



Passion. Connected.

Heritage Journey in Gangwon-do



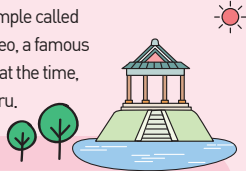
First Journey

The 8 Scenic Sites of Gwandong



Jukseoru Pavilion, Samcheok (Treasure No. 213)

This is a pavilion sitting on a cliff, which overlooks the Osipcheon Stream flowing toward through the west area of Samcheok. To the east of the pavilion, there is a famous Buddhist temple called Jukjangsa and the House of Jukjukseonnyeo, a famous Gisaeng (Professional female entertainer) at the time, and this is why it came to be called Jukseoru.



Gyeongpodae Pavilion, Gangneung (Gangwon-do Regional Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 6)

This is a pavilion located on a hill north of the Gyeongpoho Lagoon. It is surrounded by pine and oak trees, while the Gyeongpoho Lagoon and the sea present a spectacular backdrop.



Naksansa Temple and Surroundings, Yangyang (Historic Site No. 495)

Naksansa Temple was founded by Great Monk Uisang in 671(11th year of King Munmu's reign over Silla). It is one of the most prominent Buddhist temples in Korea, known for the Uisabngdae Pavilion built on a cliff overlooking the sea and the massive statue of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva called Haesugwaneumsang.



Cheongganjeong Pavilion (Gangwon-do Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 32)

This is a pavilion built in the Joseon Dynasty that is located on a hill near the mouth of the Cheonggancheon Stream. It is famous for presenting a spectacular view of Jukdo Island in the East Sea and the nearby ports.



First Journey

The 8 Scenic Sites of Gwandong

The 8 scenic sites of Gwandong have been the subjects of works by numerous poets and painters. Back when it was difficult for people to travel far from where they lived, the landscapes depicted in paintings and poems were the only way they could explore areas outside their hometowns. King Jeongjo also wanted to see the 8 scenic spots of Gwandong in person, but instead, he had to send Kim Hong-do to the area and paint the landscapes instead. It now only takes a few hours to visit and explore the sites illustrated in the artworks.



Jukseoru Pavilion, Samcheok → Gyeongpodae Pavilion, Gangneung → Naksansa Temple and Surroundings, Yangyang → Cheongganjeong Pavilion

Second Journey

Road to King Danjong (r.1452-1455)'s Exile

Road to King Danjong's Exile

The section of the road to King Danjong's exile that is between Solchijae and Cheongnyeongpo Meandering Stream in Yeongwol has been created into a 3-day exploration course. You can go sightseeing while walking along the 43km road, which include the Road of Wailing, the Road of Fidelity, and the Road of Morality.



Cheongnyeongpo Meandering Stream, Yeongwol (Scenic Site No. 50)

This was the place of exile for King Danjong. There is a rugged rock called Yugyukbong to its left, while three sides are enveloped by a river, making it appear as an island. It is been said that on Nosandae and near the Manghyangtap Rock Pile, Danjong fell into anguish as he looked toward Hanyang.



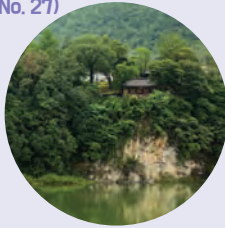
Jagyuru Pavilion and Gwanpungheon House (Gangwon-do Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 26)

When Cheongnyeongpo Meandering Stream, the place of King Danjong's exile, became flooded, he relocated to Gwanpungheon situated in the heart of Yeongwol, where he resided until he was ordered to death by poison by King Sejo(r. 1455-1468). There's a pavilion that has been named Jagyuru because King Danjong recited a poem titled "Jagyusi."



Nakhwaam Rock and Minchungsa Shrine (Gangwon-do Cultural Heritage Material No. 27)

The cliff came to be called Nakhwaam because King Danjong's servants threw themselves off it when he died. In 1742 (18th year of King Yeongjo's reign), Minchungsa Shrine was built on the cliff and ancestral rites were held, with an ancestral tablet enshrined.



Jangneung Royal Tomb, Yeongwol (Historic Site No. 196)

This is a place where King Danjong was laid to rest. King Jungjong paid a visit to his gravesite and built a burial mound. Then, in 1698 (24th year of King Sukjong's reign), Danjong's status was reinstated, and his tomb was promoted as Jangneung Royal Tomb. At the entrance, Danjong History Hall presents the biography of Danjong at a glance.



Second Journey

Road to King Danjong's Exile

King Danjong (1441~1457) is remembered for having the most tragic story in the 500-year history of the Joseon Dynasty. He lost his mother as soon as he was born, and his father at the tender age of 12. After ascending to the throne, he was driven out by his paternal uncle, and was sent to exile in Yeongwol, where he drew his last breath. Perhaps many people pitied him for living such a short life, but there are many stories associated with Danjong that have been passed on in Yeongwol.

Recommended
Itinerary

Road to King Danjong's Exile → Cheongnyeongpo Meandering Stream, Yeongwol → Jagyuru Pavilion and Gwanpungheon House → Nakhwaam Rock and Minchungsa Shrine → Jangneung Royal Tomb, Yeongwol

Third Journey

The Beginning and the end of Goryeo Dynasty (918–1392)

Peace Observatory, Cheorwon (Gungyedoseong Fortress Site)

This is a place where you can view the Gungyedoseong Fortress Site, located in the demilitarized zone (DMZ). There are model diagrams of the fortress inside the observatory to allow visitors to conjecture its size and shape.



Wanggok Village, Goseong (National Folklore Cultural Heritage No. 235)

This is a traditional Hanok village situated in the splendid natural environment of the east coast. It is a village that has been formed by the Gangneung Ham, Gangneung Choi and Yonggung Kim family clans since the 14th century. The village was founded when Ham Bu-yeol, a loyal subject in the late Goryeo Dynasty, who dissented against the founding of Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), took shelter here. After it had been destroyed during Imjinwaeran (Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592), the village was formed over the course of around 150 years.

