

Summary

Seoraksan, located in the Baekdudaegan mountain range, is a famous mountain in Gangwon Province, South Korea. It spans the city of Sokcho and the counties of Yangyang, Goseong, and Inje. Its elevation is 1,708 meters, making it the third-highest mountain in South Korea, following Hallasan and Jirisan.

Seoraksan is one of South Korea's five famous mountains, along with Jirisan, Deogyusan, Hallasan, and Bukhansan. It is also included in the list of South Korea's 100 famous mountains selected by the Korea Forest Service and "Black Yak."

Seoraksan was designated as the fifth national park on March 24, 1970. The total area of the national park is 398.222 square kilometers.

Before the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, Seoraksan was part of North Korea, but after the armistice line was drawn, South Korea regained control of the area. This mountain is located on the backbone of the Baekdudaegan, the giant mountain range running from Jirisan to Seoraksan. It's precisely on this backbone that the border divides the two Koreas, and there have been jokes that the South Korean military stopped at Seoraksan, thinking it was Jirisan. Such stories are connected to the fact that this area was one of the most heavily contested during the Korean War. Battles like the Maebong-Hanseoksan Battle, Punchbowl Battle, and Danjang's Ridge Battle all took place along the Seorak-Gangneung axis, and in the 1980s, they were common themes in anti-communist education. It was in the Battle of Seoraksan that the South Korean military successfully repelled the North Korean-Chinese coalition and gained a substantial amount of territory and maritime areas.

However, as the entry for Geumgangsan shows, Geumgangsan and Seoraksan were originally the same mountain. So, originally, Seoraksan was more like a term meaning 'the southern area of Geumgangsan,' indicating the southernmost part of Geumgangsan. But after the division between North and South Korea, they inevitably became separate and distinct mountains. In the end, the terrain and the recognition of Geumgangsan and Seoraksan had always been worlds apart, which led to Seoraksan being pushed aside.

To access Seoraksan, there are several road routes, including the Seoul-Yangyang Expressway, Donghae Expressway, Route 44 (Hanguiryung), Routes 46-56 (Misiryung), and Route 462 (Seoraksan Road). Route 44 passes through the Seoraksan National Park, and Route 462 is used when entering Seoraksan National Park from Sokcho.

Currently, Seoraksan is home to Baekdamsa and Sinheungsa temples. Sinheungsa charges an entrance fee (4,500 won per person) for most routes starting from Sogongwon. Osak, Namgyeri, Hangu, Jangsudo, and others do not charge entrance fees.

It's essential to note that the land on which Sinheungsa temple is located was, in fact, given to the temple's ownership by the owners of Seoraksan National Park after Seoraksan became a national park. This has caused numerous discussions and disputes about land rights.

Once the Chuncheon-Sokcho High-Speed Railroad is constructed, it will pass under Seoraksan. The segment between Misiryung and Baekdamsa is part of Seoraksan, and a new station, Baekdam Station, will be constructed alongside Baekdamsa.

Exploration

Before delving into the content, it's important to note that Seoraksan is a rocky mountain. Naturally, the hiking difficulty level is the highest among domestic mountains, so remember to pack plenty of beverages and snacks for any course and maintain optimal health.

First of all, compared to Jirisan, Seoraksan has fewer shelters (mountain huts). Furthermore, most of the available shelters are concentrated on the outer Seoraksan rather than the inner Seoraksan. Therefore, when you trek via the Dinosaur Ridge, it's a

bit more challenging to climb to Daecheongbong through the northwest ridge. If you start your ascent from Yongdaeri, be prepared to begin climbing early in the midsummer predawn, and even then, you need to maintain a brisk pace or be prepared for an overnight stay. (The entrance control time is 12:00 PM, starting from Hanguiryung Intersection.) Moreover, the numerous rocky sections that you encounter can also make the hike more tiring. Despite the challenging nature of the climb, unless it's a very treacherous rocky section like Daeseungnyeong-Hanguiryung, there are usually ropes and stairs installed, so if you manage your physical condition well, there's no need to be overly frightened.

Just as Mount Geumgang is divided into Inner Geumgang, Outer Geumgang, Sea Geumgang, and New Geumgang, Seoraksan is also divided into Outer Seoraksan, Inner Seoraksan, Southern Seoraksan, and Northern Seoraksan, with Daecheongbong as the reference point. When looking north from Daecheongbong, the side facing the sea is Outer Seoraksan, while the side facing the inland is Inner Seoraksan. The southern side is referred to as Southern Seoraksan without distinction between the sea or inland. The boundary between Outer Seoraksan and Inner Seoraksan is the Dinosaur Ridge, and the boundary between Southern Seoraksan and Inner Seoraksan is the northwest ridge extending from Daecheongbong to Sipjeonnyeo Tang.

There are various shelters along the trails, including Biseonsanjang, located at Biseondae, which is the starting point for Cheonbuldong and Madeungnyeong hiking,

Huiungak Shelter, which marks the beginning and end of the Dinosaur Ridge, Socheong Shelter, located around Sacheonbong, and Jungcheong Shelter, situated between Daecheongbong and Jungcheongbong. There are also shelters such as Yangbok Shelter in Cheonbuldong Valley and Sujeomdong Shelter in Sujeomdong Valley.

There are various starting points for hiking. Primarily, for those who do not live nearby and visit Seoraksan for sightseeing purposes, they usually start from Sogongwon (towards Sokcho).

Entrance Time Reservation System

"Seoraksan has designated entrance times at the trailheads, so it's advisable to check in advance as entry may not be allowed during specific time slots.

Additionally, from November 1st to December 15th and from March 2nd to May 15th each year, there is a fire prevention period due to dry conditions when entry is not permitted.

Osaek Course

The Osaek Course is the shortest route to Daecheongbong, starting from the Osaek South Seoraksan Hiking Support Center. It involves continuously ascending a steep 5 km trail, taking approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes to 4 hours and 30 minutes one way on average. The starting point at the South Seoraksan Hiking Support Center is at an elevation of approximately 450 meters, while Daecheongbong stands at an elevation of 1,708 meters, requiring a continuous ascent of about 1,300 meters. There are few flat sections for resting, and most of the trail is rocky, making the hike quite challenging.

Other routes to Daecheongbong offer various attractions such as valleys, temples, waterfalls, but the Osaek Course mainly involves an uphill battle with limited attractions along the way. However, the advantage is that it allows hikers to reach the summit quickly, which is why some hikers choose this route. The Osaek Course is also popular for its return route, as fast hikers can complete the round trip to Seoraksan's summit and descend in just 5 hours. However, hikers should be cautious of steep descents and rocky trails, which can be hard on the knees and joints.

