Jinju Culture and Arts Foundation

Room 601, Yeongchang Building, 287 Gangnam-ro,
Jinju, Gyeongsangnam-do
T. 055-755-9111, 761-9111



2026 Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival
Festival venue layout



- Floating Bridge Ticket Booth
- Information
- October Festival Operations Center
- Police Station
- Fire Station
- ATM
- Kiosk
- Festival Operations & Interpretation
- Convenience Store
- Rest Area
- Wheelchair Rental
- Restroom
- Accessible Restroom
- First Aid
- Nursing Room
- Smoking Area
- Docent-Guided Lantern Tour
- Lantern Radio

FLOATING LANTERN

- A JINJU, CITY OF THE FUTURE (SPACE) ZONE
- B OUR LANGUAGE, OUR HEART (KING SEJONG) ZONE
- C COMPANIES SHINING TOGETHER ZONE
- D CONTEMPORARY ART ZONE
- E KOREA'S GLOBAL FESTIVAL ZONE
- F THE BEAUTY OF TRADITION ZONE
- G WEDDING OF THE CENTURY ZONE
- H THE SPIRIT OF JINJU ZONE
- I VOYAGE OF PEACE ZONE
- J HOPE FOR THE EARTH ZONE

LAND-BASED LANTERN

- Ka JOSEON ARTISTS ZONE
- Na WELCOME TO JOSEON ZONE
- Da K-PUNGNYU (SPIRITS & CULTURE) ZONE
- Ra CHARACTER ANI-LAND ZONE
- Ma A DAY AT JINJUSEONG FORTRESS ZONE
- Ba POMEGRANATE TREES & FLOWERS ZONE
- Sa PAUSE & BREATHE VLOG ZONE
- A TYPO ART IN HANGUL ZONE
- Ja SPACE THEME PARK ZONE
- Cha FROM K TO W ZONE



2026
JINJU NAMGANG YUDEUNG FESTIVAL

Oct. 3 (Sat) - Oct. 18. (Sun)

www.YUDEUNG.com

Hosted by | Jinju City, Jinju Culture and Arts Foundation, Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival Organizing Committee
Organized by | Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival Organizing Committee
Sponsored by | Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korea Tourism Organization, Gyeongsangnam-do, Gyeongsangnam-do Office of Education
Inquiries | 055-755-9111, 761-9111, 749-4588

Where History Flows, Peace Shines

The Story of Jinju's Floating Lanterns

Jinju's tradition of floating yudeung lanterns on the Namgang River began during the Battle of Jinju, one of Korea's three great victories of the Imjin War. In October 1592, General Kim Si-min, then Magistrate of Jinju, led 3,800 defenders against 20,000 Japanese troops in a ten-day battle. The defenders floated lanterns to prevent enemy crossings and communicate with their families outside the fortress. When Japanese forces returned in June 1593, some 70,000 civilians, officials, and soldiers lost their lives defending Jinjuseong Fortress, making it an enduring symbol of resistance and sacrifice. The people of Jinju later continued the tradition to honor those who died in 1592 and 1593. Today, it lives on as the Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival, one of Korea's premier international festivals.

Joseon Artists Zone:
The Grace and Beauty of Traditional Dance Brought to Life

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Chokseongnu Pavilion, Jinjuseong Fortress

Set against Chokseongnu Pavilion at Jinjuseong Fortress, this art installation brings the flowing lines of traditional hanbok and the graceful movements of Korean dance to life through light. The gently spinning "Dancing Hanbok" and "Joseon Artists" lanterns come together to create a serene and enchanting nighttime scene. Experience the beauty of Korean dance (K-Beauty) in every graceful movement, and let its lingering elegance bring you a moment of calm.

Welcome to Joseon Zone:
A Playful Joseon Pop-Up Where Past Meets Present

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Gongbukmun Gate Lawn & Restored Well Site, Jinjuseong Fortress

New for 2026, the Welcome to Joseon Zone gives the history of Jinjuseong Fortress a playful contemporary twist. On the lawn by Gongbukmun Gate, lanterns of a sunglasses-wearing young gentleman, a skateboarding young lady, Korea Heroes, Global Toy Heroes, and the KPop Demon Hunters crew create a lively pop-up where past and present meet. This lighthearted take on history offers memorable photo opportunities for visitors of all ages.

