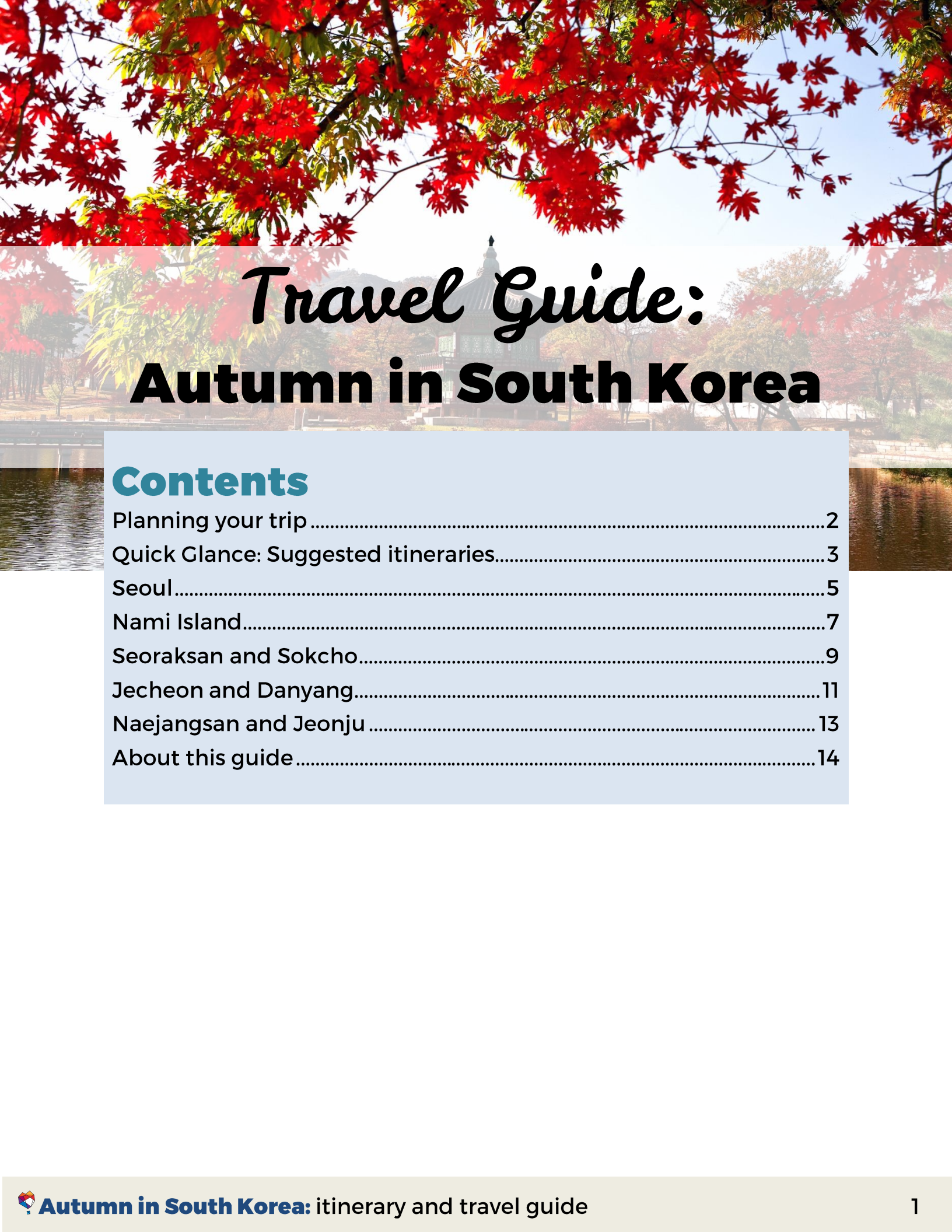




Travel Guide: **Autumn in South Korea**

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Planning your trip

Use this checklist to plan your trip to South Korea. Click on the links for helpful information and travel sites.

Pre-trip essential information

- ☐ [General visa information for travel to South Korea](#)
- ☐ [Health information for travelers to South Korea](#)
- ☐ [Get a travel insurance](#)

Getting there and around

- ☐ [Flights to Seoul](#)
- ☐ [Rental cars](#) – check car hire locations and prices in South Korea

Real-time deals on accommodations

- ☐ [Seoul deals](#)
- ☐ [Neighborhood guide and hotel recommendations](#)

Quick Glance:

Suggested itineraries

South Korea is a wonderful country to explore, especially by car. While the public transportation system is great and you can pretty much get to the main cities easily, driving gives you the flexibility and the ability to explore as much of the country as possible.

