Let's admit it, everyone is curious about what their future holds. In Korea, many of us rely on fortune tellers or Mudang (shamans) to look into our futures. Of course, we go to the ones who are known to be accurate. With a new year upon us, Koreans are flocking to these knowers of the future to ask them about business, health, family, marital and career matters. And let’s face it, some just want to know when all this COVID-19 madness is going to end.

According to recent statistics from joins.com, four out of 10 South Korean adults have gone to a fortune teller. Korea's fortune-telling industry generates an estimated $3.7 billion annually, the Korea Economic Daily reported. The Korean Association of the Gyeongsin...
Train travel made easy with useful app

Public transportation in Korea is abundant and on the cheap side when you are looking to get off base and explore. Of course, there is always the language barrier. But don’t worry, if you are traveling on the train, there is a handy mobile app that will help you navigate the rail system in English.

KorailTalk is used by many foreigners, so you should give it a try. Just type in “Korail” in the app store and KorailTalk will pop up. Set the app to English and off you go. You can book a ticket on the app and just show your reservation info from the phone if the train employee asks for your tickets.

If you are not into apps, here’s a helpful English website that will help with train travel: www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EdibfForeign_pr16100.do?gubun=1

To make a reservation on the website, you have to print the ticket out yourself or show your reservation info from your phone at a train station ticket window.

Kim.Chihon@stripes.com

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIHON KIM, STRIPES KOREA

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN KOREA IS ABUNDANT AND ON THE CHEAP SIDE WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING TO GET OFF BASE AND EXPLORE. OF COURSE, THERE IS ALWAYS THE LANGUAGE BARRIER. BUT DON’T WORRY, IF YOU ARE TRAVELING ON THE TRAIN, THERE IS A HANDY MOBILE APP THAT WILL HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE RAIL SYSTEM IN ENGLISH.

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IF YOU ARE NOT INTO APPS, HERE’S A HELPFUL ENGLISH WEBSITE THAT WILL HELP WITH TRAIN TRAVEL: WWW.LETSKORAIL.COM/EBIZBF/EBIZBFFOREIGN_PR16100.DO?GUBUN=1

TO MAKE A RESERVATION ON THE WEBSITE, YOU HAVE TO PRINT THE TICKET OUT YOURSELF OR SHOW YOUR RESERVATION INFO FROM YOUR PHONE AT A TRAIN STATION TICKET WINDOW.

Kim.Chihon@stripes.com

How to do it

1. Type a “Korail” in the app store search bar and install it.
2. Tap the icon circled in red in top-right of the app screen.
3. Tap the icon circled in red in the top-right of the app screen again.
4. Tap the language setting and make your pick.
5. Type required information and book a ticket.

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CAMP HUMPHREYS — Feelings of anxiety, fear, loneliness and boredom can dominate the minds of the Soldiers, families and community members who have been placed into quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the Humphreys community has banded together under the Humphreys Quarantine Support Group, to help alleviate some of these stressors and improve the quarantine quality of life.

Incoming Soldiers, families and community members who are arriving to the Republic of Korea must restrict their movement and enter a 14-day quarantine. This quarantine has allowed for the identification of COVID-19 positive newcomers and a rapid response to address those affected. However, the quarantine process itself can be stressful and chaotic for those isolated even without the disease.

“A permanent change of station (PCS) move in itself is stressful, and when you PCS outside of the United States it’s an added stress,” said Jackie Williams, a volunteer and community organizer who is one of the administrators of the Humphreys Quarantine Support Facebook Group. “Now, you’re doing it during a pandemic, so any bit of information that you can get is important, especially because it’s such a fluid situation. For a lot of our new community members, they are coming from a very different understanding of what quarantine was at their last location versus what quarantine is here. I find it super important that we get that information to people.”

The Humphreys Quarantine Support Group, is centered on the Facebook page of the same name, which went live near the end of May and has provided a central hub for numerous volunteer initiatives. These missions include the “Bag Brigade,” which assembles and delivers welcome bags for unaccompanied Soldiers; the “Basket Brigade,” which creates welcome baskets for families; “Volunteer Shoppers,” who fulfill commissary requests from those in quarantine; the “Joe for Joes” initiative, which is attempting to bring hot water capability to each room; “Operation Cake for Quarantine,” which delivers individualized cakes, and many other efforts, each aimed at improving Soldier care while in quarantine and to provide information and community support.

“We try to grasp what it is like to be stuck in a cinder block room for 14 days,” said Williams. “We have a good connection with the leadership within the community. When you see things like Operation Cake for Quarantine or the Girl Scouts collecting Halloween candy, the effort is always to cover all of the quarantine facilities and all of the staff members, including the reception center, because they are a part of this whole mission.”

The quarantine process on Camp Humphreys allows for the volunteers to work closely with Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, who are working tirelessly to ensure a safe and acceptable environment is provided for those in quarantine. The continued commitment of the 2IDSB Soldiers working across quarantine sites demonstrates the Army’s ability to adapt to new and rising threats, as well as the prioritization of Soldiers’ and community members’ health and safety.

“Seeing quarantine unfold and the speed with which the Army has met the challenge and continues to adapt to the ever-changing environment, has been impressive,” said Karen Landes, a volunteer and administrator on the Humphreys Garrison Facebook page. “The quarantine of 6 months ago, even 3 months ago, looks nothing like the quarantine of today.”

The Humphreys Quarantine Support Group attempts to divide their attention and care equally among the newcomers in quarantine.

“We always like to remind people that there is no rank in quarantine,” said Williams. “That’s been really helpful to not have to look at the rank or even the branch of the military, it’s one of those things where we try to take care of everybody, regardless of any outliers.”

Being a fully volunteer-driven endeavor, the Humphreys Quarantine Support group offers a flexible and agile response to requests and issues raised by those in quarantine, demonstrating the

Raising quarantined spirits, providing support at Camp Humphreys

Top) A soldier assigned to the 643rd Engineer Support Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, counts and inventories forks used by a family who had recently departed quarantine at Camp Humphreys, Dec. 2.