K-Pungnyu Zone:
Local Culture Alive with Korea's Festive Spirit and Flair

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Jungyeong (Central Camp), Jinjuseong Fortress

Set in Jungyeong, once a key military command post within Jinjuseong Fortress, this exhibit playfully brings together scenes of Joseon-era military training and the festive atmosphere of a traditional jumak tavern. Warm, humorous lantern scenes show soldiers of the time relaxing over makgeolli and soju after a hard day of training. In the soft glow of the lanterns, discover the warmth and good cheer that brought life to this otherwise solemn military setting, along with Korea's distinctive spirit of leisure and camaraderie.

A Day at Jinjuseong Fortress Zone:
The Warmth of a Bustling Old Marketplace

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Yeongnam Pojeongsa Hill (Left Side), Jinjuseong Fortress

This zone recreates a day in old Jinju, from guards at Gongbukmun Gate to a lively ssireum match and bustling marketplace. Lanterns lining the hillside path depict a close-knit community sharing drinks and companionship, evoking warmth and nostalgia across generations.

Pause & Breathe Vlog Zone:
Complete Relaxation in a Tranquil Bamboo Grove

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Jinjuseong Fortress Trail

This tranquil trail combines atmospheric lanterns with comfortable rest areas. Animal benches, bamboo and bamboo-shoot lanterns create a peaceful woodland setting, while light and nature provide a perfect backdrop for vlog-worthy moments, rest, and renewal.

Typo Art in Hangul Zone & Family Zone:
A Creative Playground of Light and Letters

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Musical Fountain Area (Mulbitnaru Bridge–Sinan Riverside)

This signature display transforms trendy Hangul designs into pixel typography lanterns, celebrating the script's visual beauty and playful wordplay. Against the Musical Fountain, witty lanterns pair Hangul with everyday objects, while a Young Creator Market, busking, and hands-on activities offer family-friendly fun.

Space Theme Park Zone:
A Sci-Fi Journey Through the Milky Way

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Sinan Riverside

Set along the tranquil Sinan riverbank, this zone brings Jinju's vision as a future aerospace city to life. A child astronaut, planets, a UAM aircraft, the KF-21 fighter jet, and Star Wars-inspired lanterns create a galaxy beneath the night sky, inviting families to stroll along the waterfront and let their imaginations soar.

From K to W Zone: K-Culture Goes Global

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Jinju Railway Culture Park

Set amid the city's railway heritage, this exhibition celebrates K-culture's global appeal. Lanterns and installations inspired by BTS, BLACKPINK, bungeoppang, and Buldak cup ramen showcase the cultural energy taking Korea from K to W.

Namgang River : Theme Zones

Every evening, 18:00–24:00 | Namgang River (Mulbitnaru Rest Area to the riverfront by Jinju Intercity Bus Terminal)

Against the Namgang River and the night view of Jinjuseong Fortress, the festival presents ten floating lantern zones: Jinju, City of the Future (Space); Our Language, Our Heart (King Sejong); Companies Shining Together; Contemporary Art; The Beauty of Tradition; Korea's Global Festival; Wedding of the Century; The Spirit of Jinju; Voyage of Peace; and Hope for the Earth. Together, they tell stories of Jinju's aerospace vision, Hangul, shared growth, art, tradition, global connection, love, patriotism, peace, and sustainability, creating a breathtaking nightscape where past, present, and future meet.

