

Gang-won-do

강원도



Gangwon-do, northeast of Seoul and bordering the ocean and North Korea, holds many of Korea's natural gems. Roads wind through wildflower-dappled valleys, rivers chase and meander their way to the sea, and verdant green mountains cloaked in mist rise up suddenly. Come here to trade the crazy neonscape of Seoul for rural majesty, or visit the quiet but still fun cities of Chuncheon or Gangneung.

Gangwon-do has several of South Korea's most beautiful national parks, including Seoraksan, whose evocative, jagged peaks seem like giant, nature-made sculptures and whose trails offer hours – even days – of hiking. More sedate pleasures can be found in the beaches of Gangneung and Naksan, where Seoulites arrive in droves in the summertime to sunbake on smooth, white-sand beaches and splash in the sea. Bungee jumping, skiing, cycling, and white-water rafting are other outdoor options. Most of the more beautiful parts of the province are found in obscure valleys with dramatic gorges, raging rivers and dense forests, and the sandy coves and rocky headlands south of Samcheok provide serene sea views.

Approaching the northern border you'll see tank blockades, barbed wire and lots of military: North Korean spies still slip through from time to time, and it's a bit odd to see lines of spotlights that illuminate the beaches – they're not for tourists, they're to spot intruders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the breathtaking peaks of **Seoraksan National Park** (p172)
- Tour the North Korean villas and view lots of barbed wire at **Hwajinpo** (p171)
- Marvel at the giant penis totems at Sin-nam's **Haesindong Gang-won** (p183)
- Lounge in the white-sand splendour of **Gyeongpo Beach** (p176)
- Sample delicious, scaldingly spicy chicken at **Chuncheon** (p163)
- Explore the Coal Museum and Dan-gun's mountain-top altar in **Taebaeksan Provincial Park** (p184)
- View the artistic Buddhist treasures at **Woljeongsa** (p177) and **Sang-wonsa** (p177) in Odaesan National Park



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 033

■ POPULATION: 1.5 MILLION

■ AREA: 16,874 SQ KM

History

Historically the province has been isolated due to its rugged terrain, and during the Korean War it was the site of many fierce battles for strategic mountain tops. After the war, the area's rich natural resources, including coal and timber, were industrialised, bringing road and rail links. With the closure of many coal mines during the 1990s, the province was forced to create alternative employment opportunities. Tourism was the solution.

In summer 2006 a 100-year rainy season brought torrential downpours, and with it flooding, landslides and death. The disaster killed over 60 people, washed away roads and trails (including many in the Seoraksan National Park and other hiking areas) and de-

stroyed homes and businesses. By the time this book is published much will be back to normal thanks to aid and industrious rebuilding, but the memory of the loss is fresh and painful.

National Parks

Seoraksan National Park and Chiaksan National Park are the two biggest and most famous parks of the province. Both are spectacular. Seoraksan offers grand vistas, forest-darkened hiking trails, rushing rivers, beautiful autumn and winter trips, and stunning scenery all year round. Chiaksan, smaller and less visited, has a more subtle beauty that is just as charming, and its temples and peaks are some of the highest in the country. While both parks are well-equipped to handle large



numbers of visitors, at peak times (usually July and August) the swarms of visitors take a bite out of the beauty. Escape them by hiking in the early morning, just after the trails open, or choosing to come at other times of the year.

Getting There & Around

Public transport is so good in South Korea that getting there and around is deceptively easy, and inexpensive too. The roads are probably the quietest in the country, except in July and August when crowds flock to the east-coast beaches. Buses and trains run frequently from Seoul to all major cities. From there, local buses or taxis go the rest of the way.

CHUNCHEON 춘천

pop 260,000

The 'City of Lakes', proud birthplace of the scrumptious yet mouth-scalding *dakgalbi* (chicken, rice cakes and veggies cooked with spicy chilli paste), still retains the charm and quiet of a small town, despite its size. Four pretty artificial lakes surround the city (the provincial capital), making for beauty, nice bike rides and (in season) mosquitoes. Whether you are up in the surrounding mountains, on the shoreline, or in the lakes themselves, you'll find that it's a gorgeous spot; however, outside the obvious outdoor activities and the *dakgalbi* restaurants, there's not a lot to do and the water, pretty at a distance, is quite dirty up close. In spring a section of rice fields outside town becomes a haven for visiting cranes. Fans of Asian TV dramas will recognise this as the setting for the wildly popular *Winter Sonata*, posters of which still fly all over town.

Orientation

Nam (South) Chuncheon train station is the main station, but it is located 2km (about a 30-minute walk) from the town centre and the bus terminal. You'll need to walk or take a taxi to reach the lake shore, bike rentals or the town centre. Much of the city proper is clustered near the shoreline. Jungdo is a small island just offshore.

Information

A large and helpful tourist information centre (% 250 3896; www.iccn.co.kr; 9am-6pm) is near the bus terminal and has free internet access and brochures on the whole of Gangwon-do. A smaller office (% 252 3600; 9am-6pm) is near the lake, Uiamho.

Activities

BICYCLE TOURS

Jungdo Cycle Ride

Hire a bicycle from the bicycle rental stall (per hr/day W3000/5000; 9am-7pm) near the lakeside tourist information centre. You will need to leave some form of ID. Cycle to Talbang Makguksu (p165) for lunch and then pedal to the ferry pier for Jungdo (중도). Alternatively catch bus 74 (W900, 10 minutes, many daily).

This pretty little lake island has horse-and-carriage rides (per person W5000 for 10 minutes), water skiing (W30,000 for 10 minutes), rowing boats (W5000 per hour), an outdoor swimming pool (open in July and August), sports fields and picnic areas. Herons, ducks and other water birds occupy the reeds, more so at the island's western end. You can look for ancient tombs as well. At the bicycle rental stall, Heukeyomsotangjip Restaurant sells *bulgogi* (barbecued beef and vegetables) and *seolleongtang* (beef and rice soup) but most visitors picnic under the trees.

The Jungdo Ferry (adult/child W4300/2400 return, every 30min; 9am-6pm) takes 10 minutes and bicycles are charged W1000 (return fare).

Lakeside Cycle Ride

A cycle path runs along Uiam Lake to the Korean War Memorial and beyond. It's a magical ride if you do it as the sun sets behind the mountains. The War Memorial is a reminder of the Chuncheon battle when the North Koreans lost 6600 men and 18 tanks.

BOATING

Row boats (W6000 per hour) and swan paddle boats (W10,000 per hour) can be hired from near the Ethiopia Café. Don't fall in – the water is nasty.

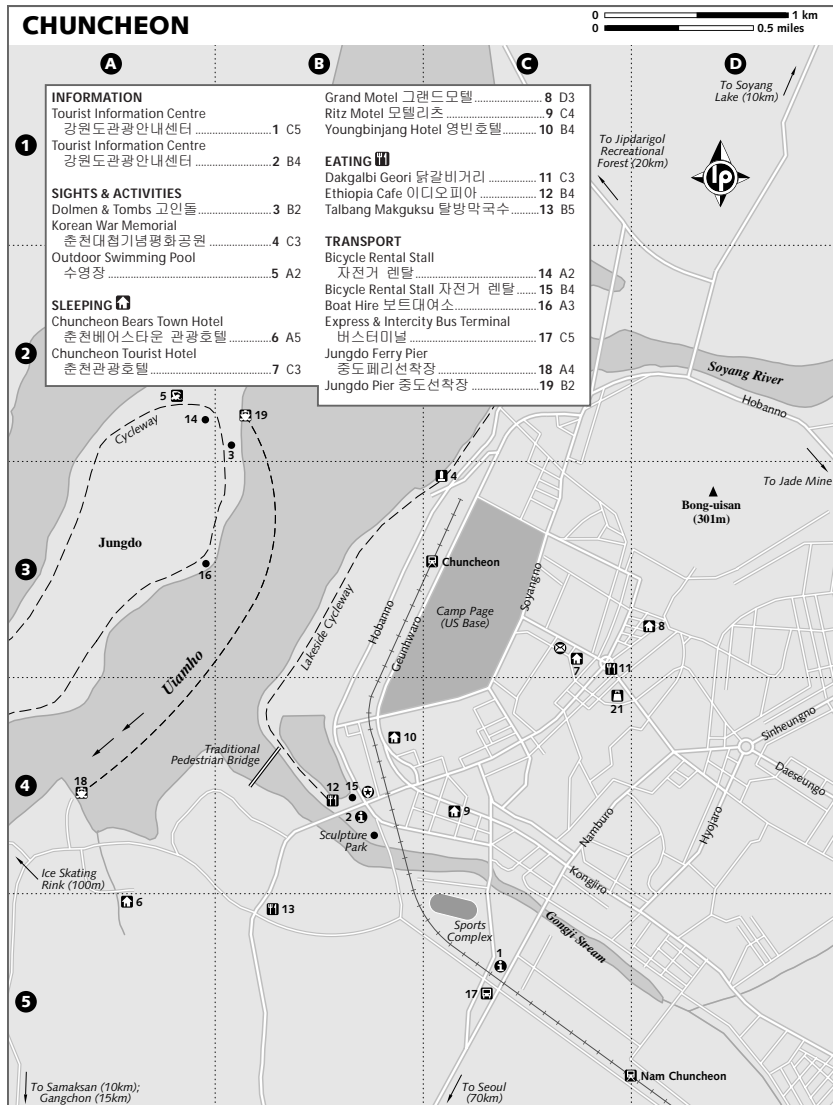
ICE SKATING

The ice skating rink (% 263 7302; adult/youth W3000/2500; 1pm-6pm Tue-Sun) can be reached by bus 75 or you could cycle there.

Sleeping

Grand Motel (% 243 5021; Okcheondong 39-6; r W30,000; a i) Dark rooms are brightened by art on the walls, and some have balconies. The lino floors are a bit characterless, but the owners are kind and they provide a free pick-up service from the bus terminal and train station.

Youngbinjang Hotel (% 253 1530; www.hotel-youngbin.co.kr; Gunhwadong 1727; r W30,000; a i) Nicely



located in the centre of town, the Youngbinjang is unassuming and clean and the owners are friendly. Three 'special' rooms have desk-top computers; all rooms have hair dryers and carpeted floors. Rooms are smallish but not at all musty. There's a restaurant below.

Ritz Motel (☎ 241 0797; r W30,000, Sat W40,000; a i) This motel has small, ultramodern

rooms that are a bit heavy on the air freshener, and 'deluxe' rooms that have giant televisions and mammoth baths. A bar downstairs is open from 6pm to 1am. In case you've forgotten that this is a 'looooooove' motel, there's an underwear vending machine in the lobby and a huge racy DVD collection. Yes, you read that right: underwear.

Chuncheon Tourist Hotel (☎ 255 2222; fax 243 9457; r W70,000; a i) An English sign would make this 'tourist' place much easier to find – look out for the church spire and you will be very close. It's got nice character, with wooden floors, pretty embroidered sheets and paper screens on the windows. A restaurant, a coffee shop and even a slot-machine room are all on the premises. If you didn't bring your own laptop, just ask: they'll be able to lend you one.

Chuncheon Bears Town Hotel (☎ 256 2525; fax 256 2530; r & ondul W77,440, Sat W96,800; a n i) A peek at the parking lot says this place has seen better days, but this clean, modern hotel offers great lake views. Internet comes in two flavours: rooms with a computer or wireless. The koi pond, no-smoking lobby and several restaurants are additional pluses. Downsides? It's a bit far from the centre of town...but well worth it for those wonderful views.

Eating

Dakgalbi Geori is a famous food street where more than 20 restaurants serve up delicious *dakgalbi* (grilled spicy chicken pieces). Other restaurants (some of them excellent) are a short taxi ride away. You need at least two people and it's a good idea to order the boneless chicken and extra rice or noodles to mop up the leftover sauce.

