

NAJU
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The Seobu path



Geumsunggwang (Government Office)

Every first day of month and in the middle of the month officials and scholars used to gather to hold a ceremony for Hanyang Castle by putting tablets that symbolized the king in the middle of the Geumsunggwang. Compared to the ceremonies normally held annually on birthdays for the king and queen, in Naju this ceremony was held twice each month, a fact that speaks of the importance of Geumsunggwang as a regional castle. It is quite rare to have magnificent buildings like Geumsunggwang in regional areas. It also has a sense of majesty about it as representation of the resistance against Japan.



Jeongsuru (正綏樓)

As its name represents, it asks people who are entering government office to have a gentle attitude and a relaxed mindset. It is recorded in the town chronicle that Jeongsuru was built by the officer Woo Bong-nyong, who newly arrived in Naju in 1603 (year 36 of the reign of King Seonjo). There is a hanging drum here akin to the Sinmungo in Seoul. People of Naju could use the drum to directly report their unjust circumstances to the officers.



The Officer's Living Quarters, Geumhakheon

Nae-a (內衙) refers to the house of the main local government officer during the Joseon Dynasty. The place where the head officer worked was called Dongheon (or Waedongheon) and the Nae-a was also called the Naedongheon. Geumhakheon is the name of the Naedongheon where the Naju head officer lived. Geumhakheon is the only Naju government office heritage building that people can actually use as an accommodation facility. The place has become more famous after it was used as a filming site for the KBS reality show "1 Night, 2 Days." It is being used as an avenue for people to experience what government officer accommodations were like.



The Seventh Sabbath Church, the Second Advent of Jesus Church

The Second Advent of Jesus Church is the oldest church in Naju. In 1914, Lee Geun-eok and Kim Seok-yeong, missionaries spreading the gospel in Yeongnam, were sent to Honam and the very first place they began missionary work was Naju. It was the first church built in Naju during the Japanese colonial era. The building on the left was built in 1961. The two different styles of church have achieved harmony to help spread the word to the people of Naju.



Home of Choi Bu and Wealthy Man Yang

The site where the Ewha apartment complex was built used to be the house of Choi Bu, who represented Naju during the Joseon Dynasty. He is well known as the author of Pyohaerok. Later the wealthy man Yang Dong-ho lived in this location. However, the house was burnt down in a fire while making rice cakes on the last day of month after independence. We can get a sense of the honor of the old days through the stone wall that serves as the sole remnant of that time. It is located on the west side of the Ewha apartment complex.



Barley Yard Street

There is an open area in the middle of the long alleyway that is called Barley Yard Street because people used to thresh barley and lay it out to dry here. By recalling the poem "Barley Threshing" written by Son Gwang-eun, you will be able to imagine the scene of this alleyway more vividly.



West Rampart Path

The Naju Eupseong Fortress is nestled with its back to the mountain and facing the water like most fortresses in Korea. The Yoengsan River is located in front and Geumseong Mountain, the guardian mountain of Naju, is located behind. The rampart is mostly built on flatland except in the north and some parts of the southeast, which is rare in Korea.



West Fortress Gate

The West Fortress Gate is located right under and facing Geumseong Mountain. Its original name was Yeonggeum Gate. The fortress was built to protect people from enemies and this gate is the most vulnerable area where the fiercest battles took place. The West Fortress Gate was also the location of a most tragic and fierce battle between Joseon forces and the Donghak rebellion army.



Naju Hyanggyo (Confucian School)

The Naju Hyanggyo is settled under the Jangwon Peak of Geumseong Mountain. King Sejong of Goryeo ordered the construction of hyanggyo (Confucian schools) in 12 villages in August 1398. It seems Naju built this hyanggyo at that time. There are two stones standing at the entrance of the hyanggyo that have the words 'Naju Hyanggyo' and '大小人 皆河馬' engraved on them.



Samajae Path

Samajae is the place where students who passed a test called Samasi (司馬試) and Jinsa (people who passed the first government official exam) gathered to study and train the younger generation. It is like an intermediary school between the hyanggyo (Confucian school) and the sawon (Confucian academy). Now Samajae offers a Chinese classic reading program that university students can attend while on vacation. It progresses systematically,

(<http://www.naju.go.kr>)

teaching the classics beginning with Sohak, then moving on to Tonggam, Saseo and Samgyeong.



▶ Irodang and the Pine Tree

This place was originally the office of the Hojang, head of the Yukbangisuk. It was called Jusachung or Hojanachung, but is currently being used as a Naju seniors' center. The Naju Iro Club took over this place and called it "Irodang," the name of the seniors' center. The best attraction around Irodang is a pine tree. It looks like a dragon that is about to take flight, so it has been given the name "dragon pine tree." This tree is a black pine tree, which is hard to find around Eupseong fortresses.



▶ Ideal Location Street

This street has been well known for a long time as an ideal location to live in around the Naju Eupseong Fortress. The neighborhood was formed a long time ago and local officers used to live here. There was a temple called Yejodang where people held ceremonies for the guardian spirit of Geumseong Mountain. The temple was destroyed near the end of the 1970's, but the Naju Jeong family held ceremonies for the mountain until the last days of the temple.



