

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Tourism Law

Adopted by Decree No. 1420 of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on August 30, Juche 112 (2023)

Chapter 1: Basics of Tourism Law

Article 1 (Mission of Tourism Law)

The Tourism Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aims to strictly establish systems and order in the tourism industry, activate tourism, and contribute to the construction of socialism.

Article 2 (Definition)

Tourism is a form of cultural and emotional life where people leave their daily living environment for a certain period to experience, recognize, and enhance physical strength and health.

Article 3 (Principles of Tourism Development)

Developing tourism to allow our people to enjoy a more civilized life and promoting multifaceted exchanges and cooperation with other countries is a consistent policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The state shall activate domestic tourism while expanding international tourism.

Article 4 (Principles of Tourist Protection)

Valuing people most highly and serving them is the fundamental principle upheld by our socialist state. The state shall thoroughly protect the life, safety, health, rights, and interests of tourists.

Article 5 (Principles of Improving Tourism Service Levels)

Improving tourism service levels is an essential requirement for the development of the tourism industry. The state shall enhance the responsibility and role of tourism service workers and improve tourism service conditions and environments to actively guarantee the convenience of tourists.

Article 6 (Principles of Ecological Environment Protection)

Protecting the ecological environment and thoroughly preventing environmental pollution is a crucial requirement to ensure the sustainable development of the tourism industry. The state shall organize and conduct tourism based on the principle of thoroughly protecting the ecological environment and strictly adhere to laws and regulations related to ecological environment protection throughout the tourism process.

Article 7 (Principles of Unified Control and Guidance)

Unified control and guidance of the tourism industry is a basic condition to prevent disorder and side effects in tourism and to develop the tourism industry in a planned, balanced, and healthy manner. The state shall unify control and guidance of all tourism-related activities, including the formulation, implementation, execution, and summary of tourism policies.

Article 8 (Exchange and Cooperation)

The state shall actively develop exchanges and cooperation with various countries and international organizations in the field of tourism.

Article 9 (Application of the Law)

This law applies to citizens and foreigners (including overseas compatriots) who engage in tourism within our country's territory, other countries' enterprises that contract with our country's travel agencies, tourism service enterprises (including foreign-invested enterprises), and institutions and citizens related to tourism. The order of tourism in special economic zones shall follow the relevant laws and regulations related to special economic zones.

Article 10 (Application of Relevant Treaties)

In cases where treaties to which our country is a party stipulate differently from this law regarding tourism, the provisions of those treaties shall apply.

Chapter 2: Tourists**Article 11 (Right to Protection of Person, Property, and Human Rights)**

Tourists have the right to request rescue and protection if there is a risk or foreseeability of their life, health, property, or human rights being violated during the tourism process.

Article 12 (Right to Choose Tourism Services)

Tourists have the right to choose tourism services according to their voluntary will and to refuse compulsory tourism services.

Article 13 (Right to Receive Services According to Contract)

Tourists have the right to request tourism service enterprises to provide tourism services according to the contract and to cancel the contract if services are not provided as agreed.

Article 14 (Right to Request Compensation for Damages)

Tourists have the right to request compensation if their rights and interests are violated due to the breach of contract by tourism service enterprises or if they suffer damage to their life, health, or property due to the responsibility of tourism service enterprises or other

persons during the tourism process. If a tourist dies due to an accident, the tourist's heirs have the right to request compensation from the responsible party.

Article 15 (Right to Insurance)

Tourists have the right to contract with insurance companies and obtain insurance according to insurance regulations.

Article 16 (Requirements Tourists Must Follow)

Tourists must respect our country's laws and follow the following requirements:

1. Do not engage in activities that harm national security, social order, public morals, and customs.
2. Do not destroy or damage tourism resources and tourist attractions.
3. Do not pollute the environment or illegally hunt animals and collect plants.
4. Do not engage in activities to detect national and military secrets.
5. Comply with safety-related regulations.
6. Do not infringe on the legitimate rights and interests of others.
7. Accurately inform travel agencies of personal health data and identity.
8. Do not arbitrarily leave designated tourism areas or detach from tourism groups.
9. Cooperate with safety management, accident handling, and tourism restriction measures due to force majeure conditions.
10. Do not interfere with other tourists' tourism.
11. Accept the legitimate requirements of travel agencies.
12. Do not engage in other activities that violate laws.