Umji Bunsik (☎ 244 2969; meals W1000-3000; 11 9.30am-9.30pm Mon-Sat) *Gimnap* (Korean sushi), *ramyeon* (instant noodles), fried rice – dirt-cheap eats that can be taken on the go, but it's worth 'ducking' (pun intended) into their curious backroom: anyone over 4ft tall will have to crouch. If time permits, ask for a sticky note and pen so you can help out with the wallpaper.

Talbang Makguksu (☎ 254 2518; meals W3500) This small, greenery-covered traditional restaurant with masks on the wall is famous for *makguksu* (cold buckwheat noodles with a garnish). You can eat them dry or add broth to them from the kettle. Don't mix in all the *gochujang* if you want to keep the chilli content down.

Drinking

Ethiopia Café (11 10am-11pm, closed for rain) This is an old established café with river views and Ethiopian artefacts. Coffees and beers are W2000 to W3000.

Getting There & Away

Buses and trains take about the same time from Seoul if there aren't any traffic jams. Buses will also get you right into Chuncheon, whereas the train stations are further away. On weekends, seats on both can be sold out.

BUS

Departures from the express bus terminal (☎ 256 1571) include the following:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Daegu	16,600	3½hr	5 daily
Gwangju	17,500	4½hr	4 daily

From the intercity bus terminal:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Cheongju	14,300	3½hr	hourly
Cheorwon	10,300	2½hr	every 20min
Dong-Seoul	6700	1¼hr	every 20min
Gangneung	10,200	3½hr	every 20min
Sangbongdong	6700	1¼hr	every 30 min
Sokcho	13,800	3½hr	hourly
Wonju	5000	1½hr	every 15min

TRAIN

Trains to Chuncheon depart from Seoul's Cheongnyangni Station (W5200, 1¼ hours, hourly between 6.15am and 10.20pm), which can be reached by subway Line 1. Chuncheon's two train stations are both inconveniently located, so you'll need to deal with the city buses, take a taxi or walk about 1.5km. Returning to Seoul, the last train leaves at 9.45pm.

AROUND CHUNCHEON

Sundam Valley **순담 계곡**

This valley, 8km from Cheorwon (up near the DMZ) is the base for various adventure sports companies, including Hantangang Rafting (☎ 452 8006; fax 452 6011), that organise kayaking, canoeing or rafting on the Hantang River. The season runs from mid-April to October. There are a few rapids, but they're not scary except after the monsoon season.

A 1½-hour rafting trip (9km) along a scenic ravine costs W30,000, while a longer 18km, eight-hour trip costs W60,000. Kayaking and canoeing cost about the same and mountain bikes can be hired (from W5000 to W15,000).

GREEN GOLD: THE CHUNCHEON JADE MINE 옥 채석장

If you've ever wanted to sleep on pure jade, you've come to the right place. The **Jade Mine** (☎ 242 0447; admission W7000; 11 9am-6pm) is difficult to get to, so check with the tourist information centre before you go. The jade is a very pale green, almost white. The water that trickles through the jade rock is said to be good for your health and bottles of it are for sale. Apparently onions grow well when watered with it, and some people believe that jade 'radiation' is good for their health, so the mine has mattresses on the floor where you can take a health-giving rest. A shop sells jade items: prayer beads for W10,000, rings for W45,000 and necklaces for W250,000. And yes, beds too: a bargain at only W400,000...mattresses of solid jade.

A taxi from Chuncheon to the jade mine and back, with a 30-minute waiting time at the mine, costs W20,000. Bus 65 (W950, 40 minutes) runs to the mine but only three times daily. A bus to nearby Dongmyeon runs hourly; from there the mine is only a 1km walk.

To get there, catch a bus to Cheorwon or Sincheorwon (www.cheorwon.gangwon.kr) from Dong-Seoul bus terminal (W6500, two hours, every 30 minutes). You can then ring **Hankook Leisure Gaebal** (☎ 452 7578) to pick you up – but staff only speak Korean, so it is far easier to log on to www.adventurekorea.com and go on one of the tours from Seoul. Call ahead as the summer 2006 floods may still be affecting the rafting routes, with changed or altered outdoor conditions.

GANGCHON 강촌

Gangchon is a popular resort village that in many ways – with its DVD rooms, bars, *dak-galbi* restaurants, scooters and bikes – is like the university areas of Seoul. It's a much prettier place to stay than nearby Chuncheon city, but if you're solo (or nursing a broken heart) be warned: you may find the ubiquitous cooing couples on tandem bicycles (often wearing matching outfits) a bit hard to stomach.

Hire a **bicycle** (per hr/day W2000/5000) and ride along the cycleway towards **Gugok Pokpo** (구곡폭포; ☎ 261 0088; adult/youth/child W1600/1000/600; 11 8am-sunset), which is 6km from the train station. Park your bike at the entrance. Market ladies sell black rice, dried apricots, sweet potatoes, *omija* (five flavours tea), pumpkin jelly sweets and *dongdongju* (rice wine) homebrew (mmm, homebrew!). Walk for 15 minutes to the delightful waterfall, which cascades down a 50m cliff. The signs on the ropes say 'Danger: Do not Cross', but you might not be able to read them since so many people are ducking under to get closer for picture taking.

In winter it's a popular spot for *bingbyeok* (ice climbing). From near the waterfall you can also hike up **Bonghwasan** (봉화산; 486m;

closed in April due to chance of fire), which takes around 30 minutes. Buses 10, 50 and 50-1 (W950, 10 minutes, hourly) make trips from Gangchon to the waterfall entrance.

The **Gangchon Ski Resort** (☎ 02-449 6660, 033-260 2000) has 10 slopes and six lifts, and there is a shuttle bus from Gangchon train station in the ski season. It's 6km back towards Seoul – follow the river.

Sleeping & Eating

Reservations are a good idea, as peak times can see most places fill.

White Bell Minbak (화이트벨 민박; ☎ 262 0083; www.whitebell.co.kr; r W40,000, Fri & Sat W60,000; a) Conveniently located in the centre of town, this has charming rooms with pot plants and a balcony. 'Frilly' doesn't even begin to describe the décor. Larger rooms (W70,000) include kitchenettes.

Riverwalk Pension (리버워크; ☎ 011-9042-6185; www.riverwalk.co.kr; 1 r/2 r weekdays W60,000/80,000, weekends W80,000/100,000) On the other end of the scale, this beautiful, intimate cabin is a stone's throw from the river, far enough out of town so that things are quiet and peaceful (except when the train rumbles by). Rooms are inside the cabin and are cute and well-furnished, with small desks and balconies – some baths even have bidets. Cornfields, flowers, a deck, loveseats and free bikes make this feel like a retreat. It even offers free pickup at the train station.

Gangchon Tojong Dakgalbi (강촌토종닭갈비; ☎ 261 5949; meals W4000-10,000; 11 10am-10.30pm) Simple, spicy and good. Floor seating only means you have to stand up to enjoy the river-valley view outside, but that's this humble establishment's only fault. It stays open later if diners are still eating.

Getting There & Away

Gangchon is a short bus ride away from Chuncheon (W950, every 40 minutes between 6am to 10pm). The bus stop is outside Gangchon train station. Trains from there go to Seoul's Cheongnyangni station (W4200, 1½ hours, one to two per hour between 6am and 10pm). Subway access is expected to come through by the time this book is printed, so expect even more teens and 20-somethings than are here already.

SOYANG LAKE 소양호

The most interesting way to travel from Chuncheon west across Gang-won-do is to start via a short ferry ride across Soyang Lake, a large artificial lake with gentle green hills and slightly opaque water held back by one of Korea's largest dams. Catch bus 11 (W900, 30 minutes, hourly) from Chuncheon's intercity bus terminal to Soyhang Dam, and walk 1km past the market stalls (some of which sell *mettugi* – fried grasshopper – for W2000 a cup) to the ferry pier.

There are **hydrofoils** (per trip W30,000), which can be rented at Yanggu Pier to the northeast. The hydrofoils are small, and can only transport two to three people at a time.

Rent a **boat** (adult/child return W4000/2000) from the pier and head to the scenic temple, **Cheongpyeonga** (adult/child W2000/1000). There's an easy 30-minute hike when you arrive.

At Yanggu Pier, a bus (W940, 15 minutes) runs to Yanggu, from where you catch a bus for a ride through the mountains to Wontong (W2700, 30 minutes) and then another bus (W750, 10 minutes) to Inje bus terminal.

INJE 인제

pop 30,000

Inje (www.inje.gangwon.kr) is a small town and an adventure sports centre – white-water rafting, kayaking and bungee jumping are becoming increasingly popular with young Koreans. It was hit hard by the 2006 flooding, however; many homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed. You can use the internet free (not all day, please) at the terminals in the **tourist information centre** (☎ 460 2170; 11 9am-6pm). Find it by going left out of the bus terminal and downhill to the T-intersection. The centre will be on your right.

X-Game (☎ 461 5216; www.injejump.co.kr; admission W30,000; 11 9am-sunset, closed Nov-Mar & very wet days) operates a 60m bungee jump from a tower

above the river on the edge of the town. It even has an elevator so you don't have to climb up any stairs.

White-water rafting is organised by more than 20 rafting companies, including **Naeincheon Rafting** (☎ 461 5859; 11 May-Oct) who provide a pick-up service from Inje. Others, including **Naeincheon Adventure Leisure** (☎ 463-0031; rafting@moheom.co.kr), provide an all-day package out of Seoul that includes pick up, lunch and return (W45,000 per person).

Next to Inje bus terminal are several small eateries, but vegetarians will want to cross the street and look straight ahead on the right for **Han-gukwan** (한국관; ☎ 461 2139; 3 people W30,000; 11 10.30am-9.30pm), where you can order *sanchae jeongsik* (temple food), small side dishes of marinated roots, herbs and seasonal veggies, plus miso soup and salt-encrusted fish. The brown, creaky building has character too: it was once a brothel and 'performance house' due to its proximity to the 38th Parallel. If you can't find it, look for the silver lettering and a sign that says 'Since 1990' in English.

Getting There & Away

Buses from Inje to Sokcho (W6500, every 40 minutes) go via Osaek in Seoraksan National Park's southern part and Yang-yang. Buses also run to Chuncheon (W7000, every 1½ to two hours) and Dong-Seoul (W12,600, hourly between 7am and 7pm, three hours).

