



LITTLE HOLIDAYS IN

Jeju

SOUTH KOREA

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Quick facts

Essential information

- [General visa information for travel to South Korea](#)
- [Health information](#)

Emergency numbers

Fire, emergency, and ambulance	119
Police (Website)	112
Medical emergency	1339
Tourism and translation service	1330
Coast guard	122

Lost and found information – [report or search for a lost item](#)

Language

Languages: Korean, a bit of English in the cities

Helpful phrases

- Hello – an-nyeong-ha-se-yo / 안녕하세요
- Thank you – kam-sa-ham-ni-da / 감사합니다
- Excuse me / just a moment - jam-shi-man-yo / 잠시만요
- I'm sorry – chway-seong-ham-ni-da / 죄송합니다
- Cheers! – geonbae! / 건배!

Money matters

Currency: Korean won (KRW 10,000 ~ USD 8 ~ EUR 7.5)

Credit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are accepted in most stores and restaurants. Always choose to pay in KRW (the local currency) when prompted by the payment terminal.

Carry a bit of cash for smaller stores and markets. If you have a [Transferwise Borderless Card](#) or [Revolut](#), you can withdraw with minimal conversion fees and minimal ATM fees from South Korea's major banks (ex. DBG Financial Group, Korea Development Bank).

When to go

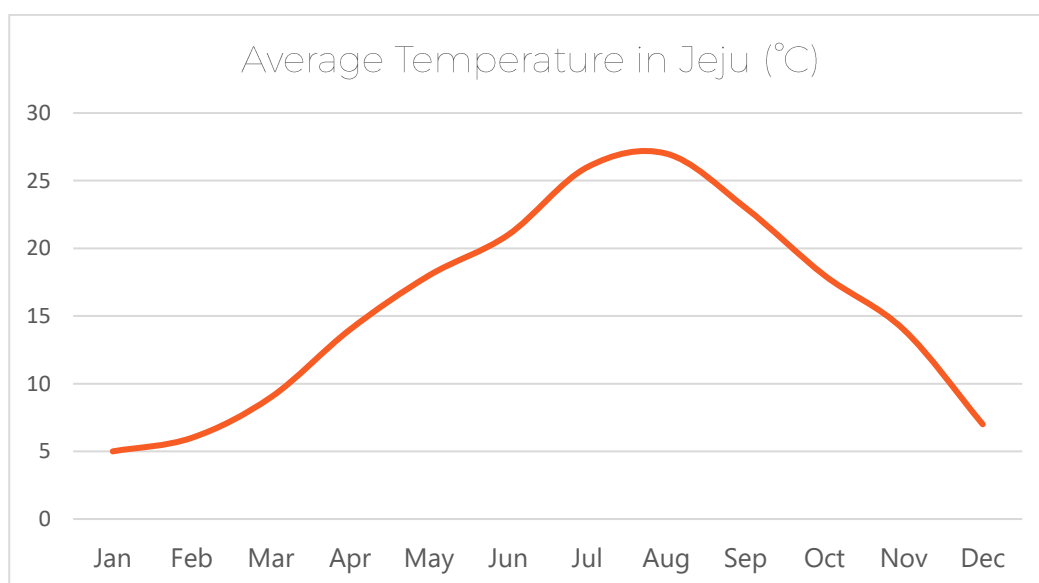
Jeju is a year-round destination and every season has its own charms.

Spring (from **mid-March to April**) is the ideal time to go if you're looking for that postcard-perfect shot of Jeju – blue skies, mild weather, and fields of flowers will be in bloom all over the island. These are busy months in Jeju, so make sure to book your hotels, cars, and tours early!

Summer (from July to August) is the hottest time in Jeju and is the ideal time to visit if you want to swim in the sea and lounge at the beach.

Autumn (from September to November) is gorgeous as the island's forests transform to autumn's blazing colors. It's a great time to hike with generally mild weather and stunning landscapes.

Winter (from November to February) is a time for snowy hikes up Mt. Hallasan. You'll have clear and dry days, fewer tourist crowds until December, and much better hotel rates than the rest of the year.