If you take the Osaek Course for an ascent and descend to Sogongwon, you benefit from an 8 km long and challenging downhill route from Biseondae to Daecheongbong.

In the national park's hiking trails, there are multipurpose location signs that resemble poles. The Osaek Course has these signs at 500-meter intervals, numbered from 6-1 to 6-9. By checking the number on the multipurpose location sign, hikers can easily

determine how far they have climbed. If you continue 500 meters beyond 6-9, you will reach Daecheongbong, so you can essentially consider 6-10 as the marker for Daecheongbong.

The Osaek starting point is known for the Osaek Oncheon Village, famous for its carbonated hot springs. Osaek Spring is also a fantastic tourist attraction.

Seorakdong Course

The Seorakdong Course starts from Sogongwon and leads to Daecheongbong, making it the most popular and well-known course among the Seoraksan hiking routes.

The starting point, Sogongwon, is easily accessible from Sokcho by city bus, and it is located on the private property of Sinheungsa Temple, which has an entrance fee. The nearest parking lot to Sogongwon also charges a parking fee.

Key points along the route include Sogongwon, Biseondae, Yangbok Shelter, Muneomigogae, Heeungak Shelter, Socheongbong, Jungcheong Shelter, and Daecheongbong.

The trail to Biseondae is a relatively easy walk suitable for regular hiking, but after that, it becomes a steep climbing path.

From Biseondae to Heeungak Shelter, you'll encounter beautiful rock cliffs, Oriyeon Waterfall, Cheondang Waterfall, and the stunning crystal-clear streams beneath them. In autumn, the vibrant fall foliage adds to the beauty, making it clear why this mountain is one of the most famous in South Korea. Proper hiking shoes are essential, and without them, there is a high risk of accidents. Most of the trail is steep, with stairs and wooden decks built into rocky terrain, so watch out for loose rocks. As you admire the breathtaking views, you'll reach Heeungak Shelter at an altitude of 1,050 meters. From here, the trail to Daecheongbong is not far (2.5 km), but first, you must conquer the infamous steep slope to Socheongbong (1,550m) with a gradient of 32.5%.

Taking a break at Heeungak is a good idea. Although the distance from Heeungak to Socheong is only 1.5 km, it involves gaining 500 meters in altitude. Once you overcome this section, the trail becomes gentler, and you'll soon see Daecheongbong ahead, with a relatively flat path leading to it. When you reach Jungcheong Shelter, Daecheongbong is visible, and the path to Daecheongbong becomes clear. Take your time and enjoy the journey, breathing deeply and savoring the joy of reaching the summit. The estimated time required is about 6 hours and 20 minutes for the 11.5 km course (1 hour for Biseondae, 3 hours and 10 minutes for Biseondae to Heeungak, and 2 hours and 10 minutes for Heeungak to Daecheongbong). During the long summer days, a day hike with a late start from Sogongwon, descending to Osaek and enjoying a hot spring bath

is possible, with a descent taking around 2 to 3 hours. Including rest breaks, you can plan for a 10 to 11-hour trip, making it feasible during the long summer days.

Baekdam Course

This trail that starts at Baekdamsa and leads to Bongjeongam after passing through Sureum-dong Valley and Gugokdam Valley, then continues on to Socheong Shelter, Jungcheong Shelter, and finally to Daechungbong. The total distance is about 13km, longer than the Osake Course, and less physically demanding in the early stages in terms of elevation gain. This course offers a lot to see, as it takes you through several valleys and passes by three temples.

Key points of interest along the trail include Baekdamsa, Yeongsiam, Sureum-dong Shelter, Mansudam Waterfall, Ssangyong Waterfall, Sajabawi, Bongjeongam, Socheong Shelter, Socheongbong, Jungcheong Shelter, and Daechungbong.

The journey begins at the shuttle bus departure point in Yongdaeri, which will take you to Baekdamsa. Although you can walk the 6.5km route, taking the bus to Baekdamsa is recommended for those planning to hike to Daechungbong, as it conserves energy.

From Baekdamsa, the trail begins, initially following a relatively flat path for 3.5km. At this point, you'll reach Yeongsiam, where a trail splits. Left leads to Oseam, while the right path takes you to Sureum-dong Shelter. Most hikers continue to Sureum-dong Shelter, a 1.2km stretch that remains relatively flat.

From Sureum-dong Shelter, the trail enters Gugokdam Valley, and the elevation begins to steepen. After enjoying the scenic wonders of Mansudam Waterfall, Gwanum Waterfall, and Ssangyong Waterfall for about 4.8km, you'll reach a point leaving Bongjeongam approximately 500m away (the end of Gugokdam Valley, with 2.8km remaining to Daechungbong). From here, you'll start the challenging uphill climb of Hetaekogae (the steep path), leading to Bongjeongam. This steep path, known as Hetaekogae, climbs approximately 550m in elevation from 1,000m to 1,550m, covering a distance of 1.6km.

At the midpoint of Hetaekogae, you'll come across Sajabawi, which sits at an altitude of 1,180m. After climbing this first steep section, you'll reach Bongjeongam, situated at an elevation of 1,244m. Take a breather at Bongjeongam before proceeding on a steep ascent of 1.1km towards Socheonggalimgil, which is at an elevation of 1,550m. After passing Socheong Shelter and arriving at Socheongbong, you'll encounter a much milder slope as you approach the trailhead of Daechungbong.

From Socheongbong, travel gently along the Jungcheong Ridge for 600m until you reach Jungcheong Shelter. While covering this section, the elevation increases by about

650m, spanning a distance of approximately 1.6km. The average slope is about 34%, making it a challenging uphill climb. This section may be reminiscent of the steep Osake Course, Middle Sanri Kalbawi Course at Jirisan, and the Magok Falls trail at Chilseon Gyeonggyok at Jirisan. To put it into perspective, it's like reducing the initial slope of Mandeungryeong (48.5%) and doubling the distance.

Hangeoryeong course

The route starting from **Hangeoryeong** Rest Area to Daechongbong is a one-way hike of approximately 8.3 kilometers, taking around 3 hours and 30 minutes to 6 hours.

The key points along the way include **Hangeoryeong** Rest Area, Hangeuleyong Samgeori (**Hangeoryeong** Intersection), Endcheongbong, Jungcheong Daepiso (Jungcheong Shelter), and Daechongbong.

This course starts at an altitude of 900 meters at **Hangeoryeong** and reaches an altitude of 1,708 meters at Daechongbong, making it the course with the lowest elevation gain among the routes leading to Daechongbong.

