

## GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d   &amp;   W e s t w o o d

## SWEET OR SPOOKY: WHICH WHITE DAY MOOD DO YOU PREFER?

Ah, Valentine's Day. Would there be a more perfect occasion to be hopelessly in love? Maybe you were only in it for the sweets, but that's just fine. Whatever the reason was, if you felt sad that it had to end, I have good news for you! While February has *Valentine's Day*, March has *White Day* – along with a video game to go with it!

White Day is a follow-up holiday to Valentine's Day that is celebrated on March 14th. Ishimura Manseido, a sweet-making company in Japan, claims to have invented this day around 40 years ago by encouraging men to thank women with chocolate-filled marshmallow sweets. Eventually, this tradition spread to other East Asian countries. Now lovers (typically men) in various places are expected to give gifts (typically chocolate or sweets) to their partners (typically women) who previously gifted them on Valentine's Day, as a gesture of reciprocation on White Day.





However in 2001, the Korean game development team SONNORI brought out a project that completely reverses the sweet and sugary image of *White Day*. *White Day: A Labyrinth Named School* is a first person survival horror game, set on the night before March 14th. Our protagonist Hee-Min slips into school to hide a box of candies in his crush's locker on this day, but ends up getting trapped in the building overnight. The problem is that unlike any normal school, there are troubled souls and a killer janitor waiting inside to hunt you down. Playing as Hee-Min, can you remain hidden, solve the clues and uncover the dark secrets of the structure's past, and survive the deadly threats?

White Day is a very meaningful project in Korean video game history. Its unique narrative and way of provoking fear by making the player unable to defend oneself is highly praised by their fans for being ahead of its time. Although the game was soon discontinued due to commercial failure, its reputation as a cult classic lasted for many years. As a result, SONNORI released the remastered version of White Day in 2017, and it can be purchased through Steam.

So, which do you prefer: sweet, or spooky? Choose your White Day gift today!

#### Sources:

"March 14 Is White Day. What to Know About Japan's Gift-Giving Follow-Up to Valentine's Day", TIME, Mar 14, 2024  
 "White Day: Japan's reverse Valentine's Day", BBC, Mar 14, 2019  
 White Day: A Labyrinth Named School

By Yeojin





# SPRING FESTIVAL

In China, the Spring Festival is one of the most anticipated traditional festivals. We have at least a one-week holiday during the festival. The Spring Festival celebrates the New Year for the Chinese people. It falls on the first day of the first lunar month. The day changes from year to year on the western calendar. Sometimes it's in January and sometimes it's in February. It's an important time for families to get together. We also have many kinds of customs during the Spring Festival such as: pasting Spring Festival couplets, hanging lanterns, cleaning the house thoroughly, children and the elderly receiving red envelopes, going to the ancestral hall to worship our ancestors, and having a large reunion dinner with the family.

I would like to focus on three traditions from this very special time for families in China. The festive decorations, Spring Festival couplets, and hanging up lanterns.

1- One of the most obvious traditions is the use of the color **red**! Red represents good fortune and happiness. That is why you'll see lots of red decorations. For example, you'll see Spring Festival red couplets and red lanterns hanging around streets, buildings, and in houses as well. People will write down wishes and blessings for the coming new year on the couplets and lanterns. Many families will also write down their family names on the lanterns and hang them at the front gate or balcony.



2 - Another important event of the Spring Festival is to visit the ancestral hall to worship our ancestors. In my hometown, it is customary for the children to take a shower and then put on brand new clothes as a fresh start for the new year before setting out to worship our ancestors. Adults will also prepare delicious dishes, fruit, and even alcohol to take to the ancestral hall for offering. The significance of ancestor worship is to continue the traditional culture of the family, commemorate our ancestors, strengthen the family bond, and pray for the family to stay safe, healthy and have happiness. In the ancestral hall, in addition to seeing our own family, we can also see other families with the same surname, because we share the same ancestors.

