BEXCO Convention & Exhibition Centre

- Many convenors’ venue of choice
- Located in the heart of the famous Haeundae Beach resort district in Busan
- New state-of-the-art auditorium (4,000 seats)
- Capacity for up to 34 concurrent sessions
- 16 exhibition halls (46,500m²)
- 49 meeting rooms available in various sizes
- Walking distance to the department stores and subway/bus stations
- Over 5,000 hotel rooms available within a 5 km radius
- Over 8,600 people to be accommodated in restaurants and cafes inside and nearby the BEXCO

Travel Highlights

Gyeongju Tour

1. Gyeongju Folk Craft Village

The folk craft village is a home to craftsmen and artisans who have successfully preserved the spirit and craftsmanship of their ancestors. Visitors may receive a free tour of 18 different galleries and workshops including metal, ceramics, woodcrafts and other handicrafts.

2. Seokguram Grotto

Seokguram Grotto, located on Eoraam Mountain, is the representative stone temple of Korea. It was built with Bulguksa, one of the famous temples in Korea, and also designated as both National Treasure and World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO for its exceptional beauty.

3. Bulguksa Temple

Bulguksa Temple, which was built in 528 during the Shilla Kingdom, is the representative relics of Gyeongju and was designated as a World Cultural Asset by UNESCO in 1995. The beauty of the temple itself and the artistic touch of the stone relics are known throughout the world.

Seoul Tour

4. Insadong

Insadong’s Antique Street is a perfect blend of antique and modern Korean cultures. Various handicrafts and ceramics can be purchased here for souvenirs.

5. Gyeongbokgung Palace and Royal Guard-Changing Ceremonies

Gyeongbokgung Palace, built in 1395, is arguably the most beautiful and remains the largest of all five palaces in Korea. In ancient times, the royal guards protected the entrance of Gyeongbokgung Palace where the king ruled the country. The Royal Guard-Changing Ceremony is a great opportunity to experience a non-traditional scene in Korea. The guard’s uniforms, weapons and accessories as well as their most ceremonial procedures would be very memorable.

6. Changdeokgung Palace

Changdeokgung Palace was the second royal villa built following the construction of Gyeongbokgung Palace in Joseon Dynasty. The palace is also listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site for its historical significance and simple beauty.

7. Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP)

Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) is a multi-cultural complex with a meaning of Dream, Design, and Play. DDP is where new design trends begin and cultures are exchanged. It is a venue that introduces new products and fashion trends, that shares knowledge through exhibitions, and that offers diverse contents to experience new design. Also, many shopping malls and entertainments can be found around the DDP facility for people to enjoy.
Fast Facts about Korea

Korea: Imagine your Korea

- Time Zone: GMT+9
- Four distinct seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter
- Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)
  - USD1=KRW1,105 & EUR1=KRW1,278 as of 20 June 2018
- Population: 51.8 millions
- Official Language: Hangul (Korean language)
- GDP per capita USD29,115 / 20th in Big Mac Index as of 2018
- World’s 11th and Asia’s 4th largest economy
- 13 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 19 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages of Humanity

Busan: City of Film & Convention

- Latitude: 35˚N / Longitude: 129˚E
- Located at the southeastern tip of the Korean peninsula
- Average temperature in August: 25.7˚C/78.26˚F
- Population: 3.47 millions
- Ranked 9th in world’s top 10 conference city list and 4th in Asia
- Host city of the Asian Games, APEC Summit 2005 and many other international academic conferences
- Home to the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF)

Travel to and within Korea

- Korea can be easily reached via:
  1. Gimhae International Airport (PUS);
  2. Incheon International Airport (ICN);
  3. Gimpo International Airport (GMP).
- All major cities in Korea are served by the bullet trains (KTX).

History of Astronomy in Korea

Korea honors a long-standing legacy of astronomy, treasured for thousands of years. The origins of Korean ancient astronomy date back to the paleolithic era. Records of observations of astronomical phenomena starts from the 1st century BC and over 15,000 extensive historical records and relics still remain. In particular, Cheomseongdae Observatory built in the 7th century is one of the oldest observatories in the world.

King Sejong the Great (1418-1540) and Joseon Dynasty

The reign of King Sejong the Great between 1418 and 1446 is known as the unprecedented Golden Age of Korean science and culture, with particular attention to astronomical instruments and technologies. Cheomseongdae Burujaydo is a large planisphere carved on a marble stone in 1394. This star map contains more than 500 stars that are visible from Korea.

The Korean Astronomical Society (KAS)

- Founded in 1965, the Korean Astronomical Society (KAS) is the leading professional organisation for astronomy in Korea with 1,800 members. The KAS commemorated her 50th anniversary in April 2015.
- The KAS joined IAU in 1973 and now holds a Category B membership with 159 individual members as of June 2018.
- The KAS hosts biannual meetings in spring and autumn, attended by over 300 members, and organises symposia, workshops and public programmes.

Cheomseongdae, an astronomical observatory built in the 7th century, still stands in the city of Gyeongju, the capital of the Silla dynasty.

Angbu Ilgu, “pot-shaped Sun clock staring at the sky” is a sundial made by Jang Yeong-sil, a Korean astronomer lived under the King Sejong’s reign.