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Tourism Promotion Organization for Asia Pacific Cities

TPO is a network among cities in the Asia Pacific region and is an international tourism organization established for the development of the tourism industry. TPO exchanges tourism information among member cities to promote the tourism industry, and also carries out projects including tourism product development, joint marketing projects, and tourism education as well as human resources development. TPO has currently 86 city members and 45 industry members. Industry members consist of travel agencies, tourism related associations, research institutes, and destination marketing organizations(DMO). TPO strives for the development of sustainable tourism within the Asia Pacific region.



Tourism Promotion Organization
for Asia Pacific Cities

Excellent Choice for a Perfect Retreat

Taiping

Malaysia is such a charming tourist destination that once you visit the country, you may end up coming back. The city, hardly even featured in travel guidebooks, is blessed with a marvelous natural environment and traces of Malaysia's gripping history. After returning home and asked how the trip was, I realized: words cannot describe the experiences. Which means, it's now time to enjoy a second trip to Malaysia in search for a better way to express my feelings.

Editor A-Ra Ko Photographer Hyo-sun Lee (freelancer)



Taiping Travel Information

Location A city in Western Perak, Malaysia. Situated in the Southwest of the Malay Peninsula, approximately 48km Northwest of Ipoh. **Area** 186.5km² **Population** 191,104 **Climate** Tropical wet climate, hot and humid throughout the year with an average annual temperature of 27°C. During the wet season, from October to February, average temperature and humidity is higher, with regular rainfall. **Overview** Capital of Perak state and city of commerce, renowned for tin mines in the 19th century. Highways and railways in the West of Malay Peninsula cut across the city. Located approximately 20km inland from the coastal lowlands, embraced by Mount Hijau (1,448m). Back in the days, the city flourished as the center of the Kinta Valley, backed by an abundance of tin mines.



Enjoying a vacation on the highlands

Bukit Larut

The highest highland in Taiping located 1035m above sea level. Bukit Larut was first discovered by William Edward Maxwell in 1884. After coming across this beautiful landmark, Maxwell created a hiking trail and constructed a resort near the peak. For this reason, Bukit Larut was once nicknamed 'Maxwell Hill.' The resort can be found at 1250m high, which makes it Malaysia's oldest accommodation at the summit of a mountain. The distance from the entrance to the peak is 13km. Some adventurous hikers attempt to climb the mountain on foot, but it is highly recommended that travelers take advantage of the Land Rovers found at the foot of the mountain. It is a thrill to enjoy the track on the mountain, but hot and humid climate makes you tired if you walk. The hills are very steep and rough, but once you reach the top, a breathtaking view of serene plains appears before your eyes, and at that moment you forget all about the tough climb. Beneath you lies the panoramic view of Bukit Larut, painted in green, and on a clear day, you can even catch a glimpse of the faraway coastlines.

Address Pegawai Penjaga Bukit Larut, Perak, 34000 Taiping



Wildlife paradise Zoo Taiping

Malaysia's first-ever zoo. It has such a reputation that Taiping is most often associated with this particular landmark. The vast size of 140,000m² as well as the zoo's priority policy on zero-stress for the animals drew attention. Unlike a typical zoo, this landmark does not feature animal shows. Animals can be stressed most while trained for shows. Animal habitats in the Zoo are very similar to their wild habitat. The 'Savanna' section looks exactly like a real-life savanna, where giraffes, zebras and ostriches freely mingle together. The zoo also tried to minimize the use of fences, nets and glass walls and kept them at low heights so that humans and animals could be close to each other as possible. Visitors get to play with, and not just observe the animals. Local animals such as Malaysian tigers and orangutans, as well as 150 Asian and African animals and birds inhabit the zoo. The zoo is so large that motorized carts are available here and there. Strolling in the zoo is a good idea, but on a sweltering hot day you had better go around on the cart. Situated in the vicinity of the downtown, it is easy accessible to the zoo.

Address Jalan Taman Tasik Taiping, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak

Taiping, Malaysia's hidden gem

The name, meaning 'a city of eternal peace,' cannot be more fitting when looking at the pristine nature and kind-hearted locals. The former tin-mining city in 19c, once controlled by the British army, has a history of glory and shame. This turbulent history blessed the city with a great amount of charming versatility.



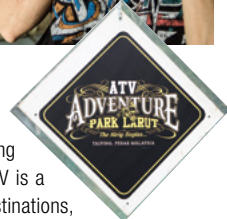
Malaysia's history at a glance Perak Museum

Malaysia's oldest museum constructed in 1883. The museum has the personal collection of Hugh Low, a British who was a resident in Perak, on display, as well as the artifacts, cultural heritage, and taxidermed animals from all over Malaysia. The exhibition hall is divided into 4 sections: the nature gallery, cultural gallery, indigenous people gallery and outdoor gallery. The nature gallery features taxidermy of Perak jungle animals including elephants and tigers. The cultural gallery encapsulates everything about Malaysia's unique handcrafted artifacts, from different types to their historical development. Make sure to pay particular attention to the bamboo crafts, Perak's signature items. The indigenous people gallery tells a story about the ethnic minority, 'Orang Asli.' Their physical characteristics, lifestyle and commonly used exotic masks are exhibited in this hall. Exit through the back door, you will see the Perak Museum outdoor gallery. Here, you can feel a waft of history from the classic cars that roamed the streets in the 1920s-70s, 19c steam engines, and Malaysian fighter aircrafts on display.

Address Jalan Taming Sari, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak

Indulging in Taiping-style adventures

In Taiping, tourists can enjoy a wide variety of activities that can only be offered by a well-preserved natural environment. Exhilarating experiences such as racing across bumpy roads on an ATV and climbing down the rock cliff on a rope will leave you with unforgettable memories.



Conquering off-road terrains on an ATV Adventure Park Larut

A short walk past the zoo in downtown Taiping will lead you to the ATV Adventure Park. ATV is a common attraction seen in many tourist destinations, but this place is unique in that it offers an off-road course surrounded by the wilderness unlike the typical paved ATV tracks. These tracks zigzag through the dense forest and pass above river valleys. You may find yourself soaked with sweat and water once all the driving is finished, but the experience is such a thrill ride that tourists rave about it.

Address Lot 3644, Pejabat Rekreasi, Jalan Bukit Larut, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak



Malaysia's national exercise Taiping Lake Garden

The Lake Garden is a splendid park recognized as one of the best landmarks in Malaysia. The former tin mine was transformed into a spacious garden, beloved by not only locals but also tourists. Sky-high rain trees are lined up and the neat paths surrounding the large lake is perfect for a walk. Taiping's citizens gather at the green carpet every morning to do an exercise routine somewhat similar to Korea's national exercise. Sneak in between the locals and try copying a few moves. They might look easy, but will make you break a sweat in no time.

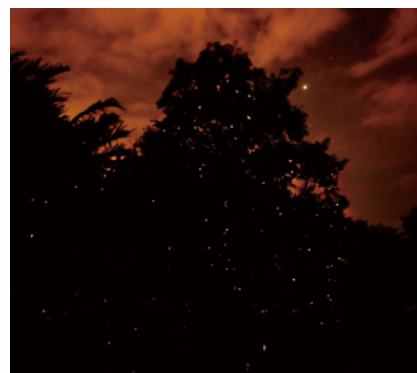
Address Jalan Pekelling, Taman Tasik Taiping, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak



Hanging out at a night market Bazar Cross Street

Taiping citizens flock to Bazar Cross Street in the weekends. A car is blocked to make way for a massive night market. Food stalls selling local snacks and foot massage shops, as well as henna shops where you can print eccentric symbols on whichever part of your body, fill the street. The central square hosts busking performances, providing delight to singers and audience alike.

