Seoul Museum of History

Seoul through Space and Time

서울역사박물관
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Introduction to the Seoul Museum of History

A Cultural Venue to Share Memories and Communicate with Citizen

The Seoul Museum of History is a metropolitan museum that specializes in the history of Seoul and its residents, starting from the city's creation and following through to its growth into a modern city. Using rare artifacts, well-researched replicas, multimedia displays, learning programs and rotating exhibitions, the museum allows its patrons to reunite with 2,000 years history of Seoul's ancient past and witness its brilliant cultural composition.

Permanent Exhibition

600 Years of Seoul

The permanent exhibitions at the Seoul Museum of History are a venue to travel as far back as 600 years in time to track the history of the Korean capital. Multimedia facilities use the latest information technologies to integrate physical artifacts with models, photographs and video to cover each time period from early Joseon to modern times (2002). Visitors get vivid and diverse looks at Seoul, from the time the city walls were first built to its status now as one of the world's major cities.

Special Exhibitions

The Seoul Museum of History continuously presents themed exhibitions on Seoul's past and future, as well as urban identity. While permanent exhibitions cover broad historical strokes, the special exhibitions make residents feel pride of Seoul's long history and dynamic culture. Moreover, it offers opportunity for reflection on urban development based on growth and development only by focusing on eventful history of Seoul in Modern times. Besides, the Museum is expanding its interface with the public by offering exhibitions on new and interesting topics. For instance, themed(rather informative) exhibitions in the museum lobby and the exhibitions that are set up temporarily in other locations inside and outside of the peninsula.

Various Themes to Spark Your Interest

Research

Findings and Records of a Dynamic City

Seoul Museum of History seeks to not only narrate the dynamic changes of Seoul's growth and development, but also to continue unearthing the city's undiscovered cultural assets, a task of vital national importance that will culminate in research endeavors of great depth and breadth. In addition to these initiatives, the museum plans to begin collecting Seoul-related data that have been created by overseas libraries and news agencies. The data will be used to build a resource for the newly created Seoul Studies discipline, as well as being added a digital archive for use by researchers and residents. This archive will act as a highly systemized and detailed bank of information on the city.

Museum Collection

A Museum That Citizens Help Make

The Seoul Museum of History, which aims to preserve and showcase the history and culture of Seoul, has been working to locate historical artifacts that are that capture the pride, struggle and rich cultural fabric of the city—treasures to be passed on to future generations. The process of collecting of these artifacts has involved a variety of methods, ranging from museum-financed purchases to voluntary donations by generous citizens. In fact, around 50 percent of the total items in the collection have been donated by Korean citizens, which serve as an excellent example of how the Seoul Museum of History is an institution that has been built up by the support of its patrons. The museum will continue working to keep the traces of the past from being discarded or disappearing, fighting to preserve these artifacts as a legacy for the future.

Conservation Science

Giving New Life: Preserving and Restoring Cultural Heritage

As a society, we have the privilege of being able to learn from cultural artifacts created hundreds or thousands of years ago—and know that these treasures will be passed on to future generations in restored, near-original condition—all thanks to the unspoken efforts of museums. Techniques of modern conservation science, used in conjunction with traditional methods and materials, have allowed artifacts to withstand the trials of time and remain preserved for the ages.

International Exchange

Bringing Seoul to the World, and the World to Seoul

As a part of the museum's ongoing efforts to share more of Seoul's unique cultural mélange with the world, the Seoul Museum of History is working hard to build an international network aimed at facilitating a variety of cooperative exchange projects. Every year's international symposium presents an opportunity for the Seoul Museum of History to further develop its identity as a metropolitan history museum, as well as stimulating discussion with other institutions from around the world regarding the future of museum operations. After signing MOUs with metropolitan museums in such nations as the United Kingdom, France, the Czech Republic and Russia, those institutions involved have engaged in exhibition exchanges and joint research efforts, which have resulted in our own international exchange exhibition, aptly titled, "Seoul in the World, the World in Seoul." The museum is also planning an exhibition series featuring Seoul-related data that have been collected from a variety of archives overseas. With this and other projects, the Seoul Museum of History will continue to promote cooperative efforts with the world's museums, always expanding the breadth of our international and intercultural exchange.

Education

Various Ways to Learn about Seoul

The Seoul Museum of History is a place where people of all ages can broaden their understanding of Seoul and gain a deeper appreciation for the city. Programs are divided according to both subject material and age group, so whether our patrons are seeking out intensive, full-time study or lighter activities for evenings and weekends, the museum offers programs that can accommodate your needs and schedule. All programs are run by professional instructors who teach classes that range from those designed for parents and children to comprehensive history courses for more academic study. Regardless of your goals, our selection provides students with a variety of options for their learning environment. There are also opportunities to engage in hands-on involvement through exhibition-related activities—an important part of a fuller, more enjoyable experience.

Seoul City Wall Research Center

Having watched over the city's growth for over 600 years, the Seoul City Wall was built in conjunction with the rise of Hanyang, the capital city of Joseon that is now known as Seoul. The Seoul City Wall Research Center runs the Seoul City Wall Museum, which draws attention to the structure's historical status, as well as its value as one of Korea's finest cultural artifacts. The institute was established as a means of laying the academic groundwork to have the Seoul City Wall registered as a world cultural heritage site, namely through the coordination of academic studies on the topic that have been backed by interdisciplinary research.

Sharing the Importance of the Seoul City Wall, a Precious Cultural Heritage

Cheong Gye Cheon Museum

Cultural Waterway Dividing Downtown

The Cheonggyecheon is well-known as the stream that flows through the middle of downtown Seoul. After a major restoration project in 2005 brought the hidden stream back into view after 20 years obscured by a highway, the Cheong Gye Cheon Museum opened its doors to study the history, culture and ecology of the stream and present exhibitions on these topics. The museum's aim is to help visitors better understand how the stream's appearance has changed over time, offering a variety of feature exhibitions about the stream.

Gyeonggyojang

Where the Soul of Korea Lives On

Gyeonggyojang was the home of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in the years directly following its independence from Japan, from 1945 to 1949, and is also where the interim administration's leader Kim Gu saw his last moments, lending it exceptional significance. It is in this place that Kim Gu and his cabinet members stood against foreign trusteeship of Korea—either on behalf of the United States, China, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom—while fighting to keep the peninsula united. After Kim's death, the building was utilized as both an embassy and a hospital before being restored to its original condition in 2013, 64 years after Kim's death. It has since served as a museum.