

*One of the Six Celebrated Mountains in Korea
Unique and Fragrant Mountain
Waterfalls of Various Shapes*

Tour of Mt Myohyang

Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 110 (2021)

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International Airway Timetable

Air Route	Route No	Departure	Arrival
Pyongyang-Beijing	JS151	Tue, Sat/08:50	Tue, Sat/09:50
	JS251	Thu/10:35	Thu/11:35
Beijing-Pyongyang	JS151	Mon, Fri/09:00	Mon, Fri/10:00
	JS152	Tue, Sat/13:05	Tue, Sat/16:05
	JS252	Thu/14:00	Thu/17:00
Pyongyang-Shenyang	JS152	Mon, Fri/12:00	Mon, Fri/15:00
	CA122	Mon, Fri/15:20	Mon, Fri/18:15
Beijing-Pyongyang	CA121	Mon, Fri/13:25	Mon, Fri/16:20
Pyongyang-Shenyang	JS155	Wed, Sat/11:50	Wed, Sat/12:00
Shenyang-Pyongyang	JS156	Wed, Sat/13:55	Wed, Sat/16:10
Pyongyang-Vladivostok	JS271	Mon, Fri/08:30	Mon, Fri/11:00
Vladivostok-Pyongyang	JS272	Mon, Fri/12:20	Mon, Fri/13:00

International Railway Timetable (Pyongyang-Dandong-Beijing)

Train No	Route	Day	Departure	Arrival
No 51	Pyongyang-Dandong	Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	10:25	16:30
No 52	Dandong-Pyongyang	Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	10:00	18:45
No 51	Pyongyang-Beijing	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	10:10	08:30
No 52	Beijing-Pyongyang	Sun, Tue, Thu, Sat	17:27	18:45

PREFACE

Situated in the northwestern part of the Korean peninsula, Mt Myohyang is known as one of the six celebrated mountains in Korea.

Looking marvellous and magnificent, it was named so as every peak emits wonderful fragrance (myohyang means wonderful fragrance).

The mountain attracts tourists as it retains many historical and cultural relics and remains including the Pohyon Temple with about 1 000-year history, as well as beautiful natural scenery.

It is also regarded as the pride of the Korean people and the best mountain in the world because it has the International Friendship Exhibition House that displays the gifts the mankind have presented to the Korean leaders Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un out of admiration for their greatness.

It carries many legendary tales of various themes created in different ages.

This book introduces the mountain's renowned scenic spots, falls and interesting places as well as legendary tales associated with them.

Overview of Mt Myohyang

Over 120km around and 1 909m above sea level, Mt Myohyang covers an area of 375 sq km comprising parts of Hyangsan and Kujang counties of North Phyongan Province, Nyongwon County of South Phyongan Province and the city of Huichon of Jagang Province.

Though it had been known among the Korean people for long, it was since the early 11th century that it has been called as now. Previously it was called Mt Yonju as it belonged to Yonju County, and after the middle period of the Koryo Dynasty Mt Thaeback due to its rocks being singularly white and clean.

From the historical point of view, the mountain is divided into Mt Kuhyang (old Myohyang) which includes the area of Panya, Wonmyong and Hyangchon valleys belonging to the regions of Puhung-ri, Ryujung-ri and Hyangchon-ri in Huichon to the north of Hyangbiro Peak, which was developed earlier, and Mt Sinhyang (new Myohyang) which covers the later-developed valleys where the present Pohyon Temple and the International Friendship Exhibition House are located. From the geographical point of view Mt Sinhyang is called Mt Naehyang (inner Myohyang), while the area of Kujang and Nyongwon counties, Mt Oehyang (outer Myohyang).

When we say about Mt Myohyang we imply the area of Mt Sinhyang (Myohyangchon valley) which has the most beautiful scenery.

Mt Kumgang has been known as a marvellous mountain and Mt Jiri as a majestic one but Mt Myohyang as a mountain

celebrated with both features. Indeed, as the Korean people has long described it as a mountain with 84 000 peaks, every site offers superb scenery which is created by the combination of peaks and rocks of exotic forms, deep valleys and high cliffs, crystal-clear water and falls, dense forest that provides cool shades in summer, leaves dyed in autumnal tints, snowscape in winter, twittering of birds and sound of water flowing and rolling.

That is why the Korean people have regarded it as one of the six celebrated mountains and eight scenic spots in Korea. They also selected eight superb scenes in the mountain.

As a tourist attraction, it has the Pyongyang Municipal Schoolchildren's Mountain-climbing Camp, Pirobong Tourist Camp, Hyangsan Hotel, snack bar, mineral water site and other facilities for tourists and campers.

Paths were laid to Sangwon and Manphok valleys and Hyangbiro Peak. They are furnished with safety apparatuses, rest areas and pavilions that blend well with the natural surroundings.

Situated at the foot of Thammil Peak, 1.5km away from Hyangsan Hotel, is the International Friendship Exhibition House with wing-shaped gabled roofs of blue tiles and walls embossed with Kimilsungia, Kimjongilia and magnolia blossoms on a pink background.

Inaugurated on August 26, 1978, it houses some of the hundreds of thousands of gifts sent to President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un by state and party leaders from five continents of the world, international organs, revolutionary organizations, progressive politicians and personages from capitalist countries.

Nature

Topography and Geology

During the long period, the mountain experienced external and internal geological actions including several complex crustal movements and erosions. Affected by the crustal movement in the Neogene period of the Cenozoic era, the area around the Chongchon River valley lowered down, further increasing the elevation of Hyangbiro Peak and some other parts of the mountain, deepening the valleys and finally forming the present shape of the mountain.

Its terrain consists of large mountain ranges stretching to the shore of the Chongchon to the west and to the Taedong to the east centring the highest Hyangbiro Peak, as well as many valleys of the Myohyang, Paengnyong and Wonmyong streams.

The mountain range stretching from Hyangbiro Peak includes Jingwi (1 832m), Wonman (1 820m), Hyangno (1 599.6m), Oson (1 365m), Pobwang (1 392m) and other high peaks, whereas the range extending from Horang Pass consists of Mt Paek (1 599m), Munphil (1 530m), Wangmo (1 402.5m), Hyongje (1 229m) and other peaks.

The rocks are clean, beautiful, very white and fine-grained.

As they contain quartz in the main, their broken pieces are also crystal clear and so is the water flowing through their cracks and valleys.

Climate

Surrounded by high peaks, the area of the mountain is characterized by relatively warm weather without hard winds. Mean temperature is -11.6°C in the coldest January and 23.7°C in August, annual mean temperature being 8.3°C.

It belongs to the areas with big precipitation in the country, but it rarely rains all day long even in the rainy season.

Usually the weather remains fine in the morning, but clouds start to gather over Hyangbiro Peak in the afternoon, bringing rain.

After rain it is often foggy. Annual mean precipitation is over 1 300mm, 60% of which is recorded in July and August. With thick forest, heavy rainfall and weak wind, its annual mean atmospheric humidity is 75%.

Streams and Mineral Water

There are streams joining the blue Chongchon, and Myohyangsan mineral water.

The typical one is the Myohyang Stream which rises in Kangson Peak and joins the Chongchon in Hyangam-ri. It is 16.5km long and its basin covers the area of 71.8 sq km. Other large streams include the Paengnyong (40.5km long) in the area of Mt Oehyang (in the Kujang area), the Pusong Stream through the Panya Valley of Mt Kuhyang (in the Huichon area), the Wonmyong Stream through the Wonmyong Valley and the Jinmyong Stream through the Hyangchon Valley.

Myohyangsan mineral water is on the shore of the Myohyang Stream between Sangwon and Manphok valleys.

A calcium bicarbonate spring with a pH of 5.8 and temperature of 12.5°C, it contains a total mineral amount of 1 657.42°C/l. It is efficacious for treating chronic gastritis, gastric and duodenal ulcer, chronic enterocolitis, cholangitis, chronic cystitis and mild diabetes. It is convenient to use as it is found on a mountain-climbing path. Habitual drinking of this water helps soften and beautify skin.

Flora and Fauna

The lowest slope up to 500-900m above sea level is characterized by a mixed forest of pine and oak trees; the middle one up to about 1 100m by broadleaf trees like Mongolian

oak, *Betula davurica* and *Tilia mandshurica*; and highest one upto 1 400m by boreal needleleaf trees such as fir, *Picea koraiensiskoreana*, *Picea jezoensis* and *Abies nephrolepis*.

Found at the top part above 1 800m are alpine plants including *Sabina sargentii*, *Pinus pumila*, *Thuja koraiensis*, rhododendron and blueberry.

The mountain abounds also with medicinal herbs and wild fruits like wild grape and gooseberry. Typical medicinal herbs include wild insam, forest asiabell, *Schizandra fructus*, *Angelica gigas*, serviceberry, *Codonopsis lanceolata* and *Geranium nepalense*.

Because of its excellent environment, it is also diverse in fauna resources—over 30 species of mammals, 220 species of birds and scores of species of reptiles and amphibians. In particular, there are many rare and beneficial birds. Out of 220 species many are migratory birds; in spring thrush, *Acanthis flammea* and *Bombycilla garrulus* which have wintered in the mountain fly to their breeding places and in May *Eurystomus orientalis*, *Oriolus chinensis*, cuckoo and *Eophona migratoria* return to the mountain.

The Manphok Valley is widely inhabited by *Butorides striatus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Cinclus pallasii*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and *Buteo*

lagopus and Hyangbiro Peak by black-naped oriole, *Ficedula narcissina*, *Cettia diphone*, *Emberiza elegans* and *Cyanopica cyana*. Streams are teeming with dozens of fish species including sweet fish, rainbow trout and *Pseudogobio esocinus*. Dozens of species of amphibians and insects are found in the mountain.

Falls and Rocks

Mt Myohyang has many waterfalls, over 40 of which are well known for their size and shape. While some fall straight,

some others slide through testudinate rocks. Still others spout water wide, or rise up like fountains after sliding. Various mysterious-shaped rocks add much to the mountain's beautiful and majestic natural scenery.

The mountain is formed mainly by granogneiss and granite. Because there are a lot of large rocks here and there, it looks like a huge monolithic mountain at a cursory glance.

Some of rocks are covered with ever-green moss and others reveal their bare gray surfaces or carry pine trees with roots deep in their cracks.



Eight Scenes of Mt Myohyang

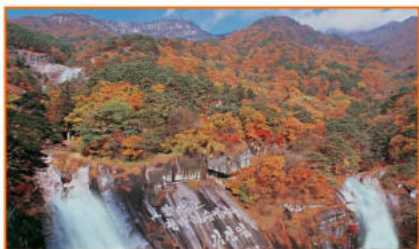
Greeting or seeing off guest
at the Simjin Pavilion



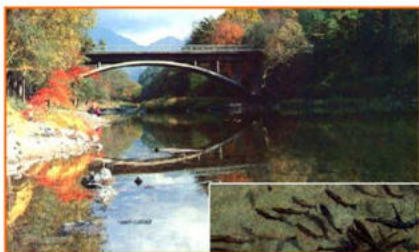
Viewing moon
at the Pulyong Temple



Observing waterfalls
at the Inho Rock



Seeing fish in
the Kumgang Pond



Thick forest
of Thamnil Peak



Clouds circling
the Sollyong Rock



Seeing woods in autumnal
tints on the Paegun Rock



Evening glow over
the Tangun Rock



Historical and Cultural Relics and Remains

There are many historical and cultural relics and remains that are associated with the patriotic struggle waged by the Korean people.

It is the place where Abbot Sosan (1520-1604) formed the volunteer army with the monks to repulse the Japanese invasion in the period of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1597). Kungang Grotto where he developed his mind and practised martial arts and his residence in the Pohyon Temple which he used during the

war are preserved in their original state.

The Pulyong Hermitage is the place where the Chronicles of the feudal Joseon dynasty, a typical national classical book, was kept in the period of the Imjin Patriotic War. The book is a kind of government diary which records the historical facts of 519 years, or over 180 000 days, of the feudal Joseon dynasty from 1392.

There are many historical and cultural relics that show the resourcefulness and talents of the Korean people. Typically, the Pohyon Temple is a structure of high artistic value that can

represent the architecture of Korea in the early 11th century.

Thanks to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on preserving cultural relics and remains, the Taeung Hall and Manse Pavilion were restored to their original state, a depository was newly built for the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures, and the Kwanum Hall, Ryongsan Hall, Haejang House, Mansu Pavilion, Jogye, Haethal and Chonwang gates and other old buildings, as well as the tetragonal 9-storeyed pagoda, octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda and the monument at the Pohyon Temple are preserved as they were.



Depository for the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures



Kwanum Hall



Manse Pavilion



Taeung Hall and Octagonal 13-storeyed Pagoda



Chonwang and Haethal gates



Tabo Pagoda



Bell in Yujom Temple

Underground Scenic Spots

There are several beautiful limestone caverns in the area of Mt Oehyang (the Kujang area). They were formed through centuries-long process of limestone being eroded by rain and underground water.