Address Jalan Alang Ahmad, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak



One-of-a-kind firefly tour Kampung Dew Fireflies

The highlight of trips to Southeast Asia, firefly tours, can also be enjoyed in Taiping. The river that flows through the heart of Taiping is a renowned firefly habitat. Both sides of the river are lined with mangrove trees, fireflies' all-time favorite, creating a beautiful landscape. When the sun falls completely, a small boat leaves the dock of the river for a 1-hour tour. Watching the sparkling creatures dance like Christmas lights, you won't even notice how much time has passed.

Address 1, Kampung Dew, 34400 Simpang Empat Semanggol, Negeri Perak

Time-honored Taiping treats

Taiping has as many old restaurants as its tourist spots. Their shabby exterior might make you flinch, but just one bite will leave you craving for more. You will find the flavors very pleasing, and what's more, the dishes are super affordable.



Traditional Malaysian cuisine Kuey Tiau Doli

A Taiping restaurant with a history of over 40 years. Tourists visiting Taiping never fail to stop by this place. The food is a Chinese interpretation of Malaysian cuisine, and is crazy delicious, hence the popularity among locals. Kuey teo goreng, or pan-fried noodles, is the signature dish. The noodles are flavored with a 'sweet and salty' sauce and a hint of smokiness. Nasi ayam, or a plate of crispy chicken and rice topped with sweet and spicy sauce and hearty broth, is also a popular dish. Long lines will keep you waiting on weekends, so try paying a visit on a weekday.

Address 5, Regat Tasik, Medan Taiping, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak **Tel** +60-16-553-8026 **Opening Hours** 11:30-23:00 **Price** Kuey Teo Goreng (pan-fried noodles) MYR 8



Enjoying local food just like a local Pusat Hiburan Larut Matang

A Taiping-style food court on the first floor of a tall building. Small local noodle shops, ice flake shops, roti shops and cafes are clustered together, making the venue a perfect place to enjoy a decent meal and dessert or tea. Locals also adore the place because the food is very affordable and of good quality. The vast foot court bustles with people even from an early hour, but foreigners are rarely seen. If you want to start your day like a Taiping local, this place is highly recommended.

Address Jalan Chung Thye Phin, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak **Opening Hours** vary per store **Price** Noodles MYR 4-6, Roti MYR 1-3



Spicy yet yummy broth Makteh Mee Banjir Udang

A seafood noodle diner found near the mangrove forest. The signature dish of the restaurant is the prawn noodles, a mouth-watering combination of giant prawns and noodles. The soup is spicy with a rich seafood flavor. Digging in to the broth, you will find yourself ordering rice to go with it. Fried rice with vegetables tastes exceptionally good in soup.

Address Tebok Matang, 34750 Matang, Negeri Perak **Opening Hours** 10:00-22:00 **Price** Prawn noodles MYR 15



Shaved ice with a Malaysian twist Si San Ice Stall

Traveling around Malaysia, scorching hot year-round, you are bound to long for something sweet and cold. That's why shaved ice is a big thing here. Si san ice stall is a food stall type shaved ice shop found on the middle of roads. Be sure to taste mango shaved ice, something you mustn't miss out on when in Southeast Asia, and Malaysia's specialty, Ais kacang (ABC). Ais kacang is shaved ice topped with sweetened red beans, corn, jelly and nuts, with an extra swirl of condensed milk and syrup. Both adults and children go crazy over this dessert.

Address Jalan Panggung Wayang, 34000 Taiping, Negeri Perak **Price** Mango shaved ice MYR 4, ABC MYR 4 **Opening Hours** 07:00-17:00



A Vibrant Yet Nonchalant City

Ho Chi Minh City Tour

Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in Vietnam, where pure white French-style architectures glisten under the warm sunlight, and parks bustle with people enjoying the pleasant weather. The roads are always flooded with motorbikes honking 24/7, and women dressed in the traditional attire, the áo dài, roam the streets lined with modern skyscrapers. Let us embark on a journey to Ho Chi Minh City, where an exotic cityscape meets everyday life.

Editor A-Ra Ko Photographer Hyo-sun Lee (freelancer)



Ho Chi Minh City Travel Information

Location Southern Vietnam **Area** 2095km² **Population** 7,396,446 (as of 2010) **Climate** Tropical monsoon climate. Average temperature ranges from 25°C to 40°C. The wet season continues from May to November, and the dry season from December to April. **Overview** Vietnam's economic hub. The urban area is 13 existing districts and 6 districts to be developed additionally, and the city is also divided into the industrial district including Cu Chi and Nha Bê, the ecotourism district such as the Cần Giuộc mangrove forest and Đông Nai river area, agricultural and ecological conservation districts including Cu Chi and Cần Giuộc, agricultural/residential areas, and nature conservation districts.



Symbol of Ho Chi Minh City Uy Ban Nhan Dan Thanh Pho

A 19c architecture nicknamed 'Paris in Asia'. This elegant and exuberant French-style edifice serves as the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee Building. Construction of this government building started in 1902 and was finished in 1908, and public entry is prohibited. The details of the architecture are the epitome of the 19c style with the light lemon shade walls and white marble sculptures, pillars and symmetrical corridors. When the lights luminate at night, you will be able to experience a unique ambience. Photography is prohibited in principle, but as long as you take them from a distance, it won't be much of a problem.

Address So 86 Le Thanh Ton, Ben Nghe, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh 710212 **Tel** +84-28-3829-6052 **Opening Hours** 07:30-17:00, Closed on Weekends **Web** hochiminhcity.gov.vn



Milestone in Vietnam's Liberation Reunification Palace

During French colonial rule, this landmark was the palace of the French governor. Later, under the South Vietnam regime, the palace was the home and office of the president. It is also the historic site where the Republic of Vietnam surrendered when the Army of Democratic Republic of Vietnam crashed through the gates on April 30th, 1975. Being a historic landmark of Vietnam's contemporary history, the palace is a very popular tourist attraction. The building is still used as venues for important government meetings or events, and visitors can also look around the underground bunkers used as operational rooms during the Vietnam War.

Address 135 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Phuong Ben Thanh, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh 700000 **Tel** +84-28-3822-3652 **Opening Hours** 07:30-23:00 **Admission** VND 40,000 **Web** dinhdoclap.gov.vn



Magnificent French Cathedral Nha Tho Duc Ba

A Catholic church first built in 1877 and completed in 1883. The architecture was constructed during the French colonial rule with the materials transported from France. The two tall bell-towers of 19C Neo-Romanesque features and the Virgin Mary statue in the square draw eyes. The statue was once said to shed real tears, attracting public attention. However, the landmark itself seems to be a stereotyped tourist attraction and be overcrowded with visitors, from which we can hardly feel the sacred aura of a cathedral.

Address Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City



Vietnam's Largest Post Office Buu Dien Trung Tam Thanh Pho

The biggest post office in Vietnam, located at the right side of the Notre-Dame Cathedral. The exterior was influenced by the French colonial architecture and is visually striking. The post office provides mailing and international calling services and sells stamps and postcards. Inside, the high arched ceiling similar to that of a European train station is very impressive. At the center, a giant portrait of Vietnam's hero, Ho Chi Minh, hangs proudly on the wall.

