



BAEKJE HISTORIC AREAS

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Republic of Korea



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Cover story



The Great Gilt-bronze Incense
Burner of Baekje
[Excavated from Temple Site in Neungsan-ri]

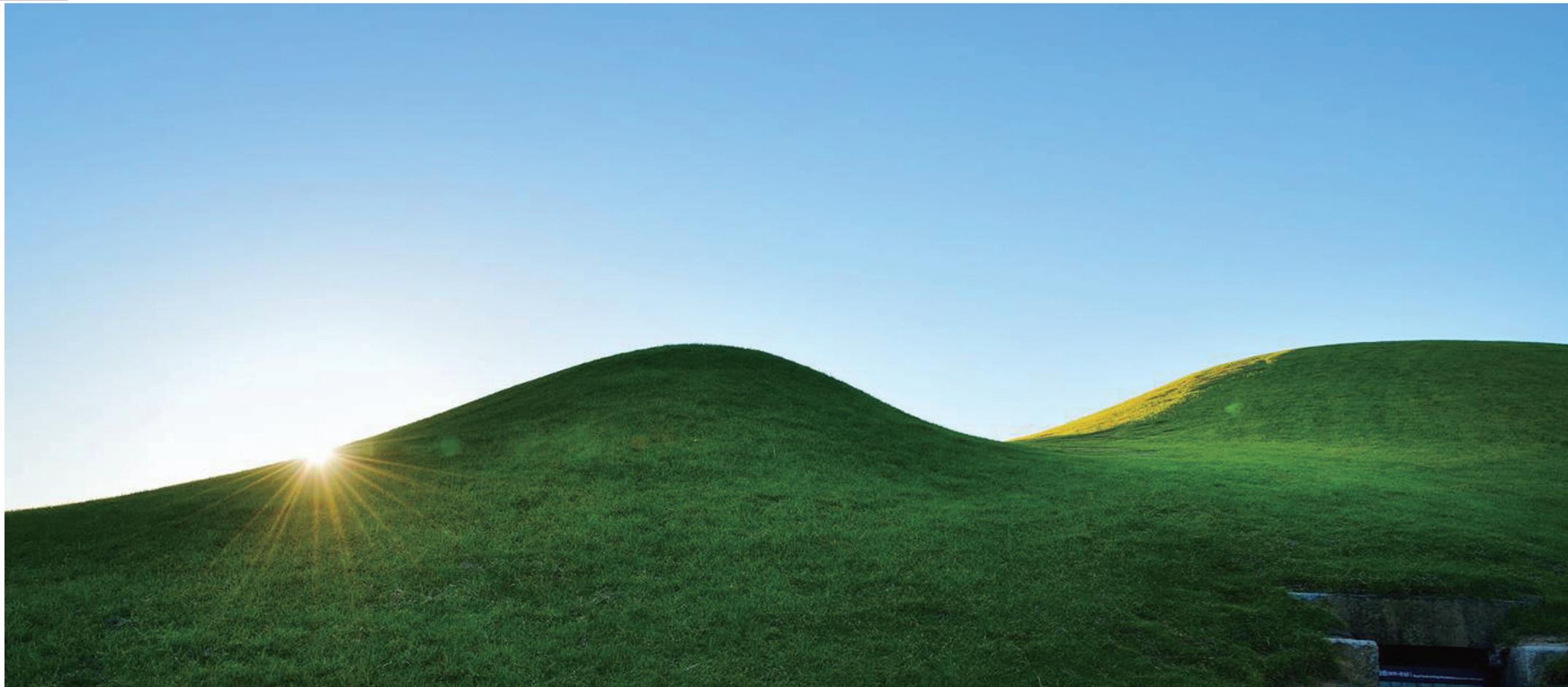


Gold Diadem Ornament of Queen
Consort of King Muryeong
[Excavated from Tomb of King Muryeong]



Outer Gilt-bronze Pot of Sarira
[Excavated from West Stone Pagoda of Mireuksa Temple Site]

