

National Parks of Korea

The joy given to us by nature, the future we must protect

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Open skies, generous seas, breathing life, and people
The beautiful tales of nature told by national parks



National Parks of Korea

The buds of life spring up even in the deepest forests where no man has touched.

The deepest mountains untouched by man are beautiful.

But nature which has been grown and cared for by loving hands is also precious.

National parks which represent the harmony of man and nature are our future.

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2. Beautiful National Parks

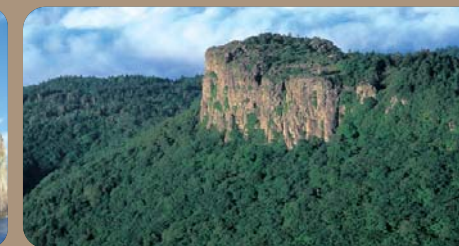
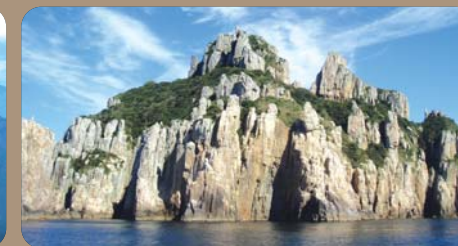
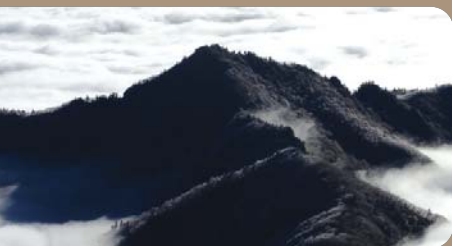
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Part 1

National Parks of Korea

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I. National Parks of Korea

■ Definition of National Parks by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

→As the protected area managed for the preservation of the ecosystem and leisure activities

- ① Protecting natural lands consisting of land and sea, so that the organic connection of one or more ecosystems will not be destroyed for the present and future generations
- ② Eliminating development or occupation that goes against the purposes of national park designation
- ③ Managing areas to allow exploration opportunities including mental, academic, educational, leisure activities while ensuring the preservation of environmental or cultural values.

What is a National Park?

From usable resources to object of preservation...

National parks of Korea are the area designated to protect the representative ecosystem and the natural/cultural sceneries by the Minister of Environment, which are defined as nature areas consisting of land and sea. The purpose of National Park management is to combine both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the parks are directly managed under government control.

The Function of National Parks

- Biological and genetic resources for the future as natural ecosystems with high biodiversity.
- Public rest area opened to the people with clean natural environment and magnificent scenery.
- Contribution to public benefit through research and study on the mysteries of nature and life.
- Education on various natural and cultural concepts through preservation.

The Past and Future of National Parks

- In the early stages, national parks were designated and managed for the purpose of activating regional economy through establishment of infrastructure and development of tourism resources.
- With industrial development, the perception on nature and environment changed, and national parks were recognized as an element that could contribute to public health & welfare through sustainable use as a result of preservation.



National consensus that national parks are a legacy to be passed on to the future generations through balance of preservation and use

In 1872, Yellowstone was designated as the first national park in the world which resulted in the worldwide adoption of the national park system. Today, national parks are managed to preserve the natural ecosystem, environment, and cultural & historic legacies which are being threatened of their existence. In Korea, Jirisan was designated as the first national park in Korea and since then a total of 20 national parks have been designated to be managed under the national park system.

The Inaugural World National Park Assembly

- The national park system was first proposed by Americans Harold J. Coolidge and Raymond W. Cleland in 1961 as a means of regional development.
- Korean representatives participated at the Inaugural World National Park Assembly in 1962 (Seattle) to build consensus on the national park system in Korea.

Establishment of the "Jirisan Regional Development Examination Committee"

- In 1963, the "Jirisan Regional Development Examination Committee" was organized to conduct fact-finding and feasibility studies on the introduction of the national park system. As a result, the draft proposal for national parks in Korea, the "Jirisan Regional Development Examination Report" was issued.

Birth! National Parks in Korea

- In 1965, the Ministry of Construction began work on the revision of the Park Act in Korea and in March 1967, the national park system was adopted in Korea based on Act No.1909.
- In 1967, Jirisan was designated as the first national park in Korea by the Minister of Construction after deliberation of the National Park Committee and resolution of the Comprehensive Land Development Plan Council.

II. Introduction and Designation of National Parks

III. National Park Authorities

The Ministry of Environment and the Korea National Park Service

Currently, national parks are managed under the Ministry of Environment according to the decision to put national parks directly under state management. The Korea National Park Service which is an affiliate organization of the Ministry of Environment manages 19 of the 20 national parks in Korea with the exception of Hallasan National Park which is managed by the local government of Jeju Island as a separate island area.

● Korea National Park Service

The Korea National Park Service was launched under the Ministry of Interior in 1987 and has carried out to conserve national parks, research and investigate park resources, provide guidance and promote park visits, and efficiently implement park management projects mandated by the Minister of Environment since 1988.

History of National Park Authorities

● Park authority at the designation of Jirisan National Park as the first national park in Korea (1967 ~ 1990)

The Ministry of Construction was decided to be the main authority of the national park system in the social atmosphere that it was in charge of national territory development.

● Change of authority from the Ministry of Construction to the Ministry of Interior (1990 ~ 1998)

After 23 years under the authority of the Minister of Construction, the National Parks Authority was moved to the Ministry of Interior for better policy coordination with local governments.

● Change of authority from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Environment (1998 ~ present)

Despite requests from local governments to directly manage national parks, the Ministry of Environment was given authority over the management of national parks in consideration of the global trend which manages environmental problems as an important social issue.

Requirements to be Designated as a National Park

According to the Nature Park Act, national parks must meet the following five requirements.

- **Ecosystem:** Preservation of the natural ecosystem must be satisfactory or the area must be inhabited by endangered species, Natural Treasures, or protected plant or animal species.
- **Natural scenery:** The natural scenery must be preserved beautifully with little damage and pollution
- **Cultural scenery:** There must be cultural or historic artifacts that have preservation value in harmony with the natural scenery
- **Land preservation:** There must be no threats to the scenery from industrial development
- **Location and convenience of use:** The location of the national park must be in balance with overall national territory preservation and management

Designation Procedure for National Parks

National parks are designated by the Minister of Environment in consideration of their contribution to the ecosystem and natural and cultural sceneries.

- The Minister of Environment shall announce national park designation after all processes for designation have been completed.
 - Proposal for designation after examination of the candidate site
 - Public hearings and solicitation of the opinions of the residents and local governments
 - Deliberation of related administrative bodies and the National Park Committee

| Order | Name | Location | Designation Date | Area | Park District | Remarks |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| | | | | Total | 6,579.850 | Mountainous: 3,898.948(3.9%) Marine: 2,680.902(2.7%) *6.6% of total national territory |
| 1 | Jirisan | Jeonnam, Jeonbuk, Gyeongnam | 1967.12.29 | 471.758 | | |
| 2 | Gyeongju | Gyeongbuk | 1968.12.31 | 138.715 | | |
| 3 | Gyeryongsan | Chungnam, Daejeon | 1968.12.31 | 64.683 | | |
| 4 | Hallyeohaesang | Jeonnam, Gyeongnam | 1968.12.31 | 545.627 | | Marine 395.479 |
| 5 | Seoraksan | Gangwon | 1970.03.24 | 398.539 | | |
| 6 | Songnisan | Chungbuk, Gyeongbuk | 1970.03.24 | 274.541 | | |
| 7 | Hallasan | Jeju | 1970.03.24 | 153.386 | | |
| 8 | Naejangsan | Jeonnam, Jeonbuk | 1971.11.17 | 81.715 | | |
| 9 | Gayasan | Gyeongnam, Gyeongbuk | 1972.10.13 | 77.074 | | |
| 10 | Deogyusan | Jeonbuk, Gyeongnam | 1975.02.01 | 231.650 | | |
| 11 | Odessaan | Gangwon | 1975.02.01 | 303.929 | | |
| 12 | Juwangsan | Gyeongbuk | 1976.03.30 | 107.425 | | Marine 289.543 |
| 13 | Taeanhaean | Chungnam | 1978.10.20 | 326.574 | | Marine 1,986.684 |
| 14 | Dadoehaehaesang | Jeonnam | 1981.12.23 | 2,321.512 | | |
| 15 | Bukhansan | Seoul, Gyeonggi | 1983.04.02 | 79.916 | | |
| 16 | Chiaksan | Gangwon | 1984.12.31 | 181.631 | | |
| 17 | Woraksan | Chungbuk, Gyeongbuk | 1984.12.31 | 287.977 | | Marine 9.196 |
| 18 | Sobaeksan | Chungbuk, Gyeongbuk | 1987.12.14 | 322.383 | | |
| 19 | Byeonsanbando | Jeonbuk | 1988.06.11 | 154.715 | | |
| 20 | Wolchulsan | Jeonnam | 1988.06.11 | 56.100 | | |

IV. National Park Designation Process

V. National Park Management System

Legal Foundation for National Park Management

At first national parks were managed by the Park Act. From 1975, nature protection movements spread across the country and in 1980, this Act was divided into the Urban Park Act and the Nature Park Act for the efficient protection and management of nature parks.

● Nature Park Act

- The Nature Park Act separated from the Park Act in 1980 as Law No.3243. This incorporated necessary supplements for the protection and management of nature parks.
- Through the revision of the Nature Park Act (Law No.3900, 1986), the managing authority of national parks was changed from local governments to the central government (Establishment of the Korea National Park Service).

※ The Park Act passed by the National Assembly as Law No.1909 (1967), launched the national park system in Korea at the time Jirisan was designated as the first national park in Korea. It served as the basis for natural park management until the Act was divided into the Urban Park Act and the Nature Park Act in 1980.

National Park Management Plans

● Park Basic Plan

- Comprehensive long-term plan on the preservation, use, and management of nature parks → Guideline for the 『Park Plan』 and the 『Conservation Management Plan by Park』
- Renewed by the National Park Committee every 10 years

● Park Plan

- Plan related with Zoning System on land usage and restriction, and maintainment and installation of Park Facilities for visitor's safety and convenience
- Feasibility studies and changes take place every 10 years (Occasional changes when needed) → Solicitation of the opinion of the local government and deliberation of the National Park Committee

● Conservation and Management Plan by Park

- Specific preservation & management plans based on the unique characteristics of each park
- Established and implemented every 10 years at the individual park level

Strengthened Preservation Efforts for the Ecosystem

● Rich biodiversity and preservation of the ecosystem

- Collection of basic data and establishment of a management direction through investigations, monitoring, and research.
- Efforts to improve the habitats of species for rich biodiversity and recovery of damaged areas and trails.

● Maintenance of beautiful scenery and value of cultural assets

- Introduction of systematic research and record management system
- Establishment and application of an eco-friendly facilities standard for the prevention of excessive use and development

Protection of Park Resources

● Efforts to protect park resources by regulating the activities of visitors and residents through legislation.

- Reinforcement of on-site staff to manage crowded park areas and enforcement and prevention of illegal facilities and disorderly behavior.
- Prevention of reckless development through installation of eco-friendly park facilities and authorization processes.

Sustainable Use

● Development of various interpretive programs and high quality services

- Efforts to provide high quality services through expansion of facilities and professional programs.
 - ※ Balanced preservation and sustainable use is pursued through increasing the quality of park services.
- Installation and management of eco-friendly park facilities considering the safety and convenience of visitors.

Participation and Cooperation

● Creation of positive public opinion and improvement of international recognition

- Community cooperation: Efforts to pursue joint projects with local residents for the resolution of stakeholder conflicts and preservation of national parks.
- International cooperation and exchange: Signing of MOUs to secure cooperation and exchange channels and benchmarking of advanced management practices. And carrying out Management Effectiveness Evaluation for protected Area.

VI. National Park Management

Part 2

Beautiful National Parks

I. General Status of National Parks

II. Baekdudaegan and National Parks

1. Jirisan National Park
2. Seoraksan National Park
3. Songnisan National Park
4. Deogyusan National Park
5. Odaesan National Park
6. Woraksan National Park
7. Sobaeksan National Park

III. Clean Seawaters and National Parks

1. Hallyeohaesang National Park
2. Dadohaehaesang National Park
3. Teeanhaean National Park
4. Byeonsanbando National Park

IV. Urban Settings and National Parks

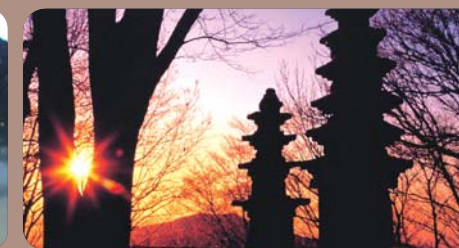
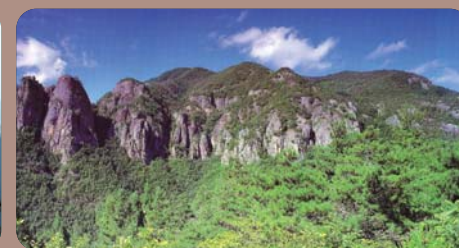
1. Gyeongju National Park
2. Gyeryongsan National Park
3. Chiaksan National Park
4. Bukhansan National Park

V. Beautiful National Parks

1. Hallasan National Park
2. Naejangsan National Park
3. Gayasan National Park
4. Juwangsan National Park
5. Wolchulsan National Park

VI. Korea National Park Service Organization Chart

1. Headquarter
2. National Parks Offices



I. General Status of National Parks

There are a total of 20 national parks in Korea; 16 mountainous parks, 2 marine parks (Hallyeohaesang and Dadohaehaesang), and 1 coastal park (Taeanhaean). In addition, Gyeongju National Park is operated as a historic park. Excluding Hallasan National Park which is managed separately by Jeju Island, all national parks (19 parks) are directly managed by the state (Ministry of Environment and the Korea National Park Service).

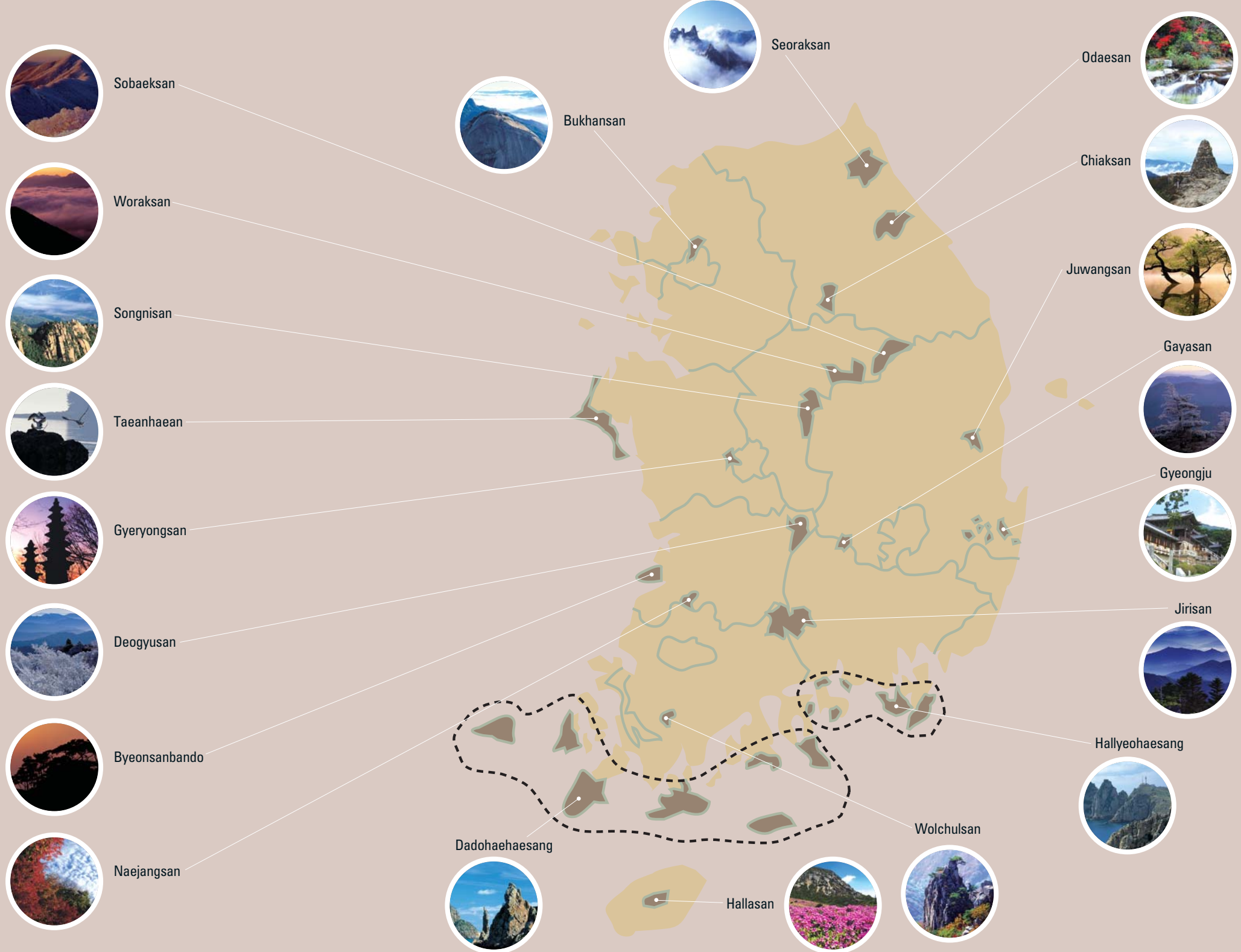
| Classification | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of parks | 4 | 9 | 7 |

- The total area of national parks in Korea is 6,580^{km²} which is 6.6% of the total national territory of Korea (99,678^{km²}). Among this 59% or 3,899^{km²} is land and the rest (2,681^{km²} or 41%) is sea.

- Among the land area, a great portion consists of private land (39%, 1,524^{km²}) and public land (11%, 439^{km²}) as reflecting the "Regional System," and only 1,936^{km²} or 50% of state-owned land has been designated as national parks.

- Bukhansan National Park which is located in Seoul shows the highest number of visitors. Seoraksan, Jirisan, Hallyeohaesang, and Gyeongju National Parks are popular and highly concentrated by visitors.

- Entrance fees were abolished in 2007. Since then national parks have seen a sharp increase in visitors. Compared to 2006 before the cancellation of entrance fees, an increase of 46% or 36 million visitors was shown in 2007



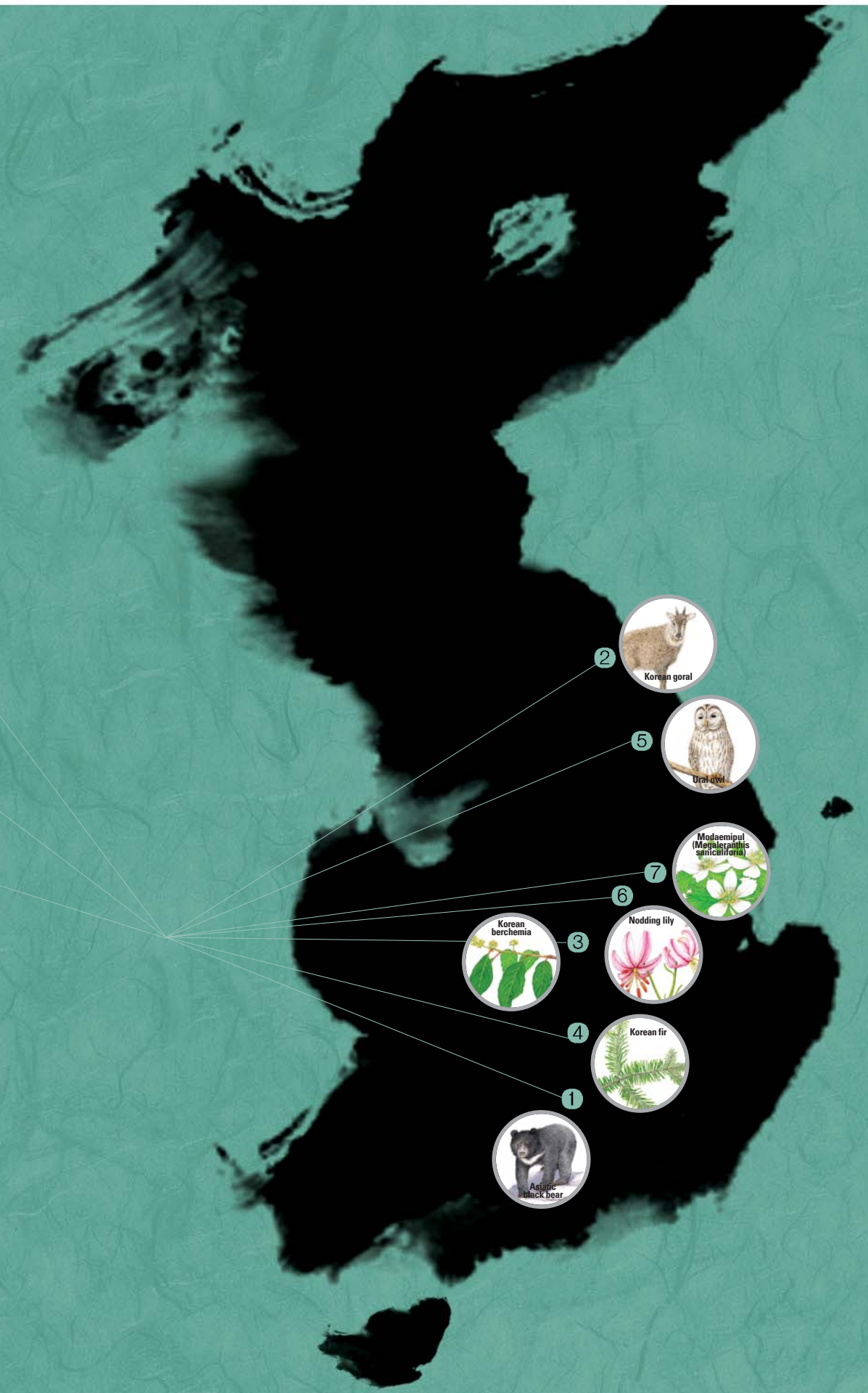
II.

The backbone of Korea and spirit of the nation

Baekdudaegan and National Parks

Baekdudaegan, the grand mountain range which starts from Baekdusan and ends at Jirisan, sets the standard for mountains in Korea and is the heart of our nation's religion. The energy which starts at Baekdusan, breathes throughout the nation, making Baekdudaegan the foundation of our lives as well as the natural symbol of the Korean peninsula. The many magnificent mountains that rest on Baekdudaegan make it ever important to us in terms of its role in national history.

1. The mountain that harbored the hermits in its magnificent but snug bosom **Jirisan National Park**
2. Where the first snow lasts from mid-autumn until summer **Seoraksan National Park**
3. Beautiful enough to renounce the world **Songnisan National Park**
4. The virtue of a mother's embrace **Deogyusan National Park**
5. Five tall peaks spreading out like a folding screen **Odaesan National Park**
6. Where goats play among mystical rocks, and even the moon stands still **Woraksan National Park**
7. Ecological treasure chest kept sacred for 1,500 years **Sobaeksan National Park**



Korean goral



Ural owl



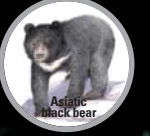
Modaeimpul (Megalopenthes sinicaifolia)



Nodding lily



Korean fir



Asiatic black bear



Korean berchemia

About Jirisan National Park

Designated as the first national park in 1967, Jirisan spreads across 1 city and 4 counties in three provinces - Hadong, Hamyang, Sancheong of Gyeongnam province, Gurye of Jeonnam province, and Namwon of Jeonbuk. The total area of Jirisan National Park is 471,758 km², which makes it the largest mountainous national park in Korea.

The name of Jirisan means "the mountain of the odd and wise people." Perhaps due to this name, many hermits sought for truth, and devoted themselves at Jirisan. Since the ancient times, together with Geumgangsan and Hallasan, Jirisan has been known as one of the three legendary mountains in Korea, and a hallowed ground of the nation's faith.

The circumference of Jirisan is over 320km, and numerous peaks are spread out like a folding screen in the center of Cheonwangbong (1,915m), Banyabong (1,732m), and Nogodan (1,507m) peaks. Many valleys are situated over 20 ridges.

Jirisan is the cause for the cultural differences and varieties between regions to its east and west. It is not easy to express the attraction of Jirisan with words because it is more than just being big, deep, and wide.



Wangdeungjae Alpine Swamp



Korean winter hazel



Seseokpyeongjeon

11. A Treasure Chest of Natural Resources

National Parks of Korea

The mountain that harbored the hermits in its magnificent but snug bosom

#001 Jirisan National Park

01 Jirisan National Park wildlife

With 4,989 flora and fauna inhabiting its grounds, Jirisan is a treasure chest of nature. Various vegetation from warm-temperate forests and temperate central forests to cold forests populate Jirisan. Natural treasures such as the Higan cherry tree at Hwaemosa (Temple) and the Waun Cheonyeongsong (Millennium Pine Tree) are in Jirisan, which is also native to Hares, Roes, Elks, Wildcats, and other mammals in its hills.

02 Flagship species of Jirisan National Park

Jirisan's animal flagship species is the Asiatic black bear which is a natural treasure as an endangered species, and the Korean winter hazel which is indigenous to Korea and protected by law. The Asiatic black bear is the symbolic species of Jirisan National Park, and is gaining affection and interest through a restoration project.



Asiatic black bear

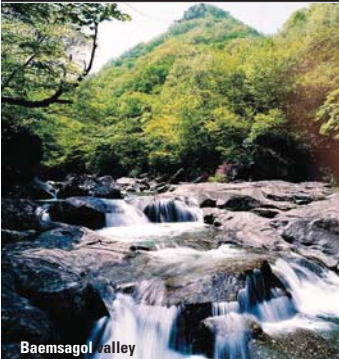
03 Wangdeungjae Alpine Swamp

Wangdeungjae Alpine Swamp is located at the eastern end of Jirisan (967~970m above sea level) which occupies 2,179 km². A close examination reported that 348 species of wildlife have inhabited the area, including the White-bellied black woodpecker, which was designated by the Ministry of Environment as an endangered species.

04 Seseokpyeongjeon

Seseokpyeongjeon (1,560m) is located in between Yeongsinbong (Peak) and Deokpyeongbong (Peak), and is the widest alpine plain in Korea. It is a sub-alpine grassland that was ruined due to military trenches and indiscriminate use, but it is recovering its original state, thanks to Strict Nature Reserve system, the visit reservation system, and other various efforts to protect the ecosystem. The surrounding area is around 12km, and the upper part is a desolate grassland, which includes a shrubby zone where colonies of Royal azalea and grasses such as the Plantain lily, Eyebright, and Chee reedgrass can be found.

#01 Jirisan National Park



Baemsagol valley

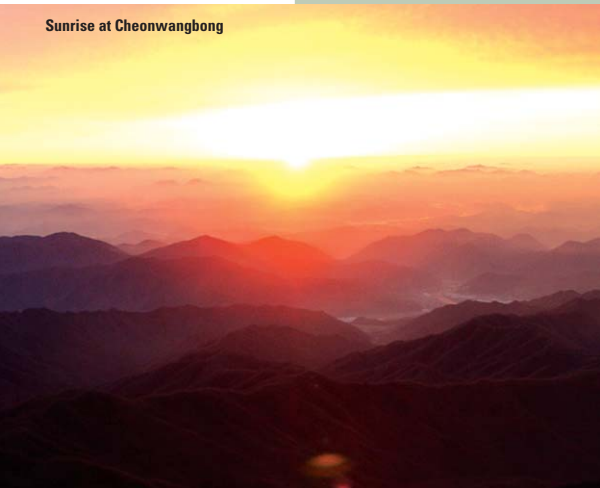
The legend of the python at Baemsagol valley

It is said that over 1,300 years ago at Songnimsa (Temple), there was an annual ceremony on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month, in which the monk with the most profound heart of Buddha could reach the Land of Happiness, if he would pray with all his heart. One year, the great Buddhist high priest Seosan came to Songnimsa and smeared deadly poison on the monk that was selected for the year and attached a silk thread to him and made him pray. Around the early hours of the morning, an evil python came from the valley and attacked the monk and disappeared with the monk in its mouth. But the python was found dead the next day. The valley is called "Baemsagol", meaning the valley where the python died. And in order to praise the soul of the monk who died while trying to become a mountain god, the village at the entrance of Baemsagol is called "Banseon", which means, "half mountain god".

III. The Magnificent and Remote Scenery of Jirisan

Every lofty peak in Jirisan is filled with aura, and the valleys boast their magnitude and remoteness.

- 01 Sunrise at Cheonwangbong (The highest peak of Jirisan)**
Over 1,000 years ago, a shrine called Seongmosa was built on Cheonwangbong and the stone statue of the holy mother was enshrined. At the top of Cheonwangbong in the early morning, one has access to a view of the sunrise over a sea of clouds, which is considered as one of the top 10 scenic masterpieces of Jirisan.
- 02 Autumn Colors of Piagol (Valley)! Best one in the world**
The autumnal tints are so beautiful in Piagol that the area is called the beautiful scenery of three reds. The three reds refer to the red-dyed mountain, its reflection in the clear water, and people turning red from watching the scenery. The name "Piagol" comes from "Pibatgoeul," which means "the county of barnyard millet fields," because the village just in front of the area used to raise a lot of barnyard millet as grain.
- 03 Guryong Valley; where the dragon lingered and ascended into the sky**
This place is called either Yonghogugok or Guryong Falls. According to a legend, every year on the 8th day of the fourth lunar month, nine dragons came down from the sky and enjoyed themselves in the nine waterfalls there, and then went back up to the sky.
- 04 The most outstanding colony of false rosebay; Baraebong**
Two hours is enough to visit this famous colony of false rosebay, thanks to the relatively gentle slopes, and many do come in the spring. The most gorgeous scene is offered on the trail from Baraebong to Pallangchi.



Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Buri waterfall nature commentary
 - All year round, everyday from 10am, time required 2hrs
 - Commentary on the history and culture of Ssanggyesa and the legend of Buri waterfall.
- Jirisan summer family tour
 - Weekends in July and August, 2 days, reservation required
 - Visits to nearby cultural relics, one night sleep over at Jungsan-ri camping site, and tour of the scenery at Cheonwangbong. Operated for family visitors.
- Walking the Sky Garden with Nogohalmae
 - March - December, every afternoon, 1hr
 - Introduction to the past, present and future of Nogodan (Peak) and an overview of Seomjingang (River) and Jirisan

IV. History at Jirisan

Jirisan has many old temples such as Ssanggyesa, Beopgyesa, Daewonsa, Hwaeomsa, Cheoneunsa, and Silsangsa as well as many historic relics.

- 01 Jangteomok, the advance base of Cheonwangbong**
Jangteomok is located 1,750m above sea level, and was a place where the residents of Sicheon and Macheon came together to buy and sell things. There are connecting trails on all sides and it plays the role of the advance base of Cheonwangbong. Currently, the Jangteomok shelter is available at the location.
- 02 Ssanggyesa (Temple)! Lots of priceless cultural heritages**
This old temple is located at the middle of the southern foot of Jirisan, and is home to many cultural assets, including Jingamseonsadaegongtapbi (Stone monument) and Ssanggyesabudo (Attached map). The Buri waterfall that has a 60m head of water makes the surrounding scenery one of surpassing beauty.
- 03 Hwaeomsa, the grand Buddhist temple rich in history**
Haweomsa is a Buddhist temple with rich history that was established during the reign of King Jinheung of the Silla dynasty. It is located at Gurye-eup (Town) of Jeollanam-do (Province). The temple was destroyed during the Japanese invasion of 1592 (Imjinwaeran), but was later rebuilt. Hwaeomsa is a grand temple and is one of the top 10 Buddhist temples in Korea.

VISIT Jirisan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Explore Jirisan! The more you know, the more you see!

- Before exploring Jirisan National Park, visitor centers at the entrances of Jungsan-ri, Baemsagol, and Hwaeomsa are the places to get information for convenient use of the park. Information on trails, multimedia materials, nature interpretive programs, and other materials is provided.
- At Jungsan-ri Visitor Center, visitors can get a chance to scent Korean Fir by experiencing the "Korean Fir Forest Trail" as well as see the Asiatic black bear. At the connected nature interpretive trail, visitors can directly meet animals and plants that live in Jirisan without facing the challenges of hiking.

Things to know when hiking Jirisan!

- The 25.5km trail from Nogodan to Cheonwangbong provides visitors the ultimate experience of Jirisan. A thorough hiking plan as well as shelter reservations must be carried out in advance. The hike is not possible without booking a shelter. Shelter reservations can only be made at the national park website starting from 15 days to one day before the scheduled day.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Jungsan-ri - Rotary Shelter - Cheonwangbong - Jangteomok - Jungsan-ri (12.4km)**
- This is the shortest course to reach Cheonwangbong, the highest peak in the park. A one day trip can be planned since it only takes

about nine hours to complete. Taking the shorter course towards the Gyeongsangnamdo Nature Study Institution from the Rotary Shelter is a good idea.

- The steep slope calls for caution. On this course, visitors can see Kalbawi (Knife rock) and Mangbawi (Lookout rock) as well as Beopgyesa (Temple) and Jangteomok shelter.

***For further information**

- **Jirisan National Park Office**
- Address : 922-18, Sa-ri, Sicheon-myeon, Sancheong-gun, Gyeongnam (666-934)
- Phone : (055) 972-7771 - 7772
- Fax : (055) 972-7773
- E-mail : chiri@knps.or.kr
- **Jirisan National Park Southern Office**
- Address : 511-1, Hwangjeon-ri, Masin-myeon, Gurye-gun, Jeonnam (542-853)
- Phone : (061) 783-9100 - 9102
- Fax : (061) 783-9103
- E-mail : chiri_s@knps.or.kr
- **Jirisan National Park Northern Office**
- Address : San 93-4, Buun-ri, Sannaemyeon, Namwon-si, Jeonbuk (590-852)
- Phone : (063) 625-8911, 8912, 8914
- Fax : (063) 625-8913
- E-mail : chiri_n@knps.or.kr
- **Website : jiri.knps.or.kr**

Transportation

| Baemsagol district |
- By car: From Jirisan IC on the Expressway, head towards Inwol. Sannaem direction to reach Baemsagol
- By bus: Buses depart every hour from Namwon to Baemsagol

| Jungsan-ri district |
- By car: Daejeon - Tongyeong Expressway to Daejeong IC - National Road No.20 towards Jungsan-ri
- By bus: Buses depart every hour from Jinju terminal to Jungsan-ri

| Hwaeomsa district |
- By car: 88 Expressway (Namwon direction): Exit at Namwon and take National Road 19 towards Gurye
- By bus: Namhae Expressway: Exit at Hadong IC and take National Road 19 towards Gurye
- By bus: Honam Expressway/Gokseong direction: Exit at Seokgok IC and take National Road 18 towards Gurye
- By bus: Take the bus from Gurye terminal to Hwaeomsa (Travel time 20 minutes)

Accommodations

All districts have plenty of B&B style accommodation and restaurants. For more information, please refer to the websites of respective local governments and Jirisan National Park (<http://jiri.knps.or.kr>).