Article 17 (Tourist Responsibility)

Tourists themselves are responsible for accidents caused by violating the provisions of Article 16 of this law.

Article 18 (Suspension of Tourism for Tourists)

Tourism for tourists may be suspended if they violate the provisions of Article 16 of this law or if they have diseases such as infectious diseases that may harm the health of others.

Chapter 3: Tourism Organization and Planning

Article 19 (Responsible Parties for Tourism Organization)

The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and travel agencies are responsible for tourism organization-related activities. Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens other than travel agencies cannot recruit tourists and organize tourism.

Article 20 (Central Tourism Guidance Agency's Business Content)

The central tourism guidance agency conducts the following activities related to tourism organization:

1. Approval of travel agency establishment and business licenses.
2. Control and guidance of tourism organization by local people's committees and travel agencies.
3. Business relations with international organizations and other countries regarding tourism organization.
4. Handling national issues related to tourism organization.

Article 21 (Local People's Committee's Business Content)

Local people's committees conduct the following activities related to tourism organization:

1. Control and guidance of tourism organization by subordinate travel agencies.
2. Business relations with local governments of other countries regarding tourism organization.
3. Handling regional issues related to tourism organization.

Article 22 (Classification of Travel Agencies)

Travel agencies are classified into domestic travel agencies specializing in domestic tourism organization and international travel agencies specializing in inbound and outbound tourism organization. International travel agencies can also organize domestic tourism.

Article 23 (Approval of Travel Agency Establishment)

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations that intend to establish travel agencies must obtain approval from the central tourism guidance agency. The order related to the approval of travel agency establishment is determined by the central tourism guidance agency.

Article 24 (Business License for Travel Agencies)

Travel agencies that have received approval for establishment must submit business

license application documents to the central tourism guidance agency after preparing for business. The central tourism guidance agency must approve or reject the application within 15 days of receiving the documents. If approved, a business license will be issued; if rejected, a notification stating the reason will be sent to the relevant institution, enterprise, or organization.

Article 25 (Extension and Reissuance of Business License)

Travel agencies must extend the validity period of their business license before it expires and must obtain a reissued license if the original is lost, damaged, destroyed, or if business license details change.

Article 26 (Business Content of Travel Agencies)

Travel agencies conduct the following activities:

1. Tourism promotion and recruitment of tourists, entry and exit procedures, and travel formalities.
2. Negotiations and tourism contract agreements with other travel agencies.
3. Preparation and execution of tourism schedules, reception and guidance services for tourists.
4. Protection of tourists' personal safety and property.
5. Other activities related to tourism organization.

Article 27 (Requirements to be Observed in Tourism Organization)

The requirements to be observed in tourism organization are as follows:

1. Strictly adhere to national laws and regulations.
2. Introduce and promote tourism targets, routes, schedules, and services in various forms and methods.
3. Organize tourism routes, schedules, and guidance in diverse forms and methods.
4. Do not organize visits to unapproved targets or schedules unrelated to tourism.
5. Accurately notify tourism service enterprises of service dates, times, number of people, and service content.
6. Establish preventive measures for various accidents and handle accidents according to established procedures.
7. Require tourists to strictly adhere to national laws and regulations.

Article 28 (Classification of Tourism Plans)

Tourism plans are classified into prospective plans and current plans. Prospective plans include national and regional tourism prospective plans. The central tourism guidance agency establishes national tourism prospective plans, while local people's committees establish regional tourism prospective plans. Travel agencies establish current plans.

