Welcome to Korea! Former ETAs compiled this guide about the towns and cities they inhabited for a year or more to help you live and travel in Korea.

KOREA 한국

A Petite Peninsula. Geography has shaped the history and national identity of Korea (roughly the size of Indiana). Political superpowers and geographic giants China, Russia, and Japan dwarf the much smaller Korean peninsula.

One History, Two Nations. Korea has survived wars, colonialism, occupation, isolation, and over 1,000 invasions. The post-WWII division of the peninsula at roughly 38 degrees N latitude and subsequent Korean War created the pro-Western Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the communist Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Bountiful Mountains. While mountains constitute 70% of Korea’s terrain, along the southern and western coasts, the mountains gradually descend into broad coastal plains. Clustered mainly on the southern coast, islands of various sizes surround the mainland.

City Populations (in 1,000’s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>10,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busan</td>
<td>3,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daegu</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incheon</td>
<td>2,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwangju</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daejeon</td>
<td>1,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulsan</td>
<td>1,088</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Province Populations (in 1,000’s - not including major cities listed above):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gyeonggi-do</td>
<td>8,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangwon-do</td>
<td>4,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chungcheong-do</td>
<td>3,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeolla-do</td>
<td>8,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyeongsang-do</td>
<td>8,702</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Links
http://www.knto.or.kr—Korea National Tourism Board
http://www.korea.net—General information on Korea and the smaller cities in each region

NOTE: You can find information on most cities by trying – www.(city name).go.kr

THE PROVINCES

Gyeonggi-do 경기도 (Gyeonggi Province)

The province surrounding Seoul and the most urban province in Korea. The capital of Korea has been located somewhere in this province for over a millennium. (During the Goryeo Dynasty, it was in Gaeseong, just across the border in North Korea; since 1392 Seoul has been the capital.) If one includes Seoul and Incheon (which are administered separately), about 40 percent of South Korea’s population lives in this province. Seoul’s satellite cities have grown very rapidly in recent years.

Cities: Goyang, Gwacheon, Gwangmyeong, Gwangju, Guri, Gunpo, Gimpo, Namyangju, Dongducheon, Bucheon, Seongnam, Suwon, Siheung, Ansan, Anyang, Ansan, Yongin, Ulsan, Uijeongbu, Icheon, Paju, Pyeongtaek, Hanam, Hwaseong

Counties: Gapyeong, Yangju, Yangpyeong, Yeongju, Yeoncheon, Bocheon

Links
http://english.kg21.net/

New ETAs are not placed in Seoul, only in the surrounding Gyeonggi-do area.

Gangwon-do 강원도 (Gangwon Province)

NE corner, borders North Korea (northern sections of the province, including many beaches, have restricted access). Divided by the North-South Korea split (about one third of the original province is administered by North Korea).

The most mountainous province in South Korea—offers towering peaks, pristine mountain streams, sandy beaches, lengthy rivers, lakes, caves, and the best downhill skiing and ice climbing in South Korea. The country’s unofficial outdoor playground. The source of two major rivers in Korea—the Han and the Nakdong. Plentiful temples, hot springs, tombs, battle sites and monuments. Secoraksan, the undisputed king of Korea’s national parks, boasts spectacular ridges, peaks, and scenery (especially fine in autumn). The DMZ, east sea beaches, and mountainous national parks.

Lacks major transportation thoroughfares with some sections the most isolated in South Korea. Government plans to build a lattice network of roads to alleviate this isolation.

Nothing says Gangwon-do like…

Groundwater, mountain products (songi mushrooms, timber, mountain greens, medicinal herbs, etc.), mining (iron, coal, limestone and tungsten), hydroelectricity, potatoes.
Cities to visit…

Chuncheon 춘천—population 252,000
Gangwon-do’s capital. Surrounded by mountains and plenty of water—the Bukhan River, the Soyang River, and gigantic lakes such as Lakes Chuncheon, Soyang, and Uiam. A good base for hiking, rafting, ice and rock climbing, skiing, ice fishing, and skating. Economy based on tourism and multimedia, computer, fashion and design, and biotechnology industries.

Temperatures range from -17.5°C in the winter to 35.2°C in the summer—a cold cold, and a hot hot. Very humid and foggy with plenty of rainfall, especially during July and August.

Other Cities: Wonju, Gangneung, Donghae, Taebaek, Sokcho, Samcheok
Counties: Hongcheon, Hoengseong, Yeongwol, Pyeongchang, Jeongseon, Cheorwon, Hwacheon, Yanggu, Inje, Goseong, Yangyang

Links
http://www.provin.gangwon.kr/english/
http://www.iccn.co.kr/zz_iccn/english/WEFM_14_0.html (Chuncheon)

ETAs stay at Kangwon National University in Chuncheon for summer orientation but are usually not placed in Gangwon province.

Chungcheongbuk-do 충북도 (North Chungcheong Province)

The only landlocked province, and South Korea’s most rural province. Riddled with tall, rocky peaks and the accompanying valleys, lakes, and rivers, and nearby flat, rolling plains. Central location: 3 hours from anywhere in Korea on the 3 major expressways that feed into the area. Tombs from the Baekje Dynasty. Spectacular cave formations like Gosu Cave (Danyang). Three beautiful national parks—Sobaeksan, Woraksan, and Songnisan. Azaleas in late spring (end of May) and various wildflowers in the fall and spring.

Nothing says Chungcheongbuk-do like...
Chili peppers and powder, pine mushrooms, chestnut jelly, grilled pork, broiled eel, sliced raw trout, fish noodles, mushrooms, apples, pears, ginseng, garlic.

Cities to visit...
Cheongju 청주—population 588,754
The provincial capital. A city of “long history and brilliant culture that is both full of hospitality and roadside trees.” An international city of aviation and information technology. The birthplace of metal printing type, the first of its kind in the world over, even before Gutenberg and his Bible.

Other cities: Chungju, Jecheon
Counties: Cheongwon, Boeun, Okcheon, Yeongdong, Jincheon, Goesan, Eumseong, Danyang

Links
http://www.provin.chungbuk.kr/engl/

Chungcheongnam-do 충청남도 (South Chungcheong Province)

The center of the Baekje Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms Period (BC.18-AD.660). On the western side of South Korea, just south of Gyeonggi-do. Approximately 1-2 hours from Seoul by train or bus.

Nothing says Chungcheongnam-do like...

Cities to visit…
Daejeon 대전—population 1,438,000
A major transportation crossroads, with the major north-south highways and rail lines meeting at Daejeon and splitting to feed the east and west sides of the country. A leader in science and technology. EXPO Park, site of the 1993 Daejeon World Expo, showcases the area’s research center in nearby Daedeok Science Town.

Other Cities: Seosan, Asan, Cheonan, Gongju, Nonsan, Boryeong, Eomse
Other Counties: Taean, Dangjin, Yesan, Hongseong, Yeong-gi, Cheongyang, Buyeo, Seocheon, Geumsan

Links

Gyeongsangbuk-do 경상북도 (North Gyeongsang Province)
The Eastern province with a kick—spicier food and a faster and more animated dialect than other provinces. Andong and Gyeongju are nationally famous cultural must-sees.

Nothing says Gyeongsangbuk-do like...
Dosan Sowon Confucian School of Yi Hwang, Hahoe Village, Buseoksa temple (north of Andong); Bulguksa temple, Seokguram Grotto, Gyeongju National Museum, Gyeongju Culture Expo (Gyeongju).

Cities to visit...

**Daegu 대구**—population 2,500,000
The province’s largest city and one of Korea’s independent urban areas. A textile center. Centrally located in the Gyeongsang province.

**Andong 안동**—population 184,000
Reputedly one of the most traditional and conservative areas in Korea. Known for its well-preserved cultural assets and traditional values. The city has 233 items of tangible and intangible cultural properties. It's the center of Buddhist culture and Confucian heritage. In October, see the Andong Mask Dance Festival.

**Gyeongju 경주**—population 281,000
The birthplace of Silla culture and the Silla capital for 990 years. Perhaps home to the greatest number of cultural assets in Korea. Highlights include Gyeongju National Museum, Bulguksa Temple, Seokguram Grotto, and Bomun Lake Resort. It is also one of the few cities in Korea where residents can safely bike as a means of transportation.

Other Cities: Yeongju, Mungyeong, Sangju, Gumi, Gimcheon, Yeongcheon, Gyeongsan, Pohang

Other Counties: Bonghwa, Uljin, Yecheon, Yeongyang, Uiseong, Gunwi, Seongju, Chilgok, Goryeong, Cheongdo, Ulleung

Links
http://www.gbtour.net/e_index.html

---

**Gyeongsangnam-do 경상남도 (South Gyeongsang Province)**

Largely a coastal area covering a considerable part of the southern coast. Hallyeo Maritime National Park, including Oedo Paradise Island, Haegeumgang in Geoje. But also, part of Jirisan National Park stretches through this province. Haeinsa, one of the most famous temples in South Korea. Jinhae, the most famous area for cherry blossoms in the spring season.

Cities to visit...

**Busan 부산**—population 3,812,000
The second largest city in Korea. Located on the SE tip of the peninsula. Several exquisite beaches and hot springs along coastlines attract millions of tourists every year. Four distinct seasons and a temperate climate. The average temperature is 15.2 degrees C (60 degrees F) and the average annual precipitation is 1.289 meters (50 inches). On the whole, cooler in summer and warmer in winter compared with the rest of the country. Haeundae Beach and the Jagalchi fish market.

**Ulsan 울산**—population 1,088,000
One of the seven largest urban areas of Korea. A port city with a very mild climate. The Tachwa River flows through the city. The home base of Hyundai.

Other Cities: Changwon, Masan, Jinju, Jinhae, Tongyeong, Sacheon, Gimhae, Miryang, Geoje, Yangsan

Other Counties: Uiryeong, Haman, Changnyeong, Goseong, Namhae, Hadong, Sacheong, Hamyang, Geocheong, Hapcheon

Links
http://www.provin.gyeongnam.kr/eng/
http://www.pusanweb.com/

---

**Jeollabuk-do 전라북도 (North Jeolla Province)**

In the southwestern region of South Korea, 240 km (149 miles) from Seoul. Famous for its good food, dialect, and political activism.

Considered the southern home of traditional Korean music such as pansori, nongak, and namdo minyo. Jeonju houses the Provincial Institute of Korean Traditional Music.

Nothing says Jeollabuk-do like...
Namwon, the setting for the pansori of the enduring love story of Chunhyang and Yi Mongnyong, which is the very essence of Korean classical literature. Spring brings the Chunhyangje Festival, a popular event for both Koreans and foreigners.

Cities to visit...

**Jeonju 전주**—population 622,238
A center for traditional Korean music and renowned bibimtup.

Other cities: Gunsan, Iksan, Jeongeup, Namwon, Gimje
Jeollanam-do 전라남도 (South Jeolla Province)

In the SW corner. Combination of mainland and hundreds of islands—big, small, inhabited, uninhabited. Rocky coast, sandy beaches. This province is deservedly famous for seafood.

The flat plain rises into high rolling mountains resplendent with lush greenery and fresh air. Since time immemorial, they have distinctly separated this province from Gyeongsangnam-do, its eastern neighbor, creating physical and political division.

*Nothing says Jeollanam-do like...*


*Cities to visit...*

Gwangju 광주—population 1,400,000


*Other cities: Mokpo, Yeosu, Suncheon, Naju, Gwangyang*

*Other counties: Damyang, Gokseong, Gurye, Goheung, Boseong, Hwasun, Jangheung, Haenam, Yeongam, Muan, Hampyeong, Yeonggwang, Jangseong, Wando, Jindo, Sinan*

*Links*

http://www.jeonnam.go.kr/english/jeonnam_introduction/introduction_01.html

Jeju-do 제주 (Jeju Province)

The large, egg-shaped island off the south coast of Korea. The province, the island, and the largest city all share the name, Jeju. Beautiful beaches, plunging waterfalls, strangely shaped rocks, surrounding islands and Hallasan, the highest peak in South Korea. Hallasan’s central volcanic crater rises to a height of 1915m, and is surrounded by 368 parasitic volcanic cones (“oreum” in the Jeju dialect), which dot the landscape and comprise Jeju Island. Two major cities—Jeju-si in the north and Seogwipo in the south.

Heralded by Koreans (or by the Korean Tourism Board) as an island of myths and legends. The *dolharubang* (stone, dwarf-like statues), the peculiar and undisputed symbol of Jeju, dominate the landscape. In the 1980s, Jeju transformed from a rural backwater into a capital of tourism.

An island of “three dearths and three plenties.” Three “plenties”—stones, wind and women. Three “dearths”—beggars, thieves and locks.

A mecca for honeymooners (who sport matching outfits) and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

*Nothing says Jeju-do like...*

Seafood (hweh, jeonbokjuk, different seaweeds, etc.), mushrooms, cactus tea, green tea, omija tea, harubang, persimmon-dyed clothes, Hallasan N.P., Seongsan Ilchulbong (Sunrise Peak), oreum, Gwaneumsa (temple), Hallim Park, Sanbanggulsa, Pyoseon Traditional Village, Manjanggul (cave), Udo and Marado islands, Yongduam (Dragon’s Head Rock), Natural History Folk Museum, Azalea Festival, Rape Flower Festival, Cherry Blossom Festival, Halla Cultural Festival, and Oiljang/5-Day Market (Jeju-si).

*Cities: Jeju, Seogwipo*

*Counties: Bukjeju, Namjeju*

*Links*

http://210.104.87.69/n_eng/Jeju_Main/menu/index.asp

www.geocities.com/TheTropics/3234/main.html
**Andong (Gyeongsangbuk-do) 안동**

**General Information:**
Area: 1,519 km²
Pop. density: 121.2 people/km²

Andong is the largest city in the northern part of the province with a population of almost 185,000. The Nakdong River flows through the city. Andong is a market centre for the surrounding area, which is predominantly agricultural. Since the 1970s Andong has developed rapidly, although the population has fallen by nearly seventy thousand as people have moved away to Seoul and other urban centers. In the late 1990s and early 2000s it became a tourism and cultural centre. Andong is known as a centre of culture and folk traditions. The surrounding area maintains many ancient traditions, so in mid October the Andong Folk Festival is held every year. One of the most famous aspects of these cultural festivities are the Andong masks. Andong National University, specialising in education and Korean folklore has grown rapidly since the 1970s.

**ETA Comments:**
A great place if you would like to live in a small city. You'll find this conservative, traditional area (originally the hometown of Korea's most famous scholar-families) rich in resources and opportunities for learning a Korean instrument, craft, cultural tradition, mask dance, etc. Highlights—the Andong Hahoe Village Byeolsin-gut mask dance and disciplines rooted in scholarly traditions (Chinese character academy, painting). Though Andong has a significant downtown area, it is by no means a major city. With its large areas of farmland, you will be able to experience the best of both worlds here. It also has Andong National University where you will be able to find not only language partners, but also young adults and college students—peers! You may also audit classes. Look for the great swimming pool in Andong.

