

ASIA-AQ

DEPLOYMENT GUIDE

OSAN AIR BASE, SOUTH KOREA



DATES : 2/15 – 2/28/2024

LIVE DOCUMENT: LAST UPDATED 02/14/2024

Updates from the last version are highlighted.



INTRODUCTION

This orientation guide is for the ASIA-AQ deployment to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea (ROK). This guide was created to help you become familiar with the area ahead of your arrival. For information about the Airborne and Satellite Investigation of Asian Air Quality (ASIA-AQ), please visit <https://espo.nasa.gov/asia-aq>

MANDATORY FOREIGN TRAVEL SECURITY TRAINING

All US Government personnel and contractors performing official international travel are required to complete certain State Department mandated security training. The specific training depends on the cumulative amount of time that the person is expected to participate in official travel within a calendar year.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Republic of Korea (aka ROK; South Korea, Fig. 1) has a population of 51.78 million people. About 10 million people reside in the Seoul Capital Area which is the fourth largest metropolitan economy in the world. It is a highly developed country and enjoys the second highest quality of life in Asia.

Korean is the official language of South Korea and has a standard dialect known as Seoul. There are an additional 4 Korean language dialect groups within the country. Almost all contemporary South Korean students learn the English language as part of their curriculum. In major cities, English is unlikely to be a problem, but in rural areas it could prove difficult. For further information about the Republic of Korea, please visit the Traveler information page at the State Department website.

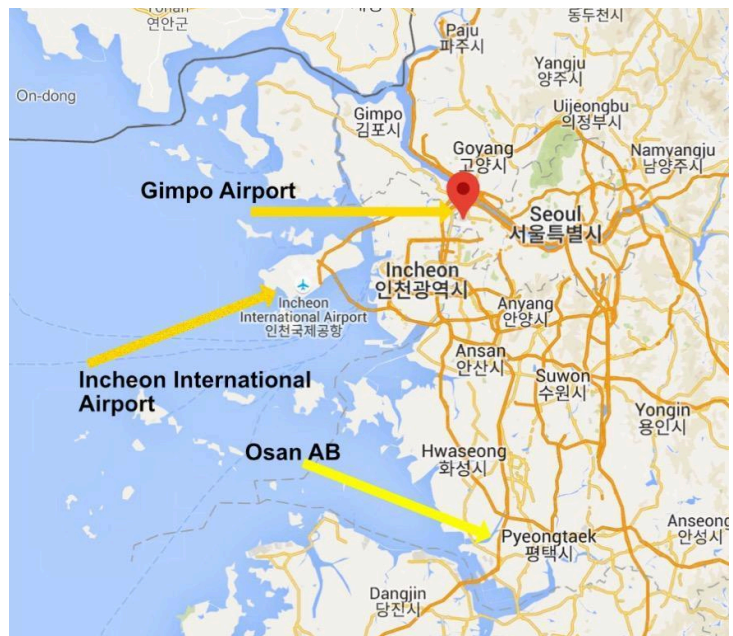


Fig. 1: Seoul Metropolitan Area Map

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/South-Korea.html>

PASSPORT INFORMATION

US Passports must be valid for at least six months when requesting a visa and remain valid during the period of stay. Routine processing time for US Passports is anywhere from 7-10 weeks. The expedited processing can take about 3 - 5 weeks. (Information as of November 6, 2023).

For more information visit <https://www.usps.com/international/passports.htm>

CURRENCY

The Korean Won (KRW) is the national currency of South Korea. Its users denote the won by using the symbol “₩,” as in “₩1,000.” As of November 14, 2023, \$1 = approximately 1,306 KRW. One won is divided into 100 sub-units called jeon. The value of the won is relatively stable. As of December 2023, US\$1 = 1,294 KRW. US denominations can be [exchanged](#) for Korean Won by visiting a bank or authorized



exchange service center. Traditional Korean banking hours are Monday-Friday 09:00-16:00. Favorable exchange rates are commonly found at your local US banks and may require some advance planning to order ahead. Most major airports have on-site exchange vendors.

Most Korean businesses accept credit cards including hotels, department stores and general shops. However, it is best to check with your merchant before making purchases or sitting down for a meal. In addition, you should notify your credit card company of any travel plans to prevent your card from being “locked” during your trip. It is a good idea to check with your credit card carrier to see if additional exchange rate transaction fees will apply.

BANKING AND ATM

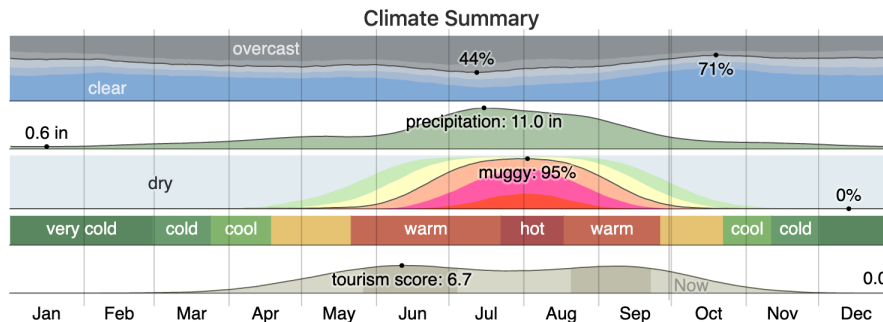
Cards with the Plus and Cirrus logos are the easiest to use and most widely accepted in Korea. Some places even accept international cards like China UnionPay, Maestro, Electron, and JCB cards. Banks and other establishments have Automatic Teller Machines, where customers can make withdrawals, deposits, and fund transfers. Most are open 24/7 and dispense cash in 10,000 won units. Most machines display English instructions on the monitor. ATMs dispensing both US dollars and Korean won are located at several places on base as well, including the Turumi Lodge lobby, the Base Exchange (BX), and the Enlisted Club among others.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

South Korea has four distinct seasons. Winters can be characterized as long, cold and dry. Summers are very short, hot and humid. Spring and autumn are equally short in duration and can be considered pleasant. The country is less vulnerable to typhoons than neighboring countries; there are usually one to three per year. Typhoons usually pass over the country in the late summer, especially August and bring torrential rainfall.

OSAN WEATHER AVERAGES

Osan AB summers are long, warm, muggy, wet, and partly cloudy while the winters are short, freezing, dry and mostly clear. Yearly temperature ranges from 16°F to 86°F. It is rarely below 5°F or above 93°F.



Source: weatherspark.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation in South Korea is one of the best in the world. The country is home to 8 international airports, and 6 domestic airports, the famous KTX high-speed train system (info.korail.com) and numerous ports. It boasts an abundance of excellent transport options for domestic travel including modern [subway systems](#), and extensive [bus routes](#).

TAXIS

Taking a [taxi](#) in Korea is very convenient for international visitors, with an increasing number of taxi drivers being fluent in English. Taxis can be found at taxi stands in most busy city areas or hailed on the streets. There are also call taxis that can be requested by phone call or mobile application. However, tourists should note that call taxis start with a higher base fare than the taxis you flag down on the street. The base fare will vary by region, but taxis all use the same fare calculation of increase by time and distance traveled. While virtually all taxis operating in the

Seoul area accept credit cards or transportation cards, it is possible that some taxis in the outlying or isolated regions may request cash only. Keep this in mind and make sure to have some cash (in Korean won) with you if you plan to use a cab in remote areas.

RIDE SHARING

Local rideshare apps require a local phone number and may only be in Korean. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you open an Uber account while you are in the US before you travel to Korea. The Uber app connects you to local taxi companies and independent drivers. You may notice that the first time you use the app in Korea, your Uber app logo changes from Uber to UT. It will revert to the original Uber logo once you return to the US. Lyft is not available in South Korea.

