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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Forty-eighth session**  
**Busan, Republic of Korea**  
**19-29 July 2026**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY**

This document provides practical information regarding the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee that will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 29 July 2026 (registration, visas, travel and accommodation, etc.).

All information on the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee is also available on the following webpage:

<https://48whcbusan2026.kr>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	4
<b>2. PURPOSE</b>	4
<b>3. SESSION ORGANIZERS</b>	5
<b>4. SIDE EVENTS</b>	5
<b>5. PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION</b>	6
5.1 PARTICIPANTS	6
5.2 REGISTRATION	6
<b>6. PROTOCOL</b>	7
<b>7. PASSPORT AND VISA</b>	7
7.1 PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS	7
7.2 VISA REQUIREMENTS	7
7.3 e-ARRIVAL CARD (e-ENTRY DECLARATION)	8
<b>8. 48th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE</b>	8
8.1 CONFERENCE VENUE	8
8.2 TRANSPORTATION	8
8.3 ACCOMMODATION	12
8.4 REGISTRATION DESK AND DISTRIBUTION OF BADGES	12
8.5 BADGES	13
8.6 SERVICE AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS	13
8.7 MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS	13
8.8 PRAYER ROOM	13
8.9 BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETING ROOM	14
8.10 OPENING CEREMONY (RECEPTION PROGRAMME) AND CLOSING CEREMONY	14
8.11 HOST COUNTRY EVENT	14
<b>9. MEDIA</b>	14
9.1 ACCREDITATION, VISA AND CUSTOMS	14
9.2 MEDIA REGISTRATION AND SECURITY MEASURES	15
9.3 MEDIA CENTRE	15
9.4 PRESS CONFERENCE	15
9.5 PRESS MATERIAL	15
<b>10. WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' FORUM</b>	16
<b>11. WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' FORUM</b>	16
<b>12. REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	17
12.1 CLIMATE	18
12.2 TIME ZONE	18

<b>12.3</b>	<b>BUSAN</b> .....	18
<b>12.4</b>	<b>CURRENCY &amp; EXCHANGE</b> .....	19
<b>12.5</b>	<b>GRATUITIES</b> .....	19
<b>12.6</b>	<b>ELECTRICITY SUPPLY</b> .....	19
<b>12.7</b>	<b>SMOKING /CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR</b> .....	19
<b>12.8</b>	<b>TELEPHONE &amp; MOBILE</b> .....	19
<b>12.9</b>	<b>USEFUL &amp; EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS</b> .....	19
<b>12.10</b>	<b>MEDICAL CARE</b> .....	20
<b>13.</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b> .....	20
	<b>ANNEXURE 1: List of Recommended Hotels</b> .....	21



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Busan, Republic of Korea, has been chosen to host the 48th session of the Committee from 19 to 29 July 2026.

This prestigious event brings together delegates from across the globe to discuss and collaborate on preserving our shared cultural, natural and mixed heritage. The meeting is a significant step towards fostering global cooperation and ensuring the protection of our World Heritage properties.

The present information document provides a general introduction to the participants of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee. The practical information included in the document intends to ensure that the participants have all the required information to conveniently plan and realize their visit to the host country, the Republic of Korea. Kindly be reminded that the official website <https://48whcbusan2026.kr> and the organizers of the 48th session of the Committee are ready to assist you, if you have any further questions.

## 2. PURPOSE

The World Heritage Committee comprises representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention elected by the General Assembly of UNESCO.

Current members of the World Heritage Committee since the elections held during the 25th session of the General Assembly of UNESCO (Samarkand/UNESCO, November 2025), are as follows:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Czechia
- Grenada
- Jamaica
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Mongolia
- Peru
- Poland
- Republic of Korea
- Senegal
- Switzerland
- Togo
- Türkiye
- Ukraine
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Viet Nam

### Bureau Members

**Chairperson:** H.E. Mr. Lee Byong Hyun (Republic of Korea)

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Ashley Jones (Jamaica)

**Vice-Chairpersons:** Jamaica, Lebanon, Senegal, Türkiye, Ukraine

For further information, please visit <https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/>

The essential functions of the Committee are:

- a) To monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, in liaison with States Parties; decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger; decide whether a property may be deleted from the World Heritage List;

- b) To identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List;
- c) To examine requests for International Assistance financed by the World Heritage Fund.

All Working and Information Documents corresponding to the items inscribed on the provisional Agenda of the 48th session will be published and made accessible on the dedicated webpage on the World Heritage Centre's website at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM> as they become available.

### **3. SESSION ORGANIZERS**

The Korea Heritage Service is the nodal agency to host the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2026.

For specific requests to the organizers, please find below the relevant contacts:

**Host country:**

Host Country Secretariat for the 48th World Heritage Committee  
Korea Heritage Service  
Republic of Korea  
<https://48whcbusan2026.kr>

**UNESCO:**

World Heritage Centre  
[wh-info@unesco.org](mailto:wh-info@unesco.org)

### **4. SIDE EVENTS**

For organizing any kind of side event, the requests are to be submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat focal point, Ms Caroline Varnet ([c.varnet@unesco.org](mailto:c.varnet@unesco.org)) **by 12 June 2026 at the latest**.