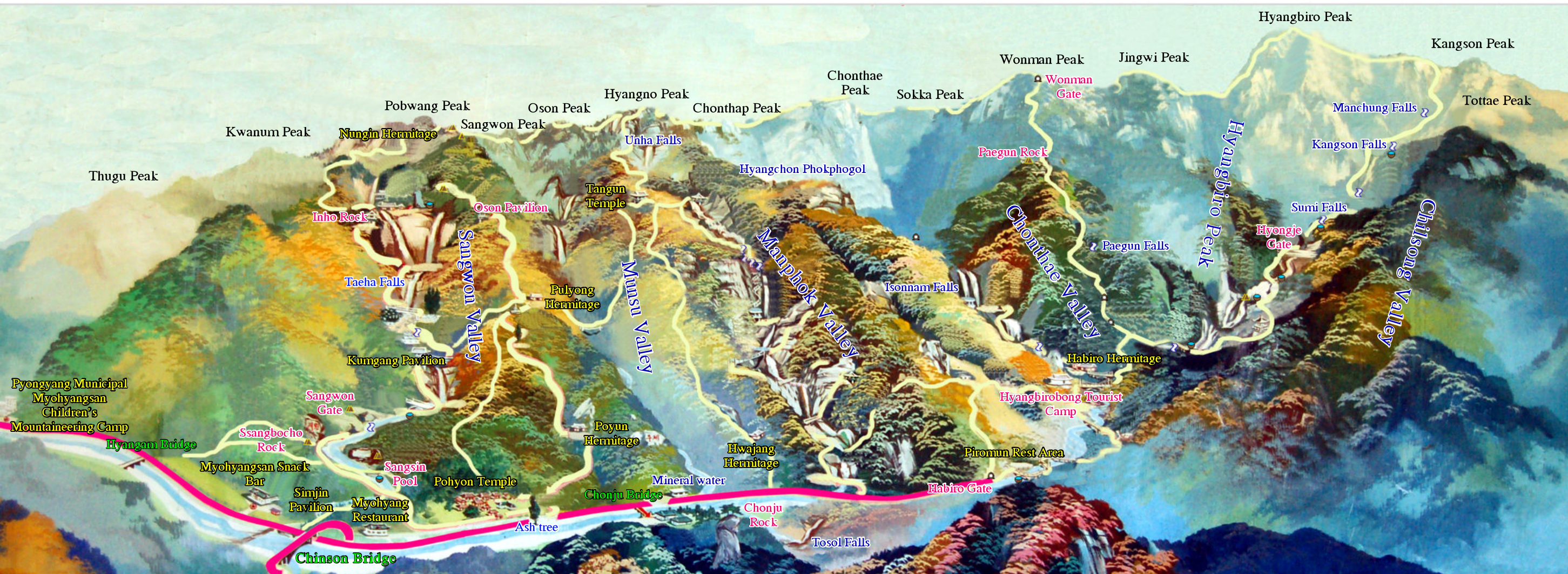
They present bewitching sights of fantastic stalactites, stone flowers and stalagmites. Typical examples are Ryongmun and Paengnyong caves and Songam Cavern.



Stalagmites and stalactites



Mountain-climbing Routes





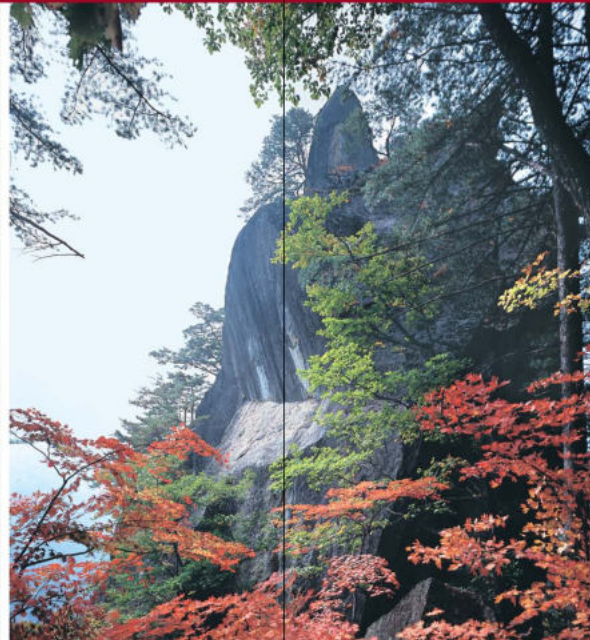
Mountain-climbing

Erected at the entrance of the mountain is a monument bearing the autograph of President Kim Il Sung, which reads, Mt Myohyang.

There are three mountain-climbing courses; the first one is to the Sangwon Valley Area noted for scenic beauty, the second to the area of Manphok Valley famed for waterfalls and the third to Hyangbiro Peak with aromatic alpine plants.

Mountain-climbing to Hyangbiro Peak is divided into three destinations; Chonthae and Chilsong valleys and Hyangbiro Peak. Every entrance has a marker indicating its destination—Sangwon Hermitage, Manphok Valley or Hyangbiro Peak.

Monument inscribed with President Kim Il Sung's handwriting



Sangwon Valley Area

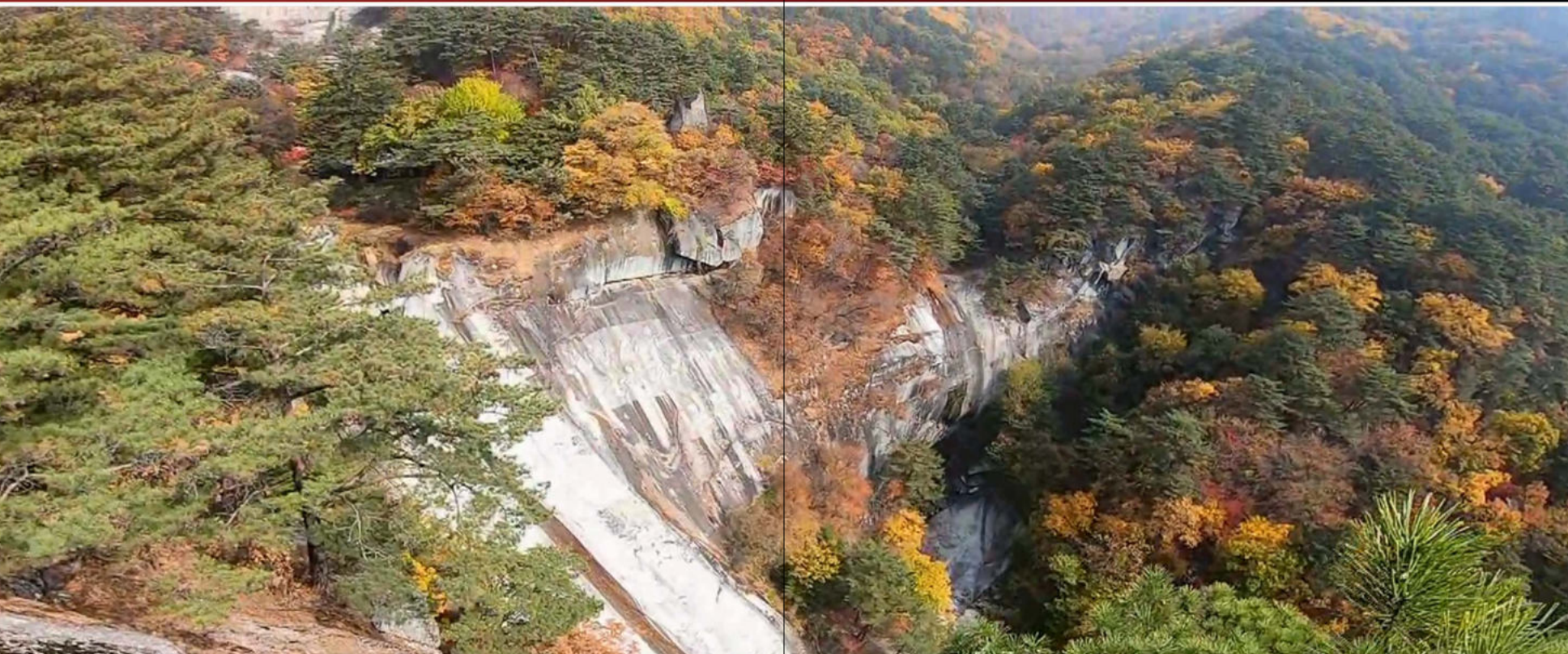
This course is comprised of two routes—ascending and descending. The ascending route is from the entrance of the Sangwon Valley to Pobwang Peak through the Sangwon Hermitage. Total distance is 6.3km; 3.3km from the entrance of the Sangwon Valley to the Sangwon Hermitage and 3km from the hermitage to Pobwang Peak.

You can see historical relics, waterfalls of various shapes and

curious-looking rocks along the route.

The descending route is from Pobwang Peak to the Kumgang Falls through the Sangwon Hermitage, Chuksong Temple and Oson Pavilion and the Pulyong Hermitage. You can have a break at the Chonsin Pavilion in the Sangwon Hermitage.

The distance from the Sangwon Hermitage to the Pulyong Hermitage is 2km, from the latter to the Kumgang Falls 970m and from the falls to the entrance of the Sangwon Valley 1.8km. It is not as rugged and steep as the ascending route.



Ascending Route to the Sangwon Valley

Marker of the Sangwon Hermitage

It is the entrance to the Sangwon Valley.

Guides' interesting stories will give a zest to climbing.

Group of Stupas

A stupa means a grave of a monk.

When a monk resident in Mt Myohyang died, his or her body was burned and the ashes were buried under a stone. The size of stupa depended on the influence of the deceased. In other words, the bigger his or her influence was, the bigger the stupa for him or her was. There are 44 stupas, the biggest of which is 2m high.

The Ansim Temple was located below the group of stupas. A man surnamed Kim moved here from Hwangju in 1028 and built the temple. The temple was named so as it would make visitors feel at ease. Then he called himself Thammil as he claimed he was the first to find the beauty of the mountain, and the peak in front of the temple Thammil Peak.

In 1038 his cousin Koeng Hak came here and became his disciple. They built a 243-room temple till 1042 and named it after Pohyon, a Buddhist saint.

During the Fatherland Liberation War, the Ansim Temple

was burned down in bombing raids and the stupa and tombstone of Abbot Sosan were also damaged. Abbot Sosan was the commander of the volunteer army during the Imjin Patriotic War.



Group of Stupas



Pohyon Temple

Sangsin Pond

It is called so as it was newly laid out at the entrance of the Sangwon Valley.

Ssangbocho Rock

The two rocks looking like sentry boxes stand side by side, hence the name Ssangbocho (two guards).

In olden times many valuable treasures including gold statues of Buddha and relics of Shakyamuni were preserved in Mt Myohyang. The marauders from an island country were watching for a chance to steal these treasures.

Informed of this, a young man and his sister living in a nearby village came up here and developed their minds and practised martial arts to defend the mountain and its treasures. Still the rocks tell of their love for their village.

Chongryong Rock

A rock blocking the mountain-climbing path, it is 40m long and 5m thick.

Waryong Falls

With the length of 35m, it was named so as it looks like a wiggly dragon.

When the amount of water increases, it seems as if a dragon climbs up the valley.

[Legendary Tale]

Blue Dragon and Kuryong Pool

Once upon a time there lived a blue dragon in the pool at the bottom of the perennial Ryongyon Falls, guarding a magic gem which emanated mysterious light making its water blue.

The stone was a priceless treasure that could empower dragons to create wonders of nature, so other dragons coveted it.

One day nine yellow dragons attacked the blue dragon, and a one-to-nine fierce fight followed.

However, they could not be a match for the blue dragon that had built up its strength,

drinking the clear water of Mt Myohyang.

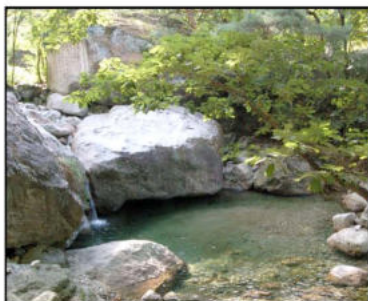
Defeated and exhausted, they fled in a great haste, only to fall down to a valley over southern county enroute, forming a pond. The pond was later named Kuryong (nine dragons).

Afterwards, the blue dragon continued to live in the pool, strengthening itself and defending the mountain, before it turned into a rock.

Sangwon Gate

The Sangwon Gate was formed by a rock which was carried down and laid over a boulder in a flood some 40 years ago.

The scenery of Mt Myohyang starts from the gate.



Sangsin Pond



Sangwon Gate



Kumgang Gate



Sangwon Spring

Kumgang Gate

The Kumgang Gate means an entrance to a picturesque place.

In the past Mt Myohyang was used as a pleasure resort for wealthy and powerful people.

They used to come to the mountain by sedan-chair amid the playing of music. But the gate was too small for their sedan-chairs to pass, so they had to get off and pass it on foot with their overweight bodies bent double. Although they complained that such a small stone gate was more important than they were, the scenery in the Sangwon Valley behind the gate was too tempting for them to give up and return.

Sangwon Spring

The Sangwon Spring is located about 50m away from the Kumgang Gate.

