



# Jeju-do

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Little France (p247)
- » The Seaes Hotel & Resort (p253)
- » Ssari's Flower Hill (p240)
- » Seongeup Folk Village Traditional Houses (p245)
- » Baume Couture Boutique Hotel (p232)

## Best Places to Eat

- » Dasi Boesi (p240)
- » Saesom Galbi (p248)
- » Yetnalpatjuk (p245)
- » Harubang Pizza (p257)
- » Haejin Seafood Restaurant (p233)

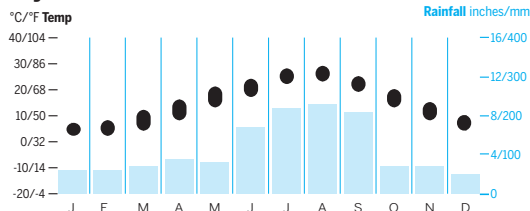
## Why Go?

The tropical charms of Jeju-do (제주도), Korea's largest island, have long made it the country's favourite holiday destination. Since Jeju-do was inscribed as one of the new seven wonders of nature in 2011, the world is also discovering more about its beautiful beaches, volcanic geography, lush countryside, and ancient culture that includes traditions, dress, architecture, a dialect separate from the mainland and 18,000 gods.

The islanders' warm hospitality will instantly put you in a relaxed mood, but there's plenty on Jeju to appeal to those who prefer to be active. Hike up South Korea's highest mountain, Hallasan, or the incredible tuff cone Seongsan Ilchulbong rising straight from the sea. Meander along one of the Jeju Olle Trails. Plunge into blue oceans to view coral as colourful as the sunsets, and dig into Jeju's unique cuisine, including seafood caught by Jeju's famous *haeneyo* (female free divers).

## When to Go

### Jeju-si



**Feb** On the month's first full moon attend the Jeongwol Dae-boreum Bonfire Festival.

**Apr** Join the King Cherry Blossom festivities across the island.

**Sep** Good weather, the Tamna Cultural Festival and the Chilsimni Festival.

## Travel Itinerary

If time is short, make Seogwipo, the island's second-largest city on the south coast, your base. From here you can visit Hallasan National Park as well as Seongsan Ilchulbong. Jeju-si, the island's capital, is closer to the airport but is not as scenic a city.

With a week or more it's possible to take in all of Jeju's top sights, as well as visit one of the smaller islands such as Udo, or lounge on a lovely deserted beach. Get off the beaten track by staying at a small village pension or guesthouse.

### JEJU-DO FOOD & DRINK

Jeju speciality meats include *heukdwaeji*, pork from the local black-skinned pig; *kkwong* (pheasant); and *basme* (horse) served in a variety of ways including raw.

All kinds of fish and seafood are available from restaurants and direct from *haenyeo*, the island's famous female divers; try *galchi* (hairtail), *godeungeo* (mackerel) or *jeon-bok* (abalone), often served in a rice porridge (*jeon-bok-juk*). *Okdomgui* is a tasty local fish that is semidried before being grilled.

*Hallabong* tangerines are common; also look out for prickly-pear jam, black *omija* tea and honey. Hallasan *soju* (local vodka) is smoother than some.

### DON'T MISS

Colourful and lively **five-day markets**, which occur every five days, are scattered around the island and well worth attending to buy local agricultural produce.

### Fast Facts

- » **Population** 568,000
- » **Telephone area code** 064
- » **Area** 1848 sq km
- » **Number of oreum (parasitic volcanic cones)** 368

### Planning Your Trip

July and August are peak season; hotels and car hire get booked up and rates are higher. Visit after 1 September and you'll avoid the crowds and pay less; the weather is still good and you'll have the beaches mostly to yourself.

### Resources

- » Jeju Special Self-Governing Province: <http://english.jeju.go.kr>
- » Jeju Weekly: [www.jejuweekly.com](http://www.jejuweekly.com)
- » Jeju World Natural Heritage: <http://jejuwnh.jeju.go.kr>
- » Jeju Provincial Tourism Association: [www.hijeju.or.kr](http://www.hijeju.or.kr)

## Getting Around

- » **Car** Road signs are in English and the hire cost is reasonable (around ₩60,000 a day). You must be 21 years old and have a current International Driving Permit.
- » **Bicycle/Scooter** It's possible to pedal or scooter your way around the island (250km) in three to five days. The designated cycleway is relatively flat, much of it parallel to the beautiful coast. Pack rain gear. Bicycles (₩10,000 per day) and scooters (₩15,000 to ₩25,000 per day) can be hired in Jeju-si, Seogwipo and a few other places.
- » **Bus** Services radiate from Jeju-si and Seogwipo and cover most of the island, running round the coast and across the centre roughly every 20 minutes. Pick up an English bus timetable from the airport tourist office.
- » **Taxi** Charge is ₩2200 for the first 2km; a 15km journey costs about ₩10,000. You can hire a taxi driver for around ₩100,000 a day.