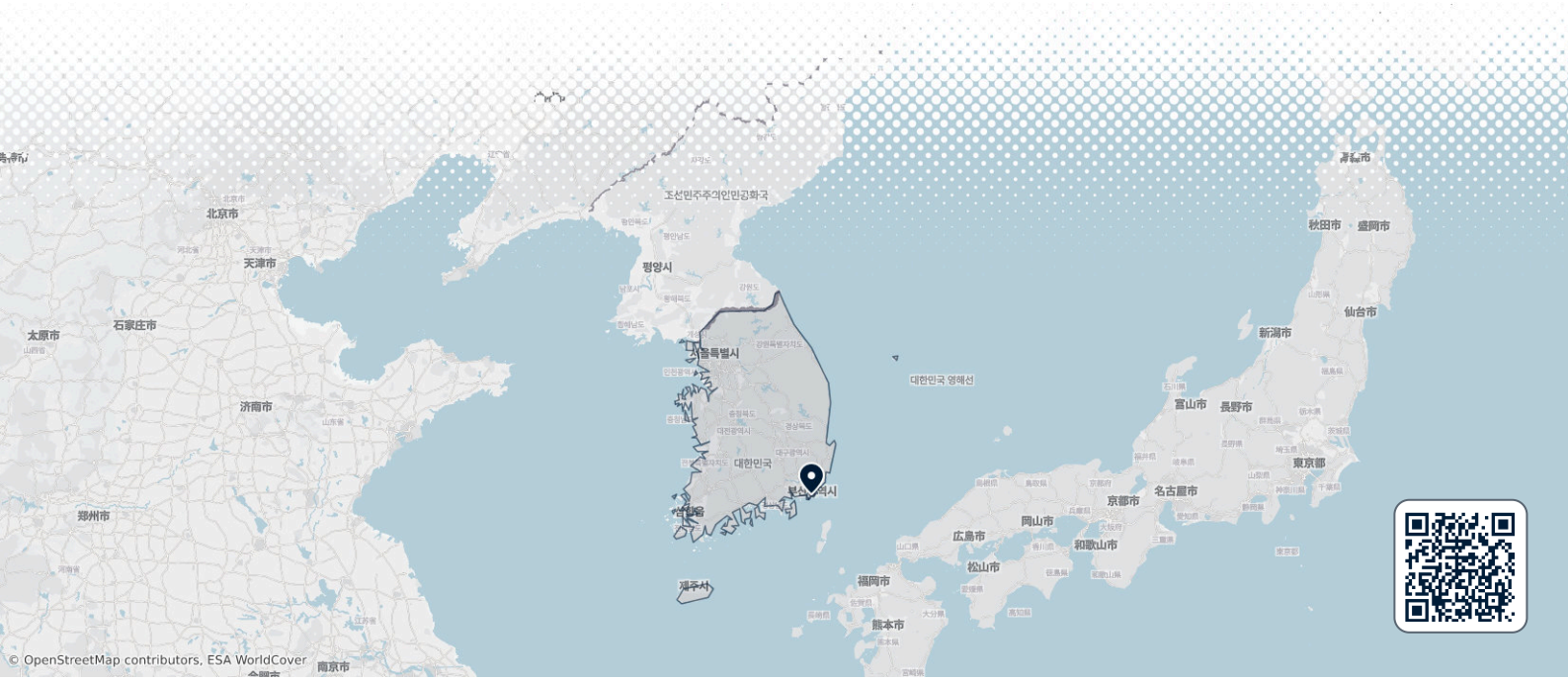


Busan

South Korea

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Busan is South Korea's second-largest city and its main port, built around a wide bay where mountains meet the sea. Unlike the dense, flat sprawl of Seoul, Busan rises and falls across steep hills, so beaches, working harbors, and skyscrapers sit only minutes apart.

The city suits travelers who want a beach break without leaving a major city. Mornings can start with a swim at Haeundae Beach, afternoons can be spent wandering a fish market or a hillside village, and evenings can end with dinner overlooking the water. Its wartime history as the country's last unconquered city and temporary capital still shapes several of its neighborhoods.

