

Jejudo 제주도



Hawaii, the Mediterranean, Disneyland, paradise... Jejudo has been compared to all four, and each is at least partly true. The volcanic island features swaying palm trees, cactus plants, orange orchards, circus shows, casinos, a dozen sandy beaches, 14 golf courses, scuba diving and much more. Jejudo is Korea's holiday and honeymoon island, where even bank tellers sport colourful, open-necked aloha shirts.

Most spectacular though are the volcanic landscapes. South Korea's highest mountain, Hallasan (1950m), is a special national park with varied ecological zones, cute little roe deer and wonderful azalea blooms in May. Out east is an awesome volcanic crater, Ilchulbong, while Udo island has dramatic, black-lava cliffs and a glaringly white coral-sand beach. Along the southeast coast are incredibly eroded and pockmarked cliffs at Yongmeori and a sheer-sided rock, Sanbangsan, which is a spiritual mountain with a grotto temple and water with healing powers. Then there's the world's longest lava tube at Manjanggal, folk villages, museums, sculpture parks and Asian-style gardens – masses to see and do. The sea temperature is the warmest in Korea and the coral near Seogwipo is as colourful as in the tropics.

Festivals and events include marathons, triathlons and iron-man contests, and outdoor concerts and movies are held on the fun-filled beaches in summer. Stay in world-class resorts, smart new motels or classy *minbak*. Dine on barbecued pheasant and grilled *okdom*, a local fish that used to be reserved for Joseon monarchs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Be inspired by volcanic **Hallasan** (p292), South Korea's highest mountain, with its spectacular views and four distinct ecological zones
- Be awed by the world's longest **lava-tube cave** (p281) at Manjanggal
- Be entranced by forested volcanic craters atop **Seongsan Ilchulbong** (p282) and **Sangumburi** (p281), and dramatic eroded cliffs along the **Yongmeori coast** (p290)
- Be amazed by the **colourful coral** (p287) around Munseom Island, off Seogwipo
- Be thrilled by gravity-defying **acrobats** (p291, p291 and p291) on and off motor-bikes and horses



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 064

■ POPULATION: 560,000

■ AREA: 1847 SQ KM

History

Despite being just 85km from the mainland, Jeju was little visited for centuries. As a result it acquired its own history, traditions, dress, architecture and dialect.

According to legend, Jeju was founded by three brothers (p277) who came out of holes in the ground and established the independent Tamna kingdom. Early in the 12th century the Goryeo dynasty took over, but in 1273 Mongol invaders conquered the island, contributing a tradition of horsemanship, a special horse *gorangmal* (p291) and quirks in the local dialect.

Over the years the island developed a unique architectural style: stone houses with a thatched roof that was tied down by rope against the strong winds. Different generations lived together in a walled compound, but unlike the rest of Korea, each generation had separate cooking facilities. Visit Seong-eup Folk Village (p284) to explore some traditional housing compounds that include outdoor toilets next to pigsties.

Local clothing was made from hemp and dyed with persimmon, and this orange-tinted clothing is a popular souvenir.

In 1653 a Dutch trading ship was wrecked on the island (p290). The 36 survivors were looked after by a kindly Jeju governor, but when a few tried to escape they were severely beaten. After 10 months they were taken to

Seoul and were forced to stay in Korea for 13 years until some of them escaped in a boat to Japan. One of the escapees, Hendrick Hamel, published his experiences (see www.henny-savenije.pe.kr), the first detailed account of the 'Hermit Kingdom' by a European.

During the later Joseon period, the island became home to over 200 exiles: intellectuals, Catholic converts and political undesirables who spent their time teaching the islanders and composing wistful poems.

Through it all, the locals carried on earning their living by fishing and farming. The island is famous for tangerines, which are grown on the southern coastal lowlands and are on sale throughout the year. Inland, pastures support horses and cattle.

Like the rest of the country, the past few decades have seen the island change radically – most of the coastline is now built up and many farm pastures have been turned into golf courses. The catalyst has been a flood of tourists from the mainland and abroad, which peaks from mid-July to mid-August. The numbers of *haenyeo* (see p284), hardy and hard-working female divers who still free-dive for seafood and seaweed, are in steep decline. Their daughters have opted for an easier life on dry land.

Recently the island has been given self-governing status and this may open the door to further economic development.

Climate

The island's climate is less extreme than that of the Korean peninsula, and the mild winters mean palm trees, cacti, orange orchards and even pineapple plants thrive. Despite this, don't expect tropical temperatures, but rather a moderate but fickle, four-seasons-in-a-day climate, typical of islands.

Jeju is also the rainiest place in Korea thanks to the country's highest mountain, Hallasan (1950m). But while most of the nation gets up to 60% of its rainfall during the summer rainy season, Jeju's is more spread out. Downpours are least likely during autumn.

The island is noted for its strong winds, but they are usually brief. Conditions are often misty or hazy, except in autumn.

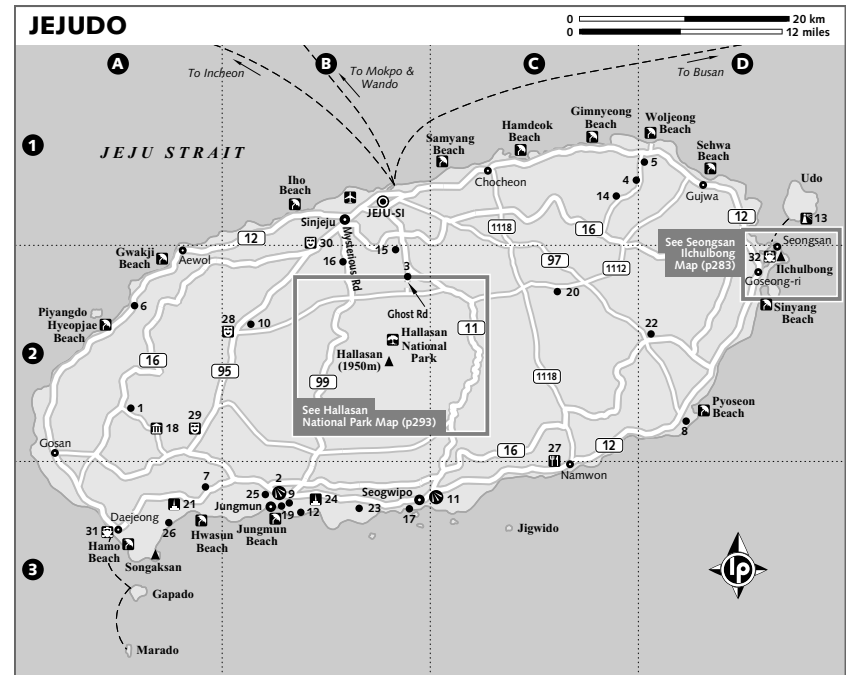
Hallasan is the dividing line between the subtropical oceanic southern side and the temperate north. Conditions on the peak can change rapidly, as it's a cloud trap.

HARUBANG

Just as Easter Island is known for ancient stone statues, *harubang* ('grandfather' statues carved from lava rock) are the undisputed symbol of Jeju. The original *harubang* were carved around 1750 and placed outside the island's fortresses, and 45 of these still exist – two can be seen outside Samseonghyeol Shrine (p277).

No one knows their original purpose or significance, but they are usually life-sized with a helmet-style hat, bulging eyes, a squashed nose, and hands on their stomach, one slightly higher than the other. They look stern yet friendly.

Nowadays you can see *harubang* images all over the island, including bright blue *harubang*-shaped telephone kiosks, and of course you can buy souvenir *harubang* that will fit inside your pocket.



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

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Cheonjeyeon Pokpo 천제연폭포.....2 B3	Mokseogwon 목석원.....15 B2	Yongmeori Coast 용머리해안.....26 A3
Ghost Road 도깨비도로.....3 B2	Mysterious Road 신비의도로.....16 B2	EATING
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Gimnyeongsagul 김녕사굴.....5 D1	Pacific Land 퍼시픽랜드.....19 B3	Green Resort 제주그린리조트.....28 B2
Hallim Park 한림공원.....6 A2	Jeju Folk Village 제주민속촌.....8 D2	Happy Town 해피타운.....29 A2
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Despite the heavy rainfall, surface water is a rarity due to the island's porous volcanic rock. The riverbeds are usually dry and the waterfalls are spring-fed. Underground water, by contrast, is abundant – Jeju is basically one giant sponge.

Swimmers: being 33° north of the equator, you'll want a wetsuit unless you're swimming in July and August – or in a swimming pool.

View <http://jeju.kma.go.kr> for a detailed daily weather forecast in English.

National & Provincial Parks

Jeju has only one national park but volcanic Hallasan (p292) is one of the best with roe deer, varied vegetation and wonderful views on the way up and down South Korea's highest peak.

Orientation

Jejudo is an oval-shaped island, 70km long by 30km wide, but it is easiest to think of it in four quadrants: north (Jeju-si and environs), south (Seogwipo, Jungmun Beach and environs), west and east, with Hallasan National Park in the centre. A mixed bag of historical and recreational attractions and activities is dotted all over the island, most of which can be reached by bus. The southern side has a more easy-going, holiday atmosphere.

Jejudo is the island, Jeju-do is the province and Jeju-si is the island's capital and by far the largest city, while the tourist town of Seogwipo is the south coast's transport hub, with the luxury resorts at Jungmun Beach.

Although the 250km coastline is generally rocky, the black-lava cliffs are often picturesque and over a dozen coves and beaches punctuate the coast. The midlands have a pastoral air, rising to the crater lake atop Hallasan.

Tours

United Services Organization (USO; Map pp84-5; ☎ 02 792 3380) runs occasional two-night package tours of Jejudo that include just about everything for US\$340. Korean tour companies run similar trips that cost anything between W199,000 and W880,000.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Korean Air (Map p276; ☎ 1558 2001; www.koreanair.co.kr) and **Asiana Airlines** (☎ 1588 8000; www.flyasiana.com) operate flights from Jejudo airport to numerous Korean cities.

Jeju Air (☎ 1599 1500; www.jejuair.net) is a new no-frills airline – with staff outfitted in orange T-shirts – which started up in June 2006 with flights between Jejudo and Gimpo airports priced at W55,000 – W20,000 lower than its two giant rivals. The company operates a new, quiet 70-seat propeller plane.

International flights link Jejudo with four cities in Japan, two in China and Taiwan.

BOAT

Ferries sail between Jeju-si and four cities on the peninsula, but flying is usually a better option. Ask about student and pensioner discounts on the boats.

Getting Around

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Jeju airport (Map p273) is only 4km from downtown Jeju-si, and the limousine airport bus (every 20 minutes) drops passengers off at major hotels and resorts all round the island. Bus 300 (W850, 15 minutes, every 20 minutes) and, sometimes, bus 100 (check with the driver) shuttle between the airport and Jeju city.

