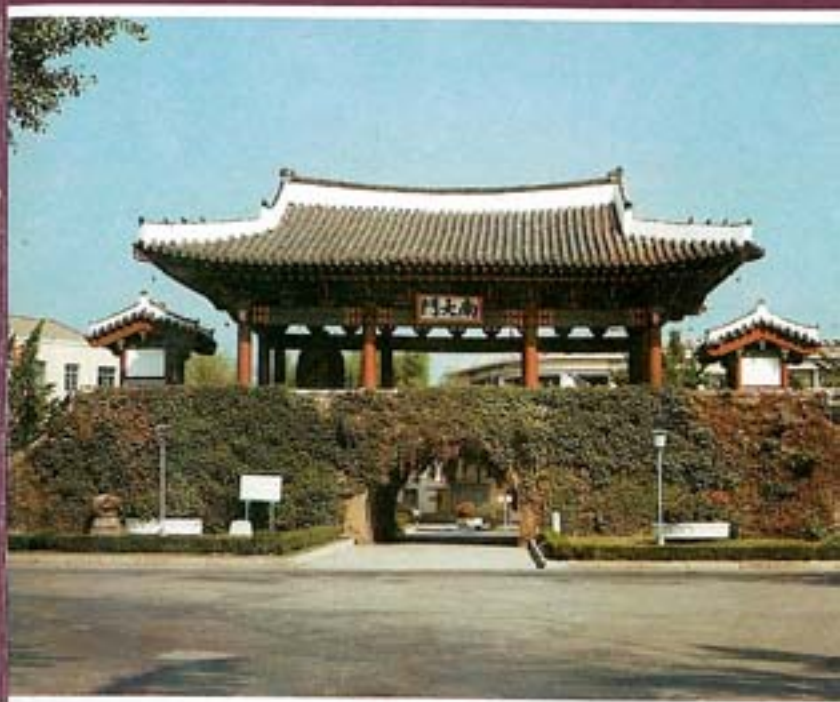




DPR of Korea

Travel Guide



KAESONG

**TOURIST ADVERTISEMENT
AND INFORMATION AGENCY**

Contents



You may find **Kaesong** in the midwestern part of the Korean Peninsula on the world map. What is the attraction of the city marked with a small circle?

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ROAD TO AND FROM

There are two ways from Pyongyang to Kaesong. One is the railway and the other driveway.

It will take about three hours by train. But it will take only one hour by car along the motorway and two hours by coach including a break.

Generally, tourists prefer to travel along the motorway, enjoying the natural scenery of Korea.

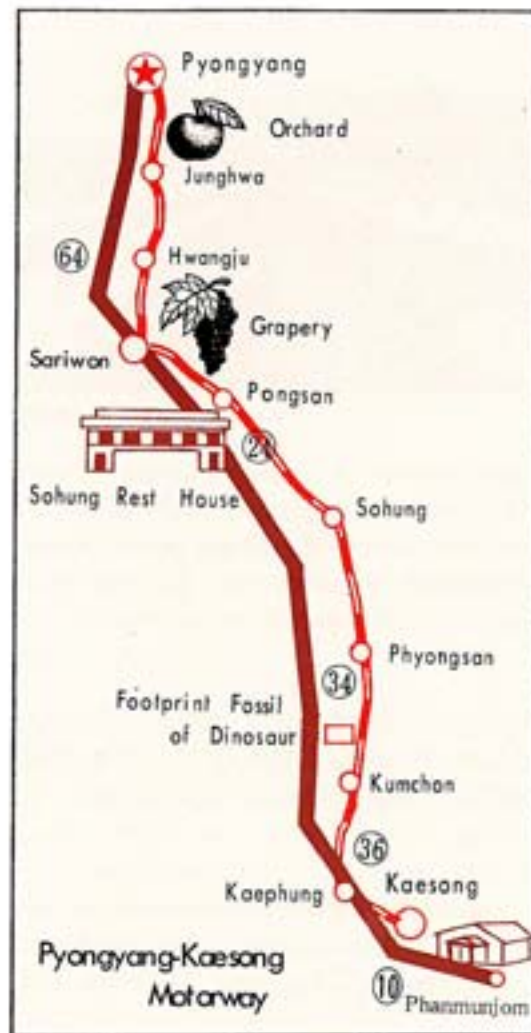
The distance from Pyongyang to Kaesong is about 160 km (about 400 ri).

If you go along the Chollima Street stretching southwards from the central part of Pyongyang, you will cross the River Taedong, one of the five longest rivers of Korea, flowing southwest dividing the central part of Pyongyang.

When you reach Chungsong Bridge which links two sides of the river, you will see Yanggak Islet in the upper part of the river. On the bank there is a historical monument telling that the Pyongyangites sent the aggressive American ship "General Sherman" in 1866 to the bottom of the river.

There is Ssuksom Ground down the bridge. There stands the United Front Tower built in memory of reunification figures who participated in the North-South Joint Conference in 1948.

Along the eastern bank of the river you will see the Thongil Street, a 120 metre-wide new majestic street.





Pyongyang-Kaesong Motorway

It was constructed to erect apartment houses for 50,000 families in Pyongyang in two years or so till the 80th birthday of the President Kim Il Sung, the greatest holiday of the Korean people. This is the grand monumental creation of the 90s.

The street is called "Thongil" because it was built at the mouth of the road linking Pyongyang, Kaesong and Seoul reflecting the desire of the Korean people for reunification.

The motorway forked two ways 9 km from the central part of Pyongyang. There is a milestone reading "Wonsan 191 km" and "Kaesong 152 km".

If you go eastward, you will reach Wonsan, a modern city with a port. The roadbed of the motorway stretching southward to Kaesong is good and gives no restriction to the running cars but a sense of security to the travellers.

Korea is a country with many mountains. But along the highway you will see rich paddy and dry fields with various kinds of crops and fruits and sloping fields passing through numerous tunnels and many bridges of different styles.

How can it be possible to describe multifarious changes along the motorway coupled with distinct seasonal changes of Korea?

The motorway passes through 10 towns, counties and districts altogether.

Some 50 kilometres away from Pyongyang you will see a local city Sariwon, seat of North Hwanghae Province. The city is the political, economic and cultural centre of the province with developed heavy and light industries including textile and machine industries.

Near the city there is Jongbansan Fort built in the period of the Koryo Dynasty and in the fort there is a Buddhist temple Songbul preserved as it was.

Beyond Sariwon City there is the Sariwon Orchard noted for its "Sariwon Grape" and then the impressive buildings of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex attract the eyes of the travellers.

Over 30 km from Sariwon City you will reach the Sohung Tea House.

After recovering from fatigue on the motorway enjoying the nature, you run further along the motorway and will pass by a milestone reading "Kaesong 36 km" and pass through Jupoo Tunnel.



Sohung Tea House

And when you approach near Ryonggung Tunnel, you will see the fossil of the footprint of a dinosaur at



Footprint Fossil of Dinosaur

the left bottom of a hill by the road. The place where the fossil was found during the construction of the motorway is Ryonggung-ri, Phyongsan County, North Hwanghae Province.

