

# Faces of the past 歷史珍貌

TEXT & PHOTOS / 文及攝影 DANIEL ALLEN

The UNESCO-listed city of Gyeongju is unearthing priceless art and architecture on a grand scale

南韓慶州出土大量珍貴文物及建築遺址，  
被聯合國教科文組織列為世界文化遺產

Shilla Millennium Park recreates an ancient city through its carvings and sculptures, artwork and traditional buildings

新羅千禧公園以木雕與雕塑作品、各式藝術文物及傳統建築重構古都的面貌



**T**HREADING HIS WAY through low grassy mounds, Dr Ji Byeong-mok leads the press party towards a nondescript white shed. The eyes of one of South Korea's most eminent archaeologists shine with excitement. "Not many people have seen this yet," he exclaims, fumbling with the keys. "You're very lucky."

The interior is illuminated by spot lamps, the air regulated by humidifiers. Inside a shallow, carefully excavated pit lies an intricate suit of armour. More than 1,500 years old, any trace of the warrior to whom it belonged has long since disappeared, but the metal, which once resisted sword and spear, remains in good condition. In the annals of Gyeongju archaeology, this find in Jjoksaem district, 70 kilometres north of Busan, ranks alongside the discovery of Xian's Terracotta Army.

"For the first time in East Asia we've unearthed a complete suit of armour used by a heavily armed cavalryman," explains Ji, Director of the Gyeongju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage. "It's also the first evidence [apart from paintings] of the existence of cavalrymen during the Silla Kingdom period."

One of the longest-running Asian dynasties, the Silla Kingdom lasted nearly a millennium – from 57BC to 935AD – and at its height covered most of the Korean peninsula. As the Silla capital, Gyeongju was once home to more than one million people and remains richly endowed with a wide array of priceless historical treasures.

"Gyeongju contains huge amounts of priceless Silla art and architecture," explains Ji. "That's why it was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000. The Gyeongju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage was set up in 1990 to explore the hidden treasures of Gyeongju and the surrounding area, and we still have a massive amount of work to do."

Central Gyeongju is very compact, so getting between the city's major cultural sights is very easy. A large number of tombs are located in or near the city centre, and farther locations can be visited on foot, by bike or by taxi.

"The perfect way to start a tour of Gyeongju is to take an early morning stroll through the Tumuli Park [Dae-reungwon in Korean]," says Clint Kwon, a local guide and hotel owner. "The tumuli are all Silla tombs, which are essentially stone chambers covered with soil. The park is the largest tomb complex in [South] Korea, containing the remains of kings, queens and noblemen, together with a huge array of artefacts. Highlights include Cheonmachong, the only royal tomb in the park that has been excavated and opened to the public."

Kwon Yong-tok, of the Gyeongju Tourism Organisation (GTO), recommends a trip to the Shilla Millennium Park (also referred to as Silla). "This is a recently opened historical park that accurately recreates an ancient Silla



Monument to the past: Shilla Millennium Park recalls a rich history

文化遺產：新羅千禧公園擁有豐富的歷史文物

**池**炳穆博士領著一群記者走過長滿青草的小丘，來到一間外表平平無奇的白色小屋；這位南韓著名的考古學家雙眼閃爍著興奮的光芒。他一邊掏出鑰匙，一邊強調：「看過的人還不多，你們非常的幸運。」

小屋裡以射燈照明，並置有濕度調節器。在一個經小心發掘的淺坑，放著一套精緻的盔甲。這套盔甲已有1,500多年的歷史，盔甲主人是誰已無從考究，但曾經抵禦刀槍的金屬卻保存下來。在慶州的考古記錄中，這個在邊泉地區（位於釜山以北70公里）的遺址，其重要性不亞於西安的兵馬俑。