Center) Thank you notes adorn the walls of quarantine building 6392, currently manned by soldiers assigned to the 11th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, thanking them and volunteers from across Camp Humphreys for their tireless work and dedication during the quarantine process.

Bottom) Catherine Mader, a volunteer and local community member, poses alongside the coffee-making equipment secured as part of the Joe for Joes volunteer initiative.
strong ties, vast adaptability and irreplaceable effort which defines the greater Humphreys community.

“Someone asked me the other day what my office hours were and I literally pulled out my phone and said ‘Welcome to my office,’” said Williams. “It is really just that we are average folks living a Health Protection Condition - Bravo (HPCON-B) life, so if it means that we sit down at Starbucks really quick and hop on our phones or laptops, then that becomes our office. Our office is at our kids’ soccer practice and in the pick-up line.”

The opportunities to volunteer and work together for the betterment of the Soldiers, families and community members in quarantine has allowed for greater cooperation within the community in the spirit of helping.

“I think that COVID-19 has brought the community closer together,” said Brian Godfrey, a volunteer and admin of the Humphreys Quarantine Support Facebook page. “Most of the people here understand that we are all in this together and to pull together as a team. In my opinion, it really is a total mindset. I would hope that people want to get involved instead of just watching from the sidelines.”

As the Humphreys Quarantine Support Group is centered on their Facebook page, it has been vital to ensure that requests are processed in a positive manner, information is distributed without delay and that community outreach remains a priority. The administrators of the group have to manually approve each individual request to join the group, allowing for them to attempt to limit the group to people who are currently in quarantine or have been a part of the process.

“A lot of people who have been through quarantine don’t leave the page, so they keep an eye out and also contribute back to the page,” said Godfrey. “It really gives you goosebumps, because that’s the type of community that I want to be a part of. I want to see that happen and see everybody pull together.”

Community members of all ages and backgrounds have been able to participate in the volunteer initiatives across Humphreys, each contributing in their own way to brighten quarantined community members’ day.

“There are these kids who have the inflatable dinosaur costumes and they’ll go around for birthdays or just randomly in their dinosaur costumes,” said Williams. “So, if you are looking out your quarantine window and you see a bunch of dinosaurs running around, your natural reaction is going to be to laugh. It’s anything to break that monotony. It is what Humphreys Quarantine Support is all about. It is to humanize you and the process. It is to remind you that you are wanted as our newest community member here and that we are here to support you.”

The Humphreys Quarantine Support Facebook page and other pertinent volunteer information can be found at https://www.facebook.com/groups/574088616854101. Soldiers, families and community members currently in quarantine, arriving to the Republic of Korea in the future or have completed quarantine and wish to contribute to our newest community members are urged to join and support the group.

(Top) Welcome bags intended for single and unaccompanied quarantined soldiers fill a supply room after being assembled by volunteers at Freedom Chapel, Camp Humphreys. Courtesy photo by Brian Godfrey
(Bottom) Staff Sgt. Anthony Vessa, a horizontal construction engineer assigned to the 643rd Engineer Support Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, organizes incoming welcome bags provided by volunteers for newly arrived single and unaccompanied Soldiers.
and the Korean Association of Fortune-tellers estimate the number of Korean Mudang who provide foresight while being possessed by spirits and perform exorcisms and fortunetellers has reached 500,000 nationwide. This includes non-registered fortune tellers. Unlike in the United States, where fortune tellers are often recognized as swindlers out to scam those desperate to see what is in store for them, they are respected and a part of the everyday consciousness of the average Korean. Why are so many Koreans interested in fortune telling?

Although South Korea is primarily made up of Buddhists and devout Christians, fortune telling continues to thrive as both a form of entertainment and as a dependable guide for seeking answers to daily problems.

By the way, Koreans regard going to a psychiatrist and receiving formal treatment as disgraceful. So, if someone has mental problems or has difficulty handling their problems, instead of looking for a psychiatrist, many turn to fortune tellers, which are quite easy to find.

A few days ago, I had my fortune told at a small fortune-telling cafe near Pyeongtaek Station.

To pick a fortune-telling house, I searched the web and couldn’t believe my eyes. The map of the area around Pyeongtaek Station area was covered with more than 40 pins of fortune-telling houses. There seemed to be more fortune-telling establishments than cell phone shops and coffee shops.

I chose one small fortune-telling cafe that tells the client’s fortune using saju-palja or saju-myungrihak. Saju palja literally can be translated as “four pillars of destiny,” and dates back to the Han Dynasty. Korea, Japan and China share this conceptual term to describes a person’s destiny or fate based on the ancient Chinese zodiac.

Before I start to tell you about my fortune-telling experience. Let me explain the difference between shaman and fortune tellers in South Korea. As you may know, mudang, a shaman, is considered having an extraordinary ability to communicate with dead ancestors. So mudang play the role of a bridge between the dead and a client. They can use rice or brass coin when they tell fortunes. They even scold their client severely.

The reason why I chose a fortune teller instead of a shaman is that I’m not a serious believer, and I’ve already been

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
scolded enough by my mother and teachers when I was growing up. And saju is based on Chinese astrological records and texts that can be touched and seen. The four pillars are based off the year, month, day and the hour of your birth. I forgot my time of birth, so I had to call my mother. Yes, I was off to a good start.

My fortune teller started to scribble on a blank paper as he looked in an old book filled with Chinese characters. He explained to me that the book was about the four pillars of destiny. By using the five elements of fire, water, wood, metal and earth, he explained my destiny.

He said that a tree is prominent in my saju and the folks who have this element tend to have a kind heart. But he said if I kept doing all the favors out of compassion, hard times could come. He also said that another character trait of folks with a tree element is an explosive temperament. “This is fairly accurate!” I thought to myself.