**Asan (Chungcheongnam-do) 아산**

**General Information:**
Population: 103,122 (2004 registration)
Area: 542.25 km²
Pop. density: 190.2 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**
Pa Moua (2001)
Although this city's current name is Asan, most people still refer to it as Onyang. The name was changed since the city is the capital of Asan County. However, most train and bus stations never bothered to change the signs, so Asan is still often referred to as Onyang.

**Location**
Middle/West Korea, 1.5 hrs. from Seoul, and 20 min. from Cheonan.

**Transportation**
Bus station/train station within walking distance a central location (10 min. either way).

**Known for**
Hyeonchungsa, a park and shrine to Admiral Lee Sun Shin, and Onyang Hot Springs, a big tourist attraction. The Independence Hall of Korea is nearby, Sudeoksa Temple is about one hour away, and Kongdok Mountain is about 20 minutes away.

**Bucheon (Gyeonggi-do) 부천**

**General Information:**
Population: 844,256 (2003 registration)
Area: 53.44 km²
Pop. density: 15,798.2 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**
Charles Chang (2003)
Bucheon, a satellite city of Seoul, is a fairly big city with all modern-day conveniences readily accessible—including convenience stores, all-purpose family stores, department stores, movie theaters, karaoke rooms, restaurants, bars, nearby banks and post offices, and many other places to frequent like gyms, taekwondo schools, and so on. The city has lots of open spaces and in general looks and feels quite new. In addition, it has a well-developed public bus system that makes it very easy to get around the city once you figure out the bus routes. The city has its own events throughout the year, such as a festival of lights in the fall, and there are many other places of interest (e.g., ice rink, museums, etc.). Finally, although it takes about an hour to an hour and half to get into the heart of the capital, it is very easy to travel to Seoul for anything that is not widely available in Bucheon itself (the city is connected to the Seoul subway system at multiple stations), and it is also easy to get to both the Gimpo and Incheon airports for domestic or international travel.

Matt Noerper (2004)
The city has an older part, and a newer built about 10 years ago. It has plenty of restaurants, shops, and department stores. Easy to navigate. Two subway stations on the Seoul network. Wal-mart, Hyundai, and LG department stores with a large central park a mile in diameter. It has a well-developed regular bus system. Plenty of health clubs, pharmacies, and even medical clinics.
Three movie theaters. Beware of heavy congestion in the downtown area on weekends. A city of about 1 million. A satellite city of Seoul. Most people commute. It has a basketball team.

Life is very very comfortable but sterile. For immersion into more traditional lifestyles you have to travel elsewhere, which is easy due to its close proximity into Incheon and Gimpo. Very easy for day trips into Seoul and easily navigable. Downside: very crowded, polluted because of traffic, and usually quite noisy.

**Busan (Special Metropolitan City) 부산**

**General Information:**
Population: 3,655,437 (2000 census)
Area: 762.92 km²

Busan Metropolitan City, also commonly referred to as Pusan, is a harbor city and designated Metropolitan City in the southeast of South Korea. With a population of approximately 3.7 million, Busan is the second largest city in South Korea, after Seoul. The densely populated city is situated in the narrow Nakdong River valley, with mountains acting as a check on expansion to either the east or west. Busan was the host city of the 2002 Asian Games. Kumjung Mountain to the west is a popular weekend hiking spot for Pusan residents. Tourist hotels and a carnival boardwalk line the Haeundae Beach district. To the north, the neighborhoods around Pusan National University sport student cafes, bars, and open-air noodle restaurants. Chalgalhe Market (near the very active port) is an area of narrow street stalls and is well known for its fish market. Busan has a relatively large Russian population, one area known as the "Foreigners' Shopping Street" has many Russian businesses, and business is conducted primarily in Korean and Russian. The area was originally known as the Foreigners' Street because so many businesses were set up there during the 1940s and 50s to cater to American soldiers in the area. The Busan-Jinhae Free Economic Zone Authority, one of two such administrations (the other in the harbor of Incheon), was created to continue the tradition of Busan's status as an international trading center. It is now attracting ships from all over the globe is aspiring to become a regional financial center. In addition, Busan is internationally ranked as the third largest seaport in terms of cargo volume and efficiency by the AAPA. Busan was one of the few areas in Korea that remained under the control of South Korea throughout the Korean War. UN troops established a defensive perimeter around the city known as the Busan perimeter in the summer and autumn of 1950. The city is also home to K-League soccer side Busan I'cons. Since 1982, the city has been home to the Lotte Giants, who play in the Korean baseball league. Busan is also famous for the Pusan International Film Festival, or PIFF, which is one of the largest international film festivals in Asia. Busan is served by Gimhae International Airport, in the nearby city of Gimhae. Ferries connect Pusan to Shimonoseki (Kanpu Ferry), Fukuoka and Hiroshima in Japan. The ferry to Fukuoka is the Beetle, a high-speed hydrofoil run by JR Kyushu. It takes 2 hours 55 minutes to cross the Tsushima Strait between Korea and Japan.

**ETA Comments:**
Molly Lundberg (2001)
This is Korea's major port city, located in SE Korea. There’s tons of stuff to do. Seomyeon and Nampodong are the two big downtown areas. Both have bars, shopping and lots of other stuff. Haeundae and Gwangalli beaches are on the western edge of the city. Haeundae has great seafood, a great beach and lots of Western restaurants. The Lonely Planet and the Busan web (www.pusanweb.com) have a lot of useful information. There’s a ton to see and the Lonely Planet covers most of it.

Welcome to Dynamic Busan! Busan is the second largest city in Korea. There are about 4 million people living in this bustling southern port city. Busan is known for its beaches and its fish markets. Jagalchi Fish Market is the largest fresh fish market in Busan. Other famous Busan scenic attractions include Haeundae Beach and Gwangalli Beach. Gwangalli Beach is also where the new Gwangalli suspension bridge is located. Many of the famous attractions are easily accessible with either one of the two major subways lines that connect the city.

The Busan International Film Festival (PIFF) is also a major annual event in Busan. It has grown to become one of the premiere film festivals in Asia. The festival is held in October and tickets can be purchased at any Busan Bank branch.

Seomyeon is the heart of the city. The Seomyeon area is where the two subway lines connect (the only transfer point). It is also where Lotte Department Store/Hotel is located. Lots of western and Korean restaurants are located in Lotte Department Store and in the area. There are also three English bookstores in that area as well.

Dongnae is another important area in Busan. The second Lotte Department store is located there. There are also a lot of motels in this area (Myeongnyun-dong), which are a little less questionable. This is the preferred area for visitors to lodge. The northern part of the city is also where the bus station is located. The bus station and the train station are located on the subway line (Line 1), adding to the convenience of living in Busan.

Yeongdo-gu is a large island in the southern part of Busan. Taehongdae Park is located on Yeongdo Island and is famous for its beautiful ocean scenery.

Busan hosted the 2002 Asian Games and some of the World Cup 2002 games in its new, world-class stadium (located in Sajik Sports Complex). The sports complex also includes a bowling alley, a swimming pool, and a baseball stadium. Busan has a baseball team, the Lotte Giants, watching games is a great weekend activity.

Gimhae Airport is the major airport in Busan and is easily accessible by bus. It takes about 40 min to get from Seomyeon to the airport. There are also international flights to Japan, Taiwan, and China that depart from Gimhae International. One can also take a 3 hr ferry (Jetfoil) to Japan (roundtrip costs around 160,000 won). There is a discount if you present a student identification card.

Busan is also easily accessible from Seoul by train. With the completion of the new KTX (Korean Train Express), one can travel to Seoul by train in less than 3 hrs. A one-way ticket on the KTX from Seoul to Busan costs 45,000 won.
Advice: Learn the bus system. It makes traveling in the city very convenient and cheap.

Billie Lee (2004)
You can pretty much find everything you would find in Seoul in Busan except that the city is very spread out and not as easy to navigate as Seoul. However, if you can get to know the bus and subway system well, you will have things to do. The nearby universities, Kyungsung, Bukyung, and Busan Dae are in great areas to hang out in, with an abundance of language, dance, yoga, and other classes you can take.

Busan is a great place to be in if you want to experience another big city like Seoul, but on the opposite side of Korea. Busan is closest to Japan and you can take ferries for weekend trips. I found myself going to Seoul about once a month to hang-out in a more compact city where you can walk to different parts easily, but then returning to Busan and enjoying the beach walks.

It is a very working city so the beach culture has died down a lot from 10-20 years ago. The areas around the beaches have become very grimy but with fewer tourists the beaches aren’t as crowded.

I recommend the Kyungsung Dae area for great night life, hanging out, jazz clubs, and cafes.

Changwon (Gyeongsangnam-do) 창원

General Information:
Population: 528,152 (2001)
Area: 292.80 km²
Pop. density: 1,803.8 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Sharon Dowdell (2003)
The downtown area is newly developed and there’s a lot of industry around the city. Changwon in the sister city of Masan and you can easily go between the two. It’s cheap and easy to go Busan, 45 minutes to the east. There’s a baseball team, a basketball team, a firing range, cycling stadium, car racetrack, and other strange stuff. The bus lines are complicated if you are getting on anywhere outside downtown but taxis are everywhere.

It’s nearby Jinhae which has an annual cherry blossom festival near the naval base. I lived in Dogye-dong which was far from downtown, I never saw any foreigners, and life was a bit different – older, less developed, and more tame. Also has an art museum, concert hall, rollerblade area, mountains, big park with lake, really wide streets, and is nearby the coast.

Cheonan (Chungcheongnam-do) 천안

General Information:
Area: 636.45 km²
Pop. density: 668.0 people/km²

Cheonan is a city in South Chungcheong province, South Korea. It is located about 50 miles south of Seoul. The city is (essentially) connected to all of Korea by bus and train. Regular trains stop at Cheonan Station in the city center, while KTX express trains stop at Cheonan-san Station. The Seoul Subway Line 1 has been extended to Cheonan, and began running in January 2005. Cheonan is known for several agricultural products especially their special variety of thick-skinned seeded grapes and large pear like fruit named "pe". The city has a tightly packed population of 500,000 surrounded by small mountains. The main tourist attraction is the nearby "Independence Hall" a collection of patriotic museums monuments and gardens, including "the museum of Japanese Aggression" The city is also known for a small walnut flavored cake in the size and shape of a walnut. The city is home to numerous universities, and has been designated as the high tech headquarters for Korea.

ETA Comments:
Gina Hart (2001)
I loved it here. It has everything Seoul has, except the crowds. Life is fairly fast-paced, but has a very small town feel. Many people have lived in Cheonan for generations. If you’re concerned about learning unaccented Korean, this is a good place to be. It is a small city with many, many apartment complexes; a small but interesting downtown area; and surrounding farms and mountains. You don’t have to go far if you want to take a short hike or go shopping at a major department store. There is also a small foreign contingency. Should you choose to seek it out, it is definitely there. I have successfully chosen to remain outside those circles and am still quite happy. There are many major universities, great schools, and lots to do. Cheonan is close to many other cities and has great transportation infrastructure. It was big enough that I did not become bored with it, and small enough that I felt comfortable venturing out on my own. The people are very, very friendly and helpful. Cheonan was the ideal place for me to be.

Cheonan-at-a-glance
A satellite city of Seoul with a population of about 500,000. By train it takes exactly 1 hr. 10 min. to get to Seoul, and 1 hr. by bus with light traffic. Many people live in Cheonan and work in Seoul. There are several factories on the periphery of the city (but it’s not what I’d call an industrial city) and many colleges (including a foreign language college), which draw foreigners, including Americans, Canadians, Australians, Southeast Asians, and others. Most parents in Cheonan want their kids to go to Seoul for university so English is important.

Nearby cities and things to do
A 20-min. ride on either a local or express bus will get you to Asan/Onyang, famous for its spas and Hydeongunga (the shrine to admiral Yi). A 50-min. express bus ride will take you to Daejeon, a larger city with almost the same amenities, but a different city nonetheless. Cheonan has two major areas of cultural interest. The first is Korea's Independence Hall (Dongnip Ginyeomgwan). It is by far the most impressive museum I've seen anywhere in Korea. It quickly details early Korean history before immersing visitors in the resistance movement to the Japanese
Korea's most popular singers, dancers, and comedians), Maejji (bar above Family Mart, cheap and popular among young locals), Ssan (bar

Patricia Seo (2003)
In Korean, Cheonan means “most comfortable place under the heavens.” Cheonan citizens will tell you that the weather in Cheonan is not as harsh as in other cities of Korea; it does not rain as much, snow as much, or get as hot as other cities. This is also supported by Korean history. When men would make their trip to Seoul for the national government exam, many would stop and rest in Cheonan.

Cheonan is like most cities in Korea with rice fields, farmland, and pockets of industrialization. Cheonan can feel like a modern city and the countryside at the same time. Cheonan’s population is around 500,000. << Web site: http://www.cheonan.go.kr/english/ >>

Transportation
Cheonan is very fortunate in that it is centrally located: many buses and trains run through the city's two bus and train stations. The bus stations are located downtown near the two department stores. The Express Bus Terminal services Gwangju, Daejeon, and the Express Bus Terminal in Seoul and the Inner-City Bus Terminal services most other cities in Korea. The KTX (bullet train) station is located on the border of Cheonan and Asan. The KTX station is called Cheonan-Asan. The KTX station was placed here for political and economic reasons; Cheonan hopes to be the capital of Chungcheongnam-do (currently Daejeon is the capital though Daejeon will soon become a “special” city like Busan) and needs the space to grow into Asan, which is an economically poor area. The train station is centrally located in Cheonan and most buses (except line #2) go to the train station.

However, it is sometimes unfortunate that Cheonan is centrally located. Train seats are easily sold out (though you can always stand on the train) and bus travel can take longer. Please plan accordingly to the time and date you travel. Weekends are always busy and the afternoon traffic is heavy.

Travel time to Seoul is one hour to two hours by bus, according to traffic. By the Mugunghwa train, it takes one hour and thirty/fourty-five minutes to get to Seoul. By KTX, it takes 30 minutes to get to Seoul. This is much faster than all other cities in Korea. The proximity of Seoul is what makes Cheonan attractive to many people; current President Roh Moo-hyun has suggested Cheonan as one of the new sites for the political capital of Korea.

Cultural Sites
The National Independence Museum of Korea is located in Cheonan. This museum is about Korea's movement for independence from Japan. The museum also covers different parts of Korean history.

Cheonan sam-go-ri is a historically famous site. There is a Korean folk-song named “Cheonan sam-go-ri.” It is now the site of a city park.

Arario is a small modern art museum in downtown Cheonan. Arario is a private modern art museum owned by C.I. Kim, who is also a Cheonan resident. Though there are only two floors, there is an impressive collection of Keith Haring, Thomas Ruff, and other modern artists.

Entertainment, Shopping, and Food
There are many DVD bangs, Norae bangs, and bars in downtown Cheonan and near the train station. Almost all buses go to both areas: The number 10 bus doesn’t go downtown but goes to the train station and the number 2 bus goes downtown but not to the train station. There are “foreigner” bars in Cheonan. One of these bars is called Zed Rock, which is a bar with live music and great drinks! A lot of the chain bars such as the S bar, The Flair Bar, etc. are located downtown.

