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STARS AND STRIPES
Community Publication

KOREA

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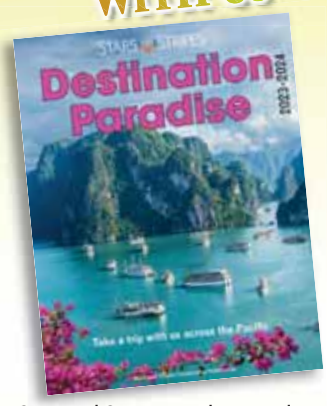

Stars and Stripes is asking readers to write about their own piece of paradise. Yes, that means you! Our annual Destination Paradise magazine highlights must-see travel spots across the Pacific – and your bit of paradise could be included in our 2024-25 edition that hits the streets on Pacific bases in September. Submit your story and photos to **paradise@stripes.com** by **July 10**. We'll make you famous!

Check out our previous Destination Paradise mags

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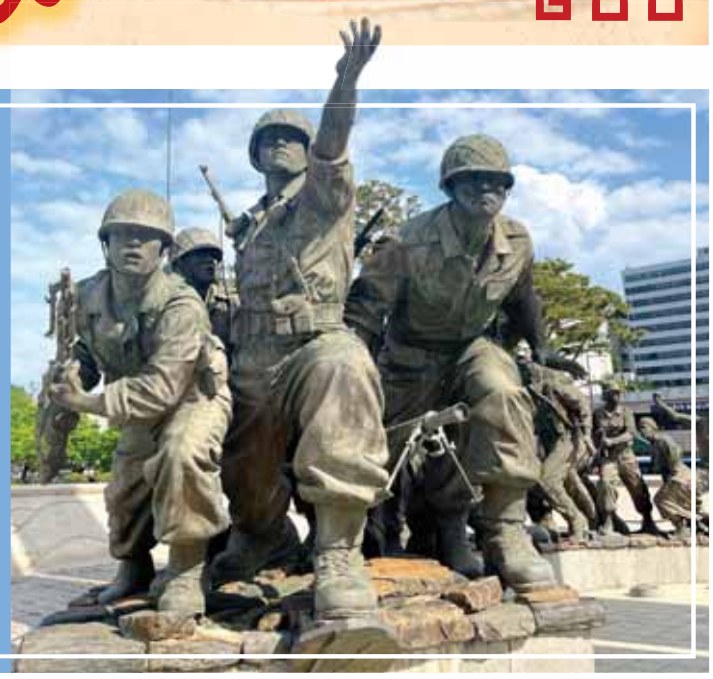

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Korea Tip of the Day

How to cope with air pollution

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

One challenge many face in Korea is the issue of air pollution. It is not uncommon for Koreans to begin their day by checking the weather forecast and air quality reports before venturing outdoors. Air pollution is a serious concern that requires extra precautions to protect one's health.

Air pollution with fine dust can cause significant health risks, potentially triggering respiratory problems, eye irritation, and skin irritation, depending on individual sensitivity. For those with medical conditions affecting their respiratory system, wearing a protective mask is highly recommended on days when fine dust levels are high.

To effectively cope with air pollution in Korea, there are a few essential steps to follow. First, monitor the latest air quality updates daily. Second, adhere to the guidelines for high-pollution days. By being informed and taking the necessary precautions, you can minimize the impact of air pollution on your well-being while living in Korea.

GUIDELINES FOR HIGH-POLLUTION DAYS

1. Avoid going out if possible and minimize outdoor activities.
2. Wear a protective mask (KF80, KF94, KF99) outside.
3. When outside, avoid areas with heavy air pollution, such as roadsides and construction sites.
4. Don't open the window for natural ventilation. Your room can become polluted with fine dust.
5. When indoor, use air purifiers, mop the floor with water, and use wet wipes.
6. Wash thoroughly after going out, especially your hands, feet, eyes, and nose with running water, and brush your teeth.
7. Consume plenty of water and vitamin C-rich fruits and vegetables.
8. It's recommended to refrain from activities that contribute to air pollution such as using private vehicles instead of public transportation.

HOW TO STAY UPDATED THE LATEST AIR QUALITY

1. If you have a weather app or widget on your phone, it will automatically show you the fine dust level. When it says poor or bad, try to avoid going out without wearing a mask and never open the window for ventilation.
2. Check Air Quality Index daily through the website below. Or you can stay connected with Facebook pages of your garrison or My Army Post app on your phone for Air Quality Index updates.

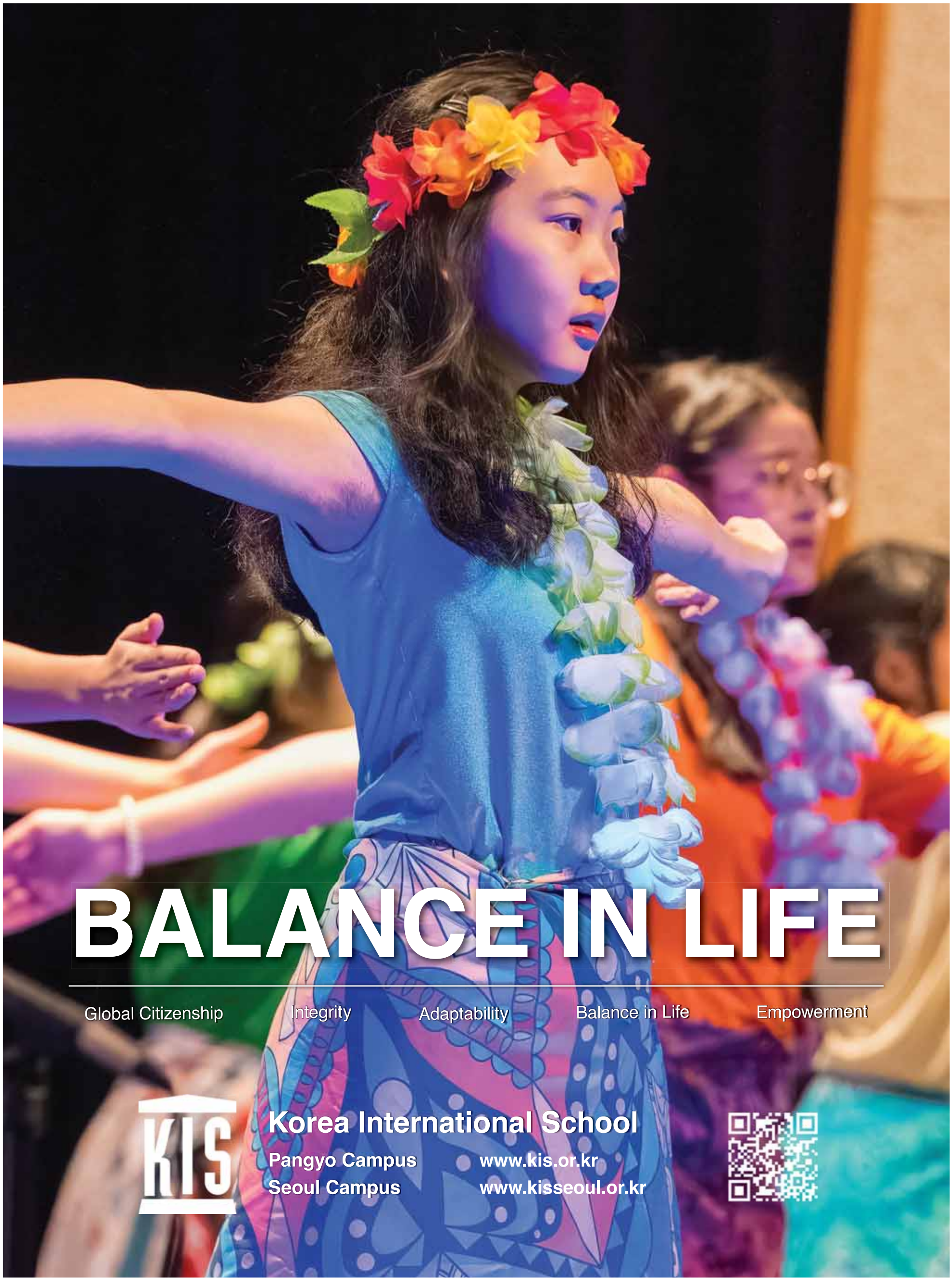
Air Quality Index
- Good (0-50): Green
- Moderate (51-100): Yellow
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150): Orange
- Unhealthy (151-200): Red
- Very Unhealthy (201-300): Purple
- Hazardous (301-500): Maroon