Nearby attractions

- There are various regional festivities to add to the already abundant attractions. Festivals in the region include the Gorse Festival in March, the Hwaegae Marketplace Festival in April, and the Wild Tea Cultural Festival in May at Hadong, as well as the Sancheong Korean Herb Medicine Festival in May at Sancheong and the Baraebong Royal Azalea Festival in May at Namwon.

- There are many cultural relics around Jirisan, which make it the optimal place to explore history and culture. The cultural relics include the Nammyeong Memorial, Site of First Cotton Cultivation, Partisan Exhibition Hall, Gwanghallu (Garden), Guryong Mountain Fortress, and Unjuro (Big house).

I .
About Seoraksan
National Park

Seoraksan National Park was designated the 5th national park in Korea in 1970 and chosen as a nature preservation area on November 5, 1965. Also, internationally recognized for its rare species, Seoraksan is the area in Korea to have been designated as a Biosphere Preservation District by UNESCO in 1982, and in 2005, the IUCN recognized its rich natural resources and labeled it category II (National Park).

The total area of Seoraksan National Park is 398.539km² and it is divided among the areas of Inje-gun, Goseong-gun, Yangyang-gun, and Sokcho-si. Naeseorak (Inner) is in Inje, Namseorak (South) is the area from Hangyeryeong (Ridge) to Osaek, and Oeseorak (Outer) lies in the eastern area across Sokcho-si, Yangyang-gun, and Goseong-gun. Including its main peak, Daecheongbong, Seoraksan has a total of 30 imposing peaks spread across its territory such as Hwachaebong, Hangyeryeong, and Madeungryeong.

II .
International
Preservation
District; Seoraksan
National Park

National Parks of Korea

Where the first snow lasts from mid-autumn until summer

#002 Seoraksan National Park



Pine tree in Seorakdong



Edelweiss

01 Seoraksan National Park wildlife
Over 2,000 animal species live in Seoraksan, including the Korean goral, Musk deer, and Otter. There are also more than 1,400 rare plant species, such as the Edelweiss, here as well.

02 Flagship species of Seoraksan National Park
The flagship species representing Seoraksan are the Korean goral and Dwarf stone pine, which grows around Daecheongbong (Peak). In particular, the habitat of the Dwarf stone pine is protected as a Strict Nature Reserve.



Korean goral

03 Natural treasures of Seoraksan National Park
Seoraksan National Park has a very lively and colorful ecosystem. Some of the unique wildlife such as the Musk deer, Asiatic black bear, Flying squirrel, and the Pine tree in Seorakdong are protected as natural treasures as well.

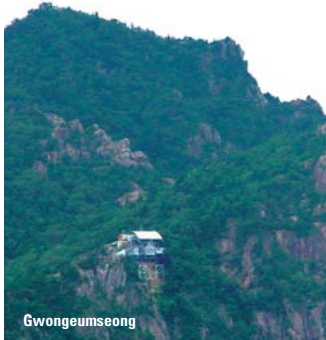


Dwarf stone pine



Parasitaxia Maximovicz

#02 Seoraksan National Park



Gwongeumseong

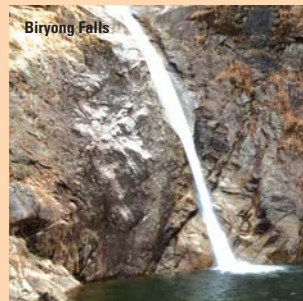
The legend of
Gwongeumseong,
which was built
overnight

Two men, Gwon and Kim, who lived in the same village, fled during the war with their families to the mountains. At the top of the mountain, they realized there was no fortress wall to fend off any attacks by invaders. They agreed to build a fortress wall together, but did not have much time or materials, so they had to use the rocks by the stream. Gwon went down to the stream to gather stones, while Kim constructed the wall by piling the stones upon one another. After some time, they switched roles. They continued to work like this until the sun came up and showed that they had completed the fortress wall overnight. The fortress wall was named Gwongeumseong after the two strong men who built the structure.





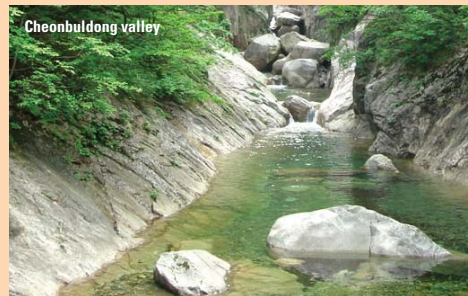
Daecheongbong



Biryong Falls



Baekdamsa



Cheonbuldong valley



Visitor Center

National Parks of Korea

#002

III. The Spectacle Scenery of Seoraksan

Oeseorak is famous for Cheonbuldong valley, Biseondae (Rock), and Sinheungsa (Temple), which was built in the Silla dynasty. Naeseorak, where Baekdamsa is located, is also renowned for its beautiful valleys.

- 01 Biryong Falls, where a dragon ascended to heaven**
Located between Yukdam Falls and Towangseong Falls is Biryong Falls which stands 40m tall. According to legend, the town people sacrificed a virgin to the dragon that lived here, which made the monster ascend to heaven. From then on there were no more droughts in the town. This is why the waterfall gets its name, "Biryong (Ascending dragon)."
- 02 Daecheongbong (Peak); the roof of Seoraksan**
Daecheongbong, the highest peak in Seoraksan (1,708m), is known as the "Roof of Seoraksan," and its beauty can be appreciated from all directions. The sunrise and sunset at Daecheongbong are especially magnificent.
- 03 The splendid scenery of Cheonbuldong valley**
Cheonbuldong got its name from the fact that many rocks shaped like a thousand of Buddhas are formed in the valley from Biseondae (Cliff) to Daecheongbong (Peak). Along with the valley, there are lots of representative places such as Biseondae (Cliff), Munsudam (Pond), Samhodam (Pond), Gwimyeonam (Rock), Oryeopokpo (Fall), Yangpok (Fall), Cheondangpokpo (Fall) and so on.

IV. The History of Seoraksan

Seoraksan has many regional cultural assets and regional treasures, such as the three-story stone pagoda at Hyangseongsa and the wooden Buddha figure at Baekdamsa.

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive Program]

- Biseondae, where the fairies ascended into heaven
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 2hrs
 - Lectures on the forest and birds
- Sinheungsa and stories of Buddhism
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 2hrs
 - Lectures on Sinheungsa
- Baekdamsa and stories of Manhae
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 2hrs
 - Lectures on Baekdamsa and Manhae Han Yongun

- 01 Gwongseumseong (Fortress wall) constructed in Goryeo Dynasty**
To the south of Sogongwon are a group of high rocks where Gwongseumseong, built during the Goryeo dynasty, is located. The summit of this peak has a large flat rock, and from here the fortress wall extends for about 2.1km.
- 02 The five tastes of Osaek mineral water**
During the middle of Joseon dynasty, a monk from Osaekseoksa (Currently) Seongguksa (Temple) discovered a fountain springing up from a rock. He tasted its water, and called it Osaek Mineral Water. Others say that the water was named after a peculiar tree nearby that has five different colors of flowers.
- 03 Baekdamsa (Temple) and Manhae Han Yongun (Famous poet)**
Baekdamsa, one of the main temples of Naeseorak, was built by Buddhist monk Jajangyulsa. When it was first built during the reign of Queen Jindeok (647) of Silla, it was called "Hangyesa." After being restored from damage caused by a fire during the reign of King Sejo of the Joseon dynasty, the temple was named "Baekdamsa." The temple gained widespread fame because Han Yongun, a prominent poet, decided to enter the Buddhist priesthood in this temple.

VISIT Seoraksan National Park



Explore Seoraksan! The more you know, the more you see!

- The Seoraksan Visitor Center offers a variety of activities such as games, videos, thematic exhibitions, and an electronic guest book. Each program is based on the ecosystem of the animals and plants in Seoraksan, and visitors can get closer to nature through first-hand experience.

Things to know before visiting Seoraksan

- The shuttle bus from Yongdaeri to Baekdamsa (Temple) is convenient to reduce the time if you hike Daecheongbong (Peak) passing through Baekdamsa (Temple) and Suryeomdong (Valley).
- Illegal entry into restricted areas such as special protected areas and byways shall be fined according to the Nature Park Act. Take the legally announced trails to safely enjoy Seoraksan.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Mineral spring information booth ~ Yongso Falls ~ Deungseondae ~ Heullimgol Control Station (6.6km)**
The Heullimgol course is an intermediate course which offers visits to Osaek mineral spring, Seongguksa (Temple), Yeosim Falls, and Deungseondae. Deungseondae is a rock peak shaped like a chair. To the left is Hangeryeong (Mountain ridge) and to the right is a community of high peaks facing the East Sea.

*For further information

- **Seoraksan National Park Office**
 - Address : 731, Seorak-ro, Sokcho-si, Gangwon-do (217-120)
 - Phone : (033) 636-7700, 7702, 7703
 - Fax : (033) 636-7494
 - E-mail : seorak@knps.or.kr
 - Website : seorak.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- By car
 - Yeongdong Expressway Hyeonnam IC: Sokcho direction for Seorakdong and Yangyang direction for Osaek district
 - Local Road No.44: Hangryeong direction for Jangsudae and Osaek districts, Misiryong direction for Baekdam and Seorakdong districts
- By bus: Take the 7 or 7-1 bus from Sokcho Intercity Bus Terminal or Express Bus Terminal to reach the Seorakdong Sogongwon entrance. Buses depart every 10 to 15 minutes. (Information: <http://seorak.knps.or.kr>)

Accommodations

- Each district has sufficient lodging facilities, and camping sites and shelters are available as well.
 - Seorakdong district: <http://seoraktown.com>
 - Osaek district: <http://osaek.info> - Yongdaeri district: <http://yongdaeri.com>

Nearby attractions

- Many culture events are held in Sokcho-si, Yangyang-gun, Inje-gun, and Goseong-gun. Among them the Sokcho Sunrise Festival, Inje Icefish Festival, and the Yangyang Pine Mushroom Festival are the most popular.
- Nearby attractions for visitors include Sokcho Beach, Sunrise Park, Teddy Bear Farm Museum, Waterpia, the film location of Daejoeyeong, Osaek Mineral Spring, the Museum of Displaced People, the National Lighthouse Museum, and Abai Village.

About Songnisan National Park

Songnisan National Park was designated as the 6th national park in Korea in 1970 and was called "Second Geumgang" or "Sogeumgang (Small Geumgang)" because of its spectacular beauty.

This rocky mountain is located across many areas in Chungbuk and Gyeongbuk provinces and spans across a total area of 274.541 km. The main peaks Cheonwangbong, Birobong, and Munjangdae are connected along the Baekdudaegan mountain ranges (Backbone of Korea) with well developed stone peaks and ridges.

Songnisan is connected to other adjacent mountains, and based around Cheonwangbong (1,058m) in the south, eight peaks are stretched out like a bow including Birobong, Munjangdae, and Gwaneumbong.



Jeongipumsong



Korean berchemia



Otter

II. Natural Resources of Songnisan

01 Songnisan National Park wildlife

Songnisan has Natural Treasures such as the Jeongipumsong (The pine having the position of the second grade in an official post), Otter, Flying squirrel, and Mandarin duck. In addition, there are many bird species that are designated for the purpose of protection by the Ministry of Environment as well as endangered animals such as the Small-eared cat and Marten. Moreover, a variety of native fish species live in the streams flowing into Geumgang, Nakdonggang, and Hangang.

02 Flagship species of Songnisan National Park

The flagship species of Songnisan National Park are the Siberian flying squirrel and Korean berchemia rarely grown trees in worldwide. Songnisan National Park aims to establish and maintain the habitat of these species, as well as to let the public know the importance of the ecosystem and preservation.



Flying squirrel

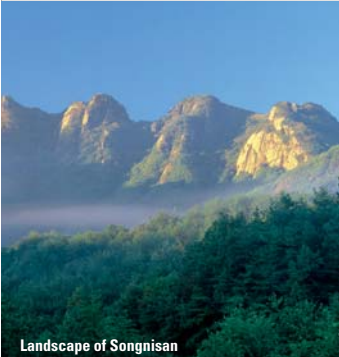
03 The natural habitats of Songnisan wildlife

The burrows of the Mole and the Black-striped field mice are easily found throughout the entire area of Songnisan National Park. Also, although not that common, the footprints and traces of the Raccoon and Wild boar can be discovered on sequestered trails.

National Parks of Korea

Beautiful enough to renounce the world

#003 Songnisan National Park



Landscape of Songnisan

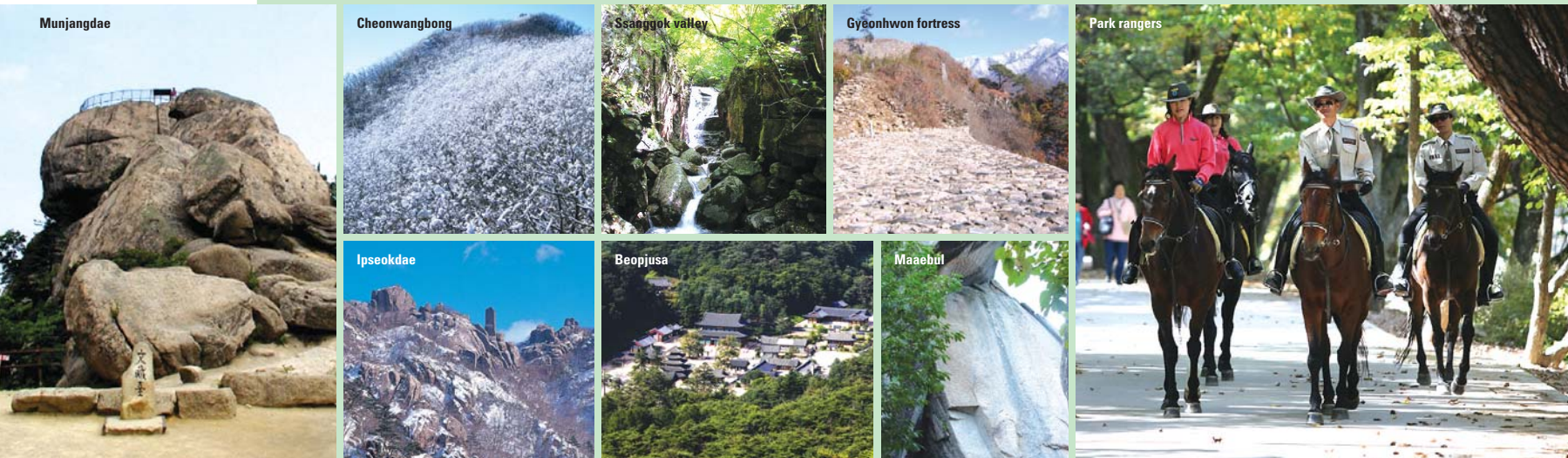
The meaning behind the name of Songnisan

The origin of Songnisan goes back to the fifth year of Queen Seondeok of Silla (AD 784) when a monk named Jinpyoyulsa arrived at Beopjusa (Temple). As the monk passed by, the oxen working in the field knelt down and bowed their heads before him. The farmers watched this happen and said, "even our cattles repent of their sins". So many of the farmers put down their tools and followed the monk into the mountain to practice Buddhism as they realized that their sins were much worse. This is how "Songnisan (Mountain to leave the world)" got its name.

III. Harmonious Scenery of Cliffs and Valleys

The rock formations and cliffs of Cheonwangbong, Munjangdae, and Ipseokdae, as well as the beautiful valleys of Hwayang and Seolgok make visitors want to leave this world.

- 01 **Munjangdae which offers a bird's eye view of Songnisan**
Munjangdae is a huge rock summit which can accommodate 50 people at once. Located 1,054m above sea level, the view of the neighboring peaks are spectacular from here with all directions having a clear line of view.
- 02 **The highest peak Cheonwangbong**
Cheonwangbong is the highest peak (1,058m) in Songnisan National Park. The main ridge from Munjangdae to Cheonwangbong is home to a community of bamboo (*Sasa borealis*), and at the summit is the Janggakdong trail which was recently released from being a nature protection area.
- 03 **Ipseokdae which was established by General Lim Gyeonggeop**
Ipseokdae (Rock) which stands majestically among other rocks is said to have been erected by General Lim Gyeonggeop to test his strength and skills.
- 04 **Hwayang valley and Ssanggok valley; Little Geumgangsán**
Hwayang valley is famous for its nine beautiful sceneries with a general stunning view of clear stream water running between immaculate white rocks. Ssanggok valley is called "Little Geumgangsán" with its beautiful rocky cliffs and old pine trees. Outstanding sceneries in the valley include Sogeumgang (Creek), Yongso (Reservoir), Horongso (Reservoir), and Ssanggok Falls.



Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Real nature stories
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 1hr
 - Nature interpretation on benefits of the forest including Japanese maple and Joritdae, a kind of small and thin bamboo
- Experience Beopjusa, the cradle of Maitreya Buddhism
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 1hr
 - Temple stories on Beopjusa (Temple) and Palsangjeon (Prayer hall)
- Hwayangdong (Valley) friends stories
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 1hr
 - Nature interpretation on Hwayangdong (Valley) ecosystem such as helophyte and Elm-like trees

IV. The History and Culture of Songnisan

Songnisan National Park has a variety of cultural assets such as Beopjusa (Temple), Daeungbojeon which is one of the three most famous Buddhist praying halls in Korea, and Jeongpumsong is a pine with the position of second grade in an official post.

- 01 **One thousand year old treasure chest; Beopjusa**
Uisinjosa, a celebrated monk, built Beopjusa (Temple) in the 14th year of King Jinheung of Silla as a place to "escape from the world and practice Buddhism." Beopjusa is an invaluable cultural resource as it preserves three National Treasures - Palsangjeon (Five-story wooden pagoda), Seokyeonji (Fountain stone), and Ssangjaseokdeung (Stone lantern) - as well as nine other Treasures.
- 02 **The mountain fortress built by Gyeonghwon**
Gyeonghwonsanseong (Fortress wall) is one of the few remaining fortresses from the Three Kingdom era. The stone fortress wall stands in harmony with the natural cliff as it was built with considering the geographical features of the mountain. The northeast and southeast corners of the fortress remain almost intact.
- 03 **The grand Sammireuk Maebeul (Statue of Maitreya Buddha) at Domyeongsán**
Near the summit of Domyeongsán is a "Sammireuk (Three Maitreya Buddhas)" statue presumed to be of the early Goryeo dynasty. It is carved into a stone cliff at dimensions of 50m in height and 20m in width. The main Buddha which stands 14m in height is an artistically expressed Sakyamuni statue and the one on the right is a Buddhist saint wearing a crown which is called Gwanseumbosal.

VISIT Songnisan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information Booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Park Ranger Post |
| | Campground | | |

Explore Songnisan! The more you know, the more you see!

● Various services are provided at the Visitor Center including rental of poetry collections and purchase of merchandise. Information booths are located at Beopjusa, Hwayangdong, Hwabuk, and Ssanggok districts.

Things to know when visiting Songnisan!

- The main hiking trails are the course from Beopjusa or Hwabuk district to Munjangdae (Round trip 5-6 hours) and the ridge from Munjangdae to Cheonwangbong (Round trip 1-2 hours). The Hwayangdong district has the Domyeongsán course (Round trip 3-4 hours), and the Ssanggok district has the Chilbosán course (Round trip 4-5 hours).
- Most of the official trails can be completed within a day; it takes 3-4 hours long at the shortest and 7-8 hours at the longest. However, safety accidents may occur when climbing the mountain at late afternoons or not preparing sufficient water or spare clothes. Also, fines will be imposed in the case of smoking, cooking, or camping in park area and taking unofficial trails or entering at night.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Beopjusa - Munjangdae (One-way 6.9km, round trip 5-6 hrs)**
The trail to Munjangdae (Peak) is the most popular at Songnisan. Upon prior reservation, a park official will provide interpretation on the wildlife of Songnisan as well as the history of Beopjusa for the first 500m of the nature interpretive trail, and the summit offers an opportunity to enjoy the magnificent scenic beauty of Songnisan.

Transportation

- There are many routes to reach Songnisan National Park because it is divided into four districts; Beopjusa, Hwabuk, Hwayang, and Ssanggok. In particular, the Cheongwon - Sangju Expressway completed in 2007 offers an easy and convenient way to arrive at the park.

Accommodations

- There are many restaurants and inns located at the Beopjusa district.
- Songnisan National Park: <http://songni.knps.or.kr>
- Boeun-gun: <http://www.tourboeun.go.kr>

Nearby attractions

- Most visitors are attracted to Boeun-gun where the Beopjusa district is located because there are many cultural events held here in October when the leaves are in full color. The most popular festivals are the Boeun Jujube Festival, Songnisan Autumn Leaves Song Contest, and the Songni Festival.
- Other attractions near Songnisan include Sammyeonsanseong (Fortress), the Pine Tree Exhibition Hall, and the Seonbyeongguk Gaok (Traditional house) as well as Nature Recreation Forests for families.

*For further information

■ Songnisan National Park Office
- Address : 19-1, Sangpal-li, Songnisan-myeon, Boeun-gun, Chungbuk (376-962)
- Phone : 043) 542-5267-5269
- Fax : 043) 543-3992
- Website : songni.knps.or.kr

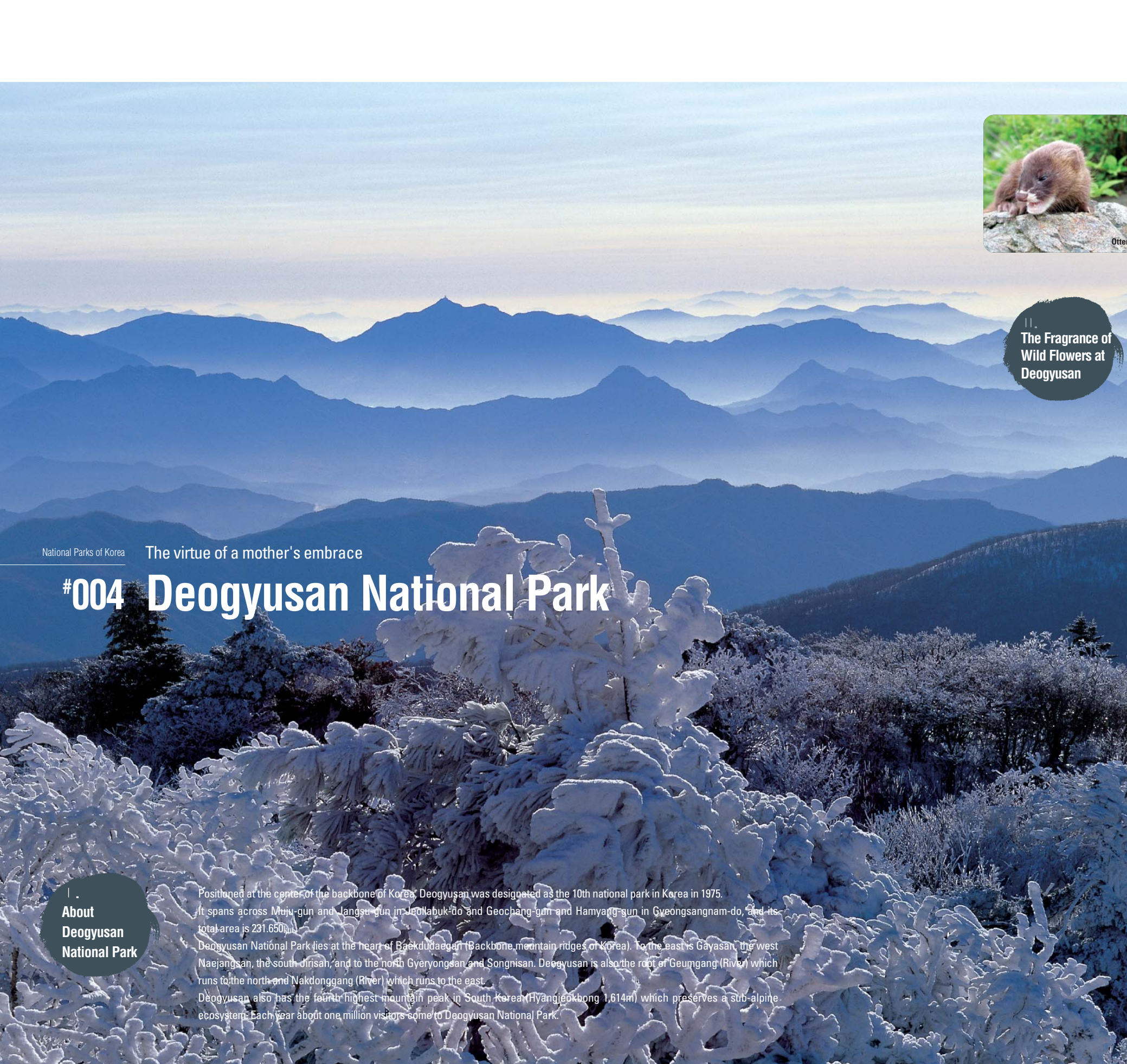
#04 Deogyusan National Park



Geungnakjeon

The unfinished painting of Geungnakjeon (Hall of Paradise) at Anguksa

Among the many legends of Deogyusan, there is a legend related with Geungnakjeon (Hall of Paradise) of Anguksa (Temple), which visitors can see for themselves. After building the temple, Wolinwasang (Monk) needed someone to paint the temple. Just then a man of shabby appearance showed up and volunteered to do the paintings. He would take 100 days to complete the job and until the painting was perfectly done, nobody was to be permitted into the temple. However, unable to calm his curiosity, on the 99th day, Wolinwasang took a peek in the temple to see a crane painting the temple with a brush in its mouth. Startled by the sight, the monk left the temple confused and perplexed. The crane left without completing the painting and today there is a small area where the painting of the roof remains unfinished at Geungnakjeon.



National Parks of Korea The virtue of a mother's embrace

#004 Deogyusan National Park

About Deogyusan National Park

Positioned at the center of the backbone of Korea, Deogyusan was designated as the 10th national park in Korea in 1975. It spans across Muju-gun and Jangsu-gun in Jeollabuk-do and Geochang-gun and Hamyang-gun in Gyeongsangnam-do, and its total area is 231,650 ha. Deogyusan National Park lies at the heart of Baekdudaegan (Backbone mountain ridges of Korea). To the east is Gayasan, the west Naejongsan, the south Jirisan, and to the north Geryongsan and Songnisan. Deogyusan is also the root of Geumgang (River) which runs to the north and Nakdonggang (River) which runs to the east. Deogyusan also has the fourth highest mountain peak in South Korea (Hyangjeokbong 1,614m) which preserves a sub-alpine ecosystem. Each year about one million visitors come to Deogyusan National Park.



Otter



Kunggang fat minnow (*Moroco Kungangensis*)



Korean fir

11. The Fragrance of Wild Flowers at Deogyusan

01 Deogyusan National Park wildlife
With a total of 1,067 plant species, Deogyusan National Park is called "The Heaven of Wild Flowers." As for animals, there are 32 mammal species, 130 bird species, 9 amphibian species, 13 reptile species, 28 fish species, and 1,337 insect species inhabiting the area. Deogyusan is rich in biodiversity with 2,039 species altogether, and animals such as the Flying squirrel, Otter, Marten cat, and Small-eared cat have been designated as endangered species by the Ministry of Environment.

02 Flagship species of Deogyusan National Park
Kunggang fat minnow (*Moroco Kungangensis*) which belongs to the family of carp has been selected as the flagship animal species of Deogyusan. Its name, Kunggang fat minnow (*Moroco Kungangensis*) is originated from first being discovered in the Geumgangsang (Mountain) valley. As for the flagship plant species, Korean fir has been selected. Currently, many efforts are taking place for the preservation and restoration of this plant.



Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora for multicaulis*) of Seolcheon-myeon

03 The Korean fir which must be protected from global warming
The Korean fir is a native species of Korea which is a type of pine and grows in small quantity in high altitudes such as Jirisan, Hallasan, as well as Deogyusan. Special care and protection is required because it is currently being threatened by global warming. More damage to the species could mean extinction in Korea as well as the earth.

04 The Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora for multicaulis*) of Seolcheon-myeon (Natural Treasure No.291)
As the cousin of the pine tree, the Japanese red pine has a beautiful fan-shape posture. The residents here call it Gucheonsong (Gucheon pine) because it symbolizes Gucheondong.

III. The 33 Beautiful Sceneries of Gucheon Valley

The valley that leads up to Hyanjeobang (Peak) from Rajetongmun (Gate) is embellished with the 33 beautiful sceneries of Muju Gucheondong which represent the beauty of Deogyusan National Park.

01 Ilsadae (Rock) and Seobyeokjeong (Pavilion)

Ilsadae is a monumental rock that stands in the shape of a mast west of Seobyeokjeong. Famous scholar Song Byeongjun built Seobyeokjeong and retired here calling himself "Dongbangilsa" (The only true scholar in the east). He named the rock "Ilsadae" for having an upright and dignified presence.

02 Pahoe (Waterfall) and Cheonnyeonsong (One thousand year old pine)

Pahoe is one of the three best spots in Gucheondong. This is a beautiful waterfall which crashes into a stone wall to become a peaceful marsh. Nearby on the trail is a pine tree called Cheonnyeonsong which is said to have been planted by Ijidaesa (Buddhist monk) when he stuck a branch into the stone.

03 Chiryeon valley which holds painful memories

The water from Chiryeon valley runs into Gurihyangcheon (Stream) which is located upstream of Geumgang river. The valley is named after Chiryeon waterfall, and it hosts the tomb of 150 soldiers (Chiryeonuchong) that died while fighting against the Japanese Imperial Army during the late Joseon dynasty.

04 The perfect natural fortress; Jeoksangsan

As one of the 100 sites to see in Korea, Jeoksangsan is made up of rocky cliffs on all four sides and in autumn the leaves become red like the skirt of a woman which gives it the name "Jeoksang" (Red skirt). The upper dam of Yangsu Power Plant, Sanjeonghosu (Lake) is located on Jeoksangsan and the timeless temple, Anguksa is also located here.

Fun activities for the entire family (Interpretive program)

- In search of sub-alpine wild flowers in Hyangjeokbong
 - Twice a day (April ~ November)
 - Two hours of commentary on sub-alpine wild flowers
- The story of Gucheondong valley; the home of the Kumgang fat minnow
 - Once a day (April ~ November)
 - One hour program on the Kumgang fat minnow, otters, and water insects
- Wild animal footprint workshop
 - Once a day (April ~ November)
 - One hour program on the observation and capturing of wild animal footprints and animal ecology

IV. The Historic Secrets of Deogyusan

There were once four temples inside Jeoksangsanseong (Mountain fortress wall), but now only Anguksa remains. Other traditional temples that have stood the test of time include Wontongsa, Songgyesa, and Inwolam.

01 The gateway of cultural exchange; Rajetongmun

Also called Tongilmun (Unification gateway), Rajetongmun is a rock tunnel connecting Sindu village in Dugilli and Inam village in Socheolli. It was a gateway of cultural exchange between Silla and Baekje during the era of the three kingdoms.

02 Baengnyeonsa and Anguksa (Temples)

Baengnyeonsa is the only temple in Gucheondong valley. It was built upon a white lotus flower which bloomed at the place Baengnyeonseonsa (Buddhist priest) remained in hiding. Anguksa is another famous temple in Jeoksangsan which has survived many battles since the late Goryeo dynasty.

03 Jeoksangsanseong (Mountain fortress wall)

General Choi Young of the Goryeo dynasty built this stone fortress by piling up rocks and constructed a warehouse for emergencies. In the Joseon dynasty, a sago (Historical archives) was built to protect historical records.



Seobyeokjeong



Cheonnyeonsong



Jeoksangsan



Jeoksangsanseong



Chiryeon valley

VISIT Deogyusan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Park Ranger Post |
| | Campground | | |

Explore Deogyusan! The more you know, the more you see!

- Gucheondong Information Booth is open to everybody. It is located past the parking lot of Deogyusan National Park and offers trail guides, nature commentary, and introductions to interpretive programs.
- Information booths and park ranger posts are located at Seolcheon, Jeoksang, Anseong, Yeonggak, Songgye, and Hwangjeom districts to offer information and convenience to visitors.

Things to know when climbing Deogyusan!

- The most popular course is Gucheondong district - Baengnyeonsa - Hyangjeokbong (8.5km, 3hr). Another recommended course is Gucheondong district - Baengnyeonsa - Osujagul (Cave) - Jungbong - Hyangjeokbong (11.2km, 4hr). There is no water or toilet available on this trail, so plenty of water should be replenished at Baengnyeonsa spring.
- The Yeonggak park protection post - Namdeokyu course has an ecstatic view. However, this course is restricted to visitors during certain periods in spring and autumn to prevent forest fires, so inquiries before visit are necessary.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Seolcheonbong - Hyangjeokbong (0.6km)**
 - Take the gondola to Seolcheonbong and the walk to Hyangjeokbong is only 20 minutes. This course is easy for children and seniors as well because the slope is gentle and safety facilities such as wooden stairs are installed.
 - This trail has magnificent beauty all year round from the royal azaleas in spring and the beautiful wild flowers and leaves in autumn to the frosty glitter of winter. Each year in May, the "Hyangjeokbong Freedom Day" is held for two weeks and nature interpretation in trails is provided by the park authority.

Transportation

- By car : Gucheondong district: Daejeon-Tongyeong Expressway Muju IC and 88 Expressway Namjongsu IC
- By bus : From Seoul to Muju (3hr), from Jeonju (3hr), and from Daegu (3hr 30min). Gucheondong district: The bus to Gucheondong departs every 40 minutes from Muju. Check bus schedules in advance.