SOKCHO 속초

pop 84,000

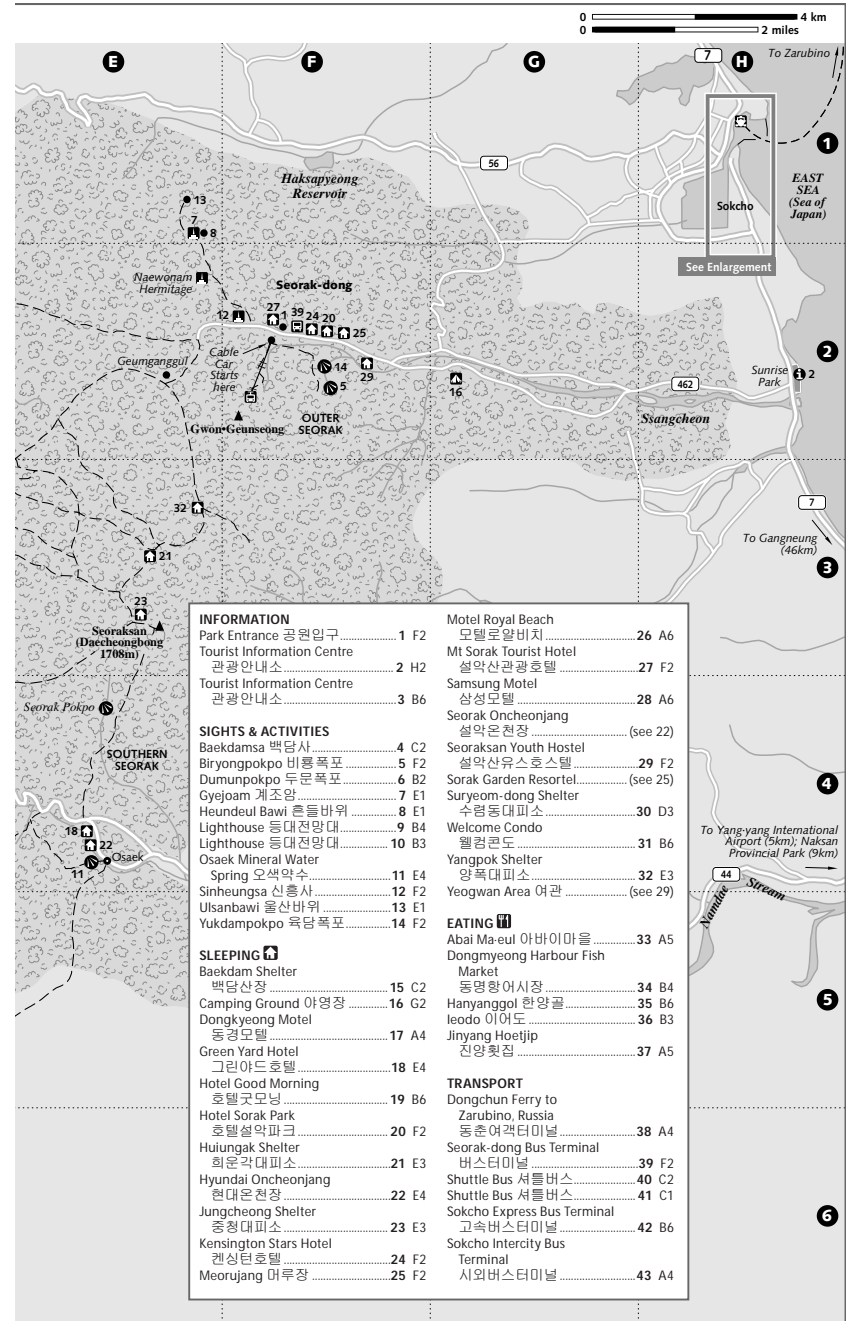
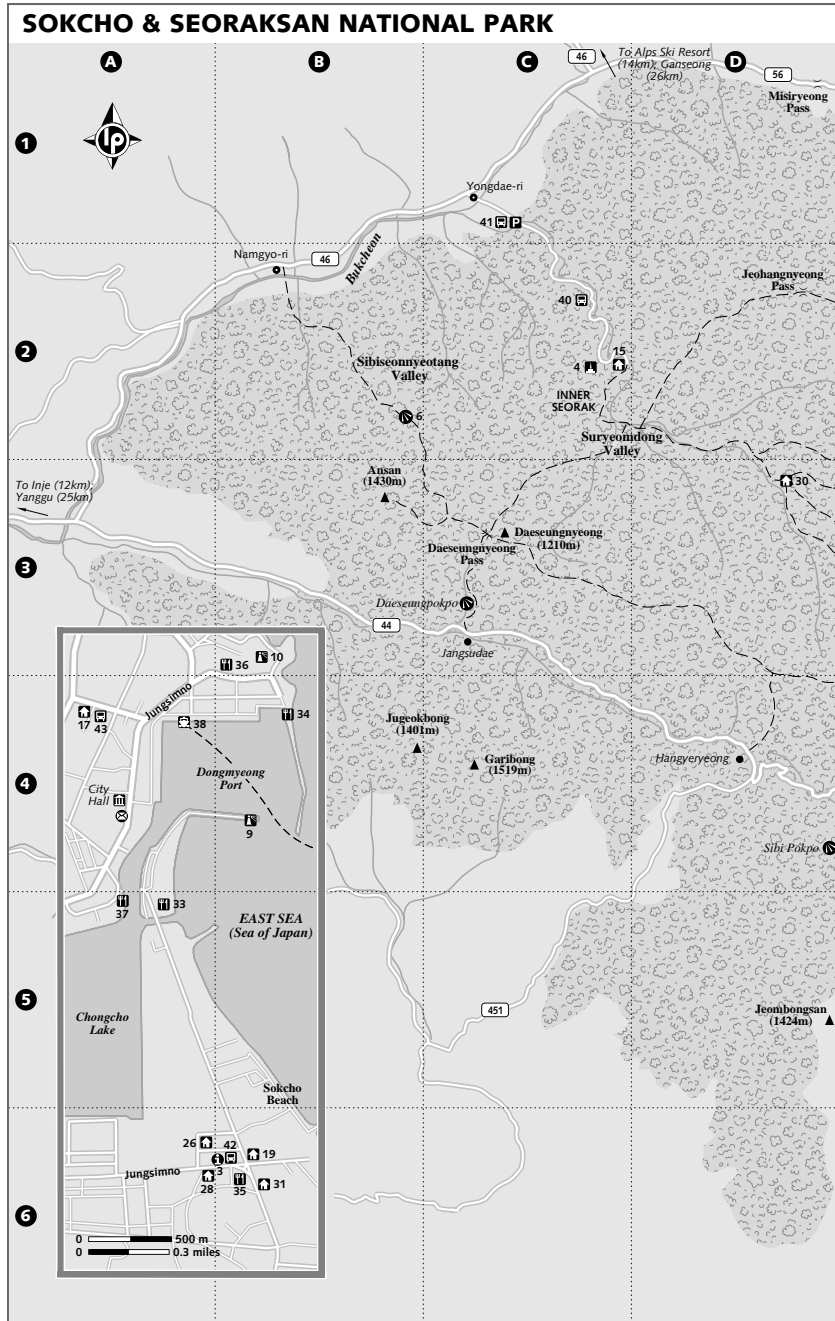
Sokcho is the biggest city near Seoraksan National Park and enjoys more tourism than most port cities. Fishing is still a major industry and Dongmyeong Port is worth a wander round with its sea views, fishing boats, seafood restaurants and lighthouse. Barbed wire lines every inch of shoreline. At night remember that lights in the water are to attract squid; lights on the beaches are to detect spies.

From here ferries leave for Russia and for tours of Paekdusan (p372) on the Chinese border with North Korea.

There is a small **tourist information centre** (☎ 639 2689; 11 9am-6pm, closed Jan) outside the express bus terminal.

Sleeping

Room rates go up 50% in July and August. Motels surround the express bus terminal and are within easy walking distance of the beach.



In July and August you can camp on the beach (W6000 per night) or rent a tent (W12,000 per night). A shower costs W1300.

Motel Royal Beach (☎ 633 5599; fax 635 5588; r W30,000, Sat W40,000; a) No lobby to speak of and no English is spoken, but foreigners are welcome. The rooms are simple, with small beds, and there's no internet access. The pink elevator brightens the mood.

Dongkyeong Motel (☎ 631 6444; r W30,000; a i) This large motel is the best option near the intercity bus terminal, and offers three hours of free internet at its terminals. It's noisy but inexpensive, with a funky spiral staircase that's more fun than taking the elevator. The uppermost floors have distant water views.

Samsung Motel (☎ 636 0069; r W30,000, Sat W40,000; a i) This fairyland castle has gemstones in the lobby and good, comfortable rooms with firm mattresses. Some rooms have desktop computers.

Welcome Condo (☎ 631 8711; www.welcomecondo.co.kr; r W50,000, Fri & Sat W70,000; a) The giant lobby has not a single sofa, but that's the only complaint – rooms are carpeted or have faux-wood linoleum, all have kitchenettes, and many have commanding views of the water. Large windows let in lots of light. The sauna costs W4000.

Hotel Good Morning (☎ 637 9900; www.goodmorninghotel.net; Hae-oreungil; r W60,000, Sat W70,000; a i) Brand new and just a stone's throw from the beach, this hotel is trying for the snazz factor with its own Japanese restaurant, karaoke, and rooms with balconies and ocean views. They haven't loaded them up with kitsch, either – the décor is minimalist, black and tasteful.

Eating

On the harbour side of Dongmyeong Harbour Raw Fish Market are small stalls serving *modeumhoe* (a large platter of mixed raw fish) for W80,000, which includes side dishes, sauce and spicy fish soup, and can be shared by four people. A small plate of sliced raw fish costs W20,000, while spider crabs go for W9000 to W20,000. You can sit outside on the sea wall and look at the fishing boats while you eat.

The local speciality is squid *sundae* (sausage), served in quantities that two people can share. Usually *sundae* is made with a pork casing, but here squid is used instead, stuffed with minced noodles, tofu, onion, carrot, seaweed and seasoning, and then sliced and fried in egg – an unusual but tasty dish.

A number of food stalls are near the beach, among them **Abai Ma-eul** (meals W5000-10,000). Take a taxi if you're not ready for a long walk.

leodo (☎ 635 4673; Jungsimno; meals W5000-10,000) A small restaurant with squid *sundae*, *Saengseon-gui* (fried fish), *ojing-eo deopbap* (squid rice) and spicy squid *bibimbap*. The stuffed penguin on the shelf appears to want a piece of the squid. It's a bit difficult to find: go to the port and as you walk (with the water on your right) past the KTF building, look for the pale-green building – leodo is across the street.

Jinyang Hoetjip (☎ 635 9999; meals W10,000-120,000; 11 9am-10.30pm) Upscale, fancy and famous, with lots of greenery and delectable scents from the kitchen. It offers sashimi platters, squid *sundae* and *mulhoe* (water raw fish). Meals include numerous side dishes.

Hanyanggol (☎ 635 7588; meals W5000; 11 9am-10pm) Cheap eats near the express bus terminal. Try the delicious *wang-mandu* (large steamed buns filled with meat and vegetables) or *kalguksu* (thick noodles in seafood broth).

Getting There & Away

AIR

There are flights from Seoul (Gimpo) to the new **Yang-yang International Airport** (☎ 670 7114). The airport is well serviced by buses that run north to Sokcho and Goseong Unification Observatory and south to Gangneung.

BOAT

Dongchun runs a ferry to Zarubino in Russia (see p399) with onward travel to China and Paekdusan, a mountain that straddles the border between China and North Korea.

BUS

Buses leave Sokcho express bus terminal for Seoul Gangnam (W13,900, 4½ hours, every 30 minutes).

Departures from Sokcho intercity bus terminal include the following:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	33,200	7½hr	hourly
Chuncheon	11,600	3½hr	hourly
Daegu	23,000	3½hr	9 daily
Dong-Seoul	13,900	4hr	every 30min
Gangneung	5900	1½hr	every 20min
Yanggu	9100	2¼hr	3 daily (9am-4.30pm)

Buses also leave the intercity bus terminal for Jinburyeong (W4600, six daily from 6.10am to 2.20pm) and stop at Baekdamsa and Yondae-ri on the way. From Jinburyeong shuttle buses go to the Alps Ski Resort.

Local buses leave from outside the intercity bus terminal in the north of Sokcho, but southward-bound bus 7 (W900, 25 minutes, every 15 minutes) to Seorak-dong and bus 9 (W900, 15 minutes, every 15 minutes) to Naksan can both be picked up along their routes, which include the express bus terminal.

