

Danyang-gun / 31,376

Korea's Alps: In harmony with mountains, water and people

Danyang of Cheongbuk Province, The most livable city in Korea

Danyang County is a historic and attractive magnet for tourists, harboring the beautiful nature of Mt. Sobaeksan and the Namhangang River as well as offering the rich history and culture of prehistoric remains. Danyang is also being reborn into a green, eco-friendly 21st century city by creating a picturesque waterfront area, which offers the most beautiful living space in town.

The birthplace of prehistoric culture

Artifacts spanning the entire prehistoric age (about 700,000 years ago) including the early days of the Paleolithic Age (about 3,000 years ago) through to the Bronze Age, are evenly distributed all over Danyang County. Also, a variety of chronologically classified archaeological relics were excavated from the Danyang County's soil, which makes the region a barometer for Korean prehistoric cultural research.

In particular, a number of fossils such as those of extinct animals were discovered in the Geumgul and Gunanggul Caves, which provides substantial data for research on the fauna and the origins of the Korean people. Gakgi-ri menhir and Andong-ri dol-men demonstrate important development aspects of the prehistoric and bronze ages in Korea.

Among them, the Suyanggae historical site displays representative artifacts of Korea's Paleolithic Age. In order to properly preserve and manage the artifacts excavated from this site, the Suyanggae Prehistory Museum was built. The museum also hosts the Suyanggae International Academy Conference every year.

A picturesque paradise in harmony with mountains, water and people

The Sobaek Mountains are famous for their superb views and the Namhan River (which supplies drinking water to Seoul), passes through Danyang, making this region famous for its magnificent nature since ancient times.

In particular, valleys running from the Sobaek Mountains and the graceful figure of Namhan River shape this picturesque paradise, which features the famous eight scenic spots of Danyang. In addition, Danyang has natural caves containing hundreds of millions years of mystery and offers fantastic waterways. This region is also the birthplace of Stupid Ondal and Princess Pyeong-Gang, a tale that has been passed on orally for more than a thousand years. Danyang also hosts Royal Azalea Festival of Mt. Sobaeksan, the Ondal Culture Festival (which draws 8.8 million people) and the "Yeon Gaesomun" TV series (which films in the region). All of these attractions and more demonstrate that Danyang County is poised to become one of Korea's leading tourist attractions.



The city with the history of submergence

In 1985, the construction of Chungju multi-purpose dam led to the relocation of the Danyang County Office for the first time in history as well as the submergence of the beloved hometown. This, in turn, led to a decrease in population and an economic decline, which was a negative turning point in the history of Danyang County. However, the county overcame the painful history of submergence and migration by transforming itself into an attractive tourist destination as well as a Korean green city. Today, Danyang's story is one of bright dreams and hopes.

Danyang County was awarded the 2011 Grand Prize of Korea Tourism and has become the talk of the town for 'the last uninhabited town at the end of the earth' and 'the least stressful town'.

Environment-centered green city

With the idea that waste is a resource, Danyang County has finished the construction of the Resources-recycling Agriculture and Industry Complex: the first stage of the project to position Danyang as a mecca of resource recycling. This action motivated the GRM Corporation, a subsidiary of LS Nikko, to get involved with the project. Currently, the county is creating a Specialized Resource Recycling Complex, the second stage of the project. By doing so, Danyang serves as the best example of a sun-city industry where environmental pollution, energy saving, the reduction of CO2 emission and achieving green growth, are addressed.

In addition, the county converted a deserted space that used to a limestone mine into beautiful 18-hole golf courses in 2005. The recovery construction has greatly contributed to revitalizing the region's economy and ecology. Today, the golf courses are consistently ranked in Korea's top 10 premium public golf courses because the area perfectly harmonizes the limestone, neighboring dense forest and other regional geographical features.

The world's most livable city

In Danyang County, the local residents are actively taking part in the community as valuable customers, helping to tackle regional issues with communication and cooperation. Along with it, the Group of Volunteer Work, which consists of 74 teams (7,737 members) was highly recognized and chosen as the Best Volunteer Organization of Korea for three consecutive years.

Additionally, Danyang takes action to preserve values by remaining dedicated to being a life-long learning city, focused on the belief that Learning is happiness. Danyang also takes care of marginalized people by supporting multi-cultural families, creating the street of culture, renovating the ecology parks and streams of the Namhan River, facilitating the Rose tunnel, promoting the Green Rural Town, maintaining bicycle facilities, preserving clean water and creating green woods and fields.

