



Gyeongsangbuk-do

Includes »

Daegu	144
Gyeongju	154
Pohang	165
Ulleungdo	168
Andong	172
Hahoe Folk Village	175
Cheongnyangsan Provincial Park	175
Juwangsan National Park	176

Best Places to Stay

- » Taegu Grand Hotel (p146)
- » Sarangchae (p160)
- » Nahbi Guest House (p160)
- » Rak Ko Jae Hahoe (p175)
- » Design Motel A2 (p166)

Best Places to Eat

- » Bulgogi Myeongya (p162)
- » Gaejeung (p148)
- » Kisoya (p162)
- » Dijon (p148)
- » 99 Sikdang (p171)

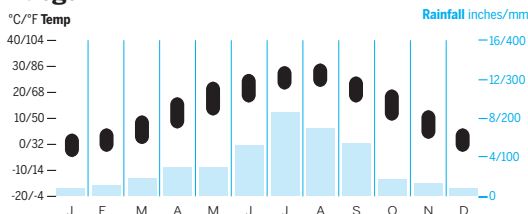
Why Go?

Korea's cultural warehouse, Gyeongsangbuk-do (경상북도) is a region resplendent both in natural beauty and heritage sites, including many fascinating temples, ancient pagodas, rock-carved Buddhas and tombs. Gyeongju is often called 'the museum without walls' for its historical treasures, many of which are outdoors. The oddly symmetrical *tumuli* (burial mounds) in the centre of town are serene pyramids – stately reminders of the dead they still honour.

The region's major city, Daegu, is a sprawling place with an excellent medicinal herb market, a downtown drenched in neon and superb restaurants. Elsewhere, don't miss Haein-sa, a must-see temple-library amid gorgeous mountain scenery that contains the Tripitaka Koreana, 1000-year-old wooden tablets inscribed with sacred Buddhist texts and ingeniously preserved in a building so ahead of its time that modern science hasn't improved it. Off the coast is the rugged island of Ulleungdo, with seemingly endless opportunities to enjoy spectacular coastal landscapes.

When to Go

Daegu



Apr–Jun Lovely temperatures and low humidity; a great time to travel here.

Mid-Aug Catch Ulleungdo's squid festival and enjoy delicious seafood in a unique island setting.

Late Sep–early Oct Andong's Mask Dance Festival, a highlight of the Korean arts calendar.

History

At the centre of South Korea, this area was once the capital of the Shilla empire (57 BC–AD 935), and as such was a central part of Korean government and trade. During this almost 1000-year-long empire, the Shilla rulers created alliances with China to defeat Japanese threats, as well as to repel other Korean invaders. During this time Confucian laws were widely adopted and informed all aspects of Korean life, including who, where and when a person could marry.

Daegu 대구

☑ 053 / POP 2.45 MILLION

South Korea's fourth largest city is a pleasant and progressive place with a fascinating traditional-medicine market, some excellent eating options and a humming downtown that's good fun to explore. The city is a popular place for exchange students and English teachers, and the large student population gives Daegu a young and care-free feel.



Gyeongsangbuk-do Highlights

- 1 See and smell the fascinating **medicinal herb market** (p145) in Daegu before partaking of great eating in the city's downtown
- 2 Marvel at the 80,000-plus wooden tablets of

- the Buddhist sutras at the temple **Haein-sa** (p152)
- 3 Slip back into the Shilla era in **Gyeongju** (p154), the 'museum without walls'
- 4 Walk along the rocky coastline and enjoy the

- stunning scenery and great seafood of **Ulleungdo** (p168)
- 5 Admire centuries-old architecture and an unchanged way of life in **Hahoe Folk Village** (p175)