Article 29 (Preparation and Execution of Prospective Tourism Plans)

The central tourism guidance agency prepares national tourism prospective plans and submits them to the central planning guidance agency, which reflects them in the national economic development prospective plans for execution. Local people's committees reflect regional tourism prospective plans in regional economic development prospective plans for execution. Prospective tourism plans must scientifically reflect tourism development goals, phased plans, and implementation methods, and must be aligned with land planning, urban planning, and environmental protection plans.

Article 30 (Preparation and Implementation of Current Plans)

Travel agencies prepare current plans based on accurate calculations of tourist sources and reception capacity and submit them to the central tourism guidance agency within the specified period. The central tourism guidance agency reviews the submitted current plans and implements them after obtaining approval from the relevant institution.

Article 31 (Execution of Tourism Plans)

The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and travel agencies must properly strategize and command the execution of tourism plans, ensuring strict adherence to the plans and strengthening financial control.

Chapter 4: Tourism Promotion

Article 32 (Preparation and Execution of Tourism Promotion Plans)

The central tourism guidance agency prepares national tourism promotion plans and unifies control and command of tourism promotion activities. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must centralize issues related to tourism promotion with the central tourism guidance agency. Local people's committees prepare and execute regional tourism promotion plans under the guidance of the central tourism guidance agency.

Article 33 (Parties Responsible for Tourism Promotion)

Tourism promotion is conducted by the central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, travel agencies, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations engaged in tourism-related sectors may also conduct tourism promotion as specified.

Article 34 (Methods of Tourism Promotion)

The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, travel agencies, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must actively promote our country's excellent tourism resources, targets, routes, and schedules through various forms and methods, including newspapers, broadcasts, information networks, distribution of tourism promotional materials, and tourism services. The specific procedures for tourism promotion are determined by the relevant institutions.

Article 35 (Publication and Production of Tourism Promotional Materials)

Only approved institutions, enterprises, and organizations may publish and produce tourism promotional materials. The specific order related to the publication and production of tourism promotional materials follows the relevant publishing regulations.

Article 36 (Prohibited Content in Tourism Promotion)

The following content is prohibited in tourism promotion:

1. Content that criticizes our country or other countries.
2. Content that contradicts the thoughts, emotions, and socialist lifestyle of our people.
3. Content that is not factual.
4. Content that slanders other institutions, enterprises, organizations, or citizens or infringes on their rights and interests.
5. Content that constitutes state secrets.
6. Content that violates national laws and regulations.

Chapter 5: Tourism Services**Article 37 (Parties Responsible for Tourism Services)**

Travel and guidance services are conducted by travel agencies, while other tourism services are conducted by approved institutions, enterprises, and organizations. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations intending to conduct tourism services in specified sectors must obtain approval from the central tourism guidance agency.

Article 38 (Requirements to be Observed in Tourism Services)

Tourism service enterprises must observe the following requirements in tourism services:

1. Conduct tourism services according to national laws and regulations.
2. Protect the life, health, and property of tourists.

3. Respect tourists' beliefs and customs and protect their personal secrets.
4. Enhance service quality and thoroughly ensure hygiene and safety.
5. Equip communication facilities and convenience facilities according to regulations.
6. Accurately fulfill contractual obligations.
7. Do not exceed service capacity and established service hours.
8. Do not discriminate against tourists or obtain undue benefits from them.

Article 39 (Travel and Guidance Services)

Travel agencies conduct travel and guidance services according to tourism schedules and are responsible for the service activities of tourism guides. Only those who have received the relevant tourism guide qualifications can become tourism guides. If necessary, those without tourism guide qualifications but with the ability to guide can be included as assistant guides. The order related to the service activities of tourism guides is determined by the central tourism guidance agency.

Article 40 (Accommodation Services)

Accommodation services for tourists are conducted by tourism service enterprises that have received the relevant business license. Tourism service enterprises providing accommodation services must fully equip the necessary conditions for tourists' accommodation. Tourism service enterprises providing accommodation services must receive grading according to tourism site grading standards from the central tourism guidance agency.

