Andong: Where Korea's Traditions Are Still Alive

If Seoul shows you Korea's future, Andong shows you the Korea that *remembers its past* — a 3,000-year-old spiritual capital where UNESCO World Heritage sites and living Confucian traditions await.



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Why Visit Andong?



Two UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Hahoe Village and Dosanseowon Confucian Academy — both within easy reach of the city center.

A 3,000-Year Spiritual Capital

Confucian traditions actively shape daily life here — this is not a museum, it is a living culture.

Perfect For

Culture lovers, history enthusiasts, photographers, and slow travelers seeking authentic Korea.

Easy to Reach

KTX train from Seoul (1 hr 50 min), Busan (1 hr 40 min), or Daegu (1 hr 20 min).

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Hahoe Folk Village — The Must-See

What It Is

A 600-year-old clan village where descendants of the Pungsan Ryu family *still live today*. UNESCO World Heritage since 2010.

The Setting

Surrounded by the Nakdong River in an S-shape, with three mountains and dense pine forests forming a natural fortress.

Photography Tips

Sunrise for golden river light; autumn (Sept–Oct) for foliage; the elevated view from Buyongdae cliff is iconic.

Visitor Info

Admission: 5,000 won (adults). Open 9:00–17:30 (Apr–Sep), 9:00–16:30 (Oct–Mar). Allow 2–3 hours minimum.

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Hahoe Mask Dance — Living Heritage

What It Represents

Hahoe Byeolsingut Talnori is a **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage** — a powerful blend of dance, music, theatre, and sharp social satire rooted in shamanic ritual.

Historical Roots

Developed to appease the village guardian spirit and pray for peace. The masks represent nobles, servants, monks, and commoners — allowing performers to mock authority and social hypocrisy with humor.

Where to See It

- Regular performances at Hahoe Village throughout the year
- **Andong International Mask Dance Festival:** Sept 26 – Oct 5, 2025
- Over 1.2 million spectators expected; nearly 30 countries' embassies participating

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Woryeonggyo Bridge — Romance & Reflection

The Bridge

A wooden pedestrian bridge spanning the Nakdong River, gracefully designed in the shape of traditional hemp shoes (*mituri*). Open 24 hours, year-round. Free access.

The Legend

Named after a widow who wove shoes from her own hair to honor her late husband — a timeless symbol of pure, enduring love.

Spring

Cherry blossoms frame the bridge in delicate pink

Autumn

Golden foliage reflects in the still river water

Night

Moonlit reflections on the river — the most magical hour

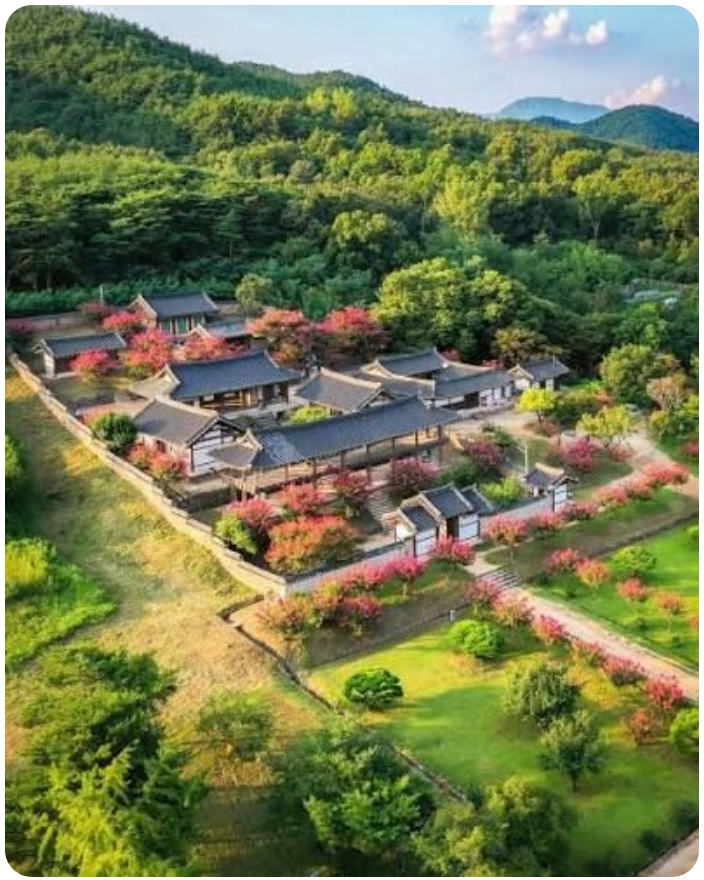
Moon Boat

Take a lake boat ride to view the bridge from the water



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Dosanseowon Confucian Academy



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What a Seowon Is

A Confucian academy combining shrine, lecture halls, dormitories, and library — the intellectual heart of Korean education for centuries.

