



REPUBLIC OF KOREA INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN SECURITY·HISTORY·CULTURE

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN SECURITY·HISTORY·CULTURE
WE GO TOGETHER! KATCHI KAPSHIDA!

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

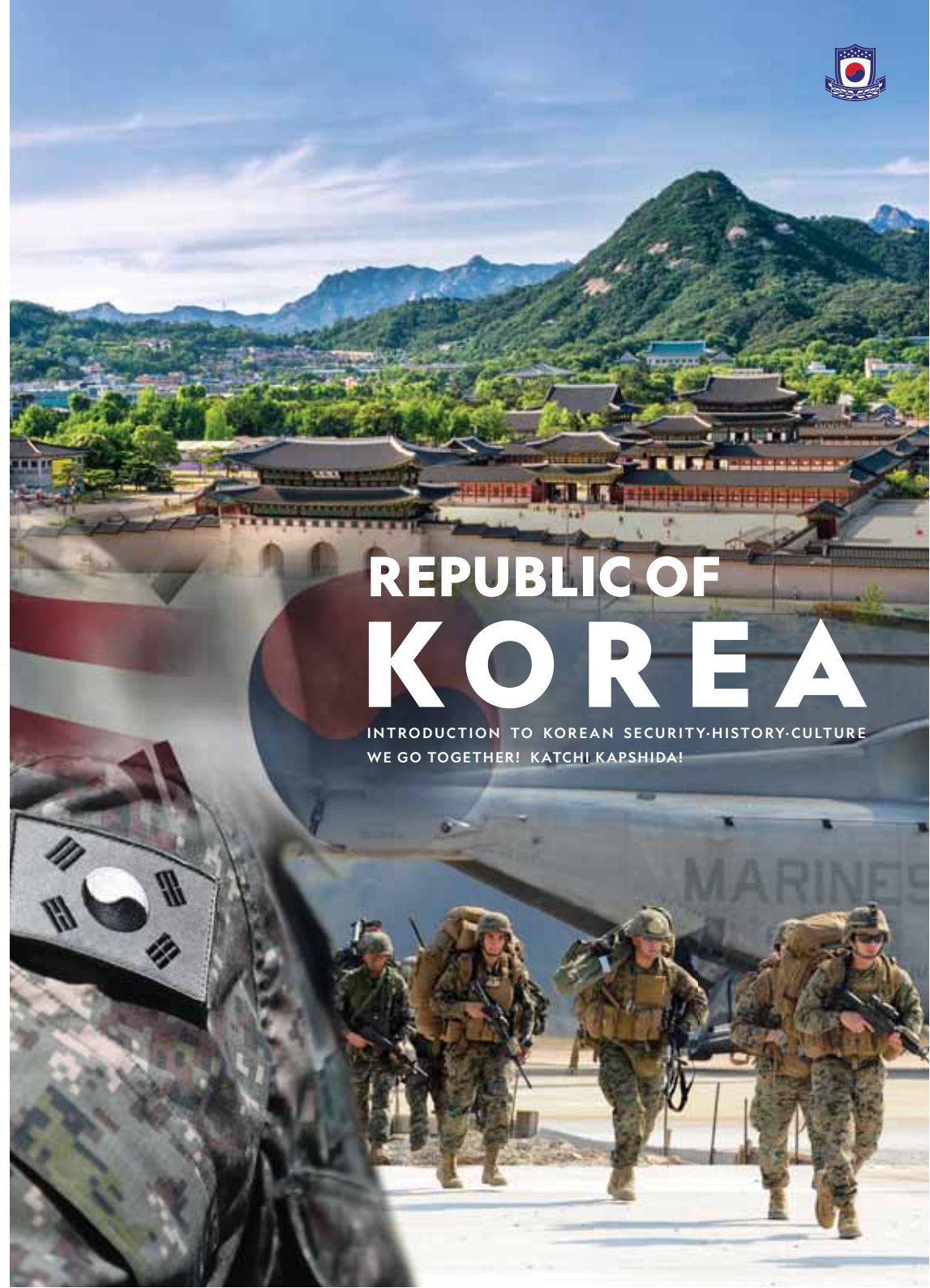
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Welcome to Korea!





Preface

It is with profound respect for the dedicated service and sacrifice of the service members and families of United Nations Command (UNC), Combined Forces Command (CFC), and United States Forces Korea (USFK) working alongside the Republic of Korea (ROK) Armed Forces in support of the defense of the Korean peninsula. Annually more than 10,000 U.S. military personnel begin their one to two year tours of duty in support of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. The purpose of publishing this Introductory to Korea booklet is to help educate and inform U.S. military personnel and their families about our host country.

This booklet is organized into six parts to provide a holistic overview of Korean culture, history, and lifestyle for awareness and understanding. Each part contains information to provide a detailed introduction for a better understanding of the Republic of Korea.

- Part 1. Intro: Introduction to the Republic of Korea**
- Part 2. History: Korea and its 5,000 Years of History**
- Part 3. National Security: The ROK-U.S. Alliance**
- Part 4. Economy: Leading as a Global Economic Power**
- Part 5. Culture: A Beautiful Culture in Bloom**
- Part 6. Explore: Exploring the Beautiful Landscape of Korea**

You may consider participating in an upcoming Korean Cultural Immersion Program sponsored by the ROK Government in partnership with USFK. These ROK government funded, multi-day immersion tours are designed to provide U.S. service members, federal employees, and their families with an experiential exploration opportunity to better understand and appreciate Korean history, culture, and traditions while strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

We hope you will find this introductory guide useful during your time in the Republic of Korea, and that you will consider keeping this booklet as a keepsake. Thank you for your contribution to the ROK-U.S. Alliance and the peace and stability in the region.

We Go Together! Katchi Kapshida!

– ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command
2021



06
INTRODUCTION



PART 1.
Introduction to the Republic of Korea

07 Present-day Republic of Korea

18
HISTORY



PART 2.
Korea and Its 5,000 Years of History

- 19 Birth of Korea
- 20 The Three Kingdoms Period: Goguryeo-Baekje-Silla
- 23 North South States Period: Unified Silla-Balhae
- 24 Beginning of KOREA: Goryeo
- 25 Joseon: Promoting Modernization

30
NATIONAL SECURITY



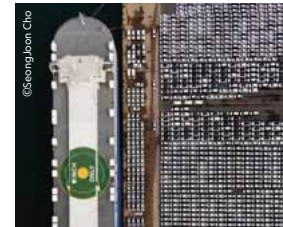
PART 3.
The ROK-U.S. Alliance

- 31 The Joseon-U.S. Treaty of 1882, the Start of the Relationship Between Korea & the U.S.
- 32 The Korean Peninsula Divided
- 35 United Nations Command and the birth of the ROK-U.S. Alliance
- 36 The ROK-U.S. Alliance after the Korean War
- 39 The ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command as the Leader of the National Defense of Korea
- 40 Relocation of the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea
- 41 ROK-U.S. Alliance, an Important Pillars of Security in Korea
- 42 Fortification of the ROK-U.S. Alliance in the Face of Threats from North Korea

REPUBLIC OF KOREA



44
ECONOMY



PART 4.
Leading as a Global Economic Power

- 45 The "Miracle of the Han River" Surprises the World
- 45 Automobile Market Established, Starting with Assembled Cars
- 46 Stepping Up as a Shipbuilding Powerhouse
- 49 No. 1 in the DRAM Market and Leader of the Semiconductor Industry
- 49 Smartphone and Display Panels Made in Korea

52
CULTURE



PART 5.
A Beautiful Culture in Bloom

- 53 Korea: Captivating the World Through K-wave Culture
- 55 Capturing the Spirit of Korea in Traditional Culture
- 59 Korean Food Around the World
- 63 Wear Hanbok and Walk Between Hanoks
- 64 The History of Korean Religions Preserved in Architecture
- 69 Korea as a Sports Powerhouse

70
EXPLORE



PART 6.
Exploring the Beautiful Landscape of Korea

- 71 Seoul and Gyeonggi-do
- 74 Gangwon-do
- 78 Chungcheong-do
- 81 Jeolla-do
- 85 Gyeongsang-do
- 89 Jeju-do
- 95 Korean Cultural Immersion Program

PART

1 Introduction to the Republic of Korea

INTRODUCTION

Gwanghwamun

Present-day the Republic of Korea*

What comes to mind when you think of Korea? You might think of the thriving mega-city Seoul, North Korea, Kim Jong-un, nuclear weapons testing, or missile threats. Or perhaps you think of pop culture or BTS, the popular K-POP band that routinely tops the Billboard Hot 100 songs chart. The Republic of Korea (commonly referred to as South Korea) located in East Asia, is a multi-faceted country rich in history with a welcoming people, diverse culture, robust economy, and a unique security environment. The United States is a treaty ally in support of the iron-clad ROK-U.S. Alliance to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Let's begin with an introduction to the Republic of Korea starting with an overview of the relationship between Korea and the United States. The Korea-U.S. relationship formally began when Joseon (the name of Korea in 1882) and the United States signed the Joseon-U.S. Treaty of 1882 which officially established diplomatic relations and declared there "shall be perpetual peace and friendship" between the two countries.

Following the end of World War II, Korea was freed from Japanese colonial rule and officially welcomed liberation on August 15, 1945. In 1948, the Korean Peninsula was split between the North and the South creating the foundation of the Republic of Korea (ROK).

On June 25, 1950, North Korea executed a surprise attack on the South, which led to the outbreak of the Korean War. The UN forces sent a large number of military forces to help South Korea, and fought side by side with them in the Korean War for several years until an armistice agreement was reached on July 27, 1953. Even in present day, the Korean Peninsula remains "at war" as a peace treaty was never formally signed.

In 1953, the Commander in Chief of United Nations Command, Commander of the Korean People's Army, and Commander of Chinese People's Volunteers signed the Armistice Agreement. The next year, the Republic of Korea and the United States signed the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. This treaty, which signified the first military Alliance Korea had ever formed with a foreign country for its own national defense, led the United States Armed Forces in Korea to play an important role in deterring war on the Korean Peninsula and maintaining peace and security across Northeast Asia.

On November 7, 1978, the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command was established and remains a steadfast symbol of the military Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States. Combined Forces Command (CFC) is a distinctive military command, unique from any other U.S. Alliance command structure, taking its direction, policy, and missions from the combined Military Committee while answering to both National Command Authorities. Today, the ROK and the U.S. have strong ties in many areas to include politics, economics, society, military, and security. However, the Korean Peninsula remains geographically divided by war. Even after the signing of the armistice agreement, provocations by North Korea have continued, nuclear weapons testing and advanced missiles threaten the security of the Korean Peninsula, northeast Asia, and the United States. However, even with such challenges, the ROK-U.S. Alliance remains stronger than ever. You are a key component to our strength.

* Unless there are separate footnotes or explanations, 'Korea' means 'the ROK (South Korea)'.

Today, the iron-clad security Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States continues to deter war on the Korean Peninsula, while ensuring peace throughout the region. Further details regarding the ROK-U.S. Alliance and security are featured in Part 3.

Second, Korea has a long and flourishing history that spans over 5,000 years. However, Korea has also had its share of national crises due to its geopolitically vulnerable position as a point of conflict between maritime forces and continental forces. So far, Korea has been able to overcome such conflicts. Details on Korea's history are presented in Part 2.

Third, Korea is known for its post-war economic success and is recognized worldwide as the only country that has been able to achieve both industrialization and democratization in such a short period of time. In the 1950s, Korea was a poor country that ranked among the lowest worldwide in terms of gross domestic product (GDP). Following the devastating war, Korea fell into ruins. The country was rife with poverty, overflowing with orphans and displaced people. However, with support from UN Korean Reconstruction Agency, the U.S. and other allies in just 60

years, Korea transformed into an economic powerhouse and now has the 12th highest GDP in the world (2019, KOSIS*). Starting with petrochemicals, fiber, shipbuilding, steel, and automobile industries, Korea expanded its expertise and is now a world leader in technological fields such as semiconductors, displays, and wireless communications.

The Beauty of Korean Culture, Art, and History

In the world market, Korea is top-ranked in the cutting-edge electronic devices sector. It is also a member of the G20 and was invited to participate in both the 2020 and 2021 G7 Summits. Further details on the history of Korea are featured in Part 4.

Fourth, Korea is demonstrating amazing prowess in culture, society, and diplomacy. At the end of the 1990s, the cultural phenomenon of the “K-wave” first broke out in China. Since then, it has spread to the rest of the world, captivating the hearts of people all around the globe. Many people in different countries are now enthralled with Korean culture, arts, and philosophy, as reflected by K-POP, K-movies, K-drama, K-food, and *hanok* (traditional houses of Korea). “BE (Deluxe Edition)” the album released by BTS, reached the top of the most recent “Billboard 200” chart on December 5, 2020. The title song “Life Goes On” became the No.1 on the “Hot 100” chart. This marked the first time in the 62-year history of the Billboard Chart that a song written in the Korean language reached the top of the “Hot 100.” Director Bong Joon-ho’s *Parasite* won four Oscars during the 2020 Academy Awards, marking the first time such an honor was bestowed to a foreign language film. In the sports world, figure skater Kim Yuna, soccer player Son Heung-min, and baseball player Ryu Hyun-Jin are raising the high status of Korea. Further details on Korean culture are presented in Part 5.

Finally in Part 6, the places and attractions referenced in Parts 2 thru 5 are presented in further detail along with official events, so that you may learn more about the scenic locations to consider visiting with friends or family while stationed in Korea. The following page includes some more basic facts about Korea.

* KOSIS (Korean Statistical Information Service) : National statistics portal that officially operated by the Korea National Statistical Office (KOSTAT).



Statue of King Sejong (Seoul)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Location

33°
124° - 132°
43°

Land Area

106,210km²

Country Name and Location

The official name of the country is the Republic of Korea (ROK). This is often shortened to simply “South Korea.” Located at the northeast end of the continent of Asia, the country stretches vertically to the south and north and is surrounded by the ocean on three sides. The ROK is situated between the northern latitude of 33°-43° and eastern longitude of 124°-132°.

Land Area: 106,210km²

The ROK has a total land area of 106,210km², of which 17,763km² (or 16.7%), is represented by urban areas (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport / July 2020). In terms of its total land area, Korea is comparable to the State of Kentucky (104,747km²) in the United States.

National Flag: *Taegeukgi*

The *taegeukgi* (national Korean flag) consists of a design known as the *taegeuk* at the center and four trigrams at the corners. The *taegeukgi* is white, black, red, and blue in color. White symbolizes purity, brightness and peace, while the *taegeuk* design at the center represents the harmony between yin (blue) and yang (red). The four trigrams at the corners represent the changes and developments of yin and yang. The *geon* (☰) symbolizes the heavens, the *gon* (☷) symbolizes the land, *gam* (☵) symbolizes water, and *ri* (☲) symbolizes fire. The four trigrams, arranged around the *taegeuk* design at the center, create a sense cohesion and harmony.

National Flower: Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon signifies “single-minded devotion” and “eternity.” The flower has been widely loved since the line “Rose of Sharon, thousand miles of fields and river lands” was included as a line of the national anthem. The scientific name for the Rose of Sharon is *Hibiscus syriacus*, and it is found throughout Korea, central China, northern India, and Japan. The flower blooms between July and October each year.



Taegeukgi



Mugunghwa (Rose of Sharon)

National Anthem 애국가 'Aegukga'



1. 동해 물과 백두산이 마르고 닳도록
1. Donghaemulgwa Baekdusani mareugo dal to rok
2. 남산 위에 저 소나무 철갑을 두른 듯
2. Namsan wie jeo sonamu cheolgabeul dureundeut
3. 가을 하늘 공활한데 높고 구름 없이
3. Ga-eul haneul gonghwalhande nopgo gureum eopsi
4. 이기 상과 이맘으로 충성을 다 하여
4. I gisanggwa i mameuro chungseong-eul da hayeo



- 하느님이 보우하사 우리나라 만세
Ha neunimi bo u hasa uri nara manse
- 바람서리 불변함은 우리 기상일세
Baram seo ri bulbyeonhameun u ri gisang-il se
- 밝은달은 우리 가슴 일편단심일세
Balgeun dareun u ri gaseum il pyeon dansim il se
- 괴로우나 즐거우나 나라 사랑하세
Goe ro una jeul geou na nara sarangha se



- (후렴) 무궁화 삼천리 화려강산
(Refrain) Mu gunghwa sam cheol li hwaryeo gang san



- 대한사람 대한으로 길이 보전하세
Dae han saram, dae han eu ro gi ri bojeonha se

1. Until the East Sea's waves dry up and Mt. Baekdu wears out, God watch o'er our land forever, long live Korea.
 2. Like the armored pine tree on Mt. Namsan that stands on duty still, wind or frost, unchanging ever, be our resolute will.
 3. In autumn's arching evening sky, crystal clear and cloudless blue; be the radiant moon our spirit, steadfast and true.
 4. With such will and spirit, let us love, come grief or come gladness, this our beloved land.
- (Refrain) Rose of Sharon, thousand miles of fields and river lands; guarded by the people, ever may Korea stand.

National Anthem "Aegukga"

The national anthem of Korea, composed by Ahn Eak-tai in 1935, has frequently been sung at official government events since the establishment of the Republic of Korea government in 1948 and is now listed in textbooks.

Ethnicity

Gojoseon, the first kingdom on the Korean Peninsula, emphasized the *hongikingan* spirit. *Hongikingan*, which means to "extensively benefit the

The people of Korea established a strong democracy and achieved ultra-high speed economic growth through diligence & *pumasi* spirit.

human world," encompasses humanitarian ethics and forms the foundation of the economic and social development of Korea. It serves as Korea's basic moral code and is still deeply engrained in the national character of Koreans. Koreans exhibit a strong community spirit.

The *pumasi* spirit, which refers to the "communal sharing of labor," encompasses a thoughtful mindset of being considerate of others. *Jeong* which has no direct translation into English, is a basic sentiment shared by all Korean people. *Jeong* basically refers to showing

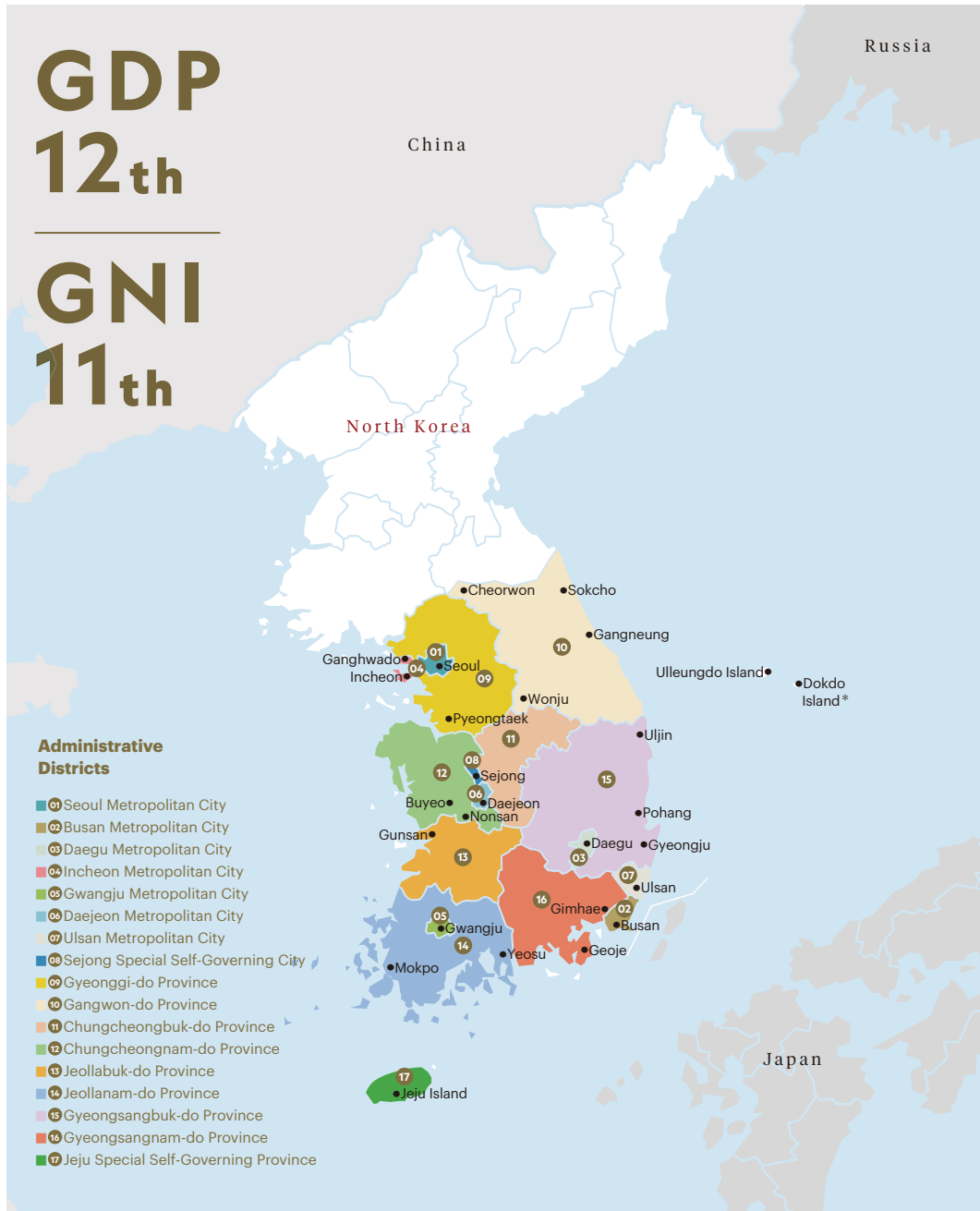
sincere love or taking care of someone out of a kind heart. Koreans place a great emphasis on learning and this, combined with their characteristic of diligence, has led the nation to establish democracy and achieve an ultrahigh rate of economic growth.



