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An Ideal Setting for Leisurely Hikes

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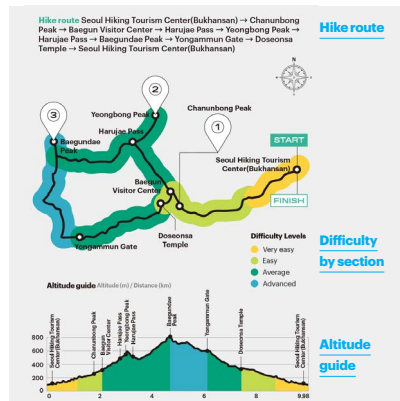
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Course Map



Level of Course Difficulty (Easy / Average / Advanced)

Overall difficulty of each trail

Difficulty Levels

- **Very easy** This refers to generally flat and paved courses easily traveled with children (stroller friendly) and elderly people.
- **Easy** These sections consist primarily of relatively flat dirt roads with limited rocky sections. Children wearing light sneakers can also hike here.
- **Average** Hiking boots and proper wear are necessary. Most of the trail is made up of dirt roads, with many steps and a considerable number of rock faces and outcrops.
- **Advanced** Hikers must come fully equipped with proper gear. Most of the trail is made up of rocky roads, with rock faces and outcrops that have ladders and ropes installed on them.

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Hikers' favorite

Bukhansanseong-Daenamun Trail

This trail marked by beautiful scenery and historical sites is a hikers' favorite. It is also popular among foreigners as it passes through the main castle of the Bukhansanseong Fortress and historical palace sites. The wildflowers that bloom throughout the four seasons add to the beauty of the trail.

Total travel distance: **10.2 km** Average travel time: **4 hours 10 minutes** Difficulty: **advanced**



SPOTS



①

Site of Jungheungsa Temple

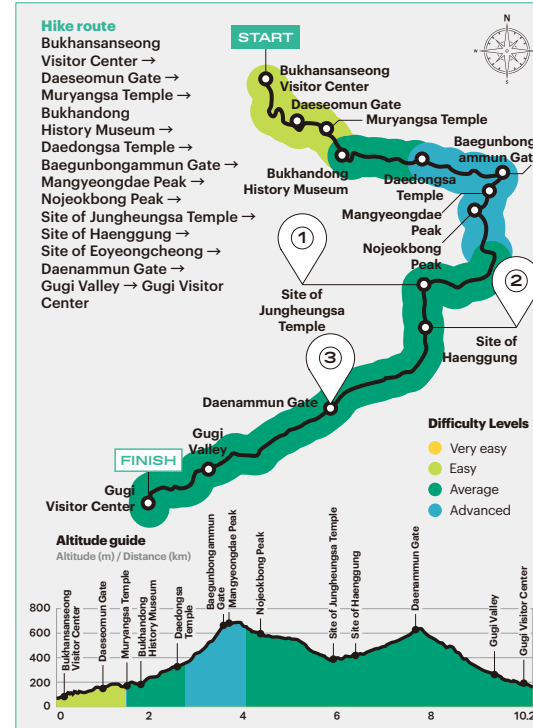
The former site of Jungheungsa Temple is found at the southern base of Nojeokbong Peak between the peaks of Janggunbong and Guambong. The original temple has been restored after being destroyed by flooding in 1915. Surviving artifacts include a temple bell from 1103 and a Buddhist incense holder (used in the sanctum) from 1344.



②

Site of Haenggung

After Japanese and Qing invasions in 1592 and 1636, King Sukjong reinforced the capital's defenses with Bukhansanseong Fortress. A temporary palace (*haenggung*) was built at the base of Sangwonbong Peak. The original *haenggung* was destroyed in a landslide in 1915.



③

Daenamun Gate

One of the gates of Bukhansanseong Fortress, Daenamun provides access to and from all major points in Bukhansan Mountain. The gate is connected to Baegundae Peak, Harujae Pass, and Yeonbong Peak to the north and Bibong Peak to the west. Gugi Valley lies south of the gate, which leads to Kalbawi Ridge in the east. The roundtrip from the valley to the gate is also popular among hikers.

About the trail

From Bukhandong History Museum and past the gates of Jungseongmun and Yongammun, take a detour toward Mangyeongdae Peak. While this means a longer hike, the trail is less steep, easing the journey up to Baegunbongammun Gate and Baegundae Peak.

Shelter and hiking tips

The trail spans over 10 kilometers of steep climbs and drops. At least 10 minutes of rest for every hour traveled is thus recommended. Rest and recover at Yaksuam Hermitage past Daedongsa Temple before moving on.

Transportation

Take bus No. 704 at Exit 2 of Gupabal Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the entrance of Bukhansanseong Fortress. Bukhansanseong Visitor Center is located about 700 meters up the road.

More info

Gugi Valley's pristine nature makes it a prime habitat for the Chinese minnow, which is only found in Grade 1 water (biological oxygen demand of 1ppm or less). Gugi Ranger Station enforces a strict no-access policy for the stream until 2026 to protect the ecosystem.

Hiking through history

Samobawi-Bibong Trail

This trail is optimal for enjoying the pristine mountain streams and blue skies on a clear day. On the trail is a monument commemorating the border inspection by King Jinheung of the ancient Silla Kingdom, as well as the path taken in 1968 by 31 North Korean commandos on their mission to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee. The top of the trail offers an open panoramic view.

Total travel distance: **6 km** Average travel time: **3 hours** Difficulty: **average**



SPOTS



1 Seungasa Temple

Sitting halfway up the mountain around 1 kilometer east of Bibong, this temple is dedicated to and named after the Indian monk Seungga (Sengqie). Born in 640, the priest dedicated 53 years to spreading Buddhism in Tang China.



