







## Baekje Kingdom and Baekje Historic Areas

Baekje is a kingdom that existed for about 700 years (18 BCE-660 CE) on the Korean Peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas is a serial property comprised of eight archaeological sites related to Baekje capitals during the late Baekje Period. The sites are Gongsanseong Fortress and the Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, related to the Ungjin capital (present-day Gongju); the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busonsanseong Fortress, Jeongnimsa Temple Site, the Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong City Wall, related to the Sabi capital (present-day Buyeo); and the Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and Mireuksa Temple Site in Iksan, related to the secondary Sabi capital.

## Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Baekje Historic Areas

The Baekje Historic Areas collectively represents the late Baekje Period, during which the kingdom reached its cultural peak through vibrant exchanges with neighboring regions. Together, these sites testify to Baekje's adoption of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by Baekje and subsequent dispersion to Japan and East Asia.

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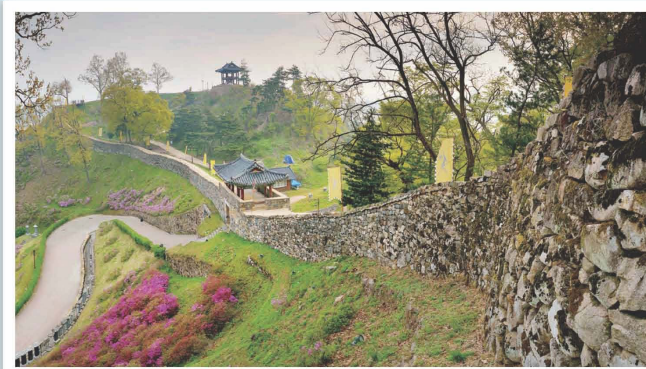


# Gongju

## A Firm Base for the Revival of Baekje

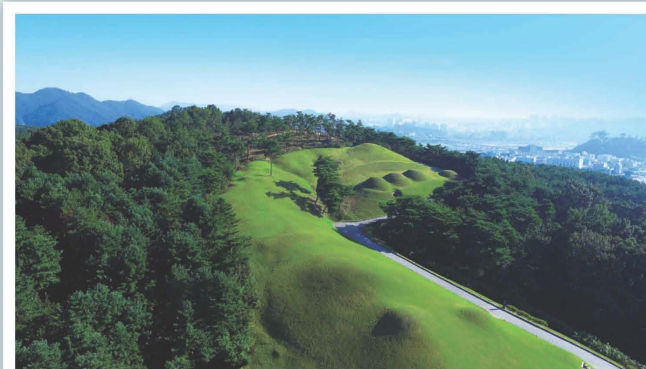


## The major Baekje sites of Gongju



### Gongsanseong Fortress

Built to make the most of the geographical features of the area around the Geumgwan River, Gongsanseong Fortress housed the royal palace of Baekje during the Ungjin Period (475-538). The excavations led to discoveries such as the remains of royal palace buildings, ancillary palace facilities, and earthen walls from the Baekje Period.



### Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri

Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri consists of seven Baekje royal tombs dating from the Ungjin Period. Among these tombs, the Tomb of King Muryeong, in particular, has been left untouched by robbers and preserved in its original condition, providing archaeologists with a rare opportunity to determine when (525 CE) and for whom the royal tomb was built.

## The major Baekje sites of Buyeo



### Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busonsanseong Fortress

Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busonsanseong Fortress are related to the palace of Baekje ruled during the Sabi Period (538-660), where the remains of large buildings (which once formed part of the palace), elaborate ramparts, earthen walls, and other historic remains were discovered. Busonsanseong Fortress, in particular, was used as a shelter by Baekje royalty in times of emergency.



### Naseong City Wall

Sabi (present-day Buyeo), the last capital of Baekje, was protected by the Geumgwan River, which served as a natural moat protecting it on three sides (north, west, and south). Only in the east, therefore, a defense wall called Naseong was constructed. This wall is one of the earliest examples in East Asia of the outer wall of a city, and it served not only as a defense structure but also as a symbolic boundary between the city's interior and exterior spaces.

## Baekje Historic Areas in Iksan



### Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri

The Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri was built as a secondary palace to complement the function of the Sabi capital (present-day Buyeo). Excavations conducted in the area within the rectangular-shaped palace walls revealed the traces of various facilities related to the royal palace, including building sites to the south related to state ceremonies and political affairs and a rear garden to the north.