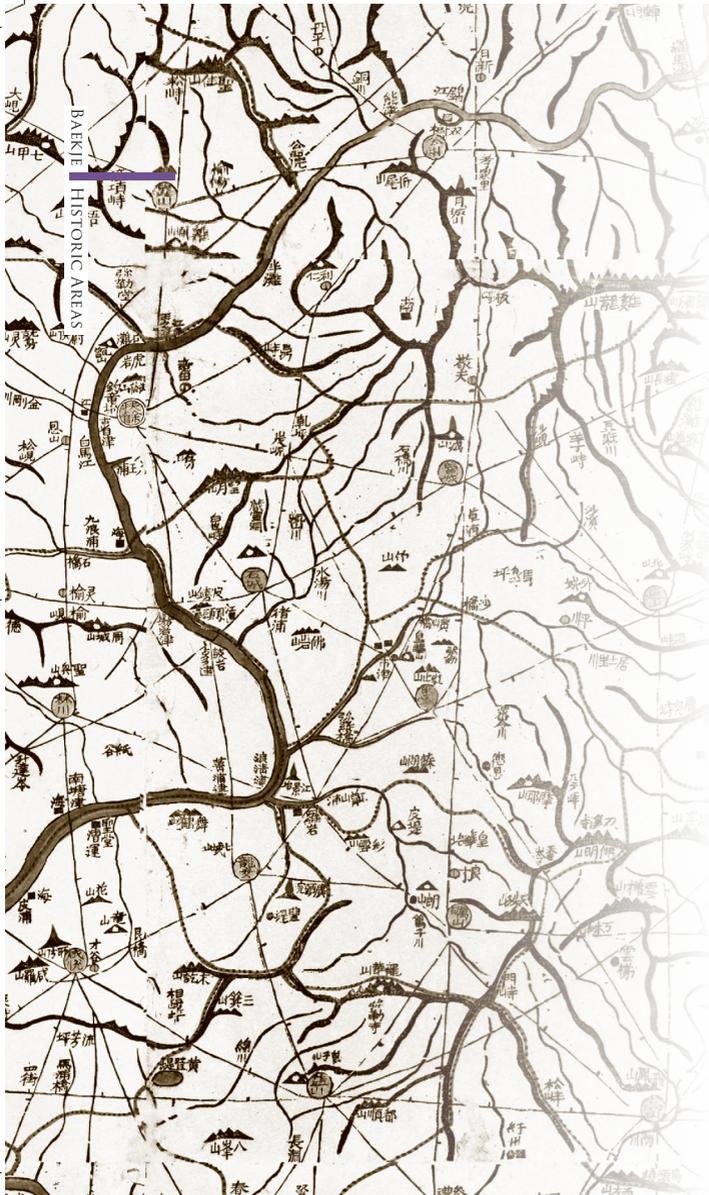




BAEKJE HISTORIC AREAS

The Baekje Historic Areas is a serial property composed of eight archaeological sites located in and around areas which once functioned as the capitals of the Baekje Kingdom. Situated in the western portion of the central Korean Peninsula, the eight components comprising the nominated property include palaces, fortresses, temple sites, royal tombs and a city wall, all bearing witness to diverse cultural features of the later Baekje period (475–660). The Baekje Historic Areas testifies to the vibrant cultural exchanges between Korea, China and Japan that flourished in ancient times. The eight components manifest Baekje's dissemination to other East Asian countries of the city planning system characterized by a walled capital during the kingdom's political, cultural and religious peak.

Neighbored by Goguryeo to the north and Silla to the east, Baekje was one of the three kingdoms that occupied the Korean Peninsula in ancient times. It endured roughly 700 years, from 18 B.C. to 660 A.D. The history of Baekje is generally separated into three periods according to the seat of its capital: the Hanseong Period (with the capital located at what is now Seoul; 18 B.C. – A.D. 475), the Ungjin Period (Gongju; 475–538) and the Sabi Period (Buyeo and Iksan; 538–660); the Baekje Historic Areas pertains to the latter two eras with the capital housed in Ungjin and Sabi, 475 to 660. During this time, the three kingdoms on the Korean Peninsula actively engaged in inter-state exchanges, not simply in goods and culture, but also political interchanges, contributing to the enrichment of civilization in ancient East Asia.



