

The Republic of Korea



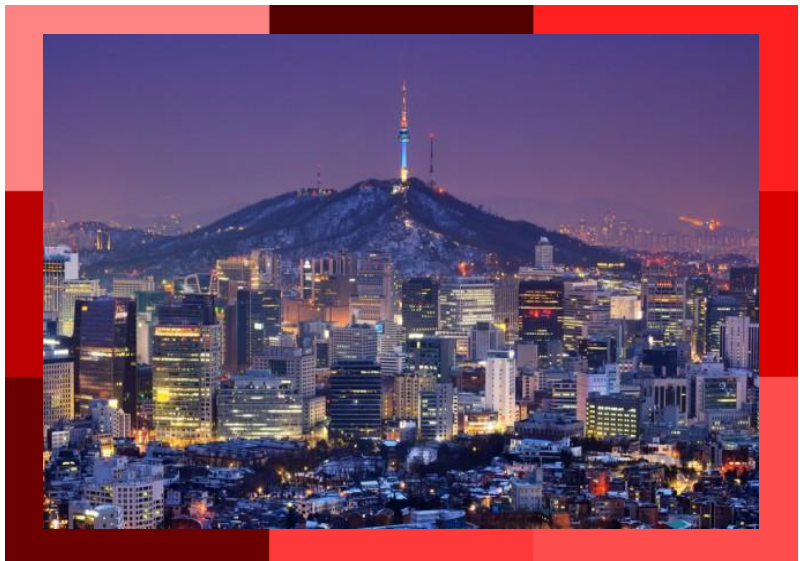
-South Korea is located in the Korean peninsula, and shares a border with its belligerent neighbour, North Korea.

To its East lies Japan, with which Korea shares a turbulent history.

To its West is China, to whom Korea was a fealty for large durations within history.

South Korea's Capital: Seoul

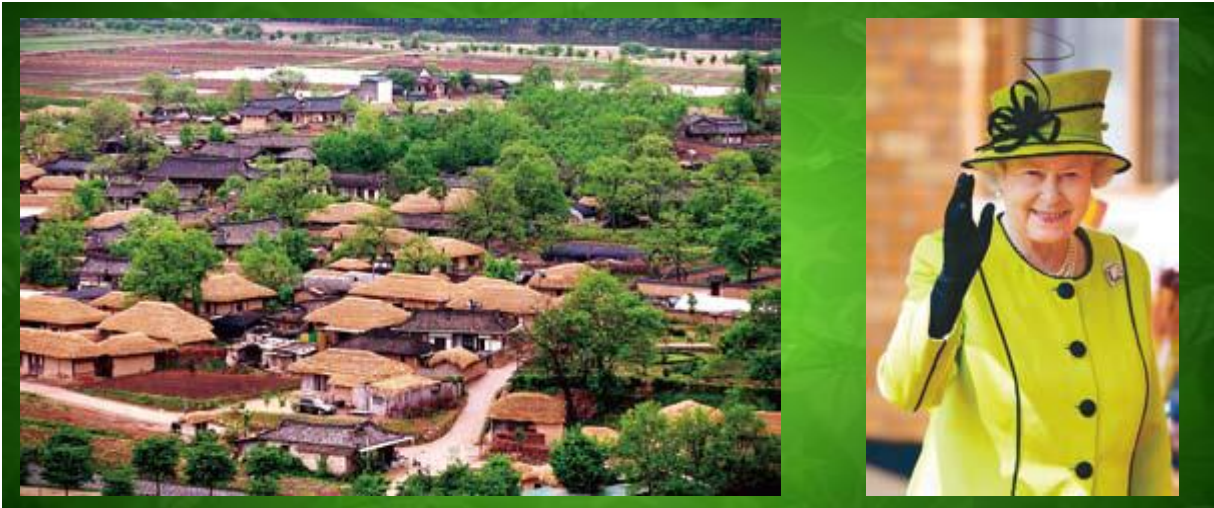
The war torn city commenced meteoric modernization during the 60s and 70s transforming it into the industrial hub that it is today.



