

Bicyclists along South Korea's Nakdong River



## Revolutionary Roads in South Korea

**BICYCLES HAVE LONG** been the quickest way to navigate the traffic-choked streets of Seoul. But far more than a last resort, cycling has become a national pastime throughout South Korea. Since 2010, the country has built more than 1,000 miles of paved cycling routes, with another 500 miles in the works and plans to create a network of paths along its four main rivers: Han, Nakdong, Geum, and Yeongsan. Travelers on two wheels can take in a varied landscape—some 70 percent of this nation consists of forest, rivers, lakes, and mountains—as well as experience some of the world’s most advanced cycling infrastructure. Bike-only highways tunnel through mountains and over rivers; bike repair and rental shops,

restrooms, and picnic sites line the paths; and special traffic lights assist urban crossings. Traversing the country is a 393-mile feat from the Yellow Sea to Busan, but travelers can experience one of the richest rides on a 37-mile stretch of the Nakdong River Bike Path. Northeast of Sangju, the path passes the Sangju Bicycle Museum, then a Confucian school founded in 1606 (free to tour) and Gyeongcheondae Terrace, a rock cliff prized for its view of the Nakdong. Finally, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Andong Hahoe Folk Village, cyclists can recover overnight in a *minbak* (fire-heated inn). —JAYME MOYE

■ **TIP: BOOK A CYCLING TRIP FROM BIKETOURS.COM, WHICH OFFERS ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDES AND LUGGAGE TRANSPORT.**

### ATLAS

#### South Korea



**One of South Korea's 3,358 islands, Jeju claims the world's longest lava tube and is renowned for its female deep-sea divers.**