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Justification of Criteria

Criterion (ii)

The archaeological remains of the royal palaces, fortresses, temple sites, royal tombs, and a city wall in the Baekje Historic Areas provide clear and compelling evidence of a vigorous and active interchange of cultural, ideological, and technical values that took place between Korea, China, and Japan, particularly in regards to the spread of Buddhism during the formative years of this faith (5th to 7th centuries) in East Asia.

Criterion (iii)

Baekje Historic Areas offers a unique window into the now-vanished Baekje civilization, which adopted the principles of city planning, construction technology, arts, and religion from China, further developed and refined those ideas, and distributed them widely in East Asia within a culture of tolerance and accommodation.

Criterion (iv)

The Baekje Historic Areas eminently illustrates the evolution and perfection of city planning, which culminated the politics, culture, and religion of the kingdom and became the main principles for constructing capital cities in East Asia thereafter.



Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

All the elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of Baekje Historic Areas are located within the boundaries of the serial components, including the royal palaces, fortresses, temple sites, royal tombs, and a city wall. The boundaries of the serial components of nominated property thus adequately ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of Baekje Historic Areas. The integrity of the entire nominated serial property, as well as of its individual components, is therefore assured the intactness. The nominated property does not suffer from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

Authenticity

The components of the nominated property are eight archeological sites verified from excavations that have been carried out over a long period of time. Since these sites remained beneath the ground for over a millennium, their authenticity has never been threatened and there has been only a negligible interruption in successive generations. In all, Baekje Historic Areas satisfies the condition of authenticity stipulated in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation systems, and location and settings. The archaeological evidence of each of the typologies of the serial property – royal palace, temple site, royal tomb, and city wall – is an entirely authentic testimony to the later periods of the splendid culture of Baekje.

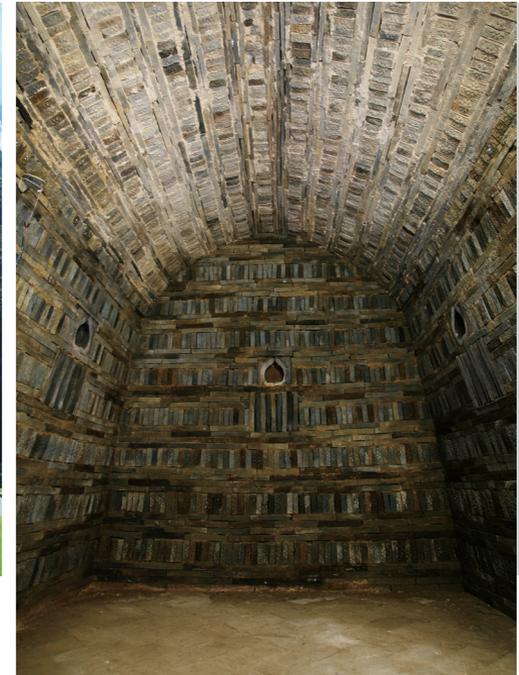
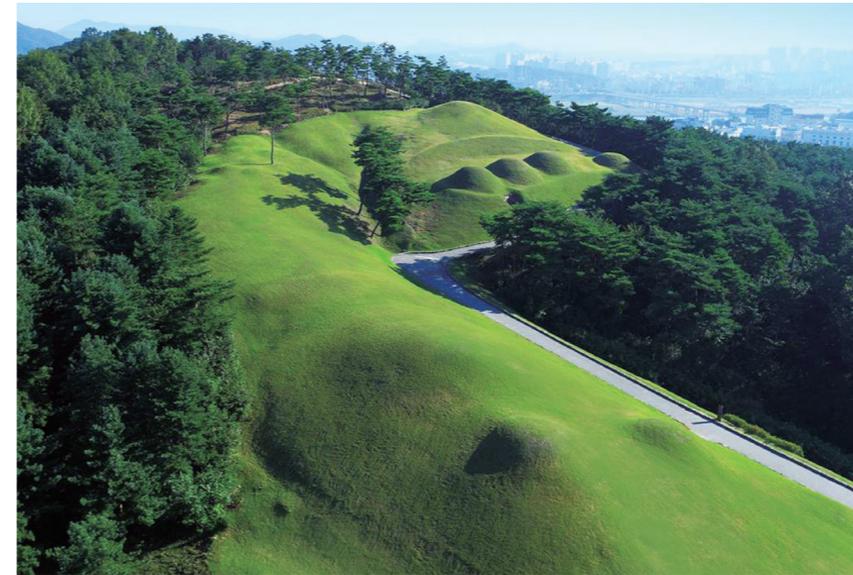
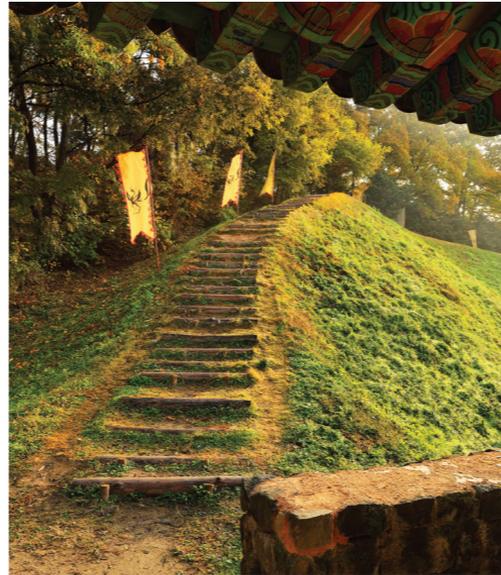
Gongsanseong Fortress



