

The World Heritage

The World Heritage Programme was created by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee to identify, celebrate, and protect important universal, cultural, and natural sites for the benefit of all humankind. World Heritage Properties are divided into three classes: Cultural, Natural, and Mixed (both Cultural and Natural). A World Heritage site indicates a place where such valuable properties are located. Among the 13 Korean properties inscribed by UNESCO, 12 are Cultural and one is Natural.

The Korean World Heritage sites are mainly distributed in the central capital area (five sites) and Gyeongsangbuk-do (three sites). Because Seoul has functioned as the capital of Korea since the Joseon dynasty (1392-1910), there are various historical sites such as palaces like the Changdeokgung Palace Complex, a Confucian Shrine (Jongmyo), and the royal tombs of the dynasty. The military facilities located around Seoul also functioned as the capital's defense, and chief among these are the Hwaseong Fortress and Namhansanseong. Gyeongju in Gyeongsangbuk-do is also noteworthy as an important historical spot. As the capital of an ancient kingdom, Silla (57 BC-935), Gyeongju still possesses a variety of historical relics from ancient times such as the Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple. Additionally, in Gyeongsangbuk-do there are historical villages dating back to the Joseon dynasty. Meanwhile, there are two heritage sites in North Korea (Historic Monuments and Sites in Gaeseong and the Complex of Goguryeo Tombs). Other provinces also have one cultural site each (Gyeongangnam-do, Jeolla-do and Incheon). In particular, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province's volcanic nature led to it being designated as a World Natural Heritage Site, which is called "Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes". It is divided into Hallasan Natural Reserve, Geomunoreum Lava Tube System, Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone.

The heritage sites can also be categorized by their functions. First, there are various types of complex tombs such as the Gochang, Hwasun, and the Ganghwa Dolmen Sites of the Bronze Age, the Goguryeo Tombs of the Goguryeo period, and the Royal Tombs of the Joseon dynasty, all of which account for 27 percent of the designated sites. The tombs reveal snapshots of the culture, the worldviews and rituals of each period. The proportion of buildings (23.7%) on the list is also high. The various buildings in Changdeokgung, for instance, are well coordinated with the surrounding nature. Designed to control temperature, humidity, and ventilation, Janggyeong Panjeon in Haeinsa Temple still contains the perfectly preserved Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks which have resided there for the past half millennium. Gyeongju and Gaeseong, the former capitals of the Silla and Goryeo periods, have many historic monuments and sites (15.4%). There are a variety of historical buildings, monuments, and ruins that represent each age. Along with Ganghwa and Gaeseong, which were designed as military bases to defend Seoul from the west and the north, two other fortresses, Namhansanseong and Hwaseong, are World Heritage sites. These played a critical role in defending the capital from the east and the south, and both are additionally significant for historical and architectural reasons. The Korean folk villages of Hahoe and Yangdong (7.7%), and a royal shrine Jongmyo (7.7%) are also worthy of notice. The former is still in keeping the Korean traditional customs in the daily lives of those dwelling there. On the other hand, the latter shows the Confucian traditions of the royal family in the Joseon dynasty by means of various performances such as rituals, music, and dance. Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, a volcanic island that has many distinctive lava tubes, is the only natural heritage site in Korea.

