

Suwon City, Yongju Temple & Hwasong Fortress

Suwon is the provincial capital of Gyonggido province. It is approximately 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Seoul. It is sometimes called the capital of Korean football because the popularity of the Suwon Samsung Blue wings and is traditionally known as "The City of Filial Piety".

King Jeongjo made an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to make Suwon the nation's capital in 1796 with the construction of **Hwasong Fortress**, a fortified wall running around the entire city intended to guard the tomb of his father which he had located there and still exists today. It is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. The walls once encircled the entire city, but recent urban growth has seen the city spread out far beyond the fortress.



Hwaseong Fortress, Historic Site No. 3, was built in 1794-1796 during the reign of King Jeongjo of the Joseon Dynasty. Although it is relatively small in scale compared with Hanyangseong Fortress (65,628 pyeong, 5,520 meters high), the fortress constructed with the most advanced technology of the day was more solidly built. Unlike other structures of the age which were constructed of stones, Suwon Castle was built of bricks and with the very first Korean crane. This has been recognized by experts as the best structure of its kind built before the Industrial Revolution. The four gates of Paldalmun, Changanmun, Hwasomun, and Changnyongmun surround the fortress. On the Paldalsanjong Pavilion are Sojangdae, Soporu, Sonamammun and Sobukjokdae. Past Sobukgong-simdon and Jangan Park one can see Whahongmun Gate, as well as Chilgansu Stream flowing nearby. At Banghwasuryujong Pavilion, one can overlook Yongyon Pond. Suwon Hwasong Fortress was designated as new site on the World Heritage List, at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting held in Naples, Italy on December 4, 1997.



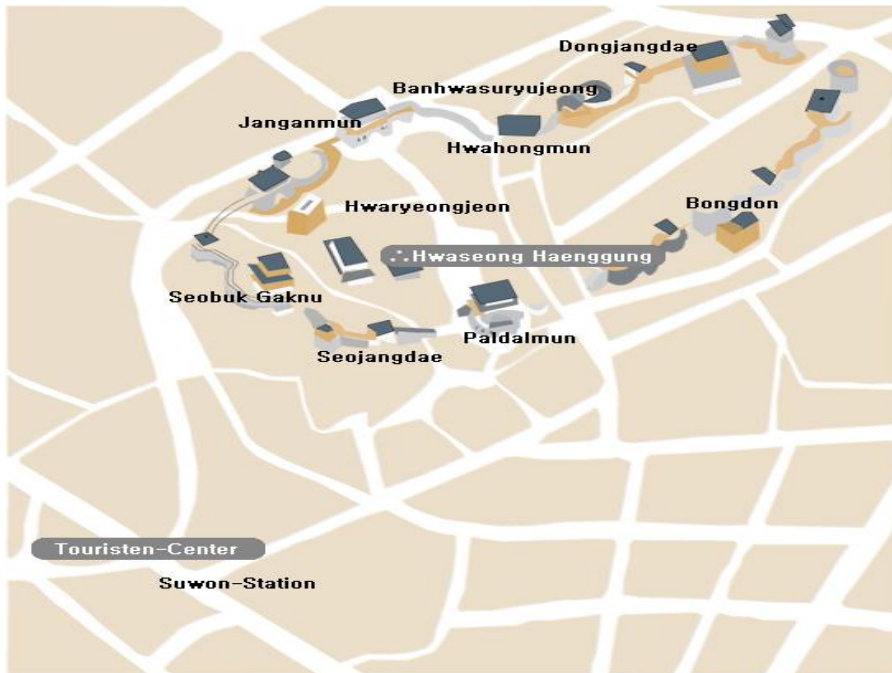
Yongju-sa is located in Hwasung-si in Kyounggi Province. Unlike other temples which are located in the mountains or in cities, Yongju-sa is just on the outskirts of Suwon, close to a paved road, so it is very convenient to visit. To understand this temple's present situation, we should look into its historical background.

This temple was first built during the Silla dynasty, and called Galyang-sa, but was destroyed during a war. During the Chosun dynasty, king Chung-jo rebuilt it. As you may know, in the Chosun dynasty, the government encouraged Confucianism but suppressed Buddhism.

Itinerary

0830 --- Departs Leisure Travel Services (ITT) Bldg #924
0900 --- Arrives at U.N. Memorial Monument
0930 --- Departs
0950 --- Arrives at Yongju Temple
1100 --- Departs
1130 --- Arrives at Suwon
1130 / 1230 --- Lunch
1230 --- Departs
1300 --- Arrives at Haenggung
1500 --- Move to Hwaseong Fortress
1630 --- Departs
1730 --- Arrives at Osan Air Force Base

This itinerary is subject to change



Things that Suwon City Tourist Must Know

- * Require to bring Korean Currency for entrance fee. (₩10,000)
- * The tour involves strenuous walking, please bring comfortable shoes or hiking gears.
- * Bus leaves in front of the Checkertails building #924 and departs at 0830 hours. Please be here 15-20 minutes prior to departure time.