Haengjusanseong Fortress

With summer just around the corner, Haengjusanseong Fortress — the site of the victorious Haengju Battle — is a relaxing and educational landmark to visit on the weekend.

Haengjusanseong Fortress on Deokyangsan Mountain is a major attraction of the city of Goyang. The fortress commands a beautiful view of the Han River and the surrounding urban and rural landscapes. Built in the Three Kingdoms Period, the mud fortress is also famous for being where General Gwon Yul pulled off a major victory against the Japanese in 1593 (26th year of King Seonjo’s reign). On the south side of the fortress is the Han River, and the Changleungcheon stream flows around the southeast side of the fortress. Together they form a natural moat. The fortress boasts a strategically important location: nearby is a waterway that leads to the West Coast, and the fortress lies at a central point of transportation and logistics that connects to Seoul. A unique feature about the fortress is that there are no fortress walls.

A new year’s festival is held there on the first day of the new year and draws 20,000 - 30,000 visitors annually. Major cultural festivals hosted by the City of Goyang, such as the Haengju battle memorial ceremony and the Goyang Haengju Culture Festival, are held at the fortress every year as well.

The road that leads to the fortress peak, where a monument is erected to commemorate the victory of the Haengju battle, is not too steep and well paved, so families with strollers can easily enjoy the walk. Popular as both a historical site and place to relax, with its lush trees and fresh air, the fortress gets crowded on the weekends. It is also known for its beautiful night views, so it stays open until late from July to September.

A statue of General Gwon Yul stands near the main gate of the fortress, where you can find a temple enshrining a portrait of the general, a memorial hall exhibiting relics from the Haengju battle, stone monuments, a video screening hall and pavilions (Deokyangjeong and Jingangjeong). Near the fortress used to be a military fence along the Han River, but this was replaced by a 3.7 km walking trail. The observation tower along the trail commands a great view of the Han River.

Nearby Attractions - Haengju Seowon

This memorial hall was built to honor General Gwon Yul and his patriotic spirit. It houses a stone monument about the victory of the Haengju battle.

Places to Eat - Jangeo Maeul

Eel restaurant Jangeo Maeul stands at the foot of Haengju Fortress and offers a great view of the Han River. The restaurant’s specialties are tender charcoal-grilled eel marinated in a special sauce made with fruits, vegetables and herbs. Other nutritious menu items include ginseng chicken soup (samgyetang), seafood soup and spicy fish soup.

For more information on Goyang City, please visit http://www.visitgoyang.net/.