



City of Pocheon
Gyeonggi-do
Republic of Korea

Promotion of the cultural heritage of peace, the history of the division of the Korean peninsula, by inscribing the Hantangang National Geopark on the World Geopark List of UNESCO.



Hantangang River Geo park Center

Hantangang Columnar Joints Trail



Hantangang Columnar Joints Trail

As the Korean peninsula was divided into south and north after the liberation of Korea in August 1945 and the US Army and the Soviet Army were stationed, Pocheon had to deal with the sorrow, being divided into a south and a north area. Some areas including Changsu-myeon, Gwanin-myeon, Yeongjung-myeon, Yeongbuk-myeon and Ildong-myeon were under the rule of Communists. The US military government section designated Pocheon as a meeting place between South and North Korea. Due to the frequent provocations by North Korea after the establishment of the Republic of Korea in 1948 and the withdrawal of US military forces in 1949, the armed force with, about 200 soldiers attacked the present Sajik-ri, Ildong-myeon, Pocheon on June 12, 1949. Pocheon is an important area acting as the gateway to Seoul where fierce battles were held.

Even under occupation by the enemy during the Korean War, some residents of Pocheon formed a guerrilla unit and fought against the enemy. Lots of young residents performed meritorious deeds until Pocheon was restored by South Korea with the indomitable will and the strong mindset under the missions of 'patriotism and love for people and town' to protect the community and the country.

With a sad, but significant history as described above, Pocheon is a basin-type town surrounded by mountains in all directions, and an inland region geographically in the middle of the Korean peninsula. In Gyeonggi-do, Pocheon is at the northernmost tip, on the way to Geumgangs Mountain. In particular, the Hantangang River runs through South and North Korea in a basalt canyon formed by ancient volcanic activity. Most areas along the Hantangang River keep their original environmental status without pollution. The Hantangang River is very valuable for geological education and preservation with various kinds of rocks including metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous rock from the pre-Cambrian era to the Cenozoic era and diverse geological structures including Columnar joints Cliff and Canyon, falls, and fluvial erosion caves.

Pocheon-si has been endeavoring to inscribe the Hantangang River on the list of the World Geoparks of UNESCO jointly with North Korea in order to build the hub city of peace tourism using the Hantangang River. Pocheon-si will strengthen the foundation of peace culture by extensively extolling the values of the Hantangang River all over the world through the joint survey between South and North Korea related to the natural heritage along the Hantangang River while promoting joint prosperity through peace and cooperation between South and North Korea.

Furthermore, the 53km long Hantangang Columnar joints Trail has been under construction. The South and North Peace Tourism Course for citizens will be developed by completing the Columnar joints Trail Construction Project by 2020. A Hantangang Theme Park will be also formed. With such efforts, Pocheon-si will be a tourism city in the reunification era.

Mater and Working Design Service Final Presentation



Parallel History Experience Trail Map

After the 38th Parallel History Experience Trail Construction Project was selected as the 'Imjingang Peace Culture Zone Support Project' in Oct. 2014, Pocheon-si started to form the 38th parallel history experience trail which is 17km long and 2-3m wide around Oga-ri in Changsu-myeon, Yeongjung-myeon, Yeongsong-ri and Suim-ri in Ildong-myeon.

The 38th parallel history experience trail will help to improve the cultural level in frontier districts that are falling behind, to create the cultural brand which may bring synergistic effects for the peace tourism resources including special historic feature of national division on the basis of the superior the natural resources of Yeongpyeongcheon River, the center of Korean peninsula, and to contribute to the local development by building the field for history and education.

Pocheon National Arboretum (Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO)



Pocheon National Arboretum

Gwangneung Forest within the Pocheon National Arboretum was strictly managed as a royal forest for over 500 years as a part of the forest included Gwangneung Royal Tomb of the 7th King Sejo of the Joseon dynasty. In 1911, during the Japanese colonial era, the area, except the royal tomb, was classified as a 'Class A Indispensable National Forest Candidate' in accordance with the national forest survey and became the present Gwangneung Forest. In 1913 when Gwangneung Forest was designated as an experiment forest, a nursery garden was formed. In 1929, the Gwangneung Branch Office for Experiment Forest was established for the management of the forest. In January 1967, the branch office was promoted to the Jungbu Experiment Forest Office.

Pocheon National Arboretum has been playing an important role in inheriting the tradition of research on the forest species in Korea started in the 1920s and in particular, securing the biological sovereignty of the forest in Korea. In addition, Pocheon National Arboretum is the national research institute under the Korea Forest Service, protecting and managing Gwangneung Forest, which was designated as a Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO.

Jang Jun-ha [張俊河] Peace Hall Construction Project



Final construction service presentation for Jang Jun-ha Peace Hall Construction Project

Idong-myeon, Pocheon-si has been promoting the construction of Jang Junha Peace Hall in order to combine the values of peaceful reunification, the independence movement and democratization with the local culture and art facilities as the historic sites where Sir Jang Junha, the symbol of the independence movement and the pro-democracy movement in Korea, passed away.

This project aims to inherit and develop the love of Jang Junha for his country and people and his democratic spirit, to develop Pocheon-si as the peace and reunification brand of Korea, and to build the peace tourism culture while activating the local economy using the area as a place of pilgrimage of the pro-democracy movement.