3. The Ministry of Environment Korea forecasts fine dust levels four times a day. Visit their website to learn more details and their reports or download the app - Air Korea.

The Comprehensive Air-quality Index (CAI by Air Korea)

CAI is a way of describing ambient air quality based on the health risks of air pollution used in South Korea. The index aims to help the public easily understand the air quality level and protect their health from air pollution.

- Good (0-50): Level that will not impact patients suffering from illnesses related to air pollution
- Moderate (51-100): Level may have a meager impact on patients in case of chronic exposure
- Unhealthy (101-250): Level which may have harmful impacts on patients and members of sensitive groups (children, aged or weak people), and also effect the well-being of the general public
- Very unhealthy (251-350): Serious impact on patients and members of sensitive groups in case of acute exposure, and may slightly affect the general public
- Very unhealthy (351-500): This level may require emergency measures for patients, members of sensitive groups and have harmful impacts on the general public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Explore Korea's true flavor

KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION

In Korea, there is no end to what people can see and experience, but trying Korean food is on the top of most visitor to-do lists! So let's explore some of the dishes that are sure to impress you with Korea's true flavor!

Bibimbap: Rice with nutrient-packed flavor

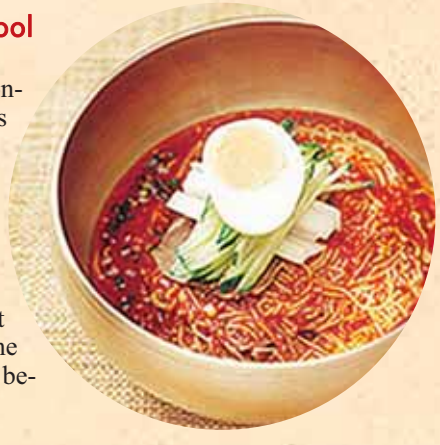
Bibimbap, or cooked rice mixed with vegetables, sautéed beef, and twigak (dried seaweed or vegetables fried in oil) is one of the definitive Korean dishes in the eyes of Koreans and also globally. There are three common beliefs about the origin of bibimbap. One theory is that it stemmed from the practice of mixing bap (cooked rice) with other dishes used for the ancestral rite of eumbok. Others say that bibimbap originated from mixing leftovers together as a midnight snack on Lunar New Year's Eve. The last theory is that farmers out working the fields would each bring a portion of food to be mixed together and divided evenly.

Samgye-tang: Rejuvenate yourself during the sweltering summer

Samgye-tang is made by simmering a whole young chicken stuffed with ginseng, hedysarum root, jujubes, and sweet rice. Considered an energy-boosting dish best eaten on hot days, it is a classic Korean dish that has become popular among international diners as well. Many restaurants even add samgye-tang to their menu during the summer, an example of its popularity. Japanese author Murakami Ryu and Chinese film director Zhang Yimou have both given extensive praise to the dish.

Bulgogi: Sweet treats for special days

Bulgogi is prepared by marinating thin slices of beef before grilling them. In the past, the royal court and yangban (nobles) in Seoul called it neobiani, meaning "wide meat slices." Traditional grilled meat dishes in Korea originated from a dish called maekjeok. Maek was the name of the northeast region of China, and is also a reference to Goguryeo, one of the earliest Korean kingdoms. Maekjeok is made with barbecued beef skewers, and according to folklore, evolved into present-day bulgogi through the introduction of grills, which made skewers obsolete.



Naengmyeon: Cool and refreshing noodle soup

Naengmyeon, cold buckwheat noodles, is considered a summer food, but that wasn't always the case. It used to be enjoyed over a warm ondol floor (subfloor heating system) during the freezing winter temperatures. The broth was made with the brine of dongchimi (radish water kimchi) scooped out of a large jar half-buried in the ground during the winter. Although its origin remains unclear, based on the fact that buckwheat was introduced by the Mongol Empire during the Goryeo Dynasty, it is theorized that Koreans first began eating it around that time.

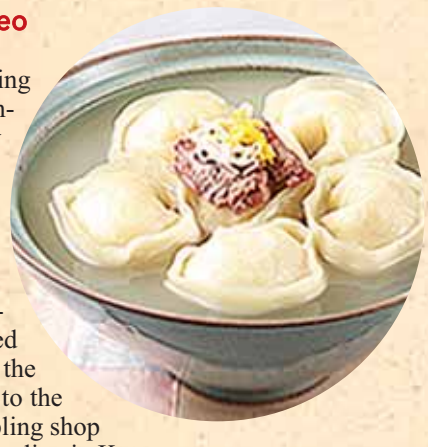
Kimchi: Over 1,500 years of fermented tradition

Kimchi is a fermented dish made with vegetables and a variety of seasoning ingredients. There are over 300 varieties, but when it was first made prior to the Three Kingdoms Period (AD 57-668), it required a very simple recipe of salting and storing napa cabbage in a ceramic container for fermentation. In the old days, kimchi was an important source of vitamins in the winter, when fresh vegetables were unavailable. What was originally a simple salted pickle has now become a complex dish requiring assorted seasonings and varying according to climate, geographical conditions, local ingredients, methods of preparation and preservation.