Events and activities

[Here's a complete list of events in Jeju.](#)

JANUARY Seongsan Sunrise Festival Jeju Winter Festival	MARCH Light Art Festival Chery Blossom Festival Fire Festival	JULY Samyang Black Sand Beach Festival Triathlon Jeju Stepping Stone Festival
AUGUST Seogwipo Yahae Festival Midsummer Night's Art Festival Night Time Bus	OCTOBER Jeju Olle Walking Festival Buckwheat Flower Festival Hangyeong Wipungdangdang Festival	DECEMBER Jeju Eat Show Art Jeju Soesokkak Hahyo Village Orange Tour

Sample itineraries

▶ 3 days

Day 1: Make the scenic drive south to Seogwipo. Drive to the coast and check out Oedolgae and the Jeongbang waterfalls, then head to the Chilsmini Food Street for that much-anticipated seafood dinner.

Day 2: Head west and start the day's adventures with tea at the O'sulloc Green Tea Field. Continue to the west coast and drive along the seaside with stops at the Suweobong hill, Sanbang mountain, Cheonjeyeon falls, and Jusangjeolli cliff.

Day 3: Drive east past gorgeous floral fields and walk up the Seongsan Ilchulbong. Ride the ferry to Udo and hike or bike around the island. Afterward, head to Manjanggul Cave before finally driving northwest to Jeju City.

Take in the beautiful coastal landmarks of the island, like the **Jusangjeolli cliff**





A day at the beach is a must. Lounge and swim at the **Hyeopjae beach**.

► 5 days

Days 1-3 as above

Day 4: Go on a hike in Mt. Hallasan and choose your own adventure – from the easy 1.3-km Eoseungsaengak trail to the 9.6-km Seongpanak trail. Back in Jeju City, reward yourself with a spa treatment and a hearty bowl of noodles.

Day 5: Take it easy and make it a beach day! Drive west to Hyeopjae and Gumneung Beach and enjoy crystal clear waters and white sand. Take a stroll around the lush Hallim Park, then end the day with one last amazing sunset.

Typical costs

	BUDGET	COMFORT	SPLURGE
	₩36,500/night Gudeok Guesthouse	₩80,000/night Hotel Leo	₩250,000/night The Seaes Resort
	₩10,000 Ollae Guksu	₩30,000 Jeju Hukdon Saesang Suragan	₩130,000 Narnia Restaurant and Café
	₩12,000 Jeju City Bus One-Day Pass	₩95,000/day Rental car	₩330,000/day Car with chauffeur
	FREE ACTIVITIES	₩48,000 Yacht Cruise Dolphin Watching Tour	₩140,000 UNESCO Day Tour

Getting there

By plane

Jeju Island has its own international airport, with plenty of connections from Seoul and Busan as well.

[Check flights to Jeju](#)

By ferry

You can also reach Jeju from the main island by [ferry from various points](#). If you want to ferry to Jeju with a car, you'll have to go by the car ferry from Busan (this journey takes 12 hours) or Wando (the direct ferries take 2 hours and 40 minutes).

[Check Jeju-Wando ferry schedules here.](#)

From Jeju airport to your hotel

By car – From the international airport and the ferry terminal (both of which are in the northern coast of the island), downtown Jeju City is about a 20-minute drive, while Seogwipo City and the Jungmun Tourist District are both a bit over an hour's drive.

By bus – The **Jeju Airport Limousine 600** goes every 15 minutes from the airport to Jungmun resort and Seogwipo. You'll find the bus stop in front of Gate 5 and you can pay using cash or a T-money card.

By private transfer – You can book a [private transfer from the airport to your hotel](#) in Jeju City.

Where to stay

Jeju is huge and even with a car, you'd want to break up your holiday into two bases: **Seogwipo** for exploring the south and west coasts, then **Jeju City** for exploring the east and Mt. Hallasan. **Jungmun** is great if you're looking forward to a relaxing holiday by the beach.

Seogwipo

Seogwipo is an excellent base for exploring the western and southern coasts of Jeju Island. It's got a pleasant rustic and slow-paced vibe, good restaurants and cafés, and it's close to a lot of natural landscapes.

- [Hotel Bridge Seogwipo](#)
- [The Grand Sumorum](#)

Jeju City

Jeju City is best for exploring the northern parts and for shopping and cultural sightseeing. It's also the best base to get around the island if you don't plan to drive.

- [Hotel Leo](#)
- [Sky Pension](#)

Jungmun Tourist Area

If you're planning to take it slow and spend most of your time lounging in white sand beaches and strolling through lush forests, Jungmun is your base. You'll also find the most luxurious resorts here.

