Gangwon Provincial Office of Education

2015 Guidebook
Welcome to Gangwon Province!

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Efficient Korean Vocabulary

***The English Romanization is completely different from the Korean standardized Romanization for the purpose of a more accurate pronunciation.***

1. 도 – [doe] province
2. 시 – [shi] city
3. 군 – [goon] small city
4. 면 – [myun] town
5. 읍 – [ub] village
6. 학교 – [hok-gyo] school
7. 초등학교 – [cho-dung-hok-gyo] elementary school
8. 중학교 – [joong-hak-gyo] middle school
9. 고등학교 – [go-dung-hok-gyo] high school
11. 교장 – [gyo-jong] principal
12. 교감 – [gyo-gom] vice-principal
15. 학생 – [hok-sang] student
16. 남학생 – [nam hak-sang] male student
17. 여학생 – [yuh hak-sang] female student
18. 행정 실장님 – [hang-jung shil-jang-nim] administration director

Phrases

3. 네. - [neh] Yes.
5. 미안합니다. - [mi-ahn-hob-ni-da] I’m sorry.
7. 괜찮습니다. - [gwen-chon-sub-ni-da] It’s okay.
12. 다시 한번 (천천히) 말씀해 주세요. - [da-shi han-bun (chun-chun-hee) mal-sum-heh joo-seh-yo]
Could you (slowly) repeat that again.
14. 누구? - [noo-goo] who?
15. 어디? - [uh-dee] where?
16. 언제? - [un-jeh] when?
17. 어떻게? - [uh-duh-keh] how?
18. 얼마나? - [uhl-mah-nah] how much/many/far?
19. 왼쪽 – [wen-ijoke] left
20. 오른쪽 – [or-lun-ijoke] right

Numbers
If you learn 1-10, then you can count to 99.

After ten, it’s ten + one (eleven); ten + two (twelve), etc.

For 20, you say two + ten; 30 you say three + ten; 31 you say three + ten + three:

| 1) 일 [il] | 11) 십일 [shib-il] |
| 2) 이 [ee] | 20) 이십 [ee-shib] |
| 3) 삼 [som] | 31) 삼십일 [sahm-shib] |
| 4) 사 [saw] | 100) 백 [bek] |
| 5) 오 [oh] | 1,000) 천 [chun] |
| 6) 육 [yook] | 10,000) 만 [mon] |
| 7) 칠 [chil] | 100,000) 십만 [shib-mon] |
| 8) 팔 [pahl] | 1,000,000) 백만 [bek-mon] |
| 9) 구 [goo] | 10,000,000) 천만 [chun-mon] |
District Coordinators

There are 17 districts in Gangwon Province, each with its own District Office of Education (DOE). Each DOE is responsible for overseeing all the schools in that district.

The Provincial Office of Education (POE) oversees all 17 districts.

Thus, each district has a district coordinator for all the Native English Teachers (NET) and are responsible for all the NETs in their district. They are here to help you with problems you may have with your school or just life in general in Gangwon.

They have provided a brief description of their respective district below!

Greetings, EPIKer!

On behalf of the District Coordinators, welcome to Gangwon EPIK!

If you aren’t already en route, you will soon be travelling to your respective counties. An exciting time, we know, to see where you will live and work for the next year. It can also be a bit daunting, as you probably don’t know very much about the city or county to which you’ve been assigned. For some, you might be the only new arrival, and your new co-teacher may not live in the same city! Well, don’t worry, because, in addition to the other friendly faces you’ll soon meet, we’re here to help get you settled. We know you probably don’t have a phone (but your co-teacher does) or Internet service at your apartment (but your school will), so feel free to get in touch with us once you get the chance! We’ll be here to help you, not only in these first few days, but throughout the entire year as well. Once again, welcome!

District Coordinator Contact List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangwon POE</td>
<td>Albert Lee</td>
<td>033-258-5524</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gangwonpoe@gmail.com">gangwonpoe@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>010-9359-8115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuncheon</td>
<td>Kennie Churchwell</td>
<td>010-8496-0032</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thememphi@gmail.com">thememphi@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonju</td>
<td>Sonya Clarke</td>
<td>010-9783-6069</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sonya.clarke@hotmail.com">sonya.clarke@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangneung</td>
<td>Amanda Reeves</td>
<td>010-6873-0710</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amandamarie.reeves@gmail.com">amandamarie.reeves@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sokcho/Yangyang</td>
<td>Derry O’Sullivan</td>
<td>010-8432-0229</td>
<td><a href="mailto:derryokim@gmail.com">derryokim@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donghae</td>
<td>Dan Lyczak</td>
<td>010-3910-3265</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dlyczak@gmail.com">dlyczak@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taebaek</td>
<td>Joseph Christen</td>
<td>010-7484-1982</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joseph-christen@sbcglobal.net">joseph-christen@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samcheok</td>
<td>Riaan Bam</td>
<td>010-4603-8410</td>
<td><a href="mailto:riaanbarn@yahoo.com">riaanbarn@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hongcheon</td>
<td>George Settemir</td>
<td>010-7922-8010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:georgesettemir@gmail.com">georgesettemir@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoengseong</td>
<td>Joyi Lim</td>
<td>010-4596-9736</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joyilim92@gmail.com">joyilim92@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeongwol</td>
<td>Kent Crawley</td>
<td>010-4830-3142</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kentcrawley@hotmail.com">kentcrawley@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyeongchang</td>
<td>Les Timmermans</td>
<td>010-4728-9499</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ljtimmermans@gmail.com">ljtimmermans@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeongseon</td>
<td>Cody Tornow</td>
<td>010-8617-4994</td>
<td><a href="mailto:codytornow88@gmail.com">codytornow88@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheorwon</td>
<td>David White</td>
<td>010-3885-8613</td>
<td><a href="mailto:whitedb@outlook.com">whitedb@outlook.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwacheon</td>
<td>Kristen Bailey</td>
<td>010-9057-7508</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kaudrab@gmail.com">kaudrab@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yanggu</td>
<td>Karen Koelbl</td>
<td>010-4886-8968</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karenkoelbl@gmail.com">karenkoelbl@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inje</td>
<td>Seda Hocaoglu</td>
<td>010-2417-0083</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hocaogluseda@gmail.com">hocaogluseda@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goseong</td>
<td>Greg Meier</td>
<td>010-2467-5264</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gregpmeier@gmail.com">gregpmeier@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chuncheon (춘천)

Population: 252,019

The provincial capital city of Gangwon Province is nestled in the heart of the famous tourist city of Chuncheon. This city is tucked away in a basin with Uiamho Lake to the west, Chunchenho Lake and Soyangho Lake to the north, and Sinyeongang River to the south, effectively making this a city surrounded by water. Close proximity to Seoul makes this a popular daytrip destination.

This popular riverside tourist destination has many places to visit, including Namiseom, Jungdo Island, Cheongpyeongsa Temple, Gongjicheon area, Wido Island, Soyanggang River, Samaksan Mountain, Deongseon Waterfall, Gugok Waterfall, Jipdarigol Natural Forest, and Chuncheon Hunting Camp.

Looking at the topography of Chuncheon, one can clearly tell that it is a lakeside city, with Wido, Namiseom, and Uiam Islands near the center. As a result, aquatic sports are very popular. There are regular ferries at Soyangho, Uiam, and Chuncheon Lakes; many people enjoy fishing in these areas. Famous foods in Chuncheon include makguksu and dakgalbi.

The many festivals in the region make it a great place to visit any time of the year!

Cultural Festival

- Kim, Yu - Jeong munhakje (April)
- Uiam jae (April)
- Chuncheon International Mime Festival (May)
- Chuncheon Art festival (July)
- Chuncheon Music Festival (July)
- Chuncheon Puppet festival (August)
- Chuncheon International Theatre Festival (Sept.)
- Chuncheon International AniTown Festival (Sept.)

Local Festivals

- Chuncheon chicken ribs & Makguksu Festival (Aug.)
- Soyang festival (Sept.) Leisure Sports Festival
- National inline skate Chuncheon Marathon (April)
- Chuncheon Open International Taekwondo Championships (June)
- Gangchon national MTB Challenge Competition (Sept.)
- The Chosun Ilbo Chuncheon Marathon (Oct.)
- Lakeside Chuncheon Marathon Festival (Oct.)

Transportation: From Seoul

By Bus:

If traveling from Seoul, buses depart from the Dong Seoul Bus Station. Buses leave regularly every fifteen minutes, between 6 AM and 9:20 PM, and charge a fare of approximately 6,000 Won. To reach the Dong (East) Seoul Bus Station, take the Seoul subway system to Gangbyeon Station and leave through exit number 4. The bus station will be visible across the street. These buses take approximately 70 minutes or more depending on traffic. Buses to Chuncheon also depart from Seoul's Sangbong Bus Terminal once every forty minutes, between 5:40 AM and 9:30 PM.
By Subway:

A new subway line has recently opened from Seoul to Chuncheon. The Gyeongchun Line runs from Sangbong Station in the northeast of Seoul to Namchuncheon and Chuncheon Stations. Subways leave every 15 minutes or so, and take a little more than an hour to reach Chuncheon. It's a brand new subway line, mostly aboveground, and winds through the mountains, alongside the rivers and lakes for which the Gangwon region is famous. A one-way ride costs approximately 2,000 won ($1.80), depending on which part of Seoul you're coming from.

You can also take the ITX high speed train from either Yongsan (용산) station or Cheongyangri (청량리) station. The train is very comfortable and quite affordable, and allows you to reach the center of Seoul in less than an hour and a half.

Things to do

Jungdo (Island)

A ferry runs to the island every half hour. Fare is 5,500 won per adult. The island is great for day trips, picnics, camping, biking (approx.10,000 won/hr), four wheeling, cabin renting (55,000 won and up), hiking and sightseeing! Jungdo Island was also used as the backdrop for the movie ‘Wanee & June.’ Signs have been posted for fans to find where their favorite scenes were shot.

How to get there:
- From Myeong-dong Street, take bus No. 74 or 75 and get off at Jungdo Island (1 hour interval).
- By TAXI: Takes 5-10 min from Chuncheon Intercity Bus Terminal, Chuncheon Station, or Namchuncheon Station. (Fare is approx. 5,000-10,000 won) (**No city bus goes to Jungdo Island from Chuncheon Intercity Bus Terminal or Namchuncheon Station.)

Soyang Dam

The dam creates Soyang Lake. Boat rides are available to tour the lake, and there is a boat ride that takes you to a hiking trail to see a Buddhist temple.

Hiking

Chuncheon sits in a valley surrounded by mountains. Bong Ui Mountain is a famous peak located just North of Myongdong (downtown Chuncheon) and sits just south of the Soyang River. Trails lead to the top from all sides of the mountain.

Another group of hiking trails is located on the east side of Chuncheon. Starting at the provincial police headquarters, and running in back of the Lotte Mart in EmmaCo, the main trail runs along a ridge, crossing over several highways on elaborate bridges. Side trails lead up from the west. From the tourist resort of Gangchon (강촌유원지), one can hike to a waterfall or up the mountain to a high village where there are several restaurants. For more detailed hiking trails, visit http://www.everytrail.com/ and search for Chuncheon.

Gangchon Ski Resort

Approximately a 30 minute drive from downtown Chuncheon. A free shuttle runs from Chuncheon to the ski resort.

Cheongpyeong-sa Temple
Cheongpyeong Temple is a Buddhist temple dating back King Gwang-Jong (949-975). Tucked away in a valley between two mountains, it sits at the southern ridge of Mount Bong. The walk to Cheongpyeong Temple is through woods, with clean air and a beautiful stream with many waterfalls. There is a small entry fee of 1,000-5,000 won, with many restaurants and vendors along the way. One of the most amazing experiences is dining on the river on a small river table, a platform that is placed in the middle of the stream. There is a small backpacker’s motel near the entrance of the temple if you want to stay overnight.

**How to get there:**
Most take the ferry that leaves from Soyang Dam ☎ +82-33-1330. This dam is about a 30 minute taxi ride from Chuncheon's central station. Ferry rates:
- Adults 5,000 won / Youth 5,000 won / Children 3,000 won

**Shopping**
Since the opening of the KTX and the close proximity to Seoul, smaller indie stores and malls have a hard time keeping customers. However, some of the bigger stores have stayed, making it easy to find what you are looking for. There are a few of these types of "mega" stores in Chuncheon, making it easy for a foreigner to find most of the grocery and general household items they need.

**E-Mart**
The closest thing to a Wal-Mart equivalent, E-Mart is a large shopping center with almost everything. The lower level is a food court and grocery center, the second level a department store and additional levels for parking. E-Mart is located on the south side of Chuncheon.

**GS (Lotte) Mart**
A bit smaller than E-Mart, Lotte mart provides much of the same in terms of product and pricing. Lotte Mart also has a food court upstairs, but it doesn't offer as large of a selection of groceries and household goods as E-Mart. Lotte Mart can be found in Seoksadong on the east side of Chuncheon.

**Home Plus**
It is very similar to E-mart but seems to provide a wider selection of products and home décor.

**Eatery**

**Chuncheon's Dakgalbi Street:** features a large number of restaurants that specialize in the dish. Dakgalbi (Hangul: 닭갈비) is a delicious grilled chicken dish with vegetables and topped off with a spicy gochujang sauce. Chicken, rice cakes and vegetable mix are grilled before you on the table's skillet.

Kangwon National University's back gate—also known as Hoo Moon—is a central meeting place for most foreigners in Chuncheon. There are a number of places, for both Korean and foreign cuisines in this area.

**Vips** - A western style buffet with a Korean twist to it. Here the customer can order steak, an all-you-can-eat salad bar (with drinks included), tacos, fried chicken, and more. The price for the buffet is about 25,000 won.