When to visit

Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are mild and the most comfortable seasons for walking and beach visits. Summer (June to August) is hot and humid, with a monsoon season in July and typhoon risk in August and September. Winter (December to February) is cold by the sea but rarely freezing, and stays quieter for visitors.

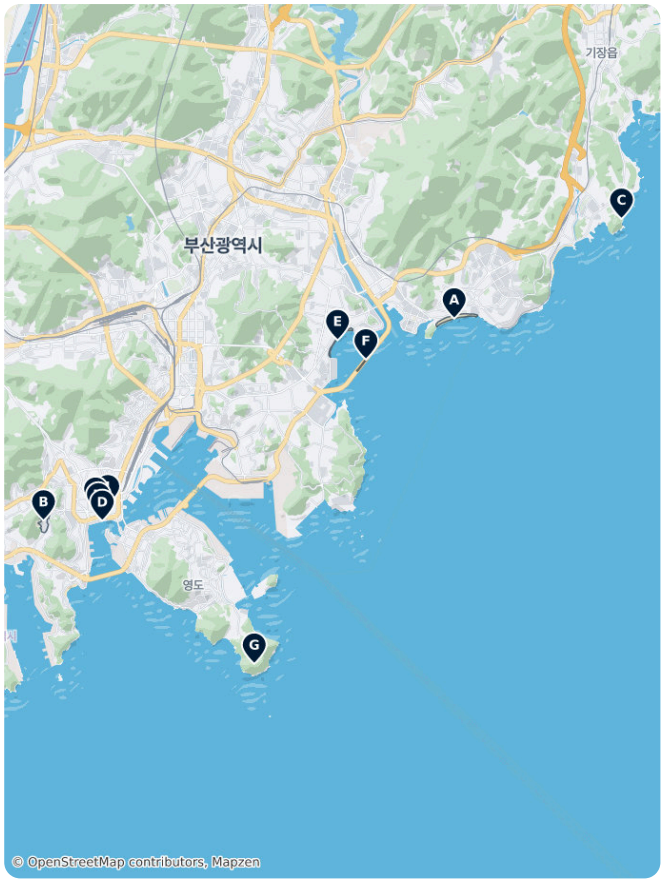
Plan around the Busan International Film Festival in early October if you can. It is Asia's largest film festival, filling Haeundae and the Nampo-dong cinema district with premieres, outdoor screenings, and visiting directors and actors from across the world.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for the beach	7° / 12° Feels like 0°	1° / -5°	Dry air
February	Fair Fair for hiking	8° / 14° Feels like 3°	2° / -4°	Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	12° / 17° Feels like 7°	5° / 0°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	16° / 20° Feels like 12°	10° / 5°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 23°	14° / 11°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	18° / 15°	Humid air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 30°	23° / 19°	14 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
August	Good Good for the beach	28° / 31°	24° / 21°	13 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
September	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	21° / 17°	Muggy, humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	15° / 10°	Dry air
November	Great Great for hiking	15° / 20° Feels like 10°	9° / 2°	Dry air
December	Fair Fair for hiking	9° / 15° Feels like 3°	2° / -4°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Haeundae Beach is Busan's most famous stretch of sand, backed by hotels and high-rises and busy with swimmers in summer and festival crowds in autumn.

B Gamcheon Culture Village is a hillside neighborhood of small, brightly painted houses stacked up a steep slope, built by refugees during the Korean War and now filled with murals, cafes, and viewpoints over the harbor.

C Haedong Yonggungsa is a rare sight in Korea: a Buddhist temple built directly on the rocks above the sea rather than in the mountains, connected to the shore by a stone bridge and especially striking at sunrise.

D Jagalchi Fish Market is the country's largest fish market, with stalls of live seafood facing the harbor and upstairs restaurants that will cook your pick to order.

E Gwangalli Beach draws a younger, café-lined crowd than Haeundae, and is best seen after dark, when the illuminated F Gwangan Bridge arcs across the bay behind it.

G Taejongdae is a cliffside park at the southern tip of Yeongdo island, with pine forest trails, sea cliffs, and a small cruise-boat pier below the lighthouse.