BICYCLE

If you're a dedicated and fit cyclist, you can hire a bicycle (p279) and pedal yourself around the island (250km) in four or five days. Some coastal and city roads have cycleways alongside. Don't forget rain gear.

BUS

Buses radiate from the terminals in Jeju-si (Map p276) and Seogwipo (Map p286), cover-

JEJUDO CUISINE

The island is well known for certain foods that are difficult or impossible to find elsewhere in Korea. *Okdomgui* (p281) is ubiquitous and tasty, a local fish that is semi-dried before being grilled and has a gourmet taste that appealed to Joseon monarchs. *Heukdwaeji* (pork from the local black-skinned pig) is also common – look for a picture of a black pig on restaurant signs. *Jeonbokjuk* (abalone rice porridge) is another island favourite, but abalone is so expensive these days that the amount of abalone in the porridge is declining. A few restaurants serve up *kkwong* (Jejudo pheasant) including Kkwong Memil Guksu (p280) and Gombawi (p283). If you love raw fish, you won't want to leave Jejudo as every kind of *hoe* (raw fish) and seafood is available from restaurants and direct from *haenyeo*, the island's traditional female divers.

For gifts, tangerines (especially the knobbly *hallabong*) are number one, but there is also prickly-pear jam, black *omija* tea, honey and the less appealing local chocolates. Hallasan *soju* is smoother than some.

ing most of the island with services running round the coast road every 20 minutes. Some cross-island buses also run every 20 minutes. Carry an ample supply of W1000 notes as changing a higher note can cause difficulties. One problem is that buses don't always go all the way to the beach or tourist site, so that some legwork is necessary. Also you must always check with the driver where the bus is going as not all the buses to some destinations follow the same route. Ask for a copy of the current bus timetable from a tourist information centre.

CAR

Since the sights and activities are scattered all over the island, it almost makes sense to rent a car. Many road signs are in English and the hire cost is reasonable. The problem is that, despite speed traps and road humps, driving techniques on the island are only slightly less mad than on the mainland. Still if you're brave enough to give it a go, there are four car-hire companies with desks at Jeju-si airport. Don't pay the official rates as they are invariably discounted 60% or more, except during the real summer peak from mid-July to mid-August. Expect to pay around W46,000 a day for a modest car plus around W12,000 a day for insurance, although the exact amount depends on the excess (the amount a hirer must pay in case of an accident).

To rent a car in Korea, government regulations insist hirers must have an international drivers licence and be 21 years old. Car-rental agencies include the following:

Avis (☎ 1544 1600; www.avis.co.kr)

Jeju Rent (☎ 747 3301; jrent@jejurentcar.co.kr)

Kumho/Hertz (☎ 751 8000; www.kumhorent.com)

SCOOTER

Definitely the coolest and most fun way to see Jejudo is on a scooter, which can be hired in Jeju-si (p279).

TAXI

Taxis charge W2000 for the first 2km or so, while a 15km journey costs around W10,000. You can hire a taxi driver for around W100,000 a day (plus meals and lodging), but the price goes up to W150,000 for an English-speaking driver. Agree on the route and negotiate a price beforehand.

JEJU-SI 제주시

pop 294,000

Jeju-si (Jeju City), the island's capital, sits at the middle of the north coast. The city centre, a mere 4km east of Jeju airport, is hardly glam but does have a few historic structures, a large market, the Chilseongno shopping precinct and lively student bars and restaurants opposite the old city hall. The seafront has no beach but still manages a seaside atmosphere in summer with a funfair and swimming pool. A new suburb, Sinjeju, has midrange hotels but little else.

Information

Central post office (Gwandeongno; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 1-6pm Sat) Has a global ATM, armchairs, toilets and free internet access.

City Hall post office (Jung-angno)

KB Bank (Jung-angno) Money exchange.

KTO tourist information office (☎ 742 0032; 1st fl airport terminal) Free internet.

Ramada Plaza Jeju (Tapdongno) Global ATM.

Shinhan Bank (1st fl, airport terminal) Global ATM.

Tourist information centres Jeju-si ferry terminal (☎ 758 7181; ☎ 6.30am-8pm); Jeju airport (☎ 742

FERRIES FROM JEJU-SI

All ferries use the Jeju Ferry Terminal (Map p276) except New Sea World and Car Ferry 2, which use the International Ferry Terminal, 2km further east. City bus 92 (W850, every 20 minutes) runs from both ferry terminals, but a taxi is more convenient.

Destination	Ship's name	Telephone	Price (W)	Duration	Frequency
Busan	Cozy Island	751 1901	32,000-150,000	11hr	Mon, Wed, Fri
	Seoul Bong Ho	751 1901	36,000-150,000	11hr	Tue, Thu, Sat
Incheon	Ohamana	721 2173	53,500-190,000	13hr	Tue, Thu, Sat
Mokpo	New Sea World	758 4234	21,800-86,350	4¼hr	daily Tue-Sun
	Car Ferry Rainbow	758 4234	21,800-50,100	4¼hr	daily Tue-Sun
	Continental	726 9542	45,200	3hr 30min	1 daily
Wando	Onbada	721 2171	18,250-28,000	5hr	1 daily
	Hanil Car Ferry 1	751 5050	19,800	3½hr	daily Tue-Sun
	Hanil Car Ferry 2	751 5050	19,800	3hr	daily Mon-Sat



INFORMATION

- Central Post Office 우체국 1 B2
- City Hall Post Office 우체국 2 C4
- KB Bank 국민은행 3 B2
- Ramada Plaza Jeju
- 라마다프라자제주호텔 (see 26)
- Tourist Information Centre
- 관광안내소 4 A1
- Oriental Bank 우리은행 5 B2
- Yongduam Rock 용두암 (see 17)

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Fantasia Amusement Park
- 환타지아 6 C1
- Folklore & Natural History Museum
- 민속자연사박물관 7 D3
- Gwandeokjeong & Mok Office
- 관덕정, 목관 8 B2
- Jeju Inline Skate Proshop
- 제주인라인스케이이트프로샵 9 B1
- National Jeju Museum
- 국립제주박물관 10 F2
- Samseonghyeol Shrine 삼성혈 11 C3
- Smart Bicycle 스마트자전거 12 A4
- Tabalo Bicycle Hire
- 타발로하이킹 13 B1
- Ticket Office 매표소 14 C3
- Travel Story 여행동화 15 A2
- Water Park 워터파크 16 C1
- Yongduam Rock 용두암 17 A1

SLEEPING

- Bobos Motel 모텔보보스 18 C1
- cf Motel 시에프모텔 19 C2
- Chincheol Minbak 친철 민박 20 D1
- Global Motel 글로벌모텔 21 C1
- Jeju KAL Hotel 제주KAL호텔 22 C3
- Jeju Palace Hotel 제주팔레스호텔 23 B1
- Oriental Hotel 제주오리엔탈호텔 24 B1
- Pacific Hotel 파시픽호텔 25 B2
- Ramada Plaza Jeju 라마다프라자제주호텔 26 A1
- Robero Hotel 호텔로베로 27 B2
- Ruby Motel 루비모텔 28 A4
- Sin-gangnamjang 신강남장 29 B1
- Tapdong Hotel 탐동호텔 30 C1
- White Beach Hotel 화이트비치호텔 31 C1

EATING

- Bonjuk 본죽 32 B2
- Daebokseong 대복성초밥 33 B2
- E-Mart Food Court 이마트 34 B1
- E Paso 엘파소 35 C4
- I Want Pizza 아이원피자 36 A4
- Jeilhyangtoeumsik Jeil Hyangto Eumsik 제일향토음식 37 B1
- Jeongdaun 정다운 38 A1

- Kkwong Memil Guksu 경매밀국수 39 A4
- Taphyang Samgyetang 탐향삼계탕 40 C1

DRINKING

- Cheongsong Eoreum Makgeolli 청송얼음막걸리 41 B1
- White Beach Hotel Bar화이트비치호텔바 (see 31)

ENTERTAINMENT

- Academy Cinema 아카데미극장 42 B2

SHOPPING

- Dongmun Market 동문시장 43 C2
- E-Mart 이마트 (see 34)
- Jungang Underground Shopping Centre 중앙지하상가 44 B2

TRANSPORT

- Dongmun Rotary (Bus Stop) 동문 로타리 45 C2
- Intercity Bus Terminal 시외버스터미널 46 A4
- Jeju Ferry Terminal 제주항종합터미널 47 D1
- Korean Air 대한항공제주지점 48 C3

8866; ☎ 6.30am-8pm; Yongduam Rock car park (☎ 750 7768; ☎ 9am-8pm) Free internet access at the airport and Yongduam Rock car-park centres.

Woori Bank (Gwandeongno) Money exchange.

Sights & Activities

JEJU-SI SEAFRONT 제주시해안 Hotels, motels, restaurants and fast-food outlets are strung along the seafront, but there is no beach. It can be lively in the evenings at the eastern end where you can hire skates and Rollerblade along the promenade or shoot some hoops on the outdoor basketball courts. The small amusement park **Fantasia** (rides ₩1000-3000) produces more screams than a rock concert, the outdoor swimming pool complex called **Water Park** (adult/child ₩8000/6000; ☎ 10am-6pm Jul & Aug) makes a good beach substitute, and the outdoor concert hall hosts summer shows.

SAMSEONGHYEOL SHRINE 삼성혈

The main feature of this very unusual shrine (☎ 722 3315; Samseongno; adult/youth/child ₩2500/1700/1000; ☎ 8am-7pm Mar-Oct, to 6pm Nov-Feb) is a hole in the ground, or rather three holes in the ground. Legends say that three brothers, Go, Bu and Yang, came out of the three holes and

founded the Tamna kingdom with help from three princesses who arrived by boat together with cattle and horses. The brothers divided the island kingdom into three sections by each shooting an arrow and taking the third where his arrow landed.

The shrine was originally built in 1526 and the spirit tablets of the island's first ancestors are honoured with food and music in a ceremony held three times a year: on 10 April, October and December. At the entrance are two of the 45 remaining original *harubang*, which are over 250 years old.

Ask to see the English version of a 15-minute film about the legend that's shown in the exhibition hall on the right.

