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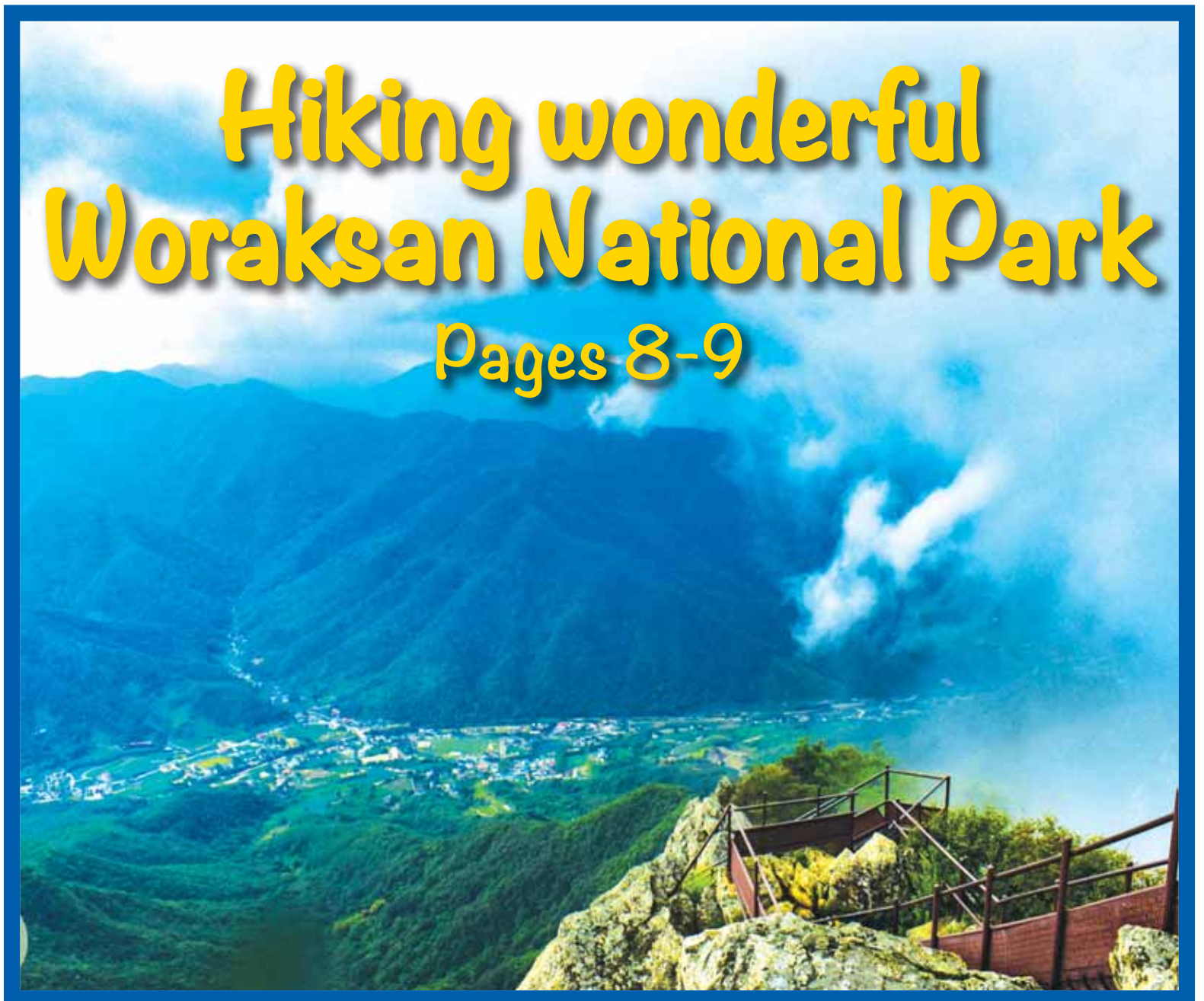


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# DMEDI FESTA

2022.10.28  
 10.30  
 2.28 Jungang Memorial Park

Again — DAEGU  
 With me in DAEGU



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# The pitfalls of sampling regional cuisines

Living overseas in the military provided our family with unique opportunities to learn about foreign cultures firsthand. We didn't imagine what it would be like to be European while stationed in England and Germany, we simply lived it. We believed that sampling local foods was a necessary part of the experience, but many Americans shy away from this aspect of the adventure.

The pervasiveness of McDonald's provides a safe haven for those whose taste buds are less adventurous, and some only leave their flavor comfort zone for benign dishes such as Italian pizza margherita, French crepes filled with Nutella, chocolate covered Belgian waffles, Spanish churros and German schnitzel.

While we ducked into many a European McDonald's to hit the bathroom, my husband and I encouraged (READ: forced) our family to broaden their food horizons beyond french fries. This philosophy was not without its drawbacks, however, and we now have a host of interesting (READ: nauseating) tales of our experiences.

While awaiting housing in Stuttgart, my meat-loving husband ordered the "wurst salat" at a Vaihingen restaurant, envisioning the German version of a chef salad. However, what he was served was devoid of vegetables, unless you count the massive pile of sliced raw onions, which was tossed with julienned cold cuts that looked like fleshy rubber bands and tasted like the mystery meat in bologna and hot dogs.

One spring in Spain's Costa Brava, I ordered fresh-caught fish at a restaurant

## The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



the meat morsels that were tangled among cartilage, skin and bone.

On a day trip to Strasbourg, France, our family stopped at an outdoor restaurant on a lovely cobblestone square. Interested in the mix of German and French cultures, I ordered "Sürkrüt Royale," an Alsatian sauerkraut dish. Soon, I was presented with a steaming heap of sauerkraut, with potatoes, onions, dumplings and at least seven different varieties of pork nested among its pickled strands. Wursts and pork loin were among the few cuts of meat I could recognize, but the rest were unidentifiable slabs intertwined with fat and sinew. Although I was squeamish about the gelatinous bits, the scent of bacon and white wine motivated me to plow forth, and I found the dish to be a delectable treat.

