



Korea



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Simon Richmond,
Megan Eaves, Trent Holden,
Rebecca Milner, Phillip Tang, Rob Whyte

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Korea	4
Korea Map	6
Korea's Top 13	8
Need to Know	16
First Time Korea	18
If You Like.....	20
Month by Month	23
Itineraries	25
Outdoor Activities	29
Regions at a Glance....	34

ON THE ROAD

SEOUL 38

AROUND SEOUL.... 94

Gyeonggi-do 95

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) & Joint Security Area (JSA).....	95
Heyri.....	98
Suwon & Around	101
Anyang Art Park.....	104
Donggureung	104
Namhansanseong	104
Icheon	105

Incheon-gwangyeok-si 106

Incheon	107
Yeongjongdo	112
Muuido	112
West Sea Islands	115
Ganghwado	116

GANGWON-DO 119

Chuncheon	121
Samak-san.....	125
Sokcho	125
Seoraksan National Park	129
Gangneung	134
Pyeongchang	139
Gohan.....	141
Odaesan National Park	142
Samcheok	143
Wonju	145
Chiaksan National Park	145

GYEONGSANGBUK-DO..... 147

Daegu.....	148
Gyeongju	158
Pohang.....	169

Ulleungdo	172
Andong.....	176
Hahoe Folk Village	179
Cheongnyangsan Provincial Park	180
Juwangsan National Park	180

BUSAN & GYEONGSANGNAM-DO..... 182

Busan	185
Gajisan Provincial Park	197
Geojedo	198
Tongyeong.....	200
Jinju	201
Namhaedo.....	204
Jirisan National Park – East ...	206

JEOLLANAM-DO... 208

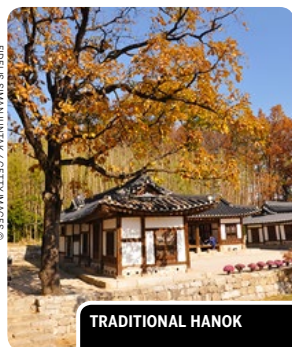
Gwangju.....	209
Damyang	215
Unju-sa.....	216
Gurye	216
Suncheon & Around	217
Yeosu	218
Boseong.....	221
Gangjin.....	222
Haenam	222
Wando	223
Mokpo	225
Dadohae Haesang National Park	229

JEJU-DO..... 231

Jeju-si.....	233
Eastern Jeju-do.....	241
Gimnyeong Beach	241
Manjang-gul	242
Woljeong Beach	243