2 Bibong Peak

With a name meaning “monument peak,” Bibong, at 560 meters, is lower than Baegundae Peak but its views are no less impressive. At the top of the peak, there is a monument produced in the Silla period by King Jinheung. The monument is currently conserved at the National Museum of Korea.

COURSE MAP



INFORMATION

About the trail

- The gravel path heading up the mountain from Seungasa Temple splits in two directions, with the left path leading to Bibong Peak and the right ending at Samobawi Rock. The trip from Bibong to Samobawi requires a lot of back-tracking, and visiting the rock first before heading to the peak is recommended.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Clear and clean water from the Bukhansan summit trickles down the mountain streams along the path to Seungasa Temple, forming small and cool pools. Dipping one's feet in them is a great way to recover from a grueling hike.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 7212 at the bus stop across the street from Exit 2 of Bulgwang Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the entrance of Seungasa, cross the street at Lycee International Xavier, and walk up Bibong-gil. Gugi Visitor Center is about 800 meters up the road.

More info

- There is an inscribed monument at the summit of Bukhansan, which the greatest calligrapher of the Joseon Dynasty Kim Jeonghui (pen name Chusa) deciphered in 1816 to reveal that it was erected to commemorate a border inspection by King Jinheung of the Silla Kingdom following his conquest of the Hangang River Basin. Currently conserved at the National Museum of Korea, the granite monument is 154 centimeters tall and 69 centimeters wide, and inscribed with King Jinheung's achievements.



3 Geumseonsa Temple

The Buddhist monk Muhak, an important figure in the founding of the Joseon Dynasty, set up Geumseonsa Temple after discovering the energy of Samgaksan (former name of Bukhansan). Past the double centenarian pine tree and the 108 steps is Daejeokgwangjeon Hall, housing the Vairocana Buddha. Geumseonsa is also popular for temple stays.



Path for peace of mind

Samcheonsa Trail

This trail starts and ends at Buddhist temples each more than 1,000 years old. Samcheonsa was founded in 661 during the Silla period and Jingwansa in 1011, during the Goryeo period. Seungabong Peak, the highest point on the trail, is named after Seungasa Temple that sits beneath it. The temples along the trail offer rest and peace of mind.

Total travel distance: **7.33 km** Average travel time: **2 hours 40 minutes** Difficulty: **average**



SPOTS



① Samcheonsa Temple

Founded by the Buddhist monk of Silla Wonhyo in 661, this temple gets its name from the legend saying it housed more than 3,000 practicing monks (*samcheon* means 3,000 in Korean). Engraved on a giant boulder to the back of Daeungjeon Hall is a standing Sakyamuni Buddha statue believed to date back to the early Goryeo Dynasty.



② Seungabong Peak

This 567-meter-high peak stands between Samobawi Rock and Munsubong Peak on Bibong Ridge. East of Seungabong are the peaks Baegundae, Insubong, Munsubong, and Bohyeonbong and west are Samobawi Rock and Bibong. The splendid view from the top makes the peak a popular photo spot.

COURSE MAP



③ Jingwansa Temple

This 1,000-year-old temple was built in 1011 by King Hyeonjong, the 8th monarch of the Goryeo Dynasty. Together with Buramsa in the east, Sammaksa in the south and Seungasa in the north, Jingwansa is one of the four great temples in the Seoul region. Jingwansa is also famous at home and abroad for its temple food developed by its abbot Gyehe.

INFORMATION

About the trail

- The path down from Samobawi Rock to Jingwansa Temple is extremely steep. Hikers are advised to wear gloves and descend slowly while firmly grasping the hand rails and cables.
- Beware of steep cliffs along the descending path in the valley from Jingwansa Temple.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The flagstone in front of the rock-carved standing Buddha statue at Samcheonsa Temple and the tea house on the Jingwansa grounds are great for resting and recharging one's strength.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 7723 at the bus stop behind Exit 3 of Gupabal Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off after seven stops at Hana High School, Samcheonsa, and Jingwansa and turn right toward Samcheonsa. Samcheon Visitor Center is about a nine-minute walk up the road.

More info

- Jingwansa Temple is also known for keeping the tradition of Korean temple food alive. Deeming the process of cooking and eating part of ascetic practice, it carries out a temple stay program incorporating an alms bowl meal. This program is popular among foreign tourists seeking to purify their mind and body through temple stay and food.