The fortune teller didn’t just analyze my destiny, but also suggested solutions. “Do not suppress your anger too much. Express your feelings appropriately, even if it’s a bad emotion,” he said.

He listened to my worries and concerns with all his heart. I was happy to have someone listen to me. From daily life to work life, he continued to add solutions based on my destiny and probably my temperament. It was really helpful, whether it was just lucky guesses or skill. Believe it or not, I felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders.

In the New Year, my family will go see a fortune teller together for fun. But people who are about to get married, move out or start a new business, take the prophecy quite seriously. The opinion on fortune tellers may vary from person to person, but there are those who truly believe they are the gateway to a successful year and life.

Because of this, many fortune-telling businesses are undergoing certification tests and having their employees get special training so they can offer professional counseling to customers who visit. Whether you’re a sincere believer in fortune telling or a complete skeptic, visiting a traditional fortuneteller is certainly a great way to experience Korea’s deep traditional culture. Just remember to bring a Korean speaker with you. Here’s hoping that your future is bright!

kim.chihon@stripes.com

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Fortune telling 賭けた星(Scenery Saek-kkal-saju)

- Address: [KOR] 경기 성남시 팔은대로 22, (ENG) 22, Sa-Ju-ro, Pyeong-saek-Si, [NAVER MAP] http://naver.me/34MILSAM
- Hours: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Phone: 031-401-7902
- Price: $2500 won or about $22.25 (over $23), or 20,000 won(under $23) include one beverage.

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onto the College Acceptance
One of my favorite meals is ramen. I dream of having a big bowl of noodles every day for every meal, and while usually it would be the soupy, deliciously rich Japanese noodles I seek, the other day I had a craving for a different variety of noodles.

I've passed Sogno, an Italian restaurant near Camp Humphreys, many times. It looks more like someone's home rather than a restaurant, but its exterior finally convinced me to depart from my usual noodle of choice and give some pasta a try.

I found plenty of parking at Sogno, which is a rarity amongst Pyeongtaek's restaurants. Inside, the married couple who owns this spot decorated the interior in a minimalist style.

My friend and I ordered pasta carbonara for 14,000 won (about $12.66) and a pepperoni pizza for 12,000 won. Our food took a little time to arrive, but the wait was worth it.

The carbonara was loaded with flavorful bacon, creamy alfredo sauce and generous amounts of shredded Parmigiano-Reggiano. And the pasta? Cooked to perfection! This, along with squid ink pasta, forms part of Sogno's signature menu.

Our piping-hot pepperoni pizza arrived. The dough was just the right amount of thickness and toppings featured a good balance of cheese, sauce and ingredients. Before we knew it, we'd polished off both the pasta and pizza in a flash!

This place tends to get busy at peak meal-times, but you definitely will not regret stopping in for a pasta fix. I may still dream of ramen for every meal, but Sogno was definitely a good place to take my taste buds on an Italian vacation.
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Gongju is a historic city in Chungcheongnam-do. Formerly named Ungjin, the area was the capital of the Baekje Kingdom. Gongju is a major tourist destination in the South Chungcheong area. It is full of attractions that tell the history of Baekje and the struggles during the Three Kingdoms Era as well as some awe-inspiring juxtaposition of historical sites and nature.

You'll be able to visit some of Baekje Historic Areas which are eight archaeological sites, recognized as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites, spread over Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan.

Gongju Hanok Village
Gongju Hanok Village (also known as Gongju Traditional Korean Village) was opened for the World Baekje Exhibition which was held in September 2010. The village was constructed between the Tomb of King Muryeong and Gongju National Museum.

Here you can find group accommodations, individual accommodations, additional facilities, and a shopping center built using the traditional Korean architecture, hanok. The buildings are made of pine trees and Japanese cedar trees, which are reliable and safe construction materials. You'll be able to find a number of traditional cultural activities around the village, including a traditional Korean wedding ceremony in the tradition of the aristocratic families.

ADDRESS: 12, Gwangwangdangji-gil, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도 공주시 광광단지길 12)
TEL: +82-41-840-8900

Tomb of King Muryeong
The Tomb of King Muryeong is the only identified royal tomb from the Three Kingdoms Period. It held the bodies of King Muryeong (r. 462-523) and his queen as well as over 2,900 artifact pieces. The discovered artifacts include the royal crown ornaments and other types of accessories that offer a valuable glimpse into the royal traditions of its time. If you're interested in viewing these relics and artifacts, you can find them in the exhibition halls of Songsan-ri Ancient Tombs and at the Gongju National Museum.

King Muryeong was Baekje’s 25th king. The tomb was discovered by accident while pipes were being installed to prevent the other areas from being flooded. To preserve these important cultural heritage sites, the excavation sites are currently closed. However, you can take a look at the recreations of the interior of Tomb No. 6 and the Royal Tomb of King Muryeong. The area is believed to contain 17 graves from the era. To this day, seven graves have been discovered.

ADDRESS: 37-2, Wangreung-ro, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도 공주시 왕릉로 37-2)
TEL: +82-41-856-3151
WEBSITE: www.gongju.go.kr (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

Magoksa Temple
Magoksa Temple is one of the seven famous mountain monasteries, sannae, in Korea. The temple was built in the 9th century when Seon Buddhism began to spread in the peninsula and has been an important center for Korean Buddhism.

The temple has a unique layout with a stream dividing it into the northern and southern sections. The northern compound of Magoksa Temple houses the famous Daegwangbojeon, the temple’s main hall as well as a five-story stone pagoda adorned with a Tibetan-style top that was built during the 14th century. Later on, the temple gave refuge to the famous Korean independence leader Kim Gu (Baekbeom) in Baengnyeongam Hermitage after he escaped from prison. Today, you can find a juniper tree between Daegwangbojeon Hall and Eungjinjeon Hall of Magoksa Temple which is believed to have been planted by Kim Gu in 1946 when Korea was liberated from Japanese colonial rule.