H BIFF Square and the neighboring I Gukje Market form Busan's old downtown around Nampo-dong, once the heart of the Busan International Film Festival and still full of street food stalls and small shops.

J Busan Tower sits on Yongdusan Park above downtown and gives a wide view over the harbor and the hills behind it, best timed for sunset.

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What to experience

- **Soak in a jjimjilbang**: try a Korean bathhouse ritual of hot and cold pools, saunas, and a full-body scrub at Spaland Centum City, a large bathhouse and spa complex in Centum City.
- **Catch the Busan International Film Festival**: if your trip lands in early October, watch an outdoor screening or gala premiere at the Busan Cinema Center, or just join the crowds along the red carpet.
- **Walk Dalmaji-gil at moonrise**: its name means "greeting the moon", and this hillside road on the headland past Haeundae Beach, toward Cheongsapo village, is where locals go to watch it rise over the open sea, lined with cafes and small galleries.

Day trips

Busan sits close to some of Korea's best day-trip country, from a quiet fishing town to an ancient royal capital.

- **Tongyeong** — around 1.5 to 2.5 hours by direct bus, depending on the terminal. A working fishing port on the south coast with a cable car up Mireuksan mountain and a cluster of small islands offshore; a good pick if you want the sea without the crowds.
- **Gyeongju** — about 30 minutes by KTX high-speed train, plus a short taxi or bus into town, or under 2 hours by direct intercity bus. The capital of the ancient Silla kingdom for nearly a thousand years, with royal burial mounds, the Bulguksa temple complex, and the Seokguram Grotto all within a short taxi ride of each other.
- **Ulsan whale-watching coast** — 20 minutes to Ulsan by KTX, or around 1.5 hours direct by bus. Home to Jangsaengpo, one of Korea's few whale-watching harbors, plus the dramatic sea cliffs of Ganjeolgot, the mainland's easternmost point.

Where to explore

Much of what travelers come to Busan for sits inside Haeundae, the district around Haeundae Beach. Beyond the beach itself, it is home to the glass towers of Centum City, the BEXCO convention center, and Busan's biggest shopping malls, making it a natural base for a first-time visit.

Getting there

- **By air**: Gimhae International Airport handles both international and domestic flights and sits about 20 km west of downtown. The Busan-Gimhae Light Rail reaches the subway network in about 15 minutes, with a further 15–60 minutes on the subway depending on the destination; a limousine bus direct to Haeundae or Seomyeon takes 40–60 minutes depending on traffic.
- **By train**: Busan Station is the southern terminus of the KTX high-speed line, with the fastest direct trains from Seoul in around 2 hours 15 minutes, and most others taking up to 2 hours 45 minutes; trains from Daegu take under an hour.
- **By bus**: Busan Central Bus Terminal, in the Nopo-dong district, has frequent intercity and express services from Seoul, Gyeongju, and most of the southeast coast.

Getting around

- **Subway**: four lines plus a light rail cover most tourist areas, including Haeundae, Nampo-dong, and Seomyeon. Buy a rechargeable T-money card at any convenience store or subway machine and tap in and out; single paper tickets are also sold at station machines for one-off trips. Route and fare information is on Busan Metro (Humetro).
- **Buses**: a dense city bus network fills the gaps the subway misses, especially along the coast toward Gwangalli and Songdo; the same T-money card works on board.
- **Taxi**: metered taxis are affordable and easy to hail; ride-hailing apps mainly show the same regulated taxi fleet rather than private drivers.
- **On foot**: downtown and the beach neighborhoods are walkable, but Busan's hills mean some routes, especially around Gamcheon Culture Village, involve steady climbing.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Downtown, the beaches, and Nampo-dong are each walkable in themselves, but Busan's hills and sprawl mean you'll want the subway or a bus between neighborhoods.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

A coastal bike path runs along Haeundae and Gwangalli, but the city's hills and heavy traffic make cycling impractical elsewhere.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: no. Busan's subway and buses cover the tourist areas well, and the city's hills, one-way streets, and heavy port traffic make driving stressful for a short stay.
- **Parking**: hotels in Haeundae and Nampo-dong offer paid parking, and public lots near major sights charge by the hour; street parking in the centre is scarce.
- **Restrictions**: none beyond normal traffic rules apply specifically to tourists.

