



Seoul Hiking Tourism Center(Bukhansan) —

☞ 5F, Gwanglim Building, 52, Samyang-ro 173-gil, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul
☎ 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. (closed on Mon., Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day), and Chuseok)
☎ 82-2-1533-2608 @seoulhiking.or.kr

Main Services —



Hiking Gear Rental

The Seoul Hiking Tourism Center(Bukhansan) provides hiking information for domestic and foreign tourists. Additionally, hiking gear such as hiking shoes, clothes, sticks, and gloves can be rented (with a charge). With a lounge, changing rooms, shower facilities, and luggage storage services, the center provides convenience to make visiting Seoul's mountains easier.

*Prior reservation required: www.seoulhiking.or.kr

Tourism Information

The center also offers hiking tourism information in multiple languages (English, Chinese, and Japanese) to introduce foreign tourists to the charms of hiking in Seoul. It also provides Seoul tourist guidebooks, maps, and other promotional materials.

Lounge and Photo Zone

The center is equipped with a resting lounge for pre- and post-hike breaks as well as a photo zone for taking commemorative pictures with family or friends.

Convenience Facilities

The center is also equipped with a changing room, storage lockers, and a shower facility.
*Bring personal items such as socks, towels, and underwear

Key Contacts for a Safe Trip around Seoul

☎120

Dasan Call Center
Seoul tourism-related inquiry
(English, Chinese, Japanese,
Vietnamese, Mongolian)

☎1330

Tourist Interpretation Service
Tourism information/interpretation service/tourist
complaint/connection to the tourist police
(English, Chinese, Japanese, Russian,
Vietnamese, Thai, Malay, Indonesian)

☎119

Fire Service
Fire/emergency/disaster

☎112

Police
Crime/theft

COURSE 07.

Discover hidden beauty among ridges Dobongsan Main Ridge Trail

Total travel distance: **9.32 km**
Average travel time: **6 hours**
Difficulty: **advanced**



The main ridge of Dobongsan stretches from the Uinam Ridge, past Uiam Rock, and up to Sinseondae Peak via Jubong. The relatively challenging climb starts with a gentle uphill that gradually increases in slope past Mangwolsa Temple. Those who make it to the top are rewarded with unobstructed panoramic views and the beauty of the valleys and streams hidden between the ridges.

About the trail

- The path down Darak Ridge from Podae Observatory can be hard to find. Take the left narrow path down from Podae Observatory and make a left at the entrance to the boardwalk. Go around the boulder while holding the handrails.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The trail is physically demanding so hikers should pace themselves and take regular breaks.

Transportation

- Take Exit 3 at Mangwolsa Station, Seoul Metro Line 1, and walk about 20 minutes down the path to the right to reach Wondobong Visitor Center, then hike toward Wondobong Valley from there.

COURSE 08.

Nature-friendly mountain walk Bukhansan Dulle-gil: Uiryeong-gil

Total travel distance: **6.42 km**
Average travel time: **2 hour**
Difficulty: **easy**



Uiryeong-gil is Section 21 of Bukhansan Dulle-gil Trail along unpaved paths between Bukhansan to the south and Dobongsan to the north. Public access to the path was restricted due to the thwarted 1968 mission by 31 North Korean commandos to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee, but the path was reopened in July 2009 under a reservation system.

About the trail

- Reservations are required at least a day in advance to enter Uiryeong-gil. Access is permitted from 9 a.m. to 6p.m., with the last entry at 4p.m. In winter, the last entry is at 3 p.m. Make sure to bring identification as it will be checked at the trailhead.

*Korea National Park Service reservation system
<https://reservation.knps.or.kr>

Shelter and hiking tips

- Uiryeong-gil offers several shelters for rest and snacks.

Transportation

- Take the Ui-Sinseol Line to Bukhansan Ui Station and leave through Exit 1. Walk towards the Uiryeong Forest Culture Village to reach Uiryeong Visitor Center.

COURSE 09.

Magical forest walk merging with the sky Bukhansan Dulle-gil: Gureum jeongwon-gil (Cloud Garden Trail)

Total travel distance: **5 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours**
Difficulty: **easy**



A 60-meter-long deck over the lush forest below is one of the many attractions at Section 8 of Bukhansan Dulle-gil Trail. The deck is installed over a ravine above Gugi Tunnel, taking hikers up close to the canopy and the open skies above. Superb views of the peaks of Bukhansan including Jokduribong await at the summit.

About the trail

- This easy trail is more of a walk than a hike. Leisurely stroll over the boardwalk through the forest trees and sit on a bench at Gijachon Observatory to stare at Bukhansan's peaks.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The trail features rest spots, exercise facilities, and benches throughout, with a small park and stream at the end of the boardwalk.

Transportation

- Exit Bulgwang Station, Seoul Metro Line 3, at Exit 2 and turn left. Follow Jinheung-ro for about 15 minutes to the entrance to Gureumjeongwon-gil Trail.

COURSE 10.

Relaxation with no worry in the world Bukhansan Dulle-gil: Banghakdong-gil

Total travel distance: **3.1 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 10 minutes**
Difficulty: **easy**



The trail begins at Musugol, where the only remaining rice paddies in Seoul are found, and ends at the royal tombs. The short trail has only gentle uphill and downhill routes to allow a leisurely walk. The entire trail of Banghakdong-gil is surrounded by evergreen pine trees.

About the trail

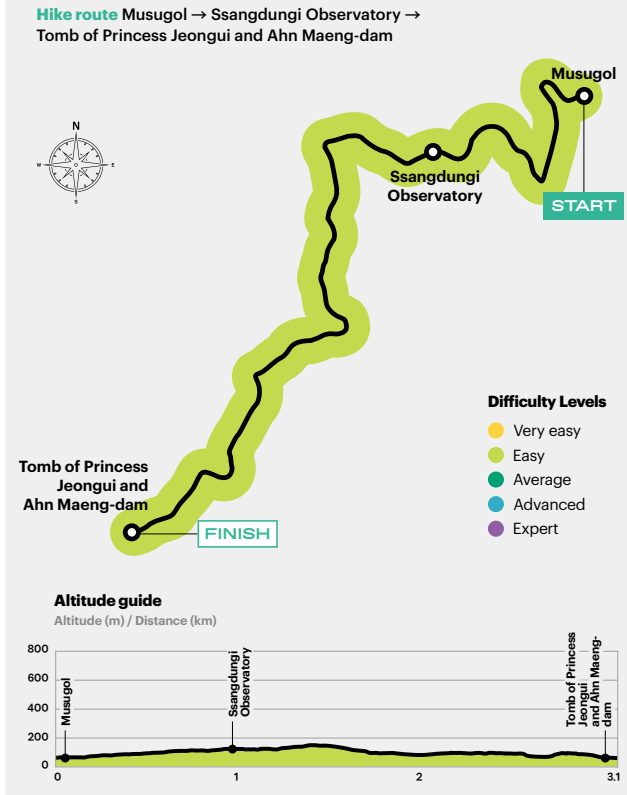
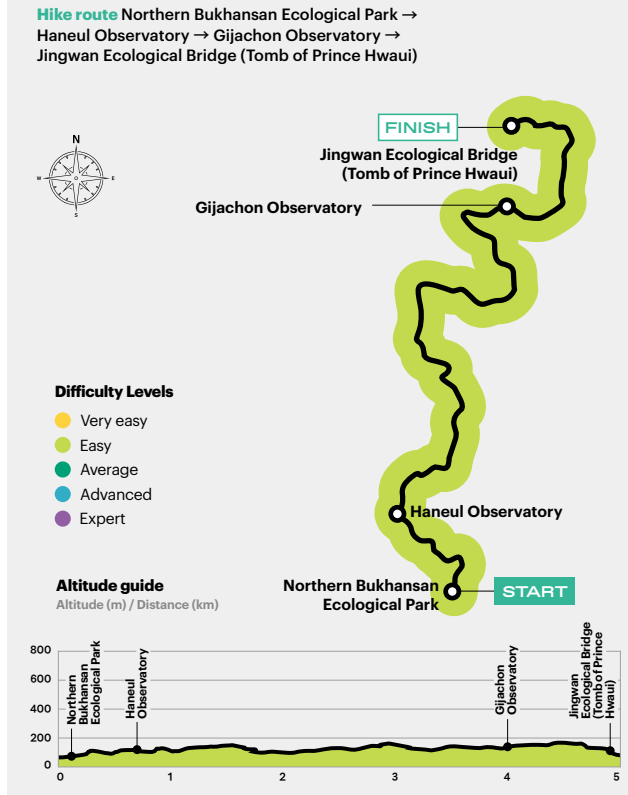
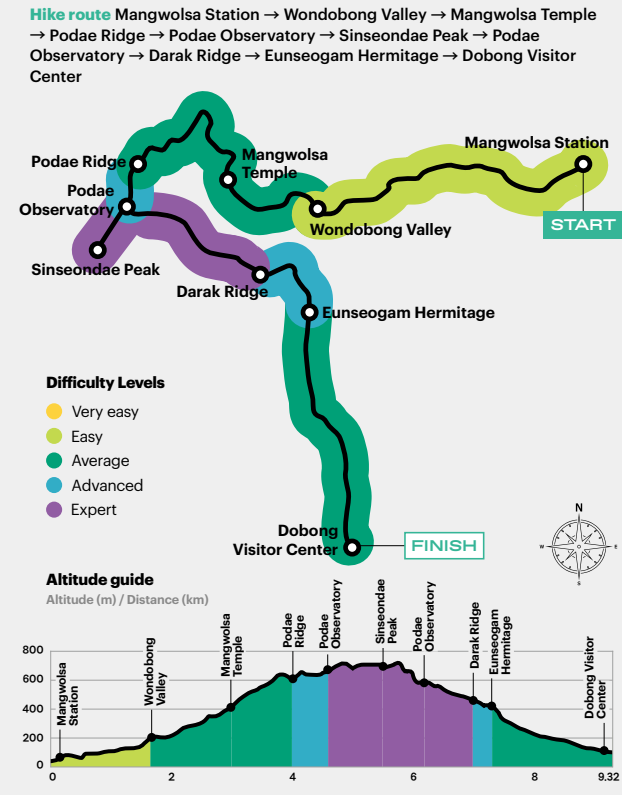
- The grave of Princess Jeongui is among the royal tombs housed on this trail. Those interested in such burial plots of the Joseon Dynasty, including that of the tyrant King Yeonsangun, should exploring this path.