National Assembly (Seoul)

GDP
12th

GNI
11th



Current Administrative Districts

※ Source : 2020 Defense White Paper, ROK MND

* The United States officially calls the Dokdo Island the Liancourt Rocks. The islands are part of a maritime issue between the ROK and Japan. The United States Government remains neutral on this issue.

The ROK is divided into 17 metropolitan local governments and 226 primary local governments. The metropolitan local governments include: one special city & capital (Seoul); six metropolitan cities (Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon, and Ulsan); one special self-governing city (Sejong); eight provinces (Gyeonggi-do, Gangwon-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do and Gyeongsangnam-do); and one special self-governing province (Jeju).

Population: 51,780,579 people

Korea ranks 28th in the world regarding population and is home to 51,780,579 people (2020, KOSIS*). It is ranked 23rd highest by population density with 513 people/km² (2017, Statistics Korea).

GDP: 12th in the World

Korea has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$1.6463 trillion, ranking the 12th highest in the world. Its GDP per capita is \$31,838.20, ranking it 27th highest in the world (2019, KOSIS). Major exports include petroleum products, semiconductors, automobiles, shipbuilding, and flat panel displays.

GNI: 11th in the World

In terms of Gross National Income (GNI), which is an economic indicator that reflects national income, Korea has a GNI of KRW 1,935.7151 trillion, which is the 11th highest in the world (2019, KOSIS).

National Holidays

Date	National Holiday	Significance
January 1	New Year's Day (Sinjeong)	The first day of the year
January 1 (Lunar Calendar)	Lunar New Year's Day (Seollal)	The first day of the year on the lunar calendar on which everyone together gains one year in age. On this day, people traditionally enjoy eating rice cake soup, wearing hanbok (traditional Korean clothing) and exchanging New Year's greetings.
March 1	Independence Movement Day	This day celebrates the March 1st Independence Movement that took place in 1919 in protest against Japanese colonial rule.
April 8 (Lunar Calendar)	Buddha's Birthday	On this day, the birth of Buddha is celebrated by a lotus lantern procession in downtown Seoul.
May 5	Children's Day	On this day, people show their appreciation for the nation's children by giving children presents and holding various events.
June 6	Memorial Day	On Memorial Day, people pray for and honor the souls of fallen patriotic heroes, martyrs, and soldiers.
August 15	National Liberation Day	On this day, Koreans celebrate the country's liberation in 1945 out from under Japanese rule.
August 15 (Lunar Calendar)	Korean Thanksgiving Day	Chuseok takes place in the middle of the fall, which is a season that represents abundance. In celebration of Chuseok, people perform ritual rites to honor their ancestors, make and eat half-moon-shaped rice cakes and wish upon the full moon.
October 3	National Foundation Day of Korea	This day celebrates the founding of Gojoseon, the first kingdom established by the people of Korea.
October 9	Hangeul Day	This day celebrates the promulgation of Hangeul by King Sejong in 1446.
December 25	Christmas	This is the day in which Jesus Christ was born. This holiday is celebrated by many people throughout the world, even those who are not Christian.

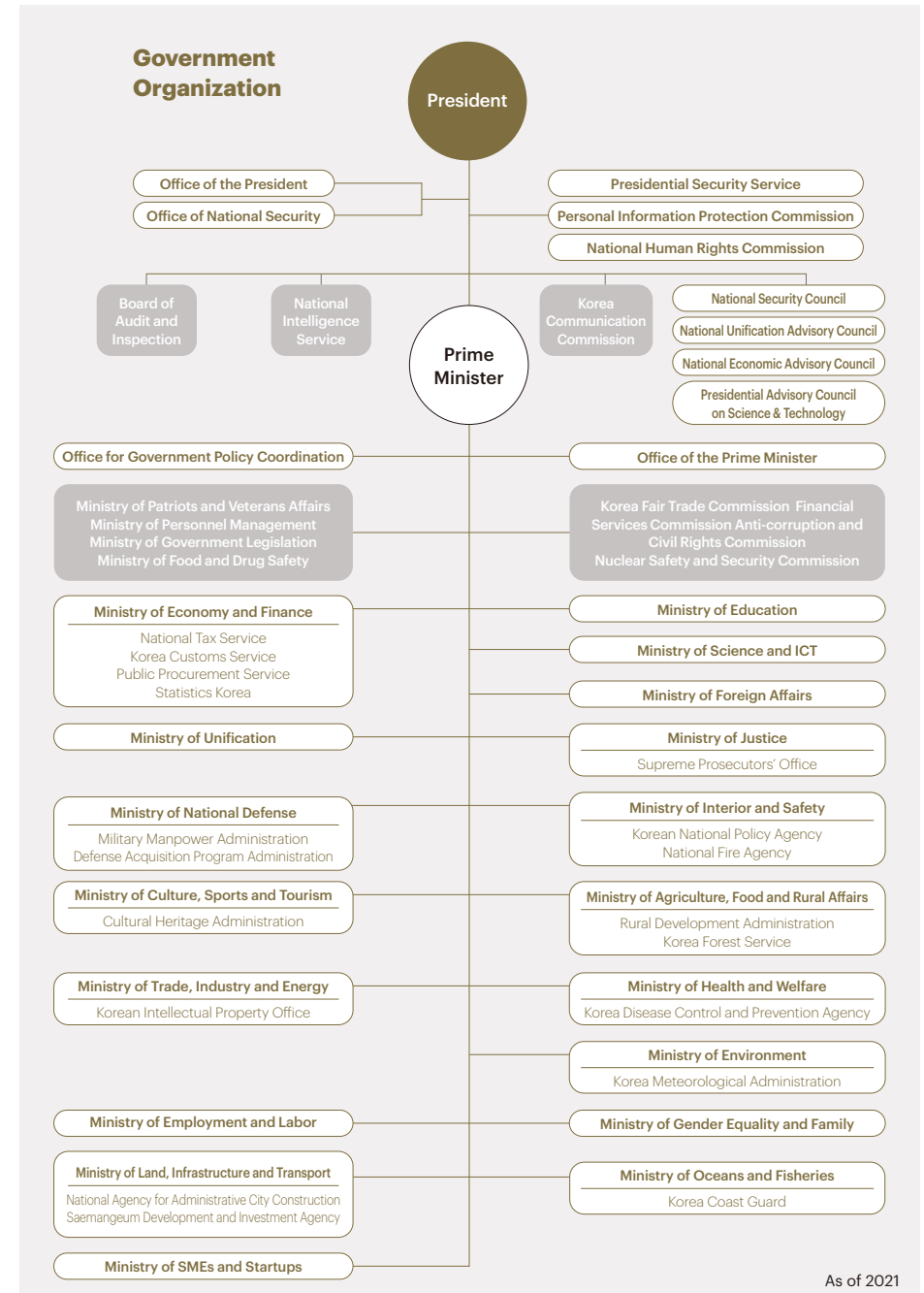
※Temporary holidays and substitute holidays are designated as needed (based on decision and resolution by the Cabinet Council).

* KOSIS (Korean Statistical Information Service) : National statistics portal that officially operated by the Korea National Statistical Office (KOSTAT).

Solar Terms: “24 Terms”

In Korea, the year is divided into “24 terms,” which are based on the location of the sun and are used to classify the changing of the season. These 24 terms are especially used in farming and for predicting the weather.

	Date	Description
Ipchun	February 4 or 5	Beginning of spring
Usu	February 18 or 19	Spring rain falls and sprouts bloom
Gyeongchip	March 5 or 6	The frog wakes up from hibernation
Chunbun	March 20 or 21	The day grows longer
Cheongmyeong	April 4 or 5	Preparation for spring farming
Gogu	April 20 or 21	Arrival of rains for farming
Ipha	May 5 or 6	Beginning of summer
Soman	May 21 or 22	Farming begins in earnest
Mangjong	June 5 or 6	Beginning of sowing seeds
Haji	June 21 or 22	The longest day of the year
Soseo	July 7 or 8	Beginning of hot days
Daeseo	July 22 or 23	Severest heat wave
Ipchu	August 7 or 8	Beginning of the fall
Cheoseo	August 23 or 24	Less heat and the greatest daily temperature range of the year
Baekro	September 7 or 8	Dew begins to fall
Chubun	September 23 or 24	Night grows longer
Hanro	October 8 or 9	Cold dew begins to fall
Sanggang	October 23 or 24	First frost
Ipdong	November 7 or 8	Winter begins
Soseol	November 22 or 23	Ice starts to form
Daeseol	December 7 or 8	Major winter snowfall
Dongji	December 21 or 22	Longest night of the year
Sohan	January 5 or 6	Coldest time of the winter
Daehan	January 20 or 21	Severely cold weather in the winter



As of 2021

A large, dark-colored statue of Admiral Yi Sun-shin, a prominent Korean naval leader. He is depicted in full armor, holding a long, wrapped staff or sword. The statue is set against a dark, overcast sky.

PART 2 Korea and Its 5,000 Years of History

HISTORY

Statue of Admiral Yi Sun-shin

Korea progressed through the Paleolithic Era, Neolithic Era, Bronze Age and Iron Age to become the culture that it is today. Historic artifacts found throughout the country from 700,000 BCE (Before the Common Era) stand as evidence of the long history of Korea. After the rise and fall of various kingdoms and the nation's liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945, the Korean Government was established in 1948 and Korea entered modern society. In the years that followed, Korea recovered from the ruins of the war and grew into a democratic country and quickly became an economic powerhouse, surprising people around the world with its rapid advancement.

2333 BCE

Gojoseon founded

Birth of Korea

Korea is a nation with a long history that began on the Korean Peninsula more than 5,000 years ago. According to legend, people have lived on the Korean Peninsula since 700,000 BCE. During the Paleolithic Era, people collected plants on the mountains and fields or hunted fish and animals in the rivers and oceans. They moved from place to place as they gathered food and lived in caves and around boulders. They made tools, axes and arrows for hunting by pounding and shaping stones, tree branches, and animal bones. The Neolithic Era began around 8,000 BCE and during this time, people settled in one location and began to grow their own crops, raised their own cattle, and formed clans or societies. Around this same time, people also started to make earthenware to store the food they harvested from farming. The comb-patterned pottery that was made during this time was excavated in many regions including Amsa-dong in Seoul, the Gosanri Historic Site on Jeju Island, Osan-ri in Yangyang, Gangwon-do and Dongsam-dong in Busan.

When the Bronze Age started around 10 BCE, people started to grow rice and build houses. Residences from the Bronze Age can still be seen at the Deokeun Residential Area of Paju, and the Songguk-ri Residential Area of Buyeo. It is said that the first ancient nation was formed on the Korean Peninsula around 2333 BCE According to a myth, Dangun Wanggeom, the son of a god and a bear that was turned into a woman, founded Gojoseon, the first ancient kingdom of Korea. This myth symbolizes how two tribes came together to form a single country. Dolmens, which are vast stone structures consisting of a supporting stone topped by a covering stone and weighing up to 100 tons, are still found throughout Korea, standing as testaments to the Gojoseon Era of the Bronze Age.



Dolmen

Dolmens were used as either tombs or altars, and over 40,000 have been discovered in Korea, which account for over 40% of all dolmens found worldwide. In 2000, the dolmens in the regions of Ganghwa, Hwasun, and Gochang were registered as UNESCO World Cultural Heritages and are now prized by the international community.

The Three Kingdoms Period: Goguryeo-Baekje-Silla

After the Gojoseon Period, kingdoms such as Buyeo, Okjeo, and Dongye appeared in the north, and Samhan—three Alliances called Mahan, Jinhan and Byeonhan formed by 80 tribes—appeared in the south. Later, Jumong of Buyeo founded a kingdom called Goguryeo in Manchuria. Goguryeo became a powerful kingdom that took over Manchuria and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula as it conquered Buyeo, Okjeo, and Dongye. Onjo, the son of Jumong, founded a kingdom called Baekje near the Han River. Although Baekje began as a small kingdom, it widened its territory to grow into a large kingdom that took over the central and southwest regions of the Korean Peninsula.

There was also a small kingdom called Saroguk that belonged to Jinhan in the southeast of the Korean Peninsula. This kingdom conquered surrounding kingdoms and gradually expanded its territory, renaming itself “Silla” in the process. As Silla conquered Gaya, the Three Kingdoms Period began, dominated by the kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje, and Silla. All three kingdoms embraced Buddhism as their basic ideology. Buddhism was introduced in Korea during the reign of King Sosurim of the Goguryeo Dynasty. Excluding shamanism, Buddhism is the religion with the longest history in Korea (for more information, please refer to “The History of Korean Religions Preserved in Architecture” on page 64).



Goguryeo, which prospered between 37 BCE and CE 668, was the kingdom with the most powerful army in Korean history. In 372, Buddhism was “officially accepted” on the Korean Peninsula for the first time and Taehak was founded as the national Korean university in recorded history. In the 5th century during the “glorious days” of the reign of King Gwanggaeto the Great, Goguryeo expanded its territory to Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, and Russia to the north and the Han River to the south. King Gwanggaeto’s son, King Jangsu, moved the kingdom’s capital from Jilin of China to Pyeongyang and during this 78 years in power, systematically reorganized the nation, leading it into a golden era.

The kingdom of Baekje, which existed for 677 years from 18 BCE to CE 660, enjoyed a golden era during the 4th century as it expanded into the northern parts of the Korean Peninsula, under the leadership of King Geunchogo, who also established the kingdom’s capital in present-day Seoul. However, Baekje lost control of Seoul when the city was overtaken by Goguryeo, and the people of Baekje relocated their capital to Buyeo and Gongju. Seoul, Buyeo, and Gongju,

which served as the capital of Baekje for around 500 years, still contain Baekje cultural heritages, which are known for their delicate craftsmanship. As a maritime power, Baekje also played a large role in sharing Korean culture with Japan. Chinese characters, Buddhism, steel, pottery, and burial methods may have influenced Japanese culture. (For more information please refer to “Chungcheong-do” in the Cultural Exploration section on page 78).

The Silla kingdom thrived for 992 years between 57 BCE and CE 935 with the city of Gyeongju, in the southeastern part of the Korean Peninsula, as its capital. Out of all the kingdoms in Korea, Silla was the one with the longest history. The kingdom increased its national power in the 6th century during the reign of King Jinheung.



The Three Kingdoms Period (AD 4C)
 ※ Source : 2020 Defense White Paper, ROK MND
 ※ The USG officially calls the Dokdo Island the Liancourt Rocks.



South North States Period
 ※ Source : Northeast Asian History Foundation



In the 7th century, the kingdom expanded its territory and unified the Korean Peninsula. Silla was the only country in the history of Korean kingdoms that was once ruled by queens, instead of only kings. There were three queens among the rulers of the Silla Kingdom. Gyeongju, which was the capital of Silla for around 1000 years, still holds vestiges of Silla culture in all parts of the city, even though 1000 years have passed since Silla inhabited the city.

South North States Period: Unified Silla-Balhae

In 676, Silla unified three kingdoms and emerged as the first nation to rule over all of the Korean Peninsula (strictly speaking, Silla ruled south of Daedong River). This period of a single kingdom is known as the Unified Silla Period. The Unified Silla remained in power for 220 years, during which elaborate artwork and Buddhist culture thrived, earning this period the nickname the “golden age of Korean art.” The Buddhist architecture, pagodas, and Buddha statues found at Bulguksa Temple, Seokguram Grotto, Hwangnyongsa Temple, and Bunhwangsa Temple demonstrate the delicate and elegant Buddhist art that was produced during this era (For more information, please refer to “Gyeongsang-do” in the Cultural Exploration section on page 85). Bulguksa Temple was constructed by Silla beginning in 528 and completed between 751 and 774 after large-scale expansions. The temple is where the Dharani Sutra, the oldest woodblock publication in the world was discovered. Seokguram Grotto, located near Bulguksa Temple, is a stone cave temple built by piling up granite in an elaborate fashion. The Buddhist statues at Seokguram Grotto are considered to be the most outstanding works of all the stone Buddhas in the history of Korean Buddhist art. In 1995, Bulguksa Temple was registered as UNESCO World Heritage Site along with Seokguram Grotto. It is home to seven national treasures including Seokgatap Pagoda, Dabotap Pagoda, Cheongungyo Bridge, and Baegungyo Bridge. In the Joseon Period, Bulguksa Temple was almost completely destroyed by Japanese armies that invaded in 1592 (Japanese Invasion of Korea), but a large-scale restoration project was carried out in the 1970s to restore the temple to its current condition.

After Goguryeo was defeated and Silla unified the Three Kingdoms, Dae Joyeong of Goguryeo rallied the migrants of Goguryeo and the Mohe People and formed the Balhae kingdom in the northern parts of the Korean Peninsula and Manchuria. The Balhae kingdom, which inherited the culture of Goguryeo, covered regions of North Korea, Manchuria and Maritime Territory and lasted 227 years until 926. It was invaded and destroyed by the Khitans, and the royal family and some of the people of Balhae joined Goryeo. Since Balhae existed around the time as Unified Silla Period, during which Silla unified three different kingdoms, this same time period is also referred to as the North-South States Period in reference to the Unified Silla and Balhae.



Early Modern Period, 1392-1876

Beginning of KOREA: Goryeo

Toward the end of the Unified Silla Period, Silla began to lose its control over the provinces, and regional aristocracies began to gain greater independence. This shift in power led to the brief Later Three Kingdoms period when Later Goguryeo was formed in the north in 901 and Later Baekje was formed in the southwest in 900. In 918, Taejo Wanggeon of Later Goguryeo drove out Gungye, who had lost much public support and established Goryeo. In 936, Goryeo absorbed Later Baekje, uniting the Later Three Kingdoms.

