

# Recommended Routes

## Enlightenment Path (30mins)

This pathway brings you through Korea's Buddhist heritage: past steles and stupas to pagodas and Buddhas.

- ① Open Plaza >> ⑤ Stupa and Stele >> ⑥ Bosingak Bell (Treasure No. 2) >> ⑦ Pine Tree Path >> ⑧ Two Buddha Statues along the Bamboo Path >> ⑨ Pine Forest Library >> ⑩ Namgyewon Seven-Story Pagoda >> ⑪ Galhangsa Three-Story Pagodas

## Romantic Path (20mins)

Wander through bamboo paths, along the Mirror Pond and end up at Dragon Falls for a remarkable walk through the gardens.

- ① Open Plaza >> ② Mirror Pond >> ③ Cheongjaeong >> ⑫ Dragon Falls

## Traditional Garden Path (20mins)

Enjoy nature in the context of Korean historical patterns and designs. Here you will find blossoming flowers and traditional plants.

- ⑮ Gyeongbokgung Wall and Peony Pond >> ⑲ Traditional courtyard

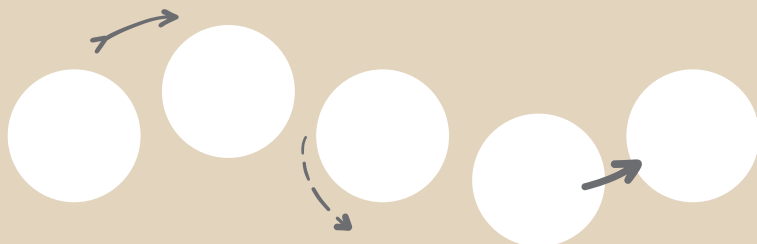
## Philosopher's Path (20mins)

Enjoy the serenity of the quiet walking paths as you contemplate life and nature.

- ⑬ South Gate >> ⑭ Museum Hill Path >> ⑮ Pine Forest Library >> ⑯ Birch Tree Path >> ⑰ Fringe Tree Path

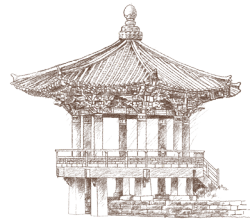
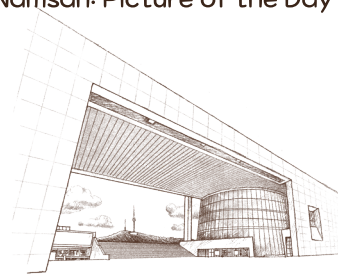
## Create Your Own Path

Record the path you chose to take as you wandered through the gardens.



### ① Open Plaza - "The Pines atop Namsan: Picture of the Day"

From this point you can capture a breathtaking photo of Namsan Tower, the National Museum and, on clear days, the mountain scenery of Bukhan-san in the far distance. If you only take one picture in the gardens, this is the one to take!



### ③ Cheongjaeong

Built in 2009 to celebrate the Museum's centennial, this celadon-roofed pavilion is modeled after the royal pavilion recorded in the History of Goryeo (written in 1449). Relax here to enjoy the elegance of ancient Goryeo architecture.

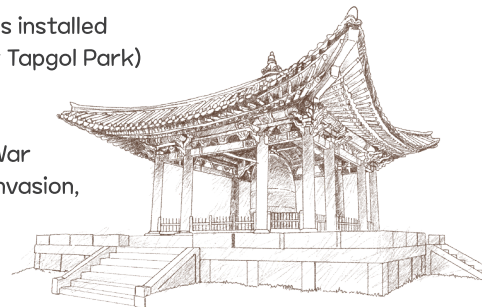
### ⑤ Stupa and Stele

Do you know the difference between a stupa and a stele? A stupa is a shrine where the relics (*sarira*) of a deceased Seon (Zen) master are interred. The stele is a stone or wooden slab that highlights the life and achievements of the master.



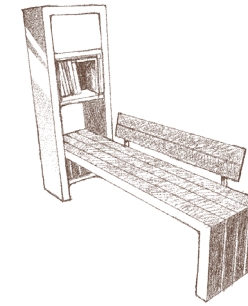
### ⑥ Bosingak Bell

This Buddhist temple bell was installed at Wongak-sa (present-day Tapgol Park) in Hanyang (now Seoul) in 1468. Wongak-sa was destroyed during the Imjin War (1592-98) by the Japanese invasion, and the bell was moved to the belfry (Bosingak) in Jongno. The bell was sounded to alert the public to the morning opening and evening closing of the city gates. In modern times, the bell was struck 33 times upon the dawning of New Year's morning. In 1985 the bell was brought to the National Museum of Korea after a crack developed. The bell that is now hanging in Bosingak was cast in 1986.



### ⑧ Two Buddha Statues along the Bamboo Path

As you walk along the Bamboo Path, listen as it whispers gently in the wind. You may even want to engage in silent dialogue with the two Buddhas along the path.



### ⑨ ⑮ Pine Forest Library

As you walk along the bamboo path, take a moment to pause, read a book, or relax on the small reading bench nestled amidst the pines.

### ⑩ ⑪ Stone Pagodas from Unified Silla and Goryeo

The classic stone pagoda from Unified Silla (668-935) boasts perfect proportions, while the majestic stone pagoda from Goryeo (918-1392) is one of a kind. Which one looks better to you: the three-Story Silla pagodas from the monastic site of Galhangsa in Gimcheon or the seven-Story Goryeo pagoda from the monastic site of Namgyewon, Gaeseong (National Treasure No. 100)?



### ⑫ Dragon Falls

A long time ago, the Dragon King's son fell in love with a woman who meditated daily under this waterfall. Summoning the courage to finally approach her, the young woman was startled by his presence and exclaimed, "You must be my Prince Charming!" From that point forward, they lived happily ever after. Dragon Falls is still believed to be a place blessed by the dragon and a perfect spot to spend time with a loved one in a peaceful and romantic space.



Museum Garden Open hours

7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



국립중앙박물관  
National Museum of Korea

A Friendly Museum for Everyone





# Let's explore the Museum Garden!

## 16 Birch Tree Path

The Korean name for this tree, jajak, came from the sound of birch wood when it burns.

## 17 Fringe Tree Path

This deciduous fringe tree is called ipap in Korean as its delicate flowers resemble cooked rice. The flowers on this path are in full bloom in April and May.

## 18 Gyeongbokgung Wall and Peony Pond

This stone wall replicates the intricate decorative patterns of Gyeongbokgung Palace. Be sure to enjoy the lovely flowers and, during the spring, look for the cherry Blossoms and Peonies.

## 7 Pine Tree Path

Spread your arms and breathe in the scent of refreshing pine trees.