The air and water in Mt Myohyang are so pure and clean that a foreign businessman, after sightseeing the mountain, said he felt as if he had been relieved of the fatigue and aftereffects of pollution accumulated in him for 60 years and that if he brought the air and water in plastic bags to his country and sold them there, he could make a huge fortune.

[Legendary Tale]**Legend of Blue Birds
in Mt Myohyang**

Once upon a time there lived a couple of blue birds in Mt Myohyang.

As their voices and feathers were not very beautiful, they were cold-shouldered by other birds.

They did not care a bit but focused on tending the flowering plants and trees in the mountain.

One day when they were intently catching harmful insects, they heard somebody weeping sadly.

When they flew to the place where the weeping sound came from, they found a teenage boy. He told them he was weeping because he had no way to catch a catfish which he had heard was efficacious for curing his ailing mother.

Although they had never swum before, they decided

to try to help him and dived into a deep pond. They finally managed to catch a catfish after a long painstaking effort and gave it to the boy.

After seeing the grateful boy off, they were astonished to see their soaked feathers. They had been dyed in the beautiful blue colour of the water of Mt Myohyang. They shouted out of surprise, only to find that their voices had also changed beautifully.

They lived happily ever after tending the plants and trees in the mountain.

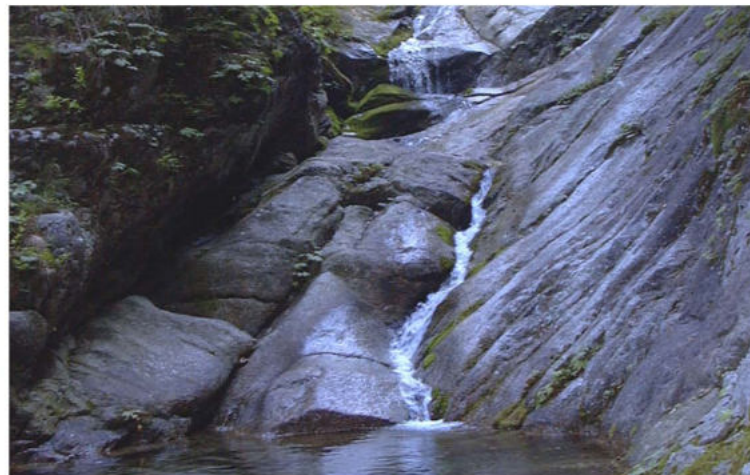
On hearing the story, many blue birds came to the mountain from various places. They dipped their bodies in the water and had beautifully-coloured feathers.

Since then flocks of blue birds have flown to the mountain every May.

Kumgang Falls

From olden times the Kumgang Falls has been renowned for its shape and exquisite scene round it. While it looks like a picture scroll in autumn when red maples hang over it, its winter scenery is also quite spectacular as the area surrounding it is white with frostwork.

Unlike ordinary falls in which water cascades down vertical cliffs, the falls is slant with water running over a sloping rock. On a rock on the left of the falls stands the gable-roofed and softly-painted Kumgang Pavilion. The pavilion commands a bird's-eye view of the falls and its surroundings.



Kumgang Falls

Jangji Rock

The Jangji Rock (*jangji* means a thumb) was so named because the rock looks like a hand which gives a thumbs-up to the scenery of Mt Myohyang. The size of the fist-shaped part is 5x5m and the thumb is 2m high.

Onui (a brother and a sister) Pond

The name of the pond is derived from the story that a young man and his sister used to have a bath in it after practising martial arts on Ssangbocho Rock near it.

According to the story the sister took a bath in the upper, smaller pond and the brother in the lower, bigger one.

Kusul (beads) Falls

The falls is so called because it looks like beads of clean waterdrops rolling down. The falls is 15m high and the pond under it is 2.2m deep.

Taeha Falls

The Taeha Falls is located beneath the Inho Rock. It is said that the falls has moved 10m backwards from its original location with the passage of time.

There is a hollow in the middle course of the falls. When the amount of water increases, water spurts up into the air after dumping into the hollow, creating a magnificent sight.

Ryongyon Falls

There is a deep pool called Ryong Pool (*ryong* means a dragon) on the top of the falls. As the falls is formed by the pool's overflow, it falls down in the form of fish scales. According to a story a dragon flew up into the sky from the pool, making it overflow. Hence its name Ryongyon.

Sanju Falls

The Sanju Falls is called so because it looks like myriads of beads cascading down.

Sesim (mind-purifying) Rock

In the olden times people inscribed the rock with the words "Save us, merciful Buddha!" and used to come here and purify their minds—hence the name.

The rock carries a story about a jokester conning wives of high-ranking officials from Pyongyang.



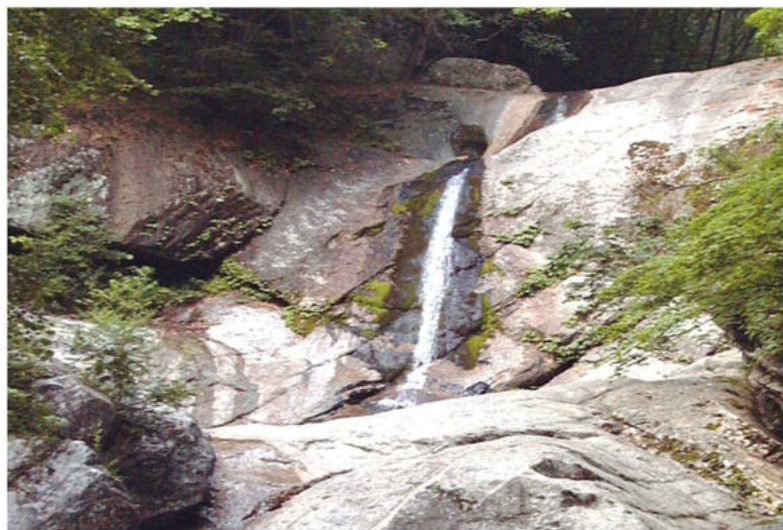
Onui Pond



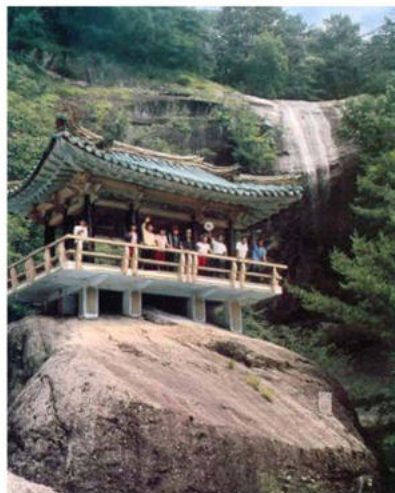
Ryongyon Falls



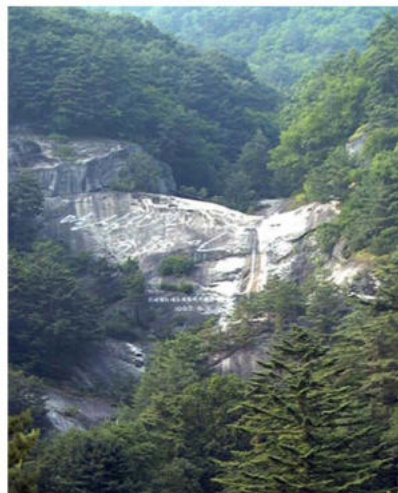
Sanju Falls



Taeha Falls



Ryongyon Pavilion



Chonsin Falls

[Legendary Tale]**Jokester Kim's Visit
to Mt Myohyang**

One day several idle wives of high-ranking officials in Pyongyang set out on a trip to Mt Myohyang in company with a jokester named Kim.

Their party was quite large with scores of palanquin bearers, their servants and the coolies who were carrying food to be offered to Buddha.

They looked round the Pohyon Temple on the first day and other temples near it the following day.

On the third day they set off to the Sangwon Hermitage, but the road was so steep that their feet were covered with blisters soon.

However, they had managed to trudge their way

up to the Sesim Rock, when the jokester told them that this rock was called Sesim Rock and everyone must confess their sins and purify their minds there before proceeding any farther, otherwise they might fall from a high cliff, either losing their lives or remaining crippled for life.

They were caught on the horns of a dilemma—their sins were too serious to confess but if they refused they might fall from the cliff.

As if reading their thoughts, the jokester stood out and started to confess first. He mumbled that when young he had stolen a melon on his way to school. To them his sin seemed too trivial when compared with theirs.

Having finished his confession, he told them that because there was no one to

hear their confessions, their secrets would be safe. Then he went away and hid himself behind the rock.

Presently they started to confess their sins in turn, one telling that she had taken the only son of a family as a servant for her family for a small amount of their debt and the other confessing that she had had improper relations with a young man because her husband was too old. They could not know that the jokester was noting their confessions on his pocketbook.

Either thanks to their frank confessions or for some other reasons, they safely returned home after visiting the Sangwon Hermitage.

The jokester's mischief had begun in earnest since then. He visited one woman after

another and asked them for money or rice. If they denied his request, he took out his pocketbook and began to read it. They could not but accept all his requests in case they would be disgraced if their sins were made public and, worse still, they would be done for if their sins were known to their husbands.

The jokester distributed the collected money and goods among poor people.

Inho Rock

The Inho Rock (*inho* means being guided by a tiger) is located about 200m northwest upwards along cliff from the Ryongyon Falls. Its name is associated with the legendary tale that a tiger guided a man who was wandering from the trail near the falls. There is the Inho Pavilion on the Inho Rock which lies on a cliff in front of the Sangwon Hermitage.

The pavilion commands a full view of the picturesque Sangwon Hermitage. From olden times the scene around the Inho Rock has been known as one of the eight famous sceneries of Mt Myohyang.



Inho Rock

Sangwon Hermitage

The Sangwon Hermitage is situated on a fantastic-shaped cliff from which the Ryongyon and Sanju falls flow downwards, with the Chonsin Falls as the backdrop.

The hermitage was built in the closing years of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392) and reconstructed in 1580 and its main building is characterized by its roof in which saddle and gable styles are combined.

Hanging on its front wall are two tablets bearing the name of the hermitage and the calligraphic writing that reads “the most beautiful hermitage in Mt Myohyang.”

The hermitage has the Chilsong and Su pavilions as annexes and Myohyangsan pine and Sangwonam ginko in its front yard.



Sangwon Hermitage

Descending Route in the Sangwon Valley

Ryonggak (dragon's horn) Rock

If you pass through the Chilsong Pavilion in the Sangwon Hermitage, you will find the Ryonggak Rock which looks like the horn of a dragon. A story has it that the rock was remains a dragon left when it ascended to heaven from the Ryong (dragon) Pond.



Ryonggak Rock

Chuksong Temple

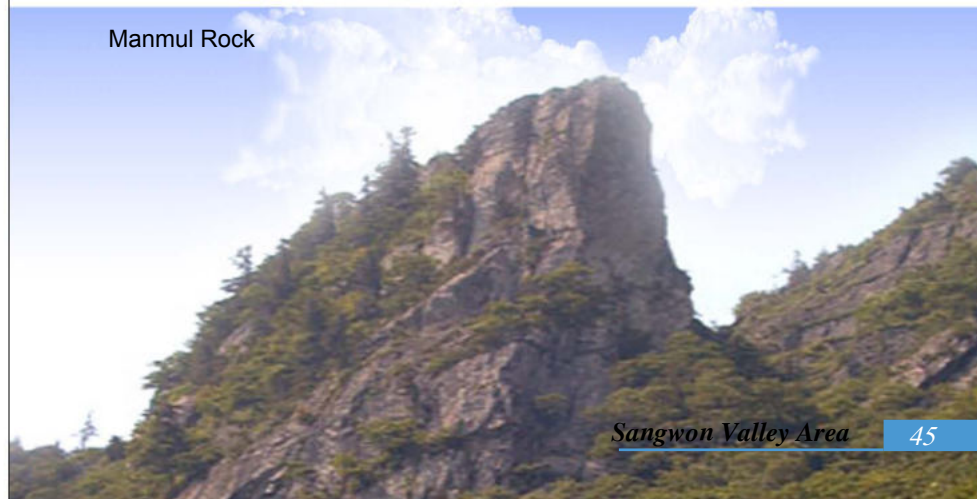
The Chuksong Temple is located shortly after the Ryonggak Rock.

As the front floor has no pillar to support the 8.83m-long beam laid over it, it provides a wide vista ahead and a cosy, homely atmosphere. Decorated with various sculptures and colourful paintings, the temple clearly shows the architectural and painting techniques in the last period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

Manmul Rock

It was so named because it commands a panoramic view of the picturesque Pobwang Peak which is called Manmulsang (myriad-shaped peak) of Mt Myohyang. From here you can see Pobwang Peak, the highest peak in the west range of Hyangbiro Peak, and Oson Peak to the east of Pobwang Peak and Kwanum Peak to the west.

Manmul Rock



Nungin Hermitage

The year of its construction is unknown, but it was expanded in 1780. A hermitage located at the highest place among the temples and hermitages in the Mt Sinhyang area, it is famous for its sculptures on bays and roof structure.



