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# KOREA

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Thanks to your input, every year we're able to make Stars and Stripes community products to help you enjoy your stay in the Pacific. That's what we're all about. As we are fond of saying, our papers, websites and magazines "are about you, for you, and in some cases, by you."

The votes keep rolling in year after year and it's all thanks to you! We had a great turnout in 2024, and we expect nothing short of a record number of votes in 2025. Vote and share so even more of you can experience the best the Pacific has to offer!

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# Celebrating Seollal in South Korea

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE, STRIPES KOREA

In South Korea, Seollal (설날) is the first day of the Lunar New Year. This is the biggest family gathering holiday on the Peninsula, and is celebrated over three days. In 2025, Seollal falls on Jan. 29 and the Seollal holidays are from Jan. 28-30.

The Lunar New Year dates back to Korea's ancient times and is a holiday where families conduct traditional customs

such as ancestral rites, enjoy new year's food and share wishes of good fortune for the coming year.

Every year I spend Seollal with family members from my dad's side at my grandmother's house on a small farm. We are a large family with 30 members, so Seollal is always a busy time full of fun and great food.

Learning about Seollal will give you a glimpse of Korean tradition and culture. Each Korean family may have slightly different version of celebrating Seollal, but my large Lee family keeps with tradition. So, I'd like to show you how Koreans celebrate Seollal by sharing my family's way!

## The day before

The day before Seollal, all of my family members gather at my grandmother's place by noon. The first thing the female members do is head to a local bathhouse to take a long bath with our grandmother. In Korea, we have a saying – clean your body and mind before ancestral rites.

In the meantime, my uncles do the grocery shopping, cleaning, and setting up the supplies for the ceremony. When we return from the baths, my mom and aunts start cooking ritual offerings and other festive food. It takes

hard work and dedication all day long. Luckily, my aunts are close to each other, so they get along while cooking, but sometimes this part of celebrating Seollal can be a burden for Korean women.

After my uncles and aunts finish all the preparation for the Seollal ceremony, we have a BBQ party and enjoy Korean alcoholic drinks to celebrate the coming together of family. The younger generation – me, my siblings and our cousins – are good friends and love hanging out altogether. We usually play with animals on the farm and explore the countryside until late at night.

## The day of Seollal

### ■ Ancestral rites (Jesa 제사)

On the morning of Seollal, all family members prepare ancestral rites and start the ceremony. This is the most important part of Seollal because it's the way to remind us where we are from and show respect and gratitude toward our ancestors.

During the ceremony, Koreans pray to our ancestors to bring us good fortune in the new year. The first son takes an important role to lead the whole family, including serving parents and ancestors properly. In my family, my oldest uncle always leads the ceremony as the master of the rites, and my dad and our uncles assist him.

Ancestral ritual foods include rice cake soup, beef soup,



My brother bows twice toward the ritual table during the ancestral rites on Seollal.



My dad and uncles greet one of our ancestors before cleaning snow on the grave mounds on the mountain.

marinated pork, baked fish, chicken, fritters, pancakes, seasoned vegetables, fruit, traditional desserts and alcoholic drinks. All the offerings are set on the ritual table and all the doors in the house are open to welcome the spirits' arrival. My oldest uncle lights incense, an invitation to ancestors from heaven, then kneeling, he bows deeply toward the table twice. The family members participating in the ceremony follow his lead.

To serve the ancestors the food and drinks, a spoon is put in the rice, chopsticks are placed on the food and glasses are filled with premium makgeolli (rice wine) or Soju. My uncles and dad say: "We prepare all the food you like, so please enjoy it," as if they're talking to our



My grandmother enjoys a gukbap (soup) after bathing.



One of my aunts cooks jeon (fritter and pancake) for ancestral rites the day before Seollal.

Saehae bok mani badeuseyo!



2025 is the year of the Snake in Korean zodiac

## Where you can go

Seollal is a unique and special holiday where you can experience some of Korea's most important traditions. One of the most fun places to visit during Seollal is Korean Folk Village. You can try a variety of the traditional games and customs there.

- **Hours:** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily
- **Fees:** 16,500 won - 35,000 won (Discount available through Naver or when visiting in the month of your birthday. Proof of ID required.)



WEBSITE

## Korean Lesson

- **Saehae bok mani badeuseyo** (새해 복 많이 받으세요): Happy New Year / I hope good fortune comes upon you in the new year
- **Saehae** (새해): New year
- **Bok** (복): Fortune
- **Sebaet-don** (세뱃돈): New Year's cash gifts
- **Don** (돈): Money
- **Jesa** (제사): Ancestral rites
- **Nori**: game, play



My aunts and uncles bow to each other to wish good fortune in the new year for Sebae.



Left: Japchae. Right: Galbijjim. Photos courtesy of Korean Tourism Organization



Flying a Kite Photo courtesy of Korean Tourism Organization

ancestors. Koreans believe when we sincerely serve our ancestors, they will bring us good fortune.

