Lighting Up Tradition

The Jeongwa Hanok Village opens in style with a lighting festival

The Jeongwa Hanok Village is a pocket of yesteryear draped, for now, in LED lights. Set to officially open on May 22, this village of traditional Korean houses, which is what hanok means, started celebrating early with a light festival that opened March 5 and will run through May 31.

With Bongwa Mountain behind it and the Gongneung stream in front of it, the Jeongwa Hanok Village is being built over a period of 10 years. It will be complete with 72 hanok by 2018; there are 21 now. The developer chose to locate the village in the city of Ilsan for factors related to feng shui. Hanok construction experts, including the Living National Treasure for traditional roof tiling, are helping build the structures with a primary construction material called hwang-jangmok, or pinus densiflora for. erecta Uyeki, said to last 1,000 years. Gefdim kivas, or tanned roof tiles, add elegantly flowing lines and curves to the hanok, giving the homes their trademark touch. Once complete, the hanok village will be one of Korea’s largest, but visitors to the light festival can learn about Korea’s traditional architecture even today.

The festival features not only landscape lighting fixtures on the hanok, but lights in the shapes of figures that correspond with the four seasons. Total number of LED lights? 10 million. Soothing music and the sounds of rain and wind chimes accompany the lights.

Events and traditional activities at the festival include tuho, where you throw arrows / sticks into a narrow-neck jar, yut-nori, a board dice game, traditional kite-making and flying, opportunities to roast sweet potatoes and potatoes in traditional red clay ovens, etiquette lessons, classes on how to make traditional Korean food and a tea ceremony. Visitors can also hang their handwritten wishes on traditional Korean totem poles called jangseung and sotdae carved by 13 totem pole artisans.

With lighting hours from 19:30 to 22:30, the Jeongwa Hanok Village is a charming and nostalgic choice for an evening in May.

Getting There
Take bus no. 37 near Exit 7 of Samsong Station (Line 3) and get off at the Saeceo Maeul stop. The village is a 10-minute walk from the bus stop.

Source: Korea Tourism Organization
http://english.visitkorea.or.kr