

Spring Activities in South Korea – Our Top Picks

At this time of year, New Zealand's temperature starts to drop as we experience Autumn. On the opposite side of the hemisphere, South Korea is enjoying Spring and the accompanying seasonal activities. If you are a New Zealander planning a trip during this period, you should know that there are certain attractions that a South Korean Spring can offer. Large-scale cherry blossom festivals are the typical activities tourists think of. However, Spring activities in South Korea are not limited to cherry blossom events. Travellers can choose from a variety of Spring attractions that suit their tastes. We have 'cherry-picked' our favourites for you ...

1. Yujung-ro & Yeongdeungpo Yeouido Spring Flower Festival

Yeouido is a popular destination for locals and international tourists. Renowned attractions, like the 63 Building, Han River, IFC Mall, The Hyundai Shopping Mall, and Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market, are in or near Yeouido. Especially for New Zealanders, the combination of large-scale parks and tall skyscrapers create a unique scenery.



The view of Yeouido from Han River Park

During Spring, Koreans frequently mention a street called **Yujung-ro**. The street is renowned as a walking trail with cherry blossoms. If you are a traveller visiting Seoul during Spring, it is highly recommended to add the Yeouido area, including Yujung-ro. Also, you may want to consider the schedule for **Yeongdeungpo Yeouido Spring Flower Festival** that takes place on Yujung-ro street.



Yunjung-ro

2. Yangjaecheon Stream & Maeheon Citizens Forest

Most international tourists tend to have **Gangnam** in their itineraries. On the other hand, **Yangjaecheon Stream**, which flows across the Gangnam and eventually joins the Hangang River, is a hidden attraction. Each side of the stream has well-organized walking tracks. The area can be regarded as a smaller version of the Hangang Park. Locals frequently visit the park to exercise, stroll, and picnic. While the area offers various sceneries with changing seasons, most people agree that Spring would be a great time to visit the park. During the season, the temperature is ideal for outdoor activities, and the area is densely populated with cherry blossom trees. If you would like to experience local life and Spring scenery at the same time, Yangjaecheon Stream is highly recommended.



Yangjaecheon Stream's Park (Image from Airbnb)

If you are walking near Yangjae area, follow the walking track leading to **Maeheon Citizen's Forest**. Within a metropolitan city, the forest is regarded as a natural hub. The place offers densely populated plants and trees and wide spaces for people to gather.



Maeheon Citizens Forest

3. Ilsan Lake Park & International Horticulture Goyang Korea

Ilsan is a perfect destination for adventurous travellers looking for a new destination beyond Seoul. The city has various attractions, such as local shopping districts (La Festa and Western Dom), Aqua Planet, Hyundai Motor Studio, and sites of popular dramas.



Ilsan Lake Park

The most visited area for both locals and travellers is **Ilsan Lake Park**. There is a large-scale lake and walking tracks surrounding it. As people walk along the track, people can enjoy multiple views of the city and various local plants. For spring travellers, it is good to know about the **International Horticulture Goyang Korea**. The event, which is also often called as Goyang International Flower Festival, is a renowned festival that attracts many organizations worldwide to participate in flower exhibitions and horticulture-related products. Many New Zealanders live in a house with a garden. Even if they don't, most people develop close relationships with the natural environment. The destination perfectly reflects New Zealanders' taste.



International Horticulture Goyang Korea (Image from VISITKOREA)

4. Icheon & Ceramic Festival

Icheon is another suburban destination. For travellers willing to experience spring flowers and local artcraft, there is no better place to enjoy the two elements at the same time. In Icheon, ceramics that date back to the prehistoric period were discovered. Due to the high accessibility to materials and the constant effort of the residents, the city became the main area for producing traditional ceramics.

Spring is the most recommended season for visiting the area because of renowned regional festivals, such as **the Sansuyu (Cornelian cherry flower) Festival and the Icheon Ceramic Festival**.



Icheon Ceramics Festival (Images from VISITKOREA)

Even if you miss the opportunity to visit the festivals, many destinations get abundant cherry blossoms and cornelian cherry flowers during spring. Also, ceramic-related attractions, such as **Icheon Cerapia** and **Ceramic Village**, welcome visitors all year round.



Icheon Ceramic Village (Image from Korea Tourism Organization)

5. Seoul National Cemetery

Seoul National Cemetery commemorates former presidents and veterans who sacrificed their lives for the national wars. Visitors can visit the exhibition halls, cemetery, and park to reflect on the history and pay homage.



Seoul National Cemetery

Despite the serious and sombre atmosphere, the park creates a vibrant atmosphere during spring when spring flowers bloom. Unlike other cherry blossom destinations in Korea, the place is known for having weeping cherry blossoms. Weeping cherry blossom's branches grow downward, which creates a unique appearance and attracts many people for photoshoots.



Weeping Cherry Blossoms around Seoul National Cemetery

Every year when weeping cherry blossoms bloom, **Seoul National Cemetery Event with Weeping Cherry Blossoms** provides opportunities to engage with the spring atmosphere and historical aspects at the same time. With high involvement of the Ministry of National Defense, military band, guard changing ceremony, and exhibition of veteran's legacy and photos are open to the public.



Grave Markers of Sacrificed Soldiers