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EXPLORE WITH US



**Our community products are geared toward giving you the tools
to make the most of your time while stationed in the Pacific.**

Whether you are in mainland Japan, Okinawa, Korea or Guam, we're going to help you get off base and explore. We'll help you find that tasty restaurant, eye-popping day trip or fun festival that really lets you dive into the local culture.

And don't worry, we'll take it step by step. We'll show you how to get on a train, bus or taxi. Or, if you are driving, we'll show you where and how to park. Seriously,

we're here to hold your hand, help you take some baby steps and then set you free, with the knowledge that if you ever get lost or are looking for some travel tips, destinations or anything else, all you need to do is pick up this paper, one of our magazines or special supplements, or click on one of our community websites or Facebook and Instagram pages to get all the free information you seek.

So how do we compile the thousands of stories that are at your fingertips? Well, besides partnering with dozens of outside organizations from around the world, we

also count on you, our military community, to submit stories. And you always come through! Hey, like we fond of saying, "We're going to make you famous!"

And then there's our team: writers Hyemin Lee (Korea), Shoji Kudaka (Okinawa), Takahiro Takiguchi and Luis Samayoa (mainland Japan) and their editor, Denisse Rauda (mainland Japan). Yes, that's an illustration of them on front page. And they love what they do. You see, for us to do our job properly, we go out and experience

SEE EXPLORE ON PAGE 8

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Beyond Seoul: The Rest of Korea You Must See

Seoul may be the heart of Korea, but the soul of Korea lives everywhere beyond it.

Many Americans never travel outside the capital, not realizing that Korea is filled with mountains, beaches, temples, farms, old villages, and small towns that hold some of the warmest memories you'll ever make.

Korea is not a large country, but it feels vast in spirit. Every region has its own flavor, rhythm, and personality.

Busan — The Ocean City with Soul

Busan is Korea's second-largest city, but its atmosphere is completely different from Seoul.

■ It's a city where

- mountains meet the sea
- temples overlook beaches
- fresh seafood fills markets
- people speak with a warm, friendly accent

■ Why Americans Love Busan

- Haeundae Beach and Gwangalli Beach
- Jagalchi Fish Market (a sensory experience!)
- Haedong Yonggungsa Temple by the ocean
- A more relaxed, coastal vibe
- A slower pace and friendly locals

Busan feels like a deep breath — a perfect blend of beauty, culture, and calm energy.

Jeju Island — Korea's Hawaii

Jeju is a volcanic island famous for: breathtaking landscapes, black-sand beaches, waterfalls, caves, hiking trails, tangerine farms, amazing seafood.

Jeju is peaceful. It feels like another world entirely. Even Koreans travel here to heal, rest, and reconnect.

It is a perfect destination for: couples,

KOREA DECODED

Gianni Youn



families, solo travelers, photographers and nature lovers. The island's energy is warm, slow, and emotionally calming.

Gyeongju — Museum Without Walls

If you want to feel the ancient history of Korea, go to Gyeongju. This city was the capital of a kingdom that existed for over a thousand years.

■ It is filled with:

- royal tombs
- temples
- ancient observatories
- quiet neighborhoods
- historical parks

Walking around Gyeongju feels like stepping into another time.

DMZ and North-South History

For Americans especially, visiting the DMZ can be emotional and eye-opening.

It shows: the reality of Korea's

division, the history of the Korean War, the courage and sacrifice behind today's peace. The DMZ is not about politics — it's about understanding the weight of Korean history.

Small Towns: Heart of Korean Warmth

Some of the best memories happen in rural areas: farm villages, fishing towns, mountain communities, traditional markets.

Here, Koreans are incredibly warm toward foreigners — especially Americans and military families.

People invite you to eat with them. They share stories. They give fruit or snacks. They treat you like a guest of honor. The further you go from Seoul, the deeper the hospitality becomes.

Why You Explore Outside Seoul

■ Because outside Seoul, you discover:

- Korea's calmness
- Korea's nature
- Korea's old traditions
- Korea's compassion
- Korea's slower rhythms
- Korea's real countryside heart

And these experiences complete your understanding of Korean culture.



About the author: Gianni Youn is a Multimedia Consultant at Stars and Stripes and author of KOREA DECODED:

A Korean American's Guide for Americans Who Want to Understand Korea.

For more cultural insights, follow Gianni on Instagram: @Gianni_Youn



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REACH NEW HEIGHTS WITH NATIONAL PARKS!

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If you appreciate the gift of nature, head to one of Korea’s national parks for a hiking trip. From Seoraksan Mountain, with rough ridges and rock formations, to Hallasan Mountain, boasting its mystical scenery, and Bukhansan Mountain, with a panoramic view of Seoul, Korea’s national parks await your visit. Whether you are a beginner who appreciates easygoing walks along forest trails or a seasoned hiker who scales great cliffs and deep valleys, these hiking trails have something for everyone.

Seoraksan Mountain

Seoraksan National Park, the first place in Korea to be designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1982, is the second largest national park in Korea. It is famous among tourists, nature lovers, and hikers for its beautiful scenic features, such as the Gongnyongneungseon Ridge and Cheonbuldonggyegok Valley.

Seoraksan Mountain’s roughness is only matched by its beauty. The way to the summit is not easy but certainly fulfilling. Many visitors stay overnight at the shelter at the midway point before climbing to the peak. If you want an easier hike, we recommend the trail along the stream in the valley leading to Biseondae Peak. If you are with seniors or children, you can take the cable car to Gwongseong Fortress, a mountain fortress built during the Goryeo period, to enjoy the panoramic view of the area and take a picture with the majestic Ulsanbawi Rock as a backdrop.



Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Recommended trails

Daecheongbong Trail

Length: 16 km

Time taken: 10 hr

Course: Sogongwon Park → Biseondae Peak → Huiungak Shelter → Daecheongbong Peak → Namseorak (Osaek)

Starting point: Seoraksan Sogongwon Park, 1055 Seoraksan-ro, Sokcho-si, Gangwon-do (강원특별자치도 속초시 설악산로 1055 설악산소공원)

How to get there: Take Bus No. 7 or 7-1 from Sokcho Intercity Bus Terminal → Get off at Seoraksan Sogongwon Park Bus Stop

Ulsanbawi Trail

Length: 7.6 km

Time taken: 4 hr

Course: Sogongwon Park → Sinheungsa Temple → Heundeulbawi Rock → Ulsanbawi Rock → Sogongwon Park

Starting point: Seoraksan Sogongwon Park, 1055 Seoraksan-ro, Sokcho-si, Gangwon-do (강원특별자치도 속초시 설악산로 1055 설악산소공원)

How to get there: Take Bus No. 7 or 7-1 from Sokcho Intercity Bus Terminal → Get off at Seoraksan Sogongwon Park Bus Stop

Tip! Closures for forest fire prevention

Many sections of Seoraksan Mountain’s hiking trails are closed during the forest fire prevention period.

- Sections closed: Upper areas - Biseondae Canyon to Daecheongbong Peak

- Open sections: Sogongwon Park entrance to Biseondae Canyon

- Period: March 2 – May 15 / November 15 – December 15



About this trail

This hiking trail, which brings you from Sogongwon Park to Daecheongbong Peak, the mountain’s highest peak, through the wide and massive rock formation of Biseondae Peak and the beautiful Cheondangpokpo Falls, is the best way to experience the beauty of Seoraksan Mountain. It starts off with an easy walk along lush forest trails but eventually becomes an arduous climb along steep slopes from Cheondangpokpo Falls. However, the view at the summit and the majesty of the Gongnyongneungseon Ridge and Ulsanbawi Rock are more than enough to make up for that.



