

Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea



The Sansa are Buddhist mountain monasteries—Tongdosa, Buseoksa, Bongjeongsa, Beopjusa, Magoksa, Seonamsa and Daeheungsa—located throughout the southern provinces of the Korean Peninsula. The spatial arrangement of the seven temples that comprise the property, established from the 7th to 9th centuries, present common characteristics that are specific to Korea - the 'madang' (open courtyard) flanked by four buildings (Buddha Hall, pavilion, lecture hall and dormitory). They contain a large number of individually remarkable structures, objects, documents and shrines. These mountain monasteries are sacred places, which have survived as living centres of faith and daily religious practice to the present.

Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea : Tongdosa Temple



Located in southern part of Mt. Chiseosan, Tongdosa Temple is famous for not having any Buddhist statues in the temple. This is because the real shrines of the Buddha are preserved here. The name 'Tongdosa' was named after the belief that mankind can be saved through Buddhism. After Monk Ja-Jang brought the shrines of Buddha from Dang China, Tongdosa Temple was built during Queen Sun-Deok's reign (646). Tongdosa Temple is said to have survived numerous wars and invasions, its Beopdeung (temple candle) has never gone out, for 1,300 years. Inside, there are 35 buildings and Pagoda's, and 14 small temples in its vicinity. The main building is designated as National Treasure No.290. The temple is similar to a museum because of the numerous relics inside. There are 19 local treasures and 794 local cultural properties inside the temple. In place of the Buddha statue, the Geumgang Stairs behind of the main building preserves the shrines of the Buddha. Mt. Chiseosan, has a beautiful view from the temple. The several hundred year-old pine trees lined up from the entrance to Ilju Gate, the small drum (used when praying in front of a Buddha figure) and bell, the sunset, the pond and the rocks and waterfalls behind the temple are grouped and called the 'Eight Famous Sceneries of Tongdosa Temple.'

Barugongyang



Barugongyang is a formal monastic meal in which people eat from a "baru"(a wooden bowl). Rice, soup, side dish and water are each placed in a set of four bowls in different sizes. Paring just right amount of food from salty side dishes to go nicely with the rice can be a bit tricky to achieve. One must carefully consider how much of rice and side dish to serve oneself so the right amount of both foods can be eaten till the end. The key to baru-meal is taking only what one needs. Baru-meal is one of the most environment friendly ways of eating because it does not produce any left-over. Even the water that everyone rinses off their baru bowls with is clean. There is no room for bacteria to grow because the bowls are washed immediately after each meal. The bowls and other utensils are disinfected under the sun on a regular basis which is more sanitary than using wet towels to dry excessive water. Buddhist monastic meals are carried out in an orderly manner. They are an important part of monastic practice. The meaning contained in barugongyang is well represented in the verses chanted at each stage of the meal.

Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon, the Depsitories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks



The Janggyeong Panjeon in the Temple of Haeinsa, on the slopes of Mount Gayasan, is home to the Tripitaka Koreana, the most complete collection of Buddhist texts, laws and treaties extant, engraved on approximately 80,000 woodblocks between 1237 and 1248. The Haeinsa Tripitaka woodblocks were carved in an appeal to the authority of the Buddha in the defense of Korea against the Mongol invasions. They are recognized by Buddhist scholars around the world for their outstanding accuracy and superior quality. The woodblocks are also valuable for the delicate carvings of the Chinese characters, so regular as to suggest that they are the work of a single hand. The Janggyeong Panjeon depositories comprise two long and two smaller buildings, which are arranged in a rectangle around a courtyard. As the most important buildings in the Haeinsa Temple complex, they are located at a higher level than the hall housing the main Buddha of the complex. Constructed in the 15th century in the traditional style of the early Joseon period, their design is characterized by its simplicity of detailing and harmony of layout, size, balance and rhythm. The four buildings are considered to be unique both in terms of their antiquity with respect to this specialized type of structure, and for the remarkably effective conservation solutions that were employed in their design to protect the woodblocks from deterioration, while providing for easy access and storage. They were specially designed to provide natural ventilation and to modulate temperature and humidity, adapted to climatic conditions, thus preserving the woodblocks for some 500 years from rodent and insect infestation. The Haeinsa Temple complex is a famous destination for pilgrimages, not only among Korean Buddhists, but Buddhists and scholars from all over the world.

Meeting Place

Korea Tourism Organization Seoul Center
In front of the KTO Seoul Center Building
Please arrive at the meeting place by 6:10AM at the latest.
We will depart at 6:30AM.

서울 중구 청계천로 40, 한국관광공사 서울센터
KTO Seoul Office, 40, Cheonggyecheon-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul

Public Transportation

- * 100m from Exit 5 Jonggak Station Line 1
- * 200m from Exit 2 Euljiro 1-ga Station Line 2

Dress

The purpose of this excursion program is to explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Korea and to comprehend its culture and history. Therefore, even in case it rains, we would like to proceed as planned if the rain is tolerable. Please prepare comfortable clothes and shoes as well as umbrella, raincoat in case of rain.

Meals

Lunch at Tongdosa Temple | 9th November
Barugongyang
- A formal monastic meal

Dinner at Geumgwang Restaurant | 9th November
Tteokgalbi and Makguksu
- Tteokgalbi, Grilled Short Rib Patties
- Makguksu, Buckwheat Noodles

Lunch at Hongdo Restaurant | 10th November
Sanchae Namul Table de'hote
- Set Menu with Seasoned Wild Vegetables

※ We are trying our best to find the most suitable restaurants that would suit the needs of every participant to the trip. We kindly ask your understanding that it is normal to share side dishes and to sit on the floor in Korean dining table.

※ Please let us know in advance via e-mail if there's anything that you can't eat.
(uneskokorea2017@gmail.com)



Exploring The UNESCO World Heritage In Korea



Tour Schedule November 9 ~ 10

DAY 1

6:10 - 6:30

Assemble

6:30 - 11:30

Seoul > Yangsan

11:30 - 12:30

Lunch: Barugongyang

12:30 - 14:30

Tongdosa Temple Cultural Interpretation

- Change to temple costume(10min)
- Watch Tongdosa Temple commentary video(10min)
- Experience on how to make a bow (30min)
- Walk around the temple (60min)

14:30 - 15:30

Making lotus lanterns

15:30 - 17:00

Meditation - Walk in barefoot (90min)

18:50 - 19:50

Dinner

20:10 -

Hotel Check-in

DAY 2

9:00 - 9:30

Hotel Check-out

9:40 - 11:00

Haeinsa Temple Cultural Interpretation

11:10 - 12:10

Theme Park of the Tripitaka Koreana

12:20 - 13:20

Lunch

13:20 - 17:20

Hapcheon > Seoul



문화체육관광부

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism



해외문화홍보원

Korean Culture and Information Service

TONGDOSA TEMPLE AND TRIPITAKA KOREANA