BUSES

There are many ways to travel around Korea, but the most popular way to get from one region to another is by bus. Both [express and intercity buses](#) have extensive networks throughout the country, providing transportation from one city to another at reasonable prices. In addition, the buses operate on a timely schedule. In most cases, both the express and intercity bus terminals are located near the center of each city. However, in some cities, such as Seoul, the terminals are located far from each other. Visitors are advised to double check the boarding location of the bus before departure. Take note that if a bus terminal name includes the word *jonghap*, it means that the terminal provides both express and intercity bus transportation.

CAR RENTALS AND PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES

Car rentals are only authorized for ESPO personnel.

Everything on base is within walking distance. It is 3/4 mile from the Turumi Lodge to either the main gate or the ASIA-AQ operations area. Base taxis are one the best and most efficient modes of transportation. They are quickly and readily available 24/7 and the average cost is about US\$3 - \$5 per ride.

Privately owned vehicles and vehicles rented outside the base require that the drivers have Vehicle Privileges indicated on their 37EK ID. See ESPO personnel for assistance and further details.

GETTING TO OSAN AB, SOUTH KOREA

Some of the largest airlines flying to Incheon International Airport from the US are:

[Asiana Airlines](#) [Korean Air](#) [American Airlines](#) [Delta Air Lines](#) [United Airlines](#)

Some of the airlines above may have direct flights from the US to Incheon International Airport (see the airport map at <https://www.airport.kr/ap/en/map/mapInfo.do#>). Getting to Osan AB requires transportation from the airport. There are several transportation options, and these vary depending on several factors. The options listed below (and gate locations) are described in more detail later in this guide.

1. **ITT bus:** the bus runs three times a day from Incheon International Airport (from both Terminal 1 & 2) nonstop to Osan AB. The bus enters the base through the Morin Gate, and it stops at several places on-base including the Turumi Lodge. Participant's name MUST be on the Entry Authorization List (EAL) for that day. ESPO will provide this list to Security Forces based on your arrival dates as reflected on the mission registration database, you must ensure that your travel dates are accurate and up to date. This is one of the recommended and most preferred methods. You must have \$40USD in cash to purchase your bus ticket at the counter (see information below).
2. **Inter-city bus:** It runs every hour from Incheon International Airport (Terminal 1) and only stops twice before reaching your destination: Songtan Station. Songtan station is located less than a mile from the Osan AB Main Gate. The cost is 14,000KRW (~US\$14) From the Songtan bus terminal, a taxi to the Osan AB Main gate costs about 4000 KRW (~US\$5). The transit time compared to the ITT bus is about

the same. Once inside the main gate, taxis can take you to the Turumi lodge for about 3000 KRW (~US\$3)

3. **Subway:** (Terminals 1 & 2) It takes about the same time as the bus, about 2.5 hours. It involves two (2) transfers and costs about 4950 KRW (~ \$5USD)
4. **Privately-Owned Vehicles and Rental Cars:** Drivers must have an escort meet them at the Morin Gate Visitor Center to obtain a base day-pass for the vehicle. These passes must be renewed daily. Also, base access for off base rental cars or privately-owned vehicles is through the Morin gate. This option will not be reimbursed unless previously authorized. If authorized, it is recommended that rental vehicles be obtained from the base rental car provider: KFR; see ESPO for details.
5. **Taxi services** from Incheon Airport to Osan AB cost US\$100 - \$200 depending on the time of the day and the traffic. In no traffic conditions it should take approximately 1 hr - 1.5hr. This option is authorized and reimbursable. See further information below.

ITT BUS

The bus runs 7-days a week and departs the airport Terminal 2 1st Floor Gate 3 (09:00, 17:30, and 20:30) and Terminal 1 1st Floor Gate 1 (0930, 1800, and 2100, Fig. 2) The trip to/from Osan AB is about 1 hour and 40 minutes, but it could take up to 4 hours in bad traffic. The ITT Airport Shuttle Bus (Fig. 3) to Osan AB departs from the Joint Reception Center Counter (Fig. 4) located by Bus Stop #1 (see red arrow in Fig. 2) at the Incheon International Airport. Approach the counter, and add your name to the passenger list. The cost is \$40 payable in cash only and with exact change. The bus brings passengers directly to Osan AB via the Morin gate where access authorization is verified. Participant's name must be on the EAL for that day, two forms of government issued identification ID will be required (a government issued badge, passport, or driver's license.) The bus then drops passengers off at the Turumi Lodge (Bldg. 772) and at the Information Tickets & Travel (ITT, Bldg. 924). See Osan AB information in this document for the locations of different buildings on base.

Fig.2: Bus counter locations at the Incheon International Airport Terminal 1 (Red arrow for ITT Bus and Blue arrow for Inter-City Bus).

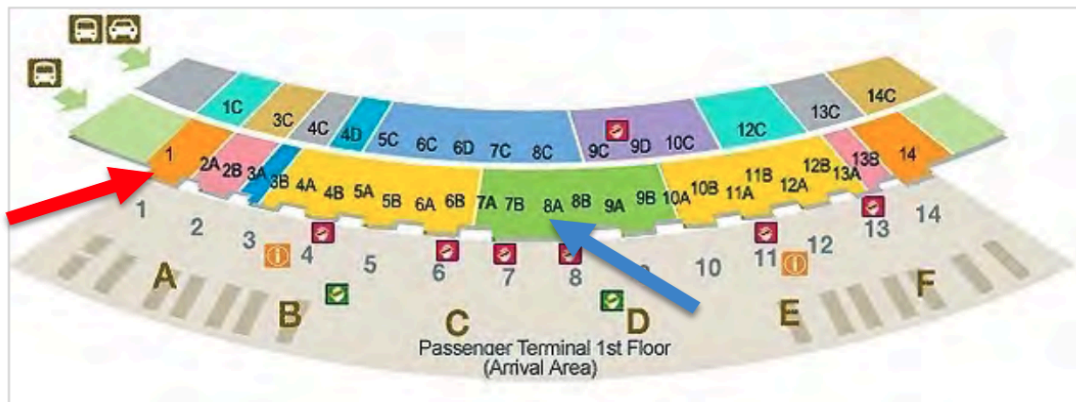


Fig. 3: An ITT Bus, look for the Osan AB sign.

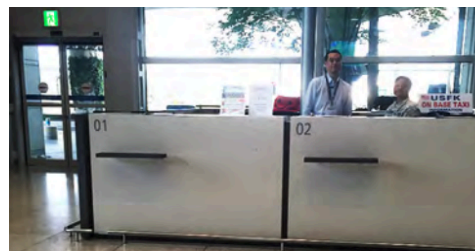


Fig. 4: Joint Reception Center Counter.

Note: From Osan AB to Incheon International Airport, the bus departs from the Checkertails Restaurant at 0530, 1130, and 1500, and from the TurumiLodge at 0600, 1200, and 1530.

INTER-CITY BUS

The buses depart every 30-45 minutes, sometimes every 2-hours if demand is low. The first bus departs at 06:40 hours; and the last bus departs at 22:20 hours. Tickets for this bus can be purchased at the kiosk/booth around Gate 8A of the Incheon International Airport (see blue arrow in Fig. 2); the cost is around 14,000Won. (~\$15USD). As of early July, 2022, ticket vending was only done at a ticket machine. The photos below indicate the process of obtaining a ticket from Incheon International Airport to Songtan, which is the closest bus station to Osan Air Base. The airport terminal bus stop is located just outside the terminal, Bus Stop 8A. Look for the bus that has Pyeongtaek, Songtan or Osan AB written on the window (it will be traveling in the direction of Gyeonggi). The instructions/process are the same for both terminals. Ask the information desk for assistance with locating the City Bus Counters and/or bus stops. Figure 5 is a photo of a bus ticket, and Fig. 6 shows the location of the ticket machines. Note that the ticket (may vary) indicates the time, destination (SONGTAN, in this case it also shows Airbase). The number 02 indicates the assigned seat number. Be at the bus stop approximately 10-15 minutes prior to departure. The driver will open the bus storage bins. Ensure that your luggage is loaded into the cargo hold for SONGTAN.