NORTH OF SOKCHO

Hwajinpo 화진포

This sandy beach is popular in July and August but almost deserted at other times. Nearby is a lake and three **summer villas** (admission adult/child W2000/1500 for all three; 11 9am-6pm) that belonged to former politicians (see below). Everything is within walking distance. 'English body language' is spoken by the staff at the **tourist information centre** (☎ 680 3677; 11 9am-6pm Apr-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Mar).

Shaped like a giant whale, **Hwajinpo Aquarium** (해양 박물관; ☎ 682 7300; adult/child W1000/800; 11 9am-5pm) has displays of shellfish, fossils, coral and rare fish. On the 3rd floor is a **teashop** (teas W2000), which offers 10 strongly flavoured medicinal teas that are brewed on the premises, and views of the beach and lake.

January Pension (제뉴어리; ☎ 682 2630; www.januarypension.com; r W60,000) A brand new, spic-

and-span pension that's a stone's throw from the water. It has an English-speaking owner, a café and computer. Giant plate-glass windows in the dining room make it a great place to watch the sun rise. A simple breakfast of toast, jam and coffee is included. From mid-July to mid-August rooms are W90,000.

Hwajinpo Condo Restaurant (화진포 콘도 식당; ☎ 682 0500; meals W4000-10,000; 11 8am-9pm) The only restaurant in the area, this has *bibimbap* or a good fish meal for two people with seaweed soup and side dishes.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Take local buses 1 or 1-1 (W4120, one hour, every 15 minutes) from the bus stand outside Sokcho intercity bus terminal. Get off at the access road to Hwajinpo (15km south of Goseong Unification Observatory) near the Daejin High School and turn left. From there it's a 10-minute walk (800m) down to the Hwajinpo Aquarium (left).

Goseong Unification Observatory

고성 통일 전망대

The **Unification Hall** is to your left as you enter the **complex** (☎ 682 0088; adult/child W2000/1000; 11 9am-4.30pm Mar-Jun & Sep-Oct, 9am-5.30pm Jul & Aug, 9am-3.30pm Nov-Feb), which is surrounded by souvenir shops and restaurants. Binoculars are available to take a closer look at the forbidden North and you should be able to see the Geumgang mountain range.

POLITICIANS VILLAS

The site of **Kim Il Sung's Villa** (김일성 별장) is a pleasant 20-minute walk from the Hwajinpo Aquarium. Nothing remains of the North Korean leader's original summer residence except for some steps that feature in a fascinating 1948 photograph of his six-year-old son, Kim Jong Il, with his younger sister and the young son of a Russian general. A small exhibition hall has some old photos, which show the original building to have been a large European-style villa built of stone. The reason it is here in South Korea is that before the Korean War, this area was ruled by North Korea. At the 1953 Armistice, South Korea gained land here on the east side but lost Kaesong and the Ongjin Peninsula.

Yi Gibung's Villa (이기봉 별장) was built in 1920 and used by English missionaries who made a crazy-golf course in the garden. Between 1945 and 1953 the house was used by North Korean Communist Party members, then it became the summer retreat of Vice President Lee and his Austrian wife. When President Syngman Rhee fled to Hawaii in 1960, Vice President Lee's son shot his parents dead and then turned the gun on himself.

A 10-minute walk away is **Syngman Rhee's Villa** (이승만 별장), furnished with many of his personal belongings. Educated at Princeton and Harvard, Rhee was South Korea's president from 1948 until 1960. A tough autocrat, he was finally forced out by student and trade union protests in 1960, and he went to live in Hawaii where he died in 1965.

See Getting There & Away (above) for details on getting to the villas.

Catch bus No 1 or 1-1 (W3400, 1½ hours, every 15 minutes) from Sokcho to Daejin, a pleasant 50km ride up the coast with barbed-wire fences, fortifications and tank traps to remind you of the threat from the North's armed forces. From Daejin Education Centre catch the shuttle bus (W2000, 20 minutes) to the observatory. If you're driving, remember to stop first at the Daejin Education Centre to get your entry ticket; otherwise polite but firm MPs will turn you around at the barricade. A pass costs adult/child W5000/2000.

SOUTH OF SOKCHO Naksan Provincial Park 낙산 도립공원

This small coastal park (₩ 670 2518; admission free; 11 24hr), 12km south of Sokcho, is famous for the temple Naksansa (₩ 672 2448; adult/youth/child W2500/1500/1000; 11 5am-7pm). A 15m white statue of Gwaneum, the Goddess of Mercy, completed in 1977, looks out over the East Sea from atop a small, pine-covered rocky outcrop. Overnight temple stays are normally possible, but the temple is closed to overnight visits for rebuilding following a 2005 fire. The pavilion, Ulsangdae, is a good spot to watch the sunrise.

Down below the temple is Naksan Beach, popular in summer, with motels, *minbak* (private homes with rooms for rent) and restaurants. Beach camping (per site W2000-4000) is possible in July and August.

Euisangdae Condotel (의상대콘도텔: ₩ 672-3201; www.euisangdae.tc.to; r W40,000) has not a speck of character, but not a speck of dirt either. It's clean, friendly, reasonably priced and is right on the beach too. Rooms have kitchenettes and most have balconies. There's sometimes noise on the beach at night, so light sleepers should ask for an upper-floor room.

Hotel Naksan Beach (₩ 672 4000; www.naksanbeach.co.kr; r from W117,000; a i p) offers upmarket accommodation with either Western or *ondol*-style rooms, plus restaurants, a night-club and a seawater sauna (nonguests/guests W6000/4000; 11 5:30am to 8pm).

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Catch bus 9 (W900, 15 minutes, every 15 minutes) from outside either of Sokcho's bus terminals. It runs between Sokcho and Yang-yang.

There are direct buses from Naksan to Dong-Seoul bus terminal (W13,700, 4½ hours).

SEORAKSAN NATIONAL PARK 설악산 국립공원

This park (₩ 636 7700; http://npa.or.kr/sorak/eng/npa/intro.htm; adult/youth/child W3400/1300/700), open two hours before sunrise and closed two hours before sunset, is one of the most beautiful on the entire Korean peninsula – North and South. It boasts oddly shaped rock formations, dense forests, abundant wildlife, hot springs and ancient Shilla-era temples. Unesco has designated the area a Biosphere Protection Site and Seoraksan itself (Snowy Crags Mountain) will leave you in awe. Sinheungsa Temple is also a must see, and if you tire of the park itself head down to the nearby coast for some of Korea's best sandy beaches.

The peak season is July and August, though the mid-October leaf-changing show attracts coachloads of visitors. Prices for accommodation more than double at these times. Accommodation can become completely full, so make reservations early.

Sadly, this park was created by 100-year downpours in the summer of 2006, washing out numerous hiking trails. Check conditions with the tourist information centre (₩ 635 2003) before you visit.

Orientation

The park is divided into three sections.

Outer Seorak is the most accessible and popular area and is nearest to Sokcho and the sea. Seorak-dong has hotels, motels, restaurants, bars, *noraebang* (karaoke rooms) and a 24-hour supermarket. The left-luggage facility by the ticket office costs W1000 for most items and W2000 for a big backpack.

Inner Seorak, at the western end of the park, is the least commercialised area. It has three entrance points: from Hwy 46 at Yongdae-ri to Baekdamsa; at Namgyo-ri, where a hiking trail goes through Sibiseonnyetang Valley; and from the south (Hwy 44), where a trail goes north from Jangsudae.

Southern Seorak is the name given to the Osaek (Five Colours) area, which is famous for its cold mineral spring for drinking, and hot mineral springs for bathing and soothing those aching muscles after a long day's hike.

Information

A helpful tourist information centre (₩ 635 2003; 11 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) is located rather inconveniently at Sunrise Park, where the Seorak-dong access road joins the main coast

road. A left-luggage facility costs W1000 to W3000 per bag, depending on its size.

Outer Seorak

GWON-GEUNSEONG 권금성

A 1.1km cable car (₩ 636 7362; return W8000) runs every 20 minutes and the views (and queues!) on a nice day are amazing. It drops you a 10-minute walk away from the fortress remains and summit.

HEUNDEUL BAWI (TOTTERING ROCK) & ULSAN BAWI 흔들바위, 울산바위

Heundeul Bawi, a massive 16-tonne boulder, can be rocked to and fro by a small group of people, and half the Korean population has played at being Superman here! Other boulders have Chinese characters carved on them. Nearby is Gyejoam, with a prayer hall inside a cave.

From Heundeul Bawi carry on and scale the imposing granite cliff known as Ulsan Bawi. To reach the 873m summit, you have to climb up an 808-step staircase. It takes 45 minutes and is hard going but the reward is a spectacular view from the top.

TWO WATERFALLS HIKE 쌍폭포

A 45-minute hike from Seorak-dong brings you to a couple of impressive waterfalls, Yukdamp Pokpo and Biryong Pokpo. This relatively easy 2km hike starts at the stone bridge beyond the cable-car station.

DAECHEONGBONG 대청봉

This is the highest peak in the park at 1708m, but is currently closed for a five-year rotational restoration/preservation; it will reopen in 2011.

Southern Seorak

It's easier to hike up Daechonbong from Osaek Hot Springs in the south. The hike is steep and difficult but is reckoned to take four hours up and three hours down, after which you can soak your aching body in the hot spring pools (adult W8000). Alternatively you could continue and descend to Seorak-dong (six hours down).

Inner Seorak

BAEKDAMSA 백담사

In the relatively uncrowded northwestern section of the park lies Baekdamsa (₩ 462 2554; adult/youth/child W3200/1200/600; 11 sunrise-sunset).

Shuttle buses (adult/child W2000/1000, every 20 minutes, 7am to 5.30pm) run from the car park 4km up the valley. It's another 3km hike to the temple (50 minutes). The hike beyond the temple along Suryeom-dong Valley (another two hours) is highly recommended.

SIBISEONNYEOTANG VALLEY

십이선녀탕 계곡

This legendary Seoraksan valley is strewn with waterfalls, cascades, pools and large boulders.

The 2½-hour hike to Dumun Pokpo is a real treat, and after another two hours uphill you can turn right for a 30-minute hike up Anson (1430m) or turn left for Daeseungnyeong (1210m), which takes the same length of time.

Sleeping

Yeogwan (motels with small en suite rooms) tend to charge W30,000, but W50,000 on busy weekends and even more in peak season (July and August).

Camping sites are available in Seorak-dong, Jangsudae and Osaek for around W5000, but don't expect any fancy facilities.

There are mountain shelters – Jungcheong (₩ 672 1708), Huiungak, Yangpok, Suryeom-dong (₩ 462 2576) and Baekdam – which are basic and cost W5000.

SEORAK-DONG 설악동

The first big section of yeogwan, shops and restaurants is on the left as you head west.

Seoraksan Youth Hostel (₩ 636 7115; www.sorakyhostel.com; dm/f W30,000/50,000; a i) This large, multilevelled institution is the cheapest option for solo travellers.

Further on is another bunch of facilities on the right.

Sorak Garden Resortel (₩ 636 7474; www.sorakgardenresortel.com; d & ondol W30,000; a i) Rooms are clean and sparsely furnished, with décor that has a child's bedroom feel. Some have a kitchen.

Meorujang (₩ 636 8790; www.meorujang.co.kr; r W30,000) Simple rooms painted in bright colours. Each has a small table and chairs, a fridge and the like.

Kensington Stars Hotel (₩ 635 4001; www.kensington.co.kr; d & ondol/tw W169,000/199,000; a i) With English-style décor and more than a touch of class, this hotel has the best view and is

very near the park entrance. Some rooms are shrines to Korean film stars. From September to June, the price drops to ₩129,000 including breakfast.

