



All the Cards You Need in South Korea Explained

1



T-MONEY CARD



WHAT IS THE T-MONEY CARD

Most popular reloadable transportation card, used for subways, buses, and even some taxis across the country. Just tap, ride, and go.

WHERE TO BUY A T-MONEY CARD

A convenience stores (CU, GS25, 7-Eleven), vending machines in subway stations, and tourist info centers.

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

Yes, at Incheon and Gimpo airports, usually at CU or 7-Eleven near the AREX station or inside the terminal.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

Around ₩2,500-₩4,000, depending on the design. Load an extra ₩10,000-₩20,000 to start using it.

HOW TO USE IT

Tap on entry and exit at subway gates, or when boarding and leaving buses. The fare is automatically deducted.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

Top up with cash at convenience stores or subway machines. Refunds for remaining balances are available at some stores (a small fee applies).

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

Yes, via the T-Money app (Android & iOS).

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, each traveler needs their own, as one card records a single tap per ride.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

Yes, it's reliable, works offline, and comes in fun collectible designs (K-pop, characters, etc.).

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

Yes, works in Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Gwangju, Jeju, and most other cities.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

Anonymous cards can't be recovered. Registered ones may be replaced via the T-Money service center.

BEST FOR

Longer trips or travelers who frequently use public transport.

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

Yes, accepted in some taxis, vending machines, cafés, and convenience stores (limited coverage).

PROS

~ Works nationwide
~ Easy, reusable, and cheap

CONS

~ Transport-only
~ Anonymous cards can't be refunded if lost

Watch how to add a top-up to the T-Money for [Apple users here](#).



WOW PASS



WHAT IS THE WOW PASS

It is a prepaid travel and payment card designed especially for foreign visitors in South Korea. It works both as a T-Money transport card and a

WHERE TO BUY A WOW PASS

Available at Incheon and Gimpo airports, WOW Pass kiosks, CU convenience stores, and online via [Klook](#).

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

Yes, look for WOW Pass counters or kiosks near the arrival gates or the AREX train area at Incheon Airport.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

The card itself costs ₩10,000, which is non-refundable. You can then load balance through cash or card in-person or via the WOW Pass app.

HOW TO USE IT

Use it just like T-Money on subways, buses, and taxis. For payments, tap it like a Mastercard at shops, cafés, and tourist sites that accept card payments.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

Top up directly in the WOW Pass app using your international credit card. Refunds are available at airport counters or via the app (a small service fee applies).

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

Yes, link it in the WOW Pass app (Android & iOS) to check balance, reload funds, and track spending.

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, each traveler needs their own, since transport taps and purchases are logged individually.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

Yes, you'll need the physical card for public transport and to tap at payment terminals.

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

Yes, valid across all major cities, just like T-Money.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

If registered in the app, you can block it and request a replacement. If not registered, funds can't be recovered.

BEST FOR

Short-term visitors who want one card for everything, transport, shopping, and travel payments.

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

Yes, it works anywhere.

PROS

~ Combines transport + payment in one card
~ Easy online top-ups via app
~ English-friendly setup

CONS

~ ₩10,000 issue fee
~ Refunds may include small service charge





All the Cards You Need in South Korea Explained

2



CLIMATE CARD



WHAT IS THE CLIMATE CARD

It is an unlimited transit pass for Seoul: it lets you ride most subways, buses, and (with certain plans) Seoul's public bikes (Ttareungi).

WHERE TO BUY A CLIMATE CARD

You can pick it up at convenience stores (GS25, CU, 7-Eleven) near subway stations, subway station customer centers or kiosks (often on Lines 1-8), or tourist information centers.

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

The Climate Card typically isn't sold at the airport.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

The price depends on duration and bike access - starting from ₩5,000 for 1 day up to ₩20,000 for 7 days, or ₩62,000-₩65,000 for a 30-day pass.

HOW TO USE IT

Tap it at subway and bus entry/exit points just like a standard transport card.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

Refunds are possible (minus usage fees and a processing fee), especially for short-term passes.

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

Yes, there is a mobile version via the T-Money app (mainly for Android) for transit within Seoul.

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, the pass is tied to one user's usage for the period.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

Yes, physical is required, especially if you'll use the bike feature, or if your phone doesn't support the mobile version.

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

No, it's limited to Seoul-area public transport.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

If you registered it, you might request replacement or block it through T-Money / customer service. Otherwise, no refund for unregistered passes.