The South Korea flag-Tae Guk Gi

Utilized before official independence from the Japanese rule, it is the epitome of Balance and the traditional oriental concept of Yin & Yang.

Jeonju Bibimbap is warm rice served with minced raw beef, spinach, crown daisies, bracken, roots of Chinese bellflower, watercress, a raw egg and mushrooms. The contents are mixed with gochujang (hot pepper and soybean paste). This popular dish represents the cuisine of Korea with magnificent taste and color.



Hahoe Village in Andong, a clan village of the Pungsan Ryu family, preserves the traditional Korean way of life. Hahoe entered the World Heritage List in July 2010. (left)

Queen Elizabeth II on a visit to Hahoe Village in 1999 (right)

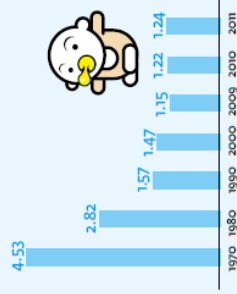


In May, the annual green tea festival takes place in Boseong, where green tea, music, and azaleas exhibit harmony together.

Society at a glance

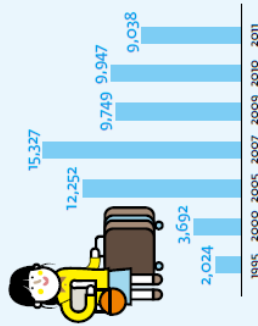
Total Fertility Rate

unit: persons
source: Statistics Korea, 2011
<www.kostat.go.kr>



Middle & High School Students Studying Abroad

unit: persons
source: Korea Educational Development Institute
<www.kedi.re.kr>



The number of kindergartens in Korea grew from 901 in 1980 to 8,538 in 2012.

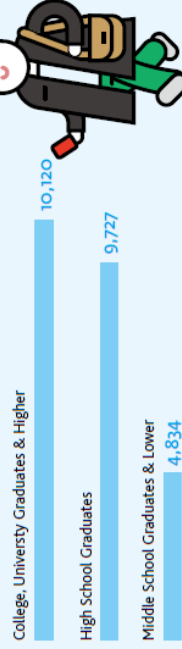


The rate of middle school graduates advancing to high school was 99.7% in 2012.



Employment by Education Level

unit: Thousand persons
source: Statistics Korea, 2012
<www.kostat.go.kr>



The average age of newlyweds in 2011 was 31.9 years for men and 29.1 years for women.

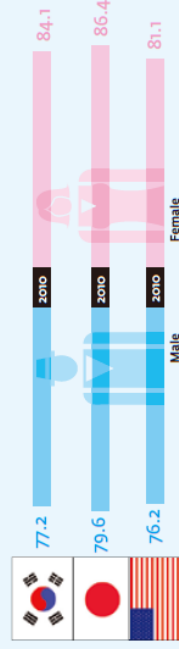


Life expectancy at birth in 2011 was 77.7 years for men and 84.5 years for women.



Life Expectancy

unit: years
source: OECD Health Data, 2010



Korean Life at a glance

The Beauty of Korea

Clothing

Hanbok has been Korea's traditional costume for thousands of years. Before the adoption of Western clothing 100 years ago, Hanbok used to be everyday attire. Men wore a jeogori (jacket) with baji (trousers) while women wore a jeogori and chima (wrap-around skirt). Today, Hanbok is mainly worn on days of celebration or special occasions such as weddings, 60th or 70th birthdays, and Seollal or Chuseok.



Housing

Korean gardens attempt to recreate natural landscapes with hills, streams and fields.

They are usually small in scale, but strive towards an ideal harmony of nature and man. The principal idea is to raise the garden from nature with the least possible disturbance because nature, in the Korean mind, is already a perfect and absolute entity that regenerates and sustains life.



Food

Korean food is nutritious and many dishes are partly fermented. Consequently, it is considered healthy and a good defense against cancer. Kimchi, the most famous Korean food, is salted, fermented cabbage served as a side dish at nearly every meal. It is rich in vitamins and minerals. Main dishes most familiar to Westerners are galbi and bulgogi.