FOLKLORE & NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

민속자연사박물관 This wide-ranging **ecomuseum** (☎ 722 2465; Samseongno; adult/youth/child ₩1100/500/free; ☎ 8.30am-6.30pm) in Sinsan Park has well-labelled exhibits on Jeju's varied volcanic features including volcanic bombs, lava tubes and trace fossils. Fortunately the volcanoes have all been dormant for the last 1000 years, although earthquakes were felt in the 16th century. Other highlights to look out for are excellent

ADVENTURE JEJUDO

Jeju is Activity Island, particularly in August when water sports take off from the more popular beaches. Jungmun beach on the south coast is the main focus of events with **kayaking**, **jet-skiing**, **water skiing**, **jet-boating** and **parasailing** on offer, and even some **surfing** for those surfer newbies. In nearby Seogwipo you can float upwards on a **balloon ride**, but the star activity is **scuba diving** (www.bigblue33.co.kr), which is highly recommended, although you can also view fish and coral without getting wet from the cramped comfort of a **submarine**. Jeju is famous for wind, so **windsurfing** is popular, and Pacific Land near Jungmun beach offers **sailing trips**, though they are on the pricey side. For **golf**, **horse rides** or **quad bike** and **go-kart** action head into the island's green interior. If you'd rather watch horses than ride them, join the crowds at the race track near Jeju-si for the weekend **racing**. Jeju's unique volcanic landscapes can be explored on foot, above ground up craters and below ground along lava caves. Hire a **bicycle**, **scooter** or **car** for go-where-you-please freedom. You don't need any special equipment to enjoy the fun, just a sense of adventure. Some activities are seasonal and companies tend to come and go, so if you see your favourite activity going on, just vault the language barrier and join in.

wildlife films, the bizarre oar fish and panoramas of the island's six ecological zones.

MOKSEOGWON 목석원

About 6km south of Jeju-si, **Mokseogwon** (☎ 702 0203; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/1000; 🕒 8am-6.30pm Feb-Nov, 8am-5.30pm Dec-Jan) is both a garden and art park with oddly shaped rocks and gnarled roots. It's a labour of love, put together over many years by a local resident, and if your switch is flipped 'on', you could find it a wondrous place.

Installations are creations of wood and stone (Mokseogwon translates as 'Wood-stone garden'). Some are fanciful, some meaningful, some beautiful, some weird, and all comprise objects found around the island. Look for the apocryphal story of a couple and their life together told via trees and rocks. Many of the works are made from the roots of the *gorok* (yew) tree, which symbolises longevity and is found only on Jeju.

To reach Mokseogwon, take the city bus 500 (W850, 30 minutes, every 15 minutes) bound for Jeju National University – pick it up along Jungangno.

MOK OFFICE & GWANDEOKJEONG

관덕정, 목관아

The island's administrative centre under the Joseon dynasty, the **Mok Office** (☎ 702 3081; Seomunno; adult/youth/child W1500/800/400; 🕒 7am-7pm), has been reconstructed. The cluster of historical buildings has an austere style that is designed to promote virtue. Next door is the 15th-century **Gwandeokjeong** (admission free; 🕒 24hr), an impressive and recently renovated

pavilion that was used for receiving official guests and hosting banquets.

NATIONAL JEJU MUSEUM 국립제주박물관

This **museum** (☎ 720 8000; adult/youth/child W1000/500/free; 🕒 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) is housed in a large, inconveniently located building. It's a clone of the many other local museums dotted around the country but antiques addicts can get their fix here. Many city buses stop outside, including bus 26 (W850, every 15 minutes).

YONGDUAM ROCK 용두암

On the seashore to the west of city, **Yongduam Rock** (Dragon's Head Rock) attracts coach loads of Korean tourists, but foreign visitors usually wonder why these oddly-shaped black basalt lava rocks attract such large crowds. Still, looking at people looking at rocks appeals to some...

IHO BEACH 이호해수욕장

The nearest **beach** to Jeju-si along the west coast is blessed with an unusual mixture of yellow and grey sand, which means that you can build two-tone sandcastles. The beach is a decent size with shallow water that makes for safe swimming, and changing-room facilities are open in July and August. Further out to sea you can pit your free-diving skills against *haenyeo* divers searching around the rocks for seafood and edible seaweed. A small fishing port is on one side, and terns dive for fish too.

Buses (W850, 20 minutes, every 20 minutes) leave Jeju-si bus terminal for Iho Beach – get off at Heonsa Village stop and it's a 150m walk to the beach.

CYCLE, SCOOTER & SKATE HIRE

Pedal west along the coast road (lunching in one of the many restaurants) or even all the way round the island on bicycles rented from **Smart Bicycle** (☎ 755 1134; Seogwangno; per day W6000; 🕒 8am-7pm) or **Tabalo Bicycle** (☎ 751 2000; per day W8000; 🕒 8am-8pm), which has new bikes.

Tom and Suji at **Travel Story** (☎ 713 4778; Yon-gunno; 🕒 6am-7pm Mar-Oct, 8am-6pm Nov-Feb) speak English and hire out bicycles (per day W5000) and cute Taiwanese scooters (per day W25,000 to W30,000) which can take two people. The scooters range from 50cc to 125cc and insurance is another W5000. A scooter is a cool and convenient way to tour Jeju. Telephone and they will pick you up from the airport or ferry port.

On the western end of the seafloor, **Jeju Inline Skate Proshop** (Tapdongno; skates & bicycles per hr W2000; 🕒 11am-10pm) hires out skates either from the shop or from a truck parked round the corner on the esplanade.

Sleeping

Seafloor motels and hotels are a 10-minute walk from the ferry terminal.

BUDGET

Chincheol Minbak (☎ 755 5132; s/d W15,000/17,000) Mrs Kim runs the city's best under-W20,000 budget option. *Chincheol* means 'friendly' and guests can mingle in the communal kitchen and outside in the patch of garden where a table and chairs are shaded by an awning. It's untidy but close to the ferry terminals and some rooms have beds, a TV and a toilet/shower cubicle.

Sin-gangnamjang (☎ 753 8770; r W25,000; 🕒) Located opposite the bus terminal, the rooms are small but not too gloomy and should satisfy those on a tight budget who plan to use the buses to tour the island.

Ruby Motel (☎ 755 5565; r W30,000; 🕒) The owner is friendly and may offer cups of coffee and help with the laundry. The rooms are a reasonable size with artworks on the walls, but the atmosphere in this *yeogwan* near the bus terminals needs brightening up and a lick of paint would work wonders.

Geullobeol Motel (☎ 756 5943; r W30,000-40,000; 🕒) Down by the seafloor, and run by friendly *ajumma* (middle-aged women), the cheaper rooms are smallish but blissfully modern, smart and clean, which makes them the city's best W30,000 deal.

MIDRANGE

The smart new motels are worth the extra money.

Tapdong Hotel (☎ 723 3600; Haejingno; r W40,000; 🕒) One of the best high-rise motels near the seafloor with spacious, stylish rooms and bathrooms. Rooms are fully equipped with a computer as well as unusual extras like shower partitions and an electric kettle. A pot plant makes it seem almost like home.

Bobos Motel (☎ 727 7200; Haejingno; r W40,000; 🕒) A classy, posh motel, opposite Tapdong Hotel, where the staff is welcoming and most rooms have ornate furniture as well as modern fittings. Ask for room 507 if you prefer something less like a love motel.

cf Motel (☎ 726 3230; r W40,000; 🕒) A modern, smart motel with appealing rooms – a computer is W5000 extra. Choose between regular or more lavishly furnished rooms with a round bed.

White Beach Hotel (☎ 753 8460; r W60,000; 🕒) The seafloor location is the reason for staying here as long as you don't mind a small bathroom. It feels like a genuine hotel rather than a motel, and everything is new and smart. Rooms with a sea view are W10,000 extra. The ground-floor restaurant serves Jeju specialties (W12,000 to W15,000), while the rooftop bar (p281) is a hidden gem.

Jeju Palace Hotel (☎ 753 8811; www.cjpalace.co.kr; Tapdongno; r W70,000; 🕒) On the seafloor, the rooms are fine if you turn a blind eye to the small bathrooms with dated fittings. Other retro features like chandeliers have some charm and the restaurant has a sea view when the mist lifts. You can email from the lobby and male guests can steam in the sauna, but there's no bar for that après-sauna pick-me-up.

Robero Hotel (☎ 757 7111; www.roberohotel.com; Gwandeongno; r from W100,000; 🕒) The downtown location overlooking Gwandeokjeong pavilion suits shoppers, but the business centre is just a computer and fax machine in the lobby and room TVs are old. This is compensated by plenty of modern art, which adds a boutique style to the hotel. Exchange rates are 10% lower than the banks.

Pacific Hotel (☎ 758 2500; r from W105,000; 🕒) Despite the name, this downtown haunt of tour groups has an Egyptian theme, from its pyramid shape to hieroglyphics in the lift. It's smart enough but needs new TVs, showers and balcony furniture to receive an unequivocal recommendation.

Oriental Hotel (☎ 752 8222; www.oriental.co.kr; Tapdongno; r standard/sea view W123,420/145,000; ㉞ ㉟) This seafront hotel verges on top end so the lobby is impressive, overlooks a grotto and echoes to atmospheric live music in the evening. As is usual the public rooms and the casino are grander and more impressive than the guestrooms. Still, room windows are large, the décor is light, and sheets are whiter than snow, so small imperfections can be forgiven.

TOP END

Jeju KAL Hotel (☎ 724 2001, www.kalhotel.co.kr; Jung-angno; r weekday/weekend W160,000/210,000; ㉞ ㉟ ㊲) This plush Korean Airlines high-rise in the heart of downtown has the best city views and all the top-end bells and whistles including a casino, a lap pool, aerobics and yoga classes, and a 19th-floor sky bar (beer W8000) with a live band.

Ramada Plaza Jeju (☎ 729 8100; www.ramadajeju.co.kr; Tapdongno; r W200,000; ㉞ ㉟ ㊲) This brand-new hotel, with a casino and conference centre, makes the most of its absolute seafront location with an overall nautical design that gives guests the illusion that they're at sea on a luxury liner. The atrium lobby has 'wow' factor, and the usual corridors have been replaced with open balconies. Rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, staff go the extra mile, and the only negative is the small toilet cubicles. Prices rise at weekends and rooms with sea views cost more, but breakfast is included.

Eating

E-Mart Food Court (Tapdongno; meals W2500-6000; ㉞ 10am-9pm) The food court on the 5th floor has sea views and a smorgasbord of cheap eats but is on the tatty side. Hidden away at the far end of the basement supermarket is a great takeaway section – sushi, kebabs, spare ribs, chicken and raw-fish platters (*hung-eo*, raw ray) are W12,000.

El Paso (meals W5000-10,000; off Jung-angno; ㉞ noon-1am) This new (you guessed it) Mexican restaurant, decorated with quality Mexican artworks, has a chef who learnt his trade in Mexico City. All your faves are here along with soft music, Mexican beers and of course tequila.

Kkwong Memil Guksu (Seogwangno) A tiny five-table eatery near the bus terminal, it has one staff member and two items on the menu: the *kkwong-gui* (꿩구이; W15,000) is simple and highly recommended – half a pheasant is grilled at your table. Order rice to go with it

as the side dishes are nothing to write home about. The other option is *kkwong memil guksu* (꿩메밀국수; W4000) – pheasant pieces share a soup with homemade noodles wide enough to drive along.