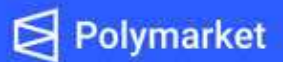


3 - Chinese New Year is a very important time for families to be together to welcome the new year and enjoy a feast. People return home from all around the world to celebrate the festival with their families. Some foods are extra popular at this time because their names or appearances carry positive symbolic meanings. These foods include oranges, dumplings, sweet rice balls and so on. On the Spring Festival's Eve, families will stay up together until midnight setting off fireworks and firecrackers. This is probably the most exciting part of Chinese New Year!



*By Christine*

# THE POLYMARKET BETTING PLATFORM



**⚠ Be careful with betting—this article only introduces one interesting betting platform and does not promote betting. ⚠**

Some people like to bet their money because it's exciting. Placing bets triggers a rush of dopamine - the brain's feel-good neurotransmitter. You may have been aware of bets on sports and here is an interesting betting platform. Polymarket is the largest cryptocurrency betting platform in the world. It offers not only sports betting opportunities, but also various topics: its tab is divided into politics, sports, business, and so on. The hottest topic was "Who will win the U.S. presidential election?"

How can you make money in Polymarket? It uses a different system from traditional betting platforms. It uses a stock-like system, with stock prices going up and down. Shares in event outcomes are always priced between \$0 and \$1, and values fluctuate depending on what's going on in the real world. Thus, when the outcome seems quite obvious, it's priced almost \$1.

Betting is done with USDC, a cryptocurrency ensuring \$1 value per one token. The value of cryptocurrency usually fluctuates dramatically, but USDC managed to keep it stable. For every USDC token in circulation, there is an equivalent amount of fiat currency held in reserve. This mechanism keeps



the value of USDC as close to \$1 as possible, providing users with a stable and reliable asset. Due to this property, users can bet and withdraw their money from the platform.

Does Polymarket seem interesting and do you want to try it? Well, there are some potential disadvantages to it. First, it operates in a legal gray area, as cryptocurrency betting is not clearly under control. For example, Belgium's Gaming Commission blacklisted Polymarket in early 2025 for non-compliance with its gambling regulations. Additionally, even though the USDC issuer guarantees token value at \$1, there could be an unexpected shock and the system could collapse. If that happened, a USDC token could lose its value and Polymarket's system would be severely damaged. Therefore, please be cautious if you're interested!

*By Su*



# ACADEMIC CALENDARS



Academic calendars vary across the nations. In particular, there are big differences between South Korea and the United States. In South Korea, a new semester starts in spring, while in the U.S. it begins in fall. These differences originate because of different cultural backgrounds. In this essay, I'm going to compare the academic calendars – specifically, the start of the first semester – between these two countries.

In the case of the U.S., the first semester generally begins in September or late August. It's related to agriculture. In the 20th century, most children also worked on farms and they had to do a lot of work during the summer. Since they couldn't go to school during that season, the first semester started in fall.

In Korea, the first semester starts in spring. Originally, Korea used to start in the fall too but during the Japanese colonial period, the system followed the conquering country's system – and this continued even after Japan left. Furthermore, the fiscal year in South Korea begins on January 1st. Therefore, the academic calendar was structured this way to align with the fiscal year.

The vacation length between the two countries varies as well. In the U.S., the summer vacation is longer than the winter vacation. In Korea, the two vacations have similar lengths. Due to these differences, adjustment is necessary for exchange student programs.

In conclusion, we can tell that differences in the education system between Korea and the U.S. originate from cultural matters. Understanding these variations helps in appreciating the unique educational structures of each country.

*By Jeong-Ui*

# PERFECT PICNIC LOCATIONS: IN LA AND IN KOREA

Los Angeles has pleasant weather year-round and this is perfect for outdoor activities. You can do anything outside - with diverse landscapes and numerous parks. Let us compare the most loved picnic spot for locals and visitors in L.A. and Korea.

## GRIFFITH PARK

Griffith doesn't just have a wonderful observatory, it also has wonderful picnic spots. Griffith Park is one of the largest urban parks in the U.S. and it is a perfect place for a picnic. With breathtaking views of the city and the Hollywood Sign, it offers shaded picnic areas, hiking trails, and open spaces for families and friends to gather. Lying down on the grass with the view of the Hollywood sign and the cityscape will be the best way to enjoy the sky and L.A. weather. The city also has wonderful sunsets. You can enjoy them while having picnics at Griffith Park.





