

## **Donghaean as a Geopark: Heritages of the Area and Major Reasons to Be a Geopark**

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Donghaean is located in eastern coast of 4 cities (Pohang, Kyeongju, Yeongdeok, and Uljin), Korea. These cities, typical of tourism city of Korea, have an outstanding natural, ecological, archaeological, and cultural heritage as the tourism infrastructure. A lot of tourists visit these cities every year but they are less than expecting of potential tourism infrastructure the cities have. Tourism is a key sector in relatively underdeveloped rural areas of these cities' economy. Therefore, the need for the development of integrated tourism programs has been raised in order to maximize the utilization of the potential held by the local tourism infrastructure. The integrated tourism development program we want is the Geopark program and we want to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the excellent natural heritage held by Donghaean through the Geopark program.

Donghaean has a distribution of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks covering times from the Precambrian to the Cenozoic era, and offers the findings of geodiversity created by characteristics of diverse rocks. Especially, Yangnam columnar joint site in Donghaean is the most representative geosite of Korea, so is used as motive of Korea Geopark Network logo. The site comprised of various type of columnar joints such as vertical, horizontal, circular shape. Among the types, the circular type has special scientific importance, rarity internationally.

Donghaean is making various efforts to make comprehensive, eco-friendly use of its ecological, historical, and cultural heritages based on its excellent geological heritages, also proving itself to become one of the model geopark.