**Outback Steakhouse** is the Australian-themed American casual dining restaurant. Many different kinds of appetizers and steaks are available to enjoy. Prices range from 10,000 won for burgers to 35,000 won for steak. This place is located across the street from the E-Mart Bus Terminal.
Hajukol  This upscale restaurant in the eastern part of Chuncheon's urban area serves lunch for around 18,000 won per person. The set meal comes with many different courses.

Peace of Mind Bakery and Book Cafe.

This cafe is filled with so many books; it can be considered a library! They serve homemade fresh bread as side dishes and offer steak, Italian food, and special teas. Before one leaves, the customer has the option to purchase baked snacks to go (like cookies or bread) and special teas. The owner of the shop is a gentleman who speaks fluent English, is extremely friendly, and loves what he does. POM also hosts meetings, parties, and venues.

How to get there:

Telephone number: 033-262-7864 / 011-9129-4706.

Markets  The downtown market has a number of inexpensive food stalls serving all kinds of Korean food. Also get fresh fruits, sweets, rice cakes, meat (including gaegogi [dogmeat] in season). A five-day market located near the main post office also has tasty dishes as well as produce, fish, etc.

Pat Bing Su  This tasty ice dessert is sold with many variations in the summer and early autumn. Bakeries often make the best versions.

Drinking:

Chuncheon has plenty of bars and small, local establishments that serve beer and coffee and a limited selection of food. These small establishments are called "Hof's".

Sheriff's bar (At Kangwon National University's Back Gate). Decent music, a couple of dart boards, and a fair selection of cocktails and beer, this western styled and themed bar is the most popular place to hang out for both students of the University as well as foreign expats working in Chuncheon.

Tudari is a major chain of Hof's serving mostly Korean beer and bar food. They are usually nice and clean inside and fairly inexpensive. Tudari establishments can be found all over Chuncheon.

Hard Rock, (Kangwon University Back Gate Opposite Johnny's Bar) A good 'Western' bar with a great selection of cocktails and imported beers, both bottled and draft.
Wonju (원주)

Wonju-si is located in the center of the Korean peninsula and southwest of Gangwon-do province. East of Wonju-si is Yeongwol-gun and Pyeongchang-gun and west of the city is Yeoju-gun and Yangpyeong-gun of Gyeonggi-do province. It borders Hoengseong-gun to the North and Chungju-si and Jecheon-si to the South.

Size: 867.76 km²
Population: 306,350 (as of late 2008)

Geography & culture: Wonju-si has two rivers supplying water to the city: the Seom River starts from Taegisan Mountain, and the Namhan River stems from Odaesan. Wonju is in a generally flat area, but with numerous low hills. The city is blessed with great cultural heritage and many tourist attractions including Chiaksan National Park and Gangwongamyeong.

Local Attractions:

Chiaksan National Park
Home to Chiaksan Mountain and a favorite destination among hikers, Chiaksan National Park is a beautiful break from the often drab looking city. Forests, rocks, waterfalls and temples are in abundance here, and it is well worth a day trip. To get here, you can take many local buses – see the Wonju city website for more details.

Chiaksan Natural Forest Resort
Between Wonju and Jecheon. The resort is located in Chalbangmakgol valley, and despite its name, is not actually on Chiaksan Mountain, although the hiking trails here offer great views of that area. The forest resort is filled with paths where you can discover rocks such as the Chilseong rock, Turtle rock and Lightning rock. There are also some nice picnic areas.

Call the Forest Resort Management Office (033 7628288) for information on accommodation here – they have log cabins and camping areas

Entrance Fees: Adults - 2,000 won; Teenagers - 1,500 won; Children - 1,000 won.

Transportation:
Wonju is home to 2 bus terminals, a railway station and even an airport!

Wonju Airport
Flights go to Jeju (Southern Korean island), as well as many other locations throughout Korea. You can take local buses there from the Wonju bus terminals, or if you’d rather, you could take a taxi, but it will probably cost you close to 20,000 won to go from downtown.

Bus Terminals and Train Station
The bus terminals are located right next to each other, in the main downtown area. The train station (357 Hakseong-dong) is too far to walk to from there, and the easiest way to get between the two locations is to take a cheap taxi. It should only cost around 3,000 won.

Taxis
Taxis are in abundance here, and are a cheap way to get around the city – especially if you are sharing with a few people.

**Useful links:**
Please join the Wonju Facebook group: Wonju English Teachers…it is full of relevant information for what is going on in our fair city. It also has an excellent Google map with local amenities and favorite places…
http://english.wonju.go.kr/site/foreign/eng/page/index.jsp

**Wonju Maps**
This is a google map of Wonju with a list of all the great restaurants and amenities in the city. Anyone can edit and add to the map so it’s a great communal way to share places in Wonju!
https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=212851594118753974606.0004aa6aah5e7bab85a1e&msa=0&ll=37.30857,127.961283&spn=0.055486,0.111494&dg=feature
Gangneung (강릉)

Gangneung is one of the largest coastal cities in Gangwon-do and the largest economic center in the Yeongdong region. It is located south of Yangyang and north of Donghae. The Taebaek Mountains, which rise up behind the city, help keep it a bit warmer than coastal cities in the west. And unlike in other parts of the country, the rainy season is in the fall, not the summer. It has no commercial port and not a lot of fishing off its coast. Due to its historical significance and its seaside location, it has become a tourist spot for vacationing Seoulites.

Read more:
http://www.frommers.com/destinations/gangneung/4027010001.html#ixzz2fnkgx5Se

Getting There

Gangneung used to have a small airport, but now the nearest airport is in Yangyang (since it consolidated the Gangneung and Sokcho airports). Most people take the bus into Gangneung, since it is the fastest and most economical way to travel into the city. You can take a bus from the Dong Seoul Bus Terminal (take Seoul subway line 2, exit 4) daily from 6:30am to 11pm. It takes about 3 hours and buses run every 30 to 50 minutes. From Seoul's Express Bus Terminal in Gangnam (take Seoul subway line 3, exit 1), buses run every 15 to 30 minutes, daily from 6am to 11:30pm. There are two bus stations in town, the newer one (far from the city center) and the older one, which serves buses from closer cities.

If you prefer to travel by rail, you can take a train from Seoul's Cheongnyangni Station. There are usually between four and nine trains daily into Gangneung. The best way to arrive by train is to catch the "sunrise" train the night before, sleep on the way, and arrive in time to see the sun rise over Jeongdongjin Beach. There are daily Mugunghwa trains leaving at 10:40pm, arriving at 4:40am for early risers, and a midnight train that arrives at 6:22am. Night owls can take either the 2pm train that arrives at 8:10am or the 5pm train, arriving at 11:15pm.

Getting Around

Local buses will get you pretty much anywhere you need to go. Unfortunately, most signs are not in English and drivers don't speak English. However, if you can say the name of your destination in Korean, you can indicate to your driver to let you know when to get off. Local buses run frequently and cost about 1,000 won, so be sure you have plenty of small bills to get around.

Visitor Information

The Tourist Guide Office, 992-3 Hongje-dong, Gangneung-si (tel. 033/640-4757; daily 8:30am-10pm), is located a couple of minutes from the bus terminal. Other tourist info centers can be found at the train station, Jeongdongjin (tel. 033/644-5062), and the entrance to Gyeongpo Beach. The city's website is www.gntour.go.kr.

Fast Facts

Banks, Foreign Exchange & ATMs Most banks in the city are located in the downtown area and are open Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm.

Internet Access If you have your own laptop, there is free wireless Internet access on Gyeongpo Beach. If you didn't bring your own computer, you can always stop in at one of the PC bahng in the city. Most of these are open 24 hours for those addicted gamers.
Post Office There are many post offices in Gangneung, but the one downtown (in the old section of town) is the most convenient and has Saturday hours (9am-1pm), while the other ones are open Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm only.

Read more:
http://www.frommers.com/destinations/gangneung/4027010002.html#ixzz2fnkpzdcP

interactive map website:
http://www.ugo.cn/admin2/en/1330509.htm
Sokcho (속초) Yangyang (양양)

Sokcho/Yangyang says Welcome!

Sokcho (속초) is located in the far northeast of Gangwon-do. Lying north of the 38th parallel, the city belonged to North Korea from 1945 until the end of the Korean War, when the dividing line between the two Korean states was officially altered. Consequently, many of the population have relatives in North Korea. Today, Sokcho receives a number of tourists attracted by the closeness to the DMZ. The city is also a well-known gateway to nearby Seoraksan national park.

Until the opening of the airport in Yangyang County, Sokcho had its own airport, linking the city to Seoul. The city still attracts many national and international tourists, not only because of Seorak-san, but also because of its fine fishery products. The beach of Sokcho has a good reputation, although it is only open for 42 days every year. There are natural hot springs in Sokcho, some of which have been developed into spas and pleasure swimming halls. There are also golf courses which are popular because of their natural surroundings.

The nearby Yeongrangho lake is renowned for its beauty. The reflection of Seorak-san and its Ulsan-bawi are particularly popular. There are a number of well-preserved Buddhist temples in the area around Sokcho. The main building of the Sinheungsan temple (Geukrakbojeon) is a popular tourist destination (originally built in the 15th century). Also popular is the Hyangseongsaji samcheung seoktap, a three storey pagoda of 4.3 metres. It dates from 652 and is located at the site of the Hyangseongsan temple.

Yeonggeumjeong is a popular pavilion built on the shores of Sokcho. It is not only popular for its magnificent views of the sunrise, but also for the sound of the sea which is thought to be particularly nice at this site. It is thought that the pavilion was built at this location for sonic reasons.

Sokcho is home to one of the few lakes naturally created by the sea. The city itself is not very lively. There are many typical Korean grey flats and it looks like a city that stood still in the 70s. There are not so many typical Korean beer-gardens and restaurants. As a base to explore Seoraksan, it is a perfect spot.

In October Sokcho comes to life with the Seorak Cultural Festival. There is no shortage of events in which to participate. Parades, stage shows, contests, races and various other forms of entertainment all fill the calendar during the festival. And what festival would be complete without row after row of food stalls. An extremely popular event is the rice cake making contest, and the sampling that follows. The locals tell one not to miss the "Taffy Vendors". A troupe of professional entertainers that sing, dressed as the self-described "Traditional Korean Beggar", who donate all proceeds from the sale of taffy and their CDs, to charities. Another unusual event is the Gaet-Bae, or raft, race. Two teams propel the rafts across the course by pulling on long handled hooks catching the cable that straddles the deck of each raft.

Our team in this district comprises 20 EPIK teachers & you'd be hard-pressed to find a nicer bunch of colleagues. You're also coming to one of the most attractive areas in all of Korea with a lot of local charms.

You'll find Sokcho has just about anything you might need for comfortable living. Neighborhood stores offer plenty of basics & we have a large Emart for wider choice. For more specific needs & social connections, there’s an active Facebook page called "Sokcho Elite."

Donghae (동해)
Donghae is classified as a small city in Korea, consisting of roughly 100,000 people. However, despite its size and location on the east coast of the peninsula, it is well connected.

**Transportation within Donghae**

Getting around the city is quite easy with the aid of its bus system. Buses run from 6AM, until 10:45PM. A poster showing the expected time of arrival for each bus can be found at bus stops. Each bus is assigned a number to help riders identify the route it will take. However, these numbers can be confusing to the uninitiated, so it is best to know the general area you would like to travel to, as the scheduled destinations will be listed on small white signs in the front windshield of the bus.

The signs are only in Korean, so if you don’t know how to read Korean, you can get by with just knowing the name of your destinations and asking the bus driver. The bus fee as of February 2014 is 1,100 won. Cash is accepted (by depositing it in the box at the top of the stairs) or you can scan your rapid transit card (the same one you use for public transport in Seoul), which works as well. These are available at select stores in Donghae as well, but need to be recharged periodically.

To signal to the bus driver you want to make the next stop, press one of the many red buttons located around the bus. If you or another passenger does not press the button, there is no guarantee the bus will make that stop, so it’s important to do this.

Taxis are also readily available, and the current base-fare rate is 2,800 won and increases based on distance/time.

Donghae is a deceptively large city area-wise, but it is still manageable to walk or utilize biking lanes spread around the city if you’re so inclined.

**Leaving Donghae**

If you start to feel cooped up, travel from Donghae to other parts of Korea is quite easy. The interconnected system of buses in Korea is phenomenal. Buses are punctual, frequent, and comfortable. Donghae has 2 bus terminals to get you out of the city.

One is the express bus terminal located towards Mukho. This bus terminal only facilitates buses destined for Seoul Gangnam station and Dong Seoul station. All buses at this terminal are operated by Kobus, and they have an English website where you can find a complete timetable.

The second bus terminal is located up the hill from the downtown area, across from the Donghae tourist hotel. From here, you can access virtually any part of Korea. This terminal also has buses coming to/from both terminals in Seoul but a different company operates them. Buses to Seoul depart roughly every 40 minutes, with departures to other cities leaving at frequent times throughout the day.

Note that it is possible to take a local bus from Donghae to Samcheok for an additional fee, but given that the bus will make frequent stops and thus take considerably more time, it is recommended to take an intercity bus instead.

Donghae is also home to a number of train stations. The trains possess charm as they often run along the coast, but for most travelers, buses are the best option. All of Donghae’s train stations run on the same line, and will take passengers to destinations along the coast.

Donghae is also home to an international ferry terminal, and it is possible to travel to other parts of Korea in addition to other countries, Russia and Japan, via boat directly from Donghae. The boats run consistently but infrequently and it is highly recommended you inquire and purchase tickets well in advance.