GANGNAM (P52), SEOUL



TRADITIONAL HANOK

Contents

UNDERSTAND

Sehwa-ri & Hado-ri243
Seongsan-ri
& Sinyang-ri244

Seongeup
Folk Village247

Southern Jeju-do 249

Seogwipo.....249
Jungmun Resort
& Around254
Sagye-ri256

Central Jeju 257

Hallasan
National Park257
Sangumburi260

Western Jeju-do 260

Moseulpo.....260
Inland Region261
Hallim.....262

JEOLLABUK-DO ... 263

Jeonju.....264
Naejangsan
National Park269

Muju & Deogyusan
National Park270
Gochang
& Around272

Byeonsan-bando
National Park273
Gunsan
& Seonyudo.....274

**CHUNGCHEONGNAM-
DO..... 276**

Daejeon277
Gyeryongsan
National Park282

Gongju283
Magok-sa.....285
Buyeo286

Boryeong
& Around289
Sapsido290

Tae'an-hae'an
National Marine
Park291

**CHUNGCHONGBUK-
DO..... 293**

Cheongju294
Songnisan
National Park298
Chungju299

NORTH KOREA.... 306

Pyongyang..... 308
Kaesong319

Panmunjom &
the DMZ.....320
Myohyangsan321

Hamhung.....322
Wonsan322
Kumgangsan.....323

Nampo324
Sinchon324
Paekdusan.....324

Chilbosan.....325
Chongjin.....326
Rajin-Sonbong326

**Understand
North Korea..... 327**
Survival Guide..... 335

Korea Today..... 340

History..... 343

The Korean People.... 363

**In the Korean
Kitchen..... 367**

**Arts &
Architecture377**

**The Natural
Environment 382**

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A-Z 388

Transport 397

Language 402

Index..... 410

Map Legend..... 422

SPECIAL FEATURES

**Outdoor
Activities 29**

**The Korean
People 363**

**In the Korean
Kitchen367**

**Arts &
Architecture377**

**The Natural
Environment 382**

Itineraries



2 WEEKS South Korea's Highlights

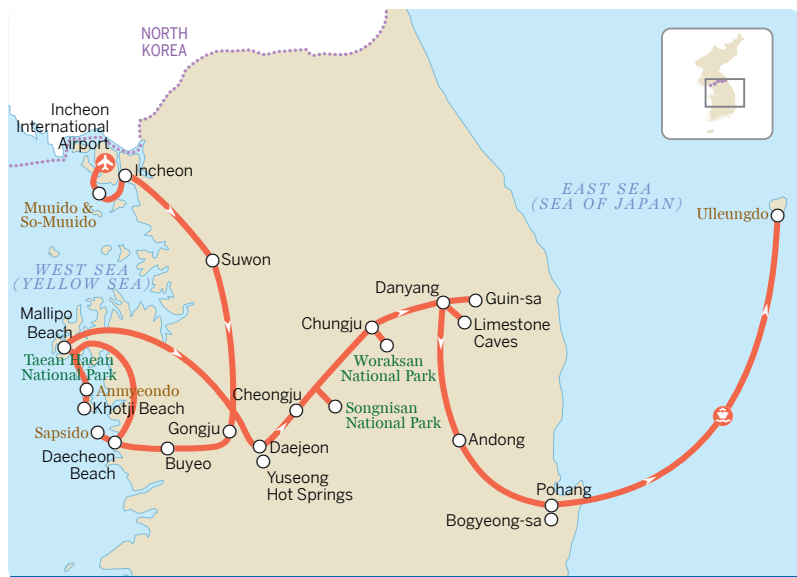
Access the best of Korea on this trip taking in the dynamic capital Seoul, the southern port of Busan, lost-in-time country towns, quirky sights and beautiful Jeju-do.

Spend four or five days in **Seoul**, including a day trip north to the **DMZ**. Next head east to **Chuncheon**, where you can cycle around Uiam Lake and sample the town's famous chicken dish, *dakgalbi*.

Dine on fresh seafood in **Sokcho** then hike around the stunning peaks and waterfalls of **Seoraksan National Park**. Follow the coast south to **Gangneung** to view well-preserved Joseon-era buildings, quirky museums and a tiny North Korean spy submarine at Unification Park in **Jeongdongjin**. From **Samcheok** explore the huge **Hwanseongul** and **Daegeumgul** caves, as well as **Haesindang Park**, packed with phallic sculptures.

Delve into Korea's past at serene **Hahoe Folk Village** and **Gyeongju**, ancient capital of the Shilla kingdom, where you can spend a couple of days exploring royal tombs, the excellent museum and the World Heritage-listed grotto at **Seokguram**.

Busan, with its fish market, beaches and urban buzz, is worth a few days. From here fly to **Jeju-do**, where you can enjoy amazing volcanic scenery on leisurely hikes.



West Sea to East Sea

This cross-country itinerary is ideal for those looking to experience the more rustic and natural side of South Korea, with stops on ruggedly beautiful islands and hikes along leafy mountain trails.

From **Incheon International Airport** it's a quick hop to the small, idyllic island of **Muuido**, from where you can walk to **So-Muuido** or relax on lovely beaches. Enjoy Chinese food in the historic Chinatown of **Incheon**, then stroll around the Open Port area. Take a direct bus to **Suwon**, where you can stride around the ramparts of the meticulously reconstructed fortress wall.

Gongju and **Buyeo**, the ancient capitals of the Baekje kingdom, are your next stops – hillside tombs, a fortress and museum will give you an insight into Korea's oldest dynasty. After enjoying the sand, seafood and mud skincare spa of **Daecheon Beach**, sail to the serene island of **Sapsido**, where you can spend the night. Return to Daecheon and continue north by bus to **Anmyeondo**, the largest island in the Tae'an Hae'an National Marine Park. Continue working on your tan at either **Khotji Beach** or **Mallipo Beach**, or hike some the new Haebyeongil trails through the park.