Despite the queasiness that inevitably springs forth when we recall these culinary tales, our family is still sampling indigenous cuisines. Be it Belgian mussels in creamy beer broth, southern shrimp and grits, spicy Croatian cevapi, saucy Japanese Okonomiyaki, traditional British bangers and mash, fresh Alaskan salmon, hearty Portuguese sopas or pork-filled Hawaiian manapua, every delicious regional dish we stumble upon makes it worth every fish head, hunk of fat and organ meat that makes its way to our table.

So, Buen Provecho, Smaczno, Smaklig måltid and Bon Appetit! But don't forget to pack the Alka Seltzer just in case.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at:  
[themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*  
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# JEJU SHINHWA WORLD, A PLACE WITH A FULL OF JOY

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# Enjoying Chuncheon's autumn scenery in a canoe

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIHON KIM,  
STRIPES KOREA

**N**othing showcases the real beauty of Korea's landscape better than the autumn season. It's a short season, so figuring out where I will go is a tough choice to make.

Though canoeing might not be the first on a fall foliage list, my visit to Chuncheon changed my mind about enjoying the weather and landscape this way. The stunning beauty of Uiam Lake reflecting the surrounding mountains in crimson and crisp yellows made this outing special.

Chuncheon is a well-known lakeside city in the western part of Gangwon Province. If you're a Korean food connoisseur, Chuncheon is also the home of dakgalbi, a spicy stir-fried chicken dish. Chuncheon the city, however, is a favorite for couples looking for a romantic getaway or families wanting to escape the busy city life. Chuncheon can be translated as a "stream where spring comes" but it turns into a more beautiful place in the autumn.

For my first canoeing experience, I picked Mulle-Gil, a rental center in the area. If you're driving, park at the parking lot near Chuncheon Songam Sports Town. Taking public transportation? Grab a taxi from the Chuncheon Station, it's only 10 minutes away. Either way, you can't miss the rental center near the parking lot.

I reserved my canoe a week in advance using WAUG, a travel app, so when I arrived, they were ready for me. Many of the customers were families with children. We were given life jackets and then were sent to the dock for a short safety briefing (in Korean only).



View Video!

Mulle-Gil has straw hats you can borrow to help shade from the sun, but don't forget to bring your sunscreen, sunglasses and light jacket. Small dogs are also allowed on your adventure but check in advance for weight/size restrictions.

On the day of my canoe trip, the temperature and water were perfect. From the dock there are three different courses to take: one leading to Bung-O Island that is about three kilometers, another to Uiam Dam of about the same distance, and one





to Jung-Do Island that is about six kilometers away. Without asking we were guided toward the Uiam Dam course. I was a bit disappointed I wouldn't be able to explore Bung-O Island's dense forest but was still excited to be on a boat.

Also, important to note here, courses and operating hours may vary depending on weather or other factors.

As our group of canoes made its toward the course, I noticed how other groups were seated inside their canoe. Most of the customers were families and couples and normally women and kids sit in the front seat. Responsibility for the back seat normally goes to the boyfriend or husband as it takes a lot of power. I was solo canoeing, so I was in the back seat. Being a rookie, I thought my boat might lose balance if I were on there alone, but it was fine.

I paddled strongly toward the dam and thought it was fun to see how my effort in paddling was moving my boat forward. But I started to tire pretty quickly and struggled to catch up with the family who started off ahead of me. I was trying to keep up, mostly out of fear of falling behind, but the paddling was taking a lot out of me. I had sweat all over and was glad I had not chosen summer to give this new adventure a try.

Thanks to my poor stamina, I just stopped paddling and sat back and took in the shimmering lake views and gorgeous surrounding mountains. The short moment was the best part of my canoeing experience that day. I thought to myself, "Dang, I should've done this from the start!" The picturesque sight on the water that beautifully reflected the surrounding nature and colorful fall foliage on the mountain was impressive!



When I reached a famous skywalk glass observatory it was time to paddle back, so I veered my boat and made my way to the starting point, following the guide's instructions. On my way back, motorboats created choppy waters on the lake's surface. My canoe was a little shaky (as was I) as I paddled through. Oh, do not paddle toward the middle of the lake because motorboats share some of the water routes with canoes, unless you're a daredevil who enjoys danger.

It took less than half an hour to return to the dock after leaving. The time was a bit short for me, but it was a pretty satisfying excursion that allowed me to stop and smell the fall leaves. Overall, the experience was an amazing way to get fit and to connect with nature and all of its breathtaking glory. If you're just looking to do something fun and

#### How to get there

- TRAIN: Pyeongtaek Station → (1h40m) YongSan Station (or cheongnyangni Station in Seoul) → (1h20m) chuncheon station → Take a taxi to the Songam Sports Town (10m, 6,000 won)
- ADDRESS: 강원 춘천시 스포츠타운길 113-1 (KOR), 113-1, Sports town-gil, chuncheon-si, Gangwon-do (ENG), NAVER MAP <http://naver.me/FTaQvXhw>
- HOURS: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- PHONE 033-263-8463, 070-4150-8463
- WEBSITE: <http://www.mullegil.org/eng/index.php>
- TICKET PRICE RANGE: 10,000 won (8.46) to 15,000 won per person
- RESERVATION
  - <https://www.klook.com/activity/2712-chuncheon-mullegil-canoe-tour-seoul/>
  - <https://m.waag.com/en/goods/101773>
- PRO TIP: I made my reservation a week in advance through a travel app, and found out that the price can vary depending on booking platforms, even it is the same experience and business. So, do a comparison before you buy a ticket.

relaxing during spring, early summer, or early fall, Mulle-Gil in Chuncheon is worth the visit.

Though the best times to canoe are early in the morning when the fog is rising off the lake or in late afternoon as the sun is starting to set, know that at this time hours of operation have been reduced due to COVID-19 prevention measures. If you want to feel this beautiful waterway from a different angle, check out any of the other rental shops in the area.



## Ramos Burger full of history and delicious food

**D**akgalbi stir-fried spicy chicken is a specialty of Chuncheon. Unfortunately, many of the dakgalbi spots in the area do not accept solo diners, so I had to search for an alternative place for lunch during my visit.

Though the no-solo diner rule isn't great, thanks to it I was able to find a great burger place called Ramos Burger. It's a pretty famous restaurant in Chuncheon and only a five-minute drive or a short walk from the canoe dock.

