



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

South Korea - Seoraksan / Odaesan National Park

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Seoul
- ✓ **Language:** Korean
- ✓ **Population:** ± 216,000 (Gangneung)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1040
- ✓ **Currency:** Won ₩
- ✓ **Country code:** +82 (33)
- ✓ **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												
Budget												

Altitude: 10m (Gangneung). Climate: Humid Subtropical (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Beaches:** Jumunjin, Gwangjin, Gyeongpo, Sokcho, Naksan, Jeongdongjin, Anmok, Namhangjinm, Songjeong, Gangmun, Sageungjin, Sungeut, Sunpo, Sacheon, Sacheonjin, Hapyeong, Yeongjin.
- ☺ **Sights:** [Coffee Street](#), Soengyojang, Anmok Sunrise Park, Osaek Hot Spring, Jumunjin Port / Breakwater & endless temples (*some free*).
- ☺ **Free Hiking:** Jindong Valley, [Bangtaesan](#) / [Micheongol National Forest Resort](#), [Imhae Natural Recreational Forest](#),

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 **Seoraksan National Park:** See blog for trail map. Reserve shelters [here](#). Admission entrance temple.
- 👉 **Odaesan National Park:** See blog for trail map. Admission entrance via Woljeongsa Temple.
- 👉 **Museums:** [Unification Observatory DMZ Museum](#), [Coffee Copper Museum](#), [Daegwallyeong Museum](#), [Ojukheon Municipal Museum](#), [Mama Dream Museum](#).
- 👉 **Paid Sights / Activities:** Songcheon Rice Cake Village, Haslla Art World, Guramy Spa.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** All are expensive. Emart and Lotte are generally the cheapest ones out there. Daiso for toiletries.

⌘ **Markets:** Jungang Market, Jumunjin Fish Market, Dongbu, Seobu, Seongnam, Okgye 5-day market.

⌘ **Local food:** Sokcho Ojingeo Sundae (*stuffed squid*), Potato Ongsimi, Sacheon Gwajul (*sweet snack*), Wonju Chueotang (*loach soup*), Kimchi (*fermented vegetables*), Galbi (*marinated ribs*), Yukgaejang (*beef stew*), Jjajangmyeon (*noodles*), Gim (*toasted seaweed*), Gogihui (*Korean BBQ*), Bibimbap (*mixed rice*), 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*), Seongkae-Guk (*sea urchin soup*), Godeunggeo (*mackerel*), Sora (*turban shell*), 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. For vegan restaurants, check [Happy Cow – Gangneung](#). In Chodang Sundubu Village a lot of tofu dishes can be found.

Festivals

⚙ Gyeongpo Cherry Blossom Festival: Apr.

⚙ Gangneung Danoje Festival: June.

⚙ Gangneung Coffee Festival: Oct.

Mama Said

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

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

☠ Avoid places like Gangneung Baby Animal Farm where animals are held in captivity.

Next?

➔ In South Korea: Taebaek, Sokcho.

➔ 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: Get €25 free travel money with [this link](#). Use [this link](#) for €15 discount at Booking.com.

❖ Most public beach campsites are free. Book the cheap national park campsites and shelters [here](#).

❖ Jjimjilbangs are cheap Korean sauna's and include free overnight stays (*sleeping rooms*). Temple stays (Buddhist) are a bit pricier and can be found and booked [here](#).

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

Free-Riding?

■ Gangneung isn't that big, but to reach far out suburbs or Jumunjin taking a bus is necessary.

■ Biking is possible and there's an extensive bicycle lane network. Car drivers are however rather inconsiderate.

■ 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 (*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 Gangneung Intercity Bus Terminal, Gangneung Express Bus Terminal or Jumunjin Terminal.

■ Trains are operated by [Korail](#) and leave from the central train station. There are both expensive fast-trains as well as slower and very cheap (*Mugunghwa*) local trains.

■ Airport: Yangyang International Airport (YNY).

■ Hitchhiking is possible, but rather hard in a city as you'll mainly catch inner-city traffic. Main highways are illegal to enter, so limit routes to provincial roads.

The Earth Becomes My Throne