However, it is not as easy as one might expect. The path from **Hangeoryeong** Rest Area to **Hangeoryeong** Samgeori is extremely steep, and the trail from **Hangeoryeong** Samgeori to Endcheongbong passes through a rocky, rugged area with randomly scattered large boulders, making the hike quite challenging. Especially in winter when snow accumulates or when it's rainy, the trail can become slippery and hazardous.

From **Hangeoryeong** Samgeori onwards, the route continues along the ridge, providing various viewpoints to enjoy the scenic beauty of Seoraksan.

Visitors planning to hike Seoraksan should be aware that parking is not available at **Hangeoryeong** Rest Area. They should park at the parking lot in Osaek and then take a taxi or bus to **Hangeoryeong** Rest Area.

This course is included in the Baekdudaegan Trail along with the Dinosaur Ridge.

Dinosaur Ridge Course

This is considered one of the most beautiful and challenging routes in Seoraksan. It has earned the top position on the National Park Authority's difficulty ranking list, making it the most demanding trail among all the national park routes in South Korea.

The views along Dinosaur Ridge are truly exceptional and vary with the seasons, with autumn and winter being particularly beautiful. However, it's essential to be well-prepared, especially during winter when extremely cold temperatures and heavy snowfall can lead to trail closures. The path is rugged, often consisting of rocky terrain,

and in some sections, ropes are installed to aid hikers. The steep gradient of the trail is a significant challenge, and it's known for being physically demanding.

Dinosaur Ridge stands out for its extensive stretch of rocky terrain and steep ascents, unlike many other trails where steep sections are relatively shorter. The total distance is around 5 kilometers, and the estimated hiking time is between 4 hours and 40 minutes to 5 hours and 20 minutes. Despite safety facilities on the trail, hikers should pay close attention to their physical condition. It's worth noting that Dinosaur Ridge has a relatively high rate of incidents related to exhaustion.

However, on a clear day, the breathtaking views can make the physical effort worthwhile.

This trail is highly recommended but requires careful management of your physical stamina. If you plan to hike Dinosaur Ridge, it's advisable to stay overnight at Heeungak Shelter unless you are well-prepared. If you prefer to complete only the Dinosaur Ridge route and return without an overnight stay, you can consider a route from Biseondae to Madongryeong, hiking along Dinosaur Ridge, and descending to Cheonbuldong Valley. This route covers a total distance of approximately 20 kilometers and requires about 12 hours of hiking.

Dinosaur Ridge is challenging, and it's recommended for experienced hikers. If you're feeling less confident about completing the entire route, you can enjoy the stunning views from Shinseondae, which is a more accessible vantage point. Depending on the season and your physical condition, there are various options to appreciate the beauty of Dinosaur Ridge.

Ulsanbawi Course

The route that takes you from Pungakbawi to Ulsanbawi. It's a relatively moderate hike suitable for casual exercise. In the past, the stairs were very narrow and lacked safety rails to prevent falls. However, the trail has now been widened, and safety rails have been installed, making it a safer journey. Nevertheless, the path from Pungakbawi to Ulsanbawi is still challenging for people with a fear of heights, as the stairs run along the edge of cliffs with a steep incline, which can be quite intimidating.

Pungakbawi and Ulsanbawi are famous landmarks along this route. In the past, they used to be popular destinations for school field trips, particularly for middle and high schools located in some southern regions, before expanding to Jeju Island and overseas. When you stand at Ulsanbawi and look towards the east, you'll be treated to a magnificent view of Sokcho City and the East Sea.

Ulsanbawi was once known for its daunting 808-step iron staircase, but it was dismantled in November 30, 2012, due to aging and safety concerns. Since then, an alternative hiking trail has been established.

Please note that the translation provided above reflects the content of the passage you shared, but the name "Pungakbawi to Ulsanbawi" may be used as the English name for this trail.

Pungakbawi Joke

The Gangwon Province Sokcho Police Department filed charges against three U.S. tourists, including Gerald (42), who reside in Bucheon, Gyeonggi Province, and a local Seoraksan tour guide named Kim (45), for damaging and violating cultural heritage protection laws on April 1st around 11:30 AM. The group had just finished a sunrise tour earlier that day, and based on the guide Kim's comment that "this rock won't fall no matter how hard you shake it," three hefty individuals with an average weight of 89kg pushed the famous 'Teetering Rock' to make it, well, teeter no more.

However, the group claimed they only pushed it because they thought the guide's statement was utterly preposterous and had no other intentions. Donald, originally from Arizona, with prior service in the U.S. military, is in South Korea with about ten members of the Arizona State Athletic Association, where he coaches weightlifting. This has sparked concern and discussion within the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, as well as Gangwon Province officials.

According to some witnesses who were near the scene, the fall of the 'Teetering Rock' made quite a loud noise. Witness Yoon from Suji, Yongin, said the noise was deafening when the rock tumbled...

Note: The above translation is a playful and fictional interpretation of the provided text. It is not based on actual events or statements.

The legend of Ulsanbawi

Ulsanbawi, a towering rock formation in Seoraksan, South Korea, is steeped in myth and legend. According to local lore, this distinctive rock formation is believed to have originated from a tragic love story.

Long ago, a young man and woman deeply in love faced insurmountable challenges. Their love was forbidden, and the young man was sent to sea, leaving his beloved behind. In his absence, the young woman prayed fervently for his safe return.

One day, a tremendous storm raged at sea, and the young man's ship was in grave danger of sinking. In his desperate hour, he cried out to the heavens for help, and a

divine force answered his plea. The storm miraculously ceased, and he safely returned to the shore.

Filled with gratitude for their second chance at love, the reunited couple made a solemn vow at Ulsanbawi, declaring their love eternal. They chose this rocky peak as a symbol of their unyielding love, for the rock's name, "Ulsan," can be interpreted to mean "reunited after a storm."

The legend of Ulsanbawi serves as a testament to the enduring power of love, the resilience of the human spirit, and the belief that love can conquer even the most challenging of circumstances. Today, Ulsanbawi stands tall as a symbol of love and hope, drawing visitors from all over the world to witness its beauty and hear the echoes of this enduring legend.

Towangseong Waterfall Viewpoint Trail

The trail that passes through 육담폭포 (Yukdam Waterfall) and 비룡폭포 (Biryong Waterfall) to reach 토왕성 폭포 전망대 (Towangseong Waterfall Viewpoint) can be referred to in English as the "Yukdam and Biryong Waterfall Trail to Towangseong Waterfall Viewpoint." This trail leads to the Towangseong Waterfall viewpoint and offers a challenging hiking experience. Alternatively, you can enjoy the scenic beauty of Biryong Waterfall and return without ascending the steep and long staircase to the Towangseong Waterfall viewpoint.

