



Busan & Gyeongsangnam-do

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Best Places to Eat

- » Dongnae Halmae Pajeon (p186)
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Why Go?

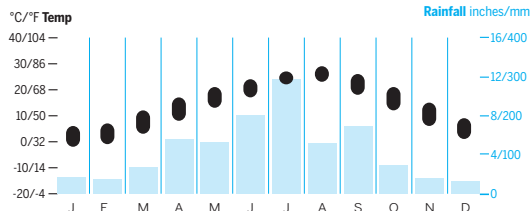
The best sites in Korea either awe with beauty or deepen our understanding of the culture. Busan and Gyeongsangnam-do (부산과경상남도) do both.

Underrated Busan's easily accessible mountains and beaches, as well as its colourful seafood and drinking scene make it very easy to love. It's home to the world's largest shopping and entertainment complex, and a world-class cinema centre that's dazzling to behold.

Gyeongsangnam-do's natural beauty, inspired by verdant mountains and coastal towns untouched by tourist development, is closer than you think, thanks to an efficient transport system. Hop on a bus and you'll be rewarded with outstanding hiking trails on Jirisan, glorious temples in hideaway locations and lush rice paddies in just about every rural community. For marine treasures, board a ferry and go island-hopping around Tongyeong. On land or by sea, Gyeongsangnam-do is accessible, affordable and waiting to be explored.

When to Go

Busan



Apr–May Cherry blossoms make spring a great time for hiking.

Jul–Aug Haeundae and Gwangan beaches in full swing.

Oct Busan International Film Festival runs through mid-October.

History

Gyeongsangnam-do has a long history of warfare, though it's difficult to beat the Imjin War for destruction, treachery and the birth of an icon. In 1592 the Japanese were eager to secure a land route to China. The Joseon government refused assistance, so the Japanese attacked. Led by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the Japanese landed 160,000 troops at several places including Busan,

Sangju Beach and Jinju, where the Koreans made a valiant yet unsuccessful stand against a superior enemy.

The war's star was Admiral Yi Sun-sin, a brilliant tactician credited with the development of the turtle ship, an ironclad vessel instrumental in harassing Japanese supply lines. Despite his significant wartime contributions, Yi was arrested in 1597 for disobeying orders thanks to a clever ruse



Busan & Gyeongsangnam-do Highlights

- 1 Shock your taste buds with Busan seafood specialities like raw fish at **Jagalchi Fish Market** (p187)
- 2 Clink glasses of gut-warming soju in Busan's colourful **tent bars** (p191)
- 3 Get architecturally and cinematically inspired at the **Busan Cinema Centre** (p191)
- 4 Go island-hopping off the coast of **Tongyeong** (p195)
- 5 Take in terraced rice paddies and misty temples on the picturesque island of **Namhaedo** (p199)
- 6 Rejuvenate your body at **Spa Land** (p183), one of the world's largest hot spas
- 7 Explore **Jirisan** (p200), one of the best places to hike in Korea