Shelter and hiking tips

- No more than 3 kilometers long, the trail can be completed in a short time. Several rest spots are at Ssangdungi Observatory and along the woods lining the trail.

Transportation

- Cross the street at Exit 2 of Dobong Station, Seoul Metro Line 1, and walk for about 20 minutes to Seilgyo Bridge, where Banghakdong-gil starts, in Musugol. Alternatively, take the Dobong shuttle bus No. 08 from Chang-dong or Banghak Station, Seoul Metro Line 1, and get off at the entrance of Musugol.



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Bukhansan National Park



COURSE 01.

Sweeping views of Seoul
Baegundae–
Ui Gugok Trail

Total travel distance: **9.98 km**
Average travel time: **4 hours 20 minutes**
Difficulty: **advanced**



This is the shortest trail up to Baegundae Peak, the summit of Bukhansan. The section from Haroojae Pass to Yeongbong Peak is extremely steep. Atop Yeongbong Peak at 604 meters, hikers are greeted by the majestic rock face of Insubong Peak. At the 836.5-meter-tall summit, a 360-degree panoramic view of Seoul unfolds.

About the trail

- The section from Haroojae Pass to Yeongbong Peak is steep and slippery. Sufficient safety gear such as hiking poles and gloves is thus a must and be sure to grip the handrails installed along the path.

Shelter and hiking tips

- No shelters are installed along the path, so get sufficient rest at Haroojae Pass before going up to Baegundae Peak.

Transportation

- Take Exit 2 at Bukhansan Ui (Doseonsa) Station, the last stop of the Seoul LRT Ui-Seinseol Line, and walk for about five minutes toward the Seoul Hiking Tourism Center(Bukhansan). An alternative is to grab a taxi at the station and get off at the Baegun Visitor Center. Seoul Hiking Tourism Center(Bukhansan) 5F, Owanglim Building, 52, Samyang-ro 173-gil, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul 82-1533-2608 seoulhiking.or.kr

COURSE 02.

Hikers' favorite
Bukhansanseong–
Daenammun Trail

Total travel distance: **10.2 km**
Average travel time: **4 hours 10 minutes**
Difficulty: **advanced**



This trail marked by beautiful scenery and historical sites is a hikers' favorite. It is also popular among foreigners as it passes through the main castle of the Bukhansanseong Fortress and historical palace sites. The wildflowers that bloom throughout the four seasons add to the beauty of the trail.

About the trail

- From Bukhandong History Museum and past the gates of Jungseongmun and Yongammun, take a detour toward Mangyeongdae Peak. While this means a longer hike, the trail is less steep and eases the journey up to Baegunbongammun and Baegundae.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The trail spans over 10 kilometers of steep climbs and drops. At least 10 minutes of rest for every hour traveled is thus recommended. Rest and recover at Yaksum Hermitage past Daedongs Temple before moving on.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 704 at Exit 2 of Gupabal Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the entrance of Bukhansanseong Fortress. Bukhansanseong Visitor Center is located about 700 meters up the road.

COURSE 03.

Hiking through history
Samobawi–Bibong Trail

Total travel distance: **6 km**
Average travel time: **3 hours**
Difficulty: **advanced**



This trail is optimal for enjoying the pristine mountain streams and blue skies on a clear day. On the trail is a monument commemorating the border inspection by King Jinheung of the ancient Silla Kingdom, as well as the path taken in 1968 by 31 North Korean commandos on their mission to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee. The top of the trail offers an open panoramic view.

About the trail

- The gravel path heading up the mountain from Seungasa Temple splits in two directions, with the left path leading to Bibong Peak and the right ending at Samobawi Rock. The trip from Bibong to Samobawi requires a lot of back-tracking, and visiting the rock first before heading to the peak is recommended.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Clear and clean water from the Bukhansan summit trickles down the mountain streams along the path to Seungasa Temple, forming small and cool pools. Dipping one's feet in them is a great way to recover from a grueling hike.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 7212 at the bus stop across the street from Exit 2 of Bulgwang Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the entrance of Seungasa, cross the street at Lycee International Xavier, and walk up Bibong-gil.

COURSE 04.

Path for peace of mind
Samcheonsa
Trail

Total travel distance: **7.33 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours 40 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



This trail starts and ends at Buddhist temples each more than 1,000 years old. Samcheonsa was founded in 661 during the Silla period and Jingwansa in 1011, during the Goryeo period. Seungabong Peak, the highest point on the trail, is named after Seungasa Temple that sits beneath it. The temples along the trail offer rest and peace of mind.

About the trail

- The path down from Samobawi Rock to Jingwansa Temple is extremely steep. Hikers are advised to wear gloves and descend slowly while firmly grasping the hand rails and cables.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The flagstone in front of the rock-carved standing Buddha statue at Samcheonsa Temple and the tea house on the Jingwansa grounds are great for resting and recharging one's strength.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 7723 at the bus stop behind Exit 3 of Gupabal Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off after seven stops at Hana High School, Samcheonsa, and Jingwansa and turn right toward Samcheonsa. Samcheon Visitor Center is about a nine-minute walk up the road.

COURSE 05.

Best of Bukhansan scenery
Complete Tour of
12 Bukhansanseong
Gates

Total travel distance: **14.4 km**
Average travel time: **6 hours**
Difficulty: **advanced**



Bukhansanseong Fortress was built in 1711, the 37th year of the reign of King Sukjong of the Joseon Dynasty, to defend the capital Hanyang (today's Seoul). The structure uses the rough topography of Bukhansan and extends for 11.6 kilometers. The reward for this punishing course awaits at the summit: great views of Bukhansan scenery along the ridge line.

About the trail

- The steep slopes and challenging terrain of Uisang Ridge stretching west from Munsubong and the main ridge of Bukhansan might be too difficult for novice hikers.

Shelter and hiking tips

- This trail through 12 Bukhansanseong gates can be exhausting so take every opportunity to rest and recover. Broad boulders appear every six or so peaks for sitting and resting.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 34 or No. 704 at the bus stop outside Exit 2 of Gupabal Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the entrance to Bukhansanseong Fortress and walk up Daeseomun-gil Road for about 900 meters. On the right are steps and a sign reading "Uisangbong Peak." Follow this road to reach Uisang Ridge.

COURSE 06.

Favorite sunrise spot
Dobongsan–
Sinseondae
Trail

Total travel distance: **6.3 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours 30 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



Jaunbong Peak (740.2 meters) is the tallest peak of Dobongsan Mountain, but access to the steep rock cliffs is restricted. Sinseondae Peak, standing opposite Jaunbong, is considered the de facto summit of the mountain. This trail is the shortest way up to Sinseondae, a favorite spot to see the sunrise among early morning hikers.