About this trail

The forest path from Sogongwon Park to Sinheungsa Temple and Heundeulbawi Rock is gentle, so it is quite accessible to visitors of all skill levels. Heundeulbawi Rock is a photo area popular among tourists, many of whom often try to shake the rock to test the veracity of its name (“heundeul” means wobbling). The path from Heundeulbawi Rock to Ulsanbawi Rock is rather steep, but the view from the summit is worth every drop of sweat. Ulsanbawi Trail is ideal for those who want to sample the beauty of Seoraksan Mountain but don’t have the time or stamina for a longer hike.



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Nearby attraction

Baekdamsa Temple

Baekdamsa Temple has a reputation of being one of the most beautiful temples in Korea, and for good reason. In particular, the surrounding mountains erupt in majestic red in fall, creating a scenery straight out of a landscape painting. It is a great place to enjoy meditation in peace and quiet. It also offers Templestays for international visitors, so if you want to experience life in a Buddhist temple in Korea, check out their programs.



Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Recommended trails

Baegundae Trail

Length: 9 km
Time taken: 5 hr
Course: Bukhansanseong Information Center → Deungungak Pavilion → Baegundae Peak → Yongammun Gate → Jungheungsa Temple → Bukhansanseong Information Center
Starting point: Bukhansanseong Parking Lot 1, 24 Daeseomun-gil, Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 은평구 대서문길 24 북한산성 제1주차장)
How to get there: Take Bus No. 704 from Seoul Station Bus Transfer Center → Get off at Bukhansanseong Entrance Bus Stop
Tip! Bukhansan Shelter is an unmanned rest area for hikers.



About this trail

This trail takes you from Bukhansanseong Information Center to Deungungak Pavilion, Baegunbongammun Gate, and eventually to Baegundae Peak. It is quite steep, but there are rest areas built along the trail, so you can take the trail at your own pace. At the peak, you can take your pic of the day, enjoying an expansive view of downtown Seoul and Bukhansan Mountain. Note that some sections of the trail (Daedongsa Temple – Baegunbongammun Gate – Yongammun Gate) are closed because of the risk of rockfall at the present moment, so make sure to check whether the trail is open before your visit.

Sinseondae Trail

Length: 7.2 km
Time taken: 4 hr 30 min
Course: Dobong Ranger Station → Eunseogam Hermitage → Darangneungseon Ridge → Y Valley → Sinseondae Peak → Madangbawi Rock → Dobong Ranger Station
Starting point: Dobongsan Public Parking Lot, 282-26 Dobong-dong, Dobong-gu, Seoul (서울특별시 도봉구 도봉동 282-26 공영도봉산주차장)
How to get there: Take the subway to Dobongsan Station on Seoul Subway Line 1 → 20 min hike to the entrance of the hiking trail
Tip! For safety reasons, you must follow the directions displayed on the map at the Y Valley section.



About this trail

This trail from Dobong Ranger Station upward to Sinseondae Peak via Eunseogam Hermitage and Darangneungseon Ridge is a trail where you encounter the many faces of Dobongsan Mountain. For instance, you can see the tranquil scenery of Eunseogam Hermitage, the grandeur of Darangneungseon Ridge, and the steep rocks of the Y Valley in one hiking trip. Take a breather at Madangbawi Rock (“Madang,” meaning a wide land) before descending past Cheonchuksa Temple toward Dobong Ranger Station. The trail down is much gentler than the way up, so you can easily complete your visit.



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Nearby attraction

Seoul Hiking Tourism Center - Bukhansan Branch

Seoul Hiking Tourism Center offers tourist information services tailored to international hikers. It offers information on Seoul’s major hiking trails in Korean, English, Chinese, and Japanese and offers equipment such as hiking shoes and clothing for rental. The center also offers experience programs for international visitors, as well as lockers (both free and paid) for luggage storage and lounges for resting.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Hallasan Mountain

Standing 1,950 meters above sea level, Hallasan Mountain is the tallest mountain in Korea and one of four rare places in the world with the triple UNESCO designation of Biosphere Reserve, World Natural Heritage Site, and Global Geopark. This dormant volcano in the middle of Jeju Island is rightly known for its beautiful scenery, making it a popular destination for both islanders and visitors.

One of the charms of Hallasan Mountain is the variety of vegetation you will find as you climb the mountain. From the Tamnagyeogok Valley to Baengnokdam Crater Lake, each step brings you to a new facet of Jeju’s nature. Note that the trail to the summit requires a reservation and has a limited capacity in order to protect nature.

Jeju Island offers plenty of things to enjoy outside of hiking. From its natural sights to delicious food and quirky cafés, the island has so many things to experience. If you plan to hike Hallasan Mountain, make sure to leave enough time to see the island outside your hiking plans.



Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Recommended trails

Baengnokdam Trail

Length: 18.5 km
Time taken: 10 hr
Course: Seongpanak Parasitic Cone → Jindallaebat Shelter → Baengnokdam Crater Lake → Samgakbong Shelter → Tamnagyeogok Valley → Gwaneumsa Temple
Starting point: 1865 516-ro, Jocheon-eup, Jeju-si, Jeju-do (제주특별자치도 제주시 516로 1865)
How to get there:
- Take Bus No. 181 from Jeju International Airport Gate 2 → Get off at Seongpanak Bus Stop
- Take Bus No. 281 from Jeju Bus Terminal → Get off at Seongpanak Bus Stop

Tips! Hiking along the Seongpanak Trail brings you to the Saraoreum Fork. From here, you can proceed along a side trail for about 600 meters to Saraoreum Parasitic Cone, one of the mystical craters of Hallasan Mountain. Climbing the Saraoreum Parasitic Cone offers a great view of Baengnokdam Crater Lake, the rocks of Yeongsil, and the wide Seonjakjiwat Plain. If you can manage the hike, make sure to visit and see the view.



About this trail

Seongpanak Trail, the most famous trail to Hallasan Mountain’s peak, boasts diverse scenic views. Go past the Sokbat Shelter and Saraoreum Parasitic Cone to find the Jindallaebat Shelter, after which the steep stairs begin. Once you reach the summit, however, you are rewarded with a great view of the island. The hike down isn’t boring, thanks to exciting features like suspension bridges. From Tamnagyeogok Valley, the trek becomes gentle, allowing for an easy descent. If you want to take in nature and seize the triumphant view at the summit, reserve your spot for Hallasan hiking.

Yeongsil Trail

Length: 8.4 km
Time taken: 5 hr
Course: Yeongsil → Byeongpungbawi Rock → Witseoreum Parasitic Cone → Eorimok
Starting point: Yeongsil Service Area, 495 Yeongsil-ro, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do (제주특별자치도 서귀포시 영실로 495 영실휴게소)
How to get there: Take Bus No. 240 from Jeju Bus Terminal → Get off at Yeongsil Ticket Booth Bus Stop

Tips! The 2.5 kilometer-long road from Yeongsil Ticket Booth to Yeongsil Trail entrance, Yeongsil Rest Area, and parking lot is accessible only to vehicles with 12 seats or fewer. There is no parking space for personal cars due to crowding. If you are taking the bus, you have to walk the 2.5 kilometers until you reach the entrance to the trail. The most convenient way is to take a taxi to the entrance. After the hike, you can take a taxi back to your accommodation from the entrance to Eorimok Trail.