If you love visiting small towns and offbeat destinations, driving in South Korea will be very rewarding. Here's a quick glance into some of the best autumn destinations in the area, and how you can get to them.

Note: You can't use Google maps to navigate in South Korea, but this is a useful guide to check that your rental car's GPS is going to the correct destination.

[You can find out everything you need to know about driving a rental car in South Korea here.](#)



[Tourist map: Use this Google map to plan your trip.](#)

Suggested itinerary – 1 week:

- Days 1-3 – Seoul
- Day 4 – Nami Island
- Days 5-6 – Seoraksan *or* Naejangsan
- Day 7 – Head back to Seoul

Suggested itinerary – 2 weeks:

- Days 1-3 – Seoul
- Day 4 – Nami Island
- Days 5-7 – Seoraksan

- Day 8-10 – Jecheon and Danyang
- Day 11-13 – Naejangsan and Jeonju
- Day 14 – Head back to Seoul

Suggested itinerary – 2 weeks:

(This is a great itinerary if you want to visit more of South Korea's best landmarks beyond the autumn spots. Click through for separate guides to places not covered in this guide.)

- Days 1-3 – Seoul
- Day 4 – Nami Island
- Days 5-7 – Seoraksan
- Days 8-9 – Jecheon and Danyang
- Days 10-11 – [Gyeongju](#)
- Days 12-14 – [Busan](#) (fly out from Busan)



Seoul

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 3-5 days

Go for: Food, shopping, and culture

Points of Interest

Autumn spots – Samcheong-dong, Bukchon Hanok Village, Seoul Grand Park, Seoul Forest, Nami Island (take as day trip)

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Aloft Seoul Myeongdong](#)
(double rooms start at USD 130/night)

Budget: [Hostel Philstay](#) (double rooms start at USD 40)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

[Samcheongdong Sujebi](#)

[Wood and Brick](#)

[Sobang Life](#)

Read more

- [Comprehensive guide to Seoul neighborhoods](#)

Autumn Itinerary for Seoul:

Day 1-

Start the day by making your way to Samcheong-dong – a cultural road lined with art galleries, shops, and restaurants. It's the perfect setting for a laidback day, and it's even more beautiful during fall.

To get there, make your way to the Anguk Station on Seoul Subway Line 3. Take Exit 1 and walk straight for about 5 minutes. From the Gyeongbukgung Palace, make your way to the National Folk Museum, then end your stroll at Samcheong Park. While you're in the area, you might want to visit the historic [Bukchon Hanok Village](#) for a glimpse of traditional Korean houses – maybe complete your cultural adventure by [parading in a traditional hanbok](#) or [creating your own personalized souvenirs](#)? These would certainly make for great photos and memories.

Day 2 –

Make your way to the Seoul Grand Park Station on Seoul Subway Line 4. Take Exit 2 and walk for about 5 minutes toward Seoul Grand Park Zoo until you get to the entrance of the forest bathing area. There are many courses you can take with varying length. [Here's a map of the area.](#)

If that extra boost of terpenes makes you crave for more of the forest, you can continue your fall frolic in the [Seoul Forest](#). Make your way to the Seoul Forest Station on Seoul Subway Bundang Line, take Exit 3, and start your walk. You can make your way from the Seoul Forest to the [Ttukseom Han River Park](#).

Practical tips for your stay in Seoul

- If it's your first time visiting, spend at least 2-3 days in the capital. The itinerary above is already pretty full, so you can spread it out to 3 days if you like to travel slow.
- If you have an extra day and would like to see more of Seoul beyond its autumn-viewing spots, go on a cultural sightseeing tour – [this tour will take you to Seoul's best palaces, temples, and markets in one day](#).

- Don't get your rental car yet while you're staying in Seoul. It's far more efficient to travel around using the subways, plus traffic and parking can be a pain. Get it when you head out instead.
- You can get around Seoul mostly by subway and buses. Getting a [T-money card](#), a transportation card that you can load up with credits, is really convenient as you don't have to buy tickets each time you ride. You can get this from convenience stores and from ticket vending machines inside the stations, and use it on subways, buses, taxis, and in some retail shops.
- If you prefer to travel comfortably and conveniently, you can also get a [private car charter around Seoul](#) – you can use the car to visit nearby places around Seoul as well, including Nami Island, which is the next fall destination.
- [You can pick up a WiFi device](#) at the Incheon airport or any of the international airports – really handy for planning on the go and keeping in touch.

