



With more than five thousand years of history and its geological characteristic, Korea, as a peninsula, has places that virtually anyone of any culture could enjoy full-heartedly. Because of its long history, there are lots of places that could be enjoyed—places with deep historical background or places with beautiful sceneries.

Gyeong-ju (Southeast)

One of the best places to spend vacation is a city called Gyeong-ju. Gyeong-ju was the capital city of the Silla dynasty. Silla dynasty, which lasted for a thousand years, left many places that have enormous historical values. Among the many relics of the city, Bulguksa temple and Seokguram Grotto are the two most valued.

Bulguksa temple and Seokguram Grotto

Situated in the foothills of Mt. Tohamsan, Bulguksa Temple was begun by Kim Daeseong for his parents of his current life, and Seokbalsa Temple for his parents of before-life. This reflects a buddhistic theory related to reincarnation.



Bulguksa Temple ↑



↙ ↑ Seokguram Grotto

From the record, we have presumed that Seokbalsa temple was constructed near Bulguksa Temple and concluded the name as Seokguram Grotto. For Silla's state religion was Buddhism, Bulguksa Temple is realization of earthly Saha world depicted by the Sakyamuni Buddha in the Lotus Sutra. Seokguram Grotto is estimated to be constructed at A.D. 751, the heyday of Silla Buddhism art.

According to The Samguk Yusa (the Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms) Kim Dae-Seong built Seokguram Cave for his parents of before-life. The cave was registered as UNESCO's World Heritage in 1995. Entering prices of historic places are very cheap, and compared to the price of the ticket, the value of seeing the relic itself is enormous. It is a must see place for many people including Korean citizens themselves.