Accommodations

- Major lodging facilities and restaurants are located at the Gucheondong district. For further information visit the Muju County website at <http://www.mujutour.com/> or the Deogyusan National Park website at <http://deogyu.knps.or.kr/>.

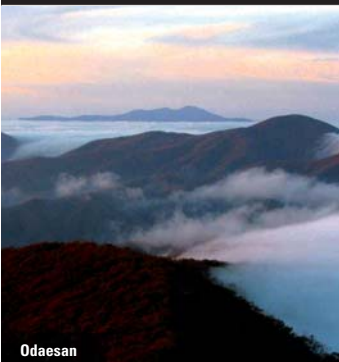
Nearby attractions

- Muju resort is an all year round total recreation complex which is based on the harmony of nature and man, and art and health.
- Bandiland is another tourist attraction offering priceless nature experience. It includes an insect museum, a lightning bug theme park, a youth campsite, nature trails, a lightning bug nature school, and a space observatory. The insect museum exhibits all sorts of rare insects from around the world including lightning bugs and their fossils. In addition, more than 200 species of tropical plants are on display in the glass greenhouse.

***For further information**

- **Deogyusan National Park Office**
- Address : 310, Baengnyeonsa-gil, Samgong-ri, Seolcheon-myeon, Muju-gun, Jeonbuk (568-814)
- Phone : 063) 322-3174~3175
- Fax : 063) 322-4445
- E-mail : deogyu@knps.or.kr
- Website : deogyu.knps.or.kr

#05 Odaesan National Park



Odaesan

The stories behind the name of Odaesan

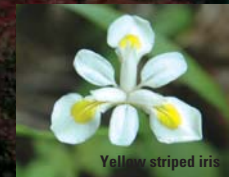
There are many stories of how Odaesan got its name. The first one is that "Odaesan [Big Five]" was named after its five peaks; Birobong, Dongdaesan, Durobong, Sangwangbong, and Horyeongbong. The second is that it was named after its five temples; Gwaneumam (East), Sujeongam (West), Jijangam (South), Mireukam (North), and Sajaam (Center). And the last is that it was named after Cheongryangsan in China which had the nickname Odaesan. Jajangyulsa, a monk of the Silla dynasty, studied in China and upon his return he arrived at this mountain which he named Odaesan, because it looked so similar to where he had studied in China.



11. Treasure Chest of Animals and Plants

01 Odaesan National Park wildlife
There are a total of 3,788 animal and plant species living in Odaesan National Park. Odaesan has 1,040 plant species which include 30 native Korean species and for animals, there are 28 mammal species, 103 bird species, 13 amphibian species, 12 reptile species, 35 fish species, 1,976 insect species, 157 spider species, and 147 benthic macro invertebrate species.

02 Flagship species of Odaesan National Park
Ural owl and the "Norangmuni butkkot" or "Yellow striped iris" (*Iris Odaesanensis*) have been designated as the flagship species of Odaesan National Park.



Yellow striped iris

03 The Fir Tree (*Abies holophylla*) Forest at Odaesan
At the entrance of Woljeongsa (Temple) is a forest trail of fir trees which extends for about 1km. This magnificent forest is one of the three most famous fir tree forests in Korea. The sweet fragrance of fir trees makes Odaesan a popular forest attraction.

04 The wetlands of Sohwangbyeongsan (Algal marsh)
The wetlands of Sohwangbyeongsan is an algal marsh located 1,170m above sea level over an area of 2,300 m². The algal layer here is 86cm and because of its crystal clear water, the area houses 104 species which deserve to be highly protected.



Ural owl



Fir Tree Forest

National Parks of Korea

Five tall peaks spreading out like a folding screen

#005 Odaesan National Park

1. About Odaesan National Park

Designated as the 11th national park in Korea in 1975, Odaesan National Park is divided by Baekdudaegan (Mountain range known as the backbone of Korea) into the Woljeongsa district and Sogeumgang district. Odaesan is spread out across Gangneung-si, Hongcheon-gun, and Pyeongchang-gun in Gangwon-do (Province) over a total area of 303.929km², and based around the highest peak Birobong which stands at 1,563m above sea level, Dongdaesan (1,434m), Durobong (1,422m), Sangwangbong (1,491m), and Horyeongbong (1,561m) stand together like a giant folding screen. To the east, stands Noinbong (1,338m) all alone with the magnificent Sogeumgang (Valley) running below. Most of Odaesan's peaks are flat and the slopes are slow which are common characteristics of dirt mountains in Korea.

III. Odaesan; Embraced by Beautiful Peaks

Odaesan National Park is divided into two districts which are called Woljeongsa district and Sogeumgang district. Despite being high territory, Woljeongsa district has gentle scenery easy to hike. In called Sogeumgang (Little Geumgang) district, rock formations are so beautiful and resemble Geumgangs.

01 Sogeumgang, the first Scenic Spot in Korea

Sogeumgang is a valley that extends for 8km inside of Mureunggye (Valley). Yulgok Yi Yi (Prominent scholar) named the valley Sogeumgang because it looked like a diorama of Geumgangs (Mountain).

02 The main waterfall of Sogeumgang; Guryongpokpo

Guryongpokpo (Waterfall) is a representative landmark of Sogeumgang. Legend has it that the nine dragons of Guryongso (Swamp) each had their own waterfall.

03 Manmulsang rock

Manmulsang is located on a cliff walking from Sesimpokpo and Guryongpokpo (Waterfalls) towards Noinbong (Peak). Mysterious rock formations can be found here such as Geoinsang (Statue of giant) and Ilwolam (Stone with a hole in the middle resembling the sun and moon).

04 Bangadari mineral water

The Bangadari mineral water shed is located in Cheokcheon-ri and was named for being shaped like a treadmill. The mineral water here is known to be good for gastroenteric problems.

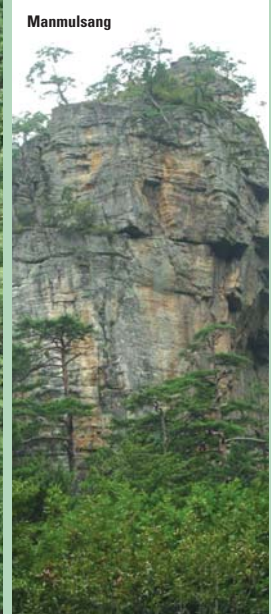
Sogeumgang



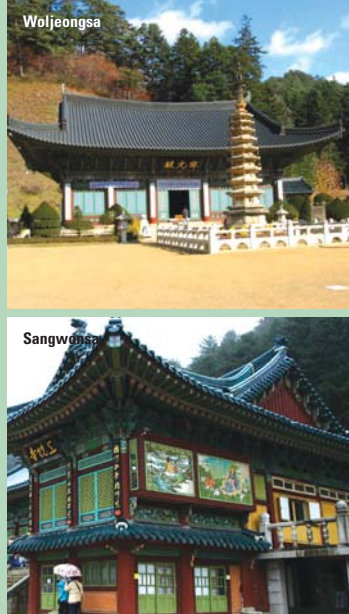
Guryongpokpo



Manmulsang



Woljeongsa



Sago



Fun experience with nature [Interpretive Program]

- **Fir tree forest nature**
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 1hr
 - Interpretation on the ecology of the fir tree forest
- **Sangwonsa history**
 - All year round, once a day, time required 1hr
 - Interpretation on the historic and cultural resources of Sangwonsa
- **Bangadari nature**
 - All year round, once a day, time required 1hr
 - Interpretation on Bangadari mineral water and the ecology of the fir tree forest
- **National park classroom**
 - All year round, everyday upon prior reservation, time required 1hr
 - Video showings and activities on national parks

IV. The History and Culture of Odaesan

Odaesan is where Munsubosal (Buddhist saint) took with him 10,000 disciples to preach Buddhism. For this, it is known as one of the five holylands of Buddhism.

01 The holyland of Munsu religion, Woljeongsa

Woljeongsa (Temple) was built by Jajangyulsa (Buddhist monk) during the 12th year of Queen Seondeok of Silla as a holyland for Munsu religion. It now serves as the headquarters of the Fourth Chapter of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. It was damaged during the Korean War, but the octagonal nine-story stone pagoda and seated stone statue of Buddha have been preserved well.

02 Sangwonsa which preserves National Treasures and Treasures

Sangwonsa (Temple) is located on the way to Birobong from Woljeongsa (Temple). There are legends about the princes of Silla and King Sejo of the Joseon dynasty related to this temple.

03 Historic Site No.37; the archives of Odaesan

Yeonggamsa (Temple) which means "divine mirror" had one of the four most prominent Sagos (Library of historical books) in Korea. However, it was later restored to its originally appearance after being destroyed during the Korean War.

VISIT Odaesan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information Booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Park Ranger Post |
| | Campground | | |

Explore Odaesan! The more you know, the more you see!

- Visitors to Woljeongs can get a variety of information at the Visitor Center located in the Woljeongs parking lot on the right after passing the ticket booth.
- Visitors to Sangwonsa and Birobong can get help at the Information Booth located at the entrance of the Sangwonsa parking lot. Furthermore, the Dongpigo camping site located halfway between Woljeongs and Sangwonsa offers a great resting area in the hot summer.

Things to know when climbing Odaesan!

- The trail leading up to Woljeongs has a 1km long fir tree forest, and upon prior reservation, visitors can make use of various nature interpretive programs and activities.

Recommended course by park rangers

● Sangwonsa - Birobong - Sangwangbong - Bukdae - Sangwonsa (12.4km)

- This is the most popular course among hikers. It starts at Sangwonsa (Temple), passes Birobong (Peak), and continues along the mountain ridge until it ends back at Sangwonsa.
- The Sogeumgang district is a rapid valley with dense forests and the autumn foliage here is arguably the best in the world.

*For further information

- **Odaesan National Park Office**
 - Address : 75-6, Ganpyeong-ni, Jinbu-myeon, Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwon (232-941)
 - Phone : 033) 332-6417, 6494
 - Fax : 033) 333-5461
 - E mail : odae@knps.or.kr
 - Website : odae.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- By car
 - Yeongdong Expressway Jinbu IC: Take Local Road No.6 for Woljeongs district
 - Gangneung IC: Take Local Road No.6 for Sogeumgang district
- By Bus: Buses are available from East Seoul Bus Terminal (Gangneung via Jinbu). For the Woljeongs district, take the city bus to Woljeongs or Sangwonsa from Jinbu Terminal. For the Sogeumgang district, bus 303 departs from Gangneung every hour.

Accommodations

- Each district has sufficient lodging and restaurants. Large accommodations are available at Yongpyeong Resort and Phoenix Park.
- Pyeongchang-gun Office: <http://www.happy700.or.kr>
- Gangneung-si Office: <http://www.gangneung.go.kr>
- Odaesan National Park: <http://odae.knps.or.kr/>

Nearby attractions

- All year round many cultural events are held in Pyeongchang-gun and Gangneung-si including local festivals such as the Wildflowers & Herbs Festival, Buddhist Culture Festival, Daegwanryeong International Music Festival, Buckwheat Flower Festival, Dano Festival, and Potato Festival.
- There are many attractions near Odaesan such as the Daegwanryeong Ranch, Sheep Ranch, and Herb Land. In particular, the Korea Botanic Garden located at the entrance of Odaesan National Park is the perfect place for families to visit in connection with Odaesan.

About Woraksan National Park

Designated as the 17th national park in 1984, Woraksan's area is 287.977_{km}, and it is located in the middle of Baekdudaegan, connecting Sobaeksan and Songnisan.

Thanks to the steep physical features and ferociously tall cliffs, it has been known as a divine peak from the past. The main peak is called "Yeongbong (1,097m)." There are over 22 small and big mountains and peaks at Woraksan, including Mansubong, Geumsusan, Sinseonbong, and Doraksan.

Woraksan is close to the capital region and is adjacent to Jecheon-si (City), Danyang-gun (County), and Chungju-si (City) of Chungcheongbuk-do (Province) and Mungyeong-si (City) of Gyeongsangbuk-do (Province). It has visitors all four seasons, due to its beautiful scenery harmonized with Chungju lake.

11. Full of Life - Woraksan's Nature

National Parks of Korea

Where goats play among mystical rocks, and even the moon stands still

#006 Woraksan National Park



Flying squirrel



Nodding lily

01 Woraksan National Park wildlife

Mainly pine and Mongolian oak forests with a total of 1,200 plant species spread across the area. As for animal species, there are 16 endangered species, to which are added 17 mammal species, 67 bird species, 1,092 insect species, 10 amphibian species, 14 reptile species, 27 freshwater fish species, 112 benthic macroinvertebrate species, and 118 spider species.

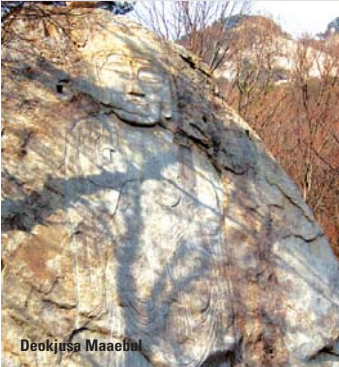
02 The flagship species of Woraksan National Park; Goral and Nodding lily

Goral is the flagship species of Woraksan, and is in a totally different family from foreign gorals. Around 20 of them live in the mountains and forests surrounded by strangely shaped rocks, stones, as well as steep mountains. The Nodding lily is a perennial plant that lives in the deep mountains, north of Gangwon-do (Province). This is another flagship species that form colonies near Yeongbong (Peak) and Jungbong (Peak).



Korean goral

#06 Woraksan National Park



Deokjusa Maeabul

Mauitaeja (Prince) and Deokjugongju (Princess)

When the Silla dynasty fell, crown prince Maui and his followers left the capital Seorabeol to regain power later and reached Maseong in Mungyeong where many mysterious mountains and land amazed him. One night, Maui met a Buddhist saint in his dream who said, "you will find a large site reaching the western sky if you cross over a ridge to the west. Build a temple and a Buddha statue there, and create a Buddha sculpture inside the divine peak facing the Big Dipper. Then, you will be able to have mercy on all creatures." Princess Deokju also had the same dream that night. They crossed the ridge next day and found a golden sutra on top of a large rock. Maui and his followers built a Buddha statue facing the Big Dipper and carved a Buddha sculpture at the bottom of the peak facing the highest peak. Afterwards, the standing Mireuk statue of the mireungnisaji (Temple site) and the Maeabul of the Deokjusa (Temple) became precious national treasures visited by many people.

III. Mystical Natural Scenery of Woraksan

Yongha and Songgye valleys stand to the east and west, respectively, and create an extremely beautiful natural scenery. The beauty of Seonam valley does not fall short either.

Fun experience with nature (Interpretive program)

- Woraksan Nature Experience Class for Children
 - All year round, time required 3 hrs
 - Different theme every month to develop a feeling for natural and cultural resources
- National Park classroom delivery with challenged friends
 - From March-December, time required 2 hrs
 - Promotion of understanding of national parks at elementary schools, universities, and halls for the aged
- Haneuljae to Search for the Trail of the Maui Crown Prince
 - All year round, time required 2 hrs (Total distance of nature observation trail: 1.5km)
 - The history of Baekdudaegan and Haneuljae through stories of the road and culture

IV. Woraksan full of History and Legends

Woraksan is home to many cultural resources. There are six Treasures and one Historical Relic, including the Mireungniseokburipsang (Standing Stone Buddha, Treasure No. 96). There are also seven items of Regional Cultural Assets, including the Jungwonmireungnisamcheungseoktap (Pagoda), and three items of Municipal and Provincial Monuments. In total there are 20 items of cultural resources.

01 Gudambong (Peak)

This peak lies close by Oksunbong (Peak). The grand cliff that is made of mysterious rocks resembles a turtle, which gave it the name, "Gubong," and its turtle-shaped pattern on the rocks in the water obtained the name, "Gudam."

02 Sainam (Cliff)

Sainam is often compared with Haegeumgang for its superb beauty of the sky-high rocky cliff wrapped around by the deep blue valley. The name is from Utak, who formerly held the position of "Sain," and rested at this spot.

03 Mangpokdae

Mangpokdae provides a superb scenery of the continued fantastic rocks and meandering water on Gomuseori valley as if all spirits and energy of Woraksan Yeongbong was gathered here. An old pine tree on the rock mountain that resembles the Jeongpumsong (Grade 2 Songnisan Pine Tree) adds grace to the scenery.

04 Pallangso

Sited at the highest upstream of Songgye valley among the eight sceneries, Pallangso has the valley's clear water streaming down onto the enormously wide rock. It has been said that the eight princesses of Silla bathed and purified themselves and prayed for national fortune here.

01 The legendary Mireungniseokburipsang (Standing stone buddha, Treasure No. 96)

This statue reflects well the localized style of the Buddha statues in the early Goryeo dynasty. The Buddha statue was made of five stones, and a single thin stone was used as the traditional cylindrical Korean hat. There is a legend that says the Buddha statue was made by the Maui crown prince at the end of the Silla Dynasty before he went into Geumgangsan (Mountain).

02 Deokjusanseong (Fortress) and the defeat of the Mongolian army

From the Silla Dynasty, the fortress walls had been the strategic strongpoint stationed by the troops. It is also the site where Mireukdaewonsa (Temple) and Deokjusa (Temple) were built. During the Goryeo dynasty, the Mongolian army tried to invade the area but was dismissed after they were frightened by thunderstorms and heavy rain.

03 Jungwonmireungnisaji (Temple site, Historical Relic No. 317)

Mireungnisaji is the site of a stone cave built to protect the stone Buddha. The Buddha statue was placed there after the stone cave was built. There are many important cultural items here, including the unfinished stone Buddha, building site, stone turtle, Yeonhwamundanggan (Banner pole), Sagakseok deung (Stone lamp or lantern), and other stoneworks.

Gudambong



Sainam



Mangpokdae



Pallangso



Mireungniseokburipsang



Exploring Woraksan



VISIT Woraksan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information Booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Transportation (Songgye district)

- By car
 - Jungbunaeryuk Expressway : Exit at Goesan IC or Yeonpung IC and head towards Suanbo
 - Jungbu Expressway : Exit at Jeungpyeong IC, go past Chungju on National Road No.36
 - Jungang Expressway : Exit at Namgyecheon IC or Danyang IC, go towards Chungju on National Road No.36
- By bus: Get on the city bus towards Songgye at the bus terminal in front of the Chungju Bus Terminal (One every hour). It takes around 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Accommodations

- All the districts have sufficient restaurants. Various hotels, Hanwha Condominium and other large scale accommodations are mostly located at Suanbo. Various pensions and inns are in the Songgye district. For more information, please visit the Chungju tourist information website at <http://www.chungjutour.co.kr>, or the Jecheon-si website at <http://www.okjic.net>.

Nearby attractions

- Chungju and Jecheon are adjacent to Woraksan and holds various cultural events throughout the year. In April, there is the Suanbo Hot Spring Festival, in August, there is the Chungju Lake Festival, and in September, there is the Jecheon Oriental Medicine Festival. These regional festivities provide various events for every season.
- There are various tourist sites nearby, including the Suanbo Hot Spring, Mungyeongsaejae, Danyang Palgyeong, and the Cheongpung Cultural Assets Complex. A visit to these sites in addition to Woraksan, will make your experience ever more pleasurable.

Explore Woraksan. The more you know, the more you see

● Pay a visit to the Information booth located at the entrance of various districts of the park and collect useful information on exploring the park, such as trails, commentaries on the nature, and various experience programs. There are four such centers at Songgye, Samunri, Mansugol, and Sangseonam. The Information booths at Samunri and Songgye also rent out various game instruments and books.

Things to know when visiting Woraksan

● The Deokjugol or the Dongchanggyo - Yeongbong course is a popular course with beautiful scenery. However, the course is steep and rocky, hence a slip runs a risk of an accident. Particularly, in winter times, there are parts that will freeze, which makes going up the mountain impossible without safety equipments. It's around 6.0km from Deokjugol, and 4.3km from Dongchanggyo. However, the Dongchanggyo course is steeper, so the duration for both courses are around 3 hours (5 hours round trip).

Recommended course by park rangers

● Deokjugol-Yeongbong-Dongchanggyo (10.3km, 6 hrs round trip)

This is the main course of Yeongbong where one can enjoy both the mountain and culture. While on the course, you will see Deokjusanseong, Deokjusa, Deokjusamaeubul, and Songgyepalgyeong. The course to the top consists of rocks and stairs, and is difficult for beginners. However, the beautiful site of Chungju lake, Songgye valley, and the surrounding mountain peaks will make you forget the fatigue.

*For further information ■ Woraksan National Park Office

- Address : 348, Songgyero, Hansu-myeon, Jecheon-si, Chungbuk
- Phone : 043) 653-3250
- Fax : 043) 653-3255
- E-mail : worak@knps.or.kr
- Website : worak.knps.or.kr

About Sobaeksan National Park

Sobaeksan was designated as the 18th national park in Korea on December 14, 1987. It has a total area of 322,383_{km} and is the third largest mountainous national park in Korea following Jirisan and Seoraksan.

Sobaeksan has many divine peaks beginning with Birobong which stands at 1,439.5m to Gungmangbong (1,420.8m), Yeonhwabong (1,383m), and Dosolbong (1,314.2m). The park area stretches across the boundaries of Gyeongsangbuk-do Yeongju, Chungcheongbuk-do Danyang, and Gangwon-do Yeongwol. The Huibang and Jukgye valleys in Yeongju flow into Nakdonggang (River) and the other valleys such as Cheondong, Edui, Jungyeong and Namcheon in Danyang flow into Namhangang (River).

"Sobaeksanrok," an essay written by Toegye Yi Hwang (Prominent confucian scholar) describes the beauty of the royal azaleas in Sobaeksan, "It feels like walking through a colorful silk curtain as if I've arrived at an extravagant party." Sobaeksan is also deemed the mountain with the best winter scenery when the snowflakes are in full bloom creating a magnificent winter view atop Baekdudaegan (Backbone of Korea).

II. Sobaeksan which is full of Life

National Parks of Korea

Ecological treasure chest kept sacred for 1,500 years

#007 Sobaeksan National Park



Autumn at Sobaeksan

01 Internationally recognized treasure chest of ecology

Sobaeksan National Park has a long ridge line developed high above sea level, and along this ridge are plains, rocky areas, and long valleys which accommodate 1,067 plant species and 2,639 animal species. In May 2007, The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognized this ecological value and designated Sobaeksan as IUCN-Category II (National Park).

02 Flagship species of Sobaeksan National Park

The flagship species of plant is the Modaempul (*Megaleranthis sanculiflora*) which is a rare endemic species in Korea. It was first found near the Unbong district of Jirisan in 1935 at a place called Modaemi, and was later named after. It can only grow in restricted areas such as a ridge or damp area, so special protection is required.



Modaempul (*Megaleranthis sanculiflora*)

The other flagship species is the Korean dark chub which is a type of chub that belongs to the carp family. Previously, there was only one species of this chub in Korea but recently through DNA analysis and morphological studies, a new species without the red pattern above its eye, white or yellow colors on the top of its dorsal fin have been discovered.

03 Natural Treasure No.244; Yew Tree Colony

Sobaeksan is famous for its rich colony of wild plants, especially yew trees and royal azaleas. In 1973, a colony of about 3,000 yew trees on the summit of Birobong was recognized for its high ecological value and was designated as Natural Treasure No.244.



Buseoksa

Legend behind the foundation of Buseoksa (Temple)

During his studies in China, Uisangdaesa [Buddhist priest], the founder of Buseoksa, stayed at a tavern where he met a girl named Seonmyo. When the priest fell ill, Seonmyo nursed him and took care of him. Ten years later when Uisangdaesa finished his studies, he returned to that tavern to thank Seonmyo for her kindness, but could not find her. Later, Seonmyo heard that Uisangdaesa had come looking for her and was disappointed that she had missed him. So, she gave herself to the sea and decided to become a dragon to safely guard the ship that was taking Uisangdaesa back to Silla so that he could arrive safely and disseminate Buddhism.

Five years after successfully returning to Silla, Uisangdaesa began building his temple, but those jealous of the monk came and started to make trouble. Just then a big rock flew above them and a voice shouted, "The temple will be built to spread the teachings of Buddha and enlighten the people. Get away immediately!" This was again Seonmyo to aid the priest in his time of need.

Later, Uisangdaesa named the temple "Buseoksa" which means "floating rock," and to honor Seonmyo, he built a shrine for her called Seonmyogak.

III. The Enchanting View of Sobaeksan which Impressed Toegye Yi Hwang

Between Birobong and Gungmangbong, lies Jukgye valley which is the setting of "Jukgyeulgok," one of the most famous Gyeonggichega (a genre of Korean old songs and poems) of the Goryeo dynasty.

- 01 The beauty of Huibang valley which embraces Huibang waterfall**
Prominent scholar Seo Geojeong describes Huibang valley as, "a beautiful valley blessed by the heavens which appears in dreams." The Huibang waterfall is a magnificent waterfall with a height of about 28 meters.
- 02 Jukgyegugok (Valley) which inspired Toegye Yi Hwang**
Jukgyecheon is a valley that begins at the eastern ravine of the main ridge of Sobaeksan. It passes Sunheung and Baegundong to reach Sacheon. Toegye Yi Hwang named this valley, "Jukgyegugok," and the climax of its beauty is when it reaches Baegundong.
- 03 Namcheon valley famous for natural forests and clean water**
Namcheon valley beholds the joys and sorrows of our ancestors. The natural forest is preserved well around valley. The Namcheon camping site is open for a limited period during July ~ August.
- 04 Making a wish on pig rock**
The big rock (Height 3m, length 5m) located below Gungmangbong is called pig rock because it is shaped like a laughing pig. People from all parts of the country come here to make a wish. It is said that if you place your hand on this rock and make a wish, it will come true.



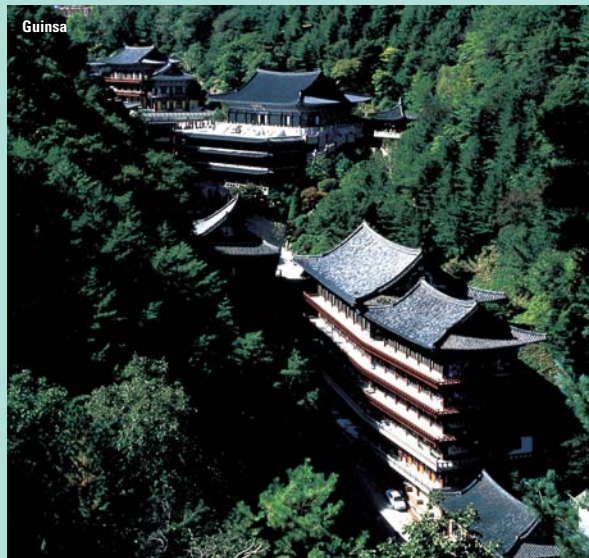
Sobaeksan Baekdudaegan ridgeline



Jungnyeongyetgil



Huibang waterfall



Guinsa

Fun experience with nature (Interpretive program)

- **The stories of Jungnyeongyetgil (Old road)**
 - Twice each day from March to November
 - Two hour program on the origin and ecosystem of Jungnyeongyetgil
- **Heavenly blessed Huibang valley**
 - Twice each day from March to November
 - One hour commentary on the plant species while walking along the Huibang valley nature interpretive trail
- **The friends of Cheondongvalley**
 - Twice each day from March to November
 - Two hour program on the nature of Sobaeksan National Park

IV. The 1,500 year History and Culture of Sobaeksan

Lots of cultural assets are found here in Sobaeksan including Buseoksa (Temple) and Huibangsa (Temple) which reserve the treasures of the Silla and Goryeo dynasties.

- 01 Buseoksa; The temple built by Buddhist priest Uisangdaesa upon royal command**
Buseoksa is the first temple for Huayan Buddhism. It was built during the reign of King Munmu (676) upon royal command to alert the king of the invasions of the Dang dynasty as well as to disseminate Huayan doctrine. The name of Buseoksa (Floating rock) comes from the shape of a big rock situated west of Muryangsujeon (Temple hall). This rock is buoyed by the rock beneath it.
- 02 Guinsa; Headquarters of the Cheontae (Tiantai) Order**
Located at the foot of Suribong (Peak) with an area shaped like a Lotus Flower, Guinsa was built in 1945 by Buddhist monk Sangwol Wongak. It was enlarged in August 1996 and is now serving as the headquarters of the Cheontae Order with more than two million followers.
- 03 Jungnyeongyetgil (Old road)**
Jungnyeongyetgil was a mountain path taken by merchants or scholars on their way to the national exams. Even now the remains of old taverns can be found here and the trail is considered as a popular hiking course for the public. In December 2007, Jungnyeongyetgil became the only path designated as Scenic Spot No.30 among the roads of national parks in Korea.

VISIT Sobaeksan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Explore Sobaeksan! The more you know, the more you see!

- The Visitor Center provides all sorts of information needed to enjoy the park. It also offers mobile phone recharging services as well as Internet connection. Operating hours are from 09:00 to 18:00. Interpretive programs are available for families and small groups interested in experiencing the nature of Sobaeksan National Park. Reservations via the Internet or phone are required.

Things to know when visiting Sobaeksan!

- You can enjoy a hike along the mountain ridges of Baekdudaegan (Backbone mountain ridge of Korea) from Sobaeksan National Park. The 45.2km trail from Myojeongyeong to Neujeunmogi is open except for certain restricted areas and the period for forest fire prevention. It takes a long time to hike the park, so equipment for safety and low temperature must be prepared in advance and potable water and meals are highly recommended in the summer because cooking and camping is restricted in the park area, except for the Samga and Namcheon camping sites.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Samgari-Birobong-yeonhwabong-Huibangsa (Temple):** Distance 14.7km, time required 6hr 15min

Starting at Birosa on the southern foot of Birobong, visitors can see across Natural Treasure No.244 Jumokgullak (Yew tree colony) as they reach the vast plain area of Sobaeksan's highest peak, Birobong. Following the Baekdudaegan ridge line which leads to Yeonhwabong, a magnificent view of royal azaleas in the spring and snowflakes in the winter will open up. Finally, on the climb down towards Huibangsa, visitors can enjoy attractions such as Huibangsa, Huibang valley, and Huibang waterfall.

*For further information

- **Sobaeksan National Park Office**
 - Address : San 86-1, Suchoe-li, Punggi-eup, Yeongju-si, Gyeongbuk (750-804)
 - Phone : 054) 638-6196
 - Fax : 054) 638-8231
 - E-mail : sobaek@knps.or.kr
- **Sobaeksan National Park Northern Office**
 - Address : San 9-1, Cheondong-ri, Danyang-eup, Danyang-gun, Chungbuk (395-801)
 - Phone : 043) 423-0708
 - Fax : 043) 423-1350
 - E-mail : sobaek_n@knps.or.kr
- **Website : sobaek.knps.or.kr**

Transportation

- Sobaeksan Gyeongsangbuk-do Yeongju region
- By car : Jungang Expressway Punggi IC Huibang district (Huibangsa): About 15 minutes towards Jecheon and Danyang
Samga district (Birosa) and Buseok district: Straight towards Buseoksa. Take a left turn at the Sobaeksan road sign and proceed for 15 minutes. For Buseok district go straight for 30 minutes.
- By bus : Take the city bus for "Huibangsa, Birosa, or Buseoksa" at Yeongju or Punggi. Check bus schedules ahead of time.
Sobaeksan Chungcheongbuk-do Danyang region.

Accommodations

- Lodging information is provided on the Sobaeksan National Park website. Most pensions and inns are located in the areas of Euigok and Cheondong. A hotel and restaurant area is also located near Huibangsa.

Nearby attractions

- The Sobaeksan Royal Azalea Festival is held each year in May in the areas of Yeonhwabong, Yeongju-si, and Danyang-gun. The Gyeongsangbuk-do Yeongju district offers a traditional lodging experience at Sosuseowon (Lecture hall) and Seonbichon (Village). In addition, the Chungcheongbuk-do Danyang district has many famous attractions such as Danyangpalgyeong (Rock formations), Gosudonggul (Cave), and Ondalsanseong (Fortress).

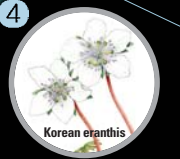
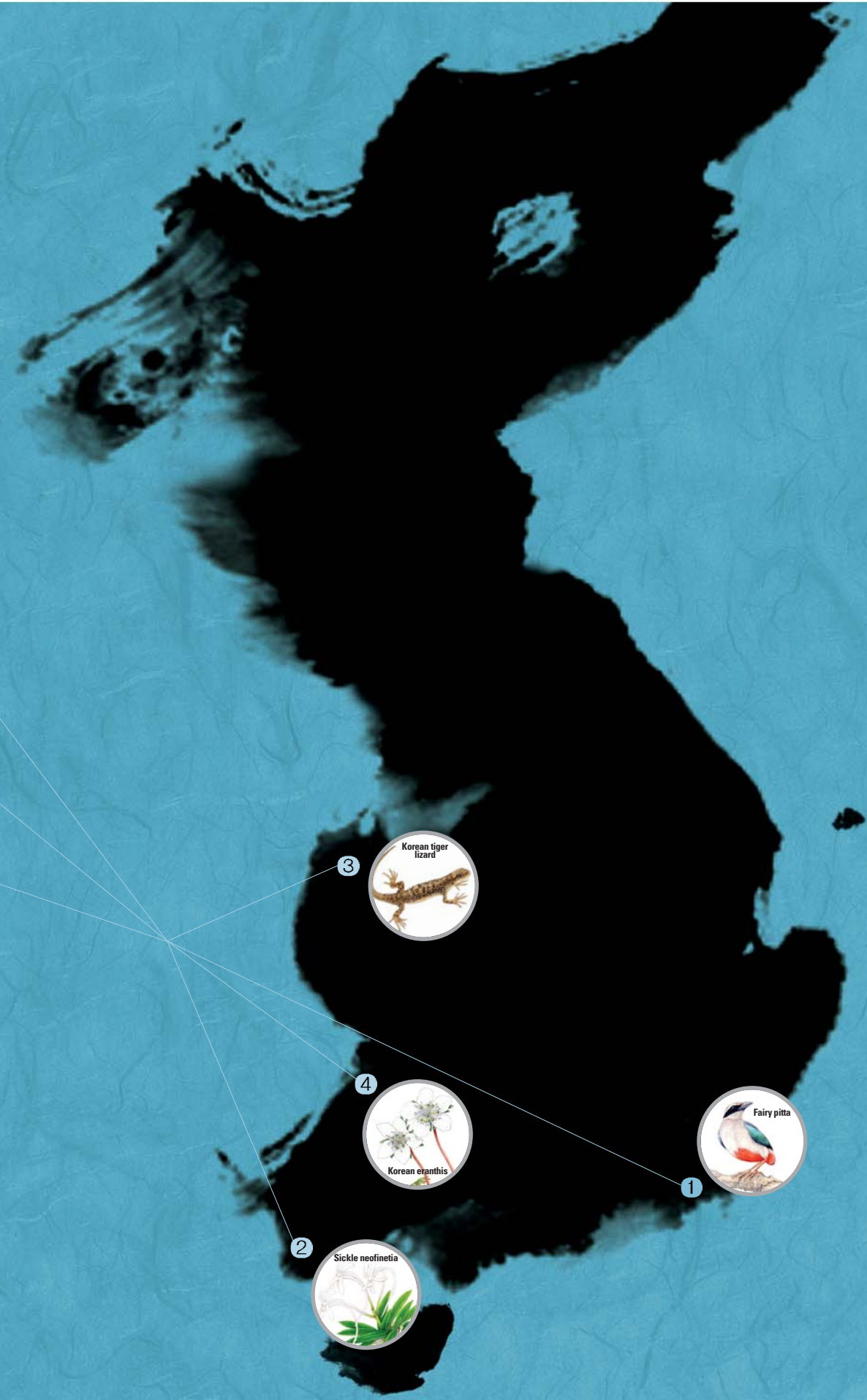
III.

