Kiri Peterson, her family and friends have been serving desserts to hundreds of people at Camp Humphreys each week through Operation Cake for Quarantine.

CAMP HUMPHREYS — Over her summer break from school, Kiri Peterson, 16, began making cake parfaits for troops and their families serving out their mandatory two-week coronavirus quarantine at Camp Humphreys.

What started as about 30 of the cake-in-a-cup desserts every week has blossomed into more than 3,800 so far, donated and delivered to quarantine quarters on base.

“My family has always been really big about service so it makes me happy that I can do that for other people and bring joy,” said Peterson, who lives with her family outside the installation.

The Petersons are now serving hundreds each week through her charity Facebook page, Operation Cake for Quarantine. Their most recent and largest delivery to date went to more than 540 people.

“It’s a gift that’s unexpected,” said Kiri’s father, Army Capt. Jason Peterson of United Nations Command, in a video posted on Eighth Army’s Facebook page. “So, when it comes and it’s sweet and it tastes good, I think that’s what touches people. I know that’s what would touch us as a family.”

The young baker is no culinary novice. From a single baking lesson from an aunt in Utah three years ago, Kiri Peterson started her own home-based custom cake business. But she usually had chunks of cake left over after designing and trimming her creations.

To make the cake parfaits, Peterson stuffed those leftovers into small plastic cups, added

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER, STARS AND STRIPES
Published: September 23, 2020

Photos by Chihon Kim, Stripes Korea
Kiri Peterson, founder of Operation Cake for Quarantine, finishes off desserts bound for people in quarantine on Aug. 17.

Cake requests are submitted through her Facebook page and each cup is marked with the recipient’s name and room number.

Her home-based operation has drawn tremendous support and now donations help the Petersons keep up with the growing demand.

“It’s amazing to see the community reach out to help,” Kiri Peterson said. “I’ve had neighbors ring my doorbell out of the blue with boxes, stacks of eggs, even cash to help us. Perfect strangers will meet us in the parking lot and hand us bags of supplies. It’s truly heartwarming to see people want to help.”

“We are starting to get so many people asking how they can help, local friends, Facebook friends, local bakers, even the USO!”

The program has grown so much that the Army accepted it into its Volunteer Management Information System, a digital storehouse for the Army Volunteer Corps. Positions available within Peterson’s cake campaign include baker, delivery person, assembly and donation management.

Many of the same people who requested a dessert in quarantine are helping Peterson keep the cakes coming. “We’ve found that these families really were touched by receiving our cake cups and are anxious for a chance to pay it forward,” she said.

Although school is back in session, in an online setting for now, the Petersons say they will continue to bake and bring the sweet treats to quarantine facilities across the garrison. “It just makes me feel good, makes me feel happier that I am bringing happiness into someone else’s life, Kiri Peterson said. “So yeah, we are going to continue as long as we are still here, and people have to go through quarantine.”

keeler.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @MattKeeler1231

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Price per person 13,500 won
The Price of a glass of draft beer is 2900 won

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Pangyo Campus
Seoul Campus
Facing our fears

Eshan Khan, 6th Grade

Women and little children were holding snakes and allowing them to slither all over their bodies, with no worries. After seeing the brave women and children, I wanted to overcome my fear. So, my dad and I both held a snake. When they put the snake on me, I was nervous because snakes can smell fear, so I tried to stay calm.

I soon started to panic, then the snake started coiling itself around my neck. While that was happening, I felt the snake tightening its grip around my neck. I thought I was going to die in Bat. But I yelled for the staff to remove the snake and they did later learned the snakes we held were pythons. This should have freaked me out, but instead I felt pride that I had held a snake and conquered my fear.

Facing our fears

Eshan Khan, 6th Grade

Snakes anyone?

I have had a fear of snakes for as long as I can remember. The reasons I am scared of snakes are the color, texture, the sound they make, and the size of them. Whenever I am outside, I always caution of snakes because I fear one could come out of nowhere and strike me.