Hajodae Rock Beach, Yangyang (Scenic Site No. 68)

The Hajodae Beach in Yangyang is a rocky coastline comprised of various rocks in fascinating shapes and rocky islands. It blends beautifully with the dense pine forest nearby and presents stunning scenery. It is been said that the name, Hajodae, was given because Ha Ryun and Jo Jun, who contributed to the founding of Joseon, planned a revolution while taking shelter here.



Jungyeongmyo and Yeonggyeongmyo Royal Tombs, Samcheok (Historic Site No. 524)



These are the royal tombs of the parents of King Mokjo, great-great-grandfather of King Taejo (r. 1392–1408), the founder of Joseon Dynasty. It is situated on a propitious site on the foothills of Dutasan Mountain in the middle of the Baekdudaegan Mountain Range.

Royal Tomb of King Gongyang of the Goryeo Dynasty, Samcheok (Gangwon-do Monument No. 71)

This is the burial site of King Gongyang, the last king of the Goryeo Dynasty, who passed down the throne to King Taejo and was sent to exile in Samcheok, where he was assassinated. It is comprised of four graves, where King Gongyang and his two sons rest.



Third Journey

The Beginning and the end of Goryeo Dynasty

Gangwon-do is a place where Gung Ye (r. 901–908) founded the capital around 1,100 years ago, with the grand aspiration building a massive state of the East that included the Korean peninsula and mainland China. This was where he met Wang Geon (r. 918–943), and their encounter eventually led to the birth of the Goryeo Dynasty. The place that the last king of Goryeo was exiled to and assassinated in was also Gangwon-do. In the land that witnessed the crossroads of history, the birth of heroes, and the fall of a dynasty, we delve into the beginning and the end of Goryeo dynasty.



Peace Observatory, Cheorwon → Wanggok Village, Goseong → Hajodae Rock Beach, Yangyang → Jungyeongmyo and Yeonggyeongmyo Royal Tombs, Samcheok → Royal Tomb of King Gongyang of the Goryeo Dynasty, Samcheok

Fourth Journey

History of the Female Intellectuals of Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910)

Ojukcheon House, Gangneung (Treasure No. 165)

This was the birthplace of Sin Saimdang (1504–1511) and her son Yi Yi (Pen name: Yulgok, 1536–1584). The Ojukcheon Municipal Museum is situated in yard. The personal articles of Sin Saimdang and Yulgok as well as other items from their family are on display here.



Birthplace of Heo Nanseolheon (House of Yi Gwang-no, Gangwon-do Cultural Heritage Material No. 59)

This is a reproduction of the birthplace of Heo Nanseolheon, a prominent female poet in the Joseon period. The works and articles of Heo Nanseolheon and her family are on display here.



Sin Saimdang Sachinsibi Monument

The inscription on this monument is a poem written by Sin Saimdang while overlooking her hometown from Daegwallyeong Pass during her trip back to her husband's parents' place after leaving her old mother at home when she was 38 years old.



Im Yunjidang Monument

Im Yunjidang (1721–1793) was a female Confucian scholar who achieved self-realization and set higher academic standards through cultivation of the mind and moral practices in the late Joseon Dynasty. Engraved on the monument is Bigeomnyeong (匕劍名), which means to renounce one's selfish interests and desires with a blade-like determination and engage in self-cultivation.



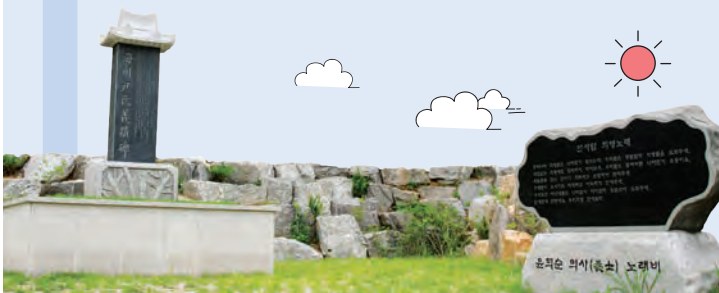
Statue of Yun Hui-sun

This is a statue of Yun Hui-sun (1860–1935) erected in the backyard of Chuncheon City Library. It shows the woman, who resisted the Japanese colonial rule and encouraged both men and women to fight with her for independence.



Yun Hui-sun Historic Site

This is a historic site dedicated to Yun Hui-sun, Joseon's first female leader of the righteous army during the Joseon period. There are her old house, where she lived after getting married, and a well that have been restored, as well as Ujihoekbi and Noraebi monuments.



Fourth Journey

History of the Female Intellectuals of Joseon Dynasty

The ideal type of woman in the Joseon period was a "good wife and wise mother." However, there were also women who aspired to lead an independent life and strove to make academic achievements and artistic refinement. They included Sin Saimdang, a painter who has left behind outstanding artworks, Heo Nanseolheon, who made a name for herself as a poet in China and Japan, Im Yunjidang, a Confucian scholar known for her profound knowledge, and Yun Hui-sun, a leader of the independence movement to recover national sovereignty. Let's explore the lives of women who were ahead of their times.

Recommended Itinerary

Ojukcheon House, Gangneung → Birthplace of Heo Nanseolheon → Sin Saimdang Sachinsibi Monument → Im Yunjidang Monument → Statue of Yun Hui-sun → Yun Hui-sun Historic Site

Fifth Journey

The Donghak Peasant Revolution and the Righteous Army

Donghak Peasant Army Battlefield, Pungam-ri (Gangwon-do Monument No. 25)

This is a battlefield where the Donghak Peasant Army fought against the royal army in the late Joseon period. This was the final battlefield of the Donghak Army in Gangwon-do Province, and it is estimated that there were at last 800 soldiers killed in battle. The Donghakgunjeonjeokginyeombi Monument has been erected to comfort their souls.