ADDRESS: 966, Magoksa-ro, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도 공주시 마복사로 966)
INQUIRIES: +82-41-841-6220-3
WEBSITE: www.magoksa.or.kr (Korean, English)

Gongju Gongsanseong Fortress
Gongsanseong Fortress is an ancient fortress built during the Ungjin period (475-538). The remaining heritage sites give us a glimpse into the era's construction techniques. The excavations have revealed valuable insight into Baekje’s civil engineering and the techniques and advancements gained through exchanges with ancient China and Japan.

The fortress wall is roughly 2.5 kilometers long. You can explore the area in two different ways. You can start in the parking lot, head to the west gate, Geumseoru, and then walk along the available trail. Or, at the beginning of the cement road turn left and head to the top of the fortress. The area contains around 80 building sites, roads, drain channels, reservoir facilities, and more.

ADDRESS: 280, Ungjin-ro, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도 공주시 응진로 280)
TEL: +82-41-856-7700

Gongju National Museum
Gongju National Museum is dedicated to displaying and providing knowledge on the history of Gongju. It has a number of exhibits such as King Muryeong’s Royal Tomb Hall, and Prehistoric and Ancient Culture Hall which focus on the historical findings from the area during different eras, starting from the Stone Age.

You can find different artifacts and national treasures on display, such as artifacts excavated from King Muryeong’s Tomb and Buddhist artifacts (including some stone structures) from Daetongsa Temple and Seohyeolsa Temple. At the back of the museum, you’ll find the Jeonggijan Historical site where memorial services and rituals were performed during the Ungjin Baekje Period.

ADDRESS: 34, Gwangwangdangji-gil, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도 공주시 광광단지길 34)
TEL: +82-41-850-6300
WEBSITE: gongju.museum.go.kr (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)
WHERE TO EAT

Gomanaru Dolssambap
Gomanaru Dolssambap offers a wide range of Korean traditional dishes prepared with the customer’s health in mind. The restaurant has a nice view of the Gongju Gongsanseong Fortress and is a nice place for visitors to relax and enjoy Korean traditional health food.

ADDRESS: 5-9 Baekmigoeul-gil, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도공주시백미고물길5-9)
OPERATING HOURS: 11:00-21:00 (Last order 20:00)
* Closed fourth Monday of every month
TEL: +82-41-857-9999
WEBSITE: www.고버나루.kr (Korean only)

Edge Hanok Café
Edge is a cafe in a hanok style building where the visitors can take a break and recuperate. They offer drinks and pastries which are both delicious and come beautifully prepared. The cafe’s interior is a mixture of modern and traditional Korean design elements and the space is comfortable and cozy. Edge is located close to Gongju Gongsanseong Fortress so you can take a break here during your trip.

ADDRESS: 12, Minari 2-gil, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do (충청남도공주시미나리2길12)
TEL: +82-10-3214-1585
OPERATING HOURS: 12:00-18:00 (Closed Mondays)
INSTAGRAM: @cafe_edge

Hiking in Mt. Hallasan

- Mt. Hallasan is South Korea's biggest peak (1,950 meters)
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- Trails to mid-point: Eorimok, Yeongsil, Donnaeko
- Trails to summit: Seongpanak, Gwaneumsa
- Make a reservation for the trails to the summit through the website: https://visithalla.jeju.go.kr/main/main.do

- Eorimok 6.8km 3hours
- Yeongsil 5.8km 2.5hours
- Donnaeko 7km 3.5hours
- Seongpanak 9.6km 4.5hours
- Gwaneumsa 8.7km 5hours

Baengnokdam (White Deer Lake)
The only aquarium in Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province is located on the 9th floor of Daegu Shinsegae Department Store.

Being located in a shopping mall limits the amount of space for the aquarium. It’s not as big as parks you’ll find in other countries, but what’s inside will definitely satisfy. The aquarium features Daegu’s first 2,000-ton water tank and is composed of four zones with different themes. You can enjoy the beautiful view of a fish tank and over 200 types of marine life and animals. You can also get a look at the fish in the tank as you cross a twine bridge. The aquarium also offers various shows at the main fish tank every couple of hours, so don’t forget to check the schedule at the entrance.

There is also a little play area for kids to enjoy arts and crafts, as well as areas where they can feed otters, prairie dogs, parrots and carp.

What interested me is you can buy bird seed (birds fly right up to you) for an interesting experience. When I stepped out of the eyes. I was impressed up. One brave meerkat to snatch my camera with its hands. It was like being there again. For me personally, it’s an experience that including the Korean and seeing the Korean after you finish looking at the mall, I recommend you visit the aquarium, especially if you have children. Or, if you like me.
all stacked full of fun

The massive 9-story shopping mall is more than just shopping. The building also has a rooftop aquarium, indoor and outdoor mini theme parks, as well as an art gallery, concert hall and a movie theater. Here’s a closer look at what you can find at the giant store.

Food

The mall is also the ultimate foodie’s paradise! The 1st, 8th and 9th floors house more than 50 different restaurants, while the Food Market is located on the first basement level.

Although you can find food stalls throughout mall, you will find the main concentration of restaurants on the 8th floor (Luang Street Food Court). Here, you can grab a high-quality meal that won’t break the bank. As the name implies, the entire 8th floor is designed to make you feel as if you are walking along a dimly lit street of Hong Kong in the 1960s.

I recommend Dim Dim Sum (Hong Kong restaurant-9F), Salvatore Cuomo (Italian restaurant-8F) and Tokkijung (Japanese fusion restaurant-8F) if you want to try something different. There are also a handful of cafés available for coffee and sweet treats.

The food court (8F) and Zooraji Theme Park (9F) can be a bit pricey compared to some of the building’s other options. BONUS TIP: Take your kids to the outdoor Zooraji Theme Park (9F). Here, you can look down the city and get some fresh air, plus it’s a great place to have a photo taken. The indoor amusement facilities are also child-friendly.