Food & drink

As Korea's biggest port, Busan built its food culture around seafood. Look for dwaeji gukbap, a pork bone and rice soup native to the city, and milmyeon, cold wheat noodles that became a local staple after the Korean War. Sweet, filled hotteok pancakes sold from street carts around BIFF Square are a Busan specialty distinct from the plainer version found elsewhere in Korea.

For seafood, head straight to Jagalchi Fish Market, where you can buy fish, shellfish, or octopus fresh from the tanks downstairs and have it prepared upstairs for a small fee. Around the market and through Nampo-dong, street food stalls selling seafood pancakes and skewers cluster along the alleys leading from Gukje Market.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Bibimbap · 비빔밥
Rice topped with seasoned vegetables, meat, and a fried egg, mixed together with chili paste at the table.

Korean BBQ · 고기구이
Grilled meat cooked tableside and wrapped in lettuce with sauces and side dishes; a shared, social meal.

Kimchi-jjigae · 김치찌개
A spicy stew made with fermented kimchi, tofu, and pork or seafood.

Samgyeopsal · 삼겹살
Thick-cut pork belly grilled at the table, a popular Korean BBQ staple.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Tteokbokki · 떡볶이
Chewy rice cakes simmered in a spicy-sweet sauce; a classic street food.

Kimchi · 김치
Fermented, seasoned vegetables, most often napa cabbage, served as a side dish with nearly every meal.

DRINKS

Makgeolli · 막걸리
A milky, lightly sparkling rice wine, traditionally paired with savory pancakes.

Soju · 소주
A clear, mild-tasting distilled spirit and the country's most popular alcoholic drink, usually shared over a meal.

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Safety & health

Busan is a safe city for tourists, with low rates of violent crime and a strong police and CCTV presence in busy areas. Petty theft is uncommon, but keep an eye on bags in crowded spots like the beaches, the fish market, and nightlife areas around Seomyeon and Gwangalli, especially late at night.

Summer brings high heat and humidity, so pace outdoor sightseeing and stay hydrated; typhoon season in August and September can bring sudden heavy rain and coastal closures.

History

Busan has been Korea's gateway to the sea for centuries, trading with Japan through the walled settlement of Dongnae long before it grew into a modern port. Its most defining modern history dates to the Korean War: when North Korean forces overran nearly the whole peninsula in 1950, Busan was the one major city that never fell, and it served as South Korea's temporary capital while the rest of the country was fought over.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees crowded into the city during the war, and many settled on the steep, unwanted hillsides above the port. Gamcheon Culture Village grew directly out of that history, its tightly packed houses climbing the slope exactly where wartime refugees first built them. The temple at Haedong Yonggungsa is far older, founded in 1376 during the Goryeo dynasty after a monk reportedly dreamed of a sea god telling him to build it there. Fire destroyed the original buildings centuries later, and the temple standing today was rebuilt in the early 1930s.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for South Korea at a glance:

