

A Land of Morning Calm

Information about Korea

Official Name- Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Capital city- Seoul

National Flag- Taegeukgi

National Flower- Mugunghwa (Rose of Sharon)

Location- East Asia

Surrounded- by China on the west and Japan on the east

Official Language- Korean. (Writing System: Hangeul). English is widely spoken

Religion : Buddhists, Protestants and Catholics

Population- 50 million approx.

Climate- Continental and monsoon climate, with 4 distinct seasons

Time Zone- 3.5 hrs ahead of IST

Monetary Unit- Korean Won

Driving- On the right

Biggest 3 cities- Seoul, Busan, Daegu

The Korean Peninsula is located in North-East Asia. It is bordered by the Amnok River (Yalu River) to the northwest, separating Korea from China, and the Duman River (Tumen River) to the northeast which separates Korea from both China and Russia. The country itself is flanked by the Yellow Sea to its west and the East Sea to the east. There are several notable islands that surround the country including Jeju-do, Ulleung-do and Dok-do (Liancourt Rocks).

The Korean peninsula is roughly 1,030 km (612 miles) long and 175 km (105 miles) wide at its narrowest point. The land area is 100,033 sq km, and it has a population of 49.8 million people (2011).

Because of its unique geographical location, this makes Korea very viable piece of land and an international hub of Asia.

Geographical Make-up

Mountains cover 70% of Korea's land mass, making it one of the most mountainous regions in the world. The lifting and folding of Korea's granite and limestone base creates breathtaking landscapes of scenic hills and valleys. The mountain range that stretches the length of the east coast falls steeply into the East Sea, while along the southern and western coasts, the mountains descend gradually to the coastal plains that produce the bulk of Korea's agricultural crops, especially rice.

Korea has four seasons, with a wet monsoon/summer in the middle of the year, and a cold winter from November to March. The island of Jeju off the southern coast is the warmest and wettest place in the country. The ideal time to visit Korea is during the autumn months (September-November). During this time, the country experiences warm, sunny weather, skies that are cobalt blue and spectacular foliage that is perhaps the biggest draw. Winters are cold

and dry and are a good time to visit if you are interested in winter sports as there are numerous ski resorts. Spring (April-May) is also beautiful with all the cherry blossoms in bloom. However, it is very busy and one needs to book in advance to ensure accommodation is available. The summer months are muggy and hot, and rather crowded. It is also when the monsoon begins so many activities are subject to the fluctuations of heavy rain.

Spring- Spring lasts from late March to May and is warm. Various flowers, including the picturesque cherry blossom, cover the nation's mountains and fields during this time.

Summer- Summer lasts from June to early September. It is a hot and humid time of the year.

Autumn - Autumn lasts from September to November, and produces mild weather. It is the best season for visiting Korea.

Winter- Winter lasts from December to mid-March. It can be bitterly cold during this time due to the influx of cold Siberian air. Heavy snow in the northern and eastern parts of Korea makes for favorable skiing conditions.

The Korean National Flag

The Korean flag is called "Taegyeukgi" in Korean. Its design symbolizes the principles of the yin and yang in Oriental philosophy. The circle in the center of the Korean flag is divided into two equal parts. The upper red section represents the proactive cosmic forces of the yang. Conversely, the lower blue section represents the responsive cosmic forces of the yin. The two forces together embody the concepts of continual movement, balance and harmony that characterize the sphere of infinity. The circle is surrounded by four trigrams, one in each corner. Each trigram symbolizes one of the four universal elements: heaven (☰), earth (☷), fire (☲), and water (☵).

The National flower of Korea

National flower is the mugunghwa, rose of sharon. Every year from July to October, a profusion of mugunghwa blossoms graces the entire country. Unlike most flowers, the mugunghwa is remarkably tenacious and able to withstand both blight and insects. The flower's symbolic significance stems from the Korean word *mugung*, meaning immortality. This word accurately reflects the enduring nature of Korean culture, and the determination and perseverance of the Korean people.