If you choose to start from Witseoreum Parasitic Cone and proceed to the Nambyeok Observatory before returning to Witseoreum Parasitic Cone, it adds about 4.2 kilometers more of hiking to your trail.



About this trail

Yeongsil Trail is a charming trail where you can experience different facets of nature through flat roads and steep stairs. The road from Byeongpungbawi Rock to Witseoreum Shelter is quite steep and difficult, but the view at the summit is worth the journey. The road down to Eorimok Visitor Center allows you to enjoy lush forests and cool valleys embodying nature’s variety and beauty.

Your perfect guide to hiking in Korea

Hiking the National Parks of Korea



This guide is a comprehensive guidebook of 46 hiking trails you can cover in a day within 23 national parks in Korea. It was written jointly by two staff members of the Korea National Park Service (Yoon Hong-geun and Park Hyeon-jeong) and Christian Jorgensen, who collected the opinions of experts and seasoned hikers and visited the trails to choose only the best of the best. The book provides a thorough list of unique features and information essential to each trail and is lavishly illustrated with photos to bring it to life. Pick up this guidebook and delve into Korea’s beautiful world of national parks this fall.

**Most of this content and photos (including infographics) were provided by the authors of Hiking the National Parks of Korea.*

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Be ready to hit the trails

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

1. FINDING THE HIKING ROUTES

Mastering Korea's hiking trails is so easy with the Kakao Map and Naver Map apps. Both apps are essential tools for navigating Korea's mountains and finding the best routes. They provide directions, distances in kilometers, and estimated hiking durations for most trails on the peninsula. Give them a try before your next hike!

Kakao Map

Search for the mountain on the map and zoom in. It automatically shows you possible trails with distance and time around the mountains.



Android



iOS

Naver Map

Just like Kakao Map, try zooming in to see the trails with detailed information. Search for the mountain name to see available courses, including their difficulty level, duration, length and elevation. For instance, type "Jirisan course" if you're headed for a brisk hike on Jirisan Mountain.



Android



iOS

2. LEARN HOW TO CAMP IN KOREA'S NATIONAL PARKS

In Korea, visitors to national parks can only camp in designated areas, and reservations can be made through the website run by the Korea National Park Service. If you're new to camping in these parks, it might appear a bit complicated. But no worries, simply follow this guide step by step!

1. Visit the Korea National Park Service reservation website at reservation.knps.or.kr
2. Sign up and log in. Email verification is required.
3. Click "View Campsites Reservation Schedule." Select a national park and campsite, then click "Search" to check available dates and spots.
4. Go to the reservation page and select your check-in date, national park, campsite and facility type.
5. Click "Search by selected criteria." Available campsites for the selected date will appear below.
6. Click "Book" next to the campsite you want and complete the reservation
7. Payment isn't required online for foreign visitors using the English reservation site. You can pay when you arrive.

Things to know for booking

1. If no campsite appears after you search, it's likely no spot is available for that date. Try another campsite, facility type or date.
 2. Campsites can be more competitive during peak seasons, which run from July 1-Aug. 31 and Oct. 1-Nov. 15.
 3. Fees vary by campsite and facility type. Regular campsites cost about 6,000–12,000 won per night and auto campsites are around 20,000–30,000 won. Caravans and full option campsites cost more.
- If you have any inquiries regarding bookings or hiking in national parks, you can call the helpline at +82-1670-9201 (M-F: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.). If the staff doesn't speak English, try emailing "csnp@knps.or.kr."

Campsite options

1. Regular campsites: You should set up your own tent in a designated spot. Be prepared to bring a tent, cookware, bedding, and other items for camping.
2. Auto campsites: You can bring a camper or your car and tent. Each site has different options for facilities and electricity.
3. Caravan (camping car) campsites: You don't have to bring your car or tent but simply use a camping car already set up on the site. In the camper, there is a bed, and small kitchen.
4. Full-option campsites: Everything is prepared, including a tent, cookware, bedding and other camping items. You can enjoy camping without bringing additional equipment.

Shelters

Shelters are simply places to take a rest or seek refuge during an emergency halfway up the mountains. Visitors must prepare their own sleeping bags and cookware if needed.

- Mountains with shelters: Jirisan, Seoraksan, Deogyusan, Sobaeksan

3. KEEP IN MIND THE RULES AT NATIONAL PARKS

As national parks are protected by law, there are rules to prevent actions that could harm nature or disrupt the ecology of small animals. Check what to avoid doing to help preserve the natural beauty of these parks. Mountains that are not national parks may have different rules; some may allow collecting vegetables or fruits and bringing pets.

- Pets are not usually allowed in national parks except service dogs, but some national parks have designated pet-friendly areas.
- Camping and overnight stays outside designated areas are prohibited in national parks. Camping or cooking in non-designated areas can result in a fine of up to 500,000 won.
- Entering restricted areas can incur a fine of 200,000 to 500,000 won.

- Making loud noise with devices such as Bluetooth speakers can result in fines starting at 600,000 won.
- Drinking alcohol in shelters or other designated no-drinking zones can result in a 100,000 won fine.
- Smoking outside designated areas or carrying flammable materials can result in fines from 600,000 won to 2 million won.
- Taking forest products such as acorns, mushrooms, and wild greens can result in a fine of up to 50,000,000 won or five years in prison.

4. BE CAREFUL OF WILD ANIMALS

While Korea has endured hardships in modern history, most wild predator animals, such as tigers, bears, and wolves, are now extinct - some may still reside in DMZ and North Korea. The rate of attacks by wild animals in Korea is very low, and you'll be safe as long as you stay on the trails. However, if you venture deep into the mountains or into areas where animal activity is high, it's important to know safety guidelines.

* Most wild animals will avoid you if you make noise to let them know humans are nearby.

- **Boar:** As other predators have become extinct, the population of boars has increased, making them the most common and powerful wild animal in South Korea today. There are frequent reports of boar sightings on hiking trails in Mt. Bukhansan and Mt. Hallasan, and their numbers are so high that they sometimes venture into urban areas. If you encounter a boar, it's recommended to hide behind a tree or rock, as they have poor eyesight. Avoid running away with your back to them or making loud noises.
- **Wild dogs:** Occasionally, wild dogs roaming in packs may be encountered. The best way to keep yourself safe is to avoid traveling alone.
- **Bear:** Bears in Korea were once almost extinct, but a restoration project began in 2004 in Jirisan National Park. Their habitat has now expanded into mountain areas near Jirisan. The population of Asiatic black bears in Jirisan is currently more than 80 but is increasing each year. There have been no reports of bears attacking humans, but be cautious when hiking in Jirisan, as you may encounter them. They are also scared of humans, so even if you encounter one, try to stay calm and keep your distance without turning your back on it.
- **Snakes:** Korea has four venomous snakes: the mamushi, rock mamushi, Ussuri mamushi and tiger keelback. If you see a snake, try to avoid the area immediately. Wearing thick socks, gloves, long pants, and boots can also help.

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

Take a hike!

Basic phrases

- **I love hiking:** Jeoneun deung-san-ee joayo (저는 등산이 좋아요)
- **The autumn leaves are really beautiful:** Danpung-ee neomu ah-reum-da-woyo (단풍이 너무 아름다워요)
- **Let's go hiking!:** Deung-san gaja! (등산 가자 -informal)
- **I'd like to take a break for a little bit:** Jogeum shigo sipeoyo (조금 쉬고 싶어요)
- **How far should I go more?:** Eolmana deo gaya haeyo? (얼마나 더 가야 해요?)

