



Travel Guide: **Spring 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](#)
- ☐ [Rail pass](#)

Real-time deals on accommodations

- ☐ [Seoul](#)
- ☐ [Busan](#)
- ☐ [Jeju](#)

Trip essentials

- ☐ [Pocket Wi-Fi](#)
- ☐ [Rail pass](#)
- ☐ [Transportation card](#)
- ☐ [Popular attractions](#)

Quick Glance: Suggested itineraries



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

The cherry blossoms bloom first in the south of the country, so if you're planning to visit end of March or early April, go to Jeju or Busan. By mid-April, Seoul joins in on the floral festivities.

Seoul

- If it's your first time visiting, spend at least 2-3 days to go around Seoul's major neighborhoods and attractions.
- Make sure to visit Yeouido and Seokchon Lake, the city's best spots for admiring the cherry blossoms.

Busan

- There are plenty of spots within the city to enjoy the spring flowers, like Dalmaji-gil in Haeundae.
- From Busan, take the train west to Jinhae and join South Korea's biggest cherry blossom festival.
- Get a rental car and drive north to Gyeongju to see South Korea's ancient kingdom.

Jeju

- If you love road trip and natural landscapes, Jeju is the perfect spring destination for you.
- Get your car on arrival and drive straight to Seogwipo. Visit Wimi village and the Seogwipo downtown, then take a full day trip to Udo Island.



Seoul

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Food, shopping, and culture

Points of Interest

Cherry blossoms spots – Yeouido, Seokchon Lake

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](#)

Cherry blossom tours

[Top cherry blossom sights in Seoul](#)

[Day trip from Seoul to Jinhae cherry blossom festival](#)

Read more

[Comprehensive guide to Seoul neighborhoods](#)

Spring Itinerary for Seoul:

Day 1-

Make your way to **Yeouido**, one of the best spots to see Seoul's cherry blossoms in full bloom. Ride the Seoul Subway Line 5 to Yeouido Station. Exit 3 brings you to the National Assembly Building. Behind the building, you'll find **Yunjunro street**, where you can have a relaxing day walking along cherry trees, azaleas, and other spring flowers in bloom.

Day 2 –

Ride the Seoul Subway Line 2 and 8 to Jamsil Station. Exit 2 or 10 will bring you to **Seokchon Lake**, which is another amazing spot to see the cherry blossoms. While a great place to visit anytime you need respite from Seoul's chaos, Seokcheon Lake is especially beautiful during spring. Cherry trees line the lake park, making the perfect backdrop for a stroll. Go here with a mat and a picnic basket for a relaxing afternoon.

Lotte World is right in the area as well, so if you're traveling with kids (or kids at heart!), [spend a fun day at the theme park](#).

Practical tips for your stay in Seoul

- If it's your first time visiting, spend at least 2-3 days in the capital.
- If you want hassle-free cherry blossom viewing, check out these day tours:
 - [Top cherry blossom sights in Seoul](#)
 - [Day trip from Seoul to Jinhae cherry blossom festival](#)
- If you have an extra day and would like to see more of Seoul beyond its cherry blossom-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 a rental car 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 if you plan to head out instead.
- You can get around Seoul mostly by subway and buses. Getting 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.
- [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.



Busan

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Cherry blossoms festivals, seascapes, seafood, and shopping

Points of Interest

Within Busan – Dalamji-gil

In Jinhae – Yeojwacheon stream, Jehwangsang Park

In Gyeongju - Daereungwon stonewall walkway, Heungmuro cherry blossom road, Wolseong Palace, Bomun Tourist Complex

Recommended accommodations

★TOP PICK: [Hound Hotel](#) (double rooms start at USD 80/night)

Budget: [Travelight Hostel](#) (double rooms start at USD 22)

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

Eat and drink

Restaurants along Dalmaji-gil:

[Geobukseon Hoetjip](#), [Seonchang Hoetjip](#)

Day trip from Busan

[Gyeongju day trip](#)

Read more

[Comprehensive guide to Busan neighborhoods](#)

[Itinerary and travel guide: 3 days in Busan](#)

Spring Itinerary for Busan:

Day 1-

Take the train to Jinhae station and make your way Yeojwacheon stream. Walk along the 1.5 KM tunnel of cherry blossoms and canola flowers. Afterwards, head to Jehwangsan Park where you can walk up the One-Year staircase for a panoramic view of the cherry trees and the ocean.

Day 2 –

Drive or take a bus to Gyeongju and spend a full day admiring the “museum without walls” in full bloom. You’ll find the best blooms along the Daereungwon stonewall walkway, the Heungmuro cherry blossom road, the Wolseong Palace cherry tree forest, and the Bomun Tourist Complex. You can also join a [day tour from Busan](#).