**Weather**

Despite a lingering sense of pride in some Koreans about the uniqueness of four distinct seasons, weather on the peninsula is almost identical to any other place on earth with similar latitude.
To help with perspective, here is a breakdown of the average highs and lows for each month (high in °C/low in °C/precipitation in cm): January (-5/2/1.73), February (-3/4/2.15), March (2/10/3.31), April (8/18/5.35), May (13/23/7.93), June (18/27/11.57), July (22/29/27.24), August (22/30/30.03), September (17/26/10.34), October (10/20/3.68), November (4/12/4.09), December (-2/4/1.51).

It is important to consider that Donghae is a coastal town surrounded by mountains. This means that there is a considerable breeze at most times that lowers the perceived temperature year round.

Also, humidity is quite high in the summer and at times can be overbearing. Long bouts of rain, which can last for days, occur in the summer time. Korean weather runs the whole gamut of conditions, sometimes in the same day, so it is best to be prepared for anything.

**Banking**

There are a number of national chains in Korea, with varying degrees of services and accessibility offered. The most popular are: KEB, KB, Woori, Shinhan, and Nonghyup. All have at least one branch in Donghae, except for KEB.

Unfortunately, KEB is considered the most foreign friendly. The nearest branch is 40 minutes away in Gangneung. Banks other than KEB are all more or less the same. You can easily acquire a checking account with a debit card, but using this to make purchases online ranges from impossible to highly unlikely.

It is possible for foreigners to get select credit cards once they’ve established themselves, which is easier to use online. Aside from checking accounts, savings accounts of all different kinds are also available with rates on par or better than most home countries.

It is important to know that banking hours are limited. Most banks are open when you are at work, 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday and closed on weekends and national holidays. Luckily, most transactions can be done from ATMs, and most ATMs have full English accessibility. Fee’s for transactions are usually free, but expect to pay around 1,500 won to use a different bank’s ATM for withdrawals.

Upon opening an account you’ll be given a book that you can update at ATMs to easily keep track of finances. For remittance, more detail on online banking, and further services, it is better to enquire with your co-teacher, or ask someone when you’ve chosen a bank as your choice will influence the advice given.

**Social Life**

It is important to realize that Donghae is considered to be a small city in the Korean countryside. That being said, Donghae offers a variety of ways to keep a self-sufficient person occupied. Korea is a communal based society, so there are a number of clubs and groups that participate in virtually every hobby imaginable.

Starting with the most prevalent feature of the city, nature, one can easily occupy the time with walks, hikes, and explorations of mountains and seaside either alone, with friends and coworkers, or with the aforementioned clubs. Donghae has a small cave located in the downtown area, as well as multiple beaches, walking paths, and a large valley located about 15 minutes from downtown.

A healthy range of sporting activities and groups are also available. The most popular sports are soccer/football, badminton, tennis, table tennis/ping-pong, basketball, running, golf (though anything other than screen golf is expensive), swimming (Donghae has 2 indoor pools), and volleyball.

There are also a number of private academies you can attend to practice and develop your hobbies, ranging from musical instruments to arts and crafts. However, because Donghae is a rural city, the level of English amongst the general population is less than fluent. That means a smile and patience are necessary ingredients.
Donghae has a variety of different restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues. This includes a multiplex cinema (which usually hosts the latest blockbuster movies in English), 2 bowling alleys, many pool-halls, several gyms and saunas, hundreds of singing-rooms, PC rooms, DVD rooms, and pubs.
Taebaek (태백)

Introduction

Taebaek is located in the far South East of Gangwon-do, nestled in mountain range. It is a fairly large town/small city, (population of with lots of shops, restaurants, bars, markets and outdoor activities. successful coal mining town, the mines are mostly closed down, but see some evidence left behind in the abandoned mines that litter the town. Taebaek is an extremely welcoming place with a good feel to it. It consists of 4 main districts – Hwangji-dong, Jangseon-Cheolam-dong and Tong-ri.

Weather / Climate

SPRING (late March – early June)
SUMMER (mid June – late August)
FALL (September – early November)
WINTER (late November – early March)

Taebaek is known for its cool, fresh air and clean, natural climate. The city is a popular destination for athletes to come and train during the hot summer months. While the rest of the country is smoldering, Taebaek boasts a relatively cool summer (20-28 degrees Celsius) with the temperature rarely reaching 30 degrees. The winters in Taebaek are long, snowy and cold (-10 to –20) with the temperature rarely getting as low as -30. It is not uncommon to see snow fall in November and last until March. Be prepared for at least a few snow storms each year that will make transportation difficult.

Things to do

Taebaek has been promoting itself as the “Leisure Sports City”. There are two easily accessible ski resorts in the area which also offer discounts to local residents. Skiing/snowboarding is a prominent activity during the winter months. In the summer, the same resorts also open for golf and host various concerts, events and festivals.

Hiking is what really puts Taebaek on the map. Taebaek Mountain is one of the most famous mountains in the country and is a perfect destination for both experienced and amateur hiking enthusiasts. The area also hosts various other hiking destinations and the downtown district is littered with hiking/outdoor equipment shops.

Banking / Shopping etc.

Downtown Taebaek hosts a sufficient number of shops and boutiques. It doesn’t have as many options as the major Korean cities but a person can almost always find what he/she is looking for. The biggest/most popular option for one-stop shopping is E-mart. It is on the outskirts of the city but it is easily accessible by taxi. At E-mart shoppers can find anything from groceries to sporting goods to electronics - all under one roof.

Taebaek has pretty much as many banking options as the bigger cities. In the downtown area there are 3 or 4 major banks that offer international banking services. There is not always English service available but most banks these days have at least one staff member who is able to communicate in English. Most schools tend to deal through NH bank. That is likely the bank where your pay/school related funds with be dealt with. Once you have your ARC card though, you'll be able to open an account at the bank of your choice.
In General

Taebaek is a small city with a lot of character. There are approximately 20 other foreign English teachers in town and the foreign community tends to be a close group. Make the most of your time here and take advantage of all the city has to offer. You'll find that being outgoing and enthusiastic will go a long way in making your stay here more enjoyable and fulfilling.
Samcheok (삼척)

Samcheok is a district in the south-eastern part of Gangwon Province with a beautiful coastline, impressive famous caves, and... the famous Haesindang Park (or as the English describes so well, the Penis Park). The total population of Samcheok is around 80,000 with about 25 to 30 foreigners. We are about 21 EPIK teachers.

Some other famous spots include the Jukseo-ru Pavilion which dates back to the 12th century (reconstructed 1403), cave exhibition centers which tells about the formation and history of caves and features life sized reconstructions of caves themselves. All around are great hiking trails with mountains, rivers, and temples.

The weather is not as extreme as most of the other areas in Gangwon. We are protected by the Taebaek Mountains and the sea from the extreme heat, cold and destructive forces of many typhoons that hit Korea. This does not mean we miss out on the snow, as we get tons of it in late winter.

Samcheok has most of the important amenities you will need including banks (NH and KB, not KEB unfortunately), a very big Home Plus department store, many restaurants (Korean, an Italian restaurant, many pizza places, Lotteria), a big Methodist Church with translators and taxis around every corner to get you anywhere. Most of these places are downtown and easy enough to reach if you live in the city area.

Other areas include places like Geundeok, Imwon, Dogye and Hosan. Most of these areas are less than 35 minutes away from the city by bus.

Samcheok has buses to many of the major cities in Korea. The city is just an hour's bus-ride from Gangneung, one of the bigger cities in the province. Should there be no buses to a specific area from Samcheok, you would most likely find one from here. We also have regular city buses around the city that connects us to all of the Samcheok areas and Donghae city.

Donghae City is just half an hour away from Samcheok with a cinema and a good shopping district and most things you will not find in Samcheok. The Immigration Office is also situated in Donghae.

I trust that you will be very happy in your new city. It is small enough to still get the cozy traditional Korean atmosphere but big enough to not feel too isolated.

Welcome to "Wonderfull Samcheok". It really has two L's.
Hongcheon (홍천)

Hongcheon is the largest county not only in Gangwon province, but in the whole of South Korea. The main city is split in two uneven parts by the Hongcheon River, which rises about 10 feet every year in the wet season. Chuncheon is to the north and Wonju to the south. If you head east, you’ll be in Sokcho in about 1.5 hours. If you head west, Seoul is only an hour away by express bus. If you go north, you’ll be able to visit the DMZ.

The county has several famous foods: Korean beef, Sura rice, pine nuts, waxy corn, and ginseng. The population is approximately 70,000 people. Most of the population is packed into the main area of the city, with the outlying areas being rather sparsely populated. Vivaldi Park is a well-known ski resort, and there are several small hot springs. There are lots of (small) mountains, so if you like to hike, you’re in luck. There are four local festivals, including an ice fishing festival in the winter. Normally, the city is relatively quiet, though it is not without some nightlife.

You can read more at: http://www.hongcheon.gangwon.kr/2009/page.asp?pagecode=11_01_06_00_00

You can see the google map of the schools in the county at: https://www.google.com/maps/ms?msid=205694348736561228983.0004cf004c79be3115fe3&msa=0
(This will be updated in the next few weeks to reflect changes in staffing with EPIK and TaLK)
Welcome to Hoengseong!

Population:

Hoengseong is located almost in the middle of the peninsula, about a two-hour bus ride to either Seoul or the East Sea. The district (gun) has a population of about 47,300 people, and the county is divided into eight rural townships (myeon) and one city (eup). Most of the population lives in Hoengseongeup, in densely packed apartment blocks, newly built villas, or dilapidated traditional homes.

A decline in population is the biggest concern among the county's residents and officials. Over the last few years, the District Office of Education (DOE) has been forced to close schools with less than ten students.

Usually, most local EPIK teachers are provided housing in Hoengseongeup, as it's centrally located and has basic amenities. However, some area teachers also live in Anheung, Dunnae, and nearby in the biggest city in Gangwondo, Wonju.

Climate and Geography:

Hoengseong's climate reflects its location in the mountainous inland region of Southwest Gangwondo. Therefore, a wide seasonal difference in temperature exists. Temperatures range from 40.0˚ in the summer to -25˚ in the winter. Be prepared for high humidity and mold in your apartments from July to August, whereas wintertime can bring high utility costs depending on your housing situation. If your apartment doesn't have a dehumidifier or an economical radiant heater, consider asking your school to purchase either one.

Moreover, the Seomgang (Island River) to the north, and the Jeoncheon (Jeon Creek) to the south, flow through Hoengseongeup. Other notable bodies of water in the county are the Gapcheon Dam and the Hakgok Reservoir nearby Chiaksan (Chiak Mountain). You can cheaply rent paddle boats at the reservoir, and a quaint coffee shop with great outdoor seating is nearby the rental dock.

Local cuisine and food:

Hoengseonggun is famous for Korean beef (hanu); steamed bread with a red-bean-paste filling (jjinbbang); and deodeok, a root similar to ginseng. The county began its marketing campaign in 1995 to brand itself the origin of hanu. Consequently, one of the biggest events in Hoengseong is a five-day Korean beef festival, usually held in October. People from all over Korea arrive at the riverbanks of the Seomgang to eat locally raised beef, bid in an animal auction, buy handmade goods, see musical performances and partake in traditional activities. Dunnae’s yearly tomato festival in August pales in comparison, but it still makes for a nice afternoon if you don’t have anything else going on.

With vegetarians and vegans being exceptions, you should have no problem finding either restaurants or grocery stores to get food in Hoengseong. And even though its towns are small, restaurants here have high-quality and affordable fare. We have a couple delicious dakgalbi (stir-fried chicken with chili pepper paste) restaurants in Hoengseongeup, one being close to the downtown CU, and the other being across from the stadium.

Hanu restaurants are everywhere, but word to the wise, they are expensive! Also, a few kimbab shops are sprinkled throughout city centers, as are hole-in-the-walls serving samgyetang (a whole, small chicken stuffed with rice and boiled in a ginseng broth) and yeongyangtang (the infamous dog soup). A samgyetang restaurant toward the north
of Hoengseongeup, and along the Seomgang, is a favorite among local NETs.

Again in Hoengseongeup, let us not forget Pizza Etang by the central park on the hill; the Quonset hut restaurant by the stadium serving charcoal-grilled chicken courtesy of a hiking enthusiast; the courtyard makgyeotsu (cold buckwheat noodles) restaurant by County Hall; and Kim Dong Hoon’s Beehive samgeopsal (braised pork belly), the man defining service with a smile.

Furthermore, you can shop for groceries at any of the conveniently placed mom and pop stores, the central sjang (traditional indoor market), Nonghyup Hanaro marts, the Lotte Super, King Mart by the express bus terminal, and convenience stores like CU and 7-Eleven. Also, Hoengseongeup has a five-day street market where entire city-center streets are jam-packed with vendors selling everything from household goods to medicinal herbs. The market usually runs from the early morning, with vendors packing up at about 6pm depending on the weather and time of year. Check it out on dates ending in -1 and -6.

Incidentally, up until last year, Hoengseongeup lacked modern coffee shops and well-known international food franchises. But recently, we’ve seen three new coffee shops, a Yoger Presso, a Dunkin Donuts and an Angel-in-Us. The latter three close late.

Fellow teachers:

Including you, there are 10 native English teachers working in public schools in this district. We all work in more than one school, and thus have to travel by bus or carpool to our various rural schools (sans car or motorcycle, of course). As aforementioned, some of us live in Wonju, requiring a commute of up to 45 minutes. We are all different ages and from differing backgrounds and countries. We try to get together fairly regularly, if not weekly, whether it is to eat dinner, go hiking, party in Seoul or relax on the beach. You are more than welcome to join people in these activities, and we urge you to not be a stranger. Remember that your fellow Hoengseonggun teachers are kind and willing to be of help if you ever need any guidance.

