

South Korea

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Korean

Population: 51,780,000

Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)

Area: 100,210

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Gyeongbokgung Palace', 'writeup': "A grand royal palace in Seoul, originally built in 1395, symbolizing the Joseon Dynasty's heritage."}
- {'name': 'N Seoul Tower', 'writeup': 'A communication and observation tower offering panoramic views of Seoul.'}
- {'name': 'Jeju Island', 'writeup': 'A volcanic island known for its unique natural beauty, including lava tubes and waterfalls.'}
- {'name': 'Bukchon Hanok Village', 'writeup': 'A traditional Korean village in Seoul with well-preserved hanok houses.'}
- {'name': 'DMZ (Demilitarized Zone)', 'writeup': 'A buffer zone between North and South Korea, symbolizing the ongoing division of the peninsula.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Yoon Suk-yeol

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Chuseok', 'writeup': 'A major harvest festival where families honor ancestors and share traditional food.'}
- {'name': 'Seollal', 'writeup': 'Korean Lunar New Year celebration involving ancestral rites, games, and traditional food.'}
- {'name': 'Boryeong Mud Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual festival featuring mud-based activities promoting health and fun.'}
- {'name': 'Jinhae Cherry Blossom Festival', 'writeup': 'A spring festival celebrating cherry blossoms with parades and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Andong Mask Dance Festival', 'writeup': 'A cultural event showcasing traditional mask dances and folk performances.'}

Food & Cuisine:

South Korean cuisine is characterized by bold flavors and diverse dishes such as kimchi, bibimbap, bulgogi, and Korean barbecue, emphasizing fermented foods and a balance of spicy, sour, and savory tastes.

Brief History:

South Korea was established in 1948 following the division of Korea after World War II. It experienced rapid economic growth and democratization in the late 20th century, becoming a leading global economy and vibrant democracy.

Important People:

- King Sejong the Great - Creator of the Korean alphabet Hangul
- Syngman Rhee - First President of South Korea
- Park Chung-hee - Former President who led economic development
- Ban Ki-moon - Former UN Secretary-General
- BTS (Bangtan Sonyeondan) - Globally influential K-pop group

Current Conflicts:

Tense relations with North Korea persist, including occasional military provocations and unresolved political disputes stemming from the Korean War armistice.

Youtube Links:

- South Korea Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in South Korea
- History of South Korea in 10 Minutes
- Korean Culture and Traditions Explained
- South Korean Cuisine: Must-Try Foods
- Understanding the Korean Peninsula Conflict