The requester will be required to submit a form with details regarding the type of event or exhibition the country/institution would like to organize, indicating the characteristics of the required space as well as catering and technical needs.

After receiving clearance from the Secretariat, the requester will be put in contact with the host country organizers for any relevant information and details concerning the logistical aspects of the organization of the event (technical assistance, catering, etc.). Please note that the organizers reserve the right to indicate the space in which the requested event will take place. Though substantial, the space available at the Venue is limited and it may occur that the organizers may not be able to accept all applications for side events.

Please note that side events cannot be guaranteed if the requests are received by the Secretariat after the above-mentioned deadline.

For more information/queries regarding the logistical aspects of side events at the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, please contact the organizers at the following email address: [sideevents@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:sideevents@48whc2026busan.kr).

## 5. PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

### 5.1 PARTICIPANTS

There are **21 States Parties that are members of the World Heritage Committee** and are the main participants of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The **States Parties to the Convention**, which are not members of the Committee, may attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

**Non-States Parties to the Convention**, which are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may also be permitted by the Committee, upon written request, to attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (**ICCROM**), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (**ICOMOS**), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) may attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system as well as, **upon written request at least 15 days prior to the beginning of the session** of the Committee (i.e., **3 July 2026 at the latest**), other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, according to criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee, may be authorized by the Committee to participate in the sessions of the Committee as Observers.

### 5.2 REGISTRATION

**All participation requests** shall be submitted **online**.

To register, please follow the instructions at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM> using the **registration code provided in the invitation letter** addressed to either the Permanent Delegation, National Commission or your organization. If you have not received the registration code, please contact your Permanent Delegation to UNESCO or National Commission for UNESCO.

Once you have registered online (Step 1) and your participation has been approved, you will receive an email confirming your registration and you will be redirected to the host country's website to finalize logistics details of your participation (Step 2). Should you require any assistance, encounter any difficulties with the online registration process, or if you have not received a confirmation e-mail, please reach out by using the contact form available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>.

Note that UNESCO does not charge any fee at any stage of the registration process for World Heritage Committee sessions.

For Media registration please refer to Section 9 below.

All delegates and those who wish to attend the 48th session as observers are kindly advised to register as soon as possible and **preferably by 10 June 2026**. This will allow the session organizers sufficient time to process the information and make the necessary arrangements.

Please see further details under Section 7.2. on Visa Requirements.

For more information regarding Step 2 of the Registration process, please contact the organizers at: [registration@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:registration@48whc2026busan.kr).

## 6. PROTOCOL

The host country is in charge of all matters relating to protocol and the reception of VIPs invited for the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, in coordination with UNESCO. For further information and necessary arrangements, please send an email at: [protocol@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:protocol@48whc2026busan.kr).

Please make sure to contact the host country as soon as possible for them to consider your requests and grant visa issuance.

## 7. PASSPORT AND VISA

### 7.1 PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

All participants in the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee are required to possess an international passport, which:

- a) expires at least 6 months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Republic of Korea or in case of multiple visits - after the last scheduled date of departure from the territory of the Republic of Korea (passport expiration requirements may vary by the nationality);
- b) contains at least 2 blank pages for visa purposes;
- c) has been issued within the last 10 years.

### 7.2 VISA REQUIREMENTS

Only registered persons will be eligible to apply for visas, where required, and to enter the territory of the host country to attend the Committee session. Please note that the visa delivery process is entirely managed by the authorities of the Republic of Korea.

Please note that once you have registered online via UNESCO website and your participation to the 48th session has been approved, you will receive an email confirming your registration, and you will be redirected to the host country's website to proceed with the visa process. Note that applications for visa are not processed through the UNESCO website.

You are encouraged to keep a printout of the email confirming your registration, which would be considered as a proof of attendance/invitation to participate in this event in the Republic of Korea.

Participants traveling to the Republic of Korea for the 48th session of the Committee are advised to contact as early as possible the nearest diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic of Korea in their country of residence or <https://www.visa.go.kr/main/openMain.do> to check the entry requirements for the Republic of Korea applicable to the nationality and type of passport they hold, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Justice. Participants for the 48th session of the Committee are required to apply for **C-3-1 (Short-term General) visa**.

All persons entitled to participate in the Meeting will benefit from a waiver of visa fees.

**The time frame for obtaining the visa is estimated to be between 2 weeks and 3 weeks from the date the application is submitted to the consulate.**

All visa (entry) policies for every type of passport can be found at: <https://www.visa.go.kr/main/openMain.do>

K-ETA is not required for participants of this event<sup>1</sup>. You only need to check the visa requirements.

### 7.3 e-ARRIVAL CARD (e-ENTRY DECLARATION)

For convenient and expedited entry procedures, the Republic of Korea operates the e-Arrival Card system, which allows travellers to submit their arrival information online in advance, starting three days prior to the date of entry.

Detailed information is available on the following website:

<https://www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr/portal/guide/eacGuide.do>

## 8. 48th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The dedicated webpages for the 48th session of the Committee can be found at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM> and at <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/WHC>.

All relevant information for the session including the registration page, documents, provisional schedules for certain agenda items will be regularly updated at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>.