Transportation:

Buses

→ Shinae bus/local “blue” bus ~ extremely varied arrival times
→ Jikhaeng bus/direct “white” bus ~ usually on time
→ Gosok bus/delux or express bus ~ almost always on time

Generally, local blue buses 2 and 2-1 between Hoengseongeup and Wonju are consistent and easy to catch. They start running from Hoengseong at 6:30am, with the last bus to Wonju at 11pm. The last bus to Hoengseong from Wonju is at 10:20pm, as a rule. You can pay for these buses with a transit card (CashBee/T-money) or cash/change. Prices vary depending on distance traveled.

Local blue buses to the rural areas of Hoengseong are notoriously late by 10 to 20 minutes. That being said, you still want to be at your bus stop on time just in case the bus is as well. It’s annoying, but necessary in order to potentially save yourself an expensive cab ride.

Local blue buses usually run upwards of 10 times a day, with only one bus you can catch before 9am. Your co-teacher may know about local bus schedules, but they are also posted at respective bus stops. Pocket schedule printouts are difficult to find, but they are sometimes sold at Nonghyup Hanaro Marts.

Also, bus times often change twice a year—sometimes slightly, but usually drastically. Lastly, often the name of the bus will not be the same as the name of the town or school you are going to.

*Generally, bus 2 takes you to Wonju’s old downtown, the Wonju train station, Wonju’s traditional indoor markets, Rodeo Drive for shopping, Yonsei Severance Hospital and Mannam’s office for free Korean classes.*
Bus 2-1 takes you to the Wonju express terminal, AK Plaza/ Latte Super, the Megabox and CGV cinemas, the City Hall neighborhood, a variety of restaurants, Latte Cinema and the Wonju Stadium.

Jikhaeng buses run directly, and for long distances, between villages and transportation hubs like the two express bus terminals in Hoengseongeup and Wonju. You can only pay cash/change for these, and they are quite old and uncomfortable. Prices vary depending on where you are going. Express buses will take you all over the province and beyond. Destinations are pretty limited from the Hoengseongeup terminal, but you can go to just about anywhere in the country from Wonju. Gimpo and Incheon airport shuttles run to and from Wonju as well for about 20,000 won.

There are daily buses from Hoengseong to major Korean cities like Seoul, Busan, Daegu, etc. There are also daily buses on 20-minute intervals between Chuncheon and Wonju that stop in Hoengseong. You can pay with cash/change at the terminal and sometimes with a transit card with the driver, and the buses comfortably get you to where you want to go. It’s 10,000 won for a one-way ticket to Seoul, and 2,100 won to bus to Wonju.

Hoengseongeup has a new bus terminal five minutes walking south of the city-center cartoon cow/roundabout. It’s on the highway that leads to Wonju, nearby King Mart.

**Taxis**

Taxis in Hoengseonggun are operated like anywhere else in Korea, with gaein (private) taxi drivers usually having a better knowledge of the area while driving fairly safely. Hwasa (company) taxi drivers may race to get you to your destination, but they often do so less safely. The base meter fare is 2,800 won, and that fare goes up to 20% after midnight. It’s best to assume that you can only pay in cash, but sometimes taxis in Hoengseonggun accept credit cards and transit cards like T-money. To give you an idea, a ride between Hoengseongeup and Wonju will take about 25 minutes at about 25,000 won.

**Bicycling**

In the future, Hoengseonggun will be connected to the Hangang leg of the Four Rivers Bicycle Path System. As of this writing, the project is in the works and will be incomplete for some time. Currently, you can take a road detour to reach the Hangang bike path just Northeast of Wonju at Oksanti. The Han River Riders are the best resource about Korean bike culture in English.

**Recreation:**

Worthwhile things to do in the Hoengseonggun area include, but aren’t limited to: hiking in Chiaksan National Park, biking along scenic bike paths, soaking at the Hoengseong Hot springs, swimming in the Byeong Ji Bang river valley, and picnicking at the two main rivers.

**Information:**

**Wonju English teachers Facebook group**

This Facebook group has a good map of stores and places of interest in Wonju, as well as information on doctors and dentists. People also post a lot about upcoming events and job opportunities. Request to join and meet some folks!

**Useful phone numbers (with English operators or service, usually)**

Tourist Information (bus schedules/accommodation/you name it) -- 02 1330
Korean Interpreter Service (They can three-way call with you, or interpret over the phone, with someone you are having difficulty communicating with) -- 1588 5644

KT Internet -- 1588 8448

KEB Wonju -- 033 732 8600 (This bank is great for international transfers and global checking cards)

Nonghyup Bank -- 1588 2100 (Ext. 730, then press 1 for service in English)

Useful websites

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<tr>
<th>Gangwondo tourism -- <a href="http://www.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_1_1_1.jsp?areaCode=32">http://www.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_1_1_1.jsp?areaCode=32</a></th>
<th>Native English teachers lesson plan resource -- <a href="http://www.waygook.org">www.waygook.org</a></th>
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<td>Nationwide bus terminal info -- <a href="http://www.busterminal.or.kr">http://www.busterminal.or.kr</a></td>
<td>Naver maps -- <a href="http://map.naver.com/">http://map.naver.com/</a></td>
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Learning Korean/language

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Online shopping

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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.gmarket.co.kr/">http://www.gmarket.co.kr/</a></td>
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If you have further questions, call Jennifer Miller, the district coordinator, at 010-7611-5264. Or, send her an email at miljennifer@gmail.com.
Yeongwol (영월)

Yeongwol is a small town which is located in southern Gangwon. The population is roughly 45,000 people with about 80% of the people living in downtown Yeongwol. There are fewer than 20 foreign teachers here comprised of EPIK, Hagwon & University.

Yeongwol is surrounded by rivers and mountains. You are very close to nature here. It's very convenient to go hiking in the mountains around town any time, or you can go rafting on the rivers during the hot summer months.

Hiking

Bongnaesan (봉내산) and Byeolmaro Observatory (별마로천문대)

Difficulty: 5/10  Round Trip Time: 3h  Height: 799.8m

You can hike up to Byeolmaro Astronomical Observatory to see stars at night, or you can paraglide from the top during a beautiful sunset! It's not uncommon to see a group of colorful paragliders soaring over town. Yeongwol has a tradition for New Year's Eve: most of those left in town hike up the mountain at night and/or sit on top to watch the first sunrise of the New Year.

Other Notable Mountain/Trails

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mountain Name</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Round Trip Time</th>
<th>Height</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-Being Mountain</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>1h</td>
<td>Not high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ansan (안산)</td>
<td>4/10/10</td>
<td>2-3h</td>
<td>Not steep, so it's a good option for someone who wants a longer hike that isn't too difficult.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balsan (발산)</td>
<td>5-6/10</td>
<td>3-4h</td>
<td>Due to steep descent, it can be risky in winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyecheoksan (계족산)</td>
<td>8-9/10</td>
<td>5h</td>
<td>889.6M</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There is a Shilla-era fortress on the mountain, although it is currently under excavation, great views of the Dong River, Yeongwol, and surrounding valleys, a gorgeous sandstone creek, ruins of a 1930s cable-car, and a variety of lovely foliage to admire.

Donggang Si-Star Resort is located in the valley, where you can play golf, relax in a spa and have parties with your friends.

Festivals

There is Danjong Festival in April and Donggang Festival in August every year. During the festivals, there are lots of games, foods, and shows, as well as famous Korean pop-artist performances.

Bus Terminal & Train Station

There is a bus terminal in town, which has regular schedules to some of the big cities, such as Seoul, Suwon, Jecheon, Wonju, Gangneung and Guangju. And there is a railway station, from where you can travel to Seoul, Donghae and Gangneung. Or you can take city buses or taxies to travel to the small towns surrounding Yeongwol.
Food, Banking & Shopping

Yeongwol has most of the Korean traditional foods and a few western style fast food restaurants, such as Lotteria, Han's Deli, and Domino's Pizza. You can go to Nonghyup Bank and Shinhan Bank in downtown to save or transfer money.

To buy groceries you can go to Lotte Mart, Nonghyup Mart, Hanaro Mart, traditional market, or 5-day market (오일장). 5-day market is a traditional market that opens every 5 days (on the 4th, 9th, 14th, 19th, 24th, 29th) and sells fresh vegetables, seafood, fruits and other groceries.

Join our “Yeongwol Crew” Facebook page for more info on trails or things to do!
Pyeongchang (평창)

Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwon-do.

Pyeongchang-gun is a district of Gangwon province, South Korea. The district’s population is quite small, around 44,000 people. It is a quiet, very rural district. Pyeongchang Town is the administrative center. It is a small city, which has around 10,000 people. Other towns include Hoenggye, Jinbu, and Jangpyeong, Daehwa, and Bongpyeong. Pyeongchang has become popular lately as it will host the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

Teaching here – Due to the small population size of this district, it is most likely that you will be placed into quite a small school. Class sizes are generally smaller than in large cities. This gives you a great chance to forge closer relationships with students and colleagues at your school than you would likely be able to otherwise. As well, you may be required to move between 2 or more schools to teach your weekly classes. Most teachers see this as a nice way to ‘mix-up’ the week, and you will also receive a bonus for this in your pay! Most students in our district, unlike those in larger cities, do not attend after-school English academies, and have widely varying skill levels. They will rely on you for an edge in their English learning!

Terrain - Pyeongchang’s terrain is mountainous, with the towns located in the valleys between. The average elevation in Pyeongchang is higher than most other areas in Korea.

Weather - The weather in Pyeongchang district is generally cooler than most other regions of South Korea. Due to this, the summers are more pleasant, being less humid and hot than elsewhere, but also involving a lot of rain in July and August. Things get pretty cold, especially from December - early March.

Things to do – This area is terrific for nature lovers, and those who don’t mind being outside of large cities. We are surrounded with great hiking opportunities, year-round. There are several Buddhist temples, most notably Woljeongsa, which is located at Odaesan, a fabulous national park near Jinbu. In the winter, there are a handful of ski resorts. The best one is called ‘Yongpyong’, this is located closest to the town of Hoenggye. There are also Phoenix Park, Alpensia, and Welli-Hilli ski resorts in easy reach. In the summer, there are numerous local festivals. Each town has a market day a few times each month, this is an interesting chance to see and buy local produce and other groceries. For those who can’t resist a big city’s charms, South Korea’s capital city is a 2-hour bus ride away, easily accessible for a weekend trip.

Banking – The most convenient bank to deal with in Pyeongchang is ‘Nong Hyup Bank’, this is more than likely where your school will set up your account. In Gangwondo, it seems to have the most branches, especially in rural areas.

Getting around – You will rely on buses to get you around this district. From Pyeongchang district’s main towns, there are several busses each day going to the other towns as well as many other large cities in Korea. To get to Seoul it is a 2-hour bus ride, typically costing around 12,000won. Gangneung, on the east coast, lies within a 1.5 -2 hour bus ride. You can take a taxi between towns if they are close, but this isn’t the cheapest option. Some teachers in rural placements have found that buying a car makes all the difference. If you have a driver’s license from your home country, it’s relatively easy to have it converted to a Korean one.
Contact – The EPIK and TALK teachers in Pyeongchang communicate via Google email groups but also with our Facebook group page “Duck Lovers”. As of February 2014 there are 12 EPIK teachers and 2 TALK teachers placed throughout our district. Please don’t be a stranger! Welcome to Pyeongchang!

Pyeongchang District EPIK Coordinator –
Les Timmermans
010-4728-9499
ljtimmermans@gmail.com
Jeongseon (정선)

Welcome to Jeongseon

Jeongseon county has about 40,000 people living here with Jeongseon-eup (the county capital) itself having about 12,000 people. Historically Jeongseon County was a coal mining area. More recently the Jeongseon area is being designed to serve as a tourism destination.

Jeongseon County is made up of 4 Towns
(Jeongseon-eup, Sindong-eup, Sabuk-eup, and Gohan-eup)
and 5 Townships
(Bukpyeong-myeon, Yeoryang-myeon, Imgye-myeon, Hwaam-myeon, and Nam-myeon)

Native English Teachers in Jeongseon live in most areas of the county.

Jeongseon-eup houses 5 NETs.
Bukpyeong-myeon houses 2 NETs
Yeoryang-myeon houses 1 NET.
Imgye-myeon houses 2 NETs.
Sindong-eup houses 1 NET.
Nam-myeon houses 1 NET.
Gohan-eup/Sabuk-eup (very close together) houses 4 NETs.

Due to the multiple mountain ranges that crisscross our county it takes a little over an hour to travel the county East-West or North-South by bus. NETs in Jeongseon usually congregate in either Jeongseon-eup or Gohan/Sabuk depending on where you are in the county. The only exception to this can be Imgye who is about equal distance from Jeongseon-eup and Gangneung-si.

Jeongseon is famous for the Jeongseon Arirang—an old folk song that originated in this area. It is one of the "Intangible Cultural Properties" that Korea has. In December 2012, the song was inducted into the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity program by UNESCO. This was followed by an announcement by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea of a five-year plan to promote and preserve the song. The plan is aim to support "Arirang" festivals by regional organizations, as well as building an archive for the song, exhibitions, and fund research. So expect a lot of investment in Jeongseon in the coming years.

Other famous sites in Jeongseon county are High-1 Resort (Skiing/Snowboarding), Gangwonland (Only Casino Koreans can gamble at), Hwaam Dong gul and HwaamYaksu (An old gold mine/cave and Hwam Mineral Spring), Railbike (a...rail bike), Eco Land (Zipline and Sky walk, with a soon to be built camp ground/cabin rental), Mindungsan (Mountain whose top is nothing, but reeds) and many others.

Luckily, Gohan/Sabuk are very close to the Casinos and the ski resort. This means there are lots of activities and restaurants for you to enjoy.