Hotel Sorak Park (☎ 636 7711; www.hotelsorakpark.com; tw & ondol ₩193,600; a i) There's a white décor thing going on here, which will either make you feel peaceful or make you think you've died; this fancy hotel features balconies and mountain views and is within walking distance of the park entrance. Facilities include a casino, karaoke lounge and restaurants. The saunas are undergoing repairs. Discounts of 20% to 50% are possible in off-season.

Mt Sorak Tourist Hotel (☎ 636 7101; www.sorakhotel.co.kr; r ₩121,000; a) This simple, natural wood-furnished hotel is the only one inside the national park. Substantial discounts are offered during off-peak periods.

SOUTHERN SEORAK

Accommodation clusters around the Osaek hot-spring pools.

Hyundai Oncheonjang (☎ 672 4088; r ₩30,000, Sat & Sun ₩35,000-40,000; a) No *oncheon* (hot spring) but hot-spring water in the bathrooms. All rooms have kitchenettes.

Seorak Oncheonjang (☎ 672 4111; r ₩30,000, Fri & Sat ₩40,000; i) The *oncheon* is free for guests, as is internet use. Rooms cost up to ₩70,000 during peak periods.

Green Yard Hotel (☎ 672 8500; r ₩60,000, Fri & Sat ₩85,000; a i) Green Yard is due to reopen in June 2007 after suffering massive flood damage in summer 2006. And not a moment too soon, as this is the top accommodation here – with an *oncheon* (₩5000), nightclub, billiards and restaurants. Rooms have balconies and cost up to ₩180,000 in July, August and October.

INNER SEORAK

Access to Baekdamsa is by way of Yongdae-ri, where you can find *minbak* and restaurants.

Eating

Seoraksan is not noted for its food, but popular meals are *sanchae bibimbap* (rice topped with egg, meat, vegetables and sauce; ₩5000) and *sanchae jeongsik* (₩8000), which features mountain vegetables. Trailside stalls sell snacks such as roast potatoes (₩2000) and potato starch cakes with red-bean filling (₩1000).

Getting There & Away

The access road to Outer Seorak branches off the main coast road halfway between Sokcho and Naksan. Buses 7 and 7-1 run every 10 minutes between Sokcho and Seorak-dong (₩950).

Buses from Sokcho intercity bus terminal run every 30 minutes to Osaek Hot Springs (₩3000) and Jangsudae (₩4400).

Baekdamsa and Namgyo-ri can be accessed by buses that go from Sokcho intercity bus terminal to Jinburyeong (eight daily from 6.10am to 3.50pm).

ALPS SKI RESORT

알프스 스키 리조트

This resort (☎ 681 5030; fax 681 2788; www.alpsresort.co.kr; 9am-4.30pm, 6pm-10pm Dec-Mar; pass with/without skis ₩76,000/48,000) was opened in 1984 and is nowhere near as large as the nearby Yongpyong Ski Resort (see p179), but it receives the heaviest snowfalls of any resort in Korea and has some of the most spectacular scenery, due to its proximity to Seoraksan National Park. There are eight slopes and five lifts, and English- and Japanese-speaking instructors are available.

The resort can be reached by buses that go from Sokcho intercity bus terminal to Jinburyeong (eight daily from 6.10am to 3.50pm) or from Yang-yang International Airport. A free shuttle also runs from Seoraksan's Haemaji Park, and there are direct buses to and from Seoul (one-way/return ₩14,000/26,000).

GANGNEUNG 강릉

pop 220,000

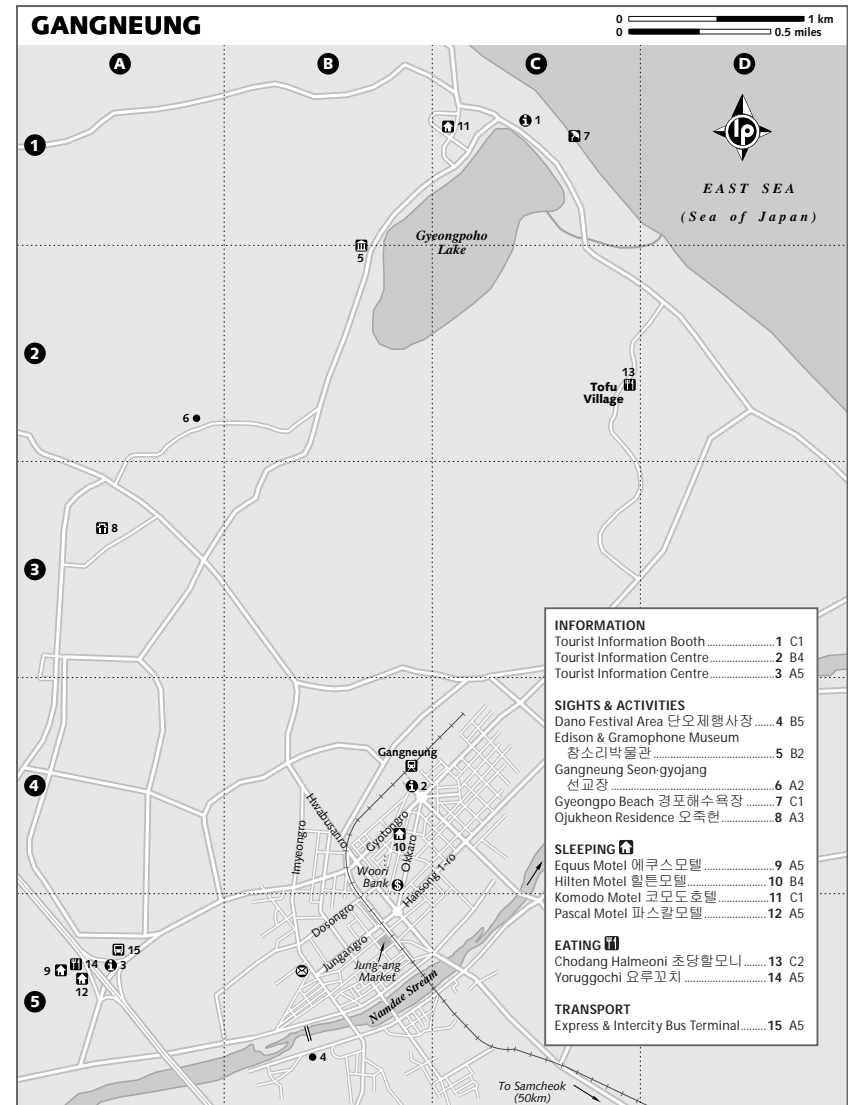
Gangneung is the largest city on the northeast coast of Korea and hosts an annual Dano Festival (p176), held for the past 400 years. It is the gateway to Jeongdongjin beach, Odaesan National Park and Korea's top ski resort, Yongpyong. It's also pretty in itself, with a lagoon, beach, 'tofu town' and more.

The main tourist information centre (☎ 640 4414; www.gntour.go.kr; 8am-10pm) is near the bus terminal and there is a smaller booth in front of the train station. They have both English- and Japanese-speaking staff.

Sights

OJUKHEON 오죽헌

This expansive complex (☎ 648 4271; adult/youth/child ₩1000/500/300; 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm



Nov-Feb, closed Tue), 4km from downtown, has numerous buildings, expansive gardens and lotus pools, and is famous for its black-stemmed bamboo groves. It's a relaxing, fun, beautiful place to wander around and it's worth stepping off the beaten path to see the forests and lesser-visited gardens too. Iris, blooming in June, is stunning.

Sin Saimdang (1504–51) was born here as was her son Yi Yulgok (1536–84), whose pen name was Yiyi. Sin Saimdang is regarded as a model daughter, wife and mother, and was an accomplished poet and artist who liked to paint detailed studies of plants and insects. Many of her paintings are on display beside the real-life plants (obviously, you've got to

come in season to catch them at the right time). If you come in winter, just look on the back of a W5000 note – the melon motif is based on one of her works.

Her son was an outstanding Confucian philosopher and scholar. He could read at three years old and learned the Chinese Confucian classics from his mother at a very young age. In 1564 he won first prize in the state examination for prospective government officials. He served in various government posts including minister of war. Unfortunately his advice to the king to raise an army of 100,000 to prepare against a possible invasion by Japan was ignored with disastrous consequences in 1592, eight years after his death, when the Japanese did invade.

To get there, take bus 202 or 300 (W950, 10 minutes, every 10 minutes) from outside the express bus terminal.

GANGNEUNG SEON-GYOJANG 강릉선교장

This national cultural property, an upper-class residence that has been restored, belonged to the same family for 300 years (10 generations). It has a lotus pond, interesting buildings and a gift shop. Though the restoration has meant much of the original timbers and tiles are lost, the floor plan has remained unchanged since olden days.

EDISON & GRAMOPHONE MUSEUM

에디슨&초음기박물관

A bit surreal in rural Korea, this museum (9652500; www.edison.or.kr; admission W4500; 9am-6pm) houses hundreds of gramophones and other Edison paraphernalia, plus odd incongruities like a knight's coat of armour. Though the tour itself is in Korean only, there's enough here to make it well worth stopping by – and many of the antiques are very self-explanatory. A new location was under construction at the time of research and is due to open in 2007.

GYEONGPO BEACH 경포해수욕장

Gyeongpo is a white-sand beach with pretty salt-stunted, wind-twisted pines rimming the shore, and there are friendly English- and Japanese-speaking staff in the tourist information booth (9640-4537; 9am-5pm). The water is warmer than one would expect, but doesn't have the azure hues of the tropics – it's still beautiful, but a flat steel grey. In peak season (July 10 to August 20) camping is possible for W20,000. Tents can be rented for W10,000 a night, and showers cost W2000.

GANGNEUNG'S DANO FESTIVAL

The shamanist Dano Festival overtakes the city for a week on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month. People flock to Gangneung and a tent city rises to house them. There are circus and carnival acts, shamanist rituals, mask dramas (which were once performed by government slaves), folk operas, farmers' bands, *ssireum* (Korean wrestling) and assorted stalls and hawkers. It has the air of a medieval fair, which provides a rare chance to see Korea's original shamanist religion. During the festival, an information stall staffed with multilingual guides is set up in the market centre.

Another festival, the Yulgokje Festival, is held annually at Ojukheon on 25 and 26 October, when traditional rites of respect are enacted and classical Korean music is played.

Sleeping & Eating

In 1996 Gangneung's bus terminal moved to a new facility far from the city centre and (not surprisingly) several hotels have sprung up nearby. There are also places to stay at the old bus station and near the beach.

Equus Motel (9643 0114; r without/with computer W30,000/40,000; a i) A tastefully done love motel with a luxurious feel, black-and-gold trim, huge televisions and not too many coloured strobe lights.

Komodo Motel (9644 1855; r without/with computer W30,000/35,000; i) An option if you want to be near the beach. The rooms here are well-appointed and have TVs, fridges and bottled water. The décor is refreshingly bland, with not a hint of love-hotel tackiness. Follow the spiral stairs up one floor to get to the reception desk.

Hilten Motel (힐튼 모텔; 9647 3357; r W30,000, Sat W40,000; a) A bit newer and more up-market, with a red chandelier in the lobby. Faux-wood floors and bottled water are additional touches.

Pascal Motel (파스칼 모텔; 9646 9933; r W40,000, Sat W55,000; a i) A bit bland, but the hallways have pretty Korean paper decorative screens. Small tables make the rooms feel a weensy bit more homey.

Yoruggochi (9643 8613; meals W3000-9000; 9am-2am) A great place to put back a few beers, this tiny *odeng* (processed seafood) shop has

beer, *soju* (local vodka), skewers of chicken and other simple dishes. It's right near the bus terminal.

Chodang Halmeoni (9652 2058; www.chodangdubu.com; meals from W8000; 9am-6.30am-9pm) Simple setting and great soft tofu in one of the most renowned shops of this village. Tipplers will want to try the buckwheat *dongdongju*, which hisses slightly from the natural carbonation.