While L.A. has mild weather most of the year, Korea has four seasons. In spring, the flowers bloom and the weather gets warm. Summer is the best season to do outdoor activities. In fall, the leaves get red and yellow, which makes your eyes happy. Winter is a little cold, but you can have fun because of the snow. Here's a picnic spot where you can enjoy all four seasons of Korea:

### SEOUL OLYMPIC PARK



Seoul Olympic park was built to host the 1988 Summer Olympics. There are lots of sports stadiums, but there also are wonderful places to relax and enjoy the four seasons of Korea. Spring brings stunning cherry blossoms, making it a picturesque spot for a relaxing afternoon under the pink petals. In summer, you can lie down on the open field grass and enjoy outdoor activities. In autumn, the leaves change to red, orange and yellow, and turn the park into a golden wonderland. Even in winter, Olympic Park remains a great place to visit, with serene, snow-covered landscapes offering a peaceful escape from the city.

*By Adella*

# PERFECT PICNIC FOODS: TACO DIP, KIMBAP, AND INSTANT RAMYEON!

What do you think is the most important thing for a picnic? The weather? The location? Even if both don't turn out great, you can still enjoy the best picnic with delicious food. Here are some great options.

First, **taco dip** is a classic favorite. The layered dip, usually made with beans, sour cream, guacamole, cheese, and salsa, pairs perfectly with tortilla chips and is easy to share.

When it comes to Korea, a picnic isn't complete without **Kimbap**. This seaweed rice roll is filled with ingredients such as vegetables, egg, tuna, cheese, or bulgogi—whatever you like! It's convenient, mess-free, and packed with flavor. Kimbap also pairs well with Tteokbokki (pronounced Tuk-Po-Ki) or Ramyeon - a beloved Korean street food combo.

Lastly, for those who might go to the Han Rin Seoul for a picnic, instant **Ramyeon** is a must-try! In Korea, you can easily find instant Ramyeon cookers, especially in CVS along the river. All you have to do is put down the paper bowl, place all the ingredients in it, and push a button. It will take over everything only for 3-4 min. It's recommended for foreigners because not only does it have great taste, but it can also amuse us with its automatic cooking process.

Next time you plan a picnic, try these easy, tasty, and fun picnic foods for a great time outdoors!

*By Julie*



## PICNIC GAMES

Now that you know where to go and what delicious food to share, all that's left is to have fun! Let me introduce two popular games from Korea:



The first one is based on a Korean variety show called the **“Yang-Sei-Chan Game.”** It's named after one of the comedians on the show, but in fairness, let's call it “Call My Name.” The rules are simple! All you need is a Post-It pad, a pen, and a group of friends. It's that easy. Write down the name of a celebrity, an animal, or even a body part—anything that could be tricky to guess. Then, stick it on someone else's forehead. When everyone has a note on their forehead, the game begins! You take turns asking others

questions to figure out what's on your Post-It. The first person

to guess their word wins!

The second game is called the **“Noon-Chi Game.”** In Korean culture, *Noon-Chi* refers to the ability to sense and understand others' feelings or situations before acting. This concept inspired the game. You can play while standing or sitting. Let's say you're seated. The object is to shout numbers in order while standing up. Here's the catch—you must be the only person to shout that number. If someone shouts the same number at the same time, both of you lose. Or, if you're the last one to shout because you have poor *Noon-Chi*, you'll lose as well! The more friends you have, the more fun this game becomes.

So now that you have everything for your picnic, why don't we go outside and have fun with our loved ones?

*By Selena*

# THE MARCH 1ST MOVEMENT: A DAY OF KOREAN INDEPENDENCE

March 1st, known as *Samiljeol* (3.1절) in Korean, is a significant national holiday in South Korea. It commemorates a pivotal date in the struggle for independence from Japanese colonial rule, which lasted from 1910 to 1945.

The movement began on March 1st in 1919, when a group of 33 Korean activists gathered in Seoul to proclaim separation from Japan. They read the Declaration of Independence, which called for freedom and self-determination. This event sparked widespread demonstrations across the country, with thousands of people joining in to demand an end to Japanese oppression.

