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Military Base Life and Cultural Bridges

For more than 20 years, I dedicated my life to supporting U.S. Soldiers, their families, civilians and the communities across South Korea.

Most Americans experience Korea through the lens of their military life. And for them, Korea is not just a country — it becomes a chapter of their personal story. Some arrive nervous. Some arrive excited. Some arrive with families.

Some come alone for the first real journey of their lives. And for all of them, Korea becomes unforgettable.

■ Base Is a Home Away from Home

Living on or near a U.S. military installation in Korea means: strong community, shared challenges, shared victories, instant friendships, a sense of safety, familiarity in a foreign land.

Bases create a small version of America within Korea: American food. American stores. American schools. American routines. But just outside the gates — a completely different world waits to be discovered.

■ Cultural Gap Between Base, Local Life

The U.S. military community and Korean society operate within two very different cultural frameworks.

Americans often value: direct communication, individualism, clarity, independence, casual behavior. Koreans tend to prioritize: harmony, community, respect, indirect expression, emotional sensitivity.

These differences can create misunderstandings at first. But with patience, kindness, and curiosity, the gap gradually transforms into a bridge.

■ How Korea Feels to Soldiers

Over the years, countless Soldiers have shared their reflections with me:

- “Korea changed me.”
- “Korea surprised me.”

KOREA DECODED

Gianni Youn



- “Korea felt safer than home.”
- “Koreans treated me with incredible kindness.”

These voices form a mosaic of how Korea is experienced—not just as a duty station, but as a place of warmth, discovery, and personal growth. Outside the gates, Soldiers experience: respectful locals, helpful strangers, amazing food, nightlife that feels safe, simple kindness everywhere, cultural curiosity, emotional warmth. Korea often becomes one of the most meaningful duty stations in their career.

■ Military Families and Korean Community

Military spouses and children often find joy in: traveling, exploring markets, visiting cafés, connecting with Korean neighbors, learning the language, trying new food, making local friends. Many families leave Korea with lifelong memories. Some even return years later as tourists because Korea felt like home.



■ Building Mutual Respect

You’ve seen it firsthand: Koreans deeply appreciate the U.S. military’s presence and the historical partnership built since the Korean War.

In return, Soldiers respect: Korea’s culture, Korea’s hospitality, Korea’s safety, Korea’s emotional warmth. This mutual respect is powerful. It creates meaningful, human connections.

■ How Americans Can Build Cultural Bridges

Simple actions go a long way:

- Learn basic Korean phrases
 - Greet locals politely
 - Respect Korean customs
 - Explore beyond the base incredible kindness.”
 - Be patient with cultural differences
 - Show appreciation
 - Ask questions with curiosity
 - Appreciate kindness openly
- Koreans respond warmly to sincerity.

■ Final Thought

Military life in Korea is more than a duty station. It is a cultural exchange. A human connection. A shared journey. It is a bridge built on respect, kindness, sacrifice, and partnership. For many Americans, Korea becomes a place that changes them forever.

About the author: Gianni Youn is a Multimedia Consultant at Stars and Stripes and author of KOREA DECODED: A Korean American's Guide for Americans Who Want to Understand Korea.

For more cultural insights, follow Gianni on Instagram:
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Top 4 autumn activities in Korea

A local's travel guide

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Autumn is special in Korea as the cool, clear weather is perfect for outdoor activities. The autumn scenery is magnificent not only because of colorful leaves, but also the beautiful sunflowers, cosmos, silver grass, pink muhly, and other vegetation turning the landscape into a painting. Check out these top autumn activities that allow you to take in the wonderful scenery, sample delicious foods and simply have fun with your family and friends!

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1. Camping and glamping

Camping and glamping are great ways to spend a fall getaway in Korea. You can find campsites in different settings near mountains, rivers and beaches across the country. Here are four destinations to check out for your camping trip in Korea.

FINDING A CAMPSITE: You can find more options on Go Camping, Korea Tourism Organization's official campground website. The site is in Korean but you can use the browser's translation feature to view it in English. Search by region or use filters and tags such as fall foliage, stargazing, cultural heritage and walking trails to find places that fit your trip. You can also search Naver Map using the destination plus "캠핑장" (campground) or "글램핑" (glamping) or compare options on travel booking sites like Trip.com or Agoda.



GO CAMPING

National Parks

For a more adventurous experience, try a multi-day hike at a national park to conquer more challenging courses or to just go at a more relaxed pace. It's important to note that camping in the parks is illegal in Korea, except in designated areas. If you wish to spend the night in a national park, visit the Korea National Park Service website to explore available accommodations. Learn more about camping in Korea's national parks (Check QR code).

NOTE: If you need assistance with booking, please call 1670-9201 (available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri., with a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m.) or email csnp@knps.or.kr.



Photo courtesy of Korea National Park



RESERVATIONS



LEARN MORE

Gyeongju

Gyeongju is a great choice if you want to combine camping with sightseeing. The city is surrounded by historic sites from the ancient Silla Kingdom as well as mountains and the East Sea. You can spend the day exploring temples, royal tombs and other cultural sites, then head toward the coast or countryside for a relaxing time outdoors.



Photo courtesy of Byeolbitmaru

Gapyeong

Surrounded by mountains, streams and rivers, Gapyeong is one of the most popular areas near Seoul for camping and outdoor activities. It has plenty of natural scenery, making fall especially beautiful when the leaves begin to change. You can also combine your camping trip with nearby destinations like Nami Island and Jara Island.



Photo courtesy of Namiseom Island Best Caravan Glamping

Taeon

Taeon is one of the best choices for travelers who want to camp near the sea. Its long West Coast shoreline is home to 27 beaches, pine forests and camping areas near the water. During the day, you can explore the mudflats, go fishing, visit a local seafood market or simply walk along the coast. In the evening you can sit near the water and enjoy a barbecue with clams and other seafood you catch in the mudflats.



Photo courtesy of Taeon Starlight

Jeju Island

Jeju offers a variety of camping options. Depending on where you stay, you can camp near the coast, in the forest or around the island's calm inland areas. Fall is a great time to enjoy Jeju outdoors in cooler weather and a camping trip can easily be combined with hiking, coastal drives and sightseeing.



Photo courtesy of Jeju Starlight Glamping



2. Finding peace in the mountains

Many famous mountains in Korea are home to Buddhist temples as Buddhism was a dominant religion for over a thousand years. These temples feature a peaceful atmosphere that blends beautifully with the surrounding mountains. Regardless of your belief, anyone can visit, but did you know that some temples offer overnight stays? Travelers can experience meditation, trekking and other activities within the temple grounds for a taste of monk life.



Photo courtesy of Golgalsa

■ TEMPLE STAY WEBSITE:

The "Templestay" website offers comprehensive details and a list of temples with stay programs. The website is easy to navigate even for foreigners, so you can browse options that suit your taste, from historical temples to fun activities. Check the QR code for booking.



RESERVATIONS

■ PRICE:

Most temple stay programs are affordable, usually from 30,000 won to 80,000 won per night. Many temples also accept credit cards.

■ RESERVATIONS FOR GOLGULSA:

Golgalsa is a popular temple that offers a variety of programs with English-speaking monks. If you want to learn martial arts, they have programs for you.



RESERVATIONS
FOR GOLGULSA



3. Traveling by train

→ Trains in the fall are full of travelers with backpacks who want to leave their homes and explore other cities. The great parts of the train trip are enjoying the beautiful scenery from the tracks and trying tasty local food while wandering a different city. There are a lot of great destinations to visit when traveling by train, but here are three spots that are the best during the fall.