### Mireuksa Temple Site

This is one of the largest Buddhist temple sites in East Asia. The excellence and uniqueness of Baekje culture is amply demonstrated in the design of the temple, which materializes a scene where Maitreya Buddha descends from heaven and enlightens all sentient beings through three sermons. In terms of the architectural layout, the scene is embodied in the temple's unique "three prayer halls, three pagodas" style.

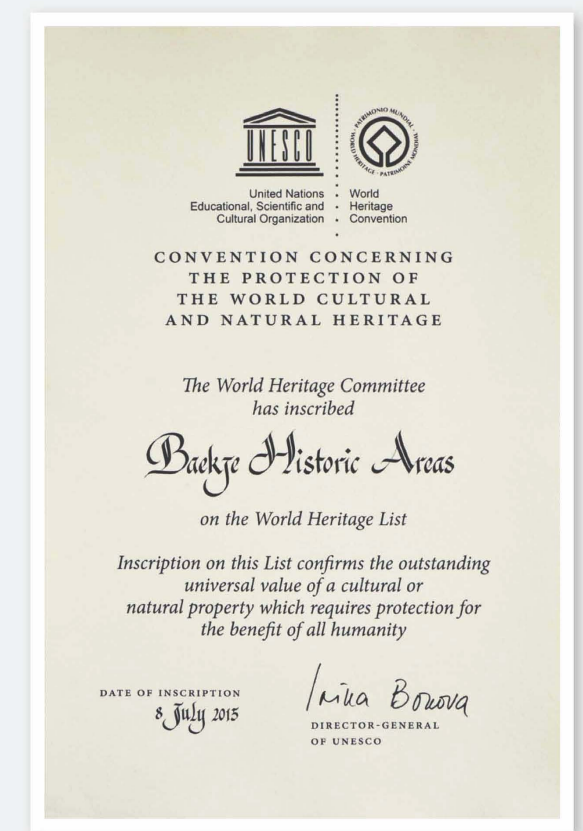


# Iksan

## The Future Dreamed Up by Baekje Residents



## A Certificate of Inscription of Baekje Historic Areas on the UNESCO World Heritage List



### Archaeological Site in Jeongnisan Mountain

Located in Jeongnisan Mountain to the north of the Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri, this site is where memorial services were held for Baekje royalty. It has been confirmed that the funeral for King Muryeong of Baekje and his queen consort was held at this site before their burial in Songsan-ri.



### Ongnyeobongseong Fortress

On the southeastern grounds of Gongsanseong Fortress stands a mountain fortress that surrounds Ongnyeobong Peak 60 meters above sea level. About 870 meters of the walls of this fortress remain today, and sections of its western walls join Gongsanseong Fortress. The artifacts excavated and location and scale of this fortress suggest that it was a mountain fortress later annexed to Gongsanseong Fortress.



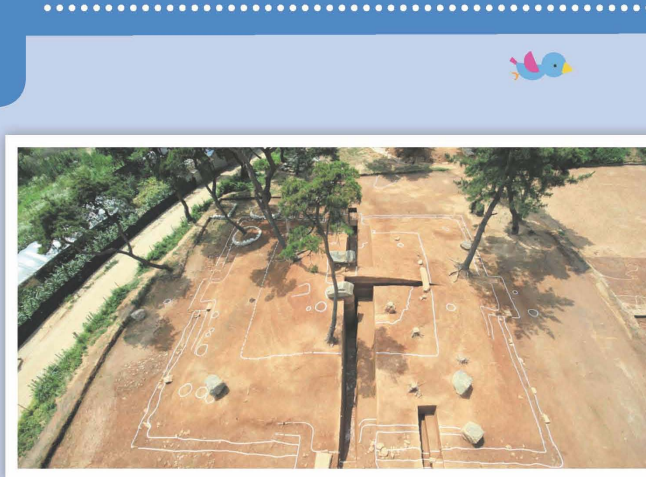
### Jeongnimsa Temple Site

Originally located at the very center of the Sabi capital, Jeongnimsa Temple is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built at the heart of a capital city (East Asia). Excavations have revealed that the temple was once a complex of religious buildings, including a prayer hall, lecture hall, and monks' dormitories, surrounding Baekje's unique architectural style and symbolizing the Three Jewels of Buddhism, namely, Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. The site still contains an 8.9-meter-tall stone pagoda in the architectural style of wooden pagodas from the earlier period.



### Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri

Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri are situated outside Naseong City Wall, a location distinguished from those of earlier royal tombs which had usually been built at the center of the capital in order to highlight royal authority. Even though most of these tombs had been looted before excavation, archaeologists nevertheless discovered a stone sarira reliquary and a gilt-bronze incense burner made in 567 at a temple site to the west of the tomb complex.



### Jeseoksa Temple Site

The name of the temple finally became known when a roof-tile shard inscribed with the word "Jeseoksa" was discovered at this site. The dates for its foundation and destruction are also known. According to a historical record, although the temple lost its pagoda when a bolt of lightning caused a fire in 639, the 40th year of King Mu's reign, the Buddha's sarira and a Heart Sutra manuscript enshrined at the base of the pagoda survived the fire thanks to the intervention of Avalokitesvara's magical power, which eventually led to the reconstruction of the temple.



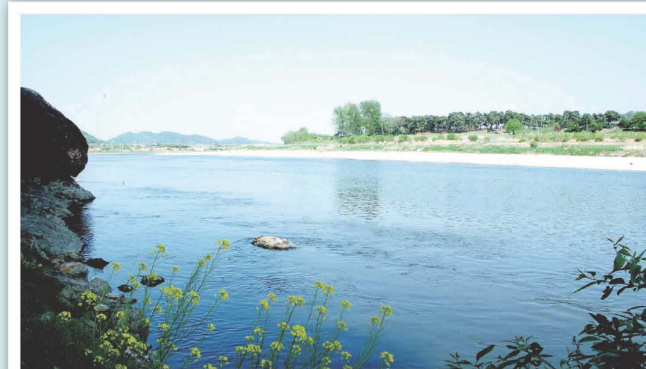
### Earthen Fortification, Iksan

Also named Ogeumsanseong Fortress after its location on Ogeumsan Mountain, excavations conducted in the 1980s revealed that this Earthen Fortification had been in use between the late Baekje and Unified Silla Periods. The fortress site provides a fine vantage point overlooking downtown Gyeongju (called Geummaejeo in ancient times) and Wanggunggyeong.



### Ancient Tombs in Suchon-ri

This historic site contains a number of tombs which historians believe existed even before Baekje moved its capital to Ungjin (present-day Gongju). They are regarded as a valuable source of information on the relationship between the capital and its provinces in the Hansong Period (18 BCE-475 CE).

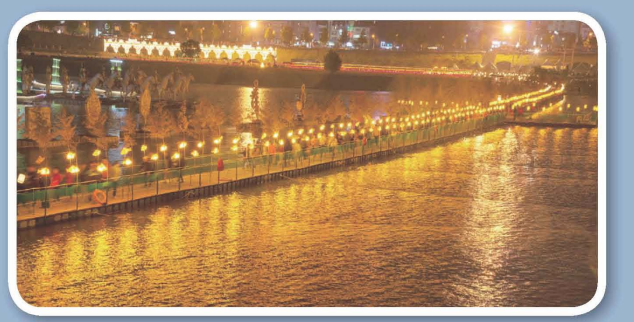


### Gomanaru Ferry

This is a historic ferry site. Its alternative name, Gomanaru is a pure Korean word whose Chinese translation is "Ungjin" (present-day Gongju).

# Festivals in Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan

## Baekje Cultural Festival



The Baekje Cultural Festival offers visitors an opportunity to revisit the splendid 700-year history and spirit of Baekje. There are many programs and things to see that will take you back in time 1,500 years to experience Baekje.

Period : September-October  
Venue : Gongju and Buyeo

## Gongju Festival



This summer festival, whose theme is based on a local legend about the love between a bear and a man, features a wide range of fascinating events such as Gugak (traditional Korean music) concerts, plays, orchestra recitals, Samul nori (traditional percussion ensemble), and various events that encourage audience participation.