Tofu lovers and vegetarians will want to head to 'Tofu Village,' a cluster of numerous restaurants all specializing in *sundubu* (soft tofu), which is often served warm in a bowl. Wash it down with *dongdongju* for the true experience.

Getting There & Away

BUS

Gangneung's express and intercity bus terminals (9643 6093) share the same building, a shiny new facility near the expressway entrance.

Express bus departures from Gangneung include the following:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Dong-Seoul	11,700	3hr	every 30min
Seoul Gangnam	11,700	3hr	every 20min

Intercity departures include the following:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Chuncheon	10,200	3½hr	every 20min
Daejeon	13,000	3½hr	hourly
Donghae	2600	½hr	every 10min
Hoenggye*	2100	½hr	every 20min
Jinbu**	3200	¾hr	every 10min
Samcheok	3800	1hr	every 10min
Sokcho	5700	1½hr	every 20min
Wonju	6300	1½hr	every 30min

* get off here for the shuttle bus to YongPyong Ski Resort

** get off here for the hourly bus to Odaesan National Park

TRAIN

Seven daily *Mugunghwa* trains connect Gangneung (W20,100, 6½ hours) with Seoul's Cheongnyangni station via Wonju.

Getting Around

Buses 202 and 303 (every 15 minutes) connect the bus terminal with the train station. Schedules in English are available at the tourist information centres.

ODAESAN NATIONAL PARK

오대산 국립공원

Like Seoraksan, Odaesan (Five Peaks Mountain) is a high-altitude massif. The park (96332 6417; adult/youth/child W2800/1300/700; 9am-7pm) has great hiking possibilities, superb views and two prominent Buddhist temples: **Woljeongsa** and **Sang-wonsa**. Near the southern entrance, the **Korea Botanical Garden** (96332 7069; www.kbotanic.co.kr; adult/youth/child W5000/3000/2000; 9am-6pm) is 1.7km down a lane and has over 1000 native plants, orchids and a café.

Birobong (1563m) is the highest peak in the park. From Sang-wonsa you can hike it (it's steep and not for the faint-hearted) and continue along a ridge to **Sang-wangbong** (1493m), then back down to the road and along to the temple (five hours). If you have the stamina, continue along the ridge to **Durobong** (1422m) and **Dongdaesan** (1433m) before heading down to Hwy 446.

As with Seoraksan, the best times to visit are late spring and early to mid-autumn when the hillside colours are prettiest, but it's pretty any time of year.

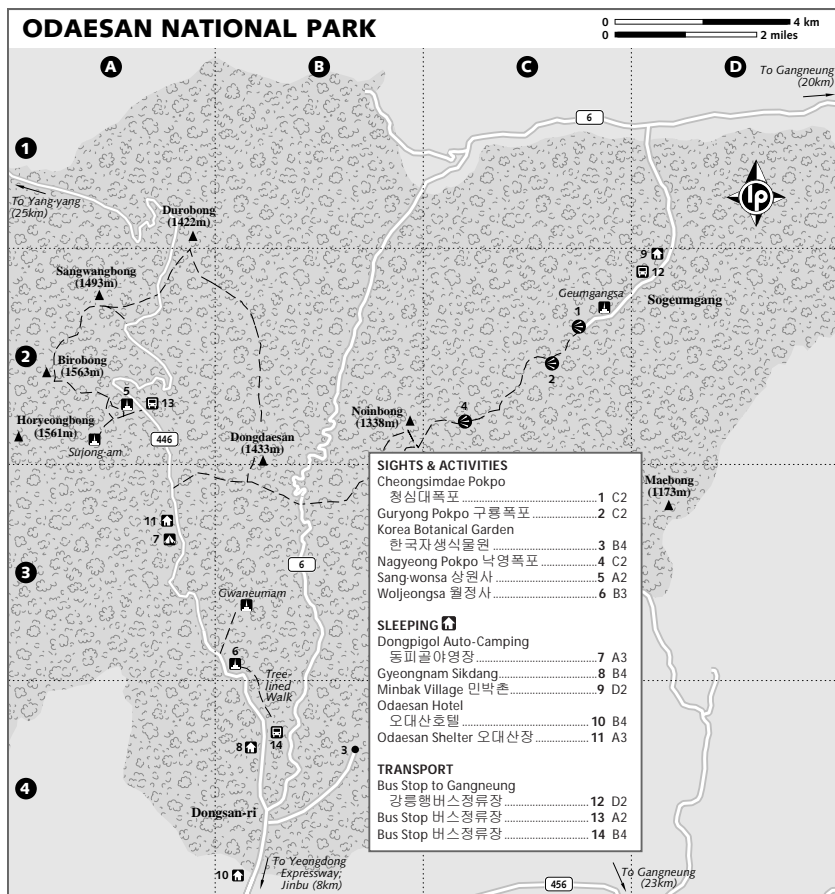
Woljeongsa 월정사

The temple was founded in AD 645 by the Zen Master Jajang during the reign of Queen Seondeok of the Shilla dynasty to enshrine relics of the historical Buddha. Over the next 1350 years the temple was often destroyed by fire and rebuilt. During the Korean War it was completely flattened. Yet today you would never suspect these disasters had ever occurred. The paintings inside the main hall are masterpieces of religious art. Not even in Tibet will you find anything so colourful, imaginative and intricate. One of them could be compared to Hieronymus Bosch.

The temple has a **teashop** (per mug W3000-W4000) and a **museum** (adult/child W1000/500; 9am-5pm Wed-Mon) of Joseon-era Buddhist art.

Sang-wonsa 상원사

A further 10km beyond Woljeongsa is Sang-wonsa where the hiking trails begin. The intricately decorated bronze bell, one of the oldest and largest in Korea, was cast in AD 663, one year after construction of the temple commenced. Check out the graceful features and hairstyle of the famous statue of a Buddhist saint, Munsu the Bodhisattva of Wisdom. Not much has survived in Korea that reveals the artistic talent of its people



from over a millennium ago, so it is a prized possession, a symbol of an advanced Buddhist culture.

Sleeping & Eating

A small village of *minbak* and restaurants is on the left side of the access road, a 40-minute walk south of Woljeongsa. If you want more comfort there are two *yeongwan* near the ticket office. Halfway between the temples is Dongpigol Auto-camping and Odaesan Shelter, which both cost W5000.

A large camping ground and numerous *minbak* are also available at the entrance to Sogeomgang.

Odaesan Hotel (% 330 5000; www.hotelodaesan.co.kr; r from W180,000; a s) This is the only

deluxe option in the park. Rooms have plush sofas and soft lighting and many have balconies with scenic views. The hotel offers a generous 50% discount during off-peak months (from September to November and February to June).

Gyeongnam Sikdang (% 332 6587; meals W6000-13,000) This establishment serves tasty *sanchae bibimbap* (rice, egg, meat and mountain vegetables in hot sauce); delicious *sanchae baekban* (rice with mountain vegetable side dishes); and huge *gamjabuchim* (감자부침; potato pancake). Order a bottle of delicious *memilkkotsul* (메밀꽃술; W3000), which is *makgeolli* (fermented rice wine) flavoured with buckwheat flowers. There's also free coffee.

Getting There & Away

Take an intercity bus from Gangneung (W3100, 45 minutes, every 10 minutes) to **Jinbu intercity bus station** (% 335 6307). From Jinbu, local buses (12 per day) run from outside the bus terminal to Woljeongsa (W1420) and Sangwonsa (W2320) in Odaesan National Park.

Take local buses 303 or 7-7 (W900, one hour, 12 daily) from outside Gangneung bus terminal to Sogeomgang.

YONGPYONG SKI RESORT

용평 스키 리조트

With world-class facilities and lots of trees, **YongPyong** (% 033-335 5757; www.yongpyong.co.kr) is one of Asia's best ski resorts. It only missed out on hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics to Vancouver by 56 votes to 53. The season runs from December to March and there are 31 slopes for skiers and snowboarders, plus mogul bumps, cross-country trails and two half-pipes.

A lifts-and-gondola day pass costs W56,000/42,000 (adult/child), while a day's ski equipment rental is W25,000/19,000 (adult/child). Snowboards cost W33,000 for half-day hire, while cross-country skiing (including skis and entry fee) costs W20,000 and sledding W15,000. Day-long ski classes (in English) for beginners are W45,000/33,000 (adult/child), but you need a group of 10. Package deals including transport and accommodation are offered with discounts outside the peak season.

Sleeping

There are a number of sleeping options, most pretty pricey. Check the internet for deals in advance.

YongPyong Hostel (% 335 5757; fax 335 0160; r for up to 5 people W70,000) Peeking out of the pines like a Swiss chalet, this is a good option for friends on a budget who don't mind sharing a room. It's closed from March to October, except for group bookings.

Dragon Valley Hotel (% 335 5757; r W242,000; a s) Nicely situated, with 50% discounts from March to October.

Condominiums (% 335 5757; fax 335 0160; basic condos from W252,000 a) Discounted 50% from March to October.

Getting There & Away

Bus leave from Gangneung intercity bus terminal (% 335 6307) to Hoenggye (W2000,

½ hour, every 20 minutes). From Hoenggye a free shuttle bus leaves for YongPyong (10 minutes, 12 daily from 5.30am to 11.30pm), more frequently during the ski season.

Direct buses run to the resort from Seoul, Incheon, Busan, Daejeon and other cities.

JEONGDONGJIN 정동진

Twenty kilometres south of Gangneung is a holiday resort with novel tourist attractions, including a North Korean submarine. The town is famed for having a train station on the beach with a swifts nest in its eaves. The sand-timer hourglasses in the souvenir stalls relate to a popular Korean TV soap opera *Hourglass*, which used the station in some scenes. On a hilltop you can see a giant cruise ship and a sailing ship – a surreal sight.

Unification Park 통일 공원

In this park (% 640 4469; adult/child W2000/1000; 11 9am-5.30pm Mar-Oct, 9am-4.30pm Nov-Feb) you can venture inside a small North Korean spy submarine and a large American warship. There is also a tourist information centre.

The North Korean submarine weighs 325 tonnes, is 35m long and had a top speed of 13km an hour. The conditions must have been unbearably cramped for the 11 crew, 15 soldiers and agents inside.

On 17 September 1996 the submarine got stuck on some nearby underwater rocks. The commander burnt important documents (the fire-blackened compartment is still visible), shot the crew members, then landed with the soldiers and agents and attempted to return to the North. None succeeded, but it took 49 days to capture or kill them, and in the process 17 South Korean civilians and soldiers were killed and 22 injured.

The warship has a less dramatic story, having been built in America in 1945 and donated to the South Korean government in 1972.

To get there, take bus 11-1 (W900, 15 minutes, every 30 minutes) from Jeongdongjin train station or Gangneung. Taxis charge W8000 for the 5km drive south along the coast from Jeongdongjin.

Sleeping & Eating

Numerous motels (with names like Paradise and Sun Lovehouse) offer comfortable, modern rooms from W25,000 (but double that in July and August). Try to find a room with a balcony overlooking the sea and the sunrise.

Jijunghae Motel (지중해 모텔; ☎ 642 1518; r W25,000; a) Clean rooms with a balcony and an almost palatial en suite toilet and shower.

Halmehoni Chodang (할머니 초당; meals W4000-15,000) Try the *sundubu* (순두부), a bowl of unset tofu that you mix with seasoning and eat with rice and vegetable side dishes.

Beachside tent restaurants serve up crab, raw fish and squid *sundae*. Some offer a bowl of exotic-looking shellfish, which are barbecued at your table for W30,000 and make a delicious hors d'oeuvre for three people.