Calmly embracing the sea and shore

Clean Seawaters and National Parks

We call nature our mother, because it embraces all that depend on it, is generous, and extends mankind into the future with new life. Man eventually returns to the breasts of nature, and the antiquities of the shore provide relaxation and vitality for life.

- 1. Beautiful waterways piercing through the indigo sea **Hallyeohaesang National Park**
- 2. Precious jewels scattered over the sea **Dadohaehaesang National Park**
- 3. Where the sun, the wind, the sand, and the pine forests are amply comfortable **Taeanhaean National Park**
- 4. Heavenly blessed mysterious land created by the sea, mountains, and coast **Byeonsanbanda National Park**



About
Hallyeohaesang
National Park

In 1968, Hallyeohaesang National Park was designated as the fourth national park and first national marine park in Korea. Hallyeohaesang is a unique marine ecosystem which extends along the 120km shoreline from Geoje-si in Gyeongsangnam-do to Yeosu-si in Jeollanam-do.

The total area which comprises of the Sangju · Geumsan district, Namhaedaegyo district, Sacheon district, Tongyeong · Hansan district, Geoje · Haegeumgang district, and Yeosu · Odongdo district is 545.63 km² of which 72.3% is sea area. Hallyeosudo which is known as the most beautiful waterway ever has 69 uninhabited islands and 30 inhabited islands spread out across the sea like jewels.

The sedimentary rocks from the Mesozoic age create a mountainous range stretched out from the northeast to southwest, and the many capes, islets, and peninsulas constitute a typical rias coast.



Taraenacho (*Spiranthes sinensis*)



Tugukkot (*Aconitum jaluense*)



Jisimdo

11
The Mixture of Sea and
Mountains at
Hallyeohaesang
National Park

National Parks of Korea

Beautiful waterways piercing through the indigo sea

#008 Hallyeohaesang National Park

01 Hallyeohaesang National Park wildlife

Hallyeohaesang National Park has a total of 1,142 plant species including major species such as Red pine, Black pine, Common camellia, Serrata oak, Cork oak as well as rare species such as Nadopungnan (*Sedirea japonica*), Daeheongnan (*Cymbidium nipponicum*) and the Korean winter hazel. The major animal species are Otter, Small-eared cat, and Badger. Overall there are 25 mammal species, 115 bird species, 9 amphibian species, 16 reptile species, 1,566 insect species, and 24 freshwater fish species.

02 Flagship species of Hallyeohaesang National Park

The flagship species of Hallyeohaesang are the Fairy pitta which is a natural treasure and the Common eelgrass which is an indicator of the health of marine ecosystems. Fairy pitta is a very rare summer migratory bird and Common eelgrass is an important indicator species, but recently its numbers have been greatly reduced due to pollution.



Fairy pitta

03 The beauty of primitive nature; Jisimdo (Island) Camellia tunnel

Jisimdo near Geoje-do is called Dongbaekseom (Camellia Island) because the entire island is covered with Camellia trees. The trees here have aged beautifully and tall in their natural state because this island was blocked off to the public for a long time as a military protection zone. The beauty peaks in March and April when Camellias are in full bloom.

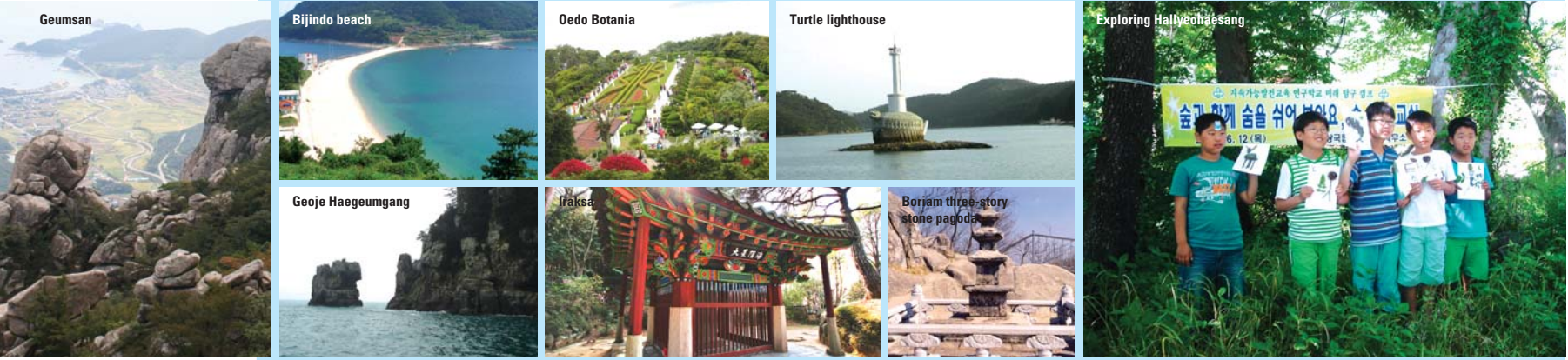


Yundolseom

The island of the faithful sons, Geoje Yundolseom

Yundolseom is an uninhabited island located west of Gujora-ri. A long time ago, a widow lived on Yundolseom with three brothers named Yun (Family name). On the opposite island lived a widower named "Mangwol" in Yangji village who would always stare at the moon in resentment for taking his wives. The two felt a certain attachment for each other and at ebb tide, the widow at Yundolseom would cross the sea on her bare feet to see Mangwol. The three sons saw this and in winter made a bridge with some stepping stones. Since then, the widow did not have to take off her shoes to visit Yangji village. To this day, this island is called "Yundolseom (Yun's rocky island)" or "Hyojaseom (Island of filial piety)" in memory of the good deed of the sons.





III. The sea, Islands, and Mountains of Hallyeohaesang

Hallyeohaesang has unforgettable beauty with its mix of marine and mountainous sceneries.

- 01 The only mountain, Geumsan**
Geumsan (701m) has fantastic rock formations and offers a magnificent view of its surrounding waters and islands. After becoming King of Joseon, Taejo Yi Seonggye tried to cover the entire mountain with silk. This is where "Geumsan" or "Silk Mountain" got its name.
- 02 Precious heirloom Bijindo beach**
The highlight of Bijindo (Island) which is called a precious heirloom for its excellent beauty and abundant seafood is the beach. The west shore has silver sand and calm waters, but the east shore has rocks and big waves. The sunrise and sunset are both beautiful.
- 03 Geoje Haegeumgang; the Geumgangs of the sea**
The scenery of Geoje Haegeumgang is beautiful in every aspect from rock formations, wind, and plants. It is called the "Second Haegeumgang" because its beauty resembles Haegeumgang of Geumgangs (Mountain) standing in North Korea.
- 04 Oedo Botania in harmony with nature**
Oedo Botania is located 10-20 minutes by boat from Haegeumgang. This "must see" destination for visitors is also the place where the TV drama "Winter Sonata" was filmed.

IV. The History of Hallyeohaesang Scarred with War

Hallyeohaesang National Park has many historic military sites such as Jeseungdang, the naval headquarters built in memory of Admiral Yi Sunsin's achievements, and Dangposanseong (Fortress) which was built to deter Japanese invaders.

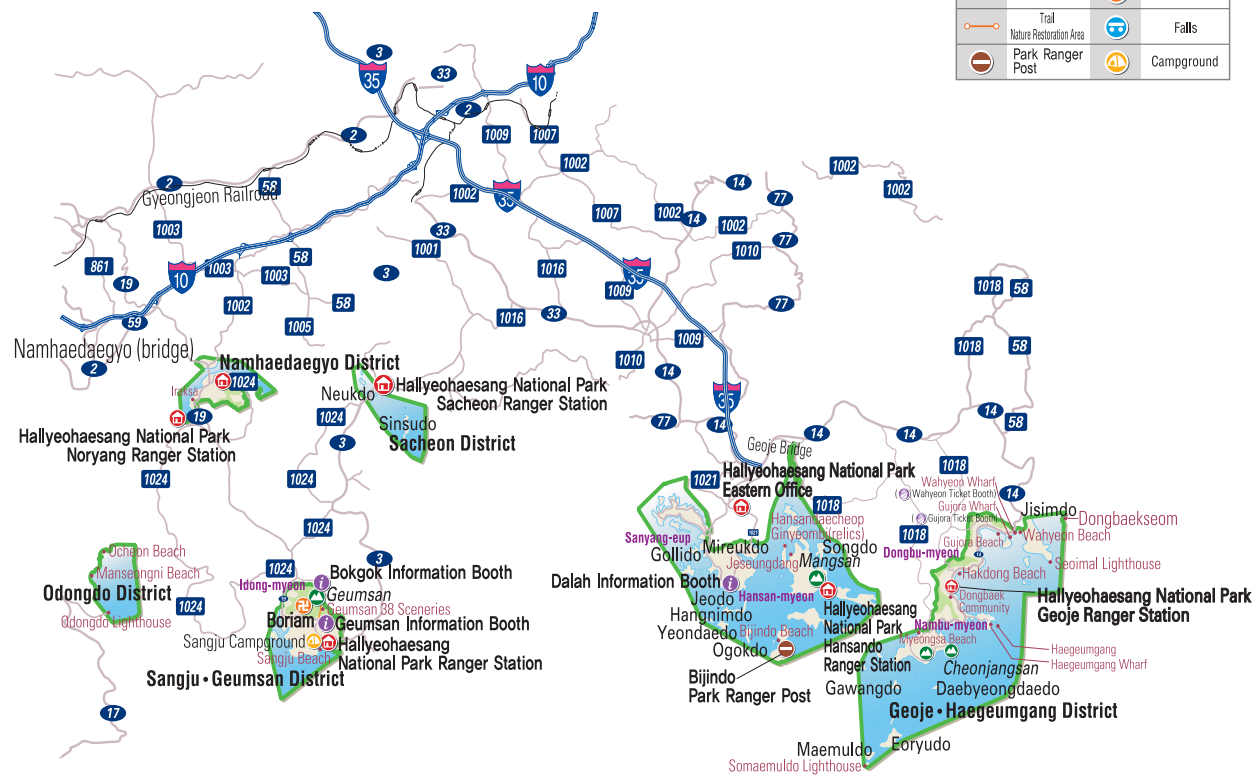
- 01 Iraksa and Chungyeolsa (Shrine) which breathe the spirit of Admiral Yi Sunsin**
Iraksa was the first place Admiral Yi's corpse was brought after he died during battle with the Japanese at the Noryang channel, and Chungyeolsa is the shrine which served as his temporary tomb until his body was later moved to his hometown.
- 02 Mysterious three-story stone pagoda at Boriam (Temple)**
Boriam is one of the three most prominent places to worship in Korea. This temple is famous for a mysterious three-story stone pagoda brought in from India by Queen Heotaehu. In front of this monument, compasses cannot find north or south.
- 03 Jeseungdang; the sacred site of Hansandaechep (Battle against Japan)**
Jeseungdang was built by Admiral Yi to commemorate the victory of Hansandaechep (Battle against Japan), and was later restored by King Yeongjo. Jeseungdang has many mural paintings of battles at sea. Other nearby attractions include Chungmusa, a shrine built for Admiral Yi, and Hansanjeong, a site used for archery training.
- 04 Chubongdo prison camp**
Bongam beach located in Chubong-ri, Hansan-myeon is a pebble beach stretched out 1km along the shoreline. During the Korean War, this place was used as a POW (Prisoners of war) camp, but now, only the vestiges of war remain.

National Parks of Korea
#008

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- The story of a healthy forest ecosystem
- From March ~ December, twice a day, time required 2hrs
- Observation of the forest ecosystem and creatures living in the wetlands
- The Noryang sea which beholds the spirit of Admiral Yi Sunsin
- All year round, twice on weekends, time required 2hrs
- Commentary on the final battle of Admiral Yi Sunsin in the Noryang sea and his death at Gwaneumpo
- Self-guided bicycle tour program
- From April ~ November, everyday, time required 4hrs
- Tour of Dogam village, the vestiges of Imjinwaeran (1592 Japanese invasion), and Chubongdo prison camp

VISIT Hallyeohaesang National Park



Explore Hallyeohaesang! The more you know, the more you see!

Information booths are located at major locations in Hallyeohaesang National Park to offer convenience and information to visitors. Introduction to park trails, nature interpretive trails, and nature interpretation is available and nature exhibitions are open all year round.

Lighthouse Island can be reached from Somaemuldo when Mongdolhaean (Coastal road) opens up twice a day at ebb tide. The trail to the lighthouse from the island docks is easy for children and the elderly to visit as well.

Recommended course by park rangers

● **Somaemuldo (Island) - Maemul lighthouse**
- Somaemuldo Lighthouse Island forms many mysterious rock formations and the coastal cliffs offer magnificent views. The cliffs and grottos developed through coastal erosion create a spectacular landscape.
- Lighthouse Island offers the fantastic view of a white lighthouse on a coastal cliff in harmony with surrounding natural beauty.

***For Further information**
■ Hallyeohaesang National Park Office
 - Address : 634, Sangju-ri, Sangju-myeon, Namhae-gun, Gyeongnam (668-821)
 - Phone : (055) 863-3521-3522
 - Fax : (055) 863-3523
 - E-mail : hallyeo@knps.or.kr
■ Hallyeohaesang National Park Eastern Office
 - Address : 115, Donam-no, Tongyeong-si, Tongyeong-gun, Gyeongnam (650-140)
 - Phone : (055) 649-9202-9203
 - Fax : (055) 646-9205
 - E-mail : hallyeo_e@knps.or.kr
■ Website: hallyeo.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- By car
- Namhae-daeyo district: Hadong IC / Jingju IC - Namhae-gun direction - Namhae Daeyo (Bridge)
- Sacheon district: Sacheon - Samcheonpo direction - Changseon - Samcheonpo Daeyo (Bridge)
- Sangju - Geumsan district: Hadong IC / Sacheon IC / Jingju IC - Namhae-gun direction - Geumsan
- Tongyeong - Geoje district: Tongyeong IC - Tongyeong / Geoje direction
- By bus : Express bus: Seoul - Namhae, time required 4hr 20min, 8 times a day / Seoul - Tongyeong, time required 4hr 30min, 14 times a day

Accommodations

Lodging facilities such as the Namhae Pyeongbaek Nature Recreation Forest, Namhae Training Center, and Bomulseom Campground are available at the Namhae-daeyo and Sangju - Geumsan districts and the Tongyeong - Geoje district has many pensions and lodging facilities including major accommodations such as Chungmu Marina Condominium, Chungmu Beach Hotel, Chungmu Tourist Hotel, Geoje Samsung Hotel, Geoje Tourist Hotel, Oasis Hotel, and Admiral Hotel. There are many motels and steam baths located downtown as well.

Nearby attractions

Each November in Namhae-gun, the townsfolk of Seolcheon-myeon celebrate the victory of the battle of Noryang sea by reenacting the battle with more than 100 fishing boats. In Tongyeong, the Tongyeong International Music Festival is held every spring and autumn and in August the Hansandaechep Festival is held to commemorate the spirit of Admiral Yi Sunsin.
A variety of leisure and tourism complexes are located near Hallyeohaesang such as the Hallyeosudo Cable Car, the Tongyeong - Geoje Youth Training Center, and the Geoje Nature Recreation Forest. In particular, Chungyeolsa (Shrine), Sebyeonggywan (Naval academy), Nammangsan International Sculpture Park, Geoje Fishing Village Folk Museum, and Geoje POW Camp are located at the entrance of Hallyeohaesang National Park, offering various education opportunities to visitors.

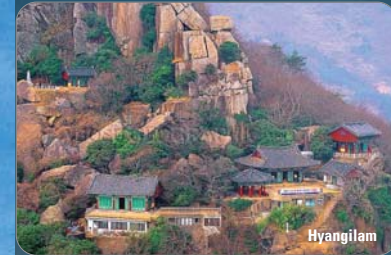
About
Dadohaehaesang
National Park

Dadohaehaesang National Park is the largest national park in Korea, which expands across seven coastal areas in the South and West sea. It was designated as the 14th national park in Korea in 1981, which spans over 2,321.5 km with 334.8 km being land and 1,986.6 km being water.

The warm oceanic climate supports the existence of evergreen forests with high ecological value. The magnificent islands and fantastic rock formations created from past volcanic activities offer unique beauty.

It is also well known as a naval base and battleground for famous past admirals. Admiral Jang Bogo (?-841) of the Silla Dynasty built his sea kingdom here and Admiral Yi Sunsin (1545-1598) of the Joseon Dynasty had his historic battles with the Japanese navy here at Dadohaehaesang. Dadohaehaesang National Park has about 560,000 visitors annually.

11
The Natural
Ecosystem
Dadohaehaesang



Hyangilam



Yesongni beach

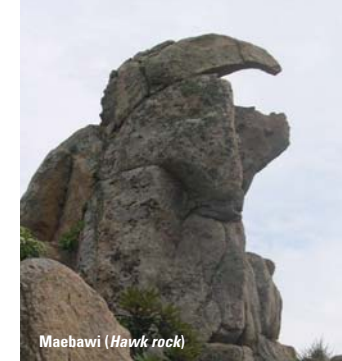
01 A paradise of various plants and animals
Many broadleaved evergreens such as the Camellia tree grow here due to the mild and humid climate. A total of 1,543 plant species are distributed in this area. As for animals, there are 19 mammal species, 341 bird species, 997 insect species, 18 amphibious reptile species, 149 ocean water fish species, and 11 freshwater fish species. Endangered species include Orchids, Otters, Snakes, Long-horned beetle, and Sea corals.

02 Flagship species of Dadohaehaesang National Park
Sickle neofinetia which requires immediate protection due to a sudden drop in its numbers and the Finless porpoise have been selected as the flagship species of Dadohaehaesang National Park.
The Finless porpoise is a mammal which has a body length of one meter and looks like a small dolphin. Sickle neofinetia is designated as a level I endangered plant species by the Ministry of Environment which has a pleasant fragrance and exquisite beauty.



Sickle neofinetia

#09 Dadohaehaesang National Park



Maebawi (Hawk rock)

The fisherman saved
from the water demon
by Maebawi
(Hawk rock)

Baekdo, an uninhabited island located 15km away from Geomundo is known as the "rocky island" of the south sea. All 99 peaks have their own story, but Maebawi is thought to be a symbol of safety by the fishermen in this region. According to legend, a fisherman from Geomun-ri was fishing late at night when he found a woman suddenly drowning in the deep water. He held out his hand to save the woman, but just then a hawk appeared and pecked at her head. The man was so shocked that he fainted. The next morning, the man awoke on a rock shaped like a hawk and realized that the spirit of the rock saved him from the woman who was actually a water demon trying to seduce him.

National Parks of Korea

Precious jewels scattered over the sea

#009 Dadohaehaesang National Park



III. Main Attractions of Dadohaehaesang National Park

Dadohaehaesang is the home of many rare species where islands are scattered out on the sea like jewelry.

01 The amazing sunset at Hongdo

Hongdo is an island with many uninhabited islets and magnificent coastal cliffs. It is called Hongdo (Red island) because of the quartzite tinged with a dark red due to a long period of oxidation. The entire island glows red at sunset which offers a splendid view.

02 The beautiful Camellia flowers of Heuksando

Located between Mokpo and Hongdo, Heuksando consists of 89 uninhabited and 11 inhabited islets. Overall, Heuksando has many steep cliffs which gives it a rough and magnanimous posture, but the beauty of the island is beyond description when the camellias and orchids are at full bloom.

03 The ancient mysteries of Baekdo

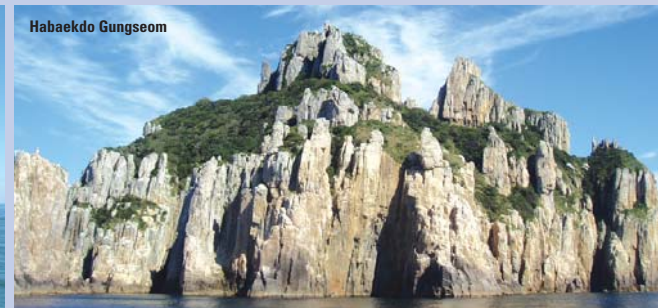
This island is located 28km east of Geomundo port. It is a small archipelago consisting of 39 islands, but because about 100 islands are revealed during the ebb tide, the name "Baekdo" which means "100 islands" originates from this phenomenon.



Hongdo Silgeumnigul



heuksando cadlestick



Habaekdo Gungseom



The South sea seen from Hyangilam



Exploring Dadohae

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

● Along with Dolpini

During July & August, two times, prior reservation 1 night 2 days program Operated for families at Uido and Gwanmaedo

● The sound of pebbles at Jeongdo-ri Gugyedeung

All year round, twice each day in the morning, time required 2hrs Operated at Gugyedeung in Jeongdo-ri, Wando

● Into the evergreen forests of Hongdo

All year round, 11am every day, time required 2hrs Commentary on the various plant resources and ecosystem of Hongdo

IV. The History and Island Culture of Dadohaehaesang

Dadohaehaesang has 2 Historical Landmarks, 3 Provincial Monuments, 2 Historic Artifacts, 2 Scenic Spots, and 4 Intangible Cultural Assets. In addition, the entire island of Hongdo has been designated as a Natural Treasure and Baekdo was named Scenic Spot No.7.

01 Exile island, Jindo

Jindo is the third largest island in Korea. The island is well known as the battlefield of Sambyeolcho (Special capital defense unit) during the Goryeo dynasty as well as a traditional place of exile. Jindo is also famous for Jindo Arirang (Traditional song), the Jindogae (Indigenous Korean dog), and "The Miracle of Moses" which is a mysterious sea path that opens up during ebb tide.

02 The magnificent sunrise at Hyangilam (Temple)

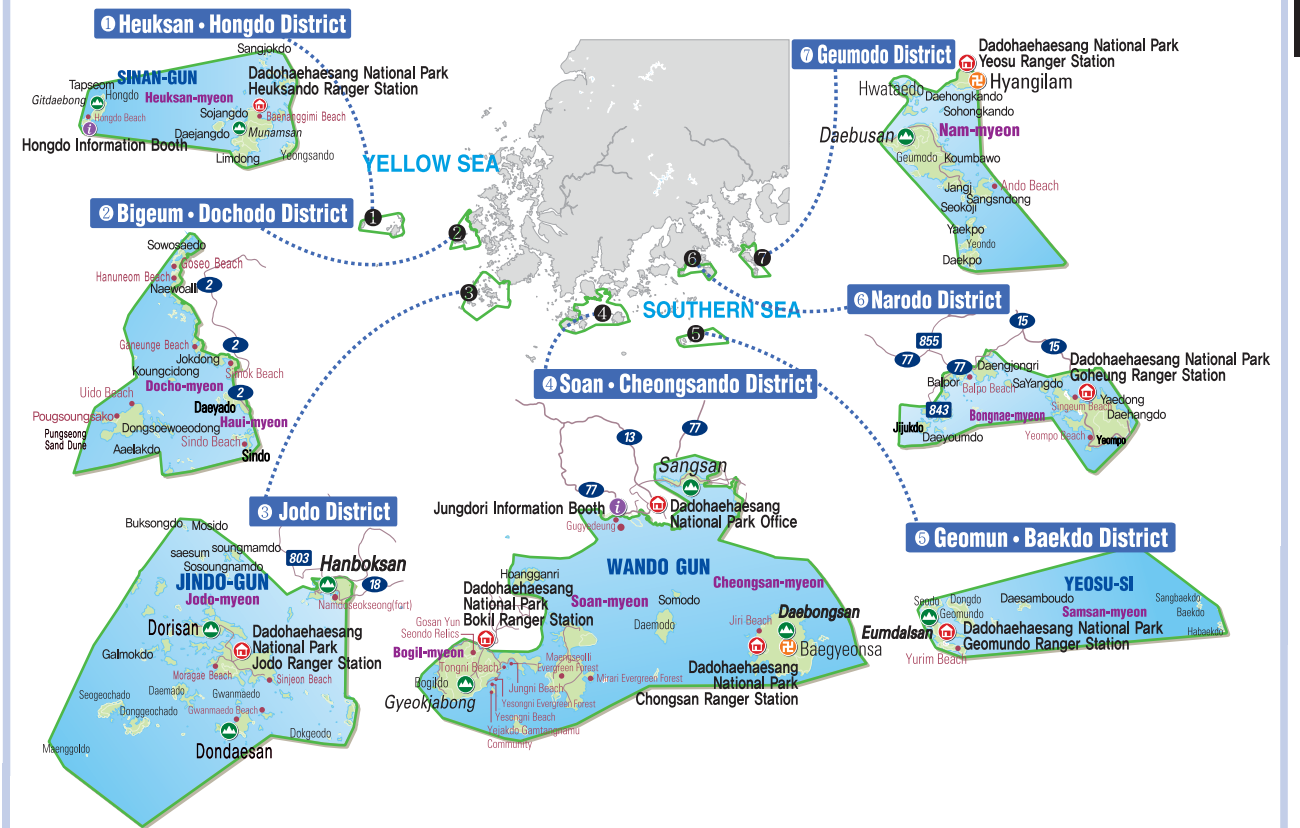
Built by the buddhist monk Wonhyodaesa, this temple was once the base of the royal troops. The sunrise seen from the rocky cliffs near the temple offer a truly magnificent view. Many people come here on New Year's day to see the sunrise.

03 Bogildo (Island); the relics of Yun Seondo

Bogildo (Island) is the place government official Yun Seondo (1587-1671) stayed for 13 years to perfect his poetry. One of the nation's three most beautiful gardens, Seyeonjeong (Garden) is located here symbolizing perfect harmony between man and nature.

VISIT Dadohaehaesang National Park

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |



Explore Dadohaehaesang! The more you know, the more you see!

● The information booth next to the docks at Hongdo offer visitors various information and guides.
<Complete navigation through the park is possible using slide shows>. Open hours are from 09:00 - 18:00.

Things to know when exploring Dadohaehaesang!

● Because Dadohaehaesang National Park is a marine park, the major way to move in the park area is ferry boat. Therefore, it is important to take special precautions when boarding and disembarking. Be careful not to slip on the seaweed stuck to the breakwater or rocks. If possible, take mountain shoes and board and disembark boats according to the safety rules of each vessel.

Recommended course by park rangers

● The best way of enjoying Dadohaehaesang National Park is discovering the many islets. Famous islands such as Bogildo, Cheongsando, Geomundo, Hongdo, Heuksando, and Jodo are worthy of visiting at least once.

● One day course

-Goheung: Balpo Beach →Balpo Manhoeseong (Fortress) →Yeompo Mongdol Beach

● Two day course

-Yeosu: Hyangilam sunrise →Geomundo →Baekdo cruise
-Wando: Jeongdo-ri Gugyedeung (Pebble beach) →Cheongsan →Goindol Hamabi (Dolmen) →Sinheung-Jiri Beach
-Wando: Bogildo (Yesongni Beach) →Jungri, Tongri Beach →Uam Song Siyul (Famous political) rock →Relics of Gosan Yun Seondo →Gyeokjabong →Bojuksan

For Further information

■ Dadohaehaesang National Park Office

- Address : 1240-8, Gaepo-ri, Wando-eup, Wando-gun, Jeonnam (537-802)
- Phone : 061) 552-3386, 554-5474
- Fax : 061) 554-0102

- E-mail : tadohae@knps.or.kr

■ Dadohaehaesang National Park Western Office

- Address : 84, Tongil-ro, Mokpo-si, Jeonnam (Ogandong 1091-5) (530-831)
- Phone : 061) 284-9113, 9115-9116

- Fax : 061) 284-9129

- E-mail : tadohae_w@knps.or.kr

■ Website: dadohae.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- Dadohaehaesang National Park is divided into seven districts consisting of islands, the coast, and the shore areas of Wando, Goheung, Yeosu, Mokpo, Sinan, and Jindo. Dadohaehaesang National Park is directly connected to the hinterlands of Yeosu, Wando, and Mokpo by land and sea transportation which takes about 5-6 hours to reach.

Accommodations

- There are many motels and inns in the area.
Wando tourist website <http://tour.wando.go.kr/>
Goheung tourist website <http://www.goheung.go.kr/tour/>
Yeosu tourist website <http://www.yeosu.go.kr/site/Home/tour/>
Sinan tourist website <http://tour.shinan.go.kr/>
Jindo tourist website <http://tour.jindo.go.kr/>
Dadohaehaesang National Park website <http://dadohae.knps.or.kr>

Nearby attractions

- Mokpo Yudalsan has many attractions such as the sculpture park and orchid garden. Also, the ruins of Cheonghaejin where Admiral Jang Bogo established his base and the Sea Village Museum in Wando are popular attractions for kids.

I .
About Taeanhaean
National Park

Taeanhaean National Park was designated as the 13th national park in Korea in 1978. There are 26 beaches along the 230km coastline, which encompasses the Taean Peninsula and Anmyeondo.

The park's total area is around 326km², and ranges across Taean-gun and Boryeong-si. There are 72 islands scattered across the calm sea, of which only four are inhabited by people.

The name "Taean (Big comfort)" comes from the fact that the region did not suffer big natural catastrophes throughout history, and coupled with the mild climate and an abundance of food, it made for a non-weary life. The foreshores, sand dunes, mystical rocks and islets that spread out along the rias styled coastline boast beautiful scenery that can only be found at the West Sea.

As the only marine park in Korea where various coastal systems coexist, there is a great value in preserving Taeanhaean National Park. After the Seohaean (West Coast) Expressway opened, many visitors come to enjoy relaxation.



Golden rain tree



Swinhoe's egret



Korean tiger lizard

II .
Where Life Breathes
Easy; Taeanhaean
National Park

National Parks of Korea

Where the sun, the wind, the sand, and the pine forests are amply comfortable

#010 Taeanhaean National Park

01 Taeanhaean National Park wildlife

At Taeanhaean National Park, the axes of the coastal ecosystem, the sea, foreshore, sandy beach, coastal sand dune, pine forest, and swamp are intact, creating a blessed condition for various plants and animals. The park is home to 1,195 animal species, 774 plant species, and 671 marine species. There are also 17 endangered species, including Swinhoe's egret, Korean golden frog, and Otter. There are also protected Natural Treasures, such as the Mandarin duck, Common kestrel, and Osprey.

02 Flagship species of Taeanhaean National Park

The animal flagship species is the Korean tiger lizard of the Lacertidae family, which is mostly yellowish gray in color, but has lengthwise stripes like the leopard and a white belly. The plant flagship species, Maehwamareum (*Ranunculus Kazusensis*) of the Ranunculaceae family are similar to the grass of Parnassus, and its leaves look like the Water chestnut. Maehwamareum (*Ranunculus Kazusensis*) can be found very rarely at the west coast and lives for a year or two.



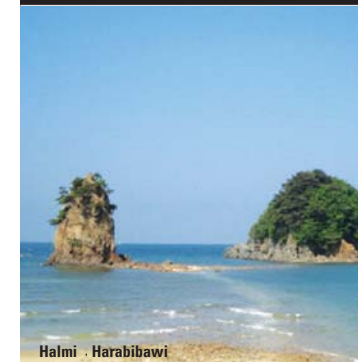
Maehwamareum
(*Ranunculus Kazusensis*)

03 The golden rain tree colony that settled across the West Sea

At Anmyeondo Bangpo coast, over 400 Golden rain trees form a colony, and is the only area that has been designated as a nature preservation area. The unique background to this natural treasure is that seeds cross the sea from China and bud naturally to form the colony. The fruit was used to make rosaries.

04 The outstanding ecological value of Hwachangdo

Hwachangdo boasts a spectacular view and is home to a variety of both terrestrial and marine plants and animals. Colonies of Japanese black pine, Mongolian oak, and Chestnut oak have a life span of over 40-50 years. At this place, rare plants that are unique to Korea have been found, such as the Korean hornbeam, Korean weigela, Coastal glehnia, and Eulafia.



Halmi · Harabibawi

Legends lodged in mystical rocks

Halmi · Harabibawi (Grandmother and grandfather rocks) are a pair of rocks with a sad legend of a wife that turned to stone while yearning for her husband that did not return from war. The pair of rocks are located at Anmyeondo Kkotji Beach where the glowing red sunset is counted amongst scenic masterpieces. Sajabawi (Lion rock) is a mystical rock that can be seen over the horizon off from the shores of Sinjindo. Watching it together with the sunrise is as mystic as can be. It has the legend that Sajabawi looks at the far away land of China and protects the Taean Peninsula. Hakbawi (Crane rock) and Dongnimmunbawi (Independence gate rock) have been created by the wind and the wave and one can feel the power of nature and time. The legend with Deokbawi at the Cheongpodae coast is that the turtle from the folktale "The Hare and the Turtle" turned to stone when he couldn't return to the undersea palace.



III. Full of Nature, Repose, Scenery and Legend; Taean Coast

The coast consists of coastal sand dunes, foreshore, islands, and a coastal area which is outstanding in its ecological features and beauty. The marine ecosystem, including the foreshore, has a very high preservation value for its biodiversity and natural purification capacity.

01 Wide and gentle Mongsampo coast

Mongsampo beach reaches 3km, and when the water ebbs, a 4km wide gentle foreshore unfolds. Around the area is a dense pine forest together with a well maintained camping site and resort. This is a perfect spot for leisure and rest.

