The trail that brings Mongchontoseong Earthen Fortification and Namhansanseong Fortress into harmony!
The trail of history, culture, ecology and people!
This is a culture and eco trail in an urban area, where people can learn: the history and culture of Hanseong Baekje at Mongchontoseong; nature during walking down the riverside of Seongnaecheon Stream through Bangi Marsh; people at Macheon Jungang Market, the traditional outdoor market of Songpa-gu; and the history of Joseon Dynasty by looking around Namhansanseong.
The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism designated this trail in 2010, for the first time in Seoul, as a “Culture and eco trail”, unwinding stories here and there around Mongchontoseong, Seongnaecheon and Namhansanseong.
The story
Mongchontoseong, Seongnaecheon Stream, Namhansanseong

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2. Seoul Baekje Museum
3. Mongchontoseong Walkway
4. Mongchon Museum of History, 88 Lake
5. Bangi-dong Ecological and Landscape Conservation Area, Seongnaecheon Water Park, Macheon Jungang Market
6. Meeting Point, Fortress Wall, Sueojangdae Command Post
7. Double-wall Fortress, Gates of Namhansanseong Fortress
8. Namhansanseong Temporary Palace, Yeonmugwan Hall, Chimgwejeong Hall, Manhae Museum

Course 2
1. Meeting Point, Fortress Wall, Sueojangdae Command Post
2. Double-wall Fortress, Gates of Namhansanseong Fortress
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Festivals
Hanseong Baekje Cultural Festival, Namhansanseong Cultural Festival
Mongchontoseong Earthen Fortification

This earthen fortification was made during the Hanseong Baekje Dynasty, using the low range of natural hills, with soil added to necessary sections, slopes trimmed and wooden fences erected, which appeared to have strengthened the defensive role of the fortress. There are several evidences to assume that Mongchontoseong was a part of Hanseong, an olden capital of Baekje along with Pungnaptoseong Earthen Fortification nearby: early relics from the period of the Three Kingdoms were unearthed from the strata of the time when Mongchontoseong was first built; just like Ungjinseong and Sabiseong Fortresses of Baekje, this fortification was built south of a river for defense; large ancient tombs, like those in Seokchon-dong, found nearby; and records remain that the capital of Hanseong Baekje, Hanam Wiryeoseong [Hanseong], was made up of a northern fortress and a southern fortress.

Namhansanseong Fortress

Located at the border of the Three Kingdoms, Namhansanseong, along with the Hangang River, was a major stronghold that established the supremacy of the Three Kingdoms. After Baekje decided on Hanam Wiryeoseong as the castle town, Namhansanseong became sacred to the Baekje people, and the Sungyeoljeon Shrine – where King Onjo was enshrined – served as support for this fact. From King Seonjo, the 14th king of the Joseon Dynasty, to King Sunjo, the 23rd king of the Joseon Dynasty, it played a thorough role as a temporary palace during emergencies. King Injo, the 16th king of the Joseon Dynasty, built Namhansanseong, followed by many incidents of resistance that have shaped the appearance of the fortress today.

Inquiries 031-777-7500 | www.namhansansung.or.kr

Seongnaecheon Stream

This is a natural ecological stream, about 10 km long, that starts from Cheongnyangsan Mountain [Namhansanseong] and passes through Macheon-dong and Mongchontoseong, ultimately merging with the Hangang River. During the Hanseong Baekje period, water was drawn from Seongnaecheon to create a moat for Pungnaptoseong and Mongchontoseong. The word ‘seongnae’ 東內 [meaning ‘within the city’) comes from the way the water flows between these two fortresses.
Come and learn about the history and culture at Mongchontoseong. Walk along the riverside of the Seongnaecheon on the trail where you can feel nature.
Hand in hand, we stand all across the land
Breaking down the walls that come between us
for all time Arirang

September 17, 1988. Korea became the 2nd country in Asia and the 16th country to host the Olympics, with that year being the 24th games. For the first time in 16 years, athletes from both the Eastern and West Blocs participated, and so the Seoul Olympics was seen as dissolving the conflict and disharmony of ideological disputes and racial discrimination, and was highly praised for paving the way for world peace through sports.