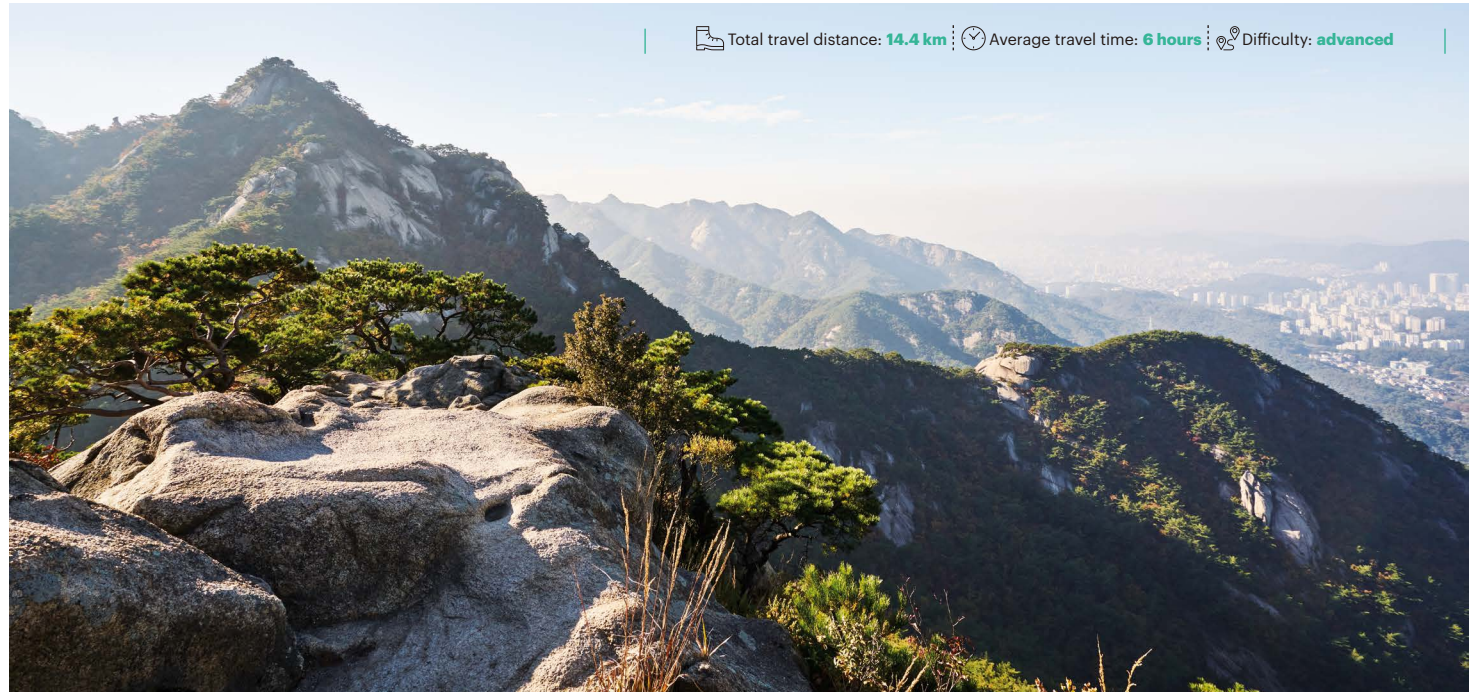


Best of Bukhansan scenery

Complete Tour of 12 Bukhansanseong Gates

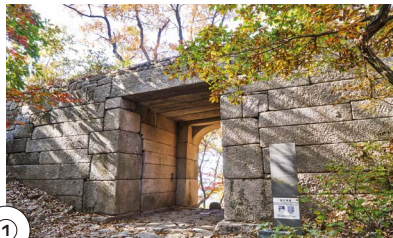


Bukhansanseong Fortress was built in 1711, the 37th year of the reign of King Sukjong of the Joseon Dynasty, to defend the capital Hanyang (today's Seoul). The structure uses the rough topography of Bukhansan and extends for 11.6 kilometers. This trail goes through the five main gates Daedongmun, Daeseongmun, Daenamun, Daeseomun, and Bukmun and the seven hidden gates Seomun, Baeugunbongmun, Yongammun, Bogukmun, Cheongsudongmun, Buwangdongmun, and Gasadangammun along the fortifications, as well as Uisang Ridge (made up of Uisangbong, Yongchulbong, Jeungchwibong, Nahanbong, and Munsubong peaks) known to be Bukhansan's most challenging section. The reward for this punishing course awaits at the summit: great views of Bukhansan scenery along the ridge line.



Total travel distance: **14.4 km** | Average travel time: **6 hours** | Difficulty: **advanced**

SPOTS



①

Buwangdongammun Gate

One of the hidden gates (*ammun*) installed when Bukhansanseong was built in 1711, this gate was strategically placed on the path linking the temples of Samcheonsa and Jungheungsa. Hidden gates were used to bring weapons, food, and reinforcements into the fortress during an emergency.



②

Munsubong Peak

Marking the end of Uisang Ridge, this peak towers over and is named after Munsusa Temple, which was built during the Goryeo Dynasty. The ridges of Uisang, Sanseongju, and Bibong meet at Cheongsudongammun Gate. Legend has it that those who pray on the toad-shaped boulder at the tip of the peak will beget a son.



③

Daseongmun Gate

The southeast gate of Bukhansanseong was built in 1711 along with the main structure. As the closest access point to Bukhansanseong from Changdeokgung Palace, Daeseongmun was reopened to the public in 2018 after columns at the gatehouse and roof tiles were repaired.

COURSE MAP

Hike route Bukhansanseong Visitor Center → Uisangbong Peak → Gasadangammun Gate (Gate 1) → Yongchulbong Peak → Yonghyeolbong Peak → Jeungchwibong Peak → Buwangdongammun Gate (Gate 2) → Nahanbong Peak → Cheongsudongammun Gate (Gate 3) → Munsubong Peak → Daenamun Gate (Gate 4) → Daeseongmun Gate (Gate 5) → Bogukmun Gate (Gate 6) → Daedongmun Gate (Gate 7) → Dongjangdae Post → Yongammun Gate (Gate 8) → Nojeokbong Peak → Wimun Gate (Gate 9) → Daedongsa Temple → Bukmun Gate (Gate 10) → Saemaulgyo Bridge → Jungseongmun Gate (Gate 11) → Daeseomun Gate (Gate 12) → Entrance to Bukhansanseong Fortress



SPOTS



4 Dongjangdae Post

A full view of the ridges of Bukhansanseong unfolds at the top of Dongjangdae, which served as generals' command post in the Joseon Dynasty. The dirt and forest paths stretched slightly below the fortress walls in the Bogukmun-Gate-to-Yongammun-Gate section, which includes Dongjangdae in the middle, offer the joy of variety. A short break at Dongjangdae might also be a good idea.



5 Daeseomun Gate

The main gate of Bukhansanseong has the lowest elevation of the fortress' 16 gates. The royal procession of King Sukjong entered this gate in 1712. Daeseomun was also the main access point for villagers living within the fortifications.