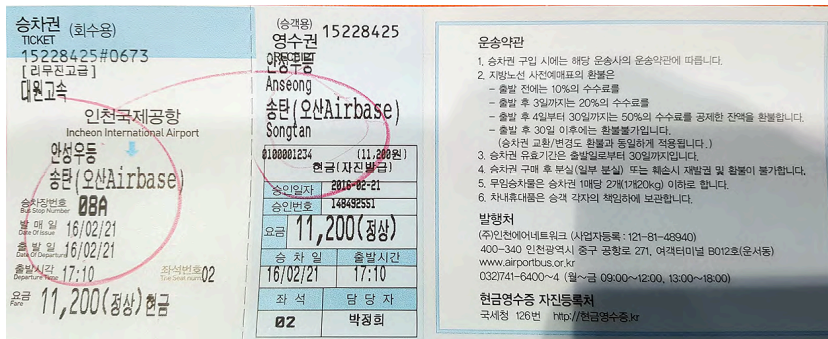
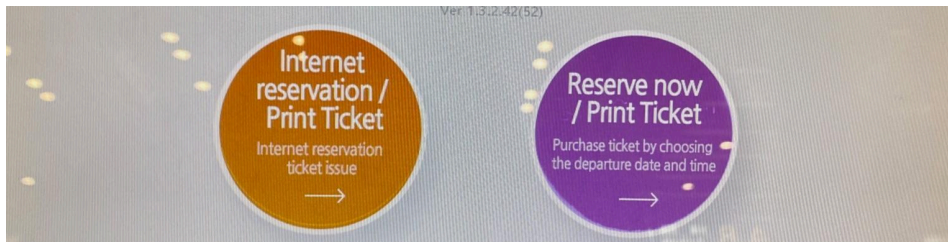
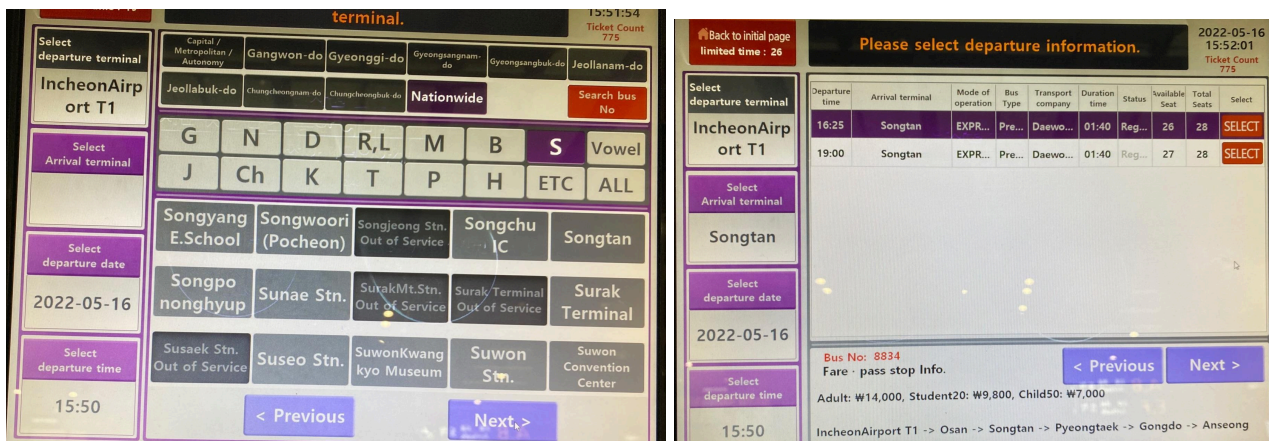


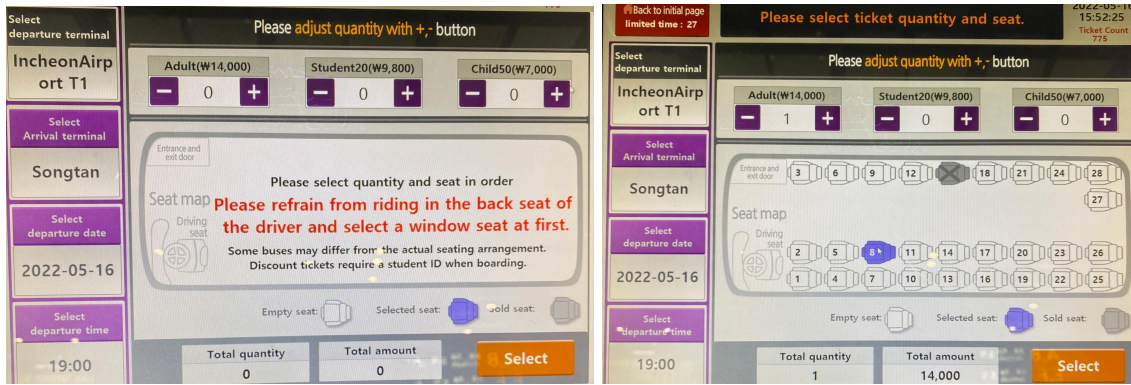
Fig. 5.: Inter-City bus ticket



After selecting your preferred language, select the RESERVE NOW/Print ticket option.

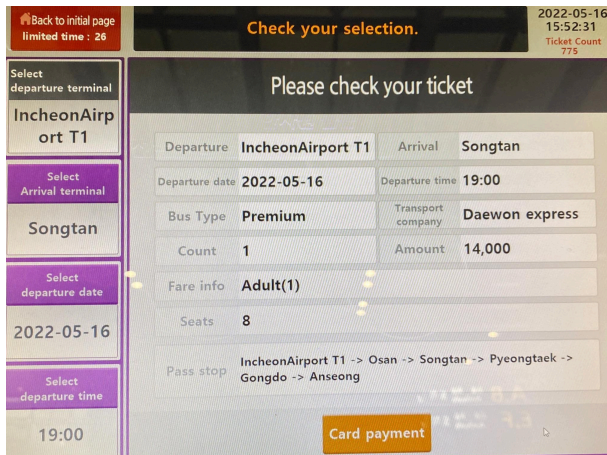


Confirm the date, time, and departure terminal. Search for the city of SONGTAN. Select the desired departure time.



Select the number of tickets.

Select desired seats.



Complete the purchase, print your ticket.

The bus makes one or two stops along the way. Your destination is the **Songtan Terminal, NOT the Osan Terminal, see Figure 7**. From the Songtan bus station, catch a taxi (available just outside the station), or walk to Osan AB (~ 1/2 mile). The transit time from the airport to the stop in Songtan is usually 2 hours.



Fig. 6: Location of Osan AB main gate, bus and train (subway) stations.

SUBWAY TRANSPORTATION

You may also use the Seoul Metro (Fig. 8) for transportation to OSAN AB. The cost of the fare is ~ 5,000 KRW, and the transit time is ~2 ½ hours.