Programs

Category	Event	Schedule	Venue	Description
Opening Ceremony	Goyuje Opening Ritual	Oct. 3 (18:00)	Jinjuseong Fortress (Imjin Daecheop Gyesa Sunuidan Memorial Altar)	A ritual announcing the opening of the festival, honoring the noble spirits of the 70,000 patriots who gave their lives during the Imjin and Gyesa years, and carrying their legacy forward to future generations
	Local District Symbol Lantern Parade	Oct. 3 (18:30)	Departs from the Musical Fountain	Parade route: Musical Fountain → Gongbukmun Gate → Jinju Bridge → Mangyeong-dong History Street
	Opening Lantern Lighting Ceremony	Oct. 3 (19:30)	Mangyeong-dong Special Stage	This ceremony marks the official opening of the Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival and the first lighting of every lantern on display
	Drone Light Show	Oct. 3 / Oct. 17 (19:50) Oct. 10 (20:00)	Namgang River	Drone light show
	Fireworks Show	Oct. 3 / Oct. 9 / Oct. 17 (20:00)	Namgang River (Jinju Bridge↔Cheonsu Bridge)	Fireworks show
Lantern Displays (Namgang River)	Jinju, City of the Future (Space) Zone	Oct. 3–18 (18:00–24:00)	Mulbitnaru Rest Area–Cheonsu Bridge	A futuristic themed display presenting Jinju's vision as Korea's aerospace hub through light
	Our Language, Our Heart (King Sejong) Zone		Cheonsu Bridge–Musical Fountain	A lantern display celebrating King Sejong's devotion to his people and the unique beauty of Hangul, bringing the power of the written word to life through light
	Companies Shining Together Zone		Cheonsu Bridge–Lantern Floating Area	A symbolic display sponsored by companies that support cooperation and shared growth with the local community, as well as the festival's sustainable development
	Contemporary Art Zone		Lantern Floating Area–Floating Stage	An installation combining modern sculptural beauty with light art to create a captivating nighttime landscape
	The Beauty of Tradition Zone		Riverside Patrol Road–Floating Stage	A contemporary reinterpretation of traditional Korean values and aesthetics, featuring Joseon-era studded armor and pollock charms believed to ward off misfortune
	Korea's Global Festival Zone		Floating Stage	A large-scale landmark installation celebrating the festival's designation as a Global Festival by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and symbolizing its rise as a world-class festival representing Korea
	Wedding of the Century Zone		Floating Stage–Floating Bridge 1 (Baedari)	A wedding-themed display celebrating love and harmony across time, cultures and borders
	The Spirit of Jinju Zone		Floating Bridge 1 (Baedari)–Jinju Bridge	A dynamic light display carrying forward Jinju's longstanding tradition of courage, patriotism and defending the nation
	Voyage of Peace Zone		Jinju Bridge–Floating Bridge 4	A message of hope carrying humanity's aspirations for global peace and prosperity across the waters of the Namgang River
	Hope for the Earth Zone		Floating Bridge 4–Intercity Bus Terminal	An eco-themed display encouraging respect for life, action on the climate crisis and hope for a sustainable tomorrow
Lantern Displays (Jinjuseong Fortress and Surrounding Areas)	Joseon Artists Zone	Oct. 3–18 (18:00–24:00)	Chokseongnu Pavilion, Jinjuseong Fortress	A lantern display elegantly recreating traditional Korean arts and culture amid the serene atmosphere of Chokseongnu Pavilion
	Welcome to Joseon Zone		Gongbukmun Lawn and Well Site, Jinjuseong Fortress	A playful newtro display that adds a trendy, modern twist to the rich history of Jinjuseong Fortress, creating a lively Joseon pop-up where past and present meet
	K-Pungnyu(Spirits & Culture) Zone		Jungyeong, Jinjuseong Fortress	A local cultural display set in Jungyeong, once a key military post, playfully combining scenes of Joseon-era military training with the lively atmosphere of a traditional jumak tavern
	Character Ani-Land Zone		Right Side of Yeongnam Pojongsa Hill, Jinjuseong Fortress	A family-friendly light display along Yeongnam Pojongsa Hill where children and adults can rediscover their sense of wonder together
	A Day at Jinjuseong Fortress Zone		Left Side of Yeongnam Pojongsa Hill, Jinjuseong Fortress	A vivid recreation of daily life in old Jinju, from the imposing guards who defended Gongbukmun Gate to a lively ssireum match and scenes from the everyday lives of local residents
	Pomegranate Trees & Flowers Zone		Museum and Outdoor Performance Area, Jinjuseong Fortress	An atmospheric landscape display inspired by pomegranate blossoms, Jinju's official flower, and pomegranate trees, complemented by music from the outdoor performance area
	Pause & Breathe Vlog Zone		Jinjuseong Fortress Trail	A soothing display featuring animal-shaped benches and bamboo lanterns along a peaceful woodland trail, offering a welcome break from the stresses of everyday life
	Typo Art in Hangul Zone		Musical Fountain	A signature display that transforms trendy Hangul designs into eye-catching pixel typography lanterns, celebrating both the visual beauty of the script and the fun of Korean wordplay
	Space Theme Park Zone		Sinan Riverside	A nighttime theme zone that brings Jinju's vision as a future aerospace city to life through a fantastic science-fiction setting
Lantern Displays (Mangyeong-dong & Gangnam-dong)	Creative Lanterns: 1,000 Lights	Oct. 3–18 (18:00–24:00)	Mangyeong-dong Historic Street	A colorful display of creative lanterns in a variety of shapes and colors, made by elementary, middle and high school students
	Lanterns from Jinju's 30 Eup, Myeon, Dong Districts		Mangyeong-dong Historic Street	A display showcasing the charm of Jinju through unique lanterns reflecting the distinctive character and history of each of the city's 30 eup, myeon, dong administrative districts
	From K to W Zone		Railway Culture Park	A global K-culture themed display set in Railway Culture Park, where the legacy of Korea's modern railway history lives on