I chose Ramos Burger not because of its popularity or reviews online, but because the last thing I want to do on a trip is eat at a fast-food chain.

The burger place, which looks like a typical family restaurant, had a comfortable vibe inside, kind of like a cafe. As soon as I entered, the smell of meat on the grill and fresh baked bread greeted me.

From the kiosk inside, I ordered a Nagoya Burger set, which comes with onion rings and soft drink for 16,900 won (\$14.32). When placing your order, don't forget to enter the table number so the robot servers can deliver your burger to the right place. Yes, I said robots!

While waiting for my hamburger, an old black-and-white picture on the wall caught my eyes. It turned out to be a picture of owner Koo

Hee-seok's grandfather. Koo's maternal grandfather, Woo Chong-il, devoted more than 40 years to the kitchen on Camp Page, which was the former K-47 Air Base in Chuncheon.

Koo showed me photos and military papers about his grandfather. He even had a letter of appreciation written in 1959 addressed to Woo Chong-il when he retired as a chief chef at a DFAC.

The burger recipe used at the restaurant is one that has been passed down three generations to Koo from his grandfather who learned it from American soldiers. After opening Ramos Burger, Koo has traveled to places like Nagoya in Japan and the western United States to check out the burger trends, sample burgers and develop his menu. This is probably why the restaurant has done so well.

Now it was my turn to try the famous burger. A robot brought my order, and I was not disappointed. The bread was delicious and topped with a juicy patty, thick teriyaki sauce-coated bacon and a sunny-side up egg.

In addition to the freshest, tastiest onion rings I've ever had, I had ordered extra French fries,

which were fresh cut and crispy.

It might not have been the Chuncheon specialty, but Ramos Burger made me lose any hard feelings I had that I'd been excluded from all the other restaurants for being a solo diner.

— ChiHon Kim, Stripes Korea





# SQUID GAME FUN

## Play dalgona in Hwaseoung Fortress

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIHON KIM,  
STRIPES KOREA

### Did you catch the Netflix hit series Squid Game yet?

I tried with all my might to avoid it because I thought it was a kids' show, but eventually gave in after a friend recommended it. Turns out this show is deeper than children's entertainment and prominently features social problems we're all currently living through.

### What is 'Squid Game'?

In this dark Korean fictional drama series, competitors in unmanageable debt play old-fashioned children's games in order to win a ton of cash. They play innocent children's games in the drama but the penalty for losing is death without mercy. I felt that this kind of juxtaposition is one of the big reasons why it has resonated with so many people. No matter how you analyze this drama, it's simply fun, sick, and addictive.

### What is dalgona candy?

Let's dig deeper into this drama without spoilers. Amongst the deadly six games in the show, the Honeycomb Shape Cutting called dalgona or ppopgi is the most talked-about game along with the 'red light and green light' game.

In my elementary school days, the sweet and brittle candy was typically sold by street vendors or stores near the schools. The flat and circular-shaped candy comes with a variety of symbols, like a star or heart, pressed into the middle. My friends and I also used to call it gukja, which means ladle, maybe because we made dalgona in the ladle over a fire.

The rule of the game is simple – you're supposed to break off the brittle candy without damaging the center shape. This is tricky as the candy tends to crack in straight lines rather than around the heart, triangle, or star stamped on the center of the dalgona. When I played this with my friends, if one of us messed up, we'd just share our candy.

### Where to try the dalgona candy?

You can find dalgona for sale at a handful of local cafes or stores near Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base. Many are riding the Squid Game wave and you'll see ready-made dalgona candy with imprinted shapes around to draw in customers.

But I wanted to try the game the way I did back when I was in grade school, at the stationery store. It took a lot of searching online, but I finally found two places that offers a retro dalgona game at Suwon Hwaseoung Fortress.

To get to these dalgona shops, I visited Suwon handicraft street (or Haeggung-gil) near Hwaseong Temporary Palace. Walk down from the Hwaseong Temporary Palace toward Paldalmun Gate until you see the store Black Rubber Shoes (검정 고무신), which offers the traditional dalgona challenge for mere 3,000 won. After making a quick stop at the shop, I made my way to another spot since the stool inside for kids seemed too small for me to sit.

Soon I reached 'Old Memory of Dalgona' (추억의 달고나), another dalgona place and chose this spot to recall my childhood memory. Inside there were youngsters busy struggling with the candy.

You can also just grab the dalgona candy for 2,000 won and play the game by yourself at home, but I just settled down in front and gave it try. No idea how to break it? Don't worry, the shop's skillful owner can help you.

Thanks to my gifted education, I still have a high level of skill set to win the dalgona game. I paid 3,000 won to join the game. The result? Right after I gave the sugar a stir with a chopstick, I carved the shape masterfully and finished the game in a jiffy.

As a prize for the glorious winner, I got a rainbow spring toy. The toys and candy definitely brought me back to my childhood and I had a great time with this trip down memory lane.



### Old Memory of Dalgona (추억의 달고나)

#### ADDRESS:

경기 수원시 팔달구 행궁로 44 102  
호 추억의 달고나 (KOR),  
44, Haeggung-ro, Paldal-gu,  
Suwon-si (ENG)

**HOURS:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(Open year - round)

**PHONE:** 031-252-4655

NAVER MAP



### Suwon Handcraft Street (Haeggung-gil)

If you lose the dalgona game, don't be too disappointed. Haeggung-dong handicraft street has many shops and workshops to cheer you up. Haeggung can literally be translated as a "ceremonial walk of the royal family" and the street is a historical place where the king used to walk to hear the voice of people during the Joseon Dynasty. Plus, you can find many neat restaurants that serve up tasty dishes. Come out of the dalgona store and take a leisurely stroll down a street fit for a king!



Season 1 of Squid Game is now available to stream on Netflix.



# Squid Game's doll a hit, but you won't find her near Camp Humphreys

**N**etflix's dark Korean survival series 'Squid Game' has topped the streaming service's charts worldwide. It is likely that the series will keep its trending status through the end of the year. According to Ted Sarandos, Netflix co-CEO, Squid Game is poised to be one of the service's biggest and most popular non-English language shows in the world.