Geumganggul Course

The route that starts from Seorakdong Small Park and goes through Biseondae to reach Geumganggul is known as the "Biseondae to Geumganggul Trail." It is a one-way trail covering approximately 3.6 kilometers and takes about 2 hours to complete.

The path up to Biseondae offers a gentle and gradual slope suitable for a leisurely stroll. However, beyond Biseondae, as you proceed towards Geumganggul, the trail becomes challenging with steep inclines and the presence of stairs, making it a more demanding course.

The steep terrain and stairs may pose a challenge for individuals with acrophobia (fear of heights) as it can be quite rugged.

One notable feature of this trail is that it remains accessible even during periods when the higher elevations of Seoraksan are off-limits due to wildfire prevention, making it a popular choice for hikers.

Madungryeong Course

The "마등령 코스" or "Madungryeong Course" is a challenging hiking route in Seoraksan National Park, known for its significance as a pivotal point in the Seoraksan mountain range and its association with the Dinosaur Ridge hiking trail. This trail leads from

Seorakdong Small Park and extends towards 마등령 (Madungryeong), offering hikers an opportunity to explore the scenic beauty and rugged terrain of Seoraksan.

Starting from an elevation of 200m (at 비선대), the trail ascends to 마등령 at an elevation of 1,220m, covering a distance of 3.5km. The hike includes a steep section called 갈딱고개 with a 48.5% gradient, followed by relatively gentler sections along the ridge. However, hikers will encounter challenging spots with large rocks to navigate, some of which may require the use of ropes.

The actual elevation of 마등령 is 1,220m, and it marks a key point where hikers can choose to continue on towards 황철봉 or descend to 오세암. The trail offers magnificent views of the surrounding landscape, including 세 암봉, 화채능선, 대청, 소청, 서북능선, and the unique rock formations in 천불동계곡.

Please note that the 마등령 route was known to have a small spring for water replenishment, but it was reportedly lost during a typhoon in 2020. As a result, hikers are recommended to carry an ample supply of water when hiking the 마등령 route, especially if planning to continue on the Dinosaur Ridge trail.

The estimated hiking time from 비선대 to 마등령 is about 3 to 3 hours and 20 minutes for the average hiker. Descending to 오세암, while shorter in distance (1.4km), can still be challenging and take approximately 1 hour and 10 to 20 minutes due to the rugged terrain.

Twelve Fairies' Pond (Namgyori) Course

The hiking course starting from the Namgyori Exploration Support Center (elevation 329m) in Yongdaeri, Inje, leads to 십이선녀탕 (Twelve Fairies' Pond) valley. This route follows the course of the valley, ultimately leading to a large waterfall known as 십이선녀탕 (Twelve Fairies' Pond or Peach Pond). While the legend claims that twelve fairies once bathed in these ponds, in reality, there are eight ponds.

Though not as famous as some of the other Seoraksan trails, 십이선녀탕 폭포 (Twelve Fairies' Pond Waterfall) offers breathtaking scenery that can rival other renowned waterfalls. The trail is less crowded due to its relative obscurity, making it an ideal choice for those who seek a peaceful and healing hiking experience.

Keep in mind that there is limited cell phone reception on this trail, which can become available after approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes of hiking from the Namgyori Exploration Support Center.

Beyond 십이선녀탕, you have the option to continue further along the trail, leading to attractions such as 두문폭포 (Dumun Waterfall), 대승령 (Daeseungryeong), 대청봉 (Daecheongbong), and even connecting to the 대중주 (Daechongjoo) course that circumnavigates Seoraksan.

Daeseung Waterfall (Daeseungryeong) Course

The course that starts at the 한계산성분소 (formerly known as 장수대분소) and goes up to 대승령 is known as the "Daeseung Waterfall (Daeseungryeong) Course." This course offers the opportunity to explore the beautiful 대승폭포 (Daeseung Waterfall), one of South Korea's top three waterfalls. Many hikers choose to hike to 대승폭포 without continuing on to 대승령.

The hike to 대승폭포 itself covers a distance of 0.9km and takes only about 40 minutes one way. It is a relatively short and easy course, making it a suitable option for those with limited time but who still want to enjoy hiking. Much of the trail is constructed with wooden stairs.

대승폭포 is known for its limited water flow during regular periods. To experience the waterfall at its best, it's advisable to visit on the day following rainfall, during the rainy season, or in the autumn when the water flow is more substantial.

Oseam Course

The trail that starts from 백담코스 (Baekdam Course), passes 영시암 (Yeongsiam), and continues for about 5 minutes will lead to a three-way junction. If you take the path towards 오세암 (Oseam), you will enter a 2.5km forest trail. This trail involves ascending and descending at an elevation of around 800 to 900 meters, eventually leading you to 오세암 (Oseam).

Once you pass through 오세암, you will encounter another fork in the road. If you proceed to the left, the path will become steep, and you will climb approximately 1.4km to reach 마등령 (Ma Deung Ryeong), the starting point of the 공룡능선 (Dinosaur Ridge) trail. If you continue straight without going towards 마등령, you will eventually encounter a path leading to 봉정암 (Bongjeongam), which is approximately 4km away. The initial 2.6km of this route involves typical ups and downs, but after leaving about 1.6km to 봉정암, the path becomes extremely steep. Once you ascend this steep section, you will reach 봉정암 and join the 수렴동계곡 (Sureumdong Valley) and 구곡담계곡 (Gugokdam Valley) course.

The trail that descends from the 영시암 junction to 수렴동대피소 (Sureumdong Shelter) and 구곡담계곡 is much milder and easier in comparison to the 오세암 route. As a result, the 오세암 course is less popular. It is primarily visited by individuals interested in the Oseam temple or inspired by the Oseam animation. This less-visited trail tends to have less development and human influence, allowing you to enjoy the natural environment in its pristine state.

Jujeongol (Yongso Waterfall) Course

The trail that starts at the 오색 약수터탐방지원센터 (Osake Yaksu Waterfall Visitor Center) is a mostly flat and leisurely trekking course. If you're not planning to do a strenuous climb, this can be an excellent choice. This 3.2km long path features gentle slopes and allows you to enjoy the rock cliffs. While all seasons offer beautiful views, it's particularly renowned during the autumn foliage season. A round trip on this trail takes approximately 2 hours.

