🌴 Jeju Island Travel Guide

Mysterious natural wonders of a volcanic island, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and an unforgettable culinary journey



1. Why Jeju Island?

🌋 Volcanic History

Korea's largest island, formed by volcanic activity 2 million years ago

🏆 World Recognition

UNESCO World Heritage Site & one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature

⛰️ Hallasan Mountain

1,947m above sea level — the highest peak in South Korea

💑 Honeymoon Haven

Korea's top destination for honeymoons & luxury travel

✈️ Visa-Free Entry

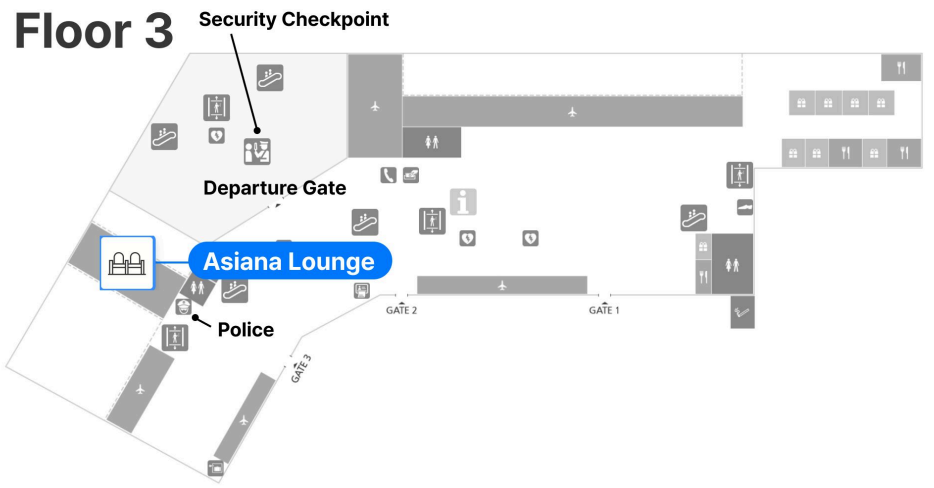
Most foreign tourists can enter without a visa

👥 Population

Approximately 665,000–670,000 stable local residents

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2. Getting There & Local Transportation



✈️ By Air

- **Domestic flights:** Hundreds of daily flights from Seoul (Gimpo), Daegu, and Busan
- **Flight time:** Approx. 55 minutes from Seoul
- **International flights:** Direct routes to Jeju International Airport (CJU) from major Asian cities

🚢 By Ferry

- Ferry services available from major port cities including Mokpo and Busan

🚗 Local Transportation (Key Tips!)

- **Public transit:** Bus intervals are long, making it inefficient for tight itineraries
- **Rental car (essential!):** One of the island's biggest industries; advance booking is a must
- **Taxi:** Easy to hail, but costs rise sharply for long-distance trips
- **Airport tip:** Free paper tourist maps available at the arrival terminal

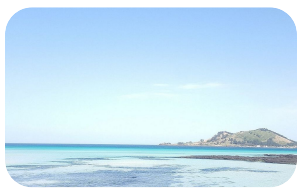
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3. Best Time to Visit



🌸 Spring

Scenic drives along Noksan-ro lined with yellow canola flowers and cherry blossoms



☀️ Summer

Swimming, water sports, and surfing at Hyeopjae and Hamdeok beaches



🍂 Autumn

Trekking through Sangumburi Crater's silver grass fields under clear blue skies



❄️ Winter

Hiking Hallasan's snowy landscapes and picking fresh tangerines at local farms

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4. Western Route: Sunset & Windmills

