

Northern Asia-Pacific Division (2025) Fast Facts and Mission Posts

Mongolia

1. The Mongolia Mission has six churches, five companies, and 3,362 members. With a population of 3,436,000, that is one church member for every 1,022 Mongolians.
2. The first Mongolian converts were immigrants to China and were baptized in 1926.
3. In 1926, a mission station was built in Mongolia in the style of a Mongolian yurt.
4. The Mongolia Mission was founded in 1930 in Kalgan, China, near the border with Mongolia.
5. In 1931, missionaries moved farther into Mongolia, where they traveled by Bactrian camel to visit the Mongolians scattered across the plains.
6. About a quarter of Mongolians are Buddhists. About one third practice traditional shamanic beliefs. There is a relatively small number of Muslims, mostly in the western part of the country, and the small community of Christians live mainly in the capital. A significant proportion of the people are atheistic or nonreligious.

7. The capital of Mongolia is Ulaanbaatar (Ulan Bator).
8. Mongolia's official language is Khalkha Mongolian, which most people in the country speak. Most Mongolians who speak other languages also understand it.
9. Mongolia's total area is 603,957 square miles (1,564,241 sq km).
10. The official currency in Mongolia is the *tögrög* or *tugrik*.
11. Mongolia is in Asia, between Russia to the north and China to the south.
12. Mongolia is one of the world's highest countries; its elevation averages 5,180 feet (1,580 meters).
13. Mongolia's temperature can fluctuate as much as 35°F in one day.
14. Mongolia is very dry and only gets about four inches (10 cm) of rain a year.
15. The Gobi Desert, one of the Earth's coldest deserts, is found in Southern Mongolia and covers about 500,000 square miles (1,295,000 sq km).
16. Genghis Khan, born Temujin in 1162, created the Mongol Empire in 1206, which became the largest empire in history. It occupied around 22 percent of all land on Earth.
17. Mongolia is the 18th-largest country in the world by area, but with a population of just over 3 million, it is the world's most sparsely populated country.
18. Mongolians emphasize affection towards children. The average Mongolian family has four children, and women who have five or more children are called "honored mothers."
19. Although many Mongolians have moved to the city to find work, the country is still strongly nomadic; about 30 percent of Mongolians are classified as nomads.
20. Khalkha Mongols make up about 80 percent of the population. Other Mongolian groups make up about half of the rest of the population.
21. The *ger* (yurt) is the traditional Mongolian dwelling. It is a circular structure with a conical roof and covered with white canvas. It is warm in winter and cool in summer and easy to take down, transport, and put up again as the herders move across the grasslands with their herds.

22. The *ger* is always set up with its door to the south because the cold wind mostly blows from the north.
23. The west side of the *ger* is considered the man's domain and the east side is the woman's.
24. Stepping on the threshold as one enters a *ger* is considered a sign of disrespect to the host.
25. The Mongolian national costume is the *deel*, a long gown of brightly colored silk, buttoning up to the neck on the right side. It is worn by both men and women, but men add a sash of contrasting color around the waist. In the winter it is worn with a woolen lining.
26. Mongolians have three names: a clan name; a family name (*etsgiin ner*), based on the father's given name; and a given name (*ner*).
27. Mongols have a great fondness for witty sayings and jokes.
28. Mongolians love festivals, and their largest is the Naadam, an annual sporting event held in the summer focusing on sports, games, and food. The main events are archery, horse racing, and Mongolian wrestling.
29. Bactrian camels are native to Mongolia. They have two humps and are smaller than the Arabian camel.
30. The first dinosaur egg ever discovered was found in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.
31. Ulaanbaatar is the capital of Mongolia, located 4,265 feet (1,300 m) above sea level. Nearly half of Mongolia's population live in and around the city.
32. Ulaanbaatar is the world's coldest capital, with an annual average temperature of -1.3°C (30°F). Winter temperatures can drop to as low as -36 to -40°C (-30 to -40°F).
33. There are an estimated 5 million horses in Mongolia (almost twice as many as people), and most are let loose to live outdoors and find their own food.
34. Horses symbolize the culture of the Mongolia and there is a saying that a Mongol without a horse is like a wingless bird.
35. Mongolia is often referred to as "the Land of the Blue Sky" because the sky over the country is cloudless for more than two-thirds of the year.
36. Mongolia's Bogd Khan Ull National Park, established in 1783, is the oldest national park in the world.
37. Mongolia is the world's second-largest landlocked country after Kazakhstan.
38. Mongolian nomads move from place to place looking for the best campsites and pastures. The five main types of animals they raise and breed are goats, sheep, cattle, camels, and horses.
39. Singing while riding a horse is quite popular in Mongolia. Singers use their throat and nose to produce two different sounds at the same time, a technique known as "Throat Singing" or "Khoomi Singing."
40. *Bokh* is the folk wrestling style of Mongolia and is a part of the yearly Naadam festival. It is said to date back to the time of Genghis Khan, who used it to keep his army in shape.
41. The Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue is a 130 foot (40m) tall statue of Genghis Khan on horseback and is the world's tallest equestrian statue. It is so tall that it has an elevator to take visitors to the top of the horse's head.
42. One of the first international postal systems was created by Genghis Khan to help control the Mongol Empire. In the Yam system, stations were set up between 14 and 40 miles (22–64 km) apart, and messages would be passed to a fresh horse and rider at each station so the messages could keep moving without wearing out horses and riders.