Goryeo, a country which symbolizes the middle ages of the Korean Peninsula, lasted for 456 years until 1392. Throughout the Goryeo Period, a total of 34 monarchs with the last name Wang ruled over most parts of the Korean Peninsula. The Goryeo kingdom succeeded Goguryeo, and during this time Buddhism was announced as the country's official religion. This was also the time during which the name "Korea" was made known to the rest of the world. The Goryeo exported gold, silver, copper, ginseng, and paper to the Song Dynasty and the name "Goryeo" became known to the world through Arabian merchants. The national examination for hiring civic officers

was first implemented in 958 and continued into the Joseon Period. Goryeo, which strengthened the authority of the monarch by reorganizing laws and innovating various state systems, is also known for defending the country from a large-scale invasion by the powerful Khitans. After the attack by the Khitans, Goryeo enjoyed a "golden age" for about one hundred years, after which it was invaded seven times by the Mongolian Empire. Goryeo made the Tripitaka Koreana, (Collection of Buddhist Scriptures carved on over Eight Thousand Woodblocks) to protect the country through the words of Buddha and valiantly fought against the Mongolians for 30 years. In the end, however, it surrendered to Mongolia and was subject to political intervention from Mongolia on a regular basis. Goryeo tried to reform the country by protecting it with persistent resistance and defeating the last attack of the Mongol Empire, but amid the ensuing confusion, Joseon was able to seize power.



Goryeo (AD 10C)
 ※ Source : 2020 Defense White Paper, ROK MND
 ※ The USG officially calls the Dokdo Island the Liancourt Rocks.



The Tripitaka Koreana (Gyongsang-do)

The Tripitaka Koreana was designated National Treasure No. 32 and is housed in Haeinsa Temple. The Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon (the Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks) was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, and the Printing Woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and Miscellaneous Buddhist Scriptures at Haeinsa Temple were registered as UNESCO Memory of the World in 2007.

Joseon: Promoting Korean Tradition

The kingdom of Joseon was founded by Yi Seong-gye, a Goryeo general who defied the king's order to attack the Ming Dynasty and instead withdrew the army and returned to the capital to found the new dynasty. Inheriting many of the characteristic of Gojoseon, the new kingdom was named Joseon. Founded in 1392, Joseon was ruled by 27 kings from the Jeonju Lee Clan for 518 years until 1910. Seoul, the first capital of Baekje and the second capital of Goryeo, was chosen as the capital of Joseon, and royal palaces were subsequently constructed. During this time Buddhism was largely rejected, and Confucianism was adopted as the ruling ideology to reinforce the power of the king.

A new state system was developed during the reign of King Sejong, the fourth monarch, and completed at the time of King Seongjong, the ninth monarch, forming the foundation for a peaceful nation. However, this peace did not last and 200 years after it was founded, Joseon began experiencing continual attacks by Japan and the Qing Dynasty, starting with the Japanese

1592

Japanese Invasion of Korea

1876

Korea opened to trade

1897

Korean Empire Proclaimed

1910

Japanese annexation of 'Daehan Empire' (Korea)

1919

March 1st Movement

1945

Liberation Day of August 15

1948

ROK Government established

Invasion of Korea in 1592. Despite its lack of national power, however, the Joseon continued on, thanks to the perseverance of its people and several remarkable figures who delivered the country from outside invasions. One of the attacks was the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592, during which 200,000 Japanese soldiers equipped with rifles (which were considered modern weapons at that time) conquered different areas surrounding Hanseong, the capital of Joseon. King Seonjo and his vassals fled all the way to Uiju in Hamgyeong-do. Despite being outnumbered many times—sometimes even tenfold—General Yi Sunsin was able to defeat the Japanese in many battles, thereby decreasing the overall power of the Japanese army. These victories increased the people’s will to fight, and the entire nation, regardless of each person’s individual social status, rose up to resist the Japanese invasion. Even the women fought in the war and helped the soldiers. In the Battle of Haengju, women carried rocks in their aprons and then threw them at the Japanese soldiers, helping to win the battle. This just one of numerous examples of how the people of Joseon worked hard to fight off foreign invaders.

After overcoming invasions by outside forces, Joseon welcomed a political and cultural

Battle of Myeongnyang



revival that continued throughout the Late Joseon Period during the reigns of King Yeongju, the 21st monarch, and King Jeongjo, the 22nd monarch. During this time, practical studies were prioritized, and culture shared by the common people, such as *pansori*, Hangeul, novels, and folk painting were developed. In the 19th century, Joseon adopted a closed country policy in resistance to Western powers, which led to confusion and conflict. In 1897, King Gojong changed the name of the country to Daehan, forming an empire that promoted modernization. The Daehan Empire however, was soon occupied with the Japanese Empire in 1910.

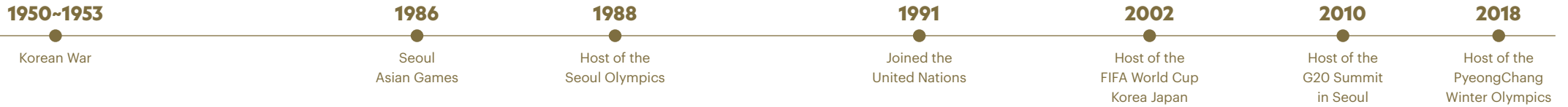
The palaces of Joseon are small and simple, reflective of the nation’s political philosophy, based on Neo-Confucianism. According to this philosophy, extravagance was strictly prohibited, and people were encouraged to seek harmony with nature by immersing themselves in nature without harming it.

Gyeongbokgung Palace established in 1395, was the first royal palace built after Joseon was founded and Seoul was set as the capital. Reflecting Confucianism ideology, the buildings of the palace were constructed in a simple and modest fashion. Most of the palace were burned down during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592 but were later reconstructed in 1867. During Japanese occupation, the Governor-General of Korea building was built in front of the palace, and Gwanghwamun Gate, the front gate to the palace, was moved. In 1996, the Governor-General of Korea building was demolished and Gwanghwamun Gate was restored to its original location. (Page 28, Picture 1)

Constructed in 1404, Changdeokgung Palace is the second palace built by King Taejong, the third monarch of the Joseon Dynasty. It was used as a royal palace in the Early Joseon Period along with Gyeongbokgung Palace, and along with Gyeonghuigung Palace after Gyeongbokgung Palace was destroyed during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592. Changdeokgung Palace is also where the Daehan Empire reached its end. However, the imperial family resided in the palace even after the establishment of the Korean Government. This particular palace, which is the most well-preserved of the five royal palaces, was built at the foot of the mountain, giving it a delicate beauty that is accentuated by the natural geography. Biwon, the backyard, is a beautiful palace garden located in the heart of Seoul. (Page 28, Picture 2)

Changgyeonggung Palace was built in 1418 as the residence of King Taejong who passed the throne to his son, King Sejong, the fourth monarch of the Joseon Dynasty. Unlike the other palaces that face south, this is the only palace that faces east. After it was completely burnt down during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592, it was alternatively reconstructed and then destroyed again by fire. During Japanese rule, the palace was used as a zoo and an arboretum, and its name was changed to Changgyeongwon Garden. In 1986, the palace’s name was changed back to Changgyeonggung Palace.

Gyeonghuigung Palace completed in 1623, was one of the two royal palaces of the Late Joseon Period along with Changdeokgung Palace. Due to severe damage, only a part of the



original palace still remains. The palace was partially restored through excavation work, and the Seoul Museum of History is now located on the palace grounds. (Page 28, Picture 3)

Deoksugung Palace was originally built as the private residence of the royal family and was soon promoted to the status of a royal palace, which explains why it has a different structural arrangement than the other palaces. During the Daehan Empire Period it was used as the primary residence of the imperial family. At the same time, it began to be called Deoksugung Palace and saw the addition of several western-style buildings. During the Korean War, the U.S. Army was planning on bombing the palace to eliminate the North Korean soldiers who were hiding inside. However, the U.S. Army was able to wait until the North Korean troops fled the palace before firing on the troops, thereby sparing the palace. Today, the Royal Guard Changing Ceremony is carried out at Daehanmun Gate, the front gate of the palace. (Page 28, Picture 4)



1.Gyeongbokgung Palace



2.Changdeokgung Palace

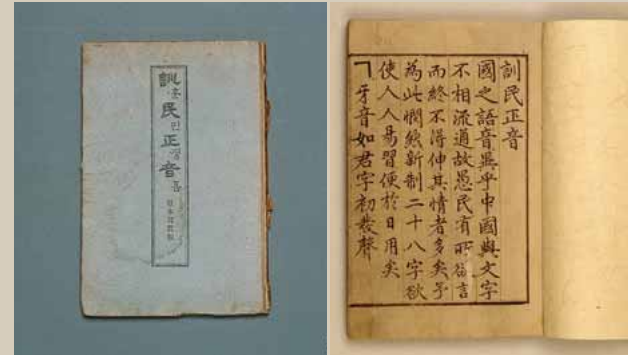


3.Gyeonghuigung Palace



4.Deoksugung Palace

Great King Sejong: Scientific Advancements and the Creation of Hangeul



Great King Sejong (1397–1450), the fourth monarch of the Joseon Dynasty who created Hangeul and completed the current national border, is the most respected king in the history of Korea. Besides creating Hangeul and expanding national territory, King Sejong, during his 31 years of rule, made many great achievements and advanced culture, agriculture, and the legal system. He recruited scientists to invent devices

such as the sundial and water clock and to develop weapons. He also had vassals publish farming books to spread knowledge about farming techniques and organized court music and invented instruments. To improve the taxing system for the people, he surveyed 170,000 households to ask them for their opinions and carefully examined people’s reasons for agreement and disagreement with the proposed tax policy. He also operated a welfare program to secure maternity leave for slaves and enhanced the rights of prisoners. Great King Sejong is respected as a ruler who transcended time with his great achievements and people-centered ruling style.

Hangeul is considered the most scientifically made system of writing and the easiest to learn. Also, it is the only writing system with a known creator, production date, and founding principles. Even today, Korean people use a simple keyboard that consists of three vowels and seven consonants on their cellphone—this simplicity is made possible thanks to the logical structure of the Korean writing system.

Great King Sejong created Hangeul in 1443 and promulgated it in 1446. He said that he made Hangeul so that ordinary citizens could easily learn and write because Chinese characters, which were used for writing at the time, did not suit the Korean language in many ways and were difficult for ordinary people to learn. The amazing principles behind the creation of Hangeul consonants and vowels were revealed in 1940 with the discovery of Hunminjeongeom Haeryeobon (Explanations and Examples of the Correct/Proper Sounds for the Instruction of the People), a guideline to Hangeul which had disappeared soon after its publication. The five basic consonants of ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ and ㅇ are said to mimic the shape of the tongue, lips, teeth, and throat when producing each corresponding sound, while the three basic vowels of heaven(ㅏ), earth(ㅓ) and people (ㅗ) were made using the shape of the object they symbolize. Strokes were added to these eight basic letters to expand the writing system into 28 letters, including 17 consonants and 11 vowels. Excluding that sounds that not used in modern standardized language, the system now consists of 14 consonants and 10 vowels.

NATIONAL SECURITY

PART 3

The ROK-U.S. Alliance



ROK Minister of National Defense & U.S. Secretary of Defense, visiting the Korean War Veterans Memorial (Washington, D.C., 2020 Security Consultative Meeting)

The diplomatic relationship between the Republic of Korea and the United States officially began with the Joseon-U.S. Treaty of 1882, signed between Joseon (the name of Dynasty at the time) and the United States. Since then, the ROK and the U.S. have worked together over the last 140 years to secure peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance continues to remain steadfast in the deterrence of North Korea, while promoting peace and stability across northeast Asia.



The Joseon-U.S. Treaty of 1882, the Start of the Relationship Between the ROK & the U.S.

Before the signing of the Joseon-U.S. Treaty of 1882, Joseon and the United States met under unfortunate circumstances. This first meeting between the two countries is referred to as the Invasion of Joseon by U.S. Warships in 1871, or the General Sherman Incident. In 1866, the General Sherman, a U.S. trade ship owned by an American, appeared off the coast of Pyeongan-do, which was part of Joseon territory. General Sherman, which was armed with cannons and guns in addition to other trade items, approached without permission and demanded trade with Joseon. At the time Joseon, had a closed policy prohibiting trade with other countries, and the Joseon people asked for the General Sherman to leave. The General Sherman responded by a heavy show of force resulting in its burning and sinking by Pyongyang residents. The U.S. responded by sending five military ships in 1871 in an incident known in Korean history as 'Sinmiyangyo' (Invasion of Joseon by U.S. Warships in 1871). After the Joseon Army and U.S. Army fought, the war ended with Joseon suffering a great loss.

After the U.S. Army withdrew, Heungseon Daewongun of Joseon erected anti-foreign steles in all parts of the country, each with an inscription stating that refusing to fight against Western invasions was the same thing as betraying the country. As it carried out its closed door policy, Joseon became involved in conflicts with Japan, China, and Russia. It gradually accepted an open door policy, which was the trend at that time and signed the Joseon-U.S. Treaty in 1882, opening its doors to the world. The Joseon-U.S. Treaty was signed on May 22, 1882, opening Joseon to international trade and providing key relationship with the United States. It was also marked the end of Joseon's closed country policy and opened its the doors to Western countries, serving as Joseon's first step toward the diversification of international diplomacy.

1910

Daehan Empire
annexed by Japan

1945

Independence
from Japanese
colonial rule

1948

(North and South
divided) causing the
Foundation of the ROK

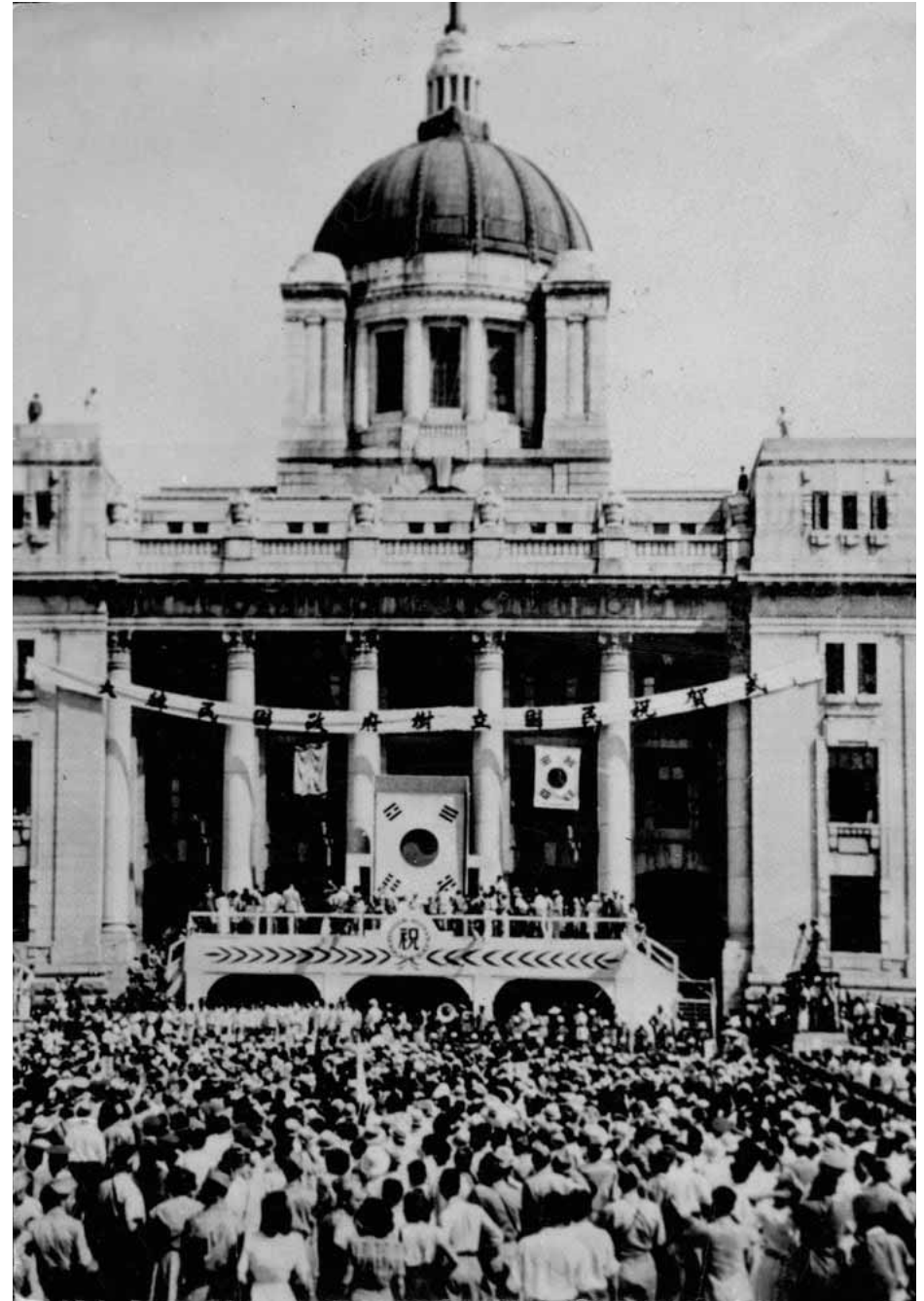
Article 1 of the Joseon-U.S. Treaty states “when a third nation behaves in a manner unjust or oppressive toward one government, the other government shall arrange matters for smooth settlement.” This statement in particular, laid the foundations for Joseon to directly interact and open its doors to countries overseas. When the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty was signed after the armistice of the Korean War, the ROK mentioned that the official relationship between the two countries started with the Treaty of 1882.

The Korean Peninsula Divided

Japan’s unconditional surrender on August 15, 1945 brought with it not just the end of World War II, but the liberation of the Korean Peninsula from colonial rule. However, the Korean people had little time to celebrate their independence, as the end of the war brought the occupation of the Korean Peninsula by Allied Forces to oversee the demobilization and disarmament of Japanese military forces. Unable to settle on a unified effort, the United States and Soviet Union settled on dividing administration of the Korean Peninsula at the 38th parallel. Between 1945 to 1948, roughly 76,000 U.S. service members served on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula.

By 1948, Koreans had successfully postured to form a sovereign government, but the divide at the 38th parallel and separate influence from the Soviet Union on the north side and the U.S. and its allies on the South side created a rift between two sides: first, the government of the Republic of Korea on August 15, 1948; and second, the regime of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on September 9, 1948. Those have remained in place since.

In 1949, the United States and Soviet Union agreed to withdraw their forces from the Korean Peninsula, and it was at this time that the North Korean leadership started petitioning the Soviet Union and People’s Republic of China for support in reunification of the Korean Peninsula by force. Initially, the North side’s patron balked at the proposal. By early 1950 however, conditions had changed and the North Korean leadership was able to convince their Soviet counterparts of two key assumptions: first, that the North would be able to conquer the South quickly; and second, that the United States would not respond in defense of the ROK. On May 24, 1950, Soviet leader Josef Stalin communicated to North Korea via Mao Zedong that the USSR agreed with “the proposal of the Koreans to move toward reunification.”



Establishment of the Republic of Korea



Landing at Incheon

1950

Korean War

1953

Armistice Agreement

United Nations Command and the birth of the ROK-U.S. Alliance

On June 25, 1950, the DPRK Korean People’s Army attacked across the 38th parallel in an attempt to reunify the peninsula by force. On that same day, the United Nations Security Council issued UNSC Resolution 82 denouncing the “armed attack” on the Republic of Korea, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of DPRK forces north of the 38th parallel. Two days later, the UN Security Council passed UNSC Resolution (UNSCR) 83, calling for UN member states to furnish assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and restore international peace and security in the area. Shortly thereafter, the UN Security Council issued UNSCR 84 mandating the formation of a unified command under U.S. leadership that would fight under the UN flag.