Gimi Manse Park

This is a memorial park created to pay tribute to the eight independence activists who were killed during a Manse movement (Independence Monument in 1919) against Japanese occupation. Pallyeolgak Pavillion to honor the patriotism of the independence activists and a statue depicting the Manse movement have been erected on site.



Ryu In-seok Historic Site (Gangwon-do Monument No. 74)

This is the gravesite of Ryu In-seok (Pen name : Uiam, 1842-1915), who led the anti-Japanese resistance and founded a base for the overseas independence army in the late Joseon Dynasty. There is a memorial hall housing materials on Yu In-seok's activities in the fight against Japanese occupation and a righteous army school is also in operation.



Grave of Min Geung-ho, the Leader of the Gwandong Changuidae Army

This is the gravesite of Min Geung-ho (?-1908), the leader of the Gwandong Changugun Army that led the Jeongmi Righteous Army in 1907 and the anti-Japanese movement. It presents information on Min Geung-ho, and contains reliefs and Chunghontap Memorial Tower that sheds light on his righteous army activities.



Fifth Journey

The Donghak Peasant Revolution and the Righteous Army

In the late Joseon Dynasty, the Confucian thought and strict class system began to crumble with the introduction of new ideologies and doctrines. Pressure from foreign countries, which had been looking to colonize Korea, grew stronger as well. To put up a resistance, people across the country stood up and began voicing their thoughts. The Donghak Peasant Revolution arose with the aim of achieving equality for all and rooting out the foreign forces, and this was followed by the righteous army activities. Let's open our ears to the cries and shouts of the commoners from Gangwon-do Province.

Recommended Itinerary

Donghak Peasant Army Battlefield, Pungam-ri → Gimi Manse Park → Uiam Ryu In-seok Historic Site → Grave of Min Geung-ho, the Leader of the Gwandong Changuidae Army

Sixth Journey

Seeking the Old Temple Sites

Geodonsa Temple Site, Wonju (Historic Site No. 168)

Geodonsa Temple was first built around the 9th century in the late Silla period and remained until the early Joseon period. The sites of Jungmun Gate, a pagoda, Geumdang Hall, an auditorium, and the monks quarters have been found.



Beopcheonsa Temple Site, Wonju (Historic Site No. 466)

Beopcheonsa Temple thrived as a temple of the Beopsang Order, which was one of two biggest orders of Korean Buddhism during the Goryeo Dynasty along with Hwaeom Order. It flourished when National Preceptor Haerin (984–1067), who had the absolute confidence of the royal family, retired here, but the temple was completely destroyed by fire during Imjinwaeran (Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592).

Heungbeopsa Temple Site, Wonju (Gangwon-do Cultural Heritage Material No. 45)

The site had contained the Stupa of Buddhist Monk Yeomgeo from Heungbeopsa (National Treasure No. 104) and the Stupa of Buddhist Monk Jingong and Stone Casket from the Heungbeopsa Temple Site (Treasure No. 365), which were forcibly removed by the Japanese. Today, they are housed by the National Museum of Korea. At present, only the Three-story Stone Pagoda (Treasure No. 464) and Stele for Buddhist Monk Jingong (Treasure No. 463) remain on site.



Mulgeollisa Temple Site, Hongcheon (Gangwon-do Monument No. 47)

This was the location of Hongyangsa Temple during the Unified Silla Period. It contains the Stone Seated Buddha (Treasure No. 541), Stone Seated Vairocana Buddha (Treasure No. 542), Stone Pedestal (Treasure No. 543), Stone Pedestal and Mandorla (Treasure No. 544), and Three-story Stone Pagoda (Treasure No. 545).



Seollimwon Temple Site, Yangyang (Gangwon-do Monument No. 53)

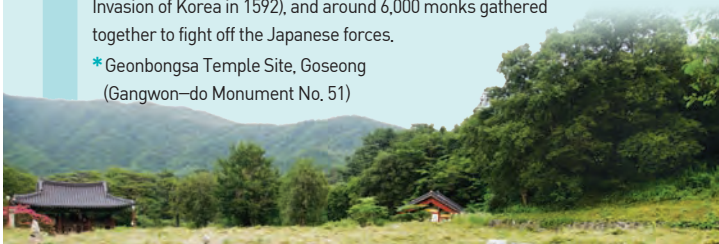
Seollimwon Temple is known to have been founded by Preceptor Suneung in the early 9th century and rebuilt by Master Honggak. It is speculated that the temple site became completely buried in a landslide caused by a massive flood around 900 years ago.



Geonbongsa Temple, Goseong

This is one of the four major Buddhist temples in the country that was founded by Preceptor Ado in 520 (7th year of King Beopheung's reign over Silla). Great Monk Samyeong recruited monk soldiers here during Imjinwaeran (Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592), and around 6,000 monks gathered together to fight off the Japanese forces.

* Geonbongsa Temple Site, Goseong (Gangwon-do Monument No. 51)



Sixth Journey

Seeking the Old Temple Sites

When you travel to the old Temple sites, you will be met with nothing. It's no surprise, considering that there only remain traces of the temples, without any majestic buildings or structures. However, it is a journey into the imagination and a trip into a world that transcends time and space. Let's begin a journey to the sites where there is more than meets the eye.



Geodonsa Temple Site, Wonju → Beopcheonsa Temple Site, Wonju → Heungbeopsa Temple Site, Wonju → Mulgeollisa Temple Site, Hongcheon → Seollimwon Temple Site, Yangyang → Geonbongsa Temple, Goseong

Seventh Journey

Aesthetics of Traditional Landscaping of Korea

Goryeoseonwon Buddhist Garden of Cheongpyeongsa Temple, Chuncheon (Scenic Site No. 70)

Cheongpyeongsa Temple built in 973 (24th year of King Gwangjong's reign over Goryeo) is situated in a basin of a valley. It blends well with the surrounding landscape including a waterfall and Neoreokbawi Rock to present a spectacular view.