All participants as well as the general public can follow the daily working sessions throughout the duration of the 48th session via livestream, which will be aired in English and French through <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>. There is no limit on the number of people who can follow the livestream nor registration of any kind required.

### 8.1 CONFERENCE VENUE

The 48th session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 29 July 2026 at the following Venue:

#### **BEXCO**

#55 APEC-ro, Haeundae-gu, 48060 Busan

<https://www.bexco.co.kr/eng/Main.do>

For more information/queries regarding Venue and logistic/technical issues, please contact the organizers at: [venue@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:venue@48whc2026busan.kr).

Parking at BEXCO: <https://www.bexco.co.kr/eng/CMS/Contents/Contents.do?mCode=MN023>

Please note that complimentary parking is not available.

### 8.2 TRANSPORTATION

Participants can reach Busan mainly by flight arriving at (1) Gimhae International Airport (PUS), (2) Incheon International Airport (ICN), (3) Gimpo International Airport (GMP).

(1) From Gimhae International Airport to BEXCO:

Participants arriving at Gimhae International Airport may travel to BEXCO by the following

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the authorities of the Republic of Korea draw attention to the fact that participants with a history of K-ETA denial or denial of entry into the Republic of Korea may be required to obtain a visa.

options:

a) by subway:

Take the Busan–Gimhae Line Transit from Gimhae International Airport Station to Sasang Station, then transfer to Busan Metro Line 2 and continue to Centum City Station (Exit 1). BEXCO is located within a short walking distance from the station. Travel time is approximately 55–60 minutes, and the fare is approximately KRW 2,300.

b) by taxi:

Take a taxi directly from Gimhae International Airport to BEXCO. Taxis are available at the designated taxi stands outside the arrival hall. Participants may also use taxi-hailing apps such as Uber or Kakao T.

Travel time is approximately 30–40 minutes, depending on traffic conditions, and the fare is approximately KRW 20,000–30,000.

c) by Airport Limousine Bus:

Participants can take the Airport Limousine Bus (To Haeundae/Gijang Line) from the bus stop located outside the International and Domestic Terminals (Platform 3, Floor 1). This service is recommended for participants with large luggage. Travel time is approximately 50–60 minutes to the BEXCO/Centum City stop. Buses run every 60 minutes from 07:10 to 21:40. The fare is KRW 9,500

d) by City bus:

Participants may take City Bus No. 307 from the airport and travel to the BEXCO area. Travel time is approximately 70–90 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The fare is approximately KRW 1,550. Please note that large luggage or carriers are generally not permitted on buses.

e) Complimentary Shuttle Bus:

The Organizers will operate a complimentary shuttle bus service from Gimhae Airport to recommended hotels. For detailed information, including the timetable and pick-up locations, please refer to the official website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/shuttlebus>

(2) From Incheon International Airport to BEXCO:

Participants arriving via Incheon International Airport may travel to Busan through the following two main options. As the meeting takes place during a peak domestic travel season in Korea, participants are strongly advised to reserve train tickets or domestic flights to Busan in advance

① From Incheon International Airport to Busan Station:

Take the Airport Railroad (AREX) to Seoul Station, then transfer to a KTX train to Busan Station. Train reservations are available from 1 month prior to the travel date and can be made at the following website: <https://www.korail.com/global/eng/intro>

Alternatively, participants may travel from Gwangmyeong Station to Busan Station by KTX.

<https://www.korail.com/global/eng/main>

[https://www.korail.com/docs/foreign/city\\_airport\\_terminal\\_guidebook\\_en.pdf](https://www.korail.com/docs/foreign/city_airport_terminal_guidebook_en.pdf)

Please note that no Welcome Desk will be operated at Gwangmyeong Station.

② From Incheon International Airport to Gimhae Airport by domestic flight:

Travel to Incheon International Airport by airport bus or AREX, then take a domestic flight to Gimhae International Airport. Please refer to the local transportation mentioned above from Gimhae International Airport to Bexco.

③ From Busan Station to BEXCO:

Participants may travel from Busan Station to BEXCO by the following public transportation options:

a) by subway:

Take Busan Metro Line 1 from Busan Station to Seomyeon Station, then transfer to Busan Metro Line 2 and continue to Centum City Station (Exit 1). BEXCO is located within a short walking distance from the station.

Travel time is approximately 45 minutes, and the fare is approximately KRW 1,600-1,800.

b) by taxi:

Take a taxi directly from Busan Station to BEXCO. Taxis are readily available at the taxi stands outside the station. Participants may also use taxi apps such as Uber or Kakao T.

Travel time is approximately 30–40 minutes, depending on traffic conditions, and the fare is approximately KRW 15,000–20,000.

c) by bus:

Participants may take Express Bus No. 1001 or City Bus No. 40 from the bus stop near Busan Station and travel to the BEXCO bus stop.

Travel time is approximately 30–50 minutes, depending on the route and traffic conditions. The fare is approximately KRW 1,550 (city bus) or KRW 2,100 (express bus).