Address So 125 Cong xa Paris, Ben Nghe, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh 710009 **Tel** +84-28-3822-1677 **Opening Hours** 07:00-19:00, Sun 08:00-18:00 **Web** hcmpost.vn



Market Full of Unbelievable Deals Cho Ben Tanh

The largest marketplace in Ho Chi Minh City located on Loi street. This market offers everything you can ever imagine about Vietnam. Around 4000 stores selling clothes, shoes, bags, food, flowers, and tableware are packed along the narrow alleys. The market is also the best place to look for souvenirs. Shopowners tend to throw high prices to foreign tourists, so you should definitely ask for discounts. From 7PM, the stores inside the building close down and open outdoor stalls, creating a night market. Diverse food stalls offer traditional Vietnamese treats, lightening up the atmosphere. The closing time is very much up to the owners, but most stalls are open until 11PM.

Directions 10 minutes on foot from the Municipal Theater



Traces of the Vietnam War War Remnants Museum

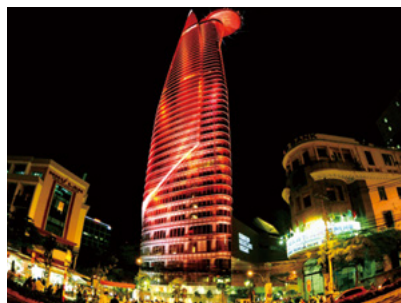
Even if you're not much of a museum person, the War Remnants Museum is a must-visit attraction. The building used by the US Information Service during the Vietnam War was transformed to a Museum that encapsulates the tragic history and celebrates the value of peace. The scourge of war was depicted by 134 photographers worldwide. Actual weapon used such as tanks, fighter jets, missiles and miniature versions of them are on display.

Address 28 Vo Van Tan, Phuong 6, Quan 3, Ho Chi Minh 700000
Tel 84-8-3930-6325 **Opening Hours** 07:30-18:00 **Admission** VND 15,000
Web baotangchungtichchientranh.vn

Tower Overlooking Ho Chi Minh City Saigon Skydeck

The 267m tall 68-storey Bitexco Financial Tower was built in 2010, and the heli pad on the wall of the 52th floor has gained a reputation. The people of Ho Chi Minh City and tourists flock to this skyscraper to look down on the entire city. If you climb to the 49th floor on the elevator that travels with the speed of 7m a second, you will be able to enter the Saigon Skydeck Observatory, where you can see a panoramic view of the exotic landscape of the city.

Address 36 Ho Tung Mau, Ben Nghe, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh **Tel** 84-839156-156 **Opening Hours** Sun-Thurs 09:30-21:30, Fri-Sat 10:00-22:00 **Admission** Adults VND 200,000, Children 130,000 **Web** www.saigonskydeck.com



Vietnam's Blue Bottle Cong Ca Phe

This local franchise was born in Hanoi and has branched out to central and Southern Vietnam such as Ho Chi Minh City and Đà Nẵng, enjoying great popularity. 'Cong' means 'communal or public', and is associated with Viet Cong. As a matter of fact, the café was indeed inspired by the communist party. The interior, staff uniform and other merchandise all embody communist features. The signature menu is definitely the coconut coffee. This drink, a combination of a smoothie and coffee, strikes a balance between the bitterness of coffee and the nuttiness and sweetness of the coconut smoothie. Even those who are not particularly fond of coffee would fall in love with this drink, and find themselves craving for more.

Address 2 Mac Thi Bui, Ben Nghe, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh **Tel** +84-91-181-11-63
Opening Hours 07:00-23:00 **Price** Coconut coffee smoothie/coconut cocoa smoothie VND 65,000 **Web** www.congcaphe.com

A Trip to Ho Chi Minh City Suburbs on a Quest for the National Liberation Front Cu Chi

Cu Chi is located 40km Northwest from central Ho Chi Minh City. The city is known for its thick rubber tree forest, and is very peaceful, but served as a backdrop to intense battles during the Vietnam War. Viet Cong would dig underground tunnels to strike back to the US forces, and two of these tunnels are now open to the public. Ben Duoc, located 70km West from Ho Chi Minh City draws more tourists with a tunnel more than 250km long, featuring four floors and a trench, bedrooms, operational headquarters, kitchen and a hospital. Public entry is permitted for some of the areas so those who wish to enter can experience the tunnel firsthand. A shooting range for live ammunition is also found here, which is why the sound of bullets would make you feel as if you are caught in the crossfires of the Vietnam War. The price for one shot is USD 1.

Address TL15, Phu Hiep, Ho Chi Minh, 733814 **Tel** +84-28-3794-8830
Opening Hours 07:00-17:00 **Web** diadaocuchi.com.vn



2 Ways to Enjoy Jeonju

Jeonju, the capital of Later Baekje, was the location of the Jeolla governor's offices back in the Joseon dynasty. It pays homage to Korea's traditional culture more than any other city. If you love to walk, the Gaekridangil will be a perfect place to hang out, and if you feel like a picnic under the sun, hop on a road trip to the outskirts of town.

Editor Min-A Shim Photographer Geun-soo Lee (freelancer)



Jeonju Travel Information

Location A city in central Jeollabuk-do province, South Korea **Area** 206.22km² **Population** 651,990 (as of 2014). **Climate** Classified as Southern inland climate. In the winter, wind blows to the Northwest due to the Siberian High; in the spring, to the west from migratory anticyclones; in the summer, to the Southeast owing to the North Pacific High. Average annual temperature is 12.9°C with the average temperature of January hovering around -0.6°C, and that of August, around 26.1°C. Average annual precipitation is 1,286mm. **Overview** The focal point of Jeollabuk-do governance, education and culture, and home to the provincial office. Geographically, Jeollabuk-do can be divided into the Eastern mountains and Western plains with the Noryeong mountain range as the distinction. Jeonju is situated right where the mountains and plains meet.

Type 1. Taking to the Road

Wander out of downtown Jeonju just a bit, and you will be able to experience the beauty of mother nature. The Jeonju zoo, Deokjin Park embracing a lovely pond, and Palbok Arts Factory which cleared the past image of industrial factory, will captivate the hearts and minds of couples.



Romantic Zoo under Raining Petals Jeonju Zoo

Not far away from Deokjin Park is a zoo surrounded by cherry blossom trees. Since opening in June 1978, Jeonju Zoo has been home to around 610 animals of 103 species including tigers, lions, giraffes, hippos, buffaloes, rhinos, camels, chimpanzees, and even endangered species such as Asiatic black bears, zebras and jaguars, which is rare for a rural zoo. During the springtime, when white cherry blossoms start blooming, the zoo is crowded with people. 350 tall cherry blossom trees create a beautiful tunnel, providing couples with a 1.5km long romantic walk. Another popular attraction is the 'Wolves' Forest,' inhabited by four wolves. The roofless cage looks very similar to the canines' natural habitat. The wolves love to hide in holes they dig under trees, which is why you should keep your eyes wide open to catch a good glimpse.

Address 68, Sori-ro, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Tel** +82-63-281-6759 **Opening Hours** March–October 09:00–18:00, November–February 09:00–17:00, Aquarium 09:00–17:30 **Admission** Adults KRW 1300, Adolescents KRW 600, Children KRW 400 **Web** <http://zoo.jeonju.go.kr>



Jeonju's Largest Natural Park Jeonju Deokjin Park

Entering the main gate, Yeonjimoong, you will be welcomed by a statue of a woman dressed beautifully in Hanbok, Korean traditional costume. Deokjin Park is best known for the Yeonhwa Bridge which crosses the Deokjin Lake. 260m long, 1.2m wide and 16m high, the bridge is reportedly the longest in-land suspension bridge in Korea. Once you walk across the wobbly bridge, the 'Yeonhwajeong,' a 3-tier gazebo, awaits you. Each storey offers a magnificent view, making the structure a perfect observatory. In July every year, the 'Jeonju Lotus Flower Festival' is held at this very park, attracting visitors from all corners of the country. People come flocking to be mesmerized by the elegant appearance and soothing fragrance of lotus flowers. Strolling along the lake, you almost feel as if you are walking on lotus flowers. The 'Yeonjiyeong' is definitely the best spot to look down at the carpet of one million luscious lotus flowers topped on a gigantic lake. A musical fountain entertains visitors from April 3rd to October 31st, providing them with extra excitement.