Soyangjeong Pavilion (Gangwon-do Cultural Heritage Material No.1)

Soyangjeong Pavilion is known to have been built in the Three Kingdoms Period. It was rebuilt a number of times after it had been destroyed by flood and during war. It is situated on the foothills of Bonguisan Mountain overlooking the Soyangho Lake, and offers a breathtaking view.



Sutasa Temple

Sutasa Temple enveloped by Gongjaksan Mountain, which is one of the 100 most famous mountains in Korea, is known for the beautiful scenery created by royal azalea in spring and colorful foliage in fall. The rugged cliffs, the clusters of old pines that are reminiscent of bonsai trees, and the snow-covered mountain in winter also present unforgettable sights. In the nearby valley, large rocks, a massive waterfall basin, and cliffs in fascinating shapes present splendid scenery.



Seongyojang House, Gangneung (National Folklore Cultural Heritage No. 5)

Seongyojang House is in the form of a typical house of the gentry in the Joseon period. The buildings were built to blend with the topographic features of the lowhill.



Haeunjeong Pavilion, Gangnung (Treasure No. 183)

This was the detached quarters of an upper-class family's residence in the Joseon period that was built in an area overlooking the Gyeongpoho Lagoon. Because it was built upon a three-level base, you can see far into the distance beyond the stone wall.



Seventh Journey

Aesthetics of Traditional Landscaping of Korea

Korean traditional gardens have no boundaries. As implied by the joke, "Whatever I behold with my eyes is my land," our gardens are nature itself. Our predecessors considered their residences as a small part of nature, and attempted to embrace the vast natural environment beyond their stone walls, windows and gates. Let's go on a journey to discover the beauty of traditional landscaping of Korea.



Goryeoseonwon Buddhist Garden of Cheongpyeongsa Temple, Chuncheon
→ Soyangjeong Pavilion → Sutasa Temple → Seongyojang House, Gangneung
→ Haeunjeong Pavilion, Gangneung

Eighth Journey

The Horrors of the Korean War and the Tragedy of the Korean People

Baengmagoji Battle Field

This was where the ROK and US forces gained victory over the Chinese Communist Army in October 1952 during the Korean War. A memorial tower has been erected to honor those who sacrificed their lives in the intense battle, and to pray for peace and reunification.



Korean Workers' Party Headquarters, Cheorwon (Registered Cultural Heritage No. 22)

This is a three-story building constructed by forcible mobilization of and funding from the local residents under the communist rule in 1946. It well-reflects the architectural characteristics of socialist realism and the trends of the times.



Seungilgyo Bridge, Cheorwon (Registered Cultural Heritage No. 26)

The construction work began in 1948 by mobilizing the local residents of Cheorwon under communist rule, and it was suspended due to the outbreak of the Korean War. The southern part of the bridge was completed by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 1958.



Peace Dam and World Peace Bell Park

This site began to be built in 1987 to prepare for the construction of Geumgangsan Dam in North Korea, and the construction project was finished in 1989. The World Peace Bell Park created using empty shells from the Korean War as well as Bimok Park and other facilities and structures are found on site.



Eulji Observatory

It is located only around 1km away from the Military Demarcation Line (MDL). On clear days, you can even see the peak of Geumgangsan Mountain from here.



Unification Observatory, Goseong

Located on the northernmost tip of the east coast, the observatory offers a view of Geumgangsan Mountain and the Haegeumgang River on clear days.

Next to the observatory, a statue of Maitreya Buddha and a statue of Virgin Mary have been erected in hopes of reunification.



Abai Village, Sokcho

This area provided a temporary shelter for the refugees from Hamgyong-do Province during the Korean War, and they settled here following the division of Korea.



Eighth Journey

The Horrors of the Korean War and the Tragedy of the Korean People

War leaves many scars. Amidst the endless bombardment and gunshots, many people lost their loved ones and even the homes that their families lived in for generations. People, who had to divide themselves into friend and foe, have had to carry the traumatic experience with them for the rest of their lives. The bombardment and gunshots may have stopped for a while, but we are still in the midst of war.



Baengmagoji Battle Field → Korean Workers' Party Headquarters, Cheorwon → Seungilgyo Bridge, Cheorwon → Peace Dam and World Peace Bell Park → Eulji Observatory → Unification Observatory, Goseong → Abai Village, Sokcho

Ninth Journey

The Environment and Natural Monuments of DMZ

Togyo Reservoir

This is a manmade reservoir built to supply agricultural water to the Cheorwon area. Migratory birds flock to this place every winter.



Cheorwon Crane Hall

Here, you can see the wildlife of Cheorwon including cranes, which have been designated as a Natural Monument, as well as eagles, owls, water deer, wild boars, and yellow-throated martens.



Songdaeso Basin

This is a small basin that has formed in the shape of a small lake in the Hantanggang River. It offers a view of vertical columnar joints, and there are hiking and trekking trails nearby.



Bisugumi Village

This is a remote village located in the upstream area of Paroho Lake formed due to Hwacheon Dam. There are four households residing in this village. A trekking trail has been created recently.



Dutayeon pond

This is a place inside the CCZ, where a pond has been formed underneath a small waterfall flowing over a rock from the Suipcheon Stream.



Punchbowl Village

This is a village in the shape of a basin, as it is enveloped by mountains that are at least 1,000m tall. It is given the name, "Punchbowl," because of its appearance.