CURRENCY
KRW ₩

ELECTRICITY

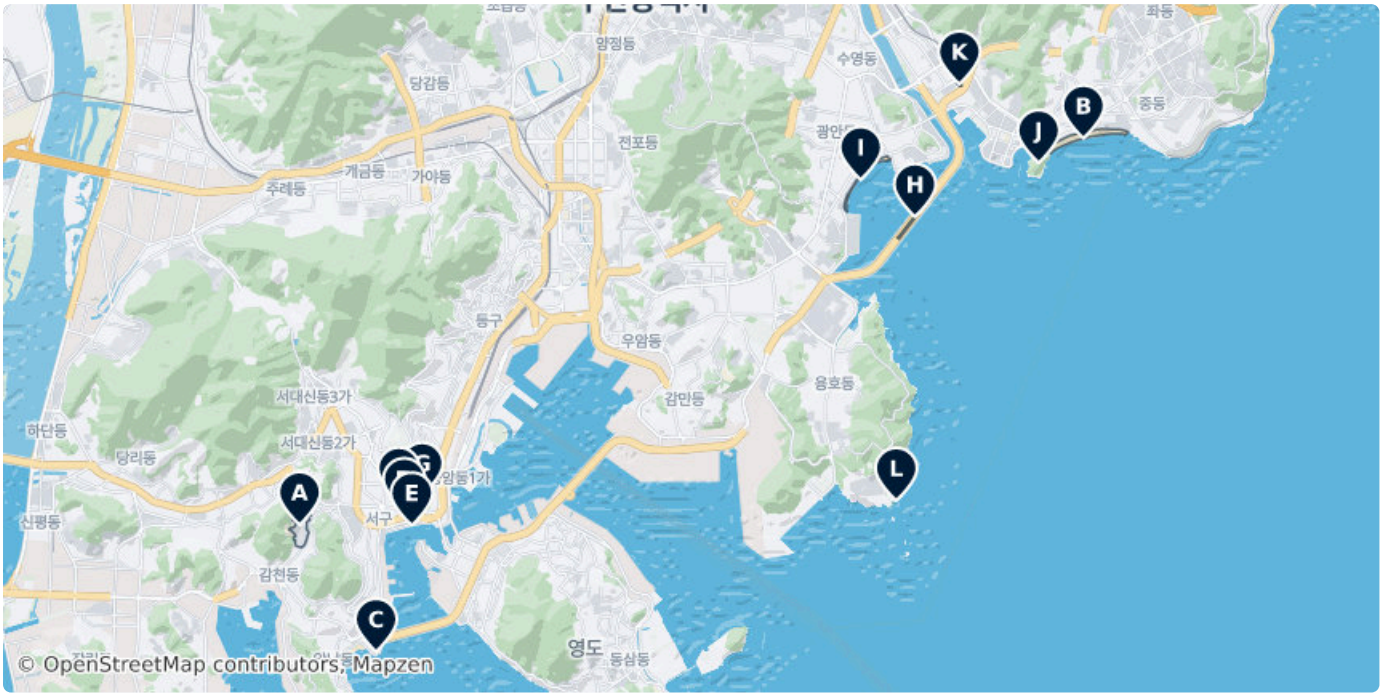
Type C / Type F
220 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Korean

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Busan Essentials

Busan's urban landscape centers on its maritime heritage and diverse neighborhoods. This collection features the colorful, terraced houses of Gamcheon Culture Village and the historic Jagalchi Fish Market, Korea's largest seafood hub. Coastal highlights include Haeundae and Gwangalli beaches, linked by the seven-kilometer Gwangan Bridge. Cultural sites range from the BIFF Square cinema district to the Busan City Art Museum. Natural landmarks like the Oryukdo Skywalk and Dongbaekseom Island offer coastal views, while the Songdo Cable Car provides a panoramic perspective of the city's harbor and skyline.





Ⓐ Gamcheon Culture Village

Gamcheon Culture Village is a town within Gamcheon-dong, Saha District, Busan, South Korea.

177-11, Gamnae 2-ro, Saha-gu, Busan, South Korea, 부산광역시 사하구 감내2로 177-11 (35.09674, 129.00869)

gamcheon.or.kr, +82 70 4219 5556



Ⓑ Haeundae Beach

Million dollar beach. Definitely the most famous and loved one in Korea!

Haeundaehaebyeon-ro, Haeundae-gu, Busan, South Korea (35.15815, 129.16115)

+82 51 749 5700



C Songdo Cable Car Songdo Sky Park

One of the most breathtaking experience that you can enjoy in the city is this cable car cruise.

Busan, South Korea (35.07655, 129.02357)

Mo–Th	09:00–22:00
Fr–Sa	09:00–23:00
Su	09:00–22:00

en.busanaircruise.co.kr/main/main.html



D BIFF Square

It is a cinema district and the place where Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) takes place. See some of the non-commercial cinemas.