After the ceremony and huge feast, all the male members of my family head to the mountain where our ancestors are buried and meet other Lee families there. They conduct the same ceremony in front of the ancestral grave mounds to serve food and drinks to our ancestors.

**Holiday food**

After the ceremony at the house, it's time to enjoy a breakfast feast! My aunts set the table with the ritual food, rice cake soup (tteokguk), galbi-jjim and japchae. Galbi-jjim and japchae are Korean festive food for holidays, birthdays or serving special guests. So, the Seollal breakfast table is full of delicious, special and amazing Korean dishes! With everyone sitting around the same table, no one can eat until the oldest person or a person in the highest position (usually the oldest male) takes the first bite. In my family, my grandmother has the honor. Once she takes a bite, the rest of the family and I can finally dig into all the delicious food we've been craving!

**New Year's bow (Sebae 세배)**

Sebae is the most exciting part of Seollal for children because they receive cash gifts while bowing to adults! As Koreans bow to the ancestors, we also bow to our elderly family members. But the bow must be only once because bowing twice means greeting dead people. When young people bow, they say a New Year's greeting, "Saehae bok mani badeuseyo." And senior members return the sentiment with a blessing and cash gift! It is standard to give between 20,000 won and 100,000 won for Sebae, and the surprising part is it doesn't matter how old you are. My cousin is in his 40's and still receives cash gifts from our uncles and aunts!

This is not only among family members. For instance, when Koreans visit our senior neighbors, teachers or someone older and in a higher position than us during the New Year's season

to offer greetings and gifts, the seniors offer well wishes and cash gifts. So, if you bow once offer New Year's greetings to the Korean seniors you know or parents of your Korean friends, there is a good chance you may receive some won!

**Games**

As a big family, we play a lot of different games together, including New Year's games like Yut Nori and Yeon Nalligi.

Yut Nori is a traditional board game with four sticks called Yut.

Yeon Nalligi is a kite flying game. When the kite reaches as high as possible into the sky, the string should be cut to release the kite as it's believed to blow away any misfortune of the upcoming year.

During the New Year's season, you will see many Koreans enjoying Yeon Nalligi at the Han River area and cultural heritage sites such as Suwon Fortress. There's nothing like seeing traditional kites dotting the clear blue sky.

During Seollal, my grandmother's house turns into a special place to enjoy a lot of fun winter activities. My favorite one is playing in the snow and riding a cardboard box down snow-covered hills.

My grandmother loved giving her grandchildren cash gifts on Seollal, so she kept selling vegetables from her farm until she was 90 years old to earn money. Though she passed away a few years ago, we'll still have her with us when we show our respect and gratitude during this year's Seollal ceremony.

Nowadays, many customs and traditions are gradually disappearing. A lot of modern Korean families don't celebrate Seollal in the traditional way anymore. Keeping tradition can be a burden sometimes, but I believe it helps keep our family strong, makes us proud of our roots and reminds us how important family is.

*\*This story is based on my family tradition when my grandmother was alive.*

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My sister sleds down the snowy hill in my grandmother's backyard.



Cash gifts Photo courtesy of Korean Tourism Organization

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# Confucian says it's all about your age in Korea

One of the most culturally shocking moments for me when I was attending college in the U.S. was when my 60-year-old professor said, "Just call me James."

Growing up in Korea, I was influenced by Confucianism, which teaches us to respect our elders and obey them. Confucianism is a system of thought and behavior originating in

ancient China, which has greatly impacted East Asian culture for thousands of years.

When I lived in the States, however, my upbringing was put into question when I met others who insisted I call them by their first name and who said we were friends despite their age or social status. It taught me that all human

beings can be treated equally regardless of age.

For Koreans, knowing your age is more important than your name. Age can determine a social hierarchy, role and the title to be called. It determines how we behave and talk to others according to their age.

In Korean society, we refer to our elders with honorific titles. This sets up a relationship where the elders are responsible to teach and take care of the young, while the young are expected to show their respect to their elders.

Though addressing our elders this way is a cultural custom, that doesn't mean it is always the case. There are, for instance, times where generational conflicts between elders and youth happen mostly due to them not understanding each other.

Koreans will not expect you to follow these rules when you are speaking in English. However, when using Korean that contains such cultural sentiments, it is good to know how to use honorifics.

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## Honorific titles for friends

In Korea, a friend usually means a person at the same Korean age which means they were born in the same year. If a person addresses older friends as "friend" in front of others, it can be considered disrespecting the elders. You have to differentiate how to call, talk and behave toward your friends depending on their age. Let's learn how to talk and call your Korean friends according to their age!

### ■ The same Korean age: Chingu (친구)

Call each other by first names, but if you call their name including the last name, it sounds cold. When you introduce your friends of the same age to others, you can address them as "Chingu (친구)."

### ■ Younger siblings and friends: Dongsaeng (동생)

Call them by names the same way as when you call them "Chingu." When you introduce them to others, use "Dongsaeng (동생)." If they are your siblings, you'd better use yeo (여) or nam (남) in front of "Dongsaeng (동생)" to distinguish their gender.