After arriving the other local teachers will show you around and get you familiar with your area. Expect a county wide welcome dinner towards the end of March.

Welcome to Jeongseon! Look forward to meeting you.
Quick facts about Cheorwon for the newbie:

You will have neighbors in every town:
Dongsong has 4 teachers / E-2 housing at Cheorwon Elementary School
Sincheorwon has 2 / E-1 housing near downtown Sincheorwon
Wasu-ri has 2 / E-3 housing at Wasu-ri Elementary School

- All apartment buildings are a 10 minute walk to the downtown areas of town.
- All apartment buildings are a 20 minute walk to their main school. (As noted above, Dongsong and Wasu-ri have elementary schools next door to the apartments, so they are very close!)
- All apartment buildings have a building supervisor and various subject teachers living there. E-3 in Wasu has two Korean English teachers living here.
- Every town’s bus stops, bus stations, and grocery stores are within a 15 minute walk from the apartments.
- All towns have taxis on call.

The county has a population of around 50,000 according to Wikipedia and has three main towns where the teachers live. They are, from biggest to smallest: Dongsong, Sincheorwon, and Wasu-ri. There are two other towns to know as well: Goseokjeong and Munhye-ri. Goseokjeong is located near Dongsong and has river rafting, ATVing, a spa, and the DMZ tour. Munhye-ri is the midpoint between Dongsong, Sincheorwon, and Wasu-ri. The local and express buses to Wasu-ri and Dongsong pass through the town.

- All three towns have local and express buses that run from morning to evening.
  - Sincheorwon has direct bus connections to Dongsong and Wasu-ri.
  - Wasu-ri and Dongsong require transfers to get from one to the other.

- Rough population estimates:
  - Dongsong: 20,000
  - Sincheorwon: 5,000
  - Wasu-ri: 3,000

- All three towns have express bus connections to Seoul, Pocheon, and Chuncheon.

- The county borders the DMZ. Despite the proximity to North Korea, all of us consider life to be quite peaceful here. I cannot emphasize this enough. There are army camps and soldiers everywhere. Military trucks and tanks make for common sights on the roads. The military presence means hearing rifle fire and grenade explosions at odd times of the day, but it’s only for training. Wasu and Sincheorwon’s apartment buildings for teachers sit near firing ranges, but closing the windows will muffle the sounds if they grow irritating.

- The weather is similar to Wisconsin or the American Midwest. Korea has 4 seasons. Korean teachers say Cheorwon is the coldest area of South Korea.
  - Winters get cold. I highly recommend getting an electric blanket.
  - Summers are hot and rainy.
  - Spring and fall are warm and less rainy.

Attractions/Activities
Dongsong/Goseokjeong
DMZ tour
Han Tan River rafting
Han Tan River Spa
ATV
Smile multi-bang
Bowling alley

Sincheorwon
Sambuyeon Falls
“Live” noraebang

Wasu-ri
Hwa River/Shiri Park
Wasu Cheon walking/biking trails
Bowling alley*

All
Noraebang (Singing room)
PC room
Pension
Hiking
Biking

Eating / Drinking
Western food is limited in our county, unless otherwise noted, everything noted here is Korean fare.

Dongsong
Michael’s (Western - style bar)
Lotteria
Popeye’s Chicken
Baskin Robbins

Sincheorwon
“Red Room”(Soyouki) bar
“Blue room” bar

Wasu-ri
Beer Castle
Lotteria

All
Pizza (Eat-in and delivery)
Fried chicken (Eat-in and delivery)
Galbi
Dalkgalbi
Duck
Samgyeopsal
Paris Baguette
Tous Les Jours
Kimbap Cheonguk

Café (Coffee/tea shops)

Dongsong
Ediya Coffee
Aloha Coffee

Sincheorwon
Café Bistro

Wasu-ri
Coffee Mama
Café Bong

All
Paris Baguette
Tous Les Jours

* Semi-derelict, but still in business. Dongsong’s bowling alley is better

Note: All towns have 다방 coffee shops, but ARE NOT regular coffee shops. Customers pay to drink coffee with hostesses. Their reputations are dodgy at best. It’s best to not go into them.

Grocery stores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dongsong</th>
<th>Sincheorwon</th>
<th>Wasu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-Mart Every Day</td>
<td>NH Hana-ro Mart</td>
<td>NH Hana-ro Mart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mart Everyday</td>
<td>Mi-gwang Discount Mart</td>
<td>Wasu Discount Mart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All three towns have CU and GS25 convenience stores.
**Dongsong and Sincheorwon have MiniStop as well.

Banking
All towns have NH banks.
Wasu- ri cannot set up Internet banking.
Money can be sent overseas via the Post Office.

Utility bills
Based on 2 years of living here, here are my monthly utility expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>8,000-35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas (Heating/hot water)</td>
<td>8,000 (warm weather)275,000 (winter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Be careful with running the heat during the winter. Costs add up quickly!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>800-3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment maintenance</td>
<td>10,000 (directly debited from bank account)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet (KT Olleh)</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>60,000 smartphone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Your gas bill will be a handwritten receipt that will require you to make a bank transfer.

Your Internet and phone bills can be set up to be automatically debited from your bank account.

Your water and electricity bills can be paid at either the special bill machine or by making a bank transfer. *David and I will show you how to do these things.*

**Final notes**

- Build rapport with your coteachers as quickly as possible. Your relationship with your *coteachers will make all the difference in enjoying living and teaching here.*
- Be ready to say hello and shake hands. Be sure to meet your principals as well. Have no fear, even a little Korean will go a long way here. Our town is rural and there is much more Korean than English, but we are here to help you.
Hwacheon (화천)

Hwacheon County is a very rural area surrounded by mountains and rivers. It has about 20,000 people living here but there are more soldiers (about 30,000) than civilians. It is very close to the DMZ. Some areas are as close as 9 km away so there is a huge military presence. It can be alarming at first but none of the locals are alarmed and neither are we. When I asked my CT about it, she said they are just “practicing war.” You’ll see many tanks and hear low flying planes. It just takes a little getting used to. Hwacheon is famous for its Ice Fishing Festival held around January. They say about 1 million people come to Hwacheon for it! The Tomato Festival is also held here during the summer.

Hwacheon gets very cold in the winter. It gets down to -20 Celsius so make sure you bundle up! The summer can get quite hot, humid and rainy. However, it’s very beautiful here in the fall and spring. The weather is perfect, the leaves in the mountains are just gorgeous and the blooming flowers are nice.

Since it is such a small town there is not much to do. Usually the foreigners go to a “western” bar and noraebang. However, most leave to either go to Seoul, Chuncheon, Sokcho (for the beach or Seoraksan) or just travel around Korea. There are also 2 gyms (free!). The better one is next to the hospital downtown. In order to stay busy in the winter months some people take piano (or other instrumental) lessons in a hagwon or Taekwondo. The other seasons you can run or hike which is another past time here of many foreigners. Since we are next to a river, there is also kayaking in the summer. This place is great for anyone who loves the outdoors. There are also many coffee shops downtown.

There are many grocery stores in downtown Hwacheon (like E-mart Everyday and Hallelujah Mart) but the imported products are quite limited. We usually take a bus to Chuncheon (about an hour away) to get most of our groceries in E-mart. There is also a farmer’s market that goes on downtown every 5 days (3rd, 8th, 13th, 18th, 23rd, and 28th of every month). It’s a bit cheaper to shop there than the local supermarkets. There are also pizza places available if you don’t like to cook. The cheapest option is Pizza School. They don’t deliver and do not speak much English. It is located on the main street. There is however, Pizza House. They deliver and the woman there can speak English. Their number is 033-442-4402.

It’s a 30-35 minute walk from the Yongam apartment to downtown Hwacheon. A taxi trip between the apartment and Hwacheon costs about W4,000 - W5,000.

There are 2 bus terminals in Hwacheon. The one in the middle of the main street with the blue and white buses only services Hwacheon-gun. The bigger one around the corner has buses to Chuncheon and Seoul. The bus from Hwacheon to Chuncheon is straight to Seoul after a 20 minute wait in Chuncheon. At 8:30 am the bus goes directly to East Seoul (Dong Seoul) which takes about an hour and 45 minutes. If you miss the last bus from Chuncheon to Hwacheon you would have to take a taxi (about W40,000) or stay in Chuncheon. The best way to go to Seoul is taking the ITX. It has two stops: Chuncheon station, which the Hwacheon buses go to and from Hwacheon; and Nam Chuncheon Station which is just around the corner from the Chuncheon Bus Terminal. It usually leaves hourly at 10 minutes past the hour from Chuncheon and goes past Namchuncheon at 13 past the hour. It takes about an hour and 20 minutes. It costs about W6000 - W7000, depending on when you get on and off. The last stop in Seoul is Yongsan Station which is more central and convenient than Dong Seoul where the buses arrive. But this depends on where you’re going. You need to buy tickets at the station. You can’t use the Seoul subway cards. The cheapest way from Chuncheon to Seoul is by Subway. It goes about every 20 minutes and takes about 30 minutes longer than the ITX but it uses the same lines with more stops. It costs about W2000-W3000.

Most of the foreigners have an account with Nonghyup Bank. There is one in downtown as well but you can set up online banking so you can pay for your bills at home instead of having to go to the bank each time. It has an English option! There are about 3 main bills you have to pay for: gas, water, and electricity. You can pay them in the bank or online. The gas can get quite high in the winter so make sure not to put it over 20 Celsius. There is
also an apartment maintenance fee of 10,000 due every month.

You can’t get internet and cable until you get your ARC but I have the phone number of an internet guy who has enough English ability to get it done: 017-373-4874. His name is Mr. Ahn Hee Man. As for a cell phone, you can get it downtown but you also need your ARC for that. Their English is not very good so I suggest going with a Korean speaker.

The apartment building address in Yongam is

Gangwondo, Hwacheon-gun, Hanam-Myeon
Yongam-ri, Yongam elementary school
Teachers' house apt. [Room number]
Republic of Korea 209-808

The apartment building address for Sachang is

Gangwon-do, Hwacheon-gun, Sanae-Myeon
Sachang-ri,
Teacher's House Apt. [room #]
Republic of Korea 209-808

Hope that helps and welcome to Hwacheon!

Andrea Badiola
Hwacheon County Coordinator
010-2169-7851
aebadiola@gmail.com
Yanggu (양구)

Yanggu County (pop. 24,000)

Yanggu is a rural county, bordered by beautiful mountains, rivers and fields. The smallness of Yanggu makes it easy to get to know its inhabitants. The Korean people here are curious and friendly. Norebangs (karaoke), coffee shops, restaurants and hiking trails are abundant in Yanggu. Yanggu was part of the front line during the Korean War and now borders the DMZ. The Military and farming industries are prominent parts of Yanggu. Quickly new businesses are popping up every few weeks!

Yanggu's Main Bank: NongHyup

Grocery Stores: NH Store, Bel Monde, J-Mart

Activities: hanging out in the foreigner apartments, Korean Dining, Wii Room, PC bang, Bars, Norebang, Hiking, Coffee shops, Public Gym, Kids water park with a life-size whale statue! Other popular hangouts include: Baskin Robbins, Dunkin Donuts, Tous Les Jours and various chicken and pizza restaurants.

Nightlife: B-turn (beer fridge), Jackpot (western bar), Beergarten, and X-Bar are the most popular foreigner bars. Norebangs are also popular here.

Best aspect of Yanggu: Yanggu is a small, country town with beautiful scenery. But if you like the city, it's not far! Chuncheon is 45 minutes - 1 hour by bus and Seoul is only 2 hours away. The foreigner community is very close here as we all live together in an apartment building designated for English speakers!
Inje (인제)

As of 2012, **Inje County** was populated by 32,769 inhabitants. It’s the Taebaek Mountain Range and boasts some gorgeous scenery. In the months (it gets hottest in July and August) temperatures average in the 20s (celsius) and (realistically speaking), winter lasts from about March, below-freezing temperatures abound.

Inje is a well-known outdoor activities destination. Rafting, canoeing, bungee jumping and free-falling are just some things you can do here. If you’re into riding ATVs, well by all means…

The county is famous for smelt (빙어; pronounced bing-eo) and as such, hosts a yearly ICE fishing Festival on the Soyang River where you can fish, play soccer and eat snacks. Other attractions in the county include Seoraksan National Park, Pillye Mineral Spring, Wondaeri Forest, Daecheong Peak and Baekdamsa Temple.

**Inje (town)** has about 7 English teachers. The “foreigners building” was recently built to accommodate the rotating cast of English teachers moving through the town. It’s within walking distance to an E-Mart Everyday and a CU (convenience store), several small markets and restaurants where you can eat makguksu, jjajangmyeon, haejangguk and bulgogi.

Both Inje Elementary and Injenam Elementary are within walking distance from the apartment.

Inje has two main roads: Bibong-ro and Inje-ro. Bibong-ro runs through the middle of town; you can find Hanaro Mart (grocery store), two Nonghyup Banks, Kaffee Klatsch (a great independent coffee shop), a Samsung electronics store, Paris Baguette, the post office and the intercity bus terminal on this street. The express bus to East Seoul Terminal takes about an hour and a half. You can get to cities such as Chuncheon, Hongcheon, Sokho, Yangyang, Wonju and Suwon from the terminal.

The main branch of Nonghyup Bank is located on Inje-ro. This is the only bank in the area where you can make international transfers and exchange foreign currency. There’s a KEB bank on this street also.

You can find a gym and swimming pool at the Hanulnaerin Center, located on the far side of town, in the direction of the Inje Tunnel. You can also find an outdoor track and indoor soccer pitch nearby, as well as the free fall site, located behind the fire station.