Unlike the Luang Street Food Court, the basement (Food Plaza) offers a wide variety of inexpensive foods such as Amorino, Tartorte, Bred Garde, Show= and Avant-garde.

You can also get a taste of the local breads that got their start in Daegu. Here are three must-eats when you visit Daegu:

- Oksusu-ppang (I highly recommend it among the three of them!) Once you taste the whole corn bun, you can’t stop eating it. The bread (1,600 won) is called “Drug Bun” because it is so addicting.

D税务总局

BONUS TIP: Take your kids to the outdoor Zooraji Theme Park (9F). Here, you can look down the city and get some fresh air, plus it’s a great place to have a photo taken. The indoor amusement facilities are also child-friendly.

Unlike the Luang Street Food Court, the basement (Food Plaza) offers a wide variety of inexpensive foods such as Amorino, Tartorte, Bred Garde, Show= and Avant-garde.

You can also get a taste of the local breads that got their start in Daegu. Here are three must-eats when you visit Daegu:

- Oksusu-ppang (I highly recommend it among the three of them!) Once you taste the whole corn bun, you can’t stop eating it. The bread (1,600 won) is called “Drug Bun” because it is so addicting.

A STARS AND STRIPES COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

DECEMBER 24, 2020 - JANUARY 6, 2021 STRIPES KOREA 13

How to get there

Car
- Camp Humphreys → Daegu Shinsegae Department Store (2hrs 50min)
- Osan Air Base → Daegu Shinsegae Department Store (3hrs)

Train
- Jije Station (Pyeongtaek) → Dongdaegu Station SRT (express train): 1hrs 20min (29,900 won)
(The mall shares its building with Dongdaegu station, so you can’t miss it!)

Subway
- Departing from other areas in Daegu (Line No.1) → Dongdaegu Station → Exit1 → Shinsegae Mall B1F
(There is direct underground access to the Shinsegae Mall B1F from Exit 1)

On-site validated parking also available.

Hours: Department store: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Restaurants: 11 a.m. to 9:30.
Familie Town 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Aquarium: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Connected to Dongdaegu Station (Line2)
Address: 149, Dongbu-ro, Dong-gu, Daegu

Familie Bridge & Trampoline Park

At 180 meters, Familie Bridge is the longest moving walkway in Korea and it connects the mall and an annex building which is available on the 5th floor. It is a bit slow, but you can also take in the scenery outside the window and the old photos of Daegu that are on display along the way.

The annex has a bookstore, more clothing stores, and a unique playground called Vaunce Trampoline Park. Because of the large space and various rides, it is the best place for children to run freely. Kids can jump high and dunk a basketball, play dodgeball while bouncing, or just dance away to the loud music.

Parents can sit at a table or on a couch and watch their children through the windows outside the park, which costs 15,000 won for an hour or 25,500 won for two hours.
Modern Alley Sweet Red-Bean Bun: It is a sweet red bean bread (2,500 won) almost commonly filled with red bean paste. You can also bite into other types of bread stuffed with white beans, green beans, sesame and chestnut.

Banwoldang Goroke: The croquette bun (2,000 won) is a deep-fried bun made by mixing chopped meat, seafood, thin noodles or vegetables with mashed potato. It is shaped like a flat patty, rolled in wheat flour, eggs, and breadcrumbs, then deep-fried until brown on the outside. (It can be a little greasy, so I recommend you have it with soda.)

Tantan Noodles Kitchen: Tantan noodles is one of the famous dishes you can try on the ground floor (B1). Tantan Noodles Kitchen is a small eatery where you can have a quick meal while sitting on a stool, as chefs prepare dishes in a kitchen in the middle. I tried basic Tantan noodles (8,000 won) which is their signature dish, as well as dumplings. The noodle was served with rice and chopped garlic with fried kimchi. All you have to do is follow the instructions that explain how to enjoy it. Per the instructions, I ate noodles first, then add chopped garlic, fried kimchi and rice at once. The seasonings perfectly spiced it up.

You can choose a mildly hot version if you do not enjoy spicy food. (The fried dumplings are salty enough and in soy sauce). If you want to slurp down some tasty, Korean-style Tantan noodles, make sure to check this place out!
A Guide for Medical Tour in Jeollabuk-do

Wonkwang University Hospital
Donggunsan Hospital
Jesus Hospital
Seok Jeong Wellpark Hospital
Luke Korean Medical Hospital
Innoplus Plastic Surgery
Wonkwang University Dental Hospital
Wonkwang University Korean Medicine Hospital, Iksan
Wonkwang University Korean Medicine Hospital, Jeonju
Wonkwang Health Science University

Here is an awesome guide to the best ski resorts in Korea! If you’re looking for a great ski resort to meet your skiing needs, then read on.

**Yongpyong Ski Resort**

As South Korea’s grandest ski resort Yongpyong Ski Resort is the resort that’s got something for everyone!

Known for appearing in the popular Korean dramas, “Winter Sonata (KBS, 2002)” and “Guardian: The Lonely and Great God (TVN, 2016)”, Yongpyong Ski Resort was also the main venue for 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

- **LOCATION:** Pyeongchang
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 3 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 28
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 14 ski lifts

**Daemyung Vivaldi Park**

Boasting new facilities every year, Vivaldi Park in Daemyung Resort is well-known as the trendiest among ski resorts. With the best night skiing experience and slopes full of twists and turns, it’s the perfect venue for thrill-seeking youngsters for young adults!

Also, Vivaldi Park is where the scenes from the Korean TV drama “The Legend of the Blue Sea (SBS, 2016),” starring Jun Ji-hyun (Chung) and Lee Min-ho (Joon-jae), were filmed. In the drama, the two characters, “Joon-jae” teaches “Chung” how to ski and they spend a great time at Vivaldi Park!

