KOREA + JAPAN · 2026.11.17 · A4 ONE SHEET · PRINT IT OR KEEP IT ON YOUR PHONE

Two Countries, One Sheet

The crossing, the two cards, the two refund systems, and the plug that does not fit.
Every price below was read on the operator's own page on 17 November 2026 — no estimates.

① The hop: five routes, priced the same day

There is no fast ferry any more. What is left is one overnight ship, three airport pairs and a shinkansen, and the cheapest of them is not the one that saves the most time.

Route	Time	Cheapest, Nov 2026	When it wins
Incheon → Narita (air)	2 h 28	LCC from ~$72 one way; return from $180	The lowest fare. Narita is 60–90 min from central Tokyo
Gimpo → Haneda (air)	2 h 05	From ~$117; full service ~$260	The hours back: 15 km from Gangnam, 14 km from central Tokyo
Busan → Fukuoka (air)	1 h 00	From ~$73 (₩88,099); 12 flights a day	A crossing in one day, with two subway stops at the far end
Busan → Hakata (ferry)	22:30 → 07:30	₩171,000 all-in (~$128) / ¥19,900 back	The night is your bed: nine hours, seven of them asleep
Hakata → Shin-Osaka (rail)	2 h 30	Nozomi ¥15,600; JR Pass is not worth it here	City centre to city centre, no airport at either end

② Two cards, two countries — they are not interchangeable

One card per country, bought on arrival. Neither one works on the other side of the sea.

	Korea	Japan
What to buy	T-money for everything, plus the Climate Card short-term pass if you spend 2+ days in Seoul	Welcome Suica (no deposit) or Mobile Suica on an iPhone; ICOCA if you land at Kansai
What it costs	Card ₩3,000–5,000. Climate Card: 1 day ₩5,000 · 3 days ₩10,000 · 5 days ₩15,000, plus a ₩3,000 card	From ¥1,000 loaded; Mobile Suica is free to issue and lasts 180 days
Reloading	Cash at the machine or the convenience store. A foreign card is refused for ordinary T-money	Cash at any ticket machine. Foreign cards often fail online top-ups
Airport train	AREX Express ₩13,000 (43 min, separate ticket) · all-stop ₩4,750 (59 min, T-money)	Skyliner ¥2,570 (41 min) · N'EX ¥3,070 (53 min) · Haruka ¥1,900 Osaka, ¥2,700 Kyoto
The limit that bites	The Climate Card cannot start at Incheon Airport stations; the 30-day pass ended Sep 2026	28-day tourist cards keep no change. Android Suica is not here until 2027

③ Tax back: the two systems now run in opposite directions

Korea still deducts at the till. Japan stopped on 1 November 2026: you pay the tax and claim it at the airport.

	Korea	Japan (purchases from 2026.11.01)
Where and when	At the till, before you pay, with the original passport	At a customs kiosk on departure, after you show the goods
Minimum	₩15,000 per receipt, one store; instant up to ₩1,000,000 per receipt and ₩5,000,000 per stay	¥5,000 per store per day, tax excluded; no ceiling, no category split any more
Deadline	Goods out of the country, unused, within 3 months	Customs check within 90 days of purchase
The trap	Asking after paying — the passport must be scanned before the payment completes	Checking the bag first. One missing item cancels the whole receipt

④ Four things that catch people

- The fast ferry is gone for good. The Queen Beetle stopped in August 2024 and JR Kyushu left the ferry business that December. The only ship to Fukuoka is the New Camellia — and it does not sail every day, so check the monthly calendar before you book anything with a cancellation fee.
- Google Maps will fail you in Korea. No walking, no driving directions. Use Naver Map, and search the Korean name; the English name often points at another branch.
- Two plugs. Korea is 220 V with round C/F pins; Japan is 100 V with flat A pins. A phone charger handles both; a hair dryer, an iron or a curling tong does not.
- Departure taxes. Japan now charges ¥3,000 International Tourist Tax on every departure, air or sea (since 1 July 2026). Korea charges ₩7,000 by air and ₩1,000 by sea.

⑤ Free web version, the full pack, and data for both countries

Web version — free
This sheet with live links, in English, Spanish and Chinese, plus the full fare tables.
zioion8-crypto.github.io/01/korea-japan

The 10–14 day pack — $14.99
Three day-by-day routes, the ferry step by step, booking order, refund walks.
zioion.gumroad.com/l/korea-japan-dual-trip-pack

Dual-country eSIM
One plan that works in Seoul and in Tokyo. Affiliate link — the price is the same.
klook.com/activity/109354

⑥ The first 90 minutes after you land

Korea	Japan	The ferry (Busan → Hakata)
① Convenience store in the arrivals hall: buy T-money (₩3,000–5,000) and load ₩10,000 in cash.	① Welcome Suica at the JR counter or a Keikyu machine (¥1,000 and up) — or issue Mobile Suica before you fly.	① Check-in at the Busan terminal, third floor, 16:30–18:30. Boarding closes at 20:00.
② AREX all-stop to Seoul Station, ₩4,750, 59 min — or Express ₩13,000, 43 min, if you sleep near Seoul Station.	② Skyliner ¥2,570 to Ueno (41 min), N'EX ¥3,070 to Tokyo Station (53 min); from Haneda the monorail takes 13 min.	② Eat before boarding. Take a small bag to the cabin and leave the suitcase in the cabin, not on a rack.
③ Check in, then stop spending on transport today: the Climate Card starts the day you charge it.	③ Finish Visit Japan Web if you have not — the same account runs the tax-refund check on the way out.	③ Immigration at Hakata from 07:30; the subway or a bus puts you at Hakata Station before 08:30.

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