Bagdad Café (meals W9000-11,000; ㉞ 11am-2am; ㉟) With a Nepalese chef, this new Indian restaurant-café-bar, named after the film not the city, has music, stylish English-speaking staff and an outside terrace. It has more character and atmosphere than all the city's other restaurants put together. The curries, naan bread and mango lassi taste authentic, and weekends can be busy with a mixed crowd of Koreans and homesick Brits. Beers are W5000.

Jeil Hyangto Eumsik (Tapdongno; meals from W10,000; ㉞ 11am-11pm) Jeil Hyangto Eumsik even has an English menu, which includes raw-fish platters (W30,000 to W60,000), with local *okdom* fish priced at W100,000 raw or W20,000 grilled. Grilled abalone is W30,000 while abalone rice porridge is W10,000.

Opposite E-Mart on the seafront are fish and seafood restaurants with prices and replicas of the food on show outside.

Other recommendations include:

Bonjuk (Jung-angno; meals W5000-8000) Enjoy one of the 16 flavours of rice porridge in this neat and clean chain restaurant on the high street.

Daebokseong (meals W7000-12,000) Sit at the counter, at a table or in your own private room and enjoy Japanese-style sushi, sea-bream soup or abalone rice porridge.

I Want Pizza (Samnyeong 1-ro; pizzas W7900-10,000; ㉞ 11am-11pm) Sit inside among the mountains of pizza boxes for a reasonably priced 13-inch pizza at this takeaway near the bus terminal.

Taphyang Samgyetang (meals W7000-15,000) A popular place near the seafront for *samgyetang* (삼계탕; ginseng chicken) or duck dishes served as a soup or dry with vegetables.

Jeongdaun (meals W7000-25,000; ㉞ 24hr) With views over the sea, this 2nd-floor restaurant serves up fresh fish and *hoedeopbap* (회덮밥; vegetables, rice and raw fish).

Drinking

Cheongsong Eoreum Makgeolli (Jung-angno; meals W4000-8000; ㉞ 5pm-5am; ㉟) Don't leave without popping into this traditional 'makgeolli and mackerel' pub restaurant near the seafront that offers a wide choice of wholesome grub plus beers and kettles of *makgeolli* (fermented rice wine; W3000). Join the locals (children welcome) for traditional food and good cheer in a friendly atmosphere. Ask for the English menu.

White Beach Hotel Bar (beers/cocktails W3000/6000; ㉞ 2pm-2am) Enjoy a wonderful sea view from a modernist glass box atop this seafront hotel. On a fine day the outside terrace, decorated with flower boxes, is the perfect spot for a date or a sundowner.

Entertainment

Juliana (Haksasaero; admission W35,000; ㉞ 7pm-late) This nightclub in the student entertainment zone opposite City Hall operates on the Korean system and the high admission price buys three beers and *anju* (snacks). The music is mixed but mainly hip-hop. Extra beers are W4000.

Academy Cinema (admission W7000) Like all Korean cinemas, Academy screens foreign films in their original language, subtitled in *Han-geul*.

Shopping

The city's three prime shopping zones are Dongmun market, which spreads bustling and cheerful retail therapy over a large area in the city's heartland, nearby Jungang underground shopping centre, and the Chiseongno shopping precinct with its youthful fashion stores and brand-name boutiques stocked with clothes, accessories and cosmetics.

E-Mart (Tapdongno) Has a souvenir section near the lift exit on the 4th floor, which stocks gift boxes of oranges and *harubang*-shaped jars of *omija* (berry) tea and cactus honey tea. Soaps are another option, but sample the chocolate before you buy. Another souvenir is *dojang*, Korean name seals, which take 10 minutes to make and cost W6000. For eating options at E-Mart see opposite.

Getting Around

There are streams of city buses, most of which can be picked up outside the bus terminal or along Jung-angno, and taxis are cheap and convenient.

EASTERN JEJUDO

Samyang Beach 삼양해수욕장

The first beach along the coast road east of Jeju-si is Samyang, which has the darkest sand on the island and is jet black when wet. In the summer, join the locals and bury yourself in the iron-rich sand for a therapeutic sand bath, said to relieve dermatitis, arthritis and athlete's foot.

Take the Seongsan Ilchulbong bus (W1000, 25 minutes, every 20 minutes) or else several local buses, such as bus 26, go there too.

Gimnyeong Beach & Sailing Club

김녕해수욕장, 김녕세이링클럽

The white sand of Gimnyeong beach contrasts with the black-lava rocks at this small beach where the **Emerald Pension Castle** (에메랄드펜션개슬; ☎ 782 1110; r W50,000-80,000), five steps from the beach, has super sea views. Emerald room is lovely and worth every won.

West of the beach is a small harbour and the **Gimnyeong Sailing Club** (☎ 011-639 5379), where English-speaking Mr Kim can sort you out some sailing in a dinghy or cruiser. Check the prices and telephone before turning up. Just take the boat out, or lessons can be arranged. The harbour is a perfect spot for novices to learn and Jeju is famous for its wind – you can see wind turbines spinning round nearby.

Take the Seongsan Ilchulbong bus from Jeju-si bus terminal to Gimnyeong (W1000, 50 minutes, every 20 minutes) or else a number of local buses go there.

Sangumburi 산굼부리

Halfway between Jeju-si and Seong-eup Folk Village, this impressive green **volcanic crater** (☎ 783 9900; adult/youth & child W3000/1000; ㉞ 9am-6pm) is 350m in diameter and 100m deep, a perfect spot for a bungy jump. It's just one of the 360 'parasitic cones' (secondary volcanoes) found on Jeju, but has the easiest access, a five minute walk. Another five-minute walk goes a short way around the crater rim. That's all that's allowed so it's a short stop. The crater is lush and forested with over 420 varieties of plants. In the distance, across the plains, are more of Jeju's volcanic humps. Some buses (W1800, 30 minutes, hourly) that run between Jeju-si bus terminal and Seong-eup and Pyoseon stop at the entrance to the crater – look out for ivy-covered walls.

Manjanggal 만장굴

East of Jeju-si and about 2.5km off the coast road is the world's longest system of **lava-tube caves** (☎ 783 4818; adult/youth & child W2000/1000; ㉞ 9am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb). The caves are 13.4km long, with a height varying from 2m to 30m and a width of 2m to 23m. If you've never been inside a lava tube before, don't miss this chance. Venturing inside the immense black tunnel with its swirling walls and pitted floor, it looks like the lair of a giant serpent and it's hard to imagine the titanic geological forces that created it aeons ago, moulding rock as if it was Play-Doh.

Take a jacket, as the cave ceiling drips and the temperature inside is a chilly 10°C. The lighting is dim so a torch is a good idea. You can walk for 1km along the black tube to a 7m lava pillar, the cave's outstanding feature. The walk takes 30 minutes as the floor is pitted and full of puddles.

Lunch at **Daesikdang** (대식당; meals ₩5000-12,000; ☎ 8am-6:30pm) where the local fish speciality, *okdom* (옥돔), comes with rice and good side dishes. For a light lunch, two people can share one *okdom*. It's on the 2nd floor of the tourist complex with an outside balcony.

A 20-minute walk back down the access road is **Gimnyeongsagul** (김녕사굴, Snake Cave), which is officially closed, but just follow the sign to walk through the first double-decker lava-tube cave and on to the even larger second lava cave, which you can venture down if you have a torch.

On the other side of the road, on the right by the shop, is another lava-tube cave with an unusual lava-platform feature.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Take the Seongsan Ilchulbong bus (W1900, one hour, every 20 minutes) from Jeju-si bus terminal, which leaves from platform 4. It drops you on the main road, 2.5km from Manjanggul, but the 35-minute walk down the access road is lined with oleander trees and goes past fields bordered by dry-stone walls, woodland inhabited by pheasants, lava-tube caves and an excellent maze (see below). A bus (₩850, five minutes, 11 daily) runs along the road but the service is usually irregular.

Gimnyeong Maze 김녕미로공원

A 10-minute walk from Manjanggul is this popular **hedge maze** (☎ 782 9266; adult/youth/child ₩3300/1650/550; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mar-Oct, 8.30am-6pm Nov-Feb), which is as much fun for adults as for children. It's fiendishly clever and a real challenge. Owner Fred Dunstin is often around if you enjoy a good yarn.

Woljeong Beach 월정해수욕장

This small, white, sandy beach is so little known that it's not on most maps. Stay here for an off-the-beaten-track experience where you can even spot dotterels on the beach. **Miworld Pension** (미월드펜션; ☎ 784 7447; r ₩60,000-120,000) has smart rooms with kitchens and balconies, though bathrooms are cramped. Take

the Seongsan Ilchulbong bus from Jeju-si bus terminal, get off at the Manjanggul stop, and walk down the road to the beach (500m).

Seongsan Ilchulbong 성산 일출봉

Seongsan-ri (Fortress Mountain Village) is at the extreme eastern tip of Jeju, at the foot of the spectacular, extinct volcano **Ilchulbong** (Sunrise Peak; ☎ 784 0959; adult/youth & child ₩2000/1000; ☎ before sunrise-sunset). The summit (182m) is shaped like a punchbowl, though there's no crater lake here because the volcanic rock is so porous. The crater is a forested Lost World ringed by jagged rocks and the sides of the mountain plunge vertically into the surf. It is one of Jeju's most impressive sights.

Climbing to the summit only takes 20 minutes and doing it in time to catch the sunrise is a life-affirming journey for many Koreans – expect plenty of company on the trail. To do the sunrise expedition, you'll have to spend the night in Seongsan-ri. The path is clear, but if you're concerned you can carry a torch. Not an early riser? It's also a popular daytime hike.

Over to the left, small **speedboats** (per trip ₩10,000) can whisk you out to sea for another perspective on Ilchulbong.