The size of a footprint of a dinosaur considered to be living 180 million years ago is enough for the nonarcheologists to gather the height and weight of its gigantic body.

The plain rock bearing the fossil registered as a national treasure and natural monument of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is 100 metres long and 15 metres wide. There are altogether 30 footprints and even a footprint is 45 centimetres long and 40 centimetres wide.

Feeling thus the emotion of Korea, an eastern country, you travel further southward, then arrive at Kaesong, the destination.

After sightseeing the visitors will return to Pyongyang along this motorway.

INTRODUCTION

Kaesong is, in a word, a place with attraction.

The place of scenic beauty, the capital of Koryo which was the first unified state of the Korean Peninsula with a history of nearly 500 years, the home of "Koryo Insam", the envy of the world people, the place focussing the world's attention as the line of war confronts that of peace. This is an implicit idea of Kaesong.



Part of Kaesong City Preserving Past and Present Looks

In the days of Koryo Dynasty it was called "Kaesong" meaning the opening of the castle gate and later called "Songak" meaning mountains with many pine trees and rocks. It was also called "Kaegyong", "Hwangdo" or "Kaeju" meaning the capital.

In the days of Ri Dynasty it was often called "Songdo" or "Kaesong".

Kaesong at present has three counties (Kaephung, Phanmun and Jangphung).

"Koryo Songgyungwan" (university of light industry) meaningfully celebrated the 1,000th anniversary of its foundation.

A City Boasting of Its Nature



Kaesong is located in the midwestern part of Korea.

The background of the city in the north is Mt. Songak covered with evergreen pine trees and round rocks as if they boasted of womanly beauty. The mountain rises 489 m above the sea level.

Several ridges and valleys stretch down before it. A hillock protruding beyond the central part of the city is Mt. Janam. The hillock is called so because it looks like a "son" acting cute before his "father" called Mt. Songak.

There is neither big river nor sea in Kaesong. Kaesong City might take place depending on the peculiar scenery of Mt. Songak.

The rivers Ryesong and Rimjin flow near the city. Many reservoirs which have come into being by the dams add to the beauty of the city taking the place of the sea.

You will see Pakyon Falls 24 km north of the city, which is one of the three famous falls of Korea and a resort of Kaesong citizens, and historical remains.

Hillocks and fields spread east, west and south of Kaesong. In the west the city is near the West Sea of Korea.

The temperature of Kaesong is relatively mild and the wind is not strong. Under the influence of the oceanic climate many days are foggy.

The average annual temperature is 10.4°C.

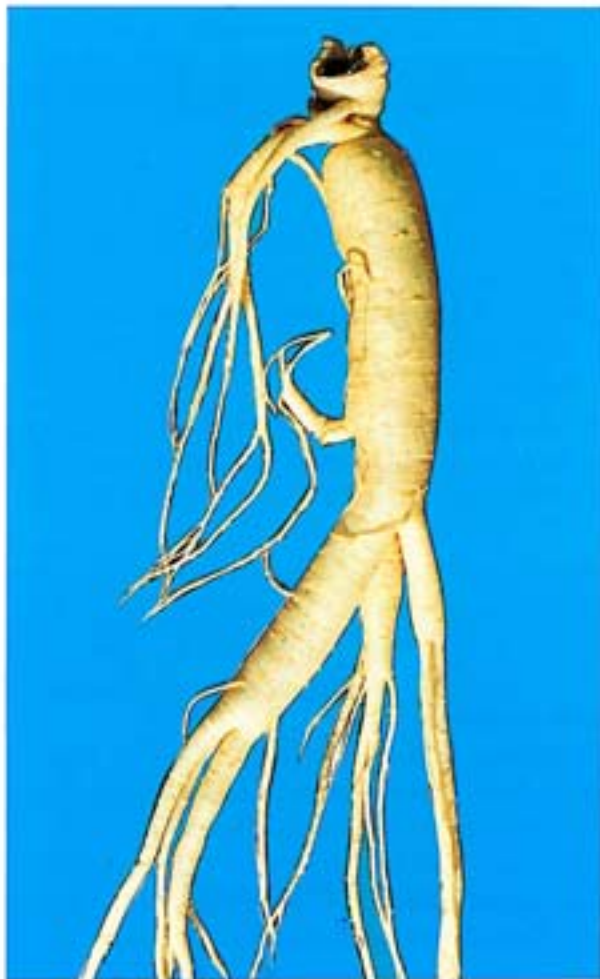
The average January temperature is -4.8°C and that of August 24.3°C.

The annual precipitation is 1,400.9 mm.

April-June are dry season and July-August rainy.

Home of Insam

They say that people began to use wild Insam as a medicinal herb over 4,000 years ago. But it is about 2,600 years ago that they began to cultivate it in the plots.



“Koryo Insam” of Kaesong is high-yielding and efficacious as a medicinal herb because of plots specially prepared for its cultivation and weather conditions in that area. Kaesong has thus become the home of “Koryo Insam”.

It is from the days of Koryo Dynasty over 1,000 years ago that Koreans cultivated Insam and exported it to foreign countries.

1,000 Year old City

The first strong feudal state in Korea was Koguryo (277 BC—668 AD).

It was 918 AD, 250 years after the ruin of Koguryo, that a feudal dynasty called Koryo made its appearance.

Koryo was built by Wang Gon born into a wealthy local farmer who had great influence over Kaesong area at that time. It was a state inheriting the spirit of Koguryo.

Wang Gon chose Kaesong as the capital of Koryo and began to expand the territory of the country.

Koryo ruined Silla in 935 and a dynasty called Later Paekje in 936 and achieved the unification of the Korean Peninsula.

Therefore, in the history of Korea Koryo became the first unified state where a single nation was living with one language and same customs.

Kaesong which had prospered as the capital of the unified state boasting of the predominance of the Koryo Nation existed for nearly 500 years.

The City on the Military Demarcation Line

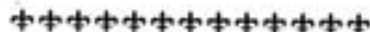
Kaesong belonged to the southern half of Korea for 5 years after the liberation of Korea from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism and belonged to the northern half during the Korean War in 1950.

Kaesong drew the attention of the world from the days of the war because many talks on the ceasefire agreement were held there between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

In particular, Kaesong has been focussing the world's attention since the conclusion of the Korean Armistice Agreement and talks were held almost everyday on political and military problems for the peace and reunification of Korea.

Many separated families are living in Kaesong. The desire for the reunification, therefore, is the strongest in Kaesong.

Preserved as it was 8 km south of the central part of Kaesong is the building where talks were held with the United States from 1951. Not far from there are the conference rooms of Phanmunjom now used.



