



Busan & Gyeongsangnam-do

Includes ➔

Busan	184
Gajisan Provincial Park	197
Geojedo	198
Tongyeong	200
Jinju	201
Namhaedo	205
Jirisan National Park - East.....	206

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Jackie's Seafood (p190)
- ➔ Noran Mahura (p192)
- ➔ Sulbing (p190)
- ➔ Ddungbo Halmee Gimba (p201)
- ➔ Dajeong Sikdang (p204)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Ibis Ambassador Busan City Centre Hotel (p189)
- ➔ Paradise Hotel (p190)
- ➔ Westin Chosun Beach Hotel (p189)
- ➔ Dong Bang Hotel (p202)
- ➔ Nexun (p201)

Why Go?

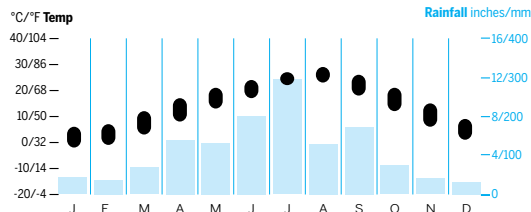
The best sites in Korea either awe with beauty or deepen your understanding of the culture. Busan (부산) and Gyeongsangnam-do (경상남도) do both.

Busan's easily accessible mountains, beaches and hiking trails, as well as its colourful seafood and drinking scene, make it very easy to love. It's also home to the world's largest shopping and entertainment complex and a bedazzling world-class cinema centre.

Gyeongsangnam-do's natural beauty is closer than you think, thanks to an efficient transport system. Hop on a bus and you'll be rewarded with outstanding trails on Jirisan, glorious temples in hideaway locations and lush rice paddies in just about every rural community. For marine treasures, board a ferry and go island-hopping around Tongyeong. On land or by sea, Gyeongsangnam-do is accessible, affordable and waiting to be explored.

When to Go

Busan



Apr–May Cherry blossoms make spring a great time for hiking.

Jul–Aug Haeundae and Gwangju beaches are in full swing.

Oct Busan International Film Festival runs through mid-October.

History

Gyeongsangnam-do has a long history of warfare, though it's difficult to beat the Imjin War for destruction, treachery and the birth of an icon. In 1592 the Japanese were eager to secure a land route to China, but the Joseon government refused assistance, so the Japanese attacked. Led by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the Japanese landed 160,000 troops at several places, including Busan and Jinju, where the Koreans made an unsuccessful stand against a superior enemy.

The war's local star was Admiral Yi Sun-sin, a brilliant tactician credited with the development of the turtle ship, an ironclad vessel instrumental in harassing Japanese supply lines. Despite his significant wartime contributions, Yi was arrested for disobeying orders thanks to a clever ruse concocted by the Japanese, who were eager to see the good admiral removed from the war. With Yi behind bars, the Japanese launched a massive assault that destroyed all but 13 of Joseon's 133 vessels. Shaken by the loss, the king released Yi and put him in charge of the



Busan & Gyeongsangnam-do Highlights

- 1 Shocking your taste buds with raw fish at **Jagalchi Fish Market** (p190).
- 2 Exploring the back

- alleys of **Gamcheon Culture Village** (p187).
- 3 Attending **BIFF** (p189), a world-class film festival.
- 4 Challenging yourself by

- hiking **Saryangdo** (p199), a beautiful island off the coast of Tongyeong.
- 5 Exploring **Jirisan** (p206), one of the best places to hike in Korea.