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Mt Paektu





Paektu, the highest mountain (2 750m) in Korea, stands in the city of Samjiyon in the country's northern Ryanggang Province.

The mountain was formed by volcanic eruptions which had started 20 million years before.

It has many peaks higher than 2 500 metres including Janggun, Hyangdo, Haepal, Piru, Ssangmujigae, Tangyol, Jebi, Chongsok, Paegun and Chail, and Lake Chon in the crater.

It is an exquisite and mysterious mountain with majestic sunrise, glow and constantly-changing scenery.

The Korean people regard it as the birthplace of their 5 000-year history, ancestral mountain of the country and sacred mountain of revolution.

This album illustrates the beautiful scenes of the mountain and its surrounding areas inset with some additional knowledge.

Ancestral Mountain



Paektu is a celebrated mountain of Korea for its natural charm, beauty of mountain and natural scenery. And it is also the country's ancestral mountain which embodies the spirit of the Korean nation.





Mt Paektu in the morning

Janggun is the mountain's highest peak at 2 750 metres above sea level.

Sunrise over Hyangdo Peak





Morning scene of the Paektu plateau seen from the summit of the mountain

Hyangdo Peak inscribed with Chairman Kim Jong Il's handwriting which reads "Paektu, Sacred Mountain of Revolution, Kim Jong Il"





Rainbow over Hyangdo Peak



Snowstorm of Mt Paektu

Blizzard over Hyangdo Peak







Hoar frost on rocks





Summit of Mt Paektu in winter

Lake Chon
in winter





Winter wind licking Lake Chon



Clouds over Mt Paektu in the evening

Waves of
Lake Chon





Evening glow over the Paektu area



Mt Paektu in spring





Lake Chon in the snow-thawing season



Snow-thawing season



Lake Chon



Rhododendrons on snow-covered Mt Paektu



Lake Chon in spring



Lake Chon shrouded in clouds



Peaks soaring high over clouds



Hyangdo, Janggung and Piru peaks seen from Lake Chon

Mt Paektu in summer



Lake Chon in summer



Hyangdo Peak seen from Janggung Peak





Piru Peak



Haemaji Peak



Mysteriously-shaped rocks on the summit of Mt Paektu





Cliffs on the summit of Mt Paektu



Wonders of nature over Lake Chon



Hyongje Falls



Paektu Falls



Sagimun Falls

Mt Paektu in autumn





Glow over Lake Chon

Sacred Mountain of Revolution



The Mt Paektu area is a grand open-air revolutionary museum which shows the history of the glorious anti-Japanese revolution of the Korean people.



Historic sites in Mt Paektu

Between the second half of the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s, the Paektusan Secret Camp was built in the Mt Paektu area in pursuance of the far-reaching plan of General Kim Il Sung and under his guidance, followed by many satellite secret camps with various missions on Saja, Soyonji, Mudu, Taegak and Ssangdu peaks, in Mts Kom, Kanbaek, Sono and along the Amnok River with the Paektusan Secret Camp as the centre.

The secret base in the Mt Paektu area played the role of the leadership centre and main strategic base for carrying on the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the work to found a party, mass-based anti-Japanese struggle centred on the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, preparations for all-people resistance and all other affairs of the Korean revolution under the guidance of Kim Il Sung.



**Sobaeksu
Valley**

Headquarters of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in the Paektusan Secret Camp where Kim Il Sung stayed



Log cabin for guards of the headquarters





Kim Jong Il was born in a log cabin in the Paektusan Secret Camp in the densely-forested Sobaeksu Valley.



Snowscape of Kim Jong Il's native home in the Paektusan Secret Camp

Jong Il Peak





Rising from Lake Chon and flowing into the Amnok River, the Sobaek Stream never freezes in winter nor dries in summer.

Sobaek Stream at a moon-lit night

Sobaek Stream
in summer





Samjiyon Grand Monument

With a view to adding ever-lasting glory to the immortal revolutionary achievements performed by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the revolutionary traditions of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Il proposed building the Samjiyon Grand Monument and guided its construction. The monument was unveiled in May Juche 68 (1979).



Sub-thematic group sculptures of the Samjiyon Grand Monument *The Homeland and Reverence*





Sub-thematic group sculptures of the Samjiyon Grand Monument *Water of the Homeland and March*





과대한 수관. 경양산동계에서
1972년 6월 3일
과대한 수관. 경양산동계에서
1976년 1월 4일
거닐어본 후

Lake Samji
in winter



Lake Samji in the evening

Lake Samji



Lake Samji consists of three ponds formed by lava from the volcano in Mt Paektu stopping a river.
Lake Samji is surrounded by a vast spectacular stretch of dense forest of larches, birches, Erman's birches, Khingan firs, spruces and other trees.