02 Sambong and Gijipo coast

The coast boasts a striking landscape of a pine forest lined up along a beach of very fine sand. Sand traps have been installed to restore the coastal ecosystem, and a nature interpretive trail has been setup to go with the surrounding scenery.

03 The sunrise and sunset of Yeonpo's pine island

Yeonpo coast is faced towards the south, which makes it possible to see both the sunrise and the sunset despite being at the West Sea. The sunrise is soft and timid, but the sunset is very grand.

04 Cheollipo Arboretum which is full of rare trees

AH. FO. Miller, an American, first started creating the arboretum in 1962. Currently, the arboretum boasts a collection of over 7,000 domestic and foreign rare trees.



Taean Mae Samjonbul



Cheollipo Arboretum



Mongsampo coast



Yeonposolseom



Exploring Taeanhaean

Fun experience with nature [Nature interpretation]

● Sand dunes became bigger!

- All year round, everyday at 2pm, time required 1hr
- Introduction to Gijipo and stories about the value of coastal sand dunes and their ecologies

● Live stories of the foreshore (Offered separately at Mongsampo and Yeonpo)

- April ~ October, everyday according to the time of tide, time required 2hrs
- Lessons on the characteristics, value, and biology of the foreshore

● Coastal ecosystem in a glance

- March ~ October, everyday at 2pm, time required 1hr
- Lessons on plants at coastal sand dunes and sand dune wetlands and observation of coastal creatures

IV. Historical Monuments at Taean

In the Three Han Era in Korea, Taean was the central area for ceremonies in Mahan. From the Baekje kingdom, the area was the center of trade exchanges with China. Since King Chungnyeol of the Goryeo dynasty, the area has been called "Taean (Big comfort)", which was the proof of a good place to live.

01 Taean Mae Samjonbul, National Treasure No.307

Near the top of Baekhwasan (Mountain) at Taean-eup, the Taean Mae Samjonbul (stone carvings of three Buddhas) is carved into a rock. The carvings show the main Buddha at the center being smaller than the Bodhisattva assistant at the sides of the main Buddha. This composition is quite out of the ordinary, and is valuable in that sense.

02 Anheungseong (Fortress) where Chinese envoys were greeted

This fortress was built on the western side of the Taean peninsula during the reign of King Hyojong of the Joseon dynasty. Located at the protruded part to the west of the Korean peninsula, it was a military stronghold, while also being a place to greet Chinese envoys that came across the West sea.

03 The Taean Hyanggyo (Confucian temple school), 600 years of Confucianism

The Taean Hyanggyo was established during the reign of King Taejong of the Joseon dynasty. Before ending up at its current location in Taean-eup, the school moved twice. The school facilities include Daeseongjeon (Big hall), Myeongnyundang (Class room), as well as Oesammun and Hongsalmun (Gates). Within the school are enshrined 39 tablets of ancestors.

04 Gyeongijeong (Wooden tower) which shares the history of Taean

Gyeongijeong is located at Dongmun-ri, Taean-eup, and is a tower that was built in the first year of the reign of King Jungjong of the Joseon dynasty. The tower was a place to order a garrison to defend Taean, and to be used for reception and farewell of delegations from China.

VISIT Taeanhaean National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Explore Taeanhaean! The more you know, the more you see!

- At the Information Booth, visitors can gain information on visiting national parks and also easily identify the current status of national parks as well. There are also souvenirs for sale, such as sceneries and ecology postcards.
- Taeanhaean National Park is equipped with parking lots and camping sites for visitors who stay for the night. The facilities at Hagampo and Mongsampo are opened during July and August. The facilities at Mongsampo are open year round.

Things to know at Taeanhaean National Park!

- At Taeanhaean National Park, where the coastal ecosystem is intact, most areas are sand dune and pine forests. In order to protect the precious nature and scenery, cooking and camping activities are forbidden and fines are issued to violators.

Transportation

- By car
 - The Seohaean (West Coast) Highway Seoul - Mokpo direction: Exit at Seosan IC and head towards Taean - Mallipo Mokpo - Seoul direction: Exit at Hongseong IC and head towards Anmyeondo
- By bus: Buses operate from Seoul, Daejeon, Incheon, Bucheon, Suwon, Seongnam, Gunsan, Cheonan, Incheon (Gimpo) International Airport, Anyang, Gwangmyeong, Uijeongbu, and Wonju. Please check the Taean-gun website for bus schedules (www.taean.go.kr).

Accommodations

- Coastal areas where many visitors come are well equipped with lodging and convenience facilities. There are also many modern accommodations near the national park as well. Near Anmyeondo Kkotji Beach is located one of the best resorts in Korea, Ocean Castle.

Nearby attractions

- Taean-gun holds various events at beaches and specialized villages. There are various seasonal events at nearby tree gardens and plantations as well.
- Nearby are located Baekhwasan (Peak), Manripo (Beach), Sinduri Sand Dune, Taean Maesamjonbul (Buddha statue), Anheungseong (Fortress), Heungjusa (Temple), An Gyeon's Memorial Hall, Ganwolam (Temple), and other various historic and cultural monuments, as well as a light hiking course to complement the visit to the national park.

*For Further information

■ Taeanhaean National Park Office

- Address : 16-1, Jangsan-ri, Taean-eup, Taean-gun, Chungnam (357-907)
- Phone : 041) 672-9737-9738, 7267
- Fax : 041) 672-4108
- E-mail : taean@knps.or.kr
- Website : taean.knps.or.kr

I.
About Byeonsan-
Bando
National Park

Byeonsanbando National Park is the only peninsula based park in Korea with a mix of mountains and sea. It was designated as the 19th national park in Korea in 1988, with a total area of 154.71 km.

Byeonsanbando is divided into the mountain area Naebyeonsan (Inner) and the coastal area Oebyeonsan (Outer). Naebyeonsan consists of rhyolite which was created through eruptions in the Cretaceous period, and the hills are made of granite created during the Jurassic period. Stratifications are also clearly noticeable on Chaeseokgang and Jeokbyeokgang (Cliffs) in the shores of Gyeokpo.

Over 1.5 million visitors come to Byeonsanbando National Park each year to see the rock formations, mountains, sea, and plains that decorate the area. The sunset is especially spectacular as this is the last place the sun goes down in Korea.

II.
The Eco-Museum;
Byeonsan
Peninsula



Adonis plant



Korean eranthis

01 Byeonsanbando National Park wildlife

Byeonsanbando has high ecological value because the habitats and ecosystem of rare plants and animals are well preserved. The park has 996 animal species and 877 different vascular plants. The wild plant community here comprises of the Adonis plant, Liverworts, and the Lycoris aurea. The Horned holly, Silver magnolia, Box-leaved holly, and White forsythia communities are under protection as Natural Treasures.

02 Flagship species of Byeonsanbando National Park

The flagship species of Byeonsanbando National Park are the Korean eranthis and Buan spine loach which is a native species of Korea. The Korean eranthis first found on the Byeonsan peninsula, is a perennial plant that grows in the Naebyeonsan area and its natural habitat is being destroyed which calls for measures of protection. As for the Buan spine loach which only lives in the waters of Bongnaegugok, it is facing endangerment as well with the construction of the Buan dam hurting its natural habitat.



Buan spine loach



Suseongdang

The legend of
Suseongdang and
Gaeyanghalmi

Gaeyanghalmi, also known as the "Old Lady of Suseong," is the guardian deity of the West Sea. She has nine daughters of which eight have been married to the other provinces in Korea and lives with her youngest daughter at Suseongdang [Shaman temple].

Gaeyanghalmi walks on the sea with her high wooden shoes and calms the waters to keep the fishermen safe from storms. She also controls the bronze lion statue at the north end of Chaeseokgang to keep the villagers and cattle safe from the tigers.

Suseongdang has been designated as Jeollabukdo Tangible Cultural Asset No.58, and a sacrificial altar from the Three Han Era has been discovered nearby. Even today, the villagers of Jungmak-dong conduct religious rituals here at Suseongdang to pray for the safety and prosperity of its fishermen on the day of the first full moon of the year.



III. The Most Beautiful Place on the West Sea

It is difficult to list all of Byeonsan peninsula's wonders, but the landscape of Chaeseokgang, the elegance of Naesosa (Temple), and sunset of Wolmyeongam (Peak) are not to be missed.

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Journey a thousand years in the past to Naesosa (Temple)
- All year round Mon ~ Fri, twice a day, time required 2hrs
- Lessons on the ecology of the fir tree forest and the history of Naesosa as well as the legend of Daengbojeon
- The 70 million year history of Chaeseokgang
- All year round, everyday at ebb tide, time required 2hrs, prior reservation (063-583-2064) required
- Lessons on the origin, topology, creation, and marine biology of Chaeseokgang
- What lives inside the foreshore?
- All year round, everyday according to the time of tide, time required 2hrs
- Lessons on the structure and function of the foreshore and first hand experience of the creatures living in the foreshore

IV. The History Stories Surrounding Byeonsanbando

Byeonsanbando National Park has old temples such as Naesosa and Gaeamsa, and there are many relics related with Sadaebu(a kind of noble in Joseon Dynasty) culture of the Joseon dynasty.

- 01 Chaeseokgang which resembles thousands of books stacked on each other**
Chaeseokgang has the best picturesque scenery of Oebyeonsan (Outer). The cliff risen from the bottom of a small peak forms a dislocation of aqueous rocks and its shape looks like a splendor of hundreds of thousands books stacked up on each other. The sunset here is absolutely magnificent.
- 02 Gosapo beach which has a dense pine forest**
Gosapo Beach is located on the way to Gyeokpo. A thickly-wooded pine forest extends for 2km along the shore and Haseom (Island) can be reached when the ebb tide opens a sea path like the miracle of Moses.
- 03 The red rocks and sunset at Jeokbyeokgang**
The area to the north of Jungmak village next to Chaeseokgang is called Jeokbyeokgang. The name "Jeokbyeok" means "red cliff" and as its name implies, a magnificent reflection of colors are produced at sunset.
- 04 Jikso pokpo (Waterfall) and Bongnaegugok (Valley)**
The valley here is full of fantastic rock formations and attractions at every peak and the crystal clear Baekcheon (Stream) flows here. Passed the waterfall, Bongnaegugok which leads to Bunokdam and Seonnyeotang (Bathing place of fairies) has a magnificent landscape. The view from the wooden deck observatory is especially spectacular.

- 01 Comfort of the fir tree forest trail at Naesosa**
Naesosa (Temple) is the most famous spot in Byeonsan peninsula along with Chaeseokgang. The fir forest trail which extends for about 600m at the entrance of Naesosa is especially spectacular. The main hall, Daengbojeon is famous for being built without any nails, but only wood pieced together.
- 02 Guamni dolmen site**
Huge dolmens are found in Guammaeul (Village), 10km away from Buan-eup. The dolmens here which are as big as 6.4m long and 5.1m wide are presumed to be from the prehistoric age and have been designated as Historical Site No.103.
- 03 Wolmyeongam and Nakjodae**
Wolmyeongam (Temple) which was built during the period of King Simmun of Silla was restored twice after being destroyed once in the late Joseon dynasty and again during the Korean war. Nakjodae (Sunset observation deck) which is located on the mountain behind the temple, offers a panoramic view of Byeonsan peninsula and its spotted islands.



VISIT Byeonsanbando National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Park Ranger Post |
| | Campground | | |

Things to know when visiting Gyeokpo Chaeseokgang!

- The first thing to check before visiting Chaeseokgang is the tide time. Owing to the characteristics of the West Coast, the tide ebbs and flows twice a day. So when the base rock is submerged it is impossible to see Chaeseokgang. Tide times are available at the National Oceanographic Research Institute website at <http://www.nori.go.kr> or the Byeonsanbando National Park website.

Recommended course by park rangers

● Naeyeonsan Information Booth ~ Jikso pokpo (Round trip 1hr 30min, 4.4km)

The course from Naeyeonsan Information Booth to Jikso pokpo (Waterfall) is gentle enough for anyone to climb and enjoy. Along the way are beautiful sights such as Jikso pokpo (Waterfall), Jiksobo (Reservoir), Bongnaegok (Valley), Seonnyeotang (Bathing pond of fairies), and Bunokdam (Pond). The nature interpretive trail here is well organized and the vegetation has been well preserved, which offers a good learning opportunity. This trail offers visitors an experience of the pinnacle of Naeyeonsan.

● Various themed courses

- For those looking for a driving course, the seaside road from Gyeokpo to Gosapo passing the Gomso salted fish complex is highly recommended. In addition to the magnificent view presented on this road, the sunset here is so beautiful that it feels like driving on a seaside road in Jeju Island.
- There are also many attractions themed on art. Over 300 art pieces are on exhibit at the Hwimok Art Town, and the Sculpture Park of Keumkuwon is the only private museum in the province registered to the Ministry of Culture & Tourism.

*For further information

- Byeonsanbando National Park Office
- Address : 415-24, Daehang-ri, Byeonsan-myeon, Buan-gun, Jeonbuk (579-850)
- Phone : 063) 582-7808, 583-2054, 584-8186
- Fax : 063) 583-8186
- E-mail : pyonsan@knps.or.kr
- Website : byeonsan.knps.or.kr

● Transportation

- By car: Seohaean Expressway Buan IC (for Gyeokpo, Naeyeonsan), Julpo IC (for Naesosa), Honam Expressway Seonjinju IC (in the order of Gimje → Buan → Byeonsan → Gyeokpo)
- By bus: Buses depart from the bus stop in front of Buan Terminal for Naesosa (29 times / every 30 minutes), Gyeokpo (30 times / every 30 minutes), and Naeyeonsan (8 times / every 2 hours). The bus routes and time schedule should be checked in advance.

● Accommodations

- Each district has sufficient lodging and dining facilities, but the major accommodations are centered around the Gyeokpo district such as Daemyung Resort and Chaesokgang Resort. For more information, visit the Buan-gun tourist information website at www.buan.go.kr/02tour.

● Nearby attractions

- Seonunsa (Temple) and Naejangsan National Park can be reached within an hour from Buan.
- Festivals held in Buan include the Maechang Culture Festival in late April and the Wido tbaennoli (Intangible Cultural Asset No.82, Straw Boat Launching Ceremony) held on the third day of the New Year.
- Byeonsanbando is a famous filming location for various feature films and TV dramas such as "King and the Clown," "Immortal Yi Sunsin," and "Yi San." Many film related theme parks and movie sets are located in Gyeokpo and other areas within Byeonsanbando.

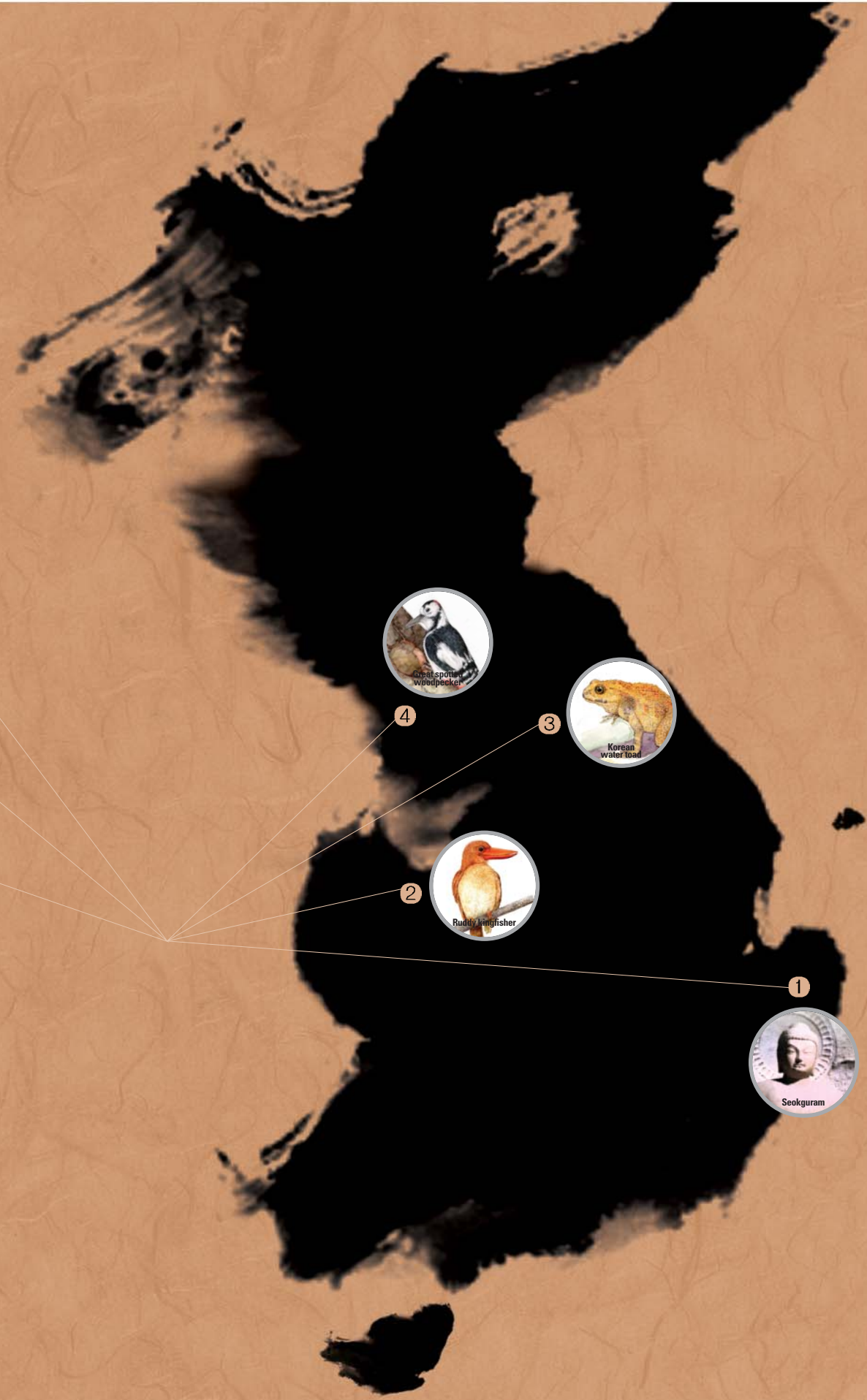
IV.

Delivering everyday rest and the scent of nature

Urban Settings and National Parks

We have nature to welcome us with open arms when we want to get away from the frustrations of the city. It is reassuring to know that we need not travel far. Nearby national parks not only offer a small pause in our lives, but their existence itself is a grateful present of nature.

- 1. The ancient city with 1,000 years of history **Gyeongju National Park**
- 2. Beautiful figure and undulating pure power **Geryongsan National Park**
- 3. Magnificent scenic beauty under the clear autumn sky **Chinaksan National Park**
- 4. The spirit of nature flowing through the city **Bukhansan National Park**



About Gyeongju National Park

Gyeongju, the only national historic park in Korea, was designated as the second national park in Korea after Jirisan in 1968. The park is divided into eight districts over a total area of 138.71 km². It includes the Bulguksa (Temple) district, Tohamsan (Mountain) which has the Seokguram (Grotto), and Namsan (Mountain) which is called the 'Outdoor Museum of Buddhism'. Gyeongju is a living history book with well preserved relics of the Silla dynasty matched in harmony with the natural scenery. In 1979, UNESCO listed Gyeongju as one of the 10 most important historic sites in the world. Gyeongju National Park is located in 3 eup and 5-myeons of Gyeongju-si in terms of administrative area. It was originally managed by Gyeongju-si after its designation as a national park, but from 2008, the Korea National Park Service took over its management.

11. Natural Resources of Gyeongju National Park

01 Colorful features of Gyeongju National Park

Gyeongju National Park is divided into eight districts with their own unique flora and fauna. In 2008, studies have been carried out to identify the natural resources of each district and to search for more effective ways of resource management.

02 Gyeongju National Park wildlife

According to previous records, about 1,500 species are inhabited and distributed within the national park which is separated into eight districts located apart from one another; Tohamsan (Mountain), Namsan (Mountain), Danseoksan (Mountain) and so on.

The total number of reported species include 23 mammal species, 107 bird species, and 604 plant species and so on in detail. Endangered species include the Baikalg teal, Korean buzzard, Eagle owl, and Small-eared cat which is one of the highest predatory animals in the food chain. Norangbutggot (*Iris koreana*) and Norangmunibutggot (*Iris Odaesanensis*) are designated as the endangered species of plants.



Iris koreana



Mountains of Gyeongju



Baikalg teal

National Parks of Korea

The ancient city with 1,000 years of history

#012 Gyeongju National Park

#12 Gyeongju National Park



Dabotap

Bulguksa (Temple), and Seokguram (Grotto), built by Kim Daeseong

In Moryang-ni, Gyeongju lived an old woman and her son, Daeseong. They were poor, so Daeseong worked in the field all day. One day, after hearing a sermon by a monk, the boy persuaded his mother to offer up their field to the temple for greater blessings in the future. Later, Daeseong died suddenly, and on the same night the prime minister Kim Mullyang heard a voice say, "a boy named Daeseong will be reborn into your home." Ten months later the prime minister's wife gave birth to a son who was holding a gold plaque in his hand reading, "Daeseong." Daeseong grew up to be a strong man. One day while hunting in Tohamsan, he caught a bear. However, that night the bear appeared in Daeseong's dream and said, "I will be reincarnated and have my revenge on you." In exchange for forgiveness, Daeseong promised to build a temple for the bear. Daeseong built Ungsusa temple at the summit of Tohamsan where he found the bear and Mongseongsa (Temple) where the dream had occurred, and prayed for the heavenly bliss of the bear. Daeseong realized he had been neglecting his spirituality and repented. So he dedicated himself to prayer and built Bulguksa for the prime minister and his wife, and Seokguram for the mother in his previous life.

III. The Beautiful Scenery of Gyeongju

Although the entire city is beautiful, the Hwarang district is especially gorgeous when the Cherry blossoms are in full bloom in April, and the Tohamsan district offers a picturesque view of the East Sea.

01 Namsan and Geumobong

Namsan was the guardian mountain of Seorabeol (Old name of Gyeongju) with Geumobong (468m) in the north and Gowibong (494m) in the south. The mountain is oval shaped which makes it look like a turtle spread out in the heart of Gyeongju. Hence, the name "Geumo" which means "Golden Turtle."

02 Cut Stone Mountain; Danseoksan

Danseoksan is famous for the Buddhist statues at Sinseonsa (Temple) as well as being the old training grounds of the Hwarang (an elite youth military corps of the Silla kingdom). The name "Danseok (Cut stone)" comes from the legend of General Kim Yushin who supposedly cut a boulder in half with his sword while training here.

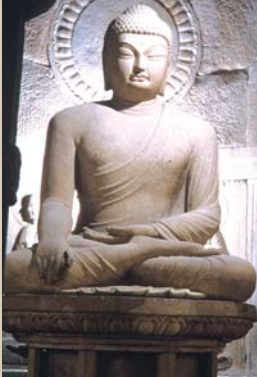
Geumobong



Yongjangsaji three-story stone pagoda



Seokguram



Tomb of the great king Munmu



Exploring Gyeongju



IV. Gyeongju; a City of Historic Tales

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Learn about Bulguksa!
Embrace nature!
- August 18 – December 31,
time required 2hrs
- Natural resources within
the Bulguksa grounds,
legends of the temple,
and the scientific
mysteries of Seokguram
- Commentary on
Poseokjeong (Pavilion) in
Namsan
- April – December, every
day, time required 1-2 hrs
- Poseokjeong and the
history of Silla, scientific
mysteries of Poseokjeong,
and cultural assets of
Namsan
- Silla within us! (2 days)
- August – December, for
groups of more than 20
upon reservation
- Observation of nature at
Namsan and Tohamsan,
night activities, and
chocolate making

Gyeongju has a total of 66 historic artifacts made up 2,000 years ago; 11 National Treasures, 23 Treasures, 13 Historic Sites, and 18 Regional Cultural Assets.

01 Bulguksa, the essence of Silla folk art

Bulguksa (Temple) was built during the reign of King Gyeongdeok at the breast of Tohamsan. Among the National Treasures here, Dabotap (Pagoda) and Seokgatap (Pagoda) where Daranigyeong (Woodblock printing copy) was found are most famous.

02 Yongjangsaji three-story stone pagoda

This pagoda is from late 9th century Tongilsilla dynasty. As an artificial monument, it harmonizes well with the rock scenery of Namsan and exhibits excellent craftsmanship. It is a symbol of hope and happiness.

03 Seokguram

This grotto at the summit of Tohamsan is most famous for the stone Buddha it holds, but the round ceiling structure is also worthy of tribute. The Seokguram Samcheongseoktap (3-story stone pagoda) believed to be from the late 8th century is also very unique in style.

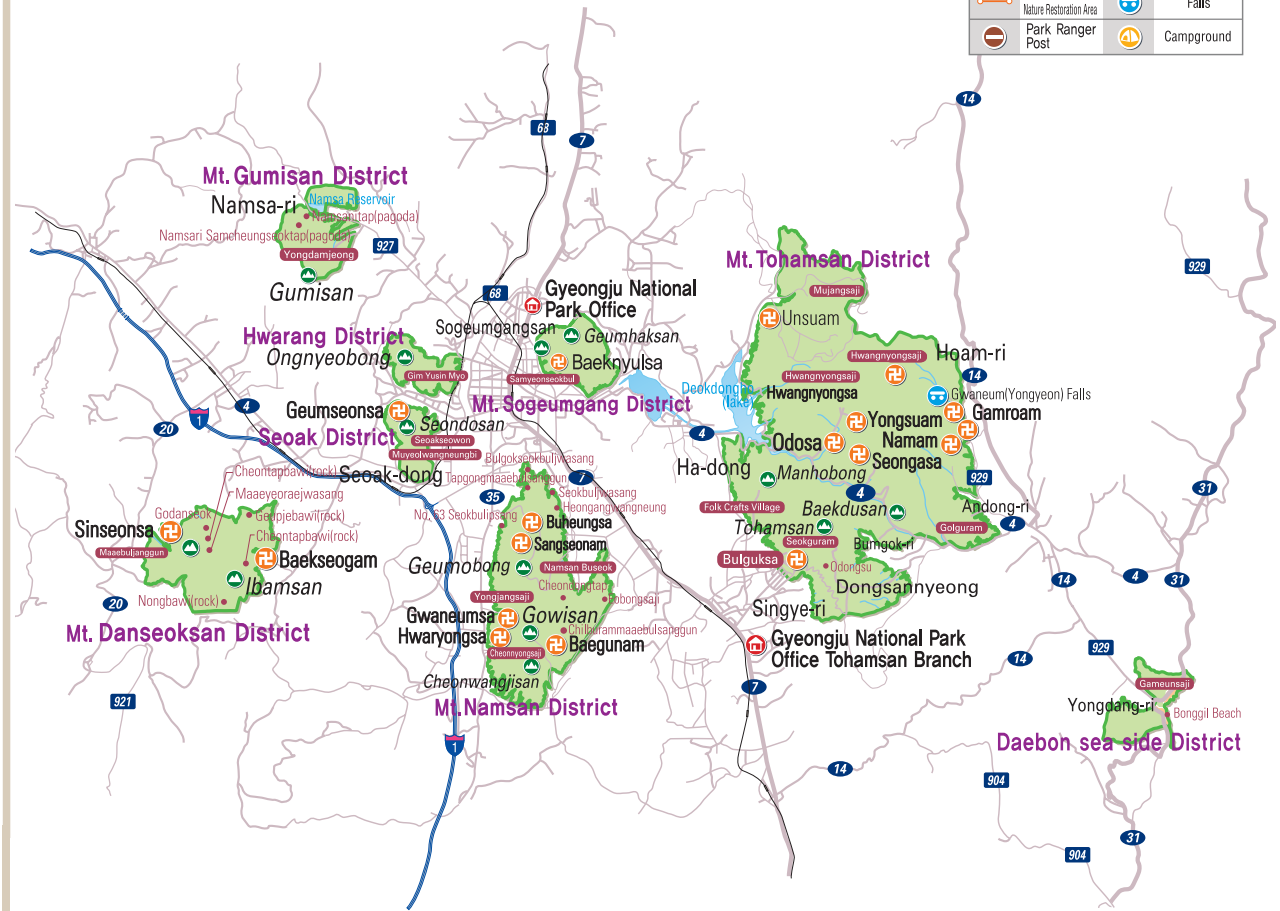
04 Baengnyulsa (Temple) and the stone Buddha at Gulbulsa

Baengnyulsa was built on the spot where Lee Chadon's head fell after rising up to the heavens when he was martyred. Later when King Gyeongdeok came to Baengnyulsa, he heard sounds of prayer coming from below the earth. The King dug up the earth and found a big rock. Stone Buddhas were carved on the sides of the rock and a temple was built here which is Gulbulsa.

05 The tomb of the great king Munmu

Gameunsa (Temple) was built by King Munmu to protect the nation from Japanese plunders using the power of Buddha. After his death, his remains were buried in the East Sea to keep the nation safe. People named the temple he built, "Gameunsa," which means "thank you for your grace in Korean.

VISIT Gyeongju National Park



Things to know when visiting Gyeongju National Park!

- The turtle rock and Imugi (Dragon) ridge areas are very steep, so visitors must take special precautions, especially in poor weather conditions.
- In addition, the entire area of Namsan (Peak) is national park area as well as a world heritage site, so visitors are asked to take special care and illegal activities are strictly prohibited.

Recommended course by park rangers

● Samneung – Geumobong – Yongjang village

This course which starts from Samneung (Three tombs), passing Geumobong, to Yongjang village offers a splendid tour of the cultural assets of Namsan which is called the "Outdoor Museum of Buddhism." Gyeongju National Park website provides more detailed information needed for park visits.

*For Further information

- Gyeongju National Park Office
- Address : 54, Yeomyeong 6-gil, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongbuk (780-940)
- Phone : (054) 741-7612-7614 - Fax: (054) 741-7619
- E-mail : gyeongju@knps.or.kr
- Website : gyeongju.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- By car
- Namsan · Tohamsan · Sogeumgangs · Daebon · Seoak · Hwarang districts: Gyeongju Expressway Gyeongju IC
- Danseoksan and Gumsan districts: Gyeongju Expressway Geoncheon IC
- By bus: Gyeongju is easily accessible by rail (Donghae Nambu Line), express bus, and intercity bus. In the city, many buses go to Tohamsan, Namsan, Sogeumgangs, Seoak, and Hwarang districts which are near downtown. However, bus schedules must be checked in advance for Danseoksan, Gumsan, and Daebon districts. For more information, check out the Gyeongju-si website at <http://culture.gyeongju.go.kr> and Gyeongju National Park website at <http://yeongju.knps.or.kr>

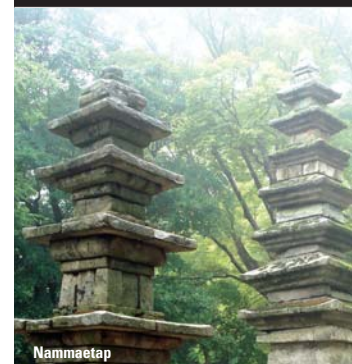
Accommodations

- Each district has sufficient lodging and restaurants, and major hotels such as Kolon Hotel, Daemyung Resort, Hyundai Hotel, and Hilton Hotel are located in the Tohamsan district and the Bomun Lake side Resort district. The websites, <http://culture.gyeongju.go.kr> and <http://yeongju.knps.or.kr>, should be helpful to get more information.

Nearby attractions

- Gyeongju National Park is spread out across the entirety of Gyeongju-si, so there are many cultural events and festivals all year round. From April to October regular performances are held at Anapji (Royal garden). In April and May Cherry blossom festivals and various literary contests take place, and in October, the Silla Culture Festival and Culture Expo are opened, which are popular attractions for locals and visitors alike.
- Gyeongju has many leisure resorts and culture & arts exhibitions such as the Tohamsan Nature Recreation Forest, Gyeongju Land, Hanwha & Daemyung Resorts, the Gyeongju National Museum, and Gyeongju Ethnic Custom Industrial Arts Village for visitors to enjoy.

#13 Gyeryongsan National Park

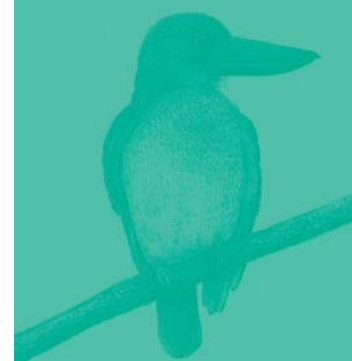


Nammaetap

**Nammaetap;
The legend of a
brother and sister
brought together by
the reward of a tiger**

Nammaetap tells the story of a brother and sister who were brought together by the reward of a tiger.

After the fall of the Baekje kingdom a man of royal lineage fled to the woods to become a monk. This man dug a cave where he lived to follow a path of extreme ascetic life. One day he saw a tiger suffering from a bone caught in its throat. The man helped the tiger remove the bone, and as a gesture of gratitude, the tiger brought to the man a beautiful woman. It was winter and there was much snow on the ground, so the man and the woman had no choice but to share the cave together. They soon grew fond of each other and the woman asked the man to marry her, but he refused because of his religious obligations. Instead they vowed to be brother and sister. They practiced Buddhism together and at the same time on the same day passed into Nirvana. Nammaetap (Brother and sister pagoda) is where their sariras are preserved.



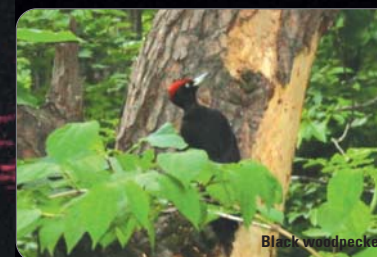
11.
**The Nature of
Gyeryongsan**

01 Gyeryongsan National Park wildlife
Gyeryongsan National Park has native broadleaves such as the Zelkova, Japanese snowbell and Mongolian oak as well as other natural plants such as the Birch and Pine. A total of 1,121 plant species have been reported. As for animals, Gyeryongsan has 1,867 insect species and 645 animal species. Otter, Small-eared cat, Marten, Common buzzard, and Black woodpecker are a few of the 11 endangered species that live here.

02 Flagship species of Gyeryongsan National Park
The plant flagship species of Gyeryongsan National Park is the mysterious Korean crevice salamander which was first found in Jangtaesan (Mountain), Daejeon in 2003 and later discovered in Gyeryongsan in 2006. Ruddy kingfisher, which is a kind of migrant is an indicator species of the level of pollution because it lives only in clean valleys and forests.