Male: Nam (남) / Female: Yeo (여)

Male younger sibling / friend: Nam-dongsaeng (남동생) / Female younger sibling / friend: Yeo-dongsaeng (여동생)

### ■ Older siblings and female / male friends

When you talk to your younger friends, you have the choice on whether you want to use formal or informal speech with them. However, talking to elders, you have to use formal speech unless your older friends want you to talk in informal speech.

	Elder brother and male friend	Elder sister and female friend
If you're female, use:	Oppa (오빠)	Unnie (언니)
If you're male, use:	Hyeong (형) Hyeong-nim (형님) (very respectful way)	Nuna (누나)

Let's practice!

It's always great to be the youngest in the group!

1 Tell unnie everything.

1 Oppa is buying meat!

3 Oppa and unnie, you are the best!

### KOREAN PHRASES (INFORMAL)

- 1 Oppa-ga gogi sajulge! (오빠가 고기 사줄게!)
- 2 Unnie-hante da malhae! (언니한테 다 말해!)
- 3 Oppa, unnie Choego-ya! (오빠, 언니 최고야!)

- Meat: Gogi (고기) ■ Everything / All: Da (다) ■ The best: Choego (최고)
- To buy: Sada (사다) ■ To tell / talk: malhada (말하다)

1 Hyeong, do you need anything more? I'll bring it for you.

I love being the oldest in the group!

2 It's fine. Thank you, dongsaeng!

### KOREAN PHRASES

- 1 Formal: Hyeong, deo pilyohan geo isseoyo? Jega gajigo olgeyo. (형 더 필요한 거 있어요? 제가 가지고 올게요.)
- 2 Informal: Gwaenchan-a. Gomawo, dongsaeng! (괜찮아. 고마워 동생!)
- More: Deo (더) ■ It's fine / No problem / Ok: Gwaenchan-a (괜찮아)
- Thank you: Gomawo (고마워) ■ To need: Pilyohada (필요하다)
- To bring: Gajigo oda (가지고 오다)

## Korean age system

Korea has two different age systems. The official legal records follow international standards, but counting age, or Korean age, is most commonly used in daily life. In this age system, you're two years older than your actual age if your birthday hasn't passed. Everyone is one year old at birth and gains another year after each year regardless of their birthdays. A baby born on the night of Dec. 31, for instance, will turn two the following day.

For people who struggle to calculate the Korean age, I suggest to just tell your year of birth to your Korean friends. They will be able to figure out how old you are in Korean age. The Korean government started using only international standards in 2023. However, many Koreans still refer to their age according to the Korean age system (counting age).

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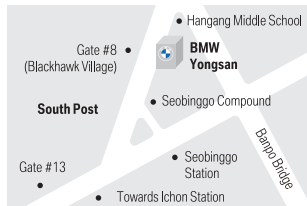
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# Hit the JJIMJILBANG

Korean bathhouses more than just hot soaks, spa treatments

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,  
STRIPES KOREA

**W**hen my sister and I were old enough to start going on daytrips on our own, we enjoyed going on low-budget adventures. There were times when we'd miss our last train and would end up staying at the jjimjilbang overnight because it was a safe and cheap place to stay.

You might recognize jjimjilbang as being a Korean bathhouse, but they are more than that. Not only can visitors enjoy hot soaks and spa treatments, but there are also rooms with entertainment like a small movie theater, arcade games, rooms for rest and even overnight stays.

On average, entrance to a jjimjilbang is about 13,000 won (\$10), a price that makes it an inexpensive option for budget travelers and those seeking to experience a unique and relaxing aspect of Korean culture.

Jjimjilbang are focused on wellbeing, body and skin care, and offer two different options depending on how long you want to stay. One is Mogyoktang (목욕탕) only, which is essentially day-use for enjoying the gender-segregated hot and cold tubs, steams saunas and body scrubbing areas. Mogyoktang is gender-segregated because it requires full nudity, so it might need some getting used to for first-timers.

The other option paying for not only the baths, but also entry to the Jimjilbang (찜질방) area, which is unisex and has the relaxation rooms, but requires you to wear pajama-style clothes provided at check-in.

Though a visit to the jjimjilbang may be an eye-opener for newbies, you'll leave with glowing skin as soft as a baby's. Once you get over the initial part of being naked in front of others and get the jjimjilbang etiquette down, you'll surely fall in love with the bathing culture and visit every month like many Koreans do!

Still worried? Let me give you all the details so you'll be ready to give the jjimjilbang a try. Winter is a perfect season to visit a bathhouse for skin care and body relaxation. Let's go!

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## At the counter

### 1 Choose your course

- Mogyoktang (Bathing only): about 7,000-12,000 won for adults
- Both Mogyoktang and jjimjilbang: about 12,000-16,000 won for adults (Each bathhouse has different rules but usually allows you to stay for 12 to 24 hours)

### 2 Get your supplies

At check-in, you'll get a locker key, two towels and, if you're using the jjimjilbang, you'll also get pajama-style clothes that you must wear. Men can usually use an unlimited amount of towels.

