

# Spring Blossoms

## Jinhae's cherry blossoms



Every year in early March, Jinhae-si on the southern shore overflows with cherry blossoms and tourists flock to see them. As the premier locale for cherry blossoms in Korea, the city hosts a plethora of programs planned to coincide with the cherry blossom season in an event called Jinhae Gunhangje.

Visitors can immerse themselves in spring by participating in the festivities in the city, or trek away and climb the nearby mountain to appreciate the beautiful picture created by the limitless stretch of the ocean and cherry blossoms.

If it is romance you seek, ride the Cherry Blossom Train that operates yearly during the cherry blossom season.

- ※Jinhae Gunhangje Festival Period : March 29-April 7 (10 Days)
- ※Jinhae Gunhangje Cherry Blossom Train :  
Operates from late March to early April, once daily (7:10 AM)
- ※Inquiries : Culture and Information Office, Jinhae City Hall

## Seonunsa Temple's camellias



About mid-April the ancient temple Seonunsa is drenched in the scents of spring. The temple is renowned for its camellias, and the path leading up to it has been turned into a cherry blossom road. Coupled with the azaleas and camellia flowers that take over the mountainside; it is

one sight to behold, truly embodying spring on the southern Korean peninsula.

Visitors can hike a sunlit mountain path up Mt. Seonunsan and enjoy an expansive view of the ocean from the lookout point. Then continue on to a tour of the Seonunsa Temple, laid against a backdrop of camellia flowers that have been designated a natural monument, boasting a recorded history of 1,500 years. The various Buddhist artifacts and artworks are not to be missed either, and an overnight temple-stay program can be booked in advance.

Stop by the nearby Mt. Maisan to hear the outlandish legend of the mountain and the numerous tales surrounding the tall piled-stone pagodas, while hiking through the cherry blossom valley that leads to the temple site.

- ※Period : April 15-22
- ※Seonunsa hours : Summer Season 8 AM - 7 PM.  
Winter Season 9 AM - 5 PM.

- ※Inquiries : Culture and Physical Education Division,  
Gochang-gun County Office 82-63-560-2208,  
[www.gochang.go.kr](http://www.gochang.go.kr)

## Jeju's rapeseed flowers



Jeju Island is Korea's number one tourism spot and the place where spring arrives earliest. The blankets of yellow rapeseed flowers that cover Jeju Island's fields in early spring is a fantastic natural tourism resource, helping people

forget the chilly seaside winds and feel the warmth of spring. In time for spring florescence the Jeju Island King Cherry Blossom and Rape Flower Festival will take place from April 4 to 6, featuring a wide range of events.

In southern Jeju Island's city of Seogwipo, the Seogwipo Chilsimni International Walking Festival will be held April 5 and 6 to greet the spring.

- ※Period : Early April
- ※Inquiries : Division of Tourism and Free Trade Zone Service, Jeju City Hall 82-64-750-7414, [www.infojeju.com](http://www.infojeju.com)  
Sports Promotion Team, Seogwipo City Hall  
82-64-739-2002, [www.seogwipo.go.kr](http://www.seogwipo.go.kr)

## Seoul's Yungjungno cherry blossoms

If you stay in Seoul and would like to take a pleasant stroll while enjoying the spring's blossoms, we recommend Yungjungno along the Han River on Yeouido. The Yungjungno is seven kilometers, lined with 1,400 cherry trees ranging from 3 to 35 years old. You can imagine shy Seoul-bound citizens enjoying a drive or a stroll there at the peak of spring blooming season. Every year in time for the cherry blossoms, the city holds its Cherry Blossom Festival, and the 23-hectare Yeouido Park provides a haven for nature enthusiasts in the midst of the concrete jungle.



- ※Period : April 10-25
- ※Transportation :  
Yeouinaru Station or Yeouido Station, Seoul Subway Line 5  
Seat Bus - 631, 720, 1002, 1008, 703, 718, etc.  
Regular Bus - 3, 9, 30, 30-1, 48, 70, 77, 119, 123-1, etc.

When it turns April and spring is in full swing, the Korean peninsula transforms into a veritable paradise of flowers. Azaleas color the mountains red, snow-white flowers cover the pear trees, timid peach blossoms and especially cherry burst into glory, and sunny forsythias capture the eyes and enchant the heart. Be in the know about the best sites to enjoy spring flowers, and imbibe the sweet scent of spring!

## Yeong-am cherry blossoms



Yeong-am is noted as the birthplace of Dr. Wang In, the man responsible for relaying to Japan much of Baeje high culture, especially the Cheonjamun (the Thousand Characters).

It is also a favorite spot to enjoy cherry blossoms. From within Yeong-am town limits to Dokcheon-ri lies a twenty-kilometer stretch of cherry trees that is often transformed by the gentle spring breeze into a floral shower that resembles snowfall.

Just in time for the cherry blossoms is the Wang In Cultural Festival (April 4-7), where visitors can experience the plentiful culinary culture of the south while enjoying traditional entertainment and some interesting cultural background in ancient Oriental history.

- ※Period : April 10-17
- ※Inquiries : Culture and Information Division, Yeong-am-gun County Office 82-61-470-2224, [www.yeongam.jeonnam.kr](http://www.yeongam.jeonnam.kr)
- ※Transportation : Seoul Gangnam Express Bus Terminal(Honamseon Line) to Yeong-am, buses run hourly. From Gwangju buses run every 10 minutes.

## Azalea mountain hike



The mountains in May turn to a festive carpet of azaleas that burst into full bloom. Follow the blazing red flowers up into one of the famous mountains of this country and make wonderful memories to take home. Mountain

areas designated as national parks such as Hallasan, Jirisan, and Sobaeksan are well-known for these rich red and purple blossoms add much to the festivities of spring.

The Mt. Sobaeksan Azalea Festival takes place May 24 and 25, and on the last day there is a mountain climbing contest. For detailed festival information, call the Yeongju Culture Center(82-54-631-3300).

- ※Jirisan National Park Management Office  
82-55-972-7771-2
- ※Sobaeksan National Park Management Office  
82-54-638-6196
- ※Hallasan National Park Management Office  
82-64-742-3084

For athletically inclined tourists, there are various marathons held along roads filled with cherry blossoms, so that runners can enjoy their sport while taking in the bountiful spring blossoms.

## Hapcheon Cherry Blossom Marathon

The Hapcheon Cherry Blossom Marathon, in its second year, will take place on April 6, along the 40-km Cherry Blossom Road from downtown Hapcheon to Hapcheonho Lake. Korean stars including director Jee-gyu Kang (famed for his movie "Shiri") and actors Won-bin and Jang Dong-geon are said to be their new movie, "Flying the Taeggeuk Flag," which is being filmed on a set constructed atop the Hapcheon Lake supplementary dam. The marathon consists of a 5 km, 10km, and half-course race. Participation fees range from 10,000 won to 20,000 won.

- ※Inquiries : Hapcheon-gun County Office 82-55-931-9625,  
[www.hc.go.kr](http://www.hc.go.kr)

## Gyeongju Cherry Blossom Marathon

On April 5, the Gyeongju Cherry Blossom Marathon will be held at the Gyeongju World Culture Expo Plaza. The marathon will consist of a 42.195 km full-course marathon as well as one of half course, a 10km marathon, and a 5 km walk (limited to Japanese tourists only), along the stunning and energizing cherry blossom course.

- ※Inquiries : Gyeongju Sports Council  
82-54-772-4993  
[www.cherry-marathon.com](http://www.cherry-marathon.com)

