

Western Seoul

HONGDAE & AROUND | YEOUIDO & AROUND



Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Shop at **Noryangjin Fish Market** (p90), Korea's largest seafood market, where you can buy everything from king crabs to sea cucumbers, and have it cooked up on the spot.
- ❷ Hit **Hongdae** (p91) for its buzzing nightlife where you can dance the night away or groove to the latest K-Indie band.
- ❸ Enjoy the view and surrounding art at the top of **63 Square** (p88).
- ❹ Hire a bike on Yeouido and cycle along the Han River to **Seonyudo Park** (p89).
- ❺ Explore **Mulla Arts Village** (p88), where artists rub shoulders with metalworking factories.

For more detail of this area see Maps p218 and p220 ➔

Explore Western Seoul

The areas of Hongdae (around Hongik University), Edae (around Ewha Womans University) and Sinchon (between Yonsei and Sogang Universities) are all packed with places for students to be diverted from their studies. Hongik is Korea's leading art and design institution, so this is a particularly fertile patch for chaotic creativity and unbridled hedonism; it's also the epicentre for the K-Indie scene, with scores of live-music clubs and dance spots. Up the road, French architect Dominique Perrault's stunning redesign of the Ewha campus centre has put that area on the archi-tour map.

Major retailers have moved into Hongdae, pushing up rents and pushing out smaller, independent boutiques, cafes and bars to nearby areas such as Sangsu-dong and Yeonnam-dong. The latter is Seoul's latest hip 'hood, benefiting from a new park on its southern flank, a section of what will eventually become the 6.3km-long Gyeongui Line Forest Trail built on land formerly used for a railway line that has been buried underground.

Yeouido, a 3km-long and 2km-wide island on the southern side of the Han River, is home to skyscrapers housing media, finance and insurance companies, as well as the National Assembly and stock-exchange buildings. Attractions here include Yeouido Park and Yeouido Hangang Riverside Park, both lovely places to relax or go for a bike ride, and the observation deck of 63 Square, providing a bird's-eye view of the city. Nearby is the brand-new complex of Noryangjin, Seoul's premier fish market.

Local Life

- ➔ **Worship** Join in the singing with a 15,000-plus congregation at Sunday services at Yeouido Full Gospel Church (p88).
- ➔ **Markets** Shop for handmade souvenirs and listen to local musicians at Hongdae's Free Market (p94), in the park opposite Hongik University, or Yeonnam-dong's Dongjin Market (p94).
- ➔ **Blossoms** Yeouido is gorgeous in mid-April when the island's many cherry trees blossom; at its peak they're lit up at night and seemingly the whole of Seoul decamps here.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** The best way to get to all these areas; Hongik University also has a stop on the A'REX Line from Incheon International Airport.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Hire them on Yeouido; they are the best way to get around the island and across the north side of the Han River where there are also cycle lanes.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

For details on the latest gigs in Hongdae (and elsewhere) check out **Do Indie** (www.doindie.co.kr/en), then book tickets at **XIndie Ticket Lounge** (Map p218; ☎02-322 2218; www.ticketlounge.co.kr; Eoulmadang-ro, Mapo-gu; 🕒1-9pm Tue-Sun; 📍Line 6 to Sangsu, Exit 1).

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Noryangjin Fish Market (p90)
- ➔ Menya Sandaime (p89)
- ➔ Tuk Tuk Noodle Thai (p90)

For reviews, see p89 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Anthracite (p91)
- ➔ Café Sukkara (p91)
- ➔ Wolhyang (p91)

For reviews, see p91 ➔

Best Places for Live Music

- ➔ Mudaeruk (p93)
- ➔ Club Evans (p93)
- ➔ FF (p93)

For reviews, see p93 ➔