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Seoul

Photo: PKphotograph/Shutterstock.com



2p2play/Shutterstock.com

Seoul is a city of contrasts in which the ancient and the modern harmoniously coexist. In one sense, it's a hi-tech 21st-century city awash with neon lights and the sights and sounds of a 24-hour metropolis, while at the same time, a city retaining the majesty and graceful ambience of ancient dynasties that once ruled. Like the river Han on which it sits, Seoul is constantly moving as it strides boldly into the future, yet simultaneously managing to keep one foot firmly entrenched in its historical past.



Guitar photographer/Shutterstock.com



nami chwang/Shutterstock.com

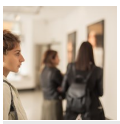
Featured



Seoul Olympic Park
Once used as a site for Seoul's 1988 Olympic Games, the park now contains Ko...



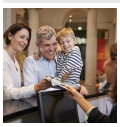
Namsan Park
Stroll around and enjoy this botanical garden with great sports facilities s...



Leeum Samsung Museum of Art
Leeum Samsung Museum of Art showcases a selection of artwork



Dongdaemun Design Plaza
One of the newest urban developments in Seoul, the state-of-the-art Dongdaem...



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Trickeye Museum is an interactive museum with paintings which are created wi...

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If you only have time for one palace visit make sure this is the one. Also r...



National Folk Museum Of Korea
The museum is located inside Gyeongbokgung Palace and



Namsangol Hanok Village
A trip to Namsangol Hanok Village will grant visitors insight into the tradi...



Seoul Tower
For sweeping views of the city from Seoul's highest point, head to the obser...



Hangang River Ferry Cruise
Taking a cruises along the Hangang River in Seoul is a great way to enjoy th...

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THE CITY



Savvapanf Photo/Shutterstock.com

The Jongno-gu area of Seoul is one of the city's most fascinating districts, symbolizing the duality of Seoul as both ancient and modern. Here, the historic palaces and the old quarter of Insadong sit aside Daehakno and University St, which is the centre for alternative art brimming with galleries, theatres, restaurants and bars. This dichotomy between the ancient and the modern is also seen in the district of Gangnam, where skyscrapers tower above the delicate architecture of Gyeongbukgung Palace. The city's commercial centre, Gangnam, is more workmanlike than other areas of the city. However, like Myeongdong, the city's financial district, Gangnam is also becoming known for its restaurants and bars.

Missing home? Then head for Itaewon - the international hub of Seoul, where expatriates, tourists and locals gather. It is known for its legendary nightlife where Western-style pubs and nightclubs proliferate. Failing that, a spot of retail therapy in the Namdaemun and Dongdaemun areas should certainly cure all.

DO & SEE



Olesya Kuznetsova/Shutterstock.com

As one of the largest cities in the world, Seoul offers visitors plenty to explore. Any traveller will find an activity to fit their taste - the Korean capital has everything from historical sites to museums, art galleries, recognizable landmarks, traditional parks and palaces, casinos (only open to foreigners!), theme parks and much more. Seoul certainly is one of those cities that boasts the thrilling variety a traveller craves.

Gyeongbokgung Palace



If you only have time for one palace visit make sure this is the one. Also referred to as the "Northern Palace", it was built in 1395 and is a stunning example of traditional Korean palatial architecture. Free guided tours are available in English, Japanese and Chinese.

Photo: CJ Nattanai/Shutterstock.com
Address: 161 Sajik-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 2370 03900
Internet: www.royalpalace.go.kr
More Info: To run or speak loudly is not allowed within the Palace premises.

National Folk Museum Of Korea



The museum is located inside Gyeongbokgung Palace and offers an excellent collection of Korean cultural exhibits. There are over 4,000 historical artefacts on display, and it is a great place to learn more about the history and historic lifestyles of the Korean people.

Photo: MOLPIX/Shutterstock.com
Address: 37 Samcheong-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 3704 3114
Internet: www.nfm.go.kr
Email: folkweb@korea.kr

Namsangol Hanok Village



A trip to Namsangol Hanok Village will grant visitors insight into the traditional ways of living during the extended period of of Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) rule. Here, one will be able to see restored housing dating back centuries, watch performances and even try a hand at activities such as archery.

Photo: SiHo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 84-1, Pildong 2-ga, Junggu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 2266 6923

Seoul Tower



For sweeping views of the city from Seoul's highest point, head to the observation deck of Seoul Tower - a local landmark and attraction that's been in operation for over three decades. The top floor features an upscale revolving restaurant; other eateries and attractions operate on-site.

Photo: Guitar photographer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Yongsan-dong 2 -ga San 1-3, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Open every day
Phone: +82 2 3455 9277
Internet: www.nseoultower.net
Email: help_master@cj.net

Hangang River Ferry Cruise



Taking a cruises along the Hangang River in Seoul is a great way to enjoy the city panorama - ferries pass local attractions en route, and those in the evening often include a dining option. Cruises vary in length (some as short at 40 minutes) and have an on-board tour guide.

Photo: leungchopan/Shutterstock.com
Address: 290 Yeouidong-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 3271 6900
Internet: www.elandcruise.com

Bukhansan Mountain National Park



Escape the bustle of the city and retreat to the tranquillity of the mountains. Bukhansan National Park has several gorges, granite peaks and more than 1,300 species of flora and fauna. There are also many historical and cultural sites including Bukhansanseong Fortress, Buddhist temples and monk’s cells.

Bukhansan National Park Office:

Photo: Guitar photographer/Shutterstock.com
Address: San 1-1, Jeongneung-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 909 0497
Internet: english.knps.or.kr
Email: pukhan@knps.or.kr

Lotte World



Lotte World is an amusement park located in the heart of the city. The theme park features exciting rides, an ice rink, a folk museum, a lake, both indoor and outdoor games, a fantasy forest with animals and much more. Lotte World is a very popular site - about 6,000,000 visitors are welcomed here every year.

Photo: Efired/Shutterstock.com
Address: 240 Olympic-ro Songpa-Gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 411 2000

Coex Aquarium



Coex Aquarium is a great stop for families with children - the little ones will no doubt enjoy the massive display of live marine creatures from waters in and around Korea and all over the world. The aquarium contains an incredible 40,000 animals altogether.

