

# Jeollanam-do 전라남도



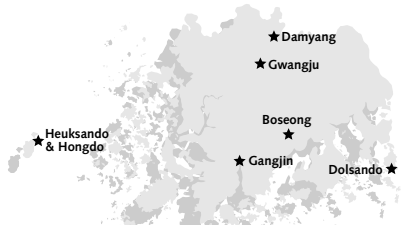
South Jeolla is one of Korea's least developed and greenest provinces, where 25% of households are farmers against a national average of 7%. The province is pioneering pesticide-free and organic farming, while fish farming has breathed new life into coastal fishing villages and the many small, offshore islands, more and more of which are being linked by bridges to the mainland. A feature of rural life these days is farmers marrying Vietnamese and other Asian brides, so that Jeollanam-do has more international marriages than Seoul.

Irrigated rice fields, marine and land-based national parks, dramatic coastal views, fresh seafood and political dissent sum up the province. But – just as a one-time radical can become part of the establishment – Jeollanam-do is slowly but surely becoming more like the rest of Korea: it is now crisscrossed by expressways and its expanding cities are filling up with anonymous apartment blocks. Despite this, the province retains a rebel edge and is proud of its ceramic and artistic traditions, its Naju pears and green tea, its exiled poets and its pro-democracy martyrs.

The region's two heroes are Admiral Yi Sun-sin, who defeated the Japanese navy in the 1590s, and Kim Dae-jung, a 20th-century democracy warrior who became president in 1997 and finally ended the stranglehold on political power and patronage held by politicians from the eastern provinces. He received almost 100% support from the Jeolla provinces.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Savouring the scenic location and the flavours of a **green-tea plantation** (p262) at Boseong
- Enjoying breathtaking coastal views from **Hyang-iram** (p262) at Dolsando
- Voyaging to the scattered, unspoilt islands of **Heuksando** (p270) and fabled **Hongdo** (p270)
- Admiring art and crafts in Gwangju's **Art Street** (p256) and nearby Damyang's **Bamboo Crafts Museum** (p257)
- Creating your own ceramic masterpiece at the **pottery workshop** (p262) in Gangjin



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 061    ■ POPULATION: 3.5 MILLION    ■ AREA: 12,400 SQ KM

## History

Jeollanam-do, far from the centre of power in Seoul during the long Joseon era, was a place of exile, and was used as a dumping ground for political and religious dissidents. The tradition of political dissent has continued and the province was a hotbed of opposition to the military governments that favoured the eastern provinces and ruled South Korea in the 1960s and 1970s. Students and trade unionists led countless pro-democracy protests and demonstrations, until army tanks crushed an uprising in Gwangju city in May 1980. The soldiers' brutality stained the reputation of the military rulers, although it was not until 1992 that a civilian, Kim Young-sam, was finally elected president.

## National & Provincial Parks

Cruise around thousands of islands in **Dadohae Haesang National Park** (p270) and take a cable car ride in **Duryunsan Provincial Park** (p263). You could bump into a bear in **Jirisan National Park** (p258), which spreads over three provinces, while two Zen Buddhist temples attract pilgrims to **Jogyesan Provincial Park** (p258). At

weekends hikers stand in queues at **Mudeungsan Provincial Park** (p253) just outside Gwangju, while remote **Wolchulsan National Park** (p266) can be traversed in under five hours.

## Getting There & Around

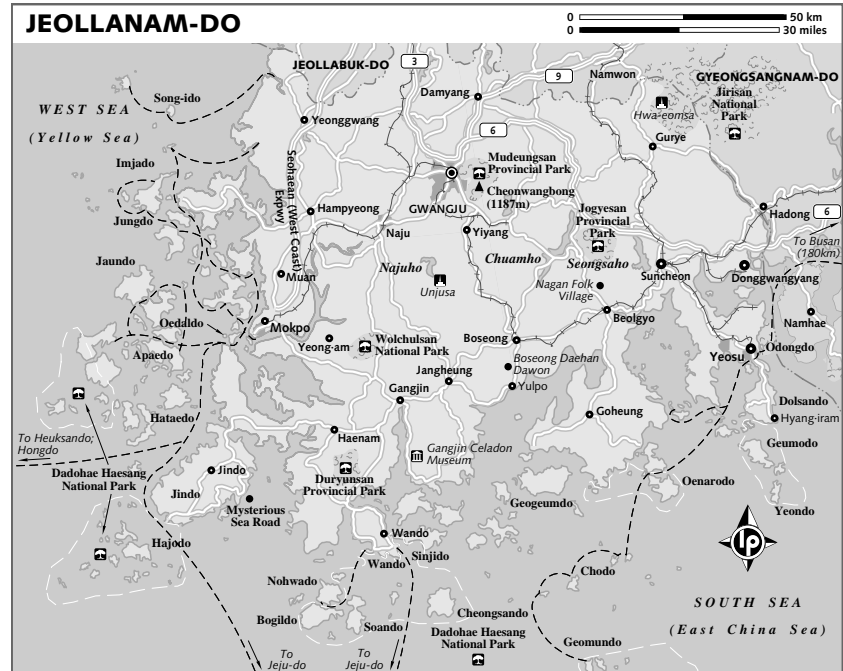
Most travellers arrive by train or bus and then use buses and ferries to travel around, although trains do run to the southern ports of Mokpo and Yeosu and east to Busan.

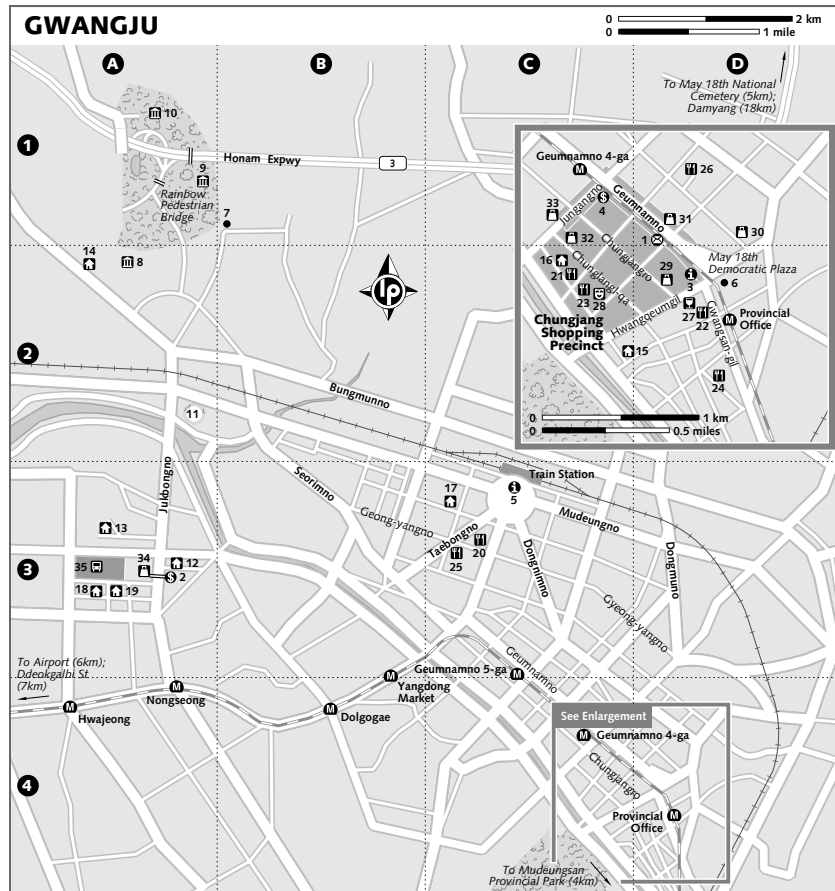
## GWANGJU 광주

062 / pop 1.4 million  
Gwangju may look like any other city with its shop-filled central area, an attractive riverside, busy restaurants, pubs and bars – all encircled by apartment blocks – but within this everyday exterior resides the heart of an artist and the soul of a revolutionary. Civic Gwangju emphasises the arts and the city has an important place in the history of Korea's democracy and human-rights movement.

## Information

Central post office (Chungjangno) Free internet.  
Fine Bank (Jukbongno) Foreign exchange.





**Global ATM** (bus terminal) Near the ticket booths.

**Gwangju Bank** Foreign exchange.

**Standard Chartered Bank** (Geumnamno) Global ATM and foreign exchange.

**Tourist information centre** bus terminal (☎ 360 8733); Gwangju airport (☎ 942 6160); Geumnamno (☎ 062 1330; ㄱ 9am-9pm); train station (☎ 522-5147) The main centre (Geumnamno) has free internet.

## Sights & Activities

### GWANGJU NATIONAL MUSEUM & VICINITY

**광주국립박물관** (☎ 570 7014; adult/child ₩1000/500; ㄱ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun), to the north of the city, is its fine collection of perfectly preserved Chinese ceramics that were discovered in 1975 inside a 14th-century shipwreck. The

display ranges from elegant, classical vases to homey mortars and pestles. Other galleries show Joseon and Buddhist art, two Korean art genres neglected by Western art critics.

Take a 15-minute walk through a tunnel under the expressway to **Gwangju Folk Museum** (☎ 521 9041; adult/youth/child ₩500/300/200; ㄱ 9.30am-5pm, closed day after national holidays). It uses dioramas, models, sound effects, videos and more to show off Jeollanam-do's traditional culture. Historical photographs at the end reveal how quickly Koreans have morphed from feudal farmers to 21st-century whiz kids.

Around the Folk Museum is a pleasant park that contains the Biennale Exhibition Hall. Walk back down through the park to the Gwangju Art Museum and the bus stop.

