

Act Three: Pangut

Pangut is a traditional rural dance of South Korea, featuring a troupe of drummers wearing hats with long white ribbons affixed to them. As they drum and dance around the stage, they rotate their head or twist it from side to side, causing the ribbon to spiral above and behind them. The skill which needed for this, I can hardly imagine. Not just the complicated drumming, but an intricate dance and -- on top of that -- knowing when and how to twist your head to induce the correct ribbon swirl. Amazing.

Act Four: Geumho Drum Dance

For the fourth act, an additional pair of dancing drummers joined the stage. These two were wearing bizarre giant feathery hats which made them look like human ice cream cones. One all in white, and the other in a mix of red and green. It was about the last thing we'd expected and, while they danced around in their poof-hats, I wasn't sure whether to take it seriously or die laughing. And then six other featherheads joined them on stage, and I couldn't help myself. This was hilarious.

But my mirth wasn't out of place; this was clearly a joyful dance and, as it concluded, the troupe pranced out into the audience and encouraged us all to follow them outside. For fifteen minutes, performers and spectators danced and drummed in the Gugak's courtyard.

Quite a night. We hadn't been expecting to have anywhere near that much fun, and began to plan our next trip to the Gugak Center during the subway ride back home. What a great way to experience traditional Korean culture.

Check out our video on [YouTube](#)
Busan National Gugak Center - [Website](#) (English)

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