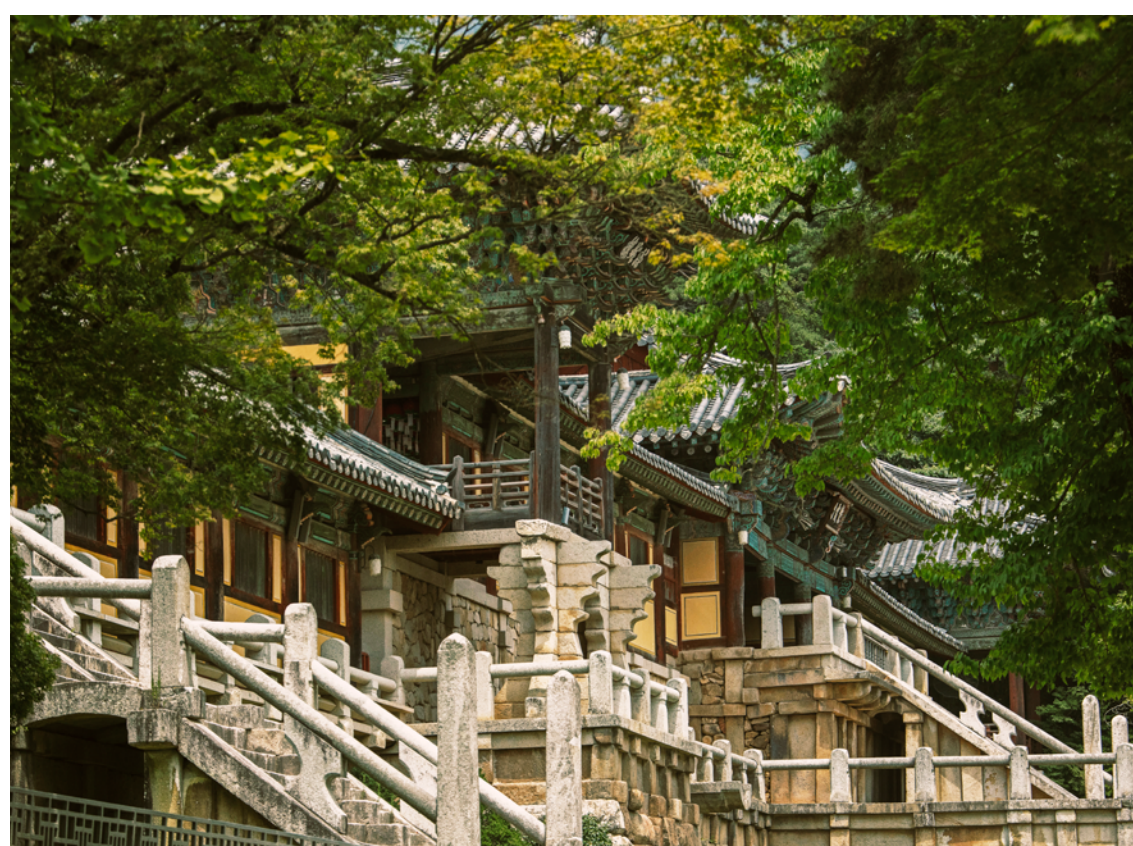




Stroll through history

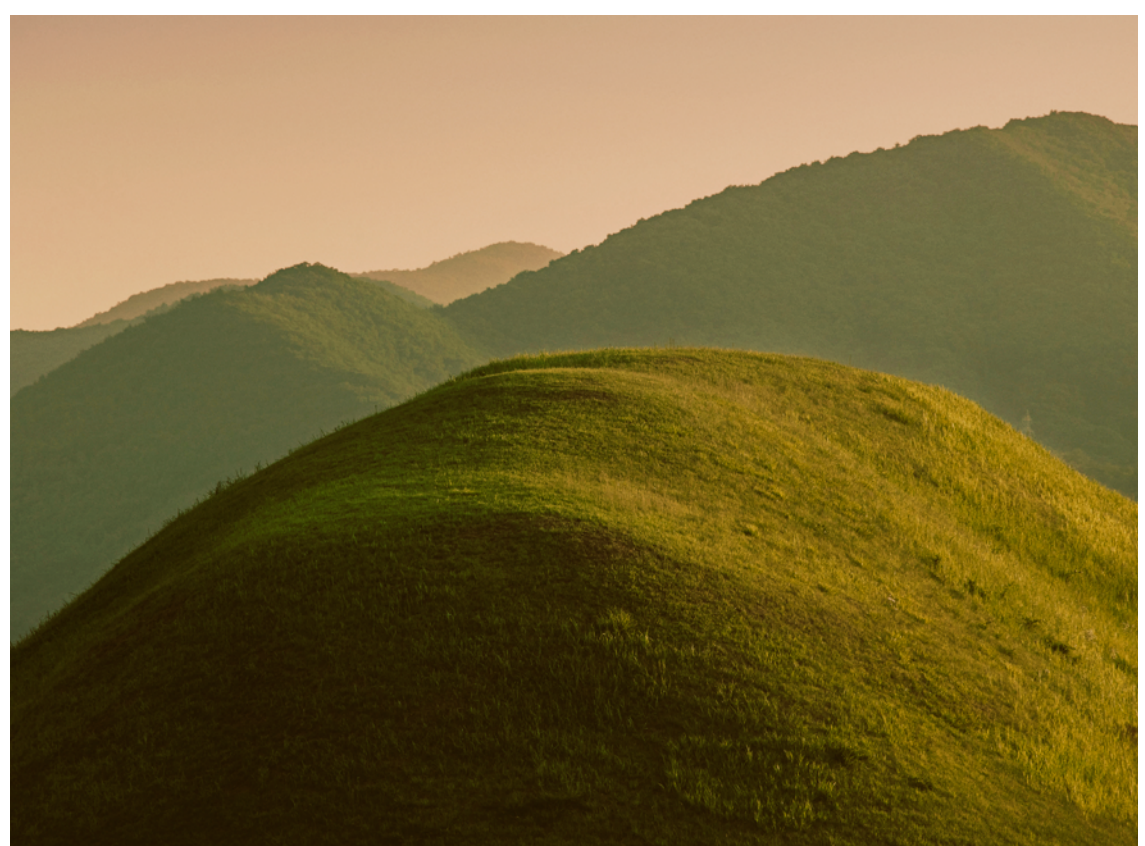


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Gyeongju – Where History and Culture Meet the Future

Experience a one-of-a-kind journey with
Airbnb and UNESCO

2,000 years of history and culture live and breathe in Gyeongju, an ancient city founded by the Kingdom of Silla in 57 BCE. Treasures from the golden age of the Silla dynasty have been carefully preserved all over Gyeongju, making the whole city a museum without walls.

Gyeongju is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage City, and is home to four distinct World Heritage sites for you to explore. In addition to the Gyeongju Historic Areas spread throughout the urban area, you can find another three impressive sites nearby: Yangdong Folk Village, Oksan Seowon, and Bulguksa Temple (which also includes Seokguram Grotto).

Gyeongju is one of South Korea's leading tourist destinations, currently attracting nearly 50 million visitors annually. Now, as it prepares to host the upcoming APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit, to be held in late October to early November 2025, Gyeongju is about ready to take a further leap to become a major international tourist destination.

Gyeongju at your fingertips with Gyeongju-ro ON

Make your trip to Gyeongju easy and convenient with the 'Gyeongju-ro ON' app, a smart service for managing everything you'll need for your trip all in one place, from tourist information and maps to transportation and ticket bookings.

[Download Gyeongju-ro ON]

Android



iPhone





Discovering Gyeongju's UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The 70GETHER walking campaign:
A new way to experience UNESCO World Heritage Sites



Gyeongju contains more UNESCO World Heritage sites than any other city in South Korea. You can sense thousands of years of cultural history surrounding you wherever you go, making the entire city feel like a huge open-air museum. It is worth taking the time to think a little more deeply about the significance of these cultural heritage sites over the ages, to make your visit to Gyeongju a real walk back through time to meet the spirit of human greatness that has lingered here since ancient times.

The UNESCO 70GETHER walking campaign was designed to make your experience in Gyeongju truly meaningful, showing the real value of World Heritage and leading you to reflect on how important it is for us to preserve it. The campaign invites you to walk freely through the different historical zones of Gyeongju, and discover amazing places and moments that connect the past, present, and future.