Address 1314-4, Deokjin-dong 2-ga, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Tel** +82-63-239-2607
Admission Free of charge





Encounter Taejo Yi Seong-gye Gyeongjeon

Excited the portrait of Taejo Yi Seong-gye, I slowly passed through one gate after another, and finally reached the 'Gyeongjeon,' where a group of people were already gathered. The wooden structure atop a stone pillar is where the replica of the king's portrait lies. In 1999, the painter Kwon Oh-chang reproduced the portrait while the original painted on silk in 1872 under the supervision of King Gojong is preserved in the museum of royal portraits. Literally meaning 'a palace built on a blessed site,' the Gyeongjeon is a structure that symbolizes Jeonju, the hometown of Taejo Yi Seong-gye, the great founder of Joseon Dynasty. It was first constructed in 1410 during King Taejong's rule, damaged in 1597 due to the Japanese invasion and restored in 1614. Surrounded by tall green trees and emanating a tranquil ambience, the Gyeongjeon bustles with people dressed in Hanbok.

Address 102, Pungnam-dong 3-ga, Wansan-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Tel** +82-63-298-1330 **Opening Hours** March~May, September~October 09:00~19:00, June~August 09:00~20:00, November~February 09:00~18:00 **Admission** Adults KRW 3000, Adolescents KRW 2000, Children KRW 1000



Art Explosion in an Abandoned Factory Palbok Arts Factory

On March 23rd, a deserted factory situated next to the Palbok-dong railway was brought to life with a burst of art. The abandoned facility for 27 years, previously used to manufacture cassette tapes was purchased by the city of Jeonju and transformed into an arts playground for the people in collaboration with the Jeonju Cultural Foundation. The cassette tape factory 'Sorex' was run from 1979 to 1991, and was considered an eyesore ever since it went out of business. The Palbok Arts Factory still pretty much retains the original structure of the facility, and is comprised of complex 1 and 2 which are exhibition halls, a creative studio used by 13 artists, a café, art shops, a container bridge, and a rooftop playground. The chimney of the factory is used as a signboard, colorful modern art pieces are put up on grey concrete walls, and discarded shipping containers are turned into a bridge that firmly connects two buildings. Around 10 residents of Palbok-dong work at the Arts Factory as docent guides, helping guests better understand art pieces, and as baristas, brewing up a warm cup of coffee.

Address 46, Guretdaul 1-gil, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Tel** +82-63-283-9221 **Opening Hours** Weekdays, Sundays 10:00~18:00 Saturdays 10:00~21:00, Closed on Mondays **Web** www.palbokart.kr

Tribute to Living National Treasures National Intangible Heritage Center

The National Intangible Heritage Center consists of the 'Yeolinmaru,' or exhibition hall, the 'Olsumaru,' or performance hall, 'Jeonseungmaru,' or training center, 'Sarangchae,' or guesthouse, as well as 'Eoulmaru' and 'Nurimaru,' where international seminars are held. If you have a lot to learn about intangible cultural assets, you should first head to the permanent exhibition hall in Yeolinmaru. The exhibition venue on the first floor decorated with traditional handmade paper features signature items that represent intangible cultural heritage. The brass rice cooker, traditional alcohol distiller, and special compass used to gravesites or dwelling sites are worth a look. Behind the round-shaped hall, a video of marvelous natural landscapes draws the eye. Make sure not to miss out on the "Larchiveum," which opened inside Nurimaru on February 1st. The design of the library was inspired by the favorite picture of King Jeongjo. It has glass walls on three sides, which offer a spectacular view.

Address 95, Seohak-ro, Wansan-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Tel** +82-63-280-1400 **Opening Hours** Exhibition Hall 09:30~17:30, Closed on Mondays **Admission** Free of charge **Web** www.nihc.go.kr



Type 2. Strolling along Gaekridan-gil

The 'ridan-gil' craze sparked in Seoul has now reached Jeonju. 'Gaekridan-gil,' which is a mash-up of 'Jeonju Gaeksa-gil' and 'Gyeongnidan-gil,' is a street created by young shopowners of Jeonju. Idiosyncratic stores are lined up, with no two stores sharing the same concept.

Red-roofed flower shop Hwagonggan 花空間

The antique exterior, as if from a snapshot of an old movie, makes Hwagonggan the most popular photo spot on Gaekridan-gil. The CEO, Jin-won Lee, even placed a bench in front of the store so that tourists could use it as a prop. Mr. Lee set his eyes on the all but abandoned red-roofed house on the street, and then he decided to replace the walls with glass and adorned the venue with flowers. What's noticeable is that the renovation was done while retaining the original structure of traditional Japanese-style housing. A huge mirror with vintage wooden frames, an eccentric table with legs made out of a sewing machine, and other vintage objects that accentuate the interior are placed here and there. Flower arrangement classes are available from Wednesday to Saturday. Curriculums vary from 1~2 hour long 1-day courses, a month-long hobby course, 8-session basic course, and 16-session expert course. Flowers of all imaginable colors as well as cotton trees and various herbs are used to create one-of-a-kind items.

Address 69, Jeonjugaeksa 1-gil, Wansan-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Opening Hours** 11:00~21:00 Closed on Mondays



Homey café with a snug vibe Café O.doodoo

Café O.doodoo opened right beside the Jeonju Stream on November 2016, and was sought after by many people before Gaekridan-gil earned its current popularity. The owner, Yeon-jin Kim used to work as a cooking teacher in Seoul before moving to Jeonju and opening a café on her all-time favorite street, the Metasequoia Road. She furnished the shop herself using bits and bobs she picked up while traveling across the globe. From a window seat, you can view the picturesque landscape of metasequoia and willow trees lining the Jeonju Stream. In the fall, Ms. Kim collects the fallen berries under the metasequoia trees and gives them away to guests, as well as selling homemade mini postcards. Shocking fact #1: there are no espresso machines here. The coffee is 100% manual drip, requiring patience, but everyone is happy. Only organic, fair-trade coffee beans are used, enabling a choice between the 'geisha,' with a rich chocolate and honey aroma, harvested from Ethiopia's Bebek Coffee Plantation, and the 'rainforest,' with a hint of sweet tangerine and wine, directly procured from Ethiopia Gummer.

Address Dasan Building, 244, Jeonjucheon-dong-ro, Wansan-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Tel** +82-70-4233-3676

Makgeolli (Korean rice wine) pub Bangakkan

Bangakkan is a compound of 'flowerlike bang (芳)' and 'clear ah (雅).' The name carries a whimsical connotation of providing flowerlike food and clear Makgeolli to guests. Opened a year ago, Bangakkan is a Makgeolli pub run by Dong-guk Kim and Mun-joo Bae with an eye-catching retro interior. Their parents' faded wedding pictures and a mini grandfather clock are used as artistic interior props, and a recycled wooden bench provides guests in line with a place to rest. The owner couple has great taste when it comes to picking up witty items. They added accents to plain white walls using discarded wardrobe doors and use 1970s~80s vintage Makgeolli glasses featuring big brand logos. The interior items that bring back the reminiscence warms up people's hearts, and the delicious food satisfies their bellies. The seafood pancake containing a whole squid and 'American cheese potato pancake,' similar to a western pie, are a perfect pair with Makgeolli.