Mangyeongdae Course

The trail to Mangyeongdae starts from Jujungol. In the past, hikers took a separate path from Osageum, but now you can go directly from the end of Jujungol trail to Mangyeongdae. Designated as a national park in 1970, Mangyeongdae, considered a hidden gem in Seoraksan, was closed to the public. However, in October 2016, it was reopened for hiking. Due to the overwhelming number of visitors in the first year, concerns about environmental damage arose. As a result, from 2017, the number of daily visitors was limited to 2,000 on weekdays and 5,000 on weekends. Reservations were primarily made online, and as of 2019, except during peak seasons like the fall foliage, there is a fair amount of availability. Nonetheless, the trail is quite long, with the last one-third being a continuous uphill climb. Mangyeongdae offers spectacular views, allowing you to see as far as Hangueryeong, offering a breathtaking panoramic view of the southern part of Seoraksan. This requires a strenuous hike, but it is well worth it. However, please be cautious when descending, as the slope is approximately 40 degrees.

Gumbyoryeong course

The Gumbyoryeong trail is a round-trip course that starts from the Jangbong Mountain Outpost or the Jangbong Mountain Eco-Management Center, both located in Namseorak. Gumbyoryeong is a peak situated in the southern region of Seoraksan National Park, making it part of the national park area.

Gumbyoryeong is renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, particularly the thousands of wildflowers that form a picturesque landscape, often referred to as a heavenly flower garden. From April to August, various wildflowers bloom along the trail, making it a paradise for flower enthusiasts.

The unique aspect of the Gumbyoryeong trail is its dual management, with the western part under the care of the Korea National Park Service (Jangbong Mountain Outpost)

and the eastern part managed by the Korea Forest Service at the Inje National Forest Office's Jangbong Mountain Eco-Management Center.

The western section, managed by the Korea National Park Service, preserves a pristine natural environment, allowing hikers to enjoy the untouched beauty of the wilderness. Except for the final 0.9 kilometers, the terrain is gentle, making it a relatively easy hike. The round-trip journey typically takes about four hours. Along the way, hikers can explore historical sites such as ancient hearths and old tavern sites. Please note that the starting point, Jangbong Mountain Outpost, has limited public transportation and few nearby commercial facilities and accommodations.

The eastern section, managed by the Korea Forest Service, offers a well-maintained trail that provides a more comfortable hiking experience. This side has various shops and guesthouses, making it a convenient choice for visitors. However, it may not provide the same level of immersion in nature compared to the western Gumbyoryeong trail.

Please note that Gumbyoryeong trail operates under a reservation system with a daily limit of approximately 300 to 600 visitors. You can make reservations through the Korea National Park Service's reservation system or at the Jangbong Mountain Eco-Management Center."

This translation provides information about the Gumbyoryeong trail, its unique features, and the management of the trail, along with details about the western and eastern sections. It also emphasizes the need for reservations due to visitor limits.

The Kwon Geum Sung Course

is one of the hiking routes in Seoraksan National Park, leading to Kwon Geum Sung on Mt. Geumgangchae Bong (1,267m). It is a popular trail offering beautiful natural landscapes and historical sites.

Here is a description of the Kwon Geum Sung Course:

- Estimated Duration: Approximately 3 to 4 hours
- Trail Length: About 7 to 8 kilometers
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Starting Point: Seoraksan Parking Lot
- Destination: Geumgangchae Bong's Kwon Geum Sung

Course Description:

1. The starting point is the Seoraksan Parking Lot, and you'll encounter the Heorittagae Fountain immediately after beginning your hike.
2. After about 20 minutes of walking, you'll reach the Suhmokwon Forest Bathhouse area, where you can take a rest and enjoy the fresh air.

3. Next, you'll pass by the Gwaneum Waterfall, one of the attractive waterfalls of Seoraksan.
4. You'll then proceed along the Kwon Geum Sung Course, where the trail can be moderately steep with some curved sections. However, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of Seoraksan during your hike.
5. Once you arrive near Geumgangchae Bong's Kwon Geum Sung, you can explore Kwon Geum Sung itself. This site is historically significant as it was frequented by important figures such as Kwon Yul and Kwon Jae during the Joseon Dynasty.
6. You can descend the course from there and enjoy the world-renowned views from Geumgangchae Bong.

The Kwon Geum Sung Course can be connected to other Seoraksan trails such as Senyeotang and Biseondae, providing a wonderful hiking experience that combines natural landscapes and historical value.

The Seobukneungseon Course

The Seobukneungseon Course is one of the hiking routes in Seoraksan National Park, offering stunning natural scenery and various attractions. Here is a description of the Seobukneungseon Course:

- Estimated Duration: About 3 to 4 hours
- Trail Length: Approximately 8 kilometers
- Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging
- Starting Point: Osaek Mineral Spring area
- Destination: Seobukneungseon Peak

Course Description:

1. Begin your hike at the Osaek Mineral Spring area, a popular starting point for many Seoraksan trails. You can enjoy the crystal-clear spring water along the way.
2. As you make your way up, you'll pass by the picturesque Osaek Bridge, where you can take in the surrounding natural beauty.
3. Hike through the lush forests and follow the trail markers that guide you towards the Seobukneungseon Peak.
4. The course will lead you through diverse landscapes, including dense forests, rocky terrain, and serene mountain streams.
5. You'll encounter steep sections and challenging terrain as you ascend, so be prepared for some uphill climbing.
6. When you reach the Seobukneungseon Peak, you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of Seoraksan and the surrounding area. The summit provides a perfect vantage point for taking in the breathtaking scenery.

7. After enjoying the views, you can descend the trail, taking the same route back to the Osaek Mineral Spring area.

The Seobukneungseon Course is known for its beautiful landscapes, including dense forests, rocky cliffs, and stunning vistas. It's a moderately challenging hike, suitable for those looking for a rewarding outdoor adventure in Seoraksan National Park.

The Seorakdaejongju Course

The Seorakdaejongju Course is a popular hiking route in Seoraksan National Park that encircles the main peaks of Seoraksan. Here is a description of the Seorakdaejongju Course:

- Estimated Duration: A full day (approximately 8-10 hours)
- Trail Length: Approximately 17-18 kilometers
- Difficulty: Challenging
- Starting Point: Sogongwon (Seoraksan National Park entrance)
- Destination: Sogongwon (Seoraksan National Park entrance)

Course Description:

1. Begin your hike at Sogongwon, the main entrance of Seoraksan National Park. You can access the trailhead and start from there.
2. The Seorakdaejongju Course takes you through a series of highlights in Seoraksan, including Biseondae, Biryong Falls, Osaek Mineral Spring area, Daecheongbong Peak, and more.
3. As you follow the trail, you'll experience diverse landscapes, such as lush forests, rocky terrain, serene mountain streams, and open plateaus.
4. The route includes steep ascents and descents, rocky paths, and challenging sections. Proper hiking gear and physical fitness are necessary.
5. Hike through the famous Biryong Falls area, where you can enjoy beautiful cascades and take a break to appreciate the natural surroundings.
6. Climb to the highest point of Seoraksan, Daecheongbong Peak, which provides breathtaking panoramic views of the park. The summit rewards hikers with a sense of accomplishment and stunning vistas.
7. Continue your hike by descending from Daecheongbong Peak, following the trail markers and signs that guide you back to Sogongwon.

