

Tips to feeling more like a local when studying abroad <http://tinyurl.com/y9b9lf3>

As a student studying abroad in a foreign city, you obviously would like to see all the tourist hot spots. You definitely want to learn and see all the things that attracted you to pick that city. But where there are tourist attractions, there are lots of tourists. Often doing things and activities that the locals do gives you the student more insight into the people and culture of the city in which you are temporarily a member. The following are easy (and cheap!) ways to immerse yourself into the city you are learning in.

1. Get a newspaper. Just like papers that circulate here, there are sections dedicated to telling the reader what entertainment is happening for the week i.e. shows, local bands playing in parks, flea markets, etc. Many of these things are free or relatively cheap.

English Newspapers in Korea:

<http://english.hani.co.kr/kisa/section-014000000/home01.html>

<http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/>

Or, grab a Korean newspaper and use it to help with your learning of the language. The newspaper is an excellent source to help improve your language skills.

2. Ride public transit. Taxis are not only expensive, but they offer little interaction. Hop on a bus and just ride its route. You can not only people watch and observe, but you also can see a lot of the city that you might not have seen otherwise.

SUBWAY

- The subway is most likely going to be your main mode of transportation.
- Korea University is directly connected to the Metro-subway by two stations, Korea University Station and Anam Station on line #6 (brown line).
- Seoul has 8 or more subway lines, which gives easy access to the entire city.
- The subway typically runs from 5:30am to midnight and costs around W1000 (less than a U.S. dollar) for a one-way trip.
- Using T-money (traffic card) will be convenient.(for subway, bus and taxi)
- For more information about Seoul's Subway take a look at Seoul Metropolitan Subway Corporation: <http://www.seoulsubway.co.kr/> (click on English in the top right corner of the screen).

BUSES

- Buses are in abundance, but are complex and very difficult to use if you do not speak/read Korean.

- The buses are color-coded to show which part of the city they circulate.
- The buses that go to Korea University are: green #1017, #1216, #1222, #7211, #1111, #12151, #1107, #1213, blue #100, #144, #163, #110, #130 and #141.
- For more information about local bus lines go to http://english.seoul.go.kr/residents/transport/trans_05bus.html.

*To pay subway and bus fares, rechargeable transport cards, T-Money cards, can be purchased in any subway station.

TRAIN

- Another safe and somewhat inexpensive way to get from city to city within Korea is by train.
- Seoul has three major train stations, with Seoul station being the main one.
- There are three types of trains in Korea; Korea Train Express (KTX) – the high-speed train, Saemaul – express, and Mugunghwa – semi-express.

3. Shop at flea markets. In flea markets, many handmade and home grown products can be found. You can get many unique pieces at these markets and for very cheap.

Markets in Seoul:

Namdaemun Market: <http://www.lifeinkorea.com/Travel2/4>

Dongdaemun Market: <http://www.lifeinkorea.com/Travel2/15>

Insa-dong Shopping Area: <http://www.lifeinkorea.com/travel2/seoul/9/>

4. Eat food from a street vendor. Food from street vendors may sound questionable, but it is often quite delicious. Do be cautious though, and wait until you have fully adjusted to local cuisine before trying street vendor food. Use your best judgment!

5. Walk and wander. Though riding public transit is part of the experience, walking is an adventure all in itself. You will come across a variety of shops, eateries, clubs, etc. You will find things you did not know existed. As well as discovering hidden treasures, exploration will help you better acquaint yourself to the city. In no time, you will be able to easily find your way around town and may even be comfortable enough to give directions to others. Then you will really feel like a local and less like a tourist or visitor.

These are just five simple actions you as a student can do to “fit-in” and learn about everyday life for locals in the city you are studying abroad in. These are cheap and easily accommodating ways to feel like a local on a student budget. When not popping around the city with a camera, take a break and do as the locals do.