Address 12-3, Jeonjugaeksa 1-gil, Wansan-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do **Opening Hours** 17:00~02:00, Closed on Mondays and the last Sunday of each month



Under the Sea

World's Best Snorkeling Spots Top 6

Snorkeling is a way to explore the underwater world with just several pieces of simple gear. You don't even have to know how to swim, which makes it a popular water sport for people of all ages. Here are 6 enthralling snorkeling spots in Kota Kinabalu, Kaohsiung, Sanya, Kagoshima, Manila, and Geoje, that mesmerize tourists from all over the world.

Editor <AB-ROAD> Editing Team



Malaysia

Dreamy, picturesque ocean **Mantanani Island**, Kota Kinabalu

Snorkeling under the emerald ocean is a definite must when visiting Kota Kinabalu. Most tourists opt for 1-day trips to the Sapi Island, Manukan Island or Mamutik Island which are fairly close by, but for those who prefer a more leisurely schedule, the Mantanani Island, opened to the public in 2004, is highly recommended. About an hour ride by boat, the natural landscape of Mantanani Island is truly a gift from god. The crystal-clear water and beach, carpeted with silky ivory sand, instantly brings peace to your mind. The waters surrounding Mantanani Island are shallow and warm: tailor-made for snorkeling. Here, colorful coral reefs and a myriad of marine life await snorkelers. Boats feature professional snorkeling equipment, and guides are with you every step of the way, so even first-time snorkelers have nothing to be afraid of.



Taiwan

Eco island **Xiaoliuqiu**, Kaohsiung

Xiaoliuqiu, located in South Kaohsiung, is the only coral reef island in Taiwan. Scuba diving and snorkeling are possible year-round, and the island is most famous for swimmers' encounters with sea turtles. Designated an 'eco island,' Xiaoliuqiu places a great importance on environment preservation for sustainable tourism. Creative events are held to engage tourists in the effort, such as giving out 'sand beach coupons' to those who help out with cleaning up the sand beach. 'Sand beach coupons' are pieces of glass featuring drawings of local artists, with which you can get discounts at stores on the island. If you want to enjoy the moment of your life snorkeling with sea turtles in a pristine environment, this is the place. Also, when you're in the waters, don't forget to take a picture with Xiaoliuqiu's signature landmark, the Vase Rock.





 **China**
China's southernmost resort city **Xidao Sanya**

Sanya is situated at the Southern end of Hainan, China. It is a beloved vacation destination surrounded by 4 bays: Sanya, Dadonghai, Yalong and Haitang bay. The island boasts a warm and moderate climate throughout the year, with a magnificent beach and around 200 hotels and resorts. The best snorkeling spot here would have to be the Xidao island, located near to Sanya, perfect for a day trip. Its shape resembling the back of a turtle, the Xidao island is hardly contaminated due to its distance from the city and is blessed with an ethereal landscape as well as a pristine beach. Most tourists visit the island in order to enjoy water sports, as breathtakingly beautiful coral reefs can be found 10~20m underwater, creating a fascinating coral reef panorama. The island is also known for its romantic sunset, which is an added bonus to the excitement of water activities.



 **Japan**
God's residence **Kakeroma Kagoshima**


Located South to Kyushu island, Kakeroma island boasts a warm weather and dazzling blue ocean. The island is sandwiched in between Kagoshima and Okinawa, falling under the Amami islands, nicknamed 'the Eastern Galapagos' owing to its idiosyncratic ecosystem. A quiet and beautiful island home to around 1000 residents. A gigantic gajumaru tree is an emblem of the island, which is surrounded by 200m tall mountains covered with rainforests. Listening to the sound of the sea waves watching the thick rainforest, you feel as if you're in a paradise left behind by fairies or mythical gods. The crystalline water has a consistent temperature throughout the year, so snorkeling can be enjoyed any season. The island is also famous for being featured in Kawase Naomi's movie <Still the Water>.



 **Philippines**
Sanctuary of marine life **Batangas Manila**

In the Philippines, snorkeling is most often associated with Boracay, Cebu, and Bohol, but Manila has great snorkeling spots that are no less beautiful than these renowned attractions. Meaning 'the oars of a small bamboo boat,' Batangas is located in the Southern part of Manila. Anilao, in particular, is famous for its clear waters and magnificent evening sunset, which makes it a coveted spot for summer houses of Manila's wealthy families. Situated in the North of the Coral Triangle, Batangas is known as a marine oasis, home to 76% of global coral species and more than 3000 different species of fish. Every year, the 'Anilao Underwater Shootout' brings together photographers from across the globe. The place is a good choice not only for snorkeling but also scuba diving. Secret Bay, listed as the world's top 50 diving spots, Sun View, where you can see sea horses, and Coconut Point are some popular spots.



 **South Korea**
Calm and tranquil ocean **Yundol Island Geoje**

Though little known to the public, there are a number of beautiful snorkeling spots in Geoje. The most popular destination will be Yundol Island, 500m West from Gujora Beach. The island is uninhabited, with 80% of the surface covered in evergreen broad-leaved trees. It is also called the island of devoted sons, as it is told that three brothers of the Yun family built a bridge out of rocks for their mother. The waves are very low and calm, making the island fit for kayaking and snorkeling, even for novices. The snorkeling tour that departs from Mangchi Port starts in July, and is done in small groups so that snorkelers can roam the ocean without bumping into someone else every other second. Not being too well known is a blessing in a way because the island has safeguarded its natural environment 100% intact. Watching diverse marine organisms in Geoje's waters, glistening under the bright sunlight, will surely be an unforgettable experience.



Everything about Shimonoseki and the Kanmon Strait



Mayor of Shimonoseki
Maeda Shintaro

Shimonoseki is a city situated along the Kanmon Strait that flows between Kyushu and Honshu. The city has historically functioned as the hub of land and marine transport, and is renowned as the go-to place for fresh seafood and a magnificent oceanic view, visited by 7 million tourists a year. Here's an interview with Mayor of Shimonoseki, Maeda Shintaro, on the beauty of Shimonoseki and the outlook of the local tourism market.

Editor Jeong-hwa Lee Source TPO

Could you start by introducing the Shimonoseki?

Situated at the western end of Honshu, Shimonoseki is blessed with Kanmon Strait's beautiful natural landscape and abundant tourism resources including hot springs, which draw 7 million tourists annually. Shimonoseki Port is a longstanding international trade port and current center of port logistics. The city is also the hub of marine transport, which operates regular waterways with Korea and China, and boasts an advanced fisheries industry along with marine transportation and shipbuilding. Shimonoseki is known as the holy land of blowfish, with the downtown area bustling with seafood processing companies and blowfish restaurants. Karato market is famous for fresh sushi, and is beloved by not only locals but also Asian tourists.

What are Shimonoseki's major tourist spots that should not be missed out on?

