



Jeollanam-do

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Why Go?

This beautiful southwest province is one of Korea's least developed and greenest. The heartland of Jeollanam-do (전라남도) has rolling hills, the towering Sobaek Mountains to the east and 6100km of coastline to the south and west, with more than 2000 islands offshore – less than 300 of which are inhabited. The province was largely isolated for centuries and it retains an off-the-beaten-track feel. It also has a rebel edge, and is proud of its ceramic and artistic traditions, its exiled poets and its prodemocracy martyrs.

With a comparatively balmy climate, Jeollanam-do is famous for its bountiful harvests, fresh seafood and green tea, celebrated in several festivals. For all its rural atmosphere, Jeollanam-do has urban elements too: Gwangju, the province's largest city, has a hip vibe and an active arts scene centred around a new, much-hyped cultural centre. It's also more accessible than ever, thanks to a faster KTX line that opened in 2015.

Best Places to Eat

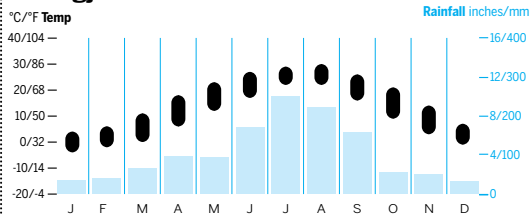
- Dokcheon (p227)
- Wonjo Jangsu Tongdak (p223)
- Jeonsama (p224)
- Yeongran Hoet-jip (p227)

Best Places to Stay

- Pedro's House (p212)
- Yuseongwan (p223)
- Sinsiwa (p212)

When to Go

Gwangju



Jun–Aug Summer is the season for ferries to far-flung islands and lazing on sandy beaches.

Sep The Gwangju Biennale festival brings the glamour of the art world to town.

Oct The Gwangju Kimchi Festival and the Namdo Food Festival happen this month.

History

Far from Seoul during the Joseon era, Jeollanam-do was a place of exile, often used as a dumping ground for political and religious dissidents. The tradition of political dissent has continued; the province was a hotbed of opposition to the military governments that ruled South Korea in the 1960s and '70s. Students and trade unionists led countless prodemocracy protests and demonstrations, culminating in the 1980 uprising in Gwangju. As a result, development funds were withheld from the region for decades, something that is being rectified today with a flurry of new projects.

Gwangju

☎ 062 / POP 1.48 MILLION

Gwangju (<http://utour.gwangju.go.kr>), Korea's sixth-largest city, may look like any

광주

other city but its history sets it apart: in 1980 a peaceful prodemocracy demonstration, known as the May 18 Democratic Uprising, was brutally put down by the then military government. Gwangju also has a long history of harbouring artists and this is reflected in civic support for the arts.

Sights & Activities

The museum district is northwest of downtown. It's a 10-minute walk through a tunnel under the expressway from the Gwangju National Museum to the Gwangju Art Museum and the Gwangju Folk Museum, which are next to each other in a park along with the Biennale Exhibition Hall.

Gwangju National Museum

MUSEUM

(국립광주박물관; ☎ 062 570 7000; <http://gwangju.museum.go.kr>; 110 Haseo-ro, Buk-gu; ☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun; ₩ 48) **FREE** The Gwangju National Museum's collection traces the



Jeollanam-do Highlights

- 1 Visiting **Gwangju** (p209) for its vibrant arts and nightlife scene, urban hiking opportunities, and solemn memorials.
- 2 Savouring the scenery and flavours of the **Daehan Dawon Tea Plantation** (p221) in Boseong.
- 3 Voyaging to the scattered, unspoilt islands

of **Heuksando** (p230) and fabled **Hongdo** (p229).

- 4 Marvelling at the thatched-roofed houses of the immaculately preserved fortress town of **Naganeup-seong Folk Village** (p217).
- 5 Spotting migratory birds feasting in the rich wetlands at **Suncheon-man** (p217).

- 6 Eating still-wriggling octopus and seeing sunken ships in **Mokpo** (p225).

- 7 Watching the sunrise from the seaside heritage **Hyangir-am** (p219).

- 8 Partaking in the mysterious 'parting of the sea' phenomenon known as the Ganjuyuk Gyedo in **Jindo** (p229).