Korean Heritage Items and Registration

Registration	World Cultural & Natural Heritage	Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	Memory of the World
1995	1 Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon (The Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks) 2 Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple 3 Jongmyo Shrine		
1997	4 Changdeokgung Palace Complex 5 Hwaseong Fortress		1 Huminjeongeum Manuscript 2 Joseon Wangjo Sillok
2000	6 Dolmen Sites in Gochang, Hwasun, and Ganghwa 7 Gyeongju Historic Areas		
2001		1 Jongmyo Jerye and Jongmyo Jeryeak (Royal Ancestral Rite and Ritual Music of Jongmyo Shrine)	1 Jilji Simche Yojeol 2 Seungjeongwon Ilgi
2003		1 Pansori Epic Chant	
2004	8 Complex of Goguryeo Tombs		
2005		1 Gangneung Danjeje Festival	
2007	9 Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes		1 Uigwe 2 Daejanggyeong in Haeinsa temple (Printing woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and miscellaneous Buddhist scriptures)
2009	10 Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty	4 Ganggangsullae 5 Namsadang 6 Yeongsanjae 7 Jeju Chimseoridang Yeongsunggut 8 Chosryongmu	1 Donguibogam
2010	11 Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong	1 Gagok 2 Daemokjang 3 Maesanyang (Falcomry)	
2011		1 Jultagi 2 Taekkyeon 3 Hansan Mosi	1 Ilseongnok 2 Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1980 Archives for the May 18th Democratic Uprising against Military Regime, in Gwangju
2012		1 Arirang	
2013	12 Gaeseong Historic Areas	1 Kimjang	1 Nanjung Ilgi 2 Archives of Saemaul Undong
2014	13 Namhansanseong	1 Nongak 2 Arirang Folk Song in North Korea	

Cultural Heritage Administration (2014)



10 The Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (2009)
Seoul, Gyeonggi-do, and Gangwon-do; photo of the Geonwolleurung tomb
The Royal Tombs of the Joseon dynasty, including the ones receiving posthumous titles, are scattered over 18 locations. While most tombs and clusters are located in Seoul and Gyeonggi Province, only one is in Gangwon Province.



4 Changdeokgung (1997)
Jongno-gu, Seoul, photo of Injeongjeon
This is King's Palace of the Joseon dynasty. It was destroyed during the Imjin War (1592-1598), but the palace was rebuilt by the order of King Gwanghae in 1605. It served as the main palace for the following 300 years. The buildings are notable for how they coordinate with the surrounding nature.



3 Jongmyo (1995)
Seoul
This Confucian Shrine is dedicated to the perpetuation of memorial services for the deceased kings and queens of the Joseon dynasty. It was built in the east wing of the palace. There are also several buildings attached to the shrine: Yeongyeongjeon, Gongsindang and Chilsadang.

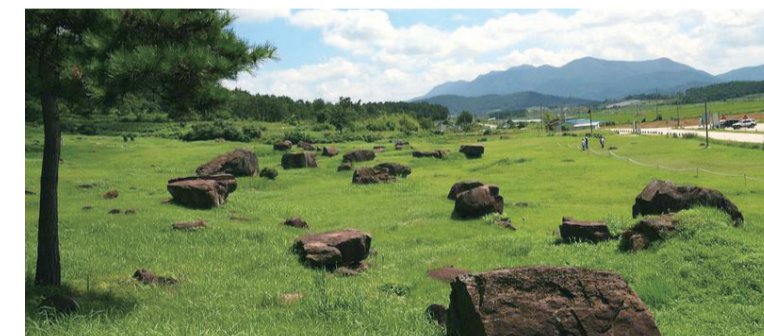
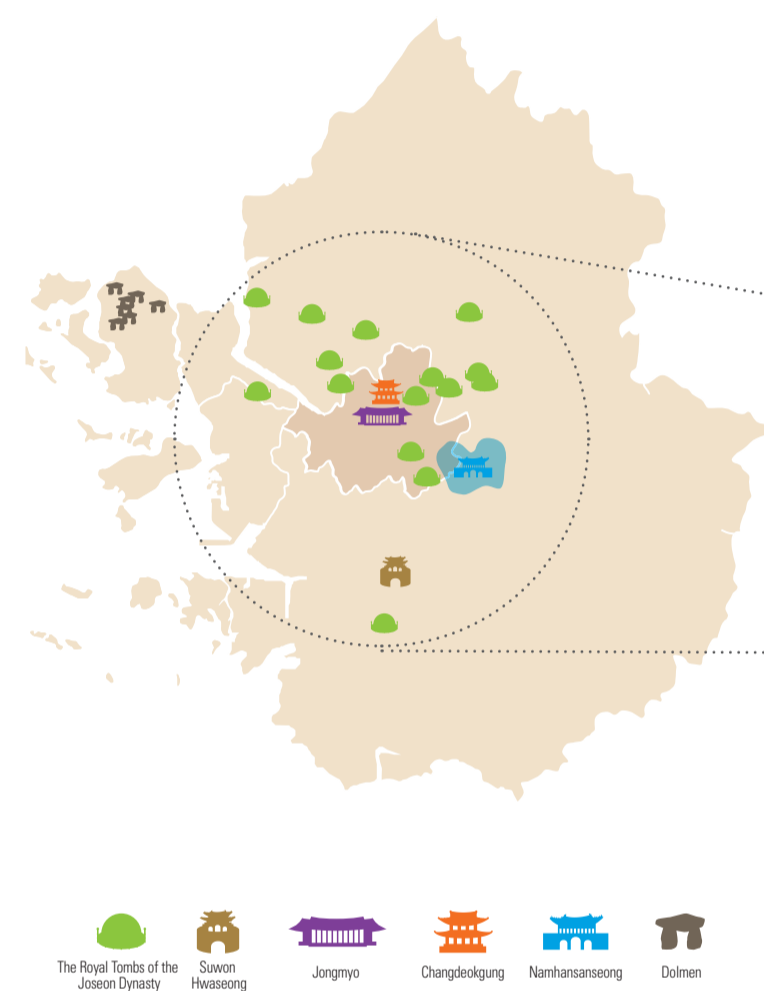


