



Country Profile: North Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea or the DPRK) is a highly militaristic Communist state located on the Korean Peninsula between northeast China and the Republic of Korea (South Korea or ROK), with land borders with China, Russia and South Korea. The DPRK is one of the world's most isolated countries. The continuing dispute over North Korea's development of nuclear programs and nuclear weapons has resulted in tensions in the region and between the United States and the DPRK. North Korea limits trade and transportation links with other countries and tightly restricts the circumstances under which foreigners may enter the country and interact with local citizens. Telephone and fax communications are unavailable in many areas of the country and foreigners can expect their communications to be monitored by DPRK officials. In the past few years, North Korea has experienced famine, flooding, fuel and electricity shortages, and outbreaks of disease. Many countries, including the United States, have contributed to international relief efforts to assist the people of North Korea.

Foreign tourists are a means for North Korea to earn much needed foreign currency, but an underdeveloped service sector, inadequate infrastructure, and political tensions with surrounding countries have stymied any significant tourist flow. North Korean efforts to expand tourism have focused primarily on group tours from China, as well as from South Korea primarily to the Mount Kumgang tourist area and the city of Kaesong.

The United States does not maintain diplomatic or consular relations with the DPRK. The Swedish Embassy located in Pyongyang acts as the United States' interim consular protective power and provides basic consular services to U.S. citizens traveling in North Korea.

Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on North Korea for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	North Korea (aka Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Pyongyang
Boundary Countries:	China, South Korea, Russia
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	None at this time.
Main Cities:	Pyongyang, Kosong, Sonbong, Najin, Kanggye, Hamhung, Sinuiju, Namp'o
Country Size:	120,540 sq km
Population:	23,301,725

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Korean.
Currency:	North Korean won (KPW)
Predominant Religions:	Traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way) note: autonomous religious activities now almost nonexistent; government-sponsored religious groups exist to provide illusion of religious freedom
National Holidays:	Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), 9 September (1948)

Economic Status:	North Korea, one of the world's most centrally planned and isolated economies, faces desperate economic conditions.
Security:	North Korean People's Army: Ground Forces, Navy, Air Force; civil security forces
US Presence:	<p>There is no U.S. embassy or consulate in North Korea. U.S. citizens planning to visit North Korea are encouraged to register prior to departing the United States with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing if entering North Korea from China. Registration can be done on line through the State Department's travel registration web site or in person, by telephone or fax, at the U.S. Embassy.</p> <p>The Embassy of Sweden (U.S. Protecting Power). Americans who have a medical or consular emergency and who wish to contact the Swedish Embassy are reminded first to communicate this need to their North Korean escorts or guides. Do not attempt to travel to the Swedish Embassy unescorted. The Swedish Embassy (U.S. Protecting Power) is located at Munsu-Dong District, Pyongyang. The telephone and fax numbers for the Swedish Embassy (U.S. Protecting Power) are: Tel: (850-2) 3817 485 (reception) Tel: (850-2) 3817 904, (850-2) 3817 907 (First Secretary) Tel: (850-2) 3817 908, (850-2) 3817 905 (Ambassador) Fax: (850-2) 3817 663</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Beijing . The American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, is located at No. 55 An Jia Lou Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing. The Embassy is located near the Ladies' Street (Nuren Jie) and Laitai Flower Market, opposite the Kempinski Hotel and Lufthansa shopping Center. Telephone: (86-10) 8531-4000. Fax: (86-10) 8531-3300. Email: amcitbeijing@state.gov. The Embassy Beijing web site is http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/. For after-hours emergencies please call (86-10) 8531-4000 and ask for the Embassy duty officer.</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Seoul . The American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, is located at 32 Sejong-no, Jongno-gu, Seoul. The Embassy is located across the street from Sejong Cultural Center and next to the Ministry of Information and Communication/KT Building. Telephone: (82-2) 397-4114. Fax: (82-2) 2-397-4101. E-mail: seoul_acs@state.gov. The Embassy Seoul web site is http://seoul.usembassy.gov/. For after-hours emergencies please call (82-2) 721-4114 and ask for the Embassy duty officer.</p>
Major Airports:	<p>Airports: 77, Airports w/paved runways: 36</p> <p>P'yongyang-Sunan Airport (FNJ/ZKPY)P'yongyang Airport, North Korea, Chosonminhang, General Civil Aviation Bureau of DPRK, Sunan Airport, Sunan District, P'yongyang, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREATel: +850 (0)2 837917Fax: +850 (0)2 814625</p>

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