Ruddy kingfisher



Black woodpecker



Korean crevice salamander

National Parks of Korea Beautiful figure and undulating pure power

#013 **Gyeryongsan National Park**

1.
**About
Gyeryongsan
National Park**

Gyeryongsan National Park was designated as the 2nd national park in Korea in 1968. Gyeryongsan National Park spreads across Gongju-si, Gyeryong-si and Nonsan-si in Chungcheongnam-do and Daejeon Metropolitan City over a total area of 64.7 km². Gyeryongsan has about 15 valleys in between its 20 peaks based around the summit Cheonhwangbong (845m). The mountain is called "Gyeryong (Rooster dragon)" because the ridge line looks like a dragon wearing the crown of a rooster. Gyeryongsan has a snug appearance and is kaleidoscopic. It is crowded with visitors all year round because day trips are possible from metropolitan cities such as Seoul and Daejeon. Because of its excellent Feng Shui (Theory of divination based on topography) characteristics, Gyeryongsan was argued as the capital of Joseon Dynasty and it is a holy mountain where religious services took place.



Cheoldanggan



Daeungeon



Exploring Gyeryongsan



III. The History of Gyeryongsan

Within the park are temples with a history of more than 1,000 years such as Gapsa, Sinwonsa, and Donghaksa. There are 2 National Treasures (Painting of the three bodies of Buddha at Gapsa and the vairocana Buddha painting at Sinwonsa), 7 Treasures, and 1 Historic Site here at Gyeryongsan.

Fun experience with nature (Interpretive program)

- The journey in search of Gyeryongsan
 - All year round, twice a day
 - One hour program on the history and legends of Gyeryongsan as well as stories about the temples and natural environment (Includes videos)
- The stories heard from the Gapsa Ori Forest
 - From April to November, morning hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 - Two hour program on the origin of Ori Forest and its benefits
- Gyeryongsan, the sacred site of folk religion
 - All year round, twice a day
 - Two hour program on folk religion and Feng Shui theory

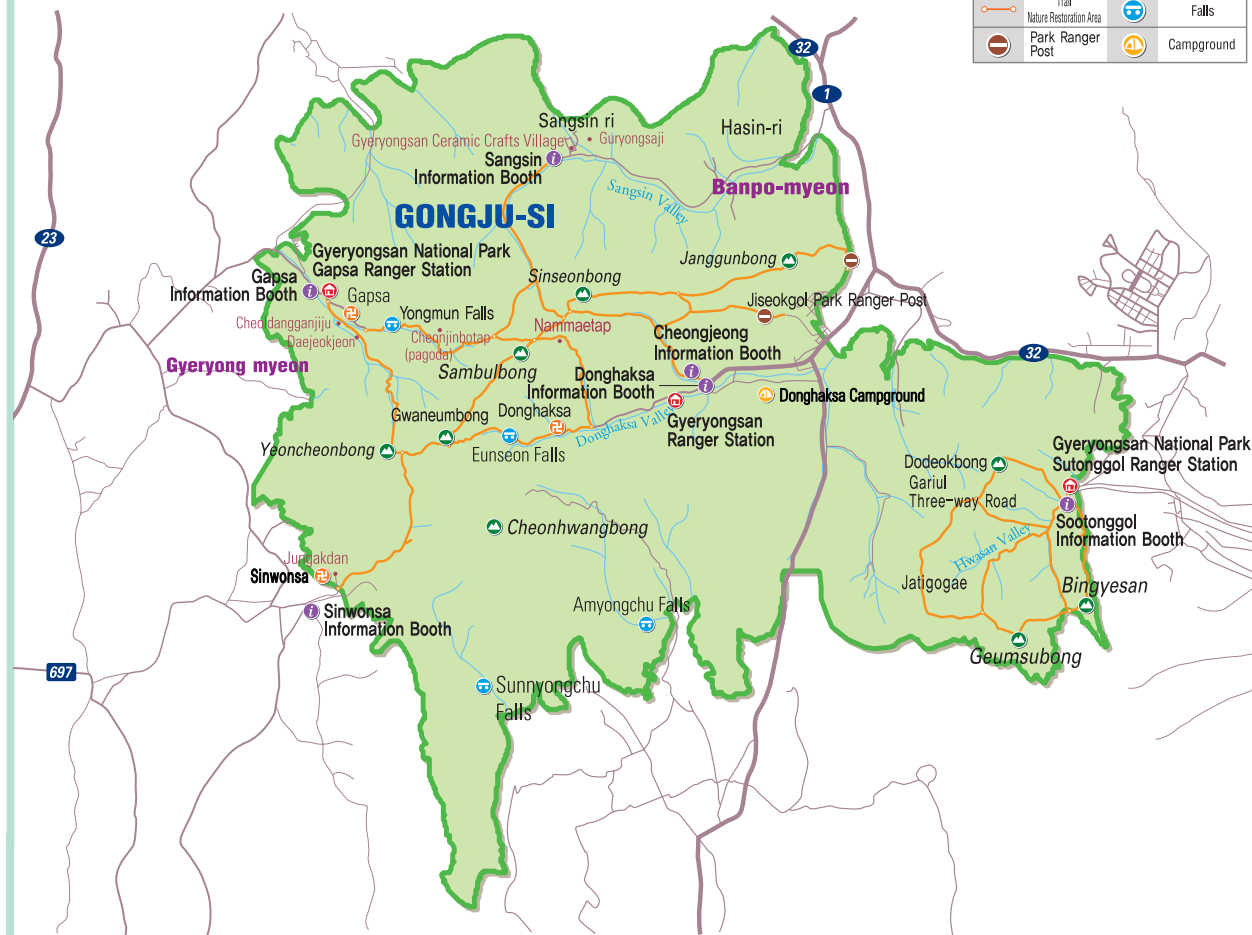
IV. The Beautiful Treasures of Gyeryongsan

There are many beautiful valleys and waterfalls within this mountain which looks like a dragon wearing the crown of a rooster.

- 01 The legend of affectionate love at Nammaetap (Pagodas)**
On the way from Donghaksa to Gapsa, two pagodas named "Nammaetap" stand abreast; Treasures No. 1284 and 1285, also called Onuitap (Brother and sister). Those are also called Cheongnyangsajj-sangtap (Cheongnyangsa twin towers) since it was once the location of Cheongnyangsa (Temple). There is a legend about a loving brother and sister here; the seven-story pagoda is for the brother and the five-story pagoda is for the sister.
- 02 Gapsabudo (Stupa)**
Gapsabudo (Treasure No. 257) stands in front of the antique-looking Daejeokjeon (Grand hall). Constructed in the early Goryeo era, this stupa is octagon-shaped with a height of 2.05m. The stylobate is shaped like a blooming lotus flower with various carvings on the sides.
- 03 Cheoldanggan (Banner pole)**
This Danggan (a banner pole made of stone, steel or wood which is used for fluttering during the performance of rituals) was made by the great Buddhist priest Euisangdaesa in the 19th year of King Munmu during the Tongilsilla period (A.D. 680). This Danggan consisted of 28 cylindrical pieces but four of them were destroyed and now only 24 remain. This 15 meter high Danggan made of iron has been designated as Treasure No. 256.
- 04 Traditional temples with 1,000 years of history**
Donghaksa which is especially beautiful in the springtime is a famous college of Buddhist priesthood for Buddhist nuns. Gapsa which is located in the valley west of Yeoncheonbong is one of the 10 great temples of Huayan Buddhism and is most exquisite in the autumn as can be inferred from its nickname "Chugapsa (Autumn temple)." Sinwonsa, an old temple of the Baekje kingdom located on the southern outskirts of Yeoncheonbong is famous for Jungakdan, an alter used to perform religious services.

- 01 Eunseonpokpo (Waterfall); The hiding place of the gods**
Eunseonpokpo (Waterfall) is located up along the valley from Donghaksa. It stands 50 meters tall and falls directly down from the cliff. It was named "Eunseon" because the gods would hide themselves here to enjoy its fascinating beauty.
- 02 Springtime in Donghaksa valley**
Donghaksa valley continues for 4km from Donghaksa (Temple) to Gwaneumbong (Peak) by way of Eunseonpokpo. It is famous for clear water and dense forests around the valley. From mid April the valley sparkles with a wave of light green colors.
- 03 The autumn leaves of Gapsa valley**
There is an old saying, "Donghaksa in the spring, Gapsa in the autumn," which testifies to the beauty of autumn in Gapsa valley. The best spot to appreciate the autumn leaves is the ridge from Sambulbong (Peak) to Gwaneumbong (Peak). This natural ridge offers an excellent view of the brilliant maples in Gapsa valley.

VISIT Gyeryongsan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Explore Gyeryongsan! The more you know, the more you see!

- A variety of information and programs are offered at the Visitor Center next to the Donghaksa ticket booth. Trail guides, nature commentary, and information on folk religion are available at the Visitor Center.
- Information Booths are located at Cheonjeong, Gapsa, Sinwonsa, and Sutonggol districts to provide visitors with information and convenience.

Things to know when hiking Gyeryongsan!

- Many areas in Gyeryongsan such as Cheonhwangbong, Ssalgaebong, and Hwangjeokbong are restricted military zones as well as nature preservation areas which strictly forbids the access of the general public. Cooking is not allowed in the park except for camp sites, so visitors are recommended to carry lunch boxes.
- Shamanism is illegally practiced in Gyeryongsan which is causing litter problems (Candles, incense, and food waste) as well as exposure to the risk of forest fires. All visitors are urged to participate in the preservation efforts to keep our national parks beautiful.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Donghaksa-Gwaneumbong-Sambulbong-Nammaetap-Donghaksa (5.3km)**
 - The natural ridge from Gwaneumbong to Sambulbong offers magnificent views of the Gapsa district on the left and the Donghaksa district on the right as it follows a path of straight and tall rock formations.
 - The path from Eunseonpokpo to Gwaneumbong requires special precautions because the slope is steep and rocky.

***For Further information**
Gyeryongsan National Park Office
 - Address : 777, Hakbong-ri, Banpo-myeon, Gongju-si, Chungnam (314-924)
 - Phone : 042) 825-3002-3003, 9597
 - Fax : 042) 825-5755
 - E-mail : gyeryong@knps.or.kr
 - Website : gyeryong.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- By car : Gyeongbu Expressway Yuseong IC → Gongju direction: Donghaksa district → Hanbat National University direction: Sutonggol district Honam Expressway Nonsan IC → Gapsa district
- By bus : From downtown Daejeon; Bus 102 for the Donghaksa district, 103 & 115 for the Sutonggol district, and 2 for the Gapsa district. Visit the Daejeon Traffic Information website at <http://traffic.metro.daejeon.kr> for information about the Donghaksa and Sutonggol districts and Simin Transportation at 041-854-3163 for the Gapsa district.

Accommodations

- Each district has sufficient accommodations and restaurants. For further information visit the Gongju-si website at <http://tour.gongju.go.kr>.

Nearby attractions

- Gongju-si which is adjacent to Gyeryongsan hosts many culture events and regional festivals such as the Baekje Culture Festival, the Donghaksa Spring Flower Culture Event, and the Gyeryongsan Forest God Festival. Various historical sites and tourist attractions are located near Gyeryongsan such as the Gyeryongsan National History Museum, the Gongju National Museum, the tomb of King Munyeong, and Gongsanseong (Fortress wall). The Gyeryongsan Ceramic Art Village is especially ideal for families looking for an active experience.

About Chiaksan National Park

Located in the mountain inlands of Korea, Chiaksan was designated as the 16th national park in Korea in December 1984. It's total area is about 181.6^{km}, and east of its highest peak, Birobong (1,288m), lies Hoengseong-gun and to the west is Wonju-si. Chiaksan has many steep valleys among its high peaks ranging above 1,000m such as Namdaebong in the south and Maehwasan in the north, and it is known for having a beautiful scenic figure with steep slopes. The geological foundation of Chiaksan is a metamorphic rock based on unknown sedimentary rocks. Biotite gneiss and Geumdae-ri schist are widely distributed throughout the range. The area is easily accessible through expressways such as Jungang Expressway and Yeongdong Expressway, and railroads. Lots of people visit Chiaksan National Park because of its proximity with the capital region.



Korean water toad



Geumgang pine trees



Seonghwangrim

II. Treasure Chest of Natural Wonders

01 Chiaksan National Park wildlife

Chiaksan has a total of 821 species of plants and is expanding its natural forest with Mongolian oaks and Japanese oaks. As for inhabitants, there are a total of 2,364 animal species including 34 endangered species such as the Flying squirrel and Copper winged bat.

02 Flagship Species of Chiaksan National Park

The flagship species of Chiaksan are the Diamond bluebell and Korean water toad. Efforts are being made to preserve and restore the habitats of these flagship species.



Diamond bluebell

03 The Geumgang pine trees

More than 70-80 year old natural Geumgang pine trees (*Pinus densiflora for. erecta*) grow near Guryongsa (Temple). Due to their excellent growth and quality, Geumgang pine trees were used to make coffins in the palace. By blocking the area off with Hwangjangeumpyo (Stone warning sign), the general public was forbidden to use these trees as lumber.

04 Seonghwangrim; prayers for village peace (Natural Treasure No. 93)

This broad-leaved forest is located in the south of Chiaksan. It was designated as a natural treasure for inhabiting various rare species. Twice each year sacrificial rites to the Seonghwangsin (Spirit) take place here to keep the village safe.

National Parks of Korea

Magnificent scenic beauty under the clear autumn sky

#014 Chiaksan National Park



The ridge line of Chiaksan

Origin of Chiaksan

It used to be called Jeogaksan because of its beautiful maples in autumn, but changed to Chiaksan later because of the legend of the pheasant that rewarded a person's kindness. A stranger was walking along the path of Jeogaksan (Chiaksan) and came upon a pheasant wrapped around a snake. The stranger felt pity for the pheasant and killed the snake with an arrow. Later the stranger was looking for a place to stay at night and met a woman who treated him kindly. However, during the night, the woman changed into a snake and wrapped itself around the stranger. The snake vowed revenge for its dead partner and said it would kill the stranger if the bell at Sangwonsa (Temple) failed to ring three times before dawn.

To repay the kindness of the stranger, the pheasant hit his head on the bell three times and died, saving the stranger from death. This legend has been drawn on the bell at Sangwonsa.



III. Chiaksan with Beautiful Mountain Cliffs

Chiaksan has many spectacles with stories to tell. Park authority is making efforts to preserve and protect the scenic beauty of the mountain by removing artificial installments.

- 01 Mireukbultap (Stone pagoda) at Birobong**
At the summit of Birobong (Peak) are three stone pagodas built in the 1960s. At the center is the Sinseontap, towards Wonju is Yongwangtap, and opposite is Chilseongtap.
- 02 Guryong valley and Guryongso (Pond)**
According to legend, when buddhist priest Uisangdaesa drove out the nine dragons to build his temple, one of the dragons remained and lived here at Guryongso.
- 03 Sadaribyeongchang (Rock)**
The large rock walls near Guryongsa (Temple) in the Birobong section which resemble a trapezoid folding screen is called Sadaribyeongchang. Some people wrongfully believe this area is named Sadaribyeongchang because of the wooden stairs that have been placed here. Wooden stairs are called "sadari" in Korean.
- 04 Ipseokdae (Rock monument)**
This monumental rock which stands to the right of Hwanggol Ipseoksa (Temple) is called Ipseokdae (Rock). On the surface is a carving of Maebeuljwasang (Buddha statue) which is Regional Cultural Asset No. 117.

IV. History of Chiaksan

Chiaksan was used as a fortress to fend off foreign invasions as well as a source of pine trees to be used for lumber. Because of its intimacy with everyday life, it has many historic and cultural resources.

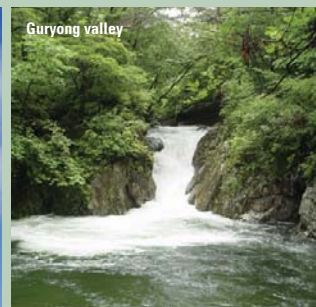
Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Nature Experience School #Iolsi,
 - Two weeks curriculum in spring and autumn for applicants
- Green Vacation with Dad
 - Open for families in the camping area near the Center during the summer vacation period
- Chiaksan Winter Story
 - Experience the abundance and composure of Chiaksan in the snow

- 01 Yeongwonsanseong (Mountain fortress wall) (Historic Site No. 447)**
This fortress wall was built during the reign of King Munmu or Simmun in the Silla dynasty and was used a strategic base for generals Gungye and Yangil in the era of the three kingdoms. Its circumference is 4km and its height is 2-3m.
- 02 Yi Bangwon and Taejongdae (Cultural Artifact No. 16)**
This rock called Jupidae or Taejongdae is where King Taejong, Yi Bangwon, waited for his teacher Won Cheon-seok (Ungok).
- 03 Traditional temples**
In addition to Guryongsa which was built by buddhist priest Uisangdaesa after driving out nine dragons, Chiaksan has many famous temples such as Sangwonsa which is known for the legend of the pheasant, and Ipseoksa which is famous for the magnificent stone Ipseokdae. Other temples include Gukhyeongsa, Bomunsa, and Yeongwonsa.



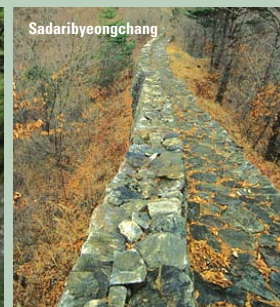
Birobong



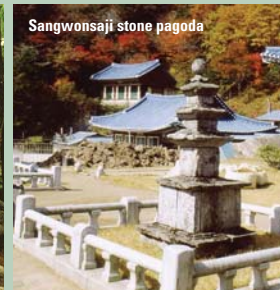
Guryong valley



Yeongwonsanseong



Sadaribyeongchang



Sangwonsaji stone pagoda



Iipseokdae



Exploring Chiaksan

VISIT Chiaksan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Explore Chiaksan! The more you know, the more you see!

- The Visitor Center near the parking lot of Guryong district offers all sorts of colorful information. Visitors can get a broader understanding of Chiaksan through a guide to the park trails, nature interpretive programs, and slide shows.

- Information Booths can be found at Hwanggol, Bugok, Godeunchi, Seongnam, and Geumdae districts. In particular, Geumdae district offers an autocamp ground and nature interpretive trails for families to enjoy.

Things to know when climbing Chiaksan

- The Sadaribyeongchang path on the Birobong section is steep so special caution must be taken. Prepare plenty of water and take the valley paths. The summit is 5.8km from entrance and takes about 5-6 hours round trip.

- There are no springs or valleys in the course crossing over to Namdaebong from Birobong and cooking is not allowed, so be sure to prepare sufficient water and food.

Recommended course by park rangers

- **Bugok-ri - Godeunchi (6.2km)**
Birobong and Jongjueneungseon which is a ridge crossing over Chiaksan from north to south are inappropriate for aged visitors due to steepness, but the section from Bugok-ri to Godeunchi on the east side of the mountain is gentle for anyone to climb and has a spectacular valley view. The larch leaves on the trail are another attraction only found in this section.

Transportation

- By car
Yeongdong Expressway Saemal IC: Wonju direction for Guryong district and Anheung direction for Bugok district
Jungang Expressway Sillim IC: Seongnam and Geumdae districts
- By bus
Guryong district bus 41, 41-2 from Wonju (Interval 25 minutes), Geumdae / Seongnam districts bus 23, Bugok district Bus 2

Accommodations

- Each district has adequate lodging and restaurants, but the larger accommodations such as Koresco Condominium, Dreamland Youth Hostel, and Chiaksan Hotel are located in the Guryong district.
- Wonju: <http://tourism.wonju.go.kr>
- Chiaksan National Park: <http://chiak.knps.or.kr>

Nearby attractions

- Many local festivals are held in September and October such as the Tattoo Fanfare, the Gamyeong Festival, and the Hanji Festival.
- There are many leisure & tourism resorts nearby such as nature parks, Oak Valley, Dreamland, Sungwoo Resort, and Ganhyeon attractions.

***For Further information**
Chiaksan National Park Office
 - Address : 900, Hakgong-ni, Socho-myeon, Wonju-si, Gangwon-do (220-831)
 - Phone : (033) 732-4634, 5231
 - Fax : (033) 731-8406
 - E-mail : chiak@knps.or.kr
 - Website : chiak.knps.or.kr

About Bukhansan National Park

Bukhansan National Park was designated as the 15th national park in Korea in 1983 and is a rare nature park located in the city around world.

Bukhansan National Park is located on the skirts of Seoul and Gyeonggi-do over a total area of 79.9 km. This national park is situated in a mountain range stretching from north to south. Uiryeong (Ridge) draws the boundary line between Dobongsan in the north and Bukhansan in the south.

Even though the mountain is not big and high, the park has steep rocky cliffs and precipitous mountains dissected by many valleys. From the Paleozoic era, the granite ground rose and eroded over a long period of time, and the rocks were made into fantastic formations.

Bukhansan has a long history of 2,000 years and boasts many historical remnants and relics. More than 100 temples are located in this mountain as well as other valuable monuments such as Bukhansanseong (Fortress wall).

II. The Harmonious Ecosystem of Bukhansan

National Parks of Korea

The spirit of nature flowing through the city

#015 Bukhansan National Park



Samohawi



Sangaenari

01 Bukhansan National Park wildlife

Bukhansan National Park has a total of 2,494 species. There are 692 plant species, and for animals, there are 21 mammal species, 12 amphibian species, 11 reptile species, 136 bird species, 1,106 insect species, 196 benthic invertebrate species, and 6 fish species. Also, 314 species of higher fungi have been reported.

02 Flagship species of Bukhansan National Park

The Great spotted woodpecker, the flagship species of Bukhansan, has a distinctive color coordination of black, red, and white. It feeds on insects, spiders, and fruit.

The flagship plant species is the Sangaenari (*Forsythia Saxatilis*) which is an Oleaceae first discovered in Bukhansan.

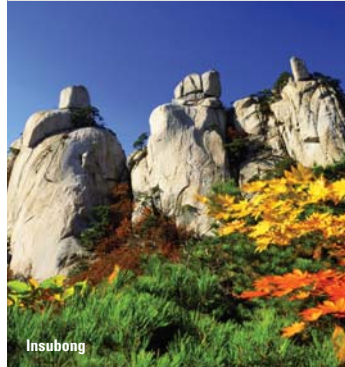
It is a native plant of Korea, and because of reduced natural habitats, it has become a rare species.



Great spotted woodpecker

03 The plant communities of Bukhansan

Bukhansan shows primeval status of forests including various plant communities like the Mongolian oak, Pine tree, Sawtooth oak, Cork oak, Konara oak, and Korean mountain ash.



Insubong

The monk Muhakdaesa and Lee Seonggye (King Taejo)

One day, King Taejo visited the great monk Muhakdaesa. The King wanted to have some fun, so he proposed they freely exchange jokes. "You look like a pig!" said Taejo to the monk. But, Muhakdaesa replied, "And you sir look like Buddha to me." King Taejo was confused. "We agreed to forget our politeness and make fun of each other. If you say I look like Buddha, how could that be funny?" asked the King. Muhakdaesa replied, "Pigs can only see other pigs and Buddha can only see Buddha."

Hearing this Taejo realized he was yet immature in his character and came to admire Muhakdaesa even more.



Baegundae



Bukhansanseong



Exploring Bukhansan



National Parks of Korea

#015

III. The Marvelous Rocks and Valleys of Bukhansan

01 The triangle peaks of Bukhansan
 Baegundae (836m), Insubong (810m), and Mangyeongdae (799m) are the representative peaks of Bukhansan - Baegundae: This peak is located on the boundaries of Gangbuk-gu, Seoul and Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do. The summit is a rock bed which can accommodate 500 people and the view of fantastic rock formations is superb. - Insubong: Ui-dong (Town) is at the eastern foot of the mountain and Doseonsa (Temple) is at the southeast foot of the mountain. It is one of the popular places for visitors. - Mangyeongdae: Also called Mansubong, this peak is located on the boundaries of Dobong-gu, Seoul and Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do. Made of granite, this peak has a precipitous wall of rock formed from weathering, erosion, and denudation over a long period of time.

02 Fantastic rock formations and gorgeous valleys
 Bukhansan is called the "rock mountain" because of its high rock floor. It has magnificent peaks such as Baegundae, Insubong, Mangyeongdae, Jaunbong, Manjangbong and Sinsendae as well as fantastic rock formations such as Geobukbawi (Turtle rock), Samobawi (Adoration rock), Haygolbawi (Skeleton rock), Uiam, Dukkeobibawi (Toad rock), and Chimabawi (Skirt rock). Valleys such as Bukhansanseong, Gugi, Songchu, Angol, Wondobong, and Dobongsan and waterfalls such as Dongnyeong, Gucheon, and Songchu create a true spectacle in concert with the rocky scenery.

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Nature Interpretation of Gugi valley
 - From March~November, twice a week [Wednesday & Thursday], time required 1hr 30min
 - Stories about the Chinese minnow at Gugi valley and nature commentary on the wild trees and plants
- Playtime with the trees and bugs of Dobongsan [Mountain!]
 - All year round, time required 1hr 30min
 - Understanding of Bukhansan National Park and seasonal observation on flowers and seeds of various plants
- Scenery interpretation of Dobongsan [Mountain!]
 - All year round, twice a week [weekends]
 - Opportunity to observe nature scenery from the peaks such as Dobongsan, Sapaesan, Obong and so on.
- Stories of the forest at Jeongneung valley
 - From March~November, twice a week [Monday and Tuesday], time required 1hr 30min
 - Introduction to Cheongsu valley and the wild flowers by season

IV. Rich Historic Resources of Bukhansan

01 The 2,000 year history of Bukhansanseong (fortress wall)
 The outer ridge of Bukhansanseong valley is a lined and formed natural fortress wall which has a total of 14 gates. It was constructed in the 5th year of king Gayru of Baekje kingdom and rebuilt for defence of Hanyang (Capital of Joseon) by King Sukjong (The 37th year) in the Joseon dynasty.

02 Jinheungsunsubi (Monument)
 This monument was established to draw boundaries and carve the achievements of King Jinheung of the Silla kingdom who widened the boundary of Silla to Hangang (River). Designated as National Treasure No.3, the monument was originally built on the top of Bibong (Peak), but is now kept at the National Museum of Korea. On the top of Bibong (Peak) is a sign just announcing the installed site of the monument.

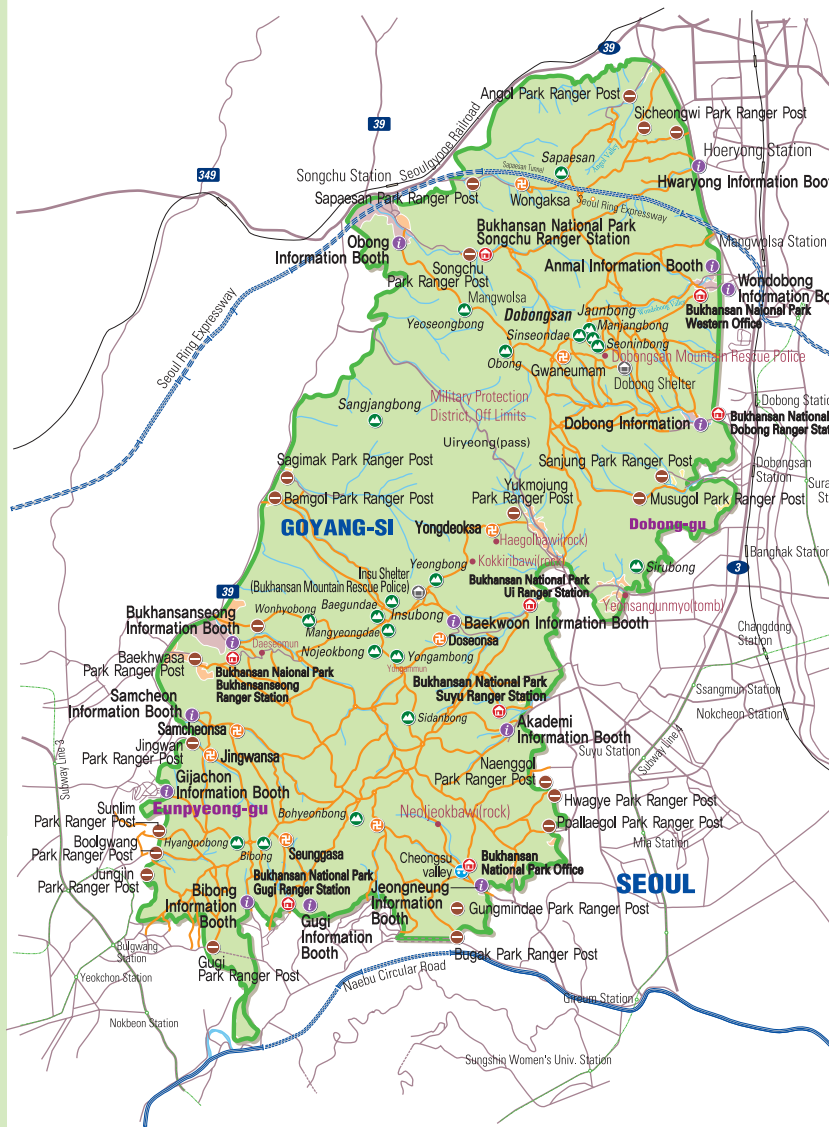
03 Mangwolsa and the tomb of Hyegeoguksa (high priest)
 This temple was built by the monk Haeho under the command of Queen Seondeok of the Silla kingdom to wish for the prosperity of the royal palace. The tomb of the first Guksa (Most reverend priest) of the Goryeo dynasty, Hyegeoguksa, is located here.

04 The exquisite beauty of Doseonsa
 This temple was built by Doseonguksa who was well knowledgeable in Buddhism and astronomy. He traveled the country to find the best place for a temple and chose this location for its exquisite beauty.

05 Dobongseowon (Confucian school)
 Nam Wonkyung (Local governor) built Dobongseowon (Confucian school) to memorize and praise the achievement of study and virtue of Jeongam Jo Gwangjo (Confucian scholar). Still now, the ceremony to cherish Jeongam Jo Gwangjo and Uam Song Siyul (Confucian scholar) is held here in spring and autumn.

06 Hongjimun (Gate) and Tangchundaeseong (Fortress)
 Tangchundaeseong (Fortress) was built in the 41st year of King Sukjong of the Joseon dynasty and was named from Tangchundae (Building) near Segeomjeong (Pavilion). It's gate, Hongjimun, was for linking Bukhansanseong with Doseong (Castle of a capital city).

VISIT Bukhansan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Park Ranger Post |
| | Campground | | |

● The 5.5km course from Songchu ranger station to Wongaksa (Kaeopsdae - Hwaryong intersection - Sapaesan - Wongaksa) is another popular course which takes three hours to complete. The course offers the chance to fully enjoy the feeling of the nature because visitors are not crowded in the trail.

Thematic Tours - Circulatory Nature Trail

- Bukhansanseong history interpretive trail [Bukhansanseong district] This is a history interpretive trail which gives visitors full understanding on the history of Bukhansanseong. Explanations are given through illustrations and old photos which offer a fun and exciting way to learn about the natural and cultural aspects of Bukhansanseong.
- Songchu interpretive trail [Songchu district] This trail (1.4 km) is located in Songchugol (Valley) of which name was originated from lots of pine and wild-walnut trees there. Walking into the forests well preserved along with the valley provide another enjoyment.
- Eco-friendly nature trail [Ui district] This is a nature trail which allows visitors to experience various wildlife from multiple angles. Visitors can train their eyes to look at nature from new perspectives.
- Dobong interpretive trail [Dobong district] This trail (1.4 km) is located in Dobongsan (Mountain) of which means "the peak practicing Taoism or Buddhism." Because historical and natural resources such as natural ecosystem, epigraphs on the rock and temple culture are included in trail, this is a great opportunity to get fantastic experiences with joy.

Main hiking courses

- Bukhansanseong Information Booth - Daeseomun - Deungwungak (Bonisa) - Baegundae (3.4 km, 3hr)
- Bukhansanseong Information Booth - Daeseomun - Jungseongmun - Daenamun (5.8 km, 3hr)
- Gugi Information Booth - Daenamun - Cheongsudongammun - Samobawi (4.3 km, 2hr 30min)
- Bibong Information Booth - Geumseonsa - Bibong (2.2 km, 1hr 20min)
- Jeongneung Information Booth - Neoljeokbawi - Kkalttagogae - Bogukmun (2.4 km, 1hr 20min)
- Baengnyeong Park Ranger Post - Baengnyeonsa - Jindallaeneungseon - Daedongmun (2.7 km, 1hr 10min)
- Baegundae Information Booth - Harujae - Baegun shelter - Baegundae (1.9 km, 1hr 30min)
- Dobong Information Booth - Sinsendae (3.2 km, 1hr 40min)
- Wondo Information Booth - Sinsendae (3.8 km, 2hr)
- Wondo Information Booth - Angol Park Ranger Post (3.8 km, 2hr)
- Sochu Park Watchpost - Dobong Information Booth (7.2 km, 3hr 50min)
- Obong Information Booth - Dobong Information Booth (8.6 km, 4hr 40min)

Public transportation

- Subway Line 4, Suyu Station [Exit 1] - Maeul Bus 01: Academy Information Booth, Baengnyeonsa Park Ranger Post, Unga Park Ranger Post
- Subway Line 4, Suyu Station [Exit 3] - Bus 120 & 130: Baegun Information Booth, Yongam Park Ranger Post, Sogwicheon Park Ranger Post
- Subway Line 4, Gireum Station [Exit 3] - Bus 110 & 143: Jeongneung Information Booth, Kalbawi Park Ranger Post
- Subway Line 3, Gupabal Station [Exit 1] - Bus 704: Bukhansanseong Information Booth, Samcheonsa Park Ranger Post, Sigumun Park Ranger Post
- Subway Line 3, Gyeongbokgung Station [Exit 3] - Bus 7022 & 212: Gugi Information Booth, Bibong Park Ranger Post, Tangchun Park Ranger Post
- Subway Line 1 & 7, Dobongsan Station [Exit 1 and 2]: Dobong Information Booth
- Subway Line 1, Mangwolsa Station [Exit 3]: Wondobong Park Ranger Post, Mangwol Information Booth
- Subway Line 3, Gupabal Station & Yeonsinnae Station - Bus 704, 34, 32 - Songchu Park Ranger Post, Obong Information Booth
- Subway Line 4, Suyu Station [Exit 1] - Maeul Bus 01: Academy Information Booth, Baengnyeonsa Park Ranger Post, Unga Park Ranger Post
- Subway Line 4, Suyu Station [Exit 3] - Bus 120 & 130: Baegun Information Booth, Yongam Park Ranger Post, Sogwicheon Park Ranger Post

***For further information**

- Bukhansan National Park Office
 - Address : Yaksu-gil (San 1-1, Jeongneung 4-dong), Seongbuk-gu, Seoul (136-855)
 - Phone : (02) 909-0497~0498, 918-9063
 - Fax : (02) 909-0888
 - E-mail : pukhan@knps.or.kr
- Bukhansan National Park Dobong Office
 - Address : 33 Wondobong-gil (Howon-dong 229-104), Uijeongbu-si, Gyeonggi (480-854)
 - Phone : (031) 873-2791~2792
 - Fax : (031) 871-7972
 - E-mail : pukhan_w@knps.or.kr
- Website : bukhan.knps.or.kr

Explore Bukhansan! The more you know, the more you see!