Nami Island

After getting acquainted with Seoul, it's time to hit the countryside! South Korea is best explored with a rental car – you can find out everything you need to know about [driving in South Korea here](#).

There's no better time to visit Nami Island than in autumn. It starts with the one-hour drive from Seoul through the beautiful countryside. A five-minute ferry ride then brings you to the half moon-shaped isle, where you can spend a nice day walking along tree-lined pathways, relaxing in open fields, and keeping an eye out for animal encounters. In autumn, the metasequoia path is especially gorgeous.

Nami Island is also a venue for several cultural exhibits and art galleries, so you can spend some time popping in and out of these shops to look for unique souvenirs. And, the island is also the setting of a popular TV series, Winter Sonata, so expect lots of couples trying to recreate scenes from the series.

Getting there:

By car – Pick up your [rental car in Seoul](#) and set the GPS to navigate to Nami Island Ticket Office / Nami Island Dock (also try setting with this phone number - +82-31-580-8114 – but verify with another map). Nami Island is 63 KM away from Seoul, about an hour's drive. You can park at the Namiseom Dock Parking Lot then ride the ferry into the island.

By public transportation – The nearest subway station to Nami Island is the Gapyeong station, which you can reach via the Gyeongchun Line and the ITX-Cheongchun. The Gyeongchun Line is cheaper while the ITX is faster. From Gapyeong station to Nami Island, it's about 1.9 KM or 20 minutes on foot.

Subway from Seoul – Find your routes using the [Seoul Metro's website](#). You can just input your departure and arrival station, and it'll give you detailed information – where to change trains, the total time and distance, as well as the cost.

By shuttle bus – This is another convenient way to get to Nami Island from Seoul. [You can find more information on routes and fares, as well as book your tickets here.](#)

By private car charter – If you don't want to drive but would like the convenience of having your own car, [get a private car charter](#). You can get to destinations around Seoul conveniently – including Nami Island, Petite France, DMZ, Everland, and more. It's particularly useful if you want to cover a lot of destinations in one day, as you won't need to worry about parking or navigating. This is a great option for big groups who can share the cost.

Essential information for your visit to Nami Island:

- [You can find ticket information and fees here](#)



Seoraksan and Sokcho

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Hiking, natural landscapes, seafood

Points of Interest

Autumn spots – Cheonbuldong Valley, Osaek Mineral Spring, Osaek Jujeongol, and Baekdam Valley

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Casa Seorak Bed and Breakfast](#)
(rooms start at USD 120/night)

Budget: [Sokcho & Guesthouse](#) (beds start at USD 20)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Mount Seoraksan in Sokcho City, Gangwon Province is *the* autumn destination for serious leaf-hunters. The national park is a UNESCO-designated biosphere reserve in the east-central region of South Korea, and is the best place in the country to view autumn leaves.

The rocky landscape offers lots of scenic mountain peaks, waterfalls, and streams, and during autumn, the following sites are particularly beautiful: Cheonbuldong Valley, Osaek Mineral Spring, Osaek Jujeongol, and Baekdam Valley. Allot at least 2-3 full days to hike as much as possible of the many hiking trails. Most of the trails are marked and well-maintained with signs indicating the distances and directions in Korean and English. You can also pick up a free map from the National Park Visitor Center.

[You can map out your hiking trails using this guide.](#)

The national park is spread across 4 cities and counties: Sokcho, Inje, Goseong, and Yangyang. Of these, the best way to access the park is via Sokcho, which also happens to be a coastal city with good tourist facilities and great seafood dinner options. Here you can also enjoy wonderful evenings of post-hike hot springs dips (check out the [Seorak Waterpia](#)).

Getting there:

By car – Pick up your [rental car in Seoul](#) and set your accommodation's phone number as a guide for your GPS. For general directions: from Seoul, take the Yeongdong Expressway, then the Hyeonnam IC, and exit at Hangyeryeong. This drive takes about 2-3 hours.

[Here's a list of phone numbers for park facilities that you can use for your GPS](#) when getting around the area.

