

Jeollabuk-do 전라북도



The southwestern province of Jeollabuk-do has always been Korea's rice bowl, and the image of white egrets standing in terraced rice fields is a provincial icon. Unspoiled national, provincial and county parks cover the more mountainous parts and offer some of Korea's finest get-away-from-it-all hikes and scenery. Buddhist temples, frequently rebuilt over the centuries, still house shaven-headed monks who find the surrounding rocks, hills and trickling streams an aid to Zen meditation as they try to escape from the chains of material desires.

Another form of escape is to off-shore islands, sun drenched in summer, when the beaches could almost be Thailand. In winter thrill-seekers head to the slopes of Muju Ski Resort, with its European alpine atmosphere.

Jeonju city is famous for its food (especially *bibimbap*, a dish of rice, meat and vegetables served up by countless restaurants nationwide), its traditional culture and its *hanok* (traditional house) village suburb with its craft workshops, museums and rustic teashops. Fans, dolls, boxes and even ties made of *hanji* (paper made by hand from mulberry bark) are popular buys. *Pansori*, a traditional musical drama performed by a solo singer and a drummer, is particularly associated with the province. Like its sister province to the south, its radicalism and artistic side combine in the annual Jeonju Film Festival, which focuses on indie films from around the world.

Jeollabuk-do has recently faced conflict over two major environmental issues: the storage of nuclear waste and the Saemangeum reclamation project on the west coast (p60).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Jeonju's fascinating **hanok village** (p297)
- Be amazed by the unique rock-pinnacle temple garden in **Maisan Provincial Park** (p300) in the shadow of 'Horse Ears' mountain
- Zip round **Seonyudo** (p305) on a nippy quad bike before relaxing on the beach
- Amble through pretty **Seonunsan Provincial Park** (p303) to a giant Buddha carving on a cliff
- Ski, skateboard or sled down the slopes at **Muju Ski Resort** (p301)
- Take a cable car up to the skyline in **Daedunsan Provincial Park** (p300) or **Naejangsan National Park** (p302)



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 063 ■ POPULATION: 2 MILLION ■ AREA: 8050 SQ KM

History

The Donghak rebellion, led by Chon Pongjun, took place mainly in Jeollabuk-do in 1893 when a raggle-taggle force of peasants and slaves, armed with various homemade weapons, seized Jeonju fortress and defeated King Gojong's army, before being destroyed by Japanese forces. Their demands included the freeing of slaves, better treatment of the *chonmin* or low-born, the redistribution of land, the abolition of taxes on fish and salt, and the punishment of corrupt government officials.

National & Provincial Parks

An atmospheric temple, coastal views and a waterfall are features of **Byeonsanbando National Park** (p304). A cable car takes you near the peak in **Daedunsan Provincial Park** (p300) and afterwards you can relax in a hot-spring spa. Skiers and hikers both enjoy the super scenery in **Deogyusan National Park** (p301). **Maisan Provincial Park** (p300) is famous for its 'horse ears' mountains and mystical stone towers, while the big drawcard at **Moaksan Provincial Park** (p299) is its superb temple. **Naejangsan**

National Park (p302) has a great ridge hike and a cable car up to it for softies. Pretty **Seonunsan Provincial Park** (p303) has a giant Buddha carving on a cliff.

Getting There & Around

If you arrive by train or bus, you can then base yourself in Jeonju, the *hanok* city, where buses radiate to every nook and corner of the province.