Getting There & Away

BUS

Buses 109 (W1100, six daily) and 112 (W700, every 30 minutes) leave from outside Gangneung bus terminal for Jeongdongjin. Other buses leave from near the Gangneung train station.

TRAIN

Trains leave Gangneung station for Jeongdongjin 12 times daily and cost W2100. The same service operates to and from Donghae and costs W5200.

Getting Around

The attractions are spread out so seeing them involves either leg-work, working out the bus routes and times or taking a taxi.

DONGHAE 동해

pop 93,000

Donghae is far from quaint and verges on unattractive, but this east-coast port has popular beaches, ferry service to Ulleungdo island (p212), buses to nearby Mureung Valley and a small cave in the downtown area.

A useful tourist information centre (☎ 530 2868; h 9am-6pm) is outside the Cheon-gok Donggul entrance.

Sights & Activities

CHEON-GOK DONGGUL 천곡 동굴

The most interesting thing about this cave (☎ 532 7303; adult/youth/child W4000/1100/700; h 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) is that it was only discovered in 1991...and that it is in the centre of town! While it's not that big (700m long), it is well lit and the many different kinds of calcified formations make it a worthwhile visit. Keep an eye out for cave insects with incredibly long feelers. There are bats but you probably won't see any.

MUREUNG VALLEY 무릉 계곡

This valley southwest of Donghae is considered by locals to be one of the prettiest in the country.

BEACHES

Mangsang Beach (망상 해수욕장) is a large, popular stretch of sand north of Donghae, with shallow water and many amusements and accommodation in July and August.

Chuam Beach (추암 해수욕장), to the south, is an attractive sandy cove with rocky headlands.

Festivals

They take their cuttlefish seriously in Donghae: a three-day **Cuttlefish Festival** at Mangsang Beach every July includes a cuttlefish-slicing contest, a catching-cuttlefish-by-hand competition and a cuttlefish quiz.

Sleeping

There are some good options next to Donghae intercity bus terminal.

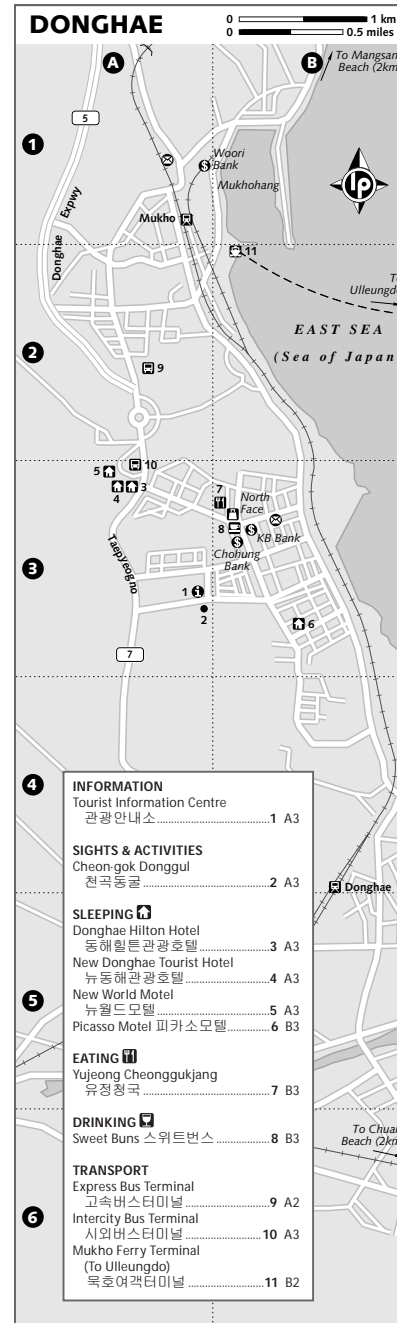
New World Motel (☎ 532 1212; r without/with computer W30,000/35,000; a i) Across from the bus station. Head for the (tacky, yes, but very visible) red-and-yellow palm trees. It's a budget place, but some rooms have trippy blue linoleum. Other rooms are far more subdued, with a few faux-Victorian touches that seem a bit out of place.

Picasso Motel (☎ 531 5109; r W40,000; a i) Swanky and spotless, with gold-embroidered sheets and softly lit rooms. Channel flipping will remind you (yowza!) that it's a love motel, but the front desk is friendly, welcoming and English speaking.

New Donghae Tourist Hotel (☎ 533 9215; www.hotelnd.com; s & d/tw W60,000/80,000; a i) There's a 30% discount in the off-peak season; however, with no in-room computers this may not be an option for anyone needing the internet. On the plus side, it has a small goldfish aquarium in the lobby...and a (men only) sauna.

Donghae Hilton Hotel (☎ 533 7722; www.dhhilton.com; r W80,000; a i) Not to be confused with the 'other' Hiltons, the Donghae Hilton offers Mozart, not muzak, computers in every room, and large rooms with firm beds and balconies (looking out, um, over the parking lots). Off peak is discounted up to 50%, a great deal.

There are a bunch of shabby places near the express bus terminal; do-it-yourselfers can likely start there.



POINT	NAME	PRICE
4	INFORMATION Tourist Information Centre 관광안내소	1 A3
	SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES Cheon-gok Donggul 천곡동굴	2 A3
	SLEEPING Donghae Hilton Hotel 동해힐튼관광호텔	3 A3
	New Donghae Tourist Hotel 뉴동해관광호텔	4 A3
	New World Motel 뉴월드모텔	5 A3
	Picasso Motel 피카소모텔	6 B3
	EATING Yujeong Cheonggukjang 유정창국	7 B3
	DRINKING Sweet Buns 스위트브스	8 B3
	TRANSPORT Express Bus Terminal 고속버스터미널	9 A2
	Intercity Bus Terminal 시외버스터미널	10 A3
	Mukho Ferry Terminal (To Ulleungdo) 묵호여객터미널	11 B2

Eating & Drinking

This is a good place to wander, as there are lots of small cafés and restaurants scattered around. Chances are you'll find a gem on your own, but if not, head for one of the following:

Yujeong Cheonggukjang (☎ 533 7222; meals W5500-9000; h 9.30am-9.30pm) Fantastic spicy miso soup served with 21 different side dishes (most of them spicy too!). Fish (obvious) and a pork dish (ask) are the only meats, so this is a good choice for vegetarians. The friendly owners can bring only veggie options if you ask.

Sweet Buns (☎ 535 6568; www.sweetbuns.co.kr; coffee & breads W1700-3000; h 10am-11pm) A clean, well-lit place with remarkably tacky figurines. Sweet Buns has the usual coffees and espresso drinks along with some more unusual ones, like sweet potato or pumpkin lattes. Unfortunately, the cheesecakes are nothing special.

Getting There & Away

BOAT

The Ulleungdo ferry (☎ 531 5891; one way W45,000) sails at 10am daily from March to October, departing from the island at 5.30pm, but times vary. The crossing takes three hours. Non-Korean citizens must have their passport. If possible, ask a Korean speaker to ring for details.

BUS

From Donghae's express bus terminal (☎ 531 3400; www.kobus.co.kr), buses leave for Seoul's Gangnam bus terminal (every 40 minutes) and Dong-Seoul (nine daily). The standard bus fare is W13,500 and the journey takes around three hours and 20 minutes. Local buses leave from outside the intercity bus terminal next to the SK gas station.

Intercity terminal (☎ 533 2020) bus destinations include the following:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	24,600	5hr	18 daily
Daegu	24,500	6½hr	24 daily
Gangneung	2600	40min	every 10min
Samcheok	1200	20min	every 10min
Sokcho	8600	2½hr	9 daily
Taebaek	6100	2hr	12 daily
Yang-yang	7000	2¼hr	7 daily
Airport			
Wonju	8900	3hr	3 daily

TRAIN

Seven trains a day run to Seoul's Cheongnyangni station (W16,200). Trains head to Busan, Danyang, Jecheon, Taebaek and Gangneung as well.

SAMCHEOK 삼척

pop 68,000

Samcheok is a gateway to some gorgeous coastlines, fascinating caves and sculptures. It's the gateway to Hwaseon Donggul (opposite), a huge cave complex under mountains, and is promoting itself as the City of Caves with plenty of cave exhibitions. The area has twice hosted a Penis Sculpture Festival, including a giant phallus-carving contest. Though the festival was shut down by Christian protesters, you can view many of the curious (often comic) contest entries at the shrine and museum at Sinnam (opposite). For more about the phallus 'phascination', see opposite.

The tourist information centre (☎ 575 1330; www.samcheok.go.kr; 11 9am-6pm) has English-speaking staff. It's outside the intercity bus terminal.

Mystery of Caves Exhibition**동굴 신비관**

This exhibition (☎ 574 6828; adult/youth/child W3000/2000/1500; 11 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) is housed in a funky building that resembles a wedding cake dripping with brown icing, and is packed with modern displays and films on caves and cave creatures. An IMAX film is shown at 10.30am, 2pm and 3pm. A building with a bat-shaped roof of solar panels houses an exhibition of cave mock-ups.

Jukseoru 죽서루

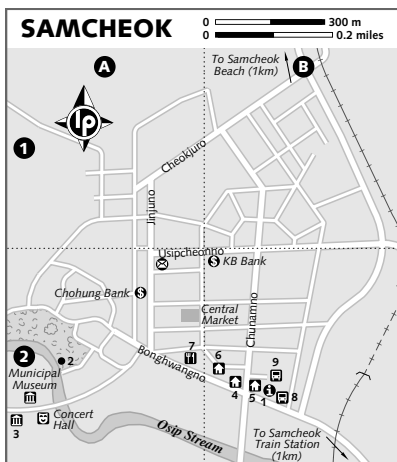
This pavilion (11 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) is just an old building in a small park perched on a cliff overlooking the river.

Sleeping & Eating

The usual motels can be found around Samcheok's bus terminals.

Samil Yeoinsuk (☎ 573 2038; r W15,000) It's the cheapest and is clean and fan-cooled, with a choice of Western or *ondol*-style rooms. Faux-wood vinyl flooring brightens things... a little. The lobby sports a cute 'bird and flower' style Korean painting.

Hanil Motel (☎ 574 8277; r W30,000; a i) Some rooms have computers, making this clean, simply furnished place the town's best option, although others are slightly cheaper.

**INFORMATION**

Tourist Information Centre 관광안내소 1 B2

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Jukseoru Pavilion 죽서루 2 A2
Mystery of Caves Exhibition 동굴신비관 3 A2

SLEEPING

Crown Motel 크라운모텔 4 B2
Hanil Motel 한일장 5 B2
Samil Yeoinsuk 삼일여인숙 6 B2

EATING

Yeongbin 영빈 7 A2

TRANSPORT

Express Bus Terminal 삼척버스터미널 8 B2
Intercity Bus Terminal 시외버스터미널 9 B2

Crown Motel (☎ 573 8831; r W30,000; a) The cave photo in the lobby is so big you'll feel like you've entered the cave itself. Rooms are small but clean, though lack of internet makes it less of an option for e-junkies needing an i-fix.

Opposite the hospital is Yeongbin (meals W5000-12,000), which serves up *samgyetang* (ginseng chicken soup) and *galbitang* (beef-rib soup).

Getting There & Away**BUS**

Departures from Samcheok's express bus terminal include Seoul Gangnam (W13,100, four hours, every 1½ hours) and Taebaek (W4300, 70 minutes, every 15 minutes).

The intercity bus schedule almost mirrors the Donghae schedule (see p181).

TRAIN

The train schedule is the same as the Donghae schedule (opposite), although trains from Seoul arrive in Samcheok about 15 minutes earlier.