Encouraging phrases

- **Take care/Good work/ Keep up the hard work:** Sugo-haseyo (수고하세요)
- **Cheer up/ Hang in there:** Himnaeseoyo (힘내세요)
- **You can do it!:** Hal su isseoyo! (할 수 있어요!)
- **Go first please/After you:** Meonjeo gaseyo (먼저 가세요)
- **Thank you:** Gamsa-hamnida (감사합니다)

Words

- **Mountain:** San (산)
- **Hiking:** Deung-san (등산)
- **Nature:** Jayeon (자연)
- **Fall/Autumn:** Gaeul (가을)
- **Autumn leaves:** Danpung (단풍)



SHINJUKU

On the hunt for daytime fun in Tokyo's nightlife central

Shinjuku, a city known for its neon lights and nightlife, is filled with many seedy alleyways and people from all around the world trying to check out this red-light district. I always wondered if there was more to do here than just its well-documented night scene, so with my co-worker from Okinawa, Shoji, we took a daytime trip there.

My first thought when walking through the city in the light of day was how empty the walkway was. Perfect for introverted people like me.

For those into shopping, Takashimaya Mall, NewoMan and Lumine fit the bill. If you are searching for a luxury brand and don't want to deal with the crowds, coming to the city in the daytime is a great option.

We found it easy to watch the 3D Calico Cat billboard do its thing every 15 minutes on the big monitor outside the East Exit of Shinjuku Station and get a closeup view of Godzilla's head on the Kabukicho strip. In the evening, these areas are packed with people taking photos and videos.

We also enjoyed the fact that dining establishments are not packed like they are in the evening, allowing you to walk in and grab a table. We managed to try a delicious Taiwanese restaurant during our stop. No

wait and the food was great. We also had an absolute blast swinging the baseball bat in some batting cages and visiting Gyoen Park during our daytime visit to this night-life city.

Disclaimer: The night still lingers on in some places.

Although coming to Shinjuku in the daytime is relaxing – less crowds, no lines and space to roam freely – there is still some seediness lurking. There were times it reeked like the bathroom or something very pungent, but that can be expected in a red-light district.

The shop signs were much easier to examine in the day. Bars and clubs with the occasional love hotel in between. As a married man who no longer drinks, I have no interest in coming to these types of places. (Reminder: Under USFJ policy, entering off-limit establishments or paying for prostitution is against the rules for Military, Civilian contractors and dependents.)

Shoji and I set out to explore Shinjuku in search of things that didn't include drinking. We accomplished that mission and are excited to share our findings with you.

– Luis Samayoa

EXPLORE: We do it for you!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

things first-hand so we can tell you about it, offer tips and give you directions. During a 5-day gathering at our headquarters in Tokyo, our writers, page designers and web team joined forces to brainstorm story ideas and discuss how to best display and tell the tales of our adventures.

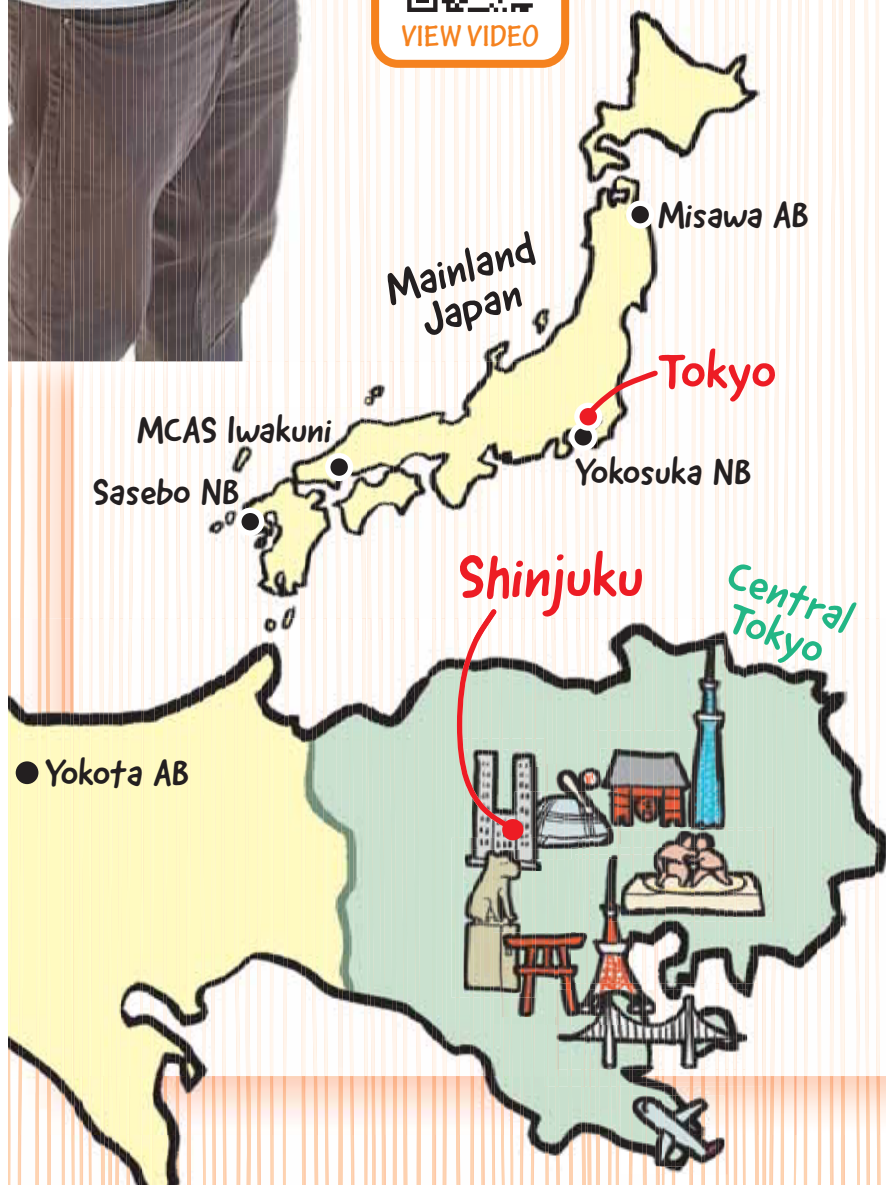
And it was a week for them to do some team reporting. And what better way to do that than take a day trip? But unlike years' past when they hit the road to explore Kamakura, Enoshima, Yamanashi and Shizuoka, they decided to be city slickers and explore Tokyo, hopping on trains, buses and taxis, or just letting their legs do the work. When we planned the trip, we considered our Okinawan, Shoji, and what his tropical paradise-influenced take might be on city life, especially since he lived in Tokyo for a while decades ago. And, of course, we were also excited to get Hyemin's point of view on things as a Korean, just like she did two years ago during her

first trip to Japan.

To explore as much of the city as possible, Shoji and Luis paired up, as did Hiro and Hyemin. As for Denisse, she split her day between the two pairs.

