



Changdeok Palace & Haengju Fortress



Changdeok Palace (Changdeokgung) is located within a large park in Seoul and is one of the Five Grand Palaces built during Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). Changdeokgung is also known as the East Palace because its location east of Gyeongbok Palace. The literal meaning of Changdeokgung is "Palace of Prospering Virtue."



Changdeokgung was the favorite palace of many kings of the Joseon Dynasty and still retains many Korean architectural elements dating from the Three Kingdoms of Korea period (1200–1300s). These elements differed from the then-popular and more formal style of times, as seen at Gyeongbokgung (Gyeongbok Palace). One major difference is that the buildings of Changdeokgung blend with the scenery of the area, vice contrasting like the palace at the Forbidden City in China.



Construction of Changdeok Palace began in 1405, was completed in 1412, and spanned 110 acres. The Palace was burned down during the Japanese invasion in 1592 and later reconstructed in 1609. Changdeokgung was the site of the royal court and the government until 1872, when the neighboring Gyeongbok Palace was rebuilt. Today, there are 13 buildings remaining on the palace grounds and 28 pavilions in the gardens.



Haengju Fortress is in the eastern part of Seoul, just across the Han River from Gimpo International Airport. Haengju was the site of one of the bloodiest battles during the Japanese invasion in the 1590s. After Seoul fell to the Japanese, General Kwon Yul led a small army of 2,300 to the Haengju Fortress to recapture the capital. Among the army was a contingent of monks led by Monk Choyoung. The battle at Haengju Fortress is considered to be one of the most influential victories against the Japanese aggressors. After the war ended in 1602, the government built a monument on the summit. Both were destroyed during the Korean War, but were rebuilt during the 1960s.



During that time, Ch'ungjang-sa Shrine was built to house General Kwon's portrait and the area was landscaped to form a park. A memorial hall was added and the area was further landscaped in the 1970s. Today, the area forms a lovely park, nestled in the hills overlooking the Han River. It includes a small museum with replicas of the weapons used during the battle.



Hiking Trail

Itinerary

- 0830--- Depart Information Tickets & Travel (ITT), Bldg 924
 - 1000-1200 --- Haengju Fortress
 - 1300/1400--- Stop for Lunch
 - 1500-1630 --- Changdeok Palace
 - 1830 --- Arrive Osan Air Force Base
- This itinerary is subject to change**

Important Things To Know
 --Tour bus leaves in front of ITT, building 924 and departs at 0930 hours.
 --Please be here 15-20 minutes prior to depart
 --Lunch options are following: Pack your own lunch or bring lunch money, at least 10,000Won.

