

Korea 101: Public Holidays and Weather

Living in Korea, published by the Investment Consulting Center, provides necessary information and helpful tips for day-to-day life in Korea. Here's what's featured this month.

Public Holidays

Korea has 15 public holidays a year as follows :

Name	Date	Remarks
Sinjeong (New Year's Day)	Jan. 1	
Seolnal (Lunar New Year)	Jan. 1 (Lunar calendar)	On the first day of the Korean lunar calendar, Koreans exchange greetings and words of encouragement for the new year.
March First Independence Movement Day	Mar. 1	This day commemorates the March 1st Independence Movement in 1919.
Buddha's Birthday	Apr. 8 (Lunar calendar)	This day is called 'Seokga Tansinil' in Korean, meaning 'Buddha's Birthday'.
Children's Day	May. 5	
Memorial Day	Jun. 6	
National Liberation Day	Aug. 15	This day celebrates both the national liberation and the establishment of the Republic of Korea.
Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day)	Aug. 15 (Lunar calendar)	This major holiday is also called hangawi ('the great middle of autumn').
National Foundation Day	Oct. 3	This day celebrates the foundation of the first Korean kingdom of Gojoseon.
Hangeul Day	Oct. 9	This day commemorates the invention of Hangeul, the unique alphabet of the Korean language.
Christmas	Dec. 25	

* The substitute holiday system applies to Lunar New Year's Day, Children's Day and Chuseok.

Weather

Korea has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons. The global warming is prolonging summer compared to the other three seasons. In January, the coldest month, mercury dips to 17 degrees below zero Celsius. The hottest month is August when the temperature goes up to 39 degrees Celsius (as of 2018). Humidity rises up to 85 percent in summer, increasing the heat index notably. Summer usually begins with a rainy season (called jangma in Korea), and 50-60 percent of the annual precipitation falls in summer.

Recently fine/ultrafine dust has become an issue in Korea, with its concentration being higher from fall to spring than in summer.



Tip



How to deal with fine dust in Korea

Wear a mask when the level of fine dust is severe. Choose a fine dust mask with a KF (Korea Filter) mark that indicates the mask ability to block harmful substances such as yellow dust and fine dust.

For example, KF80 means that the mask can filter out at least 80 percent of fine particles. The higher the figure is, the better your mask performs. Yet breathing may become a bit more uncomfortable. So strike a balance between the level of fine dust and the amount of breath you need.



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