

From Daegu Airport to Dalsung Park and More about the Park

–a podcast script

Jo's part

Thanks for joining us. I am Hyun-woo Jo, studying English at Keimyung University. This information is for those who are interested in traveling around the world. I am very glad to record this for helping you find some nice places in Daegu. Today I am going to show you the way to Dalsung Park and tell you about this park briefly.

Welcome to Daegu again.

Here is Daegu airport.

In front of the airport, you can find some bus stops on both sides of street. To get Dalsung Park, get on the rapid bus number one heading South at the red-white bus stand. You have to change buses later at Hanil theater in downtown. So remember the pronunciation "Hanil Geukjang" of this bus stop. Pay 1500 won for the bus fare. There are two kinds of bus stops, each stop is separated from one another by a very short distance. A general bus stop sign is blue.

While you are on the way to the park, let's find out something about the public transit system, specifically about the bus system in Daegu. According to bus routes, there are four kinds of buses we can find and get on. Those buses are rapid, circulate, local shuttle, and general buses. You can easily recognize which is which by its color surrounding the bus number. Red is for rapid buses. Circulate buses are green. Local shuttle buses are yellow. And most buses, which are general buses are blue. Also by the number of digits, it is different from general buses and the others. Three digit numbers are only for general buses.

Now I feel I need to tell you about the fare for using mass transportation. The rapid bus fare is 1500 won and the other buses fare is 1100 won, the same as the subway. You may use a Daegu Multi-trans Card to pay for both bus and subway at a discounted fare. You could purchase this multi-trans card at KB or Daegu banks with 2000 won and then you can charge it with as much money as you want to and use it instead of cash. You can charge the card at kiosks or use an ATM in Daegu banks or automatic charger at each subway station.

Soon this bus will arrive at Hanil theater. I am going to transfer to rapid bus number 3. You can possibly get on another bus at the general bus stop next to the rapid bus stop. It stands 20m away from the rapid stop. At the general stop, you can take a 427, 939, 425, 521, 724 bus to get the park. Buses are supposed to arrive every 10 minutes. The operation time of public city buses is from 5:30 am to

11:00 pm. But the operation time of the subway is about half an hour longer than buses. From here to Dalsung Park, it takes about 10 minutes by bus. There are no announcements in English but only in Korean unlike on the subway. So at least you had better know how to speak the name of the place or bus stop in Korean. When you get off the bus, you cannot actually see the park. Around the park, there are two bus stops. It is one of them. These stops are about 200m away from the gate of the park. While you are walking to the park, you can have a chance to look around Seomun market which is one of the biggest markets in Korea. Don't miss the chance to experience a traditional Korean market. From now on I want you to hear some conversation on the way to Dalsung park between two friends and an explanation about this park.

Jun & Mickey's part

Jun: Hi, Mickey!

Mickey: How did you get here?

Jun: I took the bus Number 425 and got off on Keunjang Intersection bus stop.

Lots of buses stop there like 156, 309, 400, 400-1, 402, 405, 420, 420-1, 425, 508, 521, 623, 653, 724, 808, 909. Keunjang Intersection is called Keun-jang ne-gu-ry in Korean. A lot of buses, right? When you see one of the buses, ask a bus driver like this, "Keun-jang ne-gu-ry ga-yo(큰장네거리 가요)?" If he or she says no, go to the opposite side of the street, and take the bus after asking a bus driver again. It is around 200 meters from the bus stop to Dalsung park. The way is not complicated, so you will find it easily, if you ask people how to get there like this, "Dalsung gong-one er-di-e-yo(달성공원 어디예요?)" You will follow the road that doesn't have many cars passing. How did you get here anyway?

Mickey: I took the 836. The bus stop where I got off has 300, 414, 414-1, 427, 808, 836, 939. its name is Dalsung park station called Dal-sung gong-one. I think this bus stop is better because you can see it earlier if you walk a little bit from the bus stop. You can ask bus drivers if it goes to Dalsung park station like this, "Dal-sung gong-one ga-yo(달성공원 가요)?" Get off and then ask people like this, "Dalsung gong-one er-di-e-yo(달성공원 어디예요?)" it is also around 200 meters.

