

OUR TOP 6 PLACES TO GO IN SOUTH KOREA - SLOW TRAVEL STYLE



HIDDEN LANES
BY EMMA AND JARROD HALL

**+ free essential Korean
phrase guide!**



INTRODUCTION TO SLOW TRAVEL IN SOUTH KOREA

Although South Korea is a very busy and modern country, it's surprisingly accommodating for "slow travel" style adventures. In fact it was in South Korea 12 years ago that we first discovered and fully understand what slow travel is, and how wonderful it can be. It was then we created a film [Jeju: A Slow Travel Adventure](#) that was featured in the Bicycle Film Festival and the Korea Expat Film Festival. Slow travel is a kind of way to enjoy travel more – by slowing down and soaking up beautiful scenery, talking to locals, exploring the culture/art of a place and embracing the serendipity of what happens when you don't rush off to the next place in a car.

QUICK AND EASY KOREAN PHRASES

With this list, a bit of mime, patience, and a good sense of humour we think you'll be able to get around just fine. If all else fails just grab a passing teenager – most of them speak at least a little English as they're forced to study it at school.

The middle column is just a pronunciation guide, it's not necessarily the correct way to write these words using the English alphabet.

BASICS

Hello	Ahn-yong-hass-eh-yo	안녕하세요
Goodbye	Ahn-yonghee-geh-seh-yoh	안녕히계세요
Thankyou	Gam-sa-hamnida	감사합니다
Is this OK?	Gwen-chahn-ah-yo?	괜찮아요
It's fine/no problem	Gwen-chahn-ah-yo	괜찮아요?
Excuse me (getting attention)	Cham-shi-mahn-yo	잠시만요
My name is Bob.	Cho-nen Bob imnidah	저는 Bob 입니다
Yes	Yeah	예
No	Ah-nee-oh	아니요

FOOD

Restaurant	Shik-dang	식당
Park	Dweh-ji	돼지
Fish	Seng-son	생선
Beef	Soh	소Duck
Duck meat	Ori	오리
Chicken meat	dahk	닭
Vegetarian	Chaeh-shick	채식



Accommodation	Sook bahk	숙박
Guesthouse	Geh-suh-tuh Ha-ooh-suh	게스트 하우스
Minbak (similar to guesthouse)	Min-bahk	민박
Hotel	Hoh-tel	호텔
Is there a hotel?	Hoh-tel iss-oh-yo?	호텔있어요?
Where is the hotel?	Hoh-tel oh-dee-yeh-yo?	호텔 어디예요?
Do you have a room available?	Bang-iss-oh-yo?	방 있어요?
Can I look at the room?	Bang pwa-doo-teh-yo?	방봐도돼요?
Do you have a fan?	Son-poong-ki iss-oh-yo?	선풍기있어요?
Is there air-conditioning?	Eh-con iss-oh-yo?	에어컨 있어요?
How much does it cost?	OI-ma-yeh-yo?	얼마예요?



OUR TOP PLACES TO GO IN SOUTH KOREA - SLOW TRAVEL STYLE

We've travelled most of South Korea while living there for 9 years and now we don't, we travel frequently there. We love Korean culture, landscape and people, so if you're the same, you'll probably love the places on our top place to visit list. South Korea is great for slow travel as everything is quite close together and pretty easy to get to.

THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

See North Korea with your own eyes. Take the bus into the JSA, through a mined forest devoid of signs of modern civilization to see Panmunjom, where heads of state have meetings with the North Korean leadership. Walk within meters of a line painted on the ground that divides North and South Korea, guarded by armed soldiers with orders to shoot if you try to cross. What could be more exciting?





SLOW FERRY TO JEJU

Take the slow ferry from Mokpo, which will allow you to walk around outside and really soak in the view. The trip takes about six hours in total and just over half of that is cruising just off the island-studded coast of Southern Korea. Spread your picnic blanket or grab a seat and kick back to enjoy the unbelievable scenery scrolling by. Read more [here](#).



GYEONGHUI PALACE

Seoul has lots of palaces and they're all amazing, but this palace is a bit special. It's one of the less well-known and least visited palaces, but it's just as charming as the more popular ones. You can have the whole place to yourself and take in the serene atmosphere created by the traditional architecture and the sense of isolation it creates - it's like a forgotten bubble of magic and peace in the middle of the bustling city. Very Studio Ghibli.



BUKCHEON AND INSADONG

Bukcheon is filled with beautiful ancient stone and wood houses. It's got little winding alleys where you'll find hidden tea houses with courtyard gardens, and never-ending block after block of traditional, tile-roofed homes. Insadong has cafes, restaurants, museums, and stores devoted to paper, books, calligraphy supplies, ceramics, metal sculptures, and brushes. And tourists, there's a heck of a lot of those too!

DAEDUNSAN

These incredible mountains in bizarre shapes leave you in no doubt you have arrived in the "hermit kingdom" of yore. It's like walking into an ancient brush painting... only with metal staircases, a cable car, and suspension bridges that will leave you dizzy with vertigo.



BUDDHIST TEMPLES

South Korea is full to brimming with incredible temples dedicated to this ancient religion with its roots in India. They range in age from over a millennia to just a couple of years, the oldest being Bongeunsa in Seoul, which dates back to 794. Our favorite is Donghaksa in Gyeryeongsan National Park near Sejong. The current temple building was built in the 19th century, after the original, which dated back to 920, was destroyed during a rebellion.



...AND MORE

We have a lot more places we love to visit including some magical places on Jeju Island, Gangneung, Jeonju, Mokpo, lakes, rivers, mountains, shopping districts and beaches. Email to let us know of any gems we may have missed [Email here](#) (or you can join our [South Korea Slow Travel Facebook group here](#)).