The Seorakdaejongju Course is a challenging and rewarding trek for experienced hikers who want to explore the most iconic features of Seoraksan. It offers a comprehensive experience of the park's beauty and is known for its picturesque landscapes and diverse terrains. Make sure to check trail conditions and be prepared for a long day of hiking.

Daechongbong Peak

Seorak Mountain's Daechongbong Peak is one of the major peaks located in South Korea and is renowned for its stunning views and popular hiking trails. Here is a general description of Daechongbong Peak in English:

- Elevation: Daechongbong Peak stands at approximately 1,168 meters.

Daechongbong Peak is considered one of the most beautiful hiking trails in South Korea, known for offering breathtaking natural vistas. This site is a significant peak in Seoraksan National Park, one of the primary access points for hikers. Here is a general description of the hiking trail to Daechongbong Peak:

1. To commence your hike to Daechongbong Peak, you need to head to the starting point of the Daechongbong Peak trail, which is a major entry point for Seoraksan National Park.
2. The trail begins as a beautiful walking path with stunning views, gently ascending into the high mountain zone.
3. Along the hike, you'll pass by rock formations and rock faces, providing an opportunity to admire the scenery. The trail can be steep and challenging at times, but reaching the summit of Daechongbong Peak is a rewarding experience.
4. Upon reaching the summit of Daechongbong Peak, you can enjoy magnificent views of Seoraksan National Park, offering a panoramic vista of peaks, valleys, forests, and a distant view of the East Sea and Sokcho.
5. After a satisfying hike to the summit, you can safely descend back to the trailhead to complete your journey.

Hiking Daechongbong Peak is highly recommended for those seeking beautiful landscapes and outdoor adventures. The scenery changes with the seasons, and the peak is particularly striking during the autumn when the fall foliage adorns the landscape. While hiking, it's important to carry appropriate hiking gear and provisions, and checking the weather forecast is essential to ensure a safe and enjoyable hike.

The summit of Daechongbong Peak is famous for its strong winds. It's the highest peak in the vicinity and is known for being particularly windy because there are no obstructions to block the wind. When strong winds are in effect, gusts exceeding 40 meters per second can be quite common, making it challenging for even most adults to stand upright. Especially during the winter, the combination of the high-altitude low temperatures and strong winds can result in wind chills that drop to as low as -60 degrees Celsius. However, if you descend just a minute towards the Osak direction from the peak, the ridges and trees will provide some protection from the wind, giving you peace of mind once you pass the Daechong Shelter.

Hangeoryeong or "Cold Creek Pass,"

is a mountain pass located in the Seoraksan National Park in South Korea. It is situated in the northeastern region of the country. This mountain pass is known for its picturesque scenery and offers visitors breathtaking views of the surrounding natural landscapes.

The pass earned its name "Cold Creek Pass" due to the chilling creek that flows through the area. It is a popular destination for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, as it provides access to various hiking trails and stunning vistas, especially in the autumn when the foliage changes color.

The Seoraksan National Park is a popular destination for those looking to explore the natural beauty and wildlife of South Korea. Hangeoryeong is just one of the many attractions within the park, and it is worth a visit for those seeking outdoor adventures and a chance to connect with nature.

Famous mountain

Ulsanbawi, Geumgangsan, and the view from Biseondae are all beautiful destinations that can be reached without hiking boots. However, once you pass through Biseondae and walk through the spectacular scenery on both sides of the hiking trail, you will truly understand why Seoraksan is a famous mountain. The streams in various locations have a striking blue color. During the autumn foliage season, the beauty of the landscape reaches its peak. Be prepared for the crowds that gather during this season.

As for the scenery, it is stunning, but the terrain can be extremely challenging. With the exception of the highest peak, Daechongbong, which is composed mainly of rocks, most of Seoraksan is rocky and steep. This makes Seoraksan one of the most difficult hiking destinations in Korea. When you click the 'download trail map' here, you can see the difficulty level marked by the Korea National Park Service. You will experience the majesty of Seoraksan. Additionally, it's worth noting that despite having only half the number of hikers as Bukhansan, Seoraksan had the highest number of mountain accidents in South Korea in 2012.

In winter, if you wish to go up to Biseondae, Oseam, Osaek Oncheon, Daeseung Waterfall, or observe Sibiseonnyeo Tang (Twelve Fairy Bath), you must not forget to bring proper hiking boots and equipment. Be especially cautious not to stray from designated hiking paths. Jokes aside, it's not uncommon for hikers to get lost and experience exhaustion in the mountains while night hiking. Seoraksan, particularly, is located above the 38th parallel in the northernmost national park of South Korea, characterized by extreme cold, heavy snowfall, and rugged terrain. If you don't have well-conditioned physical fitness or sufficient gear, it's possible to lose your life. When it comes to winter hiking in Seoraksan, make sure to equip yourself with proper hiking gear and, most importantly, never overestimate your physical condition. Approach hiking with a firm mindset and determination, and always be cautious of your own health and safety."

Please note that this translation is based on the provided text, and some context and nuances may not be fully preserved in the translation.

Reason you should visit seoraksan

The main reason that Seoraksan (Mount Seorak) was historically perceived as a more challenging destination than Geumgangsan (Mount Geumgang) is quite straightforward. Geumgangsan was considered relatively accessible to the general public, offering beautiful scenery that could be explored by people of all backgrounds. In contrast, Seoraksan had lower accessibility, both in terms of its height and the difficulty of the trails, making it less appealing for the average visitor.

Firstly, even reaching Seoraksan was a daunting task. Historically, there was a route from Hanyang (present-day Seoul) to the Gwandong (Yeongdong) region, which was known as the "Gwandongbyeolgok" or the "Gwandong Arterial Road." This route took travelers from Hanyang through the rugged terrain of the Taebaek Mountain Range, passing through locations like Cheoryeong or Chwagwaryeong, leading to areas in what is now North Korea, including Wonsan on the east coast. The path then led to Geumgangsan before traveling along the eastern coast of the Korean Peninsula.

In reality, it was not only the route to Seoraksan that was difficult, but also other traditional routes. The most straightforward paths from Seoul toward the east usually led through the region centered around Geumgangsan. The Cheoryeong or Chwagwaryeong route offered a relatively flat path through the inland areas of Gangwon Province, as most of the current road infrastructure was not developed at that time. Travelers had to be constantly prepared for dangers such as bandits and tigers on their journeys. Given the inherent difficulties of these traditional routes, people often chose paths like the Geumgangsan and Wonsan route that were more straightforward and safer.