Day 3 –

Busan itself is worth exploring a full day or two. The best spring views are in Dalmaji-gil in Haeundae. Also check out Gamcheon Cultural Village for street art and Taejongdae for stunning views of the sea.

Practical tips for your stay in Busan

- If it’s your first time visiting, spend at least 2-3 days in Busan.
- If you’re going to Jinhae during the cherry blossom festival, don’t drive. [Take the train](#) instead.
- To see Busan beyond the cherry blossom spots, check out this [3-day itinerary](#) or join a [day tour](#).



Jeju

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Cherry blossoms and other spring flowers, natural landscapes, museums

Points of Interest

Cherry blossoms spots: Jeju National University, Gwaneumsa Temple, Seogwipo Downtown, Ilju Road near Wimi village

Day road trip: Udo Island

Recommended accommodations

★TOP PICK in Seogwipo: [Virginia Hotel](#) (double rooms start at USD 60/night)

★TOP PICK in Jeju City: [Hotel Leo](#) (double rooms start at USD 100/night)

Budget: [Mimi Guesthouse](#) (double rooms start at USD 20)

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

Eat and drink

Jeju Hukdon Saesang Suragan (Nav: 64-762-8588)

Myeongjin Jeonbok Abalone Restaurant (Nav: 64-782-9944)

Note: You can use phone numbers to navigate using the Korean GPS. [More info here.](#)

Read more

[Comprehensive guide to Jeju's cities](#)

[Guide to driving in South Korea](#)

Spring Itinerary for Jeju:

Day 1-

Get your [rental car](#) and drive south towards Seogwipo. Drive towards the coastal Ilju Road in Wimi-ri (see Google map for approximate location) where you can walk and drive along a road of cherry trees. In the afternoon, walk around Seogwipo downtown, go into a BBQ restaurant and have the black pork, then check in to your accommodation in Seogwipo.

Day 2 –

To experience Jeju's beauty to the fullest, drive to Udo Island, a small island off the eastern coast of Jeju. It's a great sample of Jeju's amazing landscapes and subtropical island charm, and you'll get to enjoy fields of colorful spring flowers. [Here's a one-day itinerary to explore Udo Island.](#)

Day 3 –

Check out and drive towards Jeju City, stopping by the Gwaneumsa Temple and the Jeju National University. Both are amazing spots for seeing the cherry blossoms. If you have more time or an extra day, hike up Hallasan mountain or drive along the coastal Ilju road.

Practical tips for your stay in Jeju

- If it's your first time visiting, spend at least 3-4 days in Jeju. Stay half the time in Seogwipo and half the time in Jeju City. Seogwipo is a great base for exploring Jeju's beach resorts and hiking areas, while Jeju City is good for shopping and getting to the northern sights.
- The best way to get around Jeju is by driving your own car. We recommend reserving your car online in advance ([see car rental options here](#)), as cars are in high demand especially during peak season. If it's your first time driving in South Korea, [here's what you need to know](#).
- If you'd rather not drive, here are some [day tour options you can check out](#).

Top tips

- **Timing is everything!** Part of the cherry blossoms' allure is its transience, and if you don't plan right, you may totally miss it! If you're dead set on catching them at the peak of their blooms, be sure to check back for this year's cherry blossom forecast. It's good to arrive 1-2 days before the anticipated peak date so you have a bit of leeway.
- **Plan ahead.** The cherry blossom season brings LOTS of visitors to South Korea, so it's best to plan and book ahead. Make your hotel and car reservations well in advance.
- **Know when to drive and when to walk.** Driving your own rental car is one of the best ways to see the South Korean countryside, but it can seriously be a pain when driving in the city. For the destinations mentioned here, I only recommend getting a car to go around Jeju and to visit Gyeongju. It's best to go by subway when in Busan and Seoul, and if you're visiting Jinhae during the cherry blossom festival, driving there isn't advisable.
- **Pre-book your trip essentials.** There's so much to see and do in South Korea, so it's best to pre-book as much travel essentials as possible! You can pretty much book everything online: from [pocket wifi](#), to [transportation cards](#), [airport transfers](#), [rail passes](#), and even [tickets to popular attractions](#). Take care of these before your trip to save time and avoid getting lost in translation.

Read more

Here are some more guides to help you with your visit:

- **Neighborhood guides to:** [Seoul](#), [Busan](#), and [Jeju](#) – find the best neighborhoods and accommodations
- [Driving in South Korea](#) – everything you need to know about renting and driving in South Korea
- [Autumn in South Korea](#) – another fantastic season to visit South Korea!



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!

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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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