**Lake Samji
in autumn**



Sinsadong Revolutionary Battle Site

**Monument to the Victorious
Battle in the Musan Area**



Saja Peak



Sajabong Secret Camp





**Saja Peak
in autumn**



**Komsan Secret Camp
in the morning**



**Sinson Rock
of Mt Sono**

Sonosan Secret Camp





**Mt Sono in
autumn**

Chongun (a thousand soldiers)
Rock which was formed by
volcanic movements and erosion
by streams is called so because it
looks as if a thousand soldiers are
standing in rows.



Chongun Rock

Mt Kanbaek

Kanbaeksan Secret Camp





Soyonjibong Secret Camp

Snow-covered
Soyonji Peak





Mudu Peak in winter

Mudubong Secret Camp





Mt Paektu seen at the foot of Taegak Peak



Snowscape of
Pegae Peak

Pegaebong Bivouac

Rimyongsu
in winter





Hoar frost in Rimyongsu

Mt Namphothae





Forest in the evening



Blizzard-swept forest
of Mt Paektu

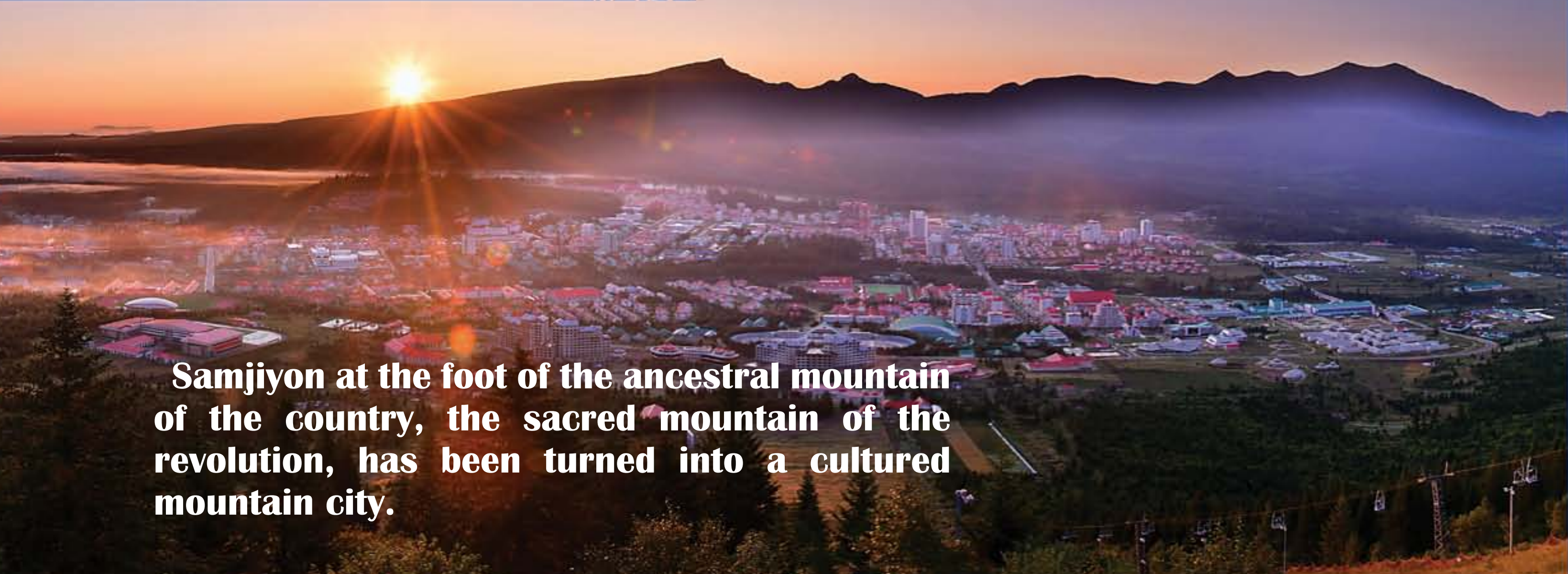
Pulgun Rock in
Taehongdan





Fog-covered Taehongdan Plain

Cultured Mountain City in the Paektu Area



Samjiyon at the foot of the ancestral mountain of the country, the sacred mountain of the revolution, has been turned into a cultured mountain city.





