

Gyeongju
Capital of Korea
57 BC - 935 AD
 Presentation by Paul Pacter
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I have prepared presentations on two cities in southern Korea:
 – Busan.
 – Gyeongju.
 Both were capitals of Korea.
 Both are in the far south of Korea.
 The Gyeongju presentation also covers my comments on "Korean Cuisine".


Map of South Korea

Today we will visit **Gyeongju**



Gyeongju is a small city with a lot of history:
 Population 260,000.

But because of the history, it gets 9 million visitors a year!



Flag of South Korea



Circle = Balance, Harmony
 Red = Positive Forces
 Blue = Negative Forces

The four trigrams:

Celestial Body	Season	Dir.	Virtue	Family	Element	Meaning
☰	Heaven	Spring	East	Humanity	Father	Heaven
☷	Earth	Autumn	South	Righteous	Daughter	Fire
☱	Moon	Winter	North	Intelligent	Son	Water
☲	Sun	Summer	West	Courtesy	Mother	Earth

Flag adopted in 1876.

South Korea – Land:

- Area total: 38,502 sq miles (about size of Indiana).
- Borders only 1 country: North Korea.
- North Korea area: 46,539 sq mi.

Terrain: Mostly hills and mountains.
Land use: Forest 64%, agriculture 18%, other 18%.

South Korea:
Population 2018: 51,500,000.
Population growth rate: 0.44% (2018 est.). Very low.
Koreans are a highly homogeneous ethnic group.

Capital of Korea: Seoul
 For now!
Sejong (75 miles south of Seoul) is being developed as the new capital.
Sejong population today only 280,000.
 There is resistance to this move.

Some Ministries and Agencies have already moved to Sejong.
 Not yet President or Legislature.
Plan is for all to move by 2030.
Stated reasons:

- Ease congestion in Seoul.
- Encourage investment in center of Korea.

Capitals:
Silla period 57BC to 935 AD: Gyeongju (mostly).
Goryeo period 918 AD to 1392: Gaengyeong (now North Korea).
Joseon period 1392 to now (except during Korean War): Seoul.
1950-53: Busan.
Starting 2030: Sejong.

Capitals of Korea



Religion (2015 est.):

- Protestant 20%
- Buddhist 16%
- Catholic 8%
- None 57%

Government:
 Presidential republic.
 9 provinces plus 8 self-governing cities.
Head of state:
 President MOON Jae-in (since 10 May 2017).



Head of government:
 Prime Minister LEE Nak-yeon (since 1 June 2017).



President directly elected by simple majority popular vote for a single 5-year term; election last held on 9 May 2017 (next to be held in 2022); prime minister appointed by president with consent of National Assembly.

Unicameral National Assembly

300 seats: 253 members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote and 47 directly elected in a single national constituency by proportional representation vote. Members serve 4-year terms.



Economy:

In the 1960s, GDP per capita was comparable with levels in the poorest countries in the world:

1960: \$3,950,000,000. (under US\$100 per capita!)

1980: \$64,981,000,000.

2017: \$1,531,750,000,000 (11th in the world). Per capita US\$29,742.

Korea ranks #11 in GDP and even higher in GDP per capita.



Rank	Name	2019 Population	GDP (IMF)	GDP (UN '16)	GDP Per Capita
1	United States	329,064,917	21,410,230	18,624,475	\$65,064
2	China	1,433,783,686	15,543,710	11,218,281	\$10,841
3	Japan	126,860,301	5,362,220	4,936,212	\$42,269
4	Germany	83,517,045	4,416,800	3,477,796	\$52,885
5	India	1,366,417,754	3,155,230	2,259,642	\$2,309
6	France	65,129,728	3,060,070	2,465,454	\$46,984
7	United Kingdom	67,530,172	3,022,580	2,847,899	\$44,759
8	Italy	60,550,075	2,261,460	1,858,913	\$37,349
9	Brazil	211,049,527	2,256,850	1,795,926	\$10,693
10	Canada	37,411,047	1,908,530	1,529,760	\$51,015
11	South Korea	51,225,308	1,777,650	1,411,246	\$34,703
12	Russia	145,872,256	1,754,290	1,246,015	\$12,026

Currency:

Korean Won ₩1: 185 = US\$1.



Compulsory military service:

- For males 18-35 years of age.
- Roughly 2 years.

Independence: 15 August 1945 (from Japan).

National holiday: Liberation Day, 15 August (1945).

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth: No.