Jeongju



Photo courtesy of Jeonju Hanok Village

THINGS TO TRY

- Wearing hanok at Jeonju Hanok Village
- Walking through the bamboo forest at Gyeonggijeon Shrine
- Wandering at Jaman Mural Village
- Seeing golden ginkgo trees at Jeonjuhyanggyo Local Confucian School
- Eating local food at Nambu Traditional Market

Suncheon



Photo courtesy of Suncheon City

THINGS TO TRY

- Enjoying one of the greatest landscapes in Korea at Suncheonman Wetland Reserve
- Seeing flowers at Suncheonman National Garden
- Stepping back into Joseon Dynasty at Nakan Eupseong Folk Village
- Taking photos at Suncheon Drama Open Film Set
- Visiting the historical Songgwangsa Temple

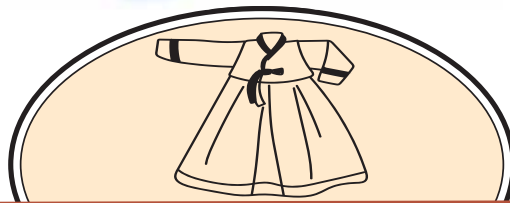
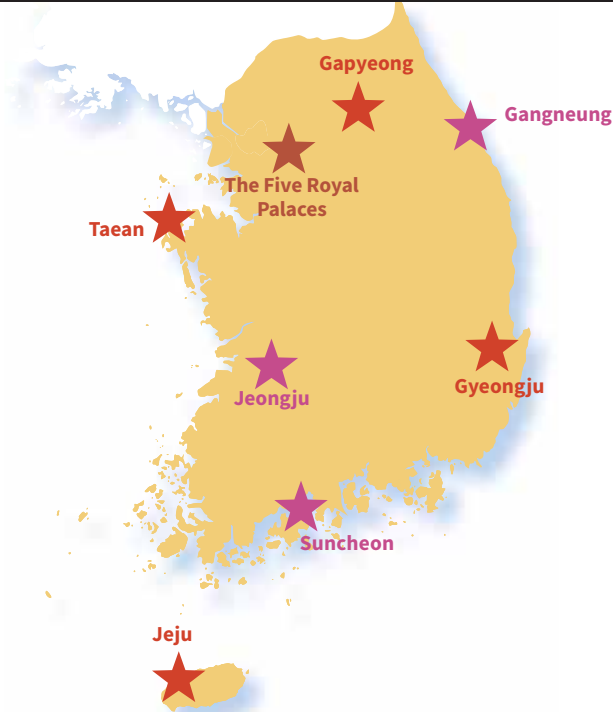
Gangneung



Photo courtesy of Gangneung City

THINGS TO TRY

- Riding the Jeongdongjin Railbike
- Going on a cafe tour on Anmok Beach
- Renting a scooter or bike at Gyeongpodae Beach
- Trying local food at Gangneung Jungang Market
- Walking at Daegwallyeong Natural Recreation Forest
- Walking the Jeongdongsimgok Badabuchae Trail along the East Sea



4. Hanbok rental at The Five Royal Palaces

Visit The Five Royal Palaces in Seoul, wear beautiful traditional clothes, hanbok, and take photos in the breathtaking autumn scenery! In Korea, wearing hanbok near historical sites is a popular activity during the fall and spring seasons. Among the numerous historical sites, Gyeongbokgung Palace stands out as a top destination for this experience. For those who wear hanbok, the admission fees for all five palaces which cost about 3,000 won are free.

Please note that Gyeongbokgung Palace is closed on Tuesdays and rental shops may close early in case of rain.

■ Hanbok rental shops

Hanbok rental shops are easy to find around the major palaces in Seoul and other historic sites. Around Gyeongbokgung Palace, many are clustered near Gyeongbokgung Station Exit 3 and 4. Most shops offer a variety of colors and designs, and rentals usually cost about 15,000 won to 45,000 won depending on the style and rental time. Similar shops can also be found around other popular palaces, traditional villages and hanok areas.



Photo by Hyemin Lee, Stripes Korea

■ The K-Royal Culture Festival

Experience life of the royal family in Joseon Dynasty at the K-Royal Culture Festival, held at the royal palaces in Seoul. During the festival period, many visitors rent hanboks to fully experience Korea's royal culture. Take this wonderful opportunity to wear a hanbok and enjoy the beautiful palace festival!

■ **DATES:** Oct. 7 (Wed.) to Oct. 11 (Sun.)

■ **LOCATION:** Gyeongbokgung Palace
Changdeokgung Palace
Changgyeonggung Palace
Deoksugung Palace



Photo courtesy of Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation



Tips for hiking

Since hiking is a popular activity in Korea, make sure to follow the rules to prevent harm to the local nature and disrupt the ecology of the inhabitants at national parks.

- Do not enter restricted areas or you could be fined 200,000-500,000 won.
- Do not making loud noises with devices like Bluetooth speakers or this can result in fines starting at 600,000 won.
- Pets are not usually allowed in national parks except service dogs, but some national parks have designated pet-friendly areas.
- Drinking alcohol in shelters or other designated no-drinking zones can result in a 100,000 won fine.
- Smoking outside designated areas or carrying flammable materials can result in fines from 600,000 won to 2 million won.
- Do not camp or cook in areas that are not designated: maximum 500,000 won fine.
- Do not take forest products like acorns, mushrooms and wild greens: maximum 50,000,000 won fine or five years in prison.

Speakin' Korean

While hiking, it's very common to friendly say hi or engage in chatting with other hikers. For hiking greetings, Koreans usually say "good work!" and "cheer up!" to encourage each other instead of saying hello when running into people in the mountains. Give some of these phrases below a try to give your fellow hikers on the path a smile! Making interaction with locals will definitely add more excitement on hiking!

- **Take care/Good work/ Keep up the hard work:** Sugo-haseyo (수고하세요)
- **Cheer up/ Hang in there:** Himnaeseyo (힘내세요)
- **You can do it!: Hal su isseoyo!** (할 수 있어요!)
- **Go first please/After you:** Meonjeo gaseyo (먼저 가세요)
- **Thank you:** Gamsa-hamnida (감사합니다)
- **How far should I go more?: Eolmana deo gaya haeyo?** (얼마나 더 가야 해요?)
- **I love hiking:** Jeoneun deung-san-ee joayo (저는 등산이 좋아요)
- **The autumn leaves are really beautiful:** Danpung-ee neomu ah-reum-da-woyo (단풍이 너무 아름다워요)
- **Mountain:** San (산)
- **Hiking:** Deung-san (등산)
- **Nature:** Jayeon (자연)
- **Fall/Autumn:** Gaeul (가을)
- **Autumn leaves:** Danpung (단풍)

– Hyemin Lee, Stripes Korea

KOREA KIDS' CORNER

Great spots for fall photos, outdoor fun near Pyeongtaek, Daegu

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Autumn in Korea is a short but beautiful season with stunning landscapes in vibrant colors and refreshing weather. If you're one of the lucky ones spending fall in Korea with your family, don't miss the opportunity to capture incredible seasonal photos.

Expect pink muhly grass, silver grass, pampas grass, cosmos flower and colorful foliage this season. Late September to mid-November is the best time to catch them, so venture out as much as you can!

Here are some spots near the bases in Pyeongtaek and Daegu to enjoy the seasonal foliage and flowers.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

Near Pyeongtaek



Anseong Farmland Photos courtesy of Anseong Farmland

Anseong Farmland

This popular family destination hosts various autumn flowers, pink muhly, silver grass, and fall foliage, making it a great place for photos.

NAVER MAP: Sindu-ri 451 or 안성팜랜드
TICKETS: 10,000 won – 20,000 won



NAVER MAP



Pyeongtaek Agro-Ecological Park Photo courtesy of Pyeongtaek City

Pyeongtaek Agro-Ecological Park

The park features seasonal flowers year-round and in the fall is filled with cosmos, yellow chrysanthemum and colorful leaves. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: Sukseong-ri 63-1 or 평택농업생태원



NAVER MAP



Jinwicheon Recreation Area Photo courtesy of Pyeongtaek City

Jinwicheon Recreation Area

The wide beautiful cosmos and autumn flower fields make the riverside heavenly and picturesque. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: Bongnam-ri 432 or 진위천유원지



NAVER MAP



Oseong Riverside Photos courtesy of Pyeongtaek City

Oseong Riverside

Enjoy beautiful cosmos and autumn flowers along a peaceful riverside ideal for walking and biking. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: Danggeo-ri 226-1 or 오성면 당거리 226-1



NAVER MAP



Noeul Ecological Cultural Park Photos courtesy of Pyeongtaek City

Noeul Ecological Cultural Park

This park, next to Anseongcheon Stream, is covered in stunning silver grass from October to early November. Don't miss the annual Silver Grass Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24. The park is about a 10-minute walk from Pyeongtaek Station. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: 222-3 Pyeongtaek-dong (under Gunmungyo Bridge)



NAVER MAP



Baramsae Village Photo courtesy of Pyeongtaek City

Baramsae Village

The village has an expansive pink muhly field and flower beds with cosmos, sunflowers and more. The muhly festival runs from late September to mid-November.