We are often beings worried and scared. We are often people with Nyctophobia. People who have the same weird feeling, but now most of the time I know my house so well that I do not have the same weird feeling, but now most of the time I know my house so well that I do not feel scared.

Eran Khan, 6th Grade

Falling in the pit of webs

Fears are stories created in our minds. Stories can be fiction or non-fiction. My fears are non-fiction. Let me tell you about my fears.

Fears are stories created in our minds. The emotion that makes all human beings worried and scared. We are often told that fear is a weakness. That it is “stupid” to be scared or have fears.

Often, we think that fear is a weakness. But what if fears are not a weakness? What if we see fear as a tool to understand the causes of our fear. “Read” our fears. We all have fears, such as being late to a meeting, turning in our homework late, falling off the cruise. But if we overcome our fears it arriving at the place that the meeting is being held 30 minutes earlier or finishing our homemade as soon as we get home, then we have nothing to worry about. If we all look at our fears closely there is always a resolution to be found.

My fear when I was a kid was the dark because all the scary stories I heard were about being in the dark. So, one day I took my courage and went outside of my bedroom and explored the house at night when everything was dark. I was still scared but I just walked around the house but when I heard a man I ran to my room and did not come out of my bed until I had to go to school. It turns out that my dad had bumped into some furniture and was moaning and it hurt so much. The next night I took my courage and explored the house again.

Then I learned the dark wasn’t that scary, I went back to bed and fell asleep. That is how I overcame my fear of the dark. I encourage you to be brave and face your fears.

Sienna Chu, 6th Grade

Magical scary adventure

Most people do not like to be afraid. But at some time in our lives, we will face fear. The first time I ever faced fear was when I was about four and my family went to Florida for a vacation. We had a lot of fun! We went to Disney World and WALT. We were having an amazing time there. That is, until I decided to go find my mom in the big crowd. I knew, it was the biggest mistake I have ever made. I let go of my dad’s hand and just kept walking and walking, until I finally realized that I would never find my mom. So I stopped, and just stood there. Doing absolutely nothing. I was so scared I couldn’t even cry.

Then a nice old man came up to me and asked if I was lost. And I was like “Finally! Someone came to find me!” He told me to follow him to my parents. And now I have no idea who he was, but all I really wanted was to be with my parents. So, I followed him, right up to my parents! I thought that was magical! I really want to thank that man again for helping me. But when I turned around, there was just a crowd.

So that little adventure was both magical and scary for me. And that was me, Eres Park, facing my fear.

Eres Park, 6th Grade

Scared of the dark

The thing I fear the most is the dark. It is not the absence of light that I am afraid of, but what is hiding in the dark. When it is dark, I can’t see in front of or behind me. It is the unknown that I am afraid of. There could be something watching me that I can’t see. Every time I step into the hallway of my house at night to go somewhere, I get this weird feeling that something or someone is watching me in the dark.

A couple times I even thought I was something looking around a corner. I have to stay in the hallway for at least one minute so my eyes can adjust to the dark.

After my eyes finish adjusting, I can see almost everything in the dark and I am not nervous as much. This happens to me at least once or twice every night, but I am slowly becoming comfortable in the dark.

Because I wanted to know more about my own fear, I decided to do some research. According to Healthline.com, an intense fear of the dark is called Nyctophobia and it can sometimes cause anxiety and depression and usually appears during your childhood and is a normal part of developing. I realized that I am not as afraid of the dark as people with Nyctophobia. People with Nyctophobia experience severe physical and emotion symptoms while I just feel scared.

Even though I am sometimes still afraid of the dark, I adapt better with it. Now, I know my house so well that I do not have to look around when I wake. Sometimes I have the same feeling, but now the time I can just ignore it. I hope that soon I will not be scared of the dark at all.