**Wontong** is a small village with 5 native-English teachers. It is primarily a military town, with soldiers making up most of the population. It is surrounded by gorgeous mountains on all sides with a river running alongside town. You can attend the winter festival in Dec-Jan (beautiful ice sculptures, snowboarding, concerts, food, and markets), swim in the summer, hike in the fall, and enjoy the cherry blossoms in the spring.

The bus terminal in town has direct buses to Sokcho, Chuncheon, Hongcheon, Wonju, and East Seoul Terminal. There are frequent buses to Inje, where the main branch of NH Bank is for international transfers. None of the NH Banks will allow you to draw money from a foreign account, but the ATM at CU (convenience store) right near the apartment building (you’ll be living in) accepts American cards.

The market in this town is great if you like Korean food, especially fish and locally grown produce. The nearest, most accommodating to foreigners, and the cheapest grocery store is about 15 minutes by foot from the apartment. The nearest convenience store is about 5 minutes, walking distance. There is a yoga studio and mini
park right next to the apartment building. Though the apartments are far from downtown, there are a few excellent restaurants nearby.

Looking forward to meeting you, and welcome.
Goseong (고성)

GENERAL INFORMATION
Area: 664.18 square kilometers
Population: 34,728
Population density: 52/square kilometre (as of 2002)
Number of households: 12,216 (as of 2002)
Administrative divisions: 2 eup, 4 myeon
Location of county office: 12 Ha-ri, Ganseong-eup, Goseong-gun
County flower: Rosa rugosa
County tree: Gingko
County bird: Black-tailed gull
County animal: Pollack (fish)

Goseong is a small county in the far north-east of South Korea and the third least populous county in Gangwon-do (Hwacheon- and Yanggu-gun both have smaller populations). The biggest town in Goseong-gun is Geojin, with a population of approximately 7,750. To the north of Goseong is the county of Tongcheon, to the south is the city of Sokcho, to the west is the county of Hoeyang, and to the east is the sea. Goseong is very close to a number of high mountains such as the well-known Geumgangsan as well as Musan and Hyangnombong.

Three native English teachers (NETs) live in Geojin, with the remaining two living in Ganseong, a small town a 5-10 minute bus ride from Geojin. Further to the north is the small town of Daejin, which houses a harbor. It is here as well as Geojin harbor that the majority of the fishing vessels in Goseong-gun moor. A large percentage of the population of Goseong-gun partake in farming or fishing as a means of employment, with the county being known for its readily available supply of squid, octopus, and pollock. In addition to Geojin, Ganseong, and Daejin, there are numerous other small towns dotting the east coast of the county, such as Oho-ri, Cheonjin-ri, and Ayajin-ri.

CLIMATE
The Taebaek Mountains block the cold wind during the winter, raising the temperature and giving it a more moderate climate than other cities on the sea to the west. There is a relatively large amount of precipitation during the autumn and winter. The average yearly temperature is 11.3°C, the average in January is 2.5°C, and the average during August is 24.1°C. The average amount of precipitation over the year is 1,128.3mm.

SCHOOL LIFE IN GOSEONG-GUN
Native English teachers in the county may teach elementary, middle, and/or high school. Class sizes at the schools can vary considerably, from as few as 4 or 5 students per class to as many as 30-40 students per class, depending on the school. Most schools; however, have relatively small class sizes. As the residents of Goseong-gun are generally less well off financially compared to the residents in the larger cities, most students do not attend hagwon (after school English academy). Because of this, the level of English of the students in the county is fairly low in general, and lessons need to be tailored accordingly.

Some of the schools have dedicated English rooms, although most do not. Because of this, teachers often need to ‘float’ (i.e., move from classroom to classroom to go to the students, rather than having the students come to the English room). All NETs in the county teach at three to five schools, and three of the NETs teach more than one school level (e.g., elementary and middle school, or middle and high school, or even elementary, middle, and high school). The remaining two NETs teach exclusively elementary school level.

THINGS TO DO IN GOSEONG-GUN
Beaches
The county of Goseong is renowned for its pristine beaches. Although few NETs know of it, Hwajinpo beach
in Daejin (a small town just north of Geojin) is one of the most popular beaches in Gangwon-do amongst Koreans, with many of them travelling from Seoul during the summer vacation to camp out on the beach. Situated on a hill near Hwajinpo Beach is a holiday house known as “The Castle” that used to belong to the North Korean leader Kim Il Sung. The house is currently a tourist attraction. The villa is also located near the summer villa of South Korea’s first president, Syngman Rhee. Located at the entrance of Hwajinpo beach is a small maritime museum, which exhibits 40,000 articles of 1,500 types of shellfish, corals, and fossils, some of them very rare. The beach itself is besides the magnificent Hwajinpo Lake, which is often featured on Korean tourism websites. Besides Hwajinpo, the town of Geojin also has a beach. Many other small, secluded, and excellent beaches dot the coastline of Goseong-gun in places such as Oho-ri and Cheonjin-ri.

Seoraksan National Park
Due to its proximity to Sokcho, Goseong-gun has good access to Seoraksan National Park as well as the beaches of the city (see the page on Sokcho for more information). The town of Inje is also easily accessible from Goseong-gun, being an hour away by bus. There are a number of fun things to do in Inje, with white water rafting during the summer being just one (see the page on Inje for more information).

Unification Observatory
The Unification Observatory to the north of Goseong-gun was completed and opened in 1984, and more than 30 million visitors have been to the site since. It features a Unity Center, Unity Hall, temple bell, Buddhist statue, statue of the Virgin Mary, Jeonjin Cross Steel Tower, and Korean War Exhibition Hall. There is also a restaurant and pavilion, as well as a souvenir store. The Unification Observatory can be accessed by taking bus number 1 or 1-1 towards Daejin, as far north as possible. From the very last stop in Daejin, walk for about 5 minutes to Tongil Security Park. The Security Park itself is located in Machajin-ri. In order to enter the Unification Observatory, one has to make an admission application and get pre-instruction at Tongil Security Park. A shuttle bus runs from the Security Park to the Observatory, but this is only in summer. At other times, it is necessary to enter using a car or taxi (bicycles and motorbikes are not allowed). The admission fee is 3,000 Won.

Other Attractions
The Geumgangsan diamond mountains land tour is a one-day tour starting at 5am in Goseong-gun, with return by nightfall [source: http://wikitravel.org/en/Gangwon]. The town of Geojin also hosts an annual fish festival over 4 days in fall/autumn. Finally, if you head towards the end of town going towards the lighthouse, there are many great hiking trails that are accessible via the big wooden steps that should be clearly visible near the harbor area.

GETTING AROUND
Buses and Bus Terminals
There are three local buses that run through Goseong-gun: The Number 1, Number 1-1, and Number 1-2. The Number 1-2 bus is quite infrequent, however, and tends to usually only run in the mornings. Most often it goes north towards Daejin. Of the Number 1 and 1-1 buses, one goes south all the way to and through Sokcho, stopping regularly along the way, and one goes north towards Daejin and Myeongpa. Buses generally run every 15-20 minutes from the hour (e.g., 09:00; 09:20; 09:40; 10:00, etc.), give or take around 5 minutes. The buses sometimes have a tendency to arrive early (and sometimes late), so it is a good idea to get to the bus stop around 5-10 minutes before the bus is due to arrive to make sure you don’t miss it (for example, the 8:20 bus will often arrive at 08:15).

Both Geojin and Ganseong have bus terminals that have fairly regular express buses that depart to Seoul, Sokcho, YangYang, Inje/Wontong, Gangneung, Donghae, and Pohang. It usually takes just under 3 hours to get to Seoul from Goseong-gun, and around 90 minutes to get to Gangneung. Inje is about 1 hour away from Goseong-gun via express bus.

Buses to and from Seoul
Buses to Seoul leave around every 30 minutes from Geojin and Ganseong bus terminals. The first bus is at 06:20 from Geojin (6:30 from Ganseong) and the last bus is at 18:45 from Geojin (19:00 from Ganseong). When taking the bus to Seoul it is best to take the Udeung type of bus as these are the most comfortable and the
quickest as they make the least number of stops. The last bus to Seoul from Sokcho Intercity Bus terminal leaves at 21:00, so if you miss the last bus from Goseong-gun it is always possible to take a regular bus to Sokcho and then catch the bus to Seoul from there. The buses will arrive in Seoul at Gangbyeon Station (Subway Line 2 – The Green Line). From there, you can take the subway to wherever you want to go to in Seoul.

To get back to Geojin or Ganseong from Seoul, you need to take the bus from Gangbyeon Station. There are no buses to Geojin or Ganseong from the Express Bus Terminal in Seoul. The first bus back leaves at around 6:30, and the last bus back leaves at 21:00. The last bus back on a Sunday often sells out, so if you are going to be in Seoul until late on Sunday it is best to book your return ticket when you first arrive at Gangbyeon Station, or alternatively to make sure you arrive at Gangbyeon Station in the early afternoon on a Sunday. If you miss the last bus back to Geojin/Ganseong, the last bus back to Sokcho leaves at 23:00. From Sokcho, it is possible to take a taxi back to Geojin/Ganseong, although this will cost you around 35-40,000won.

**Buses to Daegu and Busan**

Buses leave from Geojin bus terminal to Daegu at five different times: 09:50; 10:40; 12:10; 13:50; and 21:00. The bus times leaving from Ganseong should be around 10 minutes later than those. Buses leave to Busan from Geojin bus terminal at three different times: 10:20; 11:20; and 21:50. As with the bus to Daegu, the bus from Ganseong bus terminal should leave around 10 minutes later than those times. It takes a very long time to get to Daegu or Busan by bus, however (around 6-8 hours). Due to this, it is preferable to take the latest bus and sleep on it, or alternatively, to take the bus to Seoul at any time and then take the KTX from there. There are also overnight express buses that leave from Sokcho to Daegu and Busan. One can also fly to Busan from YangYang airport (see below).

*note: all bus times are correct at time of writing, but the schedule may change. For detailed bus times it is best to phone the tourist information line on 021330.*

**Airport**

From YangYang airport, it is possible to catch flights to Busan. The flight time is only around 2 hours. It is also possible to catch flights back to YangYang airport from Busan. Flight prices are usually around 80-100,000won, although they can sometimes be bought for less during the website address for bookings is [http://www.airport.co.kr/mbs/yangyangeng/](http://www.airport.co.kr/mbs/yangyangeng/), and there is an option to display the site in English if you look in the top right-hand corner. When using the site, you need to look for flights to Gimhae Airport, which is the airport in Busan.

**SHOPPING, GROCERIES, AND BARS**

There are two main grocery stores in Geojin. One is near the New Village apartment complex, and the other is in the center of town connected to NongHyup bank. In addition to this, there are a few smaller marts, and three convenience stores – a GS25, a CU, and a 7-11. All three convenience stores are along the main road. There is also one main grocery store in Ganseong, along with a few marts and convenience stores. Both Geojin and Ganseong have one proper coffee shop each, where you can get things like cappuccinos, cafe lattes, etc. BBQ Chicken and Pizza Nara in Geojin both do excellent pizzas, as does Pizza School in Ganseong. Both Geojin and Ganseong have restaurants serving traditional Korean dishes like dakgalbi, kimbhhijiggae, etc.

Unfortunately Western-type food is not easy to come by in Goseong-gun. For that, you will need to head to E-mart in Sokcho. E-mart is a bit like Walmart in the US. On the first floor is groceries and liquor, and on the second floor clothing, electronics, and appliances.

There are a number of small bars in Geojin and Ganseong. In South Korea these are known as bofs. For a livelier scene, head to Kenny’s Beach Bar (officially known as Brotherhood) in Sokcho or Maekju Chango (translation: Beer World), also in Sokcho. Just be aware that the last bus back to Goseong-gun from Sokcho leaves at around 22:00 – after then, you’ll be paying for a cab back.

**BANKING**

The only bank available in Goseong-gun is NongHyup. Unfortunately this bank is not very foreigner friendly, and they do not speak any English there. If you need to set up a bank account there, you co-teacher should be able to help you. If you wish to open an account with Kookmin Bank (KB), there is a branch in Sokcho. Korea
Exchange Bank (KEB) is the most foreigner-friendly bank, and there is usually always at least one person at every KEB branch who speaks English. The closest KEB bank to Goseong-gun is in Gangneung, near the Homeplus there. Unlike all the other banks, KEB also have a number of branches in Seoul that are open on Sundays from around 11:00-17:00 (banks in South Korea are not open on Saturdays). The branch in Gangneung is unfortunately not open on Sundays.

**TAEKWONDO**

If you wish to do Taekwondo, there is a school in Geojin, along the main road. It will be on your right, straight after the big church, if you are heading in the direction of the lighthouse. It is almost directly opposite the 7-11. Classes are from 19:00-20:00, every day from Monday to Friday. The cost is very reasonable at 80,000won per month. The Taekwondo teacher – DaeGun – speaks excellent English. He can be contacted at 010 211 24352.
Alien Registration Card (ARC)

Getting your ARC is perhaps the first and most important thing you want to do when you get here. You must get one within the first 90 days after arrival. It is essentially a Korean ID card that lets you get a cell phone, Internet, credit card, etc. It replaces the need to lug your passport around everywhere, and it proves you’re a Gangwon resident. So without further ado here’s a list of things you will need to get your ARC:

1. Application form (which you can get there)
2. Passport
3. (1x) Passport sized photos (3 cm x 4 cm)
4. School Business Certificate (Hakgyo Sa-up-ja Dung-rok--jung sa-bon--학교사업자등록증 사본)
   [you obtain this from your school, just tell your mentor teacher]
5. Residency Confirmation Form (거주/숙소제공 확인서) - Your school will need to sign off this in addition to a photocopy of your housing contract
6. 30,000 won in CASH.

