

# South Korea



## The Flag

The national flag of South Korea is known as the Taegukgi. It has three parts: a white background, a red and blue Taegeuk (circle) in the centre, and four black trigrams on each corner of the flag. The white background represents purity, the circle symbolises the harmony of the Yin and Yang and the four trigrams each represent the sky, earth, water and fire.

## K-Pop

Korean popular music, or K-Pop, covers many forms of music, including dance-pop, techno, rock, hip hop, R&B and much more.

Many people outside of Korea first heard of K-Pop through the immensely popular single Gangnam Style, by the singer Psy. Released in 2012, Gangnam Style thrust K-Pop onto the world stage. The song topped the music charts in dozens of countries and by the end of 2015 had been viewed almost 2.5 billion times on YouTube.

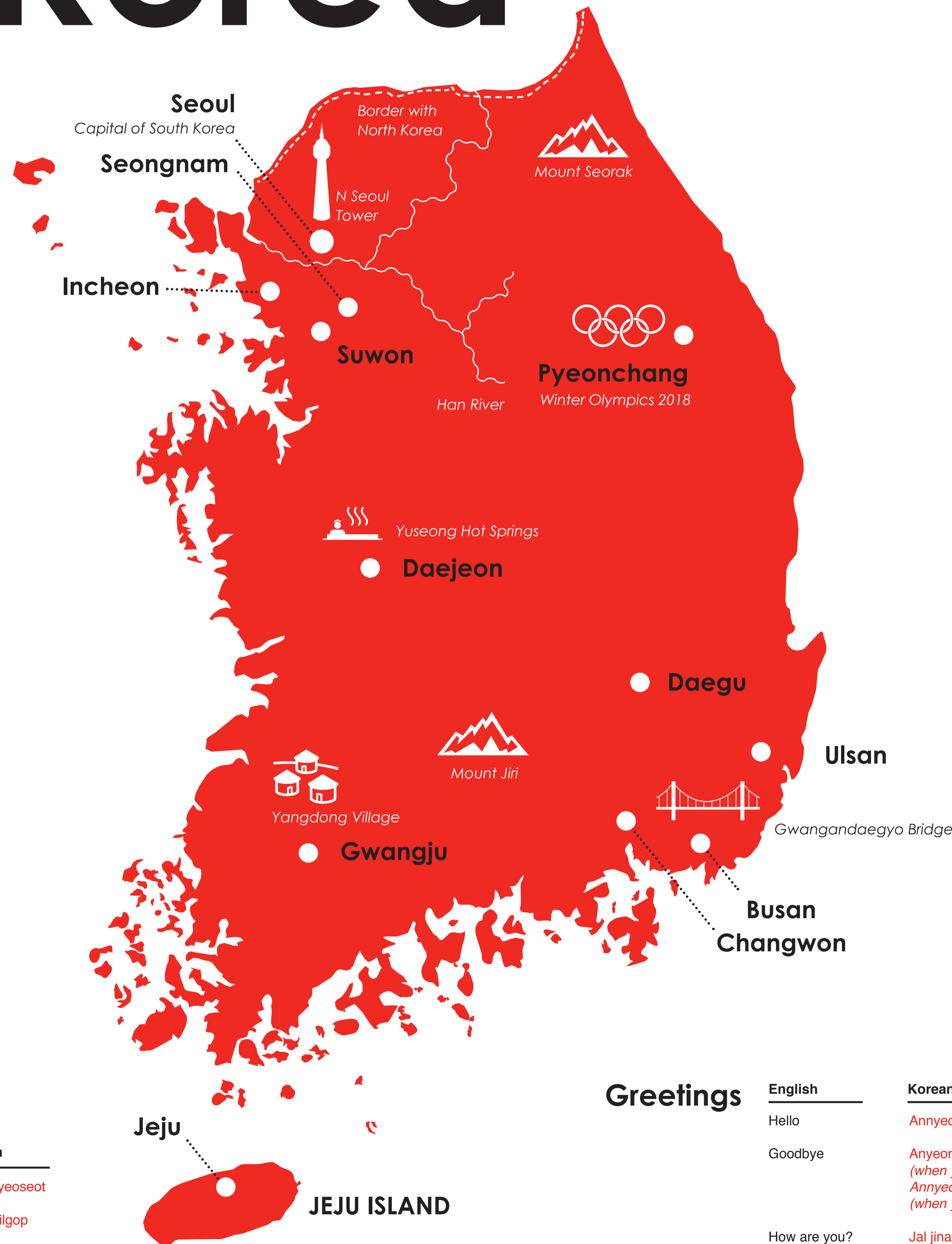


Gangnam Style increased the profile of K-Pop idol groups such as TVXQ, Super Junior, Big Bang, Wonder Girls and many more.