National Anthem of Korea

Korea's national anthem is "Aegukga," which means "Love the Country." In 1896, the Dongnip Sinmun (Independence News) published various versions of lyrics for this song. It is not known exactly what music they were sung to in the early days. Records show that a Western-style military band was formed during the time of the Dae-han Empire (1897-1910) and that the "Dae-han Empire Aegukga" was composed in 1902 and played at important national functions. The original words of Aegukga appeared in written form around 1907 to inculcate allegiance to the nation and foster the spirit of independence as the country faced threats of foreign annexation. Over the years, the lyrics went through several versions until they were adopted as the national anthem in the present form in 1948. Before the birth of the Republic in 1948, the words were often sung to the tune of the Scottish folk song, Auld Lang Syne. Maestro Ahn Eak-tay (1905-1965), then living in Spain, felt that it was inappropriate to sing this patriotic song to the tune of another country's folk song. So, he composed new music to go with the lyrics in 1935, and the Korean Provisional Government in exile adopted it as the national anthem. While Koreans outside the country sang the anthem to the new tune, those at home continued to use Auld Lang Syne until Korea was liberated in 1945. In 1948 the government of the Republic of Korea officially adopted the new version as the national anthem and began to use it at all schools and official functions.

History

Korea's history dates back to 2333 B.C. This section follows the history of Korea from the prehistoric age to the modern era.

The Prehistoric Age

Archaeological findings have indicated that the first settlements on the Korean Peninsula occurred 700,000 years ago.

Gojoseon (2333 - 108 B.C.)

According to legend, the mythical figure Dan-gun founded Gojoseon, the first Korean Kingdom, in 2333 BCE. Subsequently, several tribes moved from the southern part of Manchuria to the Korean Peninsula.

The Three Kingdoms Period (57 BCE - 676 CE)

The Three Kingdoms Period refers to the period from the early 4th to mid-7th centuries CE marked by the struggle of three rival kingdoms (Goguryeo, Baekje, and Silla) over territory spanning the Korean Peninsula and part of Northeastern Asia.

Goguryeo Kingdom

An ancient state of the Korean Peninsula, Goguryeo occupied the largest territory among the Three Kingdoms. Founded in 37 BCE by Jumong (later become King Dongmyeong), Goguryeo prospered on a vast area encompassing the northern part of the Korean Peninsula and south-central Manchuria. The kingdom expanded its territory in fierce battles against Chinese kingdoms, but fell to an alliance of Silla and Tang forces in 668 CE.

Silla Kingdom

Silla was originally founded by King Park Hyeokgeose in the southeastern part of the Korean Peninsula. The kingdom lasted for 992 years, from 57 BCE to 935 CE. It conquered Baekje and Goguryeo, one after the other, by joining forces with the Tang Empire of China. Following the unification of the Three Kingdoms, the Tang Empire was no longer seen as an ally, but an invader. Silla joined forces with the people of Goguryeo and Baekje to drive out Tang forces, and founded the first unified state in the history of Korea in the territory south of the Daedonggang River and Wonsanman.

Baekje Kingdom

Baekje (18 BCE – 660 CE) was founded by King Onjo, the son of the king of Goguryeo, in the southwestern part of the Korean Peninsula. The kingdom witnessed the flowering of the elegant and delicate Baekje culture, which in particular influenced Japanese culture. In 660 CE, Baekje was defeated by the coalition troops of Silla and Tang of China.

The Unified Silla Kingdom and Balhae

The Unified Silla (676-935)

The Unified Silla Kingdom promoted the development of culture and arts, and the popularity of Buddhism reached its peak during this period. The Unified Silla Kingdom declined because of contention for supremacy among the noble classes, and was annexed by Goryeo in 935.

Balhae (698-926)

The Balhae Kingdom began to emerge just as the Goguryeo Kingdom was on the verge of collapsing. Goguryeo General Dae Joyeong founded Balhae along with his army of displaced peoples. At one point, Balhae became so powerful that it was able to acquire lost territories of Goguryeo and even territories in northern and eastern parts of China. In those times, the Tang Dynasty of China referred to Balhae as “Haedongseongguk” or “the strong country by the sea in the east.” In 926, Balhae was wiped out by the Georan tribe.