Gongsanseong Fortress, also called Ungjinseong Fortress during the Baekje period, includes the site of a royal palace and related fortifications from the Ungjin Period (475–538). The fortress overlooks downtown Gongju to the south and is in the vicinity of the Geumgang River to the north. The outer face of the fortress wall meets steep slopes, suggesting ideal conditions for natural defense. Serving both as a wall encircling the palace and as a defensive structure, Gongsanseong Fortress was constructed by maximizing the available natural topography. Archaeological studies have found relics and remains of the fortress wall and the sites of the palace and affiliated buildings, and revealed their construction methods.



공산성



송산리고분군

The Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri are widely known as the “Baekje royal tombs” or the “Tomb of King Muryeong.” Located along the southeastern portion of a small hill which stands to the south of the Geumgang River and stretches in a southeasterly direction, the seven royal tombs are estimated to have been built after 475 when the capital was transferred to Ungjin. While Tomb No. 6 and the Tomb of King Muryeong feature brick chambers, the remaining five are stone chamber tombs with a corridor, suggesting that this stone chamber tomb with a corridor style was established as an exclusive burial style for the royal family during the Ungjin Period. When it was first excavated, the Tomb of King Muryeong was discovered intact without any evidence of looting, providing a rare case where the owner and year of construction of an ancient tomb (525) could be confirmed.



Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri

Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress



The Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri was the site of a royal palace from the Sabi Period (538–660), with Busosanseong Fortress serving as a fortification. They are located north of the 20 square kilometer downtown Buyeo and border the Geumgang River on the west. Remains of a variety of palace structures have been excavated here, such as large building sites, roads, water supply and drainage facilities, stonework, and craft workshops. Busosanseong Fortress functioned as a rear garden of the palace in times of peace and as a refuge in times of emergency. The fortress wall was constructed through a rammed-earth technique. Archaeological studies have demonstrated that the ramparts were built during the Baekje era. The composition of the royal palace has been mainly confirmed.



관부리 유적과 부소산성



The Jeongnimsa Temple Site is situated on the plain that forms the central Buyeo area. The layout of Jeongnimsa Temple is prototypical of the Buddhist temples of the Baekje Kingdom, featuring a pagoda and a prayer hall along a single axis. Archaeological studies of the area have identified the sites of the main gate, prayer hall, lecture hall and monks' dormitories in the north, east and west quadrants, and also the sites of roofed corridors. What is most notable is that the monks' dormitories were connected to the corridors, a compositional feature unique to the temples of the Baekje era. A five-story stone pagoda has been maintained within the temple site. The 8.3 meters-high stone pagoda in the Jeongnimsa Temple Site is built in near-perfect balance and proportion, embodying both structural stability and aesthetic beauty.