Cheonan has two department stores: Yawoori (a Cheonan-only store) and Galleria (a national department store). Yawoori has the Inner City Bus Terminal (located in the basement), the only movie theater in Cheonan, and many delicious restaurants (the Chinese restaurant and the café located on the fifth floor is pretty good and with great views!). The Galleria is a little more expensive than Yawoori (and generally has higher prices than in other more urban cities such as Daejeon). The main road in which the train station is located has many stores such as Adidas, Reebok, Lacoste, Puma, etc. However, the area across the street from the train station (nicknamed Myeongdong after the famous Myeongdong shopping area of Seoul) is where the best shopping is for clothes, shoes, etc. Located in the same area, the underground shopping center is overpriced and even locals don’t really shop there.

Cheonan is famous for “ttangs” (stews) and fruit. Dog soup, duck soup, fish soup, etc. are all really popular in Cheonan. There are many delicious places to eat in Cheonan and even the food at the food court in Yawoori is pretty good! Western food is a toss-up because there are chain stores such as McDonalds, Burger King, KFC, Pizza Hut, Subway, and Dunkin Donuts but the Italian restaurants or “Western” Restaurants are not very good (aka Koreanized Western food). A decent Italian restaurant is called Z-Pasta, located downtown, and a decent Western restaurant is called Park, which is at the edge of Cheonan-Asan.

Amy Cho, Alex Dukalskis, Zach Hooker (2004)
Transportation: Connected to the Seoul Subway system (multiple stops, about 2 hours to Seoul, 3500 won). Or, a one hour bus ride to Seoul (4200 won). Easy access to major cities and airports via KORAIL (Cheonan Station) or KTX (Cheonan-Asan Station). Comprehensive local bus system (learn it!! – anywhere for 950 won).

Main Attractions: Independence Hall of Korea highlights Korea’s struggle for independence and sovereignty (focusing particularly on Japanese occupation). Various surrounding mountains, temples, folk villages, and shrines.

Hot spots: Yawoori Department Store complex (connected to the bus terminal) & surrounding area – shopping, Arario Gallery (culling works from the hottest of contemporary international artists), cinema (8 screens, 6000 won), bars bars bars, noraebangs, Olympia bowling alley, Zed Rock (a bar with live music and overpriced drinks, always full of foreigners), Club Sizi (30000 won cover charge [drinks included], hosts some of Korea’s most popular singers, dancers, and comedians), Macjii Macjii (bar above Family Mart, cheap and popular among young locals), Scan (bar

occupation(s) of Korea. It also has beautiful grounds for picnicking, etc. The second area of interest is Gakwonsa Temple. This temple is beautiful, quite large, and home of the largest bronze sitting Buddha in Asia. There are mountains nearby, and Gongju (a historical city with many Baekje period sites) is about a 1-hr. drive from Cheonan.
near the small park downtown, a bit quieter and super-friendly staff), GREAT street vendor food, Z-Pasta (fusion Italian dishes, 10000+ won), Z-Haus (quiet and quaint coffee shop under Ararrio), Hong Buldalk (serving spicy chicken dishes, ultra-popular for young people, always packed, and delicious! 10000 won), Cheonan Station/Myeongdong Area (subway/train station area, boutique shopping, underground shopping plaza, lots of fast food, has everything that the Yawoori area does, but is generally cheaper)

Also: There are several (8+) universities in Cheonan and the surrounding area, so young people abound and rule the streets. A foreigner community exists but is not ubiquitous – it’s there if you want it. Some language classes offered at local universities – ask around. A substantial portion of the Yawoori downtown area is owned by an eccentric art-loving millionaire, so besides the Arario gallery the area is littered with cool, completely random sculptures. Easy access to Seoul and basically anywhere in Korea. A couple sports complexes exist. The night life is lively and fun. There are opportunities for volunteering all over. Health Clubs and TKD are all over and cheap. Growing ultra-rapidly, especially with new subways stops. Outback Steakhouse and TGI Fridays if you need some western food. Four ETAs in Cheonan in 2004-05, so great ETA support – see your fellow Fulbrighters everyday if you need to! Cheonan was extremely comfortable for all of us!!

**Daejeon (Special Metropolitan City) 대전**

**General Information:**


Area: 539.84 km²

Daejeon Metropolitan City is in the center of South Korea, and the capital of South Chungcheong Province. It is the fifth largest city of South Korea with a population of 1,438,778 at the end of the year of 2003. Daejeon is a center of transportation, with two highway backbones and two major railways, and the KTX. Via KTX it takes less than one hour to get to Seoul. In 1993, an international exposition (Expo ’93) was held at Daejeon, and the EXPO Bridge was built for the event. The city is also home to K-League soccer club Daejeon Citizens.

ETA Comments:

Mimi Do, Kevin Kim (2001)

There is no airport but it is a major transportation hub with trains and inter-city buses traveling to almost all destinations within Korea, including Seoul, Busan, Gwangju, and other sigol (country) towns. The closest domestic airport is in Cheongju, approximately 50 min. north of Daejeon by bus.

The “scientific and technological center of Korea,” it is home to major universities such as Chungnam National University and KAIST (often referred to as Korea’s MIT), as well as many scientific and technological think tanks. In recent years, many Seoul corporations have relocated to Daejeon. Thus, most of its residents are related to education or technology. There are a number of “foreigners” in the city—mostly graduate students, professors, and hagwonn (academy) teachers. Foreigners residing in Daejeon come from nearly every region in the world, representing the spectrum of world nations from Kazakhstan to India, China to Canada and France.

Daejeon claims a number of interesting tourist sites. Most notable are the 1993 Expo Science Park, 2002 World Cup Stadium, Yuseong Hot Springs, Gyeryong Mountain and the new Daejeon ZooMaid. There are a number of other mountains and temples in and around the area. Bomun Mountain has a nice lookout point and an ice skating rink. Gyeryongsan National Park is home to Donghaksa, a small and humble but beautiful temple that includes a female monastery, a small lake, and a picturesque path that leads up to it with many ponds, a stream, many trees and other local sights. Daejeon also has a metropolitan art museum near downtown with a nice park close by for those who like lying in the grass after the requisite hours of slow walking, gazing, and shopping in the museum. The more adventurous can also try to arrange a trip to the acorn jelly village just outside of Daejeon, although a car is required to make the trip. Kevin Kim made this trip with two co-teachers, and thought the trip worthwhile for those who liked the dish touted in Lonely Planet as one of the specialties of Daejeon cuisine, or for those who wanted to a glimpse of life in the Daejeon countryside.

For nightlife, the best places to romp around are Eunhaeng-dong (downtown near Daejeon Train Station, complete with noraebangsa, bars, restaurants, and shopping), Geung-dong and Eoeun-dong (small 24-hour college areas between CNU and KAIST with the usual Korean cafes and noraebangsa), and Yuseong (night clubs and room salons frequented by foreigners and “businessmen”). For shopping, Daejeon has Lotte Department Store (which has a good movie theater and Marché in their food court), Say Department Store (near Seodaejeon Train Station, also has a great movie theater), and Galleria’s Time World (downtown in Dunsan-dong, small movie theater, American fast food chains).

Bonnie Kwon (2003)

Daejeon is one of the largest and most developed cities in Korea. Despite its size, it is not very congested or hectic. It has a reputation for being clean and modern. Due to the significant number of universities and Daedok research valley, Daejeon is a fairly international and sophisticated city.

Since it is located in the center of South Korea, Daejeon serves as a dividing point between the Honam and Gyeonbu transportation lines which means that all roads lead to Daejeon! The new bullet train (KTX) takes about 50 minutes from Seoul Station to either Daejeon (which proceeds to Daegu and Gyeongju) or Seo-Daejeon (which proceeds to Mokpo and Yeosu) train stations.

This city offers a wide array of extracurricular activities such as cooking classes (at Lotte Dept. Store), traditional arts, yoga, and almost anything else you can think of. Also, many churches offer English services. And the most important part~~~food! Daejeon offers a pretty extensive international selection of cuisines. There are at least 3 good Italian restaurants, TGI Fridays, soon to open Bennigans, Outback Steakhouse, Marche, all the fast food chains and great Korean and other Asian restaurants. Also, Carrefour, Walmart, and Costco stock a pretty extensive supply of international groceries.

**Gongju (Chungcheongnam-do) 공주**

**General Information:**
President Park's birthplace, he used it as one of the starting points for his Saemaeul (village modernization) movement, which was a huge one of these important aspects is that Gumi is the city where Buddhism is said to have entered into Korea. Gumi is also the birthplace of former president Park Chung Hee, who was assassinated, ending his regime's rule through the use of martial law. Furthermore, because Gumi was a site where the two industrial giants: LG and Samsung sit face to face on opposite sides of the Nakdong River, which cuts through the center of the city. It is also an advanced agricultural spot in Korea. Because industry, technology, and agriculture are such huge driving forces in Gumi, there would be nothing but a farming community's sleepy downtown. Because of the universities, one of which houses an esteemed education graduate program, the city is populated by an interesting mixture of students, educators, Gongju natives, and those who work in agriculture.

There are significantly more areas of interest in Gongju than one might at first assume. Gongju's rather significant role in Korean history has left it with Magoksa, a well-known Buddhist temple, King Muryeong's tombs, the old Baekje Kingdom palace, the Gongju National Museum with artifacts from the Baekje Kingdom period, the Gongju Folk Museum, an ode to Gongju's agricultural and traditional handicraft history, and a Performing Arts Center that annually holds some of the best pansori performances in Korea. Mt. Gyeryong National Park is a great place to go hiking, strolling and to visit Buddhist temples—both Gapsa and Donghaksa can be reached by bus.

Euther Yeu (2001)
Gongju is about 1 ½ hours by car directly south of Seoul on a good day, and about 3 ½ hours by bus on a bad day. By car, it is about 40 min. from Daejeon, and about an hour from Cheongju, two major cities. This year, the closest ETA lived in Nonsan, which is a small city about 30 min. by car. Gongju is well-known as the capital of the former Baekje Kingdom, the hometown of its famed chessmen, and two great athletes, Park Se-ri and Park Chan-ho. It is also often called the educational center of Chungcheongnam Province. There are at least 3 universities in this small city without which there would be nothing but a farming community's sleepy downtown. Because of the universities, one of which houses an esteemed education graduate program, the city is populated by an interesting mixture of students, educators, Gongju natives, and those who work in agriculture.

Elise Kim (2003, eliseykim@yahoo.com)
Gongju is extremely tiny (approximate pop. 120,000). It is growing despite the closing of the KFC and McDonald's this past year. There are no E-Marts, Lotte Marts, Carrefours, and department stores. There are an LG Mart and a Nonghyup store that are adequate. The city is divided into two by Geum River: an older section (concentrated area of shopping) and a newer section where Gongju University is located. Like all college neighborhoods, the back gate of Gongju University has bars, noraebangs, PC bangs, and restaurants (Lotteria and Baskin Robbins)--though not as many as Gangwon University. If you're interested in learning Korean, I don't think that Gongju University offers classes (sorry!). However, you can probably meet and hang out with other foreign English teachers who work at Gongju University and with EPIK. The older section has a Baskin Robbins, a Lotteria, a Domino's, and a Pizza Hut. I think they are rebuilding a small movie theater in the newer part of town.

Since Gongju is such a small city, everything is pretty easy to get to and traffic isn't as hectic as Daejeon. Unfortunately, trains don’t go through Gongju because the “yangban” back in the day decided that tracks would destroy the quiet and clean atmosphere (that’s why trains go through Daejeon). The “shi-weh” (city) bus terminal which looks run down goes to Suwon, Incheon, Cheonan, Buyeo, Cheongju, Nonsan, Daejeon, and Seoul. The “go-suk” (express) bus terminal only goes to Seoul. Most of the yeogwans are located near the bus terminal. Taxis start at the same price as Seoul (1600 won) which is surprisingly high for a small city. The Gongju National Museum moved from its old location in the older part of the city to the outskirts of the city. The museum is a nice building but it doesn’t have enough detailed English explanations. The tomb of King Muryeong is sealed off, but there is an excellent museum that has an exact replica with great English explanations. On the way to Daejeon, there are several “kalgooksu” (noodles) restaurants that you should try. The nearest ETA was listed as Nonsan but he was actually in Eomsa which is closer to Daejeon. I felt a bit isolated so I traveled frequently to Daejeon (40 min) and Seoul (1.5 hours without traffic). Daejeon has a Costco and an E-Mart where you can buy goodies in bulk for students and yourself.

Aaron Sheldon (2004)
- smaller than Chuncheon (about half the size)
- large and beautiful parks (rare in Korea)
- numerous temples and cultural monuments, which are great to visit on a day trip!

Gumi (Gyeongsangbuk-do) 구미

General Information:
Area: 617.28 km²
Pop. density: 552.5 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Dylan Davis (2003, dylandavisl@gmail.com)
Aimee Jachym (2004, jachym@gmail.com)
City website: http://english.gumi.go.kr/index.asp

Welcome to Gumi, a city that boasts the slogan of, “A young city, an open future, a digital Gumi.” Known as the Silicon Valley of Korea, Gumi is a site where two industrial giants: LG and Samsung sit face to face on opposite sides of the Nakdong River, which cuts through the center of the city. It is also an advanced agricultural spot in Korea. Because industry, technology, and agriculture are such huge driving forces in Gumi, it is easy to look past other important aspects of this city, whose history dates as far back as the Silla Dynasty (57 BC- 688 AD). An example of one of these important aspects is that Gumi is the city where Buddhism is said to have entered into Korea. Gumi is also the birthplace of former president Park Chung Hee, who was assassinated, ending his regime’s rule through the use of martial law. Furthermore, because Gumi was President Park’s birthplace, he used it as one of the starting points for his Saemaeul (village modernization) movement, which was a huge watershed in South Korean modernization efforts during the 70’s. As a result, Gumi turned from the status of a small agricultural village to a fast-growing industrial city that today has the population of approximately 360,000 and is expected to increase to over 500,000 people by the year 2006. In addition, Gumi sits nestled at the foot of Gumountain which peaks at approximately 970 meters with many beautiful hiking trails, waterfalls, caves, and temples to explore. Because you can see this amazing mountain everywhere in the city, which looks like a Buddha lying
down from one side of the mountain, I find myself constantly distracted at my desk because of the huge picture window that stretches across the teacher's room facing the mountain.

Gumi offers many different things to do. For those interested in mountain hiking, of course, there is the aforementioned Gumo Mountain. At Gumo Mountain one can take about a 2 ½ hour hike to the peak passing a waterfall, temple, and a cave. In addition there are many Buddhist relics along the hike worth checking out. Also, sitting at the foot of the mountain are many shops, restaurants, and Gumi’s own theme park, Gumoland. However, Gumoland is nothing spectacular unless you enjoy ice skating, which is located inside the park. Another tourist attraction in Gumi is the birthplace of president Park Chung Hee. Here you can see several original items from his childhood and a replica of the house he lived in. Gumi also has two stadiums (Park Chung-Hee Gymnasium and Gumi Civil Stadium) where several Universiade (College Olympics) games were held. Honestly, I really don’t here much happening at them, but it may be worth looking into. Finally, there is the Gumi Arts and Culture Center that hosts events throughout the year.