## INFORMATION

**Central Post Office**

중앙우체국 ..... 1 D1

**Fine Bank** 기업은행 ..... 2 A3

**Global ATM** ..... (see 35)

**Gwangju Bank** 광주은행 ..... (see 34)

**Main Tourist Information Centre**

관광안내소 ..... 3 D2

**Standard Chartered First Bank**

제일은행 ..... 4 C1

**Tourist Information Centre**

관광안내소 ..... 5 C3

**Tourist Information** ..... (see 35)

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

**Asian Culture Complex**

아시아문화중심도시홍보관 ..... 6 D2

**Biennale Exhibition Hall**

비엔날레전시관 ..... 7 B1

**Gwangju Art Museum**

광주시립미술관 ..... 8 A2

**Gwangju Folk Museum**

광주민속박물관 ..... 9 A1

**Gwangju National Museum**

광주국립박물관 ..... 10 A1

**Mudeung Stadium**

무등경기장 ..... 11 A2

## SLEEPING

**Asia Motel** 아시아호텔 ..... (see 13)

**Classic Motel** 클래식모텔 ..... 12 A3

**Eunhasu** 은하수호텔 ..... 13 A3

**Gwangju Prince Hotel**

광주프린스호텔 ..... 14 A2

**Hotel Hiddink Continental**

호텔히딩크콘티넨탈 ..... 15 C2

**Hotel Palace**

파레스관광호텔 ..... 16 C2

**Koreana Tourist Hotel**

코리아나관광호텔 ..... 17 C3

**Lawrence Motel** 로렌스모텔 ..... 18 A3

**Noblesse Motel**

노블레스모텔 ..... 19 A3

## EATING

**Hyundai Department Store**

현대백화점 ..... 20 C3

**Minsokchon** 민속촌 ..... 21 C2

**Minsokchon** 민속촌 ..... 22 D2

**Moojinjoo** 무진주 ..... 23 C2

**Shinsegae Department Store**

신세계백화점 ..... (see 34)

**Songjukheon** 송죽헌 ..... 24 D2

**Yeongmi** 영미 ..... 25 C3

**Yero** 여로 ..... 26 D1

## DRINKING

**Soul Train** 소울트레인 ..... 27 D2

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Mike & Dave's Speakeasy** ..... 28 C2

## SHOPPING

**25** 음악사 ..... 29 D2

**Art Street** ..... 30 D1

**Chungheung Underground Shopping Arcade**

충금지하상가 ..... 31 D1

**IFU** 이프유 ..... 32 C1

**Migliore** 밀리오레 ..... 33 C1

**Shinsegae Department Store**

신세계백화점 ..... 34 A3

## TRANSPORT

**Bus Terminal** 버스타미널 ..... 35 A3

The **Gwangju Art Museum** (☎ 222 3574; adult/youth/child ₩460/300/250; ㄱ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun), part of an ugly art plaza with concert and performance halls, displays highlights from the avant-garde Gwangju Biennale (p254). Thought-provoking exhibits could include a portrait of the back of someone's head, a cow made of leather or a landscape inside a suitcase.

Take bus 23 (₩900, 10 minutes, every 15 minutes) from outside the bus terminal and get off at the Gwangju Art Museum stop (Munhwa Yesul Hoegwan), a 15-minute walk from Gwangju National Museum. Bus 50 (₩900, 20 minutes, every 30 minutes) runs from the train station to the Folk Museum; bus 55 runs from Geumnamno to the National Museum.

## MAY 18TH NATIONAL CEMETERY

**국립 5.18 민주묘지**

This sombre **memorial park** (☎ 266 5187; admission free; ㄱ 8am-7pm Mar-Oct, to 5pm Nov-Feb), which opened in 1997, contains a simple burial site for 325 civilian casualties of the 1980 Gwangju Uprising. A small but emotionally charged museum shows photographs, and a hard-hitting video film gives a dramatic account of the traumatic events of over 25 years ago (p254) that still scar the country's political landscape. 'History which does not speak the truth and does not remember the past is bound to be repeated' is the message.

On the right, a memorial hall displays photographs of the ordinary folk – from students to grandmothers – who paid the ultimate price during the military government's so-called 'crackdown on communists'.

A five-minute walk through the memorial garden leads to the reinstated original cemetery, where the victims were first hurriedly buried without proper ceremony. Later the bodies were dug up and reinterred in the new cemetery.

Bus 518 (₩900, 20 minutes, every 30 minutes) drops you off at the cemetery entrance and can be picked up at the Gwangju Hospital stop, near the large Home Plus store, or along Geumnamno. Bus 311 (₩900, 15 minutes, every 15 minutes) runs from the bus terminal to Gwangju hospital.

## ASIAN CULTURE COMPLEX

**아시아문화중심도시홍보관**

This complex, in the old Provincial Hall overlooking the May 18th Democratic Plaza, features art displays and cultural performances from around Asia. Local bands let rip in the small park outside on warm weekends.

## MUDEUNG SAN PROVINCIAL PARK

**무등산도립공원**

Overlooking Gwangju, **Mudeungsan Provincial Park** (☎ 265 0761; admission free) is a gorgeous green mountain range with a spider's web of

well-signed trails leading to the peak, Cheonwangbong (1187m). About 1km (a 30-minute walk) from the bus stop (fork right to Saein-bong) is **Uijae Misulgwan** (☎ 222 3040; admission W1000; ㄱ 9.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun), a chic art gallery that displays landscape, flower and bird paintings by Heo Baek-ryeon (1891-1977), whose pen name was Uijae. His modern-style house is in an idyllic spot, a five-minute walk away on the other side of the path.

Walk up from the gallery to the famous **Choonsul tea plantation** that Uijae established. It's a steep 15-minute walk up, but turn left and then right to join the well-trodden main track up to Tokkideung (460m), a popular picnic spot with views of dramatic scree slopes, which takes half an hour. Otherwise walk downhill and the track comes out at the fork, a five-minute walk before the museum (20 minutes).

Alternatively, a 10-minute walk on from the art gallery takes you to Jeungsimsa, a temple with a Shilla-era iron Buddha backed by red-and-gold artwork, housed in an insignificant-looking shrine behind the main hall. The tiny shrine perched on a rock next to it is dedicated to the Shamanist Mountain God. From the temple you can continue on to Saeinbong (1.3km) or further afield.

The park is alive with Gwangjuites at weekends, and restaurant shacks that cling to the hillsides or overlook cascading streams sell pork, chicken and mountain-vegetable meals.

Buses 15, 27, 52, 555, 771 and 1001 go to the Jeungsimsa entrance to Mudeungsan Park, east of Gwangju. Bus 555 (W900, 30 minutes, every 15 minutes) can be picked up outside Exit 3 of Nongseong subway station (a 10-minute walk south of the bus terminal) or along Geumnamno.

#### BASEBALL 야구

Catch the local Kia Tigers baseball team in action at **Mudeung Stadium** (adult/youth/child W5000/3000/1000) near the bus terminals, and spot the differences with the American game. Many buses, including buses 1 and 23, can drop you there. Matches start at 2pm or 6.30pm.

#### Festivals & Events

The **Gwangju Biennale** ([www.gb.or.kr](http://www.gb.or.kr)) is a major two-month contemporary art festival that takes place every two years (next held in autumn 2008). With international curators, each biennale has a different theme and is based in the Biennale Exhibition Hall, near the Gwangju Folk Museum. The city always fills with colourful and mind-expanding performances, displays, lectures, exhibitions and music, most of it experimental and some of it at the joyfully wacky end of the modern art spectrum.

#### Sleeping BUDGET

The usual mixture of *yeogwan* (motels with small en suites) stuck in a 1980s time warp,

and smart new motels surround the bus terminals.

**Eunhasu** (☎ 367 0511; r W20,000; a i ) Among a plethora of *yeogwan* with dated furniture and fittings in the alleys north of the bus terminals, this good-value one is clean, with large-sized bathrooms and round beds.

**Asia Motel** (☎ 367 5001; r W25,000; a i ) Light-coloured decor and a computer in the room are the plus points in this *yeogwan* north of the bus terminals, which could do with some TLC.

**Classic Motel** (☎ 363 1751; r W30,000; a i ) Just 100m north of the bus terminal is this brand new motel inside a fancy-looking black-and-silver tower. Despite the exterior, the rooms are more alpine than love motel in design. Rooms are a tad cramped but are stylish and welcoming, and you could hunt around for hours to find a better room at this price. Add W5000 for a computer or W10,000 for a superior DVD room.

**Noblesse Motel** (☎ 351 6161; r W30,000; a i ) Don't be put off by the quirky naked-lady door handles and love-hotel exterior - regular overnight rooms are just that. Its location south of the bus terminals surrounded by restaurants and bars is a plus. Rooms with a computer are W5000 extra.

**Lawrence Motel** (☎ 366 1900; r W30,000; a i ) A well-lit lobby in this no-fuss, cream-coloured motel in a busy area south of the bus terminals creates a favourable impression, maintained by rooms that go for a plain and simple Zen-style look.

**Koreana Tourist Hotel** (☎ 526 8600; ksc7812@hanmail.net; r W30,000; i ) A stuffed tiger guards the lobby and chandeliers light the large coffee shop of this well-priced and well-maintained hotel set amid a bevy of love motels near Gwangju train station. Rooms are spacious with ornate furniture and have a computer.

#### MIDRANGE

**Hotel Palace** (☎ 222 2525; [www.hotelpalace.co.kr](http://www.hotelpalace.co.kr); r W50,000; a i ) In the heart of the city, amid the shopping frenzy of Chungjangno, are these quiet, quality rooms which have been recently renovated and are all stocked with smart computers. Pop into the pop-art coffee shop if you like lurid velour.

**Gwangju Prince Hotel** (☎ 524 0025; r W60,000; a i ) You might meet some Korean baseball stars staying at this modest but reasonably priced hotel near the museums. The lift is scruffy but this is a real hotel with a lobby,

#### KIMCHI FESTIVAL

Jeollanam-do has always been Korea's premier rice-growing region, and is known for the country's freshest and best food. So Gwangju is the perfect location for showing off the country's top *kimchi* (pickled vegetables). Every October, Gwangju hosts a five-day *kimchi* extravaganza with a fairground, market stalls, pottery making, folk music and a *hanbok* (traditional clothing) fashion show. The festival is the best opportunity to make, taste, purchase or just enjoy the visual sensation of Korea's most famous dish in all its hundreds of varieties. Shuttle buses run to the often-changing venue.

sauna, restaurants, coffee shop and bar, and yet the price is not much more than a smart motel. Rooms have computers.