The international community answered the call, over the course of the war effort a total of 22 countries would provide combat and/or medical support to the ROK under U.S. leadership as part of “United Nations Command” (UNC). On 14 July 1950, the ROK government also placed its forces under the operational command of UNC, which served as the birth of the combined forces structure to the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

Despite the swift resolve of the international community, the KPA moved swiftly across the Korean Peninsula. Seoul fell in three days, and it was not long until ROK forces had retreated to Busan, holding a small parcel of land surrounded by the Busan Perimeter. This proved to be enough however, and a combination of combat power and ingenuity enabled UN forces to push the KPA back. On September 15, 1950, UN forces executed the Incheon Landing, a risky amphibious operation northwest of Seoul that enabled the allies to execute a pincer move against the KPA on the southern half of the Peninsula. This turned the tide in the war, and by the end of October 1950, UN forces recaptured Seoul and marched all the way up to the Amnok (Yalu) River.

By January 1951, UN forces had pushed the KPA all the way back to the Amnok river—the border between North Korea and China. Just when victory seemed at hand, China entered the war; albeit, unofficially. Calling their forces the “Chinese People’s Volunteers,” wave after wave of Chinese soldiers poured across the Amnok river and pushed back allied forces. The frontal assault drove the allies all the way back south of the 38th parallel, and Seoul once again fell to invading forces.

1954

ROK-U.S. mutual
defense treaty goes
into effect

In mid-May 1951, the allies regrouped and initiated a counterattack, once again driving the battle line to areas north of the 38th parallel. By the summer of 1951, both the Chinese and Soviet governments were prepared to end hostilities, and Soviet diplomat Yakov Malik signaled via a radio broadcast that it may be time to conduct negotiations for an Armistice. UNC answered the call for a potential peace, initiating Armistice negotiations in July 1951. Peace negotiations would not come easy, however. It took thousands of negotiating sessions across two years of continued warfare before the negotiators could conclude their deliberations on the Armistice Agreement. The agreement was comprehensive, and included the establishment of a buffer zone between military forces (the Demilitarized Zone), the designation of territory, the creation of mechanisms for evolving the terms of Armistice, and institution of rules for military forces on the Korean Peninsula. The negotiators also agreed to establish a Military Armistice Commission to manage implementation, a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to provide third-party oversight, and a Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission to oversee repatriation of prisoners-of-war. Finally on July 27, 1953, the Commanders of the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers signed the Armistice for the North side, and the Commander of UNC signed on behalf of all forces under his operational control, including ROK military forces.

In the end, the Korean War claimed the lives of around one million ROK soldiers and over 36,574 U.S. service members. Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is inscribed with the sentence, "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to protect a country they never knew and a people they never met."

The ROK-U.S. Alliance after the Korean War

As one of the conditions for the ROK government's acceptance of the terms of Armistice, the United States and Republic of Korea entered into a formal military alliance. The two governments signed the Mutual Defense Treaty on October 1, 1953, and it entered into effect on November 18, 1954. This was the first and only alliance treaty signed between the two countries, and it formalized the blood alliance forged during the Korean War.

Since 1954, the Mutual Defense Treaty has remained at the core of the ROK-U.S. security relationship, forming the legal basis for the combined defense architecture and stationing of U.S. forces in Korea. As the name of the treaty implies, the primary function of the alliance treaty is to enable the collective defense of the two countries against armed attacks by external actors. North Korea has put this principle to the test many times since 1953.



Korean War



ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty



Dongmyeong Unit

Despite the existence of the Armistice Agreement, North Korean military forces remained active, especially in the latter half of the 1960s. Often called the “Second Korean War,” the period between 1966 and 1969 saw frequent skirmishes and attacks from the North side. Still under the operational control of United Nations Command, U.S. and ROK forces defended South Korea while working to negotiate resolution through the Military Armistice Commission.

While North Korea has remained a security threat, the ROK-U.S. Alliance has been active elsewhere in the world too. In September 1964, ROK military dispatched troops to support the U.S. war effort in Vietnam. This represented the ROK military’s first overseas deployment, with a total of around 310,000 service members fighting in Vietnam by March 1973. The ROK military suffered heavy casualties in Vietnam, with approximately 5,100 killed in action and 11,000 injured. This was a costly effort, but one that reinforced the core of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

Following the U.S. deployment to Iraq in 2003, the ROK once again displayed its support to the alliance. On March 20, 2003, the ROK government announced that it would contribute to Operation Iraqi Freedom, dispatching a combat engineering unit (“Seohui”) and a medical team (“Jema”). In 2004, the ROK military added the Zaytun Division to its support. Later, the ROK Army dispatched troops from Dongui, Dasan, and Ashena to provide medical and construction support to the war front in Afghanistan.

In addition to conventional alliance activities, the ROK and U.S. have contributed to global peace and stability. Among these contributions are a wide range of peace and stability operations overseas. As of February 2021, the ROK military has dispatched four units, including Dongmyeong (2007-) to Lebanon and Hanbit (2013-) to South Sudan as part of UN peacekeeping operations. Additionally, Korea has dispatched the Cheonghae Unit (2009-) to Somalia as part

of multinational military activities and the Akh Unit (2011-) to the United Arab Emirates for the purpose of national defense exchange and cooperation. As of November 2020, 1,038 ROK service members are contributing to world peace through UN peacekeeping operations, multinational peace operations as well as defense exchange and cooperation activities. Through cooperation in overseas activities, the ROK-U.S. Alliance has succeeded in contributing to global peace and security.

The ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command as the Leader of the National Defense of Korea

In July 1950, at the outset of the Korean war, President Syngman Rhee transferred operational control of ROK military forces to United Nations Command. This combined operational structure has evolved over time, most notably with the establishment of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) in November 1978 when CFC replaced UNC as the operational warfighting headquarters. To this day, the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command stands as a uniquely combined, interoperable, and allied command distinctive from any other in the world. It is a symbol of the ROK-U.S. Alliance and a stronghold for

Hanbit Unit



the protection of peace. The ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command deters outside hostile behavior towards Korea in times of peace, and fights against outside armed attacks in times of war.

The Commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command has the authority for wartime operational control (OPCON) of combined forces if conflict re-emerges on the Korean peninsula. Command authorities, including OPCON of combined forces, shift based on armistice or wartime conditions. Operational control in times of peace (during armistice) were reverted back to the Korean Military on December 1, 1994. Peacetime operational control falls under the authority of the ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), while wartime operational control falls under the authority of Commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command. The ROK-U.S. Alliance decided to conduct a conditions-based transition of wartime OPCON once the ROK meets all conditions required to lead the combined defense.

Relocation of the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea

There is an ongoing relocation plan underway of some U.S. and ROK Armed Forces within Korea to ensure balanced regional development and to meet the conditions agreed upon between the ROK-U.S. national command authorities. On June 2018, the “Pyeongtaek Era of the U.S. Army in Korea” began in earnest with the opening ceremony of the new headquarters building of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek. The relocation of U.S. forces in Korea involves two main projects: the Yongsan Garrison Relocation Project (YRP), in which the U.S. military facility in Yongsan, Seoul is relocated to Pyeongtaek, and the Land Partnership Plan (LPP) where other U.S. military facilities are relocated to Pyeongtaek or Daegu. A number of combined training ranges will be maintained north of Seoul to facilitate interoperability and readiness for ROK-U.S. Forces.



Commander UNC/CFC/USFK General Paul J. LaCamera and President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in honor Korean War service member sacrifices during a repatriation ceremony alongside other ROK & U.S. dignitaries. (DPAA Photo, September 2021)

In March 2007, Korea and the United States agreed on a general facility plan to relocate major U.S. Army garrisons in Korea, including the Yongsan Garrison and the United States 2nd Infantry Division Base, to Pyeongtaek. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Pyeongtaek in November 2007. Construction of headquarters facilities, training facilities, schools, hospitals, various welfare facilities, housing facilities, military facilities, and repair facilities have already been built at the Camp Humphreys. The ROK-U.S. Combined 2nd Infantry Division completed its relocation from Camp Casey to Humphreys in April 2017 and later in July 2017, Eighth United States Army moved to from Yongsan to Humphreys. June 2018 marked the opening of the Vessey Building signifying the transition of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) and United Nations Command (UNC) from Yongsan to Humphreys. In the near future, the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) will move from Yongsan to Camp Humphreys.

ROK-U.S. Alliance, an Important Pillar of Security in Korea

The ROK, a small country in East Asia that was largely destroyed by war, has developed a robust Alliance with the United States. The ROK and the United States, through the Korean War, have a relationship forged in blood and have developed an iron-clad Alliance over the last 70+ years.

Due to its strategic geographic location, Korea has been frequently attacked throughout history. After regaining its independence, the ROK received support from the United States

The ROK-U.S. Alliance was forged in the crucible of war and hardened by the blood spilled together in shared sacrifice.

to establish a democratic government as well as a pledge from the U.S. to protect Korea from communist attack. After the armistice, the ROK-U.S. Alliance played an important part in maintaining ROK's security and also exerted influence in the fields of politics, economics, society, and culture. The ROK-U.S. Alliance has ensured stability on the Korean Peninsula over the last 70+ years and has played a central role in securing peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Korea and the United States have also developed a cooperative relationship in other fields, such as politics and the economy, expanding the scope of their relationship beyond that of a mere military Alliance. The ROK-U.S. Alliance remains stronger than ever, and the security relationship between the two countries is expected to ensure cessation of hostilities until the achievement of a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. The geographically advantageous position of the Korean Peninsula often makes it the focal point of random threats, dynamic relationships between surrounding powerful nations, and the collision of interests between maritime and continental powers. As such, the ROK-U.S. Alliance is considered an important part of ensuring the security of the Korean Peninsula and maintaining stability in Northeast Asia.

Fortification of the ROK-U.S. Alliance in the Face of Threats from North Korea

Provocations by North Korea continued even after the signing the Armistice Agreement. In 1968, 31 special agents from the North Korean army attempted to execute a raid on the Korea Blue House “Cheongwadae” to assassinate President Park Chung-hee. The attack failed due to a sweeping operation by the Korean Army. In the same year, the USS PUEBLO (AGER-2), an intelligence ship of the U.S. Navy was abducted by North Korea in international waters off Wonsan Port in North Korea. On December 23, 1968, after 28 secret negotiations and the signing of an agreement, 82 surviving crew members and the body of one deceased crew member were returned through Panmunjeom. In 1976, the “Panmunjeom Axe Murder Incident” occurred, in which the North Korean army killed two U.S. officers (CPT Arthur G. Bonifas and 1LT Mark T. Barrett) near the check point 3 in Panmunjeom at the Joint Security Area. This incident led to the proclamation of a DEFCON-3 readiness condition, for the first time after the Korean War. Later, Kim il Sung, the Commander in chief of the North Korean military sent a spoken message to the UNC Commander stating that “they [North Korea] were regretful of the incident,” leading to the conclusion of the incident and separation of the JSA.

The ROK government is working to address the North’s nuclear arms through the ROK-U.S. Alliance and by actively cooperating with other organizations in international society.

North Korea sent a small submarine to Sokcho which ended up exploding after getting caught in a fishing net. The North Korean forces continued to infiltrate South Korea and cause social anxiety.

North Korea continued to provoke South Korea in many ways, even seeking to neutralize the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the West Sea. On June 2002, the West Sea Battle occurred, which was nicknamed the “Second Battle of Yeonpyeong.” The battle began when two North Korean patrol boats invaded the NLL and made a surprise attack. Although the battle was short and lasted for only 25 minutes, it resulted in the death of six Korean soldiers and the injury of an additional 18.

In 1978, a infiltration tunnel was found four kilometers to the South of Panmunjeom, which was large enough to move 30,000 armed forces per hour. In 1983, North Korea infiltrated Dadaepo in Busan with a semi-submarine boat, which was subsequently sunk. In 1990, a tunnel (the 4th) dug by the North Korean forces for a surprise attack was discovered in Yanggu.

In 1996, a submarine with 26 armed communist guerrilla soldiers infiltrated into Gangneung area through the sea, and the ROK Navy carried out a sweeping operation—during the operation, leaving one North Korean crew member captured and the rest were killed. In 1998,



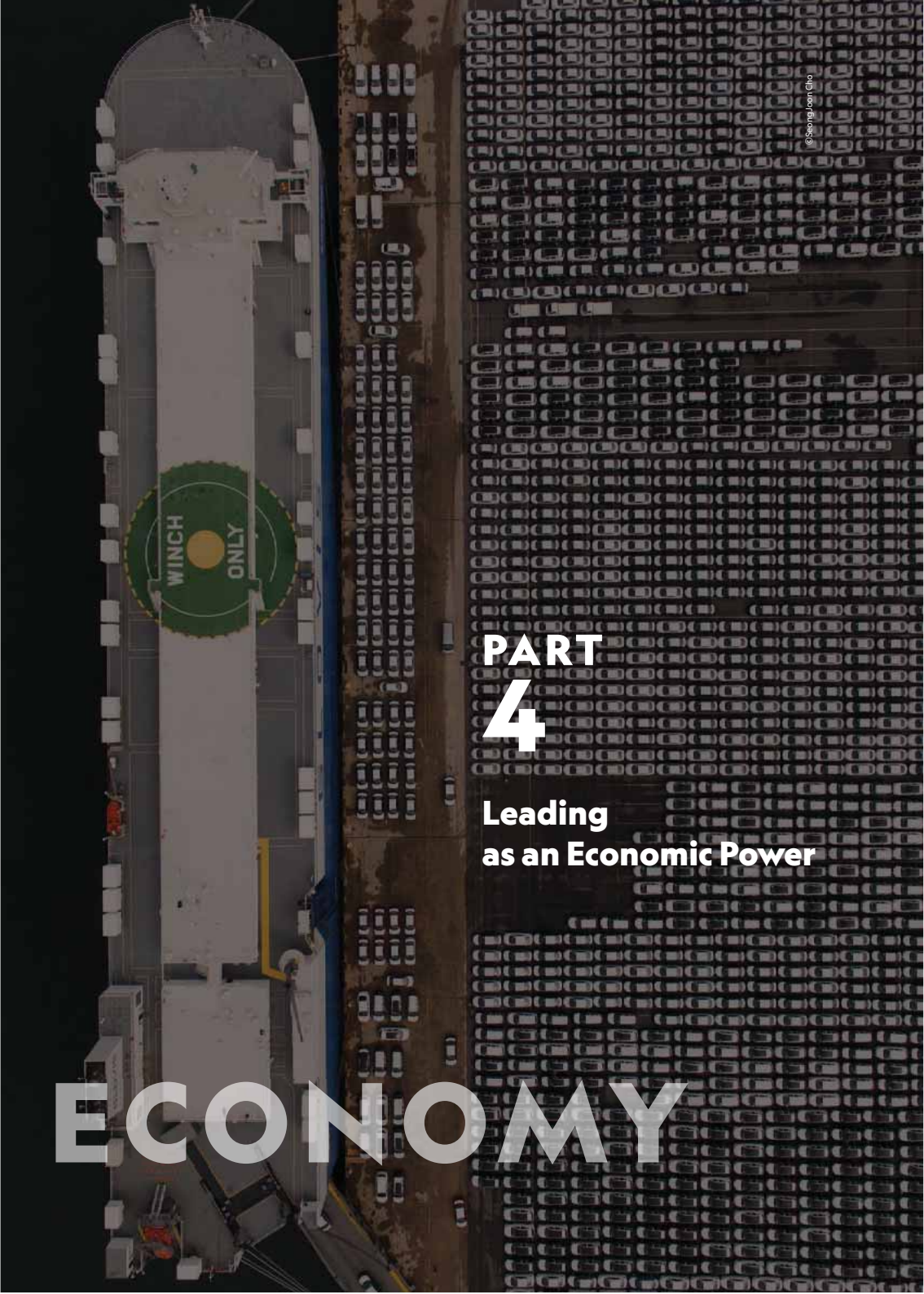
ROK Military Education on Cheonan Sinking Incident

These provocations have continued to recent years. For example, In 2008, Korean National Park Wang-ja was shot and killed by the North Korean army while touring Geumgangs Mountain.

On March 2010, the ROK’s Cheonan sinking incident occurred, in which a North Korean submarine torpedoed a Korean naval destroyer on the southern sea of Baengnyeongdo Island, resulting in the death of 46 Korean sailors.

In November 2010, the “Yeonpyeongdo Artillery Fire Provocation” occurred, in which around 170 shots were fired at Yeonpyeong Island and the surrounding waters. The shots were fired in two main rounds, lasting for a total of one hour, leading to the death of two marines and two civilians, and the injury of 60 people.

North Korea continues to threaten the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula through the development of nuclear weapons and missile provocations. The ROK-U.S. military Alliance is needed to effectively deter North Korean nuclear and missile provocation. The ROK and U.S. governments are working to address the North’s nuclear arms through the ROK-U.S. Alliance and through active cooperation with others in the international community.



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PART 4

Leading as an Economic Power

ECONOMY

In the 21st century, South Korea is leading the world of cutting-edge technology. The country is receiving attention worldwide because of its wireless internet that keeps people connected no matter where they go and its endless introduction of new technologies. Korea is well known globally for its technological prowess in the areas of petrochemicals, textiles, shipbuilding, steel and automobiles as well as semiconductors, displays and wireless communication devices, such as smartphones and mobile devices. Korea is also quickly accumulating technology in promising new industries such as next-generation semiconductors, premium consumer goods, bio-health, electric motor vehicles, autonomous cars, aviation, and drones.

The “Miracle of the Han River” Surprises the World

In 1953, Korea was in ruins after emerging from the Korean War and was one of the poorest countries in the world with a GDP per capita of USD \$67. Over the next 40 years, Korea surprised the world with its extremely rapid growth, achieved a GDP per capita of USD \$32,115 (as of 2019), which is the 24th highest in the world.

In the 1950s, Korea was able to achieve economic advancement with the support of the United States and international community provided through United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency. In the decades that followed, Korea began to seek ways to economically develop on its own. The goal of “modernization” was adopted as a national policy under the Park Chung-hee government and incorporated into the nation’s five-year economic development plan(1962–1986). In 1970, the Gyeongbu Expressway was completed, and Korea achieved \$1 billion in exports the following year. In 1973, the heavy chemicals industry was established through the founding of POSCO (Pohang Steel Corporation), and in 1975, Korea established its first shipbuilding plant.

In the 1970s, the Saemaeul Movement commenced, building the framework for rural modernization. Korea’s remarkably successful and rapid economic growth, achieved through the establishment of transportation and facility infrastructure and the implementation of economic development plans centered on heavy industries and exports, is referred to as the “Miracle on the Han River.” The Han River runs through the center of Seoul, and the term the Miracle on the Han River was coined in recognition of the great economic growth and attitude of saving and willingness to tackle challenges demonstrated by Korea after the Korean War. Currently, Korea is a world leader in the IT industries of semiconductors and cell phones and exercises cultural power in the areas of K-POP (Korean-Popular music), K-drama, K-film, and K-beauty.

Automobile Market Established, Starting with Assembled Cars

After making its first jeep-style domestic vehicle in August 1955, Korea steadily accumulated technologies by assembling parts from other countries up through the early 1970s. In 1974, the Hyundai Motor Company showcased “Pony” the first vehicle model unique to Korea. With the introduction of the “Pony” Korea became the second automobile manufacturer in Asia and the 16th in the world, using its quickly accumulated technology to enter the world market.

Korean companies such as Hyundai, Kia, Daewoo, Ssangyong, and Samsung competed and made advancements while at the same time restructuring the world market. Samsung Motors was taken over by Renault in 2000, Daewoo was taken over by GM in 2001, and Ssangyong was taken over by Mahindra of India in 2011. Currently, the Korean vehicle manufacturers Hyundai and Kia are focusing on developing electric cars, autonomous cars and environment-friendly cars as the representatives of Korean automobiles. Even though rising automobile manufacturers in China, India, Mexico, and other countries are racing to catch up, Korea still represents about 9% of the world's automotive market and is ranked fourth in the world in terms of production volume.