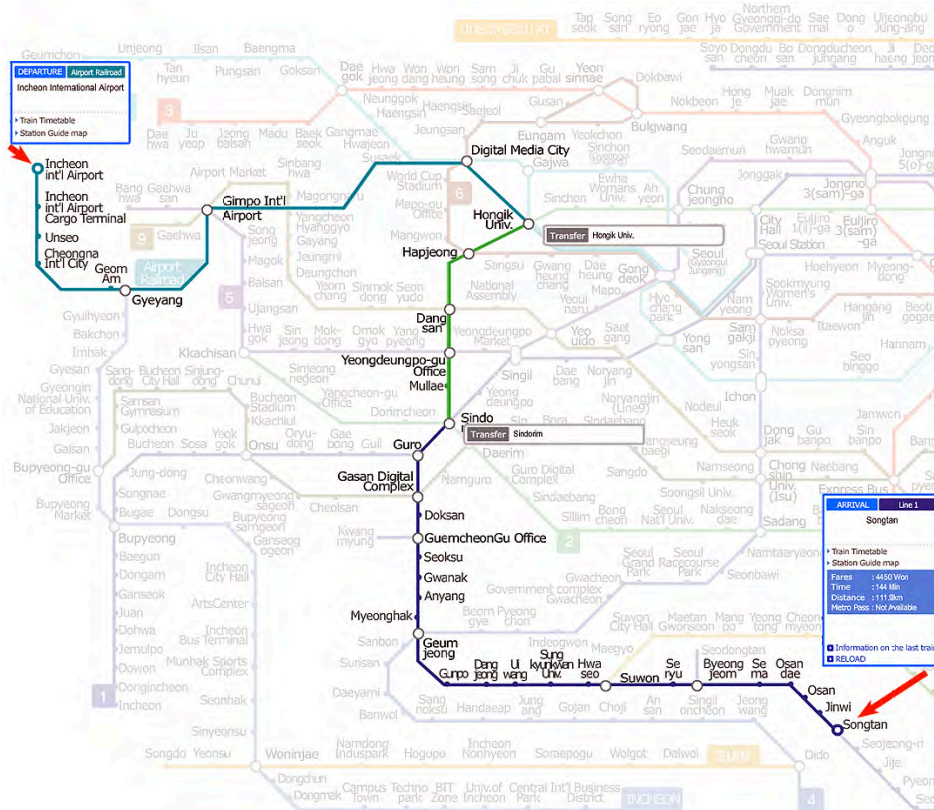


Fig.7: Metro route from Incheon International Airport to Songtan (near Osan AB)

Directions:

- At the Incheon International Airport purchase a ticket for the entire journey, with Songtan as your final destination. Then take the **Airport Railroad** line to Hongik University station
- Transfer to the **Green** line (Line 2) and get off at the Sindorim station
- Transfer to the **Blue** line (Line 1) and get off at the Songtan station
- Take a taxi or walk to Osan AB (about half a mile away) or to your hotel

Always ensure that you follow the signs in the subway towards your next metro line (color coded) and that you go in the right direction (see the stop names at the end of the line). You can check the real time Metro information and plan your route at the following website: <http://seoulmetro.co.kr/> There are several great apps for iPhone and Android phones that you may want to download before you travel: **Explore Seoul Subway** and **Subway Korea**. These are highly recommended.

TAXI TRANSPORTATION (ICN TO OSAN AB)

As in many international airports, there are plenty of private taxi operators offering you taxi rides as soon as you exit the airport terminal. Avoid these offers and head for the Taxi dispatch stations located just outside the arrival terminal. There are several, and the cities they serve are posted next to their stations. Taxi fare will be around \$100-130.

You are going to Osan Air Base Main Gate (송탄에 있는 오산 공군 기지 정문) in Songtan. If one taxi company doesn't offer services outside the Seoul metropolitan area, try another one. The dispatcher will hand you

a note (or to your driver if he is not too busy) with the direction of where to take you. Ensure that your destination is the Osan AB main gate, if you get dropped off at any of the other gates, or get lost, contact ESPO.

Please ask to get dropped off in front of 7-Eleven 세븐일레븐 평택신장점

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LQvtdrR1LuESmAYx7>



Fig. 8: 7-Eleven across from Osan Main Gate

Also, if you are planning to share a taxi from the airport to Osan AB, it is best that you request a minivan or SUV since most taxi sedans have a Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) tank in their trunks/boots which takes up significant luggage carrying capacity. There is probably enough room for one Large suitcase (27in x 18.5in / 69 cm x 47cm) and two backpacks or carry-on suitcases.



Fig. 9: Taxi Station outside arrivals terminal.

ESPO DEDICATED SHUTTLE FROM INCHEON TO OSAN AB

If there is a large number of people arriving at ICN at the same time, ESPO will reserve a dedicated shuttle to Incheon airport. **Please complete the travel itinerary survey by 2 February 2024.**

INITIAL ARRIVAL - OSAN AIR BASE

It is very important that you do the following to make sure your trip goes smoothly and safely:

- **Keep the ESPO database up-to-date with your travel information**
- Read this guide in its entirety
- For additional information or questions, please email the ESPO team at Osan AB asia-aq-espo@espo.nasa.gov
- ESPO personnel will be reachable at all times to their US mobile phone (see POC list).

OSAN AIR BASE

Osan Air Base (AB) is one of two major airfields operated by the U.S. in South Korea and the only USAF facility in the Republic of Korea (ROK) entirely planned and built by the U.S. during the Korean War. The base is located 4.7 miles southwest of the town of Osan, for which it is named, and 40 miles south of Seoul. Prior to the invasion of the Republic of Korea by the North Korean Communists in 1950, the area consisted of several tiny farming villages near the hillsides and a large number of rice paddies where the runway now lies. A large ginkgo tree marked the village square of one of these villages and still stands on a hill at the base golf course.

Osan AB Population:

- 51 FW (Military at Osan AB): 3,751
- Tenant Units (Military at Osan AB): 1,931
- Family Members: 2,071
- U.S. DoD and USAF Civilians: 255
- Korean National Employees: 907
- Retirees and Family Members: 580
- City of Osan: 194,000, City of Songtan: 110,000, City of Pyeongtaek: 500,000, Republic of Korea: 51.78M. Osan AB is located in the town of Songtan; Songtan merged with Pyeongtaek.

Source: [Military Installations](#)

BASE ACCESS AND RESTRICTIONS

Base personnel (anyone, not just Security Forces) may challenge your authorization to be in a restricted area at any time while operating inside the base. **ALWAYS** carry identification.

OSAN AIR BASE ACCESS GATES

- **The Main Gate** is open 24/7 for authorized pedestrians. Escorted visitor (walking) requests are processed at this location. No vehicle passes are issued at this gate. Vehicles with visitor's pass can access between 05:00-22:00.
- **The Morin Gate:** Vehicles only (must have visitor's pass) 24/7. Pre-authorized vehicle/personnel passes issued at Morin Gate
- **The Doolittle Gate** is mostly off limits. This location is intended only for pre-coordinated processing of vehicle passes. Once a pass is obtained, the vehicle must proceed to enter the base via the Morin Gate. Vendors, suppliers, cargo transport, etc. must also request access at the Doolittle Gate. Open daily 06:00-00:00.

OSAN AIR BASE RESTRICTIONS

The following guidelines must be adhered to while at Osan AB:

- **NO PHOTOGRAPHY** towards the runway, or of any military aircraft
- **Always carry the following identification:**
 - ESPO issued ID mission badge (allows your access to ASIA-AQ restricted areas)
 - Passport, Driver License, or Korean ID
 - Special access/training as needed (i.e. base issued forklift operator permit)
- **High visibility reflective vests** must be worn at all times inside the restricted areas. Bring your own vest if you have one and if not, ESPO can **loan** you a vest during the deployment.
- **Appropriate working attire** is required: No open toe shoes nor high heels inside our areas of operation. Shorts are ok.
- **Do not meander or walk into buildings not designated for ASIA-AQ authorized use.**
- **Commissary and Base Exchange are for authorized patrons only. (Active/Retired Military, DoD civilian employees stationed at Osan)**
- **Last minute visitors:** Highly discouraged since it requires a DoD sponsor and there is no guarantee that access will be granted.
 - Must be escorted at all times
 - No after-hours access
 - Last-minute visitors **CANNOT** stay on base

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INTERNET

DIALING COMMERCIAL & DSN PHONE NUMBERS IN KOREA / OSAN AIR BASE

The country code prefix for Korea is +82. To dial a commercial number from within Korea, most phones and US carriers have dial assist that will recognize that you are in Korea and correctly dial the number without the need to add the prefix. To minimize errors, it is a good practice to add the country prefix to the phone numbers you call such as +1 for US numbers. To call DSN numbers, the numbers you dial depend on the phone you are using and from where you are calling. If using a US cell phone in Korea, or when calling from the US:

- For all 783-XXXX numbers, dial + 82 31 660 XXXX
- For all 784-XXXX numbers, dial + 82 31 661 XXXX

Once in Korea & if using a Korean cell phone dial the following numbers:

- For all 783-XXXX numbers, dial 0505-783-XXXX
- For all 784-XXXX numbers, dial 0505-784-XXXX

MOBILE PHONE AND CELLULAR DATA

A few recommendations regarding cell phone use during the mission:

- Before departing the US or home country, it might be a good idea to have an international data/voice roaming plan setup even if you are planning not to use your phone for roaming data and phone calls. Roaming data can cost as much as \$20/MB.