File photo

Sundubu-jjigae: The best source of protein

Sundubu starts out being made in the same manner as ordinary tofu; first boiling soymilk then coagulating it by adding brine. But it leaves out the later steps of draining and pressing the lumpy bean curds, giving it an easy-to-digest silky, light texture. In Chodang Maeul, a village famous for its sundubu, clean water from the East Sea is used as brine for thickening. It started when Chodang Heoyeop, a magistrate of Gangneung region during the mid-sixteenth century of Joseon Dynasty, discovered that the water from a spring in the front yard of his office tasted so fresh that he made tofu from the spring water and used sea water instead of brine. The name Chodang was then adopted from Heoyeop's pen name.



Mandu: A dish dating back to the Goryeo Dynasty

Mandu (dumpling) is made by placing a filling of ground meat and vegetables onto a round, thinly rolled wrapper and sealing the edges. They were initially prepared for ancestral rites or banquets and enjoyed as a special dish for cold winter days. When discussing the origin of Korean dumplings, a famous folk song called "Ssanghwajeom" (dumpling shop) from the Goryeo Dynasty is frequently mentioned. The song describes how a group of Uighurs arrived and opened up dumpling shops, and also how the people of the day greatly enjoyed the dish. Some people refer to the song and joke that a Mongol who opened a dumpling shop in 1279 may have been the first foreign investor to live in Korea.

Galbi-jjim: Soft and tender, the quintessential holiday food

Galbi-jjim (braised short ribs) is made from the finest and most expensive cut of beef. As such, galbi-jjim is usually eaten on special occasions or holidays, when family members come together. Korean cooking consists of a large number of braised dishes that require considerable culinary skill. Galbi-jjim is one such dish, growing in popularity among international diners as well. When making galbi-jjim, the fat on the short ribs is carefully removed before braising. Carrots, ginkgo nuts and chestnuts are added, and finally pyogo (shitake mushroom) and egg garnish are sprinkled on top to complete the preparation process. Glazed with soy sauce, galbi-jjim not only has a rich taste, but a mouth-watering visual presentation.

Jeyuk-bokkeum: Plenty to share with while sizzling hot

Jeyuk-bokkeum (spicy stir-fried pork) is one of the best-known dishes cooked with gochu-jang. It is a stir-fried dish with thick slices of pork shoulder marinated in hot gochu-jang and minced ginger. Before the 1950s, it was reportedly made using only scallion, black pepper, and soy sauce, but the current form of gochu-jang-marinated jeyuk-bokkeum is believed to have appeared sometime afterwards. Because it is a hearty yet inexpensive meat option, young people on limited budgets favor jeyuk-bokkeum. Youngsters often list it as their favorite food, and many Korean mothers will talk about how their son can "finish a pound of jeyuk-bokkeum in one sitting."

Japchae: A classic dish on festive days

Japchae (glass noodles with sautéed vegetables) is made by boiling glass noodles, then draining and mixing them with stir-fried spinach, carrots, mushrooms, beef and onions. The term japchae is a combination of jap, meaning "mix, gather, or plentiful" and chae, meaning "vegetables." Thus, it can be translated as "assorted mixed vegetables." No Korean festivity is complete without japchae. It has long been perceived as a luxurious and elegant dish, and was always served on birthdays, weddings and 60th birthday celebrations. Japchae was first created in the 17th century when King Gwanghaegun hosted a palace banquet. It is recorded in the Gwanghaegun Ilgi (Daily Records of King Gwanghaegun's Reign) that Yi Chung, one of the king's favorites, had the habit of personally presenting unusual dishes to the king. Gwanghaegun relished these dishes so much that he would not start a meal until they arrived. Among these unique dishes was japchae, which the king favored over all the rest.

Gimbap: A full meal in a single roll

Gimbap is made by spreading white rice on a sheet of gim (dried laver), layering it with spinach, pickled radish, carrots, egg, and beef, and then rolling it up like sushi. It was in the 1960s and 70s that the gimbap we know today - rolled up into a cylindrical form - became popular. This rice-roll was the default picnic lunch for annual spring and autumn school outings. Many Koreans fondly remember eating the end pieces of the rolls while their mothers prepared gimbap on the morning of school field trips.

Tteok-bokki: The most popular snack

Originally, tteok-bokki was not a spicy dish. In the royal courts of Joseon, it was prepared by simmering beef, carrots, onions, pyogo (shitake mushroom) and other ingredients together with rice cakes in soy sauce. The colorful ingredients made it visually appealing as well as nutritional. It is believed that tteok-bokki seasoned with spicy gochu-jang paste first appeared in the 1950s and became widely popular later during the 1970s.

Dakgangjeong: Second to none and goes with any drink

Dakgangjeong is made by deep-frying chicken coated with flour. The fried chicken is then smothered in a sweet sauce that has been boiled down to a thick consistency. The dish, sold at Jungang Market, is unique in that it is served cold. The dakgangjeong is so famous because of its sweet and spicy taste, and despite being served cold, it is not soggy, but crisp and chewy.

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Things to know when visiting an all-you-can-eat restaurant

1. Bring your friends or family to enjoy diverse dishes together. Most all-you-can-eat restaurants require a minimum of two people to dine.
2. Many restaurants have a time limit of two hours, so make sure to pace your feast accordingly.
3. Only get what you're going to finish. Many all-you-can-eat restaurants charge 3,000-5,000 won for a table with leftovers.
4. There may be additional charges for certain items, drinks, or upgrade options.
5. The operating hours may vary depending on the situation, so make sure to call and check ahead.
6. Don't forget to ask the staff for a parking voucher if you drove.

Best all-you-can-eat restaurants near Humphreys for $20 or less!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE, STRIPES KOREA

When you're feeling down, happy, or just need a pick-me-up, here's a great way to add some joy to your day for less than $20: Go to an all-you-can-eat restaurant!

As a foodie, there's nothing more joyful than being surrounded by a variety of delicious food and being able to eat to my heart's content. And when the prices are affordable, it's even more of a treat, right?

Korea is home to many amazing all-you-can-eat restaurants, and here is a list of the best ones near Camp Humphreys to try! Even if you don't live in this area, don't worry. You can easily find the chain restaurants on the list or similar types of local ones near you.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

1. Musso (Beef BBQ)

In Korea, beef is pretty expensive compared to other cuts of meat, but Musso is a great chain restaurant serving fresh beef at an affordable price with unlimited refills. Feast on unlimited beef ribs, brisket, and tenderloin, in addition to shrimp and salad bar.