- [The Seaes Resort](#)
- [The Shilla Jeju](#)



Renting a car

Requirements

- **Age** – To rent a car, you must be at least 21 years old and have held your local license for 1 year. If you're under 25, rental car companies may add a young driver surcharge.
- **License** – If you plan to drive in South Korea for a short time as a tourist (less than one year), a valid International Driving Permit (IDP) accompanied by your valid local driver's license is enough. Note that the IDP is only valid when accompanied by a valid local license, so make sure to bring both. IDPs recognized in South Korea are only those issued by member states of the [Geneva convention](#) or the [Vienna convention](#).
- **Other documents** – Have your passport and a credit card under your name when picking up the rental car. They might authorize a deposit on your credit card to cover for any damages.

Renting a car

- **Reserve online** - Make sure to reserve your car online in advance. If you're flying into Jeju airport, you can get your car from there.

Rental cars in Jeju

Other car hire locations in South Korea

- **Get a comprehensive car hire insurance** – For total peace of mind, get a [comprehensive personal car hire insurance](#) that will cover for damages and theft.

Get a rental car insurance

- **Add-ons** – A GPS unit and child seats can be added to your reservation if needed.
- **One-way rentals** – Some rental car companies in South Korea allow domestic one-way rentals for an extra free. This means you can pick up your car from one city and drop it off in another.

Costs – 5-day road trip (2022 prices and estimates)

- **Rental car** – A 5-seat sedan ranges from USD 200-300 for 5 days.
- **Gas** – Estimating 1,000 kilometers over 5 days, gasoline could cost you up to USD 100.
- **Tolls** – There are no tolled roads in Jeju Island.
- **Parking** – Rates vary from USD 0.5-3 in tourist destinations. Parking in busy areas can be more expensive, up to USD 5/hour.

Road rules and safety

Emergency numbers

- 119 – fire, emergency, and ambulance
- 112 – police

South Korea drives on the right side of the road.

Usual speed limits

- Open roads – 80 km/hr (50 miles/hr)
- City – 40 km/hr (25 miles/hr)
- Speed limits vary a lot – keep an eye on posted signs and set Waze or another GPS to alert you if you're going beyond.

Things to watch out for

- Don't drink and/or use mobile devices while driving.
- Wear a seatbelt at all times.
- Use hazard lights to alert drivers behind you when making a hard brake
- CCTVs are everywhere – if you commit a traffic violation, your rental agency will charge your credit card

Navigating

Useful apps

- [Naver](#)
- [Waze](#)
- [Maps.me](#)

Using Korean GPS

1. On the main interface, click the tab that says: 길찾기 (Translation: Get directions)
2. Select the phone icon: 전화번호검색 (Translation: Search phone number)
3. Key in the destination phone number
4. Confirm your destination by pressing this button: 바로탐색 (Translation: Quick navigation)

5. Wait for your route then press the button to begin driving: 안내시작 (Translation: Guide start)

Resources

- [**Complete guide to driving in South Korea**](#)
- [**RentalCars**](#) – Online rental car booking platform
- [**Comprehensive car hire insurance**](#)

Transportation options

Local transportation

You can go around the island using the public buses – [you'll find routes and more information here](#). The [Jeju City Tour Bus](#) is also a fun and easy way to explore the city.

Car charter

If you're traveling with a group or want to sightsee around Jeju efficiently, you'd want to get a chauffeured car to bring you to Jeju's best landmarks. It's a comfortable and convenient way to go around the city, without having to worry about finding your way around. [Here's one you can book online in advance.](#)

Tours and activities

[UNESCO Tour](#)

This tour is a wonderful opportunity to explore some of Jeju's best UNESCO-listed sites. You can either go south, hike up Mt. Halla, and visit the Jusangjeolli cliff and Cheonjiyeon falls. Or take the east route, hike up Seongsan Sunrise Peak and visit the Manjanggul Cave and Woljeongri Beach. This tour includes entrance fees, lunch, and a hotel pick-up service, so you can simply relax and enjoy your Jeju experience!

[Gimnyeong Yacht Cruise Tour](#)

Relax and enjoy a luxurious cruise across the emerald waters of Gimnyeong. This is a perfect trip for all ages, and you may even get a chance to see some dolphins in their natural habitat.

[Custom Private Tour](#)

If you're traveling with a group or want to customize your Jeju holiday, the best way to go is to book a customized private full-day tour. You'll get to design your own tour schedule and get a fluent English-speaking guide and a van all to your group.