Busan, South Korea (35.09890, 129.02905)

+82 51 253 8523



E Jagalchi Fish Market

Jagalchi Fish Market is a fish market in Busan, South Korea. The market is located on the edge of Nampo Port, Busan.

52 Jagalchihaean-ro, Jung-gu, Busan, South Korea (35.09665, 129.03052)

jagalchimarket.bisco.or.kr, +82 51 713 8000



F Gukje market

Gukje Market or Nampodong International Market is a market in Sinchang-dong, Jung District, Busan, South Korea.

국제시장2길 55 (35.10062, 129.02802)

Mo–Su	09:00–18:00

+82 54 270 2842



G Busan Tower

Busan Tower is a 120-metre-high tower at Yongdusan Park, located in Jung-gu, Busan, South Korea.

37-30 Yongdusan-gil, Jung-gu, Busan, South Korea (35.10138, 129.03256)

busantower.co.kr/busantower/home.do, +82 51-257-9771



H Gwangan Bridge

The second longest bridge measuring over seven kilometres spreads its pillars in the Busan bay. It connects Haeundae-gu to Suyeong-gu.

South Korea (35.14569, 129.12839)

english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_1_1_1.jsp



I Gwangalli Beach

The Gwangalli Beach or Gwangan Beach is a beach in Busan, South Korea.

219, Gwanganhaebyeon-ro, Suyeong-gu, Busan, South Korea (Gwangan2-dong) (35.15156, 129.11784)

english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_... , +82 51 610 4211



J Dongbaekseom Island

It's the place you will remember and say I wish I spent more time there! A beautiful park with a statue of the scholar Choi Chi-won.

Busan, South Korea (35.15423, 129.15243)

english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_... , +82 51 749 4084



K Busan City Art Museum

Modern and contemporary art museum featuring a dedicated space for minimalist artist Lee Ufan. The facility includes five floors of exhibition halls and an outdoor sculpture park showcasing local and international works.

부산광역시 (35.16678, 129.13700)