I believe one of the biggest contributing factors to this show being a hit is the creepy doll used in the red light-green light game scene. If you're one of the few people that haven't seen the show, then you might have seen the memes circulating the web of a creepy and enormous fiberglass girl statue.

You've also probably played a similar game when you were a kid. Though the game varies by region, the basic premise is the same. Someone stands against a tree or wall with their eyes closed. All the other players stand at a good distance behind the person. Whenever "Green Light!" is called out from the person who stands against the wall, players can make their way towards him or her. At any point, the caller may say "Red Light!" and quickly turn around. The players must stop immediately at this point. If any of them are caught moving at that moment, they are out of the game. In "Squid Game," the penalty is death.

The murderous robot from the show is modeled after a very friendly girl, Young-hee, from children's old textbooks. Similar to the names James and Mary in the U.S. as far as how common they were, 'Younghee'

and 'Chulsoo' were very common South Korean names in the 1970s and 80s.

Terrifyingly enough, the homicidal Younghee statue seen in the series isn't CGI, but an actual statue that now stands at Macha Land, a horse carriage museum. This prop used for filming Squid Game was moved to the museum after the production wrapped.

As Squid Game grew in popularity, the museum quickly started to gather crowds and social media attention. Due to COVID-19 concerns, this prompted the museum to store the giant doll and have no plans to bring it out again, officials said.

Though Yeong-hee won't be there to greet you, Macha Land is still a fun spot for kids and families. From Camp Humphreys the museum is merely a one-hour drive away in Jincheon-gun, Chungcheongbuk-do Province.

Macha Land offers horse carriage rides, donkey rides and even lets you feed the donkeys on site. The price for grass to feed the donkeys will set you back 5,000 won per person and a carriage ride costs 5,000 won for two people. If your children are afraid to ride the donkeys, the museum also has an air-powered bottle rocket experience for 5,000 won (about \$4.20).

## Machaland

**ADDRESS:** 충북 진천군 문백면 농다리로 34 (KOR), 34, Nongdari-ro, Munbaek-myeon, Jincheon-gun, (ENG)

**HOURS:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends only. Only open to school groups during weekdays,

### WEBSITE



### NAVER MAP



Photo courtesy of Machaland



Photo courtesy of DCinside

# Making dalgona candy Squid Game challenge

Watch video!



## Directions

- 1 Over low heat, place 2 tablespoons of sugar in a ladle and stir it gently with a chopstick. (Pro tip: Stir the sugar from the edge and gradually move inward.)
- 2 Constantly stir it until the sugar completely turns into a clear liquid without any lumps. (Keep controlling the heat by raising or lowering the ladle.)
- 3 Remove the ladle from the heat for a moment. Add a pinch of baking soda and continue to stir it quickly until it turns into light brown cream color. (If the mixture does not swell, lower ladle close to the heat for a few seconds.)
- 4 Once you've combined the ingredients, pour the foamy mixture onto a non-stick baking sheet or some parchment paper or a dish wrapped with foil paper and cool it for 20-30 seconds.
- 5 Press it down with flat kitchenware to your desired thickness.
- 6 As quickly as possible, press a cookie cutter coated with baking soda or wheat flour on it as much as you want, avoiding pressing all the way to the bottom. (The harder you press, the easier you can carve the shape. Press lightly if you want to raise the level of the game.)
- 7 Carve out the shape from the candy without breaking it. Don't worry as there is no time limit, and you won't fall victim to consequences for breaking the candy like the show's participants.
- 8 Give it a try and bon appetite or 잘 먹겠습니다! (Pronounced: jal meok-ke-sseum-nida!)

**T**he popularity of the Squid Game is spurring sales of dalgona candy kits online. This Korean sweet is pretty simple to make at home and there's no need to buy a pricey kit. All you need is a soup ladle, some sugar, and a pinch of baking soda! If you want to recreate the iconic scene from Squid Game, or just enjoy a good sugar high, give this recipe a try. Sure, if you're in South Korea, you can also head to the nearest dalgona shop, but why not make it yourself?! Are you ready to survive Squid Game?!

## Ingredients and materials

- Soup ladle
- Chopsticks
- Cookie cutter
- 2 tsp of refined cane sugar
- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- Pinch of baking soda



Photos courtesy of Netflix



# Grab your hiking boots and head to Woraksan National Park

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KYLE HANEY,  
GLOBETROTTERKYLE.COM

If ferociously tall cliffs, memorizing labyrinths of stairs, rare sightings of goat antelopes (not kidding), and panoramic peak views sound like your kind of thing, then this post is undoubtedly for you! Dubbed South Korea's 17th National Park, Woraksan National Park is a divine stretch of landscape connecting Sobaeksan and Songnisan. The best part? It's only a short 2-hour drive from Osan Air Base! Read on as I hope to capture even just 10% of how much beauty and adventure this park offers.

Like all my weekends, I was bound to get out of Osan and experience another corner of South Korea that I hadn't seen yet. I pulled up Kakao maps, saw a patch of green on the map east of Osan, zoomed in, and there in large font was "Woraksan National Park". Estimated time to arrival? Two hours. I threw my hiking boots on, filled my camel back up with water, and set out the door.

As I cruised along the two-lane road leading to the western entrance of the park, I swayed side to side as the road curved and twisted along the landscape. An illusion of hypnosis set in somewhere between the curves in the road and I was helpless as my mind drifted back to a memory of cruising through the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. On my left, I could see a fraction of the dozens of fingers comprising the massive Chungju Lake and on my right, I had the lusciously green pine and Mongolian oak forests stretching towards the heavens with every branch. I felt like I was home, and almost instantly I could feel a weeks' worth of tension leave my body. I knew I had found a perfect spot to escape to.

When I finally arrived at the park, a mysterious fog had rolled in and began swallowing up the tops of the mountains inch by inch. It felt like I was in one of the ominous scenes from Jurassic Park where at any moment, a pterodactyl might swoop down and take my lucky hiking hat right off my head. This, of course, only made the experience that much more unique and I got more and more excited the thicker the fog rolled in.