Alexander Gillen, 6th Grade

Pride in holding python

Snakes, snakes, snakes. My fear of snakes started when I was young. They used to scare me to the bone. Their deadly eyes and their scary skin would give me the chills. Snakes are unpredictable creatures. They have the ability to hide and lurk out at any moment. Some snakes are venomous and can kill you. If I saw one, I would be paralyzed with fear, but not now, not after my encounter with one.

One summer, my family and I went on a trip to Bali. While we were in Bali, we went to the Turtle Conservation Center, there were more than just turtles. As we walked around the center we came to an area with snakes. I froze. My fear had paralyzed my entire body. It was scary.

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If you are a big In-N-Out fan, then a local hole-in-the-wall burger joint near Camp Humphreys is a place you'll want to check out.

To find Coco Salsa, head to an underground parking lot belonging to a brownstone apartment building. The location may sound strange, but I promise the burgers and tacos here are worth the journey!

One of the owners, Koh Seung-Hyeon, fell in love with the burgers at In-N-Out during his time as a backup dancer in L.A. One of his dancer friends who had previously worked at the cult-favorite American burger chain, shared with him some of the secrets of the recipe.

In 2017, back in South Korea, Koh started a food truck business serving primarily tacos and quesadillas at festivals and around university campuses. Since the juicy In-N-Out burgers were still on his mind, Koh took one more trip to the States and from that was able to settle on a recipe emulating the burgers he fell in love with.

The success of the food truck led to this brick-and-mortar location which opened in 2019. Visitors to Coca Salsa are greeted with a no-frills location with retro décor and the scent from delicious food served within. On my visit to this underground burger paradise, I ordered the double burger for 6,430 won (or $5.50) and a side of cheese fries for 3,200 won, straight from the kiosk you’ll find inside the front door.

My burger and fries arrived quickly and did make me feel like I was having grub from the famous American fast food chain. The burger was juicy and the sauce was the perfect tangy flavor I remember.

Other interesting options on the menu include customizing your burger to be “protein style,” which means you want a bunless burger wrapped in lettuce to save you some carbs. And, of course, an In-N-Out-wannabe wouldn't be one without offering “animal style.”

Order this if you want grilled onions, cheese and extra spread on your burgers (or fries!). Try their crispy chicken tenders, quesadillas, tacos, and wings if you’re not in the mood for a burger. And, by the way, Coco Salsa also has milkshakes to go with that burger!

Another thing you’ll notice on the menu is the amazing prices. Koh said he wanted to offer great burgers and other food that wasn’t expensive. He noticed that around Camp Humphreys prices were high for basic fast food and restaurant options, so he knew this would be a great place for his restaurant concept.

“I started this business because I wanted to bring inexpensive and tasty burgers to Humphrey's young soldiers,” Koh said.

Still not convinced? Coca Salsa has takeout and drive-thru available, so you can get it on the go. Text the restaurant ahead and your order will be ready whether for dine-in or take-out.

Koh’s next plan is to open a second Coca Salsa near Camp Humphrey’s walk-through gate for easier access to troops and their families on base.

So, if you’re looking for a taste from home you can’t get anywhere else, add Coca Salsa to the list of places to try. I’m definitely going to be back because I want to try their quesadillas next!

kim.chihon@stripes.com
Living abroad is an incredible opportunity to experience various local foods. However, after a long period you might find yourself craving home-style dishes. Adjacent to Humphrey’s Dongchang-ri gate, an easy-going seafood eatery is dishing out the Southern flavor of The Big Easy.

Ocean Floor’s curious-looking aproned mannequin stands outside greeting foot traffic and beckoning people in. I’ve passed this mannequin a dozen times and finally decided to see what Ocean Floor is serving up.

With its opening in 2018, Ocean Floor brought the Louisiana-style seafood boil craze from back home and consequently began attracting a hoard of hungry locals and the military community from Camp Humphreys.

The interior is casual, and the open kitchen lets you see what the staff is putting together. On the wall diners will find framed Uptown albums. This famous hip-hop group from the 90s made a splash on the K-Pop scene back then. And now, one of its members, Carlos Galvan, owns this eatery.