NAVER MAP: Gung-ri 505-2 or 바람새마을
TICKETS: 4,000 won (prices may vary)



NAVER MAP

Sopung Garden

Located right next to Baramsae Village, you can stroll along the lake surrounded by beautiful autumn foliage. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: Gung-ri 494-1 or 소풍정원



NAVER MAP



Sopung Garden Photos courtesy of Pyeongtaek City



Naeri Cultural Park Photo by Hyemin Lee, Stripes Korea

Naeri Cultural Park

Naeri Cultural Park is a beautiful riverside park where families can relax and enjoy nature, just minutes from Camp Humphreys. It's perfect for picnics or seasonal photos, and especially loved for its pink muhly grass from late September to mid-November. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: 16-6 Naeri 1-gil or 내리문화공원



NAVER MAP

Near Daegu



Gasan Supia Photos courtesy of Gasan Supia

Gasan Supia

A top autumn destination for Daegu and surrounding areas, Gasan Supia has vast fields filled with pink muhly, autumn flowers and foliage. No entrance fee.

NAVER MAP: Hakha-ri 1206-5 or 가산수피아



NAVER MAP



Eworld Photos courtesy of Eworld

Eworld

The theme park is home to one of the best orange cosmos fields in Daegu. Take awesome fall photos with the iconic 83 Tower and at the many photo zones around the garden.

NAVER MAP: Eworld
TICKETS: 24,000 won – 49,000 won



NAVER MAP



Hajungdo Island Photo courtesy of Daegu City



Hajungdo Island Photo courtesy of Daegu City

Hajungdo Island

Famous for various colors of cosmos fields and autumn grass along the river. Entrance is free.

NAVER MAP: Nogok-dong 665 or 금호강하중도



NAVER MAP



Nongong Flower Complex Photos courtesy of Daegu City

Ogyeokji Pond Songhae Park

Located by Ogyeonji Reservoir, this park features beautiful pink muhly, pampas grass and autumn flower gardens. Free entrance.

NAVER MAP: Gise-ri 306 or 옥연지 송해공원



NAVER MAP



Wolgwang Waterside Park

Surrounding the Dowonji Reservoir, the park is beloved for its fall foliage, pink muhly and peaceful strolls. Free entrance.

NAVER MAP: Wolgok-ro 5 or 월광수변공원



NAVER MAP



Wolgwang Waterside Park Photos courtesy of Daegu City



Sinseo Jungang Park Photos courtesy of Daegu City

Sinseo Jungang Park

The large pink muhly field, featuring various photo zones, offers plenty of great chances for the best fall photo-shoot. Entrance is free.

NAVER MAP: Sinseo-dong 1185 or 신서중앙공원



NAVER MAP



Nongong Flower Complex Photos courtesy of Daegu City

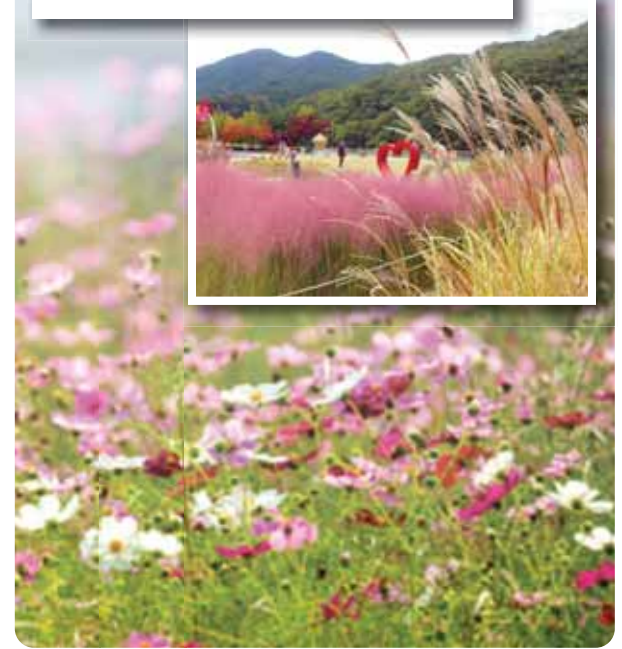
Dalseong Nongong Flower Complex

Along the Nakdonggang River, this area is filled with pink muhly, sunflowers, and autumn flowers, creating numerous photo opportunities. Free entrance.

NAVER MAP: Nam-ri 194 or 달성 논공 꽃단지



NAVER MAP



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At Stars and Stripes, we believe the purpose of our community papers, magazines, special supplements, websites and social media platforms is to help you, the military community, make the most of your time while being stationed in the Pacific. We take our job seriously and know that our first-hand experiences are how we can bring you the best tips, directions and recommendations for exploring off base.

This summer, our team including Korea writer Hyemin Lee and Okinawa writer Shoji Kudaka, gathered at our Tokyo headquarters to spend time brainstorming and discussing ways to make sure you're getting the information you need. For one week, our page designers, web editors and writers talked storytelling and presentation with you in mind.

This year, Hyemin, Shoji, their fellow writers Takahiro Takiguchi and Luis Samayoa from mainland Japan, and their editor, Denisse Rauda, brainstormed their perfect half day trips in Tokyo. The four writers partnered up and they spent an entire day exploring Tokyo. Last week, we published a 4-page spread about Shoji and Luis' trip to Shinjuku. This time, they're taking you to their other half day trip at Yanaka Ginza.

Tokyo has an incredible public transit system, so getting around to multiple locations is a breeze. We hope after reading this, you'll get some travel inspo and plan your own fun trip! And don't miss the following editions where Hyemin and Takahiro take us to two other great spots!

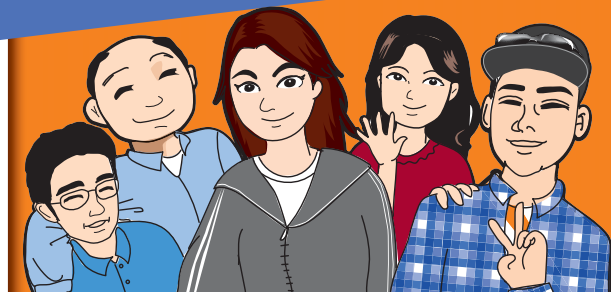
— Chris Carlson,
Publishing and Media Design Manager



Photos courtesy of Stars and Stripes



Check out part 1:
Shinjuku



YANAKA GINZA

Overdue trip to quaint Tokyo district

Yanaka Ginza sat on my bucket list for a long time. This old town in Tokyo's Taito ward is known for its old buildings and a shopping street lined with unique shops. Although I lived in Tokyo from 2006 to 2009, I never went there, even though I was tempted many times when it was spotlighted by popular TV show "Shutsubotsu! Adomachikku Tengoku." To be honest, I always slept in on the weekends and always felt Yanaka Ginza would be best explored early in the day.

When I learned that I would have time to go out during my temporary duty in Tokyo, I decided it was time to finally check it out.

I knew I would have to wake up early and go there this time. Although some of my travel buddies

were not so crazy about departing at 6:30 a.m., I didn't want this opportunity to be ruined by the notorious crowded commute in Tokyo.

In addition to an early breakfast at a kissaten housed inside an old wooden traditional house, we walked the neighborhood's narrow streets in search of the local history and alley cats. Though we only found cat statues and cat drawings at Yanaka Ginza, we did find some interesting hidden spots in this quiet, residential area.