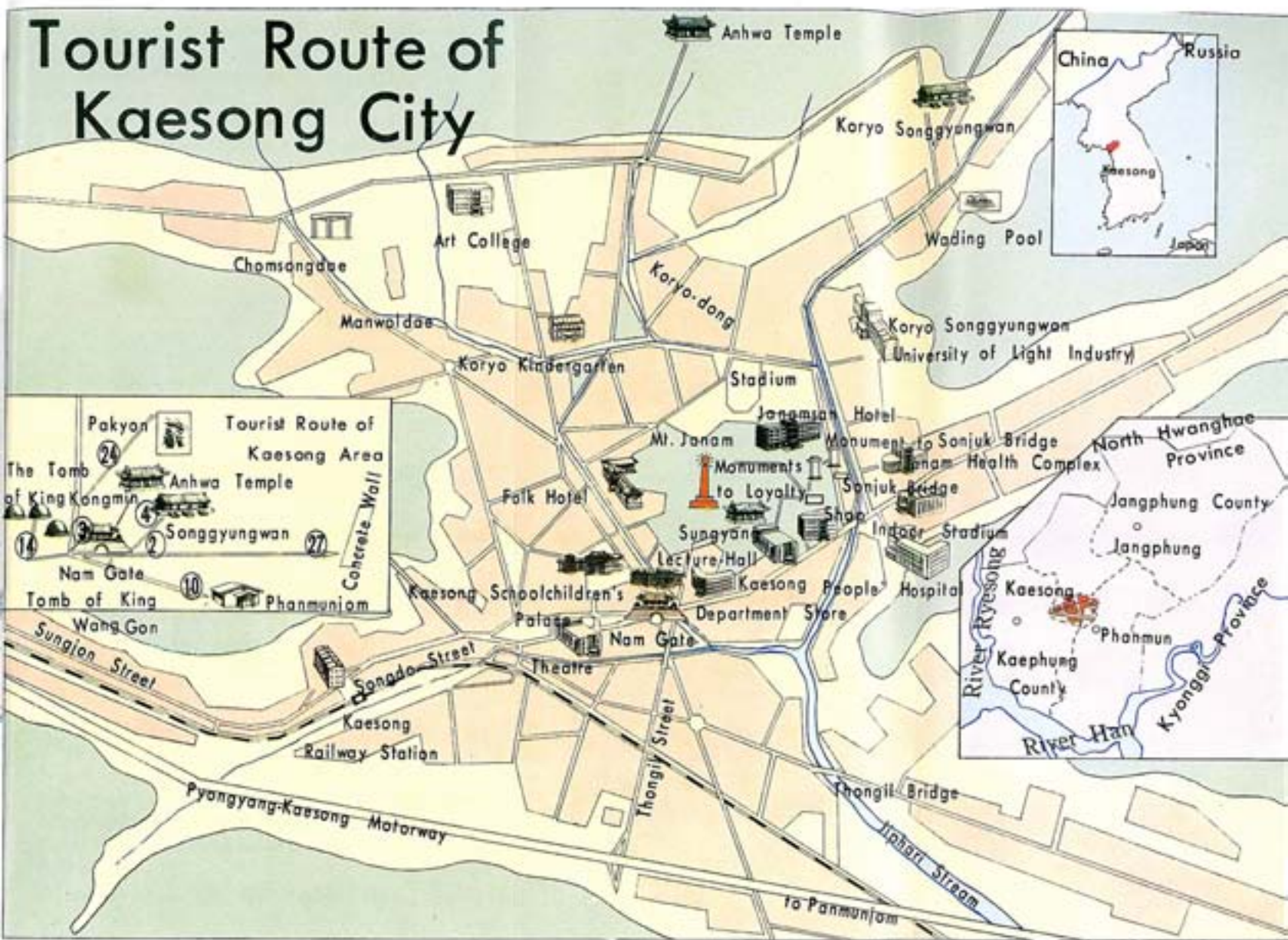
SIGHTS

Mt. Janam



It is a hillock stretching down to the central part of the city against Mt. Songak. It is a good place to command a bird's-eye view of the city. It can be the first sight of the city.

Tourist Route of Kaesong City



On the top of the mountain stands a bronze statue of the great leader President Kim Il Sung. The statue was unveiled on September 9, 1968. Around the statue occupying an area of 17 hectares are a revolutionary museum, historic monument and marking monument of the on-the-spot guidance of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

If you look down from the mountain top, you will see a view of the modern city and peculiar old residential quarters of Kaesong beside it.

**Kwandok
Pavilion**



It is located on the mid-slope of Mt. Janam.

It is a pavilion where archery practice was conducted in the days of the feudal rule. Originally, there was a small straw-thatched pavilion. The present one was rebuilt in 1780 on an expansion basis. The pavilion is now used as a place of cultural rest for working people.

Below it are the old Korean styled residential

quarters where houses are standing roof by roof and fence by fence.

There is Folk Hotel where tourists appreciate life in accordance with the manners and customs of Kaesongites.

Sungyang

Lecture-Hall



The Sungyang Lecture-Hall at the foot of Mt. Janam is one of the typical, appropriate Korean lecture-halls. Lecture-hall was a private educational organ where Confucianism was taught.

The Sungyang Lecture-Hall is the house in which Jong Mong Ju, a feudal official and noted Confucian lived in the closing days of Koryo Dynasty. He was loyal to Koryo Dynasty and killed by Ri Song Gye.

The house was rebuilt into the hall in 1573.

In general, lecture-halls and Confucian schools in those days had buildings for education in front and sacrificial rites in the rear on the principle of "schools in front and temples in the rear".

In the courtyard there are eastern and western houses used as dormitories of students and the auditorium in front.

The Sungyang Lecture-Hall is a historical remains widely known to our people because it shows the architectural style of the lecture-halls at the time and is associated with the legend about Jong Mong Ju.

Kaesong Schoolchildren's Palace



It is a base for the after-school activities of schoolchildren in Kaesong. It opened on June 6, 1961. Its area is 50,000 square metres and its total floor space 10,000 square metres. The palace has over 40 rooms for various circle activities, over 120 experiment rooms, a theatre and a gymnasium. More than 3,000 schoolchildren conduct extracurricular activities after school.

Room for Rhythmic Gymnastic



Electronic Automation Room



Kaesong Nam Gate



It is located at the central crossroads downward Mt. Janam.

Nam Gate is the front south gate of the inner castle of Kaesong, the capital castle of Koryo. The Kaesong Castle comprises the royal palace, palace of royal families, inner castle and outer castle (La Castle).

Nam Gate was built between 1391-1393. It was destroyed during the Fatherland Liberation War and reconstructed to the original state in 1954.

The gate is a valuable and peculiar architectural heritage as it was built by inheriting superb architecture and technique of Koryo and its decoration was simple and its features true.

Preserved inside is the bell of Yonbok Temple, famous bells in our country.



Bell of Yonbok Temple

It was founded in 1346 and hung in Yonbok Temple and moved to Nam Gate in 1563 when the temple was burnt down.

Diameter of the mouth of the bell : 1.9 m
Height : 3.3 m
Thickness : 23 cm
Weight : about 14 tons

The whole surface is carved with figures of tortoise, crab, fish, dragon, phoenix, deer and wave patterns and images of Buddha.

On the top is a ring to hang the bell relieving two dragons to show the intrepid spirit.

The sound of the bell is clear, resounding and distant. They say that one can hear the sound even 4 km away.

Sonjuk Bridge

It is located near Janamsan Hotel. Around the bridge there are many historical remains associated with it. It is not a big stone bridge built before 1216. The bridge is 6.67 m long and 2.54 m wide.

It was the place where Jong Mong Ju who had been loyal to Koryo Dynasty was killed in 1392 before the ruin of Koryo by Ri Song Gye who betrayed Koryo with the ambition for political power.