Nungin Hermitage

Pobwang Peak

Pobwang Peak, the highest one in the Sangwon Valley Area, soars 1 392m above sea level. Down to the west of the peak, there is Hyangsan county town with rows of tile-roofed houses of the Korean traditional style and the Chongchon River and, far beyond them, Yaksandongdae. To its south, there are Munphil, Khal, Wangmo, Sonyu and Thakki peaks. You can see Thamnil and Koenghak peaks behind which the International Friendship Exhibition House is located. And Hyangno, Chonthae, Sokka and Wonman peaks stand behind Oson Peak which is near Pobwang Peak.

Oson (five heavenly beings) Peak and Oson Pavilion

A legend has it that five heavenly beings who had descended to Mt Myohyang were enraptured at its beauty and later were changed into rocks. Hence their names.

[Legendary Tale]

Legend of Oson Peak

Once upon a time the King of Heaven had a daughter. He loved her very much.

On learning about her desire to enjoy herself in the most beautiful mountain on the earth, he called some heavenly beings and asked them if they knew where such a place was.

They answered that there were many beautiful rivers and mountains on the earth, but the best mountain was Myohyang.

The King ordered one of them to go and see the mountain.

As he did not come back after many hours, the King sent two others. But they did not return, either.

The following day he dispatched another two, but the result was the same.

Fidgety, the King descended down to the mountain himself, only to find the five were so enraptured at the beauty of the mountain they seemed to have forgotten to return. He angrily shouted at them that they would get their comeuppance. Petrified by his roar, they were turned into rocks.

Later the rocks formed Oson (five heavenly beings) Peak.

Pulyong Hermitage

If you go down from the Chuksong Temple past the Oson Pavilion, you will find the Pulyong Hermitage.

As it faces the south, the hermitage enjoys the sun all day long and the moon at night.

Moon-viewing from the hermitage is called one of the eight best scenes in Mt Myohyang.

The Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty, a valuable cultural heritage of Korea, was kept here during the Imjin Patriotic War against the Japanese invaders in the late 16th century.



Manphok Valley Area

The Manphok Valley was named so because there are many falls in the area. The distance from the bus stop to the Tangun Grotto is 7.1km.

The mountain-climbing course consists of an ascending route from the entrance to the Tangun Grotto via the Kuchung (nine-tiered) Falls and a descending route passing the Hwajang Rock.

The total distance is 6km.

It is not a long course, but it will take more than half a day to get to the Kuchung Falls or the Pison Falls because the route is relatively steep and there are many fascinating falls along the route.

Therefore, visitors usually look round the Tangun Grotto in the afternoon after having their lunch at the Kuchung Falls and descend via the Hwajang Rock.



Ascending Route in the Manphok Valley

Myohyangsan Mineral Water Site

The site is located on the shore of the Hyangsan Stream, about 50m away from the Jogye Gate at the Pohyon Temple in the direction of the Hyangsan Hotel.

Chonju Rock

Standing on the middle slope of Thakki Peak on the right side of the route to the Manphok Valley, the rock is 43m high, 30m around and 849.5m above sea level. The Chonju Rock was named so because it looks like a pillar supporting the sky.

It looks like the head of a snorting horse on the one hand and, on the other hand, an elaborately hewn tower if seen from near.

The rock carries a legendary tale that Tangun, founder-king of Ancient Joseon (early 30th century BC–108 BC), had practised archery every day on the Tangun Rock in the middle part of Hyangno Peak with the rock as a target. It has another legendary tale that a powerful man preserved the exquisite scenery of the mountain by stopping the rain hole of the sky with a pillar in a rainy season.

Thakki (fluttering flag) Peak

Thakki Peak is composed of several peaks in front of the

Pohyon Temple. The peak was named so because the range of the peaks looks like a fluttering flag.

Hama (hippopotamus) Rock

With 20m width and 6m height, the rock carries a legend that in the olden times a hippo which had come to Mt Myohyang from a tropical area to enjoy its scenery was turned into a rock with the mouth open at the beauty of Sonyu and Thakki peaks and the Tosol Falls.

Sogok (overture) Falls

If you climb about 400m up from the entrance of the Manphok Valley through dense dwarf pine trees, you will be greeted by the Sogok Falls, the first falls in the Manphok Valley Area. The falls is so called because it sounds as if it signals the start of a “symphony orchestra” played by scores of falls in the area.

It is 5.9m high and 16m long.

Hamurung (Lower Murung) Falls

It was so named because it is located below Murung Falls. Though small in scale, it consists of two parallel streams, one boisterous like the valiant and outspoken male and the other calm like the soft and tolerant female.

Murung (paradise) Falls

The Murung Falls is located about 250m away from the Sogok Falls.

A story has it that in the olden times eight brothers living in Mt Myohyang used to have a break near the falls while gathering firewood. The falls was named so because its scene is as beautiful as that of a paradise. It thuds down a 27m-high cliff, creating a magnificent scene.

Unson (fairies in hiding) Falls

The name of the falls is derived from the story that in the olden times fairies from heaven used to hide themselves during their bath here if men came around. The falls is quite spectacular as its water flows through rocks playing a game of hide-and-seek.

Manphok Rock

The Manphok Rock affords a wide vista of the Manphok Valley as the Inho Rock near the Sangwon Hermitage does and hence the name. It is about 100m away from the Unson Falls.

You can see the Yuson Falls (*yuson* denotes fairies enjoying themselves) and Eight Pools below and a large rock called Pongdutha above to its northwest.

To its south it commands a full view of the high peaks of

Mt Myohyang including Thakki, Sonyu, Wangmo and Munphil peaks which are associated with the legendary tale of Haemosu (a legendary tale related to the founding of Puyo, an ancient state which splintered from Ancient Joseon in the 15th century BC and became fully independent before the 12th century BC).

Ssangbawi (a pair of rocks) Path

It is called so because it is laid out between two rocks.

A story says that in the olden times fairies who came down from heaven to the earth by the rainbow entered Mt Myohyang via this path and enjoyed themselves.

Yuson Falls

This falls is about 200m down from the Manphok Rock.

According to a legendary tale, fairies from heaven used to enjoy themselves in the falls and the Eight Pools under it.

About 60m long, the falls pours down into the air in some parts and dashes above steep rocks in other parts, forming eight pools of various sizes below it.

Suspended over the falls between dizzyly high cliffs is the breath-taking, 30m-long Yuson Bridge.

The Yuson Falls is associated with a touching love story between eight fairies and eight firewood-collector brothers of Mt Myohyang.

Pison (flying fairies) Falls

The distance from the Yuson to Pison falls is about 300m.

A typical vertical falls in Mt Myohyang, the Pison Falls is widely known for its exquisiteness and beauty.

The name Pison is derived from the old story that fairies used to ascend to heaven riding the rainbow hanging around the falls after enjoying themselves in the Manphok Valley.

The falls consists of two streams of water falling down from the top of a 46m-high cliff. If seen upward from the ground, the both sides of the falls are densely covered with woods and the cliff is clung to the sky, giving an impression that the falls is pouring down from the sky itself. If you go near, you will find beautiful rainbows hanging around it. All this produces an impression that fairies are ascending to the sky with their graceful celestial robes softly swaying in the breeze.

Hwajang (make-up or flower-decorated) Falls

It is so called partly because it was a place where fairies used to make themselves up, and partly because the water of the falls forms flower patterns after splashing against rocks.

Unlike other falls, it flows down quietly between two cliffs, giving an impression of a timid girl. It is 16m in height.

Sungson (ascending fairies) Falls

The name of Sungson Falls was associated with the story that

fairies went up to the sky along the stream of the falls after they made themselves up in the Hwajang Falls.

In ordinary times the falls winds its quiet way among rocks, but in rainy season it swells and rolls, looking as if fairies' celestial robes are swaying in a soft wind. It is 58m long and 30m high.

Kuchung (nine-tiered) Falls

The Kuchung Falls is located about 1km away from Pison Falls. It is so called as it flows down over slanting flat rocks in nine tiers.

A slanting falls 99.2m in height and 294m in length, the falls is the biggest falls in Mt Myohyang second to the Unha Falls.

As it flows in tiers over large rocks with gradients of more than 40 degrees, one falls is above another and one pond is above another. Each falls and pond afford their own particular scenery, creating a replica of the Manphok Valley in which all splendours of falls are concentrated.

Aegi (baby or child) Falls and Chilson (seven fairies) Falls

The name of Aegi Falls was derived from the story that a child fairy used to have a bath there. The following is a legendary tale associated with the falls.

[Legendary Tale]**Three Lowered Trees
and a Fairy**

The scenery of Mt Myohyang was so spectacular that the eight sister fairies used to frequent it in the olden times.

The youngest fairy loved the mountain so deeply that she came down to it almost every day and enjoyed herself frolicking among tall juniper, Thuja and pine-nut trees, hardly caring whether her robe was torn or time was passing. The King of Heaven learned about her unruly behaviour by way of the fragrance from her torn robe which reached heaven.

Enraged, the King did not give robes to all of the sister fairies from the next day, so

they could not descend to the mountain any more.

Thinking that all this was their fault, the three trees lowered themselves remorsefully.

This moved the King so deeply that he gave the robes to them again.

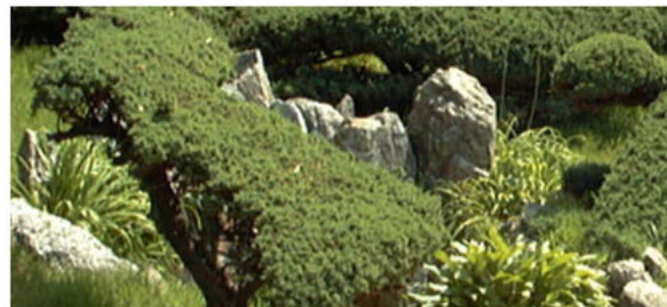
But the kind-hearted child fairy felt guilty and sorry to her elder sisters, so she started to take a bath alone in a solitary falls.

Later that falls was named Aegi Falls and the falls above it Chilson Falls in the sense that her seven elder sisters took a bath there (*chilson* means seven fairies).

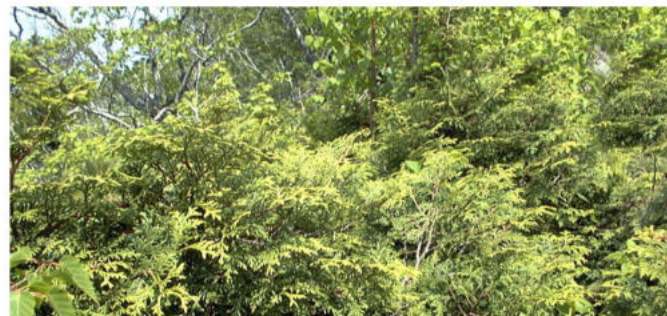
The length, height and depth of the Aegi Falls are 8m, 5m and 2m, respectively, while those of the Chilson Falls are 35m, 22m and 2.5m respectively.