INFORMATION

About the trail

- The steep slopes and challenging terrain of Uisang Ridge stretching west from Munsubong and the main ridge of Bukhansan might be too difficult for novice hikers.
- The section from Baegunbongammun Gate over Baegundae Peak past Wonhyobong Peak to Bukmun Gate is particularly dangerous, requiring full rock-climbing gear. Those without the proper equipment must descend toward Daedongsa Temple, take the path from the temple to Bukmun, and return to Daedongsa.

Shelter and hiking tips

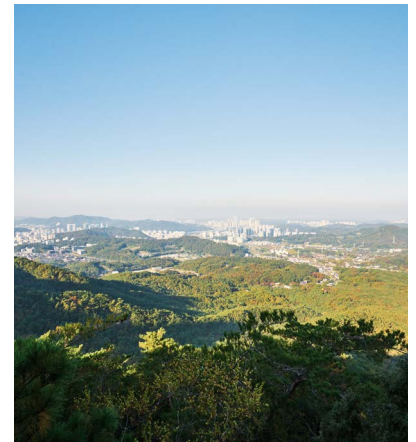
- This trail through 12 Bukhansanseong gates can be exhausting so take every opportunity to rest and recover. Broad boulders appear every six or so peaks for sitting and resting.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 704 at the bus stop outside Exit 2 of Gupabal Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the entrance to Bukhansanseong Fortress and walk up Daeseomun-gil Road for about 900 meters. On the right are steps and a sign reading "Uisangbong Peak." Follow this road to reach Uisang Ridge.

More info

- Making way through steep rocks can be challenging, but the view of Bukhansan encountered at the end of this trail is one of a kind. The intense and dynamic hike offered by the rocky ridge has hikers return for more. The view from the rocks will leave hikers feeling like a Taoist hermit.



Sunrise spot greeting the day

Dobongsan-Sinseondae Trail

Jaunbong Peak (740.2 meters) is the tallest peak of Dobongsan Mountain, but access to the steep rock cliffs is restricted. Sinseondae Peak, standing opposite Jaunbong, is considered the de facto summit of the mountain. This trail is the shortest way up to Sinseondae, a favorite spot to see the sunrise among early morning hikers.

Total travel distance: **6.3 km** | Average travel time: **2 hours 30 minutes** | Difficulty: **advanced**



SPOTS



①

Dobongseowon Confucian Academy

Dobongseowon, founded in 1573, is Seoul's only seowon (Confucian academy). It honors the Joseon-era neo-Confucian scholar Jo Gwang-jo. Spirit tablets of Jo and philosopher and politician Song Si-yeol are enshrined here. The academy was razed in 1871 under a decree abolishing all seowon, but was restored in 1971.

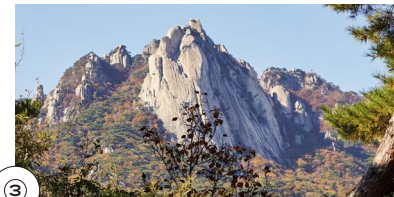
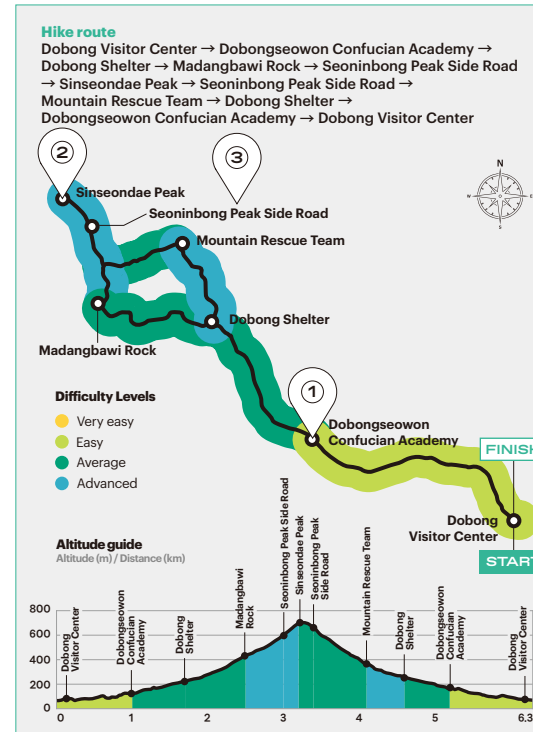


②

Sinseondae Peak

Standing opposite Jaunbong, this peak at the top shows the scenery of Dobongsan Mountain meld with views of downtown Seoul. The climb up to Sinseondae is steep, so hikers are advised to use the installed handrails. Sinseondae is also popular spot to see the sunrise.

COURSE MAP



③

Seoninbong Peak

Standing 708 meters high, this granite peak has a sheer rock face of around 200 meters high and 500 meters wide. Seoninbong is one of the "three brother peaks" together with Jaunbong and Manjangbong. With a name meaning "a peak where Taoist hermits undergo spiritual training," Seoninbong requires rock-climbing equipment to climb.

INFORMATION

About the trail

- The climb from Seonin Shelter to Sinseondae Peak is extremely steep. Elderly hikers and those with weak knees or ankles are advised to exercise caution on this course.
- The line of hikers waiting to scale Sinseondae can be up to 50 meters long on weekends and public holidays. So going on a weekday is highly recommended.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Take sufficient time to recover at Seonin Shelter before ascending Sinseondae Peak, as the crawl up the steep rock face can be exhausting.

Transportation

- Take Exit 1 at Dobongsan Station, Seoul Metro Line 1 (Gyeongwonseon), and walk about 20 minutes toward the Dobongsan Station Intersection to reach Dobong Visitor Center.

More info

- The peaks of Dobongsan—Manjangbong, Seoninbong, Jubong, Obong, Uiam, and Jaunbong—attract numerous rock climbers.
- One of the 35 mountain cabins built around Korea in the 1970s, Dobong Shelter used to be called the "Dobongsan Mountain Cabin." Among the cabins built around the time, it is the only civilian-occupied cabin that accommodates hikers. The place is currently also used as a hiking school.