Photo: Olena Zaskochenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 513, Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Monday - Friday, Sunday: 10am - 8pm, Saturday and Holiday:10am - 9pm
Phone: +82 2 6002 6200
Internet: www.coexaqua.com
Email: aquazigi@coexaqua.com

Bongeunsa Temple



This little gem is situated in the middle of Seoul and is an easy one to overlook. Bongeunsa Temple was founded in 794 during the Shilla King Weongseong's reign. There is a special 2-hour program designed for visitors, which includes meditation and a tea ceremony. Do not miss the huge Buddha statue in the back.

Photo: ESB Professional/Shutterstock.com
Address: 73 Samsung-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 3218 4895
Internet: www.bongeunsa.org
Email: bongeunsa@templestay.com

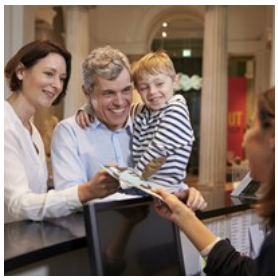
Changdeokgung



Changdeokgung is a grand palace from the last Korean dynasty. This is a great place to learn about Korean history but be sure to have some comfortable shoes on since the place is big. Enjoy the guided tour in English that lasts for one hour and be sure not to miss the guard changing ceremony.

Photo: Alexander A.Trofimov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 99 Yulgok-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Closed on Mondays
Phone: +82 2 762 8261
Internet: www.cdg.go.kr

Trickeye Museum



Trickeye Museum is an interactive museum with paintings which are created with 'trompe l'oeil' (eye-tricking) techniques that give each 2D art piece the impression of being in 3D. This allows you to interact with the paintings in a way that makes it look like you are part of the original work.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 20 Hongikro 3gil, Mapogu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 9pm
Phone: +82 2 3144 6300

Internet: www.trickeye.com
Email: edu@trickeye.com
More Info: Seogyo Plaza B2

Seoul City Tour Bus

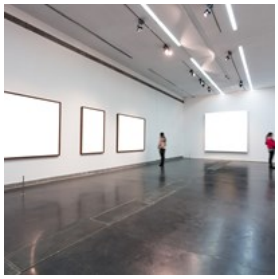


The City Tour Bus is a great way to see Seoul. The tour includes stops at some of Seoul's most popular attractions and shopping venues. There are 26 stops and you can get off at any station and then take the next bus again. Buses run at 30-minute intervals.

Departure location: In front of Donghwa duty-free Shops at Gwanghwamun.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gwanghwamun, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 777 6090
Internet: en.seoulcitybus.com

The War Memorial Of Korea



This huge museum is a great place where you can learn about the history of the Korean Military. There are many things to see both inside and outside the museum. On display are military airplanes, tanks, weapons and other military equipment. Put your walking shoes on since this is a massive place. There are English-language tours available.

Photo: 06photo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 29 Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 9.30am - 6pm, Closed on Mondays
Phone: +82 2 709 3114, 3139
Internet: www.warmemo.or.kr

National Museum Of Korea



The National Museum of Korea contains thousands of artifacts dating back to various points throughout history, from ancient times to modernity. These include items from Korea and greater Asia, including sculpture, calligraphy, paintings, porcelain, and more.

Photo: blurAZ/Shutterstock.com
Address: 137 Seobinggo-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am - 6pm, Wednesday and Saturday: 10am - 9pm, Sunday and holidays: 10am - 7pm
Phone: +82 2 2077 9000
Internet: www.museum.go.kr

Namsan Park



Stroll around and enjoy this botanical garden with great sports facilities such as a swimming pool, tennis court, ping-pong court, baseball stadium and roller-skating area. You can also take the cable car to the top or walk up the stairway path to get a great view over the city. Here at Namsan Park you will find the Seoul Tower.

Photo: PKphotograph/Shutterstock.com
Address: 100-177 Hoehyeon-dong 1-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily
Phone: +82 2 3783 5900
Internet: parks.seoul.go.kr

Seoul Olympic Park



Once used as a site for Seoul's 1988 Olympic Games, the park now contains Korea's biggest sporting arena, and is frequented by city residents who come for nature walks amongst the park greenery or sporting events in one of the park's modern stadiums.

Photo: Ahn Eun sil/Shutterstock.com
Address: 426, Ollimpik-ro, Bangi-dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul
Phone: +822 410 1114
Internet: www.olympicpark.co.kr

Leeum Samsung Museum of Art



Leeum Samsung Museum of Art showcases a selection of artwork by artists from across the globe - both Korean and international creators. Works range from traditional to contemporary art, and exhibitions change frequently. Guided tours in English available on Saturdays and Sundays.

Photo: guruXOX/Shutterstock.com
Address: 60-16, Itaewon-ro 55-gil, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 10.30am-6pm
Phone: +82 2 2014 6901
Internet: https://leeum.samsungfoundation.org/html_eng/global/main.asp

Yeouido Hangang Park



Conveniently located in Seoul's Yeouido neighborhood, the riverside Hangang Park is a green outdoor area popular with both locals and visitors. Open year-round, the park frequently hosts festivals and concerts, such as the Cherry Blossom and World Fireworks Festivals.

Photo: Lexter Yap/Shutterstock.com
Address: 330, Yeouidong-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul
Phone: +822 3780 0561 5
Internet: parks.seoul.go.kr

Deoksugung Palace



Set amidst high-rise modern buildings, the Deoksugung Palace is an oasis of traditional Korea in the very heart of Seoul's downtown. Historically, it served for various administrative purposes and was inhabited by Korean royalty. Today, the palace and premises are open to visitors (guided tours available).

Photo: Kanuman/Shutterstock.com
Address: 99, Sejong-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 9am-9pm. Closed on Mondays
Phone: +82 2 771 9951
Internet: www.deoksugung.go.kr

Dongdaemun Design Plaza



One of the newest urban developments in Seoul, the state-of-the-art Dongdaemun Design Plaza contains a Design Museum and Exhibition Hall, shops and markets, as well as several other important sights, such as the Seoul Fortress and the Igansumun Water Gate.

