Discover Busan Website Project – Final Report

Getting Started with the Project

When I received the task of creating a travel website for Busan, I felt a considerable sense of pressure. I had only recently moved to the city to begin college, and at the time, I still relied on Google Maps to locate my lecture halls—let alone popular tourist destinations. Additionally, this project marked my first attempt at independently developing a full-fledged website, which added to the challenge.

Ultimately, I chose to build a responsive web application using only HTML, CSS, and vanilla JavaScript. My objective was simple: to create a site that would make prospective visitors think, “Yes, I want to book a trip to Busan.” To achieve this, I designed interactive cards that highlighted the city’s vibrant beaches, peaceful temples, bustling markets, and cultural landmarks.

From the beginning, I prioritized user experience. While a clean layout formed the foundation, I spent significant time refining interactions to ensure the interface felt intuitive across both desktop and mobile platforms. Each featured location is presented as a card with concise details, and for users seeking additional information, a modal window provides extended descriptions and imagery. Once complete, I deployed the site using GitHub Pages, making it easily accessible to anyone interested in exploring Busan online.

Development Tools and Technical Approach

The technology stack was deliberately minimal to maintain simplicity and clarity. HTML5 was used to define the structure, CSS3 handled the responsive styling, and JavaScript (ES6) was used to implement interactive components such as image sliders, modals, lightweight animations, and a basic login mechanism.

For visual polish, I utilized Font Awesome icons and Google Fonts' Poppins typeface, which provides a clean and modern look. I used Git for version control throughout the development process and hosted the project in a public GitHub repository. Deployment via GitHub Pages was straightforward and hassle-free.

Core Features Implemented

The homepage greets users with a full-screen image carousel showcasing Busan’s top attractions. Each image includes overlay text that links directly to the relevant section of the page, delivering a strong first impression and smooth scrolling experience.

Each tourist attraction is displayed via a dedicated card that contains a short description and representative icons indicating the type of experience (e.g., sightseeing, hiking, food). When a card is clicked, a modal opens to present additional content, including photo galleries, travel tips, must-see highlights, and location coordinates.

To simulate a personalized experience, I implemented a simple sign-in system using the browser's localStorage API. While this method is not secure for real-world use, it allowed for basic interface adjustments—such as switching the login button to a logout state—which added a touch of realism to the user flow.

I also added minor but meaningful enhancements such as smooth scrolling, section fade-in animations, and a scroll progress bar. These elements contributed to a more refined and pleasant browsing experience.

Challenges and Limitations

One of my initial goals was to implement social login using platforms like Facebook and Instagram. I researched OAuth 2.0 extensively and even created test applications through the Facebook Developers portal. However, I quickly realized that proper authentication requires secure server-side token handling, which was beyond the scope of a frontend-only project. As a result, I decided to exclude the feature due to both technical limitations and time constraints.

Finding high-quality, royalty-free images for all six featured attractions also posed a challenge. While most locations had usable media, sourcing visually consistent and high-resolution images for Jagalchi Market proved difficult. I ultimately used the best available options, though I believe the site could benefit from higher-quality assets in future iterations.

In the early stages, I also considered including additional features such as a user profile page ("My Page") and a reservation or booking system. However, these ideas were deferred, as their implementation would have significantly extended the development timeline.

Conclusion and Future Considerations

The final product meets the core objectives of the assignment. The Discover Busan website delivers a clean, responsive layout that introduces visitors to Busan's highlights through interactive features, while also demonstrating effective use of JavaScript for basic state management.

Perhaps more importantly, this project allowed me to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. The development process involved frequent debugging, independent learning, and design problem-solving—all of which contributed to my growth as a web developer. Publishing the completed site to GitHub Pages reinforced the importance of version control and deployment tools.

If given additional time, I would explore incorporating Firebase Authentication for secure user login, and introduce features such as a comment or review system to foster user engagement. Refactoring modal components into reusable modules would also enhance the maintainability of the codebase.

While some planned features were left on the drawing board, I believe this version of the site effectively showcases my current web development skills. Creating a project centered around my new hometown made the process all the more rewarding, and it is a piece I would be proud to include in a professional portfolio.