Stepping Up as a Shipbuilding Powerhouse

In 1963, the ROK built its first large cargo ship using its own technology and in the years that followed, continued to foster its shipbuilding industry. Even when the world shipbuilding market experienced serious recessions during the first and second oil crises (1973–1974, 1978–1980), Korea continued to invest in facilities for constructing super large ships.

The ROK reclaimed its position as the top shipbuilding nation with over 40% of the world's shipbuilding market share.

Over the years, Korea's construction of value-added ships such as LNG ships, oil tankers, and super-large container ships rapidly increased. In 1993, Korea became the No. 1 shipbuilding country in the world. In the 2000s, Korea enjoyed a "golden age" in the shipbuilding industry, during which the top three shipbuilding yards in the world were operated by Korea (Hyundai Heavy Industries, Samsung Heavy Industries, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering).

In 2008, due to the worldwide economic crisis, domestic small-and medium-sized heavy industries closed down, and the shipbuilding yards suffered as well. During this time, China was able to offer cheaper prices than Korea thanks to support from the Chinese government and took the title of the No. 1 shipbuilding country in the world. Due to the lack of technology, however, many Chinese ships had to be scrapped early or were unable to meet construction deadlines. As problems continued to occur in the Chinese shipbuilding industry, Korean shipbuilding yards saw an increase in orders. Korea eventually secured 40% of the world shipbuilding market share and reclaimed its title of the No. 1 shipbuilding country in the world.

Korean shipbuilding yards, which boast the best LNG shipbuilding technologies in the world, are currently focusing on building LNG transportation ships to meet the increased demand for LNG-powered ships following changes in global environmental regulations.



Shipbuilding Industry



Semiconductor



No. 1 in the DRAM Market and Leader of the Semiconductor Industry

The ROK jumped into the semiconductor industry in 1983 and has been conducting daring research and development and making bold investments ever since. The semiconductor industry requires large amounts of time and monetary investments as well as a high level of technology development, so there were many international concerns and criticisms about Korea's involvement. However, after Korea successfully developed a 64K DRAM*¹, as the third country to do so following the United States and Japan, within six months of entering the market, international perceptions of the Korean market drastically changed. Other Korean companies started to enter the semiconductor industry, and the government spared no effort to support the industry.

In the years that followed, Korea successfully developed high-performance DRAMs in succession, to reduce the technology gap between Korea and other countries. With its development of the 16 megabyte DRAM in 1989, the Korean semiconductor industry was able to catch up with that of the United States and Japan in terms of technology. In 1992, Samsung became the first country to develop the 64 megabyte DRAM, turning the tables of the competition. From that point on, Korea became the leader of the semiconductor industry and began developing new DRAM one after another. Korea was able to secure the No. 1 spot in terms of DRAM market share and has maintained its top position ever since. Korea expanded from the DRAM market and grew to secure a stable position in the NAND Flash*² market as well. The Korean semiconductor market, represented by Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, produces over 70% of DRAM used worldwide and 50% of the NAND Flash, thereby dominating the market.

Smartphone and Display Panels Made in South Korea

In 1982, the ROK started its radio paging services, and in 1988, it began to develop cellphones. Beginning with analog cellphones, the Korean cellphone market quickly developed, fueled by fierce competition between various wireless device companies such as Samsung, LG and Pantech. Now, ten years into the smartphone era, the world market is largely divided between Apple (US), Huawei and Xiaomi (China), and Samsung (South Korea) (Based on cell phone sales in the third quarter of 2020, Samsung Electronics represented 21.9% of the market share, Huawei represented 14.1%, Xiaomi represented 12.7%, Apple represented 11.9%, and other companies represented 39.4%).

*1 DRAM (Dynamic Random-Access Memory): A large-capacity, high-speed RAM used as the main memory of a computer

*2 NAND FLASH (NAND Flash Memory): A "non-volatile memory" storage device that retains stored information even when disconnected from a power source

Wireless devices such as smartphones, tablet PCs, and smart watches continue to dominate the market despite other developments being rapidly pursued by China. In 2019, Korea made history as the first nation to achieve commercialized 5G, helping to pave the way for the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and autonomous cars. Korea is the largest display panel manufacturer in the world. Samsung Display and LG Display are ranked 1 and 2 in the world display market and primarily produce LCD*¹ panels and OLED*² panels. Korea first entered the LCD business in 1991. After Samsung Electronics created Korea's first LCD production line, Korea has continued to acquire technological prowess, fueled by intense competition between Samsung and LG. As the world market transitions from LCD to OLED, LG Display is known as having the best technology for medium- and large-size panels for TVs and advertisements, while Samsung Display is known as having the best technology for small OLEDs, such as those used for mobile phones and IT devices.

Competition is growing fierce in the display market as China seeks to shake up the smartphone market with its production and consumer power, but South Korea continues to be a market leader in technological innovation.

*1 LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) : As a display device using liquid crystal, it has the advantage of having a thin screen and low power consumption.

*2 OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diodes) : Applying self-luminous technology, it has the advantage of being thinner, clearer, and quicker than LCD.





PART 5

A Beautiful Culture in Bloom

CULTURE

In addition to achieving economic advancement, Korea is now establishing itself as a cultural powerhouse that leads entertainment trends worldwide. Beyond K-POP, Korea's other cultural contents including K-drama and K-movies have captivated the attention of people all over the world. These cultural contents increase favorable impressions of Korea, and serve as a sort of ambassador promoting Korea to the rest of the world. *Hanok*, the traditional residential style of Korea, fascinated the world with its outstanding beauty, while *hanbok*, the traditional Korean outfit, demonstrates an elegant beauty. The following is an introduction to the diverse cultures and lifestyles of Korea.

Korea: Captivating the World Through K-wave Culture

Korean-Popular music (K-POP) has grown thanks to YouTube since 2016. In 2012, Psy's "Gangnam Style" captivated the world with its witty lyrics and the unique horse dance. After its release, "Gangnam Style" became YouTube's most watched video, eventually becoming the first video in YouTube's history to surpass 2 billion views in 2014.

In the wake of Psy, the group Big Bang has garnered some success beyond Asia in the United States, followed by BTS. "DNA" the title track of BTS' mini album, reached number 85 on the Billboard HOT 100 in 2017, the first for a K-POP boy band, raising expectations for the group in the U.S. market. In 2018, BTS became the first Asian performing artists to have a sold-out world stadium tour. "Dynamite" released in 2020, reached number one on the Hot 100 Billboard chart, and became the first song in the world to top the Hot 100, Artist 100 and Billboard 200 charts. In addition to BTS, third-generation idol groups such as Blackpink are also making an impact overseas, not only in the United States, but also across North and South America and Europe.

But before K-POP even emerged, Korea's entertainment business was already taking Asia by storm under the name "K-Wave," In the 90s, idol groups in their prime toured China to expand their fanbase, and TV dramas like *What Is Love* and *Dae Jang Geum* were mega-hits in China, increasing positive sentiments about Korea. Also, *Winter Sonata* was hugely popular in Japan, and its stars Bae Yong-joon and Choi Ji-woo received a special reception in Japan at the state level, while an increased number of Japanese tourists visited Korea to see the locations where their favorite Korean TV dramas were shot.

The popularity of Korean TV dramas like *Winter Sonata* and *Dae Jang Geum*, the 1st generation K-wave, was followed by works such as *My Love From the Star* and *Descendants of the Sun*, boosting the international popularity of actors such as Song Hye-kyo and Jun Ji-hyun. The current trend of K-wave caused by K-drama is happening in a different form. *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* and *Itaewon Class* collaborated with Netflix to tackle the world market at the same time. Korean dramas were the "most watched content" in seven Asian countries including Hong Kong, Vietnam and Malaysia, and were ranked in second to third place in Japan and in the top ten in South American countries such as Brazil and Peru. On the general chart of Netflix, Korean drama was ranked in sixth place, which is the highest so far. The media in various countries has started to focus on the high quality of Korean dramas, which are more than just traditional romance



BTS

dramas. Spanish media outlet Icon highlighted the creativity and solid structure of Korean dramas, praising them for combining an exotic charm with a modern and urban image.

K-Movies are relatively less known overseas compared to K-POP, K-Drama or K-Games, and have generally yielded low export performance. But a fireball was ignited in the world of K-Movies was ignited in the world when Director Bong Joon-ho's movie *Parasite* achieved a first for Korean film in 2020. At the 92nd Academy Awards, *Parasite* won four Oscars, in the categories of Best Picture, Best Directing, Writing (Original Screenplay) and Best International Feature Film. *Parasite* was the first non-English film to win the Oscar in the category of Best Picture, which is equivalent to the grand prize. A Korean movie winning in major categories at the Academy Awards, where Hollywood movies have dominated, is expected to build momentum for K-Movies. In 2020, the 77th Venice Film Festival was the first international film festival to open off-line amidst the worldwide spread of COVID-19. Director Park Hoon-jung's *Night in Paradise* was the first Korean movie to be invited for the "Out of Competition" category, indicating a continued interest in Korean movies.

K-Beauty has also been receiving attention, gaining popularity worldwide through the media in the same way as K-POP, K-Drama and entertainment shows, as well as social networking services. The beauty trend of Korea, represented by clear skin and youthful makeup, captivated women worldwide. Recently, beauty creators who introduce the makeup styles of celebrities have become quite popular, which has boosted the Korean cosmetics industry enough to lead



Director Bong Joon-ho's movie *Parasite*

the world beauty market. In particular, as K-POP gained in popularity in the United States and Europe, more young people are becoming interested in Korean culture, and looking up to Korean makeup. Korea's entertainment industry is growing beyond producing simple content for consumption to induce interest in Korean culture, raise awareness of Korea and improve the image of the country.

Capturing the Spirit of Korea in Traditional Culture

There are numerous traditional arts are considered representative of Korea. Among them, the world has paid particular notice to Korean ceramics. The pottery of Korea is elegant and stands out for its fluid beauty. Korea's pottery types can be divided into celadon and white porcelain. Celadon is a blue-colored pottery and started to advance in the Goryeo Period but was made as early as the 9th century during the Late Unified Silla Period. At the time, Korea traded with the Tang Dynasty of China, importing their pottery on a regular basis. Stimulated by the pottery of the Tang Dynasty, Koreans soon began to produce "haemurigup celadon" or celadon ware with a halo-shaped foot, which was an early form of celadon ware made at kilns in Gangjin-gun and Buan-gun. The unique color of the celadon, the design using the inlay technique and the unique glaze technique are evidence that supports the outstanding superiority of the Goryeo celadon ware. This applied a technique that was not present in China at the time, and its evaluation as a unique specialty product rather than an imitation of Chinese techniques makes it an important

point in the history of pottery-making.

White porcelain was also influenced by China-like celadon. The white porcelain technique began to advance at a rapid pace in the Joseon Period. The pottery is praised for its beautiful pure white color, durability and simple elegance. The white porcelain became developed because Joseon was founded based on Confucianism culture which was against extravagance. The Joseon white porcelain is known to have been used by the common people, or the middle class, and the *maksabal* (common bowl) of the Joseon Period is a leading example. *Minhwa*, or

White porcelain was also influenced by China like celadon. The white porcelain technique began to advance at a rapid pace in the Joseon Period.

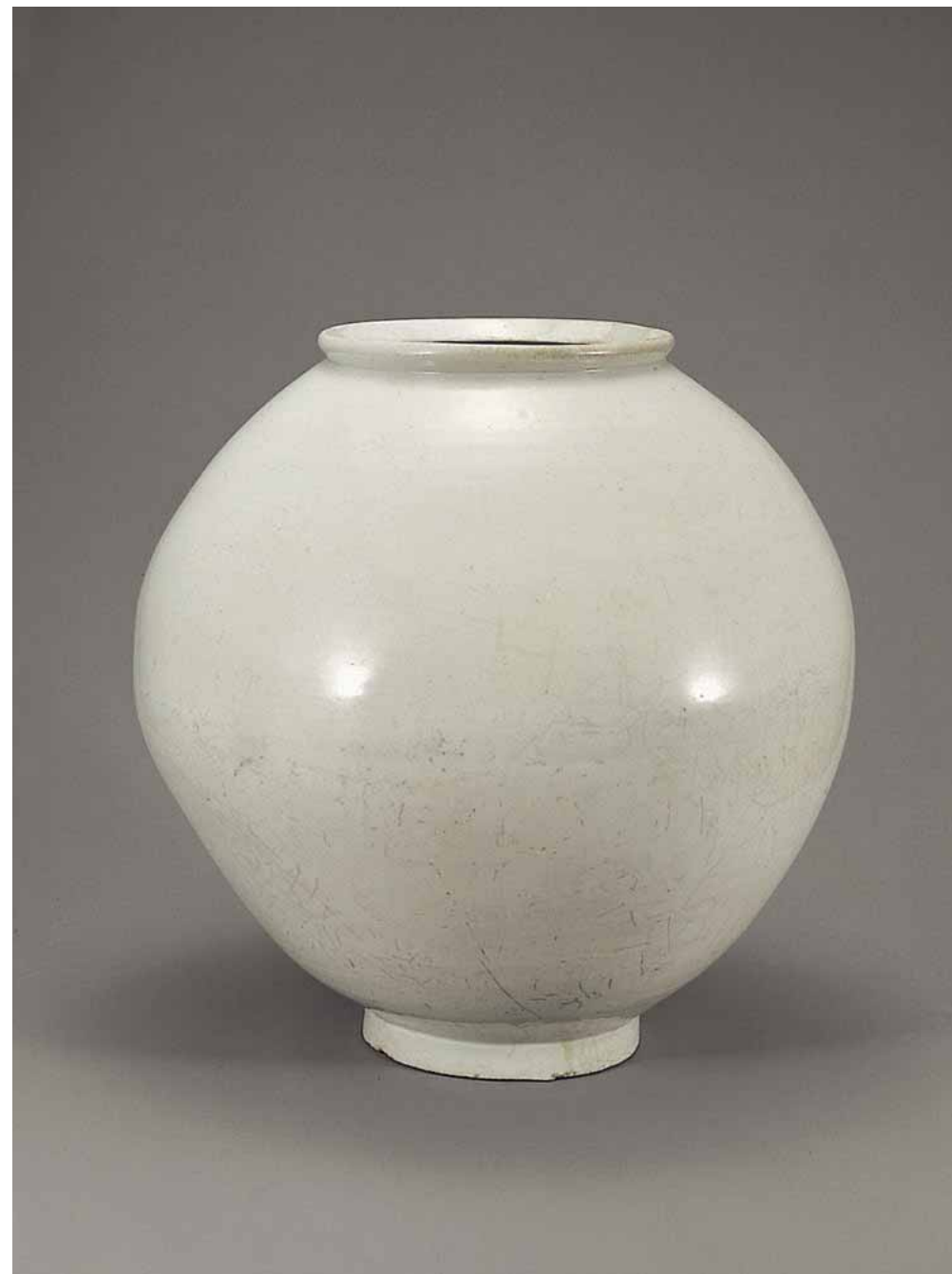
folk painting, is art that provides clues about the lives of Korean ancestors. The minhwa, which was popular among the common people in the Late Joseon Period, is a utilitarian painting that imitated the trend of traditional painting. As it decorated living space and was painted according to daily life and social customs, it reveals the thoughts and sentiments of the ancestors without conceit. *Minhwa* paintings adopt a simple and light depiction characterized by humor, and each artist depicts the same topic in a unique way, making it

fun to view these paintings.

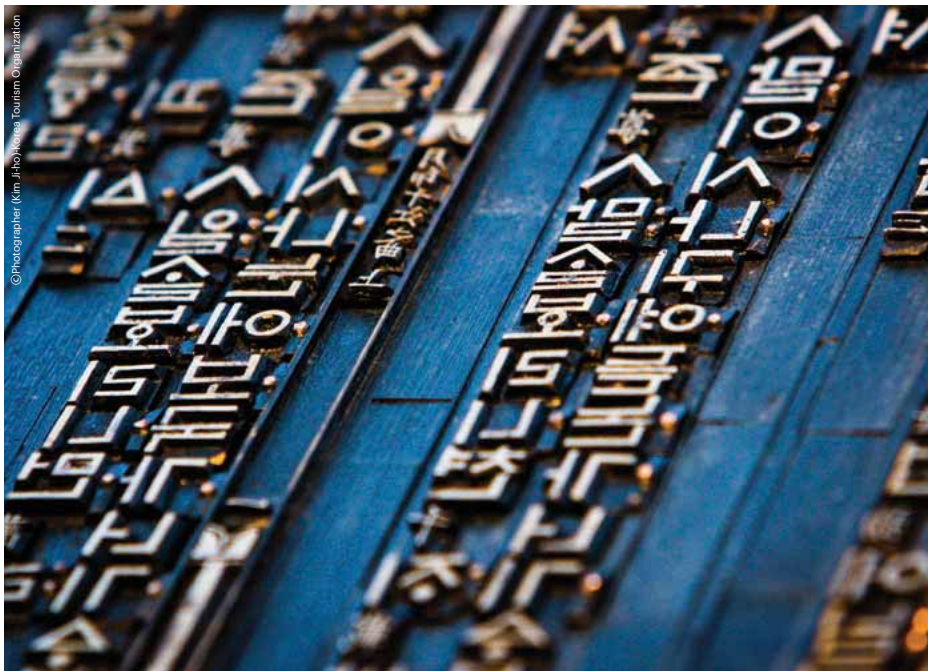
When discussing the beauty of Korean sounds, *pansori* cannot be left out. *Pansori* is a solo opera in which one singer (*sorikkun*) performs through *sori* (singing), *aniri* (words) and *neoreumsae* (gestures) along to the drum performance of the *gosu* (drummer). As a traditional music and play that appeared in the 17th century, the origin of *pansori* is not clearly known. One thing known, however, is that *pansori* is an artistic culture that started out for the common people, and not the nobility. In the 18th century, *pansori* gained fans among the nobility and became a well-loved culture of Joseon. It is still passed down to the present day.

Among *minyo*, the song of the common people, *Minyo Arirang* is a representative *minyo* of Korea that is widely beloved across the Korean Peninsula as well as in Korean resident societies in other countries. Each region has a different version of *Arirang* handed down. According to UNESCO, it is estimated that there are over 2,600 *minyo* and around 60 types handed down as an “Arirang” Jeongseon, Arirang, in particular, is a leading *minyo* of Korea that originated in the Taebaeksan Mountain Ranges situated at the center of the Korean Peninsula. While there are many interpretations of the origin or meaning of “Arirang” nothing has been clearly defined. Some say that it is a modification of “Eoreori” which has the meanings of beautiful lover, missed lover and soul-filled song.

Taekwondo is a modern martial art that originated from Korea. Centering on kicks, Taekwondo teaches you to use your hands and feet to effectively suppress your opponent. It was included as a pilot event at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and selected as an official event at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Taekwondo is full of flexible movements that utilize the motions of forward



White Porcelain “Beakja” (Moon Jars)



Metal Movable Types



Taekwondo (Zaytun Unit)

step, attack, back step, movements to the left and right and fake motion. You can gently dodge the opponent's attack or receive the attack or take advantage of the opponent's power to defend. This is a martial arts philosophy that suits the characteristics of Koreans, who prefer reasonable judgement. Korea's moveable metal type, which has been highly praised around the world, was developed in the Goryeo period, though the exact date is unknown. Since *Jikjisimchaeyojeol* (Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings) was written by Old Monk Baegunhwasang in 1372 and printed at the Heungdeoksa Temple in Cheongju in 1377, with a copy now kept at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the period of production can be estimated. The *Jikjisimchaeyojeol* was registered in the Memory of the World Programme as the oldest example of moveable metal type, which is official recognition that Korea led the discovery of moveable type printing technology in the history of mankind. This is meaningful as an attempt to recognize and overcome the limitations that emerged through the production of block printing, such as the *Palmandaejanggyeong* (The Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures Carved on Eighty Thousand Woodblocks).