Gyeongju has always served as a thriving hub of cultural and scientific exchange, particularly as an international city where East met West along the Silk Road. Walking along the World Heritage paths allows you to truly feel the wealth of ancient scientific and cultural brilliance that gathered in Gyeongju, and discover hidden truths about yourself. As you gaze upon the same sights that once captivated adventurers from antiquity, you may feel the same excitement as you dream of your next journey.

We hope that all those who take part in the UNESCO 70GETHER walking campaign will discover something precious: our inheritance from the past, lived together in the present, to be handed down to future generations.

Our shared path, protecting our history together

What is the UNESCO 70GETHER walking campaign?



The UNESCO 70GETHER walking campaign is an initiative that began in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, with the aim of communicating the true value of South Korea's UNESCO World Heritage sites and ensuring they are preserved for future generations.

Running from mid-September to early November, the campaign invites you to help protect the heritage of humanity by walking for 7 km through UNESCO heritage areas across Korea. All participation fees will go toward UNESCO heritage conservation efforts.

In Gyeongju, a special walking course has been planned in preparation for the 32nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit to be held at the end of October, offering you a chance to experience Gyeongju's rich history and reflect on the deeper meaning of World Heritage.

Like Florence in Italy and Kyoto in Japan, the entirety of Gyeongju is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage. Through this campaign, you can explore the city's numerous historical attractions and bask in the allure of this place where history lives and breathes. Become a part of the preservation efforts for the common heritage of humanity as you follow these paths past ancient monuments embodying the Silla dynasty's thousand-year legacy.

Barrier-free tourism: accessible tourism services in Gyeongju

Gyeongju provides barrier-free tourist services for wheelchair users, elderly visitors with limited mobility, and families with infants in strollers.

Further information is available at the Gyeongju Tourist Information Center and the accessibility support section of the official Korea Tourism Organization website. Services are available at popular cultural heritage sites and in the Bomun Tourist Complex..

Souvenir distribution points

Participants in the campaign can collect special souvenirs at the following two locations:

- Gyeongju Station Tourist Information Center: 266 Wonhwa-ro, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do (Inside Gyeongju Station)
- Accessible Tourism Support Center, next to the Great Bell of Silla: 9 Gyerim-ro, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do9 Gyerim-ro, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do

Find out more about the 70GETHER walking campaign



A large, weathered stone guardian lion statue stands prominently in the foreground, facing left. In the background, several other similar statues are visible, along with a stone wall and lush green trees.

Etiquette for the walk and visiting World Heritage Sites

Yangdong Folk Village (Course 1) is an actual village that is still home to residents to this day. It is important to show your respect for residents and their culture, beyond what might be typically expected at a tourism site. The lotus fields are privately farmed and picking is not allowed.

1. Respect private spaces.

Yangdong Folk Village is a residential area. Do not enter private dwellings, even if doors are left open.

2. Please refrain from looking in through windows or taking unauthorized photos.

3. Enjoy the village quietly.

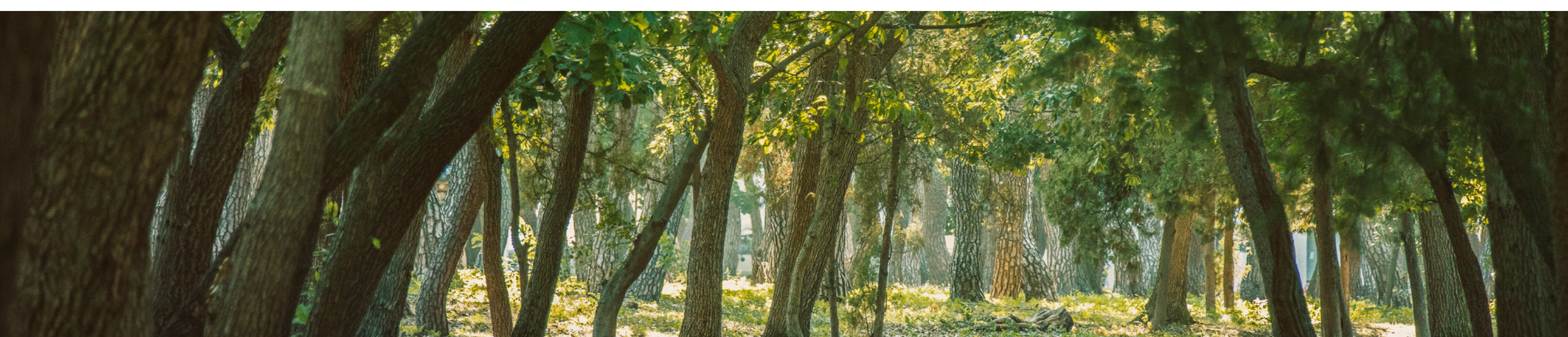
Refrain from loud conversations as you take in the peace and serenity of the village.