Wi-Fi and SIM cards

- [eSim Data Roaming](#)

Map

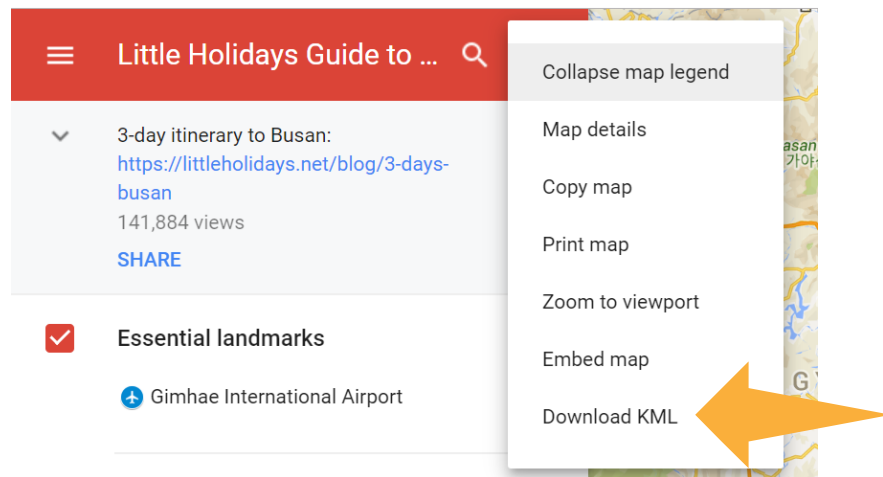
Use this [Google Map](#) to get around and plan your trip.



Take note that Google maps won't give you driving routes in South Korea – you'll have to use an alternative map like Naver or Waze.

To get an offline version of this map –

1. Download maps.me to your phone
2. Open the [Google map \(click\)](#) on your desktop web browser
3. Click on the **⋮** icon on the right side of the map name
4. Select **Download KML**



5. Export as KML
6. Send the file to your mobile via email or messaging app
7. Open the KML file using maps.me
8. Download the South Korea map on maps.me when prompted while you have an internet connection
9. You'll then be able to use maps.me offline – you'll find this Jeju map saved in your **Bookmarks**

Where to go

Seogwipo and South Jeju

Make Seogwipo your base for the first half of your adventures in the island. It's a great starting point for road trips to the west and south coasts, as well as for hiking, beach, and food-tripping days.

Along the south coast, you'll find lots of stunning natural landscapes that were created during violent volcanic eruptions two million years ago.

Oedolgae is a 20 m-tall lone rock pillar formed after a volcanic eruption, which later inspired a lot of legends. One story says that it was a grandmother who was transformed into a rock after waiting in vain for her husband to return from fishing.

But even without the legends, it's worth a stop, especially if you want to get your sea views ASAP. You can stretch your legs after your long drive with a stroll along the walkway near the Oedolgae.

Jeongbang waterfalls is one of the island's three magnificent waterfalls. It is quite a sight as it falls directly into the sea. Try to make it here in time for sunset for amazing views and, hopefully, a thinner crowd.



Drive to the island's south coast for views of these beautiful landscapes – the **Jeongbang waterfalls** and the **Oedolgae**.