About the trail

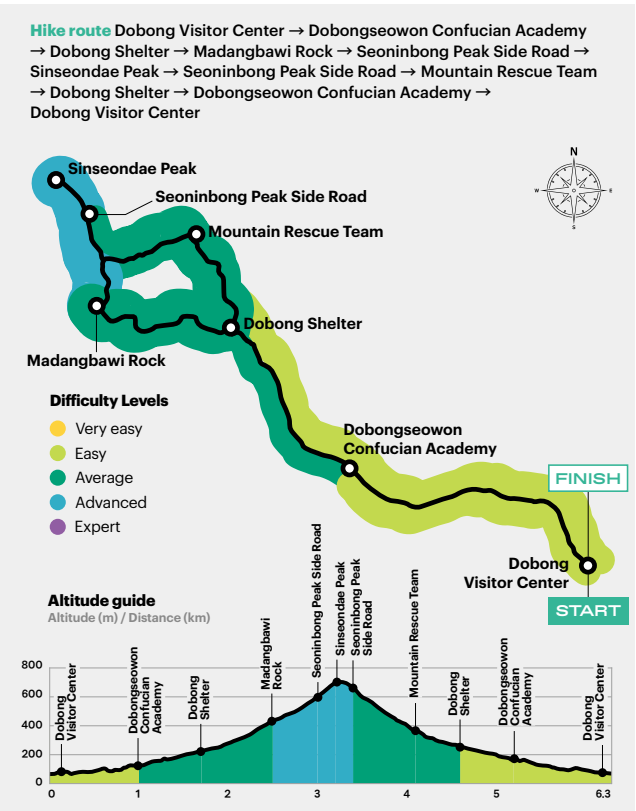
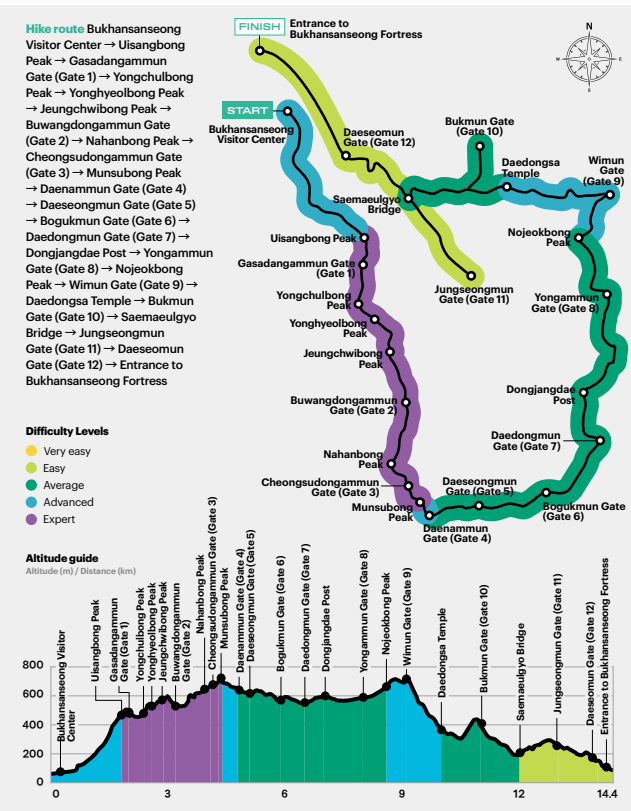
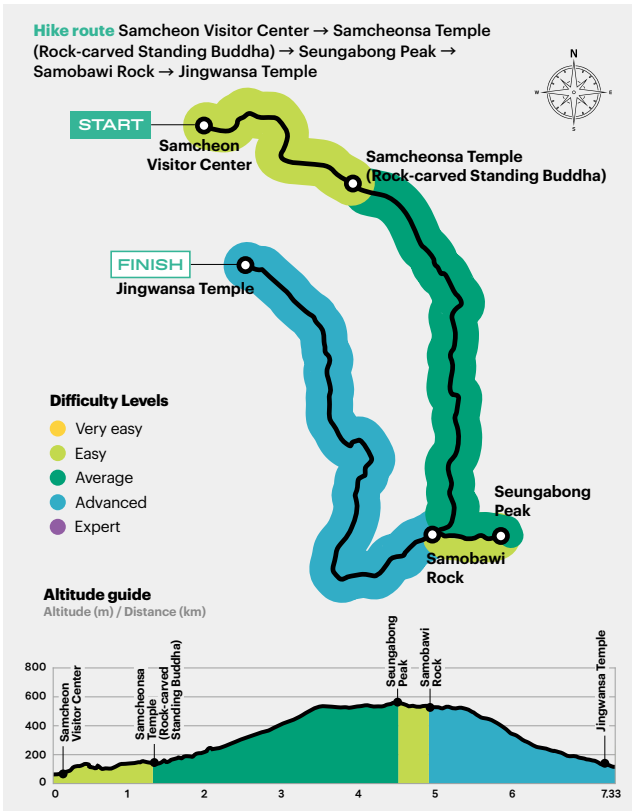
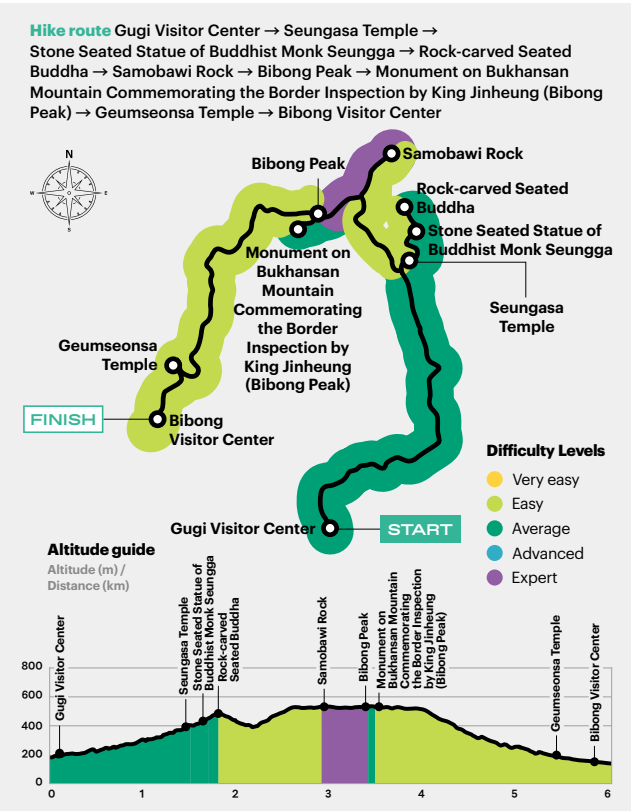
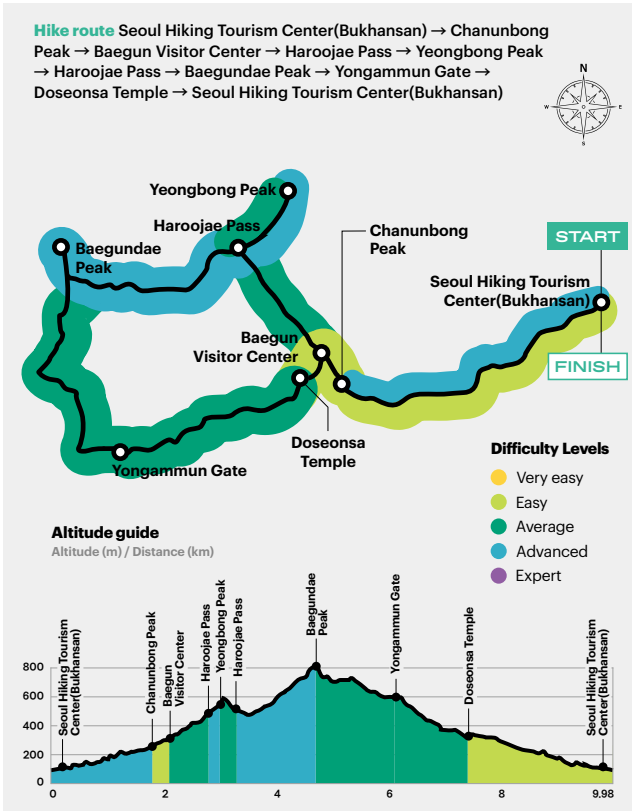
- The climb from Seonin Shelter to Sinseondae Peak is extremely steep. Elderly hikers and those with weak knees or ankles are advised to exercise caution on this course.
- The line of hikers waiting to scale Sinseondae can be up to 50 meters long on weekends and public holidays. So going on a weekday is highly recommended.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Take sufficient time to recover at Seonin Shelter before ascending Sinseondae Peak, as the crawl up the steep rock face can be exhausting.

Transportation

- Take Exit 1 at Dobongsan Station, Seoul Metro Line 1 (Gyeongwonseon), and walk about 20 minutes toward the Dobongsan Station Intersection to reach Dobong Visitor Center.