Jeongnimsa Temple Site



정림사지



Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri

Seven royal tombs are found in Neungsan-ri along the southern slope of a mountain to the east of Naseong City Wall. Six of these seven royal tombs from the Baekje Kingdom are positioned in twin rows of three tombs each, while the remaining tomb is located 50 meters to the north. Archaeological studies have revealed three distinct types of stone chamber tomb with a corridor among the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri; the shape of the ceiling had been transformed from the form of vault to a hexagonal or rectangular shape. Tomb No. 1 shows mural paintings of the Four Guardian Deities on the four walls and of lotus and cloud designs on the ceiling, providing precious materials for the study of the history of painting during the Baekje Kingdom. The Great Gilt-bronze Incense Burner of Baekje was excavated together with a sarira reliquary from a temple site to the west of the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri in the 1990s, reaffirming that the seven burials at Neungsan-ri were of kings and queens of Baekje from the Sabi Period.

능산리고분군



As one of the earliest examples of an outer city wall in East Asia, Naseong City Wall protected the northern and eastern boundaries of the capital. This city wall in Buyeo served a dual role as a defensive structure and as a symbol to demarcate the interior and exterior of the capital. Naseong City Wall is distinct from other fortifications constructed on mountains: the city wall connects flat land with the nearby hilly area for the purpose of protecting the capital. Along mountainous sections, the slope at the inner side of the wall was mitigated by building earthworks and the slope at the outer side of the wall was intensified by steeply cutting the ground and building up layers of stones. In swampy areas, a special technique of wooden scraps and leaves being laid down before piling up the wall was used to solidify the ground. Various advanced permutations of the rammed-earth technique were applied depending on the related topography.



Naseong City Wall

나성





Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri

The Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri was the seat of a secondary palace during the Sabi Period that was constructed to complement the functions of the capital. The site of the palace is located on a hill along a lower ridge of Yonghwasan Mountain. The ground inside the palace wall was raised about 3–4 meters higher than that on the exterior, which was cut to form a slope so that the buildings and structures of the palace appeared even more magnificent and imposing from the outside. Archaeological research has brought to light the layout of the palace: buildings for political and ritual purposes were situated to the south, and a rear garden to the north. There were other structures which suggest that the site was the seat of a palace, including craft workshops.

왕궁리유적



Mireuksa Temple Site

The Mireuksa Temple Site, located on the skirt of Mireuksan Mountain, is one of the largest temple sites in East Asia. Mireuksa Temple is a rare case where a historical record of its creation remains: it is included in the 13th century history *Samguk yusa* (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms). Most of the ancient records in this volume have indeed proven to accord with archaeological studies. Mireuksa Temple was constructed in the early seventh century during the reign of King Mu and destroyed around the time of the Japanese invasions of 1592–1598. The temple provides a clear illustration of the creativity and ingenuity of Baekje culture by embodying the story that Maitreya (Mireuk) came to the world to save all people with three preachings. The layout of the temple is unique: the site was divided into three units with each unit featuring a pagoda and a prayer hall built on a single axis and surrounded by corridors. The pagoda, the oldest stone pagoda existent in South Korea, is in the western portion and remains the only extant structure in the site.

미륵사지



Conservation and Management of the Baekje Historic Areas

Each of the eight component parts of the Baekje Historic Areas is designated as a Historic Site at the national level and is subject to conservation and management based on legal provisions. Most of the eight components are located on public land.

Both the central and local governments and local communities are engaged in a wide range of efforts to ensure the conservation of the Baekje Historic Areas. Development activities of any kind within the Baekje Historic Areas are strictly prohibited by the Cultural Heritage Protection Act.

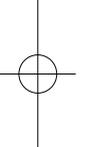
The Baekje Historic Areas has never been exposed to severe impacts from natural disasters; disaster response procedures are in place for any potential future natural disaster.

The Baekje Historic Areas holds sufficient capacity to accommodate an increase in the number of tourists after inscription and is equipped with an effective tourism management system.

Factors posing potential impacts or threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Baekje Historic Areas are next to non-existent, and overall conditions for appropriate conservation and management have been satisfied.

Guidelines and strategies have been prepared for the conservation and management of the Baekje Historic Areas, including conservation and management plans for each of the eight component parts, established based on the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention.





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