Photo: yochika photographer/Shutterstock.com
Address: 281 Eulji-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Closed on Mondays
Phone: +82 2 2153 0510
Internet: www.ddp.or.kr

Seoullo 7017 Skygarden



A unique public space constructed on what once was a barren highway overpass, the Seoullo 7017 Skygarden features cafes, street music performances, relaxation and play areas with flowerbeds and foot baths that light up at night, visually transforming the area after sundown.

Photo: TRAVAL TAKE PHOTOS/Shutterstock.com
Address: 18 Toegye-ro, Namdaemunno 5(o)-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: 24/7

Cheonggyecheon



The Cheonggyecheon was originally a creek that flowed through downtown Seoul -- in the wake of rapid post-war economic development, it was buried under concrete to facilitate urban expansion. Today, however, the over 10 km-long creek and its banks have been uncovered and remodelled into an exciting recreational area for locals and tourists, with clean water and natural habitats bordering on residential and office buildings.

Photo: SS Pixels/Shutterstock.com
Internet: english.visitseoul.net/walking-tour/Cheonggyecheon-1_/636

DINING



Indypendenz/Shutterstock.com

Much as expected from a busy Asian metropolis such as Seoul, the city truly has a lot to offer in the way of dining, from traditional Korean restaurants to flavourful and endlessly varied street food, along with, of course, a plethora of eateries serving cuisine from all corners of the globe.

In Korea, every sit-down meal is accompanied by kimchi--a spicy pickled cabbage, and some of the must-tries include bibimpab (vegetables and rice with an egg on top), Korean-style BBQ, and the many side dishes (banchan) that come with a staple of steamed rice.

Mugyodong Bugeokukjib



The historic eatery has been serving pollack soup for decades - ever since it first began operation in 1968. It's client base doesn't show signs of scaling down until today - those willing to indulge in the signature soup must prepare to wait in line during peak hours.

Photo: Kwanbenz/Shutterstock.com
Address: 38, Eulji-ro 1-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 7am-8pm, Saturday - Sunday: 7am-4pm
Phone: +82 2 777 3891

Ondal



Ondal serves authentic regional fare in an exquisite dining room of Grand Walkerhill Seoul, offering magnificent views of the Han River. The freshest ingredients are used in the kitchen, and the food is cooked with a personal touch. The ambiance is elegant yet unpretentious.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 177 Walkerhill-ro Gwangjin-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Lunch Monday - Sunday: 12pm - 3pm, Dinner Monday - Saturday: 6pm - 10pm, Sunday: 5.30pm - 9.30pm
Phone: +82 2 450 4518
Internet: www.walkerhill.com/grandwalkerhillseoul/en/dining/Ondal
More Info: Located at Grand Walkerhill Seoul

Samwon Garden



Enjoy your Korean food at the largest first-class restaurant in Korea! The restaurant can accommodate up to about 1,200 guests. On the menu you will find mouth-watering dishes such as marinated Korean beef short rib, spicy beef short rib soup and special wrapped kimchi.

Photo: Konstantin Kopachinsky/Shutterstock.com
Address: 835, Eonju-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily: 11.50am – 10pm
Phone: +82 2 548 3030
Internet: www.samwongarden.com
Email: info@dinehill.co.kr

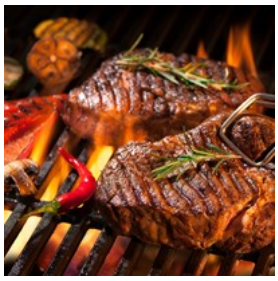
Di Matteoh Daehakro



Di Matteoh Pizza offers authentic Italian cuisine with a selection of Italian wines. The very thin pizza is hailed as one of the best in town, and is made with fresh ingredients such as fresh basil and buffalo mozzarella. Seafood and pasta dishes feature on their menu in abundance.

Photo: Romaset/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1-141 Dongsoong-dong, Chongno-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 747 4444
Internet: www.dimatteo.co.kr

Braai Republic



This small cosy restaurant serves great South African braai (BBQ) - a variety of juicy meats and sausages. The owner and his team are very friendly and welcoming. You should book in advance as the restaurant gets very busy, especially on the weekends.

Photo: Alexander Raths/Shutterstock.com
Address: 63-4, Itaewon-Dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 70 8879 1967
Internet: www.braaisk.wixsite.com/braairepublic
Email: braairepublicseoul@gmail.com

Jyoti Restaurant



If you would like to have some Indian food, head over to Jyoti Restaurant. The menu offers both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options cooked by skilled chefs with ample experience. Set lunches are served on weekdays from 11.30am to 2pm, and various sets are available

for dinner.

Photo: espies/Shutterstock.com
Address: 6, Sinchon-ro 20-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 703 3535
Internet: www.jyotifood.com

Philkyungjae



Indulge in traditional Korean food at restaurant Philkyungjae. The restaurant occupies a historical building constructed in the 1400s. Here you can enjoy 18-course meals cooked with high-quality ingredients. The service is attentive and efficient.

Photo: kongsak sumano/Shutterstock.com
Address: 205 Gwangpyeong-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 445 2115
Internet: www.philkyungjae.co.kr

Food Court - Lotte Department Store



This food court is located at the basement level of Lotte Department Store, and offers a good range of international dishes at reasonable prices. All the Korean food you can wish for is served here - and there are plenty of spots to choose from. The place is huge and the atmosphere is lively.

Photo: Woraphon Nusen/Shutterstock.com
Address: 30 Eulji-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 771 2500
Internet: store.lotteshopping.com

Myeongdong Kyoja



The restaurant is well-visited by locals, which serves as testament to its authenticity. Myeongdong Kyoja opened its doors in 1976 and offers guests delicious dumplings and noddle dishes. This is an inexpensive restaurant with a fast pace and great for a solid in-and-out meal.

Photo: TMON/Shutterstock.com
Address: 25-2 2-ga, Myeong-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily 10.30am - 9.30pm
Phone: +82 2 776 5348
Internet: www.mdkj.co.kr

Jung Sik Dang



If you are looking for modern Korean fine dining, this restaurant might be perfect for you. It features an a la carte menu with sets containing five and six course meals. The typical Korean dishes are prepared with a twist and well-presented on the plate.