Citizenship by descent only: At least one parent must be a citizen of South Korea.

Dual citizenship recognized: No.

Korea Last Names (2015 data)

Only 216 last names used in Korea:

- Kim: 11,700,000
- Lee (incl. Rhee): 7,300,000
- Pak (incl. Park): 4,200,000

Population 51,000,000. So 45% of the population has 1 of these 3 last names.

USA has about 6 million last names. 3 most common (Smith, Johnson, and Williams) are less than 2% of our population.

Korea 10 largest cities (2015 pop.)

- 1 Seoul 9,904,312
- 2 Busan 3,448,737
- 3 Incheon (Seoul airport) 2,890,451
- 4 Daegu 2,466,052
- 5 Daejeon 1,538,394
- 6 Gwangju 1,502,881
- 7 Suwon 1,194,313
- 8 Ulsan 1,166,615
- 9 Changwon 1,059,241
- 10 Goyang 990,073

The history of unified Korea starts in Gyeongju, in 57 BC.

Gyeongju remained the capital of Korea for nearly 1,000 years.

History of Korea

– 2300 BC to 57 BC: Numerous ancient kingdoms known together as Gojoseon.

– 57 BC: Silla Kingdom formed, uniting many (not all) ancient kingdoms. Survived to 935 AD.

37 BC: Goguryeo Kingdom formed, uniting north part of Korean peninsula.

18 BC: Baekje Kingdom formed, uniting west part of the Korean peninsula.

668 AD: The 3 merged into the Unified Silla Kingdom (Korea).

Silla (Korea) and its neighbors in 508 AD.



918 AD: Goryeo Kingdom was founded in northern Korea. Civil wars began between Goryeo and Silla.

By 935 AD: Silla was fully taken over by Goryeo.

Today's name Korea: Derived from Goryeo.

1231-1258: Mongol invasion. Defeated the Goryeo. Destroyed many temples and private buildings.

By 1356: Goryeo regained control. Mongols left.

Map of Goryeo (Korea) 1374

Jurchen is Manchuria.

Yuan is China.



1392: Goryeo fell to Chinese invaders from Manchuria (Jurchen). Korea became a vassal state of China. Joseon Dynasty begins.

Until 1897: Joseon ruled as puppets of China 500 years.

1592: Japan invaded Korea. Harsh fighting. Heavy Joseon losses.

By 1598: Japanese retreated.

Next 250 years: Joseon era, Korea is isolationist. "Hermit Kingdom".

1860s-70s: Fighting with France, USA, Japan to open Korea to foreigners. China was very weak so could not help Korea. Joseon Korea forced to sign unequal treaties with foreign powers.

1895: Japan assassinated Korean Empress and took control.

Same year 1895: Japan defeated China in first Sino-Japanese War, gaining Taiwan and eliminating China's influence in Korea.

1905: Korea formally became a protectorate of Japan.

1910: Japan formally annexed Korea as part of Japan.

1910-1945: Japanese colonial rule. Some local resistance – including a 1919 "declaration of independence".

1945: Japan surrendered to Allies to end WW2. Korean peninsula is divided between Soviet and American occupation forces at 38th parallel. Created North and South Korea. 4km wide DMZ.

South: Democratic government – Republic of Korea (ROK).

North: Communist-style government – Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).



1950 June 25: North Korea invades South Korea. Korean War begins. US and UN forces fought alongside ROK soldiers to defend South Korea. North Korea supported by China and Soviet Union.

1953 July 27: Armistice Agreement (stalemate, not a treaty). Remains that way now.

After WW2 - South Korea:

- Industrialization. Business run by chaebol – diversified family conglomerates like Hyundai, SK, Samsung, and LG. Got tax breaks and low-cost financing.
- Autocratic government.
- 1987: Opened to market-oriented democracy. Rapid economic development followed.

After WW2 - North Korea:

- Government: Communist.
- Leadership: Hereditary.
- Allies: China and Soviet Union.
- Economic decline: Reliance on Western and China aid.
- GDP: US\$32 billion (per capita US\$1,300). (South Korea is around \$2 trillion and \$34,000.)

CIA Factbook: "Discord with North Korea has permeated inter-Korean relations for much of the past decade, highlighted by the North's attacks on a South Korean ship and island in 2010, the exchange of artillery fire across the DMZ in 2015, and multiple nuclear and missile tests in 2016 and 2017."

GYEONGJU

Korean capital during the Silla period, 57 BC to 935 AD.