Travel inland to **Daejeon** to soak at **Yuseong Hot Springs**. Continue to **Cheongju**, learn about the world's oldest printed book then move on to **Songnisan National Park**, covering central Korea's finest scenic area and home to a 33m-tall gold-plated Buddha statue.

Chungju is the gateway to lovely **Woraksan National Park** and for a two-hour scenic ferry trip across Chungju Lake to sleepy **Danyang**, which is small-town Korea at its most charming. Explore nearby **limestone caves** and the stately temple complex of **Guin-sa** within Sobaeksan National Park.

Use **Andong** as a base for exploring the surrounding area packed with attractive river and lakeside villages. It's only a couple of hours by bus from here to **Pohang**. From Pohang visit **Bogyong-sa** temple in a gorgeous valley with 12 waterfalls, then board the ferry to **Ulleungdo**, a sparsely inhabited, volcanic island.

2
WEEKS

The Deep South Trail

This 850km route around Korea's greenest and least-industrialised region offers the opportunity to visit scores of rural islands, dine in countless seafood restaurants and dig deep into artistic traditions.

Jeonju has a fascinating *hanok* village crammed with traditional houses and buildings. Use it as a base for visiting the 6th-century Geumsan-sa temple in **Moaksan Provincial Park**. Don't miss **Maisan Provincial Park**, where you can hike between a pair of 'horse ear' mountains and see a sculptural garden of stone pinnacles piled up by a Buddhist mystic at the **Tap-sa** temple. Alternatively, go hiking or skiing in beautiful **Deogyusan National Park**.

The industrial port city of **Gunsan** boasts Korea's largest collection of Japanese-colonial-period buildings. From here hop on a ferry to the relaxing island of **Seonyudo**, situated amid 60 mostly uninhabited small islands. When the tide is in and the sun is out, the views from here are unbelievably beautiful.

Bronze and Iron Age tombs dot the lush green hills around the small village of **Gochang**, where you can also explore the 15th-century, ivy-covered **Moyang Fortress**.

Further south, **Gwangju** is home to several interesting historical sites, museums and a major arts complex. Make a day trip to **Damyang** to stroll the sandy trails through its Juknokwon bamboo grove. Move on to the port of **Mokpo** to board boats to the remote havens of **Heuksando** and **Hongdo** in the **Dadohae Haesang National Park**.

Admire Korea's centuries-old tradition of pottery at **Gangjin** and taste products made from healthy green tea at the beautiful **Boseong Daehan Dawon Tea Plantation**.

Go bird spotting in the Ramsar-listed wetlands of **Suncheon Bay** then continue to **Yeosu**, site of Expo 2012 and access point for **Dolsando**, where you can hike up to **Hyangiram**, a Buddhist temple perched on a cliff.

For a final island experience, take in terraced rice paddies and misty temples on picturesque **Namhaedo**. The trail finishes at Korea's second-largest city, **Busan**.



City & Country

Some of South Korea's top temples feature on this route linking its two main cities.

In **Seoul** attend a Templelife program at Jogye-sa or Bongeun-sa. **Danyang** is the transit point for **Sobaeksan National Park**, where you'll find modern Guin-sa, headquarters of the Cheontae sect.

Daegu is the base for trips to stunning Haein-sa, housing a World Heritage-listed library of more than 80,000 14th-century woodblocks, and Jikji-sa, a magnificent temple dating to the 5th century.

Jinan is the access town for Tap-sa, a tiny temple surrounded by two 'horse ear' mountains and an extraordinary sculptural garden of 80 stone pinnacles (or towers). From **Gwangju**, visit Unju-sa, with its fine collection of stone pagodas and unusual twin and reclining Buddhas.

From **Gongju**, one-time capital of Korea's Baekje dynasty, visit remote Magoksa, with a hall of 1000 pint-sized disciples who are all slightly different.

Finish just outside of **Busan** at **Tongdo-sa**, which has an excellent Buddhist art museum containing 30,000 artefacts.



Seoul & Jeju Jaunt

This two-centre itinerary is well suited to parents travelling with kids.

Seoul's many parks, interactive museums and, in summer, outdoor swimming pools are ideal for family fun. Older kids will most likely be happy cruising the capital's vast shopping malls and department stores looking for souvenirs of Korea's pervasive pop culture.