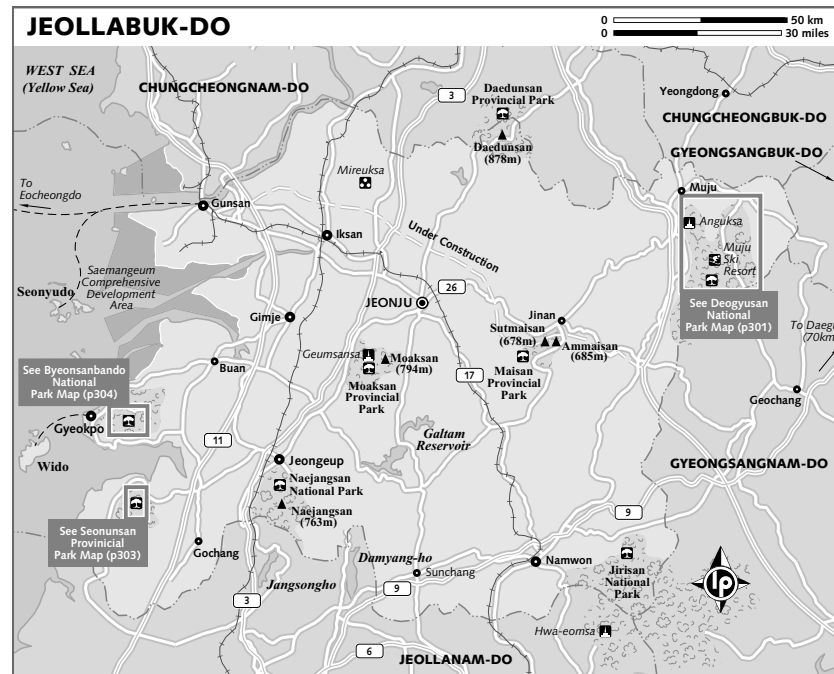
JEONJU 전주

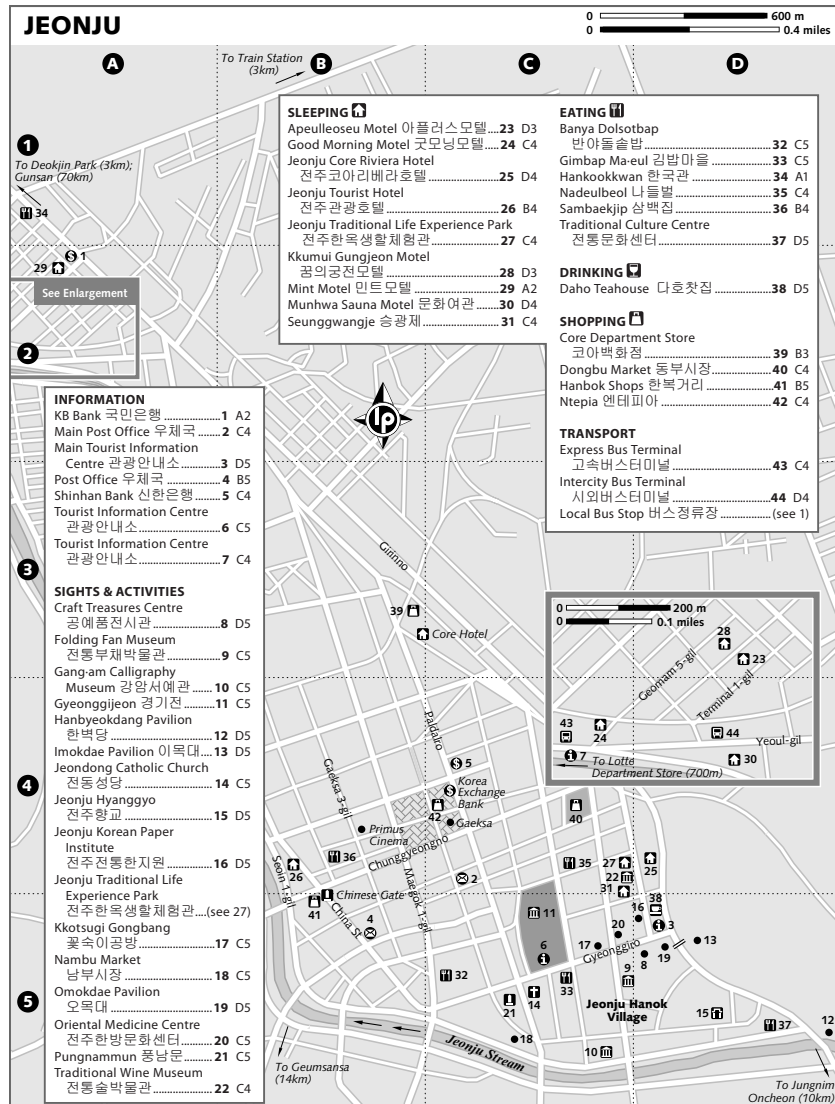
pop 622,000

Jeonju (www.jeonju.go.kr), the provincial capital, is famous for being the birthplace of both the Joseon dynasty and *bibimbap* (rice, meat, egg and vegetables with a hot sauce). Centrally located, the city is the perfect base from which to explore Jeollabuk-do as it's the hub for all the bus services. The historical area of the city has many outstanding *hanok* buildings, old and new.

Information

KB Bank (Girrinno) Global ATM and foreign currency exchange.





Main post office (☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat)
Free internet access.

Main tourist information centre (☎ 282 1338;
Gyeonggiro) Free internet access.

Post office (China Street)

Shinhan Bank (Girino) Global ATM and foreign-currency
exchange.

Tourist information centre bus terminal (☎ 281

2739; outside Express bus terminal); Gyeonggiro (☎ 232
6293; outside Gyeonggiro)

Tours

Good-value **coach tours** (tours/tours incl Seonyudo
W9000/W19,000; ☎ 8am-7pm Sat & Sun Mar-Nov) visit
different sights every weekend. Book at a tour-
ist information centre.

Sights & Activities

JEONJU HANOK VILLAGE 전주한옥마을

This historical urban village can take all day
to look around – ask at a tourist information
centre for the excellent ‘Invitation to Our
Tradition’ brochure.

The **Oriental Medicine Centre** (☎ 232 2500; www.
.hanbangcenter.com; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm) offers
medical tests and diagnosis from an Asian-
medicine perspective for a fee of W1000 to
W4000, and recommends herbal, acupuncture,
moxibustion and massage therapies, but lan-
guage can be a problem.

Housed in a beautiful old *hanok*, the **Tradi-
tional Wine Museum** (☎ 287 6305; admission free;
☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) has a *gosori* (traditional
still). You can learn how to make your own
soju (Korean vodka), and (more to the point)
taste and buy traditional Korean liquors.

See sheets of *hanji* being manufactured
in the **Jeonju Korean Paper Institute** (☎ 232 6591;
admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm), housed in a gloriously
atmospheric *hanok* down an alley. A slop of
fibres in a big tank magically solidifies into
paper.

The tiny but fascinating **Kkotsuki Gongbang**
(Gyeonggiro; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Sat) is a workshop,
where lessons are available in the art of making
traditional Korean paper dolls. Feel free to pop
in and watch.

Run by a third-generation Jeonju fan maker,
the **Folding Fan Museum** (☎ 232 2008; admission free;
☎ 9am-9pm) has the fan-maker’s father’s tools
on display along with antique fans. It takes 12
hours to complete one fan and the designs are
burnt on by hand.

Gyeonggijeon (☎ 281 2790; Gyeonggiro; admission free;
☎ 9am-6pm) was originally constructed in 1410
but was reconstructed in 1614 and contains a
portrait of Yi Seong-gye, the founder of the
Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), whose family
came from Jeonju. Portraits of six other Joseon
monarchs, and palanquins, are also on show.