Useful hiking tips

- Novices in hiking often lack core muscle strength needed for long journeys. **Beginners** are thus advised to choose a trail with a slope of no more than **500 meters that takes under three hours (roundtrip)** to complete.
- Temperatures drop **about 0.5 degrees Celsius for every 100 meters** climbed. Even in the spring, parts of the trail can still be frozen over amid drastic temperature fluctuations. Be sure to bring **crampons, spats, hat, gloves, and windbreaker**.
- Because of shorter days and plummeting temperatures after sunset in **fall**, stick to **shorter trails** and make a descent **before sundown**.
- **Winter hiking** is a risky affair especially when the trails are covered in frozen snow. **Hike with a partner** and use the **proper safety gear**. Take your time and maintain an **appropriate distance** from other hikers.
- If you get lost or injured on a trail or hike, call 119. Refer to **information on the signs and markers** throughout the trail to help emergency rescue services locate you.
- **Stretch and warm up** for about 10 minutes to prevent injury and strained muscles. Immersing lower body in a **hot bath** or applying a **hot pack** on your body is great for restoring blood flow after a hike.

Key Contacts for a Safe Trip around Seoul



Dasan Call Center
Seoul tourism-related inquiry
(English, Chinese, Japanese,
Vietnamese, Mongolian)



Tourist Interpretation Service
Tourism information/interpretation service/tourist
complaint/connection to the tourist police
(English, Chinese, Japanese, Russian,
Vietnamese, Thai, Malay, Indonesian)



119 Fire Service
Fire/emergency/disaster



112 Police
Crime/theft

COURSE 07.

Lush greenery with flowery scents Inwangsan Forest Trail

Total travel distance: **2.9 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 30 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



This trail boasts picturesque sights of Seoul from quiet dirt trails through lush forests and over babbling brooks. The path is especially breathtaking in spring, when cherry blossoms are in full bloom, and in summer with its lush greenery. Walking along the path, you can experience the change in scenery as this trail weaves between forest and city. This experience is a treat for the five senses with its cool breeze, warm sun, and whispering sounds and scents of nature.

About the trail

- Inwangsan Forest Trail is a series of casual walking paths with numerous forks in the road. Follow the road signs to avoid getting lost.
- The section between Haemaji Park and Gaon Bridge offers can't-miss views. The stairs leading up and down from the bridge are quite steep so caution is urged to avoid slipping and falling.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Benches are at key points next to information panels along the trail. They are also great for sitting, resting, and snacking.

Transportation

- The trail starts at the entrance to Sajikdan Altar 300m from Exit 1 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3.

COURSE 08.

Full of hidden tales and stories Suseong-dong Valley -Chimabawi Rock Trail

Total travel distance: **1.5 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 30 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



This beautiful trail was often depicted in paintings by Jeong Seon (pen name Gyeongjae), a genius painter from the late Joseon era, and is full of hidden stories and tales. Walking along the trail along Suseong-dong Valley is like traveling through history.

About the trail

- Walking down Suseong-dong Valley is recommended instead of taking the bus when descending. Those who walk down pass the site of the boarding house where poet Yoon Dong-ju used to live. The house is no longer there, but signs indicating its former location can be seen.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Have a snack on the benches in the clearing in front of Suseong-dong Valley before getting started. The path up to the observation deck starts just after Samojeong Pavilion near the restrooms.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 9 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. The last stop is the entrance to Suseong-dong Valley.

COURSE 09.

Hidden and contemplative forest trail Inwangsan Dulle-gil Trail: Seodaemun Section

Total travel distance: **3.43 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours**
Difficulty: **average**



Strolling on the deck around the spur of the mountain is like walking on clouds. This place of healing features the sounds of waters trickling beneath the rocks, singing of the birds, and evergreen pines and humble flowers on the edges of the path.

About the trail

- The trail alternates between forest trails lined with wildflowers, stone steps, dirt paths, and well-kept boardwalks. Daily walking shoes instead of hiking boots will do fine here.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The pavilion at Yongcheon Stream is a nice break spot, with restrooms about 50 meters from the pavilion. Restrooms are also available next to the multi-purpose ballpark on Mugunghwa Park.

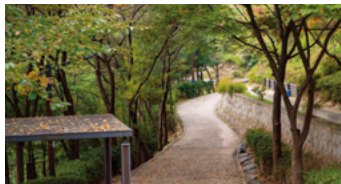
Transportation

- Take bus No. 701 outside Sookmyung Women's University Station, Seoul Metro Line 4. Get off at Sangmyung University to find a road sign indicating the direction of Inwangsan Dulle-gil Trail just 258 meters away.

COURSE 10.

Combination of forest walk and mountain hiking Inwangsan Dulle-gil Trail: Jongno Section

Total travel distance: **5.71 km**
Average travel time: **3 hours 10 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



Travel from the mountain of Inwangsan to that of Ansan by crossing Muakjae Sky Bridge and wander the tranquil forested path to the babbling brook in Suseong-dong Valley. The substantial climbs and descents make this relaxing walk feel like a proper hike at times.

About the trail

- The steep climb from Buam-dong Community Service Center to Hongjimun Dulle-gil Trail leads to the alleys of a quiet residential neighborhood. Follow the alley between the laundromat and convenience store toward Seongdeoksa Temple.
- The path along the bunker beneath the military base on the descent to Hongjimun is rough and can be dangerous, so caution while walking is advised.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Plenty of shelters line the forest walk. Dipping one's feet in the waters of Suseong-dong Valley is also a nice way to rest and recover.

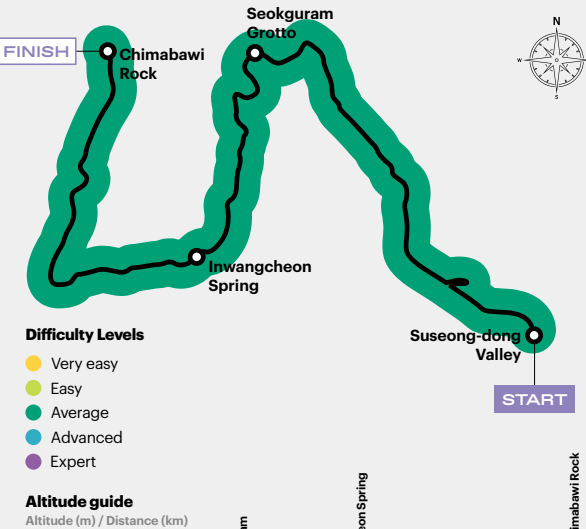
Transportation

- Muakjae Sky Bridge is 644 meters straight ahead from Exit 5 of Dongnimmun Station, Seoul Metro Line 3.

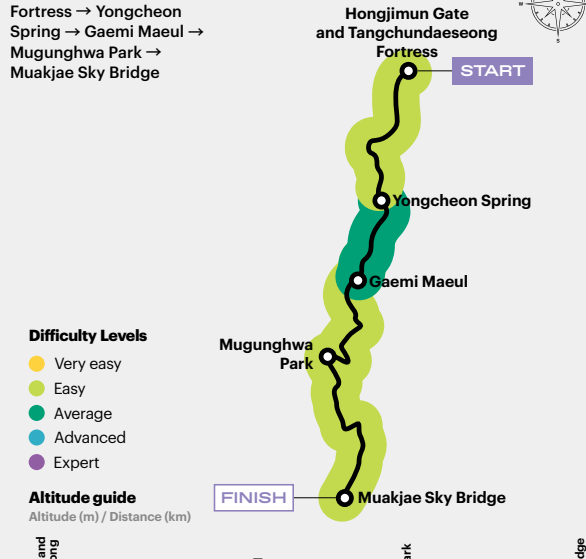
Hike route Sajikdan Altar → Former Taekkyeon Training Grounds → Suseong-dong Valley → Haemaji Park-Gaon Bridge → Ippalbawi Rock → Cheongun Park → Yoon Dong-ju Literature Museum



Hike route Suseong-dong Valley → Seokguram Grotto → Inwangcheon Spring → Chimabawi Rock



Hike route Hongjimun Gate and Tangchundaeseong Fortress → Yongcheon Spring → Gaemi Maeul → Mugunghwa Park → Muakjae Sky Bridge



Hike route Muakjae Sky Bridge → Muak Park → Former Taekkyeon Training Grounds → Suseong-dong Valley → Cheongun Literature Library → Changjuimun Gate → Buam-dong Community Service Center → Hongjimun Gate and Tangchundaeseong Fortress



COURSE 01.

See incredible rock formations

Seonbawi Trail

Total travel distance: 1.84 km
Average travel time: 1 hour 10 minutes
Difficulty: average



This classic trail features the notable boulders and rock formations of Inwangsan Mountain, a giant mass of granite. Witness the wonder of the boulders Seonbawi, Beombawi, Haegolbawi, and Satgatbawi as well as breathtaking panoramic views of the heart of Seoul on this hour-long one-way journey.