The most popular attraction would be Karato Market. The market is definitely the best place to visit for a sumptuous meal bustling with street food stalls where locals and tourists enjoy the market's lively and vibrant atmosphere. And one of the major reasons why this place is sought after is the delicious sushi. Fresh sushi can be enjoyed at an affordable price of JPY 100 a piece and you can also choose your favorite sushi while chitchatting with the owners. Right next to the market is the city aquarium, Kaikyokan, which features Japan's largest scale penguin exhibition and the full skeleton of a blue whale. I would also like to recommend Jokamachi Chofu (城下町長府), a place where you can experience a waft of ancient Japan. Situated at the foot of a ruined castle, this town is a cluster of old architecture such as the Kozanji Temple built in 1327, and the Mori Family Mansion, constructed in 1903 by Mori, head of the Chofu clan. The town is perfect for a stroll and is full of beautiful attractions such as streets lined with earthen walls, temples, shrines, traditional houses, and renovated cafes. During the autumn season, the fall foliage is particularly breathtaking, which is why it would be the best time to travel the town.

Where are most of the inbound tourists from?

Korean tourists account for the greatest share, with around 40%. Passenger ships from Korea land at the Shimonoseki Port every morning, and more and more people are traveling through the nearby Kitakyushu Airport. We also have a large number of Chinese and Taiwanese tourists coming in, and many Chinese visitors are arriving on cruise ships from 2017 onwards. The total number of inbound tourists via cruise ships last year is around 105,000.

How about the number of inbound foreign travelers and the latest tourism trends?

The number of foreign tourists staying the night in Shimonoseki is on the rise. Over the past 5 years, the figure increase from 9857 in 2013 to 19,301 in 2017. It is easy to find individual travelers from East Asia at major tourist spots, all thanks to the launch of LCC routes to Kitakyushu Airport and Fukuoka Airport in the vicinity of Shimonoseki. In line with the surge in inbound foreign tourists, we are trying to install more signposts in foreign languages around city restaurants, stores and tourist attractions.



What are the best values Shimonoseki has to offer to foreign tourists?

Shimonoseki's best tourism resources are seafood and the magnificent ocean view. You can enjoy freshly caught seafood everywhere in Shimonoseki including the Karato market. Furthermore, Shimonoseki's blowfish (fugu) has become a well-known brand in Japan. Shimonoseki and blowfish are instantly associated with each other, and this year marks the 130th year since blowfish was recognized as an edible fish in Shimonoseki. The city continues its long history of blowfish dishes with sashimi, sushi, nabe, and even sake. I would also like to urge you to visit Tsunoshima, a place with a splendid view of the ocean. It is a small island of only 1000 residents and is known as a scenic spot in Japan. It appeared as a backdrop to movies and TV ads, and the bridge that cuts across the cobalt blue sea is so beautiful that many tourists come to see it in person.

Many cities worldwide consider tourism the backbone of their economy. What efforts are Shimonoseki putting in for overseas marketing?

We consider countries geographically close to Japan such as Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Thailand as important markets. If travel fairs or expos are hosted in these countries, we visit them to exchange information. Moreover, under the idea that tourists to Japan will not only travel Shimonoseki but visit other districts as well, we are collaborating with other regions such as Yamaguchi Prefecture and Chugoku region, or relevant organizations. We are taking part in the Inland Sea, 'Setouchi Tourism Authority', a body centered on the promotion of Seto Inland Sea, to assist joint field surveys and news reporting. Last year, we researched and analyzed foreign tourists' travel pattern and preferences jointly with Kitakyushu.

What is the largest tourism event held in Shimonoseki?

Shimonoseki has 3 main festivals. The first is the 'Shimonoseki Strait Festival,' inspired by a historic battle that took place in 1185. Women dressed in extravagant kimonos march the street, and a grand maritime parade that recreates the battle draws eyes. Secondly, we host the 'Kanmon Strait Firework Festival' where 15,000 fireworks explode above the Kanmon Strait. Last but not least, there's the 'Shimonoseki Bakan (馬関) Festival.' It is the largest summer festival, where the streets are full of night food

stalls and crowds. The Heike (平家) dance, where 4,000 dancers create an outstanding performance on the last day of the festival, is not to miss.

What plans do you have in mind for the future development of Shimonoseki's tourism industry?

We will be developing the waterfront area around Kanmon Strait to attract more tourists. Recently, we see an increased preference for experience-centered tourism among foreign visitors. We thus aim to leverage the competitive edge of Shimonoseki's farming and fishing villages to push forward with Green•Blue Tourism. In other words, we will provide tourists with a chance to experience the natural environment of rural towns, and help them connect with locals.

A final few words for TPO please?

As more and more tourists visit the Asia Pacific region each year, I believe local authorities are redoubling their efforts to draw more tourists to their shores. I look forward to advancing both the inbound and outbound market through active collaboration and exchange among TPO member countries.



K-CLIP 2018 Held in Success

Organized by the Tourism Promotion Organization for Asia Pacific Cities (TPO), hosted by Jeonju city and sponsored by Gunsan, Iksan, Jeollabuk-do, Andong, Ganghwa-gun, and Goyang, 'K-CLIP 2018' was successfully held from the 6th to 17th of August. CLIP is held every year in one of TPO member cities in order to provide young talents with an opportunity to increase their understanding on host cities' culture, language and tourism resources. This year's event, which took place in Jeonju, brought together 42 participants from 9 countries including Malaysia, Vietnam, China, US, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

At the opening ceremony held on the 7th of August, Kim Seong-su, mayor of Jeonju and Shin Yeon-sung, Secretary-General of TPO, extended their welcome to the participants. The welcoming remarks were followed by special lectures on Korea's unique identity and culture embodied by the city of Jeonju, such as Korean traditional housing (Hanok), handmade paper (Hanji), and cuisine (Hansik). In addition, classes were given for the participants to learn about Korea's epic chant (Pansori), by adding shouts of encouragement (Chuimsae) in other languages. Participants also toured around traditional education institutions including the Jeonju Hyanggyo and Jeonju Traditional Culture Training Institute. In addition, they were offered a chance to hear about and experience firsthand Jeonju's history and culture at the Hanok Village and Gyeonggijeon. From the 8th to 10th, the program was centered on making Jeonju bibimbap and kimchi, learning traditional etiquettes, and visiting the National Intangible Heritage Center exhibitions as well as the Jeonju National Museum. On the evening of the 10th, participants enjoyed local beer at the 4th Jeonju Gamaek Festival, and they had FAM TOUR in some of TPO member cities from the 11th to 17th.

On the first day of FAM TOUR, participants paid a visit to Mireuksa Temple Site, Kosrak and Prison Filming Site in Iksan, after which they headed to Gunsan to look around vestiges of the modern age such as the Time Travelers' Town and Railroad Town. They also had a chance to take part in the opening ceremony of '2018 Gunsan Night Walk Festival,' an amalgamation of Gunsan's beautiful nightscape and cultural heritage. On the second day, the group visited Imsil-gun and Namwon with the support of Jeollabuk-do provincial office. In Imsil, the Cheese Theme

Park provided a memorable experience of making cheese and tasting it, and in Namwon, participants were able to dabble in Pansori and Gayageum, then tour around art galleries and the Gwanghalluwon Garden. The guests were particularly happy to stay the night at a Hanok hotel in Namwon. The schedule for the third day was to travel to Andong and visit the Hahoe Mask Museum, as well as to watch a special Hahoe Mask dance performance. The team then traveled to Ganghwa-gun on the fourth day, where they went stomping on a mudflat, and enjoyed night luge rides in the evening.

