The national flag of South Korea is known as the Taegukgi. It has three parts: a white background, a red and blue Taeguk (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.

Korean language uses an alphabet named Hangul. Unlike many other Asian languages that are comprised of thousands of characters, Hangul has only 24 letters. Hangul 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. Hangul was introduced in 1446.

Language

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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.

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.

Cuisine

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

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