West Jeju

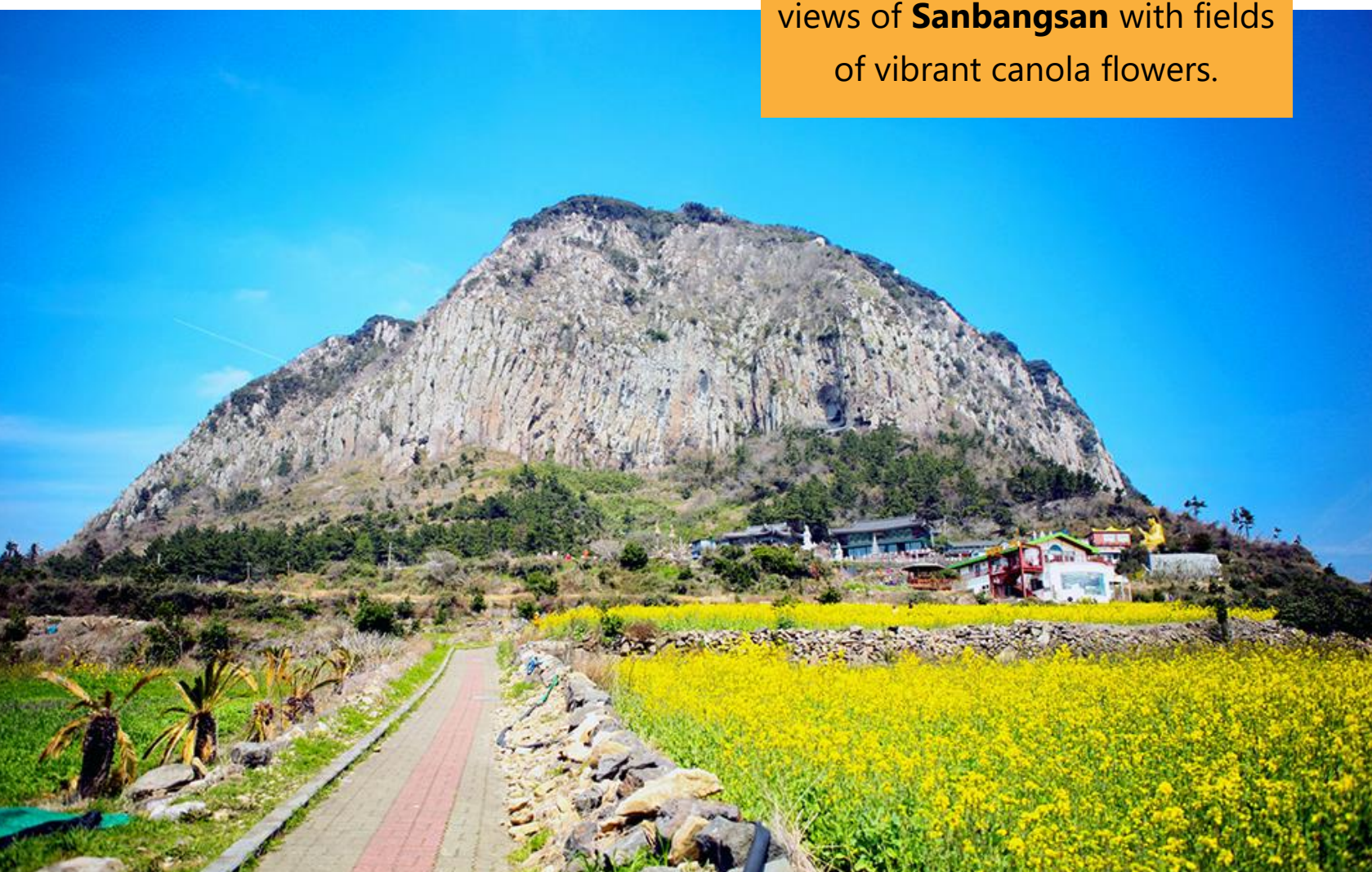
Start your explorations with a zen morning at the **O'sulloc Green Tea Field**. You can take a stroll along the green tea fields, then pop into the café for cake and tea.

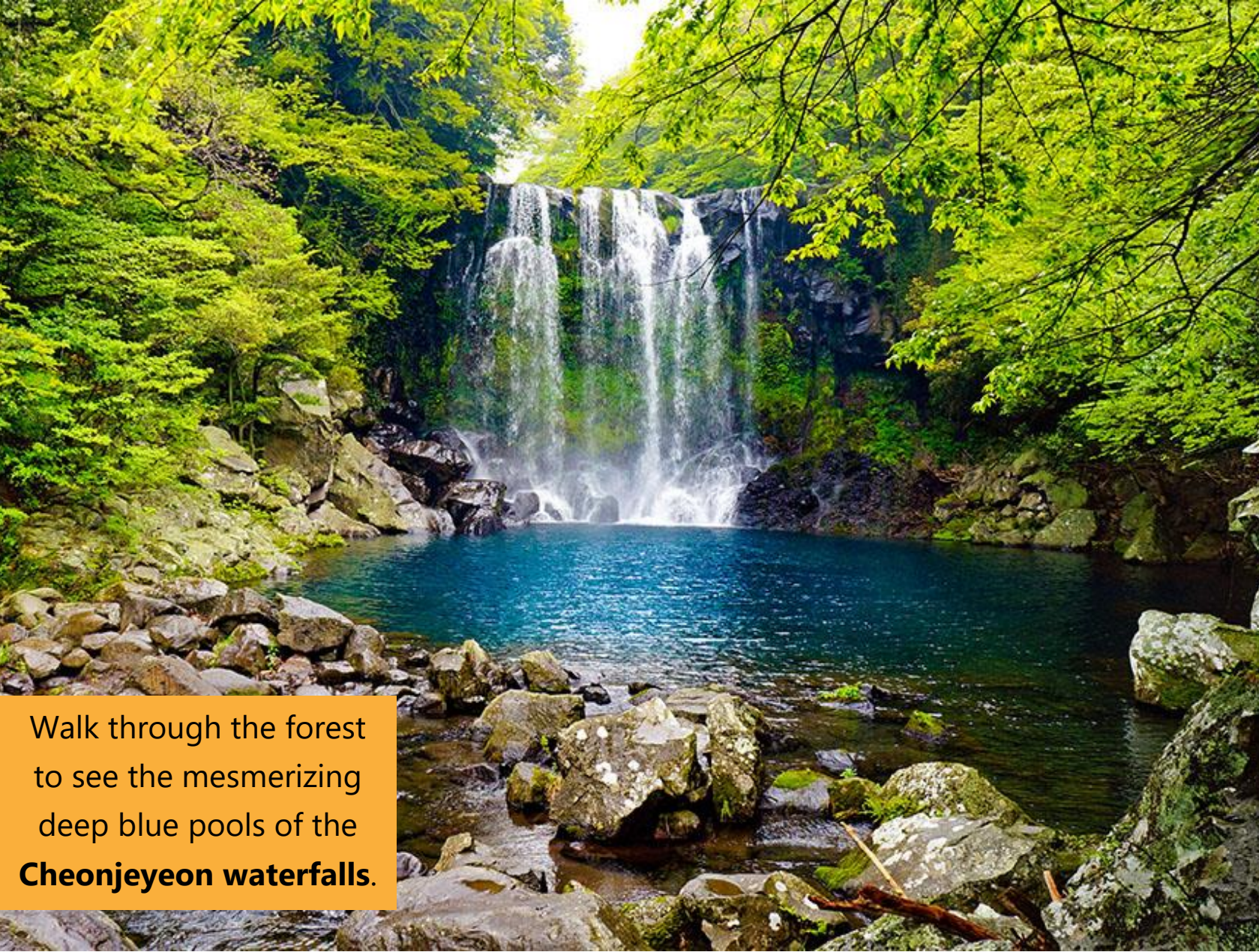
Continue your drive west towards the coast and make your way to **Suweolbong Peak** – the westernmost point of Jeju Island. It's an excellent spot for a walk along the coast and for views from the observatory.