About the trail

- Beombawi Rock is a popular spot for observing both sunrise and sunset. The path from this rock formation to the summit is narrow so proceed with caution.
- Follow the trail past Seonbawi Rock onto other boulders like Haegolbawi Rock and Mojabawi Rock. The climb up to Inwangsa Temple is arduous but the main trail is a less-demanding walk through nature.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The mountain has no restrooms after the ones next to Inwangsa Temple. Beombawi and the old Seoul fortress walls make a great place to sit and rest.

Transportation

- Walk toward Muak-dong Community Center from Exit 2 of Dongnimmun Station, Seoul Metro Line 3.

COURSE 02.

Tracing Seoul's history

Seoul City Wall (Hanyangdoseong) Trail

Total travel distance: 4.1 km
Average travel time: 2 hours 10 minutes
Difficulty: average



The trail starts at the former site of Seodaemun Gate and follows the Seoul City Wall past Gyeonggyo-ang House, home of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea during Japanese occupation, and ends at Changuimun Gate. The fortifications mark the boundaries of Hanyang, Seoul's name during the Joseon era.

About the trail

- A three-way split is on the road past Sunseong Shelter and Information Center, with the left path leading to Muakjae Sky Bridge and the right to Inwangsan Urban Nature Park. The summit is at the end of the middle path, and the last section before the summit involves light rock climbing, so please be careful.

Shelter and hiking tips

- A convenience store is next to Sunseong Shelter and Information Center. Benches line the path down from the summit to Changuimun Gate.

Transportation

- Donuimun Museum Village is a five-minute walk from Exit 4 of Seodaemun Station, Seoul Metro Line 5. Follow the road signs to Kangbuk Samsung Hospital.

COURSE 03.

Picturesque views from

Inwangsan Mountain Hongjimun Gate–Tangchundaeseong Fortress Trail

Total travel distance: 2 km
Average travel time: 1 hour 20 minutes
Difficulty: average



The path from Hongjimun Gate along Tangchundaeseong Fortress is relatively less traveled by hikers. This is the perfect way to peacefully and quietly enjoy the scenery of the mountains of Bugaksan and Bukhansan below. The stunning panoramic view at Gichabawi Rock stops many hikers in their tracks.

About the trail

- The section along Tangchundaeseong Fortress includes steep uphill stretches. Hikers are advised to bring crampons in the winter. A pair of gloves is handy for gripping the safety ropes up the many boulders.
- Many paths down from the summit take hikers past Changuimun Gate, Suseong-dong Valley, and Muakjae Sky Bridge.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Many hikers sit here to rest and enjoy the city view before climbing Gichabawi Rock.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 7018 at the bus stop 320 meters straight ahead from Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at Hongjimun Gate and follow the signs to Tangchundaeseong Fortress along Inwangsan Dulle-gil Trail.

COURSE 04.

Arts and crafts

Buam-dong Trail

Total travel distance: 3.36 km
Average travel time: 2 hours 10 minutes
Difficulty: average



The neighborhood of Buam-dong, home to Seoul Museum, is full of art galleries and other artsy sights. Touring the neighborhood's craft shops, eateries, and cafés is every bit as enjoyable as a hike up the mountains. Also here are the Yoon Dong-ju Literature Museum and a hill named after the poet.

About the trail

- The path splits at Buam-dong Community Service Center. Follow the alley between the laundromat and convenience store. At the road sign, take the left path up to the summit and be careful not to slip while climbing the substantial incline.

Shelter and hiking tips

- No restrooms are available from Seoul Museum to the summit and Changuimun Gate. Use the restrooms between Yoon Dong-ju Hill and Cheongun Literature Library.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1020, 1711, 7016, 7018, 7022, or 7212 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3, or 1020, 1711, 7016, or 7018 outside Exit 2 or 3 of Gwanghwamun Station, Seoul Metro Line 5. Get off at Jahamun Tunnel.

COURSE 05.

Murals and narrow alleys

Gaemi Maeul Trail

Total travel distance: 2.5 km
Average travel time: 1 hour 20 minutes
Difficulty: average



The trail begins at Hongje Yuyeon, an underground walkway-turned-art museum, and leads to Gaemi Maeul (Ant Village) and its murals amid the shadows of the imposing granite mountain Inwangsan.

About the trail

- Descend toward Buam-dong or Hongje Yuyeon for a bite to eat after a hike.
- A small corner shop at the entrance to Gaemi Maeul is great for buying snacks and bottled water here for those who came unprepared.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Restrooms are available between Gaemi Maeul and the entrance to Inwangsan Dulle-gil Trail.
- Follow the Seoul City Wall down to Changuimun Gate from the forest and take the path to Suseong-dong Valley. This leads to Inwang Guard Post Forest Retreat, a fine place to read, sit, and rest.

Transportation

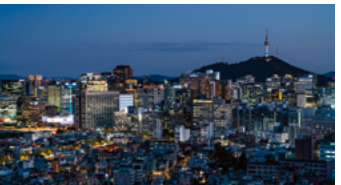
- Hongje Yuyeon is beneath Yujin Arcade, an eight-minute walk from Exit 1 of Hongje Station, Seoul Metro Line 3.

COURSE 06.

Breathtaking nightscape

Inwangsan Jarak-gil Trail

Total travel distance: 2.73 km
Average travel time: 1 hour 10 minutes
Difficulty: easy



This trail traverses along the foothills of Inwangsan Mountain, with spectacular evening views of Seoul. The nightscape from the observation deck is quite a sight. The trail is well maintained and managed and an easy walk for people of all ages.