— Shoji Kudaka



Photo by Shoji Kudaka

Breakfast at cozy kissaten Kayaba Coffee

We set out to Yanaka Ginza on an early morning train. We could have gotten off at Nippori Station or Sendagi Station, if its famous shopping street was our primary destination. But I chose Nezu Station because it was convenient to go to my first stop of the day, Kayaba Coffee, a café housed in a quaint building.

According to the Taito Cultural & Historical Society, this café opened in 1938. The building itself, however, was believed to have been built in 1916 and was used as either a milk hall, a type of eatery inspired by dairy lunch in the U.S., or a shaved ice store before it became Kayaba Coffee.

My idea was that having breakfast at this café while enjoying the retro atmosphere of the building's interior would put us in the right mood to explore this old town.

Arriving at the café after a 10-minute walk from Nezu Station, we noticed the quaint-looking building really stood out, even in the neighborhood that has many old structures.

As we waited for the café to open at 8 a.m., many other folks came to join us in front of the entry, attesting to its popularity. I was glad that I had booked a table in advance on the web.

When the door opened, we were guided to a table at the furthest corner from the entrance. The building was designed in the style of "Machiya-gata,"

where a narrow, long floor spread from the entrance with tables lined up. Gently lit by sunlight coming through the opaque glass, the interior had a cozy atmosphere.

Among the menu items that included Yasai Sando (Vegetable Sandwich, 1,400 yen) and Tamago Sando (Egg Sandwich, 1,400 yen), I chose Kayaba Classic Tamago Sando, which was meant to be true to the café's old recipes.

The combo of fluffy omelet, whole-grain bread and mustard mayonnaise tasted mild yet satisfying. As someone who likes spicy food, I could have used more mustard to spice it up, but the flavor made sense as it was in tune with the moderate atmosphere of the café. To wash down my sandwich, I had "Russian" (730 yen), a mixture of coffee and chocolate. Its delicate mixture of sweetness, bitterness and milkiness got me hooked. It didn't take me long to finish the hot drink.

By the time we finished our food, about 45 minutes had passed, and all the seats on the floor were full. Although we could have spent another half an hour just chatting in the cozy café, we decided to let those waiting outside take our comfortable seats.

— Shoji Kudaka

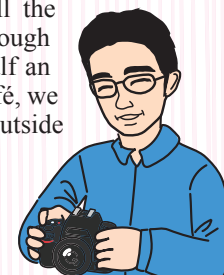




Photo by Shoji Kudaka



Photo by Denisse Rauda

Early wake-up call for tasty breakfast

Shoji was very interested in an early visit to this coffee joint and I came along for the ride.

For food, I ordered blindly from the Japanese menu by saying “this one and that one” in an attempt to simply try something different. I was not disappointed with my corned beef sandwich, salad and espresso on the side.

It was a heavy yet tasty breakfast sandwich that paired great with my coffee. At first, I felt a lack of confidence with my espresso served in tiny cup, but it was still delicious. And I’m sure it was much better than Denisse’s boring regular cup of joe.

If you want to order a different and bigger coffee size, use the English menu. If your day starts at 5 a.m. because your travel partner wants to be first in line, the espresso will be your best friend!

Overall, I would come back to this little cafe again. I liked the lack of tourists when we first got there, but it did fill up quickly, so maybe you’ll need an early morning wake-up, too!

– Luis Samayoa

Things to know

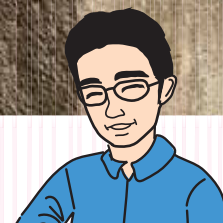
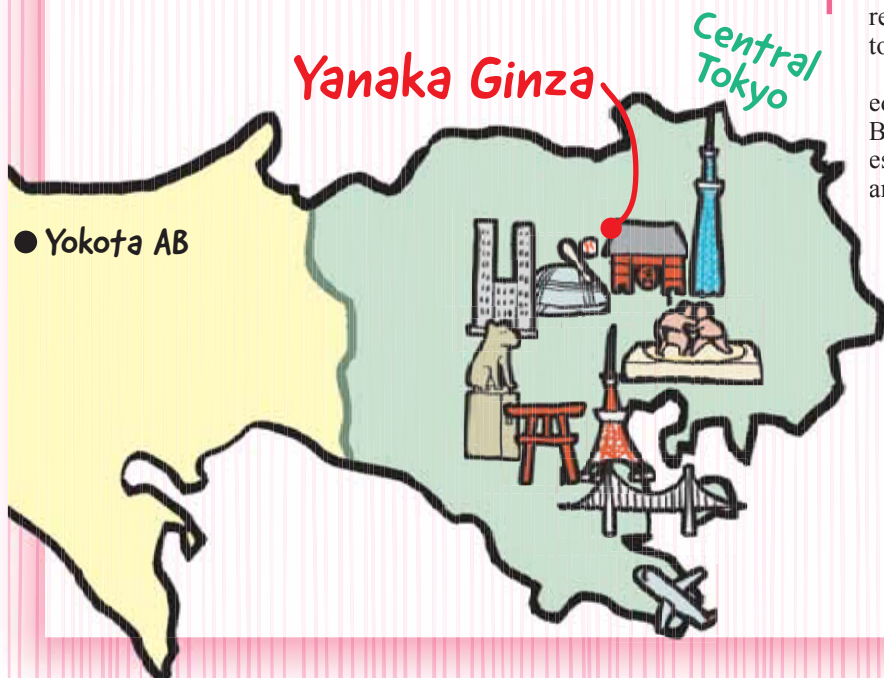
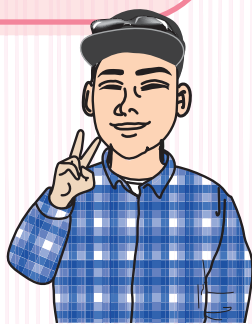
GPS COORDINATES:

35.721174, 139.770755

HOURS: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. (last order at 5 p.m.) *Closed on Mondays. (The café will open if a Monday falls on a holiday and close on Tuesday)



INSTAGRAM



Travel back in time at Kannonji

After breakfast at Kayaba Coffee, we headed to Kannonji, an old temple about a 10-minute walk from the café.

One thing that stands out as you walk in Yanaka Ginza is how many temples there are.

According to an association of volunteer tour guides in Taito-ward, it was during the Edo Period (1603 – 1867) that many temples were moved to the neighborhood because of the Tokugawa Shogunate’s policy. Thanks to a growing number of visitors to those temples, the Yanaka district developed as a temple town, the association notes.

Although I had a rough idea of where Kannonji was located, it did take a while to find it among the other temples as well as stores in quaint-looking buildings.

After a moment, I looked down a back alley and found Tsuijibei, an old wall that Kannonji is known for.

Measuring 37.6 meters in length and two meters in height, this wall is composed of clay and tiles and topped with a tiled roof just like a regular building. According to the Taito Ward Office, it was built in the late Edo Period. Although part of it was knocked down in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, it was restored to preserve the cultural heritage from the days of samurai.

According to the Ryoko Shimbun, a Japanese newspaper dedicated to tourism, Tsuijibei is often used in location shooting for TV dramas and movies in scenes like a ninja jumping over the wall.

As I walked along this unique, traditional barrier, I imagined myself posing like a samurai, watching out for an intruder.

Though only the southern section of the wall remains today, the temple website said it used to cover the eastern side of the territory as well.

When we headed to the east side, as expected, we couldn’t find any remains of the fence. But we found an entry to the temple’s premises. As I approached its main building, I found another feature of the temple that I was looking

for, a monument in the shape of a square tower topped with a roof with eaves, just like the main building of the temple.

This monument is dedicated to Akoroshi, a.k.a. Akogishi, a group of 47 ronins (samurai who lost their lord) during the 18th century. These men assassinated Kira Kozuke no Suke, a high-ranking official of the Tokugawa Shogunate believed to have humiliated their lord, Asano Takumi no kami, in public. The lord Asano attempted to kill Kira himself at Edo Castle but failed to carry through and was sentenced to death by seppuku. On the other hand, Kira was not punished by the shogunate, which was deemed unfair to Asano’s men.

