**History Bathed in Moonlight**

The Suwon Culture Foundation starts its famous annual Hwaseong Fortress Moonlight Tour

The splendor of Hwaseong Fortress is greatest during a full moon. Now that the Suwon Culture Foundation has started its annual night program for Hwaseong Fortress, tourists can enjoy a leisurely stroll after hours along the fortress and various traditional performances. Begun last month, the program will run through October 28.

At the foot of Paldal Mountain, Hwaseong Fortress is known for its scenic views and often referred to as the “essence of the Joseon dynasty’s fortress art” for its architectural values. The fortress is a symbol of exchanges between Joseon and the West, as both traditional Korean and Western construction technologies were employed in the building of it. The use of the most advanced technologies of the time shortened the construction period from the previously expected 10 years to only 2.5. Also, every construction detail and process was thoroughly documented in *Hwaseong Seongyeokui gwae*, or the Records of Hwaseong Fortress Construction, which heightens Hwaseong’s values even further. Recognizing such distinctive values, UNESCO designated the fortress a World Heritage site in 1997.

Hwaseong Fortress reflects the filial piety of King Jeongjo. One of the reasons he led the construction of the fortress was to honor his late father, Crown Prince Sado, who was tragically put to death by his own father, King Yeongjo. King Jeongjo often traveled a long way, from the capital city to Suwon, to visit his father’s tomb, which gave the city the name “the city of filial piety.”

The Hwaseong Fortress Moonlight Tour starts with *Hwaseong Haenggung*, which means “a temporary palace of the royal family.” It is followed by a train ride to the northern gate, Jangbunmun, and a stroll along the fortress wall down to a beautiful pavilion called *Banghwasuryujeong* and a pond called *Yongyeon*. The beauty of the pavilion stands out in the shimmering moonlight as the pavilion, lit with gentle, golden lighting fixtures, and reflections on the pond surface create mesmerizing views and a calm, serene ambience. The tour ends with special traditional Korean performances presented by the Gyeonggi Provincial Traditional Music Orchestra and the Gyeonggi Provincial Dance Company. Tourists are also served a special traditional beverage, Jehotang, which was the most beloved summer refreshment of the royal family.

Tours are scheduled for specific dates of each month and reservations can be made through the ticket booking website, Interpark.

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**Suwon Hwaseong Fortress Moonlight Tour**

**Tour dates:**  
**June** 27, 28, 29, 30  
**July** 29, 30, 31  
**August** 1, 27, 28, 29  
**September** 23, 24  
**October** 26, 27, 28  
(Tickets for tours until August 1 are available. Ticket sales for the rest of the tours will be announced later.)

**Participants:**  
100 people / tour  
(no preschoolers allowed)

**Ticket price:** KRW 20,000 / person

**Source:** Suwon Culture Foundation  
www.swef.or.kr