I began at the entrance near the Deokjusa Temple so that I could hike the tallest peak in the park, Yeongbong mountain. Not only was there ample parking at the trailhead, but there was also a quaint little cafe that served excellent



espresso. As I sat at the cafe sipping my pre-hike fuel, I surveilled the fog as it slowly encroached on the sides of Yeongbong before retreating back, like slow motion waves that were unable to muster enough momentum to fully engulf a boulder on the sea's shore. I sat, entranced, but more so in awe at the fact that I was about to hike up into this phenomenon to bag another mountain summit. I finished my espresso and began the hike. ↗





→ Though stopping and viewing the Deokjusa Temple crossed my mind, I kept my eye on the prize of wading through the dense fog to catch a glimpse of South Korea from within the clouds (oxymoron, I know, but it sounded cool as I came up with the idea lol). However, like any good globetrotter, I promised I'd stop to take photos on the way back down and fully experience what the temple had to offer. The next waypoint I encountered was the entrance to the park where I paid a few dollars to enter and was on my way.

If you've read some of my stories in the past such as my Seoraksan National Park visit then you know that hiking in Korea is a mix of blissful trails aside soothing rivers before abruptly changing to near-vertical stairs that ascend you hundreds of feet up rocky cliffs leaving you figuratively and literally breathless. Well, as my quads, lungs, and dopamine levels can attest to, this hike was no different. However, I was rewarded in droves at the 1.5 km mark when I stumbled upon a massive 13-meter tall Buddha carved into a rock face. This, I had to see!

According to the documentation, the rock-carved buddha is presumed to have been made around the 11th century (918-1392 AD) While the body and facial features of the buddha are typical of rock-carved depictions from this period, a wooden structure was believed to have been installed to protect the buddha based on the square-shaped holes carved in the rock to each side of the buddha's head. At 13 meters high, legend has it that Princess Deokju founded this temple to express her sorrow of the end of the last Silla kingdom which fell to Goryeo in 935.

Pressing on another two km, I came to a clearing in the dense tree cover at a helicopter pad that framed Yeongbong perfectly a few kilometers away. I gazed ahead and like a fortress wall towering hundreds of feet above me was the south face of Yeongbong and like my drive to the park, I felt helpless as my mind drifted back to another memory. This time, my mind was reliving the experience I had as I encountered the north face of Long's Peak in Colorado as I made it to the boulder field. I felt the hair stand up on my neck and I had to shake my head as I felt like I was having a deja vu!

The two sights seemed so similar that my mind was literally glitching as it tried to comprehend how Long's Peak had suddenly jumped all the way over to South Korea or how I had somehow hiked through a wormhole that placed me back in Colorado. In that moment, I experienced the sensation of genuine joy. My entire body rejoiced, and I couldn't help but smile as my mind was comparing two very, very different things relative to this planet but two very, very similar things relative to me. You see, hiking tall mountains is challenging and exhausting, but I've always considered it "worth it". Sure, I get a good workout in and make a good memory out of each hike but, I'm always more infatuated with each journey's unique characteristics. Hence why I started my blog: to formally capture those unique characteristics.

Had I never set out to summit Long's Peak in Colorado, I would have never had the image of the daunting, yet strikingly beautiful north face seared into my brain at 7:38am on a June morning in 2020. Furthermore, had I never set out to summit Yeongbong in South Korea, I would have never been able to say, "I've seen something like this before", though they are on complete opposites of the world. I might be one of only a handful of people in this world that has ever or WILL ever be able to make this comparison. This, this is why I explore. For these moments, right here.

Pressing on I reached the summit and was quickly

overtaken by the fog. I suppose Zeus finally gave the winds and the clouds permission to overthrow Yeongbong because when they came, they unleashed a good amount of pent-up energy. I took what pictures I could and proceeded back down the mountain before stopping at Deokjusa Temple like I promised.

Though I kept an eye out, I unfortunately didn't see any of the goral antelopes during my hike—bummer right?! However, the signs posted in the park mentioned that these rare beauties love to feed on plant resources such as the red pepper trees and azaleas in the vicinity of Yeongbong Peak, so if/when you go, ask one of the park rangers where these species of plants grow and see if you can't spot one for yourself!

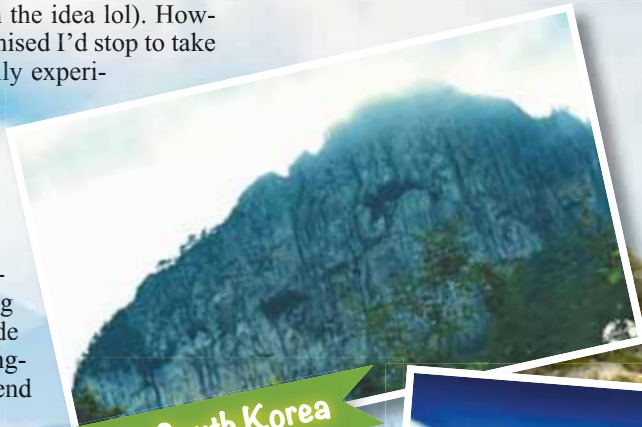
When I first arrived on the peninsula, I was honestly pretty distraught at the fact that I wouldn't be able to travel like everyone else before me had. Everyone always tells you to travel if you get stationed here, but that was all pre-pandemic; they don't know the massive hurdles it takes to get off-peninsula let alone back on thanks

to COVID. And, even if we could leave, where would we go? Japan is currently locked down again, the Philippines aren't taking any visitors, and Vietnam is only allowing business travel; everyone's closed!