Article 41 (Catering Services)

Catering services for tourists are conducted by tourism service enterprises that have received the relevant business license. Tourism service enterprises providing catering services may serve famous dishes from various countries while primarily offering our country's national cuisine and regional specialties.

Article 42 (Transportation Services)

Tourism transportation services are classified into air transportation, rail transportation, automobile transportation, and water transportation. These services are conducted by the relevant transportation institutions and enterprises.

Article 43 (Observation Services)

Tourism service enterprises conducting observation services must fully equip observation facilities, safety guarantee facilities, explanatory materials, hygienic and cultural service conditions, and environments, and must provide explanations according to observation

routes to ensure tourists can fully understand the observation targets. Tourism service enterprises managing and operating tourism sites must receive grading according to tourism site grading standards from the central tourism guidance agency or local people's committees.

Article 44 (Convenience and Sports/Cultural Entertainment Services)

Convenience and sports/cultural entertainment services for tourists are provided by tourism service enterprises that have received the relevant business license. These enterprises must not provide services outside of their approved business scope.

Article 45 (Souvenir Sales Services)

Souvenir sales services for tourists are provided by tourism service enterprises that have received the relevant business license. These enterprises must ensure the quality and hygiene safety of the souvenirs and sell only approved items.

Article 46 (Medical Tourism Services)

Medical tourism services for tourists can only be provided by healthcare institutions that have received approval from the central health guidance agency. These institutions must maintain hygienic and cultural service environments and provide high-quality medical services.

Chapter 6: Tourism Safety

Article 47 (Requirements for Ensuring Tourism Safety)

Ensuring tourism safety is crucial for protecting the life and health of tourists. The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and tourism service enterprises must establish comprehensive safety management and education systems and strictly adhere to relevant laws to ensure tourism safety.

Article 48 (Safety Management Activities of Travel Agencies)

Travel agencies must conduct the following activities related to tourism safety:

1. Inform tourists of safety matters to be observed during the tourism process.
2. Prevent tourists from engaging in activities that jeopardize tourism safety.
3. Notify tourism service enterprises of issues that may affect tourism safety.
4. Take immediate necessary measures in case of accidents.
5. Pay special attention to the safety of elderly, disabled, and children.

Article 49 (Establishment of Disaster Prevention Systems)

Local people's committees must establish and operate disaster management systems

according to laws related to disaster prevention, rescue, and recovery, and mobilize emergency disaster materials to prevent or minimize various disasters. Travel agencies must establish measures to promptly move tourists to safe areas in case of disaster risks or occurrences.

Article 50 (Ensuring Safety at Tourism Sites)

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations operating tourism sites must install and operate safety facilities according to legal requirements and standards to ensure tourism safety.

Article 51 (Ensuring Hygiene Safety)

Catering service enterprises must provide tourists with food that guarantees hygiene safety.

Article 52 (Ensuring Transportation Safety)

Tourism transportation service enterprises must regularly inspect and maintain transportation means and strictly adhere to operation regulations to ensure the safety of tourists.

Article 53 (Ensuring Medical Conditions)

Healthcare institutions must fully equip medical facilities and medicines and enhance the quality of medical services to sincerely treat tourists who fall ill or get injured during the tourism process.

Chapter 7: Tourism Development

Article 54 (Basic Requirements for Tourism Development)

The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must conduct tourism development in a planned and rational manner. Tourism development includes the development of tourism sites, resources, markets, routes, and schedules.

Article 55 (Parties Responsible for Tourism Site Development)

Tourism site development is conducted by local people's committees and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations. Foreign investment enterprises and foreign legal entities and individuals may also invest in tourism site development if necessary.

Article 56 (Requirements to be Observed in Tourism Site Development)

The requirements to be observed in tourism site development are as follows:

1. Conduct planned activities to establish tourism sites representing the region in places with cultural heritage or natural beauty.

2. Equip tourism sites with accommodation, commercial, catering, convenience, and hygiene facilities according to tourist demand.
3. Fully consider the composition of local residents and transportation conditions in tourism site development.
4. Avoid destroying or damaging historical relics, natural monuments, scenic spots, and natural beauty during tourism site development.
5. Thoroughly protect the ecological environment of tourism sites and their surroundings during development.
6. Strictly adhere to national laws and regulations.