Needless to say, the band is no longer together, but Galvan is now serving up tasty Cajun dishes instead of belting out boy band tunes.

I visited at lunch time, so I was able to order one of their daily specials. I went for the Ocean Plate about $5 off the regular price, so, in total, this meal set me back 15,000 won (about $15). The prices at Ocean Floor are a little bit pricey for a casual lunch, but the high-quality ingredients and fresh seafood make it worth every penny.

The Ocean Plate is a medley of well-seasoned sweet corn, potato, sausage and mussels swimming in spicy sauce, which did not disappoint. When my meal arrived, it came served in a bag that was emptied onto the table. The tables are covered, and gloves and plastic bibs are provided for messy, laid-back eating.

My meal also included a drink and a side of rice.

Galvan’s wife, Hany, said customers should not worry about the bags used for the boil.

“The plastic bag we use to serve the food is a non-toxic and eco-friendly type, so you don’t have to worry about health problems at all,” Hany added.

She also said the Cajun sauce at Ocean Floor is less salty than the sauces in the States since they do not use any salt to season it. As far as the spice level, the cooking staff will adjust the seasoning if you prefer less heat.

Though the portions were a bit small for me, the rice included with my set filled me up. For an extra fee, customize your bags of seafood by adding sauce, sausage, corn, or udon noodles.

The Cajun-inspired dish is the main draw, but the whole crab plate, creamy (or Cajun) seafood pasta are also popular, the restaurant staff said.

Ocean Floor also offers a kids’ menu, and don’t forget to check out their fried items’ menu, which includes the Fried Combo, which comes with fried shrimp and crispy potato wedges, garlic butter shrimp and sweet & sour shrimp (or chicken).

The eatery also offers an extensive alcohol menu perfect for enjoying over dinner and trying new favorite Cajun dishes. If you are in the mood for some seafood or simply just want to try something different for dinner, Ocean Floor has the best seafood boil in the bag.
Juicy Burger & Fries
Satisfy your burger cravings by building your own

Korean food is great and all, but sometimes the craving for a good burger takes over and the hunt is on. In Pyeongtaek, several restaurants have burgers on the menu but with limited options. So, where do you go to satisfy those specific cravings?

Down a narrow alley near the Anjeong-ri Gate, Juicy Burger & Fries might just be the spot for you. The 16-seat joint has been serving up some tasty burgers for the past three years, always has a crowd, but is oh, so worth it.

My hunt for the best burger brought me to Juicy Burger & Fries on a Friday evening. I was surprised that despite the number of neighboring nice pubs and restaurants, this place was drawing in the crowd.

Inside, the red-and-white-checkboard decor reminded me of In-N-Out Burger, which the owner said provided some of the inspiration for his restaurant.

The menu consists of 12 different burgers ranging from a simple American bacon cheeseburger ($7.82) to the Juicy Premium Burger ($14.82). The Premium burger is a beast with two beef patties, bacon, grilled mushrooms, fried eggs, tomato, onions, dill pickle, swiss cheese, lettuce served with a side of French fries.

Instead of going with the burgers on the menu, I went for the “build-your-own” option. I chose two slices of swiss cheese, jalapenos, bacon, grilled onion, cabbage, slices of avocado, then topped it with mayo for 1,290 won ($10.71). Also, a good tip to remember when ordering: Always get two! If you opt for two slices of cheese, you’ll get a 500-won discount.

My burger was cooked to perfection and the veggies were crisp and sliced thin. The bacon brought a heavy smoky and meaty flavor, with a slight crunch. The bun on this burger held the toppings and meat well despite being soft and buttery. All of the ingredients in this burger were so fresh, making every bite flavorful. My only gripe was with the cabbage; Juicy’s menu says lettuce but all burgers here come with cost-friendly cabbage.