Lowered pine-nut tree



Lowered juniper



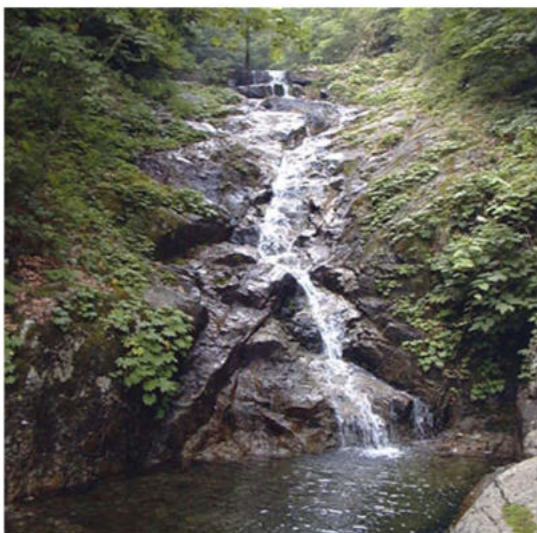
Lowered Thuja



Ssangbawi Path



Thakki Peak



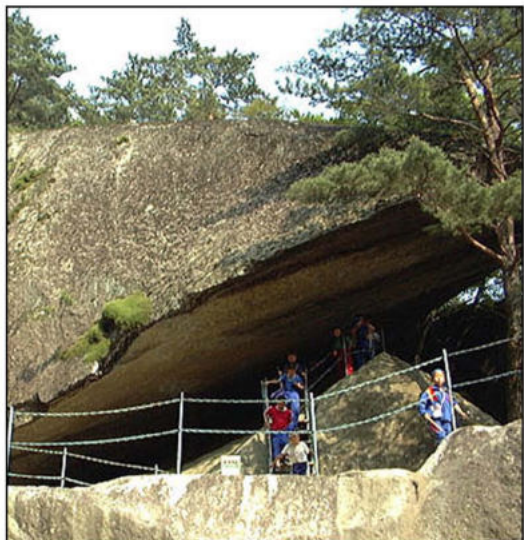
Tosol Falls



Hamurung Falls



Unson Falls



Jangsu Rock



Manphok Rock



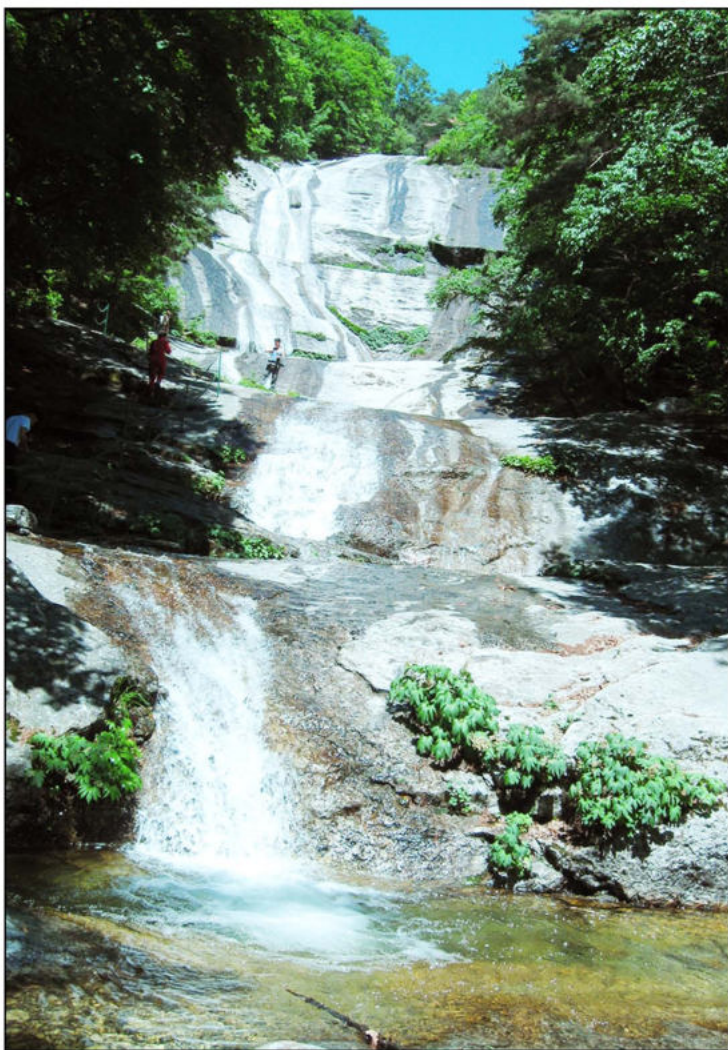
Yuson Falls



Sarang Pond



Pison Falls



Kuchung Falls



Pison Pavilion



Pison Rock

Descending Route in the Manphok Valley

Tangun Grotto and Tangun Temple

A natural grotto 16m wide, 12m long and 4m high, the Tangun Grotto is about 1km west of the Kuchung Falls.

It carries a legendary tale of Tangun known as the founder king of Ancient Joseon.

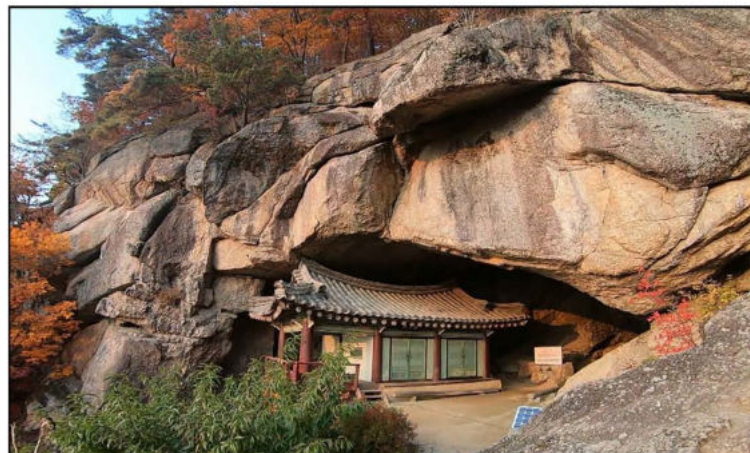
Recent studies have verified that Tangun who had been regarded as a mythological king was the real founder of Ancient Joseon, putting Korea's ancient history on a scientific track.

The Tangun Temple has the portrait of the king and altars for memorial services for him.

Tangun Rock

The Tangun Rock is situated on the middle slope of Hyangno Peak. The place is best known for its fascinating vista and evening-glow scene.

The rock is associated with the legendary tale that Tangun came up here every day and practised archery with the Chonju Rock standing on the middle part of Thakki Peak as a target.



Tangun Grotto and Tangun Temple



Tangun Rock

Legend of Tangun

The Tangun Grotto located on the mid-slope of Hyangno Peak carries a legendary tale of Tangun, founder king of Ancient Joseon, which was the first state in Korea.

Once upon a time there was an emperor named Hwanin in heaven. He had a son called Hwanung by a concubine. It was the son's constant wish to live on the earth.

So, the emperor sent him down to Mt Thaebaek on the earth with 3 000 subordinates.

Hwanung assigned the tasks of supervising agriculture, lives, diseases and penalty and judging the good and evil to those subordinates who could control the wind, rain and cloud.



In this way he administered 360 affairs arising in human lives and governed the country.

Present-day Mt Myohyang is Mt Thaebaek where Hwanung is said to have descended to found a country and govern humans.

Meanwhile, a tiger and a bear lived together in a grotto in Mt Myohyang. One day they asked Hwanung to make them humans.

Moved by their earnest desire, he gave them a bunch of wormwood and 20 garlics, saying; "If you eat this and remain unexposed to the sun for 100 days, you will become humans."

True to his instruction, they ate what he had given them and entered the grotto. However, the tiger, hot-tempered, ran out of it only after a few days.

But the bear persisted as it was accustomed to sleeping throughout winter in a grotto. On the 21st day the ugly bear was changed into a human—an attractive young woman.

One day she came to Hwanung and asked him a favour of finding a match for her. But he could find no suitable man in the mountain.

So, he transformed himself

into a human being and lived with her for a while. Afterwards, she gave birth to a boy in the grotto. They named him Tangun.

The boy grew up to a strong and virile young man, drinking fresh water and breathing fresh air in the mountain. He further steeled himself practising swordmanship and archery every day on a flat rock above the grotto. Later the grotto was called Tangun Grotto and the area around the rock Tangun Rock.

If you go up a little in the direction of Hyangno Peak, you will see Tungchon (ascending to heaven) Grotto, from which Hwanung is said to have ascended to heaven.

Unha (the Milky Way) Falls

The Unha Falls is located about 1.5km away from the Kuchung Falls along the sightseeing route. It is so called because it resembles the Milky Way in the sky.

Kama (cauldron) Rock

About 1.2m high and 2m across, the Kama Rock is situated en route to the Unha Falls from the Jungchon Gate.

As the rock is flat on the top and round at the bottom and lies on a big boulder, it is suggestive of a cauldron and hence its name.

Jungchon Gate

A natural stone gate located about 50m upwards from the Tangun Rock, the Jungchon Gate consists of a cliff on the left, a boulder beside it and a big rock wedged between them. It is about 2m high and 1m wide.

The gate looks like a bear supporting a rock with the head to prevent it from falling and marring the scenery of the Manphok Valley.

Myonggyong (mirror) Rock

The Myonggyong Rock is located about 120m upwards from the Jungchon Gate towards the Samchung Falls and about 10m high and 15m wide. Although the rock carries the same name and same legend as that in Mt Kumgang, its shape is different from the latter.

A legend has it that if somebody stands before the rock, it will judge whether he or she is good-hearted or wicked.

Kaksi Rock

About 100m high and 80m wide and situated on the way from the Jungchon Gate to the Munsu Falls, it is also called Chima Rock. The rock resembles a black skirt for women.



Kama Rock



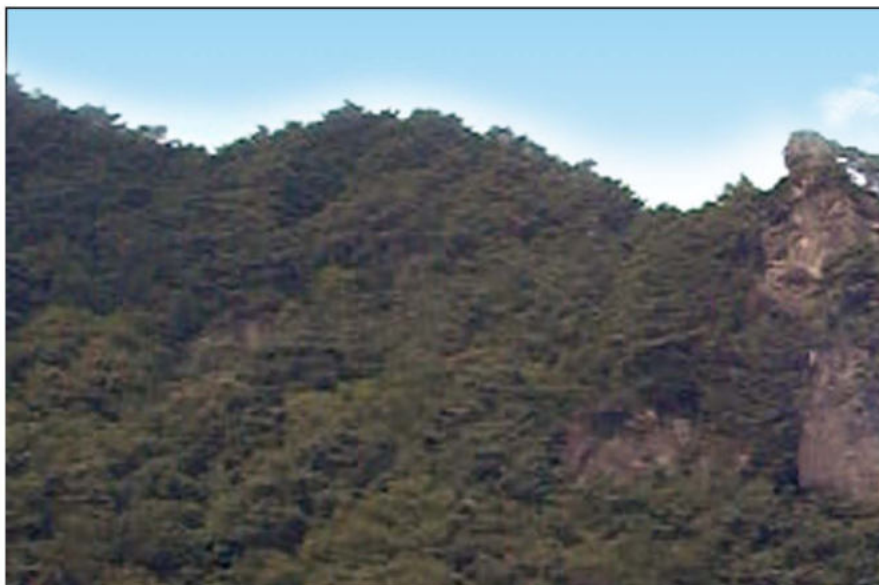
Jungchon Gate



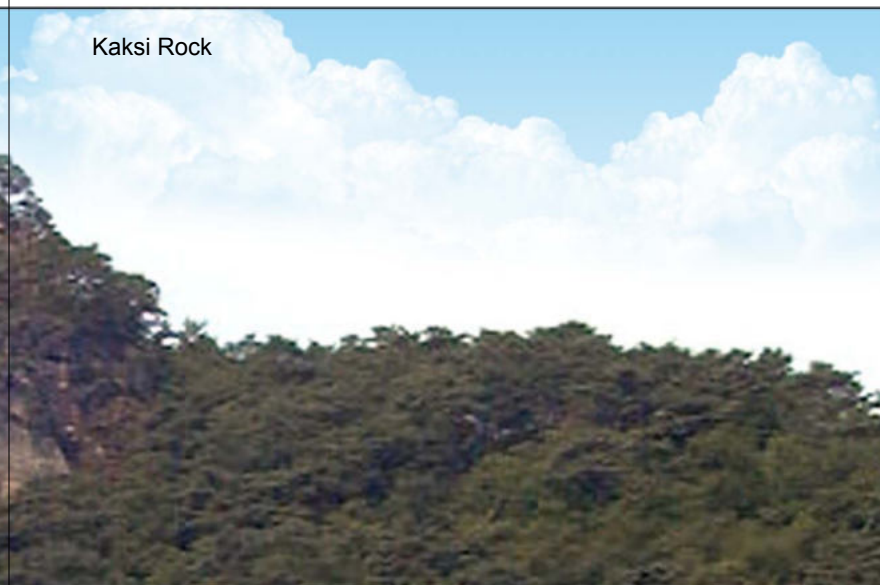
Myonggyong Rock



Rocks in tiers



Kaksi Rock



Munsu Rock

A cliff about 100m away from the Samchung Falls, the rock resembles the Buddhist saint called Manjushiri. It is 20m long and 15m high.



Munsu Rock

Idan (two-tiered) Falls

The Idan Falls is located about 300m away upwards to Hyangno Peak from the Munsu Rock. The heights of the first and second falls are 1.8 and 2.3m, respectively. The falls is dainty as it flows on a stone wall sandwiched between two cliffs and has a pond of clean water under it.



Idan Falls

Munsu Falls

About 15m-long, slanting



Munsu Falls

falls flowing over a long and broad rock, the Munsu Falls is 70-80m away upwards from the Munsu Rock. It looks magnificent during the rainy season when water covers the whole rock. At the bottom of the falls lies the Munsu Pond about 13m around and 1.5m deep, adding beauty to the falls.



Samchung Falls

Samchung (three-tiered) Falls

The falls is composed of three tiers and located about 130m away upwards from the Munsu Falls in the direction of Hyangno Peak. The lengths of the three tiers are 0.8m, 2m and 2.5m, respectively, about 6m in total.

Sonyu Peak

Located in the east of Thakki Peak and made up of five separate peaks, Sonyu Peak derives its name from the story that heavenly fairies used to come here and enjoy themselves. The peak affords a panoramic view of exquisite and beautiful scenery surrounding it.

Hwajang Hermitage

Located 4km east of the Pohyon Temple and built in 1654, the hermitage underwent several rounds of repair. The present one was built in 1818. Unlike other hermitages where Zen practitioners lived, it is a gaudy building of a unique architectural style. It was used as a school which taught Buddhist scriptures as well as Confucian literature.