To settle the score, the ronins killed their lord’s foe with their own hands, although it cost their own lives as they were sentenced to death by the shogunate later.

Kannonji happened to be the location where those ronins gathered to plot their revenge.

This incident struck a chord with the public as a tale of loyalty and sacrifice, leading to several novels, theatrical plays, movies and TV shows, including not only old Japanese shows but also 47 Ronin, an American film adaption from 2013, featuring Keanu Reeves.

Growing up in the 80s, movies based on the episode were on TV at the end of the year, a nod to the fact that the incident took place in the early morning of Dec. 15, 1702.

I still remember a sinister scene where those ronins march on a snowy road to the house of their lord’s enemy.

Today, with the popularity of samurai dramas declining, the story of the ronins no longer appears on TV or screen as often as they once did. So, it was nice looking at the memorial tower and the old fence as it took me back to the old days.

– Shoji Kudaka



VIEW VIDEO



Photos by Shoji Kudaka

Things to know

GPS COORDINATES:

35.725623, 139.768178

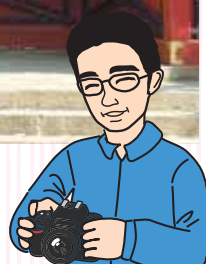
*Tsuijibei can be found at (35.725306, 139.768208)

SEE MORE YANAKA ON PAGE 8

Photos by Shoji Kudaka



A visit to Nezu Shrine



If you search Yanaka Ginza on the web, you will likely also encounter the word “Yanesen.” It is an amalgam of the first letters of Yanaka, Nezu and Sendagi, three neighboring Tokyo districts. The three are grouped together because they bring a “shitamachi,” or downtown vibe.

Since I was already in Yanaka Ginza, a visit to the other two sister districts was easy to do. Nezu Shrine was a short 15-minute walk from the shopping street’s west end.

According to its website, the shrine boasts over 1,900 years of history and is believed to have been established by Yamato Takereu, a legendary figure who helped the Yamato Court expand its territory in archaic Japan between the mid-4th and mid-7th centuries.

Before the Meiji Era (1868 – 1912), this shrine was called Nezu Gongensha, indicating that it was a location for Buddhism as well as Shintoism.



WEBSITE

■ Things to know

GPS COORDINATES: 35.720145,
139.760770



Before 1706, Nezu Shrine was actually in Sendagi District, but was moved under the reign of Shogun Tsunayoshi Tokugawa. This new location was the birthplace of his nephew, Ienobu Tokugawa, whom Tsunayoshi named his heir.

Many of the shrine’s gates, fences and main buildings remain as they were built more than 300 years ago and are thus designated important cultural properties.

Coming from the west end of Yanaka Ginza Shopping Street, we approached the shrine via its North Gate at the opposite end of the main gate. Taking a street that circled around the main buildings, we headed toward the main gate.

Nezu Shrine is known for many photogenic spots, such as Senbon Torii, which we visited first. These torii gates are lined up on a slope, just like the ones you can see at Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto.

According to a report by Asahi Shimbun, there are roughly 200 gates at Nezu Shrine, much fewer than the around 900 gates that the shrine in Kyoto has. At the Nezu Shrine gates, we enjoyed looking at the fox statues in different sections of the torii gate-lined path. Foxes are thought to be messengers of the rice god Inari, which was enshrined in a cave nearby.

As we left behind the last of the small gates, Karamon (gate), a big gate that led to the main building, came into sight. I was ready to go through it, but a fence line called “Sukibei (transparent fence)” that runs around the gate caught my attention.

Adorned with diagonal grids, this fence not only allowed visitors to see the main building from outside, as its name suggests, but also created an intriguing and flamboyant look, which felt like belonging to a palace rather than a shrine.

If time allowed, I could have looked at other features of the shrine, such as an azalea garden and a house where Ogai Mori, a prestigious Japanese writer, authored his novel “Maihime (The Dancing Girl).” After walking for over three hours, I could hear my stomach growling. So, we decided to cut the visit short and go grab lunch.

– Shoji Kudaka

Turtle power!

I was expecting to see some pretty standard shrine features but didn’t expect to see dozens of turtles sunbathing at the shrine pond.

While they may not be named after masters of art, they formed part of the shrine’s tranquil scenery. These noble residents seemed to be enjoying themselves in harmony with the koi they share the pond with. The shrine has a history of over 100 years, so I’d imagine they’ve seen some stuff and been here a while.

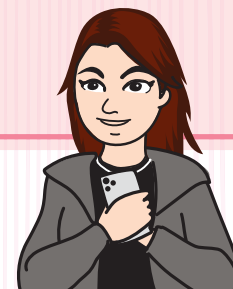
According to local media, turtles are an unofficial symbol of the neighborhood around the shrine, and many locals own their own turtles, and you’ll find turtle motifs on street signs and flyers in the area.

As someone who grew up with many pet turtles in my Texas backyard, I loved seeing relatives of my old friends enjoying the sun tucked away in the middle of Tokyo.

– Denisse Rauda



Photo by Denisse Rauda



Impossible to miss incredible torii gates

Japan has thousands of shrines, but Nezu Shrine stands out for 250 reasons. That’s the number of red torii gates lined up in the grounds that visitors can walk through. A great photo to op!

For its size, Nezu Shrine’s grounds were very scenic and featured a beautiful koi pond that is also home to countless turtles. Yes, another fabulous photo to op!



VIEW VIDEO

Less crowded compared to other nearby tourist areas, the shrine was more peaceful to just roam around and admire the surroundings, especially the torii gates.

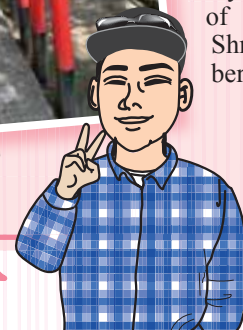
I enjoyed the morning stroll under the iconic red gates. I managed to bump my head a few times, which gave me a small confidence boost as a short person.

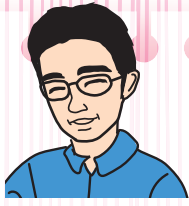
So, if you are looking for a peaceful, serene area that gives off a little bit of a Kyoto vibe in the heart of Tokyo, visit Nezu Shrine. But just remember to watch your head!

– Luis Samayoa



Photo by Denisse Rauda





Disappointment at retro shopping arcade

Yanaka Ginza is often talked about in the context of “Showa Retro,” a concept of longing for the old days of the Showa Era (1926 – 1989). The old buildings lined up along the streets in the neighborhood have been drawing such nostalgic minds who are looking to explore a different side of Tokyo away from busy Shibuya or Shinjuku. Among all the spots in the neighborhood, the shopping street would be the go-to location for the old-fashioned downtown vibe.

Running 170 meters east to west, this old shopping street is home to about 60 shops, many of which are housed in small

wooden buildings.

According to a report by Toyo Keizai, this street is thought to have started as a black market around 1945. Shortly after the war, the residents who came back to the neighborhood set up stalls to sell commodities. Since many parts of the neighborhood were spared, fortunately, when Tokyo was air raided as well as in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, old streets and wooden buildings remained undamaged.

You won’t find big chain stores here which preserves the nostalgic atmosphere. Tourists go there looking for accessories, sweets, and snack food that they can’t get anywhere else and we were no exception.

I was looking to try Yanaka Menchi, a popular menchi katsu (fried cake of minced meat) sold at Niku no Sato, a meat store. Some of my fellow travelers, on the other hand, wanted to check out Jaakuna Hankoya Shinimonogurui, a stamp store where you can buy custom hanko signature stamps with goofy animal caricatures.

When we arrived at the shopping street, however, it was still around 9 a.m., and all the shops on the street were not open yet. I regretted my bad planning, but it was too late, and we ended up walking on the street without having any snack food or anywhere to buy accessories.

The disappointment didn’t end there. Yanaka Ginza is known

for being the home to many stray cats as marked by the countless cat paintings and sculptures on shop signs and rooftops. On the eastern end of the shopping street, the Yuyake Dandan stairs are a documented hot spot for the neighborhood alley cats. This day, however, it was like cats had never existed here.