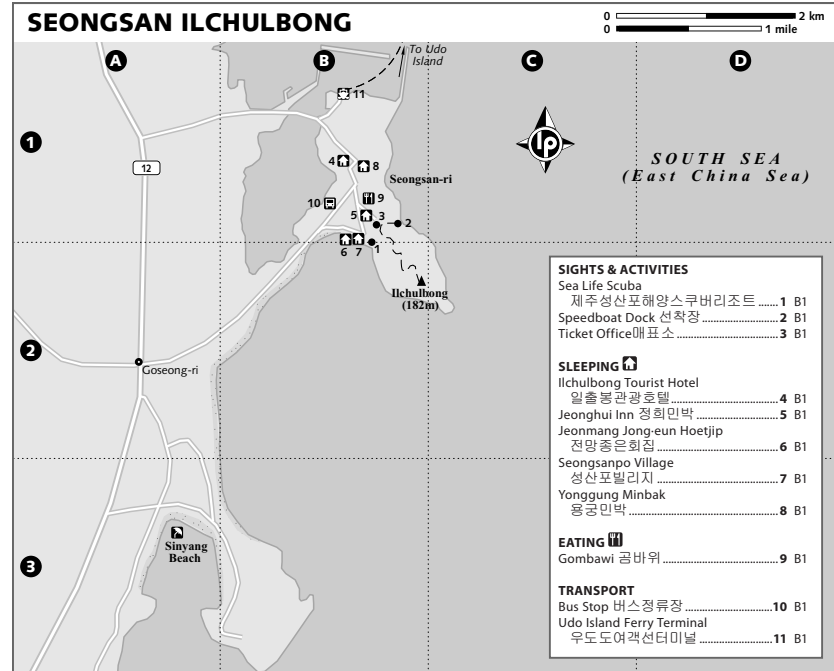
On Seongsanpo seafont you can see **haenyeo**, Jeju's famous female divers (p284). A group of *haenyeo*, middle-aged or older, goes out on a boat every morning to dive for seafood and seaweed. Please don't take photographs without their permission.

Mr Park at **Sea Life Scuba** (제주성산포 해양스쿠버리조트; ☎ 782 1150; Seongsanpo; ☎ 7am-6pm) speaks some English and can take you diving inside underwater caves and around coral reefs. A day trip with two dives costs US\$200, including a guide and all equipment.

SLEEPING

Accommodation usually includes fully equipped kitchenettes and varies from ₩15,000 for a *yo* mattress in a tiny cell with shared facilities to stylish and spacious rooms with superb views for up to ₩40,000.

Yonggung Minbak (용궁민박; ☎ 782 2379; r ₩25,000; ☎) This redbrick *minbak* offers the best deal with great in-your-face Ilchulbong views and a varied collection of sizable and comfortable rooms. It's on the left on the way from the bus stop to the Ilchulbong ticket office access road.



Jeonghui Inn (정희민박; ☎ 782 2169; r ₩30,000; ☎) Large rooms here – opposite Gombawi restaurant and near Ilchulbong ticket office – have no views, but there is room enough for a soccer team to sleep on the floor on *yo* mattresses.

Jeonmang Jong-eun Hoetjip (전망중은횃집; ☎ 784 1568; r ₩30,000-40,000; ☎) Above a fish restaurant on Seongsanpo seafont, room 202 is the best, enhanced by a wonderful sea view. Look for the castle-shaped building with pebbles.

Ilchulbong Tourist Hotel (일출봉관광호텔; ☎ 782 8801; r ₩39,000; ☎) The red-and-white hotel at the entrance to Seongsan-ri is nothing special and lacks atmosphere, but the rooms (although not the bathrooms) have been recently renovated and have Ilchulbong views. It's a good standby if the better places are full.

Seongsanpo Village (성산포빌리지; ☎ 782 2373; r ₩40,000; ☎) Sit out on a balcony with a wonderful view of the sea and anything going on along the harbour. The rooms are almost as good as the view and have computers. Look for a large red-and-green building, 100m along the Seongsanpo seafont.

EATING

Most restaurants specialise in raw fish and hot-pepper soups but grilled fish, *galchi gui*, *okdom gui* (grilled, semi-dried fish) and *jeonbok-juk* (abalone rice porridge) are also available. The latter is a local speciality, though you don't get much abalone for your ₩10,000.

Gombawi (곰바위; meals ₩5000-25,000; ☎ 7am-4pm) The best view and the best food are here, on the 2nd floor above LG 45 convenience store on the access road to Ilchulbong. Try the local speciality, pheasant and buckwheat noodle hotpot (₩10,000) or the tofu casserole (₩5000). It has an English menu but is not open for dinner.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Buses (₩3800, 1½ hours, every 20 minutes) run to Seongsan-ri from Jeju-si bus terminal. Make sure that the bus goes right into Seongsan-ri as a few stick to the main road and drop you 2.5km from Seongsan-ri.

Udo Island 우도

Northeast of Seongsan-ri, 3.5km off the coast, is Udo Island (Cow Island), which has 1750

inhabitants yet still manages to be rural and relaxing despite throngs of tourists and tour buses, particularly at weekends. The high-lights are the black-lava cliffs at Tolkani and the lighthouse that you can walk up to (15 minutes) for panoramic views of patchwork fields and brightly painted roofs. Korea's only coral-sand beach, Hongjodan-goe Haebin, is brilliantly white. Take a picnic to the island as eating options are limited. A small community of *haenyeo* dives in the cove below the lighthouse.

To tour the island's cobweb of narrow roads you have a choice of wheels, but keep in mind that the island is 17km in circumference: the tough way is by bicycle (two hours rental W5000), the soft way is on the hop-on hop-off tourist buses (W5000, every 30 minutes), and the fun way is on a scooter (per hour W15,000) or quad bike (per hour W20,000).

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Car ferries (W4500 return, 10 minutes, at least hourly) cross to Udo island from Seongsan port. The **ticket office** (☎ 782 5671) is at the far end of the port, a 15-minute walk or a short taxi ride from Pyoseon-ri. The last ferry leaves Udo at 6pm.

HAENYEO

At 9am on Seongsan-ri harbour, 30 or so wrinkled grandmas are pulling on wetsuits, diving masks, weight belts and gloves, prior to a boat ride out to sea where they will use their low-tech gear – polystyrene floats, flippers, nets, knives and spears – to gather seaweed, shellfish, sea cucumbers, spiky black sea urchins, octopus and anything else edible that they can catch. Great physical stamina is a prerequisite. They use no oxygen tanks, but are able to hold their breath underwater for up to two minutes and reach a depth of 20m.

The women divers look so old and bent that it's amazing that they continue to dive for hours on end every day and in all weathers. They work as a cooperative and share their catch. They shout at each other because most wear earplugs and are probably a bit deaf as well.

Watching them getting organised on the harbour front, you can only marvel at their toughness and communal spirit. They are a special breed – instead of staying home with their feet up in front of the telly, they are out at sea every day braving the elements.

Haenyeo have been free-diving for generations not only in the waters around Jeju but further afield off the coasts of Japan and China. Sadly they will be the last generation of divers because their daughters have not followed in their mothers' slipstream – instead they have much easier jobs in shops, offices or the tourism industry.

At their peak in the 1950s, there were almost 30,000 *haenyeo* on Jeju but now fewer than 3000 are left and some are in their mid-60s.

My Mother the Mermaid is a memorable Korean movie about a feisty, overbearing mother and her daughter, which is intercut with flashbacks to when the mother was a shy young *haenyeo* on Jeju and courting the local postman. The daughter and the mother-as-a-young-girl are played by the same talented actress.

Sinyang Beach 신양해수욕장

On the southeast coast, this crescent-shaped beach, 1.5km in length, is the island's most sheltered. Many consider it Korea's best beach for windsurfing; in summer you can rent sail-boats and windsurfers and take lessons on how to use them. A 1km walk away is the rocky outcrop, Seopjikoji, which has provided a backdrop to Korean movie scenes. The adjacent small town has *minbak* and restaurants.

Buses (W3800, 1¼ hours, every 20 minutes) from Jeju-si bus terminal drop you at the main road, 2km from the beach. An hourly bus runs to the beach or you can walk, thumb a lift or take a taxi.

Seong-eup Folk Village

성읍민속마을

A 10-minute bus ride north of Pyoseon Beach lies Jeju-do's former provincial capital of Seong-eup, where government assistance has encouraged the preservation and renovation of the traditional rock-walled, thatched-roofed houses. Modern intrusions include souvenir shops, restaurants and car parks, but parts still look fantastically feudal.

The village of 480 households has a number of sections that are worth taking the time to explore. Some inhabitants offer a free guided

tour of their compound, but afterwards they want you to buy local products such as black *omija* tea (W25,000 per kilogram) or paper-thin dried fish called *myeongtae*, both of which are delicious.

Just take off down the narrow lanes and discover the place for yourself. Remember the houses are still occupied, but if the gate poles are down (see below) you are welcome to enter.

Buses (W2300, 45 minutes, every 20 minutes) leave from Jeju-si bus terminal and from Pyoseon or Jeju Folk Village (W850, 10 minutes, every 20 minutes).

ACTIVITIES

Along the road north of Seong-eup Folk Village and before the turning to Sangumburi Crater are ATV tracks, go-kart racing courses and horse riding (a steep W80,000 an hour). A bus runs along the road every 20 minutes.

Jeju Folk Village 제주민속촌

Just outside Pyoseon and close to the town's extensive beach, **Jeju Folk Village** (☎ 787 4501; www.jejufolk.com; adult/youth/child W6000/4000/2000; ☎ 8.30am-6pm) is more re-creation than preservation, but in its way is more educational than Seong-eup Folk Village. Various sections cover Jeju's culture from shamans to *yangban* (aristocrats), and the differences between mountain, hill-country and fishing villages. Some of the buildings are *hanok* (traditional Korean houses) brought intact from other parts of the island and are 200 to 300 years old; the modern construction has been done in authentically traditional style.

The folk village has its own flora and fauna, country-style restaurants and traditional song and dance performances. The English-

GATE POLE MESSAGES

Jeju has traditionally described itself as having lots of rocks and wind, but no beggars or thieves. In Jeju's folk villages, instead of locked gates in front of homes you'll often see two stone pillars with a column of three holes carved through each. Three wooden poles straight across means 'We're not home, please keep out'. However if one end of the poles is in their holes but the other ends are on the ground, it means 'We're home, please enter'.

language audio guide (W2000) is worth the investment.

Direct buses (W3600, one hour, every 20 minutes) run to the entrance gate from Jeju-si bus terminal. Otherwise the folk village is a 1km walk from the bus stop in Pyoseon-ri.

Pyoseon Beach 표선해수욕장

At low tide a huge expanse of white sandy beach appears that stretches as far as the eye can see, and in the middle a lagoon forms. If you like plenty of space, this is the beach to visit. Behind is a small town with all facilities.

Buses run here from Jeju-si via the 97 road cross-island route (W3400, one hour, every 20 minutes) or via the east coast road (W5100, two hours, every 20 minutes).

Namwon 남원

Just 100m along the coast road west of Shinyoung Cinema Museum, turn right at the hamburger sign, then left at another sign to reach the two-storey wood cabin that is **Red Pond Herb Farm** (붉은못허브팜; hamburgers W15,000; ☎ 10am-9pm; ☒). The English-speaking staff sells unique hamburgers the size of Frisbees – enough for four people or you can take away what you cannot eat. In a giant herbal bun packed with salad and even apple is a thin patty made from Jeju black-pig pork or else soy bean for a vegetarian option. Free herb tea is included.