### 3 Remove your shoes

Put your shoes into the locker and take the key as it will be used for your clothing locker in the changing room. Your shoe and clothing lockers will have the same corresponding number.

## What to bring

You can buy single-use toiletries, face masks, and bath mittens on the site. There is free soap and skin creams, but I recommend bringing your own if you have sensitivities or allergies.

- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, facial cleanser, toothbrush, toothpaste and more), body and skin care products.
- Optional: face mask, water bottle, hair band (for long hair), and Korean bath mitten (If you want to scrub like Koreans).



Photo courtesy of Elybaden







n  
tment



## Course 1

### Mogyoktang (Bathhouse)

Hitting the bath house is a common weekly or monthly routine for many Koreans. Once you try Korean body cleansing, you'll feel like new!

#### 1 Get ready to bathe

You can only take towels and toiletries into the bath area. Have the key around wrist or ankle so you won't lose it. Do not bring your phone into the bath area, as it might make others feel uncomfortable.

#### 2 Grab toiletries and refreshments

Before entering the bath area, you can purchase single-use toiletries, snacks or drinks. My go-to is a Korean-style sweet rice drink because it's a refreshing beverage to have while soaking in the hot water.



#### 3 Enter the bath area

First things first. Before you enter the tubs, you have to wash your body. You'll notice an area where other women or men, depending on your gender, are showering. Before using the water basins and chairs available, make sure to rinse them off with soap and water. Also, you should tie up your hair if it's long. If you don't follow these etiquettes, you might get scolded by elderly Koreans!

#### 4 Enjoy tubs or steam sauna!

There are several different hot and cold tubs. Some have jets or bubbling motors, so be on the lookout for buttons around the tubs. Although a lot of people share the baths, the water is clean and circulating. The tubs are cleaned and water is changed every night.

To prevent dehydration, don't bathe longer than 20 minutes. If you want to enjoy the water longer, take 10-minute breaks and don't forget to hydrate.

#### 5 Time to scrub!

This is the most important reason why Koreans visit the bathhouse. Make sure you soak in the tub long enough so the scrub mitten can effectively remove the dead skin cells. Beware if you have sensitive skin, however, because the bath mitten can be a little harsh and scratch your skin if you're not careful. Instead, I'd recommend you use a bath sponge and special soap called Sestin binu that is great for exfoliation.

##### Do it yourself!

Try to softly scrub your body and focus on the rough areas like your elbows and heels of feet with the bath mitten. Your skin will start to



Photo courtesy of Spa Lei

brighten with each scrub.

##### How do you scrub your back?

Ok, this is a culturally-challenging moment! You're lucky if you're with your Korean friend because they will start scrubbing your back even before you ask. If you're alone, don't be scared to ask any person around you for help. Any Korean will happily do it for you with all their strength. They don't mean to cause you any pain, but just focus on their mission to remove all the dead skins from your back. If Koreans care about you, there won't be dead skin cells left on their watch. Don't forget once they're done, it's your turn to scrub their back!

If you're too shy for this, you can also look for a long bath towel to scrub yourself with.

##### Pay for a Sesinsa (세신사), an expert in exfoliating and massaging

If you pay for the Sestin service, you'll lie in a massage bed and a staff member will scrub your entire body with two hands wearing a bath mitten. You'll have to flip and move your body as needed to make sure they can polish your body. After they remove all the dead skin, they will offer you an extreme massage, too.

Seeing how the Sesinsa professionally and enthusiastically performs the Sestin service on your body will be one of the most fun and unforgettable cultural experiences you can have in Korea!

- Entire body (Including back and massage): about 30,000 won (\$23)
- Back only: about 15,000 won (\$11.40)

#### 6 Take a shower and clean up before leaving the bath area.

After you finish the body cleansing process and regular shower routine, clean up your seat and bring all your belongings with you. Try to dry your body and hair in front of the bath area. The staff will call you out if you drip water on the dry floor.

#### 7 Finish the bath course!

Put your wet towels in the basket. If you need more towels, ask the staff.

You'll find vanities with cotton swabs, skin creams, hair dryers and other supplies near the baths. You'll be surprised to see how soft your skin is, but don't forget to moisturize!



## Course 2

### Jjimjilbang

Jjimjilbang creates a culture of relaxation and body-healing, but it also has entertainment options. So, you'll find that many friends and families gather here. It is also a nice spot for a quick nap after a long day of work.

#### 1 Change to the special clothing and enter the jjimjilbang area (unisex).

#### 2 Explore the various types of rooms



Photo courtesy of Forest Hanbang Land

**DRY & HEATED ROOMS:** The walls and floors of each room are lined with stones, such as red clay or crystal salt because of the health benefits. The heat from a room is basically affected by the stones. So, while lying in a room, the heat and pressure from the stone can



stimulate blood circulation and eliminate waste through perspiration.