Korean Food Around the World

To learn about a country, we must first look at its food, clothing, and residential culture. If we were to choose the main food of Korea, it would be kimchi. There are many types of kimchi, including cabbage kimchi, young radish kimchi, white kimchi, water-based radish kimchi,

water kimchi and cubed radish kimchi. Kimchi, which is cabbage salted and mixed with salted seafood and chili pepper powder, has different tastes depending on the region. While Jeolla-do and Gyeongsang-do use anchovies or cutlassfish to salt kimchi, Gyeonggi-do, Hwanghae-do, Chungcheong-do and Gangwon-do use salted shrimp to make kimchi. In particular, Chungcheong-do style kimchi focuses on the crispy texture rather than the seasoning.

The Korean ancestors, who could not imagine a meal without kimchi, prepared kimchi to eat throughout winter before it became cold. This is called *Gimjang*. *Gimjang* is a representative event in Korea that was registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Korea in 2013. With the Korean diet becoming westernized and families becoming smaller, the amount of kimchi consumed has decreased, but kimchi is still a main feature in any Korean meal.

Jang, or condiments, create the unique flavors of Korea alongside kimchi. Jang is a seasoning that is made by mixing different ingredients, and its types include chili pepper paste, *ssamjang* (mixture of soy bean paste and chili pepper paste), soy sauce, and *makjang*. In general, the protein from beans or seafood are fermented to decompose into amino acids. Fermented food has a very long storage period and provides lots of salt and amino acid with only a small amount; as such, it was an important field ration since ancient times. The most common soy bean paste is made by fermenting the soy bean lump in salt water. The salt water is filtered, boiled and cooled down to become soy bean paste.

The most popular Korean foods among tourists are definitely *bibimbap* and *bulgogi*. *Bibimbap* involves mixing rice with various seasoned vegetables, jang, egg and meat according to taste. Besides being simple and easy to make, it is a healthy food that has become a representative Korean dish in the era of healthy diet. Mix vegetables and seasoned vegetables such as bean sprouts, cucumber, bracken, carrots, mushroom and add chili pepper paste and sesame seed oil for seasoning. This dish is popular among vegetarians as well.

Bulgogi is a leading Korean dish that features thinly sliced meat, marinated in a soy sauce-based seasoning and grilled. While beef *bulgogi* marinated with soy sauce is the classic recipe, pork *bulgogi* marinated with chili pepper paste and chili pepper powder is also popular. *Bulgogi* is also cooked differently in different regions. The ingredients used do not matter—if meat is marinated with a seasoning and grilled, it is generally called *bulgogi*.

Naengmyeon, which originated in North Korea, has a long history, as records indicate that King Sukjong and King Gojong ate *naengmyeon* during the Joseon Period. *Naengmyeon* refers to any noodles eaten cold. The recipe differs depending on the region but Hamheung *Naengmyeon* and Pyeongyang *Naengmyeon* are the most famous types. Hamheung *Naengmyeon* is also called *bibimnaengmyeon*, and is characterized by having little or no broth. Pyeongyang *Naengmyeon* has a broth made from beef, chicken and pork mixed in with radish water kimchi and noodles containing buckwheat and starch. In North Korea, freezing the broth of *naengmyeon* is strictly avoided, as it can change the flavors.



Kimchi



Bibimbap



Hanbok

Walk Between Hanoks and Wear Hanbok

The *Hanok* originated from pit dwelling sites such as makeshift houses or dugout huts of the stone age. While its form and structure continued to change depending on the period, the combination of the floor heating system designed for winter and the flooring designed for summer, which takes into account the four seasons of the Korean Peninsula, are considered the biggest characteristics of the *hanok*. The *hanok*, which was usually made of wood, clay, rocks and straw, uses wood and straw to build the frame, with red clay applied to form the walls and would be completed by attaching mulberry paper. All structures in the *hanok* are focused on supporting the weight of the roof, because the weight of the *hanok* can reach one ton when the roof tiles are mounted. The shape of the roof differs according to the owner's social status. While the nobility used decorative and elaborate roof tiles, the common people used a thatched roof made of straw.

Meanwhile, the *hanok* has a different location or building method depending on the climate or preferences. In the northern regions, houses were built in the double house structure, with the rooms formed in two lines to block the cold from outside and keep the space insulated. On the other hand, the relatively warmer southern regions adopted the single house structure, with

the rooms lined up in a single line to allow natural breezes to enter and exit. Influences of *hanok* have been applied to the structure of modern houses in Korea as well. While the exterior is western style, the large living room and the structure of entering and exiting each room through the living room is a typical *hanok*-type layout. If you want to experience *hanok* for yourself, there are many places you can visit, including the Bukchon Hanok

Hanbok is the traditional outfit of the Korean people, but its form has changed according to the times.

Village that retains the architecture of the early modern period, the Namsangol *Hanok* Village where old houses are gathered and Jeonju Hanok Village which is popular among tourists and Eunpyeong Hanok Village that is formed as a residential village.

When you visit the *hanok* experience zones, you will see tourists dressed in colorful *hanbok*. These have been rented out from nearby *hanbok* rental shops. Visitors can enjoy a precious experience of the traditional outfit of Korea by wearing *hanbok*.

Hanbok is the traditional outfit of the Korean people. The form of *hanbok* has changed over time, but the basic composition consists of the upper garment, sash, jacket string, pants, hats (*geon*, *gat*, etc.) and earrings. Women wear a jacket, skirt and pants, while men wear jacket and pants to ensure comfortable movement. The first record of *hanbok* being worn can be seen in a Goguryeo Period wall mural. During the Goguryeo Period, clothing that ensured active movement was worn on normal days to prepare for war. The top is much longer and the pants and skirt increased in width for those with higher rank. During the Goryeo Period, the *hanbok* became similar to its current shape. A long and full skirt was considered good, and as the jacket

became increasingly shorter, the closure string was attached instead of the belt, which became the prototype for the jacket string. The *hanbok* we wear now is assumed to have been worn in the Late Joseon Period.

In modern society, *hanbok* is worn for important events such as weddings or on holidays such as Chuseok or Lunar New Year's Day. The mothers of the bride and groom will wear *hanbok* as a tradition during weddings. The *hanbok* has become popularized and modernized, allowing the wearer to choose from a range of modified *hanboks* that can be worn in daily life. To accommodate the lifestyles and preferences for comfort of modern people, diverse designs are presented in the cotton or blouse materials, and student uniforms are also made in the *hanbok* motif.

The History of Korean Religions Preserved in Architecture

There are two large temples at the center of Seoul: Jogyesa Temple in Jongno and Bongeunsa Temple in Samseong-dong. Tourists who go sightseeing in Seoul are often amazed at the large temples situated among the forests of skyscrapers. Korea has a lot of mountains, and temples are built in areas where the geographical features of a mountain are auspicious. While there are many religions in Korea, including Buddhism, Christianity, and Catholicism, Buddhism have the longest history.

While there are many religions in South Korea, including Buddhism, Christianity and Catholicism, Buddhism have the longest history.

Korean Buddhism was brought to the Korean Peninsula from India, and is the oldest religion in Korea other than shamanic faith. Buddhism was introduced to Korea when Soon Do of the Former Qin Period delivered Buddhist statues and scriptures during the reign of King Sosurim of Goguryeo. The interesting thing is that the Buddhism of Korea has a tendency toward hopes to receive blessings in the present life and national defense. The Tripitaka Koreana at the Haeinsa Temple was made in the hope of blocking an attack by Mongolia during the military regime of Goryeo Period. As such, some argue that while the Buddhism of Northeast Asia was transmitted as a religion or a field of study, it was also introduced to reinforce the state's control over the country. The divided loyalties of the people due to folk beliefs and the ruling class could be ideologically integrated through Buddhism. Monarchs of ancient states such as the Three States Period said that "the king is the Buddha" and the monks who served Buddha became the soldiers of the King. This is why temples were built in the middle of the capital on a large scale during the Three States Period.

Haeinsa Temple of Hapcheon, Gyeongnam, Songgwangsa Temple of Suncheon and Tongdosa Temple of Yangsan-si are considered the *sambo* (three precious things) temples of Korea. *Sambo* refers to Buddha (*bulbo*), the law (*beopbo*) and the monks (*seungbo*). Haeinsa Temple is the *beopbo* temple, where the Triptaka Koreana is housed. Beomeosa Temple in Busan



Songgwangsa Temple (Chungcheong-do)



Hwaeomsa Temple (Jeolla-do)



Yakhyeon Catholic Church (Seoul)



Nabawi Catholic Church in Iksan (Jeolla-do)

and Hwaeomsa Temple in Gurye-gun are added to form the five temples of Korea. Haeinsa Temple was built during the Silla Period, and the Tripitaka Koreana, a national-calls treasure and a world recorded heritage, is stored at Haeinsa Temple. Songgwangsa Temple is the Seungbo temple that was rebuilt as Gilsangsa Temple at the end of the Silla Period. Tongdosa Temple is a *bulbo* temple that houses the *jinsin sari* (remains) of the Buddha. It is a repository of Korean Buddhist cultural properties including 46 national treasures, treasures and regional tangible cultural properties, as well as over 30,000 cultural properties.

Catholicism spread rapidly as Korea became modernized. The year in which Catholicism was passed on to Korea is not clear. It is said, however, that during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592 the Joseon slaves received the Catholic sacrament of Baptism in Japan. In addition, Crown Prince Sohyeon, who was forcibly taken to the Qing Dynasty after the Manchu War of 1636, brought back various books on Catholicism and astronomy as fields of study. Catholicism was introduced to Joseon in earnest by Seongho Yi Ik and An Jeong-bok. The first converts to Catholicism were converted by these two individuals and their family members.

The beginning of the Catholic Church in Korea is understood to be 1784, when Yi Seung-hun Peter became the first Korean to receive the sacrament of Baptism. After entering Joseon, he was severely persecuted four times during the *sinyubakhae* (1801), *gihaebakhae* (1839), *byeongobakhae* (1846) and *byeonginbakhae* (1866). Various clashes and persecution occurred, as the principles

and ideologies of Catholicism collided with Neo-Confucianism in many ways. Yakhyeon Catholic Church is the first western-style Catholic Church in Korea, while the Gahodong Catholic Church harmonizes the *hanok* with western architecture to create a unique part of the landscape. Docheok Catholic Church in Gwangju, Gyeonggi-do is made entirely of stones, while the Nabawi Catholic Church in Iksan, Jeollabuk-do retains the characteristics of Korea's modern architecture.

Protestantism was introduced to Korea after Catholicism. When Joseon opened its ports to the rest of the world, many Protestant missionaries from the Northern Hemisphere entered Joseon, beginning the history of Protestantism in Joseon in earnest. During this time, missionaries offered a chance for learning to the people of Joseon who were unable to receive education, which led to the establishment of modern schools such as the predecessor to Yonsei University, named Yeonhui Professional School, Baejae Academy—the first western style private school in Korea, and Soongsil School. Protestantism was able to grow rapidly because the common public who had found themselves shunned by society were attracted to the Christian concept of “all are equal before God” and its democratic ideology. Famous Protestant church buildings include Saemunan Church, the first Protestant church in Korea, Gyeongdong Church that was designed by architect Kim Swoo-geun in the 1980s with an exterior consisting of split bricks, Namdaemun Church—a stone building in the traditional Gothic style, the first church in Daegu, and the Daegu Cheil Church with a Gothic style hall.



2002 World Cup (in front of Seoul City Hall)



1988 Seoul Olympics

Korea as a Sports Powerhouse

The characteristic of the Korean people, which rebuilt the ruins of the war into an economic powerhouse, is even more noticeable in the field of sports. The hard work of athletes who dedicate themselves to victory turned Korea into a sports powerhouse. Korea hosted the 1986 Asian Games to make a name for itself as a country that loves sports. The 1986 Asian Games was a general international sports event

that was hosted for the first time in Korea. In 1977, Korea had started to emerge as a promising developing country by exceeding 1,000 dollars in per capita national income and \$100 million in exports, when industrialization occurred on a mega-scale. With this rapid growth fueled by industrialization, interest in sports increased. Less than 10 years from officially announcing the hosting of its first sports event in 1979, Korea came to host the 1986 Asian Games and 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The 1988 Seoul Olympics was the first Olympics hosted by Korea and the second summer Olympics hosted on the Asian continent. After the devastation of the Korean War, Korea had become the poorest country in the world, yet managed to achieve great advancement in just 30 years. The event was proof of the nation's prestige and also had significance as a stepping stone toward the end of the Cold War. In addition, Taekwondo, a traditional Korean sport, was staged as a demonstration sport for the first time in 1988, and Korea proved its competence by ranking 4th place in the Olympics for the first time, with a total of 12 gold medals.

Korea made a name for itself in soccer during the 2002 World Cup, which was held in South Korea and Japan. Held in 2002, the 17th FIFA World Cup was the first World Cup of the 21st century and the first World Cup held in Asia. South Korea and Japan hosted 64 matches in a total of 20 stadiums, 10 in Korea and 10 in Japan. Besides hosting the World Cup, South Korea welcomed the start of a golden age in soccer. Advancing to the final four, South Korea opened the stage for South Korean soccer to spread into the world, and coach Hiddink and star players such as Park Ji-sung, Ahn Jung-hwan, Hong Myung-bo and Hwang Sun-hong became celebrities. As of 2020, more than ten Korean soccer players, including Son Heung-min and Lee Kang-in, are making a name for themselves in the European leagues.

In 2018, the PyeongChang Winter Olympics were held in South Korea. By hosting the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang-gun, Gangneung-si and Jeongseon-gun of Gangwon-do, Korea became a country that had hosted all four major international sports events. In addition to the events in which Korea has traditionally been strong, such as short track and speed skating, South Korea won a silver medal in curling, an event in which Korean athletes have been building their skills since the Sochi Winter Olympics, and a gold medal in skeleton, which had been a no-medal event for Korea until then. The surprising results gave great joy to the people of Korea. Kim Yuna, who is called the queen of figure skating in Korea, won the gold medal at the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010 and the silver medal at the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014.

PART 6

Exploring the Beautiful Landscape of Korea

EXPLORE

South Korea is a country where you will encounter various cultural heritages in all regions, since the entire country is practically a national treasure. Also, there are many major regions associated with security and history that hold value as meaningful cultural exploration sites beyond mere sightseeing.

※ Content in this section does not constitute an endorsement by USFK/CFC/UNC.

Seoul and Gyeonggi-do

Seoul, the capital of South Korea, and Paju, a city that retains the painful history of the Korean War, are meaningful exploration regions where you can see the past and present of Korea.

 Security Exploration  History Exploration  Culture Exploration



Gyeongbokgung Palace

Many palaces built in Seoul during the Joseon Dynasty still remain standing. Following the founding of Joseon and establishment of Seoul as the capital, Gyeongbukgung Palace was the first royal palace constructed. Changdeokgung Palace was the second palace built during the reign of King Taejong, the third king of the Joseon Dynasty, but Changgyeonggung Palace was his residence, as it was the only east-facing palace. Alongside Changdeokgung, Gyeonghuiung Palace is considered to be one of the two major palaces. Familiarizing yourself with these palaces which contain the history and culture of Korea will prove to be a unique and satisfying experience.



Imjingak Pavilion

Imjingak is a tourist destination formed right after the announcement of the North-South Korea Joint Statement on July 4, 1972. Here, landmarks associated with the Korean War and the division of South and North Korea are gathered including the Gyeonggi Peace Center, the northernmost point, Mangbaedan Altar to pray for North Korean refugees, and the Memorial Tower for Diplomats who Died on Duty. Situated on one side of Imjingak is Unification Pond; modeled in the shape of the Korean Peninsula, the Bell of Peace, and the "Monument Dedicated to United Forces in the Korean War." Imjingak, a venue for North-South exchange, reconciliation and cooperation, is the starting point and ending point of security tourism where unification-related events are frequently held as well.



Freedom Bridge

Freedom Bridge, which used to be the Gyeongui Line Railroad Bridge, is the only route that connects the divided South and North Korea. It was destroyed during the Korean War. After the armistice agreement, prisoners of war were exchanged between the south and north in 1953, for which the bridge was quickly converted into a highway bridge. At the time, 12,773 prisoners from the armed forces crossed over to South Korea. In celebration of the crossing of these soldiers to regain freedom, the bridge was named "Freedom Bridge." Along with the "Bridge of No Return" at Panmunjeom, Freedom Bridge symbolizes the tragedy of the North-South division. While there isn't anything architecturally noteworthy about the bridge, it is considered a leading heritage of the Korean War because of its historic and symbolic significance.



The 3rd Tunnel

This is a military passage dug underground in the demilitarized zone at the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) by North Korea to invade South Korea with a surprise attack. The tunnel was found four kilometers to the south of Panmunjeom on October 17, 1978 based on intelligence provided by Kim Boo-sung, a North Korean who defected to the South on September 5, 1974. The underground tunnel, which is 2m in width, 2m in height and 1635m in length, is now called the 3rd Tunnel. It is large enough to move 30,000 armed forces per hour, and the fact that it is only 52km away from Seoul shocked everyone at the time of its discovery. The 3rd Tunnel is organized so that people can enter on foot or by train.



DMZ Screening Hall & Exhibition Hall

Located near the 3rd Tunnel, this is a place where you can watch a video and see an exhibition about the DMZ. While the video is just ten minutes long, it details the history of the DMZ and presents a powerful message. Since many foreign tourists visit, the video is offered in Korean, English and Chinese. In the exhibition hall, visitors can learn about historic events related to the DMZ and see the ecological environment that is preserved as a clean area thanks to not being inhabited for over 60 years. The exhibition hall also displays weapons used during the Korean War.



Dorasan Station

Dorasan Station is one of the stations on the Gyeongui Railway that connects Seoul to Sinuiju. The Gyeongui Line Restoration Project started in 2000 and was completed in 2002. Dorasan Station, which is 56km from Seoul and a mere 17km from Gaeseong Station, is considered a leading landmark that represents unification. Young artists who yearn for unification installed their art works to turn the place into an arts and culture space.



Dora Observatory

This observatory is the northernmost spot on the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) of the western front and is inside the civilian control line. Dora Observatory is one of the sites under the Commander's DMZ Education and Orientation Program. The total area of the building is 80,331 m². It consists of observation seats, a VIP room and a situation room, and a few dozen telescopes are installed outside. Since it is the northernmost observatory, Panmunjeom, the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and the landscape of the outskirts of Gaeseong-si are clearly visible.



Imjingak Observatory

This is a tourist destination built with one underground floor and three above-ground floors on a site with an area of 20,000 m². The roof, which forms a unique curve, grabs attention from far away. The basement floor houses a souvenir shop, while the first floor has a convenience store, bagel café and fast food restaurant. The second floor has a restaurant and there is a coffee shop on the third floor. The rooftop has a free observatory that looks down on the area surrounding the Imjingak River and North Korea. There are various landmarks nearby including Pyeonghwa Nuri Park and a DMZ-related exhibition hall.



Bukchon Hanok Village

Bukchon Hanok Village is where you can enjoy the quiet and still ambience of hanok. The village is a hanok conservation district located between Gyeongbokgung Palace and Changdeokgung Palace, and contains traces of the lives of high-ranking officials, royalty and nobility of the Joseon period, which lasted 600 years. Many hanok buildings were built here with their eaves face to face, and the scenery of walls shared with neighbors shows the tranquil beauty of Korea. It is great fun to check out the cute galleries, cafes and various exhibition halls that are tucked in along the alleys that spread out through the village like a cobweb. The village is connected to Samcheong-dong and Changdeokgung Palace nearby for more things to explore.



Namsan Seoul Tower

Namsan Seoul Tower, a leading cultural complex of Korea, is a landmark that is clearly visible in all parts of Seoul. Originally, Namsan Seoul Tower was built to send and receive broadcast signals. Later, a tourism and observation facility that accentuated the traditional beauty of Korea was added to turn the tower into the top tourist destination of Seoul. It is visited by 12 million people a year, and in 2018, the tower was designated as a Seoul Future Heritage. In 2012, Namsan Seoul Tower was ranked at the top of a list of tourist attractions in Seoul by foreigners.