Photo: Alexandralaw1977/Shutterstock.com
Address: 11 Seollungro 158-gil, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 517 4654
Internet: www.jungsik.kr
Email: reservation@jungsik.kr

Pro Soy Crab



If you still had not had the chance to try Korean soy crab and if you are willing to go for something new, give this restaurant a go. Tanks with live crabs are on display in the yard, which

means very fresh crab is served at the restaurant. The menu is pleasantly varied and offers quite a selection of Korean dishes.

Photo: TMON/Shutterstock.com
Address: 9 Gangnam-daero 97-gil, Jamwon-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: 24/7
Phone: +82 2 543 4126
Internet: www.prosoycrabweb.cafe24.com/default/

Hemlagat



Hemlagat means "home-cooked" in Swedish. The restaurant executes traditional recipes passed on through generations. The restaurant brings a little bit of Scandinavian food and hospitality to the Korean capital, offering an extensive dinner and brunch menu.

Photo: Magdanatka/Shutterstock.com
Address: 123 Namsan Lotte Castle, 35 Sogong -ro, Jung-gu, Soul
Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 11.30am - 2pm and 5.30pm-9-30pm. Closed on Mondays
Phone: +82 2 318 3335
Internet: www.hemlagatseoul.com
Email: hemlagatinseoul@gmail.com
More Info: Booking is recommended

Hamo



Featuring home-made deonjang, Korean miso and soy sauce, Hamo serves Korean food with ingredients gathered and fermented in the old-fashioned way. It is mainly known for its bibimbap, a rice bowl topped with vegetables, pepper or soybean paste, egg and sliced beef. Their menu features four different courses, but you can also make a selection from their à la carte options.

Photo: zarzamora/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2F, 819, Eonju-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily 11.30am–10pm
Phone: +82 2 515 4266
Internet: www.hamo-kitchen.com/en
Email: admin@hamo-kitchen.com

CAFES



Surasak Ch/Shutterstock.com

One thing that becomes instantly obvious when walking down any street in South Korea is that coffee shops are incredibly popular here. Both international chains and small independent cafes dot the capital, providing a plethora of options to choose from.

Seoul is known for its quirky themed cafes--ones where you can enjoy a beverage while playing with a resident cat or dog, those selling a very specific type of food or drink (the everything-green-tea O'Sulloc, for example), and even Hello Kitty-themed establishments, where everything revolves around the iconic Japanese character.

Passion 5



Passion 5 is home to exquisite desserts and first-class chocolates and patisserie. Here, guests will get the chance to choose from a truly wide array of artisan creations of all shapes, colours and sizes. The café is located in Hangangjin Station area.

Photo: rnl/Shutterstock.com
Address: 272, Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 2071 9505

O'Sulloc Tea House



All offerings at O'Sulloc - food and drink - contain high-quality green tea from Korea's own Jeju-do island, where some of the world's finest tea is grown. The cafés offerings include green tea ice cream, cakes and scones, desserts, and several varieties of soft drinks, such as the milky green tea latte.

Photo: Alerte'/Shutterstock.com
Address: 45-1, Insa-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily 10am–10pm
Phone: +82 2 732 6427
Internet: www.osulloc.com

Seoureseo Duljjaero Jalhaneunjip



The longstanding cafe is know for one thing only - the filling, traditional red bean soup-like dessert made with rice dough, nuts (peanuts and chestnuts), and other ingredients (several varieties on offer). It's a must-visit location for those looking to try authentic Korean treats.

Photo: mnimage/Shutterstock.com
Address: 122-1 Samcheong-ro, Samcheong-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 11am–9pm
Phone: +82 2 734 5302

Hakrim Dabang



One of the oldest independent cafes in Seoul, Hakrim is a gateway to the 1950s, with its collection of vinyl records as well as black and white photographs that decorate the walls. Its Viennese coffee remains well-known to this day, just like the homemade cream cheese cake that both young and older crowds enjoy.

Photo: Nixx Photography/Shutterstock.com
Address: 119 Daehak-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily 10am–11pm
Phone: +82 2-742-2877

Casablanca Sandwicherie



The trendy and rather unusual eatery is a good pick for those looking to grab a quick bite of the non-Korean kind - the Moroccan café serves a nice selection of great sandwiches with meat and vegetable stuffing, as well as several varieties of other authentic, hearty dishes.

Photo: picturepartners/Shutterstock.com
Address: Yongsan-gu, Yongsan-dong 2ga 44-7, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 797 8367
Internet: www.facebook.com/CasablancaSandwicherie/

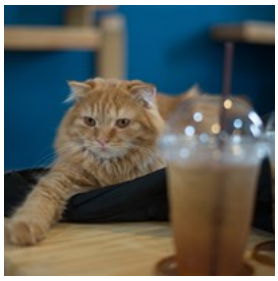
Vatos Urban Tacos



Vatos Urban Tacos serves creative Mexican-Korean fusion. Here you can enjoy artisan mouthwatering dishes such as fish and shrimp tacos, kimchi fries and Galbe burritos in a lively atmosphere. The drink menu features a selection of great cocktails.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1 Itaewon-ro 15-gil, Itaewon 1(il)-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 11:30am–11pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–12am
Phone: +82 2 797 8226
Internet: www.vatoskorea.com
Email: info@vatossg.com
More Info: 2nd Floor

Cats Living



For any animal or cat lover, this is definitely the place to visit. The cosy cafe is where guests are welcome to interact with the furry creatures while sipping on delicious coffees. Graceful felines roam around the space, gracing laps of visitors with their presence from time to time.

Photo: rolehcab/Shutterstock.com
Address: 358-111 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily 1–11pm

Tongin Market



There hardly is a better place for foodies on a budget than Tongin Market. At several cafes on-site (Box Lunch or Dosirak, for example), visitors may purchase a recommended 5 US dollars worth of coins, which may then be then exchanged for foods and snacks to complement the staple of soup and/or rice.