Bus from Busan to Gyeongju



Bus Busan to Gyeongju

- Several buses each hour.
- Trip takes 1 hour.
- 1970: Gyeongbu Expressway (Seoul to Busan through Gyeongju) opened. Route 1. Korea's most heavily travelled highway. 416km (260 mi). Speed limit 100 kph (62 mph).



Hotel GG one block from both bus stations (regional and intercity).

Outstanding room, wifi, breakfast, taxes: US\$60 for two people. Walk to central tourist sites.



Elevator in Gyeongju Hotel Koreans follow Chinese superstition that 4 means Death. Some Korean elevators have "F" instead of "4".

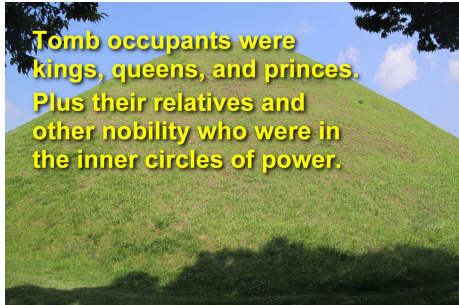
Gyeongju area has around 600 mound tombs of Silla royalty. Called tumului.

Tumul Park (3 sections) with burial mounds is in center of town. Walk from GG Hotel.

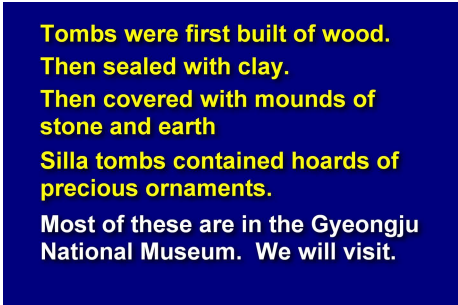
The identity of the ruler buried is known for some tombs, but not known for others.



Tumuli: Tombs of Silla Rulers
57 BC - 935 AD.
35 royal tombs and
155 other tumuli
in central Gyeongju.
421 more tumuli in
outskirts of the city.



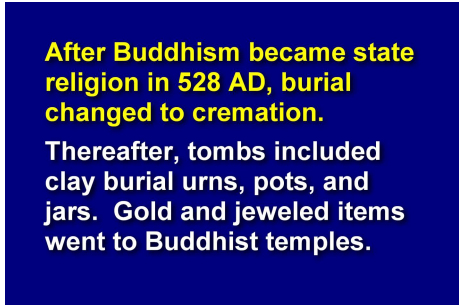
Tomb occupants were
kings, queens, and princes.
Plus their relatives and
other nobility who were in
the inner circles of power.



Tombs were first built of wood.
Then sealed with clay.
Then covered with mounds of
stone and earth
Silla tombs contained hoards of
precious ornaments.
Most of these are in the Gyeongju
National Museum. We will visit.



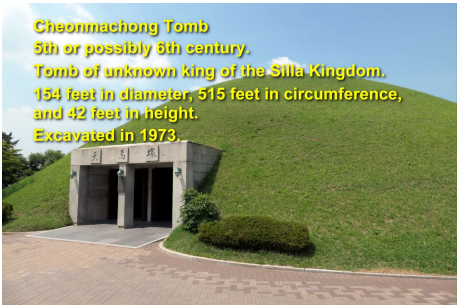
Ornaments found in tombs:
Pure gold crowns, caps, belts,
earrings, necklaces, bracelets,
rings, and decorative swords.
Also numerous ornaments
fashioned from silver, gilt bronze,
crystal, glass, beads, and jade.
Elegant jewels were placed on the
deceased "decorating the body".



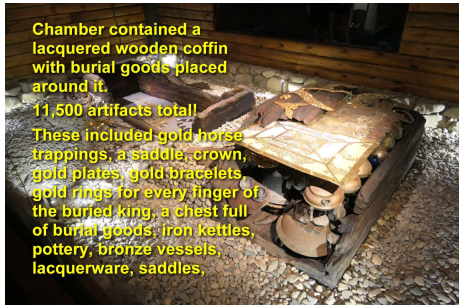
After Buddhism became state
religion in 528 AD, burial
changed to cremation.
Thereafter, tombs included
clay burial urns, pots, and
jars. Gold and jeweled items
went to Buddhist temples.



There Are About 600 Tombs
in Gyeongju and vicinity



Cheonmachong Tomb
5th or possibly 6th century.
Tomb of unknown king of the Silla Kingdom.
154 feet in diameter, 515 feet in circumference,
and 42 feet in height.
Excavated in 1973.