With no snack food to try, no accessories to buy, and no “real” cats to play with, it did not take us long to walk down the quiet 170-meter street.

Later, I found a report by Gendai Business from 2024 that said the Yanaka Ginza felines are no longer a common sight since a local movement to protect those stray cats from precarious life on the street gained consensus in the area.

If you plan to visit, don’t expect to see any real cats and plan to be there after 10 or 11 a.m. when the shops open. On a different day, I visited around 5 p.m. and found the area crowded with tourists, lining up in front of the meat store for a fried cake of minced meat and shopping for cat accessories.

At the Yuyake Dandan, there were many tourists taking selfies with the shopping street in the background. “Yuyake” means “sunset,” while “Dandan” refers to “steps.” As the name suggests, the stairs were beautifully lit by the evening glow.

– Shoji Kudaka



Photos by Shoji Kudaka



VIEW VIDEO

■ Yanaka Ginza Shotengai (Shopping street)

GPS COORDINATES:
35.727662, 139.767076
(east end near Yuyake Dandan)



WEBSITE

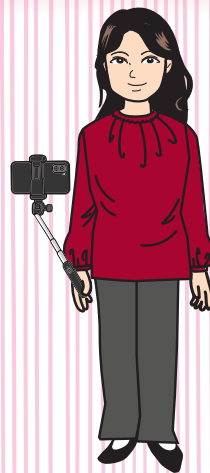


Denisse

I’m Denisse Rauda from El Paso, Texas, but now living in Tokyo. I have been with Stripes for 12 years. My interests include binge-watching TV shows, karaoke, tennis and exploring Tokyo. Nice to meet you!

Soy Denisse Rauda de El Paso, Texas, pero ahora vivo en Tokio. He trabajado en Stripes por doce años. Mis intereses incluyen maratones de series de televisión, karaoke, tenis y explorar Tokio. ¡Encantada de conocerle!

rauda.denisse@stripes.com

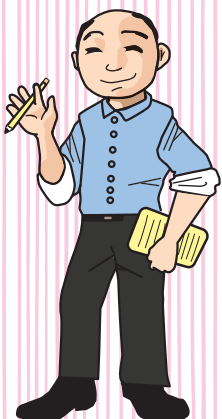


Hyemin

Hi, I’m Hyemin Lee, a Seoul native based in Pyeongtaek. I’ve been with Stripes for 4 years. I love sharing Korea’s destinations, culture, history, local tips and fun things to know with the U.S. military community. Nice to meet you!

안녕하세요. 저는 이혜민입니다. 스타스앤스트라이프와 함께한 지는 4년 정도 됐어요. 미군 커뮤니티에 한국의 여행지, 문화, 역사, 현지 팁, 알아두면 재미있는 이야기들을 소개하는걸 좋아해요. 만나서 반가워요!

lee.hyemin@stripes.com



Hiro

I’m Takahiro Takiguchi from Yokosuka City in mainland Japan. I have been with Stripes for 13 years. My interests include food, drinks, travel and music. Nice to meet you!

神奈川県横浜須賀市在住の滝口隆弘です。星条旗新聞でのライター歴13年。趣味は旅行、食べ歩きに飲み歩き、それに音楽です。よろしくお願ひします!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



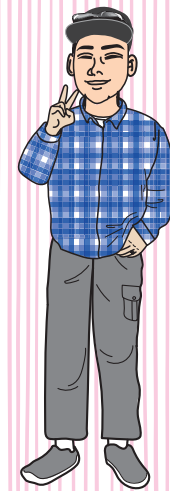
Shoji

I’m Shoji Kudaka from Okinawa. I have been with Stripes for 10 years.

My interests include travel, sports, movies, photography, TV shows, cats and dogs. Nice to meet you!

沖縄県在住の久高将司です。ストライプスに在籍して10年になります。トラベル、スポーツ、映画、写真、テレビ、犬や猫に興味があります。よろしくお願ひします!

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com



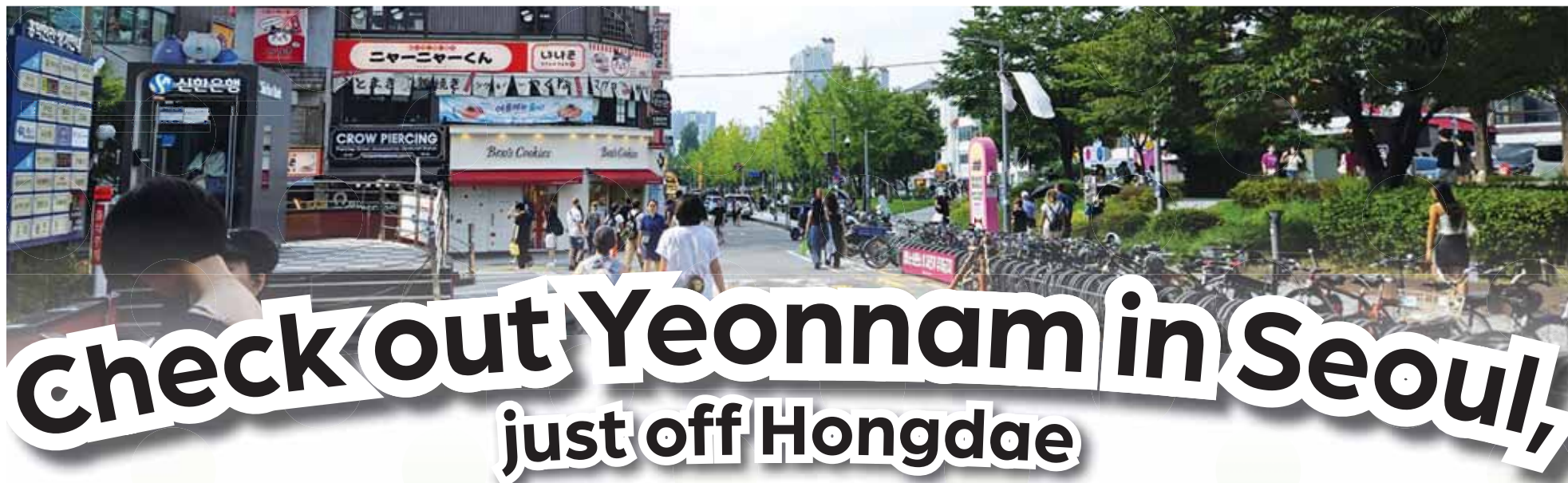
Luis

Hi, I’m Luis Samayoa, from San Diego, California. This is my 3rd and last year with Stars and Stripes as their military staffer. My interests are traveling, eating, exploring Japan and collecting souvenirs like Sake and Milk Bottles everywhere I go. Nice to meet you!

パグ・ライフ
samayoa.luis@stripes.com

Illustrations by Yukiyo Oda

Check the next edition for Part 3: Ebisu!



STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Hongdae is one of the most popular neighborhoods in Seoul. Around Hongik University Station, shopping streets, buskers and nightlife keep the area busy past midnight.

But if you head toward Yeonnam from Exit 3, the atmosphere changes within a few blocks. The streets are filled with stylish cafés, restaurants, small bars and guesthouses. Many couples and groups of friends come here for a slower afternoon or evening that's still trendy and fun, but less crowds and nightlife than Hongdae.

The difference also makes Yeonnam a convenient place to stay if you plan to spend your nights in Hongdae. Guesthouses and Airbnb rentals are easy to find around the neighborhood and Hongik University Station connects directly to

Incheon International Airport by the AREX line. I've stayed around Yeonnam several times when I hung out late in Hongdae. It's close enough to walk back but far enough from the noise.

During the day, the neighborhood gives you plenty to do. Gyeongui Line Forest Park, a long green path filled with grass and trees, stretches through the neighborhood. You can follow the park path to explore the area, grab a snack that catches your eye, then turn into the side streets when something looks interesting.

