

The Heart of Hommies: A Cultural and Historical Journey of Korea

Gyeongbokgung Palace



Photo by [Daniel Bernard](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Gyeongbokgung Palace is a beautiful and historic place in Seoul, South Korea. It was the main palace of the Joseon dynasty and has a fascinating history. The palace was first built in the late 1300s. It was the home of the royal family until the Imjin War (1592–1598), when it was destroyed by fire. For the next two centuries, the palace was left in ruins. In the 19th century, Prince Regent Heungseon led a big restoration project, and all 7,700 rooms of the palace were rebuilt during King Gojong's reign. In the early 1900s, much of the palace was destroyed again when Imperial Japan occupied Korea. But on January 21, 1963, Gyeongbokgung Palace was declared a cultural property to protect it.

One interesting part of the palace's history is the royal guards. During the Joseon Dynasty, they were responsible for guarding the palace gates and the city. They worked in shifts to make sure the palace was always protected. Today, visitors can watch a special ceremony where the royal

guard is changed in front of Gwanghwamun Gate. This ceremony happens twice a day and shows how things were done in the past. Many visitors like to wear hanboks, traditional Korean clothes, when they come to the palace. If you wear a hanbok, you can enter the palace for free. Wearing these clothes makes the visit even more special and gives you great photo opportunities. Gyeongbokgung Palace is not just a historic site; it's also a place where you can experience Korean culture and history up close.

The National Museum of Korea



The National Museum of Korea is a large museum with three floors, each showcasing different parts of Korean history and art.

Ground Floor: Nature and Old Treasures

On the ground floor, you'll see beautiful gardens, parks, waterfalls, and pools. There are also many old items like pagodas, stupas, lanterns, and stones with writing. This area is great for a relaxing walk among nature and historical objects.

First Floor: Ancient History

The first floor features the Prehistory and Ancient History Gallery. This gallery has around 4,500 objects from Korea's early history, from the Paleolithic era to the Unified Silla period. You can see items like stone tools and ancient royal jewelry. These objects show how Korea's early people developed their unique culture.

Second Floor: Art and Donations

On the second floor, you'll find the Donation Gallery and the Calligraphy and Painting Gallery. The Calligraphy and Painting Gallery displays 890 pieces of Korean art, including traditional and religious works. It has four rooms: Painting Room, Calligraphy Room, Buddhist Paintings Room, and Scholar's Studio. The Donation Gallery has 800 pieces of art given by collectors, organized into eleven rooms. This gallery shows a wide range of Korean art from private collections.

Third Floor: Sculptures and Asian Arts

The third floor has the Sculpture and Crafts Gallery, with 630 Korean Buddhist sculptures and crafts. This gallery has five rooms: Metal Arts Room, Celadon Room, Buncheong Ware Room, White Porcelain Room, and Buddhist Sculpture Room. The Asian Arts Gallery on this floor features 970 pieces that explore Asian art and its connections with Western art through the Silk Road. It includes five rooms: Indian & Southeast Asian Art Room, Central Asian Art Room, Chinese Art Room, Sinan Undersea Relics Room, and Japanese Art Room.

Visiting the National Museum of Korea offers a rich look into Korea's history and art, making it a must-see place for anyone interested in Korean culture.

Bukchon Hanok Village



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Bukchon Hanok Village used to be where high-ranking officials and nobility lived during the Joseon period. It is located north of the Cheonggyecheon stream and Jongno, which is why it's called Bukchon, meaning "north village." In 1997, during Seoul's urbanization and the Asian financial crisis, the Korean government decided to keep the traditional Hanok houses instead of tearing them down.

The preservation of Hanoks began in 2000. Bukchon Hanok Village is close to popular places like Gyeongbokgung Palace and Changgyeonggung Palace, making it a great spot to learn about traditional Korean architecture and culture.

War Memorial of Korea



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The War Memorial of Korea shows the history of wars that Korea has been involved in. It was built to teach lessons from the Korean War and to promote peace and the hope for reunification between North and South Korea. The memorial has six indoor exhibition rooms and an outdoor area with displays of war memorabilia and military equipment from China, South Korea, and the United States.

Construction of the War Memorial of Korea was finished in December 1993. The project involved military experts and collected many exhibition items from both Korea and other countries. The memorial officially opened on June 10, 1994, and is now the largest memorial of its kind in the world.