The bridge was first called Sonji but after Jong Mong Ju was killed, a bamboo tree sprouted from the place where he shed blood. So it was called Sonjuk.

Now the granite plate bears red spots which appear to be the mark of his blood, though it is not true. Originally the bridge had no stone rails. Jong Ho In, a descendant of Jong Mong Ju, built stone rails in 1780 to prohibit the passage of people in memory of Jong Mong Ju and set up another stone bridge by it.

Around the bridge there are the Songin Monument and Monuments to Loyalty and many other historical remains which are associated with Sonjuk Bridge.

Across Sonjuk Bridge there is a tablet house and two monuments are in front of the house. The monument in the house is Songin Monument erected in 1641 in praise of Jong Mong Ju's "loyalty" and the two



monuments are "Kisil" and "Sunui" in memory of Kim Gyong Jo, Roksa (lower rank of government official), who was killed together with him.



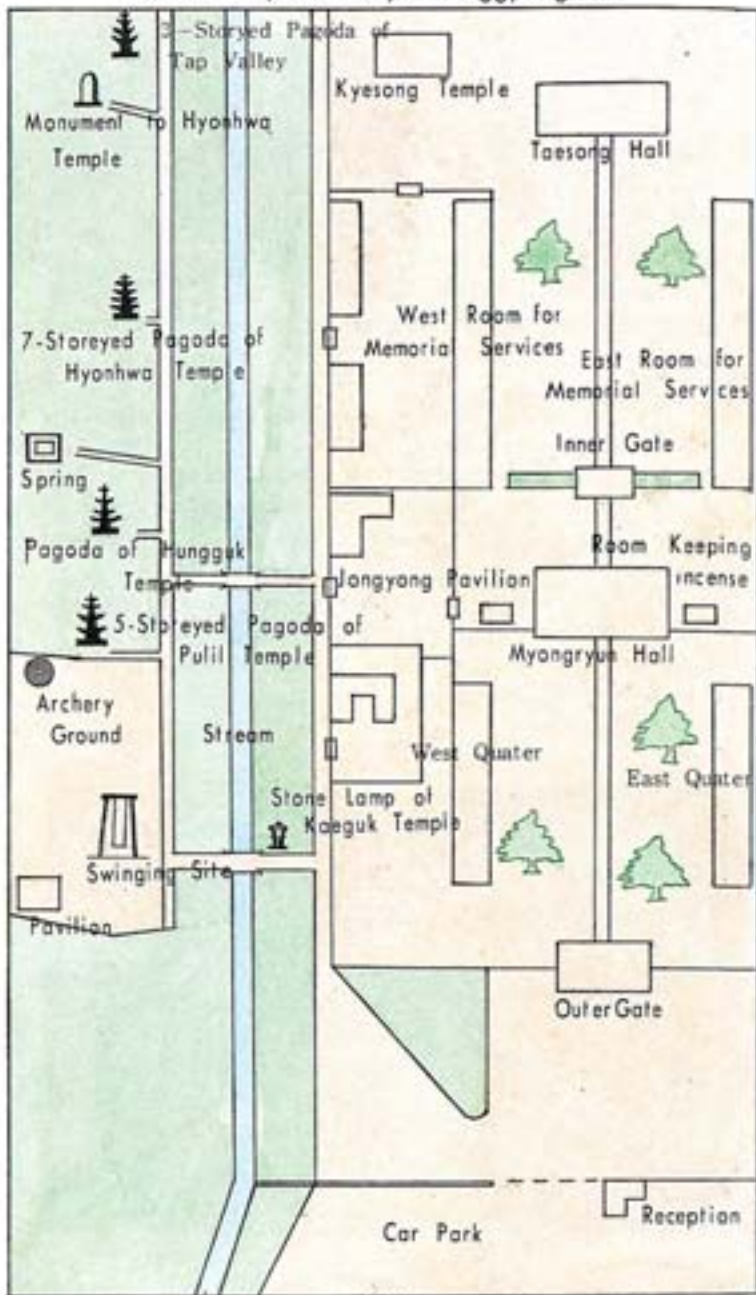
If you go into the gate of a small pavilion standing opposite to Sonjuk Bridge with a road in between, you will see the Monuments to Loyalty comprising two stone monuments. The left one was built in 1740 by King Yong Jo of Ri Dynasty and the right one was erected in 1872 by King Ko Jong of Ri Dynasty.

The two monuments were erected to make subjects "loyal" to the dynasty as Jong Mong Ju was to Koryo Dynasty, worrying about the destiny of Ri Dynasty which was declining.



The bodies of the monuments bear epitaphs which are the writings of the kings praising Jong Mong Ju. The bodies were erected on the back of turtle-shaped stones to make the subjects loyal to their dynasty forever.

Guide Map of Koryo Songgyungwan



Songgyungwan



Koryo Songgyungwan (Outer Gate)

Songgyungwan is located about 2 km northeast of the central part of Kaesong.

In 992 Kukjagam, the highest educational institution at that time, was erected and later Taesong Hall was additionally built and it was renamed Songgyungwan from 1308.

It was burnt down during the Imjin Patriotic War(1592) and was rebuilt to the original state in 8 years from 1602. Koryo Songgyungwan comprises more than 20 buildings and shows the typical features of the Confucian educational organ at that time. The

main buildings are distributed along the north-south central axis. In the frontal part, there are educational buildings with Myongryun Hall at the centre and in the rear, there are the buildings where memorial services were held with Taesong Hall at the centre. The whole block of Songgyungwan is surrounded by the quadrilateral wall.

Songgyungwan was not only the highest educational organ for teaching feudalistic Confucian doctrine to the children of nobility and training them as officials in Koryo and Ri feudal states but also the centre of religious sacrificial rites of Confucianism held for noted Confucians.

Inside the wall of Songgyungwan there stand two ginkgo trees and a zelkova tree, noted as natural monuments, and outside the wall there are stone pagodas and monuments built in the temples of Kaesong area.

Around them there is a pleasure ground with a place for national games like an archery ground and a swinging site and other folk play sites.

Preserved in the buildings of Songgyungwan are historical relics in the period of Koryo Dynasty. They form a museum.

Pleasure Park of Koryo Songgyungwan



Koryo Museum



It was built in August 1987. Koryo Museum comprises 12 main buildings and 6 accessory buildings of Songgyungwan and other site to which stone pagodas and monuments of Koryo Dynasty were moved.

Displayed in the museum holding an area of 70,000 square metres are more than 1,000 pieces of historical relics and outside the museum are stone pagodas, stone monuments and stone lamps.

Displayed in hall No. 1 are relics showing the founding and development of Koryo and in hall No. 2 are historical relics showing the development of

publishing business through the invention of the world first metal type and "History of Koryo", an astronomical chart showing the development of astronomy and world-renowned Koryo Porcelain.

Preserved in halls No. 3 and No. 4 are iron images of Buddha in Jokjo Temple and ironwork, bronze, metal and stone industrial art objects, architectures and art objects.