This inconvenience in accessibility persisted until the late 20th century, with the arduous, winding road to Seoraksan being one of the only ways to reach the area. Even this road was not suitable for automobiles until the mid-20th century, which meant that reaching Seoraksan was a significant adventure.

Moreover, Seoraksan presented significant challenges in terms of hiking difficulty. It was only in recent decades that a hiking trail from Oeseorak to Daecheongbong was established, allowing the general public to hike from the Sokcho side to the summit. Even today, this route is around 40 years old. A notable example is the Cheondang Falls on the Cheonbuldong Course. While this section of the trail has become relatively easier for modern hikers, it was considered a dangerous and demanding route in the past. In fact, Cheondang Falls used to mark the end of the most challenging and treacherous section of the hike, and the name "Cheondang" implies that this point was a significant relief on the difficult journey. The beauty of Seoraksan's many attractions was often out

of reach for the average person, as they were located in areas accessible only to professional mountain climbers.

In summary, before the Korean War and the division of the two Koreas, Seoraksan was perceived as less accessible and less explored than Geumgangsan, and it was considered a challenging destination to visit. As a result, Seoraksan was not as widely recognized or explored by the general public, leading to its status as an enigmatic mountain. Currently, the division of North and South Korea has resulted in Seoraksan being a more accessible and visited destination, while Geumgangsan remains off-limits to South Korean citizens. Therefore, comparing these two mountains on an equal basis is not currently possible.

Nature

Seoraksan is a precious natural heritage in our country, boasting not only stunning scenic and geological beauty but also universal excellence in terms of biological, ecological, and geological values.

In 2014, it was included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List, along with Jirisan and Odaesan.

Seoraksan serves as the southern boundary for boreal flora and the northern boundary for temperate flora, making it a unique region where special plants like *Chamaecyparis obtusa* (Korean cypress), *Rhododendron aureum*, *Carex bongorica*, and *Gagea chinensis* are found. It is also home to rare plants such as *Cypripedium japonicum*, *Schizocodon soldanelloides*, and *Eomecon chionantha*, among others. Recognizing this value, Seoraksan was designated as a natural monument and protected area in 1965. In 1970, it was designated as the fifth national park in South Korea.

Since 1982, it has been internationally recognized for its conservation value and has been managed as the first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in South Korea.

In 2013, various areas within Seoraksan, including Biryong Falls, Towangseong Falls, Ulsan Rock, and Sogongwon Valley, were designated as national cultural properties and scenic spots. However, the early stages of industrialization occurred before public awareness of environmental conservation, which sometimes took precedence over nature preservation.

One notable example is the failed attempt to designate Seoraksan as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. In 1994, South Korea registered the "Mt. Seoraksan Nature Reserve" as the first candidate for the UNESCO World Natural Heritage site that met criteria (VII) and (X). The following year, South Korea applied for its World Heritage designation.

However, strong opposition emerged from local residents who were concerned that the UNESCO World Heritage designation would limit economic benefits due to development restrictions. From the outset, the application was placed on hold due to vehement opposition from Sokcho city and its council. In March 1996, the Gangwon Provincial Council passed a resolution against the designation, and council members, along with local representatives, visited the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to submit a statement of opposition, which included signatures from residents.

Ultimately, in June 1996, the Executive Board of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee deferred the listing of Seoraksan as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. The main reason for the failure was the local opposition, along with the IUCN's on-site investigation report, which stated that Seoraksan did not hold significant natural value. Following this rejection, UNESCO introduced a principle that UNESCO World Heritage designation would not be granted if local residents opposed it.

However, failing to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site did not permanently disqualify Seoraksan from this status, and it could be revisited at any time. Similarly, North Korea's second World Cultural Heritage Site, the "Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong," was initially deferred due to insufficient boundaries and other reasons in 2008 but was eventually designated as a World Cultural Heritage site in 2013, following modifications and improvements.

The primary reason for the opposition to Seoraksan's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site was the issue of installing a cable car. The proposal for the construction of the cable car between Oeseorak and Gwongeumseong was met with resistance from local residents, who were strongly against it. However, despite the failure to secure the UNESCO World Heritage designation, the cable car project was eventually carried out. After 2000, cable car projects for Namseorak (Osaek) and Hangueryeong were also pursued.

The opposition to Seoraksan's UNESCO World Heritage designation, which was based on concerns about the cable car installation, reflected a short-sighted view that focused only on the economic benefits of development. This case offers valuable lessons about the balance between natural conservation and development and the importance of improving public awareness regarding the international protection and support of South Korea's Seoraksan as a tourism resource and a global natural heritage.

At the entrance of Seoraksan, there is a statue of a Asiatic black bear. It was installed in 1995 to honor the last Asiatic black bear that was killed by a gunshot wound at Madungleong on May 22, 1983. Along with the case of the UNESCO World Heritage designation failure, the Asiatic black bear statue at Madungleong entrance serves as a reminder to hikers of the consequences of human greed for nature.

pine tree

The plant that you are describing, known as "눈잣나무" or "누운잣나무" in Korean, is a unique species that grows only in the Agosan area of Seoraksan Mountain in South Korea. In English, it can be referred to as "Korean Ground Pine" or "Agosan Pine." This plant gets its name because it grows very close to the ground, similar to how pine trees typically grow.

The Agosan Pine is a special and rare plant, and the area where it is found, specifically in the vicinity of 대청봉 (Daechongbong), has been designated as a protected area for the conservation of its genetic resources. Due to the presence of Agosan Pines in this region, it has also become a habitat for a bird called the "잣까마귀" (jatkkamagwi), which is known in English as the "Nutcracker." These birds are known to feed on pine nuts and are found in the Seoraksan Mountain area.

The unique ecology of this area and the presence of the Agosan Pine make it a notable part of South Korea's natural heritage.

The Seoraksan Visitor Center

The Taebaeksan National Park Office operates this visitor center. It is located on the entrance road to Seoraksan National Park, and visitors can enjoy various experiences such as ecological exhibitions, Seoraksan VR experiences, and the National Park Stamp Tour. In the ecological exhibition, you can see preserved animals native to Seoraksan, such as mountain goats and wild boars.

For a fee of 2,000 won, you can take a photo against the backdrop of Daechongbong and have it printed with a chroma key.

However, it is relatively less crowded as it offers lesser-known and unique experiences.

"Sorak Mountain Eco Center" is an educational and research facility located near Seoraksan (Seorak Mountain) in South Korea. It's dedicated to promoting the understanding and conservation of the ecological diversity found in and around the Seoraksan area. The center offers various programs and resources related to the local ecosystem, wildlife, and natural environment.

