

# <Dunsan-dong Olgol Village>



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## Dunsan-dong Otgol Village

### # Seo Seung Eun (Kate/4680821)

#### 1. How to access

Welcome to Otgol Village. Have you ever heard about Otgol Village? This place has Korean traditional houses. It is in Daegu. It can be the most interesting sightseeing you will ever see. First of all, you can see and experience Korean shelters and culture from the past. Otgol Village is also covered with mountains. The air is very fresh. Would you like to enjoy a Korean traditional village? My guide can be useful to you while you are traveling. Now, I am going to introduce Otgol Village to you. Let's go together. The Otgol Village is located in Dun-san dong in Daegu. You can use public transportation such as buses or a subway. The best way to get there is by subway. Now, I will explain how to get to Otgol Village. First, please take subway line No. 1 to Ansim, and get off at Bang-Chon station. Then exit the station from Gate1. As soon as you exit Gate1, you can see a convenience store. From the convenience store, you should go straight two blocks. When you go two blocks, you will be able to see a railroad track, and then go straight one more block. Next you will see a village office on your left side. There is no bus stop in front of the village office, so you must cross the street. There are only two buses for the bus stop. So, if you miss the bus, you have to wait about 40 minutes. Please check the bus schedule in advance. Take the green bus. It is a normal bus and the bus number is Dong-gu No. 3. Before you take the bus, please ask the bus driver " E bus otgol maeul ganayo? (Does this bus go to the Otgol Village?) or dochak hamyun malhae juseoyo. (When I arrive there, please tell me.) It takes about 10 minutes by bus. You can get off in front of the Otgol Village. When you arrive at Otgol Village, you can see antique Korean traditional houses. Moreover, there is a tourist information center. From the information center, you can get some guide books and pamphlets about Otgol Village. Also, there are many different kinds of languages and they are all free. One more thing, if you want a guide, you can enjoy Otgol Village with a kind guide.

## # Nam Seung Ho (Ho/4300189)

### 2. The origin of Otgol Village

Otgol Village is a traditional village in the city. Otgol Village is where the descendants of the Chilgye Sect of the Gyeongju Choi Clan lived together in about 20 old houses. This place was first established by Choi Dong-jip as the residence area for his descendants. He was the former teacher of King Hyojong before he became king, and the son of Choi Gye, who rendered distinguished services for the country as a militia leader. He started to live here in 1616, and since then, the village has existed to the present time, totaling about 380 years. In the north, Mt. Palgong surrounds the village, and the Geomdeok-bong Peak stands high in the east. There is a mountain ride in the west and a forest of zelkova trees and a pond to the south. The village was called Chilgye(Otgol) because there were lots of lacquer trees around the stream. Since its establishment, the descendants of Choi Dong-jip have lived here from generation to generation. On the top of a mountain in the village a strangely-shaped rock stands high. If you climb the rock, you can see downtown Daegu and the high ranges of Mt. Palgong at a glance. This rock is called Saengguam Rock because it looks like a turtle. People thought that a turtle needed water. So according to the theory of division based on topography, they created a pond west of the village entrance. With the same theory, in the west a thick forest of pine trees was created around the pond to stop the strength of the Yin. A forest was not made in the east, leaving it open to receive the strength of the Yang.

### 3. Pagoda tree

When you get off Dong-gu No.3 green bus at the Otgol Village, you can see a very big and old tree. It is called the Pagoda tree. This tree is over 370 years old, and is designated as a village-protecting tree. The Pagoda tree symbolizes scholars like pines and bamboos. The leaves never turn red or yellow like maple until December. However, the leaves are all gone off the tree in December. The leaves come back out in May. The tree has unique features, and it symbolizes the upright mind of a scholar. Furthermore, you can see dozens of zelkova trees at the village entrance.

These trees were planted to prevent bad energy from entering the village.

## # Kim Hye Sun (Sun/4818779)

### 4. Jeongnyeo-gak Monument House

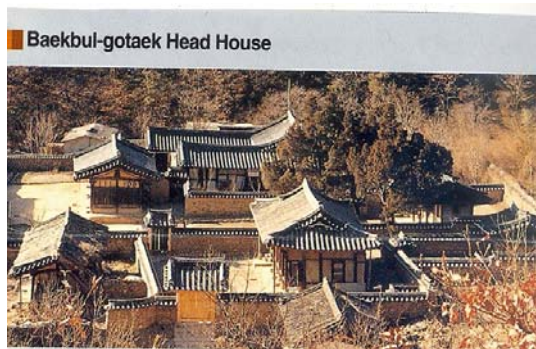
Jeongnyeo-gak Monument House



After passing a pagoda tree, you can go up to the village. There is Jeongnyeo-gak Monument House which is surrounded by a low tile-capped wall on your right. The building was the monument for Choi Heung-won, who was a royal guard of the Crown

Prince of King Jeongjo during the Joseon Dynasty. It was built in 1789 by the central government, after his death, and in memory of his filial piety during his life. A red tablet was given by King Jeongjo that hangs on the wall inside the building. Jeongnyeo-gak is designated as an important cultural property.

### 5. Baekbul-gotaek Head House (The head house)



Baekbul-gotaek Head House

After passing Jeongnyeo-gak Monument House, you can go straight to the left and then turn right. There is a Baekbul-gotaek Head House which is located at the innermost of the village. It is the head house of Choi Heung-won who was a scholar

during the reign of King Yeongjo of the Joseong Dynasty. The building itself was established by Choi Dong-jip. It is designated as the Daegu City Folk Material No.1. This House is the oldest in Daegu.