Hwajinpo Lake, Goseong (Gangwon-do Monument No. 10)

This is a natural lake that is nearly 16km in circumference. It serves as an excellent breeding ground for migratory birds thanks to the dense reed field. Sweetbriars and pines near the lake also present spectacular scenery.



Ninth Journey

The Environment and Natural Monuments of DMZ

A ceasefire line was established in the middle of the Korean peninsula following the signing of an armistice on July 27, 1953, and a 900km 2area became inaccessible, like a vanished land. In the demilitarized zone (DMZ) and Civilian Control Zone (CCZ), public access is strictly restricted, and Mother Nature became the new guardian of the land. Over the past few decades, the ecosystems were naturally restored into a near-primitive state.



Togyo Reservoir → Cheorwon Crane Hall → Songdaeso Basin → Bisugumi Village → Dutayeon Pond → Punchbowl Village → Hwajinpo Lake, Goseong

Geological and Cave Explorations

● **Early Paleozoic Deposits and Topography of Stream Erosion of Gumunso, Taebaek (Natural Monument No. 417)**

This area is characterized by unique terrains reminiscent of a cave. In addition to showing diverse geological features such as a sedimentary structure and erosion topography, it has a high academic value as it provides important information for research on the Early Paleozoic Era.

● **Baengnyongdonggul Cave, Pyeongchang (Natural Monument No. 260)**

This area is well-preserved in its primitive form as it had been closed off to public access prior to 2010. It has been developed into a cave for experiential learning of ecology and is open with certain restrictions. With minimal manmade facilities such as lighting, you can see the cave in its natural state.

● **Hwaamgul Cave, Jeongseon (Gangwon-do Monument No. 33)**

This is the world's one and only area with a combination of a gold mine and a limestone cave. It is an excellent educational site, as it provides information on the geological features in a fun and easy way.

● **Gossigul Cave, Yeongwol (Natural Monument No. 219)**

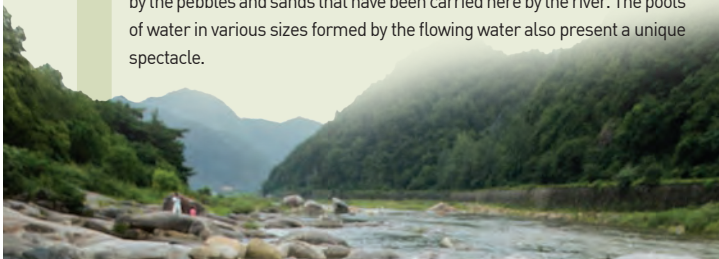
This is a natural cave that formed in the upstream area of the Namhangang River. It is called Gossi Cave because a family with the surname, Go, hid out here during Imjinwaeran (Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592). It is a habitat for a number of rare animal species.

● **Mudcracks and Stromatolites in Mungok-ri, Yeongwol (Natural Monument No. 413)**

This is a place where there remain traces of microorganisms that first inhabited Earth. There are layers of grains of small sediments. It provides a key to discovering the origin of life.

● **Potholes on Yoseonam Rock in Mureung-ri, Yeongwol (Natural Monument No. 543)**

The present-day terrains have been created by the erosion of the bedrock by the pebbles and sands that have been carried here by the river. The pools of water in various sizes formed by the flowing water also present a unique spectacle.

Geological and
Cave Explorations

Our planet Earth is estimated to be around 4.6 billion years old, yet humans have only been around for about 10,000 years. The time period from when Earth was formed until the beginning of human civilization is referred to as the geological period, and the land that we live on could be described as a product of those long years. Let's listen to the stories of the 4.6-billion-year history of Earth from the rocks and earth.

Recommended
Cave

Early Paleozoic Deposits and Topography of Stream Erosion of Gumunso, Taebaek → Baengnyongdonggul Cave, Pyeongchang → Hwaamgul Cave, Jeongseon → Gossigul Cave, Yeongwol → Mudcracks and Stromatolites in Mungok-ri, Yeongwol → Potholes on Yoseonam Rock in Mureung-ri, Yeongwol

Eleventh
Journey

Jeongseon Arirang (Korean folk song)



Auraji Lake

Auraji has been given its name, as two waterways, i.e. the Songcheon Stream from Pyeongchang and the Goljicheon Stream from Samcheok, meet here and flow together. It was the starting point of the wooden rafts used to transport lumber along the Namhangang River to Seoul, and the sounds of "Arari" made by the wooden raft rowers from across the country echoed all the time.



Jeongseon Arirang Training Hall

This place was established to disseminate Jeongseon Arirang to as many people as possible. By booking in advance by phone and visiting in time for the class, you can learn Jeongseon Arirang from certified instructors, free-of-charge. There are accommodations available for groups as well.



Jeongseon 5-day Market

The market, which began to be held in 1966, is one of the most famous traditional markets in Korea. You can purchase wild vegetables and herbs, potatoes as well as crops at affordable prices. The main products offered here are the traditional local foods.



Jeongseon Arirang Theater

At the theater located on the third floor of the Jeongseon Culture & Arts Center, Arirang performances incorporating Jeongseon Arirang are staged regularly. The show starts at 2 p.m. on days that the Jeongseon 5-day Market is held.



Arari Village

You can see various types of traditional houses such as tile-roofed houses, thatched-roof houses, shingled houses, stone houses and hemp stem-roofed houses as well as Stone guardian posts. There are many things that will delight your eyes including a reproduction of Yangban-jeon (The Tale of the Noblemen), a satirical play that is full of humor. You can also receive a Yangban certificate.



Eleventh
Journey

Jeongseon Arirang

In 2012, Arirang, lyrical folk song of Korea, was inscribed on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Arirang is considered one of the top three arirangs of Korea, along with Miryang Arirang and Jindo Arirang. Of the three, Arirang is known to have been conceived first, and influenced all other arirangs. So what aspects of Jeongseon led to the birth of Arirang, which is described as the "spirit of Koreans"? Let's travel to Jeongseon along the winding roads.

