

# \*Gwanghwamun\* Square Reopens?

From a road plaza to a park

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ON AUG. 6, 2022, after nearly two years of renovation, \*Gwanghwamun\* Square reopened its historic landmark to the public. Being the largest gate of \*Gyeongbokgung\* Palace, \*Gwanghwamun\* Square has been the center of Seoul since the Joseon dynasty. Numerous attempts at reconstruction and destruction have been made to the square since Japanese colonization and the Korean War. In late 2019, however, the Korean government decided to completely revamp the appearance of \*Gwanghwamun\* Square so that it could serve as a place of public leisure for its residents. Since then, the original design of the area has been drastically transformed to include Joseon dynasty exhibitions at Se-jong Museum, interactive LED screens, as well as amusement activities, successfully creating an urban park with tremendous cultural value. Water fountains have also been installed with inscriptions of the life of King Se-jong—the fourth Joseon king famous for his immense contributions to the Korean alphabet, \*Han-gul\*. With the majestic bronze statue of King Se-jong gracing the historic \*Gwanghwamun\* Square, many people are gathering at the newly reopened landmark to enjoy the heat of the summer sun with their friends and families. ☑



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