**Hotel Hiddink Continental** (☎ 227 8500; [www.hotel-continental.co.kr](http://www.hotel-continental.co.kr); r from W84,000; a i ) The discounted price makes this hotel - named after Korea's revered 2002 World Cup soccer coach - a reasonable option, but the suites are not worth the extra. The sky-lounge bar (beer W5000) is its best feature with armchairs, great city views, an outdoor terrace and a mixed bag of live music nightly at 8pm.

#### Eating

##### BUDGET & MIDRANGE

**Hyundai department store** (ㄱ 10am-8pm) Near Gwangju train station, it has a bright and clean food court (meals W3500 to W5000) in the basement.

**Shinsegae department store** (ㄱ 10am-8pm) Next to the bus terminals, this classy store has 10 small, reasonably priced restaurants (W4000 to W10,000) and a café on the 8th floor, and the food plaza in the basement sells takeaway barbecue chicken, big *mandu* (dumplings) and *hotteok* (sweet pita-bread snack).

**Yero** (meals W5000) Down an alley off Art Street is this very informal *ssambap* (wraps and side dishes) restaurant made up of three rooms in the owner's house. It's all very rustic and untidy but people come for the food and Yero is as near to Korean home cooking as you can get.

**Minsokchon** (meals W4500-13,000; 11.30am-midnight) A popular barnlike but attractive and cheery restaurant that echoes to *so galbi* (소갈비; beef) and *dwaengi galbi* (돼지갈비; pork)

#### MAY 18TH MASSACRE

What the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre is to China, the 1980 Gwangju Massacre is to South Korea, a mass demonstration and protest against an authoritarian regime with deadly consequences that became an icon for its time.

Following large-scale student protests against military rule, on 18 May 1980 the army was ordered to move into Gwangju on the pretext of quelling a communist uprising. The soldiers had no bullets, but they used bayonets to murder dozens of unarmed protesters and passers-by. Outraged residents broke into armouries and police stations and used the seized weapons and ammunition to drive the troops out of their city.

For over a week pro-democracy citizen groups were in control, but the brutal military response came nine days later on 27 May, when soldiers armed with loaded M16 rifles, supported by helicopters and tanks, retook the city. Most of the protest leaders were labelled 'communists' and summarily shot. At least 154 civilians were killed during the uprising, and an additional 4089 were wounded or arrested. Many of those arrested were tortured. For eyewitness accounts of the still-controversial street fighting, read *Memories of May 1980* by Chung Sang-yong (2003) or view [www.518.org](http://www.518.org).

In memory of the pro-democracy martyrs, the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights has been awarded since 2000, and recipients have included Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy leader struggling to overthrow the military rulers in Myanmar.



sizzling on table barbecues. The *galbitang* (갈비탕) is excellent with chunky, lean meat and 'wellbeing' additions. If this restaurant has a long queue outside, try the branch in Gwangsan-gil.

**Moojinjoo** (meals W6000-13,000; 11.40am-midnight) With an architecturally adventurous design, this classy restaurant is often packed out on all floors, although its speciality, *bossam* (보쌈; steamed fatty pork with *kimchi*, cabbage and lettuce wraps), may not appeal to everyone. The lunchtime-only *bossam jeongsik* (W6000) is a cheaper deal.

### TOP END

**Yeongmi** (meals W20,000-32,000) One of the many duck restaurants in Duck Street alongside Hyundai department store, it has starred on TV. The speciality is *oritang* (오리탕), which is meant for sharing and bubbles and thickens away at your table together with a pile of vegetables. Ignore the tatty décor; it's the taste of the food that counts.

**Songjukheon** (meals from W40,000; 11 noon-2pm, 6-10pm) An atmospheric *hanok* where *hanbok*-clad staff serve a full-on *yangban hanjeongsik* (banquet) in your own antique-decorated room, with *gayageum* (12-stringed zither) music in the background. The restaurant is expensive but special.

### Drinking

**Soul Train** (Hwanggeumgil; 11 6pm-5am) This dark basement pub, patronised by both Koreans and foreigners, has a square bar, a pool table and a nightclub feel.

**Mike & Dave's Speakeasy** (11 7pm-3am Thu-Sun) A popular live band rocks this informal and friendly bar, hidden down an alley, on Fridays at 10pm. The bar was set up by two enterprising Canadians and the beers include ABC stout.

### Shopping

Chungjangno, Gwangju's buzzing, semi-pedestrianised shopping district, is bursting with clothing and accessory stores, bars, nightclubs, buzzing restaurants and all the usual fast-food chains. A tsunami of young people sweeps along the streets every night, both above ground and in the Chunggeum underground shopping arcade.

**If-U** (11 11.30am-10pm) Here are six floors of fashion shopping for the very young at heart, and a food court (meals W3000 to W10,000;

11 11.30am-11pm) This music shop sells Western and Korean rock CDs downstairs, while classical and jazz selections can be found upstairs.

**Migliore** (11 11.30am-11pm) It has stacks of fashion outlets, five cinemas on the 11th floor, a 24-hour *jjimjilbang* (luxury sauna; admission W5000) and an event stage outside. The *jjimjilbang* has great facilities including aroma, cucumber and green-tea pools while a full-body massage, oil and scrub beauty treatment will set you back W12,000.

**Art Street** (Yesurui Geori) This is Gwangju's answer to Seoul's Insadong with art galleries, a woodcarver's studio, a leather workshop, teashops, and stores selling *hanbok* (traditional Korean clothing), *hanji* (handmade paper), art books, ethnic jewellery, calligraphy brushes, tea sets and dolls.

**Shinsegae department store** (11 10am-8pm) Brand-name outlets rub shoulders in this department store in a gleaming, luxury ambience. There's a Starbucks (drinks W3000 to W5000), the favourite haunt of local *doenjangnyeo* (a derogatory term for young women who only care about style and fashion), and next to it is an art gallery (admission free) showcasing changing exhibitions.

### Getting There & Away

#### AIR

A dozen Gwangju-Seoul and nine Gwangju-Jeju flights run daily, and international flights operate to Shanghai and Macau.

#### BUS

Gwangju's huge, brand-new bus terminal houses both express and intercity buses, a tourist information centre and fast-food outlets, with a department store and other shops nearby.

Express bus destinations include:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	13,800	4hr	every 20min
Daegu	10,800	3hr	every 40min
Daejeon	8900	2½hr	every 30min
Jeonju	5300	1¼hr	every 30min
Seoul	14,100	4hr	every 10min

Intercity buses departing Gwangju include the following services:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Boseong	5400	1½hr	every 30min
Gangjin	7200	1½hr	every 30min
Haenam	8200	2hr	every 30min
Jindo	12,400	3hr	hourly
Mokpo	6300	1¼hr	every 30min
Songgwangsa	5600	1½hr	8 daily
Suncheon	5800	2hr	every 30min
Wando	11,900	2½hr	hourly
Yeongam	5000	1½hr	every 20min
Yeosu	8600	2¼hr	every 30min

#### TRAIN

KTX trains (W33,300, 2¾ hours, 11 daily) run between Gwangju and Yongsan station in Seoul.

*Saemaul* (W29,700, 3¼ hours, two daily) and *Mugunghwa* (W20,000, four hours, four daily) trains also run along the route. A *Tonggeun* (commuter) train (W2000, one hour) runs once a day at 6.55am from Gwangju train station to Mokpo or three times a day from Songjeong-ni train station (W1600), west of Gwangju past the airport.

### Getting Around

#### TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Bus 1000 (W1000, 30 minutes, every 15 minutes) runs from the airport to the bus terminals and Geumnamno. A taxi costs around W7500. Soon the new subway will provide an alternative.

#### BUS

Gwangju has over 80 city bus routes, and most run past the bus terminal that has bus stops on all sides. Bus 17 (W900, 20 minutes, every 15 minutes) runs between the bus terminal and Gwangju train station.

#### SUBWAY

The subway (W800, every 10 minutes) is being extended west to the airport. Buy a disc ticket and at the subway barrier hold the disc ticket over the yellow pad. When you reach your destination put the disc ticket into the slot at the exit barrier.

### AROUND GWANGJU

#### Unjusa 운주사

This intriguing temple (9 374 0660; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/600; 11 7am-7pm Mar-Oct, 8am-5pm Nov-Feb) occupies a river valley and its hillsides in Hwasun-gun, 40km south of Gwangju.

Legend has it that the site originally housed 1000 Buddhas and 1000 pagodas, built because according to traditional geomancy, the southwest of the country lacked hills and needed the pagodas to 'balance' the peninsula. The remaining 23 pagodas and some 100 Buddhas are still the greatest numbers of any Korean temple. According to another legend they were all built in one night by stonemasons sent down from heaven, but another theory is that Unjusa was the site of a school for stonemasons.

Whatever their origins, many works are unique and some are national treasures. Back-to-back twin Buddhas face their own pagodas, while another pair of Buddhas lying on their backs are said to have been the last works sculpted one evening; the masons returned back to heaven before the Buddhas could be stood upright.

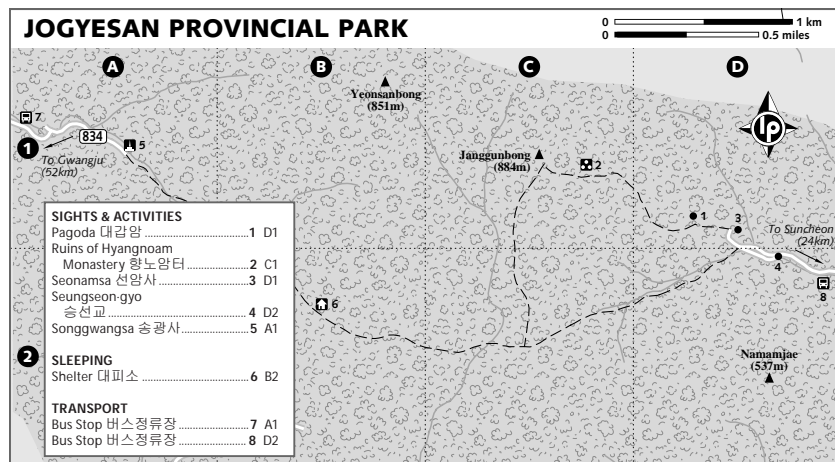
To reach Unjusa, catch bus 218 or 318 from Gwangju bus terminal (W2700, 1½ hours, hourly) and the temple is a 10-minute walk from the bus stop. Check with the driver as only some of the buses (eight 218s and eight 318s) go all the way to Unjusa. The last bus back to Gwangju currently leaves around 6.20pm.