Iron Image of Buddha of Jokjo Temple



Koryo Porcelain



The Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures with 80,000 Letters



Bronze Fire Pot

Outside the museum are 13 objects including the seven-storeyed stone pagoda of Hyonhwa Temple, pagoda of Hungguk Temple, five-storeyed pagoda of Pulil Temple.

The seven-storeyed pagoda of Hyonhwa Temple was built in 1020 in the early period of Koryo Dynasty. It was originally located at the site of Hyonhwa Temple in Wolgo-ri, Jangphung County, Kaesong.



7-Storeyed Pagoda and Monument to Hyonhwa Temple



The pagoda of Hungguk Temple is a stone pagoda in front of the temple south-east of Manwoldae, the royal palace of Koryo. It was built in 1021 on the initiative of Kang Gam Chan, a famous patriotic commander. Stones on the third storey now remain. Originally, it was five-storeyed. The five-storeyed pagoda of Pulil Temple was in front of Kum Hall of Pulil Temple in 951 and was moved there in the spring of 1960. The pagoda comprises pedestal, body and top.



Ginkgo Trees and Zelkova Tree

In the yard of Koryo Songgyungwan there are two ginkgo trees and a zelkova tree protected as natural monuments. The right ginkgo tree stands 30 m high and its lower stump is 6.3 m round and the left one 32 m high with 7.1 m round lower stump.



The ginkgo trees more than 500 years old are one of the biggest trees in Kaesong. Flowers bloom in May together with new leaves and fruit ripens in October.

The zelkova tree is more than 900 years old and stands 25 m high and lower stump is 6.7 m round. In general, zelkova tree lives for 300-500 years. Zelkova tree of Songgyungwan has been living for over 900 years witnessing history but still is of strong force of growth. The small yellowish green flowers are in bloom in April and May and fruit ripens around October.



Manwoldae

Manwoldae is located at the southern foot of Mt. Songak in Kaesong. It is the site of the royal palace of Koryo.

It is about 2 km north of the centre of the city. Going it round, you may easily gather the scale and form of the palace.

Beside Manwoldae there is part of the Kaesong Castle (outer castle) and Chomsongdae used for observing astronomical phenomena.

Manwoldae

Koryo which was founded in 918 built there the royal palace in the following year large and gorgeously.

Manwoldae was burnt when the Red Kerchiefed Rebel Army invaded in 1361. Manwoldae covered the



royal castle and palace of royal families, that is, the site of the royal palace. But at first it covered the sites of several palaces centering the Hoegyong Palace, the house in which the king managed the affairs of state. It covered an area of 1,260,000 square metres. The area of the royal palace was about 390,000 square metres.

In the royal palace there were government offices as central organs of Koryo.

There were a spacious yard called Kujong in the palace of royal families. There sports games including games on horseback and military parade of the armies were held.



Chomsongdae

Chomsongdae lies left of Manwoldae. Koryo Chomsongdae is precise and superior in its foundation laying and assembling method. Quadrangular granite pillars were erected and long stones were laid on them like a bridge.

At Chomsongdae astronomical and atmospheric phenomena were systematically observed for more than 30 times from 1024 to 1383. Data on observation are displayed now in the Koryo Museum.

Anhwa Temple



Anhwa Temple (General View)

Anhwa Temple built in 930 stands on the mid-slope of Mt. Songak 4 km away from Nam Gate. It was a house where Wang Sin, a cousin of Wang Gon, the founder of Koryo, studied.

The temple occupying an area of 15 hectares comprises such buildings as Taeung Hall, Myongbu Hall, Obaek Hall, 7-storeyed stone pagoda and quarters of people who offered Buddhist mass.



Obaek Hall

Myongbu Hall was burnt down by the bombing of the U.S. imperialists during the Fatherland Liberation War and now only the site remains.



Tomb of King Kongmin

It is the tomb of the 31st king of Koryo.

It lies 14 kilometres southwest of the central part of Kaesong.

King Kongmin was well versed in the art of painting and designing. He ascended the throne in 1352 and when his wife died in 1365 he himself designed and led the construction of two tombs side by side and completed in 7 years till 1372.

He buried his wife in the right tomb and the left one had been vacant till he died in 1374 to be buried there.

The section of tombs is divided into 4 parts. The first one is the main part where there are two tombs side by side. The bottom of each tomb is enclosed with granite blocks bearing the cloud patterns and 12 guardian

gods. Stone sculptures of tigers and sheep are placed alternately around the tomb. Each tomb inside has a passage and inner chamber. Paintings of the sun, the Great Bear, Orion's Belt inheriting the customs of Koguryo are on the ceiling and a mural painting depicting 12 guardian gods on the wall.

At the end of the left and right sides of the second and third parts 2 stone statues of military officials and then 2 stone statues of civil officials stand. What is



Statue of Civil Official

impressive here is that the statue of an old civil official stands near to the tomb of the king and the statue of a young civil official stands next.

This meant that affairs of state can be administered well only when the civil official of high learning and rich experience would assist the king.

But, the statue of a young military official is placed in the interior and that of old placed next.



Statue of Military Official

This meant that not the young but the old military official, noted veteran of many battles could defend the security of the country and protect the personal safety of the king from any foreign invasion.

The stone statues stand 3.3 m high. The fourth part is a long slope and has stairs in the centre to go to the third part and a pavilion stands on the right side.



Tourist Map of Pakyon Area



Pakyon Falls

You will be on the narrow paved road forked eastwards 9 km along the Kaesong-Pyongyang Motorway. And Pakyon Falls lies 15 km further from there.

The falls is located in Sansong-ri. It is named so because Taehungsan Fort is there.

It is one of the three famous falls of Korea. Its peculiar sight and environment attract the excursionists.

And North Gate of Taehungsan Fort, Pakyon Rest House, Kwanum Temple and Taehung Temple and other scenic spots and historical remains are concentrated there.

There are several service facilities as a pleasure ground which Kaesong people are proud of.

Pakyon Falls

Together with Kuryong Falls of Mt. Kungang and Taesung Falls of Mt. Solak, it is one of the three famous falls of Korea.

The falls is 37 m high and on the top there is a pond named Pakyon. It was named Pakyon because water of the pond stayed and fell down to form the falls.