● The Bukhansan Visitor Center offers valuable information which can make visiting more fun. The status and history of the national park, information on wildlife, and various maps and course guides are available. Games and puzzles for kids on the wildlife of the park are offered as well.

Things to know when climbing Bukhansan!

● Jeongnyeung and Songchu valleys are surrounded by clear water and beautiful forests, but entry is not permitted because it has been designated as a Strict Nature Reserve until 2026. In addition, Bukhansan has the highest byway density in the world, so the non-official trails are all closed to protect the ecosystem.

Recommended course by park rangers

● The 3.4km course from the Bukhansanseong Information Booth to Baegundae is one of the most popular trails for visitors. It takes about three hours to reach Baegundae.

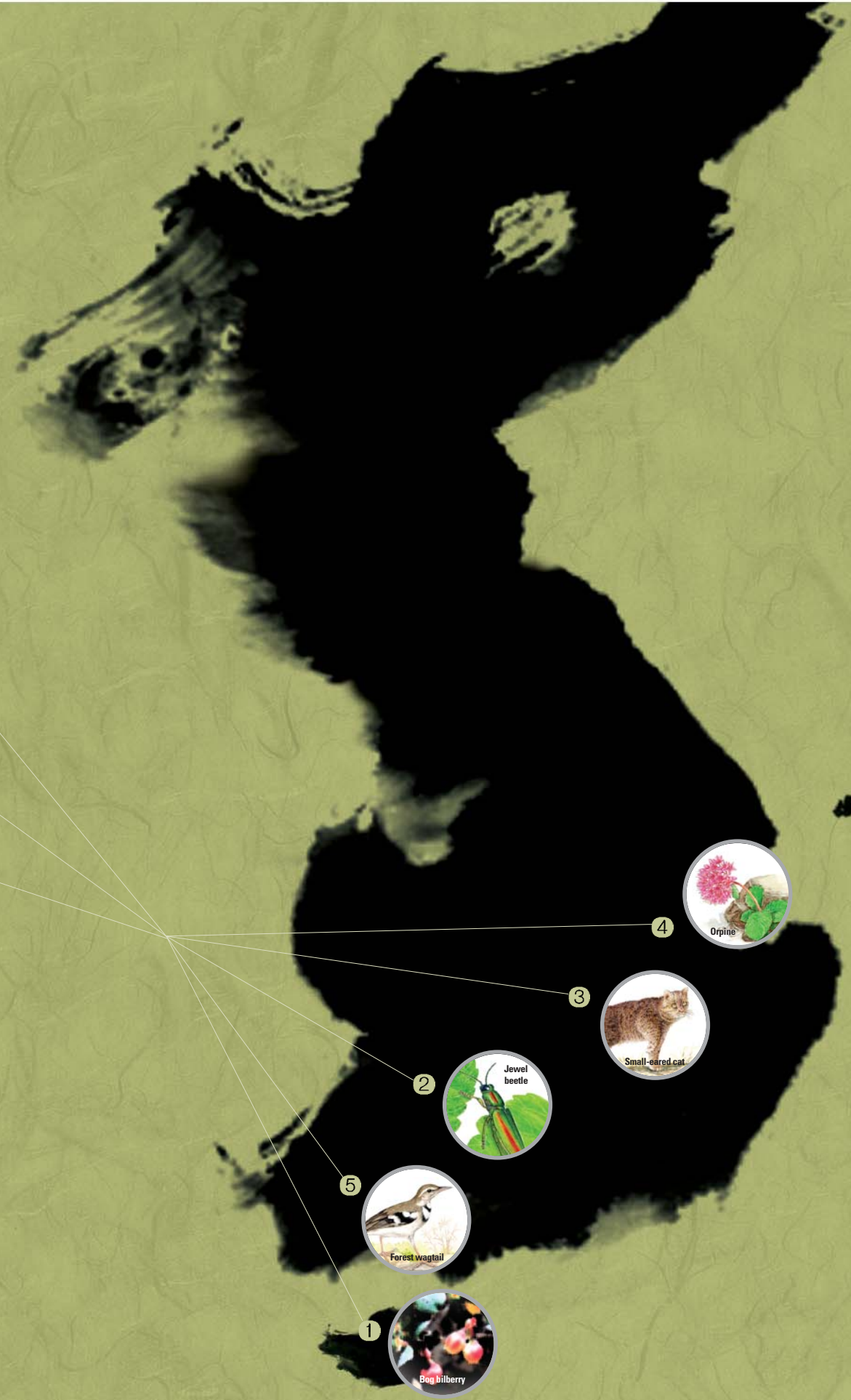
V.

The integrity and brilliance of thousands of years

Beautiful National Parks

Just as spring where all creations become full of life and autumn where the mountains and valleys put on colorful coats are different, each national park has its unique lively attractiveness. National parks which behold the history of mountains for more than thousands of years are more precious when loved and cared for.

- 1. The spiritual mountain standing tall in the southernmost tip of Korea **Hallasan National Park**
- 2. Endless treasures hidden in each grain **Naejangsan National Park**
- 3. The scent of ancient wisdom and tradition **Gayasan National Park**
- 4. The harmony of the prominent nunataks and the graceful valleys **Juwangsan National Park**
- 5. The first to greet the moonlight **Wolchulsan National Park**



I .
About Hallasan
National Park

Hallasan is located at the heart of Jeju Island, the largest and most beautiful island in Korea. It's total area is 151.3 km², and was designated as the 7th national park in Korea in 1970.

Along with Geumgangsan and Jirisan, Hallasan is one of the top three spiritual mountains in Korea. Located in the southernmost tip of the nation, Hallasan is the highest mountain in South Korea at 1,950m above sea level.

Hallasan is home to a variety of animals and plants with high value on studies and researches, and as a dormant volcano, it has about 360 small and big grass-covered inactive parasitic volcanoes (Oreum) surrounding it. The geological constitution of Hallasan is mostly basalt.

The old name of Jeju Island, "Tamna," means "deep and far island on the sea" and "Halla" means, "high enough to pull the down the galaxy."



Konara oak



Pine tree community



Loose flower hornbeam

II .
The Treasure Chest of
Natural Resources;
Hallasan National Park

01 Hallasan National Park wildlife

Hallasan shows a vertical distribution of various species from subtropical zones to frigid zones due to its geographical location, height, and terrain. There are about 1,800 plant species and about 4,000 animal species living on this mountain.

02 The vegetation distribution of Hallasan National Park

- Loose Flower Hornbeam Community

Distributed around high temperature plateaus and slopes ranging from 600m to 1,300m above sea level.

- Konara Oak Community
Located in plateaus, ridges, and valleys ranging from 600m to 1,000m above sea level.

- Korean Fir Community

Located 1,300m above sea level. It grows together with Loose flower hornbeam, Mongolian oak, and Konara oak.

- Pine Tree Community

Located on ridges below 1,400m above sea level. The dominant species are the pine and palmate bamboo.

- Korean Azalea Community

Distributed in the form of small communities or patches of shrubs on slopes or plateaus ranging from 1,400m to 1,900m above sea level.

- Grassland

The grassland and rock beds are located right below the summit. Grasslands are also distributed throughout the plateaus and slopes in the habitats of Korean fir and Korean azalea ranging from 1,400m to 1,950m above sea level.



Korean fir community

National Parks of Korea

The spiritual mountain standing tall in the southernmost tip of Korea

#016 Hallasan National Park



Yeongsilgiam

The sons that became Yeongsilgiam (Rock formations)

There is a sad story behind Hallasan's Yeongsilgiam (Rock formations). Once there was a mother who had 500 sons. One year when the harvest was poor, the mother asked her sons to go looking for food while she remained home cooking gruel. But the mother fell in the gruel pot and died. The sons returned from their trips, and not knowing what had happened ate the gruel deliciously.

The youngest son was the last to return home. As he dipped his spoon into the pot to have some gruel, he found a strange bone. The youngest son realized what had happened to their mother and mourned deeply. He fled as far away from home as he could to the shores of Gosanri where he became a rock. The other brothers soon found out what had happened and became rocks as well, which is how Yeongsil was created.

III. The First in Size and Beauty; Hallasan

Located at the heart of Jeju Island, Hallasan greets visitors with different appearances and colors each season.

01 Snow that never melts at Baengnokdam

Baengnokdam is the crater created by volcanic eruption at the summit of Hallasan. The circumference of the lake is about 1.7km and the depth is 110m. Baengnokdam (White deer) got its name from the legend that a god came down on a white deer to drink water. Because of its magnificent winter scenery, people call it the mountain summit that never melts.

02 The vast grasslands of Seonjakjiwat

Vast grassland opens up at about 1,600m ~ 1,700m above sea level on the climb up Yeongsil course. In Jeju dialect "jakji" means "small rock" and "wat" means "plain," so "Seonjakjiwat" has the meaning of "plain with small scattered rocks."

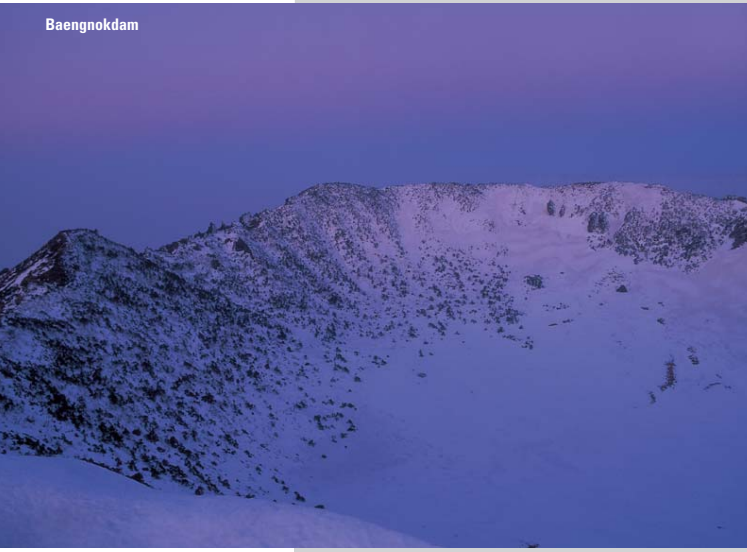
03 Wanggwanneung; the shape of a golden crown in the setting sun

The area of Wanggwanneung (Ridge) gets soaked in gold at sunset. It is called "Wanggwanneung (Crown ridge)" because it looks like a golden crown in the shimmering sun at sunset. The royal azaleas in spring and the ripe foliage in autumn are spectacular features of Hallasan.

04 Yeongsilgiam (Rock formation) where the gods live

This unique rock formation is named "Yeongsil (Spirit room)" because it is said that gods live here. Located Southwest of Baengnokdam, about 500 rock pillars stand tall with their heads pointed to the sky. As a type of Oreum (Parasitic volcano), it is also called "Yeongsil Oreum." Other names given to this fantastic attraction are Cheonbulbong (1,000 Buddha peak), Obaekjanggun (500 generals), and Obaeknahan (500 Buddha followers).

Baengnokdam



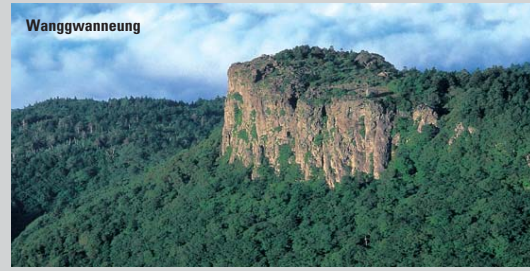
Gwaneumsa



Seonjakjiwat



Wanggwanneung



Exploring Hallasan



Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Nature Exploration of Hallasan
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 1hr 30min ~ 2hrs
 - Interpretation on Hallasan as a World Heritage including stories of the forest and trees, and the formation of parasitic volcanoes
- Tour of Hallasan along the valleys (Entrance of the Gwaneumsa hiking trail - Guringul)
 - All year round, Thursdays 10am, time required 1hr 30min ~ 2hrs
 - Commentary on the flora and fauna of Hallasan, and a walk barefoot through the forests
- Meeting with the flora and fauna of mountain wetlands (1100 heights wetlands)
 - All year round, Tuesday 10am, time required 1hr
 - About the Ramsar wetlands and observation of the evolution of wetlands and aquatic insects

IV. The Historic Sites and Cultural Assets of Hallasan

Hallasan shows unique culture with folk life adapted on beautiful nature

01 Status of cultural assets

The Gwaneumsa Mokjogwaneumbosaljwasang (Wooden sitting Buddha statue) and the Jonjaam Sejonsaritap (Pagoda) have been designated as Regional Cultural Assets No.16 and No.17, respectively. Also, the Yoshino cherry community at Gwaneumsa (Temple) and the Jonjaam temple site are recognized as Regional Monuments No.51 and No.43.

VISIT Hallasan National Park



Transportation

- By car
 - Jeju → Eorimok, Yeongsil: Local Road No.1139 / Road 1100 → straight towards Jungmun, Seogwipo → turn left at Eorimok (Yeongsil) entrance → Eorimok (Yeongsil) parking lot
 - Jeju-si → Gwaneumsa, Seongpanak, Donnaeko: Local Road No. 1131 / Road 5 - 16 → straight towards Seongpanak, Seogwipo → Gwaneumsa entrance → turn right at the Sancheondong three-way → Seongpanak → Beophochon / Jeju Youth Camp Site entrance (Turn right) → Sangbeophochon
 - Eorimok → Yeongsil district: Taking Road 1100 it takes 40 minutes to reach Eorimok from Jeju and 60 minutes to reach Yeongsil
 - From Jungmun, it takes 50 minutes to reach Eorimok and 30 minutes to reach Yeongsil
 - Seongpanak district: Taking Road 5,16 it takes 30 minutes from Jeju and 40 minutes from Seogwipo

Accommodations

- Jeju has plenty of lodging facilities including over 30 hotels, youth hostels, condominiums, and motels. For further information visit the Jeju tourism website at <http://jejutour.go.kr>.

Nearby attractions

- Seopjikoji, The filming location for TV drama "All In"
- Seopjikoji became famous after it was used as the set location for TV drama "All In." It is a vast plain area spread out towards the sea. In spring the rape flowers are in full bloom, and in autumn, wildflowers blossom colorfully which creates a beautiful scenery with Seongsan Ilchulbong (Mountain peak) in the backdrop.
- Udo, the filming location of "Il Mare" (Korean movie)
- The Seobinbaeksa Beach which was the set location for the Korean film, "Il Mare" is one of the few coral white sand beaches in the world. Udo (Island) can be reached within 10 minutes by boat from Seongsanpo and the natural caves and beaches are truly magnificent.

Explore Hallasan! The more you know, the more you see!

- The Information booth at Eorimok district offers a panoramic view of the nature and scenes of Hallasan. In addition, on the trail to Eoseungsangak, nature interpretation is provided. Although there are no information booths established at the Yeongsil, Seongpanak, Gwaneumsa, and Donnaeko districts, park information is provided at the ticket booths of parking lots.

Things to know when visiting Hallasan!

- There are certain areas in the park that are closed to the public for nature preservation such as the distance from Witse to Seobukbyeok (1.3km) and Nambyeok (2.8m), the summit circulation trail (1.3km), and some parts of the Donnaeko course. Camping in Hallasan National Park is strictly forbidden, so visitors must plan day trips. Before visiting, it is recommended to ask about opening and closing hours for the park trails.

Recommended course by park rangers

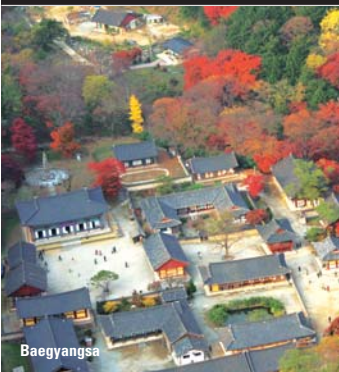
- Seongpanak course: This is an easy course even for beginners to reach Baengnokdam. Although the trail may be long, it is gentle and easy to climb. The starting point is Seongpanak Rest Area which is on Road 5 - 16 between Jeju and Seogwipo.
- Yeongsil course: Starting at Yeongsil Rest Area, visitors will be able to climb up a gentle slope through a community of Korean firs to reach Witseoreum shelter. However, the trail to Baengnokdam is closed off to the public as a restricted area.

*For Further information

Protection management department of Hallasan National Park

- Address : 555, 1100 Road, Jeju-si, Jeju (690-220)
- Phone : 064) 713-9950-3
- Fax : 064) 747-5977
- Website : hallasan.go.kr

#17 Naejangsan National Park



Baegyangsa

The sheep touched by a sermon and Baegyangsa (Temple)

There once was a small temple where the monks and people gathered and listened to very touching and impressive sermons. One day, a sheep came down to the temple from Baekhabong to listen to the sermons. So impressed, the sheep cried and bowed to the priest who had just finished his sermon. "I was originally a God, but sinned and was made into a sheep as punishment. Now, after listening to your sermon I will be reincarnated into heaven," said the sheep. Then, the sheep disappeared, and from that point on this temple was called "Baegyangsa (White sheep temple)" for enlightening a "white sheep."



Dark yellow magic lily

01 Naejangsan National Park wildlife
Naejangsan National Park has native flora such as the Muscle tree, Alien oak, Mongolian oak, Giant dogwood, and Maple and is the northern limit for the autogenous growth of southern plants such as the Nutmeg tree and Sloumi. A total of 919 plants species are reported. As for the animal species, there are a total of 1,889 animal species including 12 endangered species such as the Small-eared cat and Yellow-necked marten.

02 Flagship species of Naejangsan National Park
The flagship plant species of Naejangsan National Park is a native species called the Dark yellow magic lily (*Lycoris chinensis var. sinuolata*) which is a magic lily of the Amaryllidaceae family. As for the flagship animal species, the Jewel beetle which has purple metallic stripes on its chest and wings has been selected.



Jewel beetle

03 The autumn leaves of Naejangsan
Naejangsan has 11 different types of maple trees and owing to the big temperature gap and long sunshine duration, the color of the leaves is clear and beautiful. The autumnal tint is most magnificent at the "Maple Tunnel of 108 Trees" along the path to Naejangsa (Temple) from Iljumun (Gate). The Manchurian fullmoon maples growing near Baegyangsa (Temple) are also famous for their distinct color.

04 Colony of Sloumi and Nutmeg trees
The Sloumi colony located southwest of the Naejangsan observatory is a type of broadleaved evergreen which grows in warm regions. Naejangsan is the northern limit for the autogenous growth of this natural colony of Sloumi which has been designated as a Natural Treasure.
The Nutmeg tree colony near Baegyangsa is also designated as a Natural Treasure. The Nutmeg seeds first planted by Gakjinguksa (High priest) as vermicide to give to the villagers have now grown into a forest of more than 8,000 trees.

11 The Colorful Nature of Naejangsan

National Parks of Korea Endless treasures hidden in each grain

#017 Naejangsan National Park

About Naejangsan National Park

Naejangsan National Park was designated as the 8th national park in Korea in 1971. It is one of the five representative mountains of Honam, as well as one of the eight most beautiful places in Korea. Located in Honamjeongmaek (Branch range) linked with Baekdudaegan (Backbone of Korea), Naejangsan National Park consists of Naejangsan, Baegamsan, and Ibamsan districts and the total area is 81.7 km². With Sinseonbong (763m) being its highest peak, Naejangsan is not that high with peaks averaging at about 700m, but each peak has its own unique rock formation which gives this mountain the nickname, "Geumgang of Honam." Naejangsan was originally named "Yeongeunsan" after its main temple, Yeongeunsa, but was later changed to "Naejangsan" (Nae; inside, Jang; concealed) because of the many wonders hidden within the mountain.

III. The Fantastic Rock Cliffs of Naejangsan

The fantastic rock cliffs change colors each season, but are most captivating in late autumn when the maples are fully matured.

- 01 Seoraebong; the stone wall shaped like a folding screen**
The rock formations of Seoraebong stretch out for about 1km like a giant folding screen. Many visitors come here to see the magnificent leaves in autumn. It is called Seoraebong because it looks like a "Seorae (Harrow)" used in the rice fields.
- 02 Hakbawi (Crane rock) shaped like a flying crane**
This rock is called "Hakbawi" because it is shaped like a white crane spreading its wings. The white color of the rock contrasts well with the red maples in autumn and the green nutmegs in spring to make it one of the most popular spots in Baegamsan.
- 03 The legend of Geumseon Falls**
It is said that monks became gods after ablution and prayer for 1,000 days at the 18m high Geumseonpokpo (Waterfall) located beneath Sinseonbong (Peak).
- 04 The rock wearing a bamboo hat; Gatbawi (Bamboo hat rock)**
At a distance, the summit of Ibamsan looks like it is wearing a bamboo hat, which gives it the name "Gatbawi (Bamboo hat rock)." The view from the summit is truly breathtaking as it overlooks the Honam Plains and the West Sea.

Seoraebong

Gatbawi

Geumseon Falls

Exploring Naejangsan

Naejangsa

Baegyangsa

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

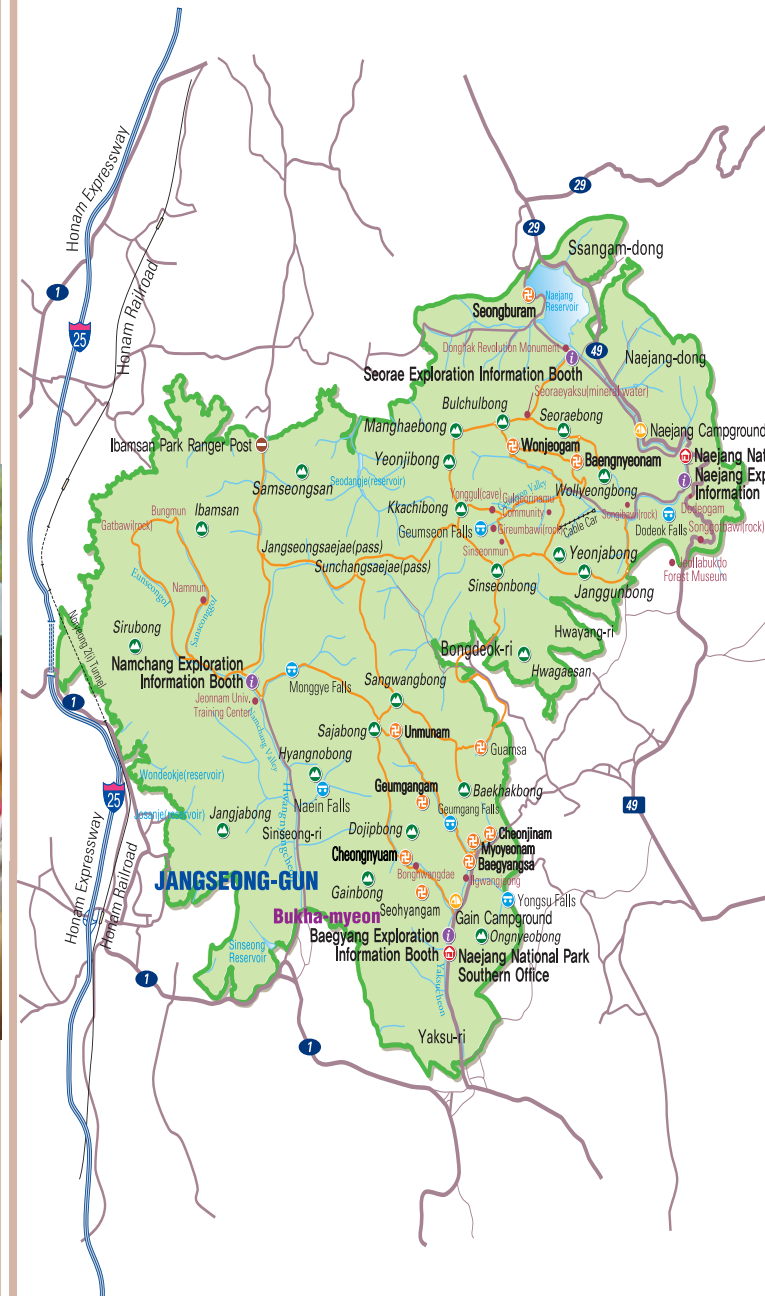
- Experience the forest and culture of Naejangsan
 - All year round, twice a day, time required 3hrs (Wonjeokgol nature observation trail)
 - Learning about the wildlife of Wonjeok valley, temple culture, and a therapeutic walk in the forest
- Nature commentary on Baegyanggol valley and its nutmeg trees
 - All year round, everyday (except Monday), time required 4hrs (prior reservation required)
 - Commentary on the plants and animals of Baegyanggol
- The patriots of Ibamsanseong (Fortress)
 - All year round, everyday (except Monday), time required 4hrs (prior reservation required)
 - Ibamsan tracking and lessons on Ibamsanseong (fortress) and the tomb of General Yoon Jin
- It's good to have mountains! (Family Camp)
 - All year round, twice a day (prior reservation required)
 - Study of forest ecology and various recreational activities themed on nature
- Travels of the winter birds in Naejangsan
 - November - December, Fri - Sun, from 10am for 4hrs
 - Observation of Wonjeokgol mountain birds and the activities of migratory birds at Naejangto Lake

IV. History Hidden Between the Valleys of Naejangsan

Naejangsan has temples such as Naejangsa and Baegyangsa as well as many historic and cultural relics.

- 01 Yonggul (Cave) which safeguarded the history of the Joseon dynasty**
During Imjinwaeran (Japanese invasion of 1592), Joseonwangjosilok (The annals of the Joseon dynasty) and the portrait of King Taejo were hidden at Yonggul (Cave) in Geumseon valley.
- 02 Ibamsanseong (Fortress) the traces of the Goryeo dynasty**
Ibamsanseong, a splendid stone fortress of the Goryeo dynasty, is located on the path along Namchang valley towards Gatbawi (Rock). This was also a battlefield during the Japanese invasion of 1592 and General Yoon Jin fought against Japanese soldiers and died during the wars with Japan at this time.
- 03 Naejangsa (Temple)**
Located at the heart of the nine peaks of Naejangsan, Naejangsa was built by a monk named Yeongeunjosa during the reign of King Mu of the Baekje Dynasty. It was originally named "Yeongeunsa," after its founder.

VISIT Naejangsan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information Booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail Nature Restoration Area | | Falls |
| | Park Ranger Post | | Campground |

- Explore Naejangsan! The more you know, the more you see!**
- The Visitor Center located at the entrance of Naejangsan National Park offers various information such as by season, an ecosystem diorama, a folk village exhibition hall, nature experience facilities, and video presentations.
 - Information Booths are located at the entrances of Naejang, Seorae, Baegyang, and Namchang districts. In addition, the Naejang and Gain camping sites are open to interested families.

- Things to know when climbing Naejangsan!**
- In the Seoraebong - Seoraesamgeon section of the Seoraebong course which is the most popular hiking trail, there are many steel stairs below the rocky cliff which can become very slippery. The total distance is 5.8km and it takes about 3 - 4 hours to complete this course.
 - The ridge line tour which rounds the eight peaks of Naejangsan shaped like a horse's hoof is also a popular course. There are no springs or valleys throughout the total length of 11.7km, so climbers must prepare plenty of water and food in advance.
 - In Ibamsan valley, the areas of Saejae toilet - Eunseondong valley and Saejae toilet - Nammun valley have been designated as Strict Nature Reserves, and are closed until 2026.

- Recommended course by park rangers**
- **The Wonjeokgol Nature Interpretive Trail section (3.6km)**
The Nature Interpretive Trail located within Wonjeok valley which starts from the Naejangsan Visitor Center to Byeongnyeongam offers tranquility and the gentle fragrance of Nutmeg trees. With attractions such as the "Bride of Love" this is an ideal course for friends, lovers, and families.
 - **Gain village entrance - Ilgwangjeong - Ssanggyeru**
This trail is famous for its Manchurian fullmoon maple in autumn. It is popular to families because the trail accommodates baby strollers and wheelchairs.

Transportation

- By car
 - Naejangsan district: Honam Expressway towards Gwangju - Naejangsan IC, towards Seoul - Taein IC - Seohaean Expressway towards Naejangsa - Julpo IC - towards Jeongeup
 - Baegamsan district: Honam Expressway Baegyangsa IC - Baegyangsa direction 88 Expressway Damyang IC - towards Baegyangsa and Naejangsa
- By bus
 - Naejangsan district: Bus 171 from downtown Jeongeup departs every 20 minutes. (Time to destination 25 minutes)
 - Baegamsan district: Intercity bus to Baegyangsa from Baegyangsa station or intercity bus to Baegyangsa from Jangseong or Gwangju. (The trip from Gwangju to Baegyangsa takes about one hour)

Accommodations

Each district has sufficient inns and restaurants, but the Baegyang Tourist Hotel is located in the Baegyangsa district. For more information visit the Jeongeup-si website at <http://culture.jeongeup.go.kr> or the Jangseong-gun website at <http://tour.jangseong.go.kr>.

Nearby attractions

- Many regional festivals are hosted by Jeongeup-si such as the "Cherry Blossom Festival" in April and the "Autumn Leaves Festival of Love" in October. Also, there are many attractions near Naejangsan National Park such as the 'Donghak Peasants Revolution Memorial Hall', and the 'Jeonbuk Forest Museum'.
- There are many attractions near Baegyangsa as well such as Chungnyeongsan (Mountain) nature park, Jangseongho (Lake) which is becoming a popular water resort, and the birthplace of Hong Gildong. In addition, the Geumgok Movie Town which was used to film movies such as "The Harmonium in My Memory" and "Taebaeksanmaek" is located here as well.

*For further information

- **Naejangsan National Park Office**
 - Address : 59-10, Naejang-dong, Jeongeup-si, Jeonbuk (580-300)
 - Phone : 063) 538-7875-7877
 - Fax : 063) 538-7871
- **Naejangsan National Park Baegam Office**
 - Address : 252-1, Yaksu-ri, Bukha-myeon, Jangseong-gun, Jeonnam (515-854)
 - Phone : 061) 392-7088, 7288
 - Fax : 061) 392-7556
- **Website : naejang.knps.or.kr**

About Gayasan National Park

Located in the deep inlands of southeastern Korea, Gayasan was designated as the 9th national park in Korea in 1972. Gayasan was well-known as one of the 10 most beautiful spots in the East Sea area and as one of the eight scenic wonders of the Joseon dynasty. The total area of the park is 77km² and it borders Hapcheon-gun and Geochang-gun of Gyeongsangnam-do, and Seongju-gun of Gyeongsangbuk-do.

Some call the highest peak of the mountain Sangwangbong (1,430m). Another name of the peak is called Woodoobong because its shape looks like a cow's head. Gayasan has a mountain area composed of anorthosite and a valley area (Hongnyudong and Baegundong valleys) mainly made up of granite.

As the sacred site of Buddhism, Gayasan has many historical and beautiful spots such as Haeinsa (Temple), Palmadaejanggyeong (Tripitaka Koreana, Buddhist Scriptures), and the Hongnyudong valley. Known as a mountain of wisdom and morality, the mountain has attracted many visitors.

11. Gayasan; 1,000 Years of Nature

National Parks of Korea

The scent of ancient wisdom and tradition

#018 Gayasan National Park



Small-eared cat



Solnari

01 Gayasan National Park wildlife

Gayasan has 590 plant species, 22 mammal species, 61 bird species, 11 amphibian species, 5 reptile species, and 423 insect species. It also has 18 Korean native species and 10 endangered species designated by the Ministry of Environment such as the Solnari (*Lilium cernum*), the Chickweed wintergreen, and the Woodland peony.

02 Flagship species of Gayasan National Park

The Gayasan eunbunchi (*Saussurea pseudo-gracilis* Kitam.), a plant belonging to the chrysanthemum family, was first discovered in Gayasan and has been designated as its flagship plant species. This Korean native plant grows in Gayasan and Seoraksan. The flagship animal species is the Small-eared cat (*Felis bengalensis manchurica* Mori). This feline requires special protection because its numbers are rapidly reducing due to feeding the bodies of animals that were poisoned.



Gayasan eunbunchi

03 The majestic pine trees of Hongnyudong valley

The colony of pine trees in Gayasan constitute a high ratio of the forests in this area. And this means that it has high preservation value because they have been well preserved in harmony with the surrounding cultural resources. Hongnyudong valley has many old pine trees that have been growing for more than 1,000 years.

#18 Gayasan National Park



Manmulsang

Origin of Gayasan

According to "Taekriji" [Geographical book] written by Lee Junghwan, a geographer who lived during the Joseon dynasty, Gayasan, along with Odaesan (1,563m) and Sobaeksan (1,439m) was not damaged by Japanese invasions. It proves that it was safe from the three elements of natural disasters; fire, water, and wind. There are two stories about the name of Gayasan. The first one is that since it was the highest and most magnificent mountain of the old Daegaya kingdom, it was called "the mountain of Gaya" or "Gayasan." The second is that it was named after "Mountain Gaya" in Buddha Gaya, India where Buddha gave laymen sermons. "Gaya" means "cow" in Sanskrit and it may not be a coincidence that the highest peak of Gayasan is called Woodoobong (a cow's head).



Namsan Jeilbong



National Parks of Korea

#018

III. Peaks, Valleys, and Fantastic Rocks of Gayasan

Mysterious rocks, seamless valleys, and steep peaks make Gayasan gorgeous and phenomenal.