### Damyang Bamboo Crafts Museum

#### 담양대나무박물관

This museum (9 381 4111; adult/youth/child W1000/700/500; 11 9am-5.30pm) in Damyang, north of Gwangju, has an amazing range of bamboo products, both ancient and modern. Furniture, exquisitely woven baskets – even a bamboo teapot and bamboo jewellery – are more interesting than you'd expect. Next door is a free display of exquisite bamboo wonders from around the world. Bamboo has 101 uses and the shops in front of the museum prove it. A few of the 46 kinds of bamboo grow behind the museum.

A two-minute walk down the road is the busy but superb *Bakmulgwan Apjip* (박물관앞집; meals W10,000-20,000; 11 24hr) The *daetongbap* (대통밥) is excellent – rice and nuts cooked inside a bamboo stem, bamboo-shoot *doenjang*, and a dozen dazzling side dishes are served up with free bamboo-leaf tea. The side rooms have glorious views over the rice fields. Ask for a bag to carry home your bamboo rice container as a souvenir. *Tteokgalbi* (떡갈비), two big sizzling meat patties, is another option.



Try and visit Damyang on the 2nd, 7th, 12th, 17th, 22nd and 27th of each month as the bamboo market is held on these days. A bamboo crafts festival is held in May.

Local bus 311 (W1200, 40 minutes, every 15 minutes) runs from gate 23 of the bus terminal northwards to Damyang, dropping off at the museum, but you have to walk for five minutes to the main road to catch the return bus. Bus 303 runs from Gwangju train station to Damyang. If you end up in the Damyang bus terminal it's a 15-minute walk to the museum.

## JOGYESAN PROVINCIAL PARK

### 조계산도립공원

This park (☎ 755 0107; adult/youth/child W2500/1500/free; ㄱ 8am-7pm Mar-Oct, 8am-5pm Nov-Feb) centres around two noteworthy temples, their beauty complemented by the attractive surrounding forest.

To the west, 80km from Gwangju, Songgwangsa is considered one of the three jewels of Korean Buddhism (along with Tongdosa and Haeinsa, in Gyeongsangnam-do). It starred in the *Little Monk* movie and is a regional head temple of the Jogye sect, by far the largest in Korean Buddhism. It is also one of the oldest Zen temples in Korea, originally founded in AD 867 although most of the buildings date from the 17th century. Songgwangsa is known for having produced many prominent Zen masters over the years, and today the temple is home to a community of monks.

On the eastern side of the mountain is Seonamsa, a quieter hermitage dating back to AD 529, where the monks study and try to preserve the old ways. Below Seonamsa is Seunseon-gyo, one of Korea's most exquisite ancient granite bridges, with a dragon's head hanging from the top of the arch.

A spectacular hike over the peak of Janggunbong (884m) connects the two temples. The walk takes six hours if you go over the peak, or four hours if you go around it. Either route is fantastic.

Accommodation and restaurants are available by the car park at Songgwangsa. Lodgings here range from W20,000 to W25,000. There's also a tourist village near Seonamsa.

From Gwangju buses (W5600, 1½ hours, every 1½ hours) run to Songgwangsa, but only one bus a day (W6000, ¼ hours) runs from Gwangju to Seonamsa, leaving at 7.45am.

## JIRISAN NATIONAL PARK – WEST

### 지리산국립공원

The highlight of this part of the park is Hwa-eomsa (☎ 783 9105; adult/youth/child W3800/1800/1300; ㄱ 6am-7pm), 86km northeast of Gwangju, which was founded by priest Yong-gi in AD 544 after his return from China. Dedicated to the Birojana Buddha, the temple has suffered five major devastations including the Japanese invasion of 1592, but luckily much remained despite the various cataclysms. It was last rebuilt in 1636.

On the main plaza is Gakgwangjeon, a huge two-storey hall. There are some massive pil-

lars and striking scroll paintings inside, but there are paintings that are national treasures nearly 12m long and 7.75m wide, featuring Buddhas, disciples and assorted holies. These are displayed outdoors only on special occasions. Korea's oldest and largest stone lantern fronts Gakgwangjeon, which was once surrounded by stone tablets of the Tripitaka Sutra (made during the Shilla era). These were ruined during the Japanese invasion. Many pieces are now preserved in the temple's museum.

Up many further flights of stairs is Hwa-eomsa's most famous structure, a unique three-storey pagoda supported by four stone lions. The female figure beneath the pagoda is said to be Yon-gi's mother; her dutiful son offers her tea from another lantern facing her.

The temple is about 15 minutes' walk from the ticket office. It is possible to continue from the temple and along Hwa-eomsa valley. After about 2½ to three hours the trail begins to ascend to a shelter, Nogodan Sanjang (a strenuous four-hour hike). From the shelter the trail continues to rise until you are finally on the long spine of the Jirisan ridge. For hiking details and a map see p247.

The large tourist village is located at the park entrance, with most restaurants having mountain-vegetable *sanchae jeongsik* (산채정식) and *dolsot bibimbap* (돌솥비빔밥) on the menu. Accommodation includes the recently renovated and smart Jirisan Prince (☎ 782 0740; r W40,000; a ), behind the car park with a log-cabin effect on the front, but prices can rise W10,000 on Friday and Saturday.

Buses (W6400, 1½ hours, every 90 minutes) run from Gwangju bus terminal to Jirisan National Park and Hwa-eomsa.

## NAGAN FOLK VILLAGE

### 낙안읍성민속마을

Among Korea's many folk villages, Nagan (☎ 749 3893; adult/child W2000/1500; ㄱ 9am-6pm) is unique for its setting, surrounded by 1410m of Joseon-period fortress walls, built to protect the inhabitants from marauding Japanese pirates. It's Korea's best-preserved fortress town, crammed with narrow, dry-stone alleyways leading to vegetable allotments, and adobe and stone homes thatched with reeds. Some are private homes while others house working artisans or are *minbak* (private homes with rooms for rent), restaurants or souvenir shops. Some points of interest are

labelled in English and there's the inevitable folk museum.

The Namdo Food Festival (which receives 200,000-plus attendees) is usually held here early in October. It features about 300 Korean dishes, plus eating contests and traditional cultural events.

Catch a bus (W850, 15 minutes, every 30 minutes) from Beolgyo (platform 11) or bus 63 or 68 from Suncheon (W850, 40 minutes, hourly).

## YEOSU 여수

### pop 327,000

The port city of Yeosu is about halfway along Korea's steep, island-pocked and deeply indented southern coast. By the time you reach Yeosu you will have seen comparable city centres, but its shoreline, peppered with cliffs, islands and peninsulas, is spectacular.

## Orientation

Yeosu is shaped like a molar. The two roots (hilly, dramatic island coastlines) straddle a bay, crowned by the city centre. The island of Odongdo, linked by a pedestrian causeway, sits east of town, and the much larger Dolsando, now joined by a bridge to the mainland, is to the southeast. Yeosu bus terminal is 4km north of Jung-ang Rotary and the harbour, reachable by bus or taxi.

## Information

Gyodong post office (Chungmuro) Free internet access.

Korea Exchange Bank (near Jung-gang Rotary)

Exchanges foreign currency.

Tourist information centre (☎ 664 8978; www.yeosu.go.kr) At the entrance to Odongdo pedestrian causeway.

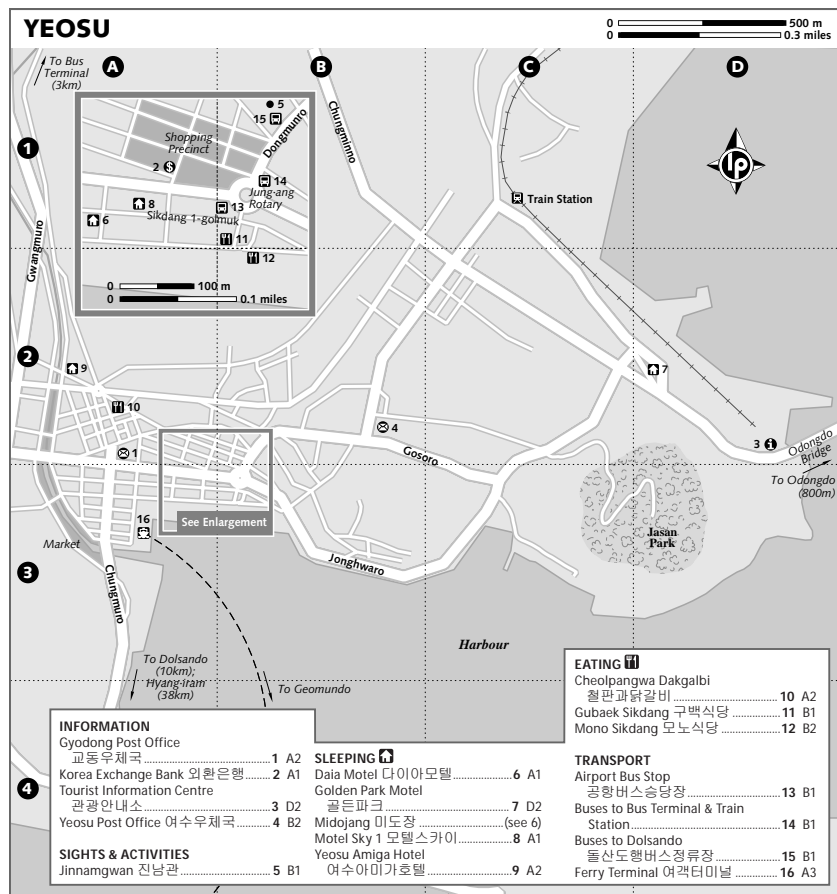
Yeosu post office (Gosoro)

## Sights

### ODONGDO 오동도

This small, craggy island (☎ 690 7301; adult/youth/child W1600/600/500; ㄱ 9am-5.30pm), a favourite destination for locals, is joined to the mainland by a 750m causeway that can be traversed by a road train (adult/youth/child W500/400/300). The island is one large botanical garden with bamboo groves and camellia trees, which are full of birdsong and can be walked round in 20 minutes. Take the lift up the lighthouse observatory (admission free; ㄱ 9.30am-5.30pm) for the best harbour views.