Article 57 (Tourism Resource Development)

Tourism resource development is conducted by local people's committees and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations. Those intending to develop tourism resources must obtain approval from the central tourism guidance agency and register with the relevant institution.

Article 58 (Tourism Market Development)

Tourism market development is conducted by local people's committees and travel agencies. It includes market research, target market selection, selection of partner travel agencies, securing tourist sources, promoting tourism sites, and providing materials for tourism realization. Travel agencies developing tourism markets must not engage in activities that harm markets already developed or intended to be developed by other travel agencies.

Article 59 (Development of Tourism Routes and Schedules)

The development of tourism routes and schedules is conducted by travel agencies. Travel agencies must develop diverse and unique tourism routes and schedules and register and utilize them according to regulations set by the central tourism guidance agency and local people's committees.

Article 60 (Formation and Utilization of Tourism Development Funds)

Local people's committees may plan and utilize funds necessary for tourism development.

Chapter 8: Scientific Development of Tourism Business

Article 61 (Requirements for Scientific Development of Tourism Business)

The central tourism guidance agency, central scientific and technological administrative guidance agency, central education guidance agency, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must research and develop scientific technologies in the

tourism sector and strengthen tourism education to ensure the scientific and technological development of the country's tourism.

Article 62 (Research and Development of Scientific Technologies in Tourism Sector)

The central tourism guidance agency, central scientific and technological administrative guidance agency, and relevant scientific research institutions must scientifically analyze the tourism status of our country and other countries, set accurate tourism scientific technology development goals according to our country's conditions, and actively research and develop new scientific technologies to continuously enhance the scientific level of our country's tourism development.

Article 63 (Informationization of Tourism Business)

The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must actively collect and disseminate tourism information materials and realize high-level informationization of tourism business.

Article 64 (Training of Tourism Workers)

The central education guidance agency, central tourism guidance agency, and relevant educational institutions must establish a systematic training system for tourism workers according to the country's tourism development needs and global tourism education trends, improve the structure, content, methods, conditions, and environment of tourism education, and prospectively train competent tourism workers.

Article 65 (Support for Tourism Education Business)

The central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must actively support tourism worker training institutions.

Article 66 (Ensuring Conditions for Scientific Development of Tourism Business)

The central planning guidance agency, central financial guidance agency, central scientific and technological administrative guidance agency, local people's committees, and relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must fully ensure labor, equipment, materials, and funds necessary for the research, development, and tourism education business in the tourism sector according to plans.

Chapter 9: Guidance and Control of Tourism Business

Article 67 (Guidance of Tourism Business)

The guidance of tourism business is conducted by the central tourism guidance agency under the unified leadership of the Cabinet. Local people's committees and special economic zone management agencies conduct tourism business in their respective regions under the guidance of the central tourism guidance agency. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must centralize issues related to tourism business with the

central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and special economic zone management agencies for processing.

Article 68 (Organization and Operation of Temporary Tourism Committees)

To comprehensively discuss and address issues arising in the tourism business, temporary national tourism committees are organized and operated at the central level, and temporary regional tourism committees are organized and operated at the provincial (directly governed city) level. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must accurately implement the issues organized and assigned by the temporary national and regional tourism committees and report the status in a timely manner.

Article 69 (Supervision and Control of Tourism Business)

Supervision and control of tourism business are conducted by the central tourism guidance agency and relevant supervision and control agencies. The central tourism guidance agency and relevant supervision and control agencies must strictly supervise and control the implementation of tourism laws and regulations by institutions, enterprises, and organizations.

Article 70 (Civil Liability)

Parties responsible for causing damage to institutions, enterprises, organizations, citizens, or tourists by violating this law are subject to civil liability, including fines, late fees, and compensation for damages.