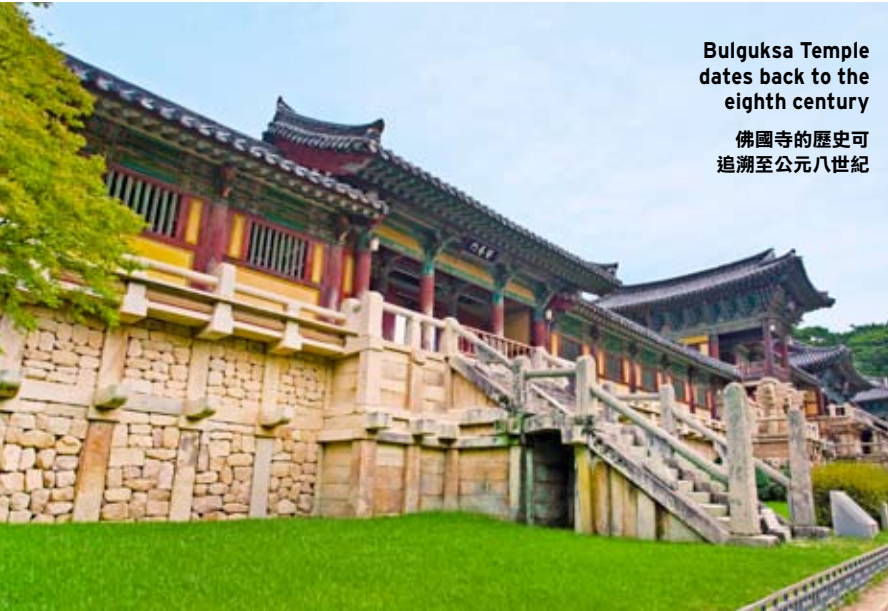
國立慶州文化財產研究所所長池博士解釋：「這是在東亞出土的首副完整重裝騎兵盔甲，也是繼畫作以外，能證明新羅王朝曾擁有騎兵的首項證物。」

新羅王朝由公元前57年至公元935年，延續近千年，是亞洲歷時最長的王朝之一，全盛期版圖幾乎佔據整個朝鮮半島。新羅王朝的首都慶州曾經擁有100多萬人口，留下了種類豐富的珍貴歷史文物。

池博士說：「慶州擁有大量珍貴的新羅藝術品和建築，因此在2000年獲聯合國教科文組織列入世界文化遺產名錄。國立慶州文化財產研究所成立於1990年，專責發掘慶州和周邊地區的寶藏，且我們仍有大量工作要做。」

慶州中部的面積不大，往返慶州市的主要文化景點非常方便。很多古墓都位於市中心或鄰近地區，就算是較遠的景點也可以徒步、騎單車或坐計程車前往。

當地旅館東主兼導遊權五國說：「遊覽慶州最適宜從大陵苑開始，於清早來到這個公園，漫步於被泥土覆蓋的新羅時代石室古墓



**Bulguksa Temple dates back to the eighth century**

佛國寺的歷史可追溯至公元八世紀



**Lilies add colour at Anapji Pond**

雁鴨池的睡蓮色彩斑斕

city, complete with traditional buildings, sculptures and artwork. Visitors can learn to make pottery, woodcrafts and even gold jewellery.”

Another great place to get a historical overview of Gyeongju is the Gyeongju National Museum, which contains 100,000 relics including numerous Buddhist sculptures and examples of Buddhist art. “Make sure you see the 18.9-tonne bronze bell outside the main building,” says guide Clint Kwon. “It was cast in memory of King Seongdeok [who reigned from 702–737AD]. Local people say it has the best sound of any bell in South Korea.”

Just outside Gyeongju, Bulguksa Temple is another must-see site. “Although it has been extensively restored, Bulguksa is an architectural masterpiece,” says GTO’s Kwon Yong-tok. “It dates back to the eighth century and is still a working place of Buddhist worship.”

A four-kilometre hike from Bulguksa Temple, Seokguram Grotto is a classic example of high Silla art and architecture. The main structure, which contains a 3.5-metre-high Buddha in meditating pose, was constructed by piling stones into a dome and then covering it with earth. The grotto’s fragile condition means that visitors are only allowed a brief glimpse of the interior.

A good place to spend evenings in Gyeongju is Anapji Pond. Musical shows are held here regularly on Saturday evenings, including performances of *pansori*, (traditional Korean music). The pond was constructed in the seventh century on the orders of King Munmu and restored to grandeur in 1974. Ornate buildings surrounding it are beautifully illuminated at night, as is the nearby Cheomseongdae, the oldest astronomical observatory in Asia.

Back at the Jjoksaem dig site, Ji takes stock of his surroundings. “It will take more than 20 years to properly excavate everything here,” he says. “It’s not so much a challenge, but a great opportunity.”

### FLY WITH US 港龍航程

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**Ornate roof decoration from the Silla period on display at Gyeongju National Museum**

**國立慶州博物館展出的新羅時期的屋頂裝飾**



群中。大陵苑是韓國最大的古墓群，葬有帝后皇族的遺體，還有大量陪葬品。天馬塚是大陵苑內唯一的皇室陵塚，現開放給公眾參觀，是苑內的主要景點之一。」

慶州旅遊機構 Gyeongju Tourism Organisation 的權容卓推薦遊覽新羅千禧公園，他說：「這個最近開放的歷史公園，一絲不苟地重構新羅古都的面貌，包括傳統建築、雕塑和工藝品。訪客可以學習製作陶瓷、木刻甚至是製作金飾。」