For those interested in working out, there are a few options. Located in Bonggok-dong (Southwest Gumi) there is “Bonggok Hawaii”, which is an all-equipped facility that includes a sauna (jam-jil-bang), variety of weights, treadmills, public bathhouse, squash courts, and much more. There are membership options available if you wish to go regularly. Also, if you are interested in trying out your boxing skills, there is a boxing gym located in Hyeonggok-dong. The owner/trainer is a renowned trainer around the country, and also participated on the Korean Olympic team in 1968.

Gumi has one orphanage, Samsung Won, in Hyeonggok-dong. It is home to children age two to twenty. If you are interested in volunteering, have your co-teacher call the orphanage to arrange the initial visit and work out the details. The staff is very kind and has experience working with ETAs. Ms. Noh and Ms. Ye speak some English. For more information, check out the website (or have a Korean speaker): ssw.jungbo.net

Most of your shopping and entertainment needs can be found downtown. Here, you can find two movie theaters (Lotte Cinema and Space-21--also a department store), Pizza Hut, KFC, and a variety of different Korean restaurants and shops. There are also traditional markets located on the downtown side streets. Weekends are especially good to visit the markets. Nightlife in Gumi is not anything to compare to Seoul, but if you want to go out, most people head to 2 ban doro (#2 street). This street has many bars (Hofs), coffee shops, DVD bang, and a few night clubs. You can't miss it if you are downtown and facing the train station. If you are interested in meeting other foreigners, most people go to the bars, "Club Psycho" and "Rolling Stone", which are both located on this packed street. However, be prepared to see many of your students when you go to 2 ban doro, because it is likely that they hang out there as well. Behind the train station and located across the street from the Foreign Language High School is a brewery called “Golden Cruise.” If you enjoy a moderately decent western style dinner, good beer, and live music, you should go here. You can’t miss the place because the building is a giant ship! Be aware, prices are high.

For those looking to explore outside of Gumi, the train station (downtown) is conveniently located on the main Seoul to Busan line. A 30-minute ride will take you to the third largest Korean city of Daegu. Seoul is about three hours and Busan is about two. There is also the neighboring city of Gimcheon, a 15 minute train ride away, which boasts of one of the biggest and most beautiful temples in Korea, Jik ji sa. It is definitely worth going to 2 ban doro, because it is likely that they hang out there as well. Behind the train station and located across the street from the Foreign Language High School is a brewery called “Golden Cruise.” If you enjoy a moderately decent western style dinner, good beer, and live music, you should go here. You can’t miss the place because the building is a giant ship! Be aware, prices are high.

As of 2002, Gwangju is the 5th largest city in Korea, with a population of 1.3 million. It is the capital of South Jeolla Province (Jeollanam-do) and the largest city in the SW. Gwangju is known as a hub of traditional arts and culture and as the home of the best food in the country. It is a small city whose sprawl is kept in check by the impressive Mudeungsan Mountain at the eastern border of the city. Traditionally, the SW provinces (Jeollanam and Jeollabuk) that were once the Baekje Kingdom have lacked the financial and political resources enjoyed by the rest of the country, and subsequently have a tradition of opposition and rebellion. University students demonstrated against President Syngman Rhee in 1960, which helped lead to his downfall. Twenty years later, in another mass demonstration, known as 5.18 or The Gwangju Incident, university students and subsequently have a tradition of opposition and rebellion. University students demonstrated against President Syngman Rhee in 1960, which helped lead to his downfall. Twenty years later, in another mass demonstration, known as 5.18 or The Gwangju Incident, university students demanding democracy (from the then military dictatorship) clashed in the streets with soldiers. The event constitutes a major turning point in the democratization of Korea.

The past decade, however, has seen Gwangju and the SW produce a President (the first time in Korean history that someone from the Baekje area has ruled a Korea greater than the Baekje Kingdom) and a surge in investment. Today’s Gwangju is politically stable and enjoying all the benefits of Korea’s developed economy. Gwangju remains one of the most traditional-minded and simultaneously independent-minded places in Korea.

Kim Lehn (2002, KAL479@adl.com)

Although Gwangju may not be the most scenic place in Korea there is Mudeungsan Provincial Park (where you can hike and visit temples), which is easily accessible by city bus #18 and takes about 40 min. The fall is the best time to go since the leaves have turned colors.

At the Kimchi Festival in Oct., you can learn how to make kimchi and eat lots of it. On May 18th, there is a parade and ceremony to remember the Gwangju Uprising/Incident of 1980.

If you are interested in sports, you can watch soccer and baseball games at the World Cup Stadium. When the weather is nice, you can rollerblade, bike, play soccer, tennis, baseball, and swim, etc. Weekends are usually pretty crowded.
For the city guy or gal, Gwangju’s downtown area is smaller than bigger cities like Busan or Seoul, but you can find just about anything you want like Migliore Dept. Store, Gwangju and Muadeung Cinemas, tons of restaurants, Starbucks, all the fast food chains, and little boutique shops. To go downtown, just ask the cab driver to take you to Migliore. Walk towards Paris Baguette (blue and yellow sign) and continue down the alley. You’ll find all sorts of places to eat and shop. If you keep walking, you’ll hit Baskin Robbins, turn left and you’ll be on another main walking street with Burger King, the Post Office, a bookstore with a few English books, Starbucks, Outback Steakhouse, and Pizza Hut.

If you’re craving pizza or pasta at a fairly nice restaurant, turn right at Baskin Robbins and walk down until you see Grand Piatto on your left—it’s about 100-150 meters. For Mexican food, try Orange Hill (open from 5 pm-6 am), which has pretty good fajitas, burritos, nachos, etc. On the 6th floor on a street near the Grand Hotel. Telephone: 062-239-1000.

A lot of foreigners live in Gwangju. You can usually find some foreigners to chill with at 2 bars—the Blue Monkey and Mad Seasons. Mad Seasons: Start at Migliore and walk past Paris Baguette, turn left at Baskin Robbins. Walk maybe about 80 meters and you’ll see a sticker picture place on the left and a video arcade. Walk down the little alleyway between them and at the end of it you’ll see Mad Seasons; go downstairs and you’re there. The Blue Monkey (near the Grand Hotel and Orange Hill) is more difficult to find, so just ask someone for directions.

**Tiffany Imes** (2003)

Although Gwangju (4th largest city in Korea) is not nearly as large as Seoul, Busan or Daegu it is big enough to lose yourself in and it will take a while to get used to the various sections of the city.

The Gwangju International Center (GIC) is a great resource for foreigners. It tells you what events are going on in the city, what movies are playing in theaters, what volunteer opportunities are available, and it even offers Korean language classes. You can pick up a copy of the GIC monthly newsletter in the GIC office or Bluetours Travel agency. The GIC office is located on Geumnam-no Street in downtown. For directions feel free to call the office at 062-226-1050. E-mail: gwangjunews@hotmail.com. Web site: gwangjuic@korea.com. For train and bus schedules or what’s going on in Gwangju: http://visit.gwangju.kr

**Transportation**

A new subway system opened in May 2004. For daily transportation I found the public buses to be a cheap and slightly reliable way of getting around the city. It only costs 700 won for a ride, but an actual printout of the bus schedules and routes are not available in English. You will need to ask your host family, students, and co-teacher about which buses to take to certain places (warning: the buses stop running around 11 pm). You can always take a taxi around the city, but this can become costly day after day. The Gwangju intercity and express bus terminal will be very useful to you if you want to travel around Korea and visit fellow Fulbrighters. You can find some bus schedule information at http://visit.gwangju.kr/eng/040301.htm. The terminal is located next door to Shinsaegae Dept. Store. There is a tourist information booth in the bus terminal where you might be able to ask (in English) about certain public bus routes. In order to get to the Gwangju Airport you can take a taxi or bus 1000. This bus can be caught in front of the intercity and express bus terminal (on the opposite side of the street), or you can catch it downtown across from the YMC on Geumnam-no street. The ride to the airport is long (40 min.+). But this bus costs only 1000 won. Gwangju Train station is located near Hyundai Dept. Store.

If you’re planning to travel outside of Korea, Bluetours travel agency might be helpful. There is an English-speaking travel agent (Kang, Seok-Won) who can usually get you some good deals on tickets to the U.S., Thailand, Hong Kong, etc. This agency is located near Geumnam-no Street. For directions email him at seok@bluetours.co.kr or call at 062-225-6690.

**Gyeongsan (Gyeongsangbuk-do) 경산**

**General Information:**
Area: 411.58 km²
Pop. density: 537.4 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**
A one street town with the usual things to do in Korea – DVD bang, noraebang, PC bang, bars, etc. Lots of universities, so lots of younger people and foreigners. Many vineyards and farms (which include farm smells). A great place is you don’t mind being alone or living in a quiet country town. About one hour from downtown Daegu by public transportation.

**Gyeongju (Gyeongsangbuk-do) 경주**

**General Information:**
Population: 281,177
Area: 1,323.85 km²
Pop. density: 212 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**
Language classes: nothing here, but classes in nearby Pohang (45 min by bus)
Stuff to do: excellent hiking in Namsan - just south of the city, three universities in town but not much night life, Bomun resort (about 20 min away) has lots of good restaurants and a theme park, if you have any interest in Korean history, Gyeongju was the capital of the Silla Kingdom (the first Korean state) and is packed with old temples, ruins, tombs, etc., the National Museum is also one of the best in Korea
Transportation: a pretty good bus system with plenty of taxis, the city is also very bicycle friendly, since it’s a major tourist spot transportation to anywhere is pretty easy, and the quickest way to get to Seoul is a bus to Dong-Daegu then a transfer to the KTX line.
Highlights: Bulguksa Temple, Sokgulam Grotto, Cheomseongdae Observatory, Namsan Mountain, and the National Museum.
Gyeryong (Chungcheongnam-do) 계룡

General Information:
Area: 60.7 km²
Pop. density: 516.3 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Fred Lah (2004)
Military base near town, lots of middle-aged parents and young kids, not many college-age folk, one high school, two middle schools, one bus line to Daejeon (30-60min), KTJ train station Dugye (5 min to Gyeryong), Daejeon Train Station or Daejeon Express Bus Terminal (60 min away), SeoDaejeon Station (45 min away), 2 hour bus ride to Seoul, small developed area of restaurants and bars, Gyeryongsan National Park (10 min away).

Jeju City (Jeju-do) 제주시

General Information:
Population: 259,290
Area: 255.5 km²
Pop. density: 1,014.8 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Karis Thompson (2002, karis@fulbrightweb.org)
Jeju-si (population 281,900) is the largest city on the island and divided into 2 sections: Old Jeju (Gujeju) and New Jeju (Sinjeju). Most tourists visit Old Jeju for its historic sites like Samechonghyol (the mythical birthplace of Jeju’s 3 clans), natural wonders such as Yongduam/Dragon’s Head Rock, and several museums offering interpretation of life on the island. Although many people still live in Gujeju, new housing developments and a plethora of hagwons (private academies) have attracted families to the more residential, less touristy Sinjeju.

Transportation
To and from the island, opt for air transport (sign up for a Korean Air or Asiana frequent flyer card straight away) and bypass the boat. Except for the 3.5 hr. jaunt from Jeju-si to Wando, ferry rides are inordinately long for the money saved and lack the comforts of any ferries (e.g. chairs) you may have previously boarded. (A former ETA warned, “Think floating refugee camp.”)

On the island, inter-city buses journey between cities and to tourist destinations (with frequent stops). Airport limousine Bus #600 provides service from the airport to Jungmun/Seogwipo (neighboring cities with plentiful hotels and tourist sites on the southern coast of the island). You can catch other inter-city routes at the airport or bus terminal (both located between Gujeju and Sinjeju).

Within Jeju-si, the many bus routes and numbers make for one confusing system. There are no official bus maps, but a co-teacher, student, or other Jeju native could mark key stops and bus numbers on a regular Jeju map. Airport buses # 100, 200, 300, and 500 and many other buses cover the entire city. Major stops east to west: Samyang, Tapdong, Jungang-no, terminal, airport, sicheong or city hall, and the Sinjeju rotary/KBS. The best way to learn how to navigate the city via bus: practice. (If you don’t succeed, hail a cab.)

Touring
Jeju guide books and brochures offer information about the many sites natural and non on the island. While Korean tourists seem to prefer human-made sites like Hallim Park, I most enjoyed the craters, forests, fields, seashore, caves, and mountains that comprise the diverse landscape of Jeju. The rugged beauty and isolation of the island create a not-to-be-found-anywhere-else-in-Korea experience. Happy exploring!

Hang-outs
Lonely Planet Korea lists the Playhouse in Gujeju (Jungang-no bus stop near the Academy Theater) as the premier bar of Jeju. While experienced expats on the island might laugh at this evaluation, it’s a fine place if you’re looking for foreign company/conversation and frequently hosts Korean language classes, dance sessions, informal concerts, holiday gatherings and the like. Other popular hang-out sites in Gujeju: The Doors (bar with extensive music collection), Led Zeppelin (beer and western music), Tom N Tom’s Coffee (near the sicheong/city hall bus stop). The Yeondong area in Sinjeju boasts many bars, a few night clubs, and Willy’s (a sandwich shop famous for its quality cuisine and consistently slow service).

About 100 foreigners (primarily employed by hagwons) populate the island with the majority living in or traveling to Jeju city on the weekends. If you’re looking for foreign friends, you can easily find a group by frequenting the Playhouse or other such establishment, or you can just as easily limit foreign contact by not patronizing “foreigner bars.” Some foreigners volunteer at Hongik Center, a children’s orphanage in Samyang, near Samyang Elementary School. Ask your co-teacher, host parents, or a Korean-speaking friend to arrange a weekly visit time for you.

Recreation
Jeju—the sports enthusiast’s haven. Joggers/hikers will find scenic, hilly trails in Halla Arboretum (Sumokwon) or Min Oreum in Sinjeju or on Sarabong or one of the many hills in Gujeju. Seogwipo has a scuba-diving outfit popular with ETAs and other foreigners, which provides courses on weekends. The many beaches offer plentiful swimming opportunities from late spring to mid-fall (Koreans define the beach season as 1 month of the summer, so you’ll likely have the beach to yourself May-June and late August through the fall). A group of foreigners plays street hockey Sundays from approximately 3-5 pm at Cheju Halla College in Sinjeju fall through spring—amateurs welcome. Pick-up basketball games attract many foreigners and Koreans to Tapdong in Jeju-si from spring through the fall. The sports complex near the bus terminal has a swimming pool and a free gym. Other opportunities: horse-back riding, climbing Hallasan, biking, ultimate Frisbee, etc.
If you'll be hosting visitors, there are plenty of hotels/motels in Jeju-si. Lodging ranges from yeogwans to 5-star establishments. The Sunland Hotel (Yeondong, Sinjeju) has quality parent-approved rooms for about W45,000. Other visitors have had satisfactory stays in the Pearl (W60,000, Yeondong, Sinjeju), Hotel Honey Crown (near the KAL Hotel, Gujeju), and various yeogwans.

