



Korea Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA): A Comprehensive Guide

K-ETA (Korea Electronic Travel Authorization) is a mandatory electronic travel authorization for citizens of visa-free countries traveling to South Korea. It functions as a pre-travel approval system designed to facilitate a smoother entry process for eligible travelers.

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Who Needs K-ETA?

You **must obtain a K-ETA** if:

- You are a citizen of one of the **106 countries or territories eligible** for K-ETA.
- Your purpose of travel is tourism, business, visiting family, or attending events.
- Your intended stay is short-term (typically up to 90 days, depending on your nationality).

You **do not require a K-ETA** if:



- You are from one of the **65 countries temporarily exempt** (please consult official updates regularly).
- You are under 17 years of age or over 65 years old.
- You are applying for a long-term visa, such as for work, study, or residency.

Note: For travelers from visa-free countries, applying for a K-ETA is highly recommended. The process is fast, economical, and the authorization is valid for three years, allowing multiple entries without reapplication.

Source: [K-ETA Official Website](#)

Additional Note: If you are a short-term traveler from a K-ETA required country/region with a non-profit purpose and receive a message about a temporary exemption upon selecting your nationality on the K-ETA website, you are exempt from applying.

Differences Between K-ETA, e-Korean Visa, and e-Arrival Card

Feature	K-ETA	e-Korean Visa	e-Arrival Card
Purpose	Authorization for visa-free travelers	Official visa for those requiring a visa	Digital version of arrival card
Who Needs It?	Travelers from visa-free countries	Travelers from visa-required countries	All short-term visitors (except K-ETA holders and resident permit holders)
Validity	Up to 3 years	Varies by visa type	Single use per trip
Maximum Stay	30 to 180 days (varies by nationality)	Depends on visa	Not applicable
Application	Online via official website/app	Online + embassy/consulate visit	Online only
Processing Time	Typically 24-72 hours	Several weeks	Instant
Fee	10,000 KRW (~\$8)	Varies by visa type	Free
Exemptions	Some countries exempt until Dec 31, 2025	None	K-ETA holders, residents, airline crew



Feature	K-ETA	e-Korean Visa	e-Arrival Card
Requirement at Entry	Must present K-ETA approval before boarding	Visa required at immigration	Facilitates faster immigration
Key Benefit	Faster immigration clearance	Necessary for long-term or visa-required visitors	Reduces paperwork

Sources:

- [K-ETA Official](#)
- [Korean Visa Portal](#)
- [e-Arrival Card Portal](#)

How to Apply for E-Arrival Card

To apply for a South Korean e-Arrival card, visit the official website (www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr). You can submit the form online up to 3 days before your arrival. The e-Arrival card is an online entry declaration form for travelers entering South Korea.

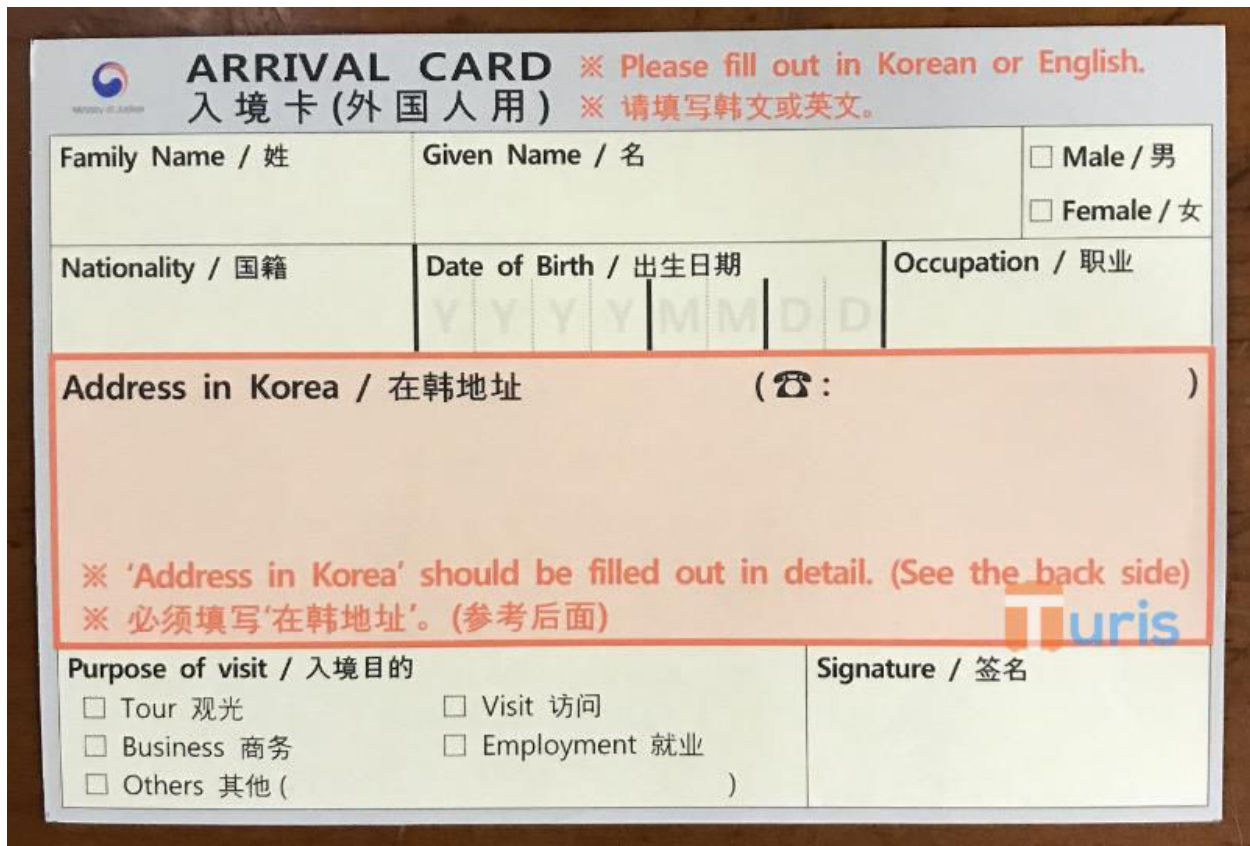
Who needs to submit the e-Arrival card?