From Suweolbong, drive south following the coast and make your way to **Sanbangsan** and **Yongmeori Coast**.

Walk along the trail that begins in the Yongmeori Coast to see beautiful rock formations, views of the Sanbangsan mountain and the sea. If you're coming from mid-March through April, you'll find vibrant yellow canola fields all around.

Spring completes the stunning views of **Sanbangsan** with fields of vibrant canola flowers.





Walk through the forest to see the mesmerizing deep blue pools of the **Cheonjeyeon waterfalls**.

Head next to **Cheonjeyeon waterfalls**, a three-tier waterfall nestled within a forest. Its pools are some of the clearest and deepest blues you'll see.

You'll also come across the Seonigmyo Bridge, which is also called Chilseonyeogyo or Seven Nymphs Bridge. Legend has it that seven fairies serving the Emperor of Heaven would descend from the heavens every night and bathe in the waterfall's pond. You'll see the seven nymphs carved on both sides of the bridge. On clear days, you can see all three falls from the bridge.

There's a lot more to see around the **Jungmun Tourist Area** – like the Teddy Bear Museum, Pacific Land, and the Yeomiji Botanical Garden. You can consider these sights as rainy-day alternatives, or if you're keen on visiting them, you can add an extra day to your stay.

Jusangjeolli cliff is a short 3-km drive from the Jungmun Tourist Complex. The hexagonal volcanic columns were formed from lava from the Hallasan mountain erupting into the Jungmun sea. During high tide, the waves crashing into the cliff makes for some pretty dramatic landscape pictures.

The **Jusangjeolli** hexagonal columns were created after a volcanic eruption dumped lava into the Jungmun sea.



East Jeju

From Seogwipo, it's a 1-hour drive to a mini-adventure in **Udo Island**. You can reach the island by a 15-minute ferry from the Seongsan Port. You can then go around the island in a day by bike, on foot, or on a tour bus.

The Jeju Olle Trail 01-1 goes around Udo Island past all the key landmarks and is a great way to explore the island. The route covers 11.3 km and takes about 4-5 hours. You can find [more information about the Olle trail here](#), and [my full Udo itinerary here](#).

Back in Jeju's main island, make a short drive to **Seongsan Ilchulbong**. Its location and elevation makes it one of the best spots for watching sunrises and sunsets. It's also a big deal in geological circles as its features as an archetypal tuff cone sheds light on the processes of hydromagmatic volcanoes.