Hands-on Activities & Special Events

Event	Schedule	Venue	Description
Crossing the Bridge of Love	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Floating Bridge 1: Baedari (Cheongpacheongi Lantern Bridge) Floating Bridge 2: Mulbitnaru Bridge Floating Bridge 3: Yongdan Legend Bridge Floating Bridge 4: Byeolbit Yeonsuui Bridge	A chance to cross the Bridge of Love (Fee: KRW 2,000 one way; KRW 6,000 for an all-day pass)
Hanging a Wish Lantern	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Namgang Riverside, Mangyeong-dong	Write your wish on a lantern and hang it in the exhibition area (Fee: KRW 10,000) Organized by: Jinju Lantern Experience Center Management Council
Making and Floating a Lantern	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Namgang Riverside, Mangyeong-dong	Make your own lantern and float it on the Namgang River (Fee: KRW 5,000 ₹. Lantern floating begins at 18:00.
Mini Lantern-Making	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Namgang Riverside, Mangyeong-dong	A hands-on mini lantern-making workshop offered by the Jinju Lantern Experience Center (Fee applies)
Community Lantern-Making	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Musical Fountain, Sinan-dong	Fee: Free / Help complete lanterns depicting the Twelve Zodiac Guardians
Wish Tree Experience	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Restored Well Site, Jinjuseong Fortress	An immersive tablet-based experience where visitors can write a wish and watch it appear as a fruit on a digital Wish Tree
LED Hanbok Experience	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Chokseongnu Pavilion	Try on LED-decorated hanbok and join a nighttime tour (Fee: KRW 10,000 for two hours)
Hanji Lantern-Making	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Jinju Battle History Park	Make a traditional lantern that doubles as a mood lamp (Fee: KRW 15,000)
Wearable Lantern-Making	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Jinju Battle History Park	Make wearable illuminated accessories such as LED headbands (Fee: KRW 15,000)
Interactive AI Lantern Experience	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Jinju Battle History Park	Experience AI-powered lantern content featuring Hano and Ayo (Fee: Free)
AI-Powered K-pop Dance	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Jinju Battle History Park	Put your dance skills to the test in a real-time motion-tracking dance battle game (Fee: Free)
Jinjuseong Historical Mission Tour	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–21:00)	Throughout Jinjuseong Fortress	Take part in an outdoor escape-room game inspired by stories from the Battle of Jinju (Fee: KRW 5,000; souvenir included)
Lantern Golden Bell Quiz	Oct. 12(Mon), Oct. 14(Wed) (17:00–19:00)	Special Stage at the Musical Fountain	A fun, interactive quiz for residents and visitors about the Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival and Jinju's history and culture
Stamp & Treasure Tour	Oct. 3–18 (13:00–23:00)	Throughout the festival grounds	Take part in an app-based stamp tour and treasure hunt
National Park Golf Tournament Finals	Oct. 13–14	Songbaek Park Golf Course, Geumsan-myeon, Jinju(36 holes)	Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival Cup National Park Golf Tournament (Preliminaries in September, finals in October)
Docent-Guided Lantern Tour	On-site & Phone Registration	In front of Chokseongmun Gate	Discover the stories behind the festival's lantern displays with a docent
Namgaram Cultural Showcase	Oct. 3–18 (19:00–21:30)	Mangyeong-dong Special Stage Jinjuseong Special Stage	Nightly performances featuring Jinju's intangible cultural heritage, youth groups and guest arts organizations
Busking Performances	Oct. 3–18 (19:00–21:30)	Special Stage at the Musical Fountain	Youth-run food stalls / Busking and EDM performances
Lantern Radio	Oct. 3–18	Namgang Riverside, Mangyeong-dong	Request a song through the festival broadcast and hear your selection played
Festival Lantern Installations	Oct. 3–18	Around Jinjuseong Fortress, Jinyanggyo Bridge, Insadong Antique Street, the bicycle paths around Cheonsugyo Bridge, and other locations	Decorative lanterns installed throughout the area to create a festive atmosphere
Jinju Food Festival & Local Produce Market	Oct. 3–18	Namgang Riverside, Mangyeong-dong	Food festival and marketplace offering local agricultural and specialty products
Museum Cultural Activities	Oct. 3–18 (15:00–20:00) # Not available on days when the museum is closed	Jinju National Museum	Make a Ppuljuni paper hat, write a full-moon wish card and decorate a spinning top with traditional folk art designs
Poets with Lanterns	Oct. 8 (Thu) (15:00–17:00)	Gyeongnam e-Sports Auxiliary Arena, 1F, Chilam Campus, Gyeongsang National University	A seminar featuring poets from Gyeongsangnam-do, held alongside the lantern festival

Jinju Attractions



Jinju Fortress

Jinjuseong, located along the Namgang River, is a landmark representing Jinju's history and culture. It is the site of the 1592 Jinju Victory, where General Kim Si-min repelled 30,000 Japanese troops with about 3,800 soldiers—one of the Three Great Victories of the Imjin War.