Seoul Olympic Museum of Arts (SOMA)
This museum is located in the heart of the city, and is well-connected with a sculpture park with a view of nature through the window. Ongoing international-scale exhibitions are held here, hosting everything from ‘Van Gogh to Picasso’ to ‘European Pop Art: Nouveau Pop,’ along with the works of young artists expressing their creative sentiments.

Inquiries 02-425-1077 | www.somamuseum.org | Opening Hours 10:00 – 18:00 | Last admission 17:00 | Closed every Monday, January 1st, Lunar New Year’s Day and Chuseok | Admission (individual/group) Adults (ages 19-64): 3,000/1,500 won; youths (ages 13-18): 2,000/1,000 won; children (ages 4-12): 1,000/500 won; those who under 4 or over 65, national merit award recipients and the disabled (level 1-3 disabilities, accompanied by 1 other person): free

World Peace Gate
This is a representative symbol of the 24th Seoul Olympics. The traditional round curves of Korean traditional architecture was used to put emphasis on soaring and rising images, and four deities painted on the ceiling of wings are outstretched widely, as if reaching toward the heavens, which symbolizes the freedom of the spirit and soul of the Korean people.

Dialogue
A 1987 sculptor work by Algerian Mohand Amara intended to commemorate the Seoul Olympics; behind this work, there is a story of a pair of twins from long ago who fought every day, causing an angry god to remove their eyes so that they could no longer look at each other, forced only to converse at each other’s side for the rest of their lives.

World Peace Gate

Dialogue
In, 18 B.C. it is told that King Onjo, the third son of King Dongmyeong of Goguryeo, led his subjects south, built Wiryeong near the Hangang River and founded a nation. The castle was located in the present-day Songpa district of Seoul, and was called the Hanseong Baekje period when Seoul was a castle town.

Seven-Branched Sword (Chiljido)
The seven-branched sword (chiljido) has 3 branches extending from either side of the blade, equally spaced, creating a total of 7 blades. Hence, it has earned the name ‘seven-branched sword.’ On the back is the inscription, “Never before has there been such a blade. The crown prince of Baekje’s king, who lives under august sounds, had this sword made for King Ji of Japan in the hope that it might be passed on to later generations.”

Seoul Baekje Museum
The Seoul Baekje Museum has all the relics and artifacts from Pungnaptoseong, Mongchontoseong and the ancient tombs in Seokchon-dong. Here, you can see food, clothing, shelter, customs, tombs and trade from the golden age of Baekje, still intact. You can also see models of the strong Mongchontoseong and Pungnaptoseong, proposed sites of Hanam Wiryeoseong, and ship models that exhibit Baekje’s dignity as a strong naval power, which provide a more realistic understanding of Baekje.

Inquiries 02-2152-5800 | baekjemuseum.seoul.go.kr | Opening Hours Weekdays: 09:00-21:00 / Weekends, National Holidays: 09:00-19:00 (November-February: 09:00-18:00) | Closed every Monday, January 1st and days declared by the mayor. However, the museum remains open when the national holiday falls on a Monday. | Admission permanent exhibition halls: free, fee may apply for specially planned exhibitions.

Ship of Baekje
Baekje ruled the western and southern coasts of Korea, an optimal location for conducting trade with present-day China, Japan and several other countries in Asia. Thanks to these geographical conditions, active trade was possible with various countries as Baekje settled itself as a marine superpower through transit trade.
A Walkway where you can experience peace of mind while walking atop Mongchontoseong

Before hosting the Seoul Asian Games in 1986 and Seoul Olympics in 1988, Olympic Park opened its doors in 1986 by restoring Mongchontoseong on 450,000 pyeong of land, on which constructing 6 arenas and a diverse cultural space in honor of the Olympics. Now, the restored Mongchontoseong Walkway is located on high ground, from which people can look down upon Peace Plaza, Mongchon Moat and other parts of the park, enjoying unobstructed views that instill feelings of speechlessness and clarity.

One Tree Hill | Oriental Arborvitae
As private houses within Mongchontoseong were torn down, all the trees except well-shaped ones were cut down as well. This beautiful tree that remains is called ‘One Tree Hill.’ Seen in the background of various movies, dramas and advertisements, it is also sometimes called ‘The Entertainer Tree.’