Shops, restaurants, a dancing fountain, a turtle-ship replica and boat trips around the



harbour or around Dolsando are also available.

Ten city buses (W850) run to the pedestrian causeway; buses 2, 8, 10, 17, 18, 85-1, 101, 103, 107 and 555. Otherwise it's a 30-minute walk from Jung-ang Rotary to the causeway.

#### JINNAMGWAN 진남관

In the centre of town stands this national treasure, Korea's largest single-storey wooden structure (75m long and 14m high). The beautiful pavilion (admission free), first constructed in 1716 with 68 pillars supporting its massive roof, was originally used for receiving officials and holding ceremonies. Later it became a military headquarters.

On the right, a small but modern museum (admission free; 11am-5pm) focuses on Admiral Yi Sun-sin (1545-98) and has maps explaining his naval tactics and victories over Japan in the 1590s.

#### Sleeping

Most accommodation is in a street of motels, with *yeogwan* and *yeoinsuk* (family-run budget hotels) in an ideal location near the harbour front.

**Midojang** (☎ 663 2226; Sikdang 1-golmuk; r W20,000; a ) Cramped but light rooms and bathrooms are kept very clean at the area's best budget option.

**Motel Sky** (☎ 662 7780; Sikdang 1-golmuk; r W30,000; a i ) A friendly welcome awaits you at

this well-maintained smart and modern motel. The 6th floor has the best views, and some rooms have round beds or computers (W5000 extra).

**Golden Park Motel** (☎ 665 1400; Chungminno; r W30,000-40,000; a ) The harbour view from room 805 is so fabulous that it earns a mention for this otherwise ordinary motel at the Yeosu end of Odongdo's pedestrian causeway.

**Daia Motel** (☎ 663 3347; Sikdang 1-golmuk; r W35,000-50,000; a i ) This new motel with a kindly owner has some stylish features with big TVs and new computers, although bathrooms are small. The more expensive rooms are very spacious with comfortable armchairs, and room 606 has the best sea view.

**Yeosu Amiga Hotel** (☎ 663 2011; standard/deluxe W77,000/133,000; a i ) White décor and large windows make for pleasant rooms with hill-side views, and deluxe rooms are spacious. Guests can surf the internet, dine and enjoy a cup of coffee without leaving the hotel.

#### Eating

The harbour front is loaded with restaurants serving fresh fish and seafood, although none of them are cheap.

**Cheolpangwa Dakgalbi** (meals W3000-6000) Cook up your own chicken and vegetables in a big metal pan and then ask for rice to mix with the remnants at this top budget option. Side dishes include salad, mussels and lettuce wrap. The friendly young staff can help out with the barbecuing.

**Gubaek Sikdang** (meals W10,000; 11am-8pm) The *ajumma* (older women) staff is friendly and used to dealing with foreigners. *Saengseon-gui* (생선구이; grilled fish) with rice and refillable side dishes is the best deal.

**Mono Sikdang** (meals W10,000-30,000; 11am-9pm) On the 2nd floor above the police station is this small fish restaurant, where a couple of tables have harbour views. Try *galchigui* (갈치구이) or the spicy and more expensive *saengseon chorim* (생선초림).

#### Getting There & Away

##### AIR

Yeosu airport, 17km north of the city, has flights to Seoul and Jeju-do.

##### BOAT

The ferry pier for island ferries is at the western end of the harbour.

##### BUS

The express and intercity bus terminals are together, 4km north of the port area. Buses include:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	11,200	4hr	hourly
Gwangju	8600	2¼hr	every 30min
Mokpo	13,900	3½hr	hourly
Seoul	19,200	5hr	hourly

##### TRAIN

Trains from Yongsan in Seoul to Yeosu are provided by *Saemaul* (W35,900, 5½ hours, three daily) and *Mugunghwa* (W24,200, six hours, 12 daily) services.

#### Getting Around

##### BUS

The express and intercity bus terminals are 4km north of the port. Cross the pedestrian overpass to Pizza Hut and from the bus stop,

#### KOREA'S ADMIRABLE ADMIRAL

Yi Sun-sin was Korea's greatest admiral. Based in Yeosu, he inflicted a series of defeats on the Japanese navy in the 1590s before being killed in battle in 1598. He introduced a new type of warship, the *geobukseon* or turtle ship, which was protected with iron sheets and spikes against the Japanese 'grappling and boarding' naval tactics. Although only a handful were deployed, *geobukseon* replicas can be found on Odongdo as well as in museums throughout the country.

The standard Korean warship was the flat-bottomed, double-decked *panokseon*, first built in the 1550s and also powered by two sails and hard-working oarsmen. It was stronger and more manoeuvrable than the Japanese warships and had more cannons on board. With these advantages, clever tactics and an intimate knowledge of the complex patterns of tides and currents around the numerous islands and narrow channels off the southern coast, Admiral Yi was able to defeat the Japanese navy time and time again. His forces sank hundreds of Japanese ships and thwarted Japan's ambition to seize Korea and use it as a base for the conquest of China.



almost any bus (W890, 15 minutes) can take you to Jung-ang Rotary. Check the destination with the driver. From the train station the same situation applies. From the airport, buses (W2500, 40 minutes, every 30 minutes) run to Jung-ang Rotary.

## DOLSANDO 돌산도

This large scenic island, where you might even see a bullock pulling a plough, is now connected to Yeosu by a bridge. Perched halfway up on a cliff on its southern tip is a popular temple and small monastery called Hyang-iram (☎ 644 3650; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/1000; 11 8am-6pm), which has superb coastal views over clear blue seas when the mist disperses.

It's a steep 10-minute walk from the bus stop through the tourist village up to the temple, passing through narrow clefts in the rock. Outside one shrine are 75 stone turtles, each with a W10 coin on its back.

Walk to the right and down the access road for 50m for the signposted walk up Geumosan (323m). Climbing up the 350 steps takes about 30 minutes, and your reward is a fantastic vista of distant islands and a 360-degree view from the rocky summit. Carry on and the loop track brings you back down to Hyang-iram (25 minutes).

Every restaurant in the tourist village sells locally made *gatkimchi* (갓김치), which has a mustard taste; even if you don't usually like *kimchi* you might like the mildish ones here.

By the ticket office is Geumhoegwan (meals W4000-12,000), which offers *saengseon-gui* (생선구이; spicy crab soup) or seafood *kalguksu* (칼국수; noodles). If the weather's fine, sit outside in one of the thatched shelters with a sea view.

Buses 101 and 111 (both W890, one hour, six daily) run from outside Jinnamgwan to Hyang-iram. Check the times as the timetable has gaps.

## GEOMUNDO 거문도

Ferries (adult/child one way W28,200/6250, two hours, twice daily) from Yeosu ferry terminal visit this far-flung and rarely visited group of three islands, 112km south of Yeosu. The islands were grabbed by British warships in April 1885 for a naval base that was called Port Hamilton. It was occupied until February 1887, but all that remains is a British cemetery with some gravestones. The islands also have an attractive beach.

## BOSEONG 보성

This town is the gateway to Boseong Daehan Dawon (☎ 853 2595; adult/child W1600/1000; 11 9am-6pm). Imagine standing on a hillside, its slopes covered with rows and rows of green tea bushes – that is what you find here in a very attractive setting. Photo opportunities abound as you walk around the tea plantation.

Dine in the restaurant (meals W4000-6000), overlooking the tea bushes, on *jajangmyeon* made with green-tea noodles, *bibimbap* with green tea-rice, or other green-tea themed favourites. Downstairs you can buy green-tea shakes or green-tea yogurt. Nearby is a green-tea ice-cream stall, or for just W1000 you can enjoy a cup of green tea. A shop sells green tea in leaf, teabag or powder form as well as green-tea soap.

Local buses to the tea plantation continue to Yulpo beach, where Yulpo Haesu Nokchatang (☎ 853 4566; adult/child W5000/3000; 11 6am-8pm, last entry 7pm) offers you the chance to bathe in green-tea water or seawater.

Buses pass through Boseong every 30 minutes along the Mokpo–Suncheon route. From Boseong bus terminal take a local bus (W850, 10 minutes, every 30 minutes) to the green-tea plantation.

## GANGJIN 강진

One of two important ceramic centres in Jeollanam-do, Gangjin has been associated with celadon for over 1000 years. Across the district are the remains of nearly 200 kilns. Gangjin is specifically known for etched celadon, in which shallow patterns are cut out of the piece while it's still wet and filled in with special glazes through an inlay process. The celadon is fired at 800°C before glazing and at 1300°C after glazing. Another distinctive feature of Gangjin celadon is no ice-crackles. Most celadonware has crackles because the soil and glazes are a tiny bit mismatched – this wasn't the case in Gangjin.

The Gangjin Celadon Museum (강진청자박물관; ☎ 430 3524; adult/youth/child W1000/500/400; 11 9am-6pm) is 18km south of Gangjin and 300m from the road. There is little English explanation but the exquisite examples of Goryeo-dynasty celadon speak with their own voices. On the left is a pottery workshop, where visitors start with a lump of black clay, spinning or moulding their own cup or artwork and then etching it. It is later fired and posted to you for W10,000 plus postage.

## GREEN TEA

The 'wellbeing wave', the name given to the trend towards healthy food and drinks, has boosted sales of *nokcha*, green tea, which was introduced in the 7th century. Like ginseng it is used as a flavouring for a wide variety of products from ice cream, chocolates, cakes and milk shakes to noodles, pasta and *hotteok* (sweet pita bread). Some spas even offer green-tea baths.

