

Published based on [Seoul - A Massive Town With Deep Ethnic Origins](#)

Seoul - A Massive Town With Deep Ethnic Origins

Seoul is the largest city in South Korea, as well as its capital, and it is one of the largest cities in the world. Seoul has an incredibly long historical record, with evidence of being a major settlement as far back as 2000 years ago. Full of amazing historical landmarks, interesting cultural activities, and the bright neon lights of the city, it is a wonderful blend of the new and the old. If your travel plans are taking you to Seoul, remember that you will need a passport, as well as a [child U.S. passport](#) for any minors traveling with you.

Should your vacation draw close without you having applied for a passport, things can start to get a little tense. Rather than disrupting your travel plans, go online and check out expedited passport services. Not only do they shorten the delivery time from months to days, but it's also much easier and much more convenient. Services like expedited damaged United States passport replacements, passport renewal, and more can all be done online.

Seoul was once the place where the royalty of Korea lived, and you'll find five gorgeous palaces in Seoul. The two most famous and historically important are Changdeok-gung and Gyeongbok-gung. Changdeok-gung is an officially-declared UNESCO World Heritage Site. Surrounded by a stunning garden, this palace features several interesting buildings to investigate, including the King's bedchambers and his secret garden. Gyeongbok-gung is more regal in appearance and quite breathtaking to behold. Within, you'll find both the National Museum of Korea and the National Folk Museum, each worth exploring. Constructed around 600 years ago, the Gyeongbok-gung is huge and will require plenty of time to explore fully.

As mentioned before, the National Museum of Korea is located inside the Gyeongbok-gung complex. This is the largest museum in the country, with more than 220,000 items on display. Centered around reflecting the deep and intricate Korean culture, you'll find both fine art and historical artifacts within its walls. It also features cafes and shops for a quick bite and some souvenirs.

Both tourists and locals can't resist the charm of Samcheong-dong Bukchon, a cute, laid-back neighborhood full of cozy cafes and restaurants, art galleries, clothing stores, and lots of places to relax. Many consider this neighborhood to offer the most authentic Korean experience, as you really get to see the types of lives people live in this neighborhood.

Cheonggyecheon is the place to go if you need to retire from the city a little bit and just want to unwind and enjoy some art and pretty natural surroundings. Cheonggyecheon is a river that wasn't always as pretty as it is today. It used to be thick with pollution, but since it's been cleaned up, it now serves as a quiet getaway for visitors. The walkway along the stream runs for more than five miles, meaning you can stroll as long as you desire.

What makes Seoul such a one-of-a-kind city is the thriving, living metropolitan atmosphere that is still heavily influenced by the deep cultural and historical connections that helped it reach its current state, so if you get the chance to take a vacation to Seoul, definitely consider it. Remember to get an adult and child US passport for everyone in your family. Also remember that services like [expedited damaged U.S. passport replacement](#) are available as well.

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