Hwajang Hermitage

[Legendary Tale]

Sonyu Peak and Legend of Haemosu

Sonyu Peak in the east of Thakki Peak is associated with the legend of Haemosu who is said to have founded Puyo, one of the ancient states of Korea. One day Haemosu, a son of the heavenly emperor, came down to the earth by a cart drawn by five dragons and under the escort of 100 subordinates. The first place he settled down was Mt Ungsim (present-day Mt Myohyang). Living in Sonyu Peak, he started to rule the country.

One day when he had a stroll along Ubal Stream (the present-day Paengnyong Stream in Kujang County), he met Ryuhwa, a daughter of the Sea God. He took her as his wife and lived happily with her in a bronze palace on the shore of the stream.

When he learned about this later, Sea God Habaek got

infuriated and summoned his daughter and her husband to his palace.

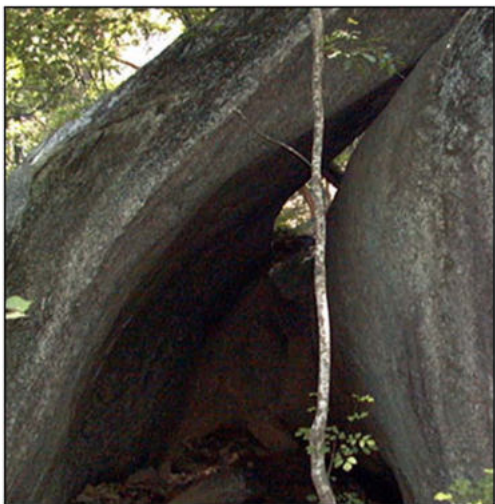
Haemosu introduced himself to the Sea God as a son of the heavenly emperor and asked him for permission to marry his daughter. However, the Sea God challenged him to a competition of magical tricks, saying he would grant him permission if he was gifted with abilities as befitting a heavenly emperor.

If the Sea God changed into a carp, Haemosu turned into an otter and when the former was transformed into a deer, the latter became a wolf. Struck with admiration, the Sea God permitted him to marry his daughter and live in his palace. But because he could not live in the underwater palace, he left his wife and came back home in heaven. Enraged, the Sea God condemned her to an exile in the Ubal Stream on the charge of having disgraced his realm.

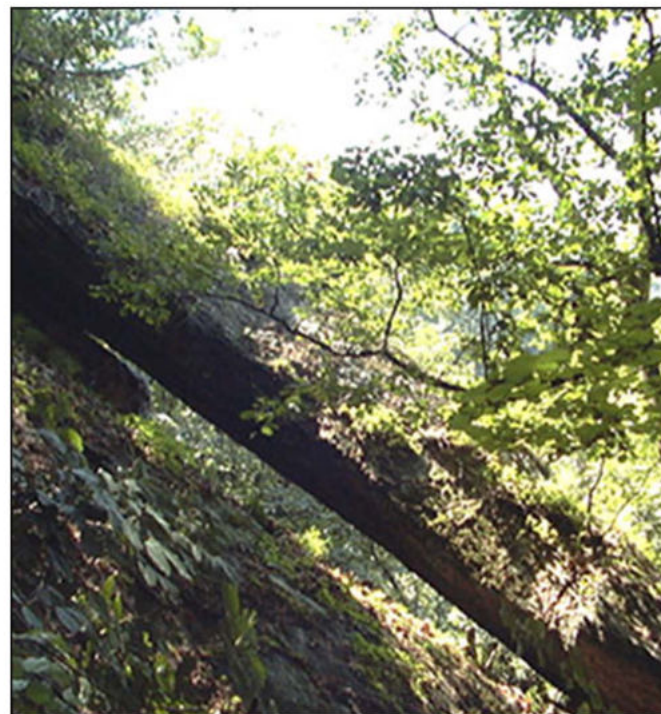
Katangun Grotto

The grotto is located about 150m away down from the Tangun Grotto along its southern slope. A triangular-shaped grotto about 3m deep, it is composed of two rocks which lean to each other on the top part.

According to a story, the magistrate of Nyongbyon County came to Mt Myohyang to perform a memorial service for Tangun. When his party reached a grotto (which was to be named Katangun Grotto later), the palanquin bearers had been too exhausted to go on to the Tangun Grotto, his destination. So they told him that the grotto was the Tangun Grotto. The official believed in them and held the memorial service there. Since then he had taken it for the Tangun Grotto all his life. Katangun Grotto means Fake Tangun Grotto.



Katangun Grotto



Mujigae Rock

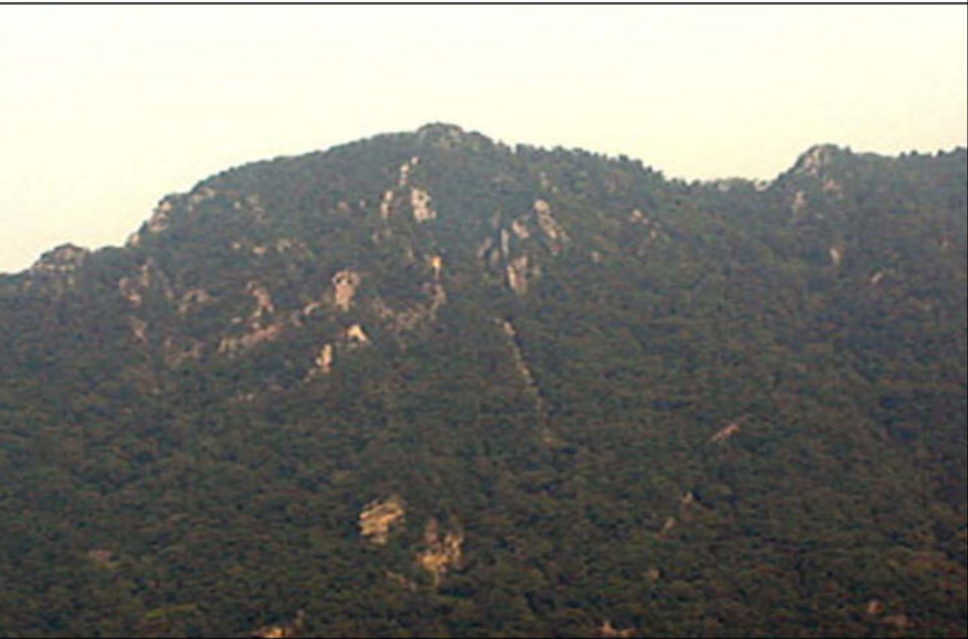
Mujigae (rainbow) Rock

Lying along the descending route in the Manphok Valley, the rock resembles a rainbow which some people in the past believed heavenly fairies used to come down from and up to heaven. Hence the rock was named Mujigae Rock. It is 30m long, 5m wide, 2m thick and 1m high above the ground.

Hyangno (incense burner) Peak

Hyangno Peak was named so because it looks like an incense burner.

A peak on the west range of Hyangbiro Peak, the main peak of Mt Myohyang, it is 1 599m in height. Lowered juniper, Thuja and pine-nut trees, blueberries and rhododendron are found on the peak.



Hyangno Peak

Gyejo Hermitage

It is situated on the right slope of a hill between Thakki and Chinson (also called Thamnil) peaks.

This hermitage was used as the residence of the chief monk who had the authority to grant honorary Buddhist titles to the abbot of the Pohyon Temple and other monks and give instructions with regard to important issues arising in the monastic life.



Gyejo Hermitage

Hyangbiro Peak Area

After hiking to the Chonthae Valley, you can go up to Hyangbiro Peak through the Paegun Rock and climb down along the same route. Or you can take the other road leading to the Chilsong Valley. This road will bring you to the Habiro Hermitage from Hyangbiro Peak, and then the Piromun Rest Area via the Kumgang Grotto.

The route to the Hyangbiro Peak includes three courses, leading to the Chonthae and Chilsong valleys and Hyangbiro Peak, respectively.

The distance from the Piromun Rest Area to the Isonnam Falls in the Chonthae Valley, to Hyangbiro Peak via Chilsong Peak and to Hyangbiro Peak via the Paegun Rock, is 3.5km, 10.5km and 6.5km, respectively.



Ascending Route in the Chonthae Valley

Piromun Rest Area

This was named so because it was built at the entrance to Hyangbiro Peak.

The area is always rich in water and beautiful in scenery because it is the confluence of the streams flowing from Piro, Chilsong and Kangson peaks.

Samchon Pond

It was so named in the sense that it looks like the map of Korea which has been known as a land of golden tapestry with beautiful mountains and limpid rivers from olden times.

One day several years ago a foreign tourist came here to have a meal after visiting the International Friendship Exhibition House.

So fascinated by the scenery of this pond, he seemed to forget to have his meal and said: The scenery is fantastic from the start; so how wonderful will it be up there; I will become ten years younger if I take a bath in this crystal-clear water of the pond.

This pond is 33m long, 13m wide and 5m deep.



Samchon Pond

Kobuk (turtle) Rocks

If you walk about 50m up along the route to the Samgyong Site from the Piromun Rest Area, you can see two turtle-shaped rocks, one big and the other small, 200m apart from each other.

The rocks look like turtles staring at something with their heads raised upward. They look quite similar to the turtle in a legendary tale which failed to carry out the order of the Sea God to bring him a rabbit and became a freshwater tortoise as a punishment.

An interesting tale has it that a couple of turtles that had lived in the sea for 300 years came here to see Mt Myohyang in disregard of their children's advice and were mesmerized by its wonderful scenery, gradually turning into rocks.

[Legendary Tale]**Legend of “Kobuk Rocks”**

Once upon a time, a couple of turtles who lived in the West Sea came to Mt Myohyang to tour it on the occasion of their 300th birth anniversary. Fascinated by the marvellous scenery, they forgot that their birthday was passing.

Only when their children came to Mt Myohyang and informed them, could they realize that their birthday had already passed.

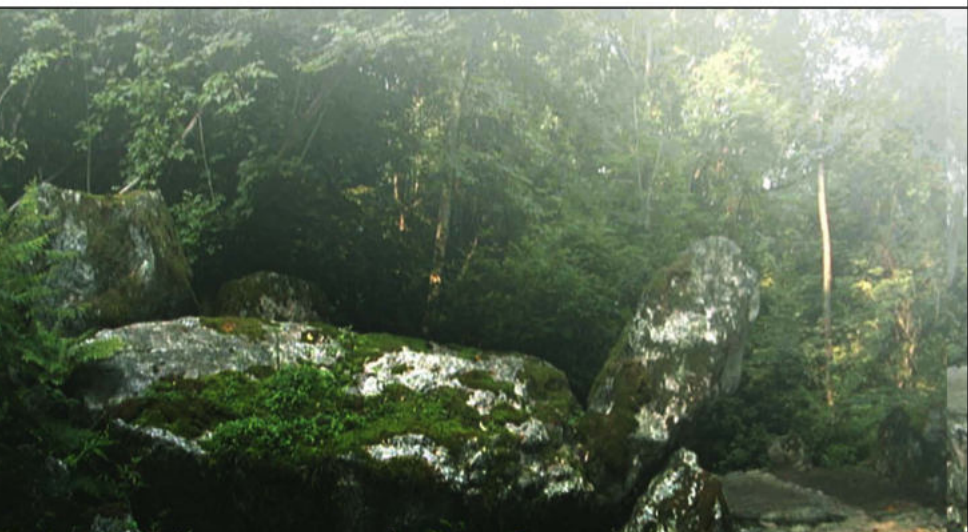
However, they had no

regret since they had seen the most beautiful scenery in the world.

They told their children to go back home and that they would spend the remaining days of their lives there.

After seeing the wonderful scenery with their own eyes and hearing the exciting story of their mother, the young turtles said that they would stay, too.

The turtle's family lived long in good health ever after, drinking clear water and breathing fresh air in Mt Myohyang, before turning into rocks.

**Wonangsae (mandarin duck) Rock**

Mandarin duck is usually referred to as a bird which is very faithful to and always together with its spouse.

But the mandarin duck in Mt Myohyang is alone.

Here is the reason.

Mandarin duck lives near a stream. But in the egg-laying season it tends to fly deep into the valley and lay eggs in a hollow tree. As the egg-laying season was coming nearer, a couple of mandarin ducks in Mt Myohyang decided to move.

After discussion, the male mandarin duck went first to the Chonthae Valley to select a suitable place for its wife to lay eggs.

But it was so charmed by the scenic beauty of the mountain that he forgot to bring its wife. After a while, it was turned into a rock.



Habiro Gate



Samgyong Site

Sinson (heavenly being) Site

It is said that in old times several heavenly beings took a rest here savouring the sound of murmuring brooks and refreshing wind, after enjoying the exquisite natural scenery at the Kangson Rock. Hence its name.

Whereas the site was visited by heavenly beings in olden times, it is now used as a rest area for tourists on their way to the Isonnam Falls.

Samgyong Site

Here you can enjoy the delicate combination of beauties of mountains, rocks and water.

Choma Rock

The rock, 15m long and 5m wide, is called so because it looks like eaves of a tile-roofed house.

You can cook for yourself here.

Habiro (Lower Biro) Hermitage

It was named so because it is situated on the lowest slope of Hyangbiro Peak, the main peak of Mt Myohyang, when it is divided into upper, middle and lower parts.