Samjiyon, a cultured mountain city













Phothae-dong



Paektusanmilyong-dong





Rimyongsu-dong

Sinmusong-dong





Poso-ri

History and Physiography



Origin of the Name of Mt Paektu

Historically, Mt Paektu, the birthplace of the 5 000-year history of the Korean nation, has been called by various names.

Paektu (white head) was derived from the fact that it always looks white as its valleys are covered with snow and ice all the year round and its ridges with white pumice and it looks like a giant's head soaring high into the sky.

The Korean ancestors called it the mother mountain or ancestral mountain of the country in the belief that all the mountains across the country originated in it.

Mt Paektu, detailed in the Taedonggyo Map of Korea which was completed in 1861

This map shows the Korean people's worship of the mountain and their patriotism.

Origin of the Name of Lake Chon

Lake Chon blessed with all scenic charms and mysterious climate has left numerous legends in history and aroused people's curiosity.

The name of the lake Chon (heavenly) and its various names of former days mean that it is a lake on a high place, big lake or mysterious lake.

Old monument discovered in Mt Paektu, inscribed with the words *Monument to the Dragon God of Heavenly Lake, Guarding Mt Paektu*

An old monument, made from an effusive rock, was found on a rocky elevation near the Paektu Hot Spring on the side of Janggung Peak on the shore of Lake Chon. The monument is 120cm high, 44-58cm wide and 10-11cm thick.

Although it has been weathered for so long years, the characters are well preserved.

The monument is inscribed with a pray to the Dragon God of Lake Chon to help the Korean nation live a stable life for ever. It indicates that the Korean people have believed from olden times that the lake is a never-drying beautiful lake with magical power. It was registered as National Treasure No 195 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



Great Paektu Mountains

Total length: 1 470km

Average height above sea level: 1 180m

Mountain ranges: 8

Names of mountain ranges	Length	Average height above sea level
Paektu Mountains	140km	1 800m
Pujonryong Mountains	280km	1 610m
Puktaebong Mountains	170km	1 120m
Masikryong Mountains	90km	1 010m
Chollyong Mountains	70km	900m
Thaebaek Mountains	320km	1 040m
Sobaek Mountains	310km	860m
Jiri Mountains	90km	940m

Major Peaks in Great Paektu Mountains



Mt Paektu (2 750m), Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province



Mt Turyu (2 309m), Paegam County, Ryanggang Province



Mt Turyu (1 323m), Chonnae County, Kangwon Province



Mt Chuac (1 528m), Sepho County, Kangwon Province



Chol Pass (677m), Hoeyang County, Kangwon Province



Mt Sorak (1 708m), Rinje County, Kangwon Province (South)



Mt Sobaek (1 439m), Tanyang County, North Chungchong Province



Mt Jiri (1 915m), Hamyang County, South Kyongsang Province

Geography

Mt Paektu stands on the boundary between northern Korea and China, sandwiched between the Eurasian Continent and Pacific Ocean. It belongs to the city of Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province.

Topography

The peculiar natural scenery of Mt Paektu was developed in the course of several volcanic eruptions and its evolution.

Lake Chon was formed in the crater of the volcano of Mt Paektu.

Lake Chon on the top of the mountain is surrounded by high peaks of more than 2 000m above sea level with cliffs of more than 60° of gradient.

Double Rainbow over Mt Paektu

Double rainbows are frequently observed over Mt Paektu.

In Mt Paektu, a downpour suddenly stops and fleeces of cloud show up in the sky. Then a double rainbow appears, sometimes over Lake Chon and other times between two peaks.



Hot Spring

Three volcanogenic hot springs are found on the shore of Lake Chon.

Paektu Hot Spring is located on the western side of Janggun Peak. Ragwon Hot Spring is located on the eastern side of Ragwon Peak. And Paegam Hot Spring is on the southwestern side of Chonmun Peak. All these hot springs are sodium bicarbonate springs and their average temperatures are 53°C, 52.5°C and 46°C, respectively.

There is also Jangbaek Hot Spring below Chonji Falls on the northern slope of Mt Paektu.



Paektusan Biosphere Reserve

The Mt Paektu area is studded with many natural reserves including the Paektusan Biosphere Reserve registered in UNESCO in Juche 78 (1989), Wonbongho Nature Park, Taehung Animal Reserve, Phothaesan Animal Reserve, Tonggyesu Char Special Reserve, Paegam Kanjang Marsh Plant Reserve and Taehongdan Royal Azalea Reserve.





Plants found around Lake Chon



Plants growing in the Mt Paektu area



Animals inhabiting the Mt Paektu area



Animals inhabiting the Mt Paektu area



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