Mungyeong/Jeomchon (Gyeongsangbuk-do) 문경/점촌

General Information:
Population: 81,525 (2003[Mungyeong-si])
Area: 912 km²
Pop. density: 89.4 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Brian Flynn (2001-2, binglebee@yahoo.com)
Jeomchon is a town within Mungyeong-si (which is more like a county). Beware, Mungyeong is also a village (smaller city) within Mungyeong-si, so don’t get confused. Jeomchon has about 100,000 people and is surrounded on all sides by mountains, rice fields, and rural communities. It is nestled between a river that runs by the town on the eastern/NE side (Yeong Gang) and Dondarsan, a small mountain/hill on the SW side. Jeomchon itself has all of the conveniences of a modern Korean city with a movie theater, a main shopping street, a small soccer stadium, many schools, patbingsu, etc. As for the type of people, there are 100,000 different types of people here: farmers, bankers, shop owners, teachers, etc. There are no corporate headquarters here, but you will find the people you would expect in any small city.

Nearby, accessible by bus, is Mungyeong Saejae Provincial Park, a beautiful park nestled in beautiful mountains. Three reconstructed gates from the Joseon Dynasty guard the old road to Seoul that went through Mungyeong pass. The TV drama, Wang Geon, is also filmed at the gates and at a rebuilt Joseon dynasty set. These gates lie in the shadow of Juheulsan, which from a distance looks like a woman lying on her back—no kidding. There are many other mountains nearby, and if you come here, no doubt you will be hiking some of them. Also of interest are the pottery workshops, Mungyeong Flying Park (hang gliding), a shooting range, hot springs and other interesting places and historic sites, mostly between Jeomchon and the village of Mungyeong. Jeomchon also has a town cherry blossom festival in April. You shouldn’t miss the beautiful flowers in town and in the surrounding mountains. National Parks such as Songnisan, Woraksan, Sobaeksan (Danyang) are readily accessible by bus.

Jeonju (Jeollabuk-do) 전주

General Information:
Area: 206.25 km²
Pop. density: 303.1 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Nipun Chhabra (2002)
A great city with a strong balance of social and cultural life that offers traditional music classes and cultural study at the Jeonju Arts Center. Well known for food, especially bibimbap. A convenient-sized city for traveling within—not too big and not too small—easy to get around with an efficient bus system and university and downtown social areas.

Nearby, there are many well-known mountains such as Naejangsan and Maesan and a beautiful park situated in the city, especially nice for strolling and outdoor movies. Also, the Jeonju paper festival, an international movie festival, wine museum, traditional museum, cultural and arts centers. Large tourist hotels available.

Duncan Yoon (2004)
A great cultural city. There are many opportunities to take cultural classes – cooking, pottery, painting, language, etc. It has two downtown areas: one that surrounds the city hall area and one that surrounds Jeonbuk University. There is an Outback and a Pizza Hut if you need a western food fix. It’s the bibimbap capital of the world and the food on whole is delicious. It takes about three hours to get here from Seoul but feels just like a big city. They have an annual international film festival which is quite big and there are 6-7 cinemas in the downtown area alone. It is also a kind of fashion capital – the term ‘Jeonju chic’ is an accepted one. So, there are lots of shopping opportunities. The city is pretty spread out, with lots of universities in the surrounding area. The city is surrounded by mountains which are a 20-30 minute bus ride away. Moaksan is in particular a popular hiking spot for locals. There is also a great art museum located near there. Overall, Jeonju is big enough to lose yourself in and small enough to not worry about a breath of fresh air if you need to.

Masan (Gyeongsangnam-do) 마산

General Information:
Area: 329.47 km²
Pop. density: 1,303.9 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Sacha Moustakas (2001)
A port city about an hour west of Busan. Around 400,000 people with a mix of people, from business executives to fishing industry people. A major city and thus really developed but pretty compact: lots of tall apartment buildings, a great bus system, lots of cars, etc. There are also great mountains just behind the city with the sea on the other side. It can be a very beautiful place with a lot of hiking opportunities around the city and some really beautiful temples in the mountains. Buses run to nearby Busan every 15 minutes.
**Mokpo (Jeollanam-do)**

**General Information:**
Population: 245,482 (2001)
Area: 47.24 km²
Pop. density: 5,196.5 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**
Katrin Fraser (2000)

A medium-sized city on the SW tip of Korea. An amazing place with a vibrant port and multiple universities that still feels like a small town with down to earth, friendly people. The city has a reputation for its gangster activity, but luckily, the “kkangpae” (knapsack) don’t seem to be anti-Fulbright. The air is clean and the food delicious.

Yudalsan shadows the town and provides great views. Multiple trails lead to the top. These days, you have to pay to go up any trail on Yudalsan unless you go after 6 PM. On the hillside are a sculpture park and a few temples. Climb to the top of Yudalsan for some of Mokpo’s finest views of the sunset. Yangalsan (the hill with the big communications tower) lies behind the police station, with Korea Telecom atop it. Right in front of the biggest communications tower is a breathtaking view of the city and the islands. Trails and workout stations abound, but there is considerably less traffic than on Yudalsan except for the occasional ajumma out for a stroll.

The north harbor (hukbang) is great if you dig seafood. Make sure to try the live octopi (sae-bal-nalji)—a specialty and true delicacy. For an excellent culinary experience, eat them live, not chopped up—but be sure they are fully chewed before you swallow (I suggest at least 10 min.). Also, ferries to nearby Apae Island depart frequently from this harbor. The international ferry port has shuttles to Jeju Island. The domestic port will take you to multiple other islands. Don’t miss Heuksando, Hongdo, or Bigeumdo. You can take a bus to Wando or Jindo.

There’s a great yoga place in HaDang above the Green Bakery across from Usung Apartments. Call Ahn Seonsaengnim at 016-278-8784—he speaks English and will be thrilled to have you. To get to the city swimming pool near the city youth/scout center, walk for 20+ minutes straight behind the bus station and through the valley. There is also a small lake and a camping site there.

Mokpo University has two campuses: one downtown (mostly for music and art) on the hillside of Yangalsan, next to the Mokpo Science College. The other location is 20+ minutes outside of town. DaeBu University is also 20+ minutes out of town. The Mokpo Maritime University is below Yudalsan, just past the Shinan Beach Hotel. There is a small beach (nothing spectacular) next to the Shinan Beach Hotel that houses a nice café called Hemingway, one of the only outdoor cafes in Mokpo with nice views of the water.

The best post office is on 3rd square and is friendly to foreigners sending large obnoxious packages. For all you noraebang freaks, the “singing rooms” in the Gukjae Bowling Center offer the best selection of updated American tunes in town. Enjoy the riverside stroll to the south of HaDang. Santa Maria in HaDang is shaped like a boat with live fish you can see through the glass floors (a good place to take visitors to Mokpo for a meal). The “Air Force One” restaurant in HaDang located across from E-Mart offers a similarly novel dining experience in a converted 747 aircraft that was brought over from China! On the “culture street” just west of HaDang is the Maritime Museum, a concert hall, the city culture museum and a decent restaurant adjacent to the Maritime Museum. Some nice string concerts come through town. Also, the rocky hill above the culture street, next to HaDang, is a nice climb. The Chonnam Agricultural Museum is east of Mokpo, accessible by bus.

Festivals in and around Mokpo include: a ceramics festival every year around October (a good opportunity to stock up on gifts to bring home to the U.S.). The Kaenari festival on Yudalsan occurs annually in the early spring. The butterfly festival in the nearby town of Hampyeong occurs in May. The “Mysterious Sea Opening,” which occurs around late-May every year in Jindo, is excellent. A 5-kilometer path clears where there was water before, and visitors are able to put on ugly yellow boots to tromp through the muck and collect seaweed and starfish to take home.

Other attractions around Mokpo not to be missed: TaeUng Temple near Haenam, in Duryunsan Park. Large dinosaur tracks near Haenam. The largest lotus field in Asia, located in Muan (annual festival occurs in autumn). Scholar Wong-In’s birthplace in YongAm, also a culture and pottery museum. Unjusa temple and surrounding hills, south of Hwasun. The famous lying Buddha is there, among others.

**Elizabeth Hardy, Caroline Kim, Grace Kim, Deirdre Lum, Nicole Rudolph, Gopi Shah** (2002)

Free Korean lessons on Sundays at 2 pm at the Social Welfare Office. Call 장옥희 (2002) Jang Ok Hee at 018-797-0068 (lessons are near bus terminal). Also, volunteer opportunities available.

We loved Pomodoro (downtown), Piemonte (Hadang), and Il Gran Piatto (Hadang) for Italian food. There is a KFC in downtown Hadang near Megaline movie theater, which has stadium seating and hot popcorn! Baskin Robbins is also nearby. The Hemingway Cafe (in the Lonely Planet) is great! Sunsets are beautiful over the ocean. Sit outside.

You can find some bus route maps posted at some bus stops. In general, #20 goes to Lotte Mart (Hadang), near Mokpo Girls High School/Jeon-myung girls high and middle school, and Shinan Beach Apt. #13 goes to the Mokpo Station (downtown) and the bus terminal. #10 takes you to E-mart. Bus cards cost W4,000. You can get them at stationary stores (saves you W20 each ride). There is a 2:30 am express bus to Incheon airport. Mokpo airport sucks and always cancels its flights. Better take the train, bus, or fly to/from Gwangju. Gwangju is close (1-1.5 hours) and it has normal big city things. You don’t have to go to Seoul for a department store.

On a personal note from the current “Mokpo Mafia,” Mokpo gets a bad rap from Koreans, ETAs, and even some Korean-American parents. We had a fantastic group this year—6 ladies who got a chance to bond with each other, teachers, and our host families. Mokpo will give you a great idea of “non-Seoul” Korea while still being comfortable. Despite the rumors, it IS a city, with paved roads, KFC, Lotte Mart, E-mart, etc. It is constantly expanding. If you want to get a sense of Korea on the brink of development, come to Mokpo.
Any time you have a place with the reputation of being the hot spot for the mafia, fun themes will ensue. Mokpo is a great place for a larger group of ETAs within a rather close proximity. We had a fantastic time bonding as a "family" and became a great support for each other throughout the year. In addition to being the Gangstas' Paradise, Mokpo has a "faux Vegas/Atlantic City" appeal as it is filled with neon-signed theme yeogwans, huge ship and airplane restaurants (these are literally ships and airplanes on land), a carnival-esque stroll along with water (complete with a ride or two and carnival-esque games) and even a new casino. We had to sometimes be creative with ways to entertain ourselves (i.e. video-making, image photo taking, group fusion cooking nights, etc.) since Mokpo lacks a major department store and the university is not in the center of town. One of the major drawbacks is the inaccessibility of the university, so language partners and Korean people our age were hard to meet. If in Mokpo, you must see the 2004 movie, "Mokpo is Port."

Buses (as of July 2004) Note: all bus numbers and routes are liable to change without prior warning.

1: Downtown, bus terminal, Yudal beach
7: Hadang, city hall
10: everywhere, but really slow (E-Mart, City Hall area, Hadang, bus terminal, Mokpo Girls High School)
13: downtown, Hadang, bus terminal
20: Hadang (Lotte Mart), Shinan Beach Apt. area, E-mart
112: Hadang, downtown, Lotte Mart, E-Mart

Hadang

Hadang, sometimes considered "new downtown" is the right on the water and filled with lots of restaurants, a new nightclub (albeit rather sketchy), noraebang, great bars, some really nice yeogwans, a good coffee shop and has a truly "faux Vegas" feel. Peace Park is right in the heart of Hadang and a great community area. You can rent rollerblades and tandem bikes, play some carnival games, chill by the water, "enjoy" a "concert" on Sunday afternoon in the Epcot Center-esque stage, picnic, or just people watch. (We especially recommend people watching on Sunday afternoons.) Gabtawi is on one end of Peace Park and is a great picnic spot and short hiking area. The sunsets from Gabtawi are awesome. Lotte Mart is located right by Peace Park and Gabtawi. Lotte Mart has recently started carrying a decent supply of foreign foods (i.e. tortilla chips and salsa). It's a great location to meet and utilize their coin lockers while exploring Gabtawi or just chillin' by the water. You can get just about anything you need at Lotte Mart. Similar to Lotte Mart, E-mart is a find everything kind-of store. E-mart is about a 20 minute walk from Hadang and Lotte Mart. Most importantly, the E-mart bakery sometimes has BAGELS! (don't be afraid to ask for them). There is also a McDonalds in E-mart. Whoever is a great coffee shop and is located near Megaline Cinema. As for bar recommendations in Hadang, our family favorite was Maru--a more traditional place with great flavored soju. (located across the street from the coffee shop, Whoever, on the second floor and, FYI the sign is written in Hangul). WA Bar is a popular foreigner bar. Kimbap shops abound in Hadang. Grand Piatto is probably the best place to get "Italian" food. Sodam, located right by Lotte Mart, is another great restaurant (with what some people say has the best kimchi in Korea) with awesome patguksoo and kalguksoo. The "ships"-- the Santa Maria and the Queen Elizabeth--are also near Lotte Mart and Peace Park and, although expensive, are worth a visit for dessert. Also, there is a great Korean-Japanese restaurant near Peace Park and an awesome restaurant for Hobakjuk. Near Peace Park and Lotte Mart is a great DVD bang (that does not say DVD bang on it), called Magi Club. Yeogwan recommendations are Pharaoh, Senegong and Adam and Eve. A nicer hotel is the Shangria. As for exercise places, try Park Health or there is a new 24 hour jinjilbang located near Dong-Ah apartments. The Peace Park area, along the water, is a great place to go running. Park Health has been recommended as a gym. For TKD, Hwa Rang (by BuYeong Apts) has been recommended and now is used to foreigners. Also, by the bus terminal is a great new jinjilbang with exercise equipment.

Downtown

The train station is located right downtown. The best shopping ("eye shopping") is downtown. There are a few name brand stores (North Face, Puma, Columbia, Adidas, Benetton) as well as cheap and wacky shops. It's Espresso is the best coffee shop downtown (near the train station, on the same street as Family Mart). Also downtown are McDonalds, Lotteria, Popeyes, Baskin Robbins and 2 movie theatres (one movie theatre is located right next to McDonalds). Unfortunately, Mokpo is not yet enough of a metropolis to warrant a Starbucks. From downtown, Yudalsan is easily assesible. Good bars near downtown are Moss (a soju hot) and Texas Moon. Noraebang, pool ("pocketball"), a board game cafe and a few DVD bangs can also be found downtown. Our favorite "family" restaurant is Nampo with awesome doloset bibimbap and galbi.

Aecle Kwon (2004)

- Mountains:
  - Yudalsan – small mountain, more like a hill than a hike, flower festival in April, sculpture park near the mountain
  - Gabtawi – also small, really nice view of the sea from the top
  - Pyonghwa Gwangja – boardwalk area next to the sea, there is a road by the highway where people go running, biking, rollerblading all the way to the next province, located right next to Gabtawi, Lotte Mart and Lotte Cinema are nearby
  - Hadang (new downtown) – two cinemas (Megaline & CGV), lots of Korean restaurants, yeogwans, noraebangs, clothing stores, and cafes, bars (WA bar = foreigner bar), 2 popular Italian restaurants (Gran Piatto and Venetia), Pizza Hut is near Emart, great vegetarian restaurant near Je-il Apartments.
  - Shi-ne (old downtown) – Mokpo Je-il Church holds English speaking services at 4pm every Sunday, there are also Korean lessons offered at 3pm before the service, more clothing stores, restaurants, cafes, bars, Mokpo Train Station is nearby, KTX can be taken there.
  - Mokpo Ferry – 40000 won round trip to Jeju
  - Can also go to Gwangju (bus=6500 won) and take a plane for just over 100000 won, bring passports for both ferry and plane.
  - Buses - #10=Emart, Hadang, Bus terminal, #20=Lotte Mart, Hadang, Mokpo H.S., #13=Old Downtown, Train Station, Hadang, #300=same as #13.
  - Piano lessons at An-dan-tae Piano in Samsung apartments, 70000 won per month, instructor speaks some English, but its very basic
  - Mokpo is a small city well known for seafood (esp. octopus), if you are looking for a beach, there is none in Mokpo. Not like a big city but not rural at all.