SOUTHERN JEJUDO

Seogwipo 서귀포

pop 84,300

Amid the tangerine groves on the lower slopes of Hallasan sits touristy Seogwipo, Jeju's second-largest town. It's much smaller and more laid-back than Jeju-si, and scuba diving and ballooning are available. The town centre (up a steep slope from the harbour) is chock-full of motels and hotels. A short distance away are two spring-fed waterfalls – this is one of the few places on the island where water is not immediately absorbed into the porous volcanic rock.

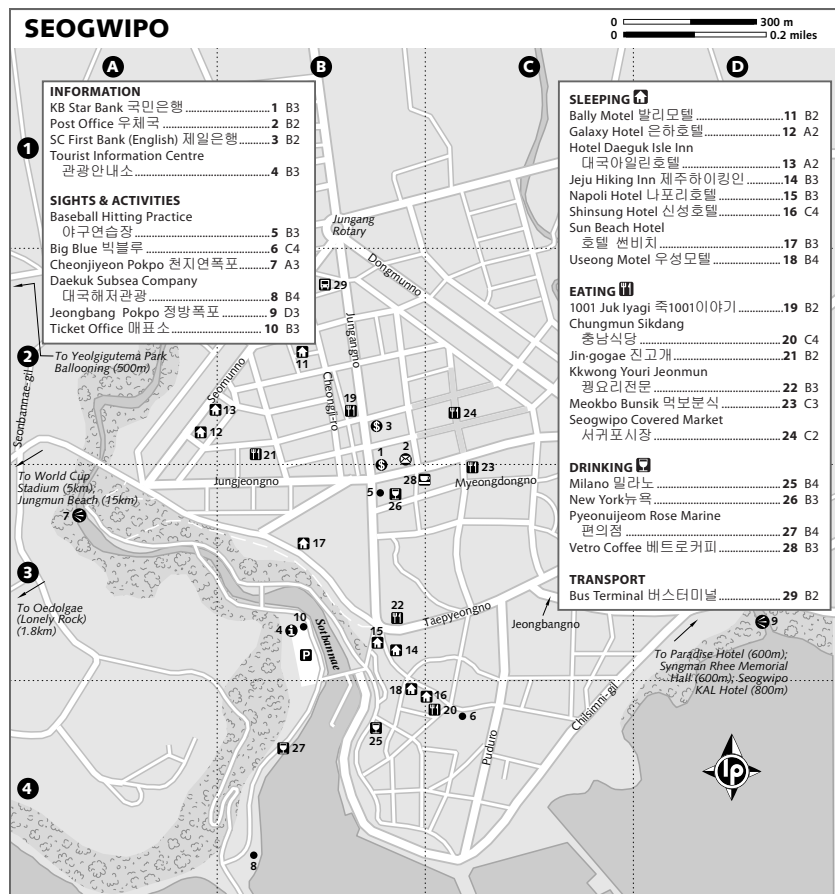
INFORMATION

KB Star Bank (Jung-angno) Foreign exchange only.

Post office (Jung-angno) Free internet access.

SC First Bank (Standard Chartered; Jung-angno) Foreign exchange and global ATM.

Tourist information centre (☎ 064-1330; ☎ 9am-10pm) Free internet access.



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Waterfalls

The 22m-high **Cheonjiyeon Pokpo** (천지연폭포; ☎ 733 1528; adult/youth/child W2000/1000/600; ☎ 7am-10pm), west of Seogwipo, is a 15-minute walk via a path through a beautifully forested, steep gorge. After heavy rain the waterfall can be impressive, but at other times it's more noisy than wide.

Jeongbang Pokpo (정방폭포; ☎ 733 1530; adult/youth/child W2000/1000/600; ☎ 7.30am-6.30pm Mar-Oct, 7.30am-5.30pm Nov-Feb) is 23m high and up to 8m wide, depending on the levels of recent rainfall. It's said to be the only waterfall in Asia that falls directly into the sea. Jeongbang Pokpo is a 15-minute walk east of the town centre.

Submarine & Sightseeing Boat Tours

잠수함, 유람

Daekuk Subsea Company (☎ 732 6060; submarine tours adult/youth/child W51,000/40,600/30,200, sightseeing boat tours adult/child W16,500/11,000) operates well-established and popular 30-minute submarine tours down to a depth of 30m around Munseom island, which has coral and fish dressed up in carnival colours. Tours run at least hourly and reservations are advised.

The same company also runs sightseeing boat tours around the port and nearby islands, which last an hour.

Oedolgae (Lonely Rock) 외돌개

About 2km west of Seogwipo, the 20m-tall volcanic basalt pillar called **Oedolgae** (Lonely

Rock) juts out of the ocean. Like other unusual-shaped rocks there's a legend associated with it – a Korean general is said to have scared away Mongolian invaders by dressing the rock up to look like a giant soldier. Oedolgae is a pleasant walk through pine forests to a beautiful cliffside lookout.

Bus 200 or 300 (both W850, five minutes, eight daily) run to Oedolgae or else it's an easy and pleasant 30-minute walk from town.

Syngman Rhee Memorial Hall

이승만기념관

This small private **museum** (☎ 763 2100; adult/youth/child W2000/1500/1000; ☎ 10am-7pm May-Oct, 10am-6pm Nov-Apr) has lots of English descriptions and is dedicated to South Korea's first president, Syngman Rhee (1875–1965). Jailed by King Gojong for his political activities, later he became an independence leader and the Japanese colonial government put a price of W300,000 on his head. He was South Korea's president during the Korean War and up to 1960, when he fled with his Austrian wife to Hawaii after widespread public demonstrations against his rule.

Scuba Diving 스쿠버다이빙

Diving off Seogwipo is surprisingly good with walls of very colourful soft coral, 18m-high kelp forests (March to May), schools of fish and the occasional inquisitive dolphin. Diving here always surprises first-timers because it's a mixture of the tropical and temperate – rather like diving in Norway and the Red Sea at the same time! Visibility is best from September to November but is around 10m at other times, and water temperature varies from 15°C to 27°C.

A recommended dive operator is **Big Blue** (☎ 733 1733; www.bigblue33.co.kr; ☎ 9am-7pm), run by English-speaking Ralph Deutsch, a genuine diving enthusiast. A day's diving (two dives) costs W105,000 with all equipment and a guide. Diving is from a boat and the maximum group size is eight persons. A five-day NAUI certificate course costs W480,000.

Ballooning 열기구테마파크

Rise gently into the air with **Yeolgigutema Park Ballooning** (☎ 732 0300; Dong-iljoduro; adult/youth/child W25,000/18,000/10,000; ☎ 9am-6.30pm). Although the balloon stays tethered to the ground, it doesn't operate when Jeju's notorious wind is blowing.

The balloon site is not on a bus route, so take a taxi (W2000) or walk (15 minutes from Jung-ang Rotary).

Baseball 야구

At **Baseball Hitting Practice** (Jung-angno; per 10 pitches W500) pick up a baseball bat, put a coin in the box and the robot pitches 18 balls in quick succession.

World Cup Stadium 월드컵주경기장

The graceful **soccer stadium**, 6km west of Seogwipo, is the centerpiece of a cluster of buildings that includes a cinema multiplex, an E-Mart discount store, a water park, an Eros museum and Seogwipo's new bus terminal.

SLEEPING

The town has hundreds of motels and hotels, so visitors are spoilt for choice.

Budget

Jeju Hiking Inn (☎ 763 2380; www.hikinginn.com; r W20,000; ☎) Kevin speaks English and runs Seogwipo's best W20,000 budget option. Smart computers are free for guests, cyclists can keep their bikes in the lobby bicycle rack, and you can buy fresh fish or seafood in the covered market and cook it in the communal kitchen.

Bally Motel (☎ 732 8881; Cheonji 3-ro; r W30,000; ☎) The most modern and best motel is in the northern part of town and has a metallic, modernist facade and spacious, high-quality rooms, with a style that is more business hotel than love motel. Check that your room window has mosquito netting and a hairdryer. Draw-back: the receptionist is often absent and you may have to telephone.

Other recommendations:

Galaxy Hotel (☎ 733 6678; r W25,000; ☎) This motel is well kept, has friendly staff and the upper rooms are light and airy.

Useong Motel (☎ 732 5700; r W30,000; ☎) Simple but well-kept rooms are more cheerful and welcoming than others at this price, and the ones on the 4th floor (no lift), such as room 405, have sea views.

Napoli Hotel (☎ 733 4701; fax 733 4802; r W30,000; ☎) There's nothing Italian here, but the standard motel rooms are pleasant enough and some have sea views.

Midrange

Shinsung Hotel (☎ 732 1415; fax 732 1417; r W50,000; ☎ ☎) A classy new midcity motel with a hard-to-miss metal-and-chequerboard exterior. Rooms have a computer and Jacuzzi, but

don't try to use both at the same time. A room with a sea view costs W10,000 extra, even if it's too misty to see the sea.

Hotel Daekuk Isle Inn (☎ 763 0002; www.isleinnhotel.co.kr; r W73,000; ♿) Sorry to spoil the illusion, but the bright balcony flowers are not real, although they do add to the hotel's continental European feel and style. Although the rooms are nothing special, it is a real hotel with no hint of a love motel, and the lobby has email access.

Sun Beach Hotel (☎ 732 5678; Taepyeongno; r incl breakfast W80,000; ♿) A reasonable option if you're into retro and hanker for these mid-range tourist hotels that resemble a grand dame somewhat past her prime but still retaining an air of faded gentility.

Top End

Paradise Hotel (☎ 763 2100; www.paradisehoteljeju.co.kr; r from W210,000; ♿) Three cheers for a rare-as-hens'-teeth genuine boutique hotel with a dramatic adobe design, full of organic curves and African art. The five eclectic room styles all share the striking combo of barn doors and gold taps. Dream of lion safaris in the African rooms that have four-poster beds with mosquito netting. During the 2002 World Cup, Ronaldo slept in room 209, David Beckham in room 302 and Michael Owen in room 303. The extensive garden has superb coastal cliff views as well as a popular restaurant and bar.

Seogwipo KAL Hotel (☎ 733 2001; www.kalhotel.co.kr; r from W245,750; ♿) An overall design of muted colours and pastels pervades this calm and soothing luxury hotel that has a trout farm in the garden. Add W50,000 for ocean views and another 20% at weekends.

EATING

Fish restaurants cluster round the harbour, but food is not Seogwipo's strong point. Seogwipo Covered Market (Jungjeongno) has wonderful fruit and live seafood direct from local orchards and fishermen.

Kkwong Yori Jeonmun (meals W3500-15,000; ☎ 11am-8.30pm) A modest eight-table Chinese restaurant with an English menu and four styles of 'gourmet' *jajangmyeon* (자장면; noodles including minced pork and seafood versions). *Kkwong* (궤), the only pheasant dish on the menu, is a pile of battered pheasant, bones and all, meant for sharing, that costs W30,000.