AROUND SAMCHEOK**Hwaseon Donggul** 환선 동굴

This immense limestone cave (☎ 570 3255; adult/youth/child W4000/2800/2000; 11 8am-5pm Apr-Oct, 8.30am-4pm Nov-Mar) is one of the largest in Asia. Inside are cathedral-sized caverns, waterfalls, cascades and pools. Nearly 2km of steel stairways inside the cave allow visitors to get a good look at the many and varied features. Some formations have fanciful names, and there are good English-language information boards.

It gets quite cool inside (10°C to 14°C), so take a jacket. The cave is located in a majestic valley and it's a steep 35-minute uphill climb from the ticket office.

Near the ticket office are a couple of *gulgijip* (bark shingle houses), typical of the style once common in the mountains.

Bus 50 (W2000, 50 minutes, nine daily between 6.30am and 5.10pm) leaves Samcheok intercity bus terminal for the cave. The last bus back leaves at 6.40pm.

South of Samcheok

The coast becomes rocky with high cliffs and sandy coves, making a picturesque getaway.

MAENGBANG BEACH 맹방 해수욕장

About 12km down the coast from Samcheok is Maengbang Beach, one of the more popular spots to swim. The water is very shallow, making it a big hit with families with young children.

A small freshwater creek, also okay for swimming, runs nearby.

SHOW ME A PENIS

While phallic symbols are nothing new, the origins of this town's penis fetish are not the usual fertility or stamina preoccupations one would expect. Sinnam legend has it that a young virgin drowned within sight of her boyfriend on a small rocky island offshore. The boy had hoped to save her but was unable to because of the rough seas. Shortly after her death, fishermen noticed that the catch was dwindling and soon the town was sure that this 'unfulfilled' girl had cursed the fishing grounds. All hope seemed lost, but when a fisherman heeding the call of nature did so facing the ocean, the next day's catch increased. Soon the village erected, um, erections in hopes that the penises would placate the frustrated ghost. The fishing yields returned to normal, and Sinnam's custom of showing Mr Willy to the water remains to this day.

YONGHWA BEACH 용화 해수욕장

This beach, 25km south of Samcheok, has pine trees and is an attractive sandy cove between two rocky headlands.

JANGHO BEACH 장호 해수욕장

Next to Yonghwa is this sandy beach with a fishing village and harbour at the end of it.

SINNAM 신남 해수욕장

This small fishing village is home to an impressive **Fishing Village Folk Museum** (어촌민속전시관; ☎ 570 3568; adult/youth/child W3000/2000/1500; 11 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb, closed Mon). There's a lot to see here, though English signage is currently limited. Displays include shamanist rituals to ensure a good catch, taboos observed by local fishermen (such as not eating eggs before going on board), holographic projections and a fun fishing-boat simulation. Many of the exhibits are made with real creatures of the sea.

Outside the museum is Haesindang Gongwon (Penis Park; 해신당공원), which is full of giant wooden penis carvings (see below). Sinnam is 20km south of Samcheok and the bus ride takes 50 minutes.

IMWON BEACH 임원 해수욕장

Only 200m long, this beach has a dramatic setting in a cliff-lined cove. Nearby is a sea cave and a freshwater creek.

HOSAN BEACH 호산 해수욕장

The southernmost beach in Gangwon-do, Hosan is 1km in length and has good white sand. There is a pine-tree grove next to the beach where camping is popular.

Getting There & Away

Buses 20, 30, 70, 90 and 90-1 go to Maengbang Beach. Bus 20 continues to Jangho Beach, bus

30 goes to Gungchon Beach, bus 70 goes to Yongeunsa, bus 90 (nine daily) turns round at Imwon Beach, and bus 90-1 (five daily) continues to the end of the line at Hosan Beach. The standard buses charge W900 and deluxe buses charge W1300.

TAEBAEK 태백

pop 55,000

The train station, bus terminal, information centre and *yeogwan* are all conveniently within sight of each other in the town centre, and the tourist information centre (% 550 2828; 9am-5pm) has kind English-speaking staff.

The Taebaeksan Snow Festival takes place at the end of January with giant ice sculptures, sledding and igloo restaurants.

Getting There & Away

Numerous buses connect Taebaek to various destinations:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Dong-Seoul	15,900	5½hr	every 30min
Samcheok	4300	1¼hr	every 15min
Taebaeksan	1000	25min	every 45min

Trains depart for Seoul train station (W12,900, 11 daily) and Gangneung (11 daily).

TAEBAEK SAN PROVINCIAL PARK

태백산 도립공원

Taebaeksan (% 550 2740; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/700; 9am-sunset), meaning Big White Mountain, is the sixth-highest mountain in South Korea. The mountain actually consists of twin peaks, Janggunbong (1568m) and its neighbour, Munsubong (1546m). The mountain is one of the three most sacred for shamanists, and on the summit is Cheonjedan (천제단), an altar connected with Dan-gun, Korea's mythical founder, where ceremonies are still occasionally performed (3 October to 5 October, and 1 January). A rare outdoor Statue of Dan-gun (단군상) is in front of the Dan-gun shrine near the entrance to the park. The shrine is a simple, bare wooden hall with Dan-gun's portrait and some food offerings in brass bowls.

The Taebaek region was once South Korea's main coal-mining area, and the Coal Museum (태백 석탄 박물관; % 550 2743; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/700; 9am-5.30pm Tue-Sun Mar-Oct, 9am-4.30pm Nov-Feb) by the park entrance is well worth

a visit. You can't miss the building, which has a mine-head contraption at one end. Don't miss the simulated roof collapse – accidents and deaths were common, and more than 200 miners were killed between 1970 and 1996. At some mines in the remote mountains, tigers were another hazard and miners killed by tigers were given a special gravestone.

In front of the park entrance is a 'tourist village' of identical two-storey houses. There are plenty of restaurants as well.

Buses from Taebaek bus terminal (W1000, 25 minutes, every 45 minutes) provide a good service to the park.

JEONGSEON 정선

pop 41,000

This remote, mountain-locked town can be visited on a one-carriage, gaily decorated train. Catch a train from Taebaek to Jeungsan (증산; W4400, 35 minutes, 11 daily) and change to the Jeongseon line, which goes to Jeongseon (35 minutes) and on to the end of the line at Gujeolli (one hour). It's one of the prettiest routes in Korea, with classic Gangwon-do scenes of densely wooded mountains and rivers bordered by terraced rice fields, vegetable gardens and orchards. Very occasionally there'll be an ox pulling a plough, a scene from a previous era.

Jeongseon train station is 2km from the town centre and the nearest *yeogwan*, so you may need to take a taxi (W1500) as there are not many buses. It's another 2km from the town centre to the express bus terminal. Dae-wangjang (대왕장) is a typical old-fashioned *yeogwan* but a reasonable deal at W30,000.

Getting There & Away

BUS

Buses leave Jeongseon for a number of destinations:

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Dong-Seoul	14,600	4hr	7 daily
Gangneung	7000	1¼hr	13 daily
Jecheon	5900	2hr	6 daily
Taebaek	4700	1¼hr	7 daily

WONJU 원주

pop 283,000

Wonju is a relaxed, youthful city with a large Korean army base. Yonsei University has a campus here; its green lawns overlook a man-

MARKET WATCHING

The food section of Jeongseon's five-day market is what catches the eye: middle-aged women are frying up vegetable pancakes, putting red beans into small doughnuts, and stirring big cauldrons of bubbling brown soup. *Maemil-muk* are thick strips of noodle that are put into the brown soup and garnished with dried seaweed. Under a multicoloured golf umbrella, a woman is making green rice cakes that look like strips of plasticine. The inevitable *kimchi* (pickled vegetables) sellers guard tables groaning under the weight of 20kg jars of fiery, glowing *kimchi* – some of them containing small, whole pickled crabs. Nearby, strips of pungent but tasty dried squid are being heated up and passed through a small mangle. Next up are containers of soy-bean paste – the basis of millions of soups that are enjoyed every day throughout Korea. An *ajumma* (older woman) with a towel wrapped round her head is selling homebrew. The next stall has a monstrous octopus laid out on a bed of ice, and further on, table-sized slabs of white tofu are for sale – something bland at last – together with grey intestines that are steaming in a big metal pot. Finally there is the 'popping man' with his ancient machine. He puts a handful of grain into a metal cup, there's a puff of steam, and hey presto – a rice cracker pops out. Now that's real magic. No wonder a gang of small kids is watching him intently.

made pond and make for a relaxing place to stroll among students who generally jump at the chance to practice their English with a 'real live' foreigner. 'A', 'B' and (yes, you guessed it!) 'C' streets have a host of restaurants, hotels, motels and bars. The street market (open from 6am to 9pm) has an amazing variety of fruits and veggies. Local buses cost W950 and many of the stops are GPS-enabled, allowing you to know exactly when the next one will arrive.

Getting There & Away

There are two terminals, Wonju terminal (% 746 5223; www.wonjuterminl.co.kr) and Wonju express bus terminal (% 747 4181). The latter serves Seoul.

BUS

Destination	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Cheongju	8000	1½hr	hourly
Gangneung	6300	1½hr	every 30min
Seoul Gangnam	5700	1½hr	every 15min

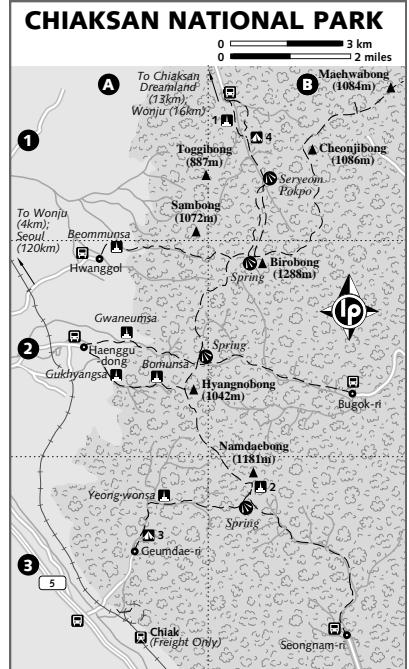
TRAIN

Trains (W4800, nine daily) run between Wonju and Seoul's Cheongnyangni station.

CHIAKSAN NATIONAL PARK

지악산 국립공원

Chiaksan means 'Magpie Crag Mountain' and this park (% 732 5231; adult/youth/child W3600/1300/700; 9am-sunset) is 20km northeast of Wonju, making it a very do-able weekend trip from Seoul. The dense forests, mist-cloaked mountains, rushing rock-strewn rivers and wildlife make it well worth checking out. The most



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Guryongsa 구룡사 1 B1
- Sang-wonsa 상원사 2 B3

SLEEPING

- Geumdae-ri Camping Ground 금대리아영장 3 A3
- Guryong-sa Camping Ground 구룡사야영장 4 B1

popular hike starts from Guryongsa (Nine Dragon Temple, partially burned and recently restored) and goes up to Birobong (three hours) and then either back down again to Guryongsa or down to Hwanggol. The hike down takes about two hours, whichever route you take. The hikes are quite tough and there are no mountain shelters in the park.

In the southern part of the park is Sang-wonsa. Perched on top of a 50m cliff, it commands a mind-liberating view across the valley. Talk with an official about the current trail conditions before you make hiking plans.

Sleeping & Eating

The main *minbak* and restaurant area is outside the Guryongsa entrance. For those who prefer the great outdoors, camping is possible at Geumdae-ri and Guryong-sa (☎ 731-1289; small/large tent W3000/W6000).

Getting There & Away

From Wonju, you can take buses 41 or 41-1 (W950, 40 minutes, every 25 minutes) to Guryongsa. Buses 82 or 82-1 run to Hwanggol, while buses 21 to 25 run to Geumdae-ri and Seongnam-ri.