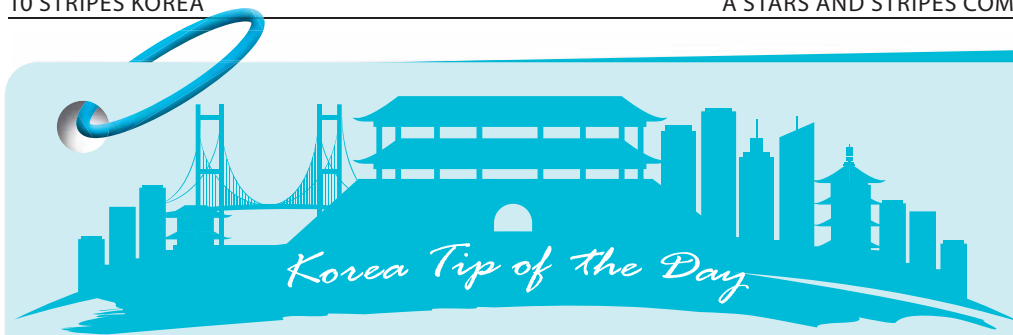
But, as I mentioned in one of my earlier posts about exploring during a pandemic, I believe there's real beauty and opportunity in this situation. I believe there is a massive silver lining to this pandemic that's all but closed travel outside of South Korea and that's the redundant truth that outside travel is essentially closed. In other words, the seemingly disheartening notion that being confined to only seeing South Korea somehow renders you "stuck" here couldn't be further from the real truth: South Korea is overflowing with adventure and beauty – all you have to do is get out there and take advantage of it. I promise you that the geography of this peninsula will surprise you at every turn and it will exceed every expectation you have of it, all you have to do is give it the chance it deserves. Who knows, the next place you decide to visit might transplant you back in time or even to another part of the world like it did for me on this trip, and isn't that all that travel essentially is?

Yeongbong in South Korea

Long's Peak in Colorado







*Korea Tip of the Day*

## Watch out for unmarked police vehicles in South Korea!

BY CHIHON KIM,  
STRIPES KOREA

**P**olice cars in South Korea are pretty easy to spot. These blue and white vehicles have a large red and blue light bar mounted to the roof and large text on the sides of in both Korean and English identifying them as police.

Like in the States, Korea also has unmarked police cars. These do not have any

of the obvious signage and police lights, allowing them to blend in as a regular sedan in traffic. This type of vehicle was introduced into the highway police force in 2016 and has recently extended to regular roads.

Though you may not recognize an unmarked police car, it is good to assume that they are in traffic with you when you hit the road. As always, follow traffic laws and drive safely!



Photo courtesy of Gyeonggi Southern Provincial Police Agency

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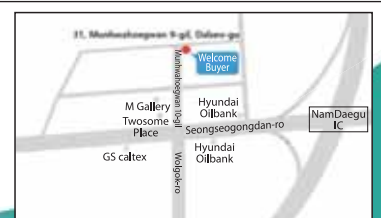


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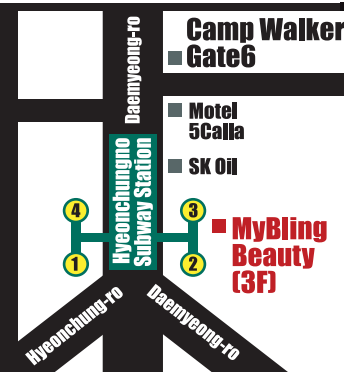


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Explore

Namhae's Pyeonbaek Recreational Forest

HAPS KOREA MAGAZINE

Opened in 1998, Namhae's Pyeonbaek Recreational Forest in Namhae-gun, South Gyeongsang Province was selected as this month's luxury forest by the Korea Forest Service.

The forest is located at the northern end of Hallyeohaesang National Park.

It offers an outstanding view of the southern ocean as well as the surrounding natural scenery and gets about 300,000 visitors every year.

The forest is located near Geumsan Mountain – dubbed as the

Geumgangsam of Namhae — which, at 700 meters above sea level, is full of unusual rocks and boasts 38 spectacular views.

According to visitkorea.com, within this recreation forest, there are promenades, an observatory, and lodging facilities including forest cabins, forest Lodge, training camping site, rowhouses, and camping decks.

Admission fees of 1,000 won apply as do fees for parking. No pets are allowed.

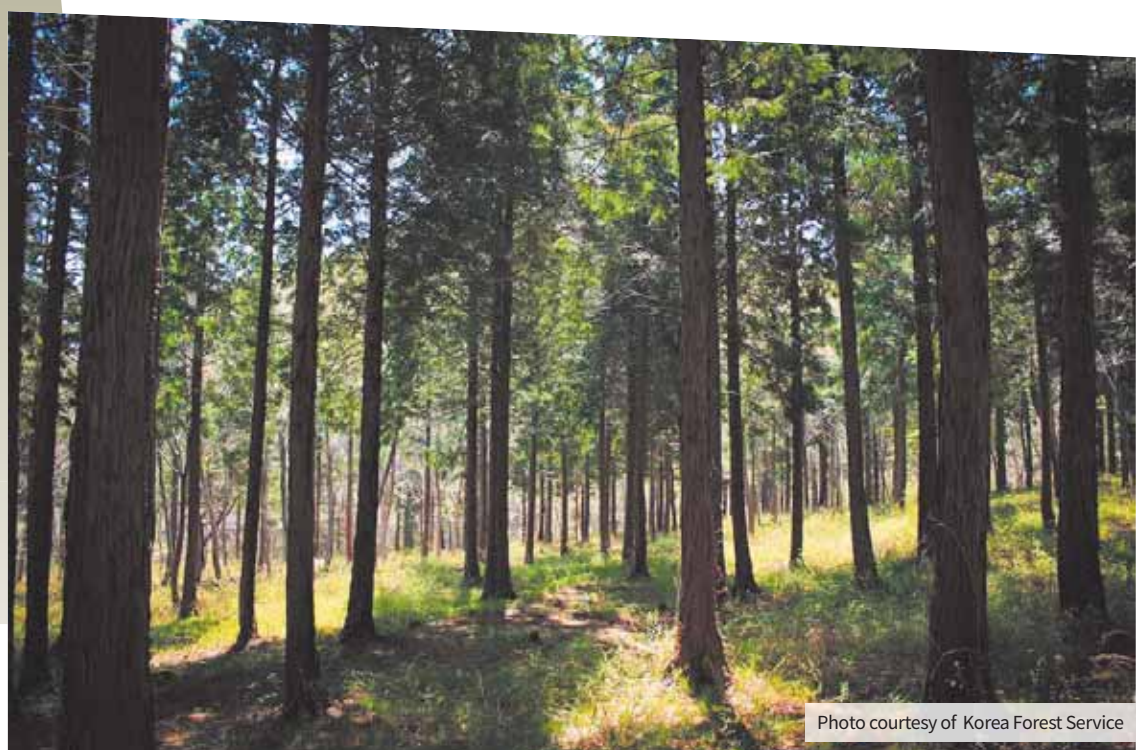


Photo courtesy of Korea Forest Service

**Namhae's Pyeonbaek Recreational Forest**  
Gyeongsangnam-do, Namhae-gun,  
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# Enjoy the splendor of Yeongju



Photo by yi jo from Pixabay



Jeong Do-jeon Photo courtesy of KBS



## HAPS KOREA MAGAZINE

**L**ocated in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Yeongju has a proud history of having some of Korea's most influential historic figures live there, including Yi Hwang, the face of the 1,000 won bill and a magistrate of Punggi County in the mid-1550s.