Please note that large luggage or carriers are generally not permitted on buses.

d) Complimentary Shuttle Bus:

The Organizers will operate a complimentary shuttle bus service from Busan Station to recommended hotels. For detailed information, including the timetable and pick-up locations, please refer to the official website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/shuttlebus>

(3) From Gimpo International Airport to BEXCO:

① From Gimpo International Airport to Gimhae International Airport by domestic flight:

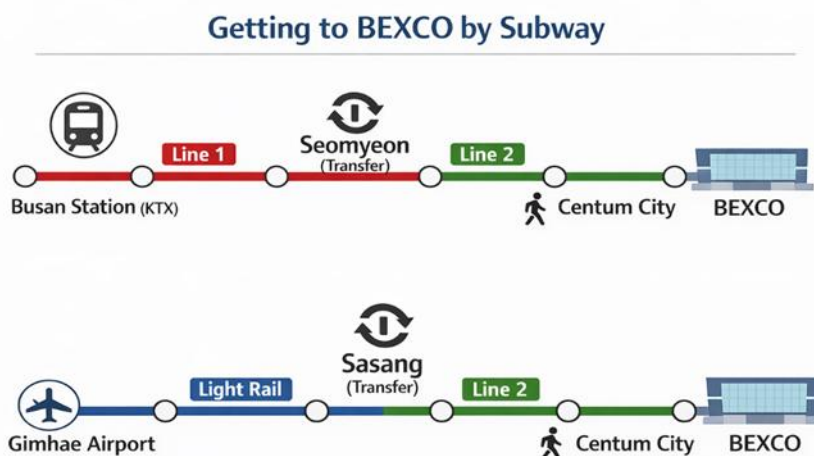
Travel to Gimpo International Airport by airport bus or AREX, then take a domestic flight to Gimhae International Airport. Please refer to the local transportation mentioned above from Gimhae International Airport to Bexco.

② From Gimpo International Airport to Busan Station:

Take the Airport Railroad (AREX) to Seoul Station, then transfer to a KTX train to Busan Station. Train reservations are available from 1 month prior to the travel date and can be made at the following website: <https://www.korail.com/global/eng/intro>

③ From Busan Station to BEXCO:

Please refer to the local transportation mentioned above from Busan Station to Bexco.



For public transportation, participants are recommended to purchase a ticket or use a Korean transportation card. Cash payments can be restricted on some public transport. There are chargeable pre-paid cards that do not require an account (WOWPASS, Tmoney Card, EZL Card). For further information please refer to the below websites:

WOWPASS: <https://www.wowpass.io/en>

Tmoney Card: <https://eng.tmoney.co.kr>

EZL Card: <https://www.myezl.com>

## Welcome Desk

To assist participants attending the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, clearly indicated Airport Welcome desks will be set up at Airports (Gimhae, Incheon, Gimpo) and Train stations (Seoul, Busan) **from 17 July to 26 July 2026**.

At these desks, participants will be able to receive the following information:

- Gimhae Airport / Busan Station: General information and complimentary shuttle guidance
- Gimpo / Incheon Airport / Seoul Station: General information and transportation guidance to Busan

The desks will operate from **09:00 to 18:00**; outside these hours, participants are advised to use the general information desks. The exact locations of the Welcome Desks will be available on the following website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/>

## Shuttle Services

Complimentary Shuttle services will be provided to participants from Gimhae Airport and Busan Station to the selected spots including the hotels and the session Venue from **18 to 30 July 2026** and participants may avail this service.

Detailed information on the complimentary shuttle routes and schedules is available on the following website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/shuttlebus>

Participants who would prefer to rent their own vehicle may arrange it themselves with one of the many international or local transportation companies. Links to several car rental websites are provided below:

- Lotte Rent-A-Car: <https://www.lotterentacar.net/hp/eng/reservation/index.do?LANG=en>
- SK Rent-A-Car: <https://homepage.skdirect.co.kr/en>
- Seoul Private Driver: <https://seoulprivatedriver.com/car-rental-with-driver-busan/>

This information is provided for the convenience of participants, and terms may vary by company.

Participants are encouraged to use the **Kakao Map** or **Naver Map** mobile apps for directions and transportation information.

### 8.3 ACCOMMODATION

The participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. Please be advised that access to the hotel reservation system and special rates is available only to participants who have successfully completed the UNESCO online registration and received approval.

For your convenience, organizers have agreed on special rates with a list of hotels and have reserved a certain number of rooms for the duration of the Committee meeting. This list of **recommended hotels** can be found at in Annexure 1 of the present document and at <https://48whcbusan2026.kr>.

As the meeting takes place during a peak domestic travel season in Korea, participants are strongly advised to reserve hotel in advance. The hotel rates are offered on a room-only basis as standard (VAT included). The breakfast rate for guests will be provided at time of booking. Preferential pricing will be offered for banquet held by participants. Terms vary by hotel; please check before booking. Kindly visit the official website <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/accommodation> for further details on accommodation.

Please note that the **recommended hotel** special rates will be **valid from 20 May to 1 July 2026**, so please make sure that you visit the website and make your reservation before then.

As availability at some hotels may be limited and reservations may close early, participants are encouraged to make their reservations as early as possible.

Participants in the 48th session are encouraged to bring with them a printed copy of the confirmation email they received, should it be requested while checking-in at their hotel, to ensure they benefit from the special rate.

A **complimentary shuttle bus service** will be provided between the **recommended hotels** and **BEXCO**, **unless stated in the annexure**.