BEST FOR

Visitors staying in Seoul for many days with heavy transit use (3+ rides per day).

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

No, it's strictly a transport & bike pass, not a general payment card.

PROS

- ~ Unlimited rides in Seoul for your chosen period
- ~ Convenient for heavy transit users
- ~ Includes bike option on some plans

CONS

- ~ Only works within Seoul
- ~ Bike access might require local phone registration
- ~ Not useful if your trip includes lots of travel outside the city



DISCOVER SEOUL PASS



WHAT IS THE DISCOVER SEOUL PASS

It is an all-in-one tourist and transportation card to explore Seoul's main attractions easily.

WHERE TO BUY IT

Available at Incheon and Gimpo airports, major tourist information centers, and convenience stores (CU, GS25) near key attractions. You can also purchase it online via [Klook](#).

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

Yes, you can find it at Incheon Airport Tourist Information Centers or CU convenience stores.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

The Discover Seoul Pass comes in 24-hour, 48-hour, and 72-hour versions, priced around ₩50,000-₩70,000, depending on the duration and where you buy it.

HOW TO USE IT

Tap in at participating attractions for free entry, and tap again on buses or subways.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

The T-Money balance part can be topped up at convenience stores or metro machines. However, the pass portion (for attractions) is non-refundable once activated.

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

Yes, you can download the Discover Seoul Pass app (Android & iOS).

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, one card per traveler, since access is individually timed and recorded.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

Yes, most attractions require scanning the physical or mobile QR code at entry.

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

The sightseeing portion is Seoul-only, but the T-Money transport feature works in other cities like Busan or Jeju.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

Unfortunately, lost passes cannot be reissued or refunded, so keep them safe once activated.

BEST FOR

Travelers spending 1-3 days in Seoul who want to visit multiple landmarks and use public transport.

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

Yes, as a T-Money card, it works for small payments in taxis, cafés, and convenience stores.

PROS

- ~ Combines sightseeing + transport
- ~ Free or discounted entry to 70+ attractions
- ~ T-Money built-in

CONS

- ~ Limited to Seoul attractions
- ~ Non-refundable once activated





All the Cards You Need in South Korea Explained

3



SEOUL PASS



WHAT IS THE KOREA TOUR CARD

It's a digital sightseeing card that gives free or discounted entry to major attractions in Seoul.

WHERE TO BUY IT

You can purchase it online through Klook, and simply activate it through their app.

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

No, the Seoul Pass is digital, so it's downloaded and used via your phone.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

Prices vary depending on duration and provider, but generally range from ₩40,000-₩70,000, depending on whether it's valid for 24, 48, or 72 hours and how many attractions it includes.

HOW TO USE IT

Once activated, show the QR code in the app at participating attractions to enter.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

Refunds depend on the provider's policy, typically possible if not yet activated.

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

Yes, it's 100% mobile, managed through the Klook app.

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, each traveler needs their own, since entry is tracked by individual QR code.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

No, this pass is digital only.

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

No, it's limited to Seoul attractions only.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

You can log into your account from another device and re-access your pass through the same app.

BEST FOR

Short-term visitors spending 1-3 days in Seoul who prefer a fully digital sightseeing pass.

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

No, it's purely for attractions and experiences.

PROS

- ~ 100% mobile - no pickup needed
- ~ Flexible sightseeing access
- ~ Easy to buy and manage online

CONS

- ~ Attractions only - no transport
- ~ Non-refundable once activated



KOREA TOUR CARD



WHAT IS THE KOREA TOUR CARD

It's a T-Money card made for foreign visitors, usable on subways, buses, and taxis nationwide, with extra discounts at attractions, shops, and restaurants across Korea.

WHERE TO BUY IT

You can find it at Incheon and Gimpo airports, convenience stores (CU, GS25, 7-Eleven), and tourist information centers. It's also available online via Klook, Trazy, and KKday.

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

Yes, it's sold at Incheon Airport's CU stores, Korea Tourism Organization booths, and airport subway kiosks.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

The card costs around ₩4,000-₩5,000, depending on design and vendor. Load extra credit (₩10,000-₩20,000) to start using it for transport.

HOW TO USE IT

Just like T-Money, tap on and off on subways, buses, and taxis.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

Top up with cash at convenience stores or subway machines. The remaining balance can be partially refunded

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

Yes, through the Korea Tour Card app (Android & iOS).