**ICE ROOM:** It's usually for cooling down and taking a break after using heated rooms.

**MAIN HALL & RELAXING ROOMS:** These are the areas where people gather for a chat, watch TV, eat snacks and sleep. You'll want to use the large wooden logs for back support.

**SLEEPING ROOMS:** You can use as many mats and pillows as you need to sleep on a heated floor. These rooms are usually gender-segregated.

**OTHERS:** Some entertainment facilities include a PC room, recreation room, small theater, singing room and beauty salons. Some of the more upscale jjimjilbang have swimming pools and golf or sports facilities.



Photo courtesy of Elybaden

SEE JJIMJILBANG ON PAGE 10

# JJIMJILBANG: Relax and enjoy!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

### 3 Food

Jjimjilbang is a great place to enjoy various healthy and tasty Korean foods. You can try bibimbap, soft tofu soup, stir fried spicy pork, grilled fish and more. Most of dishes are served with hot soup and lots of vegetables. You can also try corn dogs, baked eggs, Korean cup ramen and traditional colds drink from the snack bar.



Photo courtesy of Korean Tourism Organization

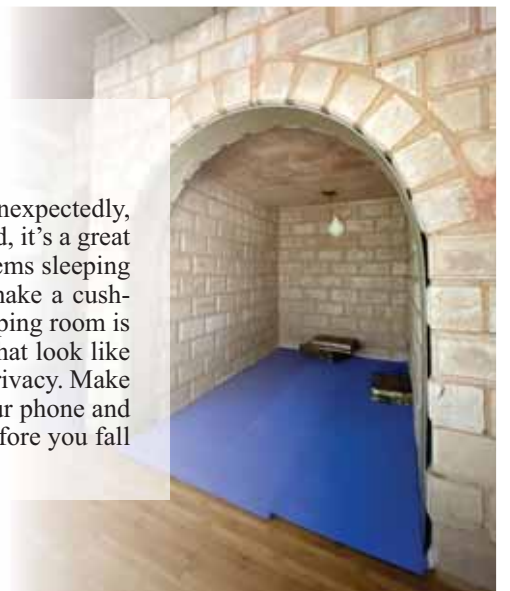


Photo courtesy of Korean Tourism Organization



### 4 Tips for sleeping over

If you have to stay in another town unexpectedly, and the hotels around you are fully booked, it's a great time to try jjimjilbang! If you have problems sleeping on the floor, try to use several mats to make a cushion between your back and floor. If a sleeping room is too hot or noisy for you, there are spots that look like caves where you can crawl in for a little privacy. Make sure to keep the key with you and put your phone and money in the safe place or your locker before you fall asleep.



## Things to know

- You can be rejected to enter if you're drunk.
- No photos allowed inside the gender-segregated area in a Mogyoktang.
- Take a quick shower before using the tubs.
- Tie up your hair in the tubs if it's long enough to touch the water.
- Don't turn on TV or talk loudly during sleeping hours.
- Don't use sauna and heated rooms after consuming alcohol.
- Don't forget to check the pockets of your clothing before you return them.
- Most Korean bathhouses don't have restrictions on entry for those with tattoos.



## Korean Lesson

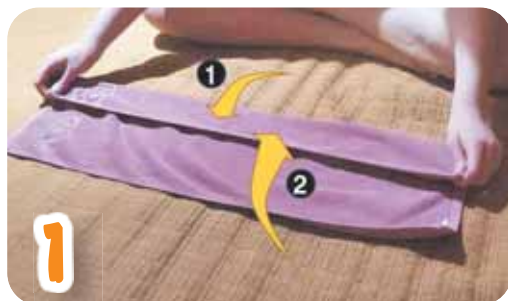
- JJIMJILBANG: Korean dry sauna with traditional heating system (Ondol)
- MOGYOKTANG: Public bathhouse
- MOGYOK (목욕): Bath
- TANG (탕): Bath, soup
- BANG (방): Room
- BINU (비누): Soap

Can be rejected to enter

Inside the gender-segregated area

During sleeping hours

## How to make a sheep's head towel



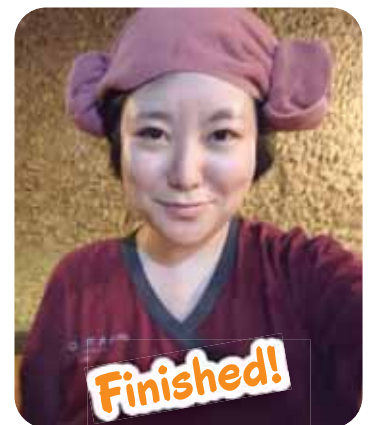
1

Fold a towel in thirds hot dog-style, with the first fold away from you, and make sure the last fold goes on top towards you.



2

Fold each of the ends three times the way you fold a sleeve. Make the first fold big and the other two small and tight. Then the towel will stay tight and stable in the shape of a sheep's head.