- **LOCATION:** Hongcheon
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 2 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 12
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 10 (including gondola)

**Phoenix Park**

With beautiful natural views and perfect snow, Phoenix Park, or Phoenix Ski Resort is perfect for those wanting a day on the slopes. It’s also famous for appearing in the popular Korean drama, “Autumn in My Heart (KBS, 2000).”

- **LOCATION:** Pyeongchang
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 2.5 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 21
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 8 lifts & 6 sun-kid lifts & 1 gondola

**Welli Hilli Park Ski Resort**

Boasting attractions rich in thrills, and premium lodging facilities as well as a range of slopes, Welli Hilli Park Ski Resort is perfect for those who are seeking a rush of adrenaline, offering the surge for all the adrenaline junkies!

- **LOCATION:** Hoengseong
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 1.5 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 18
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 9
**High1 Ski Resort**  
Home to the puffiest powder

Boasting the purest snows out of all the other ski resorts in the area, High1 Ski Resort does its best to maintain the conditions of the slopes and snows in top shape. With cutting-edge facilities, such as an automatic sensor system, a hands-free detection system, and a state-of-the-art ski lift and gondola system, visitors can enjoy the ride without having to show their lift tickets.

- **LOCATION:** Jeongseon
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 3 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 26
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS & GONDOLAS:** 6 ski lifts & 4 gondolas

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**Elysian Gangchon Ski Resort**  
Perfect for a spontaneous getaway

Elysian Gangchon Ski Resort is the closest to Seoul amongst the other resorts in Gangwon-do, making it the perfect place to travel to spontaneously for a half or full day of fun. It’s also near popular sightseeing destinations so non-skiers will have fun too!

- **LOCATION:** Chuncheon
- **TRAVEL FROM SEOUL:** 1.5 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 12
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 10

---

**Oak Valley Ski Resort**  
Perfect for crowd-free skiing

If you’re looking for a quieter, more intimate ski resort in Gangwon-do, Oak Valley Ski Resort can be the one for you. The ski resort has a relaxed atmosphere compared to other ski resorts in the area with a good mix of slopes and off-the-slope attractions for families on top.

- **LOCATION:** Wonju
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 1.8 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 9
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 7

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**Alpensia Ski Resort**  
The fantastic Alps of Asia

Boasting top-of-the-line leisure and premium lodging facilities as well as a range of slopes, Alpensia Ski Resort is perfect in every way, offering fun for the whole family!

- **LOCATION:** Pyeongchang
- **TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL:** 3 hrs
- **NUMBER OF SLOPES:** 6
- **NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS:** 3

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**Look at best options for skiing gear**  
**BY CHIHON KIM, STRIPES KOREA**

Ski season is here again. Many ski villages on the peninsula are ready for ski enthusiasts who have been eagerly looking forward to the exhilarating and refreshing air on the slopes. Whether you are an experienced skier or a beginner, South Korea’s ski resorts are a little different than back home in the States. Here are some good tips you need to know before you go skiing this year.

1. **Bring spare cold weather gear with you**

It’s easy to get your gloves, socks or neck warmers wet with snow or sweat. So, bring an extra set of cold weather gear. The gear at the ski resort is expensive, so head to the local mall before your trip to gear up at a reasonable price. Also, don’t forget to check out the rental gear and clothing shops near the resorts which are another, cheaper option.

2. **Where to get ski and snowboard rentals?**

The shops near ski resorts offer many options for winter sport equipment rentals at various prices. If you’re traveling by car, the rental option outside the resort makes more sense for you. If you’re taking a bus or shuttle to the resort, then check out options at your base’s Outdoor Rec office for the rental options if you want to save some cash. However, if not having to carry around heavy ski or snowboard gear is better for you, check ahead at what the resort offers—convenience might just be worth the extra price!

3. **When is best time to ski in South Korea?**

You probably already know the answer to this one: Avoid the Christmas season, and Saturdays, if you want to avoid the crowds. Considering the current situation, you definitely want to be able to social distance and stay away from crowds of people, so plan ahead! I highly recommend the weekdays or later in the evening as it is the least crowded time.

kim.chihon@stripes.com

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8. Alpensia Ski Resort

SEE MORE SKI ON PAGE 18
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

SKI: Time to hit the slopes

1 Jisan Forest Ski Resort
Small-scale and quaint for convenience

Located in Icheon, Jisan Forest Ski Resort is a great option if you’re completely new to skiing or if you want fun as the whole family. There’s a convenient escalator for children and beginners, the slopes are easy and smooth to go down and the venue is small with everything in close vicinity for comfort.

- LOCATION: Icheon
- TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL: 1.5 hrs
- NUMBER OF SLOPES: 7 main slopes & 3 sub-slopes
- NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS: 5

2 Bears Town Ski Resort
Perfect for a world-class skiing experience

Bears Town Ski Resort is the biggest ski resort near Seoul, with an area of 1,322,314 square meters. Being a large-scale resort, Bears Town Ski Resort has FIS certified slopes and fast ski lifts that can transport 15,200 skiers per hour. The ski resort also offers non-ski family activities such as a sledding hill with the longest sledding slope in the country.

- LOCATION: Pocheon
- TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL: 1.3 hrs
- NUMBER OF SLOPES: 11
- NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS: 8

3 Konjiam Ski Resort
Perfect if you’re pressed for time

As the first ski resort to limit the number of skiers on the slopes at one time, Konjiam Ski Resort is the perfect place to go if you’re someone who wants to enjoy skiing with minimum waiting around. Located near Seoul, this ski resort is a great option for those wanting a quick ski trip in Korea!

- LOCATION: Gwangju
- TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL: 1.5 hrs
- NUMBER OF SLOPES: 11
- NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS & GONDOLAS: 5 ski lifts & 14 gondolas

4 Yangji Pine Ski Resort
For those seeking a thrilling challenge

Located at the base of Mount Dokjo, skiers can enjoy their time on the slopes at Yangji Pine Ski Resort while taking in the panoramic view of mountain terrain and thick forests. Night skiing is super popular here and skiers can find various intermediate and advanced level slopes.