Yeongju is known as the City of Seonbi — scholars from the Joseon and Goryeo periods who are described as “virtuous scholars who served the public without a government position, choosing to pass up positions of wealth and power to lead lives of study and integrity.”

With its scenic backdrops and old-time feel, it has become a popular place where many Korean historical dramas are filmed.

If you're looking for a new place to travel this summer, here's five reasons why Yeongju is a good place to go.

## ■ It has a lot of cultural heritage sites

Yeongju is chock-full of places to experience Korean culture and learn the history of the nation.

Sosu Seowon is the oldest Neo-confucian academy in the country, and was established during the Joseon Dynasty.

Reconstructed in 1376, Buseoksa Temple is another popular attraction, and is also the second oldest wooden building in Korea that has survived until now. The temple houses five national treasures, including number 45, the Amitabha Buddha.

A final spot to check out at the temple is the stone lantern in front of Muryang-sujeon. This lantern, national treasure

number 17, is considered to be the most beautiful granite lantern in Korea.

## ■ Wonderful nature

Yeongju is a city surrounded by mountains. The 350-kilometer long So-baek mountain range provides the backdrop and is place where you can enjoy spring and winter together at the same time. It was selected as one of the 100 most famous mountains in the country by the Korea Forest Service.

## ■ Delicious local eats

Considered one of the best places in the country for beef, Yeongju has a variety of restaurants catering to lovers of hanwoo. Also don't miss out on the local tteokboki, jjeolmyeon, and bread rice cakes.

## ■ It's a popular filming location for Korean dramas

With its beautiful backdrops, vast lands and historical sites, Yeongju has become a popular shooting location for many historical Korean dramas.

Popular dramas such as “Love Rain”, “Moonlight Drawn by Clouds”, and “Jeong Do-Jeon” are just a few of the famous series filmed around the area.

## ■ Take life at a leisurely pace

Yeongju is a small city with a population of around 115,000 that moves at a slow pace. It's quite easy to get around using taxis and local accommodations are quite reasonably priced.

It's a great place to go an unwind for a quiet weekend while exploring the historical sites and surrounding yourself with nature.

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Photos courtesy of Tasting Museum

# 100-year-old temple turns into a modern restaurant

BY CHIHON KIM,  
STRIPES KOREA

## YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE



While dining out is an always enjoyable experience, finding a good restaurant in a strange city is difficult. Suwon, in fact, is still a relatively unknown city for me since I live in Pyeongtaek. But, after my visit to Hwaseong Fortress in Suwon, I spent an hour trying to find a place to eat. The effort ended up being well worth it.

Suwon is famous for Suwon Wangalbi grilled beef ribs and the crispy chicken served in their chicken alley restaurants. I admit that these specialties are probably the easiest option but considering many of the eateries in the area do not accept solo diners, I was reluctant to try. Another inconvenience was that I was visiting on a Monday, a day many restaurants are closed after the busy weekend.

I kept walking around the fortress trying to find a place to eat until my hunger would not allow me to continue. So, I let my stomach choose randomly.

Nestled in the adjacent Haeng-gung-dong Mural Village, not far from the fortress' Hwahongmun Gate, the Tasting Museum (테이스팅 뮤지엄) is the quaint corner eatery my hunger led me to. Their menu offers mainly great Italian dishes, steaks and wine at prices that won't break the bank.

Inside the dining area, the music playing ranged from trendy K-pop to American pop songs. Dining tables inside were a bit small but okay for couples or solo diners.

If you ask me what's so special about this place, it's the architecture. The tile-roofed house that once served as a temple called Myosusa over 100 years ago, is now a modern restaurant where diners can enjoy the beautiful construction and minimalist decorations.

I ordered grilled shrimp pong curry for 15,500 won (or \$13). It's a kind of twist of Poo Phad Pong Curry or crab curry. The tiger prawns instead of crab in the curry is what makes this dish less expensive. I was famished and this

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dish did not take long to prepare, so it arrived quickly.

The perfectly seasoned curry made with delicate coconut milk and meaty tiger prawns came with the perfect portion of rice on the side. I scraped my dish clean with a spoon.

Tasting Museum's signature menu items include tomahawk steak that has beautiful marbling for 76,000 won. They also have a reasonably-priced sirloin steak (34,000 won) and a porcini mushroom risotto topped with steak (18,900 won). Their wine and beer selection is also impressive. Try any of their wines from Chile, California, and South Africa to level up your meal.

If you're in the mood for something different, try goulash, a Hungary-style stew seasoned with tomato, potatoes, and other spices. It comes with baked bread and is paired well with wine. En papillote, a dish of meat or fish in a

folded pouch and then baked with veggies, wine, tiger shrimp and special spices, is also on the menu. This rare dish is not something you can easily find elsewhere.

For appetizers, they offer colorful bruschetta made of tomato, basil, and mozzarella cheese, Caprese on top with homemade ricotta cheese, juicy eggplant ragu grilled with extra-virgin olive oil.

I was lucky that Tasting Museum happened to be open the day I visited, as they usually close on Mondays. After my delicious meal, I definitely felt as though I had won. Now when I visit Suwon, it won't be such a mystery to me, because I'll know where I want to stop to eat.

Add this beautiful eatery to your list when planning a visit to Suwon. And after your meal, take a walk through the Mural Village to enjoy the sights and get some steps in!