- **PRICE:** 26,800 won (about $20)

PAENGSEONG BRANCH

- **ADDRESS:** Ant Building 1F, 74 Dongseochon-ro, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si,
- **HOURS:** 4-10 p.m. (Closed Sundays)
- **PHONE:** 0507-1324-2394
- **PARKING:** Available (Since the spots are limited, you may have to park on the street when it's busy.)

ASAN TECHNO VALLEY BRANCH

- **ADDRESS:** 108 Asanvalley-jungang-ro, Dunpo-myeon, Asan-si, Chungcheongnam-do
- **HOURS:** 12 p.m. - midnight (closed every first and third Monday of the month) Break (except the weekends): 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **PHONE:** 0507-1325-4792
- **PARKING:** Free parking is available at the back of the building.

2. Uri Dongne Daetongnyeong (Pork BBQ)

This restaurant is a great place to enjoy a variety of tasty pork dishes, including pork belly, neck, jowl, thin-cut pork belly, and grilled short rib patties. You can also try a variety of wraps, vegetables, and seasonings that go well with the pork. Please be sure to finish your food, as there is a charge of 4,000 won for leftovers.

- **PRICE:** 16,800 won (about $12)
- **ADDRESS:** 2nd floor, 1063 Pyeongnam-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do
- **HOURS:** 12 p.m. - 11 p.m.
- **PHONE:** 031-652-2659
- **PARKING:** Free parking is available in an underground parking lot.

SEE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT ON PAGE 6

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT: Enjoy lots of yummy food

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

4. Kkotmareum Shabu-shabu

Shabu-shabu is a hotpot dish where your cook your sliced meat and veggies in boiling broth. The dish is originally from Japan. At the restaurant, you can create your own style Shabu-shabu in the Korean way by choosing the broth flavor and adding meat, seafood, and various types of noodles, sauces, and other ingredients according to your preference. In addition, this restaurant offers a buffet where you can enjoy a variety of Korean, Italian, and American dishes, many kinds of sushi, and desserts.

- **PRICE**
  LUNCH/WEEKDAYS: 19,900 won (about $14)
  DINNER/WEEKDAYS: 24,900 won (about $18)
  WEEKENDS: 26,900 won (about $19)
- **ADDRESS:** Woosung Medipia, 941 Pyeongnam-ro, Pyeongtaek-si
- **HOURS:** 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Closed Tuesdays)
  Break (except the weekends): 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- **PARKING:** 2 hours free (Speak to the staff before leaving)
- **PHONE:** 0507-1446-5949

3. Myeong Ryun Jinsa Grilled Short Ribs

This well-known franchise restaurant offers all-you-can-eat mixed pork in galbi sauce. Along with the meat, you can also enjoy unlimited soft drinks, rice, and salad bar.

PAENGSEONG BRANCH

- **PRICE:** 19,900 WON ($14)
- **ADDRESS:** 91 Anjeongshopping-ro, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si
- **HOURS:** 11:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
- **PHONE:** 031-618-9910

5. Ashley Queens

This is a franchise restaurant famous for its Western-style buffet, offering not only steak and pasta but also over 200 dishes from around the world, including Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese cuisine and more. Also, you can taste a variety of desserts such as waffles, chocolate fondue, cakes, and fruit. This place allows dining alone.

PYEONGTAEK BRANCH

- **PRICE**
  LUNCH/WEEKDAYS: 19,900 won ($14)
  DINNER/WEEKDAYS: 25,900 won ($19)
  WEEKENDS: 27,900 won ($20)
- **ADDRESS:** 1F New Core Parking Tower, 50 Pyeongtaek 5-ro 114beon-gil, Pyeongtaek-si
- **HOURS:** 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- **PARKING:** 3 hours free (Speak to the staff before leaving)
- **PHONE:** 0507-1403-3023

Restaurant repartee

In Korean culture, statements before and after a meal are important. So is complimenting the person offering you something to eat. Also, at most restaurants you can get unlimited refills for most side dishes, so don't hesitate to ask for more!

- **I'm going to eat well (Greeting before eating)**
  Jal meok-get-seum-nida (잘 먹겠습니다)
- **I ate well (Greeting after eating)**
  Jal meo-geo-sseum-nida (잘 먹었습니다)
- **Enjoy your meal / food**
  Ma-sit-ge deu-se-yo (맛있게 드세요)
- **It's really delicious**
  Neomu ma-sisseo-yo (너무 맛있어요)
- **What's this?**
  Igeon mwo yeyo? (이건 뭐예요?)
- **Can I have this? / I'll have this one**
  Igeo juse-yo (이거 주세요)
- **Can I have more of this?**
  Igeo deo jusil su isseo-yo? (이거 더 주실 수 있어요?)
- **Excuse me (When you call a waiter/waitress)**
  Yeogi-yo (여기요)

Illustration by Hyemin Lee

STARS AND STRIPES congratulates the winner of our Korea 2024 Spring/Summer promotion!

Grand Prize: Gyro Corp Electric Scooter

Winner: Andrew Hernandez (Fmr. US Army - Camp Carroll)

Presented by: District Manager Benjamin Yoo - Stars and Stripes

Thanks to everyone who came out and participated.
We'll see everyone again in Fall!

Follow us at Facebook.com/StripesPacific for more opportunities to win!

Follow us on Instagram!
@starsandstripespacific

Exploring Korea at memorial m

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

The War Memorial of Korea is hands down my favorite destination. If you're a U.S. military member, a member of the UN forces stationed in Korea or simply a history buff, mark it as an absolute must-visit spot!

In South Korea, June serves as the month of honoring and commemorating patriots and veterans who were dedicated to protecting the country. Specifically, June 6th is Memorial Day, a public holiday to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. The War Memorial of Korea is a great place to learn more about the Korean War. Through the exhibits, you can also learn about the rest of Korea's war history prior to the Korea War.

The museum and memorial pay tribute to the veterans and those lost protecting the nation during the Korean War. As you wander through, you'll witness heartfelt expressions of gratitude not only towards the Republic of Korea forces but also towards the UN forces deployed to assist.

Though Korea still remains a divided nation, many Koreans continue to strive for peace, a theme you'll see throughout the museum.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

5 notable outdoor exhibits

Statue of Brothers

Imagine the intense emotions of two brothers reunited as enemies on the chaotic battlefield of the Korean War. This statue was inspired by a true story of a Korean War veteran and shows the tragedy of the divided nation. The statue of the brothers embracing each other, symbolizes Korea's collective aspirations for reconciliation, love, and reunification.

Korean War Monument

As you enter the museum area, you will be overwhelmed by the massive and magnificent sculptures. They serve as a reminder that the pain of the Korean War should never be forgotten and of the hope for future peace and reunification.