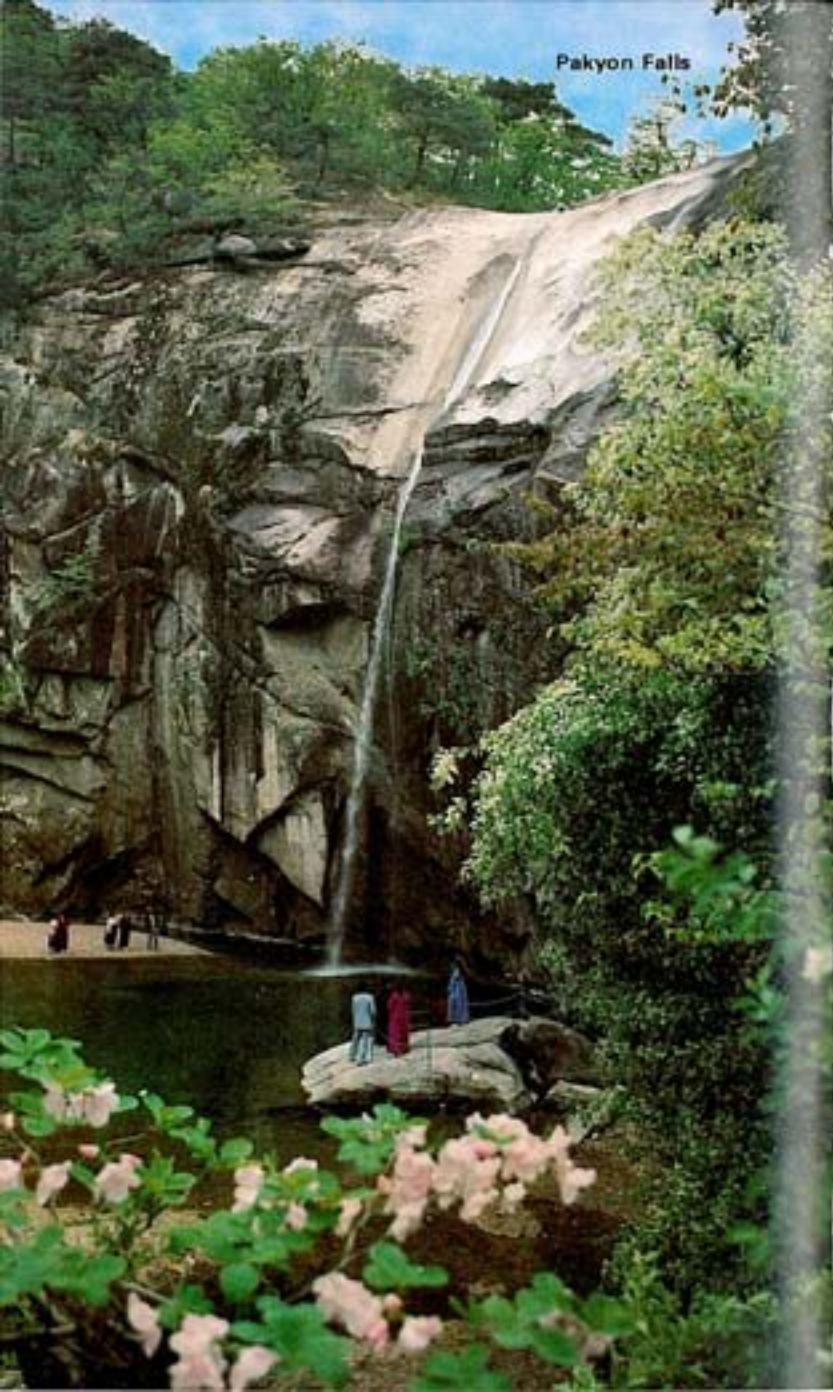
The pond is 8 m in diameter.

In the middle of the pond there is a rock where several people can sit on. The rock was named "Som".

Below Pakyon Falls there is a big pond named "Komo". The diameter is 40 m.

On the western bank of Pond Komo there is Rock "Ryong".

Pakyon Falls



Pomsa Pavilion



It is a pavilion on the right slope of Pakyon Falls. The pavilion rich with national flavour was built during Koryo Dynasty. You may have a rest commanding a bird's-eye view of the falls from the pavilion.

Kaesong Kumgang

A section not long from Pomsa Pavilion to the North Gate of the Taehungsan Fort has been called 'Kaesong Kumgang' from olden times.

It is called so because one who sees the scenery of the environment while climbing up this section feels mysterious as if he were in Mt. Kumgang. In spring the falls is decorated with various flowers and a wet fog of the falls in summer looks like a palace of Dragon King

North Gate of Taehungsan Fort



in the sea bottom. The Falls decorated with colourful maples in autumn can match the scenery of Mt. Kungang.

A gate comes into sight after passing through "Kaesong Kungang." Fort is a stone fort which embraces Mts. Chonma and Songgo. So it is called Chonmasan Fort or Songgosan Fort. The fort was important for defending Kaesong, the capital of Koryo Dynasty.

The circumference of the fort is about 10.1 km.

Inside and outside the fort there are Kwanum, Taehung and other temples and sites of temples.



Pakyon Rest House Pakyon Falls

Kwanum Temple

It is a temple situated at the right foot of the mountain about 1 km up valley from the North Gate of Taehungsan Fort and the Pakyon Rest House.

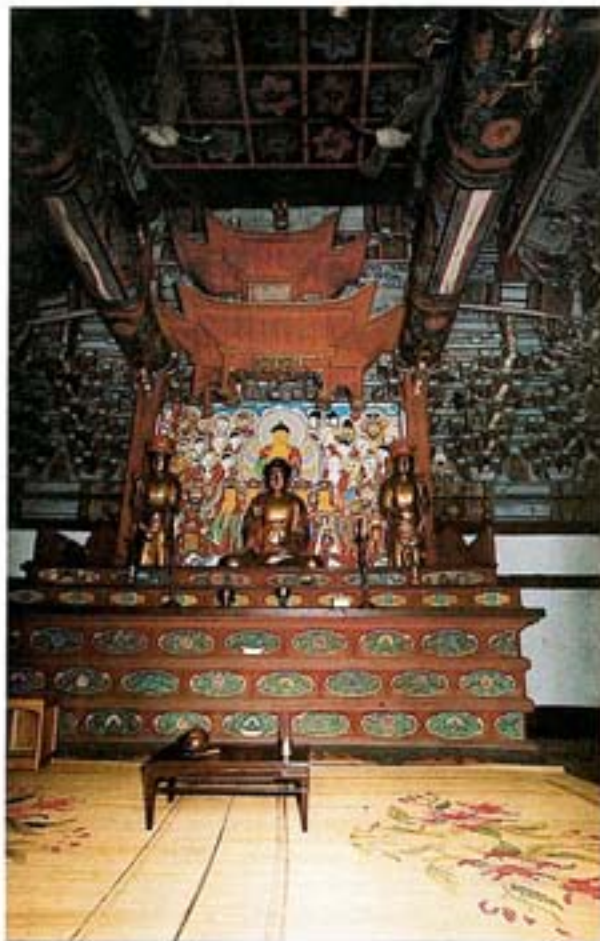
There are Kwanum Cave, Taeung Hall, temple dormitory, attached buildings, and 7-storeyed stone pagoda.

It was called Kwanum Temple because in 970 Popanguksa (the priest of high rank in charge of laws) brought two marble Buddhist images into a cave in the western part of the front yard and named the cave "Kwanum".



Kwanum Temple (Taeung Hall)

Kwanum Temple was called Kwanum Cave at first. But after a temple was built in the middle of Koryo Dynasty it was called Kwanum Temple and was enlarged in Ri Dynasty. In front of the temple there stands a 7-storeyed stone pagoda.



Inner Building of Taehung Temple



Taehung Temple



Stone Steps of Taehung Temple

About 2 km up along the picturesque valley from Kwanum Temple there is a private school where the son of Wang Gon who founded Koryo studied in 921.

Originally on the left side of the school there was a big temple called Taehung Temple. The temple was burnt to ashes by foreign invaders and now remains only the site of the temple.

Later the school was used as a temple instead of Taehung Temple.

So it is now called Taehung Temple.