■ How to get there:

Yeonnam spreads north of Hongik University Station Exits 1–3. Start just outside Exit 3, then follow Gyeongui Line Forest Park to the cafés, restaurants and side streets around the neighborhood.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

4 recommended stops



Enjoy Italian dishes at Take a Table

Take a Table is a small Italian restaurant with a cozy vintage interior that feels like stepping into an old European restaurant. The menu includes pasta, gnocchi, lasagna, steak and salads. I ordered the braised pork lasagna and steak cream gnocchi, and both were good enough that I wanted to write more about the restaurant. It's also a nice choice for a date or a meal with friends when you want somewhere more special without going too formal. The dining room isn't very large, so booking ahead through Naver or CatchTable is a good idea, especially on weekends or at dinner. **For a closer look at what I ordered, see the sidebar.**

THINGS TO KNOW

LOCATION: 6 Donggyo-ro 30-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul

HOURS: Open 11:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. daily / Break 3–5 p.m.

PRICES: Pasta, lasagna and gnocchi 16,000–22,000 won / Steaks 29,000–36,000 won / Drinks about 3,000–8,000 won



NEVER MAPS



Dessert at Antique Coffee

Antique Coffee is hard to pass up if you love cakes and tarts. A long dessert table stands in the middle of the café covered with cakes, tarts and pastries and surrounded by large flower decorations and brass candleholders. Most people stop here first to take photos before deciding what to order.

The selection includes cheesecakes, chiffon cakes, tarts piled with seasonal fruits, cherry chocolate cake and the café's signature Dirty & Cream Croissant. Coffee, lattes, teas and Ades are also available to go with them. The café is spacious with plenty of seating for large groups.

I went with a large slice of the blueberry Basque cheesecake with a dense, rich cheese layer and a firm pastry base. I'm not the biggest fan of cheesecake, but I really liked this one. It tasted almost like eating a cheesecake and tart at the same time. The desserts are also available for takeout.

THINGS TO KNOW

LOCATION: 25-1 Yeonhui-ro, Mapo-gu, Seoul

HOURS: Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

PRICES: Desserts about 6,300–9,400 won / Drinks about 5,500–7,500 won



NEVER MAPS



Grill your bread at Moment Coffee

Moment Coffee is small and homey with dark wood and warm yellow walls. It feels like a cozy old Japanese home, which makes the place even more special. People usually come here to enjoy the yaki pan set that lets you grill your own bread. A small gas burner and grill come with thick slices of bread and toppings, including butter, jam, whipped cream, red bean paste and a soft boiled egg. An illustrated card also shows how to put everything together. The bread cooks surprisingly fast, so keep an eye on it and turn it before it burns.

I piled whipped cream and jam onto a piece of freshly grilled bread. The toppings went well with it and the bread was crisp on the outside while the middle stayed soft. The variety of toppings also made it fun to choose what to add next. The portions were generous, but if you want more, you can order extra for a small additional charge.

This is especially fun with friends. Grilling bread gives everyone something to do while chatting and the whole setup looks very cute in photos. The café also serves cakes and other desserts along with coffee, lattes, tea and colorful drinks like melon soda.

THINGS TO KNOW

LOCATION: 29 World Cup buk-ro 4-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul

HOURS: Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

PRICES: Yaki-pan and mushi-pan set 14,000 won / Cakes about 7,000 won–9,500 won / Drinks about 5,000–7,000 won



NEVER MAPS



Italian comfort food at Take a Table

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Italian food is rarely my first choice. My husband, on the other hand, loves it, so lately I've been trying to give it more of a chance.

I came to Take a Table, a popular Italian restaurant in Yeonnam, Seoul, hoping I might find a place to bring him later as a surprise.

At Take a Table, I liked the atmosphere before I even tried the food. The small Italian restaurant has dark wood furniture, antique-style lamps, a piano and green plants around the dining room. With warm lighting and small wooden tables, it reminded me of a cozy restaurant somewhere in Europe. It's a nice place for a romantic dinner or when you want somewhere warm and stylish without feeling too formal.

The menu includes pasta, lasagna, gnocchi, steak and salads. I ordered the braised pork lasagna and cream gnocchi with steak. The braised pork lasagna surprised me the most. Somehow, I liked it even more than the lasagna I tried in Italy. It came in a spicy tomato sauce with a large piece of grilled romaine lettuce on top. Inside were layers of fresh pasta, cheese and plenty of tender pork. The top was slightly crisp while everything underneath stayed soft and rich.

The grilled romaine was what made the dish especially interesting to me. The cheese and braised pork could be a bit heavy for me after a few bites, but the lettuce kept the richness in check without taking away from the lasagna. Eating the pork with the grilled greens also felt familiar, reminding me of the Korean habit of pairing grilled meat with leafy vegetables.

The tomato sauce, which brought some heat, also helped cut through the richness even further. My favorite bite had a little pasta, pork, cheese and romaine together, dipped into the sauce.

The steak cream gnocchi was completely different. The browned gnocchi came in a thick cream sauce with sliced steak on the side. The gnocchi were soft and chewy inside with a slightly firmer outside. The cream sauce coated both the gnocchi and steak well and a little salt on the steak brought out more of the flavor.

If I had to pick one, I'd order the lasagna again first. But the two dishes were good to share because the flavors balanced each other; one came with spicy tomato sauce while the other was creamy and mild.

Take a Table also serves mushroom cream pasta, ragu pasta, other gnocchi and lasagna dishes, salads and steak. Soups and ravioli are available as sides. Other popular choices include the tiger prawn gnocchi and Iberico pork collar steak. Both are on my list for next time.

Wine is available by the glass or bottle with red, white and sparkling options. Beer, soda and sparkling water are also on the menu. Corkage is 10,000 won per bottle.

The dining room is small and cozy, and it can fill up quickly. There was no line when I went for lunch, but if you're planning to come for dinner or on a weekend, booking ahead is safer.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

MENU

DISHES: Pasta, lasagna and gnocchi 16,000–22,000 won / Salads 15,000–18,000 won / Steaks 29,000–36,000 won / Sides 6,000–11,000 won

DRINKS: Wine 6,000–8,000 won per glass or 25,000–49,000 won per bottle / Beer 7,000 won / Soft drinks and sparkling water 3,000–4,000 won / Corkage 10,000 won

THINGS TO KNOW

LOCATION: 6 Donggyo-ro 30-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul or near Hongik University Station Exit 3

HOURS: Open 11:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. daily / Break 3–5 p.m.

RESERVATIONS: Naver and CatchTable



NEVER MAPS



Breakfast at Travel Maker

Travel Maker opens at 8 a.m., earlier than many other brunch spots nearby and serves American diner breakfast all day. I came here with American friends in the morning after a night out in Hongdae. We ordered the pancake combo and the waffle combo served with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and hash browns. The portions were so large and the crispy hash browns were my favorite. When I visited, most customers were Westerners.

Yeonnam has plenty of stylish brunch restaurants, but Travel Maker is more like a casual American diner and that's also part of the appeal. Other options include a breakfast burrito, blueberry pancakes, waffles, grilled cheese with tomato soup and a low carb breakfast plate. Brewed coffee and unsweetened iced tea are 5,000 won with free refills. Juice, sodas, lemonade, teas and milkshakes are also available. The menu has English descriptions and photos.

If you stay out late in Hongdae and wake up wanting something familiar, this is a great spot to start the day. But if you would rather try one of Yeonnam's trendy brunch spots, simply search brunch or 브런치 on Naver Map and you'll find plenty nearby.