Hangang Park



Hangang Park

There is a total of 12 parks in Hangang Park, formed along the Han River that flows through Seoul from Gwangnaru District to Gangseo District. This park is where you can find nature in the city along the river and enjoy a relaxing bike ride or a picnic on the grass. It is a lot of fun to watch downtown Seoul change according to the time of the day. Various performances and events are also held at Hangang Park, including outdoor concerts, water fountain shows, fireworks and busking. The most popular locations are Yeouinaru District, Jamwon District and Ttukseom District.



Seoul Sky

"Seoul Sky" is the observatory in Lotte World Tower at an altitude of 500 m, which is the tallest floor in Korea and the third tallest in the world. The observatory consists of nine floors from the 117th floor to the 123rd (observation floor) and can accommodate 900 people at the same time. Visitors can reach the observatory in one minute using the sky shuttle. The most popular location is the glass floor observatory "Sky Deck" on the 118th floor. The view of downtown Seoul spreads out under the transparent glass floor like a panorama. Recently, the "Sky Bridge" walking tour, where people walk outside the observatory, opened to provide a thrilling and exhilarating experience.



National Museum of Korea

The National Museum of Korea is a must-visit location for visitors where you can learn about the history of Korea and the importance of culture and enjoy experience programs. The museum presents the history, culture and arts of Korea, starting out with a simple hand ax from the Stone Age, an elaborate gold crown from the Three Kingdoms period, celadon from Goryeo, paintings from the Joseon period and photos from the early modern period. The permanent exhibition hall, children's museum and some special exhibitions are free of charge.



Sky Ranch of Daegwallyeong Pass (Pyeongchang)



Seoraksan Mountain

Gangwon-do

Gangwon-do is a region for culture exploration that blends the ocean and mountains, and cities such as Gangneung, Pyeongchang, Sokcho and Goseong offer modern attractions and cultural heritages from the past.

Security Exploration History Exploration Culture Exploration



Ojukheon House

Ojukheon House is a wooden building from the mid-Joseon period in Jukheon-dong, Gangneung-si that is designated as Treasure No. 165. This is the birthplace of Yulgok Yi I, a leading Confucian scholar of the Joseon period, where his mother Sin Saimdang gave birth to him and taught him until the age of six. The house was named after the thick black bamboo tree grove around it. The crepe myrtle at the entrance, which is more than 600 years old, stands robustly in an impressive manner. Next to the house is the Yulgok Exhibition Hall, where Sin Saimdang's works such as Painting of Grass and Insects, Cursive Characters and Seal Script, as well as the works by Yi I, are on display.



Gyeongpodae Pavilion

This is the best observatory in Gangneung, and was built during the 13th year of King Chungsu's reign (1326) in the Goryeo Dynasty. Since it is built in a high location, the surrounding landscape is seen at a glance. The floor inside has different heights to allow viewing of the varied landscape. Gyeongpodae Pavilion is a popular moon viewing site in Korea that is part of the eight scenic views of Gyeongpo for the beauty of moonlight reflection. Inside hang the letters "Gyeongpodaebu" composed by Yulgok Yi I when he was ten years old.



Alpensia Pyeongchang Resort

Alpensia Pyeongchang Resort is the largest complex resort town in Korea and served as the main venue of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. The German word "Alpen," which means the Alps, was combined with Asia and Fantasia into the "fantastic Alps of Asia" to present a fantastic winter landscape. While staying at the resort, you can check out the Alpensia Ski Jump Center, the highlight of the winter Olympics, as well as the Alpensia Biathlon Center, Alpensia Cross-country Center and Olympic Sliding Center.



Sky Ranch of Daegwallyeong Pass

This is where the green pasture stretches out to touch the sky. The Sky Ranch of Daegwallyeong Pass is located at an altitude of 1,157 m, which is the tallest peak on Daegwallyeong Pass. The area is 10 million m², which is 50 times larger than Seoul World Cup Stadium. Along the trail between the pasture, you can go trekking while taking in the beautiful nature and refreshing breeze. At the Haneul-Maru Observatory at the summit, you can see the magnificent sight of 29 wind power generators rotating at a height of 60m.



Woljeongsa Temple

The thousand-year-old Woljeongsa Temple on Odaesan Mountain is a Buddhist temple built in the 12th year of Queen Seondeok's reign during the Silla period. It is known to have been founded by Jajangyulsa, a famous old monk of the Silla period. In the front yard of Daengjeon Hall there is an octagonal nine-story stone pagoda that shows the colorful aspects of Buddhist culture. Near Woljeongsa Temple is a fir tree forest that is as famous as the temple. The forest became popular after appearing in the TV drama Guardian: The Lonely and Great God. Straight and tall fir trees are packed along a 1km forest path. It takes about 40 minutes to walk slowly on the path.

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Korea Tourism Organization



Sorak Cable Car 🌿

This is the best way to take in a magnificent view of Seoraksan Mountain, which is considered to be one of the best mountains in Korea. Board the Seorak Cable Car to go to Gwongeumseong Fortress at an altitude of 700 meters in ten minutes. While admiring the fantastic landscape of Seoraksan Mountain through the windows, you can comfortably ascend to the middle of the mountain. You can see the rugged precipice with rocks in fantastic shapes around Gwongeumseong Fortress, Ulsan Peak, which boasts a magnificent figure, and downtown Sokcho and the East Sea in the remote distance.



Yeonggeumjeong Pavilion 🌿

At the end of the embankment of Dongmyeonghang Port there is a small pavilion on top of a boulder past a wide suspension bridge. This pavilion, also known as "Yeonggeumjeong," is called "Sunrise Pavilion" because many people visit to see the sunrise on the East Sea. The name Yeonggeumjeong originated from a story that the sound of the waves crashing against the rocky mountain where the pavilion is built is similar to the sound of a geomungo (Korean musical instrument with six strings). Yeonggeumjeong can be accessed by crossing a 50m suspension bridge, and the magnificent East Coast spreads out in a panoramic view.



Naksansa Temple 🌿

Naksansa Temple has been around for centuries. Even after damage due to the war and a large fire, the temple remained famous enough for Buddhists from all over the country to continue to visit. Naksansa Temple is situated on the foot of Obongsan Mountain, which is considered to be one of the three major mountains in the Gwandong region along with Geumgangsan Mountain and Seoraksan Mountain. Great Monk Uisang, who came to see the body of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, built the temple 1,350 years ago. Hongryeonam Pavilion, known as the location where the Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva emerged from the ocean on a red lotus flower, is considered to be one of the four Avalokitesvara meccas of Korea.



Yangyang Surfyybeach 🌿

Yangyang Surfyybeach is the first beach in Korea dedicated to surfing. Here you will be able to participate in the surfing culture of Korea in earnest. Surfyybeach, which transformed the beach that used to control civilian access as a military zone for the past 40 years into a surfing beach, is full of youthful energy. Along the beach there are various facilities for surfers and trendy cafes and restaurants are open along the seashore. During the day, you will see surfers riding the waves, and at night, energetic festivals are hosted.



Jeongdong Simgok Badabuchae-gil 🌿

Jeongdong Simgok Badabuchae-gil got its name because it resembles a fan spread out toward the sea and is the walking trail closest to the ocean on the East Sea. It takes around two hours to complete a round trip while walking slowly. You can take in the beautiful landscape consisting of strange rocks and bizarre stones and feel the energy of the East Sea with the senses on this 2.86km exploration path that connects the Jeongdongjin Sun Cruise Parking Lot to Simgokhang Port. Walk along the deck installed in mid-air along the cliff with the waves under your feet.



Goseong Unification Observatory 🌿

This is the northernmost observatory in South Korea, and presents a panoramic view of North Korea. Goseong Unification Observatory offers an uninterrupted view of beautiful Geumgangsan Mountain and the Haegeumgang Islets. Located on a hill that rises up from the ocean, Birobong Peak, the highest peak of Geumgangsan Mountain, is visible on clear days. View North Korea through telescopes lined up facing North Korea like sunflowers. On one side, strange objects from North Korea are sold as well.



Yeonggeumjeong Pavilion



DMZ Museum 🌿

The DMZ Museum embodies the sorrow of a nation divided by war and tells the history of the demilitarized zone. The museum consists of four exhibition halls where you will find various exhibits and videos that offer a vivid recollection of the Korean War. Original copies of war documents such as the armistice agreement written in 1953 and various mines and bombs present the horrendous effects of war. There are also handwritten letters to families by U.S. soldiers who became prisoners of war as UN forces participants, and you can also view the still-ongoing process of excavating remains.



Hwajinpo Lake 🌿

On Hwajinpo Lake, where the vast ocean and islands create a fantastic view, there are the vacation homes of some of the most powerful men in Korea, such as first President Syngman Rhee and former Vice President Lee Gi-bung. The vacation home of Kim Il-sung, in particular, was picked as a beautiful place that people called the "Castle of Hwajinpo." The interior of the vacation homes have been restored to allow viewers to get a glimpse of the lives of the powerful men.

Chungcheong-do

Chungcheong-do is a region of culture exploration that helps you understand the history of South Korea, with prominent historical cities such as Gongju, Cheonan and Buyeo.

 Security Exploration  History Exploration  Culture Exploration



The Independence Hall of Korea

The Independence Hall of Korea is a public institution under the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs centering on the theme of hardships under Japanese colonial rule and the independence movement in which people fought to reclaim the country. It was built with 50 billion won on August 15, 1987 and is located in Mokcheon-eup, Cheonan-si, where leading independence fighters such as Ryu Gwansun, Yi Dong-nyong and Chough Pyung-ok were born and active. In the "House of Gyeongrae," the main hall of the Independence Hall of Korea, you can find out about South Korea's history of overcoming national difficulties including outside invasions from the Three Kingdoms period, Goryeo period, and Joseon period up to Japanese colonial rule to protect autonomy and independence.



Gongsanseong Fortress

Gongju was the center of Baekje for 64 years after the capital was moved from Hanseong to Gongju in AD 475 and from Gongju to Buyeo in 538. To protect the capital, the 2,660-meter-long Gongsanseong Fortress was built along the Geumgang Riverside. In July 2015, Gongsanseong Fortress and the royal tombs of Baekje nearby were registered as UNESCO World Heritage sites. The fortress was built as an earthen fortification in the Ungjin Baekje period, but after the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592 during the Joseon Dynasty, it was rebuilt as a stone fortress. Walking around the fortress wall, you will notice various buildings and historic sites such as Geumseoru Gate, Imnyugak Pavilion and Dongbungnu Gate.



Ancient Tombs of Songsan-ri

Baekje developed urban planning, architectural technology, arts and religion accepted from China into a unique culture of its own. From the Ancient Tombs of Songsan-ri, the tombs of the king and royal family of the Ungjin Baekje period, many precious materials that prove Baekje to be a hub of trade in East Asia were excavated. In particular, the Tomb of King Muryeong, which was discovered in 1971, is the only royal tomb with a clear identification of the tomb owner among Baekje tombs and an important site that has not been robbed, but retained in its original condition from 1,500 years ago. More than 108 kinds and 4,600 artifacts were excavated from the Tomb of King Muryeong.



Gongju National Museum

The Gongju National Museum encompasses the history and culture of Chungcheongnam-do from the Paleolithic era to Mahan, Baekje and Unified Silla periods. The museum displays more than 40,000 cultural properties including 18 national treasures and eight treasures excavated from the Ancient Tombs of Songsan-ri and the Chungcheongnam-do region. The exhibition space is divided into the Tomb of King Muryeong Room, the Ancient Culture of Chungcheongnam-do Room and the Planned Exhibition Room, where special exhibitions are held. In the Tomb of King Muryeong Room, you can view 12 national treasures and authentic cultural properties excavated from the Tomb of King Muryeong. The elaborate gold crown decoration representing Baekje is quite impressive.



Gongju Hanok Village

In Gongju Hanok Village, where accommodations built as traditional hanok are concentrated, there are various experience halls where you can experience gudeuljang, the traditional heating system of Korea, and learn about the culture and tradition of Baekje. You are welcome to experience all kinds of traditional culture including a tea ceremony and tea confectionery making, traditional outfit experience, rice cake making, Baekje artifact making, Baekje book-binding, recreation and traditional wedding. Also, you can eat an elegant Korean table d'hote in a classy old hanok building.

Gungnamji Pond



Jeolla-do

Jeolla-do is a region of culture exploration where you can discover the early modern history and traditional housing culture of South Korea in cities such as Gwangju, Gunsan, Jeonju, Yeosu and Suncheon.

 Security Exploration  History Exploration  Culture Exploration



Jeongnimsa Temple Site

Jeongnimsa Temple Site is gracefully situated at the heart of downtown Buyeo. It is built in the typical Baekje period garam style (one pagoda, one main building). In particular, the Five-story Stone Pagoda of Jeongnimsaji Temple Site is a historic site that shows the architectural style of the Baekje period, which is considered to be the best when compared to other pagodas built in the same time (Three Kingdoms period). The elegant charm without elaborate decoration and proper harmony are stylish.



Gungnamji Pond

Gungnamji Pond, or “Pond to the South of the Palace,” is a pond attached to the annex palace that was made during the time of King Mu of Baekje. It is the first artificial pond in Korea and is associated with the birth myth of King Mu. Baekje was actively trading with Japan and Gungnamji Pond is an important structure that later influenced Japanese garden architecture. In particular, Gungnamji Pond boasts a magnificent sight during the months of June and July when iris and lotus flowers bloom.



Busosanseong Fortress

Busosanseong Fortress is registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The leading locations of Buyeo including Nakhwaam Cliff, Goransa Temple and Samchungsa Shrine are all gathered in the area. The fortress was the huwon (garden attached to the royal palace) of the Baekje royal family and the site that saw the end of Sabiseong Fortress during the war. The cliff to the west of Busosan Mountain is called Nakhwaam Cliff. During the reign of King Uija during the Baekje period, the allied forces of the Silla and Tang dynasties invaded. Records in Samgukyusa (“The Heritage of the Three Kingdoms”) say that right before the royal palace was taken by the enemy, 3,000 court ladies jumped off the cliff into Baekmagang River with their skirts over their faces.



Yellow Hemp Sailboat

Take the Yellow Hemp Sailboat to sail along Baengmagang River and comfortably view famous sites around Buyeo that are registered as UNESCO World Heritages such as Busosanseong Fortress, Goransa Temple and Nakhwaam Cliff. The Yellow Hemp Sailboat, which sails on Baengmagang River, is 19.8m in length and 4.5m in width and travels in a 3.5km section between Goransan Temple and Subukjeong Pavilion. The exterior is restored to its original form, and inside are various convenience facilities.



National Institute of Ecology

This is the largest national institute of ecology where more than 4,500 species of animals and plants live and breathe. The ecorium consists of various centers that allow visitors to experience ecology including a tropical hall, desert hall, Mediterranean hall, temperate climate hall and polar regions hall. The great thing is that you can experience various ecosystems without worrying about the weather outside. The ecorium is home to over 2,400 animals and plants including fish, reptiles, amphibians and birds for each climate zone, and in the 4D screening hall, you can experience the unknown world more vividly. Various ecology experiences are offered as well.



Gyejoksan Mountain Red Clay Trail

Gyejoksan Mountain Red Clay Trail is a 14.5-km-long red clay path at an altitude of 300m and is known as a “barefoot trekking” site. In 2006, 20,000 tons of high quality red clay were added to form the path. You can restore your physical and mental health while walking on the red clay path along the green forest. Each year in May, more than 5,000 people, including foreigners, participate in the “Gyejoksan Mountain Barefoot Festival” and “Barefoot Marathon,” which have been established as unique experiences that many overseas tourists attend.



Modern Culture and History Street

Gunsanhang Port, which was forcefully opened in 1899, was used as a transportation base by Japan to exploit resources from Korea. The Modern Culture and History Street, which includes buildings from the 1900s, have government offices, banks and companies built in the Japanese style that show the painful history of the country like historic buildings paused in time. Modern buildings, the old Hirotsu House, private homes and Japanese temples are lined up around the old Gunsan Tax Office. The houses have been restored and transformed into unique spaces so that travelers can enter them.



Gunsan Modern History Museum

The Gunsan Modern History Museum, which opened in 2011, recreates the lives of the people of Gunsan who lived fiercely and did not remain complacent under Japanese suppression. The places that formed Gunsan in the 1930s, including Gunsan Port, stores and the train station, are decorated like a film set. You can take part in rubbing inscriptions or wear hanbok against the backdrop of old Gunsan.



Gyeongandong Cheolgil Maeul

After liberation, people who had no home gathered one after another to form a small shanty village in Gyeongam-dong. Here you can see a unique landscape where a 2.5-km-long railway that connects a newspaper factory to Gunsan Station passes through the center of the village. As soon as you open the front gate, the railway will greet you. While it is currently suspended, the train was in operation until a few years ago. Now it is a theme village with many attractions along the railway.



Asia Culture Center

The Asia Culture Center (ACC) opened in September 2015. Significantly, it is built on the site of the old Jeollanam-do Office, which is a historic site where the Gwangju Uprising took place. The Jeonil Building across from the Asia Culture Center still has bullet holes after many years have gone by. This is a complex cultural space where exhibitions, performances and education take place centering on the theme of Asian cultural exchange. The spaces inside, including the Democratic Peace Exchange Center, Cultural Information Center, Culture Creation Center, Children’s Culture Center, Arts Theater, Asia Culture Plaza, Open Plaza, Sky Yard and Rooftop Park, are organically connected.



Jeonju Hanok Village

Jeonju Hanok Village is where more than 700 traditional hanok buildings form a cluster and is the largest such village in Korea. The hanok village, which began to form in 1910, is where you can experience the various cultures of Korea such as hanok, hansik (Korean food), hanbok (traditional Korean clothes) and hanbang (Korean medicine). There are also over 20 cultural facilities where you can look into the development history of the modern housing culture of South Korea. Travelers dressed in beautiful hanbok walk around the streets and try traditional tea culture in quiet cafes in each alley.



Jeonju Hanok Village



Samcheon-dong Makgeolli Alley 🍷

This is the oldest makgeolli alley in Jeonju. Samcheon-dong Makgeolli Alley, which is considered the original location in Jeonju, has around 20 makgeolli restaurants. Jeonju Makgeolli Alley is known for its generous table setting served with more than 20 side dishes including steamed cockles, sliced boiled meat, tofu kimchi, braised mackerel and grilled saury. The taste and price are excellent, and attract numerous drinkers before sunset. Jeonju Makgeolli is considered to be one of the three major makgeolli variations of South Korea, with a neat aftertaste.



Aqua Planet 🌊

Opened in 2012, Aqua Planet in Yeosu is in a park where the 2012 Yeosu World Expo was hosted and is close to Yeosu EXPO Station. The three-story building consists of various exhibition spaces including the Aqua Forest, Marine Life, Ocean Life and the 5D Screening Hall. In addition to general fish, there is a wide variety of marine creatures including the cownose ray, blacktip shark, earless seal, sea lion, beluga whale (white whale) and African penguin, where visitors can take photos in the underwater tunnel and tank exhibition hall where various creatures swim about.



Odongdo Island 🌳

Odongdo Island is where Hallyeohaesang National Park begins. The name comes from the dense grove of Paulownia coreana trees in the area and the shape of the island, which resembles a Paulownia coreana leaf. Legend has it that King Gongmin of the Late Goryeo period ordered all of the Paulownia coreana trees on the island to be cut down. Perhaps because of this, around 3,000 camellia trees instead of Paulownia coreana trees greet visitors now. If you want to see the camellias in full bloom, February to April is the perfect time. In the sunrise observatory along the walking trail, you can watch the sunset and sunrise beyond the sea of Yeosu.