Recommended
Course

Auraji Lake → Jeongseon Arirang Training Hall → Jeongseon 5-day Market
→ Jeongseon Arirang Theater → Arari Village

Twelfth Journey

Legends and Tales of Seoraksan Mountain

Ulsanbawi Rock in Seoraksan Mountain (Scenic Site No. 100)

Ulsanbawi Rock is comprised of six towering granite rocks that look like a folding screen, and there are five holes in the shape of a crock jar at the peak. You can enjoy a majestic view from Misiryongyet-gil, or the Old Misiryong Road.



Heundeulbawi Rock in Seoraksan Mountain

This is a rock found in front of Gyejoam Hermitage located just below the Ulsanbawi Rock. It is one of the eight wonders of Seoraksan Mountain, as it can shaken either by just one person or one hundred people.



Sinheungsa Temple

This temple was founded by Vinaya Master Jajang under the name, "Hyangseongsa," in 652 (6th year of Queen Jindeok's reign over Silla). It has taken on its present-day appearance following repeated destruction and reconstruction work, and it came to be called "Sinheungsa," which literally means "divine-flourishing temple," as it flourished thanks to a propitious site chosen by a divine man. Sinheungsa Temple contains a number of cultural properties including the Wooden Seated Amitabha Buddha Triad (Treasure No. 1721), Wooden Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva Triad (Treasure No. 1749), Geungnakbojeon Hall, Sokcho (Gangwon-do Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 14), and Bojeru Pavilion (Gangwon-do Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 104).



Baekdamsa Temple

Baekdamsa was initially founded in the old Hangyesa Temple site in the Silla Period. It had been reconstructed a number of times after being destroyed by fire, before it was finally relocated to the present-day site. There is a tale associated with its name, Baekdam (100 pools of water).



Sibiseonnyeotang Potholes and Surroundings in Seoraksan Mountain (Scenic Site No. 98)



Sibiseonnyeotang literally means "twelve basins for heavenly maidens." There are eight waterfalls and ponds located consecutively along the valley.



Daeseungpokpo Falls in Seoraksan Mountain (Scenic Site No. 97)



This is a massive 88m waterfall located at 740m above sea level. It is one of the three largest waterfalls in Korea, along with Guryongpokpo Falls of Geumgangsan Mountain and Banyeonpokpo Falls in Kaesong.

Osaegyaksu Mineral Water in Osaek-ri, Yangyang (Natural Monument No. 529)

This is a mineral spring that sprouts water containing dissolved sodium and iron from the ground. Because of its high sodium content, it has a unique taste and color. Since it was first discovered by a Buddhist monk around the 1500s, it became famous for its health benefits, and it has been attracting many visitors ever since.



Twelfth Journey

Legends and Tales of Seoraksan Mountain

Seoraksan Mountain is arguably the second most beautiful mountain Korea, following Geumgangsan Mountain. The towering peaks and the ridges that connect them as well as various rocks in fascinating forms, winding brooks, and waterfalls will take your breath away. Our predecessors created legends and tales, based on the awe-inspiring sights, and every waterfall and rock has its own story. Let's climb up Seoraksan Mountain to encounter the spectacular stories it has to offer amidst its splendid natural environment.



Ulsanbawi Rock in Seoraksan Mountain → Heundeulbawi Rock in Seoraksan Mountain → Sinheungsa Temple → Baekdamsa Temple → Sibiseonnyeotang Potholes and Surroundings → Daeseungpokpo Falls → Osaegyaksu Mineral Water in Osaek-ri, Yangyang

Thirteenth
Journey

The Story of the Mining Villages



Coal History Museum

This is an Museum created by remodeling the former Dongwon Coal Industry Sabuk Mining Office.

You can take a look at the items used in the old mines, and the lifestyles of miners. You can also explore the mining pits on a train.

Samtan Art Mine

This is a creative culture and arts space reformer from the old Samcheon Tanjwa Building. You can take a look at outstanding installation artworks, which blend well with the mining facilities. Various artistic activities are conducted on a regular basis here.



Taebaek Coal Museum

Located in the Taebaeksan Mountain Provincial Park, the museum presents materials that shed light on various aspects of coal, which served as a primary energy source for Korea in the past. The exhibits giving a glimpse into the birth of coal, development of the coal industry, geographic characteristics of Taebaek, etc. are presented in a fascinating matter.



Nambu Village, Sangjang-dong

This is a community mainly formed by miners and their families. It presents a unique spectacle with diverse murals. The area, which had become dilapidated following the closure of the mines, was transformed with the power of the arts.



Coal Preparation Plant at Cheoram Station, Taebaek (Registered Cultural Heritage No. 21)

This was Korea's first anthracite coal preparation facility that was established when anthracite began to be used as fuel in full swing. It is considered a major facility that symbolizes the modern industrial history of Korea. In front of Cheoram Station, there is the Cheoram Coal Mine History Town established by preserving the Kkachibal Building.



Employee Residence of Former Samcheok Development Inc., Donghae (Registered Cultural Heritage No. 456)

This is a residence of a mining company built in the Japanese colonial period. It has separate areas for the higher-ranking employees, married couples, and singles relatively well-intact. It provides a glimpse into the lifestyles of miners back in the day.



Thirteenth
Journey

The Story of the Mining Villages

The mountainous areas of Gangwon-do, covering Jeongseon, Taebaek and Samcheok, were the center of the coal mining industry that contributed to the modern industrial development of Korea. Now that most of the mines have closed down, how have some of these areas transformed? And what happened to the miners, who worked tirelessly in harsh environments, and their families?



