

START HERE

Seoul by subway

A practical guide to planning, boarding and changing trains, with KakaoMetro beside you.



THE JOURNEY STARTS WITH THREE CHECKS

1

The right station

Match its name and the line you need.

2

The right direction

Check the next station along your route.

3

The right exit

Match the street exit to your destination.

USE TWO VIEWS OF THE JOURNEY

KakaoMetro: build the station-to-station plan. Its map and carriage guidance help you prepare for the train journey. [A]

KakaoMap or Naver Map: check the actual address, the walk to the station and the final street exit. Save the destination in Korean too.

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PLAN WITH KAKAOMETRO

Turn a map into a journey.

Build the route before entering the gates, then read it one leg at a time.

1 Choose your stations

Choose the Seoul metropolitan map. Select your departure station as the start, then set the destination.

2 Compare the options

Compare shortest time and fewest transfers. A simpler change can be worth a slightly longer journey. [C]

3 Read every train leg

Note the line, direction, transfer and final station. Check the selected travel day and time.

4 Open the station details

Look for carriage and exit information. Match the platform marker before boarding. [A]

5 Keep a copy, then recheck

Save a route screenshot. Run a fresh search when leaving and for the return journey.

YOUR ROUTE AT A GLANCE

Hongik Univ. to Gyeongbokgung

1 TRANSFER

Timing: check the app

2

Line 2

Next: Sinchon
Change: Euljiro 3-ga

3

Line 3

Next: Jongno 3-ga
Get off: Gyeongbokgung

Street exit

5 / Gyeongbokgung Palace

Illustrated reading guide. App layout and wording vary by version.

IF ENGLISH SEARCH IS UNHELPFUL

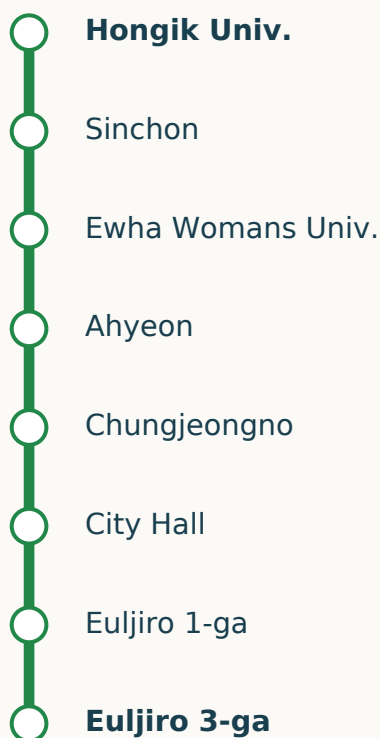
Try the Korean name or tap the map: Hongik Univ. = 홍대입구; Gyeongbokgung = 경복궁.
English spellings can vary.

A JOURNEY YOU CAN FOLLOW

Hongik University to Gyeongbokgung

A worked example with one transfer. Use the app for the departure time and available services on your travel day.

LEG 1 / LINE 2



CHANGE LINES HERE

LEG 2 / LINE 3



3 stops after changing

At Hongik Univ., the next stop for this route is **Sinchon**.

At Euljiro 3-ga, follow Line 3. The next stop is **Jongno 3-ga**.

7 stops to your transfer

Route schematic / distances and station layouts are not to scale.

FINISH THE JOURNEY

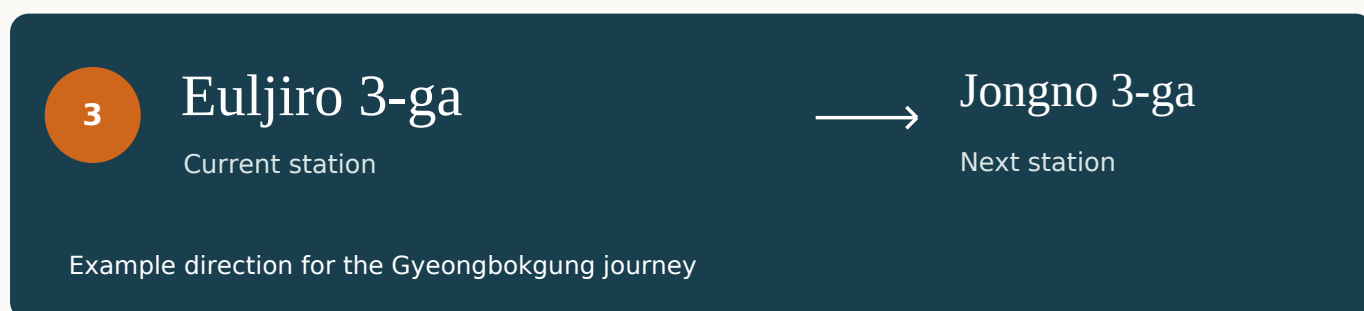
Get off at Gyeongbokgung and follow Exit 5 for the palace, as listed in its official directions. Check opening arrangements and the street walk separately. [1]

Your checkpoints Line 2 / Sinchon / Euljiro 3-ga / Line 3 / Exit 5

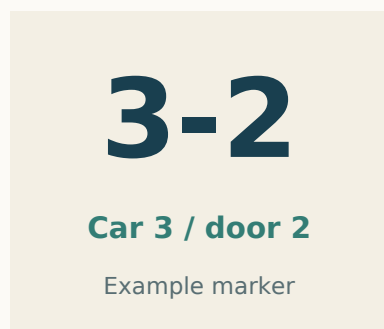
ON THE PLATFORM

Read the signs. Choose the train.

Line numbers, train destinations and door markers each answer a different question.



Use the next stop as your check. Match it to the first station after your boarding point in the route details. A train's destination display may name a terminus much farther away.