The Goryeo Dynasty (918 - 1392)

The Goryeo Dynasty was established in 918 by King Wang Geon. Buddhism became the state religion during this time and greatly influenced politics and culture. Famous items produced during this time include Goryeo celadon and the Daejanggyeongpan, the Tripitaka

Koreana (Memory of the World Register). The world's first movable metal type was developed in Korea during the Goryeo Dynasty. Jikjisimcheyojeol, a Buddhist scripture printed using the metal type, is at least 78 years older than the first Gutenberg Bible. The Goryeo Dynasty's strength decreased gradually in the latter half of the 14th century and finally perished due to the dynastic revolution.

The Joseon Dynasty (1392 - 1910)

The Joseon Dynasty was formed at the end of the 14th century. Goryeo General Lee Sung-gye brought down Goryeo to found Joseon, and designated Seoul as the capital. Confucianism became the state ideology and exerted a massive influence over the whole of society. Hangeul, the Korean alphabet, was invented in 1443 during the reign of King Sejong.

The Japanese Colonial Period (1910 - 1945)

In 1876, the Joseon Dynasty was forced by Japan to adopt an open-door policy. Then, in 1910, Japan concluded its annexation of Korea. Koreans suffered under Japanese colonial rule until the end of World War II, with the surrender of Japan in 1945.

Establishment of the Korean Government (1945-1948)

Korea was liberated from Japanese colonization on August 15, 1945, but it soon faced the tragic division of North and South along the 38th Parallel. Both regions were placed under temporary military rule by the U.S. and Soviet armies, respectively. On May 10, 1948, with the help of the United Nations, South Korea elected Dr. Rhee Syngman as its first president. On August 15th of the same year, an official declaration announced the birth of the South Korean government. In the north, North Korea formed the Provisional People's Committee for North Korea, led by Kim Il-sung, in February 1946. On September 9, 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was officially founded.

The Korean War (1950-1953)

In the early hours of June 25, 1950, North Korea attempted a forcible unification of North and South Korea by crossing the 38th Parallel and invading South Korea. Military help from over 16 nations under the leadership of U.N. Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur helped defend South Korea against the threat of communism. China and the Soviet Union lent their military might to North Korea. The war continued over the next three years until coming to an end on July 27, 1953, with an armistice signed at Panmunjeom, located in the DMZ. Not only did the war ravage the Peninsula, it also heightened hostile feelings between the North and South, making reunification a difficult task.

The Aftermath of War (1954-Present)

Beginning in 1954, the Rhee Syngman Government focused on developing an anti-communist politics. In 1960, students forged an anti-government movement, the 4.19 Revolution against the illegitimately pro-longed reign of Rhee Syngman Government, and overturned the government. On July 23, 1960, a new election law was enacted, and Yun Bo-seon was elected president. However, the Yun Bo-seon Government was toppled by a military coup on May 16, 1961. In 1963, the acting president, Park Chung-hee was officially elected president, and ruled with a controversial iron fist for the next 17 years. President Park Chung-hee's 'Saemaeul Undong' (New Community Movement, an effort to modernize Korea that began in 1970) brought about much progress in South Korea, and the systematic approach to economic development also yielded increased exports and positive returns. However, as the influence of citizens who were against such extended reign and democratic movements began to increase in power, Park Chung-hee's reign finally came to an end with his assassination in 1979. Choi Kuy-hah, served as a prime minister in Park's era, became the next president of South Korea after Park's death. But, he left office after eight months due to pressure from a political force organized by Chun Doo-hwan and his political partners. In 1980, Chun Doo-hwan came to power and continued to lead the nation with an authoritarian rule, as had been the case with former presidents. In the

end, he accepted a constitutional amendment creating a direct presidential election system according to the nation's desire revealed through the democratic movement and stepped down from politics in 1988 as his last year in the president. In 1988, the Roh Tae-woo government started off the year on a good note by successfully hosting the 1988 Seoul Olympics. His government went on to join the UN in 1991.