Coal History Museum → Samtan Art Mine → Taebaek Coal Museum → Nambu Village, Sangjang-dong → Coal Preparation Plant at Cheoram Station, Taebaek → Employee Residence of Former Samcheok Development Inc, Donghae



Archaeological Site in Munam-ri, Goseong (Historic Site No. 426)

This is the historic site, situated at the southernmost point among the prehistoric sites discovered thus far. There are also historic sites dating from the Early Iron Age as well, which confirms that people lived in this area across various time periods. The fields discovered here imply the possibility that farming began in the middle of the Neolithic Era on the Korean peninsula.



Archaeological Site in Osan-ri, Yangyang (Historic Site No. 394)

This place was discovered while the nearby lake was reclaimed to create farmlands. Around 4,000 artifacts were uncovered through multiple excavation surveys. At the Osan-ri Prehistory Museum next to the historic site, you can gain a breadth of information on the prehistoric sites on the east coast, in addition to the Archaeological Site in Osan-ri.

Yanggu Prehistory Museum

This is a museum that provides information on the prehistoric sites discovered and surveyed in the basin of the Bukhangang River near Yanggu. It presents the artifacts excavated from the Paleolithic Site in Sangmuryong-ri, the Bronze Age sites in Godae-ri and Gongsu-ri, the Prehistoric Site in Mandae-ri along the Yanggu coast as well as various other sites in Chuncheon, Hwacheon, Hongcheon, and Inje.



Dolmens in Cheonjeon-ri, Chuncheon (Gangwon-do Monument No. 4)

Dolmens are megalithic tombs dating from the Bronze Age. These dolmens are found on the riverside of Soyanggang. Four supporting stones were erected to create a tomb chamber above the ground, and massive flat stones were placed over the top to cover it. There are five of these table-shaped dolmens found on this site.



Chuncheon National Museum

This is a place where you can take a look at the history of Gangwon-do Province at a glance. The Prehistoric Hall presents a wide range of cultural assets excavated from the historic sites in the province dating from the Paleolithic Age to the Bronze Age that are organized by theme and historic site.



Prehistoric sites provide valuable evidence of how people settled and lived on the Korean peninsula. However, these historic sites that have been discovered are easily viewed by a layman as just a heaps of stones or the like. In order to hear the stories from thousands of years ago, there is a need to take a keener interest, and if you make the effort, you'll be able to return home with an invaluable gift.



Archaeological Site in Munam-ri, Goseong → Archaeological Site in Osan-ri, Yangyang → Yanggu Prehistory Museum → Dolmens in Cheonjeon-ri, Chuncheon → Chuncheon National Museum

Byeolsingut(Village Ritual) of the East Coast Area

Seonghwangsa and Sansingak Shrines, Daegwallyeong Pass (Gangwon-do Monument No. 54)

Seonghwangsa Shrine is dedicated to National Preceptor Beomil (810-889), a Buddhist monk in the Unified Silla Period who was revered as a guardian god of the Gangneung area. Sansingak Shrine has been built for General Kim Yu-sin (595-673), who learned the art of swordsmanship in this area.



Seonangdang Shrine on Gusan Mountain

This is located at the boundary between Daegwallyeong Pass, which was considered as part of the gods' realm, and Gangneung, a part of the human world. This was where the residents of Gangneung welcomed the gods during the Danoje Festival period.



Chilsadang Shrine (Gangwon-do Regional Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 7)

This is the venue for sinjubitgi, which marks the beginning of the Danoje Festival, which takes place for more than a month. Sinjubitgi refers to the act of making liquor and rice cakes that will be used during the festival period.



Gangneung Dano Culture Center

It has on display models and photographs to show the Dano Festival, even when it is not during the festival period. It also stages performances related to the Dano Festival once a month.



Cheokjudonghaebi and Pyeongsutochanbi Steles, Samcheok (Gangwon-do Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 38)

Cheokjudonghaebi is a monumental stone erected by Heo Mok (1595-1682) during the Joseon period. According to legend, it has miraculous powers to calm the sea and prevent damage and injuries to the fishermen. Pyeongsutochanbi, which plays the same role, was originally a wooden panel, but the inscription was later copied to a stone.



Haesindang Park

This is a park created in Sinnam Village, where phallicism is still practiced to this day. There are a number of phallic sculptures as well as exhibits associated with the tales of Haesindang Shrine. The Samcheok Fishing Village Folk Museum found at the park provides a glimpse into the lifestyle of the residents of fishing villages along the east coast.



Byeolsingut(Village Ritual) of the East Coast Area

Rites performed for the gods or the dead typically begin with an offering and prayers for the souls to rest. These ceremonies are performed by the living with the desire to attain wellness. These rites have, over time, emerged as festivals and a form of culture and the arts. Gangneung Danoje Festival, for instance, is a good example of such festivals. Let's go on a journey to witness how humans interact with the gods.

Recommended
Course

Seonghwangsa and Sansingak Shrines, Daegwallyeong Pass → Seonangdang Shrine on Gusan Mountain → Chilsadang Shrine → Gangneung Dano Culture Center → Cheokjudonghaebi and Pyeongsutochanbi Steles, Samcheok → Haesindang Park

Special
Tourist
Sites

Millennium Trail of Enlightenment and Healing

Healing Road of Woljeongsa Temple on Odaesan

Odaesan Mountain

Odaesan Mountain situated on the central axis of the Baekdudaegan Mountain Range has long been one of the most famous mountains in Korea, along with Geumgangsan, Jirisan and Hallasan mountains. There are tall peaks surrounding Birobong Peak including Horyeongbong, Sangwangbong, Durobong and Dongdaesan. It has been named "Odaesan" or "Five Plains Mountain" because the mid-slope of the mountain and the terrains in the west, east, north and south are reminiscent of a lotus seed surrounded by five flower petals.