Mo–Su 10:00–21:00

art.busan.go.kr



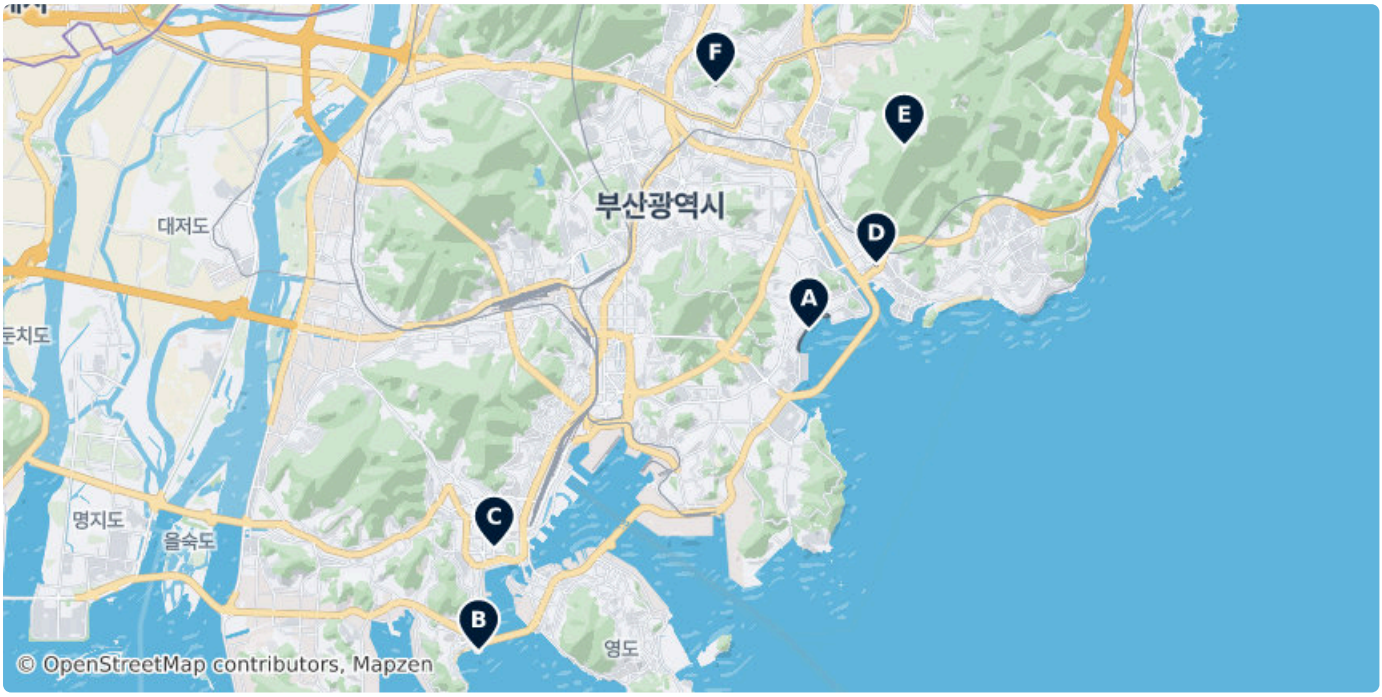
L Oryukdo Skywalk

A 15-meter glass-bottomed U-shaped bridge situated on a 35-meter coastal cliff. It overlooks the Oryukdo Islands at the dividing point between the East Sea and South Sea.

South Korea (35.10057, 129.12473)

Editor's Choice: Busan Highlights

Busan's diverse landscape features the urban Gwangalli Beach, known for its night views of the Gwangandaegyo Bridge, and the historic Gukje Market in the Jung District. Cultural sites include the Bokcheon Museum, which focuses on regional archaeology from the Gaya and Silla periods, and the Busan City Art Museum. For natural scenery, the Songdo Cable Car offers a route over the ocean to Sky Park, while JangSan Mountain provides hiking trails with panoramic views of the city skyline.





A Gwangalli Beach

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219, Gwanganhaebyeon-ro, Suyeong-gu, Busan, South Korea (Gwangan2-dong) (35.15156, 129.11784)

english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_... , +82 51 610 4211



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Mo–Th	09:00–22:00
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en.busanaircruise.co.kr/main/main.html



C Gukje market

Gukje Market or Nampodong International Market is a market in Sinchang-dong, Jung District, Busan, South Korea.

국제시장2길 55 (35.10062, 129.02802)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

+82 54 270 2842



D Busan City Art Museum

Located in Centum City, this contemporary art gallery features diverse exhibitions of modern Korean art. It includes the Space Lee Ufan, a dedicated permanent gallery showcasing the minimalist artist's sculptures and paintings alongside rotating seasonal collections.

부산광역시 (35.16678, 129.13700)

Mo–Su 10:00–21:00

art.busan.go.kr



E JangSan Mountain

Offering gorgeous views of Busan underneath, this moderately challenging peak is great for an afternoon hike.

South Korea (35.19436, 129.14501)

F Bokcheon Museum

The Bokcheon Museum is an archaeology museum in Busan, South Korea. Opened on October 5, 1996, the museum is dedicated to the history of the...