The Kim Young-sam Government, which began in 1993, implemented a new system in which people were required to use their real names when making financial transactions, a much needed reform at the time. In 1998, Kim Dae-jung was elected president. He threw his efforts into overcoming the IMF financial catastrophe that hit Asia in 1997, and also hosted the 17th FIFA World Cup in 2002. President Kim Dae-jung was also the winner of the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize for his Sunshine Policy regarding North Korea. The Roh Moo-hyun Administration, which came into office in 2003, aspired to be a participatory government where public engagement played a key role. Key outcomes of the Roh Administration included a human resources policy targeting young and open-minded people, the liquidation of authoritarianism, and growth of the civil society. The second round summit talks between South and North Korea also took place under his administration. President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2008 as the 17th president. His administration pursued change and pragmatism, and actively undertook the privatization of public corporations and passage of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The administration successfully hosted the G20 Seoul Summit, the Nuclear Security Summit, and other major events. In North Korea, Kim Jong-il died in December 2011 after 17 years in power. His son Kim Jong-un took power. Since the signing of a South-North joint communique regarding the reunification of the Korean Peninsula on July 4, 1972, South and North Korea have continued their efforts towards a peaceful coexistence and reunification, including North Korea's opening of Geumgang Mountain to South Korean tourists in 1998, and the two rounds of South-North summit meetings in 2000 and 2007, respectively. On February 25, 2013, Park Geun-hye took oath and was inaugurated as the 18th president of Korea. She is the first female president since the establishment of the Korean government. She is also a daughter of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th president, Park Chung-hee. The Park Geun-hye Government places a top priority on establishment of fair trade as well as political, legislative, and prosecution reform. It also focuses on reducing households' debt, developing measures to deal with youth unemployment, and improving welfare.

Language

Hangeul (한글), Korea's official alphabet, was first invented by King Sejong during the Joseon Dynasty. Originally called Hunminjeongeum (훈민정음), the language was conceived in 1443, and further promulgated by the King in 1446. At the time of its inception, the language consisted of 17 consonants and 11 vowels however, since then, 3 of the originally established consonants and 1 vowel have fallen into disuse bringing the total number of characters to 24. Syllables are formed by the selective combination of vowels and consonants to create words. The official name for the Korean language was changed to 'Hangeul' in 1910. Hunminjeongeum Proclamation Day was called 'Gagya Proclamation Day' up until 1926, and it wasn't until 1928 that it was changed to its current title, 'Hangeul Proclamation Day'. There are 24 Hangeul characters together. 'The Hunminjeongeum,' a historical document which provides instructions to educate people on the use of Hangeul, is registered with UNESCO. UNESCO awards a 'King Sejong Literacy Prize,' every year in memory of the inventor of Hangeul.

Cities

Seoul

Seoul has been the capital of Korea for about 600 years, since the time of the Joseon Dynasty(1392-1910). Seoul was referred to as "Han Yang" during the Joseon Dynasty, but after the liberation from Japan, in 1945, the newly founded Republic of Korea officially changed its capital city's name to Seoul. Seoul has developed into a bustling metropolis, acting as the hub

for political, economic, social, and cultural matters. The Han River runs through the heart of the city. The river divides the city in two; the northern part of the city is a focal point for culture and history, while the southern part is well known for its business district. Seoul has hosted many international events including: 1986 Asian Games, 1988 Olympic Games and 2002 Korea/Japan FIFA World Cup. The success of these events has shown people that Korea is truly an international city. In Seoul you can find ancient palaces and Royal Shrines of the Joseon Dynasty, as well as Seoul World Cup Stadium, 63 CITY building, Lotte World, Han River, Namsan, Bukhansan Mountain National Park, Daehangno, Insa-dong, Itaewon, Myeong-dong, Apgujeong, Namdaemun and Dongdaemun Markets. On the outskirts of Seoul you can find Seoul Land, Everland, Caribbean Bay, The Korean Folk Village, Suwon Hwaseong Fortress, and Namhansan Mountain Fortress.