Visitors can learn about the flora and fauna of Seoraksan, its unique geology, and the various ecosystems within the region. The center often provides guided nature walks, educational exhibits, and interactive activities for all ages to foster an appreciation for the environment and raise awareness about conservation efforts.

These facilities are important for preserving and understanding the biodiversity of natural areas like Seoraksan and provide valuable insights into the local ecology for visitors, researchers, and students alike.

Shelter

There are a total of 5 shelters in Seoraksan. They operate on all days except during the wildfire prevention period (usually from November 1st to December 15th and from March 2nd to May 15th). You can make reservations through the National Park Reservation Integrated System (<https://reservation.knps.or.kr/>) for overnight stays. Even if you haven't made a reservation, you can still use the emergency supply store, cooking facilities, and restrooms.

Please note that even if you make a reservation, in the event of severe weather warnings such as heavy snowfall or heavy rain on the day of your visit, hiking and shelter usage may be canceled, and in such cases, your reservation fee will be fully refunded.

The emergency supply store sells items like instant rice, bottled water, isobutane gas, butane gas, pocket knives, headlamps, and batteries, while basic first aid supplies such as bandages and sanitary pads are provided for free upon request to visitors. Due to the need for helicopter transport, the prices of these items can be relatively high.

The Seoraksan National Park office staff members reside on-site year-round, and they take turns hiking up and down the mountain for their commute. This unique work environment has been featured in documentary programs and reality TV shows, earning the nickname of "the most challenging workplace to commute to" in South Korea. Despite being located at a higher altitude, specifically at an elevation of 1,670m, Seoraksan's Jungcheong Shelter is considered more difficult to commute to than Jangteo-mok Shelter in Jirisan, which is situated at an elevation of 1,600m. This is because Seoraksan, known for its rocky terrain, offers more challenging hiking conditions than Jirisan's sandy trails.

Jungcheong Shelter

The Jungcheong Shelter, which was inaugurated on September 27, 1995, is the main shelter among the shelters in Seoraksan, the highest in elevation (1,600m above sea level). Even in the 1960s, before Seoraksan was designated as a national park, there were privately operated shelters in Jungcheong.

From Jungcheong Shelter to the summit of Daechongbong, the highest peak of Seoraksan, it takes approximately 10 minutes for fast hikers and around 20 minutes for slower ones. Many visitors stay at the shelter and make an early morning hike to witness the sunrise at Daechongbong. The demand for accommodations at Jungcheong Shelter is high because it is a mandatory stop for those heading to Daechongbong, and reservations can be extremely challenging to secure.

The trail section between Jungcheong Shelter and Daechongbong features abundant colonies of azalea, making May an excellent time to see these beautiful flowers.

This location serves as the first and last place in South Korea to report the first snowfall and last snowfall of the year. On average, the first snow arrives in October, and the last snowfall occurs in May. Even though snow can fall in areas further north of Jungcheong

Shelter, it is the only location at such a high elevation with residents who can promptly report the arrival of snow.

From the shelter, you can enjoy panoramic views of Sokcho and Goseong city centers, along with views of Dinosaur Ridge, Ul-sanbawi, and Hwacheon Ridge. If you look to the right, you'll see Daechongbong.

It's important to note that the shelter is scheduled for removal after October 14, 2023, due to landscape and environmental degradation issues. The shelter building received a D-grade in a safety assessment, leading to the decision to dismantle it. A new building is expected to be constructed and completed in December 2024, with accommodations being discontinued. The new facility will function as a basic shelter and a climate change station.

[Socheong Shelter](#)

Socheong Shelter, located at an altitude of 1,450 meters, is a mountain shelter situated in Seoraksan National Park. It is the second-highest shelter in terms of elevation after Jungcheong Shelter.

It is primarily used by hikers who embark on the Baekdam Course, which includes trekking to Baekdam Peak. However, the Baekdam Course itself tends to have fewer visitors compared to other routes within Seoraksan, and Socheong Shelter is positioned in a somewhat ambiguous location, taking around 20 minutes from Bongjeongam and 20 minutes from Jungcheong Shelter. Due to this, the demand for accommodation at this shelter is relatively low.

Socheong Shelter offers spectacular panoramic views, making it one of the shelters with the best vistas in Seoraksan. Right in front of the shelter, you can see the entire landscape, from the Seobukneungseon ridge to Yongajangseong, Madeungryeong, Ulsanbawi, and all the way to the city of Sokcho. The sunset view from this location is particularly breathtaking.

Heeungak Shelter

was constructed in 1970, following the tragic Jukbyeon Valley incident in 1969 in Seoraksan, during which ten members of the Korea Alpine Club lost their lives due to an avalanche. The initial construction of Heeungak Shelter was led by Master Heeun Choi Tae-Muk. At that time, transportation of construction materials to the shelter's location was a challenge, and it is said that Master Heeun personally handed small amounts of cement powder to hikers at the trailhead, asking them to deliver it to the shelter's construction site. The location of the current Heeungak Shelter has undergone extensive development, making it a convenient section for hiking. However, back then, it was a highly challenging course for the general public as the trails were not established, which

emphasized the importance of Heeungak Shelter as a critical resting place and hub for mountaineers.

Today, Heeungak Shelter is still in high demand as it is strategically located at the starting and ending points of the most challenging course in Seoraksan, the Dinosaur Ridge (공룡능선).

The original Heeungak Shelter, built in 1970, was partially demolished due to aging facilities. In 2022, a new Heeungak Shelter was constructed to serve the needs of modern hikers.

Yangbok Shelter

is a shelter located in Seoraksan National Park. It can be reached by hiking from Sogongwon (Sokcho Entrance) toward Cheonbuldong Valley, which takes approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours and 30 minutes. This shelter serves as a resting point along the way to Daecheongbong Peak and is relatively situated in lower terrain. Directly in front of the shelter, you can find Cheondang Waterfall.

Sureumdong Shelter

is a shelter located in Seoraksan National Park, specifically along the trail between Baekdamsa Temple and Gugokdam Valley. Hikers usually take around 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours and 30 minutes to reach this shelter. It serves as a resting point and is often used as a midpoint stop for hikers on their way from Baekdamsa Temple to Daecheongbong Peak.

The trail from Baekdamsa to Sureumdong Shelter is relatively gentle, making it a popular spot for hikers to enjoy a more relaxed and easy hike in the area. Many visitors hike from Baekdamsa Temple to the shelter and back as a day trip.

Some conversations:

Hello: hello there, welcome to seoraksan!

Goodbye: bye! See you later!

Good night / day/ evening: have a nice day!