Discover hidden beauty among ridges

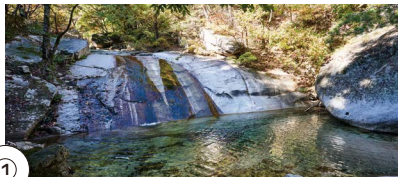
Dobongsan Main Ridge Trail

The main ridge of Dobongsan stretches from the Uinam Ridge, past Uiam Rock, and up to Sinseondae Peak via Jubong. Including the ridges of Podae and Sapae, the entire ridge line measures some 11 kilometers. The relatively challenging climb starts with a gentle uphill that gradually increases in slope past Mangwolsa Temple. Those who make it to the top are rewarded with unobstructed panoramic views and the beauty of the valleys and streams hidden between the ridges.

Total travel distance: **9.32 km** | Average travel time: **6 hours** | Difficulty: **advanced**



SPOTS



①

Wondobong Valley

The “won” in Wondobong means “original.” Also known as Mangwolsa Valley, Wondobong Valley stretches from Jaunbong Peak past Mangwolsa Temple, Deokje Spring, and Ssanyongsa Temple all the way down to Wondobong Visitor Center. Midway between Ssanyongsa and the spring is Dukkeobibawi, a boulder projecting from the rock face that is said to resemble the head of a toad.

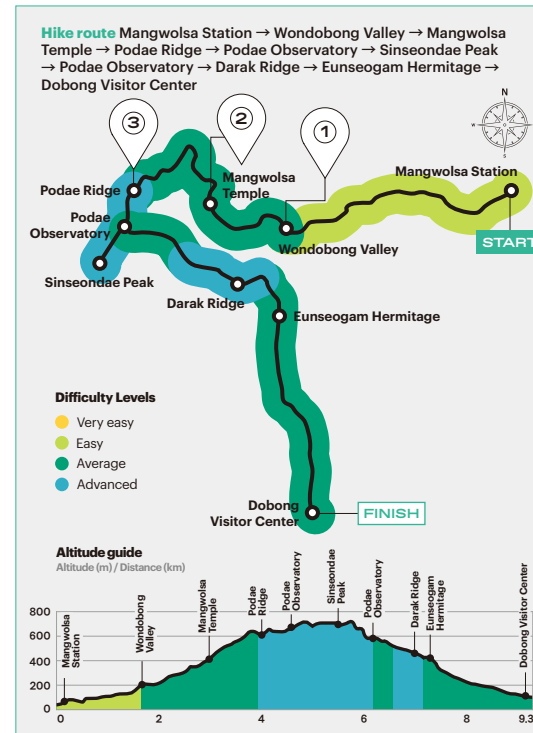


②

Mangwolsa Temple

Founded by the Buddhist monk Haeho in 639 under orders from Queen Seondeok of the Silla Kingdom, this temple gets its name from *mangwol*, which means to “gaze at the moon.” A rabbit-shaped boulder to the east of the Daeungjeon Hall stares at the moon-shaped boulder to the west.

COURSE MAP



③

Podae Ridge

Stretching north from Jaunbong Peak, the summit of Dobongsan, this ridge got its name, which literally means “artillery battery,” from the anti-aircraft artillery installed here during the Korean War. Podae connects to Wondobong Valley in the north and Dobong Valley and Obong Ridge in the south.

INFORMATION

About the trail

- The path down Darak Ridge from Podae Observatory can be hard to find. Take the left narrow path down from Podae Observatory and make a left at the entrance to the boardwalk. Go around the boulder while holding the handrails.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The trail is physically demanding so hikers should pace themselves and take regular breaks.

Transportation

- Take Exit 3 at Mangwolsa Station, Seoul Metro Line 1, and walk about 20 minutes down the path to the right to reach Wondobong Visitor Center, then hike toward Wondobong Valley from there.

More info

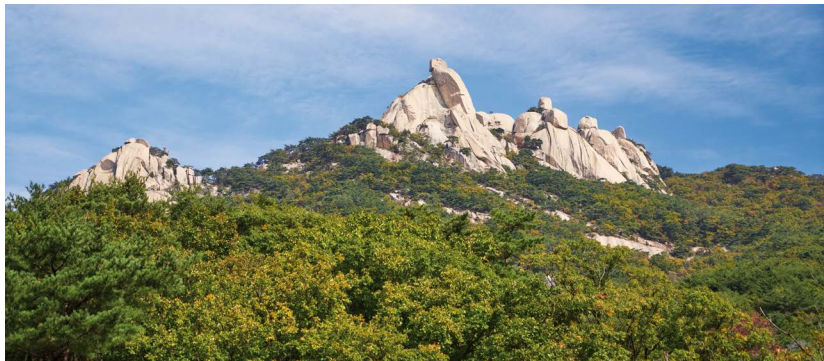
- King Gyeongsun, the last monarch of the Silla Kingdom, was preparing to surrender to Goryeo. His son, Crown Prince Maui, was vehemently opposed to surrendering the millennium-old kingdom. With his life in danger, the prince went into hiding at Mangwolsa Temple on Dobongsan Mountain. His father eventually surrendered to Goryeo King Taejo. Lamenting the loss of his kingdom, Maui spent the rest of his days eating wild shrubs and grass as a hermit.
- Dobongsan purportedly nurtured Um Hong-gil, the first person to climb the 16 highest points on Earth, and his mountaineering aspiration. As a child, Um honed his rock-climbing skills with professional mountaineers on the steep rock faces surrounding his home.

