



Jeju-do

064 / POP 621,500

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Dasi Boesi (p244)
- ➔ Saesom Galbi (p251)
- ➔ Yetnal Patjuk (p247)
- ➔ Haejin Seafood Restaurant (p238)
- ➔ Chocolate Castle by the Sea (p250)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Little France (p251)
- ➔ Seaes Hotel & Resort (p256)
- ➔ Ssari's Flower Hill (p244)
- ➔ Baume Couture Boutique Hotel (p238)
- ➔ Hotel W (p238)

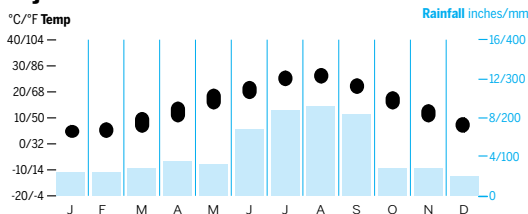
Why Go?

Jeju-do (제주도), Korea's largest island, has long been the country's favourite domestic holiday destination thanks to its beautiful beaches, lush countryside and seaside hotels designed for rest and relaxation.

There's plenty on Jeju-do to appeal to those who prefer to be active. Hike up South Korea's highest mountain, Hallasan, or climb the incredible tuff cone Seongsan Ilchul-bong, rising straight from the sea, to watch the sun rise from the ridge of a crater. For a less-demanding nature experience, meander along one of the Jeju Olle Trails and explore tangerine-trimmed country roads, jagged coasts and narrow lanes dotted with cottage-style homes made from black lava rock. The ocean is never far away, so plunge into blue seas to view coral as colourful as the sunsets and dig into Jeju-do's unique cuisine, including seafood caught by *haeneyo* (female free divers).

When to Go

Jeju-si



Feb/Mar Hike up to Hallasan's snow-covered peak.

Apr Join the cherry-blossom festivities across the island.

Oct Enjoy good weather and splendid autumn foliage along nature trails such as Saryeoni Park.

History

According to legend, Jeju-do was founded by three brothers who came out of holes in the ground and established the Tamna kingdom. Early in the 12th century the Goryeo dynasty took over, but in 1273 Mongol invaders conquered the island, contributing a tradition of horsemanship, a special horse (*jorangmal*) and quirks in the local dialect. During the Joseon period, Jeju-do was used as a place of political and religious exile.

The Japanese colonial period of the early 20th century can be traced through abandoned military bases and fortifications on the island. From 1947 to 1954, as many as 30,000 locals were massacred by right-wing government forces in events collectively labelled the 'April 3 Incident'.

Recent decades have seen Jeju-do's economy shift from mainly agriculture to tourism. In 2006 the island was made into a special autonomous province, giving it a level of self-government that is encouraging further

economic development. The World Conservation Congress was held here in September 2012 and ambitious carbon-free electricity generation ventures are being tested. Jeju-do has come under fire from conservationists and other protesters for the Korean naval base under construction at Gangjeong on the island's south coast.

Since 2008 the Korean government has waived visa requirements for Chinese tourists coming to Jeju-do. In that year the island had about 400,000 visitors. In 2015 that number was expected to surpass five million. Coupled with a recent residency visa-investment program, some complain that financial pressures and high land costs are forever changing the once-sleepy nature of this resort island.

i Getting Around

CAR

Driving on Jeju-do is quite unlike the *Mad Max* frenzy evident in some mainland cities. Traffic



Jeju-do Highlights

- 1** Hiking the trails of **Hallasan** (p257), Korea's highest mountain.
- 2** Exploring the **Jeju Olle** (p259), a magnificent network of walking trails.
- 3** Going underground at **Manjang-gul** (p242), part of

the world's largest lava-tube cave system.

- 4** Admiring the sunrise from **Seongsan Ilchul-bong** (p245) volcanic tuff cone.

- 5** Grabbing a bite and strolling Seogwipo's youthful art district around

Lee Jung-Seop Art Gallery & Park (p249).

- 6** Uncovering delights on **Udo** (p250), a tiny island off Jeju-do's east coast.

- 7** Finding Buddha in a cave in **Sanbanggul-sa** (p257) at Sagye-ri.