The last stop was the city of Goyang. The group started off the first day by partaking in the launching ceremony of Goyang Tourism Supporters and paid a visit to Hyundai Motor Studio and One Mount on the following day. At One Mount, participants took K-POP dance classes to indulge in K-culture and went sledding in Snow Park. At the closing ceremony held in Kintex, head of Goyang New Korean Wave Tourism Division, Hee-sung Yoon, Goyang Convention Bureau staff member, Head of Jeonju Tourism Industry Team, Yeong-ho Cho, and Director General of TPO, Dal-ryeo Jo, offered their congratulations. The participants divided into five groups gave presentations under the theme 'Korea through my eyes,' to share their 12-day experience in Korea with the rest of the audience.

This year's K-CLIP program received a highly positive response from the participants thanks to the overwhelming support of Jeonju and other TPO member cities. The videos created by participants and photos of events are uploaded on TPO's official website (www.aptpo.org).



ITE HCMC 2018: The Definitive Global Travel Event Not To Be Missed

The International Travel Expo Ho Chi Minh City (ITE HCMC) will soon open its doors, and organisers are expecting over 300 international companies and brands to set up booth at the Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center this September 6-8. The largest and most established annual international travel trade event in the Mekong sub-region is now in its 14th edition, and features services and products for both inbound and outbound markets. Strong Participation From DOTs, NTOs, & TPOs Confirmed participants include the Department of Tourism(DOT) for several Vietnamese provinces, as well as various National Tourism Organisations(NTO) and Tourism Promotion Organisations(TPO) from top travel destinations in Asia.

Over 30 DOTs from Vietnamese provinces and cities are expected to participate in this year's ITE HCMC, like Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Ben Tre, Binh Dinh, Danang, Daklak, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Gia Lai, Hai Phong, Hanoi, Khanh Hoa, Lam Dong, Long An, Ninh Binh, Ninh Thuan, Quang Nam, Thua Thien Hue, Tien Giang, and Vinh Long. Buyers and visitors will also find booths from India Tourism; Japan National Tourism Organization; Korea Tourism Organization; Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board; Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Laos; Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia; Ministry of Tourism of Republic Indonesia; Myanmar Tourism; Nagoya City; Penang Global Tourism; Taiwan Tourism Bureau Bangkok Office; Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Tourism Authority of Thailand(HCMC Office). Confirmed International Exhibitors Companies from the tourism hotspots of Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, will also be making their way to the exhibition.

The event, established in 2005, is the key international tourism event in Vietnam, and the largest event of its kind in the Mekong subregion for both inbound and outbound markets, attracting hundreds of international exhibitors and hosted buyers. Recognised as Vietnam's one and only National Tourism Event by the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism, it is also the only travel event endorsed by the Tourism Alliance of all five countries in the Mekong Region. Trade and public visitors totaled over 30,000 in the last edition held in 2017. ITE HCMC 2018 is organised by the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism; Ho Chi Minh City Department of Tourism; VINEXAD Trade Fair & Advertising JSC; and Informa Exhibitions.

www.itehcmc.com



The 8th TPO Forum highlights how 'Smart Tourism' is enhancing the visitor experience in Asia-Pacific cities

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - City tourism officials meeting here for the biannual Forum between June 20-24 heard some powerful updates on how technological advances are making it extremely easy for tourists to enjoy the sights and sounds of the rapidly improving cities of the Asia-Pacific region. In powerful presentations at the 8th Forum of the Tourism Promotion Organization for Asia Pacific Cities(TPO), top level speakers briefed delegates on how smart technologies and artificial intelligence are helping visitors overcome language barriers, book tickets, access transfers, make restaurant reservations and find their way to museums and other attractions. The smart tourism product expo was held as part of the event. Member cities each installed booths to introduce their tour packages to local travel agencies. The event attracted 300 delegates from 31 cities in 6 countries. Inaugurated in May 2004 in Busan, Korea, the TPO Forum has previously been held in Hangzhou, Vladivostok, Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Jeonju.





The 14th International Travel Expo Ho Chi Minh City 2018

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam | September 6~8
Location Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center (SECC), District 7, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The International Travel Expo Ho Chi Minh City (ITE HCMC) is the largest annual travel trade event in the Mekong sub-region, which features services and products for both inbound and outbound tourism markets. The Department of Tourism for various Vietnamese provinces, National Tourism Organizations and Tourism Promotion Organizations from top travel destinations in Asia as well as exhibitors from over 10 countries as far-flung as South Africa will take part in the event.



Asia Pacific Masters Games Penang 2018

Penang, Malaysia | September 7~15
Location Penang, Malaysia

The first-ever multi-sport Masters Games event to be held on Asian soil. The event will feature a total of 21 sports: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Dancesport, Football, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Shooting, Softball, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Tenpin Bowling, Volleyball, Weightlifting and Wushu.



Hojoya (放生会)

Fukuoka, Japan | September 12~18
Location Hakozaki Shrine (宮崎宮)

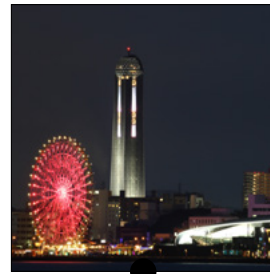
Fukuoka's most renowned autumn festival. This ritual is held to pay respect to every living being and prohibit killing. During the event, hundreds of doves and carp are released in hopes of good business and happiness. Along the 1km long pilgrimage route, around 500 stalls are lined up, adding extra vibrance.



2018 China (Dalian) International Garment & Textile Fair

Dalian, China | September 14~16
Location Dalian World Expo Center

A national expo jointly hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and Dalian Municipal People's Government. The 2018 Dalian International Garment & Textile Fair will feature various collaborations and crossovers, and embody a new model of 'government+business+market.' The event will serve as an important platform for the Chinese fashion and textile industry's international cooperation and exchange by becoming a barometer for the latest trends in Northeast Asia.



Kanmon Strait Night Cruise

Shimonoseki, Japan | September 21~26
Location Kanmon Strait (departs from Karato Pier)

A cruise tour from which you can view the nightscape of Shimonoseki and Moji Port (門司港) along the Kanmon Strait (關門海峡). 50% discounts for cruise fares are offered to passengers who will be staying the night in downtown Shimonoseki on the day of their ride.



2018 Shanghai Jazz Festival

Shanghai, China | September 22~23
Location CAMP3399, Xian, Shanghai, China

A one-of-a-kind jazz festival held in Shanghai. Six stages will be open, including Big city, JZ World, China Jazz Power, Rock'n'roll, Soundbox, and Jazz Youth, each a hybrid of new and old styles under the overarching theme of retro.



Andong International Mask Dance Festival 2018

Andong, Korea | September 28~October 7
Location Andong Mask Dance Park

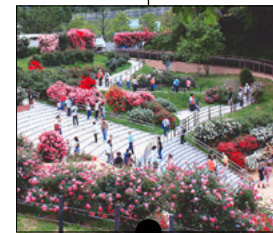
Held under the theme of 'Janus, opens the gate to the festival', the Andong International Mask Dance Festival will provide you with a special opportunity to discover your other self: half your soul will remain in your daily life, and the other half will indulge in the festival. Starting from the opening ceremony, various performances including mask dances of 14 teams from 12 countries such as China, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand as well as Korean traditional mask dances will be held. Visitors will be able to participate in mask dance contests, mask drawing activities, and mask parades, and enjoy a true festival, a breakthrough from their mundane daily lives.



Taiga Festival

Vladivostok, Russia | September 29~October 14
Location Vladivostok

The Taiga Festival is organized by Pacific Russia Tourism Alliance and is held in collaboration with local restaurants, travel agencies, taiga foods producers, parks and resorts. The event includes three sections respectively dedicated to gastronomy, tourism and events. During the festival, special deals on food and drinks from taiga products are offered at participating restaurants.



