

# War Memorial Museum & Kyongbok Palace

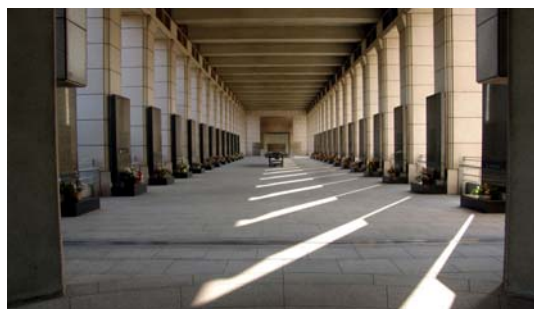
## War Memorial Museum

Opened in 1994, the largely museum-like **War Memorial of Korea** in offers visitors an educational, yet emotional experience of the many war in which Korea was involved. Many documents and war memorabilia have been collected and are displayed. **The War Memorial Museum** has several display rooms and an outdoor exhibition center displaying military equipment.

The War Memorial houses six exhibition rooms displaying over 13,000 items under different themes : Memorial Hall, War History, Korean War, Expeditionary Forces Room, ROK Armed Forces Room, and Large Equipment Room, plus the outside exhibition area, comprised of numerous military equipment. Visitors will experience the spirit of national defense of Koreans throughout the War Memorial, which was designed with advice from war experts.

Displayed are various weapons and equipment from prehistoric times to the modern period as well as paintings of battlefields and sculptures of notable warriors and, An Jung Guen who assassinated a former Regident General in Manchuria in 1909. About 100 large weapons are displayed in the outside exhibition area on the lawns around the building.

The plaza in the museum compound has an artificial waterfall, and around it are widespread rest areas so that visitors can picnic while enjoying the pleasant landscape.



# Kyongbok Palace is the symbol of Korea and the center of Seoul

For over five centuries, **Kyongbok Palace** was the center of the Choson Kingdom and the defining symbol of Korean royalty. The massive 340,000 square-meter palace complex was built in 1395, the fourth year of the reign of King Taejo, becoming the largest and most important of the kingdom's five grand palaces.



King Taejo viewed the palace as a tribute to the prosperity of Korea's royal family and bestowed the name **Kyongbok**, which means ``**shining happiness.**''

However, the palace's history is a troubled one. Left in ruins following the Japanese invasion in 1592, **Kyongbok Palace** not was rebuilt until 1865, under the reign of Prince Regent Taewonkun. Less than 40 years later, though, part of the complex was again demolished as Japan took control of the Korean Peninsula and built its colonial government on the site.



In the 1990s, the South Korean government launched a huge project to restore the ancient palace to its original glory. Today, the elegant complex, which lies just to the north of downtown Seoul, is one of the country's leading tourist attractions and most treasured historical sites.



At the center of the palace is Kunjongjon Hall, the two-tiered throne room where kings conducted the affairs of the state and hosted state ceremonies. Other highlights include Kyonghoeru Pavillion, a picturesque building overlooking the man-made pond to the northwest of the throne room that served as a banquet hall for the king and his guests.

Visitors to the palace can observe regular reenactments of the changing of the palace guards near Kwanghwamun, the North Gate. The complex also hosts the National Folk Museum of Korea.

# Itinerary

- \* LV : 0900 ---Leisure Travel Service, Bldg # 924
- \* AR : 1015 --- War Memorial Museum
- \* LV : 1150 ---
- \* AR : 1200 --- Lunch at the Restaurant
- \* LV : 1300 ---
- \* AR : 1330 --- Kyongbok Palace
- \* LV : 1600 ---
- \* AR : 1730 --- Osan Air Force Base

**This Itinerary is subject to change**

## **Important Things that Tourist Must Know**

- The tour bus leaves in front of the Checkertails building # 924 and departs at 0900 hours. Please be here 15-20 minutes prior to departure time.
- It is required to bring 5,000 won for palace entrance fee. Also it is recommended to bring extra Korean Currency for souvenir shops.
- You may bring lunch or 10,000 won for Korean restaurant.
- Dress in comfortable clothing and footwear.