Yeosu Haesang Cable Car 🚡

Yeosu Haesang Cable Car is the first cable car installed in Korea that crosses the ocean. Start at Dolsan and explore Odongdo Island near Jasan and then head over to Goso-dong Angel Mural Village, or start out in Jasan and check out the tourist attractions of Dolsando Island. There are 35 general cabins and 15 crystal cabins with a transparent tempered glass. Look down at the beautiful Geobukseon Daegyo and downtown view that is as gorgeous as Dolsandaegyo Bridge and admire the night view of the sea of Yeosu.



Yi Sun-sin Square 🗼

The Yi Sun-sin Square is in Jungang-dong, Yeosu. The plaza was built to celebrate the life of General Yi Sun-sin, who was the greatest general in the history of Korea and a war hero who stopped the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592. In the center of the plaza is a geobukseon reproduced close to its original form. Inside, you can see the outstanding technology of the Korean naval forces, and there is also an experience facility to learn about the war. Every May, the Geobukseon Festival, the oldest patriotic festival in Korea, is held.



Suncheonman Wetland 🌿

Suncheonman Bay was created by the ocean flowing between Goheung Peninsula and Yeosu Peninsula. To the east is the Suncheonman Wetland, one of the largest in the world. The coastal wetland is the middle zone where the land meets ocean and a treasure trove of wildlife where rare migratory birds visit every winter. The total area of the marsh is 22.6km². The migratory birds that fly in from other countries spend the winter in the 5.4-square-kilometer reed colony.



Naganeupseong Folk Village



©Photographer (Kim Ji-ho)
Korea Tourism Organization

Naganeupseong Folk Village 🏰

Naganeupseong Folk Village is the most well-preserved among Joseon period eupseong fortresses. The wall and government office buildings as well as 312 traditional houses remain intact. Naganeupseong Fortress was built with clay by General Kim Bin-gil from Nagan to defend the region against the invasion of the Japanese in 1397. In 1626, General Im Gyeong-eop was appointed as the governor of Nagan and built the stone fortress in its current form. If you ascend to the fortress to the southwest, Naganeupseong Folk Village is visible at a glance.

Boseong Tea Farm 🌿

Boseong, home to the largest tea field in Korea, is the oldest tea farm in South Korea. The green tea field, which is a few million square meters large, spreads out endlessly along the hills, presenting a magnificent view that cannot be seen easily anywhere else. Boseong, which is close to the sea and has warm weather with the perfect humidity and temperature to grow tea, has been known as a tea production area since a long time ago. Each valley is home to small and large tea gardens. Among them, Daehan Tea Garden is the most famous tea garden in South Korea with a 5.6-million-square-meter tea field.

Hyangiram Hermitage 🌿

This is a hermitage in Dolsan-eup, Yeosu that is one of the four Avalokitesvara prayer sites in the country. In 644, during the fourth year of King Uija's reign in the Baekje Dynasty, great monk Wonhyo founded the hermitage and called it Wontongam Hermitage. In 2009, three buildings including the Daeungjeon Hall, the religious affairs office and the belfry burnt down, and they were restored in 2012. The sunset on the horizon of the South Sea presents a magnificent sight that also gave the place the name "Hyangiram Hermitage" and the shape of rocks in the surrounding area look like the back of the turtle, leading to some calling the place Yeongguam Hermitage. The hermitage is designated as Jeollanam-do Cultural Heritage Material No. 40.

Gyeongsang-do

Gyeongsang-do is a region of culture exploration with various cultures, including Dok-do (Island), which holds great significance for the security of South Korea, Gyeongju and Andong, with abundant artifacts and historic sites, and Busan, which retains the vestiges of war with Japan.

📖 Security Exploration 🏰 History Exploration 🌿 Culture Exploration



Bulguksa Temple 🏰

This temple situated on the foot of Tohamsan Mountain in Gyeongju-si, was built by Lady Yeongje, the mother of King Beopheung, and Lady Giyun, in 528 AD, the 15th year of King Beopheung's reign during the Silla period. Praised as the epitome of Silla Buddhist art, the temple was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995. Bulguksa Temple contains six national treasures and other nationally-designated cultural assets, including Seokgatap Pagoda (National Treasure No. 21), Dabotap Pagoda (National Treasure No. 20) and Cheongungyo Bridge and Bagungyo Bridge (National Treasure No. 23).

Seokguram Grotto 🏰

A temple constructed by Kim Daeseong, a chief minister of the Unified Silla kingdom, during the Northern and Southern States period, the Seokguram Grotto was registered as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1995. The main Buddha of Seokguram Grotto, that can be seen after walking about 30 minutes from Bulguksa Temple, is a structure with a height of 3.26 meters that harmonizes religious and artistic values. The Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva right behind the main Buddha is an avalokitesvara with eleven faces to edify mankind.

Gyeongju National Museum 🏰

You can see the history, arts and culture of the Silla Kingdom, which lasted for one thousand years, in the Gyeongju National Museum. The museum is divided into the Silla History Hall, Silla Art Hall and Wolji Hall and contains more than 80,000 pieces of artifacts ranging from elaborate gold crowns to artworks. The national religion of Silla was Buddhism, and the influence of Buddhism is clearly seen in the artifacts. The history of Silla Buddhism, which changed slightly in style by period, is exhibited in the museum.

Cheomseongdae 🏰

Cheomseongdae is the oldest observatory in the East and was made during the reign of Queen Seondeok in the Silla period and is designated as "National Treasure No. 31." The original form is retained without reconstruction or restoration at a later period. For more than a thousand years, the observatory has been in the same spot in the same shape. Cheomseongdae has the same shape on all four sides, so that the 24 solar terms can be counted regardless of the season or position of the sun.

Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond 🏰

These two places are must-visit night view destinations in Gyeongju after sunset. The building with a fluid curve and the reflection on the pond add a romantic feeling. Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond form an artificial pond inside the palace right before the Unification of the Three Kingdoms by King Munmu of Silla. It was the place where the crown prince of Silla stayed and was also used as a banquet hall to welcome good news of the state or important guests. It was also called "Anapji Pond" because geese and ducks used to fly to the pond.



Dosanseowon Confucian Academy



Woljeonggyo Bridge 🏯

Woljeonggyo Bridge, the passage to the royal palaces of Silla, is receiving the spotlight as a new photo spot in Gyeongju. Since it was first recorded in Samguk Sagi ("History of the Three Kingdoms") in 760, Woljeonggyo Bridge remained in the record up to 1280 during the Goryeo period, which means it has been there for at least 500 years. However, no wooden structure remained on the stone bridge, so a large-scale restoration project was carried out in the 2000s to turn it into its present form.



Photographer (Lee Bum-soo)
Korea Tourism Organization

Haeinsa Temple 🏯

This is a temple erected by monks Suneung and Yijeong, disciples of the great monk Uisang, in the third year of King Aejang's (the 40th king of Silla) reign, with the help of the king and queen. In 1398, "The Tripitaka Koreana" that used to be stored at Seonwonsa Temple in Ganghwa-do was transferred to Jicheonsa Temple and then to Haeinsa Temple, turning the temple into the cradle of Korean patriotism. The Tripitaka Koreana is a collection of Buddhist scriptures made over 16 years using 80,000 plates that contain 84,000 scriptures. The plates were made to fight off the Mongolian army through the power of Buddha.



2bagu-gil 🏯

With a total length of 1.89km, Choryang 2bagu-gil contains the early modern and contemporary history of Busan. Historic buildings include the former Baeje Hospital, the first modern private general hospital in Busan, Namsan Warehouse Site, the first logistics warehouse in Korea, and Choryang Church, the first church built south of Han River. Ascend the steep 168 stairs to go to the observatory that looks down on Busan Port and Busanhangdaegyo Bridge. You can use the monorail to easily reach the observatory at the summit.



Gukje Market 🏯

This is the traditional market that represents Busan alongside Jagalchi Market and Bupyeong Kkangtong Market, where products left behind by the Japanese after liberation were sold. Since it was close to Busan Port, the passage of exploitation, many Japanese people resided here. Gukje Market received its name from selling foreign products from Japan and Macao in addition to products that came from the U.S. Army in 1950. The repair shops that sewed the torn clothes of refugees and the display stand where people ate noodles are maintained in their original form.



Gamcheon Culture Village 🏯

Gamcheon Culture Village is where colorful and picturesque houses are gathered. This shanty town was the most run-down village in Busan, where 4,000 believers in Taegukdo who came to escape the war lived. Local artists revived energy in the empty houses that people left behind, and tourists continue to visit from all over the country. Walk through the village with murals and see Gamcheon Port, which glistens in the sunlight, and the picturesque houses.



Haeundae Cruise 🌿

The best way to view the nightscape of Busan is on the Haeundae Cruise. Start out at Dongbaekseom Island and tour Haeundae, Gwangalli and Gwangandaegyo Bridge on the cruise to enjoy the night view of Busan. You will be able to take in Gwangandaegyo Bridge, embroidered by elaborate lighting, the skyline of Marine City and Oryukdo Islets at a glance. On special seasons such as New Year's Sunrise, the Fireworks Festival and Christmas, there are also live performances and romantic dinners.



Hahoe Village 🏯

Andong, the leading "town of Confucian scholars" in Korea, is where a seowon (Confucian academy), hyanggyo (local Confucian school) and hanok village are situated based on Confucian culture. Among them, Hahoe Village is a town where the Pungsan Ryu Clan resided during the Joseon period and was designated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Buildings and customs that vividly demonstrate the nobility culture of the Joseon period are well preserved, and Hahoe byeolsingut talnori (Hahoe special ritual drama to the gods), a pastime of the common people, and Seonyujulbulnori (fireworks presented by the Confucian scholars), the entertainment of the Confucian scholars, have been passed down to the present.



Andong Folk Museum 🏯

This is a museum that opened in 1992 and shows the folk culture of Andong. The Andong Folk Museum owns more than 4,600 artifacts that represent the culture, food, agriculture, shamanistic beliefs, Hahoe byeolsingut talnori (Hahoe special ritual drama to the gods) and other folk games, traditional customs and wedding rituals of Andong. In particular, the hahoetal mask that has been well-conserved even after 800 years clearly reflects the characteristics of social classes including the nobility, the untouchable, the Confucian scholar and the bride. The hahoetal play continues to be performed today, hundreds of years later.



Dosanseowon Confucian Academy 🏯

This is a Confucian academy built to honor the life of Neo-Confucianist scholar Toegyeg Yi Hwang, who resided in Andong. After retiring in Andong, Yi built Dosanseodang Academy and Nongunjeongsa Dormitory in 1561 and taught students. While the building is a small one with only three kan, powerful energy can be sensed. The writings of Andong scholars can be seen, including a signboard written by Han Seok-bong, a leading calligrapher of the Joseon period. Dosanseowon Confucian Academy, located on a sloping hill, has walls for each simple building, and has the feeling of walking through a cozy maze.



Geoje POW Camp Historic Park 🏰

The camp was established in the Gohyeon and Suwol districts in 1951 to house prisoners of war during the Korean War, which broke out on June 25, 1950. The camp housed up to 170,300 POWs until June 1951, including 150,000 North Koreans and 20,000 Chinese. Only parts of the building still remain, but you can see vivid materials and documents on the lives of the prisoners of war, along with the barracks, photos and clothing. In 1983, the camp site was designated as Gyeongsangnam-do Cultural Property Material No. 99.



Ulleung-do (Island) 🏝️

Ulleung-do (Island) is a volcanic island at the end of the East Sea that belongs to Ulleung-gun, Gyeongsangbuk-do in terms of administrative district. Currently, around 10,000 people live on Ulleung-do (Island), and it takes two to three hours to get to Mukho Port by ship. The island is 87.4km from Dok-do (Island), and it takes 1.5 hours one way. All sections of Ulleungdo Scenic Road opened in March 2019. The construction began in 1976, and it took 53 years to complete. It takes one hour to tour all of Ulleung-do (Island), which is 44.2km long. If you want to view the entire island, head over to Ulleungdo Lighthouse. Ride 20 minutes to the northwest from Tonggumi Mongdol Beach to go to Ulleungdo Lighthouse. The scenic monorail will take you to the summit in six minutes.



Haedong Yonggungsa Temple 🏯

This is one of the three major Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva meccas of Korea that grand monk Naonghwasang built in 1376. The original name was Bomunsa Temple, and the temple was lost during the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592 and rebuilt by monk Munchanghwasang of Tongdosa Temple. After monk Jeongam, who came to the temple in 1976, dreamed of the Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva ascending on a dragon, he renamed the temple Haedong Yonggungsa Temple. The temple is close to the ocean, and it's as if you are stepping into the palace of the dragon king. Travelers continue to visit the temple thanks to the beautiful landscape created by the ocean and the temple.



Haegeumgang Islets 🌊

Haegeumgang Islets in Nambu-myeon, Geoje-si, were designated as Scenic Spot No. 2 in 1971 for their beauty. While the large rock body appears to be a single mass, beneath the ocean it is divided into four parts with a cross-shaped water passage between the walls of the cliffs. This water passage has a great scenic view and is large enough for ships to enter from the north, east and south. The ocean in front and the waters up to west Chungmu are all included in Hallyeohaesang National Park, and to the east of the islets is Okpoman Bay, which is famous for the battle fought by General Yi Sun-sin, and to the west is Hansando Island.



Jeju Beaches

Jeju Island

Jeju Island, considered to be a leading tourist destination in Korea, is very popular among domestic as well as overseas travelers. The island is a region for exploration where pristine nature is preserved and is historically meaningful due to the vestiges of war.

📍 Security Exploration 🏰 History Exploration 🌿 Culture Exploration



Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone 🌋

The name of the site in Korean consists of the words "Seongsan," because it resembles a huge castle, and "Ilchulbong," due to the magnificent view of the rising sun. The tuff cone is a hydromagmatic volcano that was created when magma exploded underwater. The hot magma met the cold sea water to accumulate and form layers. When you are at the summit of Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone, you will face a vast, 264,463 square meter crater. It is said that the Japanese army dug 24 tunnels under Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone to build a fortress in 1943.



Aircraft Hangars, South Jeju 🛩️

These aircraft hangars were built by the Japanese army using forced labor by the residents of Jeju Island during World War II. Twenty were built at the time, and 19 remain in their original form. This is a ground structure that demonstrates that the Japanese army tried to build Jeju Island into a launch base. It was designated as National Registered Cultural Property No. 39 in 2002.



Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone

Songaksan Mountain



©Photographer (Yuna,iro,sa) Korea Tourism Organization



Tunnel Fortifications of Imperial Japan on Sedororeum Volcanic Cone, Jeju 🇯🇵

This is a fort that was built by the Japanese to protect anti-aircraft guns from the aircrafts of the United States Army. Under the fort is a 1220-meter-long tunnel, which is the largest among the cave forts on Jeju Island. It is assumed that the operation of small vehicles was possible, and that important military facilities including a battle control room, ammunition storage room, fuel room, airplane repair plant, torpedo adjustment room and communications room were hidden in this underground cave. The two pools of water puddles at Sedororeum were made when the U.S. Army bombed the ammunition storage room.



Folklore & Natural History Museum Jeju Special Self-Governing Province 🌸

The Folklore & Natural History Museum is where you can learn about the traditions, folk customs and culture unique to Jeju Island owing to its special natural island environment. The museum is divided into a natural history exhibition space and folk exhibition space. The natural history exhibition room deals with the process of the creation of oreum, which were formed through volcanic eruptions, and precipices with rocks in fantastic shapes on Jeju Island, while the folk exhibition room provides a realistic view of the lives of the people of the island.



Dongmun Traditional Market 🌿

Dongmun Market is both the largest and oldest traditional market in Jeju. The market was formed in 1945 with liberation and stepped up to be the center of Jeju commerce. It will be a special trip just by looking closely at the vitality of the islanders and sympathizing with them



Hallasan Mountain 🌿

Hallasan, a mountain protruding from the center of Jeju Island, is the tallest mountain in South Korea with a height of 1,947.269 m. The mountain consists of basalt with a sharp slope to the south and gentle slopes to the east and west. On the summit, there is Baengnokdam Crater Lake and around 360 parasitic volcanos. A variety of vegetation is distributed from the coast to the summit, providing many things to see. Enjoy Hallasan Mountain to the fullest by choosing from the various hiking trails depending on your situation. The mountain was designated as a national park in 1970.



Songaksan Mountain 🌿

Songaksan Mountain, which boasted its beauty in various TV dramas, is a historic mountain related to the military facilities of the Japanese. On the south coast cliff of Songaksan Mountain that looks down on the brother islands, there are 15 fort caves made by the Japanese army. These caves, with a width of 3-4m and length of 20 m, are where torpedoes were hidden to prepare for the attack of the allied forces. In the past, people were permitted to enter the caves, but the entrances and exits are controlled since parts of the coastal cliff collapsed on a major scale.



Jeju Aerospace Museum 🌿

The Jeju Aerospace Museum displays the history of human imagination, which changed the future, based on the themes of aviation and space. This is not another boring history museum, but an edutainment space that uses cutting-edge technology and multimedia to provide experience facilities. When you walk into the aviation history hall on the first floor, dozens of airplanes will captivate you. The Wright Flyer, which was the first plane that succeeded in engine-powered flight, was improved and restored as Flyer No. 3. The museum houses around 20 real aircraft, including an airplane used in a battle during the Korean War and the Phantom fighters that guarded the skies of South Korea until recently.



Chusa Museum



Haenyeo Museum



Chusa Museum 🏠

The Chusa Museum is a place where you can get a glimpse into the academic and artistic worlds of Chusa Kim Jeong-ju, a great scholar and artist of the Joseon period. This is where you will experience the most tranquil and Korean beauty. Noteworthy work includes Sehando (Winter Scene), which is National Treasure No. 180. The painting depicts a house and pine tree to portray the saying by Confucius, "You know that the pine tree is green only after the day grows cold." In addition, the Chusa Museum is home to the Dasanchodang signpost for the House of Dasan in Gangjin and other works.



Haenyeo Museum 🌿

The people of Jeju relied on the ocean because they were surrounded by it on all four sides. The Haenyeo Museum is a unique space that contains narratives on the hard lives of haenyeo, female divers of Jeju. The museum is divided into three exhibition spaces. The first exhibition room has reproduction of a thatched house the female divers built using stone, clay, wood and string. The second exhibition room introduces devices used by the divers and their fishing procedure and techniques. The third exhibition room shows the process of becoming a senior haenyo starting with the first fishing job and various aspects of the lives of haenyo, including recollections in video format.




U-do (Island) 🌿

U-do (Island) is located on the ocean to the south of Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone 3.8km from Seongsanpo, and is a ten-minute trip by boat. U-do (Island), which is about three times larger than Yeouido, is a volcanic island called "small Jeju Island." Dolmen and cave dwelling sites remain, and people began to settle in the region around 1843 (the ninth year of King Heonjong's reign). The island has much to see, including a famous sandy coral reef beach, Geommeollae Beach covered in black sand, Soemeori Oreum with beautiful silver grass, and Dapdanitap Pagoda and a lighthouse that shouldn't be missed by travelers.



Gyeongsang Bulguksa Temple

 We go together




Chungcheong Independence Hall of Korea

 We go together



Gangwon Ojukheon Municipal Museum

 We go together



Gangwon Ojukheon Municipal Museum

 We go together

The Korean Cultural Immersion Program

The Korean Cultural Immersion Program is an educational program funded by the ROK government and offered to voluntary U.S. service members, federal employees, and their dependents assigned to the Republic of Korea (ROK). The intent of the Korean Cultural Immersion Program is two-fold. First, during the program participants are immersed into Korean history, culture, and traditions allowing them to understand and appreciate the country they are defending. Second, the Korean Cultural Immersion Program is a ROK-U.S. Alliance building tool between the U.S. Department of Defense and the ROK Ministry of National Defense.

Programs are organized to feature the various regions of South Korea including: Seoul, Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungcheong, Jeolla, Gyeongsang and Jeju provinces

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