Day trips include the beaches of the **West Sea islands**; Korea's biggest amusement park, **Everland**; and the **Korean Folk Village**. The latter two can just as easily be visited from **Suwon**, where it's fun to walk around the walls of an 18th-century fortress. North of Seoul, the modern village of **Heyri** offers inventive sculptures and art exhibits.

Hop on a flight to **Jeju-do**, blessed with a fascinating volcanic landscape and dozens of sandy beaches. Amusement and water parks, cycle and skate hire and a whole raft of adventure activities, from quad biking to scuba diving, are possible on this fun-packed island with plenty of world-class resorts.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/MRT/MTR station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Skytrain/Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Rebecca Milner

[Jeollanam-do](#), [Jeollabuk-do](#), [Chungcheongnam-do](#) Lucky for Rebecca, Korea is just a short flight from her home in Tokyo. Previous trips had already sold her on the charms of *makgeolli* and *jjimgilbang*, so she jumped at the chance to explore the country's southern reaches for this edition. Highlights included eating live octopus in Mokpo, steaming in the saltwater baths in Hampyeong and having morning tea on the veranda of a 100-year-old home in Jeonju. Rebecca has also

written Lonely Planet's guides to Tokyo and Japan. Follow her on Twitter @tokyorebecca. Rebecca also wrote the Arts & Architecture chapter.



Phillip Tang

[Gangwon-do](#), [Gyeongsangbuk-do](#), [Chungcheongbuk-do](#) Phillip Tang spent this trip inviting himself to Korean homes, tagging along to local street eats and being out-hiked by Koreans twice his age bolting up mountains. He writes about travel on his two loves, Asia and Latin America, and has contributed to Lonely Planet's guides to China, Japan, Mexico and Peru, and for other publishers. Find his photos, tweets and articles from this Korea visit through philliptang.co.uk. Phillip also wrote the In

the Korean Kitchen, The Natural Environment and Survival Guide chapters.



Rob Whyte

[Busan & Gyeongsangnam-do](#), [Jeju-do](#) A Busan resident for more than 15 years, Rob spends several weeks each year backpacking across the country in search of secluded getaways. One memorable discovery on this journey was a hamburger restaurant on Udo, which has an amazing collection of *Anne of Green Gables* memorabilia including a first edition of the book. That discovery was a reminder that we have everything we need for a magnificent journey. Rob also wrote the

Korean People chapter.

Contributing Author

[North Korea](#) The author of our North Korea chapter has chosen to remain anonymous.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Simon Richmond

Coordinating author, Seoul UK-born writer and photographer Simon first co-ordinated Lonely Planet's *Korea* guide in 2009 when he explored Seoul and its surroundings over several weeks. He liked the place so much that his next visit, to update the 9th edition of *Korea* and 7th edition of *Seoul*, saw him spend over two months living in Seoul and travelling down to Jeju-do. For *Korea 10*, Simon co-ordinated the general coverage of the country and covered central, northern

and western areas of Seoul; he also hiked around the old city walls on a beautiful spring day and had an enjoyable but messy time learning to make *magkeolli*. Follow him on Twitter, Instagram and at www.simonrichmond.com. Simon also wrote the Plan Your Trip section, as well as the Korea Today and History chapters.



Megan Eaves

Lonely Planet's North Asia Destination Editor, Megan has worked on Lonely Planet's *China* guide and is a recent convert to the delights of the Korean peninsula. Originally from New Mexico, she is a mountain girl at heart and an avid skier. For this edition, she researched Korea's winter activities, downing as much kimchi, fried chicken and *soju* as she could in between stints on the country's many snowy slopes. You can follow her on Twitter @megozzy. Megan contributed to

the chapters Gangwon-do, Around Seoul, Chungcheongbuk-do and Jeollabuk-do.