- If you are not enrolling in an international roaming plan, ensure that **ROAMING is turned off** in your smartphone before you depart the US or your home country. A single “sync” upon landing can use several MB of data.
- On base, free Wi-Fi is available at the hotel, restaurants, food courts, gym, etc.
- Free public Wi-Fi is available at many establishments off-base. Common sense and standard security practices are recommended when connecting to public networks. Use VPN for maximum security. See your organization’s IT support for details.

OBTAINING A LOCAL PHONE/DATA PLAN

If you want to obtain a local phone or data plan (SIM card), you could do so on base and/or at ICN. Simply look for the Prepaid SIM booth at/near the KT Roaming Center at Incheon International Airport arrival terminals. On base, the stores are available inside the BX shopping mall. Cancellations MUST be done in person at the same office where the SIM card was obtained. Details are as follows:

- To purchase a SIM card, you must have an unlocked GSM smartphone. Check with your carrier before your trip. SIM cards for regular non-smart phones are not available.
- You will need to put a credit card on file
- Approximate cost for SIM card services: 10-days 33,000 KRW, 30-days 44,000 KRW, initial monthly fee starts at 100,000 KRW
- Unlimited data
- Incoming calls are free
- Outgoing calls ~US\$0.20/minute within South Korea and ~US\$0.75/minute to the US
- It might be more cost effective (and practical since most US phones don’t have dual SIM card trays) to add international data/calling with your home cell phone provider.
- There is plenty of free (and fast) WiFi throughout the base. For additional information visit [KT Rental](#).

OFFICE PHONE LINES

ESPO will have several landlines available during the mission (numbers and locations to be posted/distributed at a later time). These phones can dial anywhere on base and receive calls from anywhere in the world, however, they cannot be used to place long distance international calls to the US.

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY ON BASE

ESPO will provide internet connectivity at the buildings that are part of ASIA-AQ mission operation. Passwords will be shared with the team via email or the WhatsApp group chats. Bandwidth on all ESPO networks will be somewhat limited, while you may use it for personal tasks (emails, voice/video calls, browsing, etc.) we ask you to not use it for movie video streaming services (Netflix, Hulu, etc.). For assistance, contact ESPO. Most restaurant and base facilities have open wireless internet connections.

BASE TAXI

Please refer to this link for base taxi information. <http://ftnholdings.com/>

ASIA-AQ MISSION OPERATIONS

ASIA-AQ ESPO POINTS OF CONTACT AT OSAN AB

1. Jhony R. Zavaleta, ASIA-AQ Project Manager
Cell: +1 (650) 224-4825
Email: jhony.r.zavaleta@nasa.gov
2. Andrian Liem, ASIA-AQ Osan Site Manager
Cell: +1 (415) 746-0555
Email: andrian.c.liem@nasa.gov
3. Marilyn Vasques, ESPO Director, Osan Site Support
Cell: +1 (650) 417-8796
Email: marilyn.vasques@nasa.gov
4. Dan Chirica, ASIA-AQ Osan Site Support
Cell: +1 (650) 318-8257
Email: dan.chirica@nasa.gov
5. Sam Kim, ASIA-AQ IT Support
Cell: +1 (650) 935-0840
Email: samuel.s.kim@nasa.gov
6. Michael Schroeder, Shipping and Logistics Coordination
Cell: +1 (650) 440-8749
Email: michael.s.schroeder@nasa.gov

Use the asia-aq-espo@espo.nasa.gov email address to reach everyone in the ESPO team supporting ASIA-AQ.

CLOTHING

It is cold and dry in February with temperatures ranging from 18F/-8C to 41F/5C. Please be sure to bring winter clothing.

Need some help making sure you have packed everything? Checkout the ultimate travel packing list @ [smartertravel](#).

ASIA-AQ MISSION AREAS OF OPERATION

ASIA-AQ will operate from several buildings in relatively close proximity to one another (Fig. 10). All the buildings have power available at 120V/60Hz (on 20A circuits). No plug adapters are required for US equipment, European equipment must have a step up transformer and/or plug adapters. Building 1187 has a small kitchenette on the second floor. ESPO will set up small refrigerators and microwave ovens for everyone's use. There could still be changes in rooms/buildings availability by the time the deployment happens. We will update as needed. The Turumi Lodge is covered in the lodging section.



Fig.10: ASIA-AQ Buildings: Bldg 1187 Lab/Office Area, DC-8 & Gulfstream Parking, Small Aircraft Parking, and Turumi Lodge are shown on the map for general reference.



Fig. 11: Close up diagram of planned ASIA-AQ infrastructure layout

BUILDING 1187



Fig. 12: Bldg. 1187, parking and entrance area (door near truck)



Fig. 13: Bldg. 1187 Hangar Space

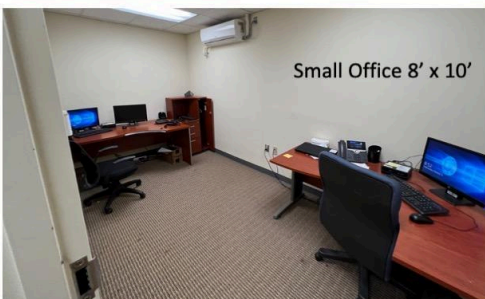


Fig. 14: Bldg. 1187 Office and lounge area (second floor)

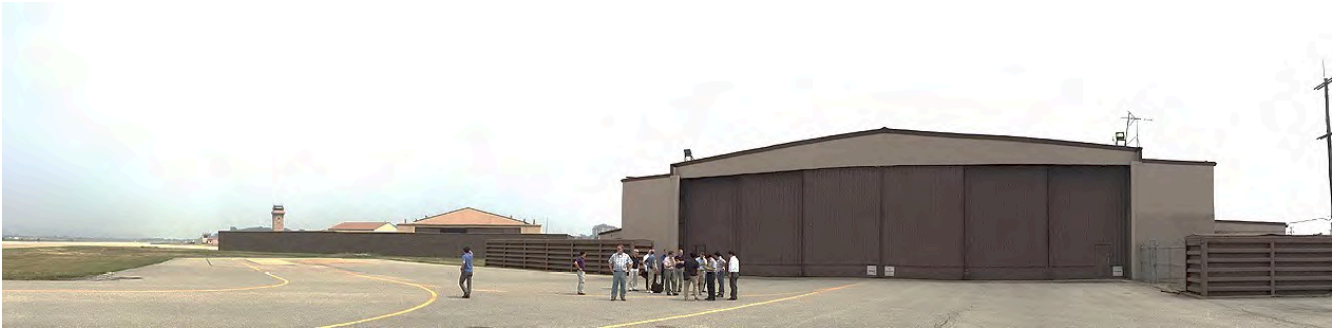


Fig. 15: Bldg. 1187 view from the ramp

PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

Osan AB is very pedestrian and bicycle friendly with crosswalks and bike lanes well delineated. Walking distance from the Main Gate to the Turumi Lodge or from the Turumi lodge to the ASIA-AQ operations area is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile/1.2km. Figures 16 and 17 show the most direct route between points-of-interest for the mission.