Should you face any problems or may have any questions concerning accommodation, please contact: [accommodation@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:accommodation@48whc2026busan.kr).

### 8.4 REGISTRATION DESK AND DISTRIBUTION OF BADGES

Registration is mandatory for all participants.

An on-site registration with badge distribution desk shall be situated at the entrance of the session Venue.

From 18 to 28 July 2026, the desk shall be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All participants are encouraged to present themselves at the on-site badge collection desk with a valid ID (Passport) at BEXCO, before the Opening Ceremony of the World Heritage Committee on 19 July 2026 to allow a smooth entry to the event.

A welcome package with an information dossier about the 48th session will be provided at the time of registration. Please note that, due to safety reasons and the expected number of visitors, the process of registration and receiving your badge may be time-consuming. For this reason, early registration is strongly encouraged.

## **8.5 BADGES**

Every participant must be in possession of the personal security photo identification badge (ID), which shall be issued at the registration desk.

These ID badges are non-transferable.

For security purposes, the badge must be always worn in a visible way to gain entry to the session Venue, to attend meetings and to participate in other activities, such as opening and closing ceremonies. Access to the meeting will be denied to any individual who is not officially accredited.

## **8.6 SERVICE AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS**

The delegates lounge with computers, internet access and printing facilities shall be available at the session Venue. Technical staff shall be on site to assist participants. Free wireless Internet connection shall always be provided in the entire Venue.

## **8.7 MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS**

During the sessions, coffee, tea, water, and light refreshments will be served at the Delegates lounge next to the main plenary hall.

For full meals, several dining options are available within and around the Venue:

- BEXCO On-site Dining: A food court and several restaurants are located on the basement level (B1) of the BEXCO Main Exhibition Center, offering a convenient variety of dishes;
- Adjacent Shopping Districts: Within a 5-minute walking distance, you can find major department stores and a large-scale supermarket (hypermarket). These facilities feature extensive food halls, premium restaurants, and cafes that cater to various tastes and budgets.

Detailed information on available dining establishments, including halal and vegan options, is provided on the host country website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/sessionvenue>.

## **8.8 PRAYER ROOM**

Prayer Room will be at participants' disposal during the entire Committee session. Additional information regarding the location of the prayer room is available on the host country website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/sessionvenue>.

## 8.9 BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETING ROOM

A total of seven (7) meeting rooms (three bilateral and four multilateral) will be available for use by participants during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee. Detailed information on the location of the meeting rooms and their respective seating capacities is available on the host country website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/meetingroom>.

Please note that reservations for bilateral and multilateral meeting rooms may only be made on-site, subject to availability.

On-site reservation requests may be submitted at the meeting room registration desk.

## 8.10 OPENING CEREMONY (RECEPTION PROGRAMME) AND CLOSING CEREMONY

The Opening ceremony shall be held on 19 July 2026 at BEXCO. The participants are required to register and collect their respective badges beforehand from the on-site registration desk at the Venue to attend the ceremony.

The Closing ceremony shall be held on 28 July 2026 at BEXCO.

Detailed programme for both the ceremonies will be provided on the host country website: <https://48whcbusan2026.kr> or contact [ceremony@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:ceremony@48whc2026busan.kr) for further information.

## 8.11 HOST COUNTRY EVENT

The Host Country is pleased to offer a variety of special programmes for participants of the 48th session. These include special exhibitions, cultural performances, and guided tours designed to showcase the rich World Heritage of the Republic of Korea.

Detailed information, including specific schedules and registration procedures, will be updated and announced on the official website <https://48whcbusan2026.kr> in due course. Participants are encouraged to visit the website regularly for further announcements.

# 9. MEDIA

## 9.1 ACCREDITATION, VISA AND CUSTOMS

**Accreditation is mandatory** for media representatives who wish to cover the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee and should be completed in advance.

To be accredited, the following steps should be followed:

- a) Each media professional seeking accreditation should register through the link provided in the press invitation to the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee;
- b) Once media representatives have registered online and their participation has been approved, they will receive an email confirming their registration and they will be redirected to the host country's website to finalize logistics details of their participation;
- c) All media-related inquiries should be sent to [whcpress2026@unesco.org](mailto:whcpress2026@unesco.org);
- d) Please take note of the need to declare all media equipment at Customs upon arrival;
- e) Media representatives requiring an official invitation letter for visa purposes should follow the instructions provided after their accreditation has been approved. Additional

supporting documents, such as a copy of passport, press card, or confirmation of approved accreditation, may be required;

- f) Please note that media equipment may be subject to customs declaration upon arrival. Media representatives bringing professional broadcasting, photography, or filming equipment into the Republic of Korea are responsible for complying with applicable customs procedures;
- g) The use of drones for filming or photography is prohibited without prior authorization from the relevant authorities of the Government of the Republic of Korea. Media representatives wishing to use drones must obtain all necessary flight and filming approvals in advance.

## **9.2 MEDIA REGISTRATION AND SECURITY MEASURES**

A special desk will be reserved for the registration of media representatives in the main registration area at the Venue. The hours of registration will be the same as for all other participants (please see section 8.4 above).