Busan

Situated on the most south-eastern portion of the Korean peninsula, Busan is Korea's second largest city and the number 1 trading port. Korea's first truly international city, Busan (Pusan) connects Asia, Europe, and North America. This geopolitically situated harbor city sits adjacent to the Korean Straits and Japan, bringing about an interchange of trade and tourism. This intercultural current has made Busan into the international metropolis it is today. Busan has hosted such international events as the 2002 14th Asian Games, the final match of the Korea/Japan World Cup, and since 1995 has annually hosted the Pusan International Film Festival. Additionally, the Bexco Exhibition and Convention Center in Busan brings in people from all over the world for international conventions and exhibits. Shopping in this port city has also become quite popular. Lotte Department Store, Choryang Arcade for Foreigners, Nampo-dong Street, Gukje Market, and Seomyeon market, located in the center of the city, are sought after places by Japanese and other foreign tourists. Sighting in Busan (Pusan) can typically be classified into two groups: seashore and interior land sighting. Seashore sightseeing includes such sights as the beach areas, islands, and Hae Ahn Park. While interior land sightseeing includes such sights as downtown Busan, historical ruins and sites, Dongnae Shrine, Busan World Cup Stadium, and Bexco Exhibition and Convention Center. Surely Busan's most charming tourist point is its beautiful sea vistas. The southeastern beach areas have amazing views of the fantastically shaped rocks and islands, which are a must see. The famous beaches of Haeundae, Gwangalli, and Songjeong are enjoyed by many. Boating, jet skis, and banana boats are just among a few of the water recreation activities visitors can take advantage of. Annam Park, Igidae, and Haean Park offer views of nature's masterpieces. The natural beauties of Busan can also be taken in by riding the cruise boats in the harbor. The summer months offer an array of festivals on almost every beach, while in the fall, the Jagalchi Fish market holds a cultural festival for foreign tourists. The Nakdong Estuary Seasonal Bird Migration Site is a famous tourist spot in the winter. Since the release of the movie 'Chingu' (friend), which was filmed in Busan, Yongdusan Park and Jagalchi Fish Market have become popular areas for tourists as well. The Busan area has a plethora of places to dine. There is one street that is lined with Dongnae Pajeon (Korean style pancakes) and raw fish restaurants. Additionally, some nearby museums include the Busan Marine Museum, Bokcheon Museum, Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Busan Museum and many other cultural facilities.

Gyeongju

Known as 'the museum without walls', Gyeongju holds more tombs, temples, rock carvings, pagodas, Buddhist statuary and palace ruins than any other place in South Korea. Most visitors touring the city centre are taken aback by the distinctive urban landscape created by round grassy tombs – called tumuli – and traditional architecture with colourful hip roofs set against a canvas of green rolling mountains. Two of Gyeongju's most not-to-be-missed sites – Bulguk-sa and Seokguram – are in the outlying districts and are within reach via public transport. Gyeongju covers a vast area – some 1323 sq km – so you should plan on several days of travel if you want to visit some of the lesser-known places. Bus transport out to these areas is satisfactory, though personal transport is a better option if you value speed and some flexibility. In 57 BC,

around the same time that Julius Caesar was subduing Gaul, Gyeongju became the capital of the Shilla dynasty, and it remained so for nearly a thousand years. In the 7th century AD, under King Munmu, Shilla conquered the neighbouring kingdoms of Goguryeo and Baekje, and Gyeongju became the capital of the whole peninsula. The population of the city eventually peaked at around one million people, but the Shilla eventually fell victim to division from within and invasion from without. The city began a cultural revival in the late 20th century – with much preservation and restoration work thanks to President Park Chung-hee in the 1970s.

Jeju Do

Jeju Island is the largest volcanic island in Korea. Officially called Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, this premier tourist destination boasts mild weather, as well as scenic beauties of beaches, waterfalls, cliffs and caves. Some of the top tourist sites include Hallasan National Park with a largely diverse species of flora and fauna, Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak with breathtaking views, and Manjanggul Cave, the world's longest lava tube that has been registered as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage. Meanwhile, Jeju has recently won the Global Geopark certificate, and also has been selected as the New7Wonders of Nature.

Mounuments of Korea

Mount Seoraksan- Seoraksan is the Highest Mountain in the Taebaek mountain range in the Gangwon Province in eastern South Korea. It is located in a national park near the city of Sokcho.

N-Seoul Tower- N-Seoul Tower officially the YTN Seoul Tower and commonly known as the Namsan Tower or Seoul Tower. This is a communication and observation tower located on Namsan Mountain in central Seoul, South Korea.