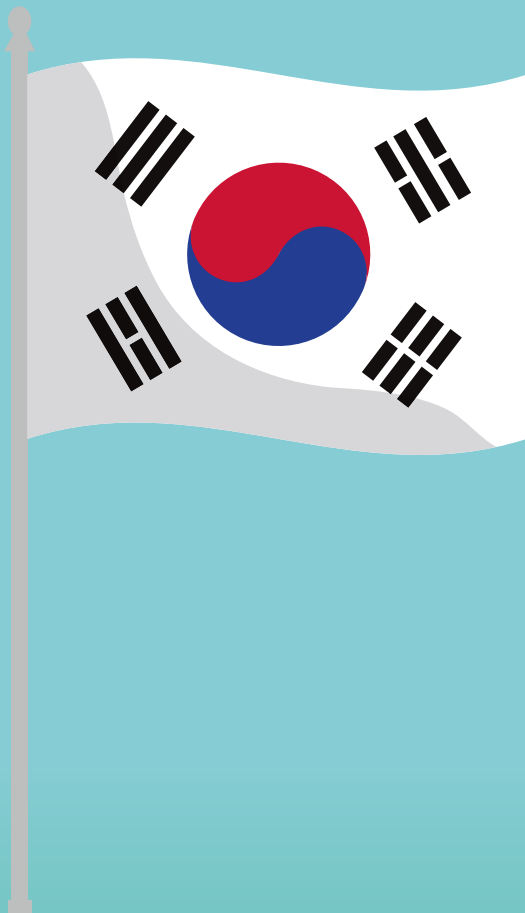
The Japanese authorities responded with severe repression, leading to violent clashes between protesters and Japanese police. Despite





the brutal crackdown, the March 1st Movement inspired future generations of Koreans to continue the fight for independence. It also gathered international attention, highlighting Korea's plight to the world.

Nowadays, March 1st is celebrated with various ceremonies and events throughout South Korea. The day begins with a solemn ceremony at the Seoul National Cemetery, honoring those who sacrificed their lives for the independence movement. In addition, many people participate in parades, cultural performances, and educational programs that emphasize the importance of our own freedom and democracy.



Samiljeol serves as a reminder of the resilience and determination of the Korean people in their quest for independence. It is a day to reflect on the values of liberty and justice, and to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought for a free Korea. Understanding this historical event is essential for appreciating South Korea's history and its ongoing commitment to democracy and human rights.

*By Bella*

# THE SUNK COST FALLACY



Sunk costs are a complete waste. The sunk cost fallacy is a decision making process where one delves deeper into a specific action unwise choice, such as reading, watching movies, to justify an and shopping. Continuing to watch a boring movie instead of leaving the theater wastes both time and money. You will be losing both. Even if the money has already been spent, using the time on something more productive or exciting will improve your mood and make better use of your time. However, humans frequently fail to act this way, often exhibiting irrational behavior.

Economists argue that people do not usually consider sunk cost when making rational decisions. The classic example is the boring movie mentioned above. You may regret buying the ticket, but when deciding whether to continue watching, your decision should be based on whether you want to watch it- regardless of the price. Most people hate wasting resources and would feel that walking out of the movie would waste the hard earned money they spent. Such thought and action is the sunk cost *fallacy*. Focus on the word fallacy. It is irrational to continuously spend time watching a boring movie. A sunk cost often leads to an enormous cost overrun. Investing in a research project that has zero value would be a great example.

Psychologists contend that loss aversion leads to the sunk cost fallacy. Humans fear not only wasting resources but also other losses, so they try to recover the remaining past losses and compensate for their misjudgment. The sunk cost fallacy is a phenomenon where the bigger the effort, the higher the value. People often justify their actions by saying “you get what you pay for” when getting trapped in the sunk cost fallacy.

*By Se Hyun*



## LIVING IN LOS ANGELES: AN ITALIAN PERSPECTIVE

In 2022, I decided to move to Los Angeles to improve my English and enjoy life in the city. In January 2023, I left Milan and landed in California. The reasons for this choice are many but I think there are three main ones:

First, is the weather. The weather in L.A. is unbelievable. It's like a long summer for most of the year. A lot of sun and little rain.