12 Historic Monuments and Sites in Gaeseong (2013)
Gaeseong, Hwanghaenam-do; photo of the Tomb of Wanggeon, the founder of the Goryeo Dynasty
As the capital of the Goryeo dynasty (918-1392), Gaeseong has a lot of historical ruins including the Marwoldae Palace, Goryeo Seonggyungwan, Sungyangsseon, Seonjuk Bridge and Pyochung Monuments as well as a cluster of seven Royal Tombs like the Tomb of Wanggeonjeon.



8 Complex of Goguryeo Tombs (2004)
Pyeongyangnam-do, Pyeongyang and Hwanghaenam-do; photo of Dongmyeongwangneung
In total, the complex consists of 63 tombs of the Goguryeo Kingdom (37 BC - 668). The tombs are located along the Daedong River. In particular, the various mural frescos wall represent the view of life and death as well as the culture and customs of people in Goguryeo.

The World Heritage in Gyeonggi-do

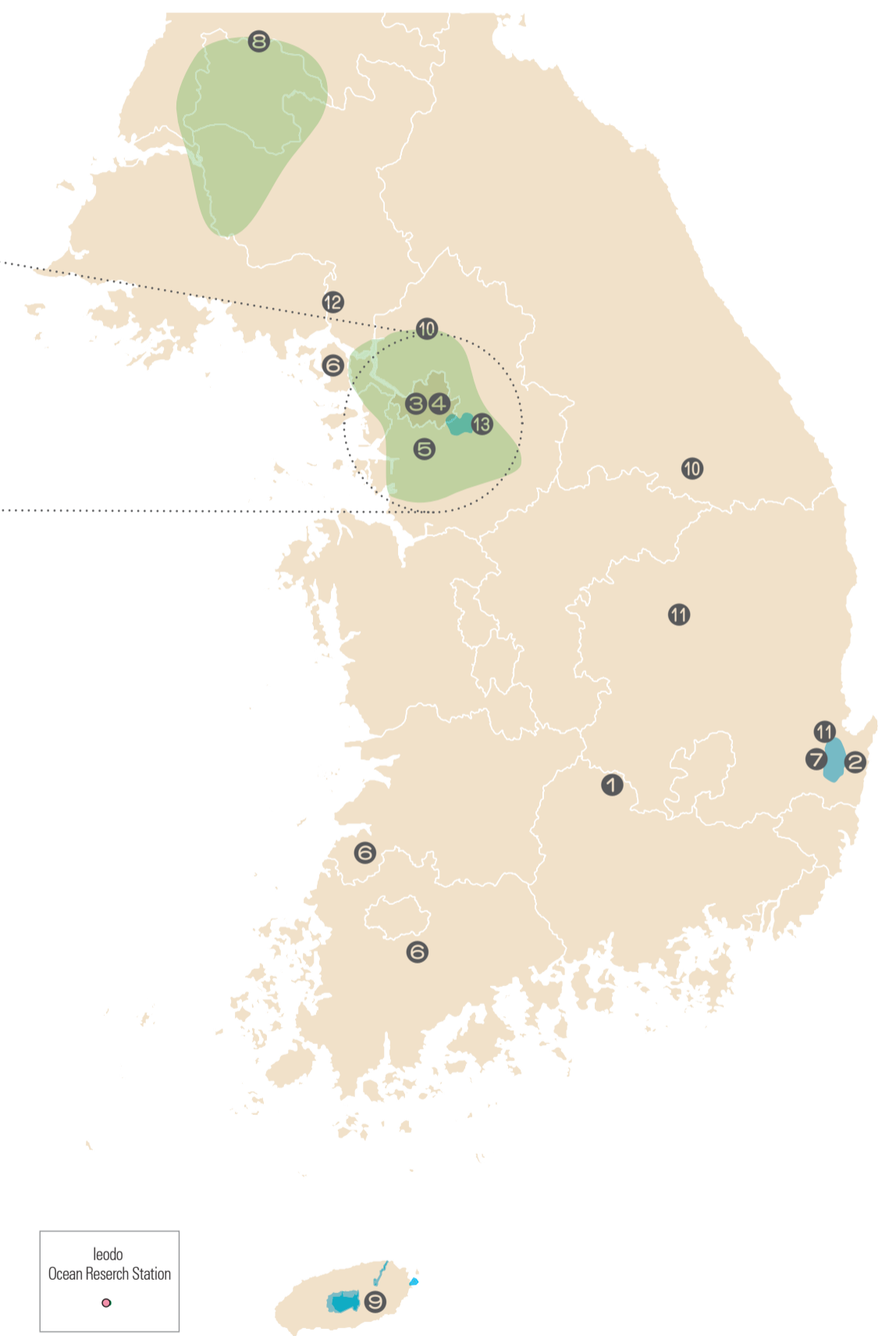


6 The Gochang, Hwasun, and Ganghwa Dolmen Sites (2000)
Gochang, Jeollabuk-do/ Hwasun, Jeollanam-do/ Ganghwa, Incheon; photo of Dolmen in Ganghwa
