



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

South Korea - Andong & Taebaek

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Seoul
- ✓ **Language:** Korean
- ✓ **Population:** ± 168.000 (A) / 46.700 (T)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1591 (A) / 303.5 (T)
- ✓ **Currency:** Won ₩
- ✓ **Country code:** +82
- ✓ **Visa:** Probably not (*up to 90 days*), but check [here](#) just in case!
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 112 (*police*), 119 (*fire / other emergencies*), 129 (*medical*)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A & Typhoid... (*Hep-B, Japanese Encephalitis, Rabies*).



History Recap Over 1 Drink

3000BC: Central Asian settlers. 676: Three Kingdoms unified → Silla Dynasty. 1231-70: Mongol invasions. 1592: Japanese invasion. 1627&36: Manchu invasions. 1866: French invasion after execution Catholic missionaries: burned manuscripts. 1905: Jap annexation. '10-'45: Jap rule: forced to adopt Japanese names/language forbidden/ Shinto religion, Korean culture wiped out → Independent /activist movements/guerilla. '45: WWII → Soviet North, US South (*keeps supporting*). '48: Republic of Korea. '50: Independence South → North invasion: Korean War until '53 (*2mln death*). '61: Military coup: General Park. '65: South to Vietnam (US). '72: Martial law. Unification talks. '80: Student demonstrations → 200 killed by army in Gwangju. '81: End martial law. '86: Direct pres election. '80s: Shift towards high-tech/IT. '88: Seoul Olympics. '91: North&South join UN. '93: Pres San (*first freely elected*). '98: Pres Kim Dae-Jung → unconditional economic & humanitarian aid to North. 2000: Meets Kim Jong-il: end anti-South propaganda in North. South amnesty to 3500 prisoners: Nobel Peace Prize. '02: Naval battle North/South about disputed sea border (*continues until '14*). Typhoon Rusa (*119 death*). '04: 3000 troops to Iraq. Free-trade deal US. '08: Financial crisis. '12: First female pres: Park Geun-hye. '13: Tensions spike. Cyber attacks. '18: Talks North-South re-start.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Low season												

Altitude: 139m (A) / 561 (T). Climate: Continental (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Andong:** [Andong Lake](#), [Andong Folk Village](#) (*officially charged – but not first part*), [Wolyeonggyo Bridge](#) (*Sat/Sun fountain show at 12:30/18:30/20:00*), Unheung-dong Five-Story Brick Pagoda, Yeonghoru Pavilion, Taesamyo, [Icheon-dong Maeyeoraeipsang Buddha Statue](#), [Bongjeongsa Temple](#) (*temple stay possible*), [Dosanseowon Confucian School](#), [Byeongsanseowon Confucian Academy](#).
- ☺ **Taebaek:** [Taebaeksan National Park](#), Cheoram Coal Mine History Town, [Mureunggyegok Valley](#), [Hwangji Pond](#), [Samwhasa Temple](#) (*temple stay possible*).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 **Andong:** [Hahoe Folk Village](#) & [Hahoe World Mask Museum](#) (*Free Hahoe Mask Drama performance: Sat/Sun [Jan-Feb] & Wed-Fri-Sat-Sun [Mar-Dec] 2-3PM*), [Andong Folk Museum](#), Andong National University Museum, [Confucian Cultural Museum](#), [Confucian Land](#), Hakgasan Spa, [Andong Gunja Village](#).
- 👍 **Taebaek:** [Coal Museum](#), [365 Safe Town](#), Yongyeon Cave, Hwanseongul Cave, [Hwaam Cave](#), [Cheongok Cave](#), Skiing, Descendants of the Sun Filmset.

The Earth Becomes My Throne

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** All are expensive. Homeplus is the cheapest and most central one in Andong, Wonmateu in Taebaek. Daiso is cheap for toiletries.

⌘ **Markets:** Yongsangsijang (A), Sinsijang (A), Gusijang (A), Taebaek Central Market (T).

⌘ **Local food:** Andong Steamed Chicken, Heot Jesa Bab (*Bibimbap Worship Meal*), Andong Beef, Andong Sikhye (*sweet-ginger beverage*), Andong Salted Mackerel, Kimchi (*fermented vegetables*), Taebaek Hanu Beef (*cattle*), Galbi (*marinated ribs*), Jjajangmyeon (*noodles*), Gim (*toasted seaweed*), Gogihui (*Korean BBQ*), Mandu (*dumplings*), Kimbap (*sushi*), Haemul Pajeon (*fried seafood pancake*), Twigim (*tempura*), Tteokbokki (*red rice cakes*), Kkwong-Toryeom (*pheasant breast*), Mel-Jeot (*salted anchovy*), Tangsuyuk (*horse*), Galbijjim (*horse rib stew*), Bulgogi (*horse BBQ*) Gingyijuk / Mungejuk / Jogaejuk (*rice porridge with crab / octopus / clams*), Bingddeok (*buckwheat rice cake*), Makkoli (*rice wine*) & way more!

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan quite hard in South Korea, as everything is written in Hangul, both menus and ingredients lists. Some vegan dishes: Vegetable Kimbap, Kimchi, Dubu Jorim (*tofu*), Japchae (*cold noodle stir-fry*), Somandu (*vegetable noodles*) and Gamja Jon (*potato pancake*). In supermarkets tofu, mushrooms and doenjang (*fermented bean paste*) are really cheap.

Festivals

☼ Taebaek Mountain Snow Festival: Jan-Feb.

☼ Andong Maskdance Festival: Sep-Oct.

☼ Jeongseon Arirang Festival: Oct.

Mama Said

☠ South Korea is a very safe place. Don't stress.

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

Next?

➔ In South Korea: Donghae, Gangneung, Gyeongju.

➔ International destinations close by: Japan, North Korea.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Tourist accommodation is very expensive in South Korea. Usually the cheapest deals can be found in hostels or via Air BnB. Use [this link](#) for €15 discount at [Booking.com](#). Get [€25 travel money for free](#) on Air BnB with [this link](#).

❖ Camping is very affordable but can be terribly hot in summer and freezing cold in winter.

❖ Jjimjilbangs are cheap Korean sauna's and include free overnight stays (*sleeping rooms*).

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting: get [20% off your yearly Trusted Housesitters membership](#) via [this link](#). Also check [WorkAway](#).

Free-Riding?

■ Within Andong's and Taebaek's city centres, most is walkable.

■ Biking is possible and there's an extensive bicycle lane network.

■ Local blue and green buses go most frequent, but make most stops. Red buses go faster as they make less stops, but they're more expensive and go less often. Google Maps and Moovit don't work well here, download the KakaoMap or Naver app for route planning (*mostly in Korean, but recognizes place names in alphabet and has a map-function*). A T-Money / Cashbee card provides discounts and up to 2 free transfers to bus or metro (*within 30 minutes*), it can be bought and charged in all minimarkets and works all over South Korea. Swipe when entering and leaving the bus. Intercity buses leave from the Andong Terminal (*outside of town at 130 Gyeongdong-ro – local bus ride necessary*) and Taebaek Intercity Bus Terminal (6, *Gwangjang-ro*).

■ Cheap local trains (*mugunghwa*) serve Andong and Taebaek and are served by Korail. Andong's train station is located at 684 Gyeongdong-ro, Taebaek at 79 Seohwangji-ro.

■ Airport: Daegu International Airport (TAE).

■ Hitchhiking is possible, but make sure you stay on provincial roads. Main highways are illegal to enter and local police is strict.