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, one card per person is required.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

Yes, it's convenient, accepted everywhere, and doubles as a cute souvenir.

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

Yes, valid nationwide, including Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Gwangju, and Jeju.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

Anonymous cards can't be recovered. Keep it safe, as refunds aren't possible for unregistered cards.

BEST FOR

Visitors exploring multiple cities who want discounts + easy transportation in one card.

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

Yes, accepted in some taxis, vending machines, cafés, and convenience stores.

PROS

- ~ Works like T-Money + offers tourist discounts
- ~ Usable nationwide
- ~ Easy to buy and reload

CONS

- ~ Discounts vary by region
- ~ Anonymous cards are not refundable if lost

All the Cards You Need in South Korea Explained

4



M-PASS

METROPOLITAN PASS



WHAT IS THE M-PASS

It's short for Metropolitan Pass, and is a transportation card for tourists that gives unlimited rides on Seoul's subways and some buses for a set number of days.

WHERE TO BUY IT

You can buy the M-Pass at Incheon Airport (AREX Travel Center, Tourist Info Center), Gimpo Airport, and Seoul Station Travel Center.

CAN YOU GET IT AT THE AIRPORT

Yes, it's easiest to purchase at Incheon Airport.

HOW MUCH DOES THE CARD COST

Prices range from ₩15,000 for 1 day to ₩64,500 for 7 days, plus a ₩5,000 refundable deposit when you return the card.

HOW TO USE IT

Tap in and out at subway gates or on buses.

REFUNDS & TOP-UPS

You can refund the ₩5,000 deposit at any sales location.

CAN YOU USE IT ON YOUR PHONE

No, the M-Pass is a physical card only.

CAN TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE CARD

No, each traveler needs their own, as the card records individual rides.

SHOULD YOU GET THE PHYSICAL CARD

Yes, that's the only version available.

CAN IT BE USED OUTSIDE SEOUL

The M-Pass covers Seoul and nearby metropolitan areas (Incheon, Gyeonggi), but not long-distance travel or intercity lines.

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S LOST OR DAMAGED

Lost cards can't be replaced or refunded, so keep them safe during your stay.

BEST FOR

Short-term tourists staying 1-7 days in Seoul who plan to take the subway and buses multiple times daily.

CAN YOU USE IT IN SHOPS AS WELL

No, transport only.

PROS

- ~ Unlimited rides within the Seoul Metro area
- ~ Easy and convenient for short visits
- ~ Refundable deposit

CONS

- ~ Expires after chosen days
- ~ Not usable outside Seoul or for shopping



CARD	WHAT IT IS / KEY FUNCTION	BEST FOR	BUY AT INCHEON?	CARD COST	DIGITAL / APP	WHERE IT'S USED	SHOP USE	PROS & CONS
T-MONEY CARD	Reloadable transport card for metro, bus & taxis	Daily transport	✓ Yes (CU, 7-Eleven, GS25)	₩2,500-₩4,000	✓ App (Android/iOS)	Nationwide	Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cheap, easy, reusable ✗ Transport only
WOW PASS	Travel & payment card (T-Money + Mastercard)	Short trips, all-in-one card	✓ Yes (Airport kiosks, CU)	₩10,000 + top-up	✓ App	Nationwide	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Combines pay + transport ✗ Small issue/refund fee
CLIMATE CARD	Unlimited bus, subway & bike rides for set days	Heavy transport users	✗ No (Seoul only)	₩5,000-₩65,000	✓ App (Android)	Seoul only	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unlimited rides ✗ Seoul-only validity
DISCOVER SEOUL PASS	Attraction + transport card (T-Money inside)	Sightseeing 1-3 days	✓ Yes (Tourist desks, CU)	₩50,000-₩70,000	✓ App	Seoul only	Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free entry to 70+ sites ✗ Expires after 24-72 h
KOREA TOUR CARD	T-Money card with tourist discounts	Multi-city trips & long stays	✓ Yes (CU, KTO, kiosks)	₩4,000-₩5,000	✓ App	Nationwide	Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Works like T-Money + perks ✗ Discounts vary
SEOUL PASS	Digital sightseeing pass (Klook / Trazy)	Digital-only attractions	✗ Online only	₩40,000-₩70,000	✓ 100% App	Seoul only	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mobile-friendly & easy ✗ No transport access