Jun: If you take a bus in Dongdaegu station, you can take a 414, 414-1 to Keunjang Intersection. If you are coming from another place, you'd better go downtown called Han-il geuk-jang, and transfer to another bus like 156, 309, 425, 427, 508, 521, 724, 909, 939. It seems like too many buses but you never miss it. Don't forget to ask "Dalsung gong-one er-di-e-yo(달성공원 어디예요?)" after getting off.

Mickey: It is far from the subway station, isn't it?

Jun: Yes. Wow, there are lots of old people.

Mickey: A lot of vendors, too. There are a few parking lots. But I think people should use public transportation and come here on foot.

Jun: Let's get going into the park anyway, okay?

Mickey: Okay!

Jun: The entrance looks like a castle gate.

Mickey: Actually, it used to be a castle a long time ago.

This was built in the Bronze Age, and called Dalsung in the Unified Shilla Dynasty Age. So its name has been called until now. As time goes by, there has been just castle wall left, and the inside has been made use of park.

Jun: And there is no admission fee, so we can visit here easily.

What a wonderful park made from an old castle~!

Silver-stone's part

There are 3 courses that you can enjoy the park.

First one is a jogging course. As we mentioned, it used to be a castle, so there is castle wall left. Daegu city made a jogging course along the wall. Many people, especially old people walk or run along the course early in the morning. Go up to the right way along the deer cage and follow the edge of the park. The course is a little bit higher than other elevations, so you can look down the park. It will take about 30 minutes to walk around once.

Second course is a zoo. Even though the park is called Dalsung park, it has a zoo as well. There are 29 kinds of 93 mammals, and 54 kinds of 337 birds and 837 colored carps. Birds include 10 kinds of 28 natural monuments. You can find the map around the entrance. You can find a few maps somewhere, so you can check it frequently. Go up to the right way, you will find the deer cage. And then you can see the way along the animals cages and a restroom. And then you will find the pond that has a lot of birds. You can find a booth on the right, and benches on the left. You can enjoy a picnic around benches as many people do. On the way, you will see a seal, tigers, and elephants. Don't miss lions. After elephants, go straight a little bit, and then you will find stairs and a high place on the right. It's too high for people to see what is on it. If you like playing tennis, you can do it in tennis court where you can see after going down to the other stairs from the lion cage. Or if you like enjoying trees, go across from the tennis court, and look around the hill of trees. There are 97 kinds of around 28000 trees in the park, and specific kinds of trees are at the hill of trees together. At the end of course, you are back to the entrance. While touring the park, you will see a lot of grass fields where you can have a picnic. You will also find many monuments on all sides.

Angela's part

Beside the entrance, you can see the local museum that looks like mixture of western building and Korean building. This is the third course.

The local historical museum is arranged well to understand history, folk, and culture of Daegu totally. It has collected about 3000 items since it opened in 1997. About 500 items of them are displayed openly in 2 exhibitions.

The first exhibition, on the first floor, shows how the history of Daegu has changed according to periods from the prehistoric age to 1960. There are miniatures of the distribution charts of remains, the topographical map of Daegu and so on. So they are helpful for people to understand Daegu. There are 2 video screens, too.

The second exhibition, on the second floor, displays the information of agriculture, commerce, education, medicinal market, folk art, forms of habitation, and Gung-sang-gam-young(경상감영) who was a ruler in Gung-sang(경상) province. There are many impressive things to look around although you don't understand Korean information. Something interesting in here is the models. The models show traditional cultures more dramatically than other words do. When you enter the second exhibition, you will see directly the model of Tug of war. And you will find the models of Samulnoris beyond it. Samulnori is a folk music play accompanied by four percussion instruments.

During the tour, what we are sorry about is that the displays are not enough translated in English. And there are lots of scripts mostly in Korean, so they are not helpful for foreigners to understand. Even though there are shelves for English pamphlets in the front, they are not displayed. We really apologize to foreigners who would visit Dalsung park. But I hope you enjoy the nature, and different cultures with your eyes and feel them.

Thanks for listening.