There are 3 immigration offices in Gangwon:

1. Chuncheon (main branch) — 춘천출입국관리사무소
   a. Jurisdiction: Chuncheon, Hwacheon, Inje, Hongcheon, Hoengseong, Wonju, Yanggu
2. Donghae — (satellite branch) 춘천출입국관리사무소 동해출장소
   a. Jurisdiction: Donghae, Gangneung, Samcheok, Taebaek, Jeonseon
3. Sokcho — (satellite branch) 춘천출입국관리사무소 속초출장
   a. Jurisdiction: Sokcho, Yangyang, Goseong
4. Wonju — A representative from the Chuncheon office comes down
   a. 2nd/4th Thursday of every month at the City Hall
5. Yangju (for Cheorwon residents) 양주출입국관리사무소 — In Gyeonggi Province, but all immigration affairs is done there

For inquiries you can dial the immigration hotline: 1345

Once you get everything setup you will have the choice of either coming back to pick up your passport, or shipping it back to your home. If you choose the latter, you will need to pay for shipping.

ARC Renewals

Renewals are very similar procedure. You will need the same as above except the passport photo, and in addition you will need:

1. Contract
2. 60,000 won

It’s quite an easy and painless procedure, make sure you don’t overstay your visa! Doing so can result in a very heavy fine.
Trash

I know this might be an awkward topic, but it's kind of an important one as you will accumulate it the moment you move in. One thing you may have noticed about Korea is its ridiculous recycling program. There is recycling for everything, and more importantly, you have to **BUY** specific trash bags—which shouldn't be too farfetched considering we buy trash bags all the time in our respective countries. That being said, you can buy trash bags in any grocery or convenient store (Nonghyup mart, Homeplus, Family Mart, GS 25, 7/11, etc.)

The **regular trash bags** are called 쓰래기봉지 [ssuh-leh-gi bong-ji] **{trash bags}**. Each city has their own specific colored bags, and you can't interchange bags either. So you can't use Gangneung trash bags in Sokcho, or vise-versa.

Then you have your **food bags** (음식물쓰래기) [eum-shik-mool ssuh-leh-gi]. These are also bought in any grocery/convenient store. This is for any food scraps, peels, bones, etc.

For **recycling**, you can use any bags from grocery shopping for your plastics, cardboard/paper, and cans. **Keep them separated.** You should ask your landlord for the nearest trash piles. If you live in a small building, you can leave it by the curb outside your house (you can usually tell where they pile up), although the food bags (usually) have designated areas for disposal.

If you live in those skyscraper apartment buildings, there’s usually a designated trash center where you have to sort out your trash.

All in all, I know it may be a hassle, but Korea simply doesn't have the landmass to be burying everything. So please try to be considerate of their recycling efforts and follow the rules.

**Also a little fun fact:**

**Trash**- is any discarded matter.

**Garbage**- is any wasted, spoiled food or scraps of paper waste.

So if you were to throw away an old TV that would be considered trash but not garbage. And your dinner leftovers could be considered garbage but not trash if you decided you wanted to keep/eat it. I know we often use these words interchangeably but that's the subtle difference between the two.
Perhaps one of the most important things you want/need here in Korea. For cell phones, you have TWO options. You can either get a **contract phone** or **pre-paid phone**.

A **contract phone** is (usually) a 2 year commitment (although there are 1 year options) (similar to the ones back in the States for all us Americans…) and our phones are new. You can opt for the cheap free- phone/plan and pay about 30,000~40,000 won a month, or you can get the opulent smart phones for 55,000 a month + cost of the smart phone. You can get these phones at any **retail service providers** (these places will only be one service provider like SK telecom). **For a contract phone, you will need your ARC card.**

The **pre-paid phone**, you buy a used cell phone for around 30,000~ however much you want to spend at any **reseller** (these places usually will have multiple service provider signs like Olleh, SK, etc.). Then you charge your phone at your respective **retail service provider**. Depending on how much you use your cell phone, you'll probably be recharging about 20,000~30,000 won a month. **You don't need an ARC card for a pre-paid phone, your passport should be fine.**

So for example, if I bought a cheap phone from the reseller, and I chose a contract with SK, then every time I want to recharge, I'd have to go into an SK store to put in money.

The second choice is obviously the more thrifty choice, but if having LTE, wifi internet browsing, kakao talk messaging, games, and nifty apps are more important, then a 2 year contract is probably worth the extra won. And yes, there is a hefty cancelation fee if you choose this option. But I guess you could always circumvent the fee by selling it away to the next EPIK teacher.

There are **three different** service providers you can choose from:

1. Korea Telecom (KT) aka Olleh, Show, Qook
2. LG U Plus (LGU+) aka U+
3. SK Telecom (SKT) aka SK

Each service provider has its perks. SK is usually known for its great service connection; KT usually comes with a lot of entertainment features; LG is usually the cheaper of the bunch, etc. But at the end of the day, they all do the same thing: make phone calls.

Also if you ever want to make an **international phone call** back home with your cell phone, **dial: 1688-4949**

It will go out as a local call rather than an international one (meaning you pay LOCAL RATES). Once you dial the number, you dial your **country code + phone number + #**.

**You have to dial from a KOREAN cellphone to a LANDLINE phone in your home country. However there are 2 countries where you can dial landlines AND cellphones in your home country:**

1. USA
2. Canada

For just landline calls, this service works for:

1. UK
2. Ireland
3. Australia

**So if you're from New Zealand or South Africa, you'll have to use Skype or international phone cards.**
(4) Internet

Yes, perhaps the second most important topic after cell phones. Without this we'll probably be bored out of our minds here.

There are several providers you can choose from:

1. Olleh KT
2. LG U+
3. SK Broadband

Internet is anywhere between 30,000~40,000 won a month depending on your speed. But honestly, the cheapest one is still very very fast.

KT has a cable TV + broadband + landline for just 35,000 won a month, with a 3 year contract.

LG U+ has 100 mps speed for 19,000 won a month, with a 3 year contract.

SK has 100 mps speed for 20,000 won a month, with a 3 year contract.

If you ask your mentor/co-teacher they should be able to help you set it up.

**NOTE** I recommend getting the same provider as your cell phone provider. There are always PACKAGE DEALS for cell phone, internet, and cable TV.
For those of you who can’t stand the cold, this is very important. In Korea they use FLOOR HEATING (온돌) [On-dole] to heat the house. It’s essentially a water-pipe system under your floor that heats the entire house as you heat the water. This heats your house for longer periods of time, however is also costly to get going.

Alternatives of heating your house could be electric blankets or space heaters; however, **you do need to turn on your floor heating from time to time during the winter to keep the pipes from FREEZING.** And we all know that water EXPANDS when it freezes, meaning your pipes will burst and leak to the floor below you, and will be a NIGHTMARE to repair (out of YOUR wallet).

In Korea, there are 3 ways people heat their water:

1. Gas
2. Oil
3. Electric

Depending on which one your accommodations have, you have different responsibilities.

**For GAS,** you have to turn ON the gas valve that goes into your water heater and stove. Also, there’s always a meter on there that shows how much gas you’ve consumed, which the gas company will check every month to bill you.

Also if your water heating is via gas, then your floor heating will also be gas based as well.

**For OIL,** you’ll have to buy a tank every 3 months, it will cost several hundred thousand won. Quite expensive, but if you don’t replace your tank you won’t have any hot water and heat for the stove. However, you should still turn on your floor heating on occasion and as long as you keep your pipes above freezing you should be fine.

**For ELECTRIC,** you won’t have too much to worry about, but again, keep your floor heater on occasion.
Banking

This is how you will be paid. There are many banks to choose from, however if there is a bank I would recommend it would be Nonghyup (aka NH). Why? It is EVERYWHERE. You can go virtually anywhere in Korea and you will almost always find a Nonghyup. But if that’s not your cup of tea, there’s always:

- Kookmin Bank (KB)
- Woori Bank
- Shinhan Bank
- Korea Exchange Bank (KEB)
- Citibank Bank
- Hana Bank
- etc.

You should open up a bank account after you get your ARC. This is where you will receive your salary, so it is important you get it done in a timely manner. Once you set up a bank account, you can set up internet banking, which will allow you to check your balance, pay bills, make transfers, send money to your home country, etc.

To do so, you need to go to your bank and ask to set it up. They’ll give you a security code and a card, which you’ll have to use in order to log in and create an account online later. You will also need a USB, which will be your banking certificate.

When using online banking, there are many different security features used in order to access your account. Although it may be annoying, it is for your protection.

1. User name and password
2. Banking Certificate – which allows you to log into your account (often via your USB)
3. Security Code Card – A list of numbers unique only to your account. You use this card to make any money transactions.
4. 4 Digit Pin Number

Also if you decide to get a smart phone, you will also be able to use mobile banking, which will be even more convenient than always having to lug around your computer to access your banking details.
Taxes

We all have to pay taxes, whether to your home country or Korea. However, if you are from these lucky 5 countries, you can have your taxes exempted here for the first 2 years in Korea:

1. USA
2. Australia
3. UK
4. New Zealand
5. South Africa

You should have brought your “Residence Certificate” from your respective home country.

Then you need to bring the following documents to your nearby tax office:

1. Residence Certificate (from your home country)
2. Photocopy of your Contract
3. Tax Exemption Application Form (can find them at the tax office or online)

Normally, your financial administrator will automatically subtract taxes from your salary, but do make sure to turn the necessary documents to the tax office to be tax exempt.
Pension

Every month you pay into your pension. Your school will deduct about 4.5% of your salary into your pension fund. Your school will match what you put in, so at the end, you will get a nice lump refunded back to you when you leave.

That said this only applies to you if you are:

1. American
2. Australian
3. Canadian

South Africans are exempt from paying into the Korean Pension completely. So they don’t pay/receive anything.

Everyone else will unfortunately be paying into the pension. NETs (Native English Teachers) whose countries don’t receive their pensions back are reciprocated in their home countries. In other words a Korean working in the UK would not get their pension back, just as a British working in Korea would not get their pension back. All in all, it evens out (at the expense of individual sacrifice). Grudges can be taken to your home country for political action.

In order to receive this back when you leave, you can go to your local pension office (Chuncheon, Wonju, Gangneung, Samcheok) a month before your departure date or at Incheon Airport. You can also claim it from home via mail, however this is a longer process.

If you claim it within Korea, you will need:
1. Application form (available at the Pension Office)
2. Passport
3. ARC
4. Bank Book, or an account number to transfer the funds
5. One-way Flight ticket out of Korea dated a month in advanced

If you’re applying from out of Korea, you’ll need to get your application form and copy of the required documents notarized and apostilled, before mailing it in.

The Pension Offices in Gangwon are as follows:

Chuncheon Regional Office
Address: 3th Floors, Korea Teachers Credit Union Bldg.(한국교직원공제회관), 513 On Eui - dong, Chuncheon - si, Gangwon Province.
Zip Code: 200-938
Phone No. : 033)259-7735
Fax No. : 033)251-5477∼5478
How to get there: Get off at Chuncheon Suburb Bus Terminal and cross an overpass, walk straight about 100 meters to the intersection. The building is around the corner.

Gangneung Regional Office
Address: 892-7 Ponam-dong, Gangneung -si, Gangwon Province
Zip Code: 210-944
Phone No. (033) 640-9370
Fax No. (033) 643-9715
How to get there: From Ponam-dong Youngjigak Intersection, go straight about 200 meters towards Songiung. Turn right facing Worldcup Gas Station and go straight down 50 meters to Namdaecheon. You can see the building on the right.
Gangwon Youngdong Nambu Regional Office
Address: 5th Floor, Babotel(바보텔), 329-20 Namyang-dong, Samcheok City, Gangwon Province
Zip Code: 245-938
Phone No: (033) 573-8179
Fax No: (033) 573-8135
How to get there: At Samcheok Bus Terminal, go 300 meters toward City Hall. The building is next to the Yoorim Wedding Hall on your left.

Wonju Regional Office
Address: 1st Floor, Sinhyoepjunganghoe Bldg.(신협중앙회), 862 Dangye-dong, Wonju City, Gangwon Province
Zip Code: 220-938
Phone No. (033) 749-8441 ~ 3
Fax No. (033) 746-7403
How to get there: From City Hall, go about 3 km towards Gangneung and turn left after passing Jangmi Park(장미공원). You can see the building next to Nonghyeop Bank(농협).
Severance

This is different from your pension—everyone gets severance regardless of your home country. Every year you finish a contract, you will receive a severance pay. However, if you renew, that severance pay will be paid when you leave Korea. Also any unpaid bills will be prorated from your severance pay.

Severance is about one month’s salary. The actually calculations is a bit more convoluted, but that’s what it averages out to.

There’s a severance calculator on www.naver.com

Simply type in 퇴직금계산기 and it’ll take you there.
Teaching in Korea

School Overview

Like most countries, Korea has an elementary school (grades 1-6), middle school (grades 1-3), and high school (grades 1-3). Elementary schools tend to be much smaller with smaller classroom sizes (around 20), whereas middle and high school usually run towards 30-36 students.

In elementary school, one teacher (the homeroom teacher) teaches most of the subjects, with a few subjects with specialized teachers (like art, P.E., English).

In middle and high school, each teacher has a homeroom class, but specializes in only one subject.

School Hierarchy

Most schools are divided into two sections: the teaching staff and administrative staff. The teachers are further divided into academic departments. Every department has a head teacher (or chair of the department), and there is one Supervising Head Teacher in charge of all head teachers. Underneath the teachers are the contract teachers including you, the librarian, and part-time teachers. Substitute teachers are also lower in the school hierarchy.

The Administration Office is led by the Head Administrator. All administrative public affairs staff members work for the Head Administrator, and they work with the financial and logistical details of running the school.