On the left are shrines, storehouses and
guardrooms relating to the Confucian rituals
that used to be held here. Treating ancestors
with the utmost respect was a cornerstone of
the Confucian philosophy that ruled Korea
for centuries.

The stylish red-brick **Jeondong Catholic Church**
(☎ 284 322; admission free) was built by French
missionary Xavier Baudouin on the spot
where Korean Catholics were executed in
1781 and 1801. Built between 1908 and 1914,
the architecture is an outstanding fusion of

HYANGGYO & SEOWON

Hyanggyo were neighbourhood schools
established by *yangban* (aristocrats) in the
1500s to prepare their sons for the *seowon*
(Confucian academies), where the students
took the all-important government service
exams. The pupils studied Chinese charac-
ters and key Confucian texts. Over 600
seowon were spread across the country,
making Korea more Confucian than China.
In the 1860s Regent Heungseon Daewon-
gun forced most of them to close as he
reasserted the king’s authority, but the
buildings remain as symbols of Koreans’
unwavering passion for education.

Asian, Byzantine and Romanesque styles.
The elegant interior contains stained-glass
windows portraying early martyrs.

Housing the artwork and art collection of
a well-known 20th-century calligrapher, Song
Sung-yong (pen name, Gangam), is **Gangam
Calligraphy Museum** (☎ 285 7442; admission free;
☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun). The artist’s response to
the meaning and connotations of the words is
expressed through the brush strokes.

Stroll around **Jeonju Hyanggyo** (☎ 288 4548;
admission free; ☎ 10am-7pm), a well-preserved
and very atmospheric Confucian shrine, school
and dormitory complex that dates back to
1603 (see above).

Don’t miss the lanterns, boxes, ties and
clothing all made out of paper at the **Craft
Treasures Centre** (☎ 285 4403; Gyeonggiro; admission
free; ☎ 10am-7pm). The courtyard is pleasant for
a rest and on the nearby hill is **Omokdae**, a pavilion
where General Yi Seong-gye celebrated a
victory over Japanese pirates in 1380, prior
to his overthrow of the Goryeo dynasty. Cross
the bridge to **Imokdae**, a monument to one
of Yi Seong-gye’s ancestors written by King
Gojong.

Pungnammun, an impressive stone-and-
wood gateway, is all that remains of Jeonju’s
fortress wall and four gateways. First built
in 1398 but renovated many times since, it’s
a landmark that marks the beginning of the
sprawling **Nambu Market**, where farmers’ wives
sell fresh produce direct to the public.

Just past the Traditional Culture Centre,
go under the bridge to **Hanbyeokdang Pavilion**,
on rocks overlooking the river, where herons,
egrets and swallows can be seen in summer.

JUNGNIM ONCHEON 죽님온천

Soak and steam all night and day in Jeonju's best **hot-spring spa** (☎ 232 8832; admission W5000-7000; ☹ 24hr). A free shuttle bus (9.35am, 11.35am, 2.35pm and 4.35pm) leaves from outside the Jeonju Core Riviera Hotel (p290).

BICYCLE HIRE

Hire a bicycle from Jeonju Traditional Life Experience Park (right) for only W1000 a day. Why not cycle around the traffic-quiet Hanok Village, along the river and even further afield?

DEOKJIN PARK 덕진공원

Join Korean couples who hire paddleboats in this charming **park** (☎ 281 2436; admission free; ☹ 5am-11pm), in the north of the city, to view the lotus lilies, which are at their best in July.

Festivals & Events

The **Jeonju International Film Festival** (www.jiff.or.kr) is a nine-day event every April/May that focuses mainly on indie, digital and experimental movies. Around 200 films from 40 countries are shown in the Primus cinema multiplex and others nearby, and many have English dialogue or subtitles.

Sleeping

An ever-expanding galaxy of motels surrounds the bus terminals.

BUDGET

Munhwa Sauna Motel (☎ 251 5435; r W20,000; ☹) The best of the cheaper but unmodernised *yeongwan* (motel) is owned by Mr Kim who speaks some English. He also runs a sauna (W5000) in the same building. The modern motels are better but cost W10,000 extra.

Good Morning Motel (☎ 251 9948; r W30,000; ☹) Despite an unimpressive exterior, this is a popular, no-fuss motel where the staff is helpful and the spacious rooms and bathrooms are modern and clean. Rooms vary so look at more than one – some have round, heated waterbeds, and all-body showers as well as baths, while rooms with a computer are W5000 extra.

Apeulleoseu Motel (☎ 273 4193; r W30,000; ☹) Stay here if you like 'love motel' ornate, as not only the furniture but even the lift design is fancy. Large French windows, round beds and all-body showers add to the overall designer effect.

Kkumui Gungjeon Motel (☎ 274 7373; r W35,000; ☹) A new love motel that sets a new standard. Look round a number of rooms to choose which décor, bed shape and facilities you want. Electronic gear options include a giant TV, a smart computer, a DVD player and a bidet with as many dials and knobs as a pilot's cabin.

MIDRANGE

Mint Motel (☎ 271 3992; r W40,000, ☹) Stay in this love-motel palace with spacious, fully equipped rooms if you fancy trying out a two-person Jacuzzi.

