

Culture shock



- ▶ **Top Ten Culture Shocks in Korea**
- ▶ or Nine Other Ways Korea Blew my Mind
- ▶ Since I've started writing about my experiences coming from the Philippines to Korea as an exchange student, I've only focused on the language barrier and the ways I've struggled to adapt in terms of using Korean daily. This time, looking back at my first two weeks here, I've decided to list down nine other ways I've experienced culture shock in Korea, specifically in Seoul, aside from the language.



▶ Seoul Subway System

- ▶ I used the Seoul Metro Subway System for the first time on my second day, and while I still need to get used to the different lines, locations, and exits, it has definitely been a change from the Ubers I would order or taxis I would hail in Manila whenever I had to go out of my way for a meeting or event. There is a network of lines and exits that go even beyond Seoul, and the trains arrive every 10 mins or so, reducing the possibility of a stampede, an inhumanely long line, or impossibly crowded trains during rush hour. There's nothing the subway can't reach, and if there is, there are always buses on the go. Of course there's a lot of walking that goes with using the subway, but that's part of the adventure—or you can think of it as an exercise.



- ▶ **The Internet**
- ▶ It's everywhere! Thanks to 24 hour stores and the Seoul Metro, there are wifi networks in nearly every corner of the city, powered by various service providers. Some networks require a purchase or an account, while others are free for public use. Then there's the option to avail of a data plan that connects to the Internet from anywhere—as long as there's signal.
- ▶ It's fast! I'll let the numbers talk.
- ▶

↔ **PING**

5

ms

↓ **DOWNLOAD**

29.22

Mbps

↑ **UPLOAD**

38.11

Mbps

▶ The Food

- ▶ I eat kimchi everyday now, and while most of my fellow exchange students are not yet used to the Korean flavors (or refuse to get used to it), I've enjoyed the food I've been able to taste so far—jajangmyeon (black bean noodles), samgyeopsal (literally three layers of fat) and other meats on the grill, chicken bokkeumbap (fried rice), chimdak (steamed chicken with noodles, red pepper, potatoes, and stir-fried rice cakes), gulgukbap (oysters in a rice broth), and bingsu (flavored ice shavings).



- ▶ **The Weather**

- ▶ Coming from a tropical, monsoon-ridden country, my fellow Filipino exchange students and I are grateful to have been greeted mostly by cool breeze and sunlight for the past two weeks. It has rained on occasion, but nothing compared to the typhoons back home. The friendly weather has allowed me to enjoy the views and locations I've been to so far in Seoul.

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Thanks for attention