Please note that your application for accreditation must be received and approved before you register on site. Media representatives who did not complete the online process before going to the accreditation desk will be required to complete it onsite and obtain approval in order to receive their badge. Part of the registration procedure will be to obtain your personal accreditation/security badge at the media registration desk.

Media representatives may be required to present the following documents at the media registration desk to collect their personal accreditation badge:

- a) Passport or government-issued photo ID;
- b) Press card or equivalent media identification;
- c) Confirmation email of approved online accreditation.

Accreditation badges are to be worn visibly at all times to gain access to the Venue and must be presented upon request to security personnel. Accreditation badges are not transferable. Access to the session Venue will be denied to any individual who uses the badge improperly.

Please be advised that security personnel may verify that equipment taken into the session Venue is used for its intended purpose. Kindly allow sufficient time in your schedule to pass the security checks.

## **9.3 MEDIA CENTRE**

A Media Centre will be made available at the Venue as a space with workstations for all media to cover the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Journalists will also have access to the Internet and a printer.

## **9.4 PRESS CONFERENCE**

Press conferences will take place in a dedicated space at the Venue and only accredited media will have access to the press conferences.

## **9.5 PRESS MATERIAL**

Official press releases, photographs and live streaming of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee will be regularly updated and available to download at:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>

A technical briefing for media representatives will be held prior to the session in order to review media protocols and conduct of business of the World Heritage Committee. Media briefings might be held to provide information on proceedings or decisions taken by the Committee and press releases will be issued regularly during the session. The proceedings will also be livestreamed on the website of the session at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM> in English and French.

UNESCO's press officers will be present at the Media Centre during the session. In case of additional questions related to media, you may contact the following email addresses:

- a) Host country: [media@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:media@48whc2026busan.kr)
- b) UNESCO Press Office: Ms Monia Adjiwanou: [m.adjiwanou@unesco.org](mailto:m.adjiwanou@unesco.org)

## 10. WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' FORUM

As an integral part of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, and in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the host country, through the Korea Heritage Service (KHS) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), will host the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026 under the theme of **'World Heritage, Communities and Education: Empowering Youth as Agents of Change'** from 13 to 21 July 2026, in Seoul and Busan.

The Forum serves as a platform by bringing young people and heritage experts together to foster intercultural learning and exchange.

Through exchanges with local and international experts, and through a combination of presentations, discussions, collaborative working sessions and site visits at World Heritage properties in the Republic of Korea, participants will explore the role of communities, youth and education in World Heritage conservation.

In particular, the Forum will address how community knowledge and participation can support conservation and management practices; how education, research and learning can contribute to informed decision-making and effective site management; and how young people can act as active members of communities, mediators and contributors to inclusive and sustainable World Heritage governance.

Concluding the Forum, the young professionals will collectively deliver their "Declaration" to the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

For more information, please visit: [Call for Applications: World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026](#)

## 11. WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' FORUM

As an integral part of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, the host country, together with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the ICCROM-IUCN World Heritage Leadership programme, will organise the 8th World Heritage Site Managers' Forum. Under the theme, **'Connection and Communication: Participatory Approaches to Managing World Heritage'**, site managers from across the globe will meet from 16 to 23 July 2026 in Busan. Through this edition of the Forum, participants will have the opportunity to learn about participatory approaches covering the following main topics:

- a) Sustainable management of World Heritage through inclusive and people-centred approaches;
- b) Integrated governance of World Heritage properties;

- c) Decision-making based on research and data for public awareness in conservation and management;
- d) Coordinated risk management for heritage and people; and
- e) Communicating and nurturing heritage values for revitalizing local communities.

Connection and communication are fundamental for the effective management of World Heritage. States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are encouraged to adopt human-rights based and people-centred approaches to ensure the participation of a wide variety of actors in the identification, nomination, management and protection processes of World Heritage properties. To enable meaningful involvement of rights-holders and all stakeholders, establishing well-connected governance arrangements are essential. Connection and communication serve as a key to foster participation, raise awareness, while also ensuring inclusive engagement in decision-making. Together, integrated management systems and strategic communication support governance, collective responsibility, and sustainable outcomes.

The World Heritage property of Petroglyphs along the Bangucheon Stream will be used as a case study during the working sessions, where participants will have the opportunity to learn about its management in line with the Forum theme. Site visits to other World Heritage properties near Busan, such as Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong, Gyeongju Historic Areas and Gaya Tumuli, are also foreseen.

Building on the discussions held during the Forum, the site managers will deliver their Declaration to the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

For more information, please visit: [Call for Applications to the 8th World Heritage Site Managers' Forum](#)

## **12. REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

The Republic of Korea is a country where tradition and modernity coexist in dynamic harmony. With a population of approximately 52 million people across 17 metropolitan cities and provinces, Korea is recognized globally for its advanced industries, technological innovation, and vibrant cultural life. At the same time, the country maintains a rich cultural landscape shaped by centuries of history and regionally distinct traditions in arts, cuisine, architecture, and community life. These cultural characteristics are reflected not only in historic monuments and landscapes but also in living traditions that continue to play an important role in contemporary Korean society. More information about Korea's culture and society can be found at the official government portal: <https://www.korea.net>.