Nature-friendly mountain walk

Bukhansan Dulle-gil: Uiryong-gil

Uiryong-gil is Section 21 of Bukhansan Dulle-gil Trail along unpaved paths between Bukhansan to the south and Dobongsan to the north. Public access to the path was restricted due to the thwarted 1968 mission by 31 North Korean commandos to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee, but the path was reopened in July 2009 under a reservation system. The natural ecosystem on this path has been well-preserved through about four decades of no human contact, and the gentle ascents and descents make Uiryong-gil an easy walk.

Total travel distance: **6.42 km** Average travel time: **2 hour** Difficulty: **easy**



SPOTS



①

Uiryong Visitor Center

This is the starting point of the hike along Uiryong-gil. Since public access was restricted, it has been reopened in July 2009 under a reservation system. Admission is allowed to visitors who make a prior reservation and present their IDs.

(Korea National Park Service Reservation System reservation.knps.or.kr ☎ Reservation Inquiry 1670-9201)

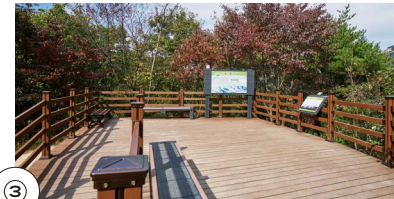


②

Anti-tank Obstacles

The anti-tank obstacles are a military installation designed to block advancing tanks. In case of emergency, the concrete blocks are dislodged from their supports to block the road. The road was created for military operations by the US Army Engineering Corps during the Korean War and was used to evacuate residents of Yangju and Paju, Gyeonggi-do, and as an accessway to Seoul.

COURSE MAP



③

Obong Observatory

The highest point of Uiryong-gil, this observatory offers the finest views of Dobongsan's peaks. The five rocky pinnacles are perched precariously atop the summit ridge at 660 meters and commonly called the "five brothers" or "five fingers."

INFORMATION

About the trail

- Reservations are required at least a day in advance to enter Uiryong-gil. Access is permitted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the last entry at 4 p.m. In winter, the last entry is at 3 p.m. Make sure to bring identification as it will be checked at the trailhead.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Uiryong-gil offers several shelters for rest and snacks.

Transportation

- Take the Ui-Sinseol Line to Bukhansan Ui Station and leave through Exit 1. Walk about 2 kilometers towards the Uiryong Forest Culture Village to reach Uiryong Visitor Center, where Uiryong-gil begins in earnest.

More info

- Once called Sogwigogae Pass, Uiryong-gil was an important link between the capital and the northern Gyeonggi-do region. The road was used to transport agricultural produce and daily necessities. Uiryong-gil was used to evacuate Korean War refugees, and after the 1953 ceasefire, it was restricted for military use. It is famous for its autumn foliage.
- According to the legend of the five peaks, a magistrate's beautiful daughter was an only child. Five young men vying for her hand in marriage climbed the ridge opposite where the five peaks stand today to see who could throw the farthest. The boulders they hurled landed on the mountaintop, where they remain to this day.

Crisscrossing between Nature and the City

Bukhansan Mountain is north of Seoul, with something to offer both novice and seasoned hikers. There is much to see and do after exploring the neighborhoods around the mountain. Crossing over from city to nature and back again is one of the great charms of Seoul.

Bukhansan National Park: Two-day itinerary

1:00 p.m. Lunch at Woorikong Sundubu after hiking – 750 meters (3 minutes by car, 8 minutes on foot) → **1:45 p.m.** Virtual reality experience at UIDONG Mountain Culture H-U-B – 3.6 kilometers (11 minutes by car) → **2:50 p.m.** Coffee or tea at 419 Café Street – 18 kilometers (45 minutes by car) → **4:30 p.m.** Soak up culture at Eunpyeong History & Hanok Museum – 240 meters (1 minute by car, 4 minutes on foot) → **6:00 p.m.** Wind down at Eungjeongheon

The entrance to Book1, a book-store-café

Leave everyday problems behind and nurture the mind



Jingwansa Temple

This millennium-old Buddhist temple was founded in 1011 during the reign of King Hyeonjong of the Goryeo Dynasty. Buddhism dictates that the food one eats forms his or her physique and character, and Jingwansa is renowned for its temple food and baru gongyang (communal meal ceremony), all of which visitors can experience. This healthy meal is followed by chats over tea with resident monks. For those unable to visit in person, Jingwansa on Saturday mornings also offers a weekly online meditation program. Reservations can be made on the temple's website.

📍 73, Jingwan-gil, Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-388-7999



Hwagyesa Temple

Founded in 1522, this temple sits above a quiet residential neighborhood in the northern Seoul neighborhood of Suyu-dong. The lush forest surrounding the temple belies its proximity to the city below. Temple stays at this temple take guests on a journey to find their true selves in a wonderfully pristine natural setting featuring traditional meditation, ringing of the temple bell, and dialogue over tea with resident monks. The weekend program is geared toward experiencing Buddhist temple culture while the Tuesday program focuses more on rest and relaxation.

📍 177, Hwagyesa-gil, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-10-4024-4326

Geumseonsa Temple

Along Bibong Trail up Bukhansan Mountain stands a temple in the shadows of the mountains of Bugaksan and Inwangsan. Geumseonsa Temple was founded by the monk Muhak, who taught Yi Seong-gye, who founded the Joseon Dynasty as its first king. A Buddhist temple stay amid clear mountain streams and pristine valleys is a great way to make a hike more special. Leave behind the everyday grind and let go of all stress and suffering while concentrating entirely on the self, breath, and each step. For Temple Stays, the experience program and relaxation program are offered on the weekends (Fri., Sat.) and weekdays (Tue., Wed., Thu.) respectively.

📍 137, Bibong-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-395-9955



Things to do in the foothills of Bukhansan



419 Café Street

A street lined with trendy and quaint cafés, this is a great place to stop by after a hike thanks to its array of coffee shops by major chains and trendy individual cafés. The name of this café street originated because it is located on the way to the April 19th National Cemetery, which honors the April 19 Revolution of 1960 against the regime of President Syngman Rhee and Modern History Memorial Hall. Those killed by police in this movement are buried in the cemetery.