## Numbers

Two sets of numbers are used in Korea: the native Korean system and the Sino-Korean system. The native Korean system is used for counting from 1-99 and age, while the Sino-Korean system (which is based on the Chinese characters) is used for dates, money, addresses, phone numbers, and numbers above 100.

| English | Korean    | English | Korean     |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------|
| 1       | 하나 hana   | 6       | 여섯 yeoseot |
| 2       | 둘 dul     | 7       | 일곱 ilgop   |
| 3       | 셋 set     | 8       | 여덟 yeodeol |
| 4       | 넷 net     | 9       | 아홉 ahop    |
| 5       | 다섯 daseot | 10      | 열 yeol     |

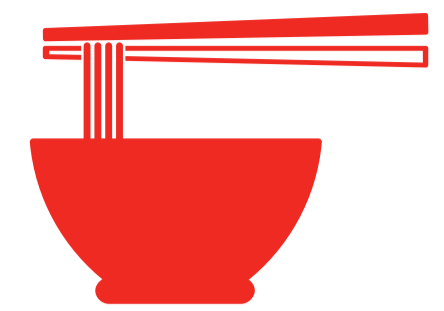


## Taekwondo

Taekwondo is South Korea's national sport. It is a Korean martial art that originated from a traditional sport called Taekkyeon.

Taekwondo training generally includes a system of blocks, kicks, punches, and open-handed strikes and may also include various take-downs, sweeps, throws, and joint locks.

The Taekwondo belt system has eight colours: white, yellow, green, blue, red, brown, red/black, and black. However, the belt system differs slightly between the different taekwondo associations.



## Cuisine

Kimchi (Korea's national dish of chili pickled cabbage)  
Korean BBQ  
Bibimbap (mixed rice)  
Samgyeopsal (grilled pork belly)  
Japchae (stir fried noodles)  
Yangnyeom tongdak (Korean fried chicken)

## 언어

### Language

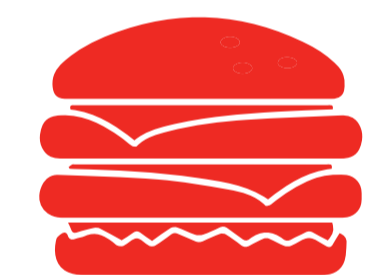
Korean language uses an alphabet named Hangeul. Unlike many other Asian languages that are comprised of thousands of characters, Hangeul has only 24 letters. Hangeul was created by King Sejong the Great as a simplified writing system that allowed all Korean people to learn how to read and write – not just the wealthy and educated. Hangeul was introduced in 1446.

## Population

The population in South Korea is over

**50 million people.**

The majority of South Koreans live in urban areas with 1 in 5 people living in the capital city Seoul.



## Big Mac Index

(NZ\$) As of Jan 2017

How much for a Big Mac?

| New Zealand | South Korea |
|-------------|-------------|
| \$ 6.00     | \$ 5.61     |

## On the Map



## Greetings

| English            | Korean   | Pronunciation                                   |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Hello              | Annyeong haseyo  | An-nyeong-ha-se-yo                              |
| Goodbye            | Anyeonghi gyeseyo (when you are leaving)<br>Annyeonghi gaseyo (when you are staying) | An-nyeong-hi-gye-se-yo<br>An-nyeong-hi-ga-se-yo |
| How are you?       | Jal jinae shutsuyo (formal)  | Jal-ji-nae-syut-ssyo-yo?                        |
| I'm fine thank you | Ne jal jinaetsuyo  | Ne, jal-ji-nae-ssyo-yo                          |
| Thank you          | Kamsahamnida   | Kam-sa-ham-ni-da                                |



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