# WANT TO TRY JJIMJILBANG? Check out this list!

**B**athhouses and jjimjilbangs are a significant part of Korean spa culture that you should definitely experience! If you're looking for a place to enjoy a nice bath, and a nap, or if you unexpectedly miss your trains while in a different town, a jjimjilbang can be a convenient option. Here are some great jjimjilbangs I recommend!



Photo by Hyemin Lee, Stripes Korea

## Hongdae 24-hour Bulgama Sauna

It's conveniently located near Hongdae Station and open for 24 hours. Many young people who hang out in Hongdae until late night simply hop into this jjimjilbang to rest until Seoul Metro opens. There are also small private rooms available with an additional fee (20,000 won for 4 hours for 2 people).

- **FEE:** 12,000 won (before 9 p.m.) & 15,000 won (after 9 p.m.) for 12 hours / An additional 2,000 won is required for jjimjilbang pajama rental.
- **HOURS:** 24 hours daily
- **ADDRESS:** Line 2. Hongik University Station Exit 4 / B2, 3RU City shopping center, 1 Sinchon-ro, Seoul



NAVER MAP



Photo courtesy of Spa Lei

## Spa Lei (women only)

This spa has very clean, fancy and sophisticated facilities and is for women only. So, this is a perfect place for female friends or family to spend some girls' time. Diverse spas are available to cater to female customers who want to make their skin glow including a saltwater spa, lower body bath, and open-air bath. They also serve delicious Korean food at the food court. It's a famous spot for many foreigners to stay overnight after taking a tour around Gangnam, one of the busiest areas in Seoul.

- **FEE:** 20,000 won for adults (12 hours)
- **HOURS:** 24 hours daily
- **ADDRESS:** Line 3 Sinsa Station Exit 5



NAVER MAP

## Sparex Good Morning City

This is one of the most popular jjimjilbangs in Seoul. Its unique interior gives the feel of a traditional Korean folk village. This jjimjilbang is conveniently located at the center of the Dongdaemun Fashion Town, so it's a popular place to spend the night after shopping at the night markets.

- **FEE:** 15,000 won for adults (24 hours)
- **HOURS:** 24 hours daily
- **ADDRESS:** Line 2,4, 5 Dongdaemun History & Culture Park Station Exit 14



NAVER MAP



Photo courtesy of Hongdae 24-hour Bulgama Jjimjilbang



Photo by Aquafield Anseong

## Aquafield Anseong

This jjimjilbang is inside the busy Starfield Mall and closes a bit earlier than others. But, the spacious and luxurious facilities at Aquafield Anseong are still worth a try! In the summer, they even have a water park. Parking is free and Starfield Hanam and Goyang have the same facilities as well.

- **FEE:** 25,000 won for adults (6 hours)
- **HOURS:** 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. every day
- **ADDRESS:** Starfield Anseong



NAVER MAP

## Elybaden

This is one of Daegu's top jjimjilbang and a great place for families as it has clean and spacious facilities and a large ballpit play area for children. Also, parking is free!

- **FEE:** 20,000 won (6 hours) for adults
- **HOURS:** 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Mon-Thu) / 6 a.m. - Midnight (Fri-Sun)
- **ADDRESS:** Joam-ro 38, Dalseo-gu, Daegu



NAVER MAP



Photo courtesy of Elybaden

– Hyemin Lee, Stripes Korea

**CHECK OUT**  
 WHAT IS HAPPENING ON YOUR BASE AT  
[korea.stripes.com](http://korea.stripes.com)



Mars Burger Co.'s I Dream of Bacon Burger is a satisfying mix of juicy beef patty, melted cheese and two long strips of crispy bacon stacked with fresh lettuce, tomato and onion on a toasted sesame bun.

## Mars Burger Co. offers comfort food with big flavors

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LUIS GARCIA,  
 STARS AND STRIPES  
 Published: December 5, 2024

**N**estled in “The Ville” near Camp Humphreys, Mars Burger Co. brings a touch of home with satisfying burgers and classic American-style sides.

This casual eatery should be a hot spot for soldiers and locals craving comfort food.

I started with the I Dream of Bacon Burger, a satisfying mix of juicy beef patty, melted cheese and two long strips of

**EXCLUSIVE NEWS FROM:**  
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[www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)

crispy bacon stacked with fresh lettuce, tomato and onion on a toasted sesame bun. It's burger-indulgent without being excessive, and its flavor ratios catch

that perfect note. This one goes for 11,500 won, or about \$9.

The sides here are good complements to the main dishes. I went with the french fries and mac and cheese bites. The golden fries were well-seasoned, while the bites added that creamy, cheesy kick with a nice crispiness on the outside.



*Thank You*



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The sides were served on a mini fryer basket, adding a touch of charm to the presentation. French fries go for 3,500 won, and the macaroni and cheese bites are 4,500 won.

For those who venture a little further, Mars also serves a truck stop burger and a crunchy western, but with certain twists for the bolder eaters. The menu also features a barbecue chicken sandwich, pulled pork sandwich and an all-around grilled cheese sandwich for less-adventurous palates.