Korean Buddhist monks have always regarded green tea as an ideal relaxant and an aid to meditation, especially when prepared, served and drunk in the correct ceremonial way known as *dado*. They usually settle any disputes over a cup of green tea.

Korean green tea is only grown in the southern provinces and has a subtle flavour, but experts can tell when and where the tea was picked. Green tea, like wine, is a blend of flavours, a mix of aroma and taste, with its own special vocabulary and rituals.

On the right is an excavated kiln site, discovered in 1968, that dates back to the 12th century.

The museum and shops outside sell reproduction Goryeo celadon. The Gangjin Ceramic Festival is held here during midsummer.

To get there, take a local bus from Gangjin bus terminal (platform 13) for Maryang and get off at the museum (W1600, 25 minutes, every 30 minutes), which is called Cheongja Doyoji in Korean.

Buses to Gangjin include:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Boseong	3300	45min	every 30min
Gwangju	7200	1½hr	every 20min
Mokpo	4000	1hr	hourly
Yeosu	10,900	2hr	every 30min

## DURYUNSAN PROVINCIAL PARK

### 두륜산도립공원

#### Sights & Activities

One highlight of this park, southeast of Haenam, is Daedunsa (Daeheungsaj; ☎ 534 5502; adult/youth/child W2500/1500/1000; 11 sunrise-sunset), a major Zen temple complex. The temple is thought to date back to the mid-10th century, but it remained relatively unknown until it became associated with Seosan, a warrior monk who led a group against Japanese invaders in 1592–98. Since then it's been very popular with Koreans, yet it maintains an atmosphere of rusticity. A museum houses a Goryeo-dynasty bell, other Buddhist treasures and a tea-ceremony display (Seosan was also a tea master). The temple is a 40-minute walk from the bus stop.

The park's highest peak, Duryunbong (700m), provides a dramatic backdrop. To climb it, turn left after the temple museum. It takes 1½ hours to reach the top, and you

are rewarded with a very picturesque view of Korea's southern coastline and, on clear days, out to Jejudo. Head back via the other trail and turn right at the first junction (20 minutes); it's another hour back down to Daedunsa, via Jinburam.

For an easier ascent, walk back down the access road from the bus stop and turn right up the road for 800m to the cable car (☎ 534-8992; one way/return W4000/6800; 11 7am-7pm). It takes you 1.6km up Gogyebong (638m) but does not operate on windy days. On the way is Duryunsan Oncheonland (☎ 534 0900; admission W6000; 11 5am-11pm), a smart new sauna and spa.

## Sleeping & Eating

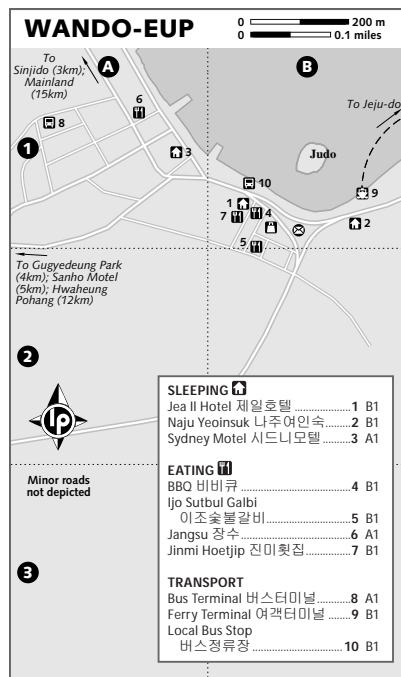
Haenam Youth Hostel (☎ 533-0170; dm/r W7000/25,000; a i ) A three-minute walk beyond the cable car is the best budget option, with clean modern rooms. All have *yo* (padded quilt mattresses on the floor), and nondorm rooms have en suite facilities.

Yuseongwan (유성관; ☎ 534 2959; d W30,000) This idyllic traditional inn, built around a courtyard and filled with art, is inside the park about two-thirds of the way between the car park and Daedunsa. It offers breakfast (W7000) and dinner (W10,000).

Jeonju Restaurant (meals from W10,000; 11 9am-10pm) It's famous for mushrooms – choose *pyogojeon-gol* (mushroom casserole) or *pyogosanjeok* (minced beef, seafood, mushrooms and vegetables). Look for the English sign halfway along the line of restaurants leading to the ticket office.

## Getting There & Around

Access to the park is by bus (W850, 15 minutes, every 30 minutes) from Haenam bus terminal. A minibus runs from the parking lot to Daedunsa (W500).



Bus connections from Haenam include:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	20,600	6hr	hourly
Gwangju	8200	1¾hr	every 30min
Jindo	4200	1hr	hourly
Mokpo	4500	1hr	every 30min
Wando	4500	1hr	hourly

## WANDO 완도

pop 70,000

Another island now connected by a bridge to the mainland, Wando is scenic with ever-changing views of scattered offshore islands. Ferries to Jeju-do leave from the main town, Wando-eup, which has stacks of flashy new motels. There are other ferries running to nearby islands.

## Sights & Activities

The best and most convenient swimming beach is Myeongsasim-ni on neighbouring Sinjido, an island now joined to Wando by an impressive bridge that is lit up at night. Take a bus (₩2000, 15 minutes, hourly) from the bus

terminal in Wando-eup to this sandy beach that is lined with pine trees.

On Wando's south coast is Gugyedeung Park (☎ 554 1769; adult/youth/child ₩1600/600/300; 11.30am-11pm), a tiny park that offers views of distant cliffs and offshore islands, a pebbly beach and a 1km nature trail that runs through a thin slither of coastal woodland to the Sanho Motel (below). Swimming is dangerous.

The Seobu (western side) bus (₩850, five minutes, hourly) runs from Wando-eup bus terminal, not from the local bus stop. Get off at Sajeong and walk 600m down to the park entrance.

## Sleeping

Smart new motels topped by neon signs run all the way along the western side of Wando-eup harbour. Rates rise in July and August if the town is busy. Jeongdo-ri (at the entrance to Gugyedeung Park) and Bogildo have many *minbak* options.

**Naju Yeoinsuk** (☎ 554 3884; r ₩15,000) Rock-bottom prices are charged at this basic budget pad that couldn't be closer to the ferry terminal. Some rooms, though bare, are less cell-like than its brother *yeoinsuk*, and most have beds and en suite bathrooms, although with a bowl rather than hand basins.

**Jea II Hotel** (☎ 554 3251; fax 554 3250; r ₩20,000; a ) A brilliant location for this *yeogwan*, with its faded furniture and fittings overlooking the fishing boats. Ask for a room such as No 101, which has an enclosed balcony and views.

**Sanho Motel** (☎ 552 4004; d from ₩30,000; a ) In a remote location at the far end of Gugyedeung beach is this hilltop motel with wonderful views, a coffee shop and artworks on the wall. It's a special place with a guesthouse atmosphere in a get-away-from-it-all spot that's popular with arty types.

**Sydney Motel** (☎ 554 1075; r ₩35,000; a ) Tired of small rooms and bathrooms? Then stay at this modern motel located halfway between the bus and ferry terminals. Great sea views, too. Opened in 2003, it's still one of the spiffiest in town. There's nice wood panelling and all rooms have shower stalls (hooray!); *ondol* rooms are larger.

## Eating

Wando's speciality is raw seafood, but *saengseon-gui* (생선구이; grilled fish) and *jang-eogui* (장어구이; grilled eel) are cooked-food options.

**BBQ** (meals ₩4000-9000; 11.30am-11pm) Come to this casual and laid-back cubbyhole of an eatery for pizzas, burgers and chicken that arrives fried, barbecued or smoked. An English menu is available.

**Ijo Sutbul Galbi** (meals ₩5000-12,000) Dine in your private room in this 2nd-floor restaurant with traditional Korean food, including a *hanjeongsik* (한정식) banquet that includes oysters or other seafood.

**Jangsu** (meals ₩6000) Escape from spicy soups and raw fish at Jangsu, which offers a good-deal rice hotpot meal that includes grilled fish, omelette, salad and ginseng water.

**Jinmi Hoetjip** (meals ₩8000-30,000) At the start of the busy fish market alley is this typical harbour-side restaurant that serves up the ubiquitous raw fish, including *hoedeopbap* (회덮밥).

## Getting There & Away

### BOAT

From **Wando Ferry Terminal** (☎ 555 0655), Onbada 1 ferry (₩18,250 to ₩28,000) sails to Jeju-do daily at 8am and takes five hours. **Hanil Car Ferry 1** (☎ 554 8000) departs at 2.20pm (Monday to Saturday) and **Hanil Car Ferry 2** departs at 3.30pm (Sunday to Friday). Both cost ₩19,800 and take around 3 to 3½ hours. Other ferries run to a dozen nearby islands.

## THE BARD OF BOGILDO

A new day warms itself, the bigger fish swim near the surface.

*Pull the anchor, pull the anchor!*

In twos and threes the seagulls rise, then glide low and rise again.

*Jigukcheong, jigukcheong, oshwa!*

The fishing rods are ready, where did we put the wine bottle?

Yun Seondo (1587-1617) wrote his 40-verse masterpiece of *sijo* poetry, *The Fisherman's Calendar* (<http://thewordshop.tripod.com>), while living in seclusion on Bogildo, a quiet and relaxing island off Jeollanam-do's southern coast. While there he planted a natural-style Korean garden, **Seyo-njeong** (세연정; adult/youth/child ₩1000/700/500; 11.30am-5pm), featuring big boulders, lily ponds and tree plantings surrounding a viewing pavilion.

Walk on for another 10 minutes and on the right is **Munhakcheheon** (문학채헌), a small park that has Yun's poems (in *Han-geul*) hanging from the trees. Cross the stream to climb up the rocky hillside (15 minutes).

The garden is a pleasant 20-minute walk from the ferry terminal (follow the English signs) or else take a bus or taxi.

Too much wine: I must have dozed; my boat drifts into rough water.

*Make fast the lines, make fast the lines!*

Now peach blossoms float around us; maybe paradise is near.

*Jigukcheong, jigukcheong, oshwa!*

Good! At least we're far away from the dusty world of men.