📍 535-221, Suyu-dong, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul



Sunwoongak

Sunwoongak is a Hanok café in the neighborhood of Ui-dong, harkening back to the Bukhansan Mountain of the past. Originally built in 1967 as an upscale gentlemen's club, Sunwoongak today is a popular café and a sought-after location for weddings and photo shoots. This is also the largest privately owned Hanok residence in Seoul, with well-managed stone walls and pleasantly manicured lawns. As a popular venue for weddings, photo shoots, and other functions, Sunwoongak is often closed to walk-in customers. Check the building's Instagram account (@café_sunwoongak) before visiting.

📍 223, Samyang-ro 173-gil, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-0507-1399-1105 ☉ 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (closed Wed.)



Bukhansan International Climbing Center

This is an outdoor rock-climbing face on the way up Bukhansan Mountain from the Seoul Hiking Tourism Center. A safer way of rock climbing, the center offers both a monthly membership and a one-day pass. Its indoor climbing wall offers all-weather fun. The outdoor wall towers 15 meters high, while the indoor wall stands at an impressive 12 meters, making them perfect for expert climbers. People can shower there after a climb.

📍 80, Samyang-ro 173-gil, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-70-4167-7468 ☉ 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tue.-Fri. / 9:30-7:30 p.m. Sat. - Sun. (closed Mon., Jan. 1, Seollal [Lunar New Year's Day], Chuseok, Labor Day [May 1], public holidays, and substitute holidays)



Eunpyeong History & Hanok Museum

Located on the foothills of Bukhansan Mountain, this museum has exhibits on the history of Seoul's Eunpyeong-gu district and the Hanok architecture the area is famous for. Expect fabulous views of Eunpyeong Hanok Village against the backdrop of Bukhansan Mountain from the rooftop observation deck. The museum is also great for children with an interactive learning center and mini and toy libraries.

📍 8, Yeonso-ro 50-gil, Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-351-8556 ☉ 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. (closed Mondays, Jan. 1, Seollal [Lunar New Year's Day], and Chuseok)



UIDONG Mountain Culture H·U·B

This multi-purpose space for alpine culture combines alpine experiences, culture, and communities. One exhibition commemorates Um Hong-gil, world-renowned mountaineer and the first person to conquer all 16 Himalayan peaks, and offers general alpine information and training. Other features include courses in basic mountaineering including those on selection of the proper attire and boots for a hike and a virtual reality trip up Insubong Peak.

📍 B2, 689-1, Samyang-ro, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-994-8848
☉ 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (break 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m./VR Center opens until 5:30 p.m.) (closed Mondays, Jan. 1st, Seollal [Lunar New Year's Day], and Chuseok)



Celadon Kiln Site Experience Center

Situated at the foot of Bukhansan Mountain, the Celadon Kiln Site Experience Center is where you can experience the charm of traditional ceramic ware. This is a small but valuable historical site that holds the key to the ceramics production system during the period of transition from the Goryeo to Joseon dynasties. It offers a range of ceramic ware experience programs for all visitors from children to grownups including pottery wheel spinning, hand building, and painting. This is an ideal spot to enjoy relaxation after hiking and experience the therapeutic pottery making.

📍 26-148 Samyang-ro 181-gil, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-997-9997
☉ Wed. - Sun., closed on national holidays, Jan. 1 and May 1

Made slow and healthy with love: eateries near Bukhansan Mountain



Woorikong Sundubu

A proper hike will lead to quite an appetite. Rich in protein and gentle on the stomach, warm tofu is the ideal way of replenishing energy expended on a mountain. Located next to Seoul Hiking Tourism Center (Bukhansan), Woorikong Sundubu serves tofu dishes made with prime Jangdan soybeans cultivated and harvested in Paju, Gyeonggi-do Province. The most popular dishes are the *sundubu* (curdled soft tofu) meal, highlighting the neat and gently sweet silkiness of freshly made tofu, *bijijigae* (soy pulp stew), and kimchi *bijijigae*. Pan-fried tofu (*buchim*) is a great food pairing with *makgeolli* (milky rice wine).

📍 46, Samyang-ro 173-gil, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-995-5918 🕒 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Spoon & Fork Kitchen

Along the Uicheon Trail, a sweet smell wafting in the air greets you. Located in a secluded alley of the Ssangmun-dong neighborhood, Spoon & Fork Kitchen is a small bakery like the one from a fairytale, relieving your fatigue from hiking in the sweetest way possible. The white bread, bagels, scones, and sweet cookies baked by the owner every morning are perfect for soothing your body and mind after hiking. Although there are few varieties of baked goods, the menus are faithful to the basics. The white bread in particular is available in a number of types and is much loved by the locals. The flavorful Cheese Focaccia and Croissant Bun are also popular.

📍 1F, 483 Uicheon-ro, Dobong-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-10-4321-1818
🕒 12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri., closed Sat. and Sun.



Ellim Deulkkae Sujebi Kalguksu

Noodle lovers should not miss this restaurant, which specializes in bowls with a generous portion of *kalguksu* (knife-cut noodles) in a hearty broth made with perilla seeds freshly toasted each morning. The simple menu of just three items—*kalguksu*, *suyuk* (sliced boiled pork), and *mandu* (dumplings)—betrays the depth of flavors on offer. Ellim is always packed with locals and hungry hikers; long lines outside before it opens are not uncommon even on weekdays. A portion is generous as an order of *kalguksu* is accompanied by a bowl of barley rice and a few slices of *suyuk*.

📍 177, Samgaksan-ro, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-996-2583
🕒 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Mon. - Sat. / break from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (closed Sun.)

