

Foreigners



Those that fall in the following categories will be allowed to enter Korea without a visa.

- Countries under visa waiver agreements
- Frequent visitors
- Japanese tourists
- Those with special entry arrangements for the Jeju island
- APEC Business Travel Card holders
- Designated visa-free entry
- Transit tourists bound for another country
- Europe bound Chinese transit tourists
- Re-entry Permit holders

Countries under Visa Waiver Agreements

- Nationals of visa waiver countries can enter Korea without a visa as long as the purpose of their visit is tourism or temporary visit. If they want to engage in profitable activities such as employment, they must apply for a Korean visa suitable for their purpose.

[→ Find Countries under Visa Waiver Agreements with Korea](#)

Designated visa-free entry

- Considering international convention, mutuality doctrine, national profit and other such factors, certain countries are granted visa-free entry permissions.

- Nationals of the following countries are allowed up to 30 days of visa-free sojourn for tourism or visitation

Exceptions: Canada is allowed up to 6 months, and United States, Australia, Hong Kong, Slovenia, and Japan are allowed up to 90 days.

- Countries that are granted visa-free entry for diplomatic, government official, and general passport holders

Continent	Countries
Asia	Macau(90 days), Brunei, Saudi Arabia, Arab Emirates, Yemen, Oman, Japan (90 days), Qatar, Taiwan, Hong Kong (90 days), Kuwait [11 countries]
North America	United States(90 days), Canada (6 months) [2 countries]
South America	Guyana, Guatemala, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay [6 countries]
Europe	Monaco, Vatican, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Cyprus, San Marino, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia (90 days), Andorra, Croatia [11 countries]
Oceania	Guam, Nauru, New Caledonia, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Australia (90 days), Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Tonga [13 countries]
Africa	South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Swaziland, Egypt (5 Countries)

- Countries that are granted visa-free entry for diplomatic and government official passport holders (2 countries)

Continent	Countries
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Frequent visitors**Eligible countries**

- Applicable to all countries (save for China, Cuba, and Macedonia) that are not granted visa-free entry into Korea.

Applicable to...

- Those who made more than 4 visits to Korea in the past two years, or more than 10 visits overall may enter Korea without a Korean visa as long as they have no Immigration offence or other criminal records.

※ Chinese nationals meeting the above requirements will be issued appropriate visas as per discretion of the Head of the local foreign office.

Transit tourists bound for another country**Eligible countries**

- Applicable to all countries (save for Cuba, and Macedonia) that are not granted visa-free entry into Korea.

Applicable to...

- Those with a visa or a re-entry permit for U.S., Japan, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand (5 countries) and traveling to any one of those countries through Korea.
- Those traveling from any one of the five countries mentioned above, whose final destination is not Korea.

Requirements

- Must have a confirmed onward flight ticket for departure within 30 days after entering Korea, in addition to having no record of criminal offence in the five countries mentioned above.

Europe bound Chinese transit tourists

Eligible foreigners

- Chinese citizens with an entry visa (including permanent residency visa) for 1 of the 30 nations listed below and connecting flight tickets to the final destination.

Example) China -> Korea -> Europe, Europe -> Korea -> China

30 European countries

Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Rumania, Luxemburg, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Malta, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Iceland, Ireland, Estonia, United Kingdom, Austria, Italy, Czech, Cyprus, Portugal, Poland, France, Finland, Hungary

⊗ Not applicable to the following:

- Those being forcefully relocated back to China from Europe
- Those traveling through Europe as a part of a group tour

Japanese tourists/travelers

- An agreement was made between Korean and Japanese governments on March 1st, 2006 in the interest of reciprocity and encouraging individual interchanges between Korea and Japan. Based on this agreement, nationals of both countries whose purpose of travel is short term visit or tourism are granted visa exemption, so long as the following conditions are met.
- Duration of stay: Up to 90 days

- Purpose:
 - Tourism, business, attendance of a conference, private visit (relatives, friends, etc), or any such non-profit activities.

Special Entry arrangements for the Jeju island

- Eligible foreigners
 - Nationals of all countries not allowed visa-free entry into Korea (save for the exceptions listed below) that enters via Jeju airport for tourism or transit.
- Special entry arrangements for Jeju island is denied to nationals of the following 11 countries.
 - Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Cuba, Syria, Macedonia, Palestine, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Ghana
- Duration of stay: Up to 30 days
- Permitted area / range: Jeju island
- Conditions of entry:
 - Those that arrive directly into Jeju island by flights or ships.

Re-entry permit holders

- Registered foreigners with re-entry permit that enters Korea within the given re-entry date are allowed to enter without a visa.
- Registered foreigners who are nationals of countries that are exempt from re-entry permit (listed below) may enter without a visa as long as it is within their initial period of sojourn.

- France, Suriname, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Switzerland,
Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Liechtenstein, and Germany

APEC Business Travel Card

- In order to facilitate smooth economic operations of economists, visa-free entry is permitted to those that meet the following conditions.
- Eligible countries (16 countries as of January, 2006)
 - Australia, France, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Papua New Guinea.
- Eligibility
 - APEC Business Travel Card holders are given Short Term Business (C-2) visa status, and are allowed to stay for up to 90 days.