There are many other options to customize your burger, like grilled pineapple, different cheeses, grilled chicken, egg, and chili for an additional charge.

I decided to skip the fries, but diners around me were munching on the Cajun fries and cheesesticks, making me regret that decision. Don’t forget about their drink menu. Juicy stocks an impressive beer selection ($3.29 to $4.94), as well as different soft drinks, fruit juices, and creamy milkshakes.

I was pretty happy with the choices I made for my burger and will definitely make my way back down the alley to Juicy’s Burger & Fries more often. Check out this great burger joint and build the burger you’ve been craving!

im.chihon@stripes.com
By now, many of us have grown accustomed to the social distancing and face covering measures required whenever we leave our homes to run errands or pick up a meal. Though several travel restrictions have been lifted, we still may feel a sense of cautious relief since those restrictions can be raised again. This sense extends to our former centers of entertainment: shopping malls, restaurants and movie theaters.

So, now that we can go out, where can we go while still being safe? How about a refreshing bike ride around Pyeongtaek? Riding a bike is a great stress reliever and will allow you to maintain social distancing while enjoying the landscape the region has to offer. And, thanks to its geographical features including many flat lands and rivers, Pyeongtaek offers a couple of cycling routes a myriad of cyclists can enjoy.

**Tongbokcheon Stream route**

Though this route is not the most popular amongst cyclists, it is the one closest to my home, so I chose to hop on a bike and give it a try. Tongbokcheon Stream runs 10 kilometers through Pyeongtaek City and, in the spring, offers the best cherry blossom viewing.

Before I hit the path, I rented a bike from the Pyeongtaek Public Bike Rental Shop across from the Boo-Young Apartment building near Tongbokcheon Stream. The paved route runs alongside the stream, so I leisurely pedaled my way to the sights and sounds of running water and lush greenery.

At the end of the Tongbokcheon Stream, where two streams join, I continued to ride through the Jinwicheon Stream path toward the Sopung Picnic Garden, a well-known camping site. Endless golden fields unfolded before my eyes and the cool breeze blowing over the blue horizon made me feel content.

The Jinwicheon Stream bike path is currently under construction, so the route was cut off in the middle. By 2023, it will be connected to Seoul’s Han River bike route. Promising myself to be ready for a longer ride then, I turned my bike around and headed toward Gunmungyo Bridge, the starting point of the Pyeongtaek Anseongcheon bicycle route.

**Anseongcheon Stream**

From Gunmungyo Bridge, I started out toward Paengseong Bridge, following the silver grass lining the pathway. Here, the smooth hills were another like me. This particular stretch of cyclists can pedal to their heart’s content about pedestrians or vehicles.

My rental was due back by 4:30 p.m., so I rushed back to Tongbokcheon to get there in time. In total, I rode about 40 kilometers which amounted to about four hours of pedaling. It was refreshing to stretch my legs, get out of my apartment and enjoy the changing landscape as fall creeps up on us. It was also nice to relax a little from the worry about maintaining COVID-19 preventative measures. This change of setting was a nice way to spend a Saturday, so if you’re looking for something to shake that cabin fever and get you and your family out and about, these bike paths are just what the doctor ordered!
Anseongcheon Stream route

I started out toward Paengseong Bridge, following the silver grass lining the pathway. Here, the smooth hills were an easy ride for a beginner like me. This particular stretch is a bike-only road, so cyclists can pedal to their heart’s content without worry about pedestrians or vehicles.

My rental was due back by 4:30 p.m., so I rushed back to Tongbokcheon Stream to get there in time. In total, I rode about 40 kilometers which amounted to about four hours of pedaling. It was refreshing to stretch my legs, get out of my apartment and enjoy the changing landscape as fall creeps up on us. It was also nice to relax a little from the worry about maintaining COVID-19 preventative measures. This change of setting was a nice way to spend a Saturday, so if you’re looking for something to shake that cabin fever and get you and your family out and about, these bike paths are just what the doctor ordered!