Photo: sekitarief/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3, Pirundae-ro 6-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 11am-4pm
Internet: www.tonginmarket.co.kr

Gwangjang Market



Known primarily as a clothing market, Gwangjang is a prime destination for those looking to fest on Korean street food - and it certainly has no shortage of mouthwatering choices. Constantly teeming with visitors, the market is a great place to savour some classic specialties such as bibimbap, as well as, perhaps, try something vey much out of the box, such as the dreaded live octopus.

Photo: Atmostfear/Shutterstock.com
Address: 88, Changgyeonggung-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily: 8.30am-10pm
Internet: www.kwangjangmarket.co.kr

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Teerachat paibung/Shutterstock.com

Nighttime entertainment in Seoul is really more about the neighbourhood than a particular establishment. Each area is known for its very specific vibe, and knowing what kind of pastime you're looking for might be a good idea before deciding on a location.

The go-to areas are the stylish and bohemian Hongdae, Gangnam (favoured by young, trendy twenty-somethings), and Itaewon--a location most favoured by internationals. Other great nightlife areas of town include lower-key Myeongdong and Daehangno, as well as upscale Apgujeong-dong or Sinsadong.

Most clubs and bars remain open late into the night, and one type of entertainment for those looking for an authentic experience of sorts is one of the many Seoulian "noraebang"--karaoke bars are still quite popular with locals.

Club Octagon



One of the most popular clubs in Seoul's stylish Gangnam district (and a nightlife venue renowned worldwide), Octagon is where the party doesn't stop until the early morning hours, with DJs playing house and electro all night long - all in a trendy interior featuring an indoor pool.

Photo: dmitrymoi/Shutterstock.com
Address: 645, Nonhyeon-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 516 8847
Internet: www.octagonseoul.com
Email: info@octagonseoul.com
More Info: Located at New Hilltop Hotel

M2 The Club



M2 is a popular EDM dance club with modern sound and lighting systems. International superstar DJs are frequent guests here, and music genres played range from electronic to house. The place tends to get crowded on weekends when dozens of locals and the occasional foreigners fill up the dance floor.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: 20-5 Jandari-ro, Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Sun, Tue–Wed 9:30pm–6am, Thu 9:30pm–7am, Fri–Sat 9:30pm–9am
Phone: +82 2 3143 7573
Email: clubblog@naver.com

Living Room



The cool, laid-back Living Room is a bar and club with a rather chill vibe, serving drinks and cocktails, and frequently hosting guest DJs. Artwork adjourns the walls (sometimes there are even temporary exhibitions), creating a very pleasant, almost bohemian atmosphere.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com
Address: 30-1 Sinheung-ro, Yongsan 2(i)ga-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Wed–Sat 9pm–3am, Sun 9pm–2am
Email: livingroomseoul@gmail.com

J.J. Mahoney's



Located on Grand Hyatt Seoul premises, J.J. Mahoney's is an establishment that has something for everyone. Live music is played here rather frequently, the high-quality sound system makes for great dancing conditions, and there is a billiards and darts room for those who are up for a challenge. The venue attracts a clientele of a diverse age range.

Photo: Aleksei Lazukov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 322 Sowol-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Monday- Wednesday: 7pm - 2am, Thursday: 7pm - 3am, Friday - Saturday: 7pm - 4am, Sunday: Closed
Phone: +82 2 799 8601
Internet: www.seoul.grand.hyattrestaurants.com
More Info: Location: Garden Level

Lobby Lounge Bar



Enjoy a great drink at Lobby Lounge Bar on the 41st floor of the Sheraton Seoul D Cube City Hotel. The staff serve a good variety of mouth-watering food, drinks, and delightful desserts. Live entertainment is often provided--all with sweeping views of Seoul uncovering before the guests' eyes.

Photo: Minerva Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 662 Gyeongin-ro, Sindorim-dong, Guro-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 10am–12am, Fri–Sat 10am–1am
Phone: +82 2 2211 1740
Internet: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/seldi-sheraton-seoul-d-cube-city-hotel

Club FF



The indie FF is a favourite underground haunt for alternative music-scene enthusiasts and party people--the venue offers an all-inclusive bar service at certain hours of the night, which is normally followed by a dance party of grand proportion with DJs and dancing.

Photo: melis/Shutterstock.com
Address: 407-8 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 3141 0626
Internet: www.clubff.modoo.at

Club Evans



A must-visit for jazz-lovers, Evans takes its music very seriously--Mondays are reserved for jam sessions, and live jazz fills the air almost every night of the week. The venue attracts a mixed crowd of locals and internationals of all age groups.

Photo: Geoff Goldswain/Shutterstock.com
Address: 407- 3 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 7:30–11:30pm, Fri–Sat 7:30pm–2am
Phone: +82 2 337 8361
Internet: www.clubevans.com

Su Noraebang



‘Noraebang’ is the Korean-version of karaoke. Su Noraebang is the place for those willing to sing all night long. In glass-mirror rooms, you can choose your English or Korean playlist and start the night. Prices vary depending on time of day or night, but tend to be highest from 8pm

onwards.

Photo: Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 367-39 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 322 3111
Internet: www.skysu.com

Theatre



There are multiple places to catch a show in Seoul, some of the best ones include National Gugak Center (for traditional Korean music and dance shows), Jeongdong Theater (for musicals), Nanta Theatre Jung-gu (which puts on first-rate non-verbal performances with music and comedy), and, of course, the National Theater of Korea.

National Theater of Korea:

Photo: aerogondo2/Shutterstock.com
Address: 59 Jangchungdan-ro, Jangchung-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 2280 4114
Internet: www.ntok.go.kr

The Bungalow



Guests arriving at The Bungalow must not forget to lose their shoes and socks, as the floor is covered in sand, and the venue itself was designed to help recreate the atmosphere of a tropical beach bar. The drink list features cocktails of the tropical kind and subdued music played.