Drinks at Mars Burger Co. range from Coca-Cola products to simply wash down your meal to a variety of American beers. Simple and inviting, the atmosphere features wooden tables, an open kitchen and friendly vibes.

It is one of those places you can just come to, kick back and have a great meal.

garcia.luis@stripes.com

### THINGS TO KNOW



**LOCATION:** 28 Anjeongshopping-ro, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si, South Korea

A short walk from Camp Humphreys' walk-in gate.

**HOURS:** Open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

**PRICES:** Expect to pay between 6,000 won and 11,500 won for most burgers and sandwiches.

**DRESS:** Casual

**TEL:** 31-651-7402

TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY

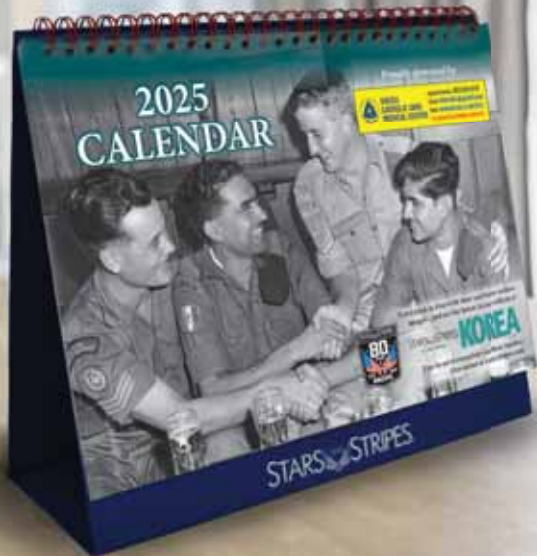
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## Korea Tip of the Day

# Shopping made convenient with the Starfield app

STRIPES KOREA

With the most modern facility and many options, probably Starfield in Korea is definitely a shopper's heaven. If you love to shop at the giant complex mall, you might want to download their convenient shopping app. The app works for all Starfield locations including Pyeongtaek, Hanam, Goyang, and Bucheon. Avoid the crowds and check out the great features available right on your phone.

The app will give you real-time data on parking availability. Forgot where you parked? The app also helps you track your vehicle location! The app also provides detailed information about the over 300 shops and 70 restaurants inside Starfield. Thinking about making a trip to the mall for shopping this weekend? Check your cell phone's app store for this convenient tool to relieve some of the stress of heading to the shopping mall!



The app offers an English option only for the Starfield Anseong branch. Choose "Starfield Anseong" in the list and select "ENG" at the bottom.

## GSA in Korea



GSA Global Supply® is now storing and delivering approximately 750 high-demand National Stock Number (NSN) items formerly stored in and shipped from the continental United States. The change reduces delivery time to a few days from weeks or months.

Customers can order using GSA websites (GSA Global Supply or GSA Advantage!®) or via existing customer logistics platforms (e.g., GCSS-Army). GSA's systems recognize the items stocked in Korea and fulfill orders locally. Other items will ship from the mainland. An electronic catalog is available.

The program does not replace existing retail stores managed by GSA in Korea. For more information, please contact your local Customer Service Director Ron Easley at ronald.easley@gsa.gov.



Ron Easley

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# Stripes Sports Trivia

Wide and right. When paired, the two words can inflict the kind of pain Bartman and Buckner used to represent. For Buffalo Bills fans, the pain of losing four straight Super Bowls in the early 1990s is a tough one to get over. But, in Super Bowl 25, the Bills came ever-so-close, missing a game-winning field goal with eight seconds to play. Who missed the infamous kick for the Bills?

**Answer**

Scott Norwood



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# Exploring the Beauty of the Pacific



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STARS AND STRIPES

## Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Like Hubbard's cupboard
- 5 World record?
- 10 Loud door sound
- 14 System for servers
- 15 Shipping container
- 16 Roman robe
- 17 Breathing apparatus
- 19 Screen symbol
- 20 Jacket fabric
- 21 Family-tree study
- 23 Library section
- 25 Sneaky coward
- 28 Catch in a sting
- 32 Stately tree
- 33 Potting mixtures
- 36 Chopin piece
- 37 H.S. lab class
- 39 Track events
- 41 Till fill
- 42 Revs
- 44 Digs for pigs
- 46 Top anagram
- 47 Request
- 49 Token
- 51 Valued highly
- 54 Notre Dame, for one
- 57 Shopping aids
- 61 Workers' protection org.
- 62 Glassmaking color
- 64 Subsequently
- 65 Edit
- 66 Songstress
- 67 Ogled
- 68 Labor's partner
- 69 Washstand vessel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20					21				22				
			23		24								
25	26	27						28		29	30	31	
32				33			34	35		36			
37			38		39			40		41			
42				43	44				45		46		
47					48			49			50		
				51		52	53						
54	55	56							57		58	59	60
61					62				63				
64						65				66			
67							68					69	