The five of them, a motley crew from different generations, cultures, backgrounds and interests, hit the streets to explore Tokyo. In the next four editions, you'll read all about their excursions, what they learned, what they liked and what they would probably skip next time. So, sit down, and let our crew tell you about themselves and show you how to enjoy a day of window shopping, visiting temples, shrines and museums, hitting the batting cages (you need to work on your swing, Luis), touring a beer brewery (Hiro's favorite pastime), eating local cuisine, picture-taking, lots of walking ... and plenty of laughs. Yes, they have a tough job, but they do it for you.

– Chris Carlson,
Publishing and Media Design Manager





Hitting the batting cages

I've seen many anime shows where there's a batting cage scene, which has always fascinated me. I took my swings in the cages before when I was stationed in Korea, but strawberry soju kind of makes it a blur. I decided to give this very affordable and fun activity to try in Shinjuku sober to see what it's like.

I found two batting cages in the area, one is called Tokyo Batting Cage, which looks new on Google Maps and the other is the retro Shinjuku Batting Center. We decided to kick it old-school and visit Shinjuku Batting Center, a 15-minute walk from Shinjuku Station.

When Shoji and I arrived, we noticed a cool vending machine that sold Yakuza video game franchise items.

It was a bit on the pricey side, so I skipped it. If you are a fan of the franchise, you can buy merch here. But I was there for baseball, not souvenirs.

Walking in, everything had a retro-like feel to it. They had coin slot arcade games like Time Splitters 4 and Streetfighter.

Although all the games are in Japanese, the instructions

to use the batting cages are in English, so I quickly grabbed a cage to start getting my swings in. You will need to bring yen to exchange for 100-yen coins to play. Each cage has descriptions like the speed of the ball pitched or left-handed or right-handed. If the cage is empty, it's yours to grab. If not, you may have to wait in line or play some arcade games.

After depositing 400 yen into the machine to start, the baseballs started coming my way, one after another, so be prepared. To be honest, I was a bit worried at first because I'm a bit thrashed up physically by active duty, but this activity didn't really cause too much strain on Uncle Sam's property.

Shoji and I took turns swinging the bat and had a great time, even though we might have missed more balls than we connected on. As I was swinging, I kept focused on the ball and tried to forget about life's problems. It was a mental refresher and a cool experience to do sober. When I was in Korea, those drunk times in the batting cage didn't make the experience as memorable as it was today. Time flew by so quickly, yet it was incredibly fun.

To those who are in the city and don't fancy a drink, I would recommend coming down to the batting cages and swinging for the fences. It's easy to do and a great way to spend time in this red-light district.

– Luis Samayoa

Things to know

ADDRESS: Shinjuku Batting Center: 2-21-13 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0021, Tokyo Batting Cage: 2-34-5 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0021

HOURS: 10 a.m. - 4 a.m., 7 days a week

OTHER INFO: Paid parking is available nearby; taking the train is more ideal. They don't have an ATM, so bring yen.



SHINJUKU
BATTING
CENTER
WEBSITE

VIEW VIDEO

Denisse

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

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

rauda.denisse@stripes.com



Hiro

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

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

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

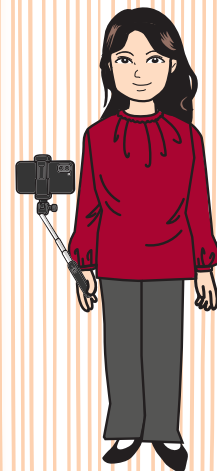
Shoji

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

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

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

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com



Hyemin

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

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

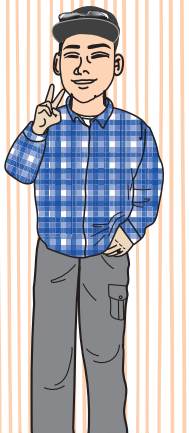
lee.hyemin@stripes.com

Luis

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

パグ・ライフ

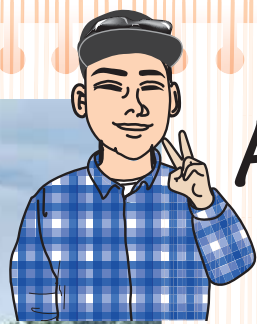
samayoa.luis@stripes.com



Illustrations by Yukiyo Oda

SEE MORE SHINJUKU
ON PAGE 10





A blissful escape at Shinjuku Gyoen National Park



You can spend the entire day in Shinjuku roaming the alleyways, or you can spend some time relaxing in the Gyoen National Garden surrounded by nature in this gigantic park a short walk from the Kabukicho district.

This garden is massive, covering over 145 acres (about 54 football fields), with plenty of open space to sit down and relax away from heavy crowds. It's about a 10-minute walk from the train station and quite easy to find once you place it on navigation. When Shoji and I arrived, we paid our admission fee of 500 yen each and proceeded to walk right in.

Just to throw it out there, there's a Starbucks in the East Area, in case you'd like a caffeine buzz with your dose of nature. We skipped the coffee because it was too hot and just went on a nice stroll.

The park was a great escape from Shinjuku's main strip. I enjoyed walking aimlessly as I took in the beautiful scenery. The park is large with multiple walking paths, so it's easy to get lost, which to me isn't a bad thing. But if you have reservations for an event or restaurant after visiting, make sure you know beforehand what exit you need to use.

There is a lot to see at this park and if you are on a time crunch like we were, you won't be able to see it all. But that's okay because we were able to relax and unwind a bit, get a view of the Taiwan Pavillion from a distance and cross the beautiful bridges in the upper pond on the park's east side.

There is plenty more to see, including the Old Imperial Rest House, Shinjuku Gyoen Museum, Formal Garden and the cherry blossom trees section. I recommend taking half a day to just lounge around and visit all the sections. It can make you forget about the hustle and bustle of work and big city life, even if just for a little bit.

I will admit coming by foot may not have been the best idea, but I have no regrets about visiting this park. I never really thought about what Tokyo had to offer since it only feels like skyscrapers and narrow roads. It's also great to see the pride Japan takes in maintaining their gardens and parks.

I plan on visiting this park again, but will take the train to the nearest entrance instead of walking. And I'll also stay a lot longer.

– Luis Samayoa



Near Shinjuku-Gyoemmae Station

■ Things to know

ADDRESS: 11 Naitomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0014

HOURS: Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays and Thursdays.

OTHER INFO: Payment can be made with yen, Suica or credit card. There is no parking available here, it's best to take the train when visiting.



VIEW VIDEO



WEBSITE



Speakin' Japanese

Let's go to Shinjuku!

Shinjuku is a big city with many spots to explore. Use the phrase below and have fun without getting lost!

“Shinjuku niwa dou ikeba iidesuka?”

= Do you know how to get to Shinjuku Station?
 (“niwa” = to; “dou” = how; “ikeba” = go/get there; iidesuka = should I ~)

“deguchi wa doko-desuka?” = Where is deguchi exit?
 (“deguchi” = exit; “wa” = a particle to indicate a subject; “doko-desuka?” = where is ~)

Pronunciation key: “A” is short (like “ah”); “E” is short (like “get”); “I” is short (like “it”); “O” is long (like “old”); “U” is long (like “tube”); and “AI” is a long “I” (like “hike”). Most words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable, but “OU” is a long “O” with emphasis on that syllable.