It nestles on a hummock where the Chonthae and Chilsong valleys converge. It is about 6km away from the Pohyon Temple.

The temple was built before the 17th century and rebuilt in 1882. It is a building in the form of a dwelling house with no special decorations.

It is surrounded by its auxiliary buildings such as the Poryon, Sansin and Chilsong pavilions. There is a Taxus tree in its front yard.

Sochon Falls

It is the first falls on the route to the Chonthae Valley.

Chonthae Falls

It is so called because it is at the foot of the Chonthae Valley.

About 370m away from the Habiro Hermitage and 40m high, the falls flows down a 25m-wide rock. Worth seeing here is a pond more than 5m deep below the falls and a pine tree growing on a big rock on its left side.

Isonnam Falls

It is located about 150m upward from the Chonthae Falls.

In ordinary times when water is low, it falls in two courses like intimate brothers.

The 22m-high falls, cliffs and rocks, pine trees on them, mist of waterfalls, a rainbow hanging low—all these combine to form fabulous scenery.



Habi-ro Hermitage

Isonnam Falls and pond



Raengchon (cool wind) Valley

It was named so because one can feel a cool wind in this valley.

It is situated about 200m away from the Habiro Hermitage on the route to the Kumgang Grotto.

As the name indicates, you can feel as if standing before a fan as a cool and refreshing wind always blows in this valley even in sultry summer.

Kumgang Grotto and Kumgang Hermitage

Located under a big rock some 2km northwest of the Habiro Hermitage, the grotto is 3m high, 10m long and 13m wide.

Nestled in the grotto is the Kumgang Hermitage.

A small hermitage built in the closing years of the Koryo dynasty, it is quite unique in that the big rock over the Kumgang Grotto serves as its roof.

The hermitage is well known for Abbot Sosan, a famous monk in Korea, lived there for over 40 years, training his mind and educating himself.

80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures were stored here in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War. Above the grotto is the Kangson Rock on which heavenly beings are said to have enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the mountain, and below it is a spring, called Myongansu,

which means water that brightens the eyes.

Myongansu

The Myongansu spring is found under a 10m-high huge rock that stands 15m east of the Kumgang Grotto.

This spring is filled with clear and fresh water all the year round.

It is said that Abbot Sosan used to drink this spring water.

A legendary tale has it that a boy was cured of his serious eye disease after drinking this water.

Kangson Rock

The Kangson Rock is situated about 200-300m upwards along the slope from the Kumgang Grotto.



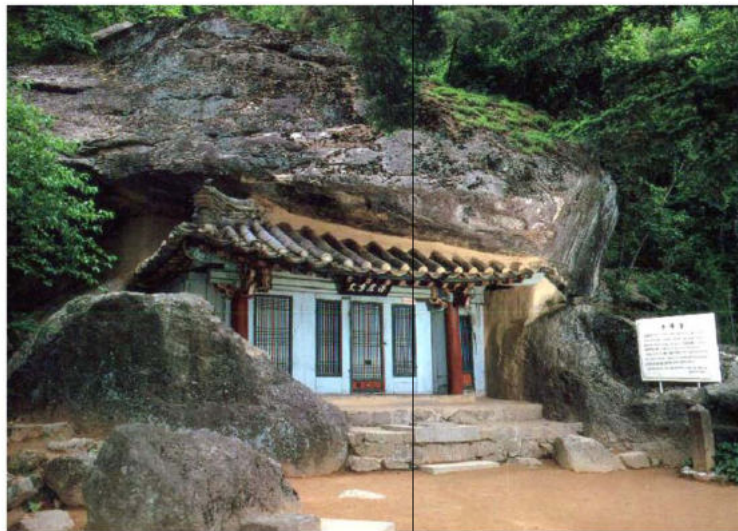
Myongansu



Kangson Rock



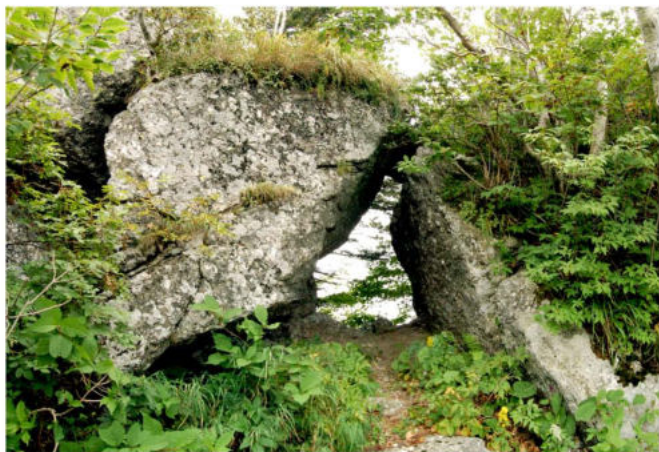
Raengchon Valley



Kumgang Hermitage and Kumgang Grotto



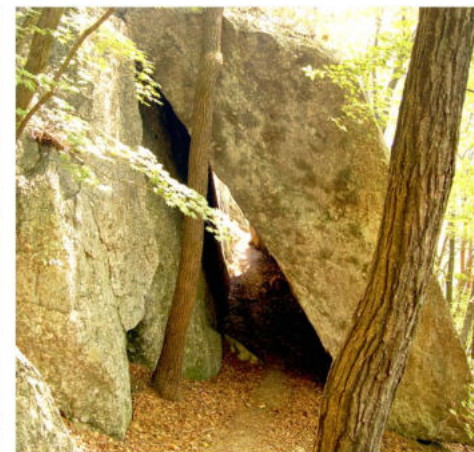
Paegun Rock



Wonman Gate



Wonman Peak



Paegun Gate



Chonthae Peak



Sokka Peak



Paekkyosa Grotto



Chonthae Falls

Hyangbiro Peak

The distance from the Pirobong Tourist Camp to Hyangbiro Peak is 6.5km.

This route leads to Hyangbiro Peak, the highest peak in Mt Myohyang, through the Paegun Rock, and Wonman and Jingwi peaks.

Paegun Pavilion

On the pavilion you can find the Chonsang Mineral Water.

It is said that the taste of water in Jungbiro is best and viewing clouds on the Paegun Rock is best.

Paegun Grotto and Paegun Gate

The Paegun Grotto was named so because it is located on the route to the Paegun Rock.

The Hyangbiro Peak Area has occasional rains owing to the topographical features of highlands. It is used as a shelter from the rain.

The grotto is 1.7m high at the mouth, 10m long and 2.5m wide.

Above the iron steps you can see the distinctive Paegun Gate. The Paegun Gate is 10m long, 6m high and 3m wide.

Paegun (white clouds) Rock

Situated on the route to Wonman Peak, it commands a

panoramic view of the peaks of Mt Myohyang.

It was named so, because it is so high that it is girdled with white clouds.

Wonman Gate

A triangular stone gate, it is on the way to Wonman Peak.

It is 40m long, 2.5m wide and 2m high.

Wonman Peak

Rising 1 825m above sea level, it is the fourth highest peak in Mt Myohyang.

It is 2km away from the Paegun Rock in Jungbiro.

Wonman Peak is capped with a wide rock that can seat ten persons and has a dizzy cliff on its southwest.

Chonsang (ascending to heaven) Gate

Located just below Wonman Peak, it is called so because it looks like a gate to heaven.

If you look down to valleys covered with clouds after passing through the Chonsang Gate soaring against the background of dense woods, you will feel as if you became a legendary fairy who used to climb up and down Mt Myohyang by riding clouds and rainbows.

Chonthap (a thousand towers) Peak

The peak (1 557m) is located 500m away from Hyangno Peak towards Hyangbiro Peak.

On the peak there are many small tower-shaped stone piles tourists have made to commemorate their visit to Hyangno Peak from olden times. It is said that the stone piles number 1 000 and hence the name Chonthap Peak.

Distributed on the peak are silver furs and *Abies nephrolepis*. *Bergenia coreana* and buck grass are special species found only in this area. And the peak is lush particularly with thyme, a species of flower whose fragrance is said to be carried as long as 40km.

Chonthae Peak

Standing 1 722m above sea level, it is sandwiched between Chonthap and Wonman peaks.

The peak is famous for *Pinus pumila*, *Sabina sargentii* and other alpine plants.

Jingwi Peak

Rising 1 832m above sea level, the peak is located about 2km away from Wonman Peak en route to Hyangbiro Peak.

It was named so because it is verdant with rare alpine plants.

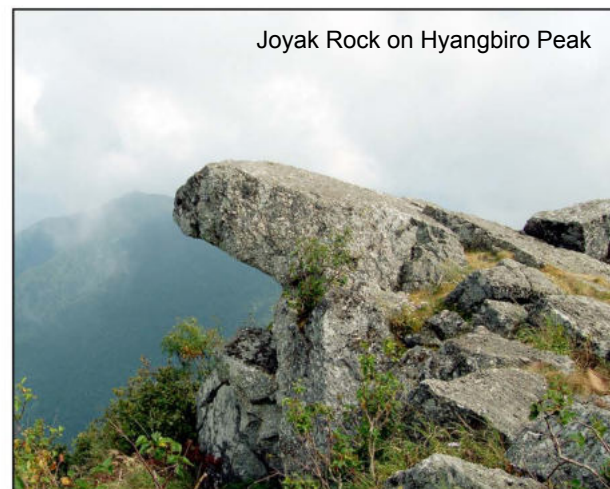
This peak is also home to many rare medicinal herbs like wild insam and forest asiabell.

Hyangbiro Peak

Towering as high as 1 909m above sea level, it is the highest peak in Mt Myohyang as well as in the northwestern part of Korea.

It commands a bird's eye view of the beautiful and magnificent mountain made up of a myriad of marvellous peaks.

Forests of *Sabina sargentii*, *Thuja koraiensis* and *pinus pumila* spread on scores of hectares of the peak. While the peak is carpeted with rhododendron in late May, it presents alpine scenery of ripening blueberries in August.



Joyak Rock on Hyangbiro Peak



Chonsang Gate



Jingwi Peak



Munphil Peak



Hyangbiro Peak

Chilsong Valley

In the Chilsong Valley there are many scenic spots including the Saja and Chilsong falls.

Chilsong Peak is 9km away from the Pirobong Tourist Camp.

Sujong (crystal) Pond

It is so called since the water of the pond is crystal-clear.

Water rolling along a 30m-long cliff groove into the pond is well worth seeing.

Korae (whale) Rock

This rock looks like a whale, and hence its name.

The following is a legendary tale associated with the rock.

Once upon a time there lived a whale deep in the sea. When it heard that a turtle had lived to be 300 years old after a visit to Mt Myohyang, it decided to follow suit and went to the mountain.

The whale was mesmerized by its scenery from the outset. Every spot was beauty itself.

It toured here and there in rapture for a while before stopping at the Chilsong Valley for a break.

When it drank from the Sujong Pond to quench its thirst, the water tasted so wonderful that it was incomparable to that of the sea.

Regretful that it could not bring all the water back to the sea, the whale drank it greedily. But he drank so much that he was unable to move an inch.

Later he turned into a rock.

Panga (watermill) Falls

It was named so since it looks like a stream that powers a watermill.

The first falls in the Chilsong Valley, it is 10m long, 7m high and 710m above sea level.

Mangyong (kaleidoscopic view) Falls

It is so called, since it presents a kaleidoscopic variety of scenes.

Below the falls is the Mangyong Pond.

Pidan (silk) Falls

It was called so because it looks like two strips of silk.

The falls consists of two streams falling down onto a rock with Chilsong Peak as the backdrop.

It is 15.9m high, 34.7m long and 3m wide, and about 150m away from the Mangyong Falls.

Saja (lion) Falls

The falls is 2km away from the Habiro Hermitage. It is 12.7m high, 5m wide and 69m long.

It was named so because it looks like a lion which roars shaking his head under the cascade of water.

Dispersing in seven directions, water falls on a rock that looks like a step. Below the falls is the Saja Pond in which scores of lions are said to have taken a bath.

Unsil (silvery thread) Falls

Walk about 50m along the route enjoying the exquisite beauty of ravines via the Saja Falls, and you can see the 10m-high falls.

It was named so in the sense that it looks as if it is draped in silvery threads. Below the falls is Unsil Pond, a large beautiful pond 40m long, 40m wide and 2.5m deep.

Sahyang (musk) Pond

The pond is 25m wide, 20m long and 2m deep. According to an old tale, a musk deer, a specialty of Mt Myohyang, took a bath here. Hence the name.

Chilsong Pond

5m wide, 50m long and 8m deep, it is the biggest pond in the Chilsong Valley.

Hyongje (brothers) Gate and Chilsong Rock

The gate was named so in the sense that it looks like two brothers standing side by side.

After passing through the gate, you can find the Sahyang Spring which never dries all the year round.

If you walk some 100m after passing through the Hyongje Gate, you will find moss-covered Chilsong Rock.

Chilsong Falls

It is called so because it is located below Chilsong Peak.

Situated on a valley 1 072m above sea level, it is 36.6m high, 12.3m wide and 83m long.

At the foot of the falls are three triangular ponds, each being 3m deep.