- LOCATION: Yongin
- TRAVEL TIME FROM SEOUL: 1.3 hrs
- NUMBER OF SLOPES: 10
- NUMBER OF SKI LIFTS: 6

With so many different ski resorts to choose from, it might be a bit difficult to choose one that is just for you. Visit Trazy.com, Korea’s #1Travel Shop and make your ski trip in Korea perfect!

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Step-by-Step Beginners’ Guide to Ski Resorts

Step 1. Ski basics: lift and equipment

First things first, the basics include ski suits, equipment, and lifts. Ski suits and equipment can be rented from most ski resorts if you don’t have your own. Beginner skiers should select skis with plates the same length or 10 cm shorter than the skier’s height. Ski boots will connect directly with the ski plates and should fit nicely, holding the feet in place without being too tight. Poles can be used to help with balance, as well as release the boots from the ski plates. These should be as high as the skier’s bellybutton. Lift operations are generally divided into morning, afternoon, evening, and midnight runs. Be sure to purchase a lift pass that matches your planned ski time!

Step 2. Become familiar with basic ski poses

Before hitting the slopes, we recommend beginners take some time in the practice area to become familiar with the basic poses for skiing. When starting out, you should put your skis in a parallel line. Use the poles for balance and step down strongly onto the bindings of the ski plates to lock into the skis. With the skis still in a parallel line, bend your knees and lean forward slightly, being sure to keep your back straight without sticking your rear end out too far.

After becoming comfortable with the first pose, it’s time to learn the A-pose! As the name suggests, in this pose the skier spreads their legs apart with the heels leading to position the plates in the shape of an ‘A’. The A-pose is used to control speed, and a build-up of friction can stop the skier’s motion. One thing to be aware of when making the A-pose is the spacing of the plate tips. The distance should be roughly the size of a fist. If the skis are too far apart, you can lose your balance; too close and you will change directions without decreasing your speed.

The last thing to learn is how to fall safely! As a beginner, falling over is expected, so it’s best to learn the method for minimizing the risks of getting hurt. When one begins to fall, the natural inclination is to put out one’s hands to stop the fall. However, catching your full weight on your wrists is dangerous, so cross your arms over your chest and let your rear end touch the ground first. From the ground, arrange your plates in a parallel line, cutting across rather than down the slope. Scoot as close to the plates as you can, place your hand on the ground and push yourself into a sitting position. From here, hug your knees and pull yourself up in a standing position.

Step 3. Ride the lift up and ski down!

After learning the basic poses and positions, it’s time to ride the lift to the top of the slope! When it is your turn on the lift, follow the instructions of the staff working for a safe ride. If your equipment is not securely in place on the lift, it can fall down so be careful, especially about any loose clothing and your poles. At the top of the slope, follow the guidance of the staff, lifting the safety bar and quickly clearing the area.

Getting all you can get out of your time at Korea’s ski resorts!

Must-eats at Korean ski resorts!

Spending a day on the slopes is sure to work up an appetite! Ski resorts in Korea offer a variety of yummy foods to fill you up on. The most popular snacks are those with warm broth like eomuk tang (fish cake soup) or ramyeon. If you’re looking for a more filling meal, order chicken and beer, a staple of Korea’s late-night culture! Korea’s sweet yet spicy marinated chicken goes perfect with a cool, refreshing beer.

Spend the night after a day of skiing!

Some may visit ski resorts just for the day, but many often spend the night in the ski resort accommodations and enjoy more than one day of skiing, as well as check out the local attractions. In addition, if you stay in the ski resort accommodations, you can get a discount on your lift pass. Most resorts offer both hotel-style and condo-style rooms suitable for all types of visitors and groups.

Not just for skiing, enjoy additional amenities!

Ski resorts aren’t just for skiing; most resorts have additional facilities to enjoy, such as the sledding hill, water park, or observation deck. The facilities will vary by resort, so we recommend checking what is available at your preferred resort in advance to get the most out of your visit.
How to explore Jeongdongjin with Gangneung Foreigner Taxi

Gangneung is a beautiful coastal city in Gangwon-do Province with breathtaking natural landscapes and ocean views. It can be challenging for foreigners without a car to travel around Gangneung, however, an easy & reliable tourist taxi service is now exclusively available to all foreigners in Korea!

Check out how to use Gangneung foreigners tourist taxi service to explore the recommended ‘Jeongdongjin’ course in Gangneung!

1. HASLLA ART WORLD

Hasla Art World is a unique art museum and park built on a cliff overlooking the vast east sea. ‘Hasla’ was what Gangneung was called back in the Goguryeo Dynasty. You can find a variety of modern artworks and sculptures both indoor and outdoor under various themes that change every year. Also, there are many cafes and restaurants that are enjoyable to admire the magnificent ocean view.

ADDRESS: 1441 Yulgokro, Gangneung, Gangwon-do
PHONE: 033-641-9445
HOURS: 9:00am~6:00pm
ADMISSION: Adult & Youth 12,000 KRW/Children 11,000KRW

2. DEUNGMYEONG BEACH

Deungmyeong Beach is a small, pristine beach that offers breathtaking ocean scenery along with the pine forest next to the railroad tracks, which is recently known as a popular photo spot. It’s also the filming location of the K-drama ‘Encounter’, starring Park Bo-gum and Song Hye-kyo. Have a moment of your own to relax while listening to the sound of the crashing waves and the scent of the briny ocean air.

ADDRESS: Jeongdongjin-ri, Gangdong-myeon, Gangneung, Gangwon-do

3. JUNGANG MARKET

Jungang Market is Gangneung’s most famous and popular traditional market, which offers authentic local delicacies, including Gamja-ongsimi (potato ball soup), Gamja-jeon (potato pancake), and Dak-gangjeong (glazed & fried chicken bites), and a variety of daily necessities, such as cosmetics and agricultural products.