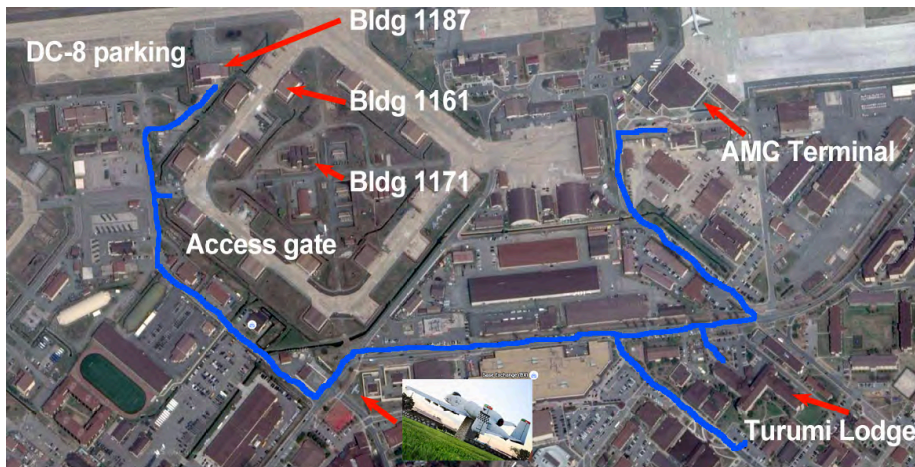


Fig. 16: Pedestrian route from Turumi Lodge to ASIA-AQ operations

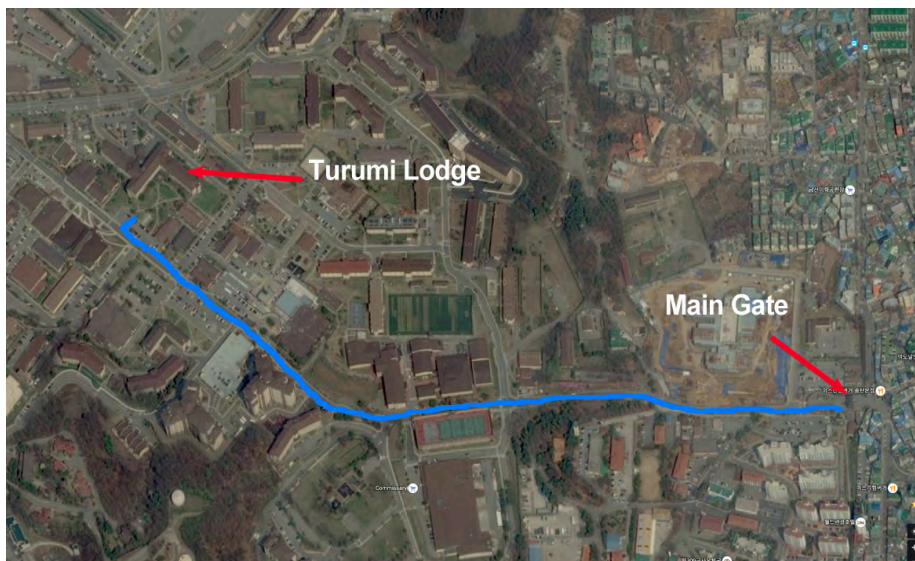


Fig. 17: Pedestrian route from Turumi Lodge (rear entrance) to Main Gate

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

ESPO shuttle from Turumi to Hangar and return (schedule will be posted on the Plan of the Day). This is NOT an on-demand service. If you miss the shuttle, you will need to find your own way to the hangar.

DC-8 and G-III Crew have the base motor pool vehicles.

Base Taxis - 4800KRW/3-4USD

SAFETY

There will be a mandatory ASIA-AQ All Hands Safety Brief prior to Osan Deployment. If you cannot attend, see ESPO upon arrival for an in-person briefing. Details will be provided as soon as these become available.

LAB, HANGAR AND RAMP SAFETY

- Closed-toe shoes are required in the hangar and on the ramp. No high heels, sandals or opened-toe shoes are allowed. Shorts are ok.
- Never approach any aircraft in the hangar without permission. Please coordinate all such requests for aircraft, or on-aircraft instrument access with the Mission Manager.
- No smoking is allowed in any ASIA-AQ buildings. Smoking is only allowed 50 ft from any building or in designated areas. Be aware of any fuels / hazards nearby.
- Boxes of hearing protection can be found in the lab and office areas.
- If you bring hazardous materials into the hangar, please provide ESPO and the Mission Manager a copy of the SDS in advance.
- Use proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when you are handling hazardous products/materials or performing tasks that would require additional protection (like LN2 refilling).
- Some rooms will be used temporarily for laser calibrations, do not enter if there is a sign posted.
- Always make sure someone in your group knows your whereabouts.
- 24/7 access – but the last one out must turn off the lights and close the door. See a member of the ESPO team if you are unsure how to do this.

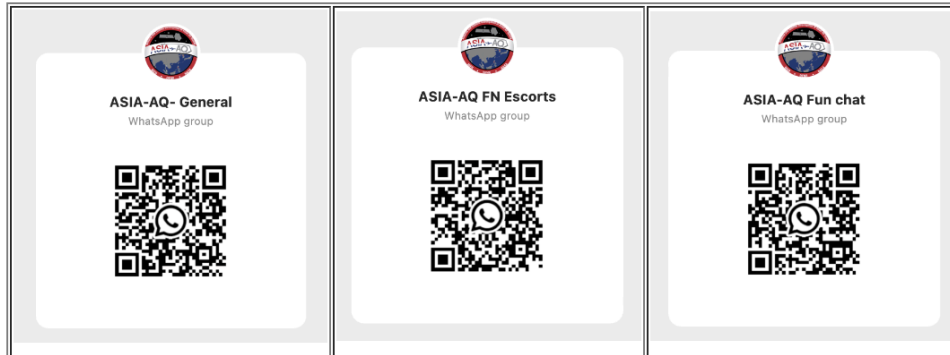


Emergency 911

Security Police Desk Phone 784-5515

ASIA-AQ MISSION COMMUNICATIONS

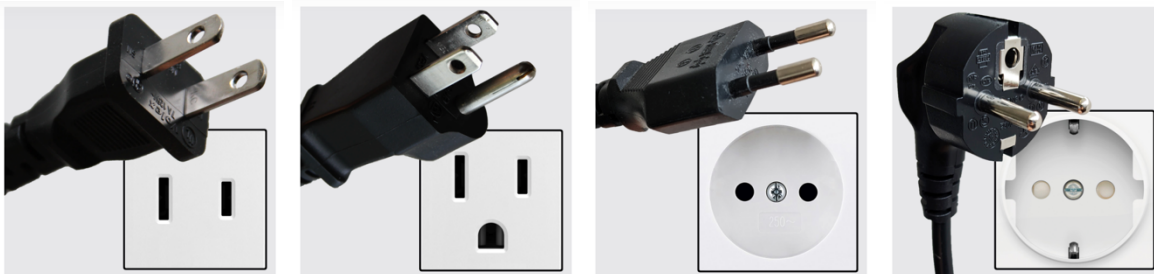
We will use the [WhatsApp](#) texting application for immediate communications and as a supplement to emails. We will continue to post the Plan of the Day (POD) via email and on the ESPO ASIA-AQ website. WhatsApp is encrypted. You can mute notifications for specific group chats as needed and still be able to view the chat history of the group texts and get caught up. All mission information will be shared on multiple platforms, including email, WhatsApp, and the ASIA-AQ ESPO website. Please contact an ESPO Team Member for assistance.



POWER / ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage for South Korea is 220 volts at 60 Hertz. The plugs are Type C and Type F, the same used in almost all of Europe except for a few countries. However, in Osan AB, only Type A and/or Type B plugs (120V/60Hz) are available.

Off-base, you need a plug adapter and/or a multi-voltage travel adapter ([Target](#), [Amazon](#), etc.) Most electronics today, including laptops, phones, etc. have built-in power transformers that can adapt to the local voltage. To verify this, check the voltage of your power supply by inspecting the power block or on the back label of your electrical item for INPUT: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz.



US Type A

US Type B

ROK Type C

ROK Type F

MISSION DAILY SCHEDULE

A daily plan of the day (POD) will be posted on the ASIA-AQ website under Mission Planning>Daily Schedule. The schedule will also be shared/updated via email and WhatsApp messages.