If you think you've seen all the possible volcanic relics on the island, wait for it – Jeju's got more for you. **Manjanggul Cave** is one of the finest lava tunnels in the world. Lava tunnels form when underground molten lava begins to slow and solidify, creating tunnel-like caves lined with various lava formations. Manjanggul houses the world's tallest lava column as well as the "Stone Turtle" shaped like Jeju Island.

Udo Island lying peacefully off the eastern coast of Jeju. Udo means "cow" as the island supposedly looks like a lying cow – do you see it?





Go hiking in **Hallasan**, South Korea's tallest mountain. You can choose from a range of easy to moderate trails.

Hiking in Hallasan

Mt. Hallasan is South Korea's tallest mountain with a height of 1,950 meters above sea level. It's a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and relatively easy to hike with lots of well-maintained trails.

You can find more [information about the trails here](#) and choose which one you like. The **Seongpanak** and **Gwaneumsa** trails are the ones that will get you all the way to the top, and if you think you can handle 18.4 km in a day, going up by Seongpanak (easier uphill) and down by Gwaneumsa (steeper but more picturesque) is one of the most recommended hikes in Hallasan. The 4.7-km **Yeongsil** trail is beautiful during autumn, while the 3.7-km **Eorimok** trail is the best option if you want something easy but with rewarding views.

Beach day

From Jeju City, head west towards the beaches of **Hyeopjae** and **Geumneung**. Look forward to a day of lounging, swimming, and walks on the beach. While you're there, hop over to the nearby **Hallim Park** for a relaxing stroll. End the day with one last amazing Jeju sunset.

Dip your toes into the fine white sand and crystal-clear waters of **Hyeopjae** and **Geumneung**.



What to eat and where

When in Jeju, seafood and black pork is a must! Nowhere else in the country can you find seafood this fresh and cheap, so take full advantage of it.

Black pork

The Jeju black pig is native to the island and the meat is prepared by smoking it over hay, giving the pork a distinct and delicious flavor. You can usually enjoy it in a BBQ restaurant, but you'll find plenty of restaurants with a unique spin to this island exclusive.

- [Jeju Hukdon Saesang Suragan](#)
- [Neulbom Heukdwaeji](#)
- [Hayoung](#)

Don't miss out on this island exclusive – the Jeju black pork!



Haemultang

A steaming stew of fresh shellfish, abalone, scallops, crabs, and octopus is exactly the kind of meal you'd want to have in an island destination.

- [Samseonghyeol Haemultang](#)

Abalone porridge

Abalones are commonly harvested around the island, usually by the *haenyeo* or female divers. It's cooked in a variety of ways, so make sure to try at least the porridge!

- Myeongjin Jeonbok (see map)

Hweh

Hweh are thinly sliced raw fish similar to Japanese sashimi, but prepared and served in a different way.

- Chilsimni Food Street (see map for options)
- Friendship Sashimi Restaurant (see map)
- Seaside tents all over Jeju

Guksu

Nothing like a warm bowl of pork noodle soup after a full day of adventures!

- [Ollae Guksu](#)
- Sisters Noodles (see map)

Where to go next

If you loved Jeju's amazing natural landscapes and beautiful beaches, chances are, you're itching to plan your next holiday. Here are some destinations to add to your travel bucket list.

[Busan, South Korea](#)

If you can't get enough of Jeju's subtropical charms, hop over to Busan. It's the perfect mix of a seaside holiday and a city break with lots of sightseeing, shopping, and food-tripping opportunities. You can also take a [side trip to Gyeongju](#), South Korea's ancient capital.

[Coron, Philippines](#)

Already daydreaming about your next beach vacation and can't wait for the next summer season? Head south to the Philippines, where it's *always* beach weather. Coron in Palawan will spoil you with its sugar-white beaches, deep blue lakes, colorful reefs, and historic wrecks.

[Siargao, Philippines](#)

Siargao is a tropical island destination with its own style of indie, homegrown artsy vibe, and eclectic international cuisine. The perfect combination of sea + food + chill vibes!