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- 3 Skyrocket
- 4 Master hand
- 5 Puzzler's dir.
- 6 Shakespeare works
- 7 "See ya!"
- 8 Perform penance
- 9 Peaceful
- 10 Thin-heeled shoe
- 11 Off one's rocker
- 12 Highly excited
- 13 Countless
- 18 "Any \_\_\_?"
- 22 Skin blemishes
- 24 Gift-tag word
- 25 Actress Winger
- 26 Fake name
- 27 Artist's garment
- 29 Kind of sentence
- 30 Skilled
- 31 Linguine sauce
- 34 Permit
- 35 Pick-me-up
- 38 Ring finger's place
- 40 Psychic
- 43 Kind of loser
- 45 Refine metal
- 48 Railroad porter
- 50 Fit to be tried?
- 52 Mealtime lure
- 53 Cavalry sword
- 54 Shelter for doves
- 55 White as a ghost
- 56 What you used to be
- 58 Great deal
- 59 It may be carried
- 60 Barely burn
- 63 Mormons, for short

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

## DID YOU KNOW?



The DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) has separated North and South Korea almost for 70 years now. DMZ's ecosystem is a so-called treasure trove and it is home to over 300 species of wetland plants and animals.

Hangul of the week

평화  
Pyeonghwa (Peace)

## Language Lesson

I want peace.

Pyeonghwa-reul wonhaeyo.  
(평화를 원해요.)



TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## Getting out of the Military?

You should start the Transition Assistance Program

18 Months before ETS

24 Months before Retirement

\*Must start 12 months before ETS

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## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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:

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

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

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# NEW TO THE PACIFIC?

Contact [CustomerHelp@stripes.com](mailto:CustomerHelp@stripes.com) to get your free copy of Welcome to the Pacific magazine!

STARS AND STRIPES



Digital edition also available. Download online.



Invitation To DAEGU The ultimate travel & healthcare destination!

# MEDI-CITY+ DAEGU

Look here for more information on tourism in Daegu!



Daegu view Daegu Trip Road

## + Daegu, an inland hub of Korea's nationwide transportation network

Area | 1,499.47 sq. km. (578.9 square miles)  
Population | 2,374,960 (as of Dec. 31, 2023)



## + Medicity Daegu: Specialized Healthcare Areas

<p><b>Health checkup</b></p>  <p>Full-body checkup conducted with cutting-edge medical equipment</p>	<p><b>Traditional Korean medicine</b></p>  <p>Acupuncture, moxibustion, obesity treatment, traditional Korean medicine-based dermatological treatment, etc.</p>	<p><b>Plastic surgery</b></p>  <p>Meticulous procedures and an exhaustive follow-up care system</p>
<p><b>Cosmetology</b></p>  <p>Three-step system (consultation, procedure, follow-up care) based on cutting-edge equipment</p>	<p><b>Hair transplantation</b></p>  <p>Offered with the world's most advanced technologies</p>	<p><b>Dental care</b></p>  <p>Aesthetic treatments (e.g. implants, orthodontic care, scaling)</p>
<p><b>OB-GYN</b></p>  <p>Provided via foreigner-exclusive healthcare system</p>	<p><b>Eye clinic</b></p>  <p>Vision correction and cataract surgery conducted with cutting-edge laser equipment</p>	<p><b>Surgery for cancer and serious conditions</b></p>  <p>State-of-the-art treatment at centers/clinics specializing in serious conditions</p>

## + 4 wellness destinations in Daegu Designated as Outstanding Wellness Tourism Sites in 2024

<p><b>S2BT's Beaulounge</b></p> <p>A comprehensive beauty care space that offers relaxation away from the stresses of the everyday along with beauty diagnoses (e.g. skin, scalp) and individually-tailored solutions.</p>	<p><b>Spa Valley</b></p> <p>A nature-friendly space for physical and mental rejuvenation that includes a hotel built with cypress wood and red clay bricks, hot spring and bade pool infused with medicinal herbs, and a zoo that fosters healthy interaction between people and animals.</p>
<p><b>Soyuwon</b></p> <p>Offers healing and meditation experiences that allow visitors to relax and recharge their depleted physical/emotional energies. Operates several wellness programs (e.g. Tea House, yoga).</p>	<p><b>Korean Traditional Culture Center</b></p> <p>Offers interactive experiences of traditional Korean culture, including not only experiences of hanbok and tea ceremonies but also archery, healthy cooking (based on Principles and Practices of Eastern Medicine, a classical Korean medical text), and much more.</p>

## + Daegu's Representative Korean Medicine Tourist Attraction

<p><b>Yangnyeongsi Oriental Medicine Museum</b></p> <p>Has inherited, and works to conserve, the richness of traditional Korean medicine culture, which has a 366-year tradition in Daegu. Korea's representative facility for exhibitions and activities on traditional Korean medicine, offering an experience of life in Yangnyeongsi in pre-modern times.</p>	<p><b>Korean Medicine Experience Town</b></p> <p>A multi-purpose cultural space that aims to convey the excellence and richness of the tradition of traditional Korean medicine. Diverse activities based on VR and AR technologies available.</p>
---	--