KEYWORDS: SUNSET · WINDMILLS · INSTAGRAM SPOTS

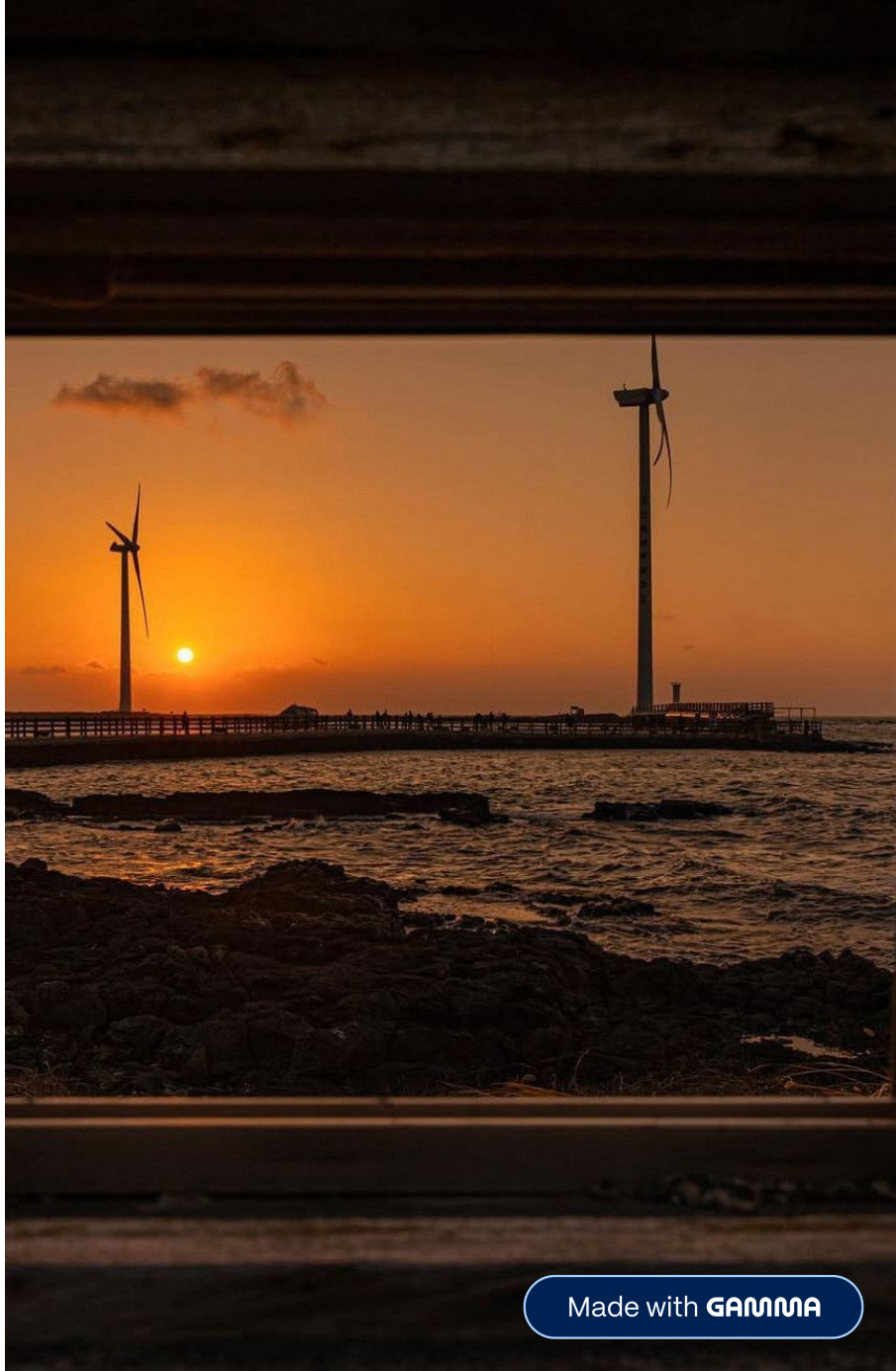
📍 Key Attractions

- **Sinchang Windmill Coastal Road:** The island's best sunset backdrop featuring massive offshore wind turbines
- **Hyeopjae Beach:** Crystal-clear emerald waters with views of Biyangdo Island

🍽️ Local Restaurants

- **Ongpo Hoetjip (Hallim):** A popular Instagram-worthy spot famous for Jeju shrimp (red banded shrimp) and mackerel sashimi platters

To enjoy the freshest Jeju seafood, it is recommended to visit before lunchtime.



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5. Eastern Route: Sunrise & Hiking

KEYWORDS: COAST · HIKING · UDO ISLAND

📍 Key Attractions

- **Seongsan Ilchulbong:** UNESCO-protected tuff cone rising from the sea, famous for stunning sunrise views
- **Udo Island:** 15-minute ferry from Seongsan Port; known for white coral beaches and peanut snacks
- **Gwangchigi Beach:** Unique beach with black sand and green moss-covered rocks, perfect for sunrise photos with Seongsan Ilchulbong as a backdrop



🍽️ Local Restaurants

- **Matna Restaurant (Seongsan):** A legendary local spot famous for Jeju-style braised hairtail fish. Expect a queue from early morning

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6. Southern Route: Waterfalls & Resorts

KEYWORDS: WATERFALL · LUXURY RESORT

🌊 Jeongbang Waterfall

One of the few waterfalls in Asia that falls directly into the ocean. Standing 23m tall, it creates a spectacular rainbow when sunlight reflects off the mist.