The War Memorial- War Memorial of Korea is located in Yongsan-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea. It opened in 1994 on the former site of the army headquarters to exhibit and memorializes the military history of Korea.

Jogyesa Temple- Jogyesa is the chief temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, becoming so in 1936. The temple was first established in 1395, at the dawn of the Joseon Dynasty; the modern temple was founded in 1910 and initially called "Hwanggaksa." The name was changed to "Taegosa" during the period of Japanese rule, and then to the present name in 1954.

Gwanggan Bridge- The Bridge is a suspension bridge is located in Busan, South Korea. It connects Haeundae-gu to Suyeong-gu. The road surface is about 6,500 meters long, with the bridge as a whole spanning 7,420 meters.

Haeundae Beach- Haeundae District is a gu in eastern Busan, South Korea. It has an area of 51.44 km², and a population of about 423,000.

Gamcheon Cultural Village- Gamcheon Village was established by refugees from the Korean War back in the fifties, resulting in a very run down area until it was transformed into an arts and culture village in 2010.

UN Memorial Cemetery- It located at Tanggok in the Nam District, City of Busan, South Korea. is a burial ground for United Nations Command (UNC) casualties of the Korean War.

Love Land Theme Park - Love Land Park is an outdoor sculpture park which opened in 2004 on Jeju Island in South Korea. The park is focused on a theme of sex, running sex education films, and featuring 140 sculptures representing humans in various sexual positions.

Manjanggul Cave - The Manjanggul Lava Tube is located in Gimnyeong-ri, Gujwaeup, Jeju City and is 23 m in breadth and 30 m in height. As the lava tube stretches for as far as an approximate 8,928 m, its length ranks amongst the top 10 in the world.

Hallasan Mountain - Hallasan is a shield volcano on Jeju Island of South Korea. Hallasan is the highest mountain in South Korea. The area around the mountain is a designated national park, the Hallasan National Park (Hallasan Gungnip Gongwon).

Seongsan Ilchulbong - Seongsan Ilchulbong, also called 'Sunrise Peak', is an archetypal tuff cone formed by hydro volcanic eruptions upon a shallow seabed about 5 thousand years ago.

Teddy Bear Museum- The Teddy Bear Museum lives up to its names, boasting quite an impressive variety that has been loved for more than a hundred years the world over. You will find here various sizes of Teddy bears.

Yeomiji Botanical Garden- The Yeomiji Botanic garden is located in Jung-Mun Tourist Complex, the Jeju tourist Mecca, Jeju Island where mysterious natures and traditional cultures are alive.

Yongduam Rocks- Yongduam has a shape of a dragon soaring toward the sky from the sea. It looks like a real wriggling dragon when you stare at it. You can enjoy Yongduam more clearly when the waves are swirling rather than calm. **Anapji Pond**- Anapji Pond is an artificial pond in Gyeongju National Park, South Korea. It was part of the palace complex of ancient Silla (57 BCE - 935 CE). It was constructed by order of King Munmu in 674 CE.

Bomun Lake - The Bomun Lake Resort is a large tourist complex around Bomun Lake in the city of Gyeongju, South Korea. The resort covers the districts of Bomun-dong, Sinpyeong-dong, Amgok-dong and Cheongun-dong.

Seokguram Grotto - The Seokguram Grotto is a hermitage and part of the Bulguksa temple complex. It lies four kilometers east of the temple on Mt. Tohamsan, in Gyeongju, South Korea.

Golgulsa Temple - Golgulsa (literally "Stone Buddha Temple") is located 20 km east of the ancient Silla Dynasty capital city of Gyeongju in South-eastern Korea. In the Golgulsa temple area can be found the oldest historical Buddhist ruins on Mt. Hamwol and the only cave temple in Korea.

