

Korea K-ETA exemption 2027: Singapore travellers still donâ??t need one

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The Korea K-ETA exemption for 2027 is confirmed: South Koreaâ??s Ministry of Justice has extended the waiver by a year, to 31 December 2027. For Singapore travellers heading to Seoul, Busan or Jeju next year, that means no K-ETA application and no fee, as long as you are on the exempt list. The notice went up on the official K-ETA portal on 23 November 2026, so this is fresh.



Source: Korea Tourism Organization

Korea K-ETA exemption 2027: what the notice says

The Ministry of Justice describes the move as a one-year extension of the temporary exemption, part of its push to support the tourism industry. The new period runs from Friday 1 January 2027 to Friday 31 December 2027, Korean time. It covers the countries already on the exemption list today.

The notice does not name countries. It tells travellers to check inside the K-ETA application instead: scan the photo page of your passport, and a â??K-ETA exemptâ?• pop-up appears if your nationality qualifies. When we checked the official eligibility list in August, Singapore was named with a 90-day permitted stay.

That fits what we reported in our August guide on the Korea e-Arrival Card, when the waiver ran only to 31 December 2026. The date has now moved a full year.

What stays the same for Singapore passport holders

- Visa-free entry for short stays of less than 90 days, as stated by MFA Singapore
- No K-ETA needed while the exemption applies
- The free Korea e-Arrival Card, which is a separate system from K-ETA



Source: Korea Tourism Organization

The e-Arrival Card is filed online at e-arrivalcard.go.kr, and filing opens within three days before you arrive. It has no fee. The extension notice does not mention it, so nothing in this announcement removes the card requirement.

Travelling as a family or group? The official guide lets a smartphone filing cover up to nine people, and a PC group filing covers 2 to 1,000, so one person can do the whole table. After submission the card is valid for 72 hours, and you need a new one for every entry.

Use only that address. Koreaâ??s immigration service warned in March 2026 that fake websites were impersonating it, and any site asking for payment details for the card is not official.

Should you still apply for a K-ETA?

You can, if you want to. The notice says exempt nationals may still apply to get the benefits of holding one, such as skipping the separate arrival form, but the application fee is charged. When we looked in August, the fee was 10,000 won, about US$7 to US$8, and it is not refundable.

There is little reason to pay if you are happy filing the free e-Arrival Card once per trip. A K-ETA you already hold stays valid until its own expiry date, and its fee will not be refunded because of the extension.

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Source: Korea Tourism Organization

Planning your trip around the extension

The practical win is for early planners. Anyone booking spring blossom or summer trips can treat the paperwork as settled for all of 2027, rather than waiting to see if Korea reverses course in December like in earlier years. Policy can change, so check the K-ETA portal again closer to departure.

- Check your passport on the K-ETA applicationâ??s exemption pop-up if you are unsure.
- File the e-Arrival Card on the official site within three days before landing.

- Bookable fares: the Expedia DBS Travel Tuesday deals run today, 24 November, with a S$100 off S$550 offer for Japan, Korea and Thailand.

Leaving over the year-end holidays? Read our checkpoint traffic notes if you are also crossing into Johor, and keep the K-ETA portal page handy for the official wording.

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