Chamber contained a
lacquered wooden coffin
with burial goods placed
around it.
11,500 artifacts total!
These included gold horse
trappings, a saddle, crown,
gold plates, gold bracelets,
gold rings for every finger of
the buried king, a chest full of
burial goods, iron kettles,
pottery, bronze vessels,
lacquerware, saddles,



Excavating Cheonmachong Tomb - 1973



Tumuli (tombs)



20 million won = US\$17,000

안내문

고분에 올라가는 행위는 문화재보호법 101조에 의거
2년이하 징역이나 2천만원 이하의 벌금에 처벌받을 수
있으니, 무단 출입을 금지합니다.

Climbing up the tomb is punished 20 million won fine,
or prison time 2 years under Article 101 of the Protection Act
unauthorized access is prohibited.

경주시



Tomb of King Michu of Silla - 262-284 AD



There are tumuli all over town



Beobjangsa Temple
(also spelled Beopjangsa).
I could not find out the date of construction.



Beobjangsa Temple



Main Buddha Statue
Beobjangsa Temple



Beobjangsa Temple



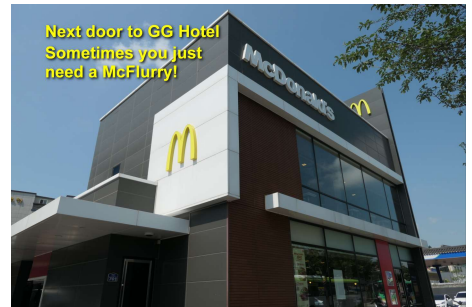
Beobjangsa Temple
Lamps reflect donations to the temple



Beobjangsa Temple
Vegetable Preservation Jars

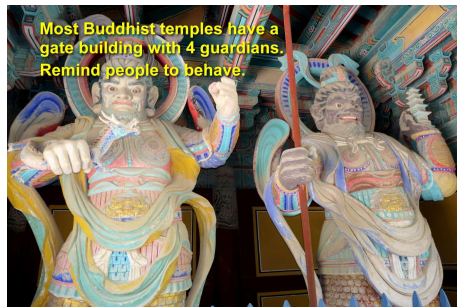


Beobjangsa Temple
Gifts to Us from a Nun at the temple (sweets)

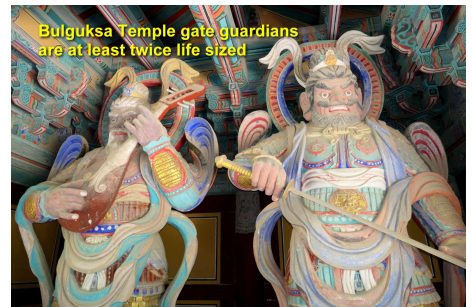


Next door to GG Hotel!
Sometimes you just need a McFlurry!

Bulguksa Temple – on Mount Toham.
Bus from central Gyeongju 40 minutes.
Bulguksa has 7 National Treasures of Korea, including two stone pagodas, a bridge, and two gold statues of Buddha.
First built in 528 AD. Rebuilt 751 AD.
Built at the same time as nearby Seokguram Grottoes.
Both Bulguksa and Seokguram are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Most Buddhist temples have a gate building with 4 guardians.
Remind people to behave.



Bulguksa Temple gate guardians are at least twice life sized



Jahamun Gate 8th c – Bulguksa Temple
One of two sets of stairways.
Cannot climb today.
Stairs to heaven.



Beomyeongnu Pavilion 8th c
Bulguksa Temple
Construction began 528 AD.
Rebuilt in 751 AD.

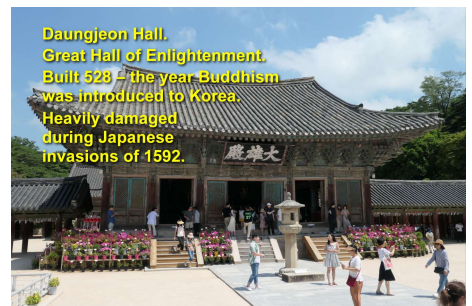


Bulguksa Temple has two stone Silla pagodas.
This one is ornate. The other is plain.
Represent Yin and Yang.
This one called "Dabotap" (many-treasure pagoda).
Built 751 AD.
National treasure.



This is Seokgatap (Sakyamuni Pagoda), the plain one.
Three-storied.
Built 751 AD.
National Treasure.