## BUS

Bus depart from Wando for the following destinations:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	25,100	6hr	6 daily
Gwangju	11,900	2¾hr	every 30min
Haenam	4500	1hr	hourly
Mokpo	8700	2hr	every 1½hr
Yeong-am	7000	1½hr	every 30min

## Getting Around

From Wando-eup bus terminal, one local bus heads west (Seobu bus) while another heads east (Dongbu bus). Both go to the bridge to the mainland before heading back to Wando-eup. The ferry terminal is a 25-minute walk from the bus terminal or a short taxi ride.

## BOGILDO 보길도

This island southwest of Wando is popular in summer thanks to the sandy beaches at **Jung-ni** and **Tong-ni**, 2.3km from Cheongbyeop port. Walk or take a bus or taxi to reach them.

## Getting There & Away

Car ferries (☎ 555 1010) ply between Bogildo and Wando (adult/child ₩7000/3500, 70



minutes, 10 daily). To reach the ferry, take the free hourly shuttle bus from Wando-eup bus terminal to the port at Hwaheung Pohang, 12km to the west.

## JINDO 진도

pop 43,000  
Korea's third-largest island (<http://tour.jindo.go.kr/english>), south of Mokpo and connected to the mainland by a bridge, boasts some of the world's largest tides. During low tide for a few days each year (usually in March or April), a 2.8km-long, 40m-wide causeway appears, which connects to a small island, Modo, off Jindo's southeastern coast. Some 300,000 people make the crossing each year – in long rubber boots (available for rent, naturally).

The experience is known as the *Ganjuyuk Gyedo* (Mysterious Sea Rd) and has long been celebrated among Koreans in legend. With the spread of Christianity in Korea, the similarity to the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea has only brought more enthusiasts. The *Yeongdeung* festival that coincides with the crossing includes local folk music and dances, a Jindo dog show and fireworks.

Jindo is also famous for its unique breed of dog, the Jindogae (see p259), which is designated as a precious natural monument and is the only natural monument that can be described as faithful, brave and adorable.

The *Jindo Dog Research Centre* (진돗개시험 연구소; % 540 3396; admission free; 9am-6pm) is dedicated to their study and training. If you want to see a training session, telephone first (note that no English spoken). Otherwise, the dogs can be viewed in their pens. To reach the centre from the bus terminal, walk back along the main road into Jindo-eup for 1km and at the blue sign (in English) turn right. It is about a 20-minute walk from the bus terminal.

### GRANDMA BBONG, A KOREAN MOSES

Grandma Bbong is a folk hero on Jindo, credited with originating the 'Moses Miracle' of the parting of the waves. According to legend, over 500 years ago a family of tigers was causing so many problems on Jindo that all the islanders moved to nearby Modo, but somehow Grandma Bbong was left behind. She was broken-hearted and prayed to the Sea God to be reunited with her family. In answer to her fervent prayers, the Sea God parted the sea, enabling her to cross over to Modo and meet her family again. Her statue and shrine can be seen on Jindo and even a karaoke has been named after her. At certain times every year, the sea still parts, revealing a muddy causeway between Jindo and Modo.

## Getting There & Around

Buses connect Jindo-eup (Jindo's main town) with many places:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	24,800	6hr	2 daily
Gwangju	11,300	2¼hr	every 30min
Mokpo	4700	1¼hr	hourly
Seoul	18,900/28,100	6hr	4 daily

A free shuttle takes visitors to the Mysterious Sea Rd (Bbonghalme Dongsan) during the festival.

## YEONG-AM 영암

The Yeong-am district was a centre of Korea's famed ceramic industry in the 7th to 9th centuries, and the *Pottery Culture Centre* (% 470 2566; admission free; 9am-5pm) has modern and traditional wood-fired kilns, some dark-glazed pots on display, and potters in a workshop delicately smoothing their pots.

Some buses from Mokpo (W3170, 20 minutes, hourly) stop outside the pottery centre, but otherwise you must take a bus from Yeong-am to Gurim (W850, 10 minutes, hourly) and walk 1.2km (20 minutes) to the pottery centre and the folksy tiled houses around it.

## WOLCHULSAN NATIONAL PARK

### 월출산국립공원

East of Yeong-am, 42-sq-km *Wolchulsan* (% 473 5210; adult/youth/child W1600/600/300; 5am-7pm Mar-Oct, 8am-6pm Nov-Feb), Korea's smallest national park, invites a day of hiking. There are crags, spires and unusual shaped rocks around every corner as well as an 8m Buddha rock carving, steel stairways and at one point a 52m steel bridge spanning two ridges. Beautiful and rugged rock formations include *Cheonwang-bong* (809m), the park's highest peak.

## JINDO DOGS

Jindo is home to a special breed of Korean hunting dog, *Jindogae*, which is as brave, intelligent, loyal and cute as any canine on the planet. They can be a challenge to train and control, but they possess an uncanny sense of direction – one Jindo dog was taken to Daejeon but somehow made its way back to the island, a journey of hundreds of kilometres. Expect to fork out around W370,000 for a young one. Being hunting dogs, they are an active, outdoor breed that is not suited to an urban environment. Any other breed of dog found on Jindo is immediately deported to the mainland in order to maintain the breed's purity. View [www.kang.org/jindo.html](http://www.kang.org/jindo.html) or [www.jindojunkie.com](http://www.jindojunkie.com) for adorable photos and more information.

The popular route is the 8km, six-hour hike from Dogapsa in the west to Cheonhwangsa in the east or vice versa as the bus service to both ends is frequent. *Minbak* and restaurants can be found at both ends. Tracks are well signposted, but steep and strenuous in places due to the rocky terrain.

## Getting There & Away

The gateway to the park is Yeong-am, from where buses run the 11km to Dogapsa (W1000, 20 minutes, every 20 minutes) in the west and the 4km to Cheonhwangsa (W850, 10 minutes, every 15 minutes).

## MOKPO 목포

pop 246,000

The sprawling port city of Mokpo is the end of the line for train and expressway traffic, and a starting point for sea voyages to Jeju and the western islands of Dadohae Haesang National Park. Korea's National Maritime Museum is appropriately located here, and the craggy peaks of Yudal Park rear up in the city centre and offer splendid sea, city and sunset views.

## Information

**KB Bank** (Jung-angno) Foreign exchange and a global ATM.

**Post office** (Jung-angno) Free internet access; behind it is an historical Japanese colonial building.

**Tourist information centre** (% 270 8599) At the train station.

## Sights

### GATBAWI PARK MUSEUMS 갯바위공원

This complex of museums and art galleries, situated between rocky hillsides and a wide river, is 4km northeast of downtown Mokpo.

**Jeonsigwan** (전시관) is a grand four-floor atrium building that displays the work of local artists who work in all genres – from traditional ink to colourful modern splodges, from photographs to the Asian art of bonsai trees.

The twin highlights of the small **National Maritime Museum** (국립해양유물전시관; % 270 2000; adult/child W600/300; 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) are two shipwrecks, one dating from the 11th century and the other from the early 14th century. Thousands of priceless items of Korean and Chinese celadon, coins and other trade items were salvaged from them. Fascinating film footage shows the treasures being salvaged, and part of the actual boats have been preserved. Next door is *Badatga restaurant* (p269).

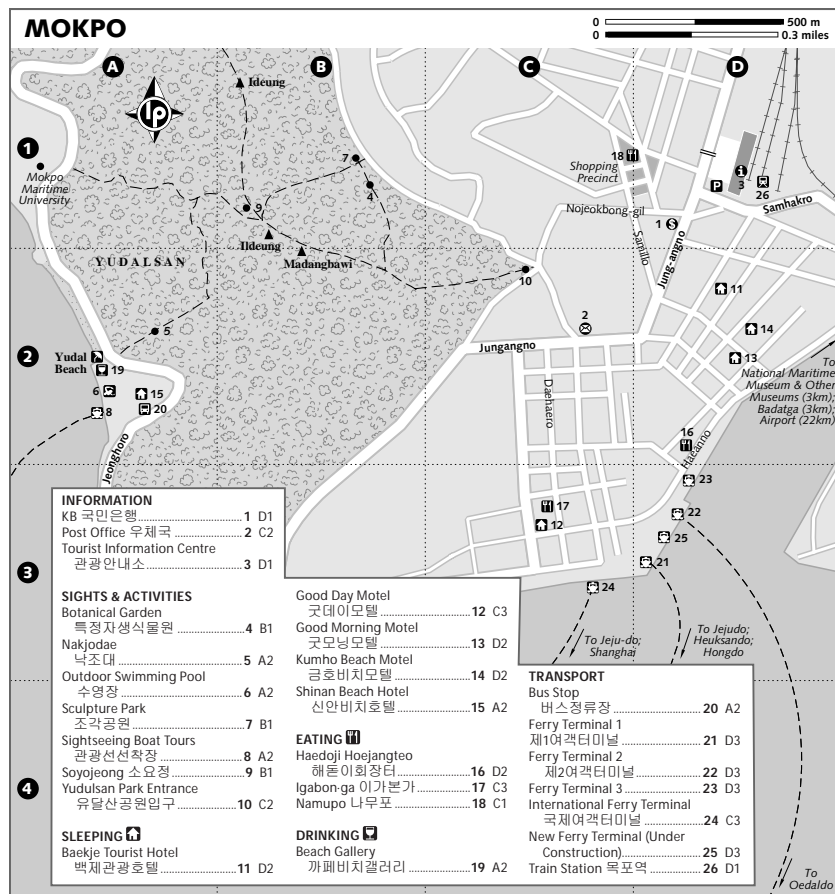
The **Local History Museum** (문여역사관; admission free; 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) has a natural rock collection – a popular Joseon-era hobby was collecting and displaying unusual-shaped rocks. Also on display are vigorous and colourful oil paintings by the 20th-century artist Oh Soong-woo, and more traditional works by four generations of artists from one family.

**Namnung Memorial Hall** (남농기념관; adult/child W1000/500; 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) has more artworks by the same talented family, some of which are excellent, but it's a pity there aren't more of the modern ones.