Seunggwangje (☎ 288 4566; r from W60,000) The best *hanok* stay as the small rooms have a TV, fridge and *yo* (padded quilt or mattress on the floor) as well as a tiny, modern en suite bathroom. The unique feature is that Seunggwangje is owned by English-speaking Lee Seok, a grandson of King Gojong, who lives in the adjoining *hanok*. If he is busy or away, Ms Lim Lee will look after you and she speaks some English. It's a special place down an alley with royal photographs on display. Breakfast is W5000.

Jeonju Traditional Life Experience Park (☎ 287 9300; www.jihanok.com; r W60,000, r with en suite W80,000 & 9000) Stay in tiny bare rooms and sleep on a *yo* in this newly built but traditional-style *hanok*. Prices include a Korean-style breakfast and free loan of a bicycle.

Jeonju Tourist Hotel (☎ 280 7700; r/ste W60,000/80,000; ☹) This reasonably priced tourist hotel has a retro feel and the central location is close to Jeonju's main entertainment and shopping area. A sun umbrella and chairs brighten up the lobby, which has free internet access.

TOP END

Jeonju Core Riviera Hotel (☎ 232 7000; www.jeonjucorerivierahotel.co.kr; r/ste W170,000/330,000; ☹) Ask for a room overlooking the *hanok* district in Jeonju's best hotel, which has spacious rooms and suites that feature natural wood décor, glass showers and a computer. Live music livens up the Windsor Bar (6pm to 2am; beers/cocktails W5000/6600) at 10pm. There's also restaurants, a fitness club and a sauna.

Eating & Drinking

Gimbap Ma-eul (meals W2000-4000; ☹ 10am-9pm) A small, clean eatery that offers budget meals such as a range of *gimbap* (김밥) that includes cheese, tuna and salad.

Sambaekjip (meals W3500; ☹ 24hr) This 50-year-old restaurant specialises in *kongnamul guk-bap* (콩나물국밥), a local Jeonju dish of rice, egg, bean sprout and seasoning cooked in a stone pot. It's said to be a hangover cure and comes with side dishes. To find the restaurant, walk down the road past Primus cinema and turn left.

Daho Teahouse (teas W4000; ☹ 11am-midnight) The best of the *hanok* teahouses is down an alleyway and has rustic, goblin-sized rooms overlooking an attractive garden where birds flit around. Listen to ethereal music as you sip the excellent teas such as *daechucha* (대추차; red date) and pink *omijacha* (오미자차; dried five-flavour berries).

Nadeulbeol (Hanok Village; meals W4000-8000; ☹ 10am-8pm) This small rustic restaurant serves up what many locals say is the most delicious *baekban* (백반; rice, fish and vegetable meal) in Jeonju.

Banya Dolsotbap (Maegok 1-gil; meals W6000-10,000; ☹ 11am-9.30pm) Hotpot rice is the speciality here with side dishes that include *deodeok* root, honey-coated potatoes, salad and soup. The ginseng version costs extra and *moju* (모주), a gingery alcoholic homebrew, is W1500. Service is off-hand but the food is good.

Hankookkwan (Girinho; meals W7000-10,000; ☹ 11am-9pm) A dozen cooks and a dozen waiting staff provide speedy service even at hectic times in this ever-popular restaurant that serves up classic Jeonju *bibimbap* (비빔밥). Order *dolsot bibimbap* (돌솥비빔밥) if you don't want raw meat. It comes with side dishes and tea, while the medicinal homebrew *moju* is W1000 a bowl.

Traditional Culture Centre (☎ 280 7000; meals W9000-30,000; ☹ 10am-9pm) Visit this stylish, up-market restaurant in a modernist building for Jeonju *bibimbap*, *galbi jeongsik* (갈비정식; ribs and side dishes) or a full-on *hanjeongsik* (한정식; banquet). Next door is a teashop and a hall that hosts traditional music and dance shows.

Shopping

Hanbok shops are at the far end of Jungangno, while the bustling Dongbu and Nambu Markets sell everything under the sun.

Ntepia (☹ 11am-11pm) A large fashion store in the youthful shopping precinct at Gaeksa, surrounded by beauty shops like The Face and Skin Food and Western restaurants such as Outback Steakhouse and Pizza Hut.

Lotte department store (☹ 10.30am-8pm) Has a cinema and is an 800m walk from the bus terminals

Core department store (☹ 10.30am-8pm) Next to the Jeonju Core Riviera Hotel; houses 300 fashion outlets on seven floors.

Getting There & Away BUS

Destinations from the express bus terminal include:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Daegu	10,800	3½hr	hourly
Daejeon	4500	1½hr	hourly
Gwangju	5300	1¼hr	every 30min
Seoul	8500	3hr	every 10min

Departures from the intercity bus terminal include:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Buan	3700	1hr	5 daily
Daedunsan	4500	1¼hr	8 daily
Gochang	4900	1½hr	hourly
Gunsan	4000	1hr	every 15min
Gurye (Jirisan)	7500	2hr	hourly
Gyeokpo	6400	2hr	hourly
Jeong-eup	3000	1 hr	every 15min
Jinan	3300	50min	every 30min
Muju	7000	1½hr	hourly
Naesosa	6000	2hr	1 daily

TRAIN

There are KTX (Korea Train Express; W27,000, 2¼ hours, 19 daily), *Saemaul* (express; W22,700, three hours, four daily) and *Mugunghwa* (semi-express; W15,300, 3½ hours, 14 daily) trains to Yongsan station in Seoul, but KTX trains involve a change at Iksan. Trains also run south to Jeollanam-do.

Getting Around

Numerous buses (W850) run from near the bus terminals to downtown, while buses 105, 509 and others run to the train station. Taxis are plentiful and cheap (W1500 flag fall).