About the trail

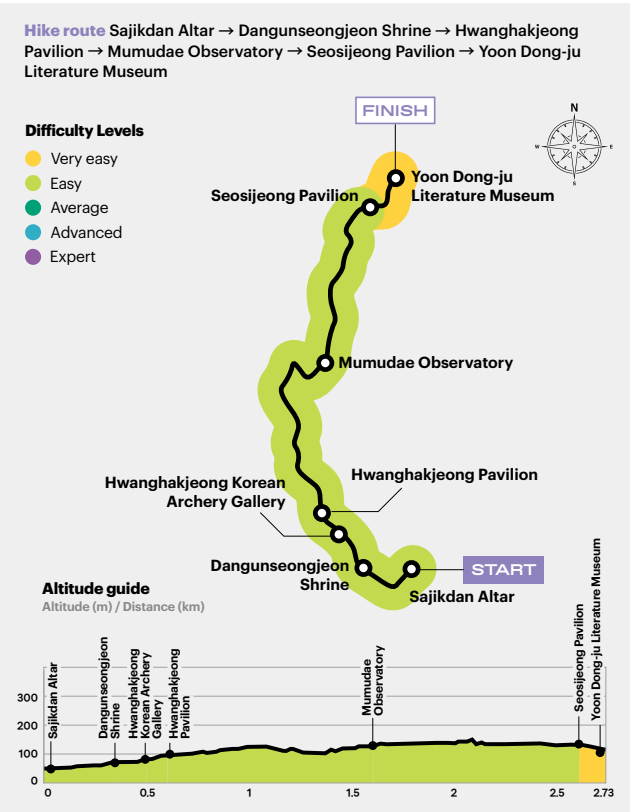
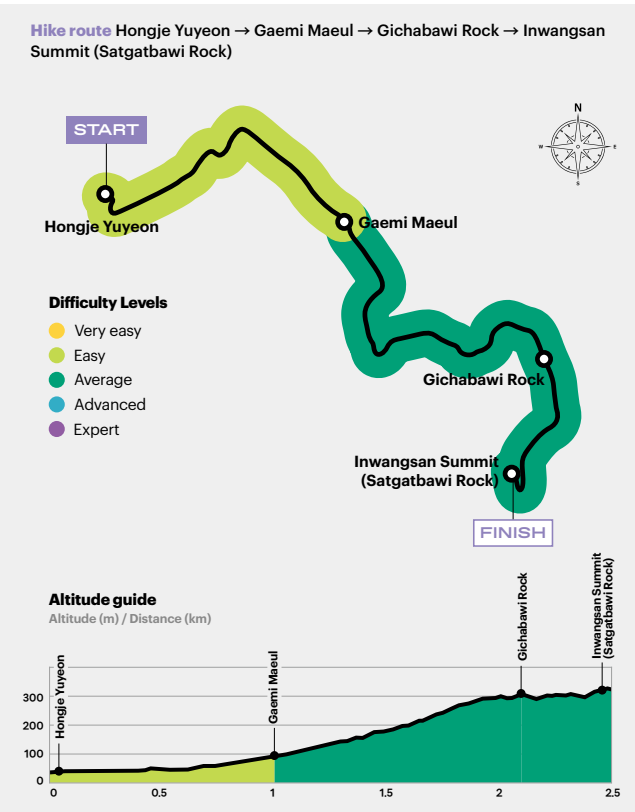
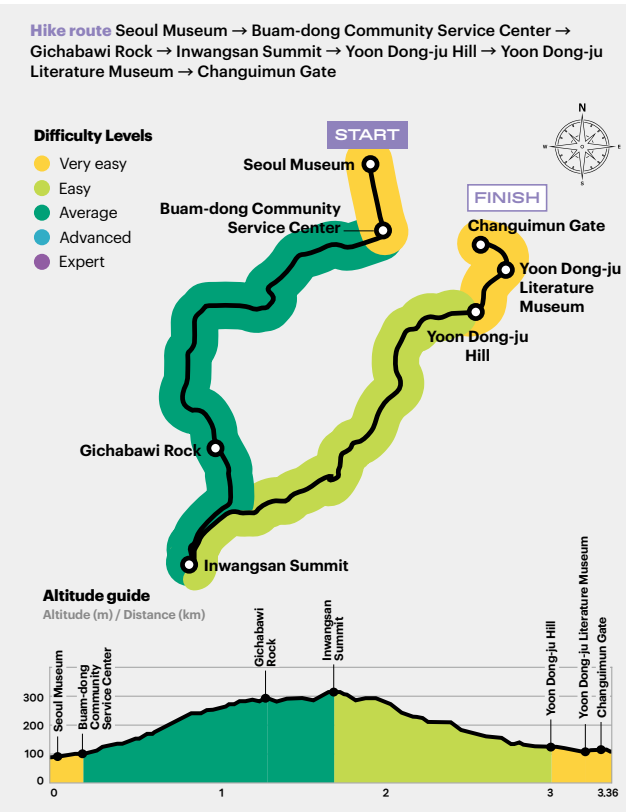
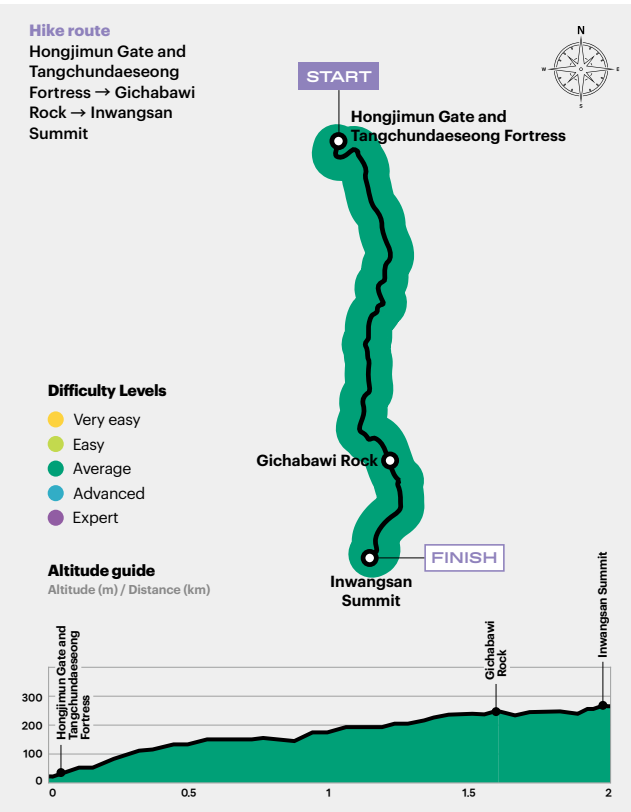
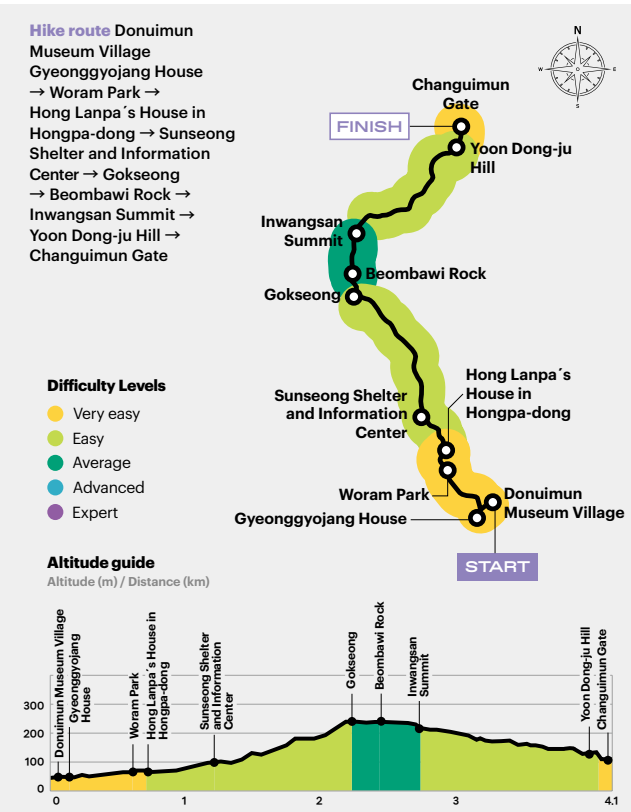
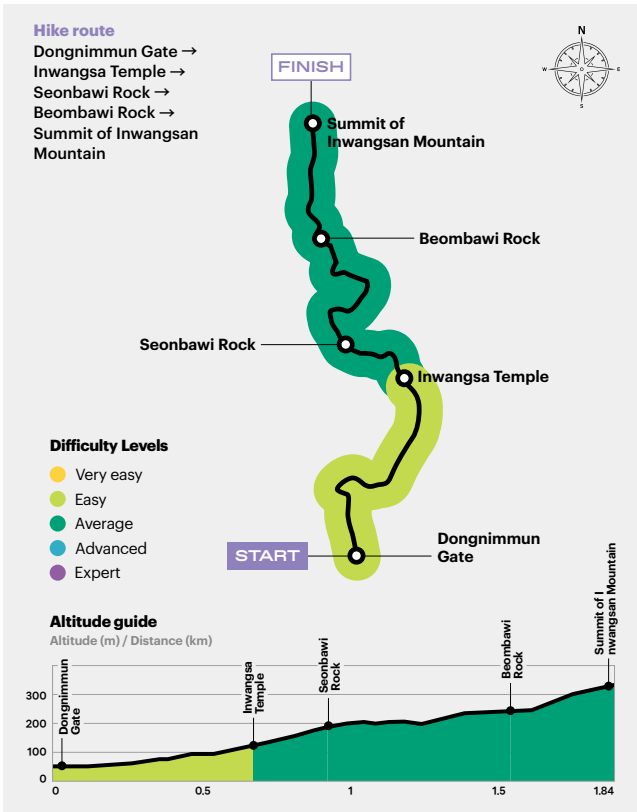
- A series of boardwalks and dirt trails appears with gentle ascents and descents. Hiking boots are not necessary but bringing drinking water is highly recommended because no stores are along the way.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Restrooms are available just past Hwanghakjeong Pavilion. The broad observation deck is great for sitting and resting, as is the bookstore and café The Forest Chosochaekbang.

Transportation

- From Exit 1 of Gyeongbokgung Station on Line 3, move toward Sajikdan. If you follow the signpost on the way to Hwanghakjeong Pavilion after passing through the main gate of Sajikdan Altar, and then take the gentle uphill road, you will find Dangunseongjeon Shrine.





Useful hiking tips

- Novices in hiking often lack core muscle strength needed for long journeys. **Beginners** are thus advised to choose a trail with a slope of no more than **500 meters that takes under three hours (roundtrip)** to complete.
- Temperatures drop **about 0.5 degrees Celsius for every 100 meters** climbed. Even in the spring, parts of the trail can still be frozen over amid drastic temperature fluctuations. Be sure to bring **crampons, spats, hat, gloves, and windbreaker**.
- Because of shorter days and plummeting temperatures after sunset in **fall**, stick to **shorter trails** and make a descent **before sundown**.
- **Winter hiking** is a risky affair especially when the trails are covered in frozen snow. **Hike with a partner** and use the **proper safety gear**. Take your time and maintain an **appropriate distance** from other hikers.
- If you get lost or injured on a trail or hike, call 119. Refer to **information on the signs and markers** throughout the trail to help emergency rescue services locate you.
- **Stretch and warm up** for about 10 minutes to prevent injury and strained muscles. Immersing lower body in a **hot bath** or applying a **hot pack** on your body is great for restoring blood flow after a hike.

Key Contacts for a Safe Trip around Seoul

120

Dasan Call Center
Seoul tourism-related inquiry
(English, Chinese, Japanese,
Vietnamese, Mongolian)

1330

Tourist Interpretation Service
Tourism information/interpretation service/tourist
complaint/connection to the tourist police
(English, Chinese, Japanese, Russian,
Vietnamese, Thai, Malay, Indonesian)

119

Fire Service
Fire/emergency/disaster

112

Police
Crime/theft

COURSE 07.

