

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
JEONGSEON



CONTACT

- **Mr. Yeon Kyu Choi**
- e-mail : chldusrb0113@korea.kr
- homepage : <http://www.jeongseon.go.kr/hb/eng>

Geographical Location and Population

Geographical location

Jeongseon-gun (County) belongs to Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, and is located in the southeastern portion of the Yeongseosection (west of Daegwallyeong Pass) of the province. The easternmost point in the county is in Gamok-ri, Imgye-myeon (128° 59' E), which marks a boundary with Donghae City and Samcheok City. The westernmost point is Hoedong-ri, Jeongseon-eup (128° 30' E), while to the south, Gohan-ri, Gohan-eup (37° 09' N) borders on Yeongwol-gun, Taebaek City. The northernmost point lies in Imgye-ri, Imgye-myeon (37° 35' N), which shares a border with Bongsan-ri, Daegwallyeong-myeon, Pyeongchang-gun and Godan-ri, Wangsan-myeon, Gangneung City.

Area

The total area of the county is 1,219.53 km². By category, forest land occupies the greatest share at 85.6% and with an area of 1,044.09 km², followed by farmland with 106 km² (8.8%) and building lot with 6.63 km² (0.5%). The land categories of other remaining lots total 61.89 km² and account for 5.1%.

Population and Households

According to the census of December 31, 2012, there are 41,045 people in 19,210 households residing in the county, comprising 3.0% of the total population of Gangwon Province. Among the nine eups (towns) and myeons (townships) within the county, Nam-myeon has the highest rate of population growth. In terms of gender ratio, males make up a larger proportion with 21,286 individuals, in contrast to a female population of 19,759.

Administrative status

The administrative districts in Jeongseon County began with seven myeons in 1906 when a national reorganization of administrative districts led to the implementation of the 13-province system. In 1973, Jeongseon-eup and the Sabuk branch office under its jurisdiction were elevated to the status of eup, and in 1980, Sindong was upgraded from myeon to eup. In 1985, Sabuk-eup was divided into two eups, Gohan-eup and Sabuk-eup, and the elevation of the Buk-myeon branch office to Bukpyeong-myeon in 1986 completed the development of the present state of four eups and five myeons. As Dong-myeon and Buk-myeon (East and North myeon, respectively), which had been named simply in relation to the points of the compass, were re-designated with titles more reflective of their regional characteristics, Hwaam-myeon (picturesque scenery of rocky mountain) and Yeoryang-myeon (surplus of food), Jeongseon County now features the four eups of Jeongseon, Gohan, Sabuk, and Sindong and five myeons of Hwaam, Nam, Yeoryang, Bukpyeong, and Imgye. These are administratively composed of 181 ris and 987 bans.



History

When the Three Kingdoms, the first regional social units to make the transition from complex chiefdom to full-fledged state-level societies, were in the process of being established on the Korean Peninsula, Jeongseon County fell under the jurisdiction of Goguryeo and was organized as Ingmae-hyeon in the 27th year of the reign of King Bojang (668) as part of a reformed gun and hyeon system. In the 16th

year of King Gyeongdeok's reign (757), when a reorganization of administrative districts took place, this region was given the new name of Jeongseon-hyeon.

In the United Silla era, this region was designated as a Sokhyeon (subordinate district) of Myeongju. The fact that the local administrative organization was multi-tiered with Juhyeon (main district) and sokhyeonimpliesthe profound impact of Myeongju on Jeongseon by means of their close relation.



Intangible Cultural Heritage

□ Jeongseon Arirang (Gangwon Province Intangible Cultural Property No.1)

Arirang, the representative folk song of Korea, includes a number of regional variations among which Jeongseon Arirang is the paradigmatic one, passed down orally mainly across the overall area of Jeongseon County. The fact that this song was designated as Gangwon Province Intangible Cultural Property No.1 on December 16, 1971 demonstrates its status as the intangible cultural heritage typifying Gangwon Province. In addition its lofty artistic and scholarly value has led to its designation as a local intangible cultural property in consideration of its systematic transmission and preservation. Such a designation cannot be found among other Arirang variants. In addition, Jeongseon Arirang has widely been considered the representative Arirang, and its preservation and transmission has continued until the present.

This folk song has its origins in an old tale of seven loyalists to the declining Goryeo Dynasty.