South Korea

1. The Korean Union Conference has 699 churches, 133 companies, and 263,237 members. With a population of 77,697,000, that is one church member for every 295 Koreans.
2. The Korean Union Conference covers the entire Korean Peninsula, including the Republic of Korea and Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is made up of five conferences, one mission, and one attached mission field.
3. In May 1904, a Korean named Eung Hyun Lee, waiting for his ship to Hawaii, was walking along a street in Kobe, Japan, and saw a signboard that read, "The Seventh-day Sabbath Jesus Second Coming Church." After speaking at the church with an evangelist named Kuniya Hide, Eung Hyun Lee and a Korean friend studied the Scriptures and became the first baptized Seventh-day Adventists among the Korean people.
4. Two sisters were involved in the early work in Korea. In January 1907, Mimi Scharffenberg arrived and within two years had established first a school for boys and then a school for girls. In October 1909, her sister Theodora Wangerin arrived with her husband Rufus.
5. Another pair of siblings were also integral to the early work in Korea. In 1908 Helen May Scott, a teacher, arrived in Soonan, Korea with her husband, Dr. Riley Russell. Two years later, when another educational worker was needed in the field, Helen urged her younger brother, Howard M. Lee, to volunteer. He took her advice and arrived in Soonan on April 5, 1910, to take charge of the educational work.
6. In 1915, two Korean workers, Keun Ok Lee and Mun Gook Jeong, became the first Koreans to be ordained to the ministry.
7. Freedom of religion is constitutionally guaranteed in South Korea, and there is no national religion.
8. The main religions practiced in Korea are Christianity (27%) and Buddhism (15%), but around 55 percent are irreligious. Many Koreans practice Confucianism regardless of their religious beliefs.

9. The official name of South Korea is the Republic of Korea.
10. The capital and largest city in Korea is Seoul, in the northwest of the country, with 9.6 million people living in the city itself, and 26 million in the entire metropolitan area.
11. The official language is Korean (Hangul).
12. The official currency is the South Korean Won.
13. The area of South Korea is 37,901 square miles (98,190 sq km)
14. South Korea has one of the strongest economies in Eastern Asia thanks to manufacturing and service industries, such as banking, and the export of ships, cars, computers, and other electronic items.
15. There is evidence that people have been living in Korea for at least 10,000 years, and archaeologists believe that today's Koreans ancestors originally came from Mongolia and Siberia.
16. The first Europeans in Korea were sailors on a Dutch merchant ship that ran aground on Jeju Island in 1656.

17. Japan controlled Korea from 1910 until the end of World War II. The Allies divided Korea between the Soviets, who occupied the north, and the U.S. who stayed in the south. In 1950, the communists in the north invaded the south, sparking the beginning of the Korean War, which lasted until 1953. The war never officially ended, and the Koreas are still divided.
18. The highest peak is an extinct volcano called Mount Baekdusan in North Korea, which rises to 9,000 feet (2,744 m). The mountain is an important symbol of the Korean spirit and is mentioned in Korea's national anthem.
19. Koreans share one ethnicity and one language.
20. The various states of the Korean peninsula were unified for the first time in the seventh century under the Silla Kingdom, enabling Koreans to be relatively free from ethnic struggles.
21. All Koreans speak and write the same language, which has helped in forging their strong national identity. The official language is the dialect used in Seoul, but almost all of the alternative dialects in the country are similar enough for everyone to understand.
22. Children learn Korean and English (and sometimes Mandarin) in school and most people speak English fairly well, particularly in the cities.
23. *Ondol* is a unique Korean under-floor heating system, developed in the colder north, in which heat was channeled through flues under the floor.
24. The presidential mansion in Seoul is called Cheong Wa Dae, or the Blue House, (literally "Cyan-tile Pavilion") after the 150,000 blue tiles used for its roof.
25. Korean names are usually made up of three Chinese characters that are pronounced as three Korean syllables. The family name comes first, and the second two characters form the given name.
26. There are about 300 family names in Korea, but only a few are used by most of the population. Among the most common names are Kim, Lee, Pak, An, Jang, Jo, Choe, Jong, Han, Gang, Yu, and Yun.
27. Korean women do not change their family name when they marry. If a married woman is called Mrs. Kim, it usually means that her surname at birth was Kim.
28. One of the major holidays in Korea is Daeboreum, the first full moon of the year after the New Year. Farmers and fishermen pray for a bountiful harvest and catch, and others prepare special dishes of seasonal vegetables to ward off bad luck for the coming year.
29. The fifth day of the fifth lunar month, called Dano, marked the completion of sowing, and farmers traditionally took a day off for festivities. Women would wash their hair with special water in which iris has been boiled in hopes of preventing misfortune.
30. The South Korean national anthem is called Aegukga ("Patriotic Song").
31. The Korean national symbol is the Taegeuk (yin yang symbol). The national emblem, the Gukjang, combines the yin yang symbol and the national flower, *Mugunghwa* (Rose of Sharon or *Hibiscus syriacus*).
32. The Korean flag is called the Taegukki, and the national colors are red, white, blue, and black.
33. The Korean national animal is the Siberian tiger (*panthera tigris tigris*), which once roamed the Korean Peninsula.
34. Korean pop music, also called k-pop, became famous around the world in 2013 when PSY's "Gangnam Style" became a smash hit on YouTube. Gangnam refers to the city of Seoul.
35. Some of Korea's iconic foods include *kimchi*, a traditional dish made with fermented vegetables and chillis; *dak galbi*, a spicy chicken stir-fry with sweet potatoes, rice cakes and

