

Gangnam & South of the Han River

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Stroll around **Olympic Park** (p108), where there are 1700-year-old fortifications, museums and 200 quirky sculptures.

2 Join in the amusement-park fun of **Lotte World** (p109), with its thrill rides and fairy-tale carousel and castle.

3 Make a lotus lantern and sip tea with monks at the venerable temple **Bongeun-sa** (p110).

4 Pay your respects at **Seonjeongneung** (p110), the tombs of past Korean kings in Seolleung Park.

5 Head to Seoul Grand Park to enjoy the **National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art** (p112) and science museum.



For more detail of this area see Maps p228 and p230 ➔

Explore Gangnam & South of the Han River

Meaning 'South of the River', Gangnam refers to an administrative area, Gangnam-gu, and the parts of Seoul that lie south of the Han. Looking at the ranks of tower blocks bisected by broad highways, it's hard to imagine that there wasn't much of the city here a few decades ago.

The area saw much development for the 1988 Olympics, the legacy of which is Olympic Park, one of the area's main sights with its green space, museums and galleries. Gangnam's wide open spaces allowed Lotte to create its giant theme park, plus Seoul's tallest building nearby. But mainly this newer part of Seoul is a ritzy residential address, entertainment district and business hub with major company headquarters, such as Samsung D'Light, and the COEX complex with its convention centre and shopping mall.

Retail is as flash as it gets in upscale Apgujeong and Cheongdam. Checking out the eye-boggling design boutiques, with even more eye-boggling price tags on the merchandise, can be fun even if you lack the funds for purchases. More affordable is the shopping on nearby tree-lined Garosu-gil.

Further south the Seoul Arts Center promotes traditional and modern culture, Korean and Western, while in Gwacheon (technically outside the city limits), Seoul Grand Park is home to a major art gallery and kid-friendly science museum, a big amusement park and a zoo.

Local Life

- ➔ **Shopping** Hop between the designer boutiques of Apgujeong and Cheongdam by taxi – you wouldn't want to ruin your Jimmy Choos!
- ➔ **Clubbing** Sip cocktails and shimmy with the rich, celebs and wannabes at Seoul's flashiest nightspots, such as Club Octagon and Ellui (p114).
- ➔ **Riverside activities** Walk or cycle through the Han Riverside Park and visit the Banpo Bridge at night to see the Banpo Bridge Rainbow Fountain (p111) and the illuminated floating Islands.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** The neighbourhood is too spread out for walking, so subway is the way to go.
- ➔ **Taxi** Hopping in a taxi can save time travelling around Gangnam.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Drop by Banpo Bridge in the evening for both the spectacle of its Rainbow Fountain performance and the floating islands illuminated at Some Sevit.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Jungsik (p113)
- ➔ Samwon Garden (p113)
- ➔ Coreanos Kitchen (p113)

For reviews, see p113 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Neurin Maeul (p114)
- ➔ Booth (p114)
- ➔ Greenmile Coffee (p114)

For reviews, see p114 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ 10 Corso Como Seoul (p116)
- ➔ COEX Mall (p116)
- ➔ Galleria (p116)

For reviews, see p116 ➔