GEUMSANS& MOAKSAN PROVINCIAL PARK

금산사, 모악산도립공원
This **park** (☎ 548 1734; adult/youth/child W2600/1700/1000; ☹ 8am-7pm), which contains Moaksan (794m), is only 40 minutes from Jeonju and is

a popular destination for hikers at weekends. The main attraction is **Geumsansa**, a temple that dates back to AD 599. To stay in the temple (W40,000 including meals), contact the **information office** (☎ 5481330; ☹ 9am-6pm, closed 2 weekdays a week). The **Maitreya Hall** is special, a three-storey wooden structure built in 1635 that retains an air of antiquity. Inside is an impressive Mireuksa Buddha, the Buddha of the Future, behind which is a huge painting.

On the left is a museum and a hall, with carvings of 500 Buddha helpers who all look different. Near the entrance, sip soothing tea in the serene, Zen-style atmosphere of **Sanjang Dawon** (teas W6000).

Between 10 and 20 monks live here for a maximum period of five years. Monks now have a TV in their common room and to keep fit they play games of soccer and volleyball (or Ping-Pong if it's wet).

The usual climbing route up Moaksan goes past the temple, up Janggundae and along the ridge up to the peak. The hike is relatively easy and you can be up and down in three hours.

Overlooking the car park on the left is **Hwarim Hoegwan** (화림회관; meals W5000-20,000), a restaurant where you can sit inside or outside under the wisteria. Choose between local black pig, **tokkitang** (토끼탕; spicy rabbit soup) or roast **ori** (오리; duck).

Geumsansa and Moaksan are easily reached by bus from Jeonju. Local bus 79 (W1400, 45 minutes, every 15 minutes) can be picked up along Girinno, Jeonju's main street. Don't get on buses that go to the other end of Moaksan park; ask for Geumsansa.

DAEDUNSAN PROVINCIAL PARK 대둔산도립공원

Yet another of Korea's beautiful parks, **Daedunsan** (☎ 263 9949; adult/youth/child W1300/850/450; ☹ 8am-6pm) offers craggy peaks with spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. Although relatively small, it's one of Korea's most scenic mountain areas.

Aside from the superb views, the climb to the summit of Daedunsan (878m) along steep, stony tracks is an adventure in itself, as you cross over a 50m-long cable bridge stretched precariously between two rock pinnacles and then climb up a steep and long steel-cable stairway. Vertigo sufferers are advised to take the alternative route! For the less active, a five-minute **cable car ride**

(one way/return W3000/5000) saves you an hour of uphill hiking.

Daedunsan Tourist Hotel (☎ 263 1260; fax 263 8069; r W65,000; ☹ ☒) has an *oncheon* (hot spring bath) and a sauna (W3000) that is open to all, and is the perfect place to soak aching hiking muscles. Relax further, playing pool or four-ball in the bar (open 1pm to midnight) or sitting in an armchair with a view.

Many restaurants serve *sanchae bibimbap* (산채비빔밥; rice, egg, meat and mountain veggies) and the usual country-style food.

Daedunsan can be reached by bus from Jeonju (W4500, 70 minutes, six daily) or from Seodaeyeon bus terminal in Daejeon (W2500, 40min, six daily).

MAISAN PROVINCIAL PARK 마이산도립공원

This is a must-see **park** (☎ 433 3313; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/900; ☹ sunrise-sunset). Maisan means 'Horse Ears Mountain', which refers to two extraordinary rocky peaks as they appear from the access town of Jinan. The east peak, **Sutmaisai**, is 678m while the west peak, **Ammaisan**, is slightly taller at 685m. Both ears are made of conglomerate rock, which is rare in Korea. Only Ammaisai can be scaled. It's a steep half-hour climb, but grinning grandmas make it to the top without any problem.

Tapsa (Pagoda Temple), at the base of the female ear, has a unique sculptural garden of 80 stone towers or pinnacles that were piled up by a Buddhist mystic, Yi Kapmyong (1860-1957). Up to 15m in height, they represent religious ideas about the universe and miraculously never seem to crumble, although no cement has been used. The diverse stone towers are an intriguing sight, evoking the atmosphere of a lost world.

Nearby is **Unsusa**, a temple with a Dan-gun shrine, a centuries-old pear tree, attractive gardens and, best of all, you are allowed to bang the big drum.

An easy 1½-hour, 1.7km hike with a splendid view at the top and ever-changing views of Ammaisai starts by Tapsa and takes you back to the car park at the entrance. In April the cherry trees around the nearby lake burst into blossom.

Frequent buses (W3300, 50 minutes, every 30 minutes) run along the scenic route from Jeonju to the small town of Jinan. From Jinan, buses (W850, five minutes, hourly) run to the park entrance.

DEOYUSAN NATIONAL PARK

덕유산국립공원

Sights & Activities

In the northwest of this **park** (☎ 322 3174; adult/youth/child W3200/1200/600; ☹ sunrise-sunset) is **Jeoksang Sanseong**, a fortress that was rebuilt and enlarged in the 17th century. Encircled by the 8km wall are the ruins of a Joseon-dynasty archive, a reservoir and An-guksa, a temple that was built in the 1860s. Buses only run along the main road to Gucheon-dong, so you must get off at the access road and walk (4km) or hitchhike.

Opened in 1990, **Muju Ski Resort** (☎ 322 9000; www.mujiresort.com) is one of Korea's top winter playgrounds, with 26 ski slopes that range between all skill levels. Snowboarding, sledging, night and mogul skiing and lessons in English are all available. The season runs from mid-December to April. The resort has top-notch facilities including an alpine-style village where you can shop, dine, dance, drink in a glass dome, play billiards, steam in a sauna or surf the net.