By public transportation – From Seoul, you can go by bus to Sokcho via the Dong-Seoul Terminal or the Seoul Express Bus Terminal. The ride from Seoul to Sokcho is about 3 hours, and from Sokcho you need to take a local bus to your accommodation or into the park.

- Getting to the Dong-Seoul Bus Terminal in Seoul: Make your way to Gangbyeon station on Metro Line 2 (green line). Take exit #4 and cross the road to the Dong-Seoul Bus Terminal. Buy a ticket to Sokcho and get on the next departing bus.

- Getting to Seoul Express Bus Terminal in Seoul: Make your way to the Express Bus Terminal metro station on Lines 3, 7, and 9. Take exit #1 or 2 and look for the ticket booth for Sokcho. The buses from this terminal to Sokcho are direct buses so if your accommodation in Seoul is close to Gangnam, this is your fastest option.

Getting around Sokcho and Seoraksan by local buses – From the Sokcho Intercity Bus Terminal or Express Bus Terminal, go to the local bus stop. You can flag down bus 7 or 7-1 and show the driver your hotel and address (best if it's in Korean characters) and he can let you off right outside your hotel. You can also use this bus to get to Seoraksan National Park, as well as back to the intercity and express bus terminals.

Jecheon and Danyang

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2 days

Go for: Hiking, natural landscapes, traditional architecture

Points of Interest

Autumn spots – Cheongpung Lake Monorail, Cheongpung Cultural Heritage Complex

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Us on Earth](#) (double rooms start at USD 44)

Jecheon is the perfect stop-over from Seoraksan to the next stop, Naejangsan National Park. It's a great one-stop tourist spot where you can appreciate the colors of autumn and learn more about South Korea's culture, arts, and architecture.

Go straight to the Cheongpung Lake Monorail and head up the mountain to get a great view of the surrounding countryside, or for the daredevils out there, go paragliding for that heady rush.

The Cheongpung Cultural Heritage Complex is also a great stop, as it gives you a glimpse of traditional Korean culture. You can also learn more about oriental medicine here.

If you have a bit more time, visit the neighboring Danyang, which is also a great place for nature-lovers, thanks to its meandering rivers and stunning mountain ranges.

Getting there:

By car – Use your hotel's telephone number to set your GPS destination. If you're doing this as a day trip, you can start your tour of Jecheon from the Cheongpung Cultural Heritage Complex (phone number +82-43-647-7003) or the Cheongpung Lake Monorail (+82-43-653-5121). Always make sure to double check with another map if your GPS is going the right direction.

By public transportation –

From Seoul, go to the Dong Seoul Bus Terminal or Seoul Express Bus Terminal and take a bus to Jecheon Intercity Bus Terminal or Jecheon Express Bus Terminal. Board the bus to Cheongpung (no. 90).

[You can find more information on public transportation to and within Jecheon here.](#)

Naejangsan and Jeonju

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Hiking, natural landscapes, cultural monuments

Points of Interest

Autumn spots – Jeongeup Naejangsan Special Tourist Zone, Jeonju Hanok Heritage Village

Recommended accommodations

★TOP PICKS: [Ginkgo Tree Guesthouse](#) (double rooms start at USD 44), [Hanok Story Guesthouse](#) (family rooms start at USD 40)

The name Naejang means “many secrets,” and true enough, the mountain is home to several majestic waterfalls, legendary temples, and — the obvious draw for any fall-lover — a tunnel of multicolored maple trees. You can explore the area through many hiking trails with varying difficulty levels. Don’t miss the nearby misty lake of Seryang-Je.

The Naejangsan National Park is also worth visiting on other seasons – azaleas and cherry blossoms bloom in spring, while different kinds of wild flowers bloom year round.

Getting there:

By car – Set your GPS to go to the Jeongeup Naejangsan Special Tourist Zone (+82-63-539-5193). You can start your hikes from here.

By public transportation – From Seoul, you can ride the train from Yongsan Station to Baegyangsa Station or the bus to Jangseong. [You can find more information on public transportation to Naejangsan here.](#)



About this guide

Thank you for downloading this guide! I hope you find the information here useful and I wish you happy travels to South Korea. Feel free to forward to friends!

You (or your friend) originally downloaded this guide from the [Little Holidays travel website](http://LittleHolidays.travel). The information is current as of September 2017 – check the website for updates or visit the relevant links listed in the guide for current information.

If you have more questions about travel in the area, send me an email (hello@littleholidays.net) and I'll be happy to help you!



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