Photo: Maksim Fesenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 116-22 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 796 1606

Glam Lounge



Fit for an evening drink every night of the week, Glam is a sleek, stylish bar in Itaewon--the kind this particular neighbourhood isn't exactly known for. The bar's interior was crafted to emulate old European designs, with well-dressed business-minded professionals frequenting its glamorous insides.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 26 Itaewon-ro 27ga-gil, Itaewon 1, il-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 796 6853
Internet: www.districtglam.com
Email: ksj.con@mykinc.com

Cakeshop



One of the trendiest clubs of the moment, Cakeshop is where many international DJs and bands play when passing through Seoul. The crowd here is mostly made up of savvy music-lovers, with genres played ranging from electronic to hip hop. The club has an ever-so-slightly grungy feel to it.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: 34-16 Itaewon-dong, Yongsang-Gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 10 4765 6139
Internet: www.cakeshopseoul.com
Email: Contact@cakeshopseoul.com

SHOPPING



Scharfsinn/Shutterstock.com

Seoul is absolutely the place to be for shopping devotees - from street markets to high-end shopping malls, the Korean capital has it all. Some of the most popular shopping areas are Myeongdong, Itaewon, and Insadong - each with its own distinctive character. Seoul is a metropolis filled with shopping opportunities at every turn. Markets worth a stop include Namdaemun and Dongdaemun, the Gyeongdong Oriental Medicine Market selling all sorts of traditional miracle cures (Chegidong Station) and Noryangjin Fish Market, even if only to watch the traders in action (line 1, Noryangjin Station).

Namdaemun Market



In the centre of Seoul, you will find Namdaemun Market – an open-air shopping extravaganza that has been a trading place for centuries! Here you can buy anything from a pig's head to a Louis Vuitton replica handbag. It's the largest market in the country, selling everything from food to clothing.

Photo: qingqing/Shutterstock.com
Address: 21, Namdaemunsijang 4-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul
Public Transport: Hoehyeon Station
Phone: +82 2 753 2805
Internet: www.namdaemunmarket.co.kr

Dongdaemun Market



Not far from Namdaemun is Dongdaemun, another bustling market area where once again just about anything can be found. Dongdaemun is made up of some traditional-style market stalls, wholesale outlets and various shopping centers selling mainly Korean and international fashion.

Photo: mTaira/Shutterstock.com
Address: 289-3 Jongno 6-ga, Jongno-gu, Seoul

Myeongdong



A popular shopping area, Myeongdong is the place to go if you're on the lookout for styles trending in Korea - often, rather unique clothing and accessories pieces may be found in the shops and stores dotting the district. Do mind that most shops only sell sizes geared at a smaller build, which means some Western travelers may encounter difficulty finding fitting clothing.

Photo: Silverfoxz/Shutterstock.com
Address: Myeongdong, Seoul

Itaewon



Itaewon is a part of town thoroughly enjoyed by Western tourists - finding appropriately-sized clothing presents less of a difficulty than elsewhere in town, and street salesmen often approach tourists with offers to flip through catalogues of

knock-off brand goods (leading those interested into a basement store somewhere in the area - do exercise precaution if you choose to follow).

Photo: imtmphoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Itaewon, Seoul

Apgujeong



For upmarket shopping, try the Apgujeong area where the city's rich and beautiful come to stock up on the latest fashions. Apgujeong is home to locally and internationally known brand-name stores.

Photo: imtmphoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Apgujeong, Seoul

Insadong



For traditional Korean crafts, try the Insadong neighbourhood - one of the best spots in town to shop for locally-made pieces. Here, shoppers will be able to select from hundreds of items ranging from ceramics to artwork and crafts made from humble paper.

Photo: Vincent St. Thomas/Shutterstock.com
Address: Insadong, Seoul

COEX Mall



The Incredibly large COEX Mall is a one-stop shopping location, where high-end international brands are represented alongside mid-range, affordable Korean stores. The mall's shopping, entertainment (there is an actual aquarium on-site), and dining options are endless - there will certainly be something there to suit every taste.

Photo: Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 513, Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 6000 0114
Internet: www.coex.co.kr

Yongsan Electronics Market



For latest electronics, both genuine and imitation (if you happen to be interested in the latter), try the Yongsan Market packed to the brim with vendors and shops selling phones, cameras, laptops, video games, and all sorts of useful devices. Prices tend to be lower than those in regular retail outlets.

Photo: petrunjela/Shutterstock.com
Address: 15-2 Hangangno 2(i)-ga, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily: 10am-7.30pm

Kyobo Book Store Gwanghwamun



For all your literary needs, Kyobo Book Store the place to be - with well-organized books and periodicals in multiple different languages and a very impressive selection, the book shop is probably among the best in town. Kyobo also sells stationery, electronics, games, and more.

Photo: luminaimages/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1, Jongno 1-ga, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily: 9.30am-10pm
Phone: +82 1544 1900

Ewha Women's University Fashion Street



The area around Ewha Women's University teems with stores geared towards female shoppers; shops here are known to be generally rather affordable. The area is also where would find some of the city's coolest cafés and cheap and cheerful hair salons.

Photo: elwynn/Shutterstock.com
Address: Daehyeon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul

Hongdae Free Market



Held once a week (on Saturdays), Hongdae Free Market reflects the youthful and artsy spirit of the neighbourhood. Local artists and craftsmen gather here to showcase and sell their work, which is mostly unique, one-off items produced by the young designers themselves. Some street food stalls are normally in operation, too.

Photo: Roman Babakin/Shutterstock.com
Address: 19-3, Wausan-ro 21-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 325 8553
Internet: www.freemarket.or.kr

Noryangjin Fish Market



Perhaps, the largest seafood market in Korea, Noryangjin Fish Market is the place to marvel at mysterious marine creatures (many still alive) and - possibly - select some to be cooked and served on the spot - sit-down dining is available.

Photo: longtaildog/Shutterstock.com
Address: 674 Nodeul-ro, Dongjak-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 2254 8000

Åland



The store really is a shoppers' paradise - with multiple floors each having a different theme (street wear, feminine attire, etc.), Åland might just be one of the essential go-to places for the hottest Korean fashions. Leftovers are sold at the great value Åland After Åland outlet (19-12 Wausan-ro 17-gil, Mapo-gu).