Witness to history

Yeoraesa Temple– Hogyeongam Rock Trail

Total travel distance: **2.48 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 30 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



Popularly known as the Kim Shin-jo Route, named after one of two North Korean commandos who survived the 1968 raid on the presidential office in Seoul, this is the second of the Bugak Haneul-gil Trails. On January 21, 1968, 31 North Korean commandos took this route to infiltrate Cheong Wa Dae in an attempted assassination of then President Park Chung-hee. Hogyeongam Rock is covered with dozens of bullet marks from the firefight in that incident.

About the trail

- Because the way from Hogyeongam Rock to the source of Seongbukcheon Stream requires a steep descent, hiking sticks are highly recommended to distribute and balance body weight.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The bench at the Gyegokmaru Observatory and gurgling spring at the source of Seongbukcheon Stream are great for taking a rest.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1213, 7211, 171, or 163 at the stop Sungdeok Elementary School outside Exit 1 of Jeongneung Station, Ui-Sinseol Line. Get off at Kookmin University and walk up for five minutes toward Bugak Tunnel to reach Bugak Park Ranger Post. Walk 100 meters past the center toward the tunnel to reach the path to Yeoraesa Temple.

COURSE 08.

Hidden forest eco-paths

Bugak Haneul-gil Trails

Total travel distance: **9 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours 50 minutes**
Difficulty: **advanced**



These trails link the foothills of Bugaksan Mountain with the ridges surrounding the former presidential compound of Cheong Wa Dae, and connect to the hiking trails in the depths of the mountain along the popular Bugak Skyway and trail. Decades of no human contact have left the pristine natural ecosystems flawlessly preserved. A tranquil and relaxed journey awaits with the magical energy of the deep forest.

About the trail

- The trail spans over 9 kilometers and is rather steep. Be extra careful when descending from Hogyeongam Rock to the source of Seongbukcheon Stream and up from there to Bugak Skyway Palgakjeong Pavilion.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Gyegokmaru Shelter has no noise, worries, and mobile phone coverage, making it a great place to clear the mind and soak in the sky above and hills below.

Transportation

- Take the Seongbuk No. 1 bus at the bus stop Samseongyo Bridge and Seongbuk Cultural Center outside Exit 6 of Hansung University Station, Seoul Metro Line 4. Get off at the stop Seongbuk-gu Community Center and walk up the road for 268 meters to reach Haneul Hanmadang.

COURSE 09.

Secret urban garden

Baeksasil Valley– Seonggyungwan Trail

Total travel distance: **6.14 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours**
Difficulty: **average**



The crystal-clear waters of Baeksasil Valley are a prime habitat for salamanders, Chinese minnows, and crayfish. Restrictions on development have helped preserve nature and wildlife here, earning the valley the nickname “Secret Garden.” The scenery along the narrow forest path transforms with the coming and going of the seasons.

About the trail

- A paved sidewalk connects Baeksasil Valley to the forest path and Bugak Skyway Palgakjeong Pavilion, with an easy walk on the gentle uphill path.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Sit on the stone steps at the detached house site in Baeksasil Valley to recharge while listening to the gurgling mountain stream underneath the tree shade.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1020, 1711, 7016, 7018, 7022, or 7212 at Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3, and get off at the stop Sangmyung University entrance and Segeomjeong Church.

COURSE 10.

Prayers for national prosperity

Manse Dongbang Trail

Total travel distance: **4 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 50 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



The inscription “Manse Dongbang (萬世東方)” is engraved on a rock hanging over a mountain spring, wishing for the prosperity of the nation and longevity of the king. Found on the trail are the ruins of the Buddhist temple of Beopheungsa, a structure built during the reign of King Jinpyeong of the Silla Kingdom.

About the trail

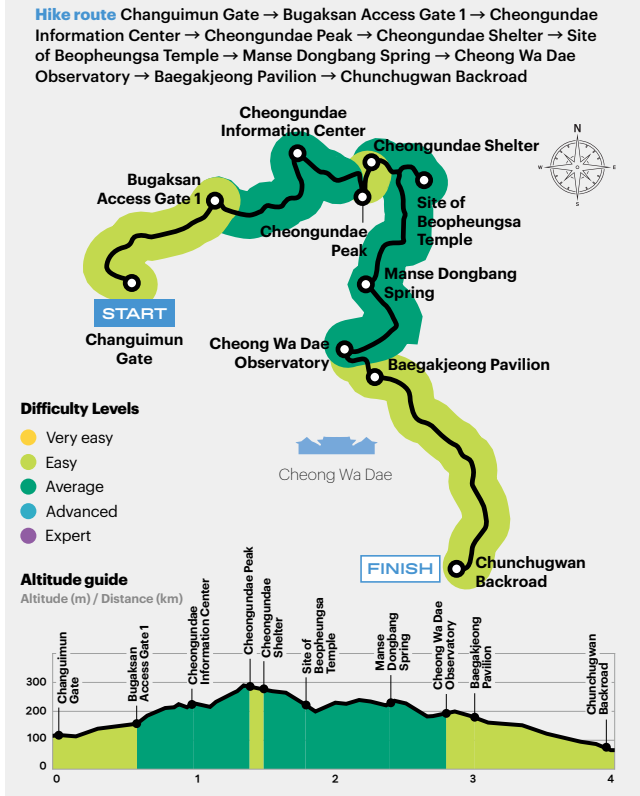
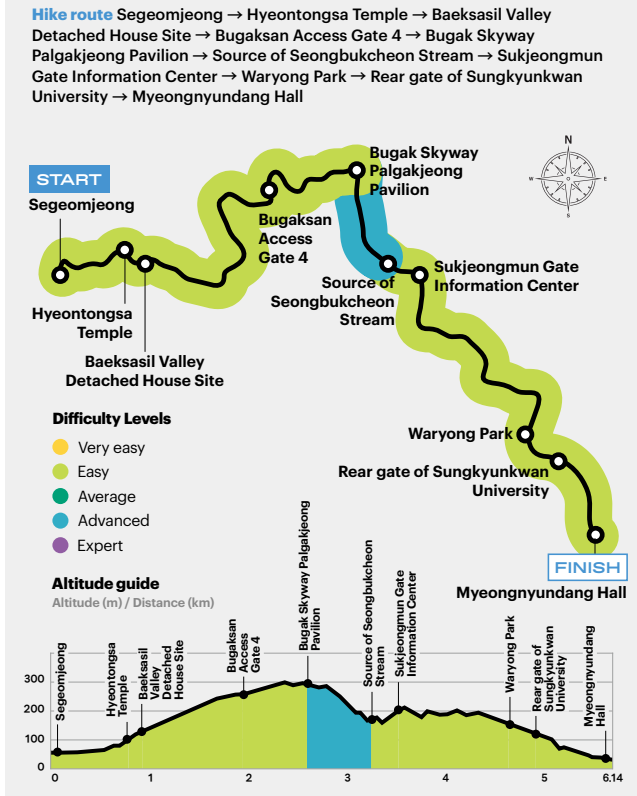
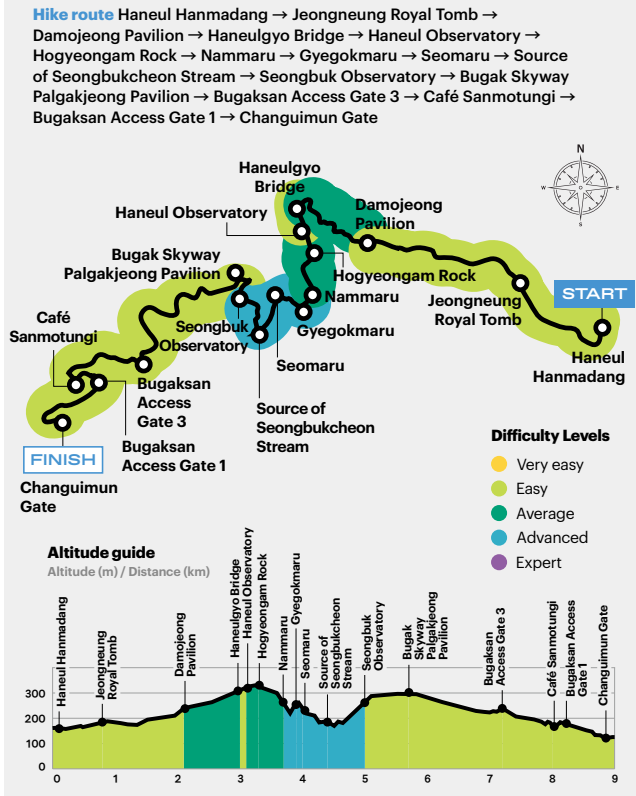
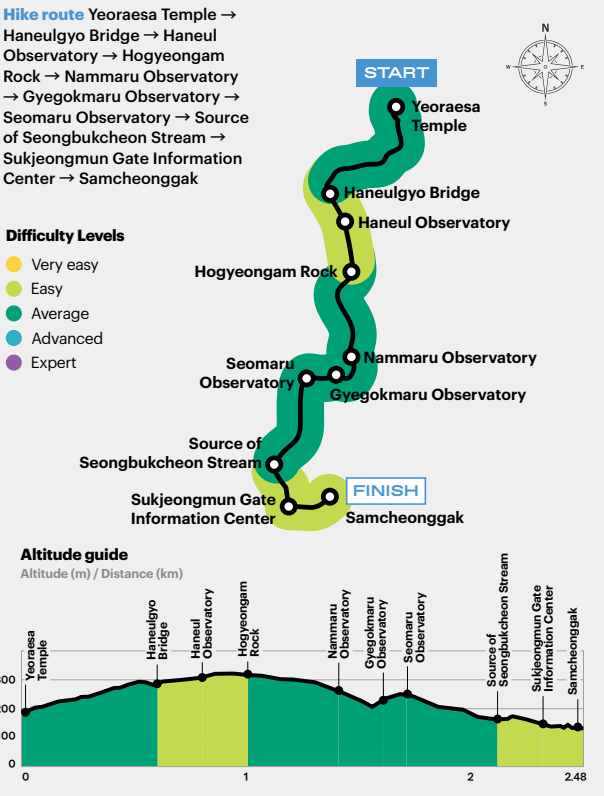
- Walking from Bugaksan Access Gate 1 to Cheongundae Information Center takes around 20 minutes. Entry into Bugaksan through the information center is restricted after 3 p.m., 4 p.m., or 5 p.m. depending on the season.
Last entry
Nov.–Feb.: 3 p.m.
Mar.–Apr. & Sep.–Oct.: 4 p.m.
May–Aug.: 5 p.m.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Cheongundae Shelter is well-equipped to accommodate for hikers looking to rest and recover, and getting here takes just 30 minutes.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1020, 7022, or 7212 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the bus stop Buam-dong Community Service Center and Mugyewon and walk toward Baekseokdong-gil road past Changmuim Intersection for about 10 minutes to reach Bugaksan Access Gate 1.