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If you’re planning to stop for a picnic on your bike ride, grab some gimran at Dong-geul-Dong-geul-Gim-lan. This place offers a variation of a Korean favorite known as gimbap. Gimbap is a rice roll wrapped in seaweed filled with various meats or veggies. This is a popular picnic or hiking snack since it is easy to carry. At Dong-geul-Gim-Lan, you’ll find gimran, which is a low-carb version of gimbap. Gimran is egg-based rather than rice-based.

I opted for the tuna gimran and bacon gimran for 3,900 won each (or $3.37). The eggs inside the gimrap were surprisingly soft and went great with the fillings. If you need something light to fuel up your body for your picnic, gimran is a great option.

ADDRESS: 174, Dongsgak-ro, Pyeongtaek-si (경기 평택시 동삭로 174), NAVER MAP: http://naver.me/FUwtmojs
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (The bike should be returned by 4:30 p.m.)
PHONE: 010-6782-4788

Many cities across this peninsula have their own public bike system these days, including Pyeongtaek. Rent a bike and cruise the city for free at the rental shop across from the Boo-Young apartment building.

The Public Bike Rental shop opened in 2019 and offers 40 city bikes mounted with front baskets, 10 small bikes for kids and helmets at no cost. The bicycles are in good condition and will allow you to enjoy the city without any discomfort.

To use a bike you need to leave your ID card and register. The bikes must be returned by 4:30 p.m. every day. For safety, the shop staff wipe down the bikes with disinfectant and provide hand sanitizer to patrons. Don’t forget to use hand-sanitizer that is furnished inside the shop and wash your hands after returning your bike.

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Café KAYU, near Gunmungyo Bridge, is a great place for a cup of joe, either after or before hitting the bike path. They offer a great cup of coffee that comes with a free piece of bread baked on site. Pick your bread of choice while you wait for your coffee. Brewed coffee and summer lattes are the specialty and the cozy terrace allows you to enjoy them surrounded by nature.

Another unique offering at this café is a spot dedicated for equipment to use for your very own YouTube video shoot. Try out the video camera and the Chroma Key Background, which allow you to transport yourself to any location. Head to the computer room there and edit your masterpiece. Caffeine and viral videos await!

ADDRESS: 53-12, Sindeok-gil, Pyeongtaek-si (경기 평택시 신덕길 53-12), NAVER MAP: http://naver.me/GNKDw2MG
HOURS: Mon, Tue, Thu: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fri, Sat, Sun: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Closed Wednesdays.
PHONE: 0507-1330-3657
WEBSITE: https://www.instagram.com/coffee_kayu/
If you want to get away from hustle and bustle of the city life, Gakwonsa Temple and its surrounding area is the perfect place for one-day trip. Located at the foot of Mt. Taejosan, a few miles east of downtown Cheonan in Chungcheongnam-do, it is about a 40- to 50-minute drive from Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base.

Gakwonsa Temple is a great place to breathe in the fresh air, reflect and enjoy the picturesque scenery and tranquil atmosphere.

When most people think of temples and shrines in Korea, they picture centuries-old structures weathered from the past. That is not the case with Gakwonsa Temple, which was built in 1977 by a monk named Beobin who spent the Korean War praying for peaceful relations between the North and South. Although it is a relatively new building, it does harmonize with its surroundings like other traditional Korean buildings.

What I like about this area is that there is more than just a beautiful temple. There are also walking paths where you can stroll at your own pace and a street in front of the temple full of restaurants and stores. And, there’s a giant Buddha!

The Temple

There is ample parking for vehicles in the lot located just before a magnificent bell tower, called a Jong-gak. The bell tower is bigger than most in Korea because the massive bell (Beomjong) it supports weighs 20 tons! You can hear the grand sound from it every day at 4:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. It’ll definitely wake you up, whether you are there in the morning or evening. As you walk underneath the tower, you’ll see big antique roof tiles on display. They are quite beautiful.