Photo: nenetus/Shutterstock.com
Address: 53-6 Myeongdong 2(i)-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 1566 7477
Internet: www.a-land.co.kr

SMTOWN coexartium



For K-pop fans, SMTOWN is an essential shopping destination where fans not only get to browse through endless performer-branded consumer items, but even meet the starts in person if those happen to be in the store. There are several locations around Seoul.

Photo: elwynn/Shutterstock.com
Address: 513, Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Internet: www.smtownland.com/index.php

Goto Mall



Underneath Express Bus Terminal Station lies Go To Mall - one of the cheapest spots to shop for latest Korean fashion. Prices start at as low as a

few dollars, affordable clothing and accessories filling the underground space teeming with shoppers.

Photo: imtmphoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jiha200, Sinbanpo-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul
Phone: +82 2 535 8182
Internet: www.gotomall.kr
More Info: Gosok Terminal Station (underground)

Tongin Market



There hardly is a better place for foodies on a budget than Tongin Market. At several cafes on-site (Box Lunch or Dosirak, for example), visitors may purchase a recommended 5 US dollars worth of coins, which may then be then exchanged for foods and snacks to complement the staple of soup and/or rice.

Photo: sekitarief/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3, Pirundae-ro 6-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 11am-4pm
Internet: www.tonginmarket.co.kr

Gwangjang Market



Known primarily as a clothing market, Gwangjang is a prime destination for those looking to fest on Korean street food - and it certainly has no shortage of mouthwatering choices. Constantly teeming with visitors, the market is a great place to savour some classic specialties such as bibimbap, as well as, perhaps, try something vey much out of the box, such as the dreaded live octopus.

Photo: Atmostfear/Shutterstock.com
Address: 88, Changgyeonggung-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Daily: 8.30am-10pm
Internet: www.kwangjangmarket.co.kr

TOURIST INFORMATION



FenlioQ/Shutterstock.com

Incheon International Airport



Incheon International Airport is located approximately a 1-hour ride from downtown Seoul by bus or taxi. Airport buses are normally stop directly outside the airport building (Limousine buses run not to Seoul only, but also connect the airport to other provincial cities). The Limousine bus runs to and from the airport every 10-15 minutes and stops at most of the major hotels. You can buy your bus ticket from ticket booths next to the bus stops outside on the sidewalk.

Taxis are available from stands no.16-21 on the arrivals floor. Some taxi companies offer English-language service.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Incheon International Airport, Yongjongdo
Phone: +82 2 1577 2600
Internet: www.airport.kr

Public Transport



The Underground is clean and efficient and operates from approximately 5.30am to midnight non-stop every day. All stations display signs both in Korean and English. You can buy your ticket at the ticket vending machine. Check the website for details (www.seoulmetro.co.kr).

Seoul Station is a central hub for transportation. Standard buses are frequent and inexpensive. You can pay your fare by either scanning your T-money card or paying in cash when entering the bus. Make sure to have change since you cannot pay with bigger bills.

There are several city buses operating in Seoul. For example the "Blue Bus" which connects inner Seoul with the outer suburban areas. The Yellow Bus (Circular Line) goes in a circular pattern around the very central part of Seoul. There are also the Red Bus (Wide Area Line), Maeul Bus (Local Bus) and the Green Bus (Branch Line).

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxi in Korea is an affordable means of transportation. Taxis come in two varieties - regular and deluxe (easy to recognize by the black-with-golden-stripe color scheme; prices for those are slightly higher).

There is also the International taxi which was specially created for foreign tourists in Seoul who cannot speak Korean. They are orange with a "Haechi", the Seoul mascot, on the side of it.
www.intltaxi.co.kr
+82 2 1644 2255

In addition there is also the water taxi. There are total of 17 water taxi stations located along the Hangang River.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



Post boxes are red in color and may be found all around the city. Seoul Central Post Office:

Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: 70 Sogong-ro, Myeong-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul
Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 9am-6pm, Saturday - Sunday: closed
Phone: +82 2 6450 1114

Pharmacy



There are many different pharmacies and you will find one on nearly every major street or road. They are marked by a sign that says “ ,” (“yak,” which means “medicine”). However, many pharmacies are closed on Sundays, but pharmacies located in large shopping malls, subway stations, bus terminals are open on Sundays.

24-hour phone information service: 120 and 1339

Photo: Gemma Garner
Internet: www.pharm114.or.kr

Telephone



Country code: +82 Area code: 02

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



Round two-pin plugs, 110V but most hotels now have a 220V supply.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
9,733,509 (2020)