ADDRESS: 21 Geumseseong-ro, Gangneung, Gangwon-do
PHONE: 033-648-2285

4. JEONGDONG SIMGOK BADA BUCHAE-GIL (SEASIDE TRAIL)

Opened in 2016 to the public, Jeongdong Simgok Bada Buchae-gil was once used as a border route for military purposes only. It’s now the largest coastal trail in Korea, offering a close view of the jaw-dropping military purposes only. It’s now the largest coastal trail in Korea, offering a close view of the magnificent ocean view.

ADDRESS: 144-3 Simgok-ro, Gangdong-myeon, Gangneung, Gangwon-do
PHONE: 033-641-9445
HOURS: Apr~Oct 9:00am~5:30pm (Last admission 4:30pm) / Nov~Mar 9:00am~4:30pm (Last admission 3:30pm)
ADMISSION: Adult 3,000KRW/Youth 2,500KRW/Children 2,000KRW

5. WOLHWA STREET

Wolhwa Street is a street and park that covers the area from Gangneung Station to Buheung Village. There are various markets on the street, including the Jungang Market and walkways to stalls and shops. You can try the famous ice cream and hotteok (sweet pancake filled with sugar syrup).

ADDRESS: 2111 Gyeonggang-ro, Gangneung, Gangwon-do
PHONE: 033-640-4565

If you want to explore the beautiful ‘Jeongdongjin’ course without any hassles, don’t forget to book Gangneung Foreigner Taxi service.

Also, check out other recommended courses in Gangneung by reading ‘The Ultimate Guide to Using Gangneung Foreigner Taxi’ on Trazy Blog!

Find out more trendy, latest, and newest travel information & guide in Korea here!
Seolri Skywalk opens

Seolri Skywalk, the newest tourist attraction in the region has opened its test period in Mijomyeon, Namhae-gun before its grand opening next month.

The new skywalk also includes an experience zone and along with the beautiful coastal scenery, provides some of the most stunning views of the country.

The Skywalk has a length of 79.4m, a width of 4.5m, and a height of 36.3m while its 43-meter cantilevers are the longest such structures in the country.

The width of one Skywalk glass plate is also the widest in the country which adds additional safety to the structure.

More highlights of the attraction include the “Skywalk Swing” which was produced with a “Bali Swing” motif.

The swing, located at the end of the skywalk with a height of 38-meters, offers great views of the wonderful coastal scenery.

At night, the skywalk’s unique lighting show and popular music from the speakers add to its festive atmosphere.

Tickets for the Skywalk are 2,000 won and 6,000 won for the swinging experience fee which includes the Skywalk admission fee.

Namhae residents can receive a 50% ticket discount.

Walking courses upgraded

Barae-gil, the local walking trails around the island of Namhae have doubled in size after it unveiled its 2.0 version earlier this week.

The new trails have increased the total length to 231 kilometers, more than double the current 100.

In addition, the trails are linked with the 1,463 km Namparang Trail, which runs from Oryukdo Islets in Busan to Ttangkkeut Village in Haenam, Jeollanam-do.

The new Namhae section adds 11 courses and 160 km to the trails.

Sixteen courses are available to walk, with three of them considered short distance circular trails for tourist-type walking.

The county plans to attach more signage and information boards around the trails next year to highlight the history of the region.
# Stripes Sports Trivia

**OPTION PLAY:** Back in the day, Tiger Woods was as good as it got. His domination was unrivaled by just about any athlete. And, in 2000, Tiger let out one of his biggest roars with a huge win at The U.S. Open. By how many strokes did Tiger beat his next closest competitor?  
A. 8  
B. 15  
C. 10  
D. 12

---

**Hangul of the Week**  
Bwasseoyo?

---

**Language Lesson**  
DID YOU KNOW?  
SOUTH KOREANS CELEBRATE **WHITE DAY** ON MARCH 14. IT IS SIMILAR TO VALENTINE’S DAY BUT IS RESERVED FOR WOMEN. MEN RECEIVE THE GIFTS AND PRESENTS ON VALENTINE’S DAY. SO, IF YOU’RE A MAN IN KOREA ON MARCH 14, YOU MIGHT WANT TO BUY SOME CHOCOLATES FOR THE LADIES!

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**Sudoku**

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**Difficulty:** Easy

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**Crossword**  
by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**  
1. Walking stick  
6. “Holy cow!”  
10. Helps cut  
14. Worse than bad  
15. Canyon call  
16. Had no doubt  
17. Blue-eyed feline  
19. Not being used  
21. Fishing spot  
23. Roasting house guest  
25. Narrow opening  
26. Hostess product  
30. Gaming cubicle  
32. Painless state  
33. Cruel’s kin  
35. Get one’s goat  
39. Diner basketful  
41. First rate  
42. Trip planner’s aid  
44. Tribe remark  
46. Raised  
48. Kugman role  
49. Jungle swinger  
51. Do museum work  
54. Wall scrap  
56. Feudal servant  
61. Tales and such  
62. Manicott’s cousin  
64. Black cat, to some  
65. Therefore  
66. Barn areas  
67. Microsoft product  
68. Basket material  
69. Baker’s need

**DOWN**  
1. Impudent talk  
2. Blockhead  
3. From a distance  
4. Get really upset  
5. Sleazy hotel  
6. Ten C-notes  
7. Come to mind

---

**Danjong Cultural Festival**  
The last Friday, Saturday and Sunday of April every year  
YEONGWOL-EUP area including Jangneung Royal Tomb

- An ancestral site for the King Danjong  
- Reappearance of Director of the Joseon Dynasty  
- Queen Jeongsun contest  
- Rokku Race Tag of war night  
- Chosen royal carriage parade

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Call Taxi Service.

For further information, please visit the information.