Tomb of King Wang Gon

Tomb of King Wang Gon

In Haeson-ri, Kaesong, 3.5 km away from Kaesong Nam Gate there is the Tomb of Wang Gon (877-943), the founder of Koryo which was the first unified state in the history of our country.

He was born into a wealthy local farmer who was a big feudal force in Kaesong area.

From the age of 20 he served the State Thaebong and became Sijung, the highest government post.

In June 918 he staged a coup d'etat and overthrew State Thaebong and founded a new dynasty.

He named the new state Koryo meaning that it would inherit Koguryo and moved the capital from Cholwon to Songak and called it Kaeju (Kaesong).

He ruined Silla in April 935 and Later Paekje in September 936 and annexed them to Koryo.

When Wang Gon died in 943, his tomb was built in Haeson-ri.

In the tomb there is an altar and Sindo Monument and Kaesu Kisul Monument on the right and a house for preparing a sacrificial rite on the left. Green lawns are laid like a carpet along a mysterious valley and the tomb of the king is situated on the top of the mountain rising high in the valley.

In front of the tomb two stone statues of civil officials stand, each on either side and a stone lamp for burning incense, an offertory table, animal stone statue and images of 12 guardian gods are preserved as they were.

Phanmunjom

There is no precise record telling why it is called Phanmunjom.

But there is an old story.

There is a road linking Kaesong-Jangdan-Seoul. The road crossed the River Sachon, a tributary of the River Rimjin. People built a bridge with logs and boards and named the bridge Phanmun. But the bridge was carried away by the river when it was flooded on rainy days. So travellers put up booths at the edge of the bridge and stayed there for several days. From that time a tavern appeared and people gathered there and built houses. Travellers named the tavern Phanmunjom (board-framed shop) and later called the village Phanmunjom.



Military Armistice Commission

But Phanmunjom became widely known to the world from when the Korean Armistice Talks were held there and the U.S. Imperialists bent the knees down before the Korean people and signed the Armistice Agreement.

Hundreds of meetings between the two sides were held in Phanmunjom to realize the ardent desire of the entire people in the north and the south to terminate the division of Korea on the principle of independence, peace and great national unity.

In this way Korea began to draw the attention of the world as the outpost line of war and peace and all the travellers to Korea visited Phanmunjom.

In Phanmunjom there are buildings where meetings were held from 1951 to July 27, 1953 to conclude the Armistice Agreement and meeting halls and attached buildings used up to now by both sides.

On the Military Demarcation Line you can see a concrete wall extending over 240 km from east to west built by the South side and the life of the people living in the village on the Demarcation Line.



General Lecture Room

Eight kilometres south of the central part of Kaesong along the motorway there is the mouth of the northern portion of the Demilitarized Zone. A single-storeyed house on the right is the general lecture room for the inspection of Phanmunjom. There are a map of Korea and a model board of Phanmunjom area.

There you can hear the historical process of the division of Korea and see it in reality in Phanmunjom.

Armistice Talks Hall

If you enter the Demilitarized Zone and drive about one kilometre further, you will reach the meeting place where armistice talks were held during the Korean War. It is in Raebongjang in Koryo-dong, Kaesong where the first talks were held in June 1951 at



the suggestion of the US side. Six months later the armistice talks were held again at the meeting hall in Phanmunjom.

The table and chairs the senior delegates and the members of the DPRK side and the US side used are there as they were.

The Hall Where the Armistice Agreement Was Signed



The hall stands next to the Armistice Talks Hall. When the Armistice Talks came to a close and the question of signing the Armistice Agreement was raised, the US side proposed holding the signing ceremony in a temporary tent near the Armistice Talks Hall.

The DPRK side constructed a building with a floor space of 900 square metres in five days where the signing ceremony of the Armistice Agreement was held and thus it became a witness of history.

Preserved there is the table, chairs and flags used when the Armistice Agreement was signed.

Phanmun Pavilion

If you go about 1 km southward from the hall where the Armistice Agreement was signed, you will enter the Joint Security Area and the first building is Phanmun Pavilion.

Phanmun Pavilion



The pavilion is a two-storeyed building of our side. The balcony of the pavilion affords far view of the area of the north and the south with the Military Demarcation Line in between as well as the area of the meeting hall.

Our side has "Phanmun Pavilion" and the US side "House of Freedom" as rooms for break.

MAC Conference Hall

There are seven buildings in the Joint Security Area of Phanmunjom.

The buildings are meeting halls used by the Military Armistice Commission and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

In the hall a table stands in the centre. Microphone cables lie across the centre of the table. This is the Military Demarcation Line, the symbol of tragedy



dividing Korea into the north and the south. Concrete line 40 cm wide and 7 cm high linking with mike cables runs across between buildings to mark the Demarcation Line.

Phanmun Cooperative Farm

From the balcony of the Phanmun Pavilion you see a village on the right side. You can see the blue and red colour flag of the Republic on the top of a 150-metre high steel tower in the centre of the village.

The village belonged to the area of the southern half before the war and to the area of the northern half after the war.

After the war the village which belonged to Phyonghwa-ri was renamed Phanmunjom-ri.

In the southern portion of the Demilitarized zone opposite Phanmunjom-ri there is a village called Taesong-dong. There remain about 30 straw-thatched houses. Phanmunjom-ri of the north and Taesong-dong of the south in the Demilitarized Zone with the Military Demarcation Line in between can be called a miniature of our divided country.

Originally, they formed a village before the Korean War.

The Wall of Division

If you go 27 km to the east from Nam Gate, you will come into a view of the concrete wall built in the southern portion of the Military Demarcation Line from 1976 to 1979, by the US forces and divisionists.

The Military Demarcation Line 240 km long from the eastern to the western parts of the Korean

Peninsula was marked by 1,292 posts.

A post is 1.5 m high and boards bearing the letter "Military Demarcation Line" (100 x 50 cm) are hung on the posts.

The concrete wall is 5-8 m high, 10-19 m thick at the base and 3-7 m wide at the top.

The northern side of the wall which is a symbol of the division is vertical and its southern side is a mild slope and the total length is 240 km(600 ri).

Here and there on the wall are pillboxes and iron gates.

They say that over 800,000 tons of cement and 200,000 tons of steel were used in building the concrete wall.

The Demilitarized Zone is 4 km section, 2 km to the north and 2 km to the south from the Central Military Demarcation Line. Its total area is over 970 square kilometres.

Concrete Wall



USEFUL INFORMATION

Janamsan Hotel

It is situated at the foot of Janam Hill in Koryodong, Kaesong. The hotel is a 4-storeyed modern building.

It opened in 1984. It has one 1st class room, four 2nd class rooms, and thirty-eight 3rd class rooms.



There are the front hall, reception, book and souvenir shop, foreign exchange, telex and amusement halls on the ground floor. A banquet hall, a talking and dining rooms are on the second floor.

Telex : 24029 CNS KP

There are Sonjuk Bridge, Monuments to Loyalty and many other historical remains around the hotel.

In the hotel Pansanggi which served the VIPs from olden times is popular.



Kaesong Folk Hotel (General View)

Kaesong Folk Hotel

It is located in the north not far from Kaesong Nam Gate.