vegetables; *bulgogi*, a grilled meat and vegetable dish; *jajangmyeong*, a very popular street food of noodles, vegetables, and fried pork or seafood in a thick black bean sauce; and *bibimbap*, a bowl of rice with different vegetables, served with a fried or raw egg on top.

36. Kimchi is so important in Korea that over 160 varieties of the fermented vegetables have been identified. There is even a kimchi museum in Seoul.
37. Some of the many endangered animal species living in South Korea are the Amur leopard, the golden eagle, the lynx, the Siberian musk deer, and the Siberian tiger.
38. The winters in South Korea are cold and relatively dry and the summers are hot and humid.
39. The most important milestones in a Korean person's life are the hundredth day of a baby's life, one's marriage, and one's 61st birthday.
40. For centuries, hanbok was the traditional dress of Korea. Most Koreans now wear western clothing, but hanbok is still often worn on special occasions such as birthdays, weddings, and funerals. Female hanbok has several layers of undergarments under a long, full skirt and a short jacket held closed with a long tie. The male version has full-legged pants and a long, wide-sleeved jacket.

Flags

Mongolia

Color the left and right thirds red, the middle third blue, and the emblem on the left yellow.



South Korea

Color the top section of the circle red, and the bottom half blue. Color the four sets of stripes black and leave the rest of the flag white.



Crafts

Korea

Traditional Korean Fan

You can see these fans in souvenir shops all around Korea; the colors are red, blue, and yellow, which represent earth, heaven, and humanity.

Materials

Cardboard (cereal boxes are perfect)

Scissors

Pen or pencil

Glue

Markers or paint

Large craft or popsicle stick

Instructions

First, cut the cardboard into the proper shape. It should be flat on the bottom and then curve up and around.

Use the pen or pencil to outline the curves so you know where to paint or color.

Paint or color the red, yellow, and blue sections.

Glue the popsicle stick to the back and let dry.



Recipes

Mongolia

Mongolian Butter Cookies - Boortsog (БООРЦОГ)

Ingredients

2 cups (240 g) flour
1/4 cup (60 ml) butter
1/2 cup (120 ml) warm water
1/2 cup (113 g) sugar
pinch of salt
oil for frying

Instructions

- Dissolve the sugar and salt in the warm water.
- In a bowl, mix together the flour, water mixture, and butter and knead it well until you have a stiff, dense dough. Add flour or water if you need to get the right texture.
- Let rest for about 30 minutes and then knead again to remove any air bubbles.
- Roll out the dough to about 1/2-inch (1 cm) thickness and cut into rectangles about 2 x 4 inches (5 x 10 cm) or cut into shapes you like.
- A traditional shape is to cut a slit down the middle and pull one end through, making sort of a knot shape.
- Heat up the oil in a frying pan and deep fry until golden brown on each side.
- Serve warm with sugar, honey, or butter.

Korean/Mongolian Vocabulary

English	Korean		Mongolian	
Hello	안녕하세요	ahn-YONG-hass-say-OH	Сайн уу	sain uu
Goodbye	안녕히 가세요	ahn-YONG-hee Hass-say-OH	Баяртай	bayartai
I love you	사랑해요	sal-ANG-hay-OH	Би чамд хайртай	Bi chamd khairtai
Mother	어머니	oh-moh-NEE	ээж	eej
Father	아버지	ah-boh-CHEE	аав	aav
Sister	자매	CHAH-may	эгч	egch
Brother	형제	CHONG-chay	ах	akh
House	집	cheeb	байшин	baishin
Cat	고양이	koy-AHNG-ee	муур	muur
Dog	개	chay	Нохой	nokhoi

Games

Korea

Gonggi

Gonggi is a popular Korean children's game that is traditionally played using five or more small pebbles. It can be played alone or with friends.

There are various levels of difficulty for different ages.

How to Play

For the simplest version, the stones are scattered onto a playing surface.

A player picks a stone and throws it up in the air.

While it is in the air, the player picks up one of the stones on the playing surface and then catches the stone that was thrown into the air. This is repeated until all the stones have been caught.

To make it more difficult, stones can be picked up two, three, or four at a time.

The trickiest level is for the player to toss all the stones from the palm of the hand into the air and then turn the hand over to catch as many of the stones as possible on the back of the hand.