Long overdue timeout



Ui-dong Family Camping Ground

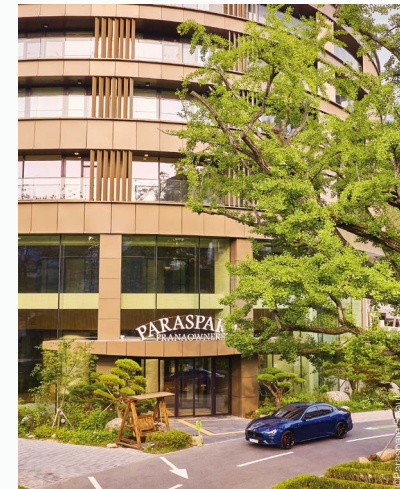
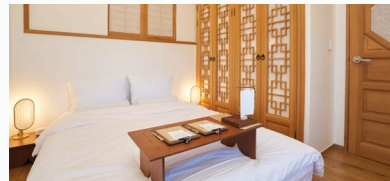
As an ideal setting for outdoor family excursions, this extremely popular area has boarded decks for pitching tents as well as "glamping" (glamorous and camping) facilities equipped with proper beds, refrigerators, firepits, and cooking utensils. A convenience store, showers, and room to dust off and clean camping gear are also available. Reservations can be made through the Interpark ticketing site at 2 p.m. on the 10th of each month. Competition is fierce for reservations as this facility is exceptionally managed.

📍 28, Samyang-ro 181-gil, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-944-2941
🕒 Check in 2:00 p.m., check-out 11:00 a.m. (closed Tue.)

Eungjeongheon

Located in Eunpyeong Hanok Village, Eungjeongheon is a Hanok accommodation built entirely from natural building materials. This place only receives one team of guests per day and guests who stay here can enjoy a private break. Antique furniture and interior accessories placed throughout the space, such as the rooms, yard, and hall, add to the place's rustic atmosphere. A picnic box provided at check-in, a hearty breakfast, illustrations rendered from photos of visitors, and a follow-up letter sent to each guest on the one-year anniversary of their visit ensure that the stay is both relaxing and special. Jingwansa Temple and a pleasant mountain stream are all within walking distance.

📍 19, Yeonso-ro 50-gil, Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-0507-1417-3270
🕒 Check in 3:00 p.m., check out 11:00 a.m.



Paraspara Seoul

Paraspara Resort Seoul is a healing destination surrounded by lush pine forests on the foothills of Bukhansan National Park. The well-equipped guestrooms are decorated extensively with wood to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Facilities include indoor and outdoor pools, Jacuzzis, baths, and saunas, and a fully-equipped gym. The panoramic views of the peaks of Insubong and others like it on Bukhansan Mountain from the rooftop garden are not to be missed.

📍 689, Samyang-ro, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 82-2-3408-5000
🕒 Check in 3:00 p.m., check out 11:00 a.m.

Messengers of Spring Guarding Bukhansan Mountain

Inhabiting Bukhansan Mountain, which is considered "the lungs of Seoul," are over 3,000 species of organisms and 635 of plants. The messengers of spring guarding the mountain greet visitors with beautiful blossoms.

Written by Kim Jin Ohk (curator at Seodaemun Museum of Natural History)
Illustrated by Lee Soyoung (botanical illustrator)



Blunt-lobed spice bush

Saeng-gang-na-mu

Scientific name

Lindera obtusiloba Blume

Habitat

Deciduous shrub that grows on sunny ground at foot of mountain

Flowering period

March–April

Bukhansan Mountain is a rare national park in the heart of the Seoul covering 76.922 square kilometers across the capital and the surrounding Gyeonggi-do. A combined 635 plant species grow on the mountain, with huge granite peaks and the valleys formed between them creating a beautiful harmony. Plants on Bukhansan blossom from early spring to announce the beginning of a new season.

Blunt-lobed spice bushes

The first to bloom are the yellow flowers of blunt-lobed spice bushes. In March, tiny flowers of such bushes appear throughout Bukhansan to herald the coming of spring. Its Korean name, which literally means "ginger bush," is derived from the scent of ginger produced when the branches and leaves are rubbed. Brewing their branches in water produces a fragrant tea, to which the dried yellow flowers of the bushes can be added. In September, the berries from the bushes sport a spicy scent. In the nation's southern region long ago, the oil squeezed from the berries was used as hair oil by women along with camellia oil.

Seoul violets

Around the time flowers fully bloom, Seoul violets start to blossom on sunny grounds. The violets, whose multiple leaves and flowers grow directly from the roots because of the lack of stem, blossom from early spring and thus have fluff covering the peduncles and leaves. This species grows nowhere else in the world except the Seoul metropolitan area and was designated a new species in 1918. Its Korean name, which literally means "swallow flower," is derived from the migratory bird swallow whose return to Korea after a cold winter coincides with flowers blossoming around spring. Other types of violets bloom on Bukhansan such as downy golden, Namsan, and *viola rossii*.



Seoul violet

Seo-ul-je-bi-kkot

Scientific name

Viola seoulensis Nakai

Habitat

Perennial plant that grows on sunny field

Flowering period

April–May



Old-fashioned weigela

Bulgeunbyeongkkotnamu

Scientific name

Weigela florida (Bunge) A.DC.

Habitat

Deciduous shrub growing on sunny ground around valleys or forests

Flowering period

May–June

Old-fashioned weigelas

In May, old-fashioned weigelas start to blossom in mid-spring on the mountain's rocky ridges and valleys. These trees, whose Korean name literally means "bottle flower tree," bear buds that resemble a gourd-shaped bottle and flowers redder than those of regular Korean weigela. Unlike the latter, whose flowers blossom yellow and turn red, old-fashioned weigelas produce red flowers. The contrast of red five-lobed corolla against the green leaves when in full bloom in May is eye-catching.