

Jeju-do 제주도



Set against a tropical backdrop of swaying palm trees, sandy beaches and towering volcanic features, Jeju-do (<http://english.jeju.go.kr>) is South Korea's top holiday and honeymoon destination. Foreign travellers, too, are quickly discovering this island paradise and the warm hospitality of its native population. With beautiful beaches, waterfalls, gardens, museums, folk villages, golf courses, casinos, scuba diving, hiking and countless festivals, there is plenty to see and do.

Most spectacular are the volcanic landscapes. Smack in the middle of the island is South Korea's highest mountain, Hallasan (1950m), a national park with varied ecological zones, cute little roe deer and wonderful azalea blooms. On the east is the incredible volcanic crater, Ilchulbong, and its black sand beaches. Nearby, on the island of U-do, black-lava cliffs contrast against a white coral-sand beach. In the northeast is Manjanggul, the world's longest lava tube.

On the south coast, eroded sheer cliffs plunge dramatically into the turquoise waters of the South China Sea. The sea temperature is the warmest in Korea and the coral near Seogwipo is as colourful as the sunsets. Whether you take the 200km challenge of hiking the Jeju Olle footpaths across the island, partake in the unique local cuisine or lie back and toast on the sand, Jeju-do is one part of Korea that you don't want to miss.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to the crater lake atop volcanic **Hallasan** (p303), South Korea's highest mountain, with its spectacular views and four distinct ecological zones
- Take an underground stroll through the world's largest lava-tube cave system, **Manjanggul** (p292)
- Climb to the top of the forested volcanic crater atop **Seongsan Ilchulbong** (p293), cool off with a dip at the **Ilchulbong black sand beach**, followed by a lunch of freshly caught seafood
- Explore the colourful coral and sea life with a **scuba dive** (p298) off the coast of **Seogwipo** (p296), a wonderfully laid-back town housing two amazing waterfalls
- Visit the beaches, waterfalls, museums, luxury spas and hotels of Korea's top honeymoon destination, **Jungmun Resort** (p300)
- Experience the island's best bits in a day at **Hallim Park** (p303), home to lava tubes, gardens and nearby beaches



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 064

■ POPULATION: 560,000

■ AREA: 1847 SQ KM