The ruins are linked to the bronze culture of Korea. There are two types of dolmen depending on their shapes. One is built with two or four wide stones with tall stones functioning to make a box on land, and that is then capped with a big stone on the top. Another type of dolmen reserves a space for burial beneath the land before small stones are installed to sustain the capstone.



5 Namhansanseong (2004)
Gwangju, Gyeonggi-do; photo of Namimun (the Southern Gate)
This fortress helped to defend Seoul from attacks on the eastern side. Its location in the rugged terrain made the fortress easier to defend. It is also famous because it is where King Injo and his soldiers desperately resisted against the army of Manchu Qing Empire, Hong Taiji.

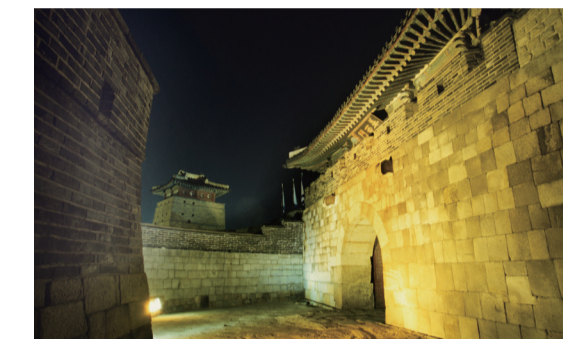
The Sites of the World Heritage



9 Hallasan Natural Reserve (2007)
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
In Hallasan Nature Reserve, volcanic activity played a key role in shaping a superb natural landscape to be a world-class tourist attraction. It includes numerous parasitic cones that have contributed to the developmental history of a typical volcanic landscape, Baengnokdam Crater Lake, and so on.