The brand-new **Mokpo Natural History Museum** (목포자연사박물관; % 276 6331; adult/youth/child W3000/2000/1000; 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) is aimed at children, with large dinosaur skeletons, live lizards and fish, and colourful but dead butterflies. There are snacks available at the cafeteria.

The riverside *Gatbawi rocks* have been heavily eroded into shapes that are supposed to look like two monks wearing hats, but from land you only get a side or top view. Carry on from the *Gatbawi rocks* to hike up the rock-strewn hills behind the museums.

Catch bus 15 (W850, 15 minutes, every 30 minutes) from outside the train station (across the overbridge). A taxi costs W4000 from the train station.



### YUDALSAN PARK 유달산

This attractive park (☎ 242 2344; adult/youth/child W700/500/300; 11am-6pm) offers splendid views across the island-scattered sea as you clamber around balancing rocks and rocky cliffs. From the train station, walk down Jungangno to the park entrance (20 minutes) and then past pavilions and an old cannon on the left.

You can turn right for 700m to the glass botanical garden (adult/youth/child W700/500/300) to see orchids and rare Korean plants, and nearby is the sculpture park (adult/youth/child W1000/600/400). But stay on the main path for Madangbawi (great views and two rock carvings), followed by Ildeung (228m), another peak where swallows zip by and cuckoos can be heard. It's a 30-minute walk from the park entrance.

Turn left (no sign) just before Soyojeong (소요정), a white pavilion, to head down to Yudal beach. Turn left at the sign to Arirang Gogae (아리랑고개) and then follow the sign to Nakjodae (낙조대), a pavilion that you reach 30 minutes after leaving Ildeung. From Nakjodae pavilion it's a 10-minute walk down the steps to the beach.

The beach is just a tiny patch of sand, rocks and seaweed, so the main attractions are the island views, the boats coming and going, and the outdoor swimming pool (adult/child W4000/2800; 11am-7.30pm Jul & Aug). Restaurants offer salmon, raw fish and chicken meals, and the Beach Gallery (opposite) is here. Sightseeing trips (adult/child W10,000/5000) cruise around the nearby islands but don't land.

Bus 1 and most of the other buses that pass by can take you back to Mokpo train station.

### Sleeping

**Kumho Beach Motel** (☎ 242 5700; r W30,000; a ) The best accommodation between the train station and the ferry terminal is this white high-rise motel run by a friendly and helpful owner. The modern and clean rooms have a dash of style thrown in.

**Good Morning Motel** (☎ 245 3357; r W30,000; a ) A good, modern motel with a convenient central location, and the young owner provides guests with plenty of free soft drinks.

**Good Day Motel** (☎ 243 6633; r W30,000; a i ) Probably the best of the half-dozen newish motels near the ferry terminals, with wide corridors leading to smart rooms that have water views.

**Baekje Tourist Hotel** (☎ 242 4411; fax 242 9550; d from 40,000; a ) A five-minute walk from the train station and the ferries, the light and natural wood decor is appealing, especially in end rooms like No 501. It costs more than the motels, but has a bar.

**Shinan Beach Hotel** (☎ 243 3399; www.shinanbeachhotel.com; mountain/ocean view r from W99,500/119,500; a ) Traditionally regarded as Mokpo's top hotel, it towers over Yudal Beach and is classy in an old-fashioned way. Rooms (mainly *ondol* or twin) are welcoming with large windows, but the sky lounge is a disappointment. Ask for a 50% discount in the off-peak season.

### Eating

**Namupo** (meals W6000-14,000; 11am-midnight) Not in a seafood mood? Try the *galbi* (갈비) grills at this thrillingly clean local favourite in the city centre. The meat of the *namupo galbi* (나무포갈비) is beautifully seasoned. A hotpot rice meal with good side dishes is another option.

**Badatga** (meals W6000-20,000) This glass box with comfy armchairs next to the National Maritime Museum is perfect for lunch or just to rest your feet and have a coffee while enjoying the river views. The wide-ranging menu covers Western, Korean and fusion food.

**Igabon-ga** (meals W15,000) Highly recommended is *tteokgalbi* (떡갈비), an outside meat patty with seafood, bamboo-shoot and salad side dishes that is served on leaves and decorated with flowers.

**Haedoti Hoejangteo** (meals W30,000) A typically scruffy and expensive raw fish and hot seafood soup restaurant along the seafront. Meals are for sharing and you can order *hung-eo* (흥어; raw ray), the local speciality.

### Drinking

**Beach Gallery** (Yudal Beach; 11am-4am) A café with nightly live music in summer, outside or inside.

### Getting There & Away

#### AIR

Flights operate on the Gimpo-Mokpo route and sometimes on the Jeju-Mokpo route, but the airport is 22km from the city.

#### BOAT

Mokpo's boat terminals handle ferries to Jeju and the smaller islands west and southwest of Mokpo. See the corresponding destination sections for details. From Ferry Terminal 1, the Continental fast ferry runs to Jeju-si at 8am daily, takes 3½ hours and costs W45,200. From the International Ferry Terminal, slower car ferries run to Jeju-si leaving at 9am (Tuesday to Sunday) and 3pm (Monday to Saturday), and take 4½ hours. Fares start at W21,800, with children under 12 half-price.

**Four Season Cruise** (☎ 243 6633; fare W125,000) runs between Mokpo and Shanghai, departing on Monday at 5pm and Friday at 2pm.

#### BUS

Mokpo's bus terminal is some distance from the centre of town. Turn left outside the bus terminal, then left at the end of the road and walk down to the main road where bus 1 (W850, 10 minutes, every 20 minutes) stops on the left. It runs to the train station, the ferry terminals and then on to Yudal beach.

Departures include:

Destination	Price (₩)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	22,400	5hr	hourly
Gwangju	6300	1¼hr	every 30 min
Haenam	4500	1hr	every 30 min
Jindo	4700	2hr	hourly
Seoul	24,400	4½hr	every 20min
Wando	8700	2hr	7 daily
Yeong-am	3170	30min	every 30min
Yeosu	13,900	3½hr	hourly

**TRAIN**

KTX provides a fast service to Yongsan station, Seoul (₩38,000, 3¼ hours, 11 daily), as well as *Saemaul* (₩34,200, 4½ hours, two daily) and *Mugunghwa* (₩23,100, 5½ hours, five daily) services. Infrequent but cheap trains run to Gwangju, Boseong and Yeosu.

**Getting Around**

It's a 15-minute walk from the train station to the ferry terminals or to the entrance to Yudal Park.

Airport buses (₩2500, 30 minutes) depart from near the train station and are timed to meet flights. They also stop by the bus terminal.

Local bus 1 (₩850, 10 minutes, every 20 minutes) runs from the bus terminal to the train station and on to Yudal beach. Local bus 15 (₩850, 15 minutes, every 30 minutes) runs to the Gatbawi Park museums.

**OEDALDO 외달도**

Tiny 1km by 1km Oedaldo, an island of fig trees and swallows, is worth a visit, but only in July and August when the huge outdoor swimming pool is open. Car ferries (₩7000 return, one hour, five daily) run there from Ferry Terminal 2 in Mokpo.

**DADOHAE HAESANG NATIONAL PARK****다도해해상국립공원**

Consisting of over 1700 islands and islets and divided into eight sections, Dadohae Haesang (Marine Archipelago) National Park occupies much of the coast and coastal waters of Jeollanam-do. Some of the isles support small communities with income from fishing and tourism; others are little more than tree-covered rocks.

Mokpo is the gateway to the western sector, including Hongdo and Heuksando, the most visited and scenic of the islands. They are great places to beat the heat of July and August, so booking of ferries and accommodation is advised in those months.

**Hongdo 홍도**

The most popular and beautiful of the islands west of Mokpo is **Hongdo** (Red Island; visitor fee ₩2300). Some 6km long and 2.5km wide, it rises precipitously from the sea and is bounded by sheer cliffs, bizarre rock formations and wooded hillsides cut by steep ravines. The island is ringed by islets and sunsets can be

spectacular, but the only way you can see most of it is by boat, because with the exception of the villages, Hongdo is a protected nature reserve; entry is prohibited.

Ferries to Hongdo land at Ilgu village, which like the smaller, northerly village of Igu has a tiny cove that provides shelter to the fishing boats. A boat connects the two villages.

Boat tours (₩15,000, two hours, twice daily) around the island are the way to appreciate the island and its rocky islets and arches.

Ilgu has *minbak* and *yeogwan* at the usual prices. **Royal-jang** (☎ 246 3837; ondol r ₩50,000) is clean and rooms are just three minutes from the beach, but beware of the karaoke downstairs. **Yuseongjang** (☎ 246 3723; ondol ₩30,000, r ₩50,000-80,000; a ) is next to the KT office and meals can be arranged. From September to June rates for both are ₩30,000.

**Heuksando 흑산도**

Heuksando, on the way to Hongdo, is the larger, more populated and more accessible of the two islands. Views from its peaks show why Dadohae Haesang means 'marine archipelago'. Fishing villages are linked by trails, but walking around the island would take around nine hours. Fortunately, local buses circle most of the island – a recommended trip is up the peak *Bonghwadae*, on the north coast hill, Sangnasan.

The largest village, *Yeri*, formerly a whaling centre, is where ferries dock. With sufficient demand, tourist boats will take you around the island (₩13,000, two hours). The island's other major village is *Jinni*.

**Gecheonjang** (☎ 275 9154; *Yeri*; r ₩30,000; a ), a stone-fronted *yeogwan* by the post office, has bright yet rustic rooms with views of the harbour. Rates from September to June are ₩25,000. **Daedo Minbak** (☎ 275 9340; *Yeri*; d ₩25,000; a ), with just a few rooms, is pleasant and unpretentious.

Seafood restaurants are plentiful but prices can be steep. The speciality is *hung-eo* (홍어; ray, usually served raw).

**GETTING THERE & AWAY**

The same ferries serve Heuksando, 90km west of Mokpo, and Hongdo, another 20km further on. Leaving from Mokpo's **Ferry Terminal 1** (☎ 243 2111), ferries run to Heuksando (adult/child one way ₩26,700/5750, 1½ hours, three daily) and continue on to Hongdo (adult/child one way ₩32,600/5750, 2¼ hours).

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