very helpful host, plenty of space, and a beautiful view.

The location in Euljiro was also perfect for us, as it was within easy reach of all the city's highlights.

Check out Airbnb here:



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