3 Geomunoreum Lava Tube System (2007)
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
The Geomunoreum Lava Tube System refers to the series of lava tubes formed some 100,000 to 300,000 years ago by huge amounts of basalt lava that spewed from Volcano. Geomunoreum Lava Tubes designated as UNESCO World Natural Heritage are Bengdwigul, Manjanggul, Gimryeonggul, Yongcheongdonggul and Dangcheomuldonggul.



5 Hwaseong Fortress (1997)
Suwon, Gyeonggi-do; photo of night view of Hwaseomun
This fortress was built by the order of King Jeongjo (1776-1800). The main function was not only to defend Seoul from the southern side, but to serve as the military base for the royal bodyguards. Nangnamheon, a part of a temporary palace in the fortress, still remains.



2 Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (1995)
Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do; photo of Bulguksa Temple
This temple was built in 774 by the efforts of Prime Minister Kim Daeseong and was dedicated to his parents. Along with the Seokguram Grotto four kilometers to the east, Bulguksa is an important heritage of the Silla period.



7 The Gyeongju Historic Areas (2000)
Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do; photo of the eastern pavilion at the artificial Anapji Pond
The protected areas in Gyeongju, the capital of Silla, are made up of the five areas each of which are valuable for different reasons: Namisan mountain, Wolseong palace ruins, Hwangryongsa temple, Daeseungwon royal tombs, Mountain fortress.



11 Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe (2010)
Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do; photo of the Hahoe village
This is a historical village where the Pungsan Ryu clan lived. The traditional architecture has been preserved along with the folk traditions from the Joseon dynasty. The buildings are notable for the way in which they beautifully coordinate with surrounding nature according to the principles of feng shui, such harmony is particularly visible in the pavilion and the tiled-roofed and thatched houses



11 Historic Villages of Korea: Yangdong (2010)
Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do; photo of the Yangdong village
Members of Wolseong Sohn and Yeongang Lee clans are still living in this village. According to the principles of feng shui, the village was built along a ridge. It contains housing, two educational institutions, Donggangaeseon and Oksanseonwon, and the small pavilion of Dongnagdam House. The housing in the village demonstrates the order based on the traditional social classes.



9 Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone (2007)
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone was uniquely created on the sea floor. Some 5,000 years ago, an underwater eruption on the shallow seabed resulted in a tuff ring. Rising 182meters above sea level, the tuff ring was originally an island, but the gradual deposit of sand and gravel formed a connection to the land.



1 Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon (1995)
Hapcheon, Gyeongsangnam-do; photo of Janggyeong Panjeon
This building, as the oldest annex of Haeinsa Temple, was designed for preserving the Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks in a way which takes into account environmental conditions like temperature, humidity, and ventilation.



1 Jongmyo Jerye and Jongmyo Jeryeak (2001)

This is the Royal Ritual held in Jongmyo for worshipping the kings and queens of the Joseon dynasty, and it includes music and dance.



2 Pansori Epic Chant (2003)

A genre of musical storytelling with expressive singing, stylized speech, and a repertoire of narrative and gesture performed by a vocalist and drummer.



3 Gangneung Danoje Festival (2005)

One of the Korean national holidays during which Koreans practice a ritual and enjoy folk foods and games such as the swing and ssireum (Korean traditional wrestling). Women wash their hair in water boiled with Sweet Flag.



4 Ganggangsullae Circle Dance (2009)

A form of historical Korean group dance that incorporates singing, dancing, and playing; it is exclusively performed by women.