The Republic of Korea ratified the World Heritage Convention in September 1988 and has since actively participated in the work of UNESCO. With its rich history and heritage, the Republic of Korea has been an active contributor to the World Heritage Convention, ensuring the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of all its World Heritage properties, securing their effective transmission to future generations and the upholding of the statutes of the World Heritage Convention.

The country has served as Vice-Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for 15 sessions between 1997 and 2017. As of today, the Republic of Korea has 17 properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and 13 properties on its Tentative List, representing a wide range of Korean history and cultural traditions. Beyond its heritage sites, Korea has also become an increasingly attractive destination for international visitors seeking both cultural depth and modern experiences. Historic cities, traditional villages, scenic landscapes, and world-class cultural events offer diverse opportunities for visitors to engage with Korean heritage and contemporary culture. The Government of Korea continues to promote sustainable tourism and cultural exchange, ensuring that visitors can experience Korea's

unique heritage while safeguarding these valuable resources for future generations. Additional travel information is available through the Korea Tourism Organization at <https://english.visitkorea.or.kr>

#### Useful Travel Links:

Visitors wishing to explore the Republic of Korea may find the following official websites helpful for travel information, cultural attractions, and practical guidance.

- Official Government Portal of Korea: <https://www.korea.net>
- Korea Tourism Organization (Visit Korea): <https://english.visitkorea.or.kr>
- Busan Tourism Organization (Visit Busan): <https://www.visitbusan.net/en/index.do>
- Seoul Tourism Organization: <https://english.visitseoul.net>

### **12.1 CLIMATE**

A distinct four-season climate is characteristic; summer (June–August) is generally hot and humid due to the East Asian monsoon, with average temperatures of approximately 28–33°C (82.4-91.4 °F) and a significant proportion of the annual rainfall occurring during this period.

### **12.2 TIME ZONE**

The Republic of Korean Standard Time (KST) is 9 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +9:00). A single national time zone is observed throughout the country, and Daylight-Saving Time is not applied.

### **12.3 BUSAN**

Busan, the Republic of Korea's second-largest city and home to the country's busiest port, is a city of approximately 3.3 million residents, characterized by a distinctive urban structure where coastal scenery, mountainous landscapes, and vibrant urban spaces exist in harmonious balance. As a leading maritime and logistics hub in Northeast Asia, Busan has developed into a center of global trade and the maritime economy. As a gateway connecting Asia with the wider world, the city offers an open and dynamic environment where diverse cultures and people come together, making it a vibrant venue for a wide range of international events.

During the Korean War, Busan served as the provisional capital of the Republic of Korea. Even in the midst of a national crisis, the city welcomed and sheltered countless refugees, sustaining the nation through international solidarity and humanitarian assistance, and demonstrating the values of humanitarian action and the pursuit of peace. Sites of the Busan Wartime Capital included in the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Site in 2023, remains embedded within the daily life of Busan's citizens, continuing to preserve and convey its historical significance. For more information on the Heritage of Busan as the Wartime Capital during the Korean War, please visit: [https://www.busan.go.kr/wartime\\_capital](https://www.busan.go.kr/wartime_capital)

Busan is also an international tourism city where beautiful coastal scenery blends seamlessly with a vibrant urban culture. Haeundae Beach and Gwangalli Beach are world-renowned seaside destinations, while Taejongdae - famous for its dramatic cliffs overlooking the sea - and Gamcheon Culture Village, known for its colorful hillside houses, are among the city's most iconic attractions visited by travellers from around the world.

The city has also established itself as a premier destination for marine leisure activities, including yachting and surfing. From local restaurants preserving traditional ingredients and

culinary heritage to establishments recognized by the Michelin Guide, Busan offers visitors rich opportunities to experience both refined gastronomy and vibrant local culture.

For more information about visiting Busan, the host city of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, please visit the Busan Tourism Portal where information is available in Korean, English, Japanese, and Chinese: [www.visitbusan.net](http://www.visitbusan.net)

#### **12.4 CURRENCY & EXCHANGE**

The official currency of the Republic of Korea is the Korean Won (KRW). Banknotes in circulation are in denominations of KRW 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 50,000, while coins are issued in denominations of KRW 10, 50, 100, and 500. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted nationwide; however, cash payment may be required at some small businesses or in certain local areas. Currency exchange services are available at airports, banks, major hotels, and designated exchange counters. Cash withdrawals can be made through ATMs.

#### **12.5 GRATUITIES**

Gratuities are not customary in the Republic of Korea. In most cases, service charges are already included in the prices at restaurants, cafés, taxis, and hotels, and no additional gratuities are expected. In some high-end hotels or tourism services, a service charge may already be included, or a small voluntary gratuity may be given for exceptional service; however, this is not mandatory.

#### **12.6 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

The standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 60Hz. Type C or Type F (European-style) plugs are used. Visitors bringing electronic devices from abroad are advised to check voltage compatibility and plug types in advance and to prepare a transformer or adapter if necessary.

#### **12.7 SMOKING /CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR**

Smoking is prohibited in most indoor public spaces. Restrictions apply in government buildings, public facilities, restaurants, cafés, public transportation, and at transit stops, and smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas. Violations of these regulations may result in fines; participants are therefore requested to observe on-site signage and comply with applicable regulations.