Fun experience with nature [Nature interpretation]

- **The Secret of the Palmandaejanggyeong**
 - Two times a day (all year round)
 - One hour program on Haeinsa's Iljumun, Jeongjung stone pagoda, and Palmandaejanggyeong
- **Finding my true self**
 - One time a day (all year round)
 - One hour program on the life of high priests such as Samyeongdaesa (Hongjeam) and Seongcheolseunim (Baengnyeongam)
- **Visiting the mountain temple**
 - Two times on Saturday (from March - November)
 - One hour program including commentary on the forest environment such as bamboo grass and mistletoe on the Haeinsa nature observation trail
- **Gayasan in the summertime**
 - Open every day during July-August, but prior reservations are required
 - Four hour nature study program for families staying at the camping site

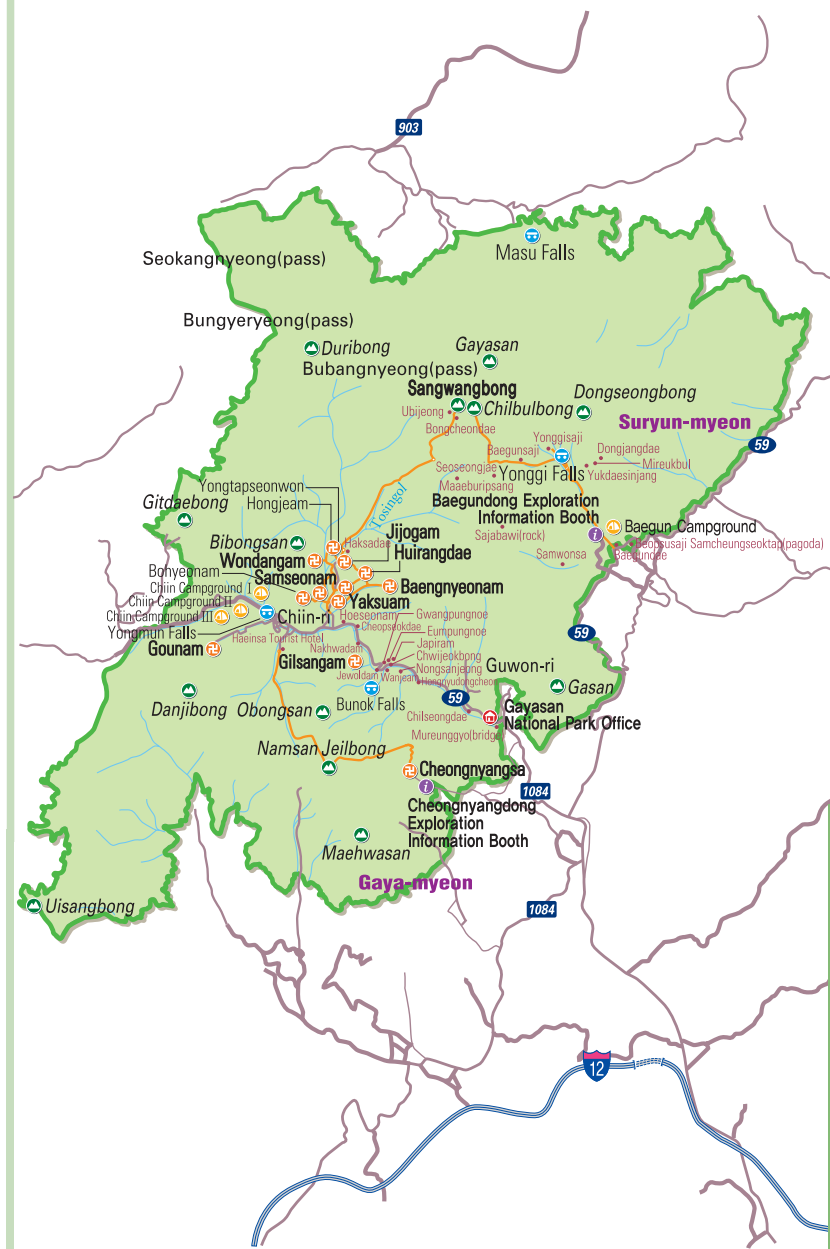
IV. Historical landmarks that Breathe 1,000 Years of History

Haeinsa (Temple, Korea's largest Buddhist denomination) is located in Gayasan as well as many other cultural assets and ancient sites (3 national treasures, 14 treasures) such as National Treasure No. 32 Tripitaka Koreana.

- 01 Sangwangbong and Manmulsang**
Sangwangbong is Gayasan's main peak (1,430m) and is called "Udubong" because it is shaped like a cow's head. From Sangwangbong towards Simwongol lies Manmulsang which has breathtaking rock formations.
- 02 Hongnyudong valley capturing the heart of Great poet Choi Chiwon**
Hongnyudong valley is located at the entrance of Haeinsa. The name of "Hongnyudong (Red area)" is caused from the fact that autumn leaves reflected on the water surface resemble a burning fire. One of the greatest poets in the Silla dynasty, Choi Chiwon ended his life here as a hermit and his poems remain carved in the stone wall called Chiwondae or Jesiseok.
- 03 Cheonbulsan or Namsanjeilbong**
Namsanjeilbong (Peak) is located between Haeinsa and Hongnyudong valley and because its rocks resemble one thousand statues of Buddha, it is called Cheonbulsan (One thousand Buddha mountain). People thought that Namsanjeilbong was the cause of the frequent fires at Haeinsa. So monks and villagers buried salt there to suppress the energy of Namsanjeilbong on Dano (Lunar May 5th) every year. Since then, fires have not broken out at Haeinsa.
- 04 Hongjeam (Temple)**
Hongjeam is the temple that Samyeongdaesa (Great Monk during the Joseon Dynasty) chose as his place of retirement. It was called Hongjeam after his death. Heogyun (Writer during the Joseon Dynasty) wrote the epitaph of Samyeongdaesa which was destroyed during the Japanese colonial rule, but was later restored with a scar shaped like a cross after independence from Japan.

- 01 Haeinsa, the greatest temple in the east**
Haeinsa has a history of 1,200 years. It is a treasure chest of many historic and cultural assets such as Janggyeongpanjeon (Depository for the Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks) and Palmandaejanggyeong (Tripitaka Koreana) which are recognized as world heritages. Also called Haedonggeochal (the greatest temple in the east), Haeinsa is one of the three great temples of Korea.
- 02 UNESCO's world heritages Palmandaejanggyeong and Janggyeongpanjeon**
Palmandaejanggyeong (Tripitaka Koreana, Buddhist scripture) was made up of 81,258 printing blocks to safely keep the Goryeo dynasty from the invasions of Mongolia. It has been designated as National Treasure No.32 as well as one of UNESCO's World Documentary Heritages. Janggyeongpanjeon, the depository for the Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks was designated as National Treasure No.52, and one of UNESCO's World Cultural Heritages. Constructed by King Seongjong during the Joseon dynasty, this structure perfectly protects the Buddhist scriptures housed inside.

VISIT Gayasan National Park



| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Campground |
| | Park Ranger Post | | |

Explore Gayasan! The more you know, the more you see!
● Visiting information on detailed trail, main attractions, and nature interpretation of Gayasan National Park are offered at the Information Booth located in the entrance of the Baegundong district and the Public Relations Center in Haeinsa.

Things to know when visiting Gayasan!
● One day excursion takes about five hours to complete and although the lower part of the mountain is gentle, the summit is full of steep slopes and requires the climbing of steel stairs. As there is no place to get water on the trails starting from the Baegundong Information Booth, visitors must prepare plenty of water beforehand, and because cooking is not allowed on the grounds, lunch boxes are highly recommended.

Recommended course by park rangers
● **Haeinsa Tourist Hotel - Namsanjeilbong for families**
For the whole family to enjoy, the course from Haeinsa Tourist Hotel to Namsanjeilbong is the best. The slopes are not steep and the trail is safe and easy to hike. The view from the summit is breathtaking enough to make the climb worth while.

Transportation

- By car: 88 Expressway Haeinsa IC: Drive straight towards Haeinsa to reach Haeinsa district Turn right towards Seongju and Gimcheon at Yacheonsamgeonri to reach Baegundong district
- By bus: The Haeinsa district can be reached by bus from Daegu, Geochang, and Hapcheon. The time schedule for buses from Daegu to the Baegundong district must be checked and confirmed.

Accommodations

- Many lodging facilities and restaurants are located at the Chiin and Baegun districts including the Haeinsa Tourist Hotel and the Gayasan Tourist Hotel. For further information visit the Gayasan National Park website at <http://gaya.knps.or.kr/>.

Nearby attractions

- Many festivals are hosted by local governments and organizations near Gayasan such as the Palmandaejanggyeong Festival (October) hosted by Haeinsa, the Birojana Festival (July-August), the Hwangmaesan Royal Azalea Festival (Early May), the Hapcheon Culture Festival (October), the Seongju Melon Festival (April), the Geojasu Festival, and the Goryeong Daegaya Experience Festival (April).
- There are many natural and cultural tourist locations near Gayasan such as Odosan Nature Recreation Forest, Hwanggang Leisure Sports Park, Hwangmaesan County Park, Hapcheon Lake and the Cherry Blossom Trail, and the Goryeong Daegaya Ruins.

***For Further information**
Gayasan National Park Office
 - Address : 123-1, Guwon-ri, Gaya-myeon, Hapcheon-gun, Gyeongnam (678-892)
 - Phone : 055) 932-7810, 7830, 7850
 - Fax : 055) 931-0070
 - E-mail : kaya@knps.or.kr
 - Website : gaya.knps.or.kr



Sudalrae

The Origin of Juwangsan and the Sudalrae Flower

During the Tang dynasty of China, a person called 'Judo' claimed a kingship and called himself "Hujucheonwang." But he was utterly defeated when he tried to invade Jangan, the capital of Tang, in 779.

Juwangsan is the place where he fled and hid himself. The Tang dynasty requested the Silla dynasty to extradite King Ju. So, the Silla dynasty sent General Ma to capture King Ju. Juwanggul is the cave where King Ju died of the wounds in General Ma's attack while washing his face. A story tells that sudalrae's buds are bloody-red because of the blood that King Ju shed at that time. Even now, the splendid red flowers blossom in Jubang valley from late spring until early summer.



Yellow water flag



Jeffersonia dubia benth



Brown hawk owl

|| Juwangsan, Full of Nature's Breath

National Parks of Korea The harmony of the prominent nunataks and the graceful valleys

#019 Juwangsan National Park

About Juwangsan National Park

Juwangsan National Park was designated as the 12th national park in Korea in 1976. It borders Cheongsong-gun and Yeongdeok-gun in Gyeongsangbuk-do, while occupying an area of 107.4 km.

Juwangsan (720m), Taehaengsan (933m), Daedunsan (905m), Myeongdongjae (875m), and Wanggeoam (907m) are connected in a horseshoe shape while creating a beautiful mountain scenery. This circumstance makes it a natural fortress. Geologically, the lava flows of 70 million years ago made a round formation of ignimbrites, or volcanic tuffs, which shows how this unique and beautiful scenery was created.

Juwangsan has been well-known as the best scenic spot in Gyeongsangbuk-do (Province) and regarded as one of the top three rocky mountains in Korea thanks to its breathtaking scenery by the beautiful nunataks and valleys.

In the late Tongilsilla dynasty, the rebel Judo, who called himself Juwang (King of Zhou) attempted a coup dé tat against Tang dynasty of China and fled to this mountain. So, now this mountain is called Juwangsan (the Mountain of King Ju).

01 Juwangsan National Park wildlife

There are 88 plant species including endangered species such as the Nodding lily, Tattaasau and Yellow water flag in Juwangsan National Park. As for animals, 924 animal species inhabit the park area and among them the Otter has been designated as a Natural Treasure.

02 The flagship species of Juwangsan National Park

Juwangsan National Park has one animal and one plant as its flagship species. They are the Orpine and Brown hawk-owl. Orpines grow on the sides of rock mountains and are widely spread over Juwangsan National Park. The Orpine is designated by the Ministry of Environment as a level II endangered



Orpine

wild plant. The Brown hawk-owl, designated as a Natural Treasure, is a summer migratory bird that controls the population of rodents as a predator on the top of the food chain while constituting a part of the ecological scenery.

03 Sudalrae keeping King Ju's spirit

Sudalrae is also called sudanhwa and blooms at the valleys of Juwangsan in early May. Nowhere else can this flower be found. Sudalrae is a False rosebay, a member of the Azalea family, and mainly grows near the water and in the mountain. The flower is very similar to Azalea but has red spots on its petals.



III. A Harmony of Mysterious Rocky Cliffs; Juwangsan

The main features of Juwangsan are the Jusanji where Glandulosa willows in the water can be seen in all seasons, the Jeolgol, the valley that has its smooth stone ridges, and the Juwang valley that boasts the beauty of its grand rocks.

01 The rock formations of Juwang valley

The big rock mountain 40 meters high stands at the entrance of Juwang valley as the gatekeeper of Juwangsan. When people stand on the top of these large fat rocks, they get a fine view of not only the rocky cliffs and nunataks, but also the Cheongsong and Yeongdeok areas.

02 A colony of Glandulosa willows in the water : Glandulosa willow (Salix glandulosa SEEM)

Jusanji, located at the Jeolgol district, is a reservoir where the Glandulosa willows in the water grow. There are 25 Glandulosa willows in the water and five at the water's edge. The Glandulosa willows which change colors every season present the beauty of four seasons.

03 Juwang valley and Geupsudae (Rock)

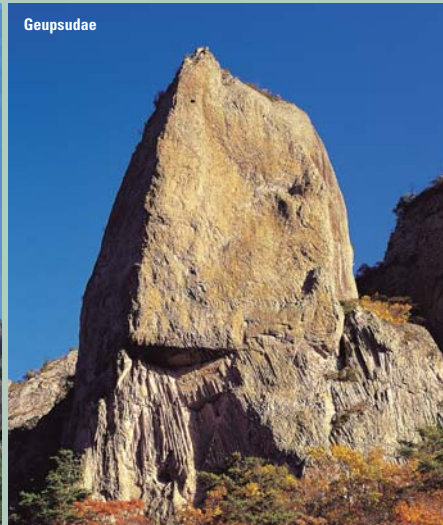
Geupsudae, located 50m from Mangwoldae, is the most outstanding among rock cliffs of Juwang valley. When Kim Juwon, the sixth descendant of King Muyeol during the Silla dynasty, gave up his kingship and lived as a recluse, he pulled up water from the valley for his daily use. This is the reason why this place is called "Geupsudae (the water supplying rock)."

04 Dalgi Spring to make you feel better

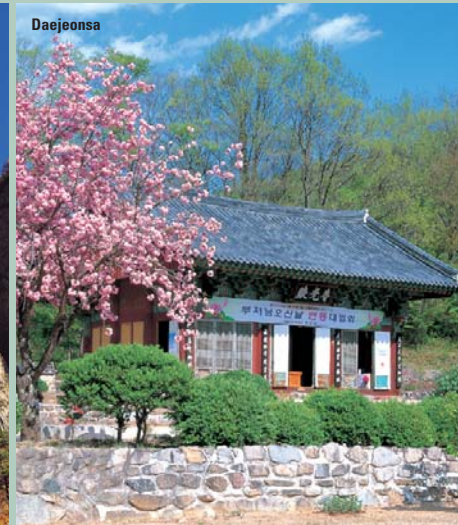
Located 3km east from Cheongsong-eup, Dalgi Spring was first found by Kwon Seongha who was appointed deputy of the area. He saw a stream of water and gas coming from a chasm in the rock and tasted the water. Since then, it has been well-known to the visitors. There is another story that people call it Dalgi Spring because water was sprung from the spot where a chicken had pecked.



Giam



Geupsudae



Daejeonsa



Exploring Juwangsan

Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- Ecology tour with the Juwang's legends
 - All the year round, Starting at 10am everyday, time required 2hrs
 - Introduction to Juwangsan and its legends, and explanations of seasonal wildflowers and the value of forests
- Commentary on the insects of Juwangsan
 - All the year round, Starting at 10:00 and ending at 17:00, time required 1hr
 - Commentary on the landscape and ecology of Juwangsan and its ecosystem
- A mid-summer night at Juwangsan
 - August ~ September, Starting at 8pm on weekends, time required 1hr
 - Slide shows on landscape and ecology of Juwangsan and making insect models and porcelains
- Juwangsan children's school [Voluntary program]
 - April ~ November, everyday, time required 8hrs
 - Classes on animals, plants and rocks of Juwangsan and arts & craft with natural materials

IV. Resources Keeping the History of Juwangsan

As the name "Juwangsan (King Ju's mountain)" indicates the history and legends related with, King Ju who once led the uprising during the Tang dynasty of China can be found in various places of Juwangsan.

01 The scent of 1,000 years; Daejeonsa (Temple)

Daejeonsa (Temple) was built by Great Monk Uisangdaesa during the 12th year of the reign of King Munmu of the Silla dynasty. The temple has the time-honored history and beautiful scenery of one thousand years. It is called Daejeonsa because a monk named 'Nurung' prayed for the repose of Daejeondogun, the son of King Ju.

02 Juwanggul (Cliff and cave)

Starting at Juwangam, a hermitage of Daejeonsa, passing a gorge, and going up a flight of steel stairs, one will find a rock cave in a cliff with the height of 30 adults. And a stream flows on the left side of the cave. According to the story, when King Ju hid himself inside the cave, people couldn't find him because the waterfall concealed the entrance to the cave. However, General Ma of the Silla dynasty worked his miracle of diverting the falling water to the left and finally found King Ju.

VISIT Juwangsan National Park



Explore Juwangsan! The more you know, the more you see

- A visit to Juwangsan Visitor Center will be enough to get information on park trails and programs, such as narration programs in ecology and culture. Eunbitgoeul Trail is located in Sangui district of Juwangsan National Park, which is popular among visitors who come together with their family.

Things to know before trekking Juwangsan!

- Except for the valley at the entrance of Juwangsan, Jubong, Gamaebong, Janggunbong in Sangui district are mostly high rising ridges. This requires safety plans for trekking.
- There are two restrict course; one from Jubong to Gamebong without passing through Hurimegi valley and the other from Mujanggul near Juwangam to Jubong.

Recommendation course by park rangers

- **Juwang valley and nature observation trail course**
Sudalrae with King Ju's legend grows at Juwang valley that leads to Daejeonsa ~ Adeulbawi ~ Jahagyo ~ Juwangam ~ Waterfalls 1 ~ 2 ~ 3 ~ 1st Waterfall ~ Daejeonsa, and finally to the trail that links to the nature interpretive trail. The 1st waterfall looks as if it is surrounded by rocks on all sides, and with the rock formations at the entrance, the area around the 1st waterfall presents the best scenery in Juwangsan.

*For further information

- **Juwangsan National Park Office**
- Address : 406 Sangui-ri, Budong-myeon, Cheongsong-gun, Gyeongbuk (763-833)
- Phone : (054) 873-0014-5
- Fax : (054) 873-0016
- E-mail : juwang@knps.or.kr
- Website : juwang.knps.or.kr

Transportation

- By car
 - From Seoul: Yeongdong Expressway - Jungang Expressway - West Andong IC - Towards Andong Dam (National Road 34) - Entrance of Andong Dam - Andong National University - Towards Jinbo/Yeongdeok (National Road 34)
 - From Daejeon : Daegu-Pohang Expressway - North Yeongcheon IC (National Road 33) - Hyeonseo (Regional Road 68) - Hyeondong (National Road 31) - Cheongsong
 - From Busan: Gyeongju IC - Angang - Gyeong - Bunam - Cheongsong - Jukjang - Dopyeong - Bunam - Cheongsong
 - From Gwangju: 88 Olympic Expressway, then follow the same directions as from Daejeon - Daegu

- By bus

- There are buses available from Cheongsong (Jinbo) to Juwangsan every 20 - 25 minutes. There are six to seven daily buses available from Juwangsan to Jeon (Jeolgol and Jusanji). Please check out the bus schedules in advance.

Accommodations

- Every district has a lot of inns and restaurants. More modern types of accommodations are recently being set up and operated. Various motels, including the Cheongsong Juwangsan Hot Spring Tourist Hotel, lie within a 15 minute driving distance from Cheongsong-eup, the hub of the local districts. There are many inns and restaurants in Sangui district where Juwangsan national park office is located.

Nearby attractions

- Various sports and cultural events are annually held at Cheongsong-gun nearby Juwangsan all the year round. These include the Cheongsong Juwangsan Sudalrae Festival in May, the Cheongsong Summer Festival from July to August, the Cheongsong Cultural Festival and the Cheongsong Apple Festival in October, the Cheongsong Winter Festival and the Cheongsong Juwangsan Ice Ridge Tournament in January.

I .
About
Wolchulsan
National Park

Wolchulsan became Korea's 20th national park in 1988. The current Wolchulsan was created by the long years of Namhae (South sea) crashing into the great undercurrent of the Honam varix, which gave rise to granite stones. Wolchulsan's area is rather small at 56.1km², but a variety of animals and plants can be found within the area, and Wolchulsan National Park holds the third most numerous cultural assets among Korea's 20 national parks. Wolchulsan's highest peak is Cheonhwangbong, which sits 809m above sea level, and has been known as a place of ceremonies to the heavens ever since the days of the Silla dynasty. Wolchulsan's scenery forms a great contrast. The view to the north and the east is a grand one, with huge rocks sitting on deep ridges. The view to the south and the west is one of a pagoda created out of big and small rocks.



Agrimony



Forest Wagtail



Keunggachisuyeom
(*Lysimachia chelethroides Duby*)

II .
Wolchulsan
Embraces
Nature

National Parks of Korea

The first to greet the moonlight

#020 Wolchulsan National Park

01 Wolchulsan National Park wildlife
Wolchulsan is a habitat for a total of 693 plant species such as the Camellia and the Japanese evergreen oak. There are also a total of 821 animal species in the park, including 19 mammal species, 79 bird species, 14 amphibian and reptile species, 31 fish species, and 678 insect species.

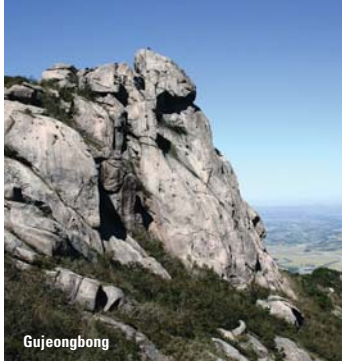
02 Flagship species of Wolchulsan National Park
Wolchulsan's flagship species are the Round-leaved sundew, an insectivorous plant, and the Forest wagtail of the wagtail family. In particular, the Round-leaved sundew are reducing in number due to habitat destruction and Wolchulsan National Park is trying to increase people's awareness on stable ecosystem through restoration of the flagship species.



Sundew

03 Wolchulsan National Park special protection area
Areas around Janggunbong (Peak) and the course from Dongwon farm to Miwangjae is closed until 2026 to conserve the colony of plants here, and the Muwisa (Temple) to Miwangjae (Hill) section is closed until December 31st, 2011 to restore the vegetation on the trail.

#20 Wolchulsan National Park



Gujeongbong

The rock that moved
by itself
Gujeongbong
Dongseok

According to the records of Donggungnyeojiseungnam (History Book of Joseon dynasty), there were three rocks that moved by itself at Wolchulsan. The first was Unmubong, and the other two were located under Dogap and Yongam. A Chinese man heard that these rocks would bear a great person in Yeongam. He became jealous and threw all three rocks down from the mountain. But one of the rocks climbed back up Wolchulsan by itself. As if proving this story, there is a rock called Dongseok under Wolchulsan's Gujeongbong, and because of this rock, the northern area of Wolchulsan is called Yeongam (Holy rock).



III. Small Geumgangsari of Homan

Wolchulsan has over 270 rocks with their own names. They are named after their form. So this place is called the exhibition hall of mysterious rocks and stones.

01 The nine wells that never dry out; Gujeongbong

The name Gujeongbong originates from the nine cisterns that sit on the flat part of the rock that juts out at the top. It is said that the nine cisterns never dry out. Legend has it that nine dragons lived in its water.

02 Barampokpo (Waterfall) which scatters refreshingly like the rain

On the way to baramgol (Valley) from Cheonhwangsaji (Temple site), there is the Barampokpo (Waterfall) about 15 meters high. It is said that the waterfall got its name from the fall which refreshes as if rain would when the wind blows into the falling water.

03 Bridge to walk on clouds; Gureumdari (Bridge)

The Gureumdari (Bridge) that links Maebong and Sajabong (Peaks) was built in 1978. Currently, the Gureumdari is 54m long, 1m wide, 510m above sea level, and 120m above ground level. It is installed at the highest location in Korea.

Gujeongbong



Gureumdari



Exploring Wolchulsan



Muwisa



Fun experience with nature [Interpretive program]

- The first step in Namdo exploration, Muwisat
 - All year round, once a day, time required 2 hrs
 - Lesson on Muwisa and ecology
- Journey into nature Dogapsa and beyond:
 - All year round, once a day, time required 2 hrs
 - Program on ecology and nature experience
- The rocks of Wolchulsan and the moonrise at Cheonhwangbong:
 - March - November, once a day, time required 2 hrs
 - Lessons on the nature, animals and plants of Wolchulsan

IV. Wolchulsan, the First Step in Exploring Namdo Culture

At the southern side of Wolchulsan's main ridge is located Muwisa (Temple), and on the western side is located Dogapsa (Temple). The Maee Yeorea Jwasang (Sitting Buddha statue) is located at the highest altitude amongst all of Korea's National Treasures.

01 The millennial temple Dogapsa

Dogapsa was first built by the reverend priest Dosun in the 6th year of the reign of King Heongang of the Silla dynasty (AD 880), and was re-established by the royal priest Sumi in the second year of the reign of King Sejo of the Joseon dynasty (AD 1456). Within the temple are preserved the National Treasure Haetalmun (No. 50) and a few other pieces of treasure as well. In particular, the Seokjo Yeora Jwasang (Sitting Buddha, Treasure No. 89) is presumed to be from the end of the Goryeo dynasty, and is made of a single stone while measuring 3m tall.

02 Muwisa which holds many treasures

Muwisa is known to have been established at the time of King Jinpyeong of the Silla dynasty. It's name went through many changes before coming to the current name on the 10th year of the reign of King Myeongjong of Joseon (AD 1555). The temple includes National Treasure No.13 Geungnakbojeon, as well as many other treasures, which all make this temple highly valuable.

03 Maee Yeorea Jwasang (Sitting Buddha, National Treasure No.144)

This 8.5m tall Maee Yeorea Jwasang (Sitting Buddha) is engraved on a natural rock. The huge Buddha measures 6m in length, 2.6m in shoulder width, 4m in knee width, and 8.5m in height. It is presumed that this Buddha was engraved onto the echelon rock at around the 9th century.

VISIT Wolchulsan National Park



*For Further information

- Wolchulsan National Park Office
 - Address : 222, Cheongsa-gil, Yeongam-eup, Yeongam-gun, Jeonnam(526-801)
 - Phone : 061) 473-5210-5211, 5112
 - Fax : 061) 471-1701
 - E-mail : wolchul@knps.or.kr
 - Website : wolchul.knps.or.kr

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | National Park Boundary | | Ranger Station |
| | National Expressway | | Information booth |
| | National Road | | Mountain |
| | Local Road | | Temple |
| | Trail | | Falls |
| | Nature Restoration Area | | Park Ranger Post |
| | Campground | | |

Explore Wolchulsan! The more you know, the more you see!

- When visiting Wolchulsan National Park, many handy information await you at the Information Centers in the Cheonhwang, Dogap, and Gyeongpodae districts.
- Nature interpretive trails are created at the three districts of Wolchulsan National Park to provide eager visitors with experience programs. Among the programs, the Gureumdari program is a perfect fit for fostering strength, stamina, and partnership that the children of today lack.
- Wolchulsan has a flat bench type camping site to make camping convenient. Gyeongpodae, where the cool valley flows, is the ideal place to cool the heat of the summer.

Things to know when visiting Wolchulsan!

- Cheonhwangbong, the summit of Wolchulsan, is only 809m above sea level, but there are many steep rocky slopes, so visitors are advised to take caution when planning their climb. Also potable water is only available at certain locations, so prepare plenty of water in advance.
- The ridge line course of Wolchulsan is Cheonhwang district → Gureumdari → Cheonhwangbong → Gujeongbong → Eoksaebat (Grass field) → Dogapsa (Total distance 8.9km). The course takes around 6-7 hours to complete, and plenty of drinking water must be prepared before the trip.

Recommended course by park rangers

- Gyeongpodae-Spring-Cheonhwangbong Baramjae-Gyeongpodae course (6.7km)
On this course which is the fastest course to Cheonhwangbong you can experience the cool valley, rocks and stones.

Transportation

- By car
 - Honam Expressway Gwangsan IC: Take National Road No.13 towards Naju and Yeongam
 - Seohaean Expressway Hampyeong IC: Towards Bannam, Yeongam / Mokpo IC: Towards Yeongam
 - 88 Expressway Donggwangju IC: Take National Road No.1 towards Naju and Yeongam
 - Namhae Expressway Gwangyang IC: Take National Road No.2 towards Gangjin, Seongjeon
- By bus
 - When coming by train, get off at Naju station. For the Cheonhwang district, take a bus at Naju terminal, for the Dogap district at Yeongam bus terminal, and for the Gyeongpodae district at the Seongjeon terminal.
 - For express buses, take the bus for Yeongam (Cheonhwang and Dogap districts), and for Seongjeon (Gyeongpodae district).
 - Please check for the bus schedule in advance for buses leaving from Yeongam and Seongjeon bus terminals.

Accommodations

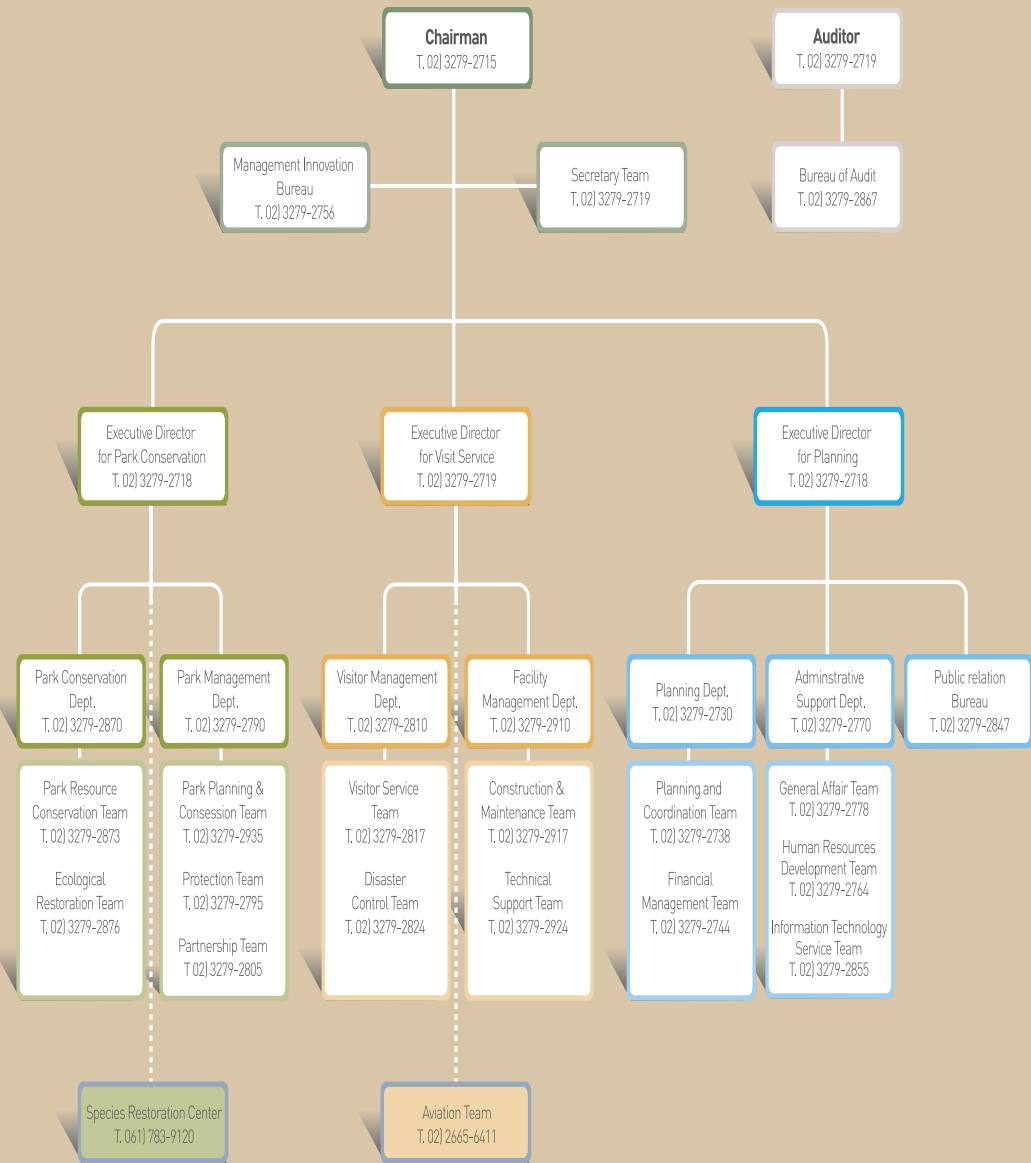
- Cheonhwang district has plenty of accommodation facilities. However, accommodation facilities at Dogap and Gyeongpodae districts are few. Places to eat are crowded around the Dogap district. Furthermore, for large accommodations, the Wolchulsan Oncheon (hot spring) Tourist Hotel is located near Yeongam-eup.

Nearby attractions

- Various cultural festivities are held near Wolchulsan National Park. In early April, the Yeongam Wang In Festival is held, in August the Gangjin Cheongja (Celadon porcelain) Festival is held, and in May, the Mysterious Jindo Seaway Festival is held. Please check for information in advance on the Internet.


IV. Korea National Park Service Organization Chart

Headquarter (6 departments, 3 bureaus, 1 center, 1 aviation team)



National Park Offices (26 offices, 1 institute)





National parks are the treasure chests of our nation's biological resources and ecosystem with 70% of total species living within national parks. National parks are home to endangered plant and animal species.

National parks, the source of life and living beings, are the greatest legacy to pass on to future generations.

The Korea National Park Service will serve as the stepping stone connecting nature with future generations as a world class professional in preservation management.

Nature, Our Future !

The joy given to us by nature, the future we must protect

National Parks of Korea

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