Currency
South Korean Won (KRW)
KRW1,000 ~ US$0,89

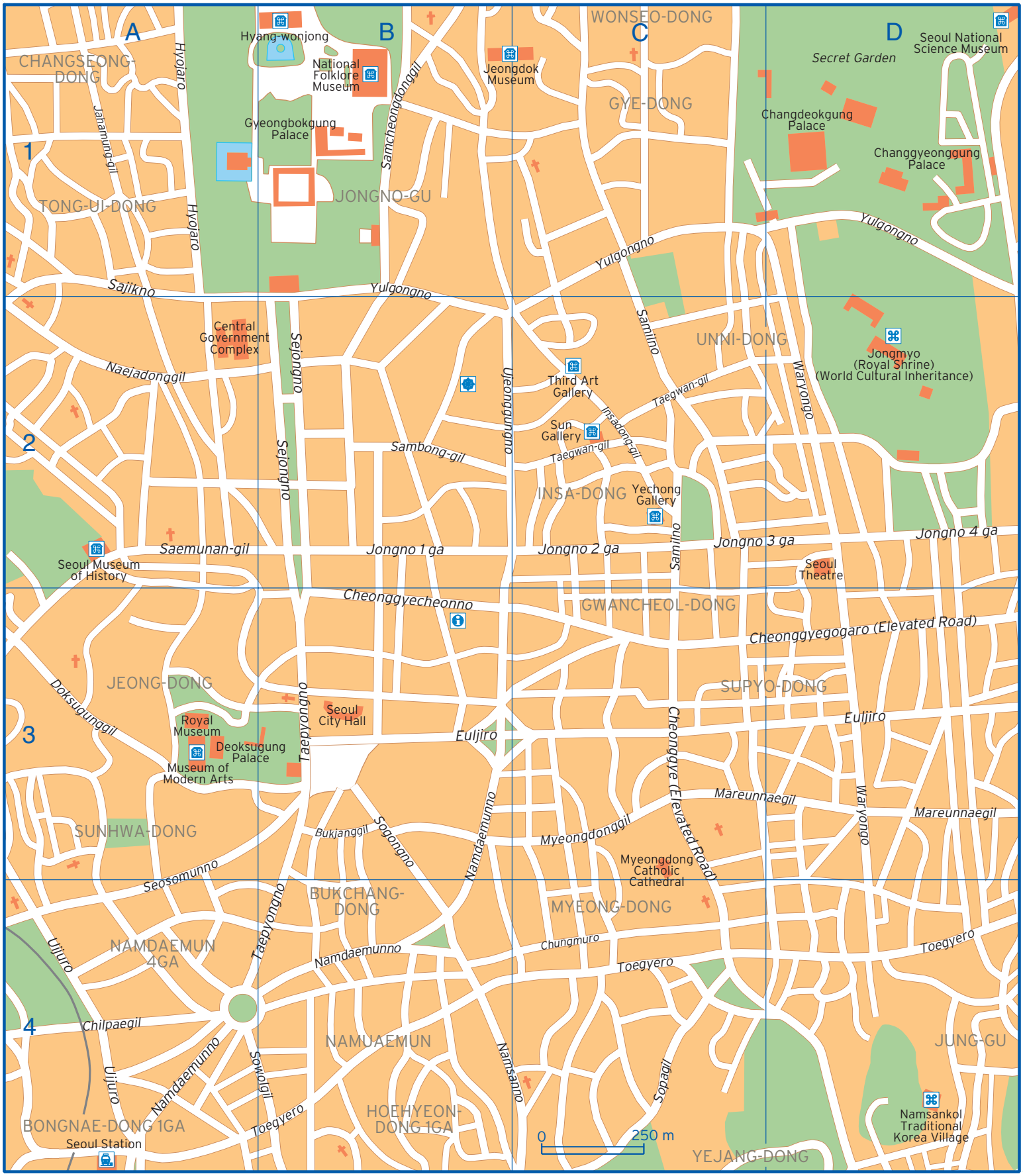
Opening hours
The convenience stores are open 24/7; departments are open 9am to 8pm while small retail shops are open 10am to 8pm. Restaurant chains are open 24/7 while independent dining rooms are open until 10pm. Banks are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Newspapers
The Seoul Times
The Korea Times

Emergency numbers
Police: 112
Fire or Ambulance: 119
Red Cross: 1339

Tourist information
Gwanghwamun Tourist Information Center
215 Sejongno 1-ga, Jongno-gu (in front of Donghwa Duty Free)
Opening hours: 9am–8pm
Languages: English, Chinese, Japanese, Thai
+82 2 735 8688

Korea Tourism Organization
40 Cheongyecheonno, Jung-gu, Seoul 100-180
Opening hours: 9am–8pm everyday
Korea Travel Hotline: +82 2 1330
(Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)


A
B
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CHANGSEONG-DONG
TONG-UI-DONG
JONGNO-GU
WONSEO-DONG
GYE-DONG
UNNI-DONG
INSA-DONG
GWANCHEOL-DONG
JEONG-DONG
SUPYO-DONG
SUNHWA-DONG
BUKCHANG-DONG
MYEONG-DONG
NAMDAEMUN 4GA
NAMUAEMUN
BONGNAE-DONG 1GA
HOEHYEON-DONG 1GA
YEJANG-DONG
JUNG-GU
Hyang-wonjong
National Folklore Museum
Gyeongbokgung Palace
Jeongdok Museum
Seoul National Science Museum
Secret Garden
Changdeokgung Palace
Changgyeonggung Palace
Jongmyo (Royal Shrine) (World Cultural Inheritance)
Central Government Complex
Third Art Gallery
Sun Gallery
Yechong Gallery
Seoul Museum of History
Seoul Theatre
Royal Museum
Deoksugung Palace
Museum of Modern Arts
Seoul City Hall
Myeongdong Catholic Cathedral
Seoul Station
Namsankol Traditional Korea Village
Hyojaro
Jahamung-gil
Samcheongdonggil
Yulgongno
Sajikno
Naejadonggil
Sejongno
Jeonggungno
Samilno
Waryongo
Taegwan-gil
Insadong-gil
Sambong-gil
Saemunan-gil
Jongno 1 ga
Jongno 2 ga
Jongno 3 ga
Jongno 4 ga
Cheonggyecheonno
Cheonggyegogaro (Elevated Road)
Doksugunggil
Taepyongno
Euljiro
Cheonggye (Elevated Road)
Mareunnaegil
Bukjanggil
Sogongno
Namdaemunno
Myeongdonggil
Seosomunno
Chungmuro
Toegyero
Uijuro
Chilpaegil
Sowolgil
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ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

Bukjanggil	B3
Cheonggye (Elevated Road)	C3 C4
Cheonggyecheonno	B3
Cheonggyegogaro (Elevated Road)	C3 D3
Chilpaegil	A4
Chungmuro	C4
Doksugunggil	A3
Euljiro	B3 D3
Hyojaro	A1
Insadong-gil	C2
Jahamung-gil	A1
Jongno 1 ga	B2
Jongno 2 ga	C2
Jongno 3 ga	C2 D2
Jongno 4 ga	D2
Mareunnaegil	C3 D3
Myeongdonggil	C3
Naejadonggil	A2
Namdaemunno	A4 B3 B4
Namsanno	B4 C4
Saemunan-gil	A2
Sajikno	A1 A2
Sambong-gil	B2
Samcheongdonggil	B1
Samilno	C2
Sejongno	B2
Seosomunno	A3 A4
Sogongno	B3
Sopagil	C4
Sowolgil	A4 B4
Taegwan-gil	C2
Taepyongno	B3 B4
Toegyero	A4 B4 C4 D4
Uijuro	A4
Ujeonggungno	B2
Waryongo	D2 D3
Yulgongno	B1 B2 C1 D1