The Founder

Built to honor **Yi Hwang (Toegye, 1501–1570)**, one of Korea's two most eminent Confucian scholars. The Dosanseodang lecture hall was designed by Yi Hwang himself in 1561; the full academy was completed in 1576, six years after his death.

What to See

- Dosanseodang (lecture hall) & Jeongyodang (main hall)
- Sangdeoksa Shrine and historic library buildings
- Hiking trails with a 600-year-old willow tree
- Stunning lakeside setting with dense pine forests

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What to Eat in Andong



Andong Jjimdak

Whole chicken braised in soy sauce with glass noodles, potatoes & vegetables. Born in Andong Old Market in the 1980s. ~28,000–32,000 won for two. Find it in **Jjimdak Alley** near Andong Station.



Andong Salted Mackerel

Grilled salted mackerel (*gan-godeungeo*) with a rich, savory flavor — a local delicacy described as "a true rice thief." Served with rice and traditional side dishes.



Heotjesabap

A traditional Confucian-derived rice dish with deep roots in Andong's aristocratic food culture, served with an array of carefully prepared side dishes.



Andong Hanwoo

Premium Korean native cattle raised in Andong's ideal climate. Known for beautiful marbling and exceptional tenderness. Visit **Andong Kalbi Street** for grilled beef specialties.

🍴 **Food challenge:** Can you try all three signatures — jjimdak, salted mackerel, and heotjesabap — during your trip?

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Stay Like a Local — Hanok Experience



What Is a Hanok Stay?

Sleeping in a traditional Korean house with wooden beams, *ondol* (underfloor heating), and courtyard gardens. You will understand how Koreans lived for centuries — the warmth of heated floors on winter nights, the simplicity of traditional design, the connection between interior and nature.

What to Expect

- Sleeping on a thin mattress on the heated floor
- Communal bathrooms in some properties
- Waking to the sounds of traditional Korea
- Some hanoks offer tea ceremonies or calligraphy programs

Before Booking

- Check private vs. shared bathrooms
- Confirm breakfast and heating for winter visits
- **Best locations:** Near Hahoe Village (proximity to sites) or central Andong (restaurants & markets)

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How to Get There & Around





Getting to Andong

From	Train/Bus	Duration
Seoul	KTX-Eum (Seoul / Cheongnyangni / Sangbong Station)	~1 hr 50 min
Busan	KTX-Eum (Bujeon / Sinhaeundae / Centum / Gijang)	~1 hr 40 min
Daegu	Mugunghwa train or intercity bus from Dongdaegu	~1 hr 20 min

Getting Around Andong

- ### City Buses

  Express 2, 210 → Hahoe Village
  Express 3, 512 → Dosanseowon
  Bus 112 → Woryeonggyo Bridge