After you pass by the bell tower, you will spot Mahavira Hall (Daeungbo-jeon) in front of you. Multiple halls for learning Buddhism are located on both sides of the main hall. The inside of Mahavira Hall is gorgeously decorated with paintings and three golden Buddha statues. The golden Buddha triad symbolized Buddha sitting on the Sumeru Mountain and the paintings represent the Buddhism view of the world.

If you have time, stay inside the hall and feel the peace and quiet for as long as you want. When the wind chimes hanging under the eaves awake you from a brief moment of silence, you should make your way outside the hall to take in the largest attraction on the temple grounds.

Jeju Olle Trail

Jeju Olle Trail is a series of hiking routes on Jeju Island. Jeju Olle Trail derives its name from Olle, which is the local Jeju dialect word for a narrow pathway that is connected from the street to the front gate of a house.

Jeju Olle Trails consists of 21 main routes that loop the island’s coastal region. There are 5 sub routes that take in Jeju’s interior or smaller neighboring islands. Together the 26 routes stretch 425km in total. Each route has its own unique charms. By hiking the trail, it is possible to appreciate the many views and cultural variety of Jeju Island.

Best Routes

Route 1

Recommended course 1
Distance: 15.1km
Required time: 4-5 Hours
Difficulty: ★★

Route 6

Recommended course 2
Distance: 11km
Required time: 3-4 Hours
Difficulty: ★

Route 7

Recommended course 3
Distance: 17.6km
Required time: 5-6 Hours
Difficulty: ★★

Route 10-1

Recommended course 4
Distance: 4.2km
Required time: 1-2 Hours
Difficulty: ★
Giant Buddha

When you step out from the hall, you can see a seated giant Buddha, which was under construction from June 1975 to May 1977. Called Ammita-bul-sang, it is the biggest Buddha statue in Korea and the second largest in Asia, weighing a massive 60 tons and standing (although it is sitting) 15 meters high. Its ears alone are two meters and its fingernails are 30 centimeters long. Although you might be overwhelmed by this grand statue, don’t forget to take a selfie with it. It offers a nice place to take a picture because it overlooks the temple and beautiful landscape.

Note: If you park your car next to the souvenir shop located next to the pond by the temple, not the parking lot, then you can take 203 stairs that lead directly to the Buddha. Some people prefer to start their trip from this spot.

Easy hiking trails

Once you’ve had your fill of the big Buddha, there are a couple of trails that lead up into Taejo Mountain, which stands 420 meters high and was named after King Taejo, the founder of Goryeo. It provides a full view of the city from its summit. Many hikers and mountaineers visit this place, especially those with children because it is a relatively gentle trail.

When you get to the start of the hiking trail, it is divided into two paths. Many people prefer the right one, which is a bit gentler than a steeper left path. Whichever you choose, it takes about one hour to the top of the mountain. Yes, you can get to the top of the mountain, but be sure to wear athletic shoes. If you’re on a date, leave the heels and dress shoes behind. It’s all about being comfortable. By the way, bringing a small picnic to enjoy during your walk is also an enjoyable thing to do.

Street Fun

If you don’t bring your lunch, don’t worry. Many traditional Korean restaurants and stores line up along the hill leading to the temple entrance. You can try vegetarian restaurants specializing in wild herb and vegetable dishes, or you can slurp down some tasty, hot noodle soup (Kalguksu) at Goljagi Sanghoe, a small restaurant located across from the pond.

There are plenty of places to eat, as well as shops where you can pick up some local veggies. It’s a good way to finish off a day trip to Gakwonsa Temple.