#### ① Gate

There are Chinese characters which are written 立春大吉 on the gate. It means spring brings good luck. The head house gate is also special. Most nobility gates have tall gates but the head house has a normal gate.

It symbolizes the equality of the sexes, human rights and respect for servants.



## ② Sugudang-Sarangchae (Men's quarters)

When you enter the house, you first see Sugudang-Sarangchae (Men's quarters) at your right. Sugudang which was men's quarters was built in the shape of ㄷ. It was arranged in the west which symbolizes the Yin. This building was rebuilt in 1866, in which some of the wooden materials from the Dongsan-seowon Confucian Academy were used. This Academy was destroyed by the order of King Gojong's father. This building used round pillars while normal houses used square pillars. The pillars were moved from a lecture hall in 1866 when it was built. No one could look into through the Men's quarters and go in the main building which is called Jeongchim (Family quarters).

## # Jo Chang Kyung (Tina/4515719)

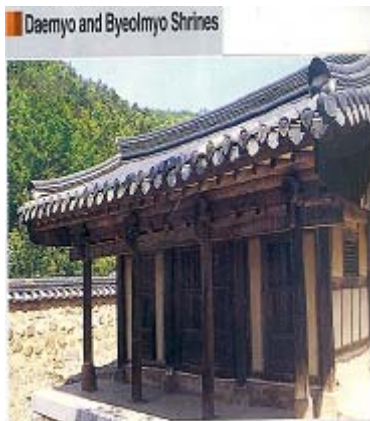
### ③ Jeongchim (Family quarters)

Turn left from Sugudang-Sarangchae, and then go round it. Jeongchim (Family quarters) is located there. The building, which was the family quarters of the Head House, was built in the shape of ㄷ. It was established in 1630 by Choi Dong-jip. This building was the living quarter for the family, it was arranged in the west much like the men's quarters. There is a kitchen and several rooms for daughters-in-law, mothers and grandmothers. Each place of rooms is settled by women's position. The left side is for daughters-in-law, the middle side is for the mother and the right side is for the grandmothers. Each height of roofs is different. The grandmother uses the highest roof. In other words, height stands for their position.

### ④ Backyard

There is backyard on the right side of Family quarters. Jongtack (Head house) has backyard which is the rarest house in the whole country. The

significance of the backyard is that only women were allowed to enter this place. A long time ago, women of the Joseon dynasty couldn't go outside their homes. They used to stay in the backyard instead of going out the front. It symbolizes the struggle for women rights respect.



### ⑤ Daemyo and Byeolmyo

After going out of the Family quarters again, you can enter the left door, there are Daemyo and Byeolmyo on the Bulcheonwi on your left. Daemyo shrine for Choi Heung-won was established in 1711 and was used as a family shrine. It was arranged in the east along with the Byolmyo which was built for Choi Dong-jop in 1737. This arrangement was based on the theory of the Yin, Yan and the five Elements. According to this theory, the spaces related to the ancestors are arranged in the east, which is the symbol of the Yang. The shrin was only allowed for men. Bulcheonwi performs religious service continuously. There are three kinds of Bulcheonwi :

- First, Gukbulcheonwi is designated by government.
- Second, Yourimbulcheonwi is specified by Confucian scholars.
- Last, Familybulcheowi is specified by family.

Among them Choi Heung-won and Choi Dong-jip were Confucian scholars at Bulcheonwi. Nomal religious services were performed over four generations because Korean people believe that the soul remains for hundreds of years after death. Someone who contributes government or collection of works is qualified to perform religious service. There are two ways to go in front of Daemyos. One way is only for people, and the other is soul's road that is soul and food for religious service. The soul road is located in the middle of the building.

### # Jeong Ji Yeong (Elly/4526451)



### ⑥ Bobon- dang shrine

There is Bobon-dang on the right side of Daemyo. It is a cultural

property of Daegu city and was built in 1753 by Choi Heung Won to perform a religious service for Choi Dong Jip. It is composed of a shrine, a building for the religious service and Posa, a place for preparing food for the rite. It is one of the most important places to study housing of the nobility and their life style in Korea.

#### ⑦ Posa

There is Posa on the right side of Bobon-dang. It was used to prepare food for ancestors to perform religious service. It is located on shrine to move food easily. Nowadays, it is not common to preserve Posa so it is a more precious commodity.



#### ⑧ Don ggye jeong pavilion

When you move about 10m through the right gate of Posa, you can find Don ggye jeong pavilion. It was built in memory of the knowledge of Choi Ju Jin, a son of Choi Heung Won. It has been used as a place of study by his descendants.

#### ⑨ Toseokdam

When looking around this village you can find Toseokdam, the wall made of dust and stone. It is 2500m long and designated as an important cultural property. It is matched well with traditional Korean house and shows various feeling every season.

#### ⑩ Museum

There is a building on the left of Baekbul-gotaek Head House. It is a museum to collect their treasures and remains. It is not opened at all times. If you would like to experience their old customs more, you have to make a reservation ahead of time.

That's all. I am wondering if you are interested in this village. It is one of the most important cultural aspects of Korea. I hope you spend a good time there. Remember the unique styles of old Korean culture for a long

time. You can take Dong-gu No. 3 green bus again in front of the information center when you return.

Take care. Bye.