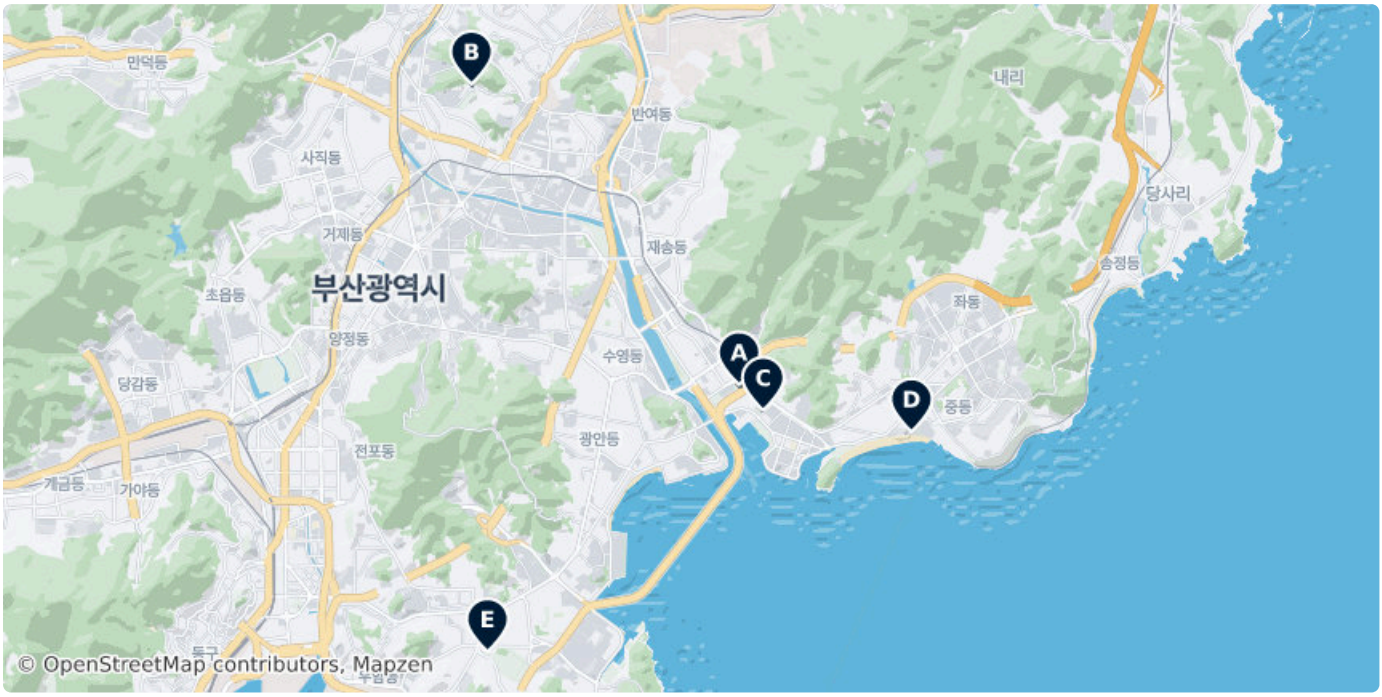
부산광역시 (35.20883, 129.09116)

Mo–Su 09:00–20:00

bcmuseum.busan.go.kr

Busan Museums & Galleries

Busan's cultural landscape spans from the ancient Gaya tumuli at Bokcheon Museum to the contemporary installations at the Busan City Art Museum, which features a dedicated space for Lee Ufan. The GoEun Museum of Photography provides specialized exhibitions in Haeundae, while the Radium Art Center blends modern visual arts with musical history. For a comprehensive overview of the city's development from prehistory through the Joseon Dynasty, the Busan Museum offers extensive indoor and outdoor galleries.





A Busan City Art Museum

Located in Haeundae, this five-story facility showcases contemporary art across various media. It includes the Space Lee Ufan annex, a dedicated gallery designed by the artist himself to house his minimalist sculptures and paintings.

부산광역시 (35.16678, 129.13700)

Mo–Su 10:00–21:00

art.busan.go.kr

B Bokcheon Museum

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부산광역시 (35.20883, 129.09116)

Mo–Su 09:00–20:00

bcmuseum.busan.go.kr

C GoEun Museum of Photography

A perfect stop for any photography lover out there, this museum of photography offers small yet very inspiring exhibitions to enjoy for...

해운대로452번길 16 (35.16320, 129.14113)

Tu–Su 10:00–19:00

goeunmuseum.kr

D Radium Art Center

Situated near Haeundae Beach, this center evolved from the Busan Music Museum into a contemporary art space. It hosts exhibitions focusing on digital art, sound installations, and the intersection of visual arts and music.

(35.16020, 129.16654)

E Busanbagmulgwan (Busan Museum)

Its opening hours leave you with total freedom. Stroll through the museum and visit all the amazing halls.

63, UN Pyeonghwa-ro, Nam-gu, Busan, South Korea (35.12942, 129.09392)

museum.busan.go.kr/english/01busan/01_01.jsp

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