另一個認識慶州歷史的好去處是國立慶州博物館，那裡藏有約十萬件當地出土文物，包括大量佛像和佛教藝術品。權五國說：「別錯過博物館主樓外重18.9噸的銅鐘，該鐘是為了紀念聖德大王（公元702至737年在位）而鑄造。當地居民認為其鐘聲是南韓最美的。」

慶州市外的佛國寺也是旅客不容錯過的景點。權容卓說：「雖然寺院經過大規模改建，佛國寺仍不失為一座建築傑作。它始建於八世紀，至今仍是用來修行禮佛的地方。」

離佛國寺四公里的石窟庵，是新羅藝術和建築的經典例子。主石室由石塊堆砌成拱形然後鋪上泥土，內裡安放3.5米高的坐佛像。由於石窟結構已很脆弱，旅客只能從外面探看室內情況。

日落之後可以到雁鴨池，這裡逢周六晚定期舉行音樂表演，包括傳統韓國音樂板索里表演。雁鴨池是文武王於七世紀下旨興建，1974年修復。池畔華麗的亭台樓閣，晚上會亮起美麗的燈飾，與毗鄰亞洲最古老的天文觀測建築瞻星台，互相輝映。

回到發現盔甲的邊泉遺址，池博士環顧四周後說：「要在這裡深入挖掘，需時20年以上。這不算是個挑戰，而是個大好良機。」







Seafood ssambap (seafood wrapped in lettuce leaves)

韓式海鮮菜包飯 (以生菜包裹海鮮)

### WHERE TO EAT

“From seafood to samgyetang [chicken stew], Gyeongju’s eclectic range of restaurants offer visitors some really fine dining,” says Min Chul-ho of the Gyeongju Tourism Department. Here are a few recommendations.

#### Samdo Sutbul Kalbi

Bomun-dong 102-10

Meat lovers will enjoy this upmarket restaurant in Gyeongju’s Bomun Lake Resort area. Kalbi (pork or beef ribs, marinated in Korean soy sauce) are barbecued on a charcoal grill in the centre of the

table. After grilling, the meat is wrapped in lettuce leaves and garnished to taste with an assortment of kimchi (spicy pickled vegetables), raw garlic and a dollop of sweet, fiery gochujang, a spicy paste made from red peppers.

#### Usujeong Ssambap Hanjeongshik

Ma-dong 193-6

An inexpensive and cheerful alfresco restaurant offering great ssambap (rice and barbecued meat or seafood wrapped in lettuce leaves) and pajeon (savoury pancakes with vegetables).

#### Kuro Ssambap Shikdang

Hwangnam-dong 106-3

Another great ssambap restaurant that offers a massive range of delicious, freshly made banchan (Korean side dishes). Try the excellent pork bulgogi (barbecued meat), cooked in a spicy marinade and gochujang.

#### Hwangnam Bakery

Hwango-dong 347-1 (across the street from Cheonmachong)

[www.hwangnam.co.kr](http://www.hwangnam.co.kr)

Cosy bakery offering

Gyeongju’s specialty snack Hwangnam bread (Hwangnam ppan), a sweet pastry filled with red bean paste.

#### 餐廳推介

慶州政府旅遊部門的閔哲浩說：「慶州擁有各式各樣的餐廳，提供從海鮮到人參雞湯等美食。」以下為你推薦幾家出色的食肆。

#### Samdo Sutbul Kalbi

普門洞102-10

愛吃肉的旅客一定會喜歡這家位於慶州普門觀光區的高級餐廳。以韓國醬油醃過的豬肉或牛肋骨放在桌子中心的炭爐上燒烤，再以生菜葉包起進食，並佐以韓國辣泡菜、生大蒜，以及辣中帶甜的韓國辣椒醬。

#### Usujeong Ssambap Hanjeongshik

馬洞193-6

這家價格相宜、氣氛怡人的露天餐廳，提供美味的韓式菜包飯（用生菜包裹飯及烤肉或烤海鮮），以及韓式蔬菜煎薄餅。

#### Kuro Ssambap Shikdang

皇南洞106-3

另一家美味的韓式菜包飯餐廳，提供五花八門、新鮮炮製的韓國配菜。美味的烤豬肉以香料滷汁和香辣的韓國辣椒醬醃製，值得一嚐。

#### Hwangnam Bakery

皇吾洞347-1 (天馬塚對面)

[www.hwangnam.co.kr](http://www.hwangnam.co.kr)

在這家舒適的餅店可品嚐到慶州傳統小食皇南餅。這種韓國甜點的餅餡是軟滑的豆沙。

Sweet snack:  
Hwangnam bread

傳統甜點：皇南餅



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