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# Korean art students add local color to Humphreys' school

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID CHOI,  
STARS AND STRIPES  
Published: August 22, 2022

CAMP HUMPHREYS – Students of Humphreys West Elementary School discovered a splash of color and a piece of Korean culture when they arrived Aug. 22 for the first day of the new school year.

A team of South Korean art students from Chung-Ang University in Seoul over the summer turned two blank walls inside the school into murals that highlight aspects of their country's culture.

Humphreys West principal Edgar Romero conceived of the project after he arrived in November at the school on the largest U.S. overseas military base. Romero said he found the school lacked artwork and he wanted students to enrich themselves with South Korean culture.

"There are things that children should be exposed to and should be able to talk about" in their culture classes at the school, Romero told Stars and Stripes. He said many children at the base are multiracial Korean Americans.

"I needed to bring that little bit of Korea back into the building so

that the host-nation teachers could truly bring and immerse the kids," he said of the Korean staff who teach the country's culture.

Previously the assistant principal at Osan Middle High School on nearby Osan Air Base, Romero said he has lived in South Korea for 17 years. Exposing military families to South Korean culture has been a challenge, he said, particularly when off-base travel was restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The parents actually have to make a bigger effort to get to a folk village or to really expose them to folk art in Korea," Romero said.

Most military families spend only two to three years in South Korea, too short a time to acclimate to the host nation's culture.

Romero floated the mural idea to the school's Parent Teacher Student Organization, which allocated roughly \$2,000 for the project.

The five students commissioned for the project worked in 12-hour shifts over 11 days to complete the two murals, which are on opposite ends of a wall inside the school. The artists painted in an ancient Korean style and included images of mountains, fruits, insects and wildlife. One of the murals was completed in May and the other

was finished earlier in August.

Seo Jae Hyun, a third-year student studying Korean painting, said the group wanted to create "a powerful image of Korea."

"The artwork we did was a bit difficult," he told Stars and Stripes by phone. "When we started the work, we worried a lot because the teachers could get disappointed, or we could hurt our pride if we made a bad job of it. We are painters, so we could not ignore this."

This was the group's first time painting on a U.S. military base, Seo said. He described the experience as "totally different."

"I felt like I went on a trip abroad," Seo said. "And, I had butterflies in my stomach."

School officials are discussing plans to allow Humphreys West students and other organizations on the base to paint more murals at the school, Romero said.

The murals are popular with the Humphreys West students, said Jeannette Rho, an education technologist at the school.

"They loved seeing it," she said. "It was just bringing color, not only just the tradition, but color, to our elementary school."

choi.david@stripes.com

Twitter: @choibboy

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.





# Stripes Sports Trivia

The price of an MLB team, these days, is pretty astronomical. In 2012, the Dodgers were purchased for \$2 billion. More recently, the lowly Marlins fetched \$1.3B. The cheapest purchase of a current franchise was, go figure, one that has stayed in the family for nearly 50 years. Which franchise cost only \$8.7 million in 1973?

**Answer**  
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STARS AND STRIPES

## DID YOU KNOW?

Writing someone's name in red is taboo in Korea as the red color symbolizes death for Koreans. Names are written in red only in the event of someone's death. So, if a person's name was written in red, many believe it brings bad luck such as death. Writing a person's name in red is also considered misbehavior even for Koreans who do not believe in superstition. So, never use a red pen to write someone's name when in Korea or you might be seen as an ill-mannered person.

## Hangul of the week

이/별  
ibyeol (farewell)

## Language Lesson

I'm full.  
Bae-bul-leo-yo.

## Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

1 Declines  
5 Pack away  
9 Bell sound  
14 Unappealing food  
15 Horne of "Stormy Weather"  
16 Pooh's passion  
17 Maneuverable, at sea  
18 Try the patience of  
20 Retailers' battle  
22 Gave out  
23 Liable to lose it  
24 Took for oneself  
26 Clear up  
28 Takes a load off  
31 Small bump  
34 Artificial bait  
36 Sis's sib  
37 Recluse  
39 Sadly sentimental  
41 WWII female  
42 Judi Dench title  
44 Spine-tingling  
45 Farm feed  
47 Walloped  
49 Project glowingly  
51 Rifle recoils  
55 Expressed out loud  
57 Tuna variety  
59 Hard to miss  
61 In a bit  
62 Performance place  
63 Trellis piece  
64 "Dent" anagram  
65 Bicycle part  
66 His partner  
67 Storm centers

### DOWN

1 Pharaoh's land  
2 Play loudly  
3 Bullwinkle foe  
4 Broad range  
5 Large amount  
6 Gas brand since 1902  
7 Hot, in Vegas  
8 Is no longer  
9 Treasure holder  
10 Belmont beasts  
11 Too low to hear  
12 Ration (out)  
13 Gave the once-over  
19 Smoker's accessory holder  
21 Peeper protector  
25 Female gamete  
27 Save for later  
29 Field follower  
30 Big name in electronics  
31 MSNBC offering  
32 Like some exams

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

BONE	RADAR	SCAM
ERAS	ERODE	TOGA
MARC	MENDACIOUS	
ALCAPONE	CARPET	
OPART	THRU	
SLAMS	SHEEPI	ISH
APED	ENTERS	MAE
CAPER	EAT	SAMBA
ATS	OPERAS	MELT
REYNOLDS	THEME	
ONUS	GUANO	
SPIDER	GENDARME	
WOODYALLEN	BIEL	
ANNE	LOUSE	LAMA
TEED	STEED	ELON

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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:

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

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### CHRISTMAS AT THE DRAGON

The week of Christmas is full of gingerbread houses, cookies & egg nog, storytelling w/ Santa, and a hearty Christmas Day buffet.

### NEW YEAR EVE PARTY

Don't miss out on the Greatest Party of the YEAR!



**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON**

[WWW.DRAGONHILLLODGE.COM](http://WWW.DRAGONHILLLODGE.COM)



**AUTHENTIC BAVARIAN CUISINE, CRAFT MÄRZEN BEER,  
GERMAN YODELING BAND, BOUNCY CASTLES, AND GAMES**

**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!**

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