Second, is the space. I mean the physical space such as the huge streets, squares, parks, and hills but also the perceived space, by which I mean the freedom. America is a big example of freedom, particularly California.

The third main reason is the mindset of the people. The people here are open to meeting other people without prejudice. They are always ready to help if they can. Also, the most important thing is the positivity of LA people. For example, if you succeed in your work, in your goals, or in life in general, people are sincerely happy for you. It seems obvious but I assure you that in many parts of the world, it is the exact opposite.

I think that everyone should try to live in a place more akin to their personality. Even if the choice can be difficult, the important thing is to try. The risk is you'll live dissatisfied for the rest of your life and with the regret of not even having tried.

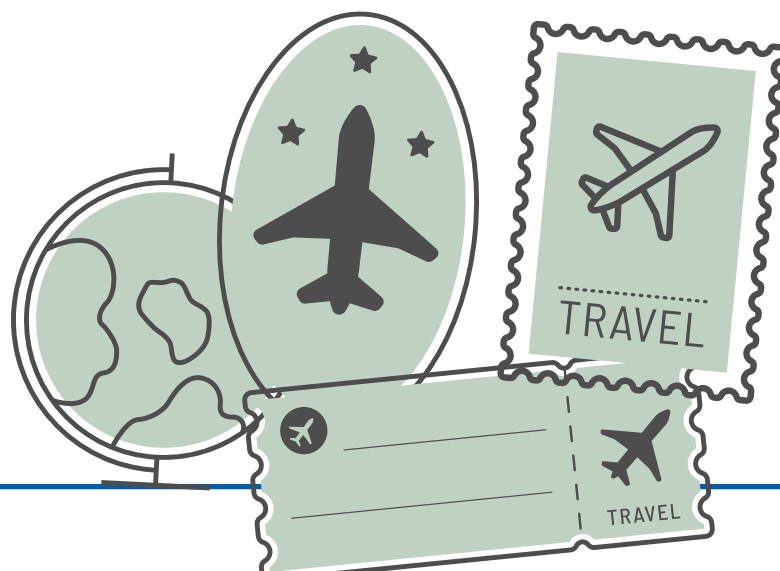
*By Mattia*

## TRAVELING AS A PART OF OUR LIVES

Over the years, traveling has become more popular than in the past because people have more opportunities and can afford to travel around the world. The reasons why people travel are different. Some people just desire a well-deserved rest during their vacation, so they might book a resort with all-inclusive service at a preferred destination and that's all. On the other hand, many people travel for hunting experiences, adventures, or because they want to explore beautiful or exotic locations around the world.

In addition to relaxing and discovering new places and people, traveling also offers personal self-development. Each journey helps people become more aware, adaptable, and responsible. Another advantage is the ability to learn about various cultures, traditions, and habits of other countries. This opportunity can help you to understand different perspectives of life. You can also improve your language skills by communicating with the locals.

In my opinion, traveling is one of the best investments in my life. Each trip means something extraordinary for me. I always take away several new experiences even though it is often exhausting, and I always come back tired.



*By Mia*



# TRAVELLING ADVICE

Not many people know enough useful information before they decide to go on vacation to another country. When I say “useful,” I mean information you could share so others can use it before they go to any place in general. For example, it’s useful to know that you do not need to go to the capital of each country to see historic or the most representative places from the country. You don’t want to think after visiting a country, “If I’d known that there wouldn’t be any interesting places to visit, I would have changed my destination.”

If you come from a country where the currency is different from the one you are trying to visit, it’s important to check the exchange rate before you go there. That way, you will know if it is better to exchange money in your country or in the country you are going to. You will avoid someone telling you, “If I were you, I would have exchanged my currency in my country before traveling to the place you are now” or “If you had waited until you arrived here, you would have had a better rate.”

You should also choose the correct season to travel. This could have an effect on many aspects. For example: the weather, the activities you could do, the places you can visit, and even how expensive it would be to stay there.