Festival & Stage performances in Korea

Seollal - Korean New Year is the first day of the Korean lunar calendar. It is one of the most significant traditional Korean holidays. The celebration lasts three days: the day before Korean New Year day, Korean New Year day itself, and the day after Korean New Year day. "Seolnal" generally refers to Eumnyeok Seolnal

(Lunar New Year), also known as Gujeong. "Seolnal" may also refer to Yangnyeok Seolnal (Solar New Year), also known as Sinjeong Programs: Event period: 01st January (Every Year)

Boryeong Mud Festival - The Boryeong Mud Festival is an annual festival which takes place during the summer in Boryeong, a town around 200 km south of Seoul, South Korea. The first Mud Festival was staged in 1998 and, by 2007, the festival attracted 2.2 million visitors to Boryeong. Programs: Event period: Month of July (Every Year)

Andong Mask Dance Festival - The Andong region has many highly renowned historic and cultural sites, such as Hahoe Village, however the major cultural attraction of the region is the Andong Maskdance Festival.

Visitors to the festival will enjoy the many performances of Korea's traditional mask dances.
Programs: Event period: Sept 26 - Oct 04 (Every Year)

Gangneung Danoje Festival - The Gangneung Danoje Festival was designated a 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' by UNESCO in 2005 and 'Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 13' in Korea in 1967. The festival serves to preserve the folk culture of the Joseon Dynasty and has been a popular festival since 1975.

Yeon Deung Hoe (Lighting Lantern Festival) - The Yeon Deung Hoe Festival originated in the Silla era more than 1,300 years ago. Programs: Event period: Month of February (Every Year)

For Leisure Time in Korea...

Nanta - Nanta is also known as 'Cookin' or "Cookin' Nanta". is a South Korean non-verbal comedy show that incorporate traditional samul nori rhythm. It premiered in October 1997 in Hoam Art Hall in Seoul.

Western & Korean Music Bars (Nightlife of Korea) - There are several "Woodstock" music bars in Seoul, even Gangnam. The best one Yeoksam-dong side of Gangnam station, up the hill towards the second Irish pub location. With good music. Darts games. The place gets start as a pure act of love for blues and rock music, with a huge private collection of vinyl.

Kung (Battle of B-Boy) - B-Boy City in Seoul "Kung" is a non-verbal musical performance that tells the story of the dance group Gorilla Crew. The main character, Hochan, anguishes about the stark reality he is facing as a dancer.

Taste of Korea

Bibimbap - Bibimbap is a signature Korean dish. The word literally means "mixed rice". Bibimbap is served as a bowl of warm white rice topped with namul (sautéed and seasoned vegetables) and gochujang (chili pepper paste), soy sauce, or doenjang, a salty soybean paste. A raw or fried egg and sliced meat (usually beef) are common additions. The hot dish is stirred together thoroughly just before eating.

Kimchi - Kimchi is a traditional fermented Korean side dish made of vegetables with a variety of seasonings. It is often described as spicy and sour in traditional preparation, kimchi is often allowed to ferment underground in jars for months.

Sinseollo - Sinseollo or yeolguja tang is an elaborate dish consisting of meatballs, small and round jeonyueo, mushrooms, and vegetables cooked in a rich broth in Korean royal court cuisine. The dish is a form of jeongol (elaborate chowder-like stew). It is served in a large bundt pan shaped vessel with a hole in the center, in which hot embers are placed to keep the dish hot throughout the meal.

Dakgalbi (Chicken ribs) - Dakgalbi, also romanized dalk galbi, is a popular Korean dish generally made by stir-frying marinated diced chicken in a gochujang (chili pepper paste) based sauce, and sliced cabbage, sweet potato, scallions, onions, perilla leaves, and tteok (rice cake) together on a hot plate.

Jeon (Korean Pizza) - Jeon buchimgae, jijimgae, or jijim refer to many pancake-like dishes in Korean cuisine. It has been also called jeonyueo or jeonyuhwa, especially in Korean royal court cuisine.

Tteokbokki - Tteokbokki also known as "teokbokki, ddeokbokki, topokki, and dukboki". It is a popular Korean snack food which is commonly purchased from street vendors or Pojangmacha.

Indian Thali - Thali is an Indian meal made up of a selection of various dishes. Thali dishes vary from region to region in South Asia and are usually served in small bowls, called katori, which are placed on a round tray, the actual thali; often a steel tray made with multiple compartments is used. List of India Hotels in Korea