Monuments for UN Forces

They are established to express gratitude to the 22 countries that participated in the Korean War and commemorate the fallen soldiers. On the opposite side, there are flags of the ROK military branches' units that fought in the Korean War.

Open-air exhibition area

You will be delighted to explore this vast field filled with a fascinating collection of over 70 large-scale weapons that were used during and after the Korean War. This area is renowned as the museum's largest photo zone, making it the perfect spot for both children and adults to enjoy.

Exhibition ROK's PKM-357 Chamsuri

When you step into the model vessel, you will travel back to the intense moments of the Second Yeonpyeong Naval Battle in 2002, triggered by a preemptive attack from North Korea. The battle led to the sinking of the PKM Chamsuri-357, resulting in the death of six and injury of 18. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing conflicts and the fact that the Korean War has not officially ended.

an War
useum

THINGS TO KNOW

Admission: FREE
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
(Closed every Monday & if Monday is a holiday, Tuesday is closed instead)
Address: 29, Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

NAVER MAP INFORMATION

Indoor exhibition halls

Korean War Rooms

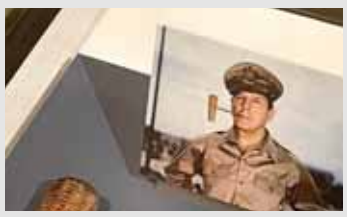
Exploring the Korean War Rooms, you can n in detail about the Korean War, including historical background and significant events hronological order. Also, you can see how forces aided and fought alongside ROK. s will help you catch a glimpse of the begin- of the ROK-US alliance and the UN Com- d.

KEY EVENTS

legal invasion of South Korea

North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea on June 25, 0, and overpowered the South Korean military, occupying Seoul in three days. The NK forces, ed with strong weapons and tanks, recklessly broke through the 38th parallel to nearly Busan.

attle of Nakdsong River: The river was technically the final defense line as the South Ko- an government was driven from Seoul to Busan. The only hope was for UN forces to join the ar and fight alongside ROK. Countless South Koreans including the ROK forces, young stu- ents around 13 to 15 years old with no prior combat experience, and civilians died to defend he area. Soon, UN forces joined the battle.



2. UN Forces march north

Through a resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on June 27, 1950, UN member countries were urged to provide essential aid to the ROK. With the participation of UN forces and the success of Operation Chromite, the tide of the war was a complete reversal. By October 1950, North Korea was almost fully occupied by UN forces, leaving only a small portion of their territory. The ROK government under President Syngman Rhee was filled with excitement and believed that reunification was within reach.

- **Operation Chromite:** On Sept. 15, 1950, General MacArthur successfully led UN forces of 75,000 troops to land in Incheon. The UN forces subsequently recaptured Seoul and other territory. This was the greatest turning point in the Korean War. To this day, General MacArthur is still remembered as the ultimate hero of the Korean War.

3. Chinese Forces and a war of attrition

At the very moment when the prospect of reunification seemed close, Mao Zedong, after gaining the upper hand in China, sent troops to assist North Korea, a fellow communist regime. The Chinese forces, with tactics such as human wave attacks, shifted the overall situation of the war again. The UN forces launched a full-scale counterattack. From that point, the war transformed into a brutal war of attrition with no gain for either side.

4.Truce talks and the Korea–US Mutual Defense Treaty

Amid the ongoing war of attrition for nearly three years, both sides grew significantly weary. The Korean War was finally halted with the signing of an armistice on July 27, 1953. Koreans who had hoped for reunification were greatly disappointed. Also, the ROK government had great concerns about the future after the war. South Korea entered into the Korea-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty, which provides a war deterrent against further aggression from the North.

■ ROK Armed Forces Rooms

In these exhibition rooms, you will gain comprehensive understanding of how ROK forces have evolved after the Korean War. They also highlight the history of ROK forces participating in UN peacekeeping activities in various countries. It shows the transformation of this country from the one that received aid, to a nation that now provides aid to others.

Vietnam War

As an ally of the United States, ROK forces participated in the Vietnam War, deploying a cumulative total of approximately 310,000 troops in the span of about eight years. The exhibits vividly show the challenging conditions of the battles such as mountainous terrain and jungles.

■ War History Rooms (Before the Korean War)

Korea, throughout its history, has endured invasions from various powerful nations including China, Mongolia, Japan, the United States, and France. Despite these challenges, the nation has preserved its history and identity. Through exploring these halls, you'll learn thousands of years of Korean history from the prehistoric era to Japanese occupation.

Imjin War and Turtle Ship: In 1592, Joseon faced a major crisis against strong Japanese forces for seven years during this war. However, the invasion was ultimately repelled through the courageous efforts of Admiral Yi Sun-sin and other notable figures. Admiral Yi's Turtle Ships achieved remarkable victories in numerous naval battles, becoming a source of great pride for all Koreans. Yet the war resulted in widespread devastation, with brutal massacres and enslavement of many Koreans kidnapped by Japanese.

The U.S expedition to Korea: In 1871, during an era of Western imperial ambitions in Asia, the United States launched an invasion of Korea as retaliation against the General Sherman incident and to forcibly open Korea to trade. It marked the first and only war between the United States and Korea. This event portrayed in the hit K-drama series "Mr. Sunshine," which features a Korean-American Marine Corps officer as the protagonist.

TIPS FOR EXPLORING INDOOR EXHIBITION HALLS

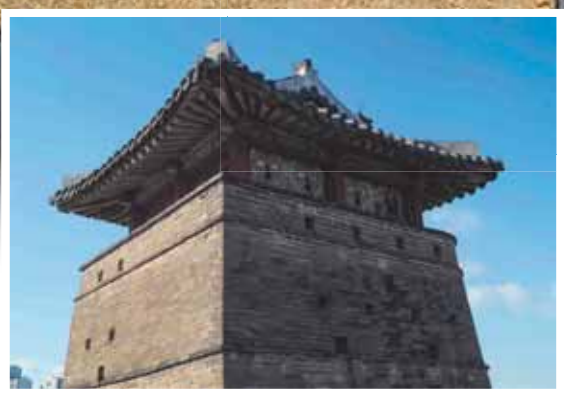
1. The vast indoor exhibit is divided into seven sections. Grab a pamphlet at the entrance to help navigate the three-story museum.
2. Free lockers are available at the entrance, some of which are spacious enough to accommodate large backpacks.
3. Most exhibitions provide English explanations. Also, you can join a free English guided tour. For more information, inquire at the information desk or call +82-2-709-3077
4. Take enough time to explore the entire museum. There is a wealth of information about the entire history of Korea to absorb. Remember that the last admission is at 5 p.m. and the museum starts closing by 5:40 p.m.