Green Park Autumn Rose Fair

Kitakyushu, Japan | October 2~November 1
Location Hibikinada Ryokuchi (Green Park)

The Green Park is the largest of its kind in downtown Kitakyushu. The park features approximately 320 rose species and 2500 rose bushes. Inside the Green Park is a spacious park perfect for picnics and the 'Kangaroo Square (Hibiki Animal World)', where you can see diverse marsupials including kangaroos. Also, don't miss out on the 'Tropical Ecology Garden,' home to a myriad of trees, flowers, tropical birds, reptiles and butterflies.



2018 Chengdu International Beach Culture Festival

Chengdu, China | October
Location Chengdu, China

First started in 1992, the Chengdu International Beach Culture Festival will, for the first time, be held in a beach this October. Various sports events and attractions are awaiting guests including sand art contests, beach weddings, beach volleyball games, and beach tug-of-war games.



Synchronize Festival 2018

Jakarta, Indonesia | October 5~7
Location PRJ Kemayoran (Gambir EXPO), Jakarta, Indonesia

The Synchronize Festival is a national multi-genre annual music festival that celebrates live music on five stages for three days. Tens of thousands of people flock to the event to enjoy performances by their favorite artists.



The 10th Gangneung Coffee Festival

Gangneung, Korea | October 5~9
Location Gangneung Green City Experience Center E-ZEN and other local areas

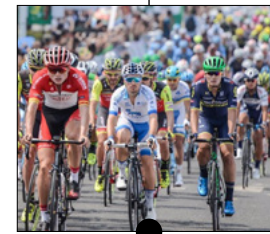
A eco-friendly festival titled 'Coffee Cities and Green Plus(+) Growth'. The use of to-go cups is prohibited inside the festival venue, so please make sure to bring personal cups. This year's coffee festival will be hosting '100 persons-100 flavors barista performances', 'Gangneung Coffee Tour Stamp Rally', where you need to visit popular local coffee shops and tourist spots, coffee culture experiences in collaboration with Coffee Belt countries, Gangneung barista awards, and Gangneung hand drip awards.



2018 Yeongju Museum Single-Log Bridge Festival

Yeongju, Korea | October 6
Location Museum Village, Munsu-myeon, Yeongju-si, Kyungangbuk-do

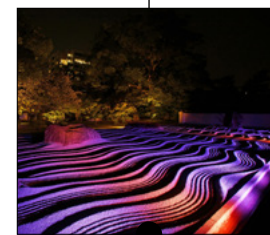
Museum Village is a distinctive town surrounded by water. Also nicknamed 'the floating island', the entire village has been designated Important Cultural Heritage No. 278. The single-log bridge, the theme of the festival and also an emblem of Museum Village, was the only link the town had to the outside world until a concrete bridge was constructed 30 years ago. The town thus holds this annual event so as to honor the tradition and continue the legacy. Entertainment including a single-log bridge performance recreating ancestors' lifestyle, a mock funeral procession, concerts, and the Museum Village photo contest will greet guests.



13th Tour of Hainan 2018

Sanya, China | Late October
Location Sanya, China

Hainan's national environment is truly a blessing from god, and is perfectly fit for cycling. In its 13th year, the cycling route of the Tour of Hainan cuts across 18 Hainan cities and prefectures. The cycle race was upgraded from previously category 2.2 to 2.HC, and the entire race will be broadcasted live in 180 countries.



Hakata Light Up Walk

Fukuoka, Japan | October 31~November 4
Location Temples and parks in Hakata Old Town

Temples and parks in the old town area of Hakata will literally be 'lightened up.' The dazzling lights will create a surreal ambience. Even the restricted areas will be open to the public during the festival.



The 13th Geoje Island Flower Festival

Geoje, Korea | October 27~November 4

Location Geoje Agriculture Development Complex

Geoje's signature autumn festival where flowers, culture and people commingle in harmony. You will be able to see a symphony of autumn flowers in the garden of the Agriculture Development Complex. The garden features chrysanthemum artwork symbolizing the SS Meredith Victory, a merchant ship that saved numerous lives from the shores of Hungnam, as well as Giseongwan, dolphins, pacific sailfish, octopus, and other images that represent Geoje's identity as a marine city. A number of performances are lined up as well, including the KNN Office Band Festival, traditional cultural art festival, Let's Rock Concert, and a recreation of celebratory processions.



2018 The 11th Danxia Mountain Tour

Shaoguan, China | November 3

Location Danxia Mountain, Shaoguan, China

Leveraging its ecological environment and natural resources, Shaoguan has solidified its status as a 'outdoor activity heaven' in recent years. Celebrating its 11th year, this year's Danxia Mountain Tour will be bringing together around 8000 outdoor activity enthusiasts from China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, US and England.

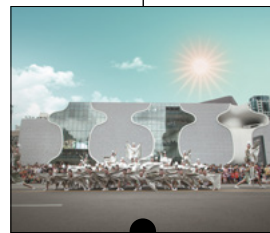


The 67th Ohara Matsuri

Kagoshima, Japan | November 2~3

Location Near Takamibaba Station

First held in 1949, the Ohara Matsuri has become the largest-scale festival in Minamikyushu. The grand dancing parade, or Soodori, where 25,000 dancers dance to the Kagoshima's folk songs such as 'Oharabushi', 'Kagoshima Hanyabushi', and 'Shibuya Ondo', is a mind-blowing sight to watch.



2018 Taichung International Dance Parade & Festival

Taichung, Taiwan | November 9~11

Location Taichung City Government Square and Summer Green Park, Taiwan

An event where actors and the general public dance and march together. As part of the 3rd festival of its kind, held this year, students in relevant departments and private companies will be invited from all across Taiwan to put together a special team, and world-renowned teams from Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia will also visit to exchange insights.



MotoGP Malaysia 2018

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | November 2~4

Location Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur

MotoGP Malaysia is a highly-anticipated motorcycle racing event with an annual attendance of more than 120,000 people. This year, the event will host 80 bike-themed booths, as well as on and off-track entertainment. Top motorcycle manufacturers such as Honda, Yamaha, Ducati, Suzuki and Aprilia, and an impressive line-up of the best riders from all over the world will be brought together.



Shimonoseki Fish Festival, Little Busan Festival, JA Agriculture Festival (simultaneously held)

Shimonoseki, Japan | November 23

Location Surrounding areas of Shimonoseki Station

The Shimonoseki Fish Festival offers tasty seafood dishes including the super jumbo blowfish nabe, and the Little Busan Festival is a place where you can enjoy Korean cuisine and traditional dances. The JA Shimonoseki Agriculture Festival is a market for buying and selling fresh produce. These three not-to-be-missed events take place nearby the Shimonoseki Station simultaneously.



The 4th Boryeong Seaweed Festival

Boryeong, Korea | November 2~4

Location Boryeong Daecheon Beach Mud Square

Kicked off with the Giant Kimbap Making Event, the Boryeong Seaweed Festival will provide various treats and attractions such as seaweed (gim) production experience (harvesting, drying and roasting), making seaweed facial masks, making mini kimbap, making seaweed dishes with a professional chef, etc.



Quest Festival Vietnam 2018

Hanoi, Vietnam | November 23~25

Location Son Tinh Camp, Hanoi, Vietnam

Son Tinh Camp Quest Festival is Vietnam's premier arts, music and nature festival, set in the scenic mountain landscape of Son Tinh Camp. A little early November sunshine, good music and the scenic natural surrounds of Dong Mo lake certainly create a romantic mood at Quest Festival.

TPO Members
86 city members, 45 industry members

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