1001 Juk Iyagi (Jung-angno; meals W5000-10,000; ☎ 9am-9.30pm) Big bowls of rice porridge with a choice of 20 almost-diced-to-death ingredients are offered in this squeaky clean chain restaurant. Mini side dishes plus tea or coffee are free.

Other recommendations:
Meokbo Bunsik (meals W1000-4000; ☎ 24hr) Just down the road opposite the covered market is this cheap diner with homemade *mandu* (만두; dumplings) steaming in big pots outside.

Chungmun Sikdang (meals W4000-10,000) A simple, clean restaurant with a good-deal *jeongsik* (정식; meal with lots of side dishes) or *sundubu* (순두부; soft tofu) for W4000.

Jingogae (meals W6000-17,000; ☎ 9am-10pm) If you want meat, head to this traditional restaurant for *galbi* (갈비; beef ribs) or Jeju pork.

DRINKING

Vetro Coffee (Jungjeongno; drinks W2000-5000; ☎ 10am-11pm) Buy a cake from the bakery opposite and eat it with one of Vetro's special home-roasted coffees. Iced latte is popular.

Pyeonuijeom (Rose Marine; ☎ 10.30am-4am) This tumbledown shack is as quirky and informal a bar as you'll find anywhere on planet Korea – sit outside by the water or even in a wigwam. You want tuna stew? The staff will open a can and cook it up for you (meals W5000 to W8000).

Milano (밀라노; beers/cocktails W3000/5000; ☎ 7pm-4am) Sit inside on the red seats or outside near the barbecue (meals W6000 to W15,000) under the trees with harbour views.

New York (Myeongdongno; local beer/cocktails W3000/6000; ☎ 7pm-6am) This dark, classy bar has a long list of imported beers and attracts expats and their friends at the weekends. Meals are W10,000 to W13,000.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

From Jeju-si, buses (W7500, two hours 40 minutes, every 20 minutes) run along the east or west coast to Seogwipo, while buses on cross-island routes take half the time and cost half as much. The Seogwipo bus terminal is being moved 6km west to the World Cup Stadium, but frequent buses (W850, 10 minutes) will link the town with the new bus terminal.

Seogwipo is small enough to walk around its wooden pavements, but taxis are plentiful and cheap. Local buses can be picked up at Jungang Rotary.

HONEYMOON ISLAND

Jungmun, with its three luxury resorts, is a favourite haunt for Korean honeymooners, especially around May or June, although these days honeymooning abroad is becoming popular. Couples holding hands under the palm trees and wearing matching outfits are likely to be honeymooners, as are tandem-bike riders and couples putting food into each other's mouths. Locals say if you see a couple and neither of them is talking on a mobile phone, then they must be on honeymoon. Horse riding, regarded as an exotic and romantic activity, is popular with honeymooners, as is the Teddy Bear Museum. Thanks to digital and video cameras, almost every second of the honeymoon can now be recorded for posterity and usually is.

The island also attracts business and professional conferences, so your hotel might be swarming with Asian dentists or telecom execs from five continents. In spring, waves of high-school students spread over the island on school trips, excited to be in what is almost a foreign country.

Jungmun & Vicinity 중문

A 25-minute bus ride west of Seogwipo is the tourist town, luxury resorts and surprisingly unspoilt beach at Jungmun, surrounded by tourist attractions and activities.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Just before the Jungmun Beach access road off Hwye 12 is the legendary waterfall **Cheonjeyon Pokpo** (천제연폭포; ☎ 738 1529; adult/youth/child W2500/1370/850; ☎ sunrise-sunset), a three-tier cascade tucked deep inside a forested gully. Above soars a footbridge with sculptures of the seven nymphs who served the Emperor of Heaven and who, it is said, used to slide down moonbeams to bathe here every night.

At the start of the access road to the resorts and beach is a huge, glass botanical garden, **Yeomiji** (여미지; ☎ 738 3828; www.yeomiji.or.kr; adult/youth/child W6000/4500/3000; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mar-Sep, 8.30am-5pm Oct-Feb). Indoor sections mimic rainforests, deserts and other landscapes, while outdoor plantings and designs include Italian, Japanese, palm and herb gardens.

Overlooking Jungmun Beach is **Pacific Land** (퍼시픽랜드; ☎ 738 2888; adult/youth/child W12,000/10,000/8000; ☎ shows 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3pm & 4.30pm), an ageing complex that puts on animal shows featuring dolphins, sea lions and monkeys doing all sorts of tricks. The entertaining shows run four times a day. Camel rides in the car park add a surrealist touch.

The same company also runs **sailing cruises** (adult/child per hr W60,000/50,000) on a catamaran.

Business visitors may well find themselves at **Jeju International Convention Centre** (제주국제컨벤션센터), 600m east of Pacific Land, as Jeju builds up its convention business. The building, completed in 2003, is a striking glass cylinder design with ocean views.

Just south of the Convention Centre is **Jusanjeollil Rocks** (주상절리), a dramatic 2km stretch of coastline, known for hexagonal rock columns that look as if they were stamped out with a cookie cutter. The formations are the result of the rapid cooling and contraction of lava (just what you'd expect to happen when molten lava pours into the sea).

Although the Buddhist temple **Yakcheonsa** (약천사; ☎ 738 5000; admission free; ☎ sunrise-sunset) was only constructed between 1987 and 1997, it is one of Jeju's most impressive buildings. The four-storey main hall is filled with vibrant murals of scenes from Buddha's life and illustrations of his teachings. Climb the stairs to the 3rd floor, and you'll also see cases containing some 18,000 tiny Buddhist figurines. Flash photography is not permitted (time exposures are OK). Overnight temple stays are possible.

The temple is less than 1km east of the Convention Centre, and can be reached by local bus 100, 110, 120 or 130 (W850, 15 minutes) from Seogwipo.

Water Activities

Parasailing (☎ 739 3939), **jet-skiing** and **water-skiing** (☎ 738 5111; W20,000-40,000) operators are based between Pacific Land and the International Convention Centre, while **jetboats** (☎ 739 3939; W25,000) operate from an inlet east of the Convention Centre. **Sit-on kayaks** (per 2hr W15,000) can be hired on Jungmun Beach.

Jungmun Beach (중문해수욕장), a 500m stretch of golden sand with its jungly backdrop, only becomes crowded in summer when it's patrolled by lifeguards. Walk along the beach, up the steps to the Hyatt Regency Hotel, continue along the boardwalk and down the steps to reach an even more scenic

beach: aquamarine water and golden sand backed by sheer black cliffs eroded into cylindrical shapes. It has a surprisingly Lost World feel, as if dinosaurs are about to appear along with a David Attenborough voiceover.

You may see surfers at Jungmun Beach but the waves are generally unexciting.

SLEEPING & EATING

Minbak, *pension* and restaurants are strung out along Hwy 12 near the 1km-long access road to Jungmun Beach, while luxury hotel resorts are down towards the beach.

Yeohang Donghwa Guesthouse (여행동화; ☎ 713 47779; dm/r W10,000/30,000; ☺ ☺) This blue-and-white guesthouse is above a fish restaurant, set back from the main road and overlooking Yeomiji botanical glasshouse. The dorms are big (25 beds in the men's dorm, 15 in the women's) but the accommodation is brand new with a youthful vibe. Upstairs, wood-panelled rooms are very attractive and some have kitchenettes.

Gold Beach Minbak (골드비치민박; ☎ 738 7511; r W50,000; ☺) Smart wood-panelled rooms with balconies and kitchenettes can be found here. Room 305 is one of the best. Look for a peach-and-green building above a restaurant, 200m east of the Jungmun Beach access road.

Hyatt Regency Jeju (☎ 733 1234; www.hyattcheju.com; r from W170,000; ☺ ☺ ☺) This white, beehive-shaped edifice around a soaring atrium sports a beautiful spa/fitness facility. It's the closest resort to the beach and offers the best sea views. Stylish rooms have a computer, and Sunday brunch (11.30am to 2pm) is accompanied by live jazz.

Shilla Jeju (☎ 738 4466; www.shilla.net; r weekday/weekend with breakfast from W200,000/300,000; ☺ ☺ ☺) If Lotte (below) is brash Las Vegas, Shilla drips designer cool with muted colours, modernist artworks and an understated Zen décor beneath a Spanish-style, red-tile roof.

Lotte Hotel Jeju (☎ 738 7301; r from W300,000; ☺ ☺ ☺) This palatial resort brings Las Vegas to Jeju with an over-the-top fantasy garden containing windmills, a boating lake and a swimming pool. A nightly Las Vegas outdoor show involves music, lights, fountains, volcanoes and dragons. It's the most glitzy hotel and has a foreigner-only casino.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Buses (W1100, 20 minutes, every 20 minutes) leave Seogwipo bus terminal for Jungmun,

dropping you at the Jungmun Beach access road, 1km from the beach. Local buses such as bus 100 also run to Jungmun.

Sanbanggulsu & Yongmeori Coast 산방굴사, 용머리해안

A steep, 10-minute walk up the south-facing side of the dramatic and craggy **Sanbangsan** (395m) is a simple stone Buddha in a cave known as **Sanbanggulsu** (☎ 794 2940; adult/youth/child W2500/1500/free; ☺ 8.30am-7pm). This atmospheric cave has been a sacred site since Goryeo times, and the water flowing from the ceiling is said to be magically curative.

Lower down, by the ticket office, are other shrines and statues of more recent origin.

Across the road, a footpath leads downhill to the spectacular **Yongmeori coast**, an ocean-side promenade of soaring cliffs, heavily pockmarked by erosion into catacombs, narrow clefts and natural archways. It's a *National Geographic* opportunity for photographers. Note that the walk along the Yongmeori cliffs closes during very high seas.

At the promenade exit is a replica of the **Sperwer**, a Dutch merchant ship that was wrecked here long ago in August 1653. A sailor on board, Hendrick Hamel (1630-92), survived the shipwreck but was forced to stay in Korea for 13 years before managing to escape in a boat to Japan: he wrote the first book on Korea by a Westerner (p272). You can look over the boat and learn about Hamel's adventures.

The entry ticket to Sanbanggulsu includes entry to the Yongmeori coast and Hamel's ship. Hwasun Beach is only 1km away but is marred by the power station at one end.

Buses (W2300, 45 minutes, every 40 minutes) leave from Seogwipo bus terminal for Sanbangsan. Make sure the bus is going all the way there as not all the west coast buses do.

Jeju Art Park 제주조각공원

Get off at the stop before Sanbangsan for this **art park** (☎ 794 9680; adult/youth/child W4500/3500/2500; ☺ 8.30am-8pm Apr-Oct, 8.30am-5.30pm Nov-Mar) that features over 180 modern sculptures in a garden setting. All genres are represented so you should find some that say something.