There are multiple details you should take into consideration before you travel abroad. It’s not a rule but it would definitely be convenient to consider these things to have the best experience while you are on vacation.



*By Domenica*

# A LIE THAT HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

I lied once and I got so much pleasure from it, and I will remember it for the rest of my life. In the city where I was born, only the sun and the buses are yellow. Every day, the buses would roll along our streets, overloaded on one side and always on the same route. They do not tell a single lie that would help us understand the truth. Only that, "It is a bus and that it is yellow and well designed, according to the norms, with frozen expressions on the passengers faces."

A man in a blue and yellowish hat rose from his seat on this bus and moved restlessly, bending over and groping under the seats, squinting his eyes and touching the dust on the floor of the bus. His age suggested he had several children and grandchildren. Their care and upbringing must have been his life's work. Something told me that this was exactly the case for it explains the indifference with which he, before dropping the 50-dram coin from his hand, looked out the window at the trees and buildings rushing past. He looked as if he were looking at his dream which was crushed by the weight of his life.

"Boy, look under your feet, maybe my money accidentally rolled there. Sister, look, please, do you see the lost round coin under the bench, is it there?" He was disturbing everyone. He knew that he could be taken for a beggar. He's staging a cheap show to evoke pity from passengers to extort money.

"There is no coin here, man, don't you see? If there was, we would have given it back," someone said from the front bench. But the passenger in the blue and yellowish hat did not hear this remark. He clutched the remaining coins in one hand and kept searching the same places over and over.

I gave him the missing money. "Take it, father, I found your money," I said.

"Do you see, I am not a beggar, I was really looking for my own money," he said, his eyes shining with pleasure as he calmly sat down in his seat.

Damn it, I lied but **what a LIE!** At the next stop, he got off the yellow bus. At the end of the route, after the bustle of passengers, I noticed the lost coin under the feet of the grumbler who was most dissatisfied with the search effort, and pointed to it. He thanked me and picked up the coin, warmed it in his hand and slipped it in his pocket.



*By Harutyun*

# PLACES TO VISIT IN LAS VEGAS



If you enjoy sightseeing or are interested in famous places around the world, you should visit Las Vegas - the miniature version of the world! Here are some places you can visit there:

## 1. EARL OF SANDWICH

If you go to Las Vegas you must have a meal at Earl of Sandwich. It's popular and offers great quality at a reasonable price. The one inside the Planet Hollywood hotel is open 24/7, so if you ever get hungry in Las Vegas, feel free to stop by anytime!

## 2. SIEGEL'S BAGELMANIA

Bagels are a must-try food if you visit the U.S. I'm confident that American bagels taste better than those from any other country. There is also a popular bagel spot in Las Vegas called Siegel's Bagelmania. It offers a variety of bagels and a wide selection of cream cheeses, but I would definitely recommend the bagel with salmon.

## 3. GRAND CANYON TOUR

Lastly, I highly recommend joining a Grand Canyon tour. A quick internet search will show you plenty of tour options offered by various travel agencies. I suggest visiting places like Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Canyon, Lipan Point and Yavapai Point in the Grand Canyon. Among them, Antelope Canyon, which is often used as a Windows Wallpaper, is definitely worth visiting!

*By Yoseb*



# PC CAFES IN THE U.S. AND KOREA

Why does the U.S. have fewer PC cafes than Korea? You can easily find PC cafes in Korea. There are PC cafes everywhere! In fact, you can find one on every block. However in the U.S., it might be hard to find one. Does this mean most Americans don't play games? I would say, "NO".

Americans used to play "console games" or better known as video arcade games. People in the U.S. think consoles are more user-friendly with simpler setups. Gaming PCs often demand software setups and constantly need to be upgraded individually. On the other hand, consoles need less constant upgrades. Consoles are more accessible to Americans, and that is why they are familiar with these consoles. In Korea, they have been playing computer games in PC cafes or on their personal computers since they were in elementary school, so the computer is very familiar to them. Koreans also like to play team games that compete with each other, and take one of the positions needed in each game. They mainly focus on "competition" while Americans focus more on reality and simplicity in playing games.

*By Gaeun*