

Changdeok Palace & Haengju Fortress

Changdeok Palace is a palace set within a large park in Seoul South Korea. It is one of the "Five Grand Palace" built by the kings of the Joseon. Changdeokgung is also referred to as the East Palace because of its location is east of Gyeongbok Palace. The literal meaning of Changdeokgung is "Palace of Prospering Virtue".

Changdeokgung was the favored palace of many kings of the Joeseon Dynasty and retained many Korean elements dating from the Three Kingdoms of Korea period that were not incorporated in the more formalistic Gyeongbokgung. One such element is the fact that the buildings of Changdeokgung blend with the topography of the site instead of imposing upon nature.

Construction of **Changdeok Palace** began in 1405, and was completed in 1412 on 110 acres of lot. The Palace was burnt to the ground during the Japanese invasion in 1592 and reconstructed in 1609. **Changdeokgung** was the site of the royal court and the seat of 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.





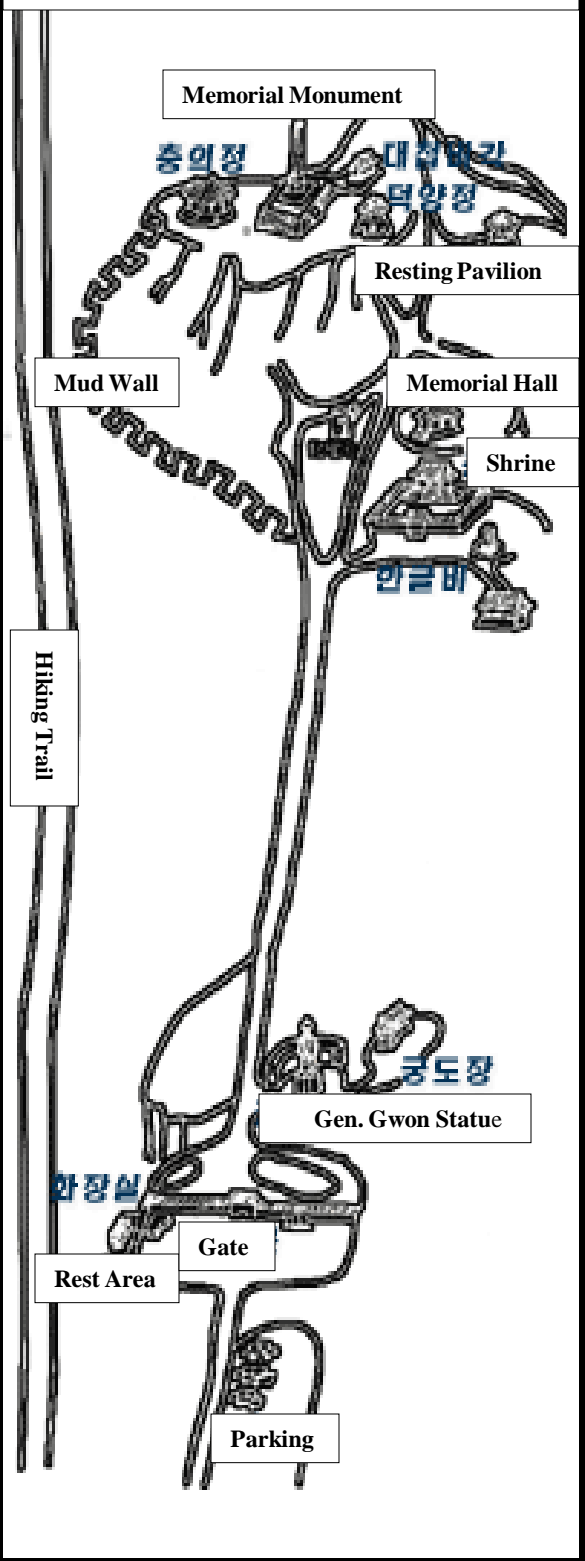
Haengju Fortress is located in the far eastern of Seoul, just across the Han River from Gimpo International Airport. Haengju hosted one of the bloodiest battles during the Japanese invasion started in 1592. After Seoul fell to the Japanese, General Kwon Yul led a small army of 2,300 to this fortress with the intent of recapturing the capital. Among them was a contingent of monks led by Monk Choyoung. The battle at Haengju Mountain Fortress is considered to be one of the three 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.

The monument was rebuilt during the 1960s. During that time, the area was landscaped to form a park, and Ch'ungjang-sa Shrine was built to house Gen. Kwon's portrait. A memorial hall was added and the area 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. It is unfortunate that urban sprawl and noise from several major nearby roads diminish the serenity of the park.



Itinerary

Haengju Fortress Map



- 0830--- Depart Information Tickets & Travel (ITT), Bldg 924
- 1000 ---Arrive Haengju Fortress
- 1130 --- Depart Haengju Fortress
- 1210/1400--- Stop for Lunch
- 1415 --- Arrive Changdeok Palace
- 1600 --- Depart Changdeok Palace
- 1730 --- Arrive Osan Air Force Base

This itinerary is subject to change

Things that Tourist Must Know

- * Lunch options are following: pack your own lunch, or bring lunch money.
- * Required to bring ₩6,000 won for admission fees both places.
- * Required to bring Korean Currency for souvenirs.
- * Tour bus leaves in front of the ITT building #924 and departs at 0830 hours.
- * Please be here 15-20 minutes prior to departure time.