Marado & Gapado 마라도, 가파도

These two islets, both flat as pizzas with black rocky crusts, lie off Jeju's southwest tip. Marado is Land's End, the most southerly point of Korea, and is so windswept that there

are virtually no trees. Around 20 families live there and they have to collect their own water. It has an isolated, wild mood despite the tourists and only takes 30 minutes to walk around. Gapado, the nearer and larger of the two, is more ordinary and attracts fewer visitors.

Buses (W2700, one hour, every 20 minutes) leave Seogwipo bus terminal for Moseulpo, the port from which ferries service the islands. Get off the bus at the Hamo-ri stop, walk back up the road, turn right at the crossroads, then take the second right at the next intersection, and the ferry ticket office is at the far end of the port, next to the police box. It's a 15-minute walk from Hamo-ri bus stop.

From Moseulpo, **ferries** (☎ 792 1441; adult/child return W10,000/6000; 30 minutes) run to Marado daily at 10am, 11.30am and 2pm, with a 3.30pm sailing on weekends. Ferries (adult/child return W8000/4000, 15 minutes) also run daily to Gapado at 8.30am and 2pm.

O'Sulloc Tea Museum 오설록차박물관

On the rolling, 52-hectare plantation of Sulloc, one of Korea's largest growers of *nokcha* (green tea), the teacup-shaped **museum** (☎ 794 5312; admission free; ☺ 10am-5pm) has swell views of tea fields and a rather on-the-nose video about tea. There is a great collection of ancient tea implements, some of which date back to the 3rd century. Visitors are welcome to stroll the fields, and in the shop you can enjoy green tea, a slice of green-tea cake and green-tea ice cream. Unfortunately no buses pass by.

WESTERN JEJUDO

Bunjae Artpia 분재예술원

Bunjae (bonsai) trees may seem esoteric, but this **bonsai park** (☎ 772 3701; adult/youth/child W7000/5000/4000; ☺ 8am-6.30pm, 8am-10pm late Jul-mid-Aug) has some excellent examples. It's the life's work of Mr Sung Bum-young, who opened the park in 1992 and has never looked back. The park has hosted dignitaries from all over the world.

Mr Sung has filled the park with hundreds of dwarf trees – the oldest is some 500 years old. Signs translated into English espouse his personal philosophy. A quick walk through can take 20 minutes, but why not put yourself in a Zen mood and contemplate nature in miniature along with the rocks and water? Some visitors make the most of the experi-

MARADO'S ORIGINAL INHABITANTS?

The first settlers on remote Marado arrived in 1883, apparently to escape from gambling debts. This was considered a desperate move as the island was believed to be haunted by ghosts. However the skilful flute-playing of one Mr Kim is said to have driven the island's original inhabitants away.

ence, spending up to 1½ hours here. No buses pass by.

Jeju Racetrack 제주경마장

Enjoy a weekend afternoon at the races at the popular **Jeju Racetrack** (☎ 741 9412; admission W800; ☺ 12.30-5.35pm Sat & Sun Sep-Jun, 4.20-9.10pm Sat & Sun Jul & Aug), 15km from Jeju-si. The facilities are first class and foreigners have their own lounge with executive chairs on the 3rd floor of the brand-new Happy Ville grandstand. What is unique is that all the horses are local *jeorangmal*, Jeju horses descended from the ones brought over by invading Mongols centuries ago.

Cross-island (road 95) buses (W1300, 30 minutes, every 20 minutes) between Seogwipo and Jeju-si stop outside the racetrack. A taxi from Jeju-si costs W10,000.

Acrobat Shows

There are three shows along the cross-island 95 road, all of which are worth seeing.

Green Resort (제주그린리조트; ☎ 792 6102; admission W12,000; ☺ shows 10.30am, 2.30pm, 4.30pm & 5.40pm) hosts hour-long shows that combine Chinese acrobatics (tumbling, bicycle tricks, plate spinning) and Mongolian acrobatics on horseback (handstands on a horse at full gallop). Some of the tricks are amazing in this traditional-style show but the music and announcers are overloud.

Smarter and more high-tech is the circus at **Happy Town** (해피타운; ☎ 794 4444; adult/child W15,000/8000; ☺ shows 10.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm & 5pm) that stars contortionists, motorbike stunt riders and unbelievable acrobats who perform in midair and on the ground.

Stunning aerial acrobatics plus motorbike tricks are the show highlights at **Jeju Magic World** (제주매직월드; ☎ 746 9005; www.jejumw.co.kr; adult/youth/child W15,000/10,000/7000; ☺ shows 10am, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm Mar-Sep, 10am, 2pm, 3.30pm & 5.20pm Oct-Feb).

MYSTERIOUS & GHOST ROADS

신비의도로, 도깨비도로

For a 'Twilight Zone' moment, drive on to one of these stretches of road, turn off the engine, shift to neutral, and your car will appear to roll uphill. If you pour water or roll a ball on the pavement, there's a similar effect. It's really an optical illusion due to the angle of the road relative to sight lines, but it certainly looks convincing. If you decide to test it, watch out for other vehicles trying the same thing!

The first stretch to be discovered (allegedly by a taxi driver taking a break) is **Sinbiui Doro** (Mysterious Rd), in the hills about 7km south of the airport. **Dokkaebi Doro** (Ghost Rd) is to the east.

The cross-island (road 95) bus passes by all three venues every 20 minutes from Seogwipo and Jeju-si.

Hallim Park 한림공원

No time to explore Jeju? Just visit **Hallim Park** (☎ 796 0001; adult/youth/child W6000/4500/3500; 🕒 8.30am-5.30pm), which has everything – a botanical and bonsai garden, a mini folk village and a 500m walk through a lava-tube cave – all in one place. The park is filled with such beautiful plantings, most notably in a botanical garden full of local plants, that it's hard to believe that the area was originally barren rocks. The cave, **Hyeopchaegul**, only discovered in 1981, is one of the few lava tubes in the world with stalagmites and stalactites, usually only found in limestone caves. They're here thanks to the large quantities of pulverised seashells in the soil above the cave, which were blown in from the shore over thousands of years.

RESTORING HALLASAN

The very popularity of the trek up Hallasan was threatening to destroy the area's unique and fragile ecosystem. Hikers were literally trampling plants to death and threatening the wildlife that the plants supported. Drastic action was required to save Korea's highest mountain from an eco-disaster. Even the roe deer were under threat.

Wooden boardwalks were constructed to reduce the impact of hikers' feet and to encourage them to stay on the track. The trail around the crater lake and the trail from the lake to Witsoreum shelter was closed for at least a decade to allow the worst affected and most fragile sections to recover. This meant that hikers up the popular and easier western trails could no longer view the crater lake. However, the mountain ecology is slowly recovering, and at the last count the number of roe deer had increased to 1249.

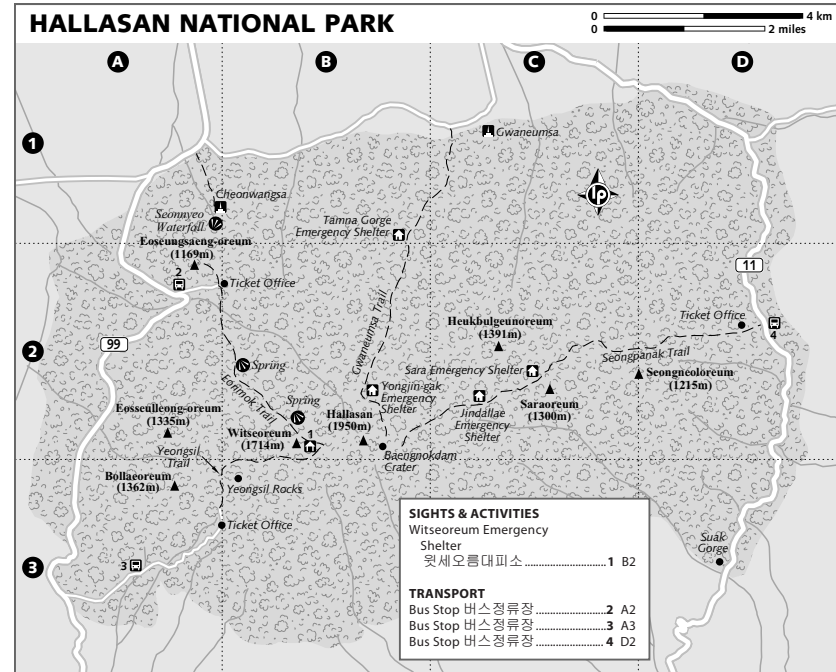
HALLASAN NATIONAL PARK

한라산국립공원

Hiking up **Hallasan** (☎ 713 9950; adult/youth/child W1600/600/300) is a highlight of any trip to Jeju. The best plan is to hike up the **Eorimok trail**, which starts after a 15-minute walk from the bus stop. It's 4.7km, starting with a steep climb up through a deciduous forest (gorgeous coloured leaves in autumn). Halfway up, the dense trees give way to an open, subalpine moorland of bamboo, grass, dwarf fir trees and hillsides of azaleas that flower in April and May. Small, light brown roe deer now number over 1000, and you have a good chance of spotting one here. After 2¼ hours you should reach **Witsoreum shelter** (1700m), which has no accommodation but sells instant noodles (W1500) to hungry hikers. Ahead are the craggy cliffs of Hallasan's peak, but the path there is closed on a long-term basis to allow for plant regeneration (see below).

After lunch, head down the 3.7km **Yeongsil trail**, which is wetter but has grand scenery – panoramas of green *oreum* (craters) and pinnacle rocks atop sheer cliffs as you hike through a dwarf-fir forest, before reaching the mixed deciduous and evergreen forest lower down. It's a 1½-hour hike down to the road and then a 30-minute walk along a roadside footpath to the bus stop. The climb is only 700m in altitude (it starts at 1000m) but it's tiring – this is Korea's highest mountain – and you need to be prepared for bad weather that can arrive in the blink of an eye. However small children can make it, so you can too.

The other two routes are longer and more difficult – the Gwaneumsa trail is 8.7km and takes five hours (no bus service to the start) and the Seongpanak trail is 9.6km and takes 4½ hours. These routes go to the peak (1950m) with views of the famous crater lake.

HALLASAN NATIONAL PARK

All the shelters are for emergency use only and cannot be booked for overnight stays.

Buses to Eorimok run from Jeju-si bus terminal (W2100, 35 minutes, nine daily) and from Jungmun (W3000, 50 minutes, nine

daily). They also stop at Yeongsil, a W3500, 45-minute ride from Jeju-si and a W1600, 30-minute ride from Jungmun. Buses leave Jeju-si bus terminal (W1700, 35 minutes, every 15 minutes) for Seongpanak and Seogwipo.

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