Naju (Jeollanam-do) 나주
General Information:
Area: 603.69 km²
Pop. density: 180 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Seren Levinson (2002, Seren180@yahoo.com or SLevinson@fulbrightweb.org)

A small city in Jeollanam-do half-way between Gwangju and Mokpo. While Naju is large in terms of landmass, most of the land is used for farms, and Naju City proper is a rather small town. Most residents are farmers, usually pear farmers since Naju is famous throughout Korea for cultivating the most delicious pears. Naju is also famous for a beef stew called gomtang 곰탕. ‘Downtown’ Naju is developing little by little (a new large Hi Mart, a Lotteria next to the bus terminal) but maintains the charms of a small Korean town. An advantage of Naju is the accessibility of Gwangju City—buses 555 and 160 go through Naju and Gwangju. There are also terminal-to-terminal buses—Gwangju and various points in the outskirts of Naju can be reached by buses 180 and 180-1. While Naju is a small town, the ‘big city’ is nearby and very accessible.

Areas of interest
In Naju City, there is a mountain (Geumsungsan 금성산) with a temple (Dabosa 다보사) on one side and on a shrine to a Korean general who defended Jeollanam-do from the Japanese in the 16th century on the other (Chungnyeolsa 충렬사). Next to the mountain, there is a lovely lake and a newly-built path for walking and exercise equipment. On the outskirts of the ‘downtown’ area is Naju’s old gate Namgomun 남고문. Between the gate and the bus terminal (near Naju Middle School) Namsan Park 남산공원 offers a relaxing setting for walking, reading, picnics, and has public tennis courts. Next to the center of town, there is an old Confucian school, but it is rarely open to tourists. Also, on the way out of Naju City towards Gwangju, there is the world famous Naju Pear Museum! (Ok, perhaps not “world famous,” but it is pretty cool that Naju has a pear museum—maybe the only museum specifically devoted to pears in the world).

Things to do
There are Tae Kwon Do, Hapkido, and Gumdo schools which attract English-speaking foreigners. There are also at least 2 gyms—one near M-Mart across from Naju Church and one near the Park. In 2003, the Naju Teachers Union offered Korean traditional instrument lessons on Thursday evenings. In Gwangju, there are Korean language classes at Chosun University, as well as through the growing Gwangju International Center (GIC). Also, in near downtown Gwangju across from the Chonnam University Hospital 전대병원 there is an all-girls orphanage 성빈고아원. Everyday Saturday from 2-4 pm, foreigners volunteer their time with the elementary school-aged girls, teaching English, playing games, and offering affection and attention.

Landmarks/orientation
Nearly everywhere in Naju is accessible by foot. The bus terminal is in the center of downtown near many stores, restaurants, and bars/cafes. The train station is a bit far from downtown and the only destination requiring a taxi though bus 160 goes to the station along its circuitous route.

Transportation
-Trains: Naju Station is a bit outside of the city with trains to Seoul and Mokpo. Also, Buses 160 and 555 go to Songjeongni Station 송정리역 in Gwangju, and the 160 also goes to the Gwangju Station.
-Buses: From Naju terminal, there are buses to Gwangju, Mokpo, other small towns in Jeollanam-do, as well as a few buses a day directly to Seoul.
-Planes: The Gwangju airport is conveniently located about 20-30 min. by city bus (555 or 160) from downtown Naju.

Important buildings
-Banks: There are many banks in Naju, but most people use Nonghyup 농협. There is a branch of this bank near the Post Office and next to the bus terminal in Naju.
-Post Office: The PO is located on the road parallel to the main street and open from 9-5 (6 in the summer). There are 2 computers that offer free Internet access at the PO (as is the case in most Korean post offices).
-KTF Offices: There are 2 KTF/SK offices on the main street in Naju.
-Library: The Naju Library has a new Multimedia room on the first floor that offers free Internet access, as well as free access to other computer accessories, such as a scanner.

The best of
Most people shop at M-Mart, near Naju Church. There is a Paris Baguette and a Crown bakery for breads and cakes, as well as a few pizza shops (Heim is the best but the most expensive. Fox Pizza is the least expensive and as greasy as the other pizza choices). The best photo shops are near the bus terminal (next to the Lotteria and across the street at the Fiji shop) and develop photos quickly (within an hour) and sometimes offer free photo albums, film, or discounts.

Where the foreigners are
There is a Japanese teacher at Naju High School and an American teacher at Naju Middle School (as of the 2003 school year); both are in Naju through JLP (Jeollanam-do Language Program, associated with the Province Office of Education). There are also at least 4 other hagwon 학원 teachers in Naju. The town is so small that meeting other foreigners is unavoidable. In Gwangju, the downtown bars The Blue Monkey and Mad Season are popular among the foreigners in the area.

Nearby hotels/motels
The new Golden River Motel is a very nice motel/hotel near the center of town. There are other older motels/yeogwans 여관 s in the city, as well. There are no hotels in Naju, but there are many nice hotels and motels in Gwangju’s Sangmujigu 상무지구 about a 30-40 min. bus ride on the 555 or 160 from Naju.
Downtown Pohang is charming; it still has the atmosphere of a relatively small city. The center of downtown is near the Post Office (우체국) and KB* Bank (국민은행). The two large junctions, Ogeori and Yukgeori (오거리, 욕거리) are near the city center. Almost all of the city bus routes stop at Jukdo Market (죽도시장) downtown. The largest bookstores are Pohang Mungo (포항문고), near KB* and the larger of the two McDonalds in town; and Hagwonsa (학원사), closer to Jukdo Market (large green sign). Hagwonsa has a small selection of English books on the third floor, and some teaching materials. If you need a more extensive selection of books, go to Busan or Daegu (I recommend Young Kwang Bookstore, near Seomyeon Station in Busan). Sinara Records (신나라 레코드), across the street from the larger McDonalds, is the best CD store in Pohang. Their staff is really friendly (they frequently try to speak English to foreigners), and they have a great selection of CDs and DVDs; there's even a good variety of classical music. Get a frequent buyer card if you plan to go here often. One of the best noraebangs in town, Disney (디즈니 노래방), is in an alley behind the Post Office, and has an extensive selection of English songs. Downtown there are many coffee shops and bars. Pohang Mungo Center (포항문구센터) is a great stationery store right across from the Post Office. The second and third floors should have any kind of office supply you could need. There is a Lotte Department Store on the north end of town. Many of the bus routes stop there. Until very recently, Pohang movie theaters were not exactly top quality entertainment venues: dark, poor sound, no leg room, etc. That all changed with the very recent (June 2003) opening of Megaline, a multiplex cinema. See their website at http://www.megalinepohang.co.kr/ (only in Korean). Though Pohang is already very developed, it is still changing constantly. Megaline is a prime example of this. The new Dunkin Donuts downtown is another.

There are all kinds of restaurants downtown. I ate frequently at Myeongdong Kalguksu (명동 냉국수) and the Chuncheon dalgkgalbi restaurant. Both are within a few blocks of the Post Office. If you want other restaurant recommendations, ask people at your school. Pohang is famous for mulhoe (물회), a mixture of raw fish, seaweed, pear, and red pepper paste (though it sounds unusual, it's delicious). It is also famous for raw fish in general. There are plenty of seafood restaurants near Bukbu Beach. Good Western food takes a little bit of work to find; usually it is pricey and outside of downtown.

Pohang is also an important educational center. The two major universities are both rather unusual: POSTECH (포항공대) and Handong Global University (한동대). The former might be considered “the Caltech of Korea” (if Daejeon's KAIST is the MIT equivalent). It has a really nice campus, many students who speak English well, and free Korean classes. The classes are technically intended for affiliates of POSCO or the university, but ETAs have been welcome as well. Contact Aaron for more information about the classes. You can get to POSTECH by riding bus 105. Handong Global University is on the far north end of the city, rather hard to get to, although the college runs a shuttle bus. It is a Christian university with a very international flavor, and nearly all of the students speak excellent English.

A very useful website is http://www.ipohang.org/. There is an English version, but it's not as useful as the Korean one. This site is especially good for transportation info (in the Korean version).

Transportation

- City Bus: Buses in Pohang are 800 won (“seat buses” that usually travel to more distant places on the outskirts are 1,150 won). You can fumble with coins, or buy tickets in groups of 10 (unfortunately, there is no discount). Tickets are sold at kiosks in downtown and near major bus stops. Buses are relatively easy to figure out once you get the hang of them; less than 20 routes. Almost all bus routes stop at Jukdo Market (downtown) and the bus terminal (시외 터미널). You can get a list of bus stops on some buses (it’s all in Korean), or you can look at www.ipohang.org (click on 교통정보, the left side of the page). There is no bus map (except for online or posted at some major bus stops).

- Intercity Bus: The intercity bus terminal (시외 터미널) is in the southern part of the city, and is surrounded by the largest single concentration of yeogwans I have ever seen in Korea. Pohang is very convenient for transportation, despite the minor inconvenience that many buses must go through Gyeongju (this will change when the new Pohang-Daegu expressway opens). Buses to Gyeongju, Busan, and Daegu leave with extraordinary frequency. If you go to Gyeongju, the driver will stop near Gyeongju Station before going to the terminal. Get off there rather than at the terminal, because it’s closer to downtown Gyeongju and the major tourist sites. Similarly, buses to Busan (about an hour and a half if there’s no traffic) will stop first at Dusil subway station (두실역). It is farther south on the subway than the bus terminal, which is at the very last stop. There are buses to both East and West Daegu Terminals (동대구, 서대구). East Daegu buses depart more frequently. In general with buses, if possible it is best to ride a nonstop ( 무정차) bus to many destinations. For example, to Andong you can take a three-hour bus that stops in Yeongdeok, or a nonstop bus, which takes only two hours. For many cities, you have two alternate choices: one bus that stops in Gyeongju, and another that doesn’t. Intercity bus routes are all listed on www.ipohang.org.

- Express Bus: The express bus terminal (고속 터미널) is close to downtown. It is a little more than a waiting room (not much of a “terminal”), and has only four bus options: Seoul, Daejeon, Masan, and Gwangju. If you’re going to any of these destinations, it’s best to take the express bus from this terminal. Buses to Seoul run very frequently, every 20 or 30 minutes. It takes about 5 hours, though it can last as little as 4 ½ or as much as 6 depending on traffic. Seoul buses go to the Express Terminal on the south side of the Han River. Daejeon buses also run frequently. Masan and Gwangju are less frequent (Gwangju only four times a day).
Peak season there are two boats a day, at other times only one. Reservations, especially on weekends, are probably necessary. The ferry terminal campus is inaccessible without a car. There is a shuttle bus, so if you want to take classes you should find out the shuttle schedule.

Dividers. A lot of honeymooners, tourists, and tour groups pass through. There are some university students who go to Tamna University, but the Pohang itself has a few interesting sights, but they're not close to downtown. You can get buses to most of them at the annex to the bus terminal (as you face the terminal, it's on the right side, near a convenience store). Bogyeongsa (보경사) is a Buddhist temple in a beautiful natural setting, and is on the far north of the city. The Guryongpo (구룡포) area boasts beautiful coastline, the Janggan Lighthouse Museum, and that strange sculpture of two hands, one on land and one in the middle of the ocean.

Closer to the city, I recommend Hwanho Sunrise Park (환호해맞이공원, easiest access by bus 101). It has lots of fun things to do, and great views of the water. Bukbu (북부) and Songdo (송도) beaches are the two major beaches in Pohang. Bukbu is longer of the two, and makes a great early evening walk. Songdo can be reached by bus 103. Swimming is discouraged due to pollution.

I also really enjoy the Jigok-dong (지곡동) area of town, near POSTECH. Hyoja Art Hall (효자 아트홀) has frequent concerts and occasionally shows movies (which, before Megaline came to town, was a great relief from the horrible movie theaters downtown). Don't underestimate Pohang's entertainment options; I once saw the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra there last fall! Because POSCO has the money, they can bring in many high-quality acts. POSTECH also hosts concerts and lectures. Someone at your school can probably get you a schedule and/or tickets to these. Jigok-dong is an attractive residential district, and the streets are gorgeous during the spring cherry blossom season.

**Seogwipo (Jeju-do)** 서귀포

**General Information:**
Area: 254.57 km²  
Pop. density: 328.4 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**  
Nina Forsberg (2001)

Spread out into three parts, all about 10 min. apart by bus. There is the downtown Jungmun (hotel resort area), New Town, and Sinsigaji. I lived in Sinsigaji, which is a residential add-on to the city. In Seogwipo, a lot of people are tangerine farmers, and a lot of older women are still haenyeo divers. A lot of honeymooners, tourists, and tour groups pass through. There are some university students who go to Tamna University, but the campus is inaccessible without a car. There is a shuttle bus, so if you want to take classes you should find out the shuttle schedule.

**Nearby areas of interest**
There are pluses and minuses to living in Sinsigaji. It has a bad reputation for being more windy and cloudy than Seogwipo City, since it’s up on a hill, and there are only a few places to hang out—just two cozy coffeehouses: Versace (located over a pharmacy and hard to find) and a big, white house called Polaris. There are no video bangs, noraebangs, or arcades. If you want to go out, take the bus into Seogwipo City (last bus departs at 10:20 pm). Taxis into town cost about W5,000.

The best part about living in Sinsigaji is that your basic needs are within walking distance. There is a bakery, flower shop, photo developing place, travel agent, watch repair, video rental, PC bangs, a video rental place, and several small stores. Any real shopping you have to do in Seogwipo City, and if you want to find an E-mart, you have to go to Jeju City.

If you like exercising outside, Sinsigaji is close to some nice places—Gogunsan Mountain, Gangeong coastline, and Ongotto Waterfall. To get to Gogunsan, walk straight up through Sinsigaji, turn right, and find the sign pointing you to the entrance on your left. Just follow the many other walkers you'll find there. Supposedly, it is a good place to see the night sky and has a 360-degree view all around. If you want a really pretty, quaint walk, Ongotto Mo Po (waterfall) appears only during the rainy season. Go up straight through the neighborhood to the one big store straight ahead. Directly to the left of the store, there is a road that goes up and a hidden, gray sign that says Ongotto in hangeul only. Follow the signs and you will be on a quaint country road leading to the cliffs of the waterfall.