**WHERE TO WAIT**

A marker such as **3-2** identifies the third carriage's second door. Match the number on the platform. It is separate from your street exit number.

The 3-2 marker here illustrates the convention; it is not a door recommendation for page 3.

Check the service

On Line 9, express trains skip stations. Confirm that your stop appears in that train's stopping pattern before boarding. [J]

Check the destination

On Line 2, match the next stop on the circle. On branching or short-running services, also check the train's destination. The line colour alone is not enough.

CHANGE TRAINS & FIND YOUR EXIT

One station. Several decisions.

Give yourself time inside large stations. The transfer walk is part of the journey.

환승 TRANSFER

Follow your next line



출구 EXIT

Follow a street number



1 After getting off, follow the next line

Look for its number, name and colour together. Keep following the transfer signs through corridors, stairs or lifts.

2 At the new platform, check direction again

Changing to the correct line is only half the task. Compare the next stop and train destination with your route.

3 Read the signs at any internal gate

Some interchanges have transfer gates. Follow the signed route and tap when instructed. Line 9's transfer gates record the interchange without a new fare by themselves. [J]

4 At your final station, choose the street exit

Find the numbered exit for your destination before leaving the concourse. Once outside, use the street map for the final walk.

Connecting to a bus? Tap the same card on and off. The usual transfer window is 30 minutes, extended to 60 minutes from 21:00 to 07:00. Distance charges can still apply. [D]

LIFTS, LUGGAGE & PUSHCHAIRS

The quickest transfer position may lead to stairs. Check station facilities and follow lift signs for the whole route, including street level. Confirm current lift availability with station staff. [L]

PAY, TAP & TRAVEL

Make the gates the easy part.

A physical rechargeable transport card is a practical starting point for ordinary subway travel.

STANDARD ADULT BASE FARE

₩1,550

With a transport card.

Single-journey fare: ₩1,650.

Longer trips and some lines cost extra. [D]

Fare table effective 28 June 2025; checked 12 October 2026.

Using a Tmoney card

Buy a physical card at a participating convenience store and add credit. Card purchase and travel balance are separate. Each subway traveller should carry their own card. [F]

Keep some won cash for ordinary recharge machines or counters, and check the payment methods displayed before topping up.

At the gates

Enter: tap once, wait for acceptance and walk through. Keep other contactless cards away from the reader.

Leave: tap the same card at the exit. If the gate will not open, use the help button or ask staff. [E]

Buying a single-journey ticket

Select English and your destination at the machine. A ₩500 refundable card deposit is added; return the card at the destination's refund machine. [E]

A useful 2026 payment update

Designated new machines on Lines 1-8 accept international cards for single-journey tickets and short-term Climate Cards. Fees apply. For ordinary Tmoney top-ups, keep won cash ready. [G]

WHEN YOUR PLAN CHANGES

A wrong turn is usually fixable.

Stop somewhere out of the flow of passengers, identify your current station, then rebuild the next step.

Wrong direction or missed stop

Get off at the next station and search again. Follow signs for the right direction. If changing sides requires leaving the gates, ask staff first.

A train finishes before your stop

Leave when instructed and check the next service. Some trains terminate early or serve a different branch; the line colour alone is not enough.

You see a gate while transferring

Read the sign. It may be an internal transfer gate. If you are being directed to the street instead, check the route with staff. [J]

Your balance is too low

Use the station's fare-adjustment/recharge machine where available, or ask staff. Keep the card you used to enter. [E]

It is late and trains are thinning out

Search the entire journey home, including the last connection. Day type and direction matter. Leave a margin for the station walk; keep a taxi or night-bus alternative.

LEAVING & RE-ENTERING

A limited 15-minute re-entry scheme exists on participating sections. It is not a universal rule across the network. Ask station staff whether it applies to your card and station before using it. [K]

SAVE THIS PAGE

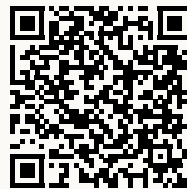
Your next-trip checklist.

Keep the route handy, and return to the official links when details change.

BEFORE YOU GO

- ☐ Departure and destination stations
- ☐ Line and next station at each boarding
- ☐ Transfer station and street exit
- ☐ Card balance and phone battery
- ☐ Whole return journey and last connection
- ☐ Saved address in English and Korean

OPEN KAKAOMETRO



Android



iPhone / iPad

Scan in print or tap a code in the PDF. App stores may redirect to your region.

WORDS YOU WILL SEE

출구

Exit

환승

Transfer

급행

Express

일반

Local

막차

Last train

SOURCE LINKS / CHECKED 12 OCT 2026

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A KakaoMetro: official app listing
play.google.com</p> <p>B KakaoMetro: official iOS listing
apps.apple.com</p> <p>C Kakao Mobility: subway help
service.kakaomobility.com</p> <p>D Seoul: subway fares and transfers
english.seoul.go.kr</p> <p>E Visit Seoul: riding the subway
english.visitseoul.net</p> <p>F Korea Tourism: transport cards
english.visitkorea.or.kr</p> | <p>G Seoul: international-card machines
english.seoul.go.kr</p> <p>H Official Seoul network map
english.seoul.go.kr</p> <p>I Gyeongbokgung: official directions
royal.khs.go.kr</p> <p>J Line 9: operator FAQ
metro9.co.kr</p> <p>K Seoul: re-entry explanation
english.seoul.go.kr</p> <p>L Seoul: accessible station facilities
english.seoul.go.kr</p> |
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Original teaching diagrams. Photos from the Settle Seoul collection. Buttons and examples are illustrative.