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Bugaksan Mountain



COURSE 01.

Views over Cheong Wa Dae
Changuimun–
Baegakmaru
Trail

Total travel distance: **3.32 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 30 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



This section of the trail is popular for great observation points to see the Seoul skyline. The descent after a steep uphill climb from Changuimun Gate to Baegakmaru Peak brings hikers down the recently opened trail behind Cheong Wa Dae, the former presidential compound. Awesome views of the Seoul metropolis in green hues are the prime attraction of this trail.

About the trail

- The descent from Manse Dongbang Spring to Chunchugwan is rather steep, so those with bad knees are advised to use hiking sticks.
- The climb from Changuimun Gate to Baegakmaru Peak is grueling. Firmly grab the handrails installed along the path for safety.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Two shelters (Dolgorae and Baegak) are along the city walls between Changuimun and Baegakmaru.
- Bring plenty of drinking water as the way has no stores or water fountains.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1020 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the stop Jahamun Pass and Yoon Dong-ju Literature Museum and climb the stairs to reach Changuimun Gate Information Center.

COURSE 02.

Stroll through the fresh forest
Cheong Wa Dae–
Samcheong Park Trail

Total travel distance: **5 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 50 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



This trail begins at Cheong Wa Dae Chunchugwan and leads down to Samcheong Park, the name of which means “a place with refreshingly clean water and forest.” Once closed for security reasons, this newly opened trail near Cheong Wa Dae offers hikers an open view of Seoul city. The tranquil view of the forest that leads to Samcheong Park also brings peace of mind.

About the trail

- Bring hiking sticks as certain parts of the trail are quite steep. Baegakjeong Pavilion to Manse Dongbang Spring is the most challenging leg, with steep climbs and numerous stairs.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Take in the views of downtown Seoul while catching your breath at Cheongundae. N Seoul Tower and even Lotte World Tower can be seen from the peak on a clear day.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1711 (green) outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the stop Hyoja-dong. Make a right turn at Hyoja-ro Road and go straight for 911 meters. The building across the street is Chunchugwan.

COURSE 03.

Best views from Bugaksan Mountain
Cheong Wa Dae–
Observatory–
Chunchugwan Trail

Total travel distance: **2.18 km**
Average travel time: **50 minutes**
Difficulty: **easy**



This relatively short and leisurely trail makes for easy walking. Follow the one-way road on the right side of Daetongmun Gate up to Cheong Wa Dae Observatory, the highest point of the trail. The boarded deck offers great views of the Cheong Wa Dae complex, Gyeongbokgung Palace, and Gwanghwamun Gate as well as the thoroughfare stretching all the way to Seoul City Hall.

About the trail

- Steep stone steps link Chilgung Shrine to Baegakjeong Pavilion. A pair of hiking sticks make the climb far easier.

Shelter and hiking tips

- Take a seat at Baegakjeong Pavilion and look south beyond the Cheong Wa Dae walls. Visible beyond Namsan Mountain are the peaks of Cheonggyesan Mountain south of the Hangang River and to the right is Gwanaksan Mountain.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1711 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at Hyoja-dong, pass Singyo-dong intersection, and walk 300 meters toward Sihwamun. If you go straight along Changuimun-ro between Sihwamun and Mugungwha Park, you will come across Chilgung Shrine. The road behind Chilgung Shrine leads to the Bugaksan Trail.

COURSE 04.

Along the Seoul City Wall Trail
Changuimun–
Hyehwamun Trail

Total travel distance: **5 km**
Average travel time: **2 hours 10 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



This journey takes travelers along the old Seoul City Wall, which are 5–10 meters high and were erected to defend against marauding northern tribes during the Joseon era. Seoul City Wall Trail is 18.6 kilometers long and stretches from Namsan Mountain via the mountains of Ansan and Inwangsan to Bugaksan. The section from the gates of Changuimun to Hyehwamun is loaded with interesting scenery.

About the trail

- Bring the appropriate safety gear such as hiking poles and firmly grip the handrails installed along the steep rocky path from Changuimun Gate to Baegakmaru Peak.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The 1.6-kilometer section from Waryong Park to Hyehwamun Gate takes around 30 minutes. It would be a good idea to take a moment to recharge at Malbawi Observatory.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1711 or 7212 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the stop Jahamun Pass and Yoon Dong-ju Literature Museum and climb the stairs to reach Changuimun Gate Information Center.

COURSE 05.

Classic Bugaksan hiking course
Changuimun Gate–
Malbawi Rock
Trail

Total travel distance: **4 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour 50 minutes**
Difficulty: **average**



Walk down from Baegakmaru Peak along the ridge line to Malbawi Rock past Gokjang to see the Samcheong-dong neighborhood, which was considered the most beautiful neighborhood in Seoul by the Joseon nobility. Before the backroads of Chilgung Shrine and Chunchugwan were opened to the public, many hikers took the Malbawi detour along the ridge line.

About the trail

- The section from Changuimun Gate to Baegakmaru Peak is a long series of steep hills. Firmly grab the handrails while climbing the stairs or use a pair of hiking sticks.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The path from Malbawi Observatory to Samcheong Park is fraught with steps. Hikers are advised to take a break at the Malbawi Information Center or Malbawi Observatory.

Transportation

- Take bus No. 1711 or 7212 outside Exit 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station, Seoul Metro Line 3. Get off at the stop Jahamun Pass and Yoon Dong-ju Literature Museum and climb the stairs to reach Changuimun Gate Information Center.

COURSE 06.

Downtown view and forest walks
Samcheong-dong–
Chilgung Shrine
Trail

Total travel distance: **3.3 km**
Average travel time: **1 hour**
Difficulty: **easy**



This trail is at Geonchunmun Gate, the east gate of Gyeongbokgung Palace built in the mid-Joseon era that was reserved for civil officials. The trail covers both the bustling downtown area and secluded forest walks, taking travelers from the Bugaksan foothills in the heart of the city and past its hidden valleys and streams.

About the trail

- The path down from Baegakjeong Pavilion to Chilgung Shrine is steep and rocky, so have a pair of hiking sticks handy.

Shelter and hiking tips

- The section from Samcheong Shelter to the Baegak 1-gyo and Baegak 2-gyo bridges is steep. Hikers can rest on benches along the path. Baegakjeong Pavilion is a good place to rest before descending to Chilgung Shrine.

Transportation

- The starting point is about a 15-minute walk toward Geonchunmun Gate from Exit 1 of Anguk Station, Seoul Metro Line 3, or Exit 4 of Gyeongbokgung Station on the same line.