A little further out, there is a beautiful strip of coast called Yeong Yeon between Oedolgae and the stadium. The little brown sign for it is next to a beautiful and picturesque spot to have a picnic. Then there is Oedolgae, the lonely rock in close proximity to another climbing oreum (smaller than Gogunsan). Jejigi Oreum, on the other side of Seogwipo City, has a breathtaking view of waves (go through the little town of Bobwan to get there).
Agricultural and fishing based community of about 80,000 people. Various orange groves abound and female divers and squid boats grace the clear blue water. Also, recently married couples cavort like dolphins in matching clothing (pink is a common color). It is the most beautiful city in Korea, but beware of the fake orange palm trees and the sometimes non-existent nightlife.

Getting around
The intercity bus terminal is on the S.W. spoke (about 20m down) of the large rotary (Ilho rotary). From here, you can take a bus anywhere on the island. The 5.16 bus is the most scenic, wild, and quickest way to get to Jeju City. The last buses to Jeju City leave around 9:30 pm. The airport bus leaves every 15 minutes from KAL Hotel, stops at New Gyeongnam tourist hotel, Jungmun Tourist Complex, and then to Crown Plaza Hotel and the Airport.

-Jungmun Beach: Take the 100 or 110 bus from the bus stop on the west side of the main rotary (in front of the oriental health clinic) for the direct route. The 120 and 130 buses go to Jungmun town—get off at the large windmill and walk into the tourist complex to get to the beach.
-Oedolgae: Beautiful scenic park centered around a large slightly-phallic rock. Good for picnics, afternoon naps, Frisbee, and cliff-jumping. Take a taxi there (W1,500). You can also walk from the rotary, approx. 1.5 km heading SW and then right.
-Cheonjiyeon Falls: Crowded with tourists, honeymooners, students, and monks (only 1 monk and he draws pictures). Nevertheless, very beautiful park, especially after dark. Lights turn off at 11:00 PM, and then the fun starts. Don't swim in the water unless you enjoy ill-tempered carnivorous eels. Walk towards the ocean and harbor from the rotary.
-KAL Hotel: Nice ocean scenery, expensive restaurants, and wonderful ambience for an afternoon stroll or Frisbee match. Just pretend you are a customer or act like a foreigner. Taxi (W1,500-2,000).

Going out
-Coffeeshop: Vetro, near the post office, has good tea and decaf espresso. The owner speaks phat English. Ediya coffee, across from the main entrance to the everyday market has better coffee. Tortoni, behind the bus terminal, also has good and cheap coffee. Bon Sol sucks. Stay away from Green Tea Lattes.
-Bars (or Bar): Red Cabin (1 block S. of the Post Office near a plastic orange palm tree) is the only true western style bar, though they lack pitchers. Sometimes pyrococktail shows occur on weekends. Across the street is Roma Night Club. Run by the mafia and has a plethora of Russians. W50,000 for a table of 4 or 5. Heidelberg on the 7th floor of the Night Club Building has decent “western” food and pitchers with an order of cheap French fries. Mong—Highly recommended. Live music and awesome interior basement. Hard to find, I think on the SW spoke of the main rotary. Owner was Jairus’ neighbor.

Martial arts
-Gukulsulwon (like Hapkido)– Contact MinTaek– 011-698-6631.
-Taekwondo– Many gyms, find one close to you or have your co-teacher contact ChoongAng taekwondo. Master is a good guy (Kang Yoon Shin).

Tourist Info
Near Cheonjiyeon waterfall. (Note: The people who work at this office are really nice. I once spent a half hour talking to a woman about the Jeju April 3 Massacre of 1948. It was really fascinating. You can also use the internet here for free. —Aaron)

Jane Park (2004)
Small town but densely populated, feels very metropolitan. Hwei (raw fish) is popular and you will probably eat frequently these restaurants if your schools goes on many teachers dinners. Good bus system, Jeju-si is easily accessible.
Cultural/Natural Sites: Yakcheonsa Buddhist temple, Oedolgae (a phallic rock), Jeongbang and Cheonjiyeon waterfalls, Oreum, Hallasan hiking, Jungmun Beach, Hallim park, Hyupchae Beach.

Sarah Gaillot (2004)
World Cup Stadium, good bus system to Jeju-si and all around the island, great raw fish (hwei-deop-bap), Korean basketball hall of fame, inline skating parks, Yakcheonsa (biggest temple in Asia??), Oedolgae Rock, waterfalls, best citrus in Korea, orange picking, travel to other islands, relaxed atmosphere, teddy bear museum

Seosan (Chungcheongnam-do) 서산

General Information:
Area: 739.15 km²
Pop. density: 201.2 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Dane Swango (2001)
In far-western Chungcheongnam-do. The city supposedly has about 150,000 people, but that includes all the surrounding areas not really inside the city proper (I’d say about 100,000 tops). The city itself is not very large; I can ride my bike anywhere I need to go and get there in about 20 min. The surrounding area is all farmland, so farmers abound, but there are also some big engineering firms in the area. I would classify it as a small, rural city. No major cities are close. Seosan is very transportationally challenged in terms of getting to other parts of Korea. Seosan does have some small mountains which people like to walk up and around. I’m not sure of the names, but they are near city hall. In terms of attractions, you can get a guidebook of Seosan in English from city hall. But most of the things it lists are not really in the town area. Examples: Haemi castle (30 min. bus ride) and A and B Seawalls (30 min. away).

Suncheon (Jeollanam-do) 순천

General Information:
Area: 84.38 km²
Pop. density: 201.2 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Jairus Rossi and Kate Surber (2002, randomflux@hotmail.com and Surber@fullbrightweb.org)
General Information:
Area: 907.21 km²
Pop. density: 298 people/km²

ETA Comments:
One of the four major cities in Jeollanam-do. Like many other Korean cities, the population is all highly concentrated into a very small area, so at times the city seems crowded. Because it is one of the larger cities in the province, there is an abundance of western fast food restaurants and several "Walmart/Target" type stores in town. Suncheon is the educational capital of the province so bagwons abound. Because of this, there is a fairly large number of foreigners (30-50) here considering the size of Suncheon. The city is pretty far south but fairly well connected to the rest of Korea by plane, train, and bus. As with much of the rest of Jeollanam-do, agriculture is the primary business. If you are interested in really exploring the southern part of Korea, beside Gwangju, Suncheon is probably your best bet in terms of ease of transportation. There are several "mountains" in the city for hiking and you can easily get out of town into the quiet countryside full of rice paddies and small traditional villages. The people of Suncheon, despite it being such a bustling place, still have fairly conservative views and at times make the place feel like a very small town. If you are a fan of the arts, language education or other things offered in a large city, you probably won't find it here—although Gwangju is only 1.5 hrs away.

Suncheon crawls up from Suncheon bay into two valleys on either side of Bonghwasan (356m). The mountain divides the city in half into essentially old and new Suncheon. Old Suncheon is full is colorful things like traditional markets and low tile-roofed buildings. The high school student hangout is Jungang Market (중앙시장). This is the Korean equivalent of a shopping mall, with many teen clothing shops juxtaposed with old women selling fruit and vegetables. This is where you will see all your students. There is a Popeye's, Baskin Robins, Mickey D's and Pizza Hut in addition to other Korea pizza, coffee and juice shops. Most of the movie theaters in the town are in this area. Almost all the buses in Suncheon stop here, namely 52, 71, 77, 88.

Another place for clothing shopping is in 'new' Suncheon in Yeonhyang-dong (연항동). There are a lot of clothing stores including all the GAP type knockoffs. There are also several outdoor equipment stores, including a North Face store (priced even more exorbitantly than at home) in this area. This area and Geumdang-dong (금당동) is where all the bars are concentrated. Buses for this area are 77, 71 and 777.

Things to do
Tae kwon do classes are all over the city. There is one studio in the very southern part of the city that has had a few foreigners. Although the master doesn’t really speak English, he’s very enthusiastic about getting you a black belt. His name is Bang Jongyeol. The address is 덕월동 482 번지 and the phone number is 017-621-2347. It’s past Suncheon High School on the right side of the street if you’re going South, called Wang Sung Gym (왕성 체육관).

Language classes for beginners are offered at Suncheon Nat'l University on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The University students are also a good bet for language partners, or any other hobbies you want to pursue. Other universities in town include Suncheon First (Suncheon Cheil) and Chongam University.

Consider getting a bike or scooter. There are a lot of nice places to ride out of the city. You can go running or biking along the river. Both directions lead out of the city into the country side and you can even ride on the paved levee all the way to Suncheon bay. If you want to get a taste of rural life in Korea, this is the best way to do it and get away from the hustle of the city.

Bonghwasan is the big mountain that splits the city in two. There are several hiking trails all over and across the mountain. There is also a good hiking trail behind Suncheon University and in Togwol-dong on the south side of the city.

Shopping
Carrefour is the French version of Target with a lot of western food in the grocery store, a Mickey D’s, Baskin Robbins and some clothing shops. They have cheap CDs, but don't come here for toiletries…they only sell in bulk (especially toothpaste) and better stationery shops can be found in Jungang Sijang. (bus 52, 71, 777 or a 10 min. walk from the train station).
New Core/Kim’s Club is the local dept. store and connected grocery store where you can find a lot of stuff (in the northern part of town, going out towards the main Suncheon IC on Freeway 25—bus 59).
Clothing stores, stationery stores, bookshops and other specialty shops can all be found in either Yeonhyang-dong or zinae (downtown) see above.

English bookstores
Kidari bookstore in Geumdang next to the Geumdang ECC has a large selection of English teaching materials and English books.

Churches
Nambu Church (남부 교회) in Geumdang has English services that many foreigners attend.

Gyms
In Geumdang there is a really nice gym, pool and bathhouse called Yusincheon (유신천). Drop-ins are W5,000 and monthly memberships start at W60,000.

Food
In addition to all the fast food places, there is a decent Italian restaurant called the Gran Piatto in Jorye-dong (a huge barn-like structure behind the SK and LG stations near the Jorye 3-way intersection). There are many good dolsotbap (rice in a stone pot) places all over Yeonhyang and Geumdang-dong and a good tofu maul (village) in Yeonhyang-dong.

Bars
Concentrated in Geumdang and Yeonhyang-dong. There are several cool ones around the Geumdang Hospital, including Elvis where many of the western foreigners hang out (it’s upstairs, across from the 7-11). There are also a lot of bars around Suncheon University, mostly across the street from the University entrance, including Jackson…where many foreigners also hang out.
Information
You can get tourist information, including maps at the train station in the center of town. There is also a city bus tour that leaves at 9:30 (get there between 9:00-9:25) and returns around 4:30. The tour varies, but usually takes you to Seonamsa, Songgwangsa, the Doleman Park and Nagan Folk Village.

Banks and post offices
The post office in sinae across from the Jungang Sijang is the most helpful for non-Korean speakers…especially if you are a high school teacher because 3 of the women who work there have students in high school. The post office close to the train station is the least helpful if you don't speak Korean. There are several KTF stores in sinae and in Yeonhyang-dong. Most people will have a Nonghyup bank account, their ATMs are all over the place, but you can withdraw money from any ATM for about W700 (this includes foreign cards). KEB (Korea Exchange Bank) in Geumdang is the only bank in Suncheon that sells travelers cheques.

Nearby areas of interest
Gwangju is only 1.5 hrs away and has department stores, museums and the many restaurants found in the larger cities, and a considerably more happening night life. Yeosu is only 45 min. away with beaches and laid back coastal life.

Transportation
By Bus: There are two bus terminals in Suncheon. The express bus terminal across from Suncheon Nat'l, has buses to Seoul (5.5 hrs), Incheon Airport (6 hrs), Busan (3.5 hrs) and Daegu (3 hrs). The local bus terminal has buses that go to all over Jeollanam-do and to Gwangju (1.5 hrs). Buses to Yeosu (40 min) leave every 5 min. and buses to Gwangju leave every 15 min. If you are trying to go north or west by bus to other parts of Korea (not in Jeollanam-do), go to Gwangju. If you are trying to go NE, go to Daegu. Note there is also a bus to Daegu that leaves from the city bus terminal. Take the express bus, it's less of a hassle. Almost all buses in Suncheon go by the bus terminal. It's called the Gongyong Terminal (공용정류장).
By Train: There is a line that runs to Seoul going through Jeonju and West Daejeon before arriving in Seoul. This is the fastest (5.5 hrs) way to get into central Seoul (the bus takes you to Gangnam). Trains leave every hour. If you are trying to go east, there is one train a day that goes to Busan, it takes 3 hrs. Don't try to go west by train. It takes too long. For example it takes 4 hrs. to get to Gwangju.
By Air: The airport is about 20 min. south of Suncheon. There are several flights to Seoul each day and one to Jeju. They are doing construction to fix this, but currently flights cannot leave when it is raining, so you may want to fly out of Gwangju (there are many more flights and it takes approximately 2-2.5 hrs. to get to the airport by bus). Buses to the Yeosu airport leave from the Suncheon University, the bus terminal, the train station and the Yeonhyang area. Each airline sends a bus for its flight which leaves Suncheon University 1 hr. 20 min. before the flight leaves.
By Boat: There is a 7-hr ferry to Jeju from the Yeosu Coastal Passenger Terminal. It is about half the price of a plane ticket, but probably not worth the time it takes.

Tourist/Cultural sites
Jogyesan Provincial Park: About 20 km outside of Suncheon. There is a really nice hike between the two temples in the park Seonamsa and Songgwangsa. Songgwangsa is one of the more important temples in Korea for the Jogye (Zen) Buddhist order. There is a museum with changing exhibits and sometimes and English speaking monk who can help you to arrange a temple stay. Seonamsa is a smaller temple on the other side of the mountain with a famous stone bridge over the stream flowing from the temple. There is a really nice tea house right outside the temple—a great place to relax and listen to jazz when the weather is nice. Both temples have small tourist towns nearby with many minbak and restaurants. There are many places to enjoy a picnic along the streams nearby both temples and many trails over Jogyesan, the most popular being the 6.6 km trail that goes between the two temples. Be sure to stop for barley rice and dongdongju midway through the hike. Bus 1 leaves from Suncheon station approx every 50 min to Seonamsa (40 min W790) and Bus 111 also leaves from Suncheon Station to Songgwangsa approx every 50 mins (1hr 20 min W1200).
Dolmen Park: About 20 km outside of Suncheon. There is a really nice hike between the two temples in the park Seonamsa and Songgwangsa. Songgwangsa is one of the more important temples in Korea for the Jogye (Zen) Buddhist order. There is a museum with changing exhibits and sometimes and English speaking monk who can help you to arrange a temple stay. Seonamsa is a smaller temple on the other side of the mountain with a famous stone bridge over the stream flowing from the temple. There is a really nice tea house right outside the temple—a great place to relax and listen to jazz when the weather is nice. Both temples have small tourist towns nearby with many minbak and restaurants. There are many places to enjoy a picnic along the streams nearby both temples and many trails over Jogyesan, the most popular being the 6.6 km trail that goes between the two temples. Be sure to stop for barley rice and dongdongju midway through the hike. Bus 1 leaves from Suncheon station approx every 50 min to Seonamsa (40 min W790) and Bus 111 also leaves from Suncheon Station to Songgwangsa approx every 50 mins (1hr 20 min W1200).
Nagan Folk Village: A living and functioning folk village about 20 min. south of Suncheon. It's pretty cool to just explore and has a lot of great places to eat. Bus 66.
Nambu Sijang: This is the 5-day market in Suncheon—very colorful. A 5 min. walk from the train station, right next to the river.
Jirisan National Park: The largest national park in Korea. Some really great (and really hard!) hikes and a lot of camping near any of the entrances. You can also do 2-3 day overnight hikes. The nearest gateway is Gurye (40 min) or Namwon (~2 hrs).