THINGS TO KNOW

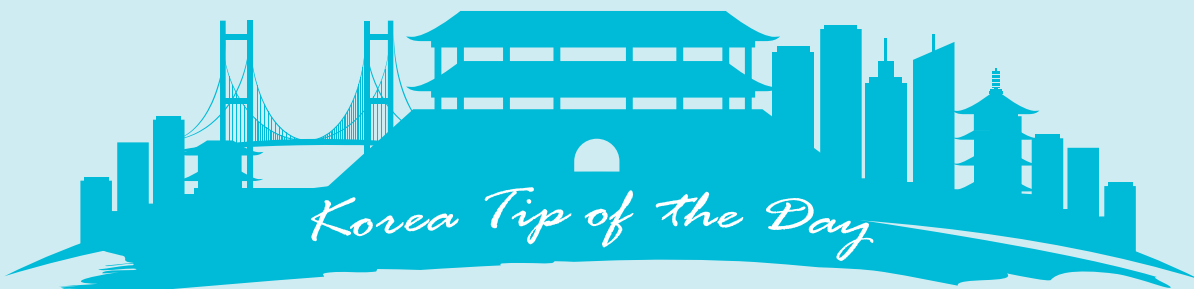
LOCATION: 43 Yanghwa-ro 21-gil, Mapo-gu, Seoul

HOURS: Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

PRICES: Breakfast combos 14,500–18,000 won / Other meals about 6,000–16,000 won / Drinks about 3,000–8,500 won



NEVER MAPS



Korea Tip of the Day

How to find your lost items in Korea

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Losing something on the street or public transportation can be stressful, but don't panic! There are several ways to retrieve your lost item that have always worked for me. Keep in mind that the sooner you act after realizing your loss, the higher your chances of getting it back. However, even if some time has passed, don't lose hope! This guide provides detailed steps, including what to do as a last resort. Make sure to have your ID when picking up your lost item!

*When a website doesn't provide an English language option, use your browser's translation feature to translate the page.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com

1330 Travel Helpline for foreigners

If you face language barriers while trying to retrieve your item, don't hesitate to call or chat with Travel Helpline, operated by Korea Tourism Organization. It's completely free and available 24 hours a day. They can assist by speaking to locals on your behalf and communicating with relevant organizations.

TEL: 1330 (in Korea) / +82-2-1330 (outside of Korea)



Live Chat



Learn how
to use 1330
helpline

1. ON THE STREET

If someone finds your item on the street, they'll likely take it to the local police station (경찰서) or the nearest police box (파출소). You can visit or call the one nearest to where you believe you lost your item. You can find their number on Naver Map or by calling 182 (the Police Call Center: 9 a.m.–6 p.m. weekdays).

.....

2. ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Pro tip: Use a T-money card!

Using a T-money card comes with many advantages, such as fare discounts and free transfers between buses and subways. Importantly, paying with a T-money card can help track your route and provide necessary information to determine where you lost an item. Call their customer center (Tmoney Customer Center: 1644-0088; Tmoney Mobility for taxi: 1644-1188)

A. Taxi

- **Using Kakao-T or Uber:** Contact the driver or their service center directly via the app.
- **Paying with a T-money card:** Contact the T-money customer center (1644-1188) and press 2 to inquire about the taxi driver's info.
- **Paying with cash or credit card:** Check the receipt for taxi company's or driver's contact number.
- **If none of the above applies:** You can find the phone number of the taxi company on the National Taxi Association website.



National Taxi
Association

B. Bus

- **If you notice your loss right after leaving the bus,** take the next bus with the same number and route and ask the driver for assistance. If the driver can't help you, check the bus company's phone number, which is usually displayed on the bus doors, and contact them for assistance.
- **If you notice your loss later,** try to remember the bus number, the stop where you got off, and the approximate boarding and alighting times. You can contact the T-money customer center for help in providing the bus company's phone number if it's within Seoul. If T-money can't assist, it can be challenging to find the bus company's name and phone number as a foreigner since there are many different companies. In this case, contact the 1330 Travel Helpline for assistance. For Seoul buses, you can also call the 120 Dasan Call Center at 02-120. Press 9 then 1 for English.



Seoul Lost &
Found website

C. Subway

- **If you're still in the station,** visit the station office and provide details about the subway you took and boarding and alighting times. Staff can assist by



File photo

contacting station employees at other stations. If you don't remember, show your T-money card so the staff can track your travel history.

- **If you notice your loss later,** search online to find the subway operator company and call their customer center. Seoul Metropolitan Subway is mainly operated by Korail and Seoul Metro. Below are the contact numbers and links for some of the major operators.



Korail
TEL: 1599-7777



Seoul Metro
TEL: 1577-1234



Daegu Metro
TEL: 053-640-3333

D. Train

- **If you're still in the station,** visit the station office and provide details such as the train schedule and seat number. Having a ticket makes this easier.
- **If you're still on the train** and notice you lost your item somewhere at the station, report it to a train crew and they'll contact station employees.
- **If you notice your loss later,** contact the train company. They can assist you in English and will connect you to the appropriate channel to provide help.

KORAIL/KTX

English customer service: 1599-7777 (8 a.m.–8 p.m.)
Rail Customer Center: 1588-7788

- When the item is found and they can't bring it back on the same day, tell the staff your preferred train station for pickup. They'll transfer your item there and call you when it's ready to pick up.

.....

3. LAST RESORT: POLICE CIVIL COMPLAINTS 24

Police Civil Complaints 24 is the national police lost and found system and one of the best places to check as a last resort. Found items are usually kept by places such as subway stations or bus companies for up to seven days and will be transferred to police if no one claims them. Transferred items are then registered in the national lost and found system through this website.

The website has an English language option, and you can browse registered found items or search using keywords or filters such as item category or date found. Once your item is found, check where it is being held and bring your ID when you pick it up.



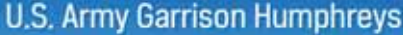
Police Civil
Complaints 24



Stripes Sports Trivia

Which trio of holes make up Augusta National’s famous “Amen Corner”?

Answer
8-17-11



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DID YOU KNOW?

While Korea is becoming more multicultural today, it has long been one of the world’s most homogeneous nations. Its identity is captured in one word: Han (韓), a character traced back to Korea’s ancient Three Han confederacies. That’s why many Korean words begin with Han including Hanminjok (Korean people), Hanguk (Korea), Hanbok (Korean clothing) and Hanbando (Korean Peninsula). In the late 1800s, as Korea faced pressure from Japan and other powers, the word “Han” became an even stronger symbol of Korean identity. The country’s official name, Daehanminguk, literally means Nation of the Great Han People. Hanminjok describes Koreans as a people connected by ancestry, language and history on the Korean Peninsula.

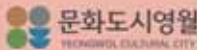
Hangul of the week

한국
Hanguk (Korea)

Language Lesson

I live in Korea

Jeoneun hanguk-e sarayo
(는 한국에 살아요)



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**MORE INFO**



Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 European auto, once

5 Untidy one

9 Gave meds to

14 Netflix rival

15 Come clean

16 Opening words

17 Door anagram

18 Tried hard

20 Narrow down

22 Tomorrow, in Tulum

23 Dutch painter Jan

24 Wrapped garment

25 Pickling herb

28 City of India

30 Not a nice guy

32 Distant

35 Plant starter

36 Pain in the chest

37 Helped in a heist

39 Pieces of hair

40 Reverses

41 "Get outta here!"

42 Old gun, slangily

43 Angelic figure

44 Like some fries

46 "___ bien!"

47 Aunt Bee's charge

49 Skier's quarters

53 Gawks

55 Tel Aviv's land

56 Chamber of Commerce members

59 German seaport

60 With regard to

61 Collette of film

62 Coastal flier

63 Evade a question

64 Mining finds

65 He played Ken

5 Dinner in a pot

6 Late DWTS judge Goodman

7 Card game for kids

8 Make cloudy

9 Pop star, sometimes

10 Five Nations tribe

11 Stretching tight

12 Before, in poems

13 Pentagon org., previously

19 Walt Disney, e.g.

21 Ragtime dance

24 Cast off

26 Lavin or Blair

27 Part of LCD, in math

29 Potential shipwreck spot

31 Signs up for

32 Soul-seller of legend

33 "Li'l" comic strip character

34 Set right

38 Honoring, as at a wedding

39 Actress Elisabeth

41 Type of swimmer's kick

45 The New ___ (weekly)

48 Alfredo alternative

50 Vegan no-no

51 Thelma portrayed

52 Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy"

54 Initial stake

55 Goddess of fertility

56 Album after "Thriller"

57 Dos preceder

58 OH to MA direction

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

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:

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



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