Above the Supervising Head Teacher and Head Administrator is the Vice Principal. The Vice Principal manages many of the academic and administrative details of the school, and the Principal is the head of the entire school.

So when you have a problem, your first point of contact is your (main) Korean co-teacher. If he/she cannot solve the problem, you can take it up to the head teacher, and slowly up the chain of command.

What you should NOT do is directly go to the principal or the Office of Education for every little problem you have. It creates an embarrassing situation for all the people below that chain of command, and puts you in a precarious situation.

School Hierarchy

1. Principal
2. Vice Principal
3. Chief Head Teacher
4. Head Teachers
5. Teachers
6. Contract Teachers

Teaching Responsibilities

There are three important elements in teaching here in Korea; a problem in any one of these will inhibit your teaching experience.

1. Lesson Planning
2. Classroom Management
3. Relationship with your co-teacher(s)
The most difficult (and perhaps the most important) of the three is classroom management. But having good classroom management is contingent on good lesson plans and the level of cohesiveness with your co-teacher.
Lesson Planning

Lesson plans are perhaps the most time consuming, yet the easiest to fix and improve. This is predominately because you have (almost) free reign in this department. That said, you should ALWAYS find time to consult your lesson plans with your co-teacher. Having their involvement is essential for a successful class.

The most important question you should ALWAYS ask yourself when making a lesson: **Would I fall asleep in my own class with this lesson?** If the answer is YES, fix your plan until the answer is NO. It’s unfair to expect the students to stay awake in your class when your lesson is like a lullaby rocking students to sleep.

The first step in a great lesson plan is “what are the students doing?” If they are just listening for a few seconds that’s okay (gets longer with older students). But if that prolongs for several minutes, they will stop listening to you unless what you are saying is extremely interesting or funny.

**Elementary:**

Elementary students love compliments from teachers. They will try to please the teachers and get your approval. High-fives are a great moral booster. Elementary students need to be constantly in motion. Most of them won’t understand a word you say and could care less what you say. They care about what game or activity you’ll be playing. Keep your sentences short and to the point. Use a lot of hand gestures and pictures.

My classes were essentially art classes. Students would always draw pictures of the vocabulary into their notebooks, and I would draw a simplified picture for them to follow.

**Information gap.** Each student has a piece of information (maybe the price of a fruit). Then everyone must interview each other to get all the other information. Then play a game with the class (like the one above) with the information collected.

Teach them **PHONICS!!** They don’t/can’t/won’t learn from their Korean teacher. Teaching phonics doesn’t have to be boring. There are a lot of creative ways to make it fun(ny) and engaging.

At the elementary level, start with the vowels and substitute different consonants. I.e. bat, bet, bit, bot, but. Then try, cat, cet, cit, cot, cut. Once they’ve learned how to read a handful of words, play a game that tests their reading ability.

**My go-to phonics game** with the students is to put them into groups of 4-6 and have one student from each team come up and draw a word (ex: bat, cat, hat, etc.). Then have them practice reading the word to me out loud outside of class (to see if they know how to read the word properly). Then when I say “Go!”, they’ll run back to their groups and read that word out loud to their group members, who will have to write that word down onto
their notebooks. The first team to finish writing down that word will put their hands on their head to show they’re ready, and will each read me the word they had written down for points. Once that round has ended, a new student will come up and draw a new word. This is a quick game that gets the students competitive and practicing their reading and pronunciation. It also forces students to practice sounding out words, and has the students reading, writing, listening, and speaking all in one game at the elementary level. As they get to higher levels (middle and high school), you can start using sentences or tongue twisters, but have the sentences in front of the class, so they have to run back and forth or memorize the sentence.

**Middle/High School:**
Middle and High school students like appreciation from other students more so than from the teachers.

Each class is a mixture of uninterested and motivated students. The best way to motivate these students as a class is by tailoring your class topics/lesson plans to their interests. Think about what Korean school boys want to talk about… What motivates Korean school girls?

As the English High school teacher, you will have more freedom to choose what types of lessons to teach, unlike Elementary teachers who must use a textbook for half the lesson. It’s very likely that most High school students will be less vocal and shyer concerning their English, as opposed to Elementary students.

That said middle and high school students tend to get more of a lectured based class. But this is common mistake that teachers make. While lectures have a time and place, they tend to be extremely boring.

If we think back into our school lives, which subject could we never fall asleep in? The most obvious answer is P.E. (physical education). This is because regardless of how tired students were the night before, they will manage to stay awake as long as they are active.

So just because these are middle and high school students, does not mean that they long for long lectured base classes. They long for active (whether physically or mentally) activities to keep them engaged. Implementing this principle to all of your lesson plans will make a significant difference in classroom management and participation.

Also, when teaching a lesson, keep the information new and unique. New as in new information, but unique as in only something you can teach (and not the Korean English teachers). This makes your lesson not only more fun to teach, but it garners interest from your students and co-teacher.

For example if they’re learning about clothes, everyone knows the typical t-shirt, jeans, cap, etc. But what they don’t know are things like blazer, dress shirt, flip-flops, long-sleeve shirt, etc. Teach them something they don’t know (and have them write it into their notebooks), and they will pay attention—contingent on your presentation.
Classroom Management

The best classroom management is when your students are so engaged that you don’t need an incentive or disciplinary system.

DAY ONE HAVE A SET OF CLASSROOM RULES.

Keep it simple and short. And enforce them to the bitter end—the moment you start letting things slide, the moment you let things get out of control—then you have a problem. This is universal whether teaching elementary, middle or high school.

These were my rules:

1. Be respectful
2. Be prepared (bring a notebook and name tent/card, don’t be late)
3. No Korean

But find ones that work for you and your class.

Remember you are the ROLE MODEL! Students will follow your example, so you should be liable to follow your own rules.

Have a routine to start your class every day. I start with a word game. Nine letters on the board. Make as many words as you can with these letters in their notebook. You can only use the letter once per word. No names, no abbreviations, no acronyms. Just words. 1-2 mins. Then student with the most words and a random student win a prize. Super fast. Gets students thinking in English, and students are silent before class starts.

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Have your students bring a notebook. Often times you will see your students once a week. How much of your lesson will they remember after a day, let alone a week? This is the only record of your class they will have forever (contingent that they don’t throw it away). Worksheets are nice, but they get lost. A notebook is a compilation of everything you’ve ever taught them in a bound book. This is the bread and butter of your class. Use it every day for every activity and as a reference for homework, or just recollection. It’s also essential for classroom management. Having students write something down keeps them from falling asleep or goofing off.

Be confident. If you’re not confident about what you’re talking about, why should your students listen to what you have to say?

Problem students/Loners:
From my personal experience teaching in Korea, problem students in class often have problems at home. So don’t be too quick to judge those who may not pay attention or are constantly distracting (or not attending). Each student has their own private situation, whether that be single parent homes, late working parents, or child abuse. Again, please be tactful in these situations and try to communicate with these students after class via your co-teacher.
Often times, these students are negatively stigmatized from their past behavior. Having someone on their side may be what they need to change things around. But be sure not to give special attention during class, students will catch on and it may backfire.

**Try not to give special attention to anyone. Be objective and fair as possible—especially at the elementary level.** Favoritism will always backfire on you.

You will always find loners at your school (aka wong-ddah 왕따). Again, you can’t give special attention to them inside of class, but do talk to them outside of class. Having someone to talk to can make the world of a difference sometimes.

**Elementary:**

While elementary students tend to be innocent and cute, they are babies. They cry, complain, fight, and bicker about little things. They don’t really know Korean either (at least in the lower level). They are still learning (particularly the first and second graders). They also always look to your approval. They also cling on without considering how you would feel or react.

That said, you need to know how to manage these problems.

**Students love incentive programs.** But make sure that your incentives aren’t the focus of your class. And note that all incentives don’t have to be just candy and snacks.

They can be **privileges.** Like bathroom passes, drinking passes, homework passes, movie day, board game day, or game day outside. Also rewarding groups rather than individuals gets the academically weaker students involved, rather than just rewarding the academically stronger students.

Talk to your co-teacher about your incentive program, and get their input.

**Middle and High School:**

You won’t find any babies here (except maybe 1st grade middle school students still transitioning from elementary school). That said, you have a whole other problem to deal with: puberty (aka attitude problems).

Incentives still work, but remember middle and high school students prefer student recognition rather than teacher recognition. Try to use that to your advantage. A class applause/cheer is better than a simple teacher high-five.

So on the flip side, class (reasonable) embarrassments tend to be good “slap on the wrists”.

**Keep in mind these students are young adults—so treat them like adults.** Reasoning with them (in a way they can understand) is the best way to discipline students. Often times they will see how hard you work by your lesson plans, your dedication to the students, being punctual to every class, and following your own rules. These are little things, but these are the brownie points that you can get from your students, and they will respect you for that.

If you keep your students interested through your lessons, you won’t need an incentive/punishment system at this level.

**Class Dojo**

Class dojo is an online site (www.classdojo.com) where you can log student’s progress and behavior so parents and students can view online. It’s a great way to get parents involved in the student’s progress and behavior, so use it to your advantage.
Relationship with the Co-teacher

Having an excellent relationship with your co-teacher is an essential part of your experience here.

Here you need to be **proactive**. But be aware between being proactive and stepping on boundaries. You need to be tactful when approaching problems—otherwise they can escalate into something bigger.

**Arrange a time (a class period) out of the week where you can sit down with your co-teacher(s) and talk about your lesson plan.** Being able to get their advice about your lessons is key, and feedback from the previous lesson. It also gives them a heads up on what the lesson will be about. Don’t be discouraged if they don’t always remember or feel annoyed. Be persistent, yet polite. This is how you will improve your class.

Also try to get all your **co-teachers’ teaching schedule** so you can find them when they have open periods.

Also ask for a **school calendar** with all the holidays, events, test days, etc., so you know ahead of time and there won’t be any confusion, miscommunications, or arguments later down the road.

Your co-teacher is not paid extra for helping you, so please be considerate. It’s their job to assist you, but not to babysit you, so please be understandable and appreciative of their work.
Maximizing Collaborative Co-teaching in the Language Classroom

Shannon Tanghe
Dankook University

Co-teacher Roles and Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who will be responsible for…? (Check all names that apply)</th>
<th>Name: _____</th>
<th>Name: _____</th>
<th>Other (Write name)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifying class objectives and aims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creating activities and assignments to meet class objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing lesson plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparing supplemental materials (for example, worksheets, homework)</td>
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<td>Preparing powerpoint files, if used</td>
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<td>Classroom greetings</td>
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<td>Correcting homework</td>
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<td>Designing tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correcting tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment and giving grades</td>
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<td>Disciplining disruptive students</td>
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<td>Communicating with parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicating with principal/vice-principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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</table>

One co-teacher is… | Another co-teacher can…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taking attendance</th>
<th>Collect homework assignments, write class objectives on the board, review previous class material, begin preview activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explaining directions</td>
<td>Model what students should do (individually or cooperatively), write directions on the board, repeat or clarify confusing directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explaining new material</td>
<td>Model using manipulables, draw a picture or write key words on the board, explaining individually to select students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching a lesson to the whole class</td>
<td>Show pictures, videos, model with body, etc. difficult concepts, help students to stay focused on the lesson, provide individual instruction and answer individual questions about the lesson, assist a smaller group of students having difficulty with the lesson, provide additional challenges for a smaller group of students comfortable with the material, check for student understanding, provide individual instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching a lesson to part of the class</td>
<td>Teach the same lesson to the rest of the class, teach the same lesson to a higher or lower level group of students, monitor all students’ behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ideas:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Facilitating collaborative conversations between co-teachers:

It is easy to make assumptions about teacher’s beliefs and teaching philosophies, which is why it is very important to spend some time discussing these so each teacher knows where the other stands in order to have a smoother teaching relationship. Areas that may be valuable to discuss include:

- Teaching philosophies
- Teaching goals
- Personal and professional goals
- Goals for the students
- Important classroom rules
- Teaching styles
- What contributions they feel they can make to the class
- Ideal co-teaching models
- Preferences in and outside of the classroom
- Pet peeves (bothersome behaviors)
- Potential areas of conflict
- Worries or concerns
As the collaborative co-teaching relationship progresses, teachers become busy and may have less time for co-teaching. One useful technique for co-teaching may be brief ongoing written communication, such as this simple index card form adapted by Katherine Perez (2012),

### Co-teacher Communication Card

This worked great:

I noticed:

Next time let's try this:

This did not work so well:

I appreciate that you did this:

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**Actions that Promote Positive Co-teaching**

- Publicly state reasons for co-teaching.
- Show equal respect and appreciation to all teachers.
- Provide time for teacher collaboration.
- Offer opportunities for out-of-school collaborative planning (conferences, workshops, seeing experienced co-teachers).
- Raising awareness of teachers, parents, and students about positive effects of co-teaching.
Conclusion

Teaching in a foreign country may be daunting; however it can be a life-changing experience. Remember to have an open-mind, be proactive and understanding. Also, remember that you’re a teacher first—that is why you’re here. That should be your priority before anything else. Having this attitude will come back you several folds in positive ways.

Don’t forget to greet your principal and VP every day (if you can). Having a good impression and being dedicated will go a long way.

Good luck!! I believe you will all be excellent teachers here in Gangwon Province!

Helpful Teaching Sites:

www.waygook.org – Online forum for teachers in Korea about anything and everything related to teaching/living in Korea. You have to sign up to use, but it’s free and easy.

www.barryfunenglish.com – Need to pay yearly, but also a great tool for games/worksheets at the elementary level.

www.starfall.com – Online site for phonics and reading.

www.classdojo.com – Online classroom management site for parents and students to view online.