Directions

**CAR**
- Camp Humphreys – Gakwonsa Temple (40 min.)
- Osan Air Base – Gakwonsa Temple (50 min.)

**BUS**
- Pyeongtaek Intercity Bus Terminal – Cheonan Express Bus Terminal
  - Take Intercity Bus (40 min. / 2600 won) Get off at Cheonan express bus terminal. Take bus number 24. Get off at the bus stop of Gakwonsa temple (25 min.). Or take a taxi (15 min. / about 1000 Won)
- Gakwonsa Temple – Cheonan station – Train
  - Take train number 8449. Get off at Cheonan station. Take bus number 24. Get off at the bus stop of Gakwonsa temple (25 min.). Or take a taxi (15 min. / about 1000 Won)

**ITX-SAEMAUL**
- Pyeongtaek station – Gakwonsa Temple
  - Take Intercity Bus. (40 min. / 2600 won)

**TRAIN**
- Gakwonsa Station – Cheonan Station
  - Take train number 8449. Get off at Cheonan station. Take bus number 24. Get off at the bus stop of Gakwonsa temple (25 min.). Or take a taxi (15 min. / about 1000 Won)

**TAXI**
- Gakwonsa Temple – Cheonan station
  - Taxi fare: 10,000 won

**ADDRESS:** 245, Gakwonsa-gil, Dongnam-gu, Cheonan-si, Chungcheongnam-do
**TEL:** +82 41-561-3545
**HOURS:** 4 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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With fall just around the corner and the temperatures beginning to fluctuate daily, it will be just a few short weeks before the changing of the leaves colors transition into their beautiful autumn hue.

Peak foliage in South Korea is mid-October, but the fall colors can be seen right into early November.

Here are the forecasted peak foliage dates for major mountains in South Korea by Kweather:

- Odaesan – October 16
- Seoraksan – October 18
- Jirisan – October 23
- Woraksan – October 26
- Gayasan – October 27
- Busan – October 27
- Songisan – October 29
- Gyerongsan – October 30
- Bukhansan – October 30
- Seoul – October 30
- Hallasan – November 1
- Muedangsan National Park – November 6
- Naejangsan National Park – November 8
Do you require a disabled parking permit for your vehicle? If so, this tip is for you!

USFK or U.S. government disabled parking permits are not valid off base. So, before you get a ticket for parking in a handicap spot, the following steps can help you get a permit for use in South Korea.

For those eligible, the following documents are needed to apply for a disabled parking permit (for foreigners):

1. One copy of the Certificate of Alien Registration or Certificate of Domestic Residence Report. Based on the SOFA, all eligible foreigners who hold an A-3 visa, need to apply for a disabled parking permit after their alien registration.
2. One copy of the medical diagnosis for a walking disability, which has been issued by a local Korean hospital.
3. Foreign disability registration certificate or foreigners ID.
4. Driver's license for the disabled person and/or the actual driver.
5. Certificate of disabled person's automobile registration and/or actual driver. 1 copy.
6. Disabled family members' certificate of alien registration or certificate of domestic residence report, and certificate of family relations. (Guardians will appear on the front page).

For more information, contact the Elderly and Disabled Department in Pyeongtaek City. The POC is Ms. Kim, Seo Yun, at 031-8024-3322.

For info on where to submit the documents and get the permit: Visit the Paengseong District Office, Tel. 031-8024-5554, or visit the local district office in your area.

USFK PAO contributed to this story.
**Stripes Sports Trivia**

Some already argue Mike Trout is the best player in MLB history. The Angels outfielder has finished top 2 in AL MVP voting in 7 of his first 8 seasons. Quite the start for the 25th pick in the 2009 draft. 25th!!! Your team likely passed on him for someone that’s not as good, but there was one player no one passed on because he went No. 1 overall. Who was he?

---

**Answer**

Stephen Strasburg

---

**Memories with the Stars & Stripes, Pacific**

Share your Memories with Stars and Stripes Pacific!

Your photos/stories will appear on the Stars and Stripes Pacific 70th Anniversary Website, 75stripes.com.

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**Crossword**

by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**

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<td>Storybook monster</td>
<td>Sonny who sang</td>
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**Language Lesson**

I’m full.

Bae-bul-leo-yo.

---

**SUDOKU**

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**Difficulty: Medium**

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