Namgang-ro 626, Bonseong-dong, Jinju-si
+82-55-749-5171



Wolasan Forest-in-Jinju

A comprehensive forest-welfare complex offering healing and fun: forest education (wood culture hall, children's forest, forest library), forest recreation (natural recreation forest), forest therapy, bamboo trails, and more.

313 Daeseunsan-ro, Jinseong-myeon, Jinju-si
+82-55-746-3670



Somanggiinsan Lantern Theme Park & Jinju Namgang Lantern Gallery

Open year-round; panoramic views of Namgang and Jinjuseong; the gallery offers lantern exhibits and hands-on experiences.

207, Manggyeong-ro, Jinju-si
055-762-8583



Mulbitnaru Rest Area ("Kim Si-min" Boat)

By day, enjoy Namgang's scenery; by night, the illuminated splendor of Jinjuseong.

195 Manggyeong-ro, Jinju-si
+82-55-763-3691



Jinju Great Battle History Park

A cultural complex honoring the spirit of Jinju and the Jinju Victory's legacy of resilience.

7 Nonggae-gil, Bonseong-dong, Jinju-si
+82-55-749-5171



Jisu Seungsan Village & Jinju K-Entrepreneurship Center

Birthplace of founders Ing. LG, GS, long known as a "prosperous village." The refurbished former Jisu Elementary now hosts the K-Entrepreneurship Center offering programs and exhibits.

482, Jisu-ro, Jisu-myeon, Jinju-si
055-792-7980, 7981



Jinyang Lake

Lakeside views, observatory, zoo, arboretum, cafes, and more

Panmun-dong area, Jinju-si
Jinyangho Park +82-55-749-5933



Railroad Culture Park (Iho Square, Jinju Station)

A park repurposing former station facilities, featuring various exhibits and experiences.

18, Jinju-daero 879beon-gil, Gangnam-dong, Jinju-si
+82-55-749-5935

Local Specialties & Food

Jinju Gyobang Cuisine

Originating from banquet dishes of Jinju Gyobang Office for central officials; features fresh South Sea seafood and Jinsan product, served in 3-4 courses. Designed to pair with drinks, it emphasizes light broths and a clean, non-greasy taste.



Jinju Naengmyeon (Cold Noodles)

A local specialty: seafood broth from bamboo-trap anchovies, clams, dried mussels, dried pollock, octopus, low-temperature aging removes fishiness. Topped with chopped kimchi, beef jeon, egg strips, and more for rich flavors and presentation.

Jinju Bibimbap

Once enjoyed in royal court cuisine; famed since the Taejong era when ministers traveled to Jinju for it, its floral presentation earned names like "flower rice" and "seven-treasure platter."



Jinju Meteorite Bread

In 2014, grains that fell in Jinju were made into bread, and amontillado flour and Cheonyeon qingeo were used as ingredients.



Jinju Honey Bread

A signature snack: balls of dough filled with sweet red bean paste, deep-fried, glazed with syrup, and coated in crushed peanuts.



Jinju Central Market

Established in 1884 and rooted in Jinju Sangmusa, this flagship market features a retractable arcade and three zones: hanbok & fabrics, and food alleys. Sample everything from snacks (honey bread, hotteok) to hearty meals (bibimbap, naengmyeon) in the "New Food Alley."

Location
8-1, Jinyangho-ro 547beon-gil, Jinju-si, Gyeongsangnam-do
Inquiries
+82-55-741-2151 (Jinju Central Market Merchants' Association)



Jinju Nongae Market

Opened in 1962, this historic market sits centrally—west to Central Market, north to Produce Market, with main roads east and south. With ample parking and arcades, it's weather-proof. The "Noodle Road" features vetted eateries serving everything from Chinese to Vietnamese pho, banquet noodles, knife-cut noodles, and cold noodles. Also known as a filming site for the drama "Jinxed at First."

Location:
12, Jinyangho-ro 569beon-gil, Jinju-si, Gyeongsangnam-do
Inquiries:
+82-55-745-0120 (Jinju Nongae Market Merchants' Association)

Inside Nongae Market:
"Jinju All Night Night Market," a lively traditional night market
Location: Arcade section of Nongae Market (behind Jinju Employment Center)
Schedule: Every Saturday 18:00-23:00



Bijimull



Jinju Silk

Jangsaeng Doraji