

BUKHANSAN NATIONAL PARK

The **Bukhansan National Park** in Seoul and Gyeonggi covers an area of 79.92 km² (30.86 sq mi) and was established on 2 April 1983. Bukhansan means "mountains north of the Han River."

The park contains forested areas, temples and granite peaks. The three main peaks are Baekundae, 836.5 m (2,744 ft), Insubong, 810.5 m (2,659 ft) and Mangnyeongdae, 799.5 m (2,623 ft). Due to its popularity with hikers and Seoul residents, some trails are closed on a rotation basis to protect the local environment.



The Bukhansanseong Fortress is located in the park, together with its 9.5 km (5.9 mi) long defensive wall. A fortress was first built on this site in 132 AD to protect Seoul from foreign invasions, and it was expanded to its current size in 1711. It was reconstructed after damage sustained in the Korean War. Despite its name, this mountain is in Seoul, South Korea, so this mountain should not be confused with North Korea.

NAME

There is a current movement to have the name of Bukhansan reverted. For many years up until now, the three main peaks of the park have collectively been called "Bukhansan"; however, the original collective name of these three peaks was *Samgaksan*, meaning "three horned mountains". The Gangbuk-gu District Office in Seoul is leading a petition to have the central government change the name back to the original. Civilians, religious leaders, other district offices, and groups, such as the Korean Mountaineering League, are assisting in the lobbying to have the name of the three original peaks reverted to *Samgaksan*.

FEATURES

➤ Trails

There are many trails and the most known routes include Baegundae (Hangul: 백운대), which is Bukhansan's highest peak at 837 meters, the fortress wall, and the Insu-bong

(Hangul: 인수봉) which rises up to 810.5 meters. The 70 kilometer Dulle-gil Trail (Hangul: 둘레길) connects forested paths along foothills and villages, 21 sections out of total. Dobongsan (Hangul: 도봉산) is another popular entry point into the park featuring a trail that starts near Dobongsan Station. This hiking route features steep climbs using handrails and is a popular rock climbing



WILDLIFE

Bukhansan National Park is located in the most northeastern corner of South Korea. The national park encompasses an area of 30.86 square miles (79.92 sq km).

The national park is not known for wildlife, but there is some there. Water deer, wild boar, and a variety of smaller animals like chipmunks and squirrels are found throughout the park. More prominent is the abundant bird species which makes this a great place for birdwatchers. There are multiple species of woodpeckers, songbirds, and even predator species.