Sogeumgang Mountain (Scenic Site No. 1)

The Sogeumgang Mountain, which is considered the most splendid scenery observed at the Odaesan National Park, has been given its name because Yi Yi (1536–1584, pen name: Yulgok), one of the greatest minds in Joseon Dynasty, described it as a miniature version of Geumgangsan Mountain. At Yeongchundae Pavilion located in front of Geumgangsa Temple, which is the one and only Buddhist temple found along the mountain, there is a signboard containing an inscription that reads, "Sogeumgang," which was written by Yulgok. The entire area past Jingogae Pass from Noinbong Peak to the Sogeumgang Mountain is located along a valley, and here, a breathtaking view of the colorful autumn foliage can be enjoyed every fall.

Woljeongsa Temple

Woljeongsa Temple was founded by Vinaya Master Jajang in 643 (12th year of Queen Seondeok's reign over Silla). While Vinaya Master Jajang was studying in China, he witnessed Manjusri bodhisattva at the Taihechi Lake of Mount Wutai (pronounced as "Odaesan" in Korean) in Shanxi Province. Manjusri presented him with the sarira and kasaya (ceremonial upper robe) of the Buddha, and told him to find an Odaesan in Silla as well. Upon returning to his home country, Jajang found Odaesan Mountain and built a hermitage, which became the precursor to Woljeongsa Temple. Woljeongsa Temple, nestled in an area with the energy of Manwolsan Mountain, is surrounded by coniferous trees that stay green throughout the year.

Octagonal Nine-story Stone Pagoda of Woljeongsa Temple, Pyeongchang (National Treasure No. 48-1)

This is a stone pagoda dating from the early Goryeo Dynasty that stands tall in the front yard of Woljeongsa Temple. It demonstrates the majestic and high-class style of Buddhist culture from back then. There is a wind chime hung on each corner of the pagoda, and it rings every time the wind blows.

Stone Seated Bodhisattva of Woljeongsa Temple, Pyeongchang (National Treasure No. 48-2)

A stone seated bodhisattva giving an offering is found facing the Octagonal Nine-story Stone Pagoda of Woljeongsa Temple, Pyeongchang. It has an incense on one hand, and appears to be kneeling toward the pagoda. According to [Sinjeung donggukyeo] or Enlarged Edition of Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea, "In the old temple of Vinaya Master Jajang, Manjusri bodhisattva remains present, which is why birds have not flown above the pagoda for a thousand years."



Jeongmyeolbogung Hall of Woljeongsa Temple (Gangwon-do Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 28)

This is one of the top four jeongmyeolbogung (Hall of Sublime Equanimity, where Buddha's genuine sariras are enshrined) in Korea. It was built when Preceptor Jajang returned to Silla from the Tang dynasty during Queen Seondeok's reign, bringing with him the genuine sarira of the Buddha to be enshrined on Odaesan Mountain.



Seonjae-gil Trail

Seonjae-gil Trail, originating from Seonjae-dongja or Sudhana Kumara, is a forest trail that stretches for around 9km from the valley across from Woljeongsa Temple all the way to Sangwonsa Temple. It has been a trail of enlightenment for Buddhist monks and believers since Vinaya Master Jajang enshrined the genuine sarira of the Buddha, while it bore witness to the joys and sorrows of slash-and-burn farmers. Even King Seonjo of the Joseon Dynasty walked along this trail to heal his body, mind and soul. This trail had been forgotten since a new road was built following the armed communist guerrilla in Uljin and Samcheok in the late 1960s. The old trail was restored in 2008.



Pyeongchang Odaesan National History Archives (Historic Site No. 37)

This is one of the five national history archives built in the late Joseon Dynasty to preserve "Joseon wangjo sillok (Annals of the Joseon Dynasty)" and "Seonwonboryak", a royal genealogy book. Copies of Joseon wangjo sillok (Annals of the Joseon Dynasty) and Seonwonboryak will be showcased at the exhibition hall of Odaesan National History Archives in Woljeongsa Temple during the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games until March 20.



Sangwonsa Temple

Sangwonsa Temple located on the hillside of Odaesan Mountain was established in 705 (4th year of King Seongdeok's reign over Silla), and it was initially called Jinyeowon. Two princes of Silla named Bocheon and Hyomyeong were devoted to the practice of Buddhism. After Hyomyeong ascended to the throne, he founded Jinyeowon on the present-day Sangwons Temple Site, and enshrined a statue of Manjusri at the same time. The temple was renamed as "Sangwonsa" after King Sejo of the Joseon Dynasty recovered from an incurable disease after encountering Manjusri.

Bronze Bell of Sangwonsa Temple (National Treasure No. 36)

The bronze bell was made in 725 (24th year of King Seongdeok's reign over Silla) and transferred to Sangwonsa Temple in 1469 (1st year of King Yejong's reign over Joseon). It is the oldest and most beautiful extant bronze bell in Korea, and it produces a crystal clear sound. The top and bottom frames of the bell tower, a fantastic arabesque design has been engraved, and a carved image depicts a flying fairy playing a musical instrument (a string instrument called "gonghu" and wind instrument named "saeng") and appearing as though it is about to fly into the sky.



Odaesan Mountain is the one and only mountain in the Republic of Korea, where the entire mountain is considered a sacred ground by Buddhists. Woljeongsa and Sangwonsa temples on Odaesan Mountain have become places of pilgrimage for Buddhists because of Vinaya Master Jajang, who wished to witness Manjusri on Odaesan Mountain but ultimately could not accomplish it, and the two princes of Silla, who wanted to abandon the secular world and follow the path of Buddhism. Walk along the old trail of enlightenment and healing, next to the forests and valleys that led to the millenium temples, Woljeongsa and Sangwonsa, which emanate a rustic atmosphere.

Recommended
Itinerary

Odaesan Mountain → Sogeumgang Mountain → Woljeongsa Temple → Seonjae-gil Trail → Pyeongchang Odaesan National History Archives → Sangwonsa Temple