🏨 Jungmun Resort Complex

The hub of 5-star luxury resorts (The Shilla, Lotte, Parnas) and home to the famous Jungmun Saekdal surfing beach — Jeju's premier resort district.

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7. Budget & Accommodation Guide

💰 Daily Budget Range

Budget Travel

₩80,000–120,000/day
Guesthouses, street food, free attractions

Mid-Range Travel

₩150,000–250,000/day
3-star hotels, local restaurants, paid attractions

Luxury

₩300,000+/day
5-star resorts, fine dining, private tours

🏨 Accommodation Options

- **Luxury Resorts:** The Shilla, Lotte, Parnass (₩300,000–600,000/night)
- **Mid-Range Hotels:** 3–4 star (₩100,000–200,000/night)
- **Guesthouses & Airbnb:** Budget-friendly options (₩50,000–100,000/night)
- **Camping:** Hyeopjae Beach and more (₩20,000–40,000/night)

🚗 Car Rental Costs

- **Economy Car:** ₩50,000–70,000/day
- **Mid-size SUV:** ₩80,000–120,000/day
- **Insurance:** ₩10,000–20,000/day (strongly recommended)

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8. Food Costs & Jeju Must-Try Dishes

🍜 Meal Costs

Category	Price Range	Examples
Street Food	₩5,000–10,000	Tteokbokki, Kimbap, Hotteok
Local Restaurant	₩12,000–25,000	Seafood, Noodles, Rice Bowls
Mid-Range Dining	₩30,000–60,000	Special Seafood, Grilled Dishes
Fine Dining	₩80,000–150,000+	Luxury Resort, Premium Seafood

🦞 Jeju Must-Try Foods

Braised Hairtail Fish (Galchi-jorim)

Jeju's signature local dish, spicy braised hairtail fish

Sookse Shrimp (Red Banded Shrimp)

Fresh sashimi platter

Abalone (Jeonbok)

Grilled or abalone porridge

Sea Urchin (Uni)

Fresh sea urchin harvested by Haenyeo divers

Hallabong Tangerines (Gamgyul)

Fresh seasonal fruit (winter specialty)

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9. Practical Tips & Essential Information



Ideal Trip Duration

Allow at least 3–5 days to fully enjoy the West, East, and South coast routes



Language & Navigation

English communication is limited outside tourist areas; download Naver Maps or KakaoMap before you go



Currency

Korean Won (₩); ATMs are widely available and card payments are accepted at most places



Weather Preparation

Layered clothing is essential; coastal roads can be very windy



Photography

Bring a good camera for the Sinchang Windmill sunset and Seongsan Ilchulbong sunrise



Hiking Gear

Sturdy hiking boots and plenty of water are essential for Hallasan and Seongsan Ilchulbong climbs

During peak season (summer and public holidays), be sure to book rental cars, restaurants, and accommodations well in advance.

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10. 5-Day Sample Itinerary

1

Day 1 — Arrival & West Coast

Arrive at Jeju International Airport & pick up rental car → Hyeopjae Beach (emerald waters, Biyangdo Island views) → Sinchang Windmill Coastal Road sunset → Dinner at Ongpo Hoet-jip

2

Day 2 — East Coast

Early morning sunrise hike at Seongsan Ilchulbong → Udo Island ferry (coral beach, peanut snacks) → Galchi-jorim lunch at Matna Restaurant → Explore Gwangchigi Beach

3

Day 3 — Hallasan Mountain

Full-day Hallasan hike (1,947m, 5–7 hours round trip) → Views of Baengnodam crater lake → Evening rest & recovery

4

Day 4 — South Coast

Visit Jeongbang Waterfall (23m, drops directly into the sea) → Jungmun Tourist Complex & luxury resort exploration → Water sports at Jungmun Saekdal Beach → Fine dining at resort restaurant

5

Day 5 — Leisure & Departure

Mandarin orange picking experience (in season) → Last-minute shopping & local souvenir purchases → Depart from Jeju International Airport

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