Location: Yeonghwa-dong, Jangan-gu, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea.
Directions: A 45-minute drive from Osan Air Base and about an hour from Camp Humphreys.
Times: Open daily, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Night tours are available from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday.
Costs: Free admission. Food: You'll find many options, mostly cafes and restaurants, around the fortress.
Phone: 031-290-3600

Suwon Hwaseong Fortress

fit for a prince

Photos by Christopher Green, Stars and Stripes



STORY AND PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER GREEN, STARS AND STRIPES
Published: May 16, 2024

The amazing thing about South Korea is that no matter where you go on the peninsula, the country's rich history is all around you, and no more so than in Suwon.

This city is a beautiful mix of modernization and history, symbolized by Suwon Hwaseong Fortress and the imposing wall that surrounds it.

King Jeongjo built the complex in 1796 to honor and house the remains of his father, Prince Sado. The walls stretch for 3 ½ miles and incorporate Paldalsan Mountain at the center.

There is much to see on a visit to the fortress: four gates and 48 buildings and other structures. The south gate, through which vehicles pass, seems enormous and almost monolithic. The fortress walls are nearly 23 feet tall.

Within those walls are several points of interest worth checking out. I started with the Temporary Palace, mainly used as a government office or for King Jeongjo to stay in when he visited his father's tomb. The palace is beautifully decorated and painted in vibrant colors.

Next is Daeseungwon, a giant, gold statue of Buddha that is visible from the palace courtyard, followed by Hyowon's Bell, which local tradition encourages striking three times for good fortune and gratitude, and the Seonamammun, or secret gate.

The view of the city from the path along the wall is amazing.

The Suwon Cultural Foundation offers tours of the fortress for about 1,000 won, or less than $1, for military members, 1,500 won for other adults and 700 won for children.

You can pay more for traditional archery and bell-ringing experiences.

Hwaseong fortress should be on everyone's list of places to see in South Korea.

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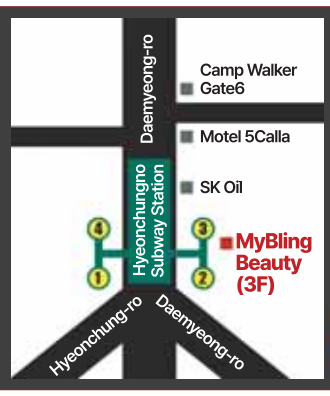

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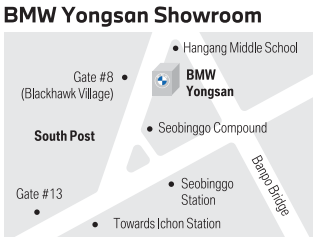

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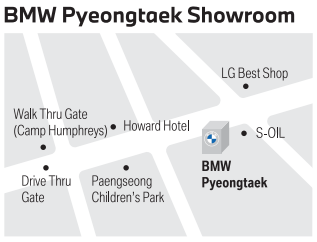

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Where to find seasonal flowers in Korea

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIN HENDERSON, STRIPES KOREA

Korea certainly has no shortage of fantastic plants and flowers throughout the seasons. Though we may find ourselves through the cherry blossom and tulip season, two seasons still offer stunning foliage left to explore. Where to go to see them? Here is a short guide to where to find blooms in Korea from spring until fall.

Cherry Blossoms

Late March through early April

WEB SITE

Watch for the cherry blossom prediction calendars to start appearing each year in early March. These will highlight each region of Korea with the estimated bloom dates, and you can plan your travel accordingly. If you are stationed at Camp Humphreys or Osan, you can find them all throughout Pyeongtaek; I discovered a stunning road with them five minutes from my house. If you want to venture outside of Pyeongtaek, Seoul, and Jinhae, have large festivals each year worth visiting.

JINHAE FESTIVAL INFO: @jgfestival

Photo courtesy of Suseong district.psd

Tulips, Daffodils and Azaleas

Early to late April

One of the most popular yearly events is the Taean Tulip Festival at Korea Flower Park. Taean is the largest flower festival in Korea. It offers stunning displays of vibrant tulips and other flowers across the park (including cherry blossoms, depending on when you go). Another option located closer to Pyeongtaek is Pinnacle Land. Here, you will find tulips, daffodils, and azaleas planted throughout the botanical garden on rolling hills in a picturesque garden. This location is less busy than the Taean Tulip Festival; it offers many stunning backdrops (if not more) for photos in a more rustic setting. They also have fireworks on Saturday evenings during this time. If you want to view a mountain of azaleas, you can visit Wonmisan Azalea Mountain. They have a festival one weekend during prime bloom, but they are typically in bloom for at least two to three weeks.

TAEAN TULIP FESTIVAL, HELD AT KOREA FLOWER PARK: 400 Kkotjihaean-ro, Anmyeon-eup, Taean-gun, Chungcheongnam-do

PINNACLE LAND: Chungcheongnam-do, Asan-si, Yeongin-myeon, Wolseon-gil, 20-42 KR

WONMISAN AZALEA MOUNTAIN: 21-1san, Chunui-dong, Bucheon, Gyeonggi-do (경기 부천시 춘의동 산21-1)

Bucheon Million Rose Garden

Roses

Mid-May to early June

Bucheon Million Rose Garden

If you want to witness a spectacular display of roses for free, plan a visit to the Bucheon Million Rose Garden just outside of Seoul. As the name suggests, there are a million roses with various colors and species that you can enjoy at this public park.

BUCHEON MILLION ROSE GARDEN: 100 Bucheon-ro 354beon-gil, Wonmi-gu, Bucheon-si, Gyeonggi-do

Lotus flowers

Late June through early August

Known for its famous lotus flowers in the summer, Semiwon Lotus Garden is about an hour and a half north of Pyeongtaek. This 100,000 square meter park offers a beautiful view of these magnificent lotus blooms along the Hangang River. Farther south, Deokjin Park, located in Jeonju, also provides another chance to enjoy the lotus blooms on Deokjin Lake.

SEMIWON GARDEN: 93 Yangsu-ro, Yangseo-myeon, Yangpyeong-gun, Gyeonggi-do
DEOKJIN PARK: 390 Gwonsamdeuk-ro, Deokjin-dong 1(il)-ga, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do

Hydrangeas on Jeju Island

Mid to late June through early July (monitor bloom reports)

We got to experience a stunning display of hydrangeas all throughout Jeju Island when we visited in June 2023. They were the most vibrant hues I had ever seen due to the rich soil of Jeju. You can find them in mass quantities all over the island, so if your trip coincides with the blooms, you are in luck. One popular location to view them is Manor Blanc Cafe.