- ### Tourist Taxis

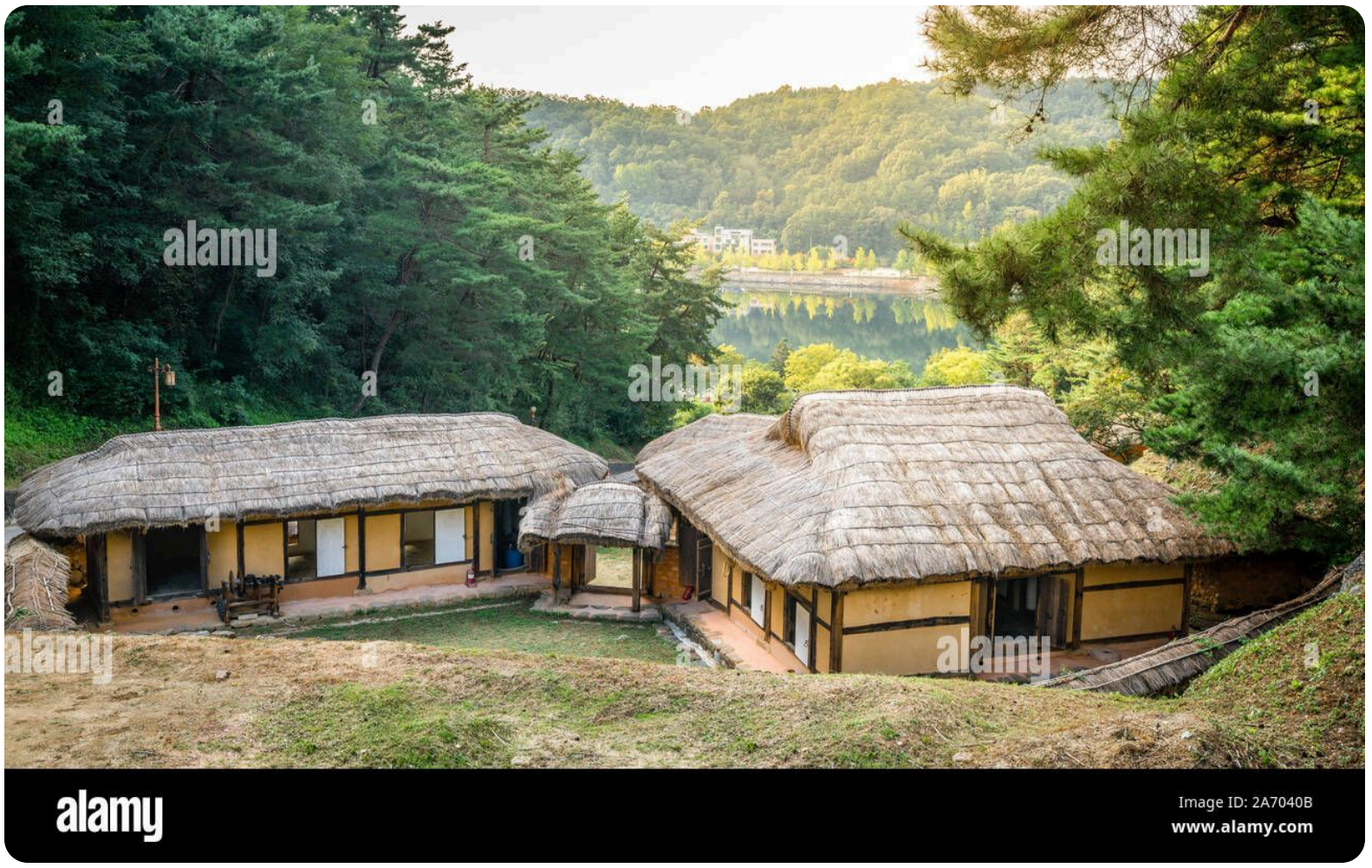
  Ideal for small groups covering multiple attractions in one day. No car rental needed.

- ### Walking

  Central Andong is walkable. Andong Station is just 5 minutes from Jjimdak Alley.

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Suggested Itineraries



1-Day Visit

01

Morning

Arrive at Andong Station. Take bus or taxi to Hahoe Village (30 min).

02

Late Morning – Lunch

Explore Hahoe Village (2–3 hrs) and watch a mask dance performance.

03

Afternoon

Visit Woryeonggyo Bridge — walk, photograph, and enjoy the riverside scenery.

04

Late Afternoon

Quick visit to Dosanseowon or browse Andong Old Market.

05

Evening

Dinner in central Andong. Return to Woryeonggyo Bridge at night for moonlit photos.

2-Day Slow Travel

01

Day 1 — Immerse in Hahoe

Check into a hanok stay near Hahoe Village. Explore the village thoroughly, attend cultural programs, and take a sunset walk along the Nakdong River.

02

Day 2 — Scholars & Bridges

Visit Dosanseowon Confucian Academy at opening time (fewer crowds), hike the surrounding trails, enjoy local food, and visit Woryeonggyo Bridge at night before departure.

💡 **Pro tip:** Visiting during the Mask Dance Festival (Sept 26 – Oct 5, 2025)? Book accommodation well in advance — over 1.2 million visitors are expected.

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