Alcoholic beverages may be purchased by persons aged 19 and over at convenience stores, supermarkets, restaurants, and bars. While drinking in public is generally permitted, driving under the influence is subject to legal penalties when the blood alcohol concentration reaches 0.03% or higher.

#### **12.8 TELEPHONE & MOBILE**

Short-term SIM cards or e-SIMs may be purchased or rented at airports or city outlets upon presentation of identification, and messaging applications such as WhatsApp, Signal, and KakaoTalk can be used for text, voice, and video communication.

#### **12.9 USEFUL & EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

- Country Code: +82
- Police: 112
- Fire: 119

- Ambulance: 119
- Disaster Management Service: 119
- Women Helpline: 1366
- Tourist Helpline: 1330

#### **12.10 MEDICAL CARE**

The Republic of Korea has a well-developed medical infrastructure, with general hospitals and specialized medical clinics operating nationwide. Some hospitals provide medical services in foreign languages, including English, for international patients. Medical fees vary depending on the hospital and type of treatment and are payable at the time of service by cash or credit card.

At the session Venue, the organizers will provide first aid services; however, all other medical services are not included.

Participants are responsible for all medical expenses incurred during their stay in the Republic of Korea and are strongly advised to obtain travel insurance in their home country that covers medical costs for the entire duration of travel. The host country assumes no responsibility for participants' travel or medical insurance expenses.

### **13. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For further information about the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Convention, please see the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website at <https://whc.unesco.org>.

For all questions of organizational nature concerning the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the session organizers: [info@48whc2026busan.kr](mailto:info@48whc2026busan.kr).

**Recipients are advised to be vigilant against scam emails impersonating the Host Country Secretariat for the 48th World Heritage Committee or UNESCO.**

## ANNEXURE 1: List of Recommended Hotels

(Note: The hotel list may be subject to changes and updates. These will be reflected on the website at <https://48whcbusan2026.kr/accommodation>)

### <Centum Area>

	Hotel Category	Hotel Name	Address	Telephone No	Price Range (KRW)	Distance from Venue	Nearest Metro Station
1.	4-Star /Similar	Centum Business Hotel	17 Centum 1-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-731-6100	150,000-347,000	5 mins on foot	Centum City Station (Line 2)
2.	4-Star /Similar	Centum Premier Hotel	17 Centum 1-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-755-9000	150,000-321,000	5 mins on foot	Centum City Station (Line 2)
3.	Residence	Travelodge Suites Busan Centum	21 APEC-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-1811-8394	185,000-235,000	8 mins on foot	Centum City Station (Line 2)
4.	4-Star /Similar	Haeundae Centum Hotel	20 Centum 3-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-720-9000	194,000	3 mins on foot	Centum City Station (Line 2)

### <Haeundae Area>

	Hotel Category	Hotel Name	Address	Telephone No	Price Range (KRW)	Distance from Venue	Nearest Metro Station
5.	5-Star	Signiel Busan	30, Dalmaji-gil, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-922-1000	363,000-1,028,500	20 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)
6.	5-Star	The Westin Josun Busan	67 Dongbaek-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-749-7000	495,500-616,600	15 mins by car	Dongbaek Station (Line 2)
7.	5-Star	Paradise Hotel Busan	296, Haeundae Haeyeon-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-742-2121	410,900-866,500	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)

	Hotel Category	Hotel Name	Address	Telephone No	Price Range (KRW)	Distance from Venue	Nearest Metro Station
8.	5-Star	Grand Josun Busan	292 Haeundae Haebyeon-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-922-5000	391,000-576,000	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)
9.	4-Star	Shilla Stay Haeundae	46, Haeundae-ro 570 beon-gil, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-912-9000	282,000-381,000	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)
10.	4-Star /Similar	L7 Haeundae By Lotte Hotels	55, Haeun-daero 570beon-gil, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-771-1000	325,000-435,000	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)
11.	3-Star /Similar	Ramada Encore by Wyndham Busan Haeundae	9, Gunam-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-610-3000	170,000	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)
12.	3-Star /Similar	LaVi de Atlan Hotel	3F, 37 Gunam-ro, Haeundae, Busan	+82-51-742-0700	150,000	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)
13.	3-Star /Similar	Felix by STX Hotel & Suite	620 Haeundae-ro Haeundae-gu, Busan	+82-51-969-5000	170,000-195,000	15 mins by car	Haeundae Station (Line 2)

#### <Other Areas>

Please note that no shuttle bus to/from the airport is provided to this area

	Hotel Category	Hotel Name	Address	Telephone No	Price Range (KRW)	Distance from Venue	Nearest Metro Station
14.	3-Star /Similar	Ramada Encore by Wyndham Busan Station	10, Jungang-daero 196beon-gil, Dong-gu, Busan	+82-51-922-0000	190,000	30 mins by car	Busan Station (Line 1)
15.	4-Star /Similar	Avani Central Busan Hotel	133, Jeonpo-daero, Nam-gu, Busan	+82-51-791-5800	150,000-193,000	30 mins by car	Busan Int'l Finance Center-Busan Bank (Line 2)

\*Indicative Conversion rate (as at 1 May 2026):

1 USD = 1,484.63 KRW

1 KRW = 0.0006735 USD