MANOR BLANC CAFE: 46 Iljuseo-ro 2100beon-gil, Andeok-myeon, 특별자치도, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do

Anseong Farmland

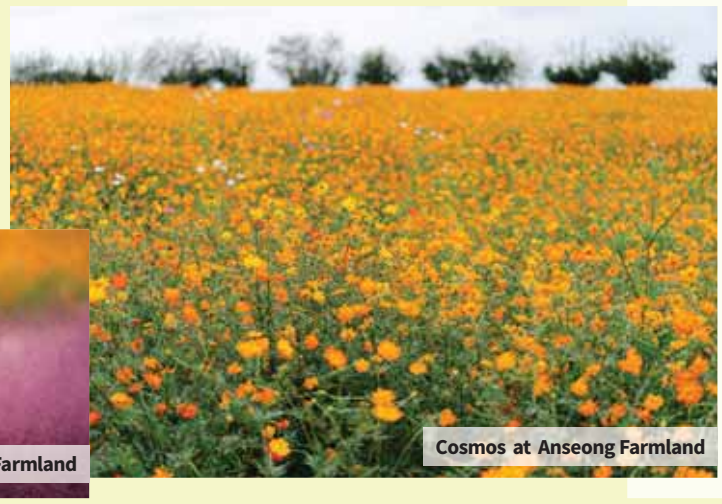
Anseong Farmland

Sunflowers

Late July through August

The Taebaek Sunflower Festival in Guwau Village is the one festival that I did not make it to that I am bummed about. The festival is located near the Wonju Suspension Bridge, which is a beautiful hike, so if you can get to this spectacular sunflower festival, pair it with a visit to the bridge. If you want something a bit closer to Camp Humphreys or Osan Air Base, Anseong Farmland not only has fields of sunflowers but also offers a variety of child-friendly activities and farm animals on site.

TAEBAEK SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL: 38-20, Guwau-gil, Taebaek-si, Gangwon-do | 강원도 태백시 구와우길 38-20
ANSEONG FARMLAND: 28 Daesindu-gil, Gongdo-eup, Anseong-si, Gyeonggi-do


Cosmos at Anseong Farmland

About Erin

Erin Henderson is a professional freelance photographer and writer whose work has been featured in a variety of publications. She is also a mother of two and a Marine Corps spouse living in South Korea (soon to be Germany). You can find more of her work at erinhendersonmedia.com or follow her travels on **Instagram @erinhendrsn**.

Muhly grass and Cosmos

Early to late October

Muhly grass and cosmos take over Korea in the autumn. You can find pink muhly grass across the peninsula and on Jeju Island. Pink muhly is a popular photo backdrop for fall portraits, and if you are located near Camp Humphreys, Naeri Park is the closest place to see it. The colorful cosmos are a favorite in our family, and we made the trip to Anseong Farmland twice in the fall during our time here to enjoy them.

NAERI CULTURE PARK (OUTSIDE OF YOON GATE) (MUHLY): 산4-1 Nae-ri, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do
ANSEONG FARMLAND (BOTH): 28 Daesindu-gil, Gongdo-eup, Anseong-si, Gyeonggi-do
Yangju Nari Park (both): 814 Gwangsa-dong, Yangju-si, Gyeonggi-do (경기 양주시 광사동 814)
THE PINO CAFE IN CHEONAN (COSMOS): 충청남도 천안시 동남구 풍세면 휴양림길 99-23 Cheonan, Korea

From the soft pastels of cherry blossoms in the spring to the vibrant hues of the cosmos in the autumn, there are plenty of opportunities to take advantage of Korea's diverse array of flowers throughout the year.

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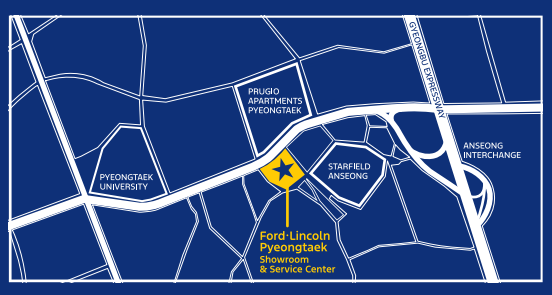

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Ron Eisley

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Guide to Public Wi-Fi in Korea

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

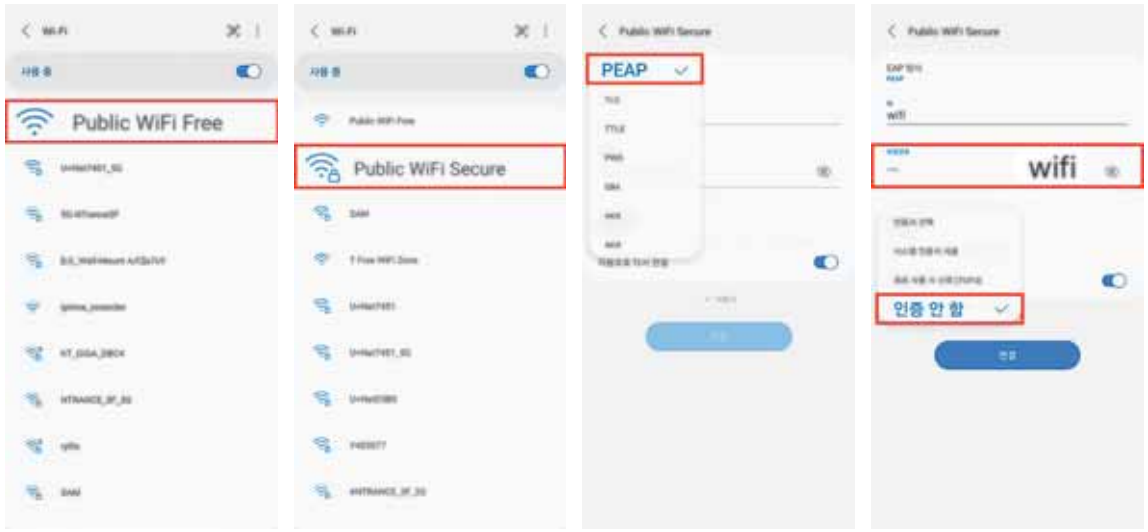
In South Korea, you can find free Wi-Fi networks almost anywhere, including cafes, restaurants, public spaces and on public transportation. While many dining spots and shopping centers offer their own Wi-Fi, the local government and major telecom companies like LG U+ and KT have a service called Public Wi-Fi. The service is available on trains, buses, inside traditional markets, community centers and more.

Free Wi-Fi can come in handy as an alternative to buying a SIM card, especially if you're only staying a short time in Korea. And don't worry about speeds or too many devices on the network, the Public Wi-Fi in Korea is reliable and you can use it to translate, for GPS, and to look up nearby restaurants and attractions without hassle!