For heritage sites located in central Gyeongju (Course 2), including Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond, Cheomseongdae, and Gyerim Forest, please follow the visitor guidelines, such as remaining quiet and refraining from photography in certain areas, meant to preserve the millennia of history found at these sites.

What to prepare for a safe and healthy walk.

September in Gyeongju is often subject to frequent heatwave alerts. Extended periods of outdoor activity during the day may result in sunburn or dehydration. Please prepare accordingly:

- Sunscreen and sunglasses to minimize exposure to strong UV radiation
- Water and snacks, such as chocolate or something salty, to prevent dehydration
- Long-sleeved tops or a parasol, depending on skin type



Gyeongju and UNESCO in numbers

1000

Gyeongju was the capital city of Silla for nearly 1,000 years, from 57 BCE to 935 CE. It holds the record as the longest-serving capital in the history of the Korean Peninsula, imbuing the city with layers of culture and heritage accumulated over time.

1988

The Republic of Korea became a signatory to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1988. Since that time, the country has dedicated a great deal of time and effort toward preserving its cultural heritage, with Gyeongju serving as the quintessential example of a World Heritage City in Korea.

4

Gyeongju is home to four distinct UNESCO World Heritage sites:

1. Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (registered in 1995): Masterpieces of Buddhist architecture from the Unified Silla period

2. Gyeongju Historic Areas (registered in 2000): Comprising numerous sites in five areas spread across the city - the Namsan Belt, a treasure trove of Silla Buddhist artistic masterpieces; the Wolseong Belt, which includes Cheomseongdae Observatory and ancient Silla-era palace sites; the Hwangnyongsa Belt; the Sanseong Belt; and the Tumuli Park Belt (also known as Daereungwon), which includes Cheonmachong (Heavenly Horse Tomb) and other royal burial mounds

3. Korean Historic Villages (registered in 2010): Includes Gyeongju's Yangdong Folk Village, as well as Hahoe Folk Village in Andong

4. Korean Neo-Confucian Academies, Seowon (registered in 2019): Includes Gyeongju's Oksan Seowon, along with eight other traditional Korean educational academies in other parts of the country

52

The UNESCO-designated Gyeongju Historic Areas consist of 52 cultural heritage sites spread across five areas of the city: the Wolseong, Hwangnyongsa, Namsan, Tumuli Park, and Sanseong Belts. Collectively, these sites serve as the ultimate embodiment of Silla civilization.

10

Approximately 10% of South Korea's National Treasures are concentrated in Gyeongju. The city is home to 13 National Treasures and more than 40 Treasures, as designated by the South Korean Cultural Heritage Administration, making Gyeongju famous throughout Korea as a place where history lives and breathes.

2025

In 2025, Gyeongju will host the APEC Summit. This global event, which will take place from Friday, 31 October to Saturday, 1 November 2025, will bring together approximately 6,000 participants from 21 countries.



Course 1 – Introduction to Yangdong Folk Village

Stroll through history



Yangdong Folk Village is a peaceful 600-year-old settlement, founded in the Joseon era. The village has developed organically over time, allowing you to get a glimpse into the peaceful everyday lives of its inhabitants. Along with Hahoe Folk Village in Andong, it was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site as it represents a traditional Korean village, historically inhabited predominantly by the yangban (noble) class.

At the heart of the village is Seobaekdang, said to have been built in 1457 by Son So, who served as a prime minister in the early Joseon dynasty. The village formed around this residence and grew into a peaceful and flourishing community, whose residents continue to keep South Korean Neo-Confucian traditions alive, representing a piece of intangible cultural heritage that enhances the village's historical value.