The Korean Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was first inscribed in the list of UNESCO in 2011. By 2014, 18 types of the intangible cultural heritages have been registered, particularly during the following three years, 2009 (28.8%), 2010 (16.7%) and 2011 (16.7%) reaching a total 68.9%. Three types of activities that have been registered are rituals or rites (four cases: 22.2%), amusements (four cases: 22.2%), and songs (three cases: 18.8%) which collectively make up 66.6% between them. Among the other forms of protected cultural expression are Deamokjang, Taekkyeon, Hansan Mosi (Weaving of Mosi in Hansan), Kimjang (Making and Sharing Kimchi), and Maesanyang (Falconry).

The Sites of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and Memory of the World Heritage in Korea



5 Namsadang Vagabond Clowns' Play (2009)

An itinerant performing arts troupe for common people; it consists of male actors who present various arts such as singing, dancing and acrobatics.



6 Yeongsanjae (2009)

A Korean Buddhist ceremony about the re-enactment of Buddha's delivery of the Lotus Sutra.



7 Jeju Chilmeoridang Yeongdeunggut (2009)

A Korean shaman ritual held in at Chilmeoridang, Jeju Province, during which people wish for calm at sea and in the villages as well as plentiful sea catches.



8 Cheoyongmu (2009)

The Cheoyong mask dance is performed at court to drive off evil spirits at the end of the year.



9 Gagok (2010)

This genre of Korean vocal music is played with an orchestra of musical instruments.



10 Daemokjang (2010)

This is the traditional architecture of woodworking in Korea whose practitioners mainly construct palaces, temples, and houses with skillful carpentry techniques.



11 Maesanyang (Falconry; 2010)

This traditional activity of keeping and training falcons to hunt quarry in their natural state either for food or for entertainment is also a part of Korean heritage.



12 Jultagi (2011)

Korean tightrope walking is performed on national holidays such as Dano and Chuseok. The performance is mainly conducted with music and witty conversations between the tightrope walker and the clouds.



13 Taekkyeon (2011)

This traditional martial art makes use of fluid, rhythmic footwork and a variety of kicks to overpower opponents.



14 Hansan Mosi (Weaving of Mosi in Hansan; 2011)

Weaving of rami fabric in Hansan, Chungcheongnam-do is done by middle-aged women.



15 Arirang (2012) 16 Arirang Fork song in North Korea (2014)

This popular form of Korean folk songs originated in various sites across Korea, particularly Jeongseon, Miryang and Jindo in South Korea, and Pyeongyang, Haeju in North Korea.



