Alone in a Crowd

South Koreans hike in droves. And they like it that way. What can an American who craves solitude learn from the party?

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SCOTT YORKO

T he Anhui Trail is the ultimate south Hiking experience. The trail is narrow, challenging, and incredibly scenic. It winds through dense forests, past waterfalls, and along the edge of a precipice. The views are breathtaking, but the hike is demanding. At one point, I had to traverse a steep section of the trail using only my hands and feet. It was a moment of pure adrenaline, but also a reminder of the power of nature. The trail is well-marked, but it's important to stay on the path and be aware of your surroundings. The wildflowers are in full bloom, and the air is fresh. It's a beautiful day to be out in nature.

Your turn to explore! If you're looking for a challenge, the Anhui Trail is a must-do. The experience is truly unforgettable. And who knows? Maybe you'll find a new passion for hiking and exploring the great outdoors.
At a point between the pristine rock below the trail and along the edge of a boulder at the bottom of the trail, a hiker can laugh, talk, and wave to a group of people. We were all together.

The enthusiasm for outdoor recreation may seem like a new phenomenon for some people living in urban environments. However, the desire to explore nature and enjoy its beauty has existed for centuries. In Korean history, "Thousands of years before modern civilization" is a common phrase used to describe the ancient origins of human existence. These early people lived in small communities and relied on nature for their survival. The tradition of nature tourism in Korea is deeply rooted in the country's history.

In the 1990s, a new wave of nature enthusiasts began to explore the country's natural beauty. The government started to promote nature tourism and protect the environment. Today, nature tourism is a popular activity in Korea, attracting millions of visitors each year.

As we walked down the trail, we passed by a large waterfall. The sound of the water was so loud that it drowned out all other sounds. We stopped to take pictures, and suddenly, a group of hikers appeared on the trail. We greeted them and continued our hike.

We arrived at the summit of the mountain, and the view was breathtaking. We could see the entire city below, and the blue sky was so clear that it seemed like we were in another world. We took more pictures and then decided to have a picnic. We brought sandwiches, fruit, and drinks. We ate together, laughed, and reminisced about our hike.

As we started our descent, we saw a beautiful sunset. The colors of the sky were so vibrant that it seemed like we were in a painting. We stopped again to watch the sunset and then continued our hike.

When we reached the bottom of the mountain, we were exhausted but happy. We had completed our hike, and we felt like we had done something incredible. We sat on the bench, and we talked about our adventure. We decided to do it again someday.

The end of our hike was bittersweet. We were happy to have completed it but sad to see it come to an end. We walked back to the parking lot, and we saw the same mountain range that we had just hiked. We knew that we would return someday and continue our journey.