Period : July-August  
Venue : Samsong Market

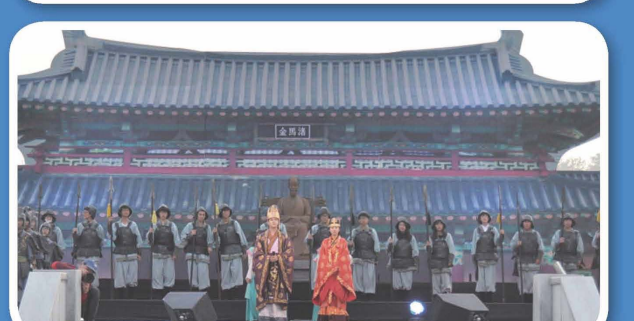
## Buyeo Festival



The gem of this summer festival is some fifty species of lotus flowers that embroiders the approximately 380,000 m<sup>2</sup> space of Gungnamji Pond, redolent of the enduring history and culture of Baekje. In 2012, the festival was designated by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism as one of Korea's most promising festivals while continuing to attract people from all over Korea.

Period : July  
Venue : Gungnamji Pond area

## Iksan Festival



Iksan is home to the love story of Prince Seodong, who would later become King Mu of Baekje and Princess Seonhwa of Silla. The festival started as the Mahan Folk Festival in 1989 and was renamed as the Seodong Festival in 2004 to let love transcend national boundaries and mark Iksan as home to the love story of Prince Seodong.

Period : May  
Venue : Seodong Park in Geumma-myeon

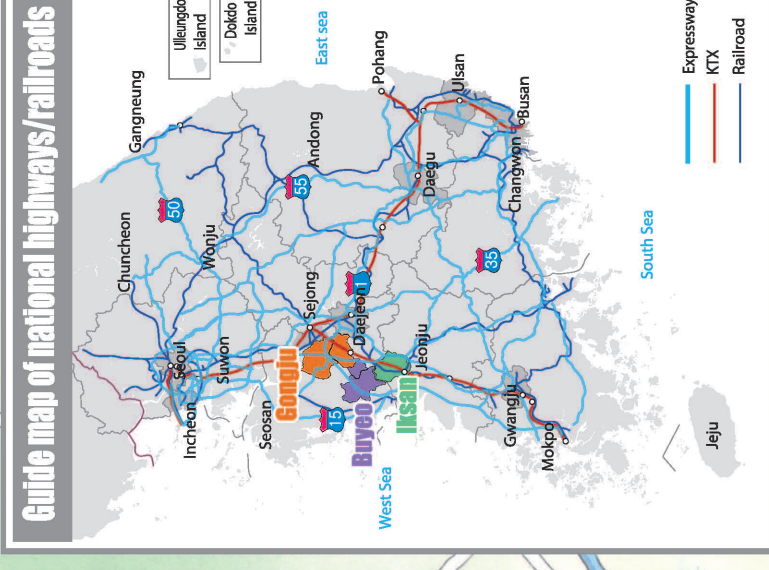
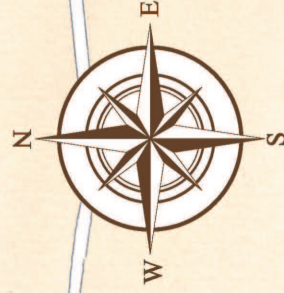
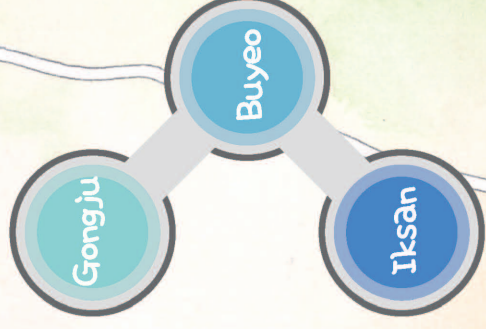




UNESCO World Heritage

Guide Map  
**Baekje**

**Historic Areas**



**Legend**

- Special City/Metropolitan City
- si(City), gun(County)
- National Park
- Provincial Park
- Museum, Exhibition, Memorial Hall
- Hot Springs
- Airport
- Temple
- Beach
- National Road
- Scenic Point
- Junction

**Legend**

- Expressway
- KTX
- Railroad

**Legend**

- Water
- Island
- Dakdo Island
- East Sea
- West Sea
- South Sea
- Jeju

**Legend**

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