“**Chuo/Higashi/Nishi/Minami Deguchi.**” = Central/East/West/South Exit.
 (“chuo” = center; “higashi” = east; “nishi” = west; “minami” = south)

“**Shinjuku atari wo sanpo surunoga yoidesu.**” = A stroll around Shinjuku Gyoen sounds nice.
 (“Atari” = around; “sanpo” = strolling/walking; “surunoga” = doing something; “yoidesu” = is good)

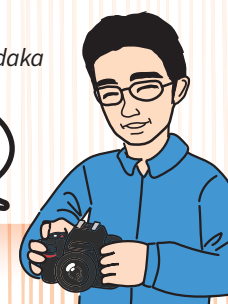
“**Onaka ga suite imasuka?**” = Are you hungry?
 (“onaka” = stomach; “ga” = a particle to indicate a subject; “suite iru/suite imasuka” = is empty/is empty?)

“**Resutoran wa doko desuka?**” = Where is the restaurant?
 (“resutoran” = restaurant; “wa” = a particle to indicate a subject; “doko desuka?” = where is?)

“**Kaimono wo shimasho.**” = Let's do some shopping.
 (“kaimono” = shopping; “wo” = a particle to indicate an object; “shimasho” = let's do)

– Shoji Kudaka

Time to learn a little Japanese!





Taking a break for Taiwanese food near Shinjuku Station

We arrived at Shinjuku Station at 11 a.m. and headed out to a small restaurant called Taiwan Ten Café. This café opens at 11:30 and there is no need to make a reservation, so coming on time or a bit after isn't an issue.

After we were seated, the server told us we could order through the QR code at the table or the LINE app on our phones. I tried the LINE app, but it was difficult since the menu was all in Japanese. Fortunately, ordering at the counter is also an option, so I went up and placed my order without hassle.

I picked the 3-piece shrimp dumplings, one beef noodle bowl and jasmine tea for 2,430 yen (about \$15). It was an affordable meal compared to the big city prices for similar meals in the big city.

It took a few minutes for my meal to arrive, so I sat just admiring this small restaurant and its aesthetics of bright red Taiwanese Lanterns, photos and designs. The music in the background was a bit of Japanese pop and the whole restaurant was just relaxing.

When my order arrived, I decided to try out the Taiwanese dumplings first and to my surprise, they

were absolutely amazing. Each bite was mouthful and the dumplings disappeared in minutes. The beef noodle broth was equally delicious. The broth, thick noodles and beef chunks were unique but towards the end, it started to get a bit heavy. For a day trip, I would recommend this but at the end of the day to just crash out with a full stomach.

All in all, I had a great time coming here. I like Taiwanese food and it's always a delight to grab a bite when I can. I would recommend this small restaurant since there is no reservation needed and it's affordable.

– Luis Samayoa



WEBSITE

■ Taiwan Ten Café

ADDRESS: 3-36-10 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Ainz and Tulpe Shinjuku East Exit store, 2F
HOURS: 11 a.m - 8 p.m. 7 days a week.
OTHER INFO: Yen and card accepted.



Near Shinjuku Station Central East Exit



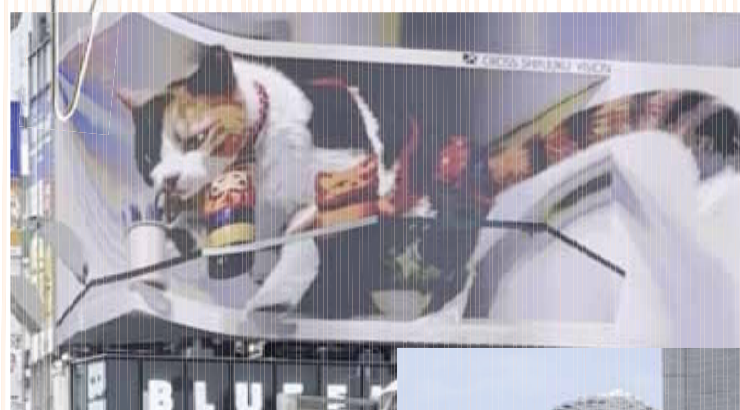
– Shoji Kudaka

Although my travel buddy Luis picked Taiwan Ten Café, I ended up quite liking it!

The café had a casual but slick design that reminded me of Gongcha the Taiwanese tapioca tea chain. Adorned with red lanterns and colorful illustrations, it had a fun interior.

Their menu items included beef noodle soup, braised pork rice, taro balls, and Taiwanese castella cakes.

I went with a boiled shrimp dumpling set for 1,180 yen (approx. \$7.28), which came with seven pieces of dumplings, almond jelly, and Chinese soup. The dumplings were quite hearty, with a whole piece of shrimp filling the dumpling wrappers. I also liked the delicate sweetness of the almond jelly and the tapioca pearls that were also in there. Washing down the big dumplings with mango juice (medium size for 620 yen) helped me recover from our long walk around Yanaka Ginza.



Near Shinjuku Station East Exit

■ 3D Cat Billboard

ADDRESS: 3-23-18 Cross Shinjuku Building 1F-2F, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022

■ Godzilla head

ADDRESS: 1 Chome-19-1 Kabukicho, Shinjuku City, Tokyo 160-0021



3D cat, iconic Godzilla landmarks a sight for sore eyes

I really was happy to finally have the chance to visit the iconic 3D Cat billboard and Godzilla head in Shinjuku. Before, I came at night with my wife, it was cool to see it then but the crowds of other tourists pushing, shoving and blocking the view kind of ruined the experience.

Coming in the afternoon for this day trip, you can stand by the walkway or afar and see the billboard monitor without any distractions. The 3D Calico Cat comes every 15 minutes, so if you come early or late, there is no need to push and shove. You can relax your feet from walking and just wait a little while.

At Kabukicho, the crowds were just the same as the billboard. There were a few people posing to take pictures on the



VIEW VIDEO

walkway but not as many compared to the night. We stopped by for a few minutes to look at both sites and not once did we have to squeeze through to get by.

If you have kids or family visiting and you don't want to stay out late to visit iconic spots, you can always stop by during the day when it's less crowded and go shopping or have some fun.

– Luis Samayoa

I saw Godzilla in Tokyo!



Check the next edition for Part 2: Yanaka Ginza!



STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

The Han River flows through the center of Seoul and is the most significant river in South Korea. The river splitting Seoul into two features 32 bridges and 11 beautiful parks where locals enjoy the riverside scenery and leisure activities.

Yeouido Hangang (Han River) Park is just outside of the Yeouinaru Station on Line 5 and stands out as the liveliest among the 11 parks. Here you can enjoy numerous entertaining activities like peaceful picnics, duck boat rides or a refreshing pedal on rental bikes. Spending leisure time by the Han River is a beloved activity, allowing people to relax in nature without leaving the bustle of the city.

Check out the top activities to enjoy at Yeouido Han River Park!

lee.hyemin@stripes.com



1

Enjoy a picnic

At Yeouido Hangang Park, anywhere you sit is a perfect picnic spot, whether or not you prepared your basket and blanket ahead. You'll see many groups of Korean couples or friend groups sitting on picnic mats enjoying food on the grassy lawn or on the large stones near the water.

There are plenty of food vendors and convenience stores at the park or nearby, so you won't go hungry even if you're having an impromptu picnic. Grab fried chicken, desserts, drinks and more from the street vendors or you can even order food to delivery zones near your picnic area from local



DELIVERY ZONE

HARU TENT (PICNIC ITEM RENTAL SHOP):
YEOUNARU STATION EXIT 1



restaurants. Check out the delivery zones to find restaurant phone numbers.