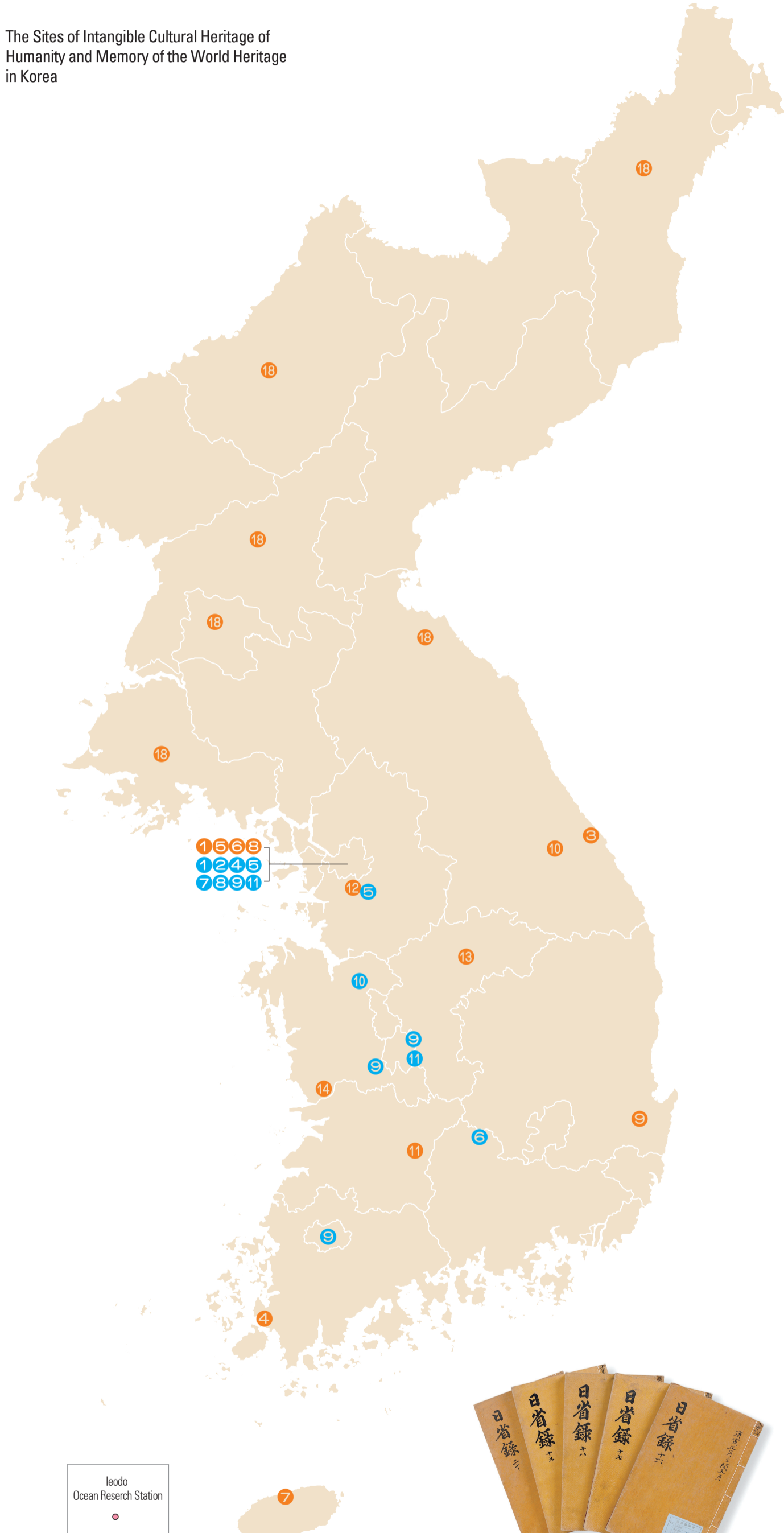
17 Kimjang (Making and Sharing Kimchi; 2013)

A traditional practice of making large quantities of Kimchi to prepare for a long harsh winter is another type of cultural activity that promotes cooperation between and among families and neighbors.



18 Nongak (2014)

It is a kind of community band music, dance and rituals performed in rural area for entertaining farm works or festivals.



Jeodo Ocean Research Station

*The number on the map mean the person or societies being responsible for conservation of the Korean Intangible Cultural Heritage.
*The images for the Korean Intangible Cultural Heritage are placed in sequence according to the registration year, and the numbering also follow it.

"Memory of the World" is an international initiative led by UNESCO in order to provide grounds for preserving humanity's valuable documentary heritage such as official documents, books, works of art, letters, and historical monuments. Since 1997, it has nominated such artifacts every two years. Most of the Korean heritage materials designated are textual-materials like books, diaries, and government records. Beginning in 1997, eleven Korean items have been registered as such by 2014. Korea ranks first in all of Asia for its preservation of such documentary materials, and ranks fifth in the world overall. Some of the items are also designated domestically as national treasures such as the Hunminjeongeum Manuscript, Joseon Wangjo Sillok, Seungjeongwon Ilgi, Ilseongnok, Nanjung Ilgi, and the Daejanggyeong in the Haeinsa temple. On the other hand, Donguibogam is categorized as a treasure.

These various works of cultural heritage are preserved in 16 places: Seoul (8), Gwangju (2), Daejeon (2) and Hapcheon-gun (1), Gyeongju (1), and Asan-si (1). The Jikji Simche Yojeol was taken by French sailors in the late 19th century and it is now housed in the National Library of France in Paris.