Read more about Megan at:

<http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/meganeaves>



Trent Holden

Around Seoul Having covered the length of the peninsula on other writing assignments, this is Trent's first gig working on the *Korea* book for Lonely Planet. He researched the regions surrounding Seoul, where he was blown away by the area's diversity and beauty. Trent has worked on over 20 books for Lonely Planet, covering mainly Asia and Africa. You can catch him on twitter @hombreholden.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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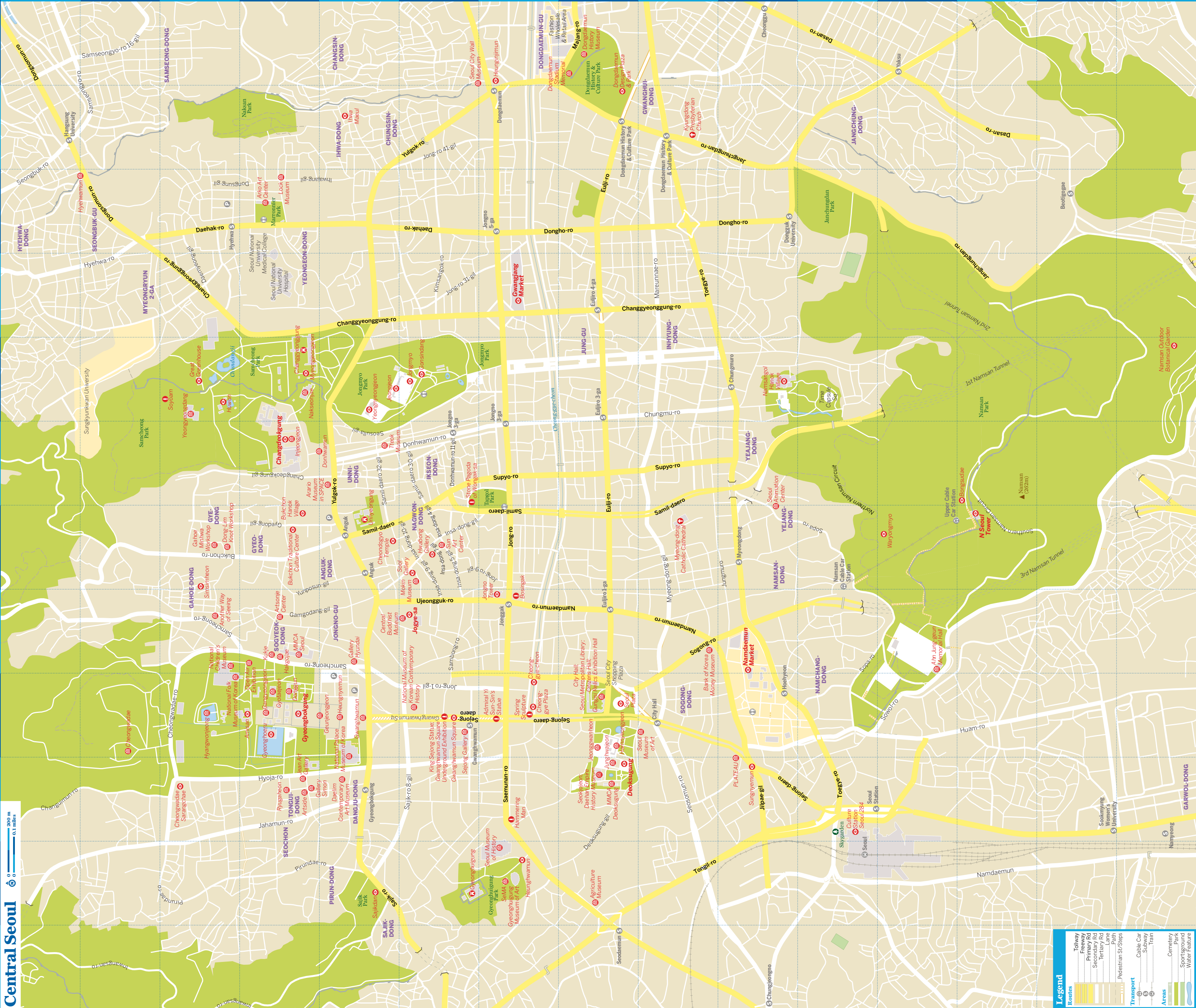
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Central Seoul



Legend

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary Rd
- Secondary Rd
- Tertiary Rd
- Arterial Rd
- Pedestrian St/Steps

Transport

- Cable Car
- Subway
- Train
- Bus
- Tram

Areas

- Cemetery
- Park
- Sportsground
- Water Feature

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