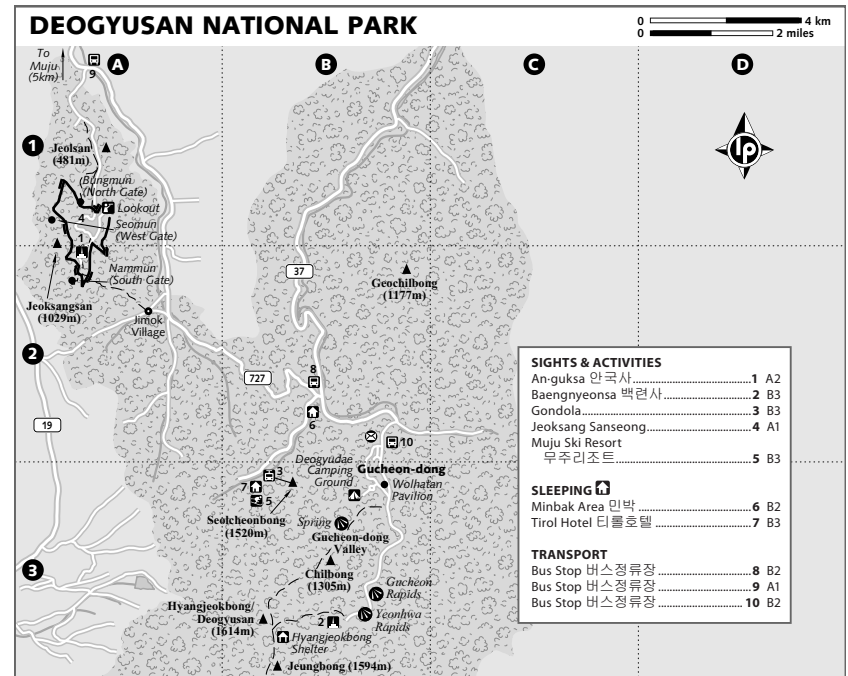
A few shops, restaurants and bars are open all year. The **gondola** (adult/child return W10,000/7000;

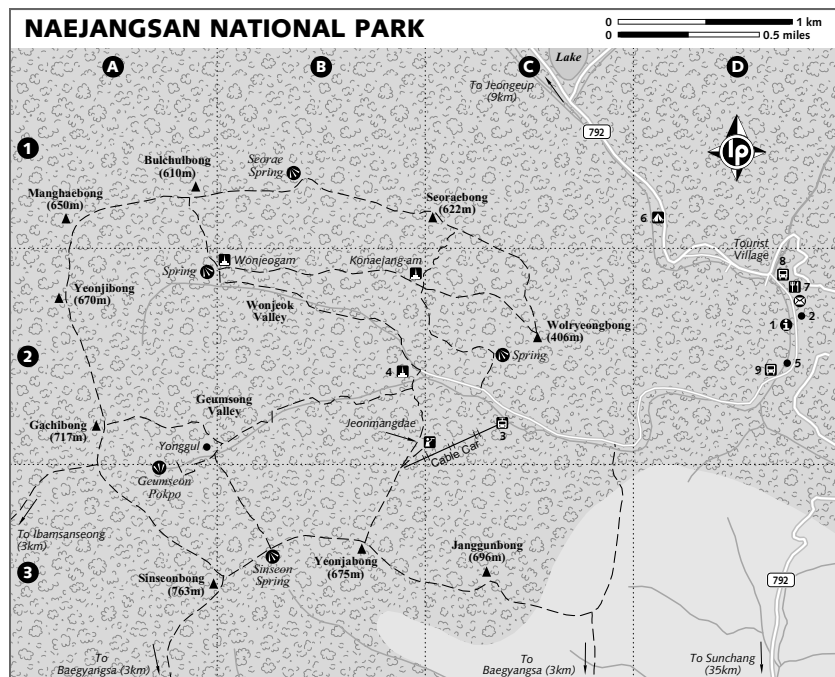
☹ 10am-4pm) to the top of **Seolcheonbong** (1520m) takes 15 minutes and also runs in the off-season. **Mountain bikes** (adult/child per hr W10,000/8000; ☹ 9am-7pm) can be hired to ride round a special track.

Further on from Muju Ski Resort is a tourist village at **Gucheon-dong**, the start of the park's best hike (1½ hours, 6km) that follows the river and valley past 20 beauty spots to a small temple, **Baengnyeonsa**. Fairies are said to slide down rainbows to bathe in the pools, and the hike is enchanting at any time of the year. The trail continues past Baengnyeonsa for a strenuous, steep, 1½-hour ascent of **Hyangjeokbong** (1614m). Yew trees, azaleas and alpine flowers adorn the summit.

Sleeping

Accommodation is available in condos, or 2km up the access road in *minbak* (private homes with rooms for rent) and *pension*, which are connected to the ski slopes by free shuttle buses. The best policy is to buy a package deal that includes accommodation, ski hire, clothes hire, transport and lift passes.





INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre 관광안내소 1 D2

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Bicycle Hire 자전거대여소 2 D2
Cable Car 3 C2
Naejangsa 내장사 4 B2
Park Entrance 공원입구 5 D2

SLEEPING

Camping 야영장 6 D1

EATING

Restaurants 식당가 7 D2

TRANSPORT

Bus Stop 버스정류장 8 D2

Shuttle Bus Stop 셔틀버스정류장 9 D2

Tirol Hotel (☎ 320 7617; www.mujuresort.com; r from W300,000; ☎) The best but most expensive place to stay in the park, the wonderful Tirol Hotel has been transplanted from Austria and features natural wood décor inside. Off-season prices drop to W112,000 (Sunday to Thursday) and W152,000 (Friday and Saturday), and the rate includes two meals.