1 Hunminjeongeum Manuscript (1997)

Hunminjeongeum is the original name of Korea's official script, also known as Hangeul, which was invented by King Sejong the Great (1418-1450) in 1446. This manuscript is very important as it explains the reasons for creating 28 new letters and the scientific principle behind their utilization.



2 Joseon Wangjo Sillok (The Annals of the Joseon Dynasty; 1997)

The Annals cover 472 years of the history of the dynasty (1392-1895). Since they contain a wide range of topics about this period such as politics, military affairs, law, foreign relations, economics, industry, arts, religion and customs through daily court records, they provide a general understanding of the dynasty and its external relationships with its neighbors.



3 Jikji Simche Yojeol (Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings; 2001)

The original title was "Baegun Hwasang Chorok Buljo Jikji Simche Yojeol". "Jikji" is the abbreviated title. This is the world's oldest book printed with movable metal type in 1377. It is currently housed at the National Library of France in Paris.



4 Seungjeongwon Ilgi (Diaries of the Royal Secretariat; 2001)

Seungjeongwon was the Royal Secretariat during the Joseon dynasty and was responsible for receiving and delivering the King's orders. The diaries were recorded on a daily basis about the King's public life and affairs with the servants at the royal court between 1623 and 1910. They also became the primary source materials for editing Joseon Wangjo Sillok.



5 Uigwe (The Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty; 2007)

The Uigwe is a collection of 3,895 books about the Royal Protocols of the Joseon dynasty. Each volume presents the special state ceremonies or major royal rituals in a manner that combines prose and detailed illustrations.



6 Daejanggyeong in the Haeinsa Temple (Printing Woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and Miscellaneous Buddhist Scriptures; 2007)

As the world's most comprehensive and oldest intact collection of the Tripitaka (Buddhist scripture) without any errors, it was made during Goryeo dynasty in the 13th century. It also was widely referred to as the Palman Daejanggyeong (Eighty-thousand Tripitaka), because it consists of 81,258 wooden printing blocks.



7 Donguibogam (Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine; 2009)

An encyclopedic medical textbook published in 1613. The title literally means "Mirror of Eastern Medicine". With the King's support, Heo Jun edited it by synthesizing medical knowledge and prescriptions to be utilized by common people.



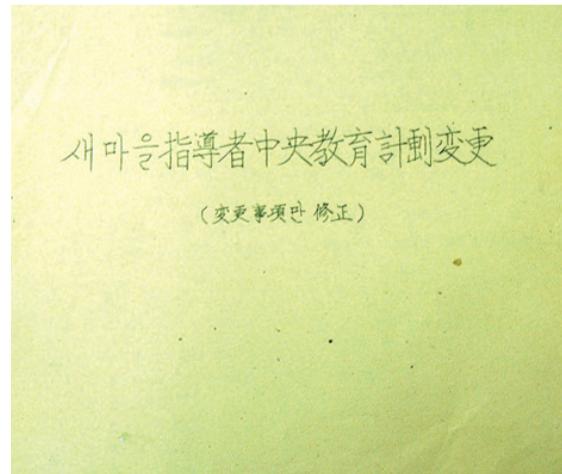
8 Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1980 Archives for the May 18th Democratic Uprising against Military Regime, in Gwangju (2011)

The archives contain a variety of materials about the Democratic Uprising, ranging from governmental records and civil society documents to papers produced by the United States. They were also used to restore the reputation of the victims during the course of the incidents.



9 Nanjung Ilgi (War Diary of Admiral Yi Sunsin; 2013)

The handwritten diary of Admiral Yi Sunsin, the Lord of Loyalty and Chivalry (Chungmu-gung), focuses on the Seven Years' War between Korea and Japan (1592-1598). It contains specific details of combat situations and his strategies, his personal views and feelings, and the lives of common people.



10 Archives of Saemaeul Undong (New Community Movement; 2013)

The name literally means the "New Village Movement". It includes a wide range of materials such as presidential speeches, government documents, personal letters, photographs and video clips related to this government-led movement that was conducted between 1970 and 1979.