The village follows the natural shape of the surrounding hillsides, with 54 tiled-roof noble houses and over 110 thatched-roof homes. These homes are arranged according to social status, yet, despite their separation, the harmony and integrity of a single unified community will shine through as you walk along the winding paths that connect these residences.

Each house bears a name that reflects the values, philosophies, and legacies of the family who built it. Contemplating the significance of these names while you walk through the village can help make your experience more meaningful and unique.

Around 200 residents from 120 households continue to live in Yangdong Folk Village to this day, preserving their heritage through community festivals such as tug-of-war competitions on the first full moon of the lunar year and Jisinbapgi, a traditional stepping ritual with drums and dancing to ward off evil spirits and invite good fortune.

Course 1 – Featured spots in Yangdong Folk Village



Ganghakdang

Ganghakdang is a traditional Confucian academy dating back to the Joseon dynasty, a place for young scholars to study and exchange knowledge. Today, it plays host to various cultural events and offers a number of educational programs in traditional etiquette and other subjects.



Gwangajeong

Gwangajeong sits atop a hill within the village, offering a panoramic view of the entire settlement and surrounding plains.

It resembles a wise elder constantly watching, eager to know the goings-on of the village. The house is a quintessential example of mid-Joseon southern architecture, and the path leading up to it is lined by imposing ginkgo and juniper trees.



Hyangdan

Hyangdan is the ancestral home of the Yi family, one of the two main lineages in Yangdong. The house features a lavish roof and a unique layout, designed to pay homage to the mother of the family.

With the quarters typically occupied by the mother located at the center of the home, every area of the house would have been accessible to her merely by opening a door; thus, the design truly embodies the traditional Korean value of filial piety.

Mucheomdang

Alongside Seobaekdang, Mucheomdang is one of Yangdong’s most recognizable buildings. It is a detached pavilion-style structure from the Joseon period and served as the sarangchae (men’s quarters) of the head family. Of simple yet refined construction, it was a semi-private space used for both social functions, particularly hosting guests, and private leisure pursuits, such as reading and relaxing.



Lotus Field

Descending the steps from Hyangdan leads to a vast 6,600 m² lotus field, home to around 200 varieties of lotus and water lilies. You can try lotus tea and rice wrapped in the lotus leaves harvested from this field at local restaurants in the village.



Seobaekdang

Seobaekdang is one of the most recognizable residences in Yangdong Folk Village. Located at the innermost part of the village, it is also well-known as the home to a majestic juniper tree that is over 500 years old. The oldest residence in the village and seat of the head family line, this house serves as a representation of early Joseon architecture for noble residences.



Course 1
Yangdong Folk Village

Seobaekdang

Mucheomdang

Hyangdan

Lotus Field

Gwangajeong

Ganghakdang



Course 2 – Introduction to the Wolseong Belt

Stroll through time

The Wolseong Belt is home to Wolseong itself, once the heart of the royal palace of the Silla Dynasty; Donggung Palace and the surrounding Wolji Pond, a separate part of the palace complex; Cheomseongdae, the oldest remaining astronomical observatory in Asia; and the sacred forest of Gyerim, known as the birthplace of the Kingdom of Silla. The area holds historic value not only for Korea, but on a global scale, and as such it has been recognized by UNESCO as a part of the Gyeongju Historic Areas.

Every step you take through this district is steeped in millennia of stories. What makes this area especially remarkable, even compared to other parts of Gyeongju, is how the grand palaces and royal burial mounds of ancient Silla seamlessly blend and coexist with the Gyeongju of today and its people.

As you leave the hush of the massive royal burial mounds, you will stumble upon stylish cafés; or perhaps you will choose to enjoy a picnic amidst the broad field of flowers in the shadow of Cheomseongdae, a monument to the surprisingly sophisticated scientific achievements of Silla.

A long, leisurely walk along this course will leave you feeling as if you had traveled back through time to ages past. This is the unique charm of the Wolseong Belt, a place where the thousand-year-old legacy of Silla still echoes vividly.