Tamara Failor (2004)
- was a base of operations for American Presbyterian missionaries, so the city has a pretty high percentage of Christians.
- ask about language classes at Suncheon National University, last spring there was a small class that met twice a week – a beginners class for mostly international grad students, but the teacher was nice and it was free
- dol specialist (not bibimbap) is a local dish worth trying, also the raw fish is good
- if you need American food, there is a KFC, McDonalds, and Popeyes. Carrefour is a department store carries a decent variety of imported products
- the bus system is good, learn it
- SOS Children’s Village is a home for orphans, it is a little far but a good volunteer opportunity, there are also other volunteer opportunities with an orphanage or a new shelter for battered women
- there is a fairly large foreigner contingent in Suncheon, so it’s a good town to meet other ex-pats, just go to Elvis to meet foreigners

Suwon (Gyeonggi-do) 수원

General Information:
Area: 121.1 km²
Suwon is a large city on subway Line 1 to Seoul. However, it is not an extension of Seoul but rather an independent bus city. Also, Suwon is pretty spread out and often times congested. There are three subway stops to get into Seoul: Hwaseo, Suwon Station and Seryu (which is near the bus station—which has a Migliore Department Store and E-Mart—in Suwon). It takes a good hour to an hour and half to get into Seoul by subway, however, from Suwon station… you can take any train into Seoul station in about a half hour. To get around the city itself, the bus is really the best option. There are several good areas. Suwon station has a new mall which is very popular with several western restaurants, a movie theater and some good shopping. Outside the station lies one of Suwon's popular bar areas—however, it is not recommended to go too late at night as the area can become a little sketchy, particularly for women. Na-Moon is also a favorite hang out for the high school students and past ETAs alike. With lots of DVD-bongs, fruit juice bars, hip shopping and great earring buys, and a movie theater, Na-Moon offers a great selection of things to do at all hours of the day. For a more college age scene and a fun night life, check out Aju University (take bus 3 or bus 63 from Na-Moon)…there's also Kyung Hee University with a lovely Italian façade gate which is right at the border of Yongin (where the Korean Folk Village is located). Young-ton is a relatively new and more expensive part of Suwon which is a half hour from Suwon Station. It has a home plus and lots of outlet stores in the area. Many people live in Young-ton and work in Seoul making it very convenient to take a bus from Young-ton into Seoul and a very hip area to live.

Uiseong (Gyeongsangbuk-do) 의성

General Information:
Area: 1,175.89 km²
Pop. density: 60.6 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Jenny Park (2001, jpark@yahoo.com)
A rural area about 40 min. by car outside of Andong and about an hour north of Daegu. If you enjoy big city life, do not come here. However, if you would like to live in the clean peace of the countryside for a year, this is the perfect place for you. About 65% of my students’ parents are farmers and besides a small downtown area, most of Uiseong is farmland. Therefore, one highlight of this area is its crops: garlic, apples, and red peppers.
A few tourist destinations nearby are Gounsa (temple) and Gubongsan (mountain). Though it may not have the vigor or the pace of city life, it is a bustling community of families. There is no college or university within this town and it is a fairly small population, so there are few young adults here. Nevertheless, it is a great place and I highly recommend it for those of you who would like to try living in a peaceful area of Korea, an area that is quietly being replaced by the fast-paced impersonal atmosphere you’ll find in Seoul.

Wonju (Gangwon-do) 원주

General Information:
Population: 275,217 (2001)
Area: 867.63 km²
Pop. density: 317 people/km²

ETA Comments:
One of the major cities is the province. Known for its peaches. 1.5 hours from Seoul, 2.5 hours from Daejeon. Famous for Chiaksan, one of the most difficult mountains to climb in Korea. Several colleges surround the city. Good basketball team, Korean champs. Small city feel, but continually developing. Two shopping areas: Nambu-shijang (farmers market style) and Jungang-shijang (clothing stores). Jonghab-undongchang – basketball, track, Jog-go court (soccer/volleyball hybrid). Multiple health clubs. Dan-gye-dong: famous nightclub/drinking area. Small foreign presence, multiple military bases.

Yeongam (Jeollanam-do) 영암

General Information:
Population: 65,268 (county population - 2001)
Area: 544.48 km²
Pop. density: 120 people/km²

ETA Comments:
Terri Reuter (2001)
A very small, country town of approximately 20,000 people. Lots of small shops dot one main street where you can find most basic things, but don’t expect anything even remotely exotic. Agriculture is also abundant. The oil (five-day) Market happens every 5th day from the 5th of the month on a cross street of the main street that you can’t miss. To walk from one end of town to the other takes 20 min. max.

Nearby areas of interest
The closest major city is Gwangju, 1 hr. by bus that leaves every 3 min. The pride and joy of the area is Wolchulsan National Park with 4 major temples, 6 different entrances, and many climbs, including a suspension bridge. Dogapsa is the most expensive entrance, having been recently
renovated, at W4,000 for parking plus the standard park entrance fee. In Young-am there is a local trail that starts across the street from the big,
blue-roofed gym and to the left of the gas station. It can be “a bugger” to climb in spots, but it’s interesting and free.

**Yeosu (Jeollanam-do) 여수**

**General Information:**
Area: 498.1 km²
Pop. density: 650 people/km²

**ETA Comments:**
Ari Gershman (2002, pennsmile@yahoo.com), Kate Tulloch (2002-2003)

**Introduction**
A small city on the southern coast with about 320,000 people spread out over a sprawling geographical area and many small islands. Yeosu is
famous for its natural beauty and ocean views. It is also famous for seafood and 갓김치, gat kimchi.

**Nearby areas of interest**
About 45 min., from Suncheon by bus or train and just under 2 hrs. from Gwangju. Between those two cities, you can connect to almost anywhere
in Korea. It’s also about 3.5 hrs. to Busan.

**Things to do**
The main shopping areas are downtown Yeosu (시내) and Yeoseo-dong (여서동). Yeoseo-dong is also the nightlife area. The main post office is
a 5 min. walk from downtown, opposite the police station. The beach is a 15-min. bus ride from downtown. There are lots of places to hike as
well several Buddhist temples nearby. There are also a lot of national park areas located on different islands off the coast.

**Landmarks/orientation**
Jinnamgwan (진남관) is a famous historical structure right next to downtown Yeosu where people often meet. It is walking distance from Yeosu
High School, Yeosu Girls High School, Yeosu Middle School, Jongo Middle School, and several other schools.

The bus terminal and E-Mart are across the street from each other, about 10 min. from downtown by bus. Jinnam Sports Complex (where
Yeosu’s pro basketball team plays) is right behind the bus terminal. Tennis, bicycling, running, soccer, and basketball facilities are open to the
public.

Yeosu Station (train station) is near the water, about 10 min. from the beach by bus and 5 min. from downtown by bus. All of the schools
mentioned above are walking distance from the train station. Trains run to Seoul and places directly in between but not to Busan, Gwangju,
Daejeon, or Daegu. Trains cost W20,000 or W30,000, depending on which one you take. The fast train gets to Seoul in 5.5 hrs.; the slow one
takes an hour longer and has standing room. Trains often sell out so definitely buy tickets in advance. (If there are no seats on the train, you can
usually get one on the bus instead.)

Odongdo, Yeosu’s famous island nature preserve, is a 10-min. walk from the train station.

Hyangilam (향일암), is a small but famous Buddhist hermitage for women on Dolsan Island (one of the largest islands in Yeosu). It is said to
have the most beautiful sunrise in all of Korea. You can hike up to the top of the rock to see the amazing view.

Dolsan Bridge, the bridge that connects Yeosu to Dolsan Island, is really cool. The view is beautiful and at night the bridge is lit up and actually
changes colors. There is a park, Dolsan Park, which overlooks the bridge and the city, that you should definitely check out.

**Transportation**
a. Trains: see above.
b. Buses, going out of the city: It costs W8,200 to get to Gwangju, W2,800 to get to Suncheon, W19,000 to get to Busan, and W23,000 to get to
Seoul. Buses run to Mokpo, Daejeon, Daegu, Incheon, Jeonju, Masan, Wando, Jinju, Gurye, and lots of other places, but the more remote places
have less frequent service.
c. Buses, within the city: Buses cost W790, regardless of how far you go. You can buy a Seoul-style card to swipe and then you don’t have to deal
with change all the time. The card costs W4,000 and can be refilled. It’s just called “bus card.” Buy it at any newsstand (metal box with a sleeping
ajumma inside). With the card you get a W20 discount on each ride.
d. Taxis: Since Yeosu is spread out, going across the whole city can be as much as W10,000 or W15,000. Taxis line up around the corner from
Jinnamgwan (downtown), at the train and bus stations, and at certain random street corners. They are really easy to find.

**Important buildings**
a. Banks: Pay attention to which bank you open your account at because you might have to go back there. Some stuff can only be done at the
branch where the account was made, but most banking can be done at any branch. The bigger banks downtown are more likely to have foreign
currency than the smaller, local ones.
b. Post Office: They don’t speak English, but they’re very friendly.
c. KTF Offices: They are all over the place. There’s one across the street from the main post office and another downtown.

Tanya Nodlinski (2004)
Travel - hard to get places, Seoul is 5+ hours away; buses are convenient, but the airport in the city shuts down frequently and only flies to Seoul
and Jeju, used to be a ferry to Jeju but it closed, not on KTX but can bus to Gwangju (1.5 hrs) and Busan (3 hrs) for transportation hubs
Environment - Yeosu could be a beautiful city, but it is primarily an industrial city with dim economic prospects. If you have asthma or other respiratory problems, it is probably not the place for you, as the chemical plants nearby affect the air quality.

Beaches - There are a few beaches within an hour distance, but they require some sort of transportation, as buses do not always run regularly. Buses - Has a great bus system that goes everywhere, but in the evening the buses can be pretty infrequent.

Geography - It is quite spread out and is actually a combination of Yeocheon and Yeosu, it's possible to have to travel 45 minutes to visit friends, luckily multiple ETAs are usually placed here so it ends up being a good place to spend the year

Cinemas – There are three major cinemas, two of which are quite nice (Hollywood & Cinema World), which always have at least one English film. Cinema is in the Yeocheon area near city hall and Hollywood is in Yeoso-dong, so you are likely to be near one of the two.

Food – not the large number of foreign restaurants like other cities, but lots of good pizza places, also 2 McDonalds, 3 Lotterias, and 4 Baskin Robbins

---

**Individual cities sorted by population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Busan</td>
<td>3655437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daejeon</td>
<td>1438778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwangju</td>
<td>1400000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwon</td>
<td>1035956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucheon</td>
<td>844256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changwon</td>
<td>528152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheonan</td>
<td>525135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pohang</td>
<td>513424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masan</td>
<td>429612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gumi</td>
<td>341034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeosu</td>
<td>320570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyeongju</td>
<td>281177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonju</td>
<td>275217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suncheon</td>
<td>270270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeju City</td>
<td>259290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mokpo</td>
<td>245482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyeongsan</td>
<td>221196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andong</td>
<td>184108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seosan</td>
<td>148697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gongsu</td>
<td>130957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naaju</td>
<td>108962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asan</td>
<td>103122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seogwipo</td>
<td>83600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mungyeong/Jeomchon</td>
<td>81525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uiseong</td>
<td>71216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeongam</td>
<td>65268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyeryong</td>
<td>31340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Republic of Korea is divided into one “special city” or 테크byeolsi (특별시), six “cities of large area” or 광역시 (광역시), and nine provinces or 도 (도). The “special city” is Seoul, while other large cities, in descending order of population, are Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon, and Ulsan. The provinces are Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungcheong (north and south), Gyeongsang (north and south), Jeolla (north and south), and Jeju. North Korea also includes parts of Gyeonggi and Gangwon provinces. Originally North Korea also included Hwanghae, Pyeongan (north and south), and Hamgyeong (north and south) provinces. However, in an effort to support their plan for reunification (a confederation with equal representation for the two systems, despite the fact that the North has less than a third of Korea’s total population), the North has redrawn provincial lines, splitting Hwanghae in half (north and south), and adding two new provinces in the far north (Jagang and Ryanggang). This makes nine provinces, just as many as the South. There are also three special cities in North Korea: 평양 (평양) (Pyeongyang (teukbyeolsi)), plus Gaeseong and Nampo (직할시,jikhalsi, “city under direct jurisdiction”).

Addresses in Korea might be mostly useless for actually locating a particular building, but one thing they are useful for is determining how rural or urban a particular place is. The following terms are helpful to know. They have no exact translations in English because they are used differently in the Korean context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>시</td>
<td>si (pron. “shee”)</td>
<td>city</td>
<td>A county with a city in its center (thus some areas of a 시 can be quite rural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>구</td>
<td>gu (pron. “goo”)</td>
<td>district</td>
<td>A large subdivision of a city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>동</td>
<td>dong</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
<td>A small subdivision of a district (only used for the urban portion of cities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>군</td>
<td>gun (pron. “goon”)</td>
<td>county</td>
<td>A rural county with a town in its center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>읍</td>
<td>eup</td>
<td>town</td>
<td>A town within either a 시或구 or 군</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>면</td>
<td>myeon (pron. “myun”)</td>
<td>village</td>
<td>A small village within either a 시 or 구 or 군</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>리</td>
<td>ri</td>
<td>hamlet</td>
<td>A small subdivision of an 읍 or 면 (more rural than an 읍 but at the same administrative level) (basically the equivalent of a 동 but outside the city center)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Addresses in Korea are written from largest to smallest unit. They are usually in the following formats. [etc.] means apartment name or building number or other building-specific information.

- [special city] 특별시/광역시 [district] 구 [neighborhood] 동 [etc.]
- [province] 도 [county] 군 [town/village] 읍/면 [hamlet] [etc.]

So, an example of a very urban address among last year’s ETA school placements was Seoul Arts High School:

Korean order: 서울특별시 종로구 평창동 217번지
English order: 217 Pyeongchang-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul

And one of the most rural addresses was Miho Middle School:

Korean order: 충청북도 청원군 강내면 월곡리 300-1 번지
English order: 300-1 Wolgok-ri, Gangnae-myeon, Cheongwon-gun, Chungcheongbuk-do

One more useful thing to know, since most of you will be living in an apartment with your homestay family, is how apartments are organized in Korea. There are two terms, 동 (dong) and 호 (ho). This 동 is not the same as the 동 used to refer to the city neighborhood (see above). Rather, 동 refers to the building number. 호 is the number of the apartment itself. Some larger apartment complexes, or apartment complexes with common names (more than one of the same name in the same area of the city) might be first subdivided into 차 (cha).

Example:
My homestay address ended in:
대림한숲 APT 3차 303 동 906 호 (Daerim Hansup Apartments #3, Building 303, Apt. #906)