Mongchontoseong Walkway
This is a walkway that runs 2.3 km from Seoul Baekje Museum to Mongchon Museum of History, where you can hike atop Mongchontoseong. At the beginning of the trail is a ‘PHOTO SPOT.’ The outside of the fortification is extremely steep, so it played a role in protecting the inside from invasion. A wooden fence was set up on the low part of the hill, and the soil was packed around it to boost its defensive role.
Representative relics of Hanseong Baekje used to be collected and displayed here before moving to the Seoul Baekje Museum. Now, this museum has been renovated into a place for children to experience firsthand the food and recreational culture of Hanseong Baekje. Looking at the relics on display at children’s eye-level, visitors can touch the items and have an enjoyable viewing experience.

Inquiries 02-424-5138 | baekjemuseum.seoul.go.kr/dreamvillage | Opening Hours Weekdays: 09:00-18:00 | Closed every Monday and January 1st. | Admission Free
Above the soil stacked neatly between Seongnaecheon Stream and Gamcheon Stream, a tributary of the Seongnaecheon Stream, people once lived off farming. At the beginning of the 1970s, as industries developed, brick factories came along, and puddles formed in the crevices where soil was dug up for the bricks. As time passed, people were not allowed in, and now this marsh serves as a marsh that is very scarce and worthy preserving, being located in the middle of the city.

Byeokcheon Artificial Falls of Seongnaecheon and Seongnaecheon Water Park

After Seongnaecheon Stream was created as an ecological stream and a water park in the shape of a jar was created, just past Seongnaegyo Bridge 5 and below Seongnaegyo Bridge 4 Byeokcheon Artificial Falls was established, in response to the desire of locals to escape the summer heat. Furthermore, by observing the local aquatic plants and insects and walking along the trails, you can experience nature within the city.

Bangi-dong Ecological and Landscape Conservation Area

If you follow the trail along the vinyl greenhouses, you will see a two-story building made of wood, which is the Bangi-dong Ecological Learning Center. From the learning center, with a pamphlet on Bangi Marsh in hand, follow the wooden deck to the rice paddy marshes with a scarecrow, pass the self-purifying reed beds and continue on to the bird-watching station and ecological experience area for a good place to view the marshes.

Inquiries 02-408-0308 | www.songpa.go.kr

Macheon Jungang Market

Macheon Jungang Market is a traditional market that has been cherished by local residents for more than 30 years. At the entrance of the market are street vendors that sell spicy rice cake and deep-fried, followed by steamed pigs’ feet, mung bean pancakes and fried chicken sellers. All in all, a good place to satisfy your appetite after all the walking.
The trail from which you can look about Namhansanseong, learning about history and experiencing nature.
Meeting Point
There is a meeting point on the way from Macheon Jungang Market to Namhansanseong. At the entrance of Macheon-dong Namhansanseong, where a bus stop is also found, is the mouth of the trail that leads to the fortress, and is a place where many people gather. Water and snacks for hiking can be purchased here if you forget to bring them.

3 Deep Bows and 9 Kowtows
Go into mourning and offer 3 deep bows, and make your head touch the ground hard enough for it to be heard by Qing Taizong seated on the throne.

A humiliating experience took place in December 1636. Upon defeat in Byeongjahoran (the 2nd Manchu Invasion of Joseon in 1636), King Injo was shamed at Namhansanseong Fortress after submitting to a disgraceful treaty with the Qing, and returned to his palace after completing 3 deep bows and 9 kowtows at Samjeondo Ferry.

Sueojangdae Command Post
Located within the fortress at the highest peak of Iljangsan Mountain is Sueojangdae Command Post, from which the inside of the fortress and its surroundings can be carefully observed. The command post stands as a high platform where the commander would climb up and give orders to the army. During Byeongjahoran, King Injo himself climbed up here and commanded the army for a 45-day battle against Qing Taizong (the emperor of Qing Dynasty).

Fortress Wall
The ‘fortress’ in Fortress Wall played the role of connecting the ‘castle’ with nature and protecting the inside, and ‘wall’ referred to an ‘outer castle.’ The castle wall was made using natural stones stacked 3–7 m high and were built with rubble masonry. The inside of the castle contained necessary supplies in case the castle came under siege, such as grain, a well and weapons, and a beacon mound was installed to connect with other castles.
Mumangnu (無忘樓)

Do not forget about yesterday.