Rental picnic items are available at the park from street vendors, convenience stores and rental shops. Renting a picnic mat costs around 3,000 – 5,000 won. Rental shops also offer picnic sets including tents, tables, chairs and more starting at around 20,000 won for the day. Tents are allowed in designated areas from March through November: March–May, 9 a.m.–7 p.m.; June–August, 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; September–November, 9 a.m.–10 p.m. (hours can vary). At least two sides of a tent must remain open.



2 Try instant ramyeon

At the park, don't miss grabbing some ramyeon instant noodles, a beloved Korean soul food which is easy to cook and delightful to eat. Ramyeon is a camping favorite and because the river gives the camping vibe, having ramyeon is a must for many visitors.

Any of the convenience stores in the area will have a variety of instant noodles and ramyeon cookers to use. Usually, a package is around 1,000–2,000 won, but if you plan to cook it there, the total charge will be around 4,000 won–5,000 won.

After you pick out your ramyeon, don't forget to grab extra ingredients like eggs or cheese slices if you want to customize the flavor. After your purchase, the staff will tell you where the cooker is. Follow the instructions on the machine (usually in both Korean and English), and in about three minutes you'll have a camping meal ready to eat. You might also be able to add a raw egg, but you need to ask the staff.



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

3 Ride Seoul Bike to explore park

Seoul Bike, a public bike rental service managed by Seoul City, is available throughout the city and also at the park. Riding along the Han River is a popular route, offering a safe and enjoyable experience with beautiful scenery. The park is vast, but a bike makes it easy to explore. Bike rental stations are available 24 hours throughout the year. Even if you don't speak Korean or don't have a Korean credit card, it's very simple to use this service. Simply download the "Seoul Bike (Ddareungi)" app.



Photo courtesy of Visit Seoul

ONE-DAY PASS: 1 hour 1,000 won / 2 hours 2,000 won / 3 hours 3,000 won; Season pass (1–2 hours): 7 days 3,000–4,000 won / 30 days 5,000–7,000 won / 180 days 15,000–20,000 won / 365 days 30,000–40,000 won

NOTE: Passes allow unlimited rentals during the valid periods. As long as you return the bike within the selected rental time, you can rent again without extra fees.

4

Dine out at Ashley Queens

Ashley Queens is a Western-style buffet franchise restaurant offering a variety of cuisines, including Korean and American dishes and an ample dessert selection. They have restaurants all over Korea, but the branch at the E-Land Cruise station especially stands out for its premium quality and a stunning river view.

Many visitors plan their evening to include both E-Land Cruise tour and dinner at Ashley Queens for fun nights out with friends and family.

- **ADDRESS:** Yeouido-dong 85-1, or 8-minute walk from Yeouinaru Station Exit 3 toward the 63 Building
- **HOURS:** 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- **PRICES:** Lunch: 19,900 won / Dinner: 25,900 won / Weekends & holidays: 29,900 won



NAVER MAP





5

View the Han River on E-Land Cruise

A great way to enjoy the Han River view is by taking an E-Land Cruise on a river boat. This trip allows you to explore the river from Yeouido, passing other Han River areas like Nodeul Island, Han River Railway Bridge and Dongjak Bridge. You can see Seoul's iconic landmarks, including the National Assembly Building, 63 Building and N Seoul Tower during the trip. The cruise offers a panoramic view and includes live performances of famous movie soundtracks.

Every angle of the Han River on the cruise is spectacular as it's crossing the most vibrant city of South Korea. The night tour is especially romantic, and the view is even more fantastic as the lights from the tall buildings reflect

on the river.

You can either book tickets online or purchase on-site up to 30 minutes before boarding time. If booking online, make sure to get your ticket at the ticket booth. Also inform the staff if you need a free parking voucher. Ticket prices vary depending on the schedule, package, and trip duration. You can book through Naver or their website. The standard trip is a 40-minute tour for about 20,000 won. Make sure to bring your ID.



- **ADDRESS:** Yeouido-dong 85-5 or about 8-minute walk from Yeouinaru Station Exit 3 toward 63 Building
- **HOURS:** 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Tue.-Sun.) / 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. (Mon.)
- **PARKING:** Free parking available with a voucher (Yeouido Hangang Park 1 Parking Lot)
- **CONTACT:** 02-6291-6900 (everyday)



NAVER MAP



PARKING



6

Explore the river on an adorable duck boat

If you want a fun adventure close to the water, hop on a duck boat for an exciting way to explore the Han River. Choose between an automatic or pedal boat depending on your preference. Keep in mind that a pedal boat is similar to riding a bicycle, so it requires some exertion. It is 5,000 won cheaper and can be faster than an automatic boat, so choose wisely!

Check out iconic landmarks along the river, including the 63 Building, N Seoul Tower, and Wonhyo Bridge, while you enjoy a relaxing ride (or exhausting pedal) on the boat.

Sunset is a perfect time to get on the water to enjoy the incredible views.

The boats are four-seaters, so 2 adults and 2 children, or up to 3 adults can enjoy themselves together. The time limit is 30 minutes, and no prior reservation is needed.

There is a convenience store and fried chicken restaurant in front of the duck boat station with parasol tables overlooking the Han River, making it a popular spot to enjoy food and drink.

- **ADDRESS:** 252 Yeouidong-ro or about a 10-minute walk from Yeouinaru Station Exit 3
- **HOURS:** 10 a.m.–10:30 p.m. (Open every day but it can vary depending on the weather)
- **PARKING:** Yeouido Hangang Park 1 Parking Lot
- **PRICES:** Automatic duck boat 30,000 won / Pedal duck boat 25,000 won
- **CONTACT:** 010-3033-6820 / 02-447-3333



NAVER MAP

Photo courtesy of Visit Seoul

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OCT. 9

Hangul, a Democratic alphabet created for the commoner

STRIPES KOREA

Oct. 9 is a South Korean national holiday in honor of the invention of the Korean alphabet, Hangul. A day celebrating the alphabet may seem strange, but for Koreans, the simple and effective native writing system is a source of national pride.

Created by King Sejong in 1443, the alphabet took three years of testing and perfecting before it was made public in 1446. Before Hangul was invented, the Korean language was written with old Chinese characters with grammatical

structures distinct from Korean. Learning complicated Chinese characters required years of education and training, meaning only wealthy, upper class Koreans could learn to read and write. That left the rest of the population illiterate.

Seeking to eradicate illiteracy amongst common Koreans, King Sejong launched his ambitious project. Hangul's original name was "Hunminjeongeum," which translates to "a set of proper sounds for the education of the entire nation."

Despite his good intentions, King Sejong's Hangul faced strong opposition with subjects and scholars fiercely debating its creation.

The simple writing system, they feared, would lead to the loss of aristocratic privilege and power. It was considered a danger by the noble class and dismissed as the letters of women and children. The opposition by the aristocracy against the new writing system continued after King Sejong's death, which hindered the widespread use of the alphabet for a long time.

It was not until 450 years after its creation that Hangul was finally designated as the official writing system of Korea. However, hangul would suffer another obstacle during colonial rule when Japanese would become the official language

English	Pure-Korean	Hangul	Sino-Korean	Hangul
1	Hana	하나	il	일
2	Tul	둘	ee	이
3	Set	셋	sam	삼
4	Net	넷	sa	사
5	Tasot	다섯	oh	오
6	Yosot	여섯	yuk	육
7	Ilgop	일곱	ch'il	칠
8	Yodol(p)	여덟	p'al	팔
9	Ahop	아홉	gu	구
10	Yol	열	ship	십
20	Sumul	스물	ee-ship	이십
30	Sorun	서른	sam-ship	삼십
40	Mahun	마흔	sa-ship	사십
50	Shween	쉰	oh-ship	오십
60	Yessun	예순	yuk-ship	육십
70	Irhun	일흔	ch'il-ship	칠십
80	Yeodun	여든	p'al-ship	팔십
90	Ahun	아흔	gu-ship	구십
100	Baek	백	baek	백
1,000			Ch'eon	천
10,000			Man	만
100,000			Ship-man	십만
1,000,000			Baek-man	백만

Did you know?