From PC for Windows 10 and 11

For Androids and iPhones

Photos courtesy of Public Wi-Fi



HOW TO FIND PUBLIC WI-FI

Visit their website or download the app. Then set the location and search a list of available Wi-Fi networks in the area.

■ Website ■ Android ■ iOS

HOW TO CONNECT TO PUBLIC WI-FI

Go to your device's Wi-Fi settings and look for the "Public Wi-Fi" network. If it doesn't connect automatically, open your web browser and click the button to connect to the internet.

For Secured Public Wi-Fi networks, you'll need to enter a username and password.

- **Username:** wifi
- **Password:** wifi

CAUTION WHEN USING PUBLIC WI-FI

(information provided by Public Wi-Fi)

- Avoid using Wi-Fi networks from unknown providers, as they may collect your personal information. Ensure you are only using public wireless LAN from an identified provider.
- When using wireless LAN without security settings, refrain from using services that require sensitive information such as financial transactions, corporate business, or that require login or personal information. Also, avoid using sensitive services while using public wireless LAN without security settings.

Caution when using Secured Public Wi-Fi

- Even when the data is encrypted with the Secured Public Wi-Fi Service, your personal information may still be at risk through other routes, including phishing.
- The secured service encrypts all data and may slow down the internet speed. Please understand this inconvenience, as it is provided for the safe use of the internet.
- The secured service is not provided in all public Wi-Fi service areas. It will be offered in stages to other areas after a demonstrative service period in some areas.

Stripes Sports Trivia

The Kentucky Derby is famous for the main attraction, big hats and more. A lasting tradition is that the winning horse is led to the winner's circle draped in a garland of what flowers?

Answer Red Roses

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DID YOU KNOW?

In South Korea, a person's blood type is believed to contribute to their personality and characteristics. Many South Koreans believe that people are compatible based on their blood types.

Hangul of the week 사람

Saram (Person)

Language Lesson

You're a nice person

Neon jo-eun saram-iya
(넌 좋은 사람이야)–***Informal***

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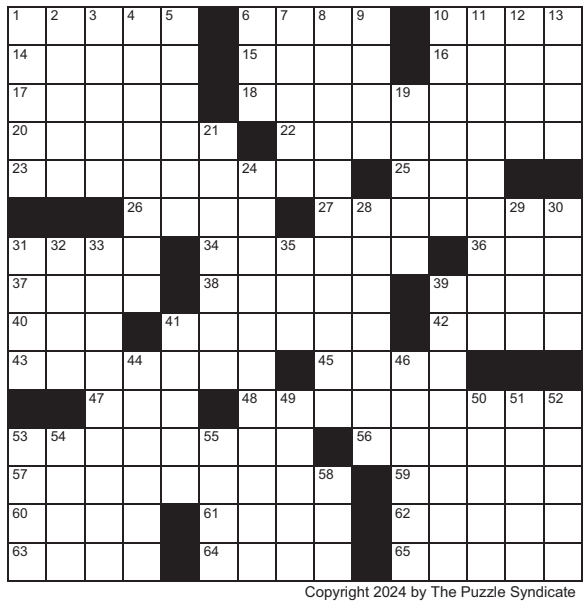
Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS
1 Vatican-related
6 In a group of
10 Pilgrim to Mecca
14 Visibly shocked
15 "And Then There Were ___" (Christie mystery)
16 Tent event
17 Tundra's lack
18 Pastime
20 Car in a procession
22 Stayed behind
23 They're handed down
25 Suffix with ideal
26 Choice on an Edit menu
27 Tex-Mex munchie
31 Yogi, for one
34 Still too green
36 Ryan's role in 2023
37 Lois of the Daily Planet
38 Theater feature
39 Out of shape?
40 Columbus Day mo.
41 Kind of shepherd
42 Creative pursuits
43 Monster of myth
45 Cash drawer
47 Grenade part
48 Furnish with battlements
53 Former believer
56 Cultivated plot
57 Natural magnet
59 Pigeon's perch
60 Ruse anagram
61 Table scraps
62 Like some gases
63 Military meal
64 Cousin of "ahem"
65 Type of campaign

DOWN
1 Maze choices
2 Side (with)
3 Joyous hymn
4 Camera setting
5 Taper off
6 Furthermore
7 Wavy fabric pattern
8 Look into
9 Consider
10 Lend a hand to
11 Law-firm hotshot
12 Soothing plant
13 River feature
19 Union demand
21 Ultimate consumer
24 Renovation pros
28 Available job
29 Bodywork target
30 Pantry invaders
31 Legislative group
32 Price-tag word
33 North and South poles, e.g.
35 Hit head-on
39 Dance setting
41 Mannerly men
44 Penny pinchers
46 Masters
49 Signs a lease
50 Hacienda brick
51 Edison contemporary
52 PC key
53 Diploma holder, briefly
54 Sit for a portrait
55 On the summit of
58 Repair shop fig.

Answers to Previous Crossword:

C	O	C	A	■	C	E	D	A	R	■	P	L	O	P
O	V	E	N	■	O	X	I	D	E	■	L	I	N	E
L	E	N	D	■	A	P	P	E	A	R	A	N	C	E
A	R	T	I	C	L	E	■	P	L	A	S	T	E	R
■	■	E	E	L	■	D	E	T	E	S	T	■	■	■
F	A	N	■	A	S	I	A	■	S	P	I	R	A	L
E	O	N	■	R	A	T	T	A	T	■	C	O	D	A
T	R	I	C	K	L	E	■	L	A	W	S	U	I	T
U	T	A	H	■	E	R	R	A	T	A	■	N	E	T
S	A	L	A	D	S	■	A	B	E	T	■	D	U	E
■	■	■	P	A	P	A	Y	A	■	E	S	T	■	■
G	A	S	T	R	I	C	■	S	A	R	C	A	S	M
A	C	C	E	N	T	U	A	T	E	■	O	B	O	E
S	L	U	R	■	C	R	I	E	R	■	F	L	U	E
H	U	M	S	■	H	A	R	R	Y	■	F	E	L	T

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

			9					
	7							3
6	4	8	3			5		
	1		8				6	
	2						1	7
			5					
9		5		2			7	8
		2	6	9				
					5			

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HOW TO SOLVE:
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

8	9	3	5	4	2	1	7	6
1	4	7	3	6	9	8	2	5
2	5	6	7	1	8	4	9	3
7	8	4	2	9	3	5	6	1
9	2	1	6	8	5	3	4	7
3	6	5	4	7	1	9	8	2
4	3	2	9	5	6	7	1	8
5	7	8	1	2	4	6	3	9
6	1	9	8	3	7	2	5	4

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- (1) Soft Drinks with IRD Menu
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