

Summer Peak National Park Campgrounds: How to Use “Hidden Remaining Spots” and Theme-Based Campground Picks

- Great holiday opportunities offered through reservation-rate analysis for early July and late August and weekdays
- Campground recommendations by themes such as water play, ocean, and family and essential usage rules information

The Korea National Park Service (KNPS, Chairman Joo Dae-yeong) under the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE) has unveiled how to use remaining spots at peak season and recommended theme-based campgrounds, so that people can use national park campgrounds more easily and conveniently as the height of summer vacation season gets underway.

The KNPS currently operates its campgrounds through a full lottery system. Reservations are submitted through the online reservation system (reservation.knps.or.kr) from the 1st to the morning of 5th of even-numbered months, and then a drawing is held on the 5th in the afternoon. As a result, bookings for the peak summer season of July and August were finalized on June 5.

It is easy to assume that it will be difficult to use the campgrounds during the summer peak season due to reservations selling out, but according to the KNPS's review of reservation status, most of the 47 national park campgrounds nationwide still have remaining spots, except for late July through early August, when vacationers flock to them.

In particular, in the first two weeks of July (the start of the peak season) a

nd in the third and fourth weeks of August (after National Liberation Day), reservation rates are lower than on weekends, so it's relatively easy to secure a plot. While weekend reservation rates are currently high at 67%, weekday bookings are at about 27%, leaving more availability. Cancelled remaining spots can be reserved immediately on a first-come, first-served basis through the reservation system.

In addition, an analysis by the KNPS of holiday reservation rates for national park campgrounds in July and August found that among the 47 campgrounds nationwide, the three most popular campgrounds this summer are Datdounjae 2 of Woraksan National Park (98.5%), Dalgung 1 of Jirisan National Park (95.4%), and Deogyudae 3 of Deogyusan National Park (91.5%).

For fall camping (September to October), reservations are accepted from August 1 to the morning of 5th, and the drawing results will be announced on the afternoon of August 5.

Meanwhile, the KNPS recommended national park campgrounds in three themes, namely, water play, ocean, and family, geared toward the summer vacation season.

The campgrounds best for summer water play include the Somakgol Campground of Jirisan National Park, the Baegundong Campground of Gayasan National Park, and the Deokju Campground of Woraksan National Park. These campgrounds are surrounded by lush forest shade and cool streams, making them ideal for summer getaways.

For campgrounds with ocean views, the recommendations included the Gosaipo Campground of Byeonsanbando National Park, the Hakdong Autocampground of Hallyeohaesang National Park, and the Mongsanpo Campground of Taeanhaean National Park. At these campgrounds, visitors can enjoy swimming at the beach while taking in the refreshing ocean scenery.

Recommended for families, especially for playing with children, are the Dalgung Autocampground of Jirisan National Park, the Sogeumgangsan Campground of Odaesan National Park, and the Naejangho Campground of Naejangsan National Park. These campgrounds have family-oriented stay facilities such as children's playgrounds and caravans.

The KNPS also provided essential usage rules that visitors must follow to ensure a comfortable camping experience.

When using a campground, smoking is prohibited in all areas of the campground, and visitors should refrain from making loud noises late at night, such as excessive rowdiness or playing music at high volume. In addition, in order to protect the ecosystem and ensure visitor safety, unauthorized entry of pets into the campground is restricted, and taking forest firewood or unlawfully harvesting forest products such as wild vegetables in the woods around the campground is also prohibited.

Chairman Joo Dae-yeong stated, "National park campgrounds are places where people can rest from everyday fatigue in beautiful natural surroundings and create precious memories." He added, "During the summer peak season of July and August, it is essential to follow usage rules that protect nature and consider others so that as many people as possible can use the campgrounds safely."