Chilgang Ravine

It is so called since it is located between Chilsong and Kangson peaks.

The ravine was formed along the dislocation lines which

were created when Mt Myohyang rose to the present height. The ravine is about 900m long.

Toksuri (eagle) Rock

The rock stands between the Chilgang Falls and Chilgang Ravine. It is clearly seen from Wonman and Jingwi peaks.

The rock, 30 to 40m high, gives a vivid impression of a bird with a sharp beak and half-spread wings.

A legend has it that during the Imjin Patriotic War against the Japanese invaders Abbot Sosan shot down a flying eagle with an arrow and roused his disciples to the war when they were hesitant owing to the Buddhist disciplines that forbid killing.

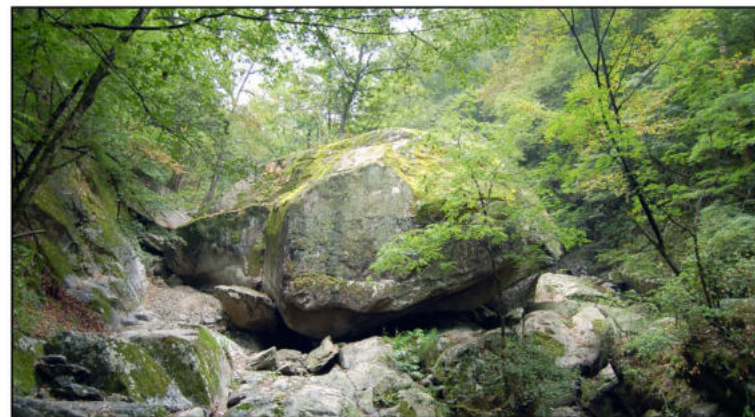
Chilgang Falls

It was named so because it is located between Chilsong and Kangson peaks.

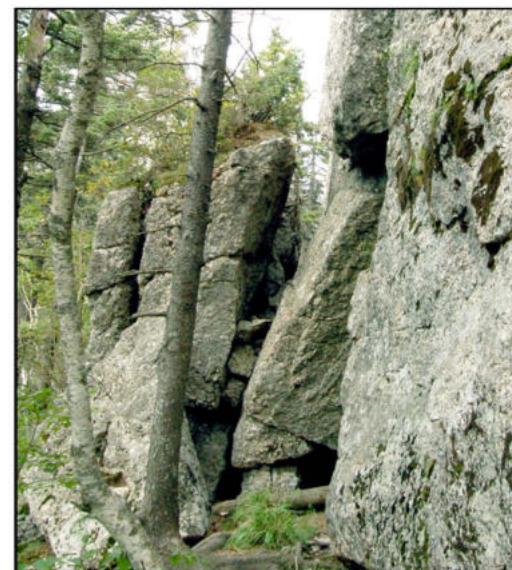
It rises 1 300m above sea level.

Chilsong (seven stars) Peak

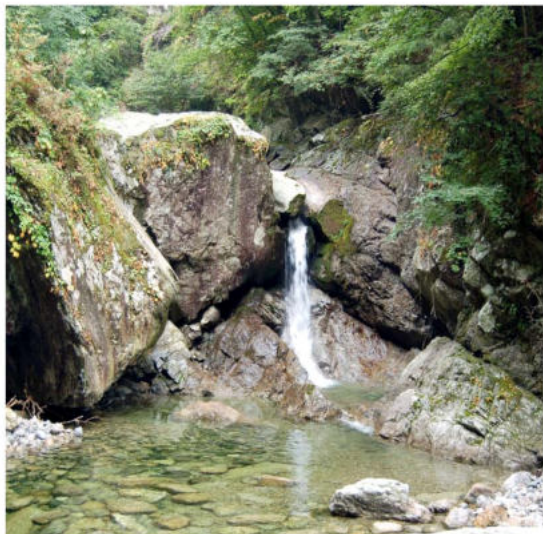
Seven peaks are linked forming the shape of the Big Dipper, and hence its name. It is 1 894m above sea level.



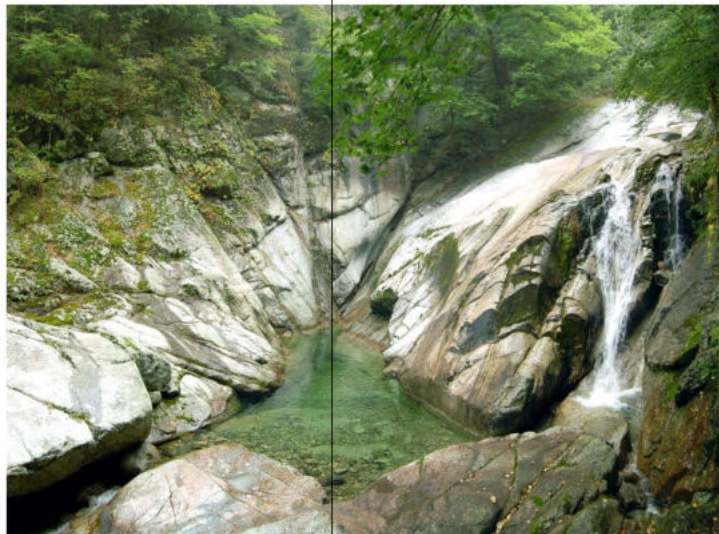
Korae Rock



Hyopdo Rock



Panga Falls



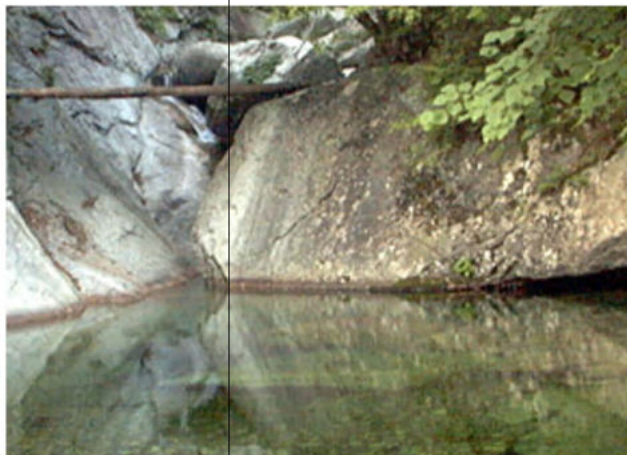
Saja Pond and Saja Falls



Pidan Falls



Unsil Falls and Unsil Pond



Sahyang Pond



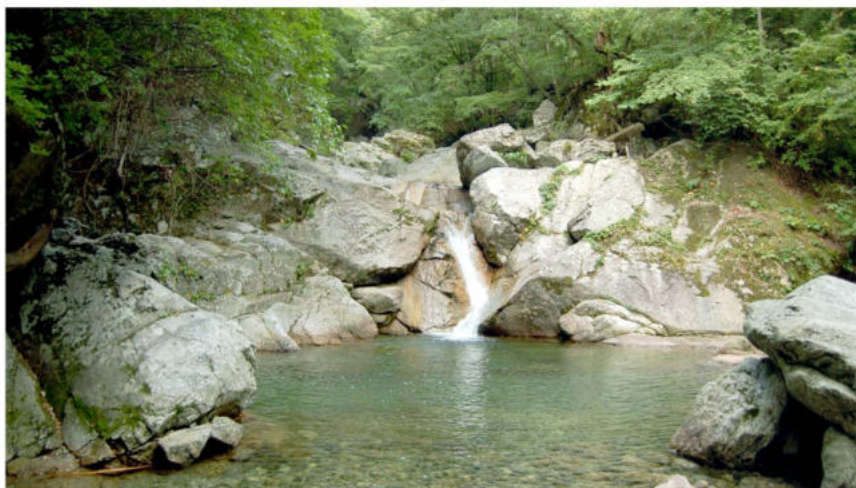
Chilsong Pond and Ryongsu Falls



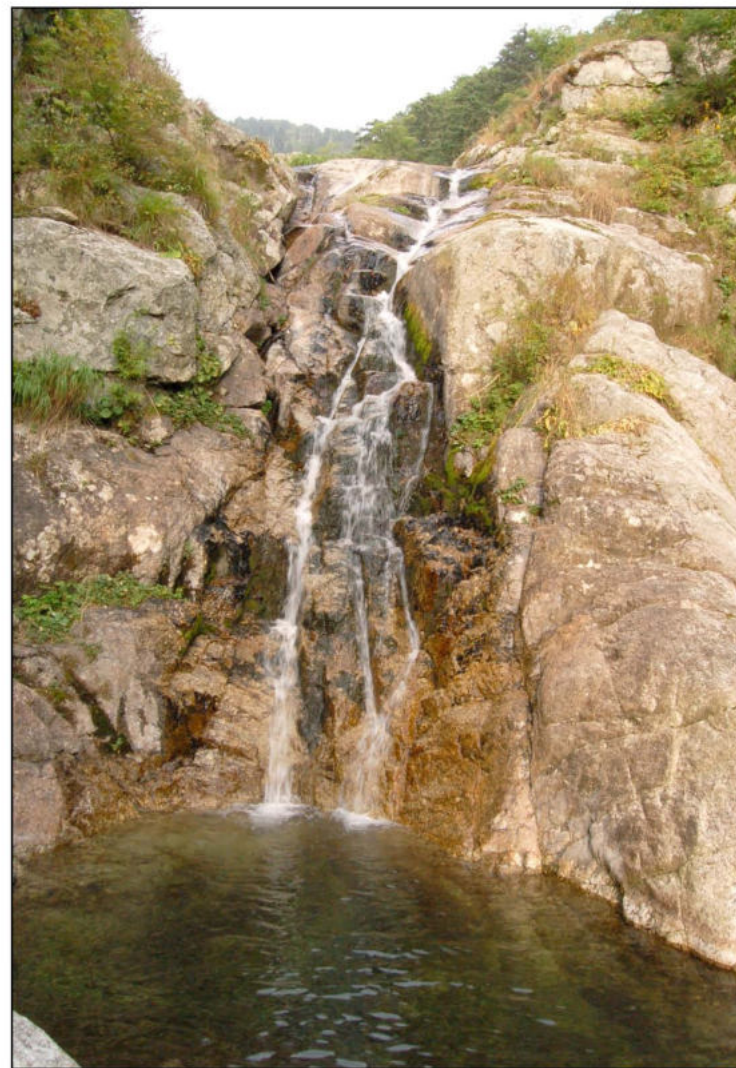
Mangyong Falls and Mangyong Pond



Hyongje Gate



Sumi Falls and Sumi Pond



Kangson Falls and Kangson Pond

Service Centres in Mt Myohyang

Hyangsan Hotel

As it is surrounded by gorgeous peaks, dense primeval forests and limpid Myohyang Stream, the hotel offers cosy comfort and idyllic luxury.

Retrofitted in February 2010, it is a 15-storeyed pyramidal building of excellent formative and artistic quality. Its interior is superbly blended with natural beauty of Mt Myohyang.



Outdoor restaurant



Lounge



Lobby





Gifts Shop



Revolving restaurant

It has restaurants which specialize in foreign dishes, a revolving restaurant, Karaoke hall, beauty salons, massage rooms and other amenities. It is equipped with a separate observation lift and observation platform.

Its special cuisine is dishes of edible herbs such as aralia shoots, bracken and aster and rainbow trout, specialties of Mt Myohyang.

The facilities and kindly service make the guests feel at home.



Billiard hall



Super deluxe suite



Deluxe suite



Premium room



Standard room

Chongchon Hotel

It is located on the shore of the Chongchon River in Hyangsan county town. Its interior decoration is redolent of the natural beauty of Mt Myohyang. Cosy rooms and restaurants are quite impressive.



Chongchon Hotel and its entrance hall



Hyangbirobong Tourist Camp

A Korean traditional building with stone walls and gabled roof covered with glazed earthen tiles, the camp is 150m away from the Samgyong Site.

Tourists can take one night stay here after hiking through the Chonthae Valley and climb Hyangbiro Peak the following day.



Hyangbirobong Tourist Camp

Tour of Mt Myohyang

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Edited by Pak Song Il

Translated by Cha Kwang Hyok, Jong Myong Jin

Published by Foreign Languages
Publishing House, DPR Korea

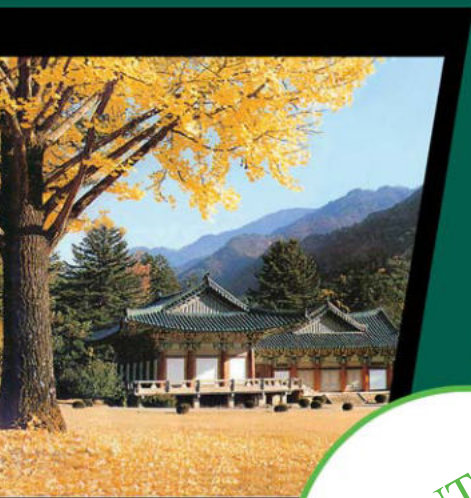
Issued in August Juche 110 (2021)

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Six Mountains Celebrated in Korea

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ISBN 978-9946-0-2042-6



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