Getting There & Away

Mountain-surrounded Muju town, the gateway to Deogyusan National Park and Muju Ski Resort, is connected by bus to Daejeon (W3800, one hour, every 40 minutes), Geumsan (W2300, one hour, hourly), Jeonju (W7000, 1½ hours, hourly), Seoul (W12,100, three hours, five daily) and other cities.

From Muju town, the Gucheon-dong bus (W3000, 45 minutes, hourly) can drop you at the access road to Muju Ski Resort (2km from the resort) or at the beginning of the fortress or Gucheon-dong hikes. The Muju Resort shuttle bus (free, one hour, six daily off-season, frequent during the ski season) runs from just outside Muju town bus terminal by the river.

NAEJANGSAN NATIONAL PARK

내장산국립공원

The mountainous ridge in this park (☎ 538 7875; adult/youth/child W3200/1300/700; ☎ sunrise-sunset) is shaped like an amphitheatre. A spider's web of trails leads up to the ridge, but the fastest way up is by **cable car** (adult/child one way W3500/2000, return W4500/2000). The hike around the rim is

strenuous, but with splendid views on a fine day. The trail is a roller-coaster ride, going up and down six main peaks and numerous small ones before you reach Seoraebong, from where you head back down to the access road.

There are metal ladders, bridges and railings to help you scramble over the rocky parts. Give yourself four hours to hike around the amphitheatre, with an hour for breaks and a picnic. If you find the hike too difficult, turn right at any time and follow one of the many trails back down to Naejangsa.

An easy and picturesque 2km walk from Naejangsa goes through Geumsong valley, which becomes a steep ravine before leading to a cave, a natural rock arch and a waterfall.

A tourist village clusters around the entrance, but it's not usually busy except in October. **Camping** (small/large tent W3000/6000) is available before the tourist village. A shuttle bus (W900, 9am to 6pm) runs between the ticket office and the cable car terminal, saving a 2km, 20-minute walk.

The **tourist information centre** (☎ 537 1330) has free internet access, and across the road is a **bicycle hire stall** (☎ 011-949 4383; per hr W3000; ☎ 9am-6pm). Cycle up to the temple or back out of the park and around the nearby farms and villages.

Buses (W3000, one hour, every 15 minutes) run from Jeonju to Jeong-eup. From just outside the bus terminal on the left, local bus 171 (W1000, 30 minutes, every 20 minutes) runs to Naejangsan.

SEONUNSAN PROVINCIAL PARK

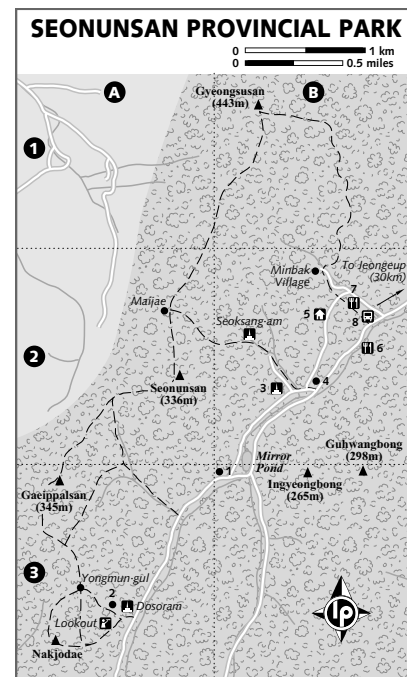
선운산도립공원

This pretty park (☎ 563 3450; adult/youth/child W2800/1800/1300; ☎ sunrise-sunset) has always been popular and has inspired poets such as Sa Chong-ju:

Every spring I go to Seonunsa
To see the camellia flowers
But this year they haven't bloomed yet
So I'm thinking about last year's visit
And the husky-voiced singing of a bar hostess.

Sights & Activities

A 20-minute walk along a rocky, tree-lined river brings you to **Seonunsa** and just behind the temple is a 500-year-old **camellia forest** that flowers around the end of April, although a few blooms linger into summer.



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Garden 공원 1 B3
Giant Buddha Rock Carving 마애불상 2 A3
Seonunsa 선운사 3 B2
Ticket Office 매표소 4 B2

SLEEPING

Seonunsan Youth Hostel 선운산유스호스텔 5 B2

EATING

Food Stalls 분식포장마차 6 B2
Restaurants 식당가 7 B2

TRANSPORT

Bus Stop 버스정류장 8 B2

Another 35 minutes further on is Dosoram and just beyond is a giant **Buddha rock carving**. Folk art in style, it probably dates back to the Goryeo dynasty; the amazing image is carved into the cliff face and is 13m high. Despite centuries of erosion the Buddha is still an impressive sight, a testament to the faith of ancient times. On the right is a very narrow grotto, and next to it stairs lead up to a tiny shrine and a great view. From the Buddha, you can climb **Nakjodae** and carry on to **Gaeppalsan**

and **Seonunsan**, with views of the West Sea, before heading back down to Seonunsan.

Sleeping & Eating

Accommodation is limited and the **Seonunsan Youth Hostel** (☎ 561 3333; fax 561 3448; r W40,000) can sometimes be booked out at weekends.

At the park entrance are stalls selling locally grown *bokbunja* (wild berry), also in the form of juice, *soju* and rice-cakes. Others sell barbecued chicken and fish, *norang goguma* (tasty strips of dried sweet potato), *muhwagwa* (tiny dried figs), ginkgo fruit and roast chestnuts.