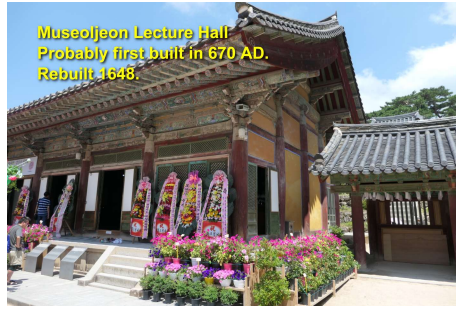
National Treasure: A tangible treasure, artifact, site, or building recognized by the Korean government as having exceptional artistic, cultural and historical value to Korea.
– 319 items have been designated.



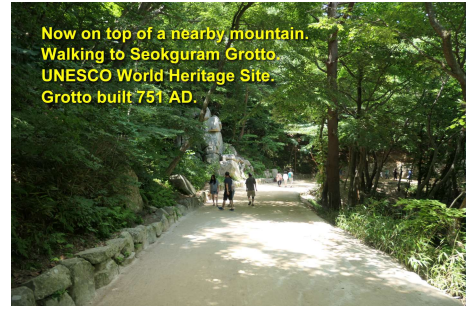
Daungjeon Hall.
Great Hall of Enlightenment.
Built 528 – the year Buddhism was introduced to Korea.
Heavily damaged during Japanese invasions of 1592.



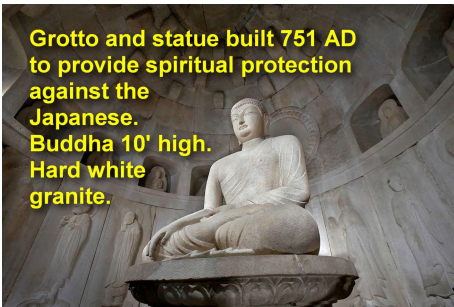
Bulguksa Temple
Main Buddha in Daungjeon Hall



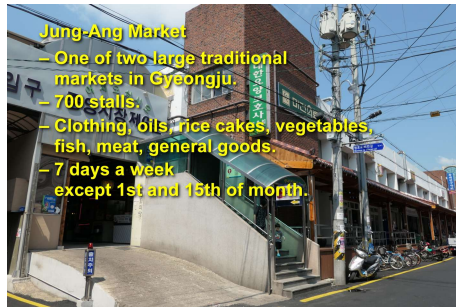
Museumjeon Lecture Hall
Probably first built in 670 AD.
Rebuilt 1648.



Now on top of a nearby mountain.
Walking to Seokguram Grotto
UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Grotto built 751 AD.



Grotto and statue built 751 AD
to provide spiritual protection
against the Japanese.
Buddha 10' high.
Hard white
granite.



Jung-Ang Market
- One of two large traditional
markets in Gyeongju.
- 700 stalls.
- Clothing, oils, rice cakes, vegetables,
fish, meat, general goods.
- 7 days a week
except 1st and 15th of month.



Jung-Ang Market
One of two large
traditional markets
in Gyeongju.
They also have a
night market with
cooked food stalls



Jung-Ang Market
Take home stews (soups).
In Korea, soup is served
as a main course



Jung-Ang Market



Rice-cake (Tteobokki - cylinders)
and Fish-cake
(Odeng - flat)

Spicy!



Korean pancakes at Jung-Ang Market



Napa Cabbage at Jung-Ang Market
Future kimchi.



Jung-Ang Market
Lady Selling Herbs



Antique Popcorn Machine
Jung-Ang Market



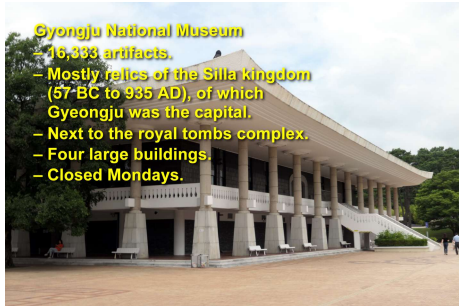
Rebuilt parts of 6th c
Donggung Royal Palace
at Anapji Pond



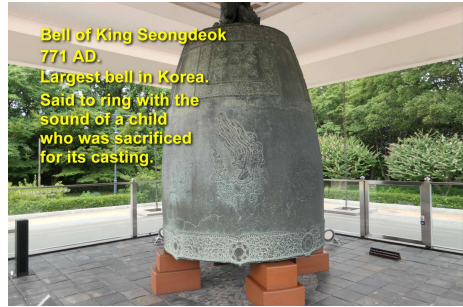
Lotus Park – Gyeongju



Lotus Flower
Can be used
for a tea



Gyeongju National Museum
- 16,833 artifacts.
- Mostly relics of the Silla Kingdom (57 BC to 935 AD), of which Gyeongju was the capital.
- Next to the royal tombs complex.
- Four large buildings.
- Closed Mondays.



