

The peaks of history
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Through the haze, the Palgong Mountains can be seen towering above Daegu. Surrounding the city's basin, their profile gives the fading horizon a secluded and undulating look. Rich in culture and heritage, they not only guard the modern city below, but also its ancient Buddhist roots.

Containing uniquely shaped rocks, thick forests and the clean waters of several mountain streams, Palgong was a haven for early Buddhism. Spread throughout the mountain are dozens of Buddhist temples, statues and amja, influencing every peak in the valley. The tallest of these peaks, Birobong, rises 3910 feet above sea level, giving hikers a great view of the city nestled below.

For thousands of years, this area has been called home by Koreans. Along with Buddhist relics, it has served as a training center for young soldiers, the Hwarang, during the Shilla Dynasty, and was the home and workplace of Ilyeon, a famous Korean historian.

In 1980, the area was designated as a Provincial Park, protecting the area and the three districts in which it resides, Donghwasa, Pagyesa and Gatbawi, were named sight-seeing districts. Since that time, a large amount of tourist development has sprung up in the region.

Palgong is now equipped with lift cars, golf courses, hotels and campgrounds. The spiritual mountain draws local tourists and global visitors to its pleasant mix of old and new. Highways that encircle the peaks are popular for their scenic views and convenience in traversing the area.

Now protected by the people that have used its size for their own defense, the Palgong Mountains are a glimpse into a nation's past, and a place where you can look out toward the nation's future.