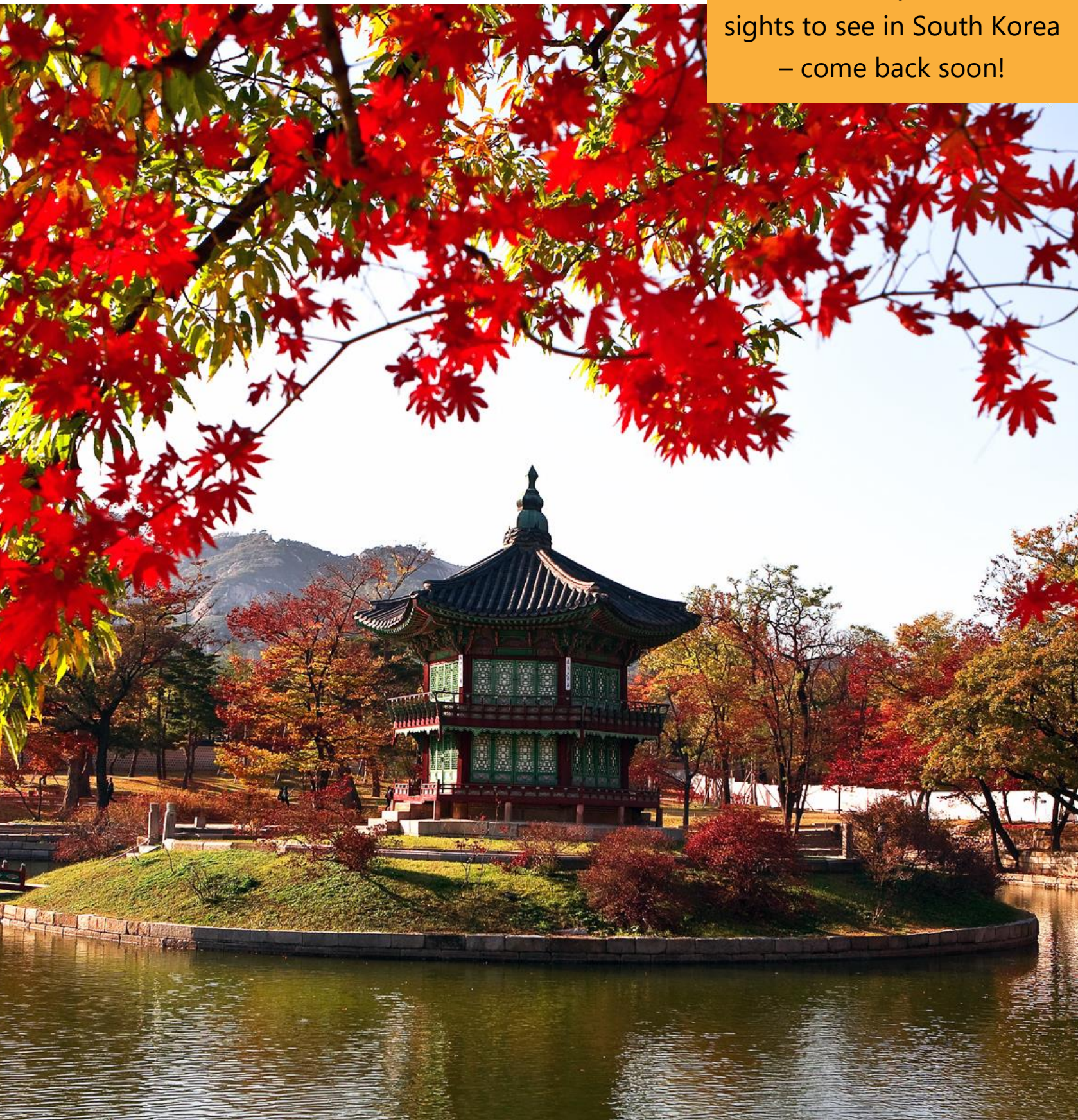
[Penang, Malaysia](#)

Another hot destination for you: Penang. The island is a delicious mix of history, art, tropical landscapes, and – most exciting of all – food.

More road trips in South Korea

Here are more road trips to take – a [road trip from Seoul](#) and an itinerary for chasing [autumn in South Korea](#).

Still so many beautiful sights to see in South Korea – come back soon!





ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Thank you for downloading this guide! I wish you exciting adventures in South Korea. If you found it useful, please forward or share it with your friends and travel buddies. Your support and using the links on this guide and on the blog to plan and book your trip is what keeps the Little Holidays up and running (at no extra cost to you), so thank you so much for that!

This guide was downloaded from the [Little Holidays travel blog](#) and the information is current as of May 2022. Please check the website for updates.

If you have more questions about travel in the area, [send me a message](#), and I'll get back to you ASAP!

Lastly, I'd love to know what you think! Please take 2 minutes to help us make better guides in the future.

How likely are you to recommend this travel guide to a friend?

NOT LIKELY AT ALL

EXTREMELY LIKELY

1

2

3

4

5

Thank you and enjoy your little holidays! ♥