The hotel has 19 single-storeyed Korean style houses. It opened in 1989. There are 100 rooms. Houses Nos. 6, 16, 4, 8 and 19 have first and second class rooms and the rest third.

Single storcy buildings with hip-saddle roofs are standing on both sides with a streamlet in between.

Reception and souvenir shop are on the left and there is no bed in the hotel. Travellers can sleep on the heated floor and take meals on a low dining table like Koreans.

Telex : 24035 MIN SOK KP

Special Products



Koryo Porcelain



Kaesong Straw Goods



Kaesong Embroideries



Pharmacy of Kaesong

Yakbap

Koreans eat boiled rice from several thousands of years ago.

There are various kinds of boiled rices made with white rice, glutinous rice, foxtail millet, barley, steamed Indian millet and five grains.

Yakbap is prepared with dried persimmons, boiled chestnuts, dates, dried brackens, mushrooms, honey and soysauce.

Since Yakbap is nutritious and delicious it is one of the special foods our people like to take on holidays.

Possam Kimchi

Kimchi is the most widespread food of original flavour among the Korean side dishes.

There are Kimjang Kimchi (pickled vegetables) for winter and Kimchi (temporarily prepared for each season). Kimchi has different taste and name in each local area.

Widely known in Kaesong area is Possam Kimchi.

Possam Kimchi of Kaesong is prepared by nipping off big leaves of pickled cabbage and putting spices between each leaf and cutting it in a definite size and wrapping each piece with a big cabbage leaf and putting the whole into a pot and fermented it well. Spices are made of abalone and meat including others for normal Kimchi. It is famous for its peculiar flavour comparing with the other Kimchi.

Insam Takgom

Guts are taken out of a hen and glutinous rice and a root of Insam are put into it and they are contained in an alabaster pot or a ceramic jar and boiled for a long while to be a thick soup. It is mainly used as a tonic.



Kaesong Insamsul

Roots of Insam are put into alcohol and refined to be liquor. The original flavour and fragrance of Insam and its medical elements make this liquor famous.

Insamsul received several gold medals at International Sample Fair held in Bulgaria and Leipzig Spring Fair.

Koryo Insam

Insam is a special medicinal herb of Korea and most effective and widely used among tonics.



Insam Plot

The word "Insam" originated from the fact that the form of a root is like the human body.

Sansam naturally grows in mountains and Insam is artificially cultivated.

The roots of Insam are thick and branch out straight into the earth. Not stem but roots are used as medicinal herb. Roots of Insam are white and those of Sansam yellowish brown.

Roots are dug as medicinal herb after 6 years of growth for Insam and 10 years for Sansam.

Insam is grouped into Susam (not dried), Paeksam (dried in the sun), Hongsam (steamed and dried), Tangsam (boiled Susam down in sugar water) and Misam (rootlets dried in the sun).

Effect of Insam

It is used as a tonic in invigorating, recovering, physical and mental fatigue relieving. It stimulates the functions of brains, recovers memory and prevents early aging.

Methods of Using Insam as Medicines

Insam is sliced or powdered. It can also be used by boiling it down, laying it up in honey, putting it into liquor and boiling it together with fowl. Insam must not be used for sick persons with fever.

Processed Insam Products

More than 180 kinds of products including various medicines, foodstuffs, drinks and cosmetics can be made with Insam.

Medicines: Koryo Insam Tonic, Koryo Insam Tablets, Insam Taebohwan (tonic pill), Insam Tinc, Insam Injection, Koryo Insamtang, Insam Extract, Insam Nutrition Tabloid

Cosmetics: Insam Toothpaste, Insam Cream, Insam Soap, Insam Face Lotion

Food Stuffs and Drinks: Insam Jelly, Insam Jonggwa (Insam in honey), Insam liquor, Insam Tea



Koryo Porcelain

Koryo Porcelain has many kinds. Among them are celadon, white porcelain, brown porcelain, black porcelain, inlaid celadon, open-worked porcelain and lacquered porcelain.

Peculiar feature of Koryo Porcelain is first of all its clear and beautiful colour. In particular, the colour of celadon was loved as the best in the world as it reflected the peculiar national emotion of our people who liked faint and mellow colour. Celadon is also called jade celadon.

Another peculiar feature of Koryo Porcelain is original in its form and various in its kind.

The Koryo people further enriched the artistic quality by making effective use of the clear and beautiful nature and harmonious beauty of fauna and flora of the country.

Koryo Porcelain is also distinctive in form.

Today the ceramics produced at the Kaesong Pottery Factory are exported to many countries and draw the popularity of visitors.

Mt. "O, My!"

The sharp mountain on the opposite side of the Tomb of King Kongmin is called Mt. "O, my!". The name of "O, my!" is associated with following legend.

In olden times when a person died, the site of his grave was chosen first, and a person who chose the good site of grave was called a geomancer.

When his wife died King Kongmin called noted geomancers throughout the country and made them choose the site of the grave. If the site was not to his liking, it was decided to kill them on the spot.

He heard from a geomancer that the present site was auspicious. The king climbed up together with several subjects the sharp mountain and other subjects with the geomancer went to the place where the grave was now.

It was promised between the king and subjects that if the site was not to his liking, the king would take out and raise his handkerchief, and the subjects would kill the geomancer.

The king climbed up the mountain and looked at the opposite part of the mountain. The foot of the mountain looked like surrounded by a folding screen and it was a sunny spot and the inclination was gentle. It was the most suitable site. The king was delighted and satisfied. The king took out his handkerchief and wiped out beads of sweat on his forehead and thought himself that he would commend the geomancer.

But the subjects saw the king acting like this thought it was the signal and killed the geomancer.

Hearing of this fact, the king realized his mistake and said "O, my!" to express his carelessness.

Since then the mountain has been called "O, my!".



Pond "Komo"

In olden times a young man surnamed Pak was living by Pakyon Falls. Everyday he played the flute on "Som" Rock in the middle of Pakyon when he had time.

One day the daughter of the Dragon King, enchanted by the sound of the flute, came to the young man and spent pleasant time. They fell in love with each other and the young man promised the girl to go to the palace of the Dragon King and live with her.

The mother of the young man told her son that he would die if he went down into the water. But the young man disappeared with the daughter.

The mother who lost her son cried sorrowfully by the pond and drowned herself into the pond.

From that time the pond was called "Komo" meaning that it is a pond where mother drowned herself.



The Boy "Unna"



It was a story in 1646 when Kwanum Temple was rebuilt. A 12 year old boy Unna made everything with an axe. He was to carve flowers on the back door of Taeung Hall.

When he finished carving flowers on one leaf of the door and was carving on the other, he heard his mother was seriously ill.

But the constructor would not let the boy go home. The boy could not work well, anxious of his sick mother.

One day the boy received the sad news that his mother was dead. The boy wept sorrowfully. He

could not realize the inequal and inhumane society of the time and sighed that he could not see his mother owing to his skillful hands and chopped out his hand with an axe, and left the construction site.

It was why flowers were not on one of the leaves of the back door of Taeung Hall.

A pattern showing the boy ascending the sky on a dragon with one of hands cut still remains on the unfinished leaf of the door.



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