▶ Sachang Street

Sachang is a kind of storage house that the government office used to store grains. The street behind Geumseong Mountain used to be the sachang street where grain was stored. The sachang is gone now, but a 400-year old zelcova tree is still guarding the street. People also call it the Dangsang tree, so the street is also called Dangsang Street.



▶ Samaegi and Hyangcheong

Hyangcheong was a local government office that assisted the local leader. It was an advisory organization of powerful local families established to support the local leader. It was initially known as the Samaegi and had the role of reforming local customs while serving as an inspection organization that cracked down on the corruption of local officers. Its function was reduced after the Japanese invasion and became known as the Hyangcheong.



▶ Romance Alley

Romance Alley is a tiny long alley that runs along the east wall of Geumseongwan. It was given this name because when a man and woman happened to walk by each other in this alley their clothing and shoulders might touch, leading them to fall in love. So many newlywed couples visit this alley.



▶ The Old House of Nampa

The old house of Nampa is owned by the Miryang Park family and was designated as the nation's 263th important cultural property. It has high cultural value because it was built in the early to mid-20th century and still

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vividly represents the transition into the modern hanok (traditional Korean house) architectural style. It also represents a typical house of the upper class in the Jeolla Province..

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Dongbu Path



▶ (Old) Kuemnam Financial Association

The Kuemnam Financial Association is a typical Japanese style building with one floor and its walls were decorated in the European style. It looks like it was built before the 1930s. The financial association is located in front of the district office, near the market and the intersection of the main streets. The Kuemnam Financial Association and Naju Financial Association building were mainly made of red brick, which stands in contrast with the wooden buildings and houses.



▶ (Old) Naju Silk Yarn Factory

This factory was built by a Japanese man named Senga in the 1910s and was the only silk yarn factory in Naju. Naju featured the biggest silkworm farm in South Jeolla Province. The factory built by the Japanese continued operating even after independence, but after synthetic fiber appeared in the 1980s it slowly fell into disuse and was shut down. In 2014, the 'NAVi (羅飛) Center' (Naju Art Vision Center) was opened by the government's project for supporting the culture of failed industrial facilities and it was reborn as a culture and art center. Its name also means "emerging Naju" in Chinese characters.



▶ Guemseong Bridge

In 1912 at a central point between Gwangju and Mokpo a highway was laid that connected the Naju Eupseong Fortress from east to south and a bridge was also built. The Guemseong Bridge has been maintained from that time and was expanded into its current form in 1982. According to one report there was a stone bridge in the Joseon Dynasty and the Japanese built a new bridge over it and named it the Guemseong Bridge.



▶ (Old) Naju Police Station

The Naju police station is one of the typical colonial buildings built during the Japanese colonial era. It appears Japan built the police station along the only path to Naju from Mokpo or Yeongsanpo that also served as its busiest street to display its power. The Naju Police station is forever stained with the blood and tears of the people of the national liberation movement.



▶ 5.18 Democratic Movement and Armory

(<http://www.naju.go.kr>)



There was a democratic movement in Gwangju in May, 1980. People in Naju actively began participating in the Gwangju democratic movement on May 19th after they heard the news of the army massacring Gwangju citizens. They broke into the armory of the Naju Police Station, the Yeonggang police substation and the headquarters of the reserve forces to support the citizen militia against the army. They also attracted people to join the movement and gave impetus to the movement's spread over Southwest Jeolla Province.

▣ Jeolla Uyeongteo



In 1657 (the 8th year of King Hyojong's reign), the Najugeojin army division was reformed as the Jeolla Uyeong division. The general was named Uyeongjang and assigned command over an army comprised of residents from 5 mok, 2 geun, and 5 hyeon. The position of Uyeongjang had enormous power in that it also served as the chief prosecutor. There are no remains of the headquarters now except for some foundation stones that were moved to the Naju Catholic Church to be displayed in commemoration of martyrs.

▣ (Old) Naju Station



The old Naju Station has been reborn as a historical culture center. 'The Naju braided hair incident' occurred at Naju Station. This incident was the direct cause of the Gwangju Student Independence Movement. As the epicenter of the Gwangju Student Independence Movement which is one of three main anti-Japan movements, the place plays a role in preserving the significance of this history and spreading awareness. A Naju Student Independence Movement memorial concert is held here every October.

▣ Naju Five-day Interval Market



Naju was the cradle of the jangsi tradition. Jangsi refers to a private market opened every 5 days in the Joseon Dynasty. Jangsi started in Naju due to its increasing agricultural productivity. There was also the growing need for a means to exchange goods as the division of labor was expanding. The best place to meet these demands was Naju, which could be accessed in all directions via the Yeongsan River. Normally five-day interval markets opened where there was a lack of a permanent marketplace, but Naju had both a permanent marketplace and this interval market, so it was a vibrant town that enjoyed both dynamism and stability.

▣ Bukmang Gate



Naju Eupseong Fortress had four gates in the east, west, south and north. The gates were called Dongjum, Seoseong, Namgo and Bukmang. Bukmang Gate of Naju Eupseong Fortress was normally used as an entrance by people from the north. It was a one-story gate, unlike the east and south gates. The gates were restored in order, starting in the south and then moving to the east and west. The north gate is also being excavated and studied for the sake of restoration.

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