Bell of King Seondeok
771 AD.
Largest bell in Korea.
Said to ring with the sound of a child who was sacrificed for its casting.



Bronze Age Jar 4th-1st c BC
National Museum
Gyeongju



Iron Armor 4th c
Silla
National Museum



Silla Pots - 3rd c
National Museum



Horse Armor
4th c
National Museum
Gyeongju



Gold and Pots from Geumgwanchang Tomb.
475-500 AD.
Discovered 1921.



Gold Slippers from Hwangnamdaechong Royal Tombs
5th c.



Pottery from Hwangnamdaechong Royal Tombs - 5th c



5th c Ironware from Hwangnamdaechong Royal Tombs



9th-10th c. Earthenware - National Museum



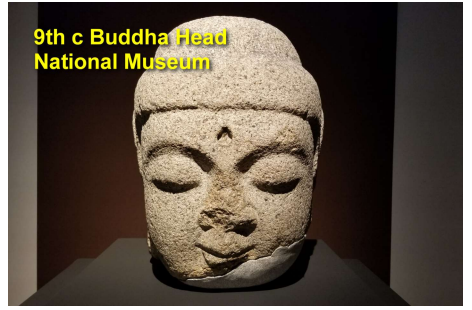
9th or 10th c
Silla Lion
National Museum



Special Exhibit Hall
National Museum Gyeongju



Gold Crown
6th c AD
Geumgwanchang Tomb.
Discovered 1921.
1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of gold!





Bunhwangsa Temple - 634 AD



Bunhwangsa Temple - Worship Hall



Bunhwangsa Temple
Worship Hall



Bunhwangsa Temple
Ancient Bell



Cheomsongdae Astronomical
Observation Tower
632-647 AD



Fortune-Telling Machines



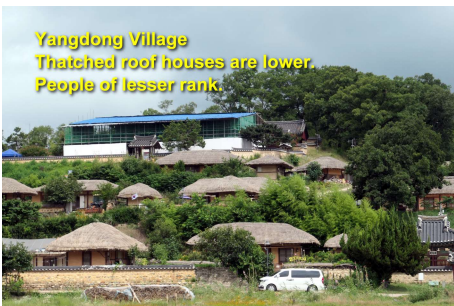
Self-Explanatory Sign



Bus to Yangdong Folk Village.
About one hour bus ride
from Gyeongju.
About US\$1.50



Yangdong Village - Mostly 18th-19th c
150 houses of Silla nobility, UNESCO
Dating 1392-1910.
Houses of heads of clans highest,
tile roofs.



Yangdong Village
Thatched roof houses are lower.
People of lesser rank.



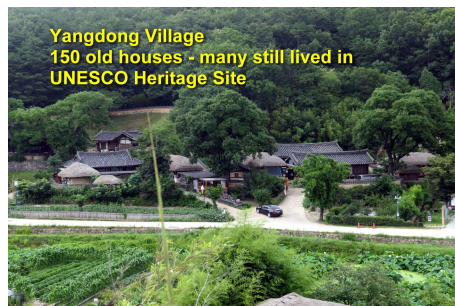
Jeongchung Pavilion - 1780s
Yangdong Village



Jeongchung Pavilion
Carved stele.
1780s



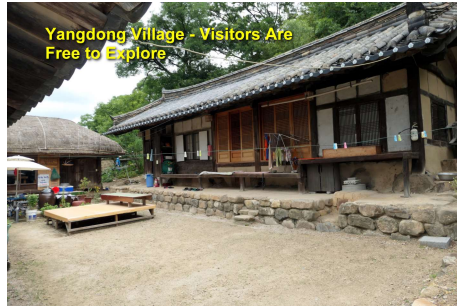
Chillies
Yangdong Village



Yangdong Village
150 old houses - many still lived in
UNESCO Heritage Site



Yangdong Village - Some Thatched
Houses Are 300 Years Old





Squid at Seongdong Market



Korean Egg Pancake Seongdong Market



Silkworms Ricerolls Sweet Potato Flour Glass Noodles Fishcakes