Getting There & Away

Buses (W4000, 1½ hours, every 30 minutes) run from Jeonju to Gochang, from where buses (W1800, 20 minutes, hourly) run to Seonunsan.

In Gochang, walk out of the bus terminal, turn left and at the main crossroads turn right to visit Gochang Fortress, a 10-minute walk. On the right is the **Pansori Museum** (☎ 560 2761; adult/youth/child W800/500/free; ☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun), with memorabilia on this unique solo

opera musical form. The well-preserved, ivy-covered, 1.6km-long, 15th-century **fortress wall** (admission free; ☎ 9am-7pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) surrounds buildings such as a three-cell prison. A local belief is that if a woman walks three times around the wall with a stone on her head in a leap month, then she will never become ill and will enter paradise.

BYEONSANBANDO NATIONAL PARK 변산반도국립공원

This coastal **park** (☎ 582 7808; W3200/1300/700; ☎ sunrise-sunset) contains **Naesosan**, where the buildings look old, with lots of unpainted wood. Take a close look at the main hall, especially the lattice doors, the painting behind the Buddha statues, and the intricately carved and painted ceiling with musical instruments, flowers and dragons among the motifs.

Hike up the unpaved road to **Cheongneonam** (20 minutes) for sea views; another 15 minutes brings you to the ridge where you turn left for Gwaneumbong. From the peak follow the path, which goes up and down and over rocks for an hour until you reach **Jikso Pokpo**,

a 30m-high waterfall with a large pool. Another pretty spot is **Seonyeotang** (Angel Pool). From there walk along the unpaved access road past the ruins of **Silgangs**, destroyed during the Korean War. You may need to hitch a lift as buses are infrequent. For a more challenging hike head up **Nakjoda**, which is famous for its sunset views.

Beaches along the coast attract crowds in summer.

Gyeokpo beach has dramatic stratified cliffs and caves as well as seafood restaurants. The beach is safe for swimming but the sea disappears at low tide. Gyeokpo is also the starting point for ferries to **Wido**, a small island where every house in the little fishing village of Jinli is a *minbak*-cum-restaurant. The large sandy beach is a cool place to hang in summer, almost like being on a beach in Thailand.

Only one direct bus (W6000; two hours) runs from Jeonju to Naesosan. Otherwise take a bus from Jeonju to Buan (W3700, one hour, five daily) and then a local bus to Naesosan (W2000, one hour, every 30 minutes). Buses (W6400, two hours, hourly) also run from Jeonju to Gyeokpo.

Ferries (☎ 581 0023) go from Gyeokpo to Wido (W6500 one way, 40 minutes, three daily September to June, six daily July and August).

GUNSAN

pop 280,000

Gunsan is a major port and industrial city that has a US airbase nearby, but the only reason for visiting is to catch a ferry to Seonyudo, Eocheongdo or further afield to China.

SEONYUDO 선유도

A 43km ferry trip from Gunsan brings you to the relaxing and increasingly popular island of Seonyudo, situated amid 60 mostly uninhabited small islands. This is Korea's very own secret Polynesia. When the tide is in and the sun is out, the views are as beautiful as anywhere in the country. These days there are more bicycle-hire stalls than fishing boats; you can hire bicycles (per hour W3000) or a quad bike (per hour W20,000) to pedal or zip around laid-back fishing villages on

© Lonely Planet Publications. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'

Seonyudo and the three islands that are linked to it by bridges. Six-person *bungbungka* (auto rickshaws; per hour W30,000) take pensioner parties on fun tours.

The main attraction is the 1.6km **beach**, a 10-minute walk from the ferry pier, on a spit of soft, golden sand with great island views on both sides. At the far end the adventurous should climb up rocky **Mangjubong**. Take the right turn towards Saeteo village and on your left are tracks leading through the grass up to some ropes that are fixed to the rock, which you can use to haul yourself up to a wooded gully. The view from the top is a wonderful panorama of islands.

Raw fish and squid dominate the restaurant scene, but you can find *baekban* (백반; rice, fish and vegetable meal) and *galbi* (갈비; beef ribs). Accommodation prices double in July and August. A friendly, weather-beaten owner welcomes guests to the clean and tidy rooms at **Jung-ang Minbak** (중앙민박; ☎ 465 3450; r W25,000 ☎). Next to the school, it has a distinctive rock-clad exterior.

The newer **Uri Park Minbak** (우리파크민박; ☎ 465 0657; r W30,000) has better views but *yo* mattresses rather than beds. The restaurant cooks up *galbi* if you're not a fish or seafood fan. Both are in the main fishing village, with its shops and restaurants, a 10-minute walk from the jetty and very near the beach.

Buses (W4000, one hour, every 15 minutes) leave from Jeonju for Gunsan. Ferries (adult/child one way W11,700/5500, 1½ hours, three or four daily) leave from the new **Yeonan Yeogaek** (Gunsan Coastal Ferry Terminal; 연안여객터미널; ☎ 467 6000), a 15-minute, W7500 taxi ride from Gunsan bus terminal.

EOCHEONGDO 어청도

Ferries leave from the Gunsan Coastal Ferry Terminal for nine other islands including **Eocheongdo** (adult/child one way W22,900/5750, one daily), 70km from Gunsan, which has *minbak* to stay in, varied bird habitats and a reputation for being one of the best places in Korea for bird-watching, with 228 recorded species including 24 rare ones. View www.birdskorea.org for more details.