Article 71 (Fines)

The following cases are subject to fines:

1. Tourists who do not adhere to legal requirements during the tourism process: 10,000 to 100,000 won.
2. Illegal recruitment of tourists, travel, and guidance services: twice the income amount.
3. Loss, damage, or destruction of business licenses by travel agencies: 500,000 won.
4. Organizing tourism and services contrary to tourism contracts and service standards: 300,000 to 1,500,000 won for institutions, enterprises, and organizations; 20,000 to 100,000 won for citizens.
5. Illegal publication, production, and distribution of tourism promotional materials: 500,000 to 1,500,000 won for institutions, enterprises, and organizations; 30,000 to 100,000 won for citizens.

6. Tourism promotion with prohibited content: 1,500,000 won for institutions, enterprises, and organizations; 100,000 won for citizens.
7. Failure to properly conduct tourism services or establish tourism safety measures, resulting in accidents: three times the damage amount.
8. Damage or pollution of historical relics, natural monuments, scenic spots, and natural beauty during tourism site development and operation: three times the damage amount.
9. Failure to adhere to legal requirements in tourism market development, causing harm to other travel agencies: twice the damage amount.
10. Use of unregistered tourism routes and schedules by travel agencies: 1,000,000 won.

Article 72 (Suspension of Business Activities)

The following cases will result in the suspension of business activities of the relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations, and in severe cases, closure:

1. Organizing tourism and services contrary to tourism contracts and service standards.
2. Tourism promotion with prohibited content.
3. Service conditions and environments not meeting standards.
4. Conducting business activities without a business license or providing services outside of the approved business scope.
5. Failure to establish proper tourism safety measures.
6. Damage or pollution of historical relics, natural monuments, scenic spots, and natural beauty during tourism site development and operation.
7. Use of unregistered tourism routes and schedules.
8. Lack of tourism organization performance or failure to meet standards within the specified period after receiving approval for establishment and business license.
9. Non-compliance with the guidance and control of national institutions for the implementation of tourism policies.

Article 73 (Confiscation)

In cases of violation of this law, money and items used in illegal activities or obtained through illegal activities will be confiscated.

Article 74 (Suspension, Demotion, and Revocation of Qualifications)

Tourism guides who irresponsibly conduct guidance services or engage in illegal activities during service will be subject to suspension, demotion, or revocation of qualifications based on the severity of the misconduct.

Article 75 (Warning, Severe Warning, Unpaid Labor, Labor Education, Demotion, Dismissal, and Removal)

The following cases will result in warnings, severe warnings, or unpaid labor and labor education for up to three months:

1. Illegal recruitment of tourists, travel, and guidance services.
2. Improper organization of tourism causing social disturbances.
3. Failure to properly prepare tourism plans or underperformance.
4. Illegal publication, production, and distribution of tourism promotional materials or promotion with prohibited content.
5. Conducting business activities without a business license or providing services outside of the approved business scope.
6. Failure to properly conduct tourism services or establish tourism safety measures, resulting in accidents.
7. Failure to meet the legitimate demands of tourists, causing severe consequences.
8. Damage or pollution of historical relics, natural monuments, scenic spots, and natural beauty during tourism site development and operation.
9. Failure to ensure conditions for the scientific development of tourism business, causing obstacles.
10. Non-compliance with the guidance and control of national institutions for the implementation of tourism policies.

Repeated violations or causing injury to multiple people or property damage exceeding 20,000 won will result in unpaid labor and labor education for more than three months, demotion, dismissal, or removal.

Article 76 (Criminal Liability)

If violations of this law constitute a crime, the responsible parties will be subject to criminal liability according to the relevant provisions of the criminal law.

Article 77 (Complaints and Handling)

Tourists can file complaints with the central tourism guidance agency, local people's committees, and relevant institutions. The institutions receiving complaints must investigate and handle them within the specified period and inform the complainant of the results.

Article 78 (Dispute Resolution)

Disputes related to tourism business are resolved through consultation. If consultation fails, disputes can be submitted to arbitration or judicial institutions for resolution.