The 14 consonants in Hangul are made to represent how your oral cavity is shaped as you voice them.

Celebrating Hangul Day

There are no large celebrations during Hangul Day, instead many Koreans usually enjoy the day off. Some people may also go on a short outing with friends and family. When Hangul Day approaches, news reporters crank out many stories on the corruption of Hangul by the rise in use of foreign words.

The concern is the overuse of English and often its use mixed improperly with Korean. You'll find examples of this everywhere in the country, from schools to government offices. I've seen many Hangul slogans and festival names aimed at locals written, unnecessarily, in the way English sounds.

In this era of globalization, linguistic purism should be avoided, but for elderly locals unfamiliar with English, the slogans and festival names are difficult to understand.

Hangul Day is a day to remind Koreans of the misuse of foreign words and of the humble beginnings of Hangul to encourage literacy among the masses.



Adorning the 10,000-won bill in Korea is King Sejong's portrait.

on the peninsula. In the 1940s, learning hangul and media in hangul was banned, which even led to the incarceration of Korean linguists.

Like the darkest hour is just

before the dawn, Hangul Day was designated an official holiday in 1949 following liberation from Japanese rule after the end of the World War II.



DRAGON HILL LODGE

SEPTEMBER HOTEL EVENTS

Come to Dragon Hill Lodge for our Festive Fall Line-up

WINEFEST

Saturday, September 12
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting paired with chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres as you discover new wines and expand your palate.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine Tastings
- Chef-Prepared Hors d'oeuvres
- Premium Wine Selection
- Elegant Afternoon Experience

OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, September 19
4:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Celebrate an evening of authentic Bavarian traditions featuring live music, delicious German cuisine, exciting games, and fun for the whole family.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Authentic Bavarian Cuisine
- Live Music & Entertainment
- Oktoberfest Games
- Family Activities

LOCATION

Dragon Hill Lodge

US Army Garrison Yongsan Seoul, Republic of Korea

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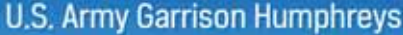


SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stripes Sports Trivia

Amid controversy, which team selected Bo Jackson with the No. 1 overall pick in 1986?

Answer
Tampa Bay Buccaneers



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DID YOU KNOW?

Korea's National Foundation Day, known as Gaecheonjeol (Heaven Opening Day), is celebrated annually Oct. 3. It marks the legendary founding of Gojoseon, Korea's first kingdom by Dangun in 2333 B.C. According to legend, a bear and tiger wanted to be human. They were told to stay in a cave for 100 days and eat only mugwort and garlic. The tiger gave up but the bear endured, became a woman and later gave birth to Dangun. Many Koreans describe Korea as having 5,000 years of history based on this legend and evidence of ancient cultures on the peninsula. Historians can't confirm the exact founding date, but ancient Chinese records about 2,700 years ago mention contact with Gojoseon. Today, Gaecheonjeol is a national holiday celebrating its foundation myth and ancient roots.



Hangul of the week

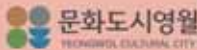


Gom (Bear)

Language Lesson

The bear won

Gom-i igyeosseoyo (곰이 이겼어요)



DISCOVER YEONGWOL

THE 2026 CULTURAL CITY OF KOREA



MORE INFO



Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Male deer
5 Hose shade
10 Czech or Serb
14 Entice
15 "Li'l" comics guy
16 "La Boheme" heroine
17 Tues., for Tuesday
18 Accounts
20 "Missing You" singer John
22 It may follow a dot
23 Colleague of Ketanji
24 Slow flow
26 Imparts
27 David of "CSI: Miami"
29 Twelfth Hebrew letter
31 Dump-truck filler
32 Dance move
33 Resort
36 Rabbit ears
38 Addict's accomplice
40 Wallace of "E.T."
41 Barnyard cacklers
43 Unbending
44 Cousin of a raccoon
45 Stew pieces
46 Drink accessory
49 Eager, so to speak
51 Windy City airport
52 Batman and Robin, e.g.
53 Labor leader Chavez
56 MDF, for one
59 Drive-____
60 Flower with a bulb
61 Aquatic mammal
62 Burial chamber
63 Tallies
64 Michelob and Molson, e.g.

DOWN

1 Cole ____
2 Orchestral heavyweight
3 Act as a go-between
4 Writer Stein
5 Go for the bronze?
6 Taken ____
7 Opens, as a sleeping bag
8 Spread throughout
9 Memorable time
10 Lit up the room, maybe
11 Add pep to, with "up"
12 Change, as a bill
13 Some charge cards
19 Blessed with ESP
21 1950s president
25 Eye part

65 Online crafts shop
27 Iron follower
28 Top-notch
30 Upstanding guy
33 Goliath's undoing
34 Film legend Gregory
35 Word after martial or performing
37 Poison remedy
39 Clairol choice
42 Put into place

44 Affectionate touch
46 Vergara of "Modern Family"
47 Bronze finish?
48 Fanatical
50 Kitchen gadget
54 Battle needs
55 Like Dorothy's slippers
57 Go up and down
58 E.R. workers

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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



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Women Medipark Hospital



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Hospital.**



**Having an
English-Speaking
Coordinator and
Medical Staff.**



**Clean & Safe
Zone for Mom
and Newborns.**

Women Medipark Hospital's Strengths

1 Laparoscope

- The most difficult surgery of obstetrics and gynecology that **preserves the uterus and ovaries** using laparoscopic surgery and **removes only the lesion area.**
- Exclusive surgical experience and know-how of annually 2,000 cases of uterine myoma and ovarian tumor.

2 HIFU (High Intensity Focused Ultrasound)

- More precise multi-processing using German multi-lens transducer instead of single lens used in other hospitals.
- More than 600 cases experience procedure and technical expertise annually.
- From infertility to pregnancy of a patient with uterine fibroids and adenomyosis through Hifu.
* *The first success story south of Han River!*
- 8 successful pregnancy cases among 15 infertility patients with uterine myoma.
* *Received 2009 Maternity-Friendly Policy Award (Presidential Award)*



3 VBAC (Vaginal Birth After Cesarean section) : Natural Delivery after Cesarean Section

- The highest national VBAC, natural delivery rate, based on statistics from the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service.
- VBAC : The head office has the critical position as it is responsible for most of the VBAC surgeries performed in Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do Province.

4 High Risk Maternity Care Center

- ① Pregnant hypertension (Pregnancy intoxication)
- ② Pregnancy Diabetes
- ③ Mothers with chronic diseases
- ④ Pregnant women with uterus and ovarian tumors
- ⑤ Premature contraction Experienced medicine, accumulated experience and know-how of women medical park hospital staff who can **provide intensive care for high-risk pregnant women.**

5 A Empress Postpartum Care Center *Where feels like you're in a hotel!*

If you have any inquires regarding this article, please feel free to contact below!

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