LODGING

ESPO has set up room blocks at the Turumi Lodge (Building 772) on Osan AB. ESPO has submitted names and arrival/departure dates based upon the information provided on the registration database. Please see our ASIA-AQ Lodging link for updated information, details, and other important notifications. If your arrival date changes, please update the database immediately, and notify ESPO personnel. Once you have checked into the hotel, changes to check-out dates can be handled directly with the hotel.

THE OSAN AB TURUMI LODGE

Nightly rate: \$67

Room block name: ASIA-AQ Group

Group Confirmation number: 20980097641

Phone number: +82-505-783-5494

Email: turumlodge.reservat@us.af.mil

ESPO will use the travel dates in the database to make YOUR reservations with the **Turumi Lodge**. DO NOT CONTACT the Turumi Lodge directly until after you have checked-in. Failure to show up on the first day of lodging will result in the automatic cancellation of your entire stay. Rooms are limited, keep your travel plans current.



Fig. 18: Main entrance to the Turumi Lodge

For hotel services, amenities, and additional information visit [Turumi Lodge](#). Upon checking in, please provide the hotel with your method of payment.



Osan AB Turumi Lodge

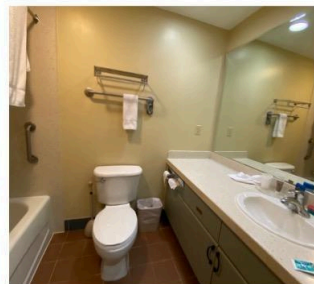


Fig. 19: Turumi Lodge

THE ASIA TOURIST HOTEL

This is the nearest off-base hotel and is an option for those who cannot stay on base. This hotel is used as a temporary lodging for incoming base personnel awaiting base housing/local permanent housing. If you or your

visitors decide to stay in this hotel, you must provide your own transportation from the main gate to the ASIA-AQ operation area.

- Nightly rate: \$80 (includes breakfast and laundry service)
- Address: 33 Sinjang-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
- Phone Number: +82-31-664-267 / Email: admin@asiahotel.kr

Amenities: AC, TV, desk, microwave, small refrigerator, iron/ironing board, 220V-120V transformer. For hotel services, amenities, and additional information visit the [Asia Tourist Hotel](#) page. Any modifications/cancellations must be done 72 hours from arrival date.



Fig. 20: Location of the Asia Tourist Hotel (circled)

OSAN AB DINING

ASIA-AQ personnel have access to all dining facilities on base such as Enlisted Club, Officer Club, Mustang Club, Black Cat Lounge, food court, fast food restaurants, as well as the Korean Diner Arirang (located across the Turumi Lodge, it is open only for lunch, Monday-Saturday), **Military dining facilities: Gingko Tree and Pacific House (now accept credit cards).**

FEDEX SHIPPING INFORMATION

SHIPPING SMALL PARCELS WHILE AT OSAN AB

FEDEX

The FedEx office is located inside the Base Exchange mall. It is the most convenient and fastest method for small shipments with typical delivery taking 3 to 5 days in either direction. Use the following format:

Your Name (NASA) / Local Phone Number (use Turumi Lodge)

Address: FedEx WSC

Address: Osan Air Base

City: Pyeongtaek City

Province: (NOT NECESSARY)

Country: Korea (KR)

Zip Code: 17759

YOU MUST SHIP THE ITEM FOR **HOLD AT FEDEX LOCATION, SELECT SPECIAL HANDLING (HAL) ON THE AIRWAY BILL.** It is extremely important to include the sender's and recipient's phone number (*use the local Korean number shown in the template above*) in the shipment. Regular shipments only (max: 68kg or 150lbs). Seek advice from ESPO for shipments exceeding FedEx capacity.

IMPORTANT: INFORM/COORDINATE SHIPMENTS WITH ESPO BEFORE MAILING YOUR PACKAGES.

MEDICAL & EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The medical facilities on base are only for USFK military personnel and their dependents, and for emergency/first aid of personnel on the base. They are not for ambulatory nor long term care of NASA ASIA-AQ participants.

Dial 911 for emergencies inside Osan AB

Dial 112 for emergencies outside Osan AB

Many of Korea's large hospitals operate an International Health Center, catering to international visitors. These centers offer top notch medical services and have expert interpreters available to assist with the entire process, from reservations to treatments and follow-up appointments. Check with your insurance provider for overseas coverage. Consider purchasing [travel insurance](#). In most cases, health care providers will require payment in advance of treatment or will not release a patient until hospital bills are paid. Supplemental insurance to include coverage for medical evacuation is strongly recommended.

Carry prescription medication in original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription. Most prescription medications, except psychotropic types, can be obtained at Korean pharmacies (brand names often differ). Local pharmacies will require a prescription from a Korean doctor.

It is important that you have appropriate medical coverage. Below we have listed a couple of hospitals, the one recommended is the [Good Morning Hospital](#).

This document on the ESPO website outlines additional facilities in Seoul and near Osan AB along with maps: [Medical Care in South Korea](#)

[51st Medical Group's Emergency Department](#)

Osan AB, Building 777 (basement). Phones: 911 from a DSN line or 031-661-9111 local
Open 24/7

[Good Morning Hospital](#) (*Highly Recommended*)

- Address: 338 Jungang-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do, 17874 Korea
- Phone number: +82 31-5182-7690 and +82 31-5182-7693 / Fax number: +82-3-5182-7695
- Website: https://en.goodmhospital.co.kr/page/?M2_IDX=11643
- FULL COORDINATION SYSTEM with interpreter (patients are guided for all services)
- FAST APPOINTMENT scheduling is possible (including MRI, CT & nuclear medicine appointments)
- PRESCRIBED MEDICINE given in the hospital (no need to make extra stop at the pharmacy)
- Tricare RETIREES & STANDARD direct billing system.
- CIGNA, AETNA, FSBP direct billing service for civilians.

Other nearby hospitals include:

PMC (Park Medical Center)

- 33, Songtan-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do, ROK
- Phone: +82 (800)-6119

Regional Emergency Medical Center-Ajou University Hospital

- 164 Woldeukeon-ro, Woncheon-dong, ROK
- +82 1688-6114

OTHER CDC GUIDELINES

The [CDC](#) recommends the following vaccinations for *most* travelers: hepatitis A, and typhoid. The CDC recommends the following vaccinations for *some* travelers: hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis, malaria cholera, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia and influenza.

Please check with your medical professional for information specific to yourself and South Korea.

Here are some useful links with medical advisories, FAQs, and contact information.

- [Tropical Medical Bureau](#)
- [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control\)](#)
- [WHO \(World Health Organization\)](#)