This is an inscription of a hanging board of a gate tower inside Sueojangdae Command Post referring to not forgetting the humiliation of Joseon, for during Byeongjahoran (the 2nd Manchu Invasion of Joseon in 1636) there was the incident of King Injo fleeing to Namhansanseong, then offering 3 deep bows and 9 kowtows to Qing Taizong; the incident of the prince being held hostage for 8 years in Shenyang of Qing China; and King Hyojong’s preparations for an expedition to conquer the north, only to die before his plans could be carried out.

Gates of Namhansanseong Fortress

There are four gates at Namhansanseong Fortress, but due to the terrain, they are all on one side. Many secret gates placed in between them were used, therefore. In terms of scale, the south gate is the biggest, and all gate towers are 3 kans (module units) big on the front with hipped-and-gable roofs.

Uilkmun Gate (west gate): On January 30, 1637, King Injo and his crown prince went through this gate to surrender to the Qing camp.

Jeonseungmun Gate (north gate): This gate was used to convey grain paid as a tax.

Jwaikmun Gate (east gate): Because of the terrain leading up to this gate, stairs were installed, making carts and the transportation of goods impossible. However, it was one of the most commonly used gates.

Jihwamun Gate (south gate): King Injo passed through this gate to seek refuge during Byeongjahoran. It is the largest of the Namhansanseong Fortress gates.

Ammun Gate: As the name suggests, it was a ‘secret entrance’ and was built in a corner, making it difficult for enemies to discover. This gate was used to transport necessary goods, seek help or counterattack.

Double-wall Fortress

After Byeongjahoran, double-wall fortresses were constructed to protect against future enemy artillery attacks; a second wall was added around the castle wall, outside the gate. It jutted out so that enemies approaching the castle gate would be surrounded on three sides.

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Namhansanseong Temporary Palace

This was a temporary palace that was rebuilt during the 2nd year of King Injo, using stone to replace the original soil to prevent strategic points from being invaded. During Byeongjahoran, King Injo used it as a temporary palace. After experiencing such difficulties, in case similar incidents may happen, the palace facilitated state affairs facilities along with royal ancestral shrines and altars for the gods of land and grain which makes it different from other temporary palaces.

Manhae Museum

This place was erected by Professor Jeon Bosam under the concept of passing on the spirit of nationalist Han Yongun (Manhae), who resisted Japanese Imperialism during the Japanese colonial era. A number of materials on Manhae, such as the first printed book and translated books of Manhae’s noble works, ‘Silence of my Beloved’, are exhibited.

Inquiries 031-744-3100 | www.manhae.or.kr | Opening hours Summer Season (Mar.-Oct.) 10:00-18:00, Winter Season (Nov.-Feb.) 10:00-17:00 | Closed every Monday and January 1st. | Admission (individuals/groups) general (2,000/1,600 won); youths (ages 7-18), soldiers and the disabled (1,000/800 won); under age 6, national merit award recipients, Namhansanseong residents (free).
Hanseong Baekje Cultural Festival

This festival honors the Hanseong Baekje era, the early period of the glorious civilization of Baekje, with its culture in full bloom after the Hangang River basin, present-day Songpa, was first decided on as the location for the capital. There are a variety of performances and events that preserve the traditional culture, like Songpa Sandae Nori (Mask Dance), and many kinds of experience events related to Baekje, such as Baekje Village, Historical Culture Road and Trip Around Mongchontoseong. The festival takes place every October around Olympic Park, Wiryeseong-daero and Pungnap Gyeongdang History Park.

Namhansanseong Cultural Festival

The purpose of this festival is to inform visitors of the history and value of Namhansanseong Fortress, a place that dealt with the crisis of Byeongjahoran (the 2nd Manchu Invasion of Joseon in 1636) wisely, and a castle that never has been fallen by enemies for 2,000 years. It is full of reenactments of the Hogwe Ceremony (a morale-boosting ceremony of King by offering foods to soldiers) from the Joseon era, with various folk games, concerts, exhibitions and other things to see, a chance to watch the production of and sample Sanseong Soju, a Gyeonggi-do intangible cultural heritage, and the added enjoyment of dining at the folk marketplace. In particular, the largest event that takes place is the ‘Daedonggut,’ a major attraction in which shamans from around the country take part in a calming of the spirits of those who died during the construction of the castle and during Byeongjahoran. Meanwhile, the Namhansanseong Cultural Festival takes place every October.