Course 2 – Featured spots in the Wolseong Belt



Hwangnidan-gil

Located near iconic historic sites such as Daereungwon and Cheomseongdae, Hwangnidan-gil perfectly captures the unique charm of Gyeongju: a city out of time, hanging between past and present. From trendy restaurants and cafés to shops full of one-of-a-kind souvenirs, every alley offers you new glimpses into the diverse facets of Gyeongju. Next to Cheomseongdae, the eastern historic area is a popular place for you to rest and relax among the countless flowers that bloom from spring to autumn while taking in the backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage site.



Cheomseongdae

Built in the 7th century, Cheomseongdae is recognized as the oldest surviving astronomical observatory in Asia, and is a treasured landmark showcasing the advanced scientific knowledge of Silla.

Next to Cheomseongdae, the Dongbu (Eastern) Historic Area is a popular place to rest and relax among the countless flowers which bloom from spring to autumn while taking in the backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond

Built to accommodate the princes of Silla, Donggung Palace and the surrounding Wolji Pond were used to host royal banquets during the Unified Silla period. The palace architecture is famous for its seamless blend of straight and curved lines.

The nighttime reflection of Donggung Palace in Wolji Pond, whose name literally means “the pond that reflects the moon”, is one of Gyeongju’s most iconic images.



Gyerim Forest

Nestled between Cheomseongdae and Banwolsong lies the legendary and sacred birthplace of the Kingdom of Silla.

Over 100 ash, maple, zelkova, and pagoda trees, some over a thousand years old, seem to whisper stories of the distant past.



Gyeongju National Museum

This museum has been preserving and exhibiting the thousand-year history of Silla since its founding in 1913, though it did not move to the current site until 1975.

The main hall was inspired by Gyeonghoeru Pavilion in Gyeongbokgung Palace, Seoul, and is connected to the Wolji Pavilion and art museum buildings. Inside, you can explore exquisite artefacts, such as golden crowns unearthed from royal burial mounds, and gain insight into day-to-day life in Silla.



Course 2

The Wolseong Belt

Donggung Palace
and Wolji Pond

Gyeongju
National Museum

Cheomseongdae

Gyerim Forest

Hwangnidan-gil



Course 1. Yangdong Folk Village

Basic Information

| | |
|----------|---|
| Address | 93, Yangdongmaeul-gil, Gangdong-myeon, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea |
| Website | yangdongvillage.or.kr |
| Access | By city bus: City Bus No. 203 (disembark at Yangdong Village Station) City Bus No. 200, 202, 205, 206, 207, 208, or 212 (disembark at Yangdong Village Entrance, walk 1.2 km) |
| By train | +82 1544-7788 http://www.korail.go.kr |

Admissions Information

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Ticket Office Hours | Apr-Sep (09:00-18:00) Oct-Mar (09:00-17:00) |
|---------------------|--|

Yangdong Village Cultural Center

| | |
|---|--|
| Ticket Office Hours and Visiting Hours | Apr-Sep (09:00-18:00) Oct-Mar (09:00-17:00) |
| Closed | Every Monday |



Course 2. The Wolseong Belt

| Cheomseongdae and Gyerim | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Hours | Open year-round |
| Admission | Free |

| Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Hours | (09:00-22:00) *Must enter by 21:30 |

| Gyeongju National Museum | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Hours | Weekdays (10:00-18:00) |
| Extended Hours | Every Saturday, March December (10:00-21:00) Children’s Museum is not included in extended hours. |
| Closed | Open year-round excepting January 1, Lunar New Year, Chuseok, and the first Monday of March and November) |
| Admission | Free (Excluding paid special exhibitions) |

General Travel Information

Tourism Information Contact Numbers

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Korea Tourism Organization | Dial 1330 (24/7, free of charge) |
| Bulguksa Temple Tourist Information Center | +82 54-746-4747 |
| Gyeongju Station Tourist Information Center | +82 54-771-1336 |

Travel Tips for Korea

- Save important emergency numbers like 112, 119 on your phone.
- Keep copies of your passport, hotel address, and emergency contact information.
- Use translation apps when needed.

Emergency Contacts

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Police Emergency | Dial 112 |
| Fire & Ambulance | Dial 119 |

Find out more on our bespoke page