- Foreign nationals entering Korea, including those on short-term visas.
- Travelers exempt from K-ETA (Korea Electronic Travel Authorization).
- U.S. military personnel under the SOFA agreement.
- UN passport holders under SOFA arrangements.
- APEC Business Travel Card holders.

Who is exempt from submitting the e-Arrival card?

- Korean citizens, including registered residents and those with permanent residency.
- Holders of a valid K-ETA.
- Airline crew members.
- Holders of a Korea Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA).

Please note that you may also complete the form onboard the aircraft using the offline (yellow) version.



The image shows a 'Korea Offline Arrival Card' form. At the top left is the Korean government logo. The title 'ARRIVAL CARD' is in English, and '入境卡 (外国人用)' is in Korean. Instructions in both languages state: 'Please fill out in Korean or English.' and '请填写韩文或英文。'. The form is divided into several sections: 1. Personal Information: Fields for 'Family Name / 姓' and 'Given Name / 名'. To the right are checkboxes for 'Male / 男' and 'Female / 女'. 2. Nationality and Birth: 'Nationality / 国籍' and 'Date of Birth / 出生日期' (with a YYY-MM-DD template). 3. Occupation: 'Occupation / 职业'. 4. Address and Contact: 'Address in Korea / 在韩地址' and a phone number field '(☎ :)'. This section is highlighted with a red border and contains a note: '※ 'Address in Korea' should be filled out in detail. (See the back side)' and '※ 必须填写'在韩地址'。(参考后面)'. 5. Purpose of Visit: A list of checkboxes for 'Tour 观光', 'Business 商务', 'Others 其他 ()', 'Visit 访问', and 'Employment 就业'. 6. Signature: 'Signature / 签名'. A 'uris' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the form.

Korea Offline Arrival Card

Please ensure that you provide your hotel's address and phone number in the “Address in Korea” section.

How to Apply for K-ETA

1. **Visit the Official Site:** Access www.k-eta.go.kr or download the official mobile app (available on iOS and Android).
2. **Enter Your Email Address:** Your application status will be communicated via email.
3. **Provide Passport Information:** Enter your full name (as per passport), passport number, nationality, and date of birth. Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months from your arrival date.
4. **Fill Out Travel and Personal Details:** Include intended arrival and departure dates, purpose of visit, accommodation details, and upload a clear, passport-style photo.
5. **Pay the Application Fee:** The fee is 10,000 KRW (~\$7–10), payable by credit or debit card. This fee is non-refundable.
6. **Wait for Processing:** Processing typically takes 24–72 hours. Apply at least three days before your departure date.



7. **Check Your Application Status:** Use your passport number and email on the official website to verify approval.

Tips:

- Apply at least one week before travel.
- Use a professional passport photo.
- Avoid third-party websites that charge extra fees.

Source: [K-ETA Official](#)

Validity of K-ETA

- Valid for **3 years** from the date of approval.
- Allows multiple entries during this period.
- If your passport expires during validity, you must reapply with updated passport details.
- Always verify your K-ETA validity before traveling to avoid denied boarding.

Source: [K-ETA Official](#)

Eligible Countries and Duration of Stay**60-Day Stay:**

- Lesotho
- Russia (maximum 90 days within 180 days)

90-Day Stay (67 countries): Includes Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, and others.

Special 60-Day Stay Rule:

- Kazakhstan: Maximum 30 days per entry, not exceeding 60 days within 180 days.

30-Day Stay (27 countries): Includes Albania, Andorra, Brunei, Fiji, Monaco, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, among others.

3-Month Stay (10 countries): Includes Belgium, Greece, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland, and others.



Special Note: UK citizens with statuses such as GBO, GBD, GBS, and GBP are allowed a 30-day stay.

Source: [K-ETA Official](#)

Temporary K-ETA Exemption (until December 31, 2025)

22 Exempt Countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Macao, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States (including Guam).

Travelers from these countries may enter South Korea with a valid passport without applying for a K-ETA until the exemption period expires; however, they are required to complete the arrival card, either online (e-arrival card) or offline.

Additional Notes

- K-ETA is **not a visa**. Admission to South Korea is ultimately at the discretion of immigration officers at entry points.
- Some nationals are exempt from K-ETA, including diplomatic or official passport holders, visa holders, registered foreigners, dual nationals with Korean passports, USFK service members, crew members, and certain ABTC and UN passport holders.
- K-ETA application processing may exceed 72 hours in peak times; early application (up to 2 months before travel) is advisable.
- Any changes in personal information or passport reissue after K-ETA approval require reapplication.
- Repeated K-ETA application after disapproval without significant change is discouraged; apply for a visa through a diplomatic mission if denied.

Sources:

- [K-ETA Official Board](#)
 - [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea](#)
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Conclusion

The K-ETA facilitates convenient and efficient travel to South Korea for eligible short-term visitors. With its simple online application, reasonable fees, and multi-entry validity for up to three years, it is an essential requirement for visa-free travelers. Always confirm your eligibility and requirements based on your nationality and travel purpose.



Official Website: <https://www.k-eta.go.kr>