ON/OFF BASE ACTIVITIES: SONGTAN & THE ITT

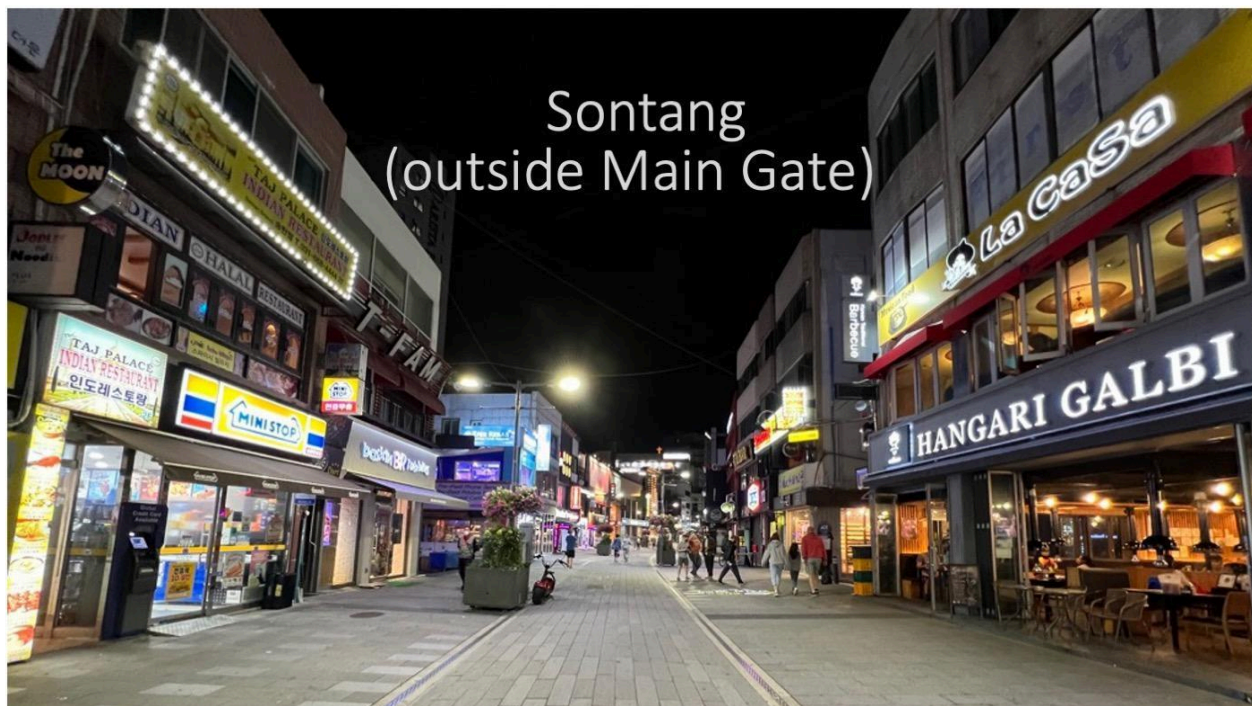


Fig. 22: Songtan walking street.

GROCERY STORES AT AND NEAR OSAN AB

Osan AB is conveniently located with many shops, restaurants, shopping centers and supermarkets located just outside the main gate. Most businesses on base accept US Dollars or Korean Won. Commissary and Base Exchange are off-limit.

HIKING AND NATURE

You can find information on local hiking trails: <https://www.alltrails.com/south-korea/gyeonggi-do/pyeongtaek-si>

CULTURAL EVENTS

Osan has some interesting cultural and religious events that are worth attending if you happen to be in the city when these events are going on. Every year between January 8th to 14th on the Lunar calendar, Osan holds the Yutnori Contest, which is a traditional game that's been played in Korea for centuries. There are also several rituals that take place in Naesammi-dong, called Dongle and Sansinje. Other festivals in South Korea can be found here: <https://www.koreatodo.com/top-festivals-seoul-korea>

SIGHTS NEAR OSAN AB

Osan may not be as exciting as other cities in South Korea, so if you're feeling bored, you can venture a bit out of the Osan area to [famous sights](#) nearby. One popular place to visit is Hwaseong Fortress, a massive fortress built during the Joseon Dynasty, which is located in Suwon and not too far from Osan. Or, you could visit the massive Enter-6 Metapolis Branch in Dongtan, which has tons of food and shopping options as well as cultural experiences. There is also a CGV movie theater here and a kid's theme park.

ITT - INFORMATION, TICKETS, & TRAVEL OFFICE

There are still plenty of other great activities and establishments to enjoy during your time off. These activities are around town, in Seoul, and other great locations. The ITT has several tours that may include transportation and snacks to great locations around Korea. Gardens, Observatories, amusement parks, temples, city tours, villages, festivals, etc. For information visit their website at <https://51fss.com/itt/> Some other recommendations from around the web include:

- [Trip Advisor list of things to do in Osan](#)
- [Trip Advisor restaurants in Osan](#)
- [Expedia calendar and events search for Osan](#)

SONGTAN - SAFETY AROUND TOWN

Crime: For most visitors, South Korea remains a very safe country. Common crimes occur more frequently in major metropolitan areas, tourist sites, and crowded markets. In general, Songtan is a very safe town.

- Take routine safety precautions
- Pay attention to your surroundings
- Report any concerns to local police
- Violent crime is not common; however, remain vigilant
- Exercise caution in crowded entertainment, nightlife, and shopping districts.
- If traveling at night, consider traveling in groups
- Use legitimate taxis or public transportation only

Victims of Crime: Call 112 for emergency assistance or to report a crime to local authorities. Please keep ESPO informed of any occurrences, whether the incident happens on/off base.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Use the buddy system when traveling abroad or visiting unfamiliar areas
- Maintain a low profile by not wearing expensive items or calling attention to yourself
- Carry only what you need
- Keep your valuables located on the front of you at all times. Consider using a money belt and not bringing a purse
- Avoid rallies and protests

- US Citizens should enroll on the State Department's STEP program to receive alerts and other notifications while in-country - <https://step.state.gov/step/>.
- For US Citizens, in case of emergency or for assistance with any serious incidents, contact the US Embassy [Regional Security Officer \(RSO\)](#) at +(82-2)-397-4114 (available 24/7).
- Most of the information provided here applies to everyone, however, non-US citizens should visit their respective Embassy/Consulate websites for specific instructions.
- **ALWAYS inform ESPO of any incidents or emergencies but contact local authorities first. Report crimes to the local police at 1345. Remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting crime.**
- [2020 South Korea Crime & Safety Report](#)

[U.S. DEPT OF STATE TRAVEL WARNINGS](#)

Exercise normal precautions in South Korea. Some areas have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory. Read the Safety and Security section on the [Country Information](#) page.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KOREA

[In Case of Emergency](#): If you are an American citizen with an after-hours emergency, please contact the officer on duty at: +82 2-397-4114. **These numbers are not for visa inquiries.**

[US Embassy in South Korea](#) - US Citizen Services

188 Sejon-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul, Korea
Phone: +82-2-397-4114

[US Consulate](#)

993, Joongangdae-Ro, Busanjin-Gu
Room 612 (Lotte Gold Rose)
Busan, Korea
Email: SeoullInfoACS@state.gov

The Consular Section is open to the public Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 and 13:00-17:00

- *American Citizen Services – American Citizens only **On-line appointment only***
- *Notary Services **On-line appointment only***

For all non-emergency services, request an appointment, using the [on-line appointment system](#). Requests for same-day appointments cannot be accommodated.

BEFORE YOU GO: ENROLL IN “STEP”

What is STEP? Benefits of Enrolling in STEP - The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

APPENDIX A - RECOMMENDED TO DO LIST

- Ensure that you **carry a pen** during your flight(s). You will need it to fill out:
 - Traveler Declaration Form
 - Arrival Card
- For the forms above, use **Turumi Lodge, Osan Air Base** as your address. You may use your US phone number, or the Turumi Lodge's phone number **+82 505-783-5494**
- Ensure that you have **US\$40** in cash if you plan to take the ITT Bus to Osan Air Base.
- Install the WhatsApp application on your smartphone and validate your phone before flying overseas. Join the different ASIA-AQ groups as needed.
- Visa – See the visa requirements section.
- Upload your flight itinerary to the ESPO database (under the Additional Documentation section of your PII)
- Upload your ANF (Advanced Notice Form) to the ESPO database if you are a NASA contractor (i.e., BAERI, NSERC)
- Register your travel plans with the US State Department's STEP Program <https://step.state.gov> if you are a U.S. Citizen or if you are from another country, contact your Embassy where you are traveling
- Check with your medical insurance to find out how foreign incidents are covered
- Get a pre-deployment checkup if needed
- Get a letter from your doctor for any prescriptions that you take so you can pass through customs easily
- Get a prescription for enough medicine for deployment and some extra prescription medicines
 - Medical evacuation insurance
- Upload a copy to the ESPO database in the section called **Extra Documentation** Section and use the type **Other Forms**
- Contact your credit card company and let them know your travel plans
- Contact your mobile phone carrier for international coverage while deployed