

## Limestone Caves in Korea

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Our ancestors used natural cave as prehistoric settlements, shelters and storages of harvested goods in a long time ago. Archeologists or anthropologists use caves to investigate pre-historic civilization, and geomorphologies study caves' geographical features and cave-micro landscapes. Since caves are formed in the underground, they give distinctive features compared to other natural tourism resources.

- Use for the site of a prehistoric settlement
- Use for the storage of materials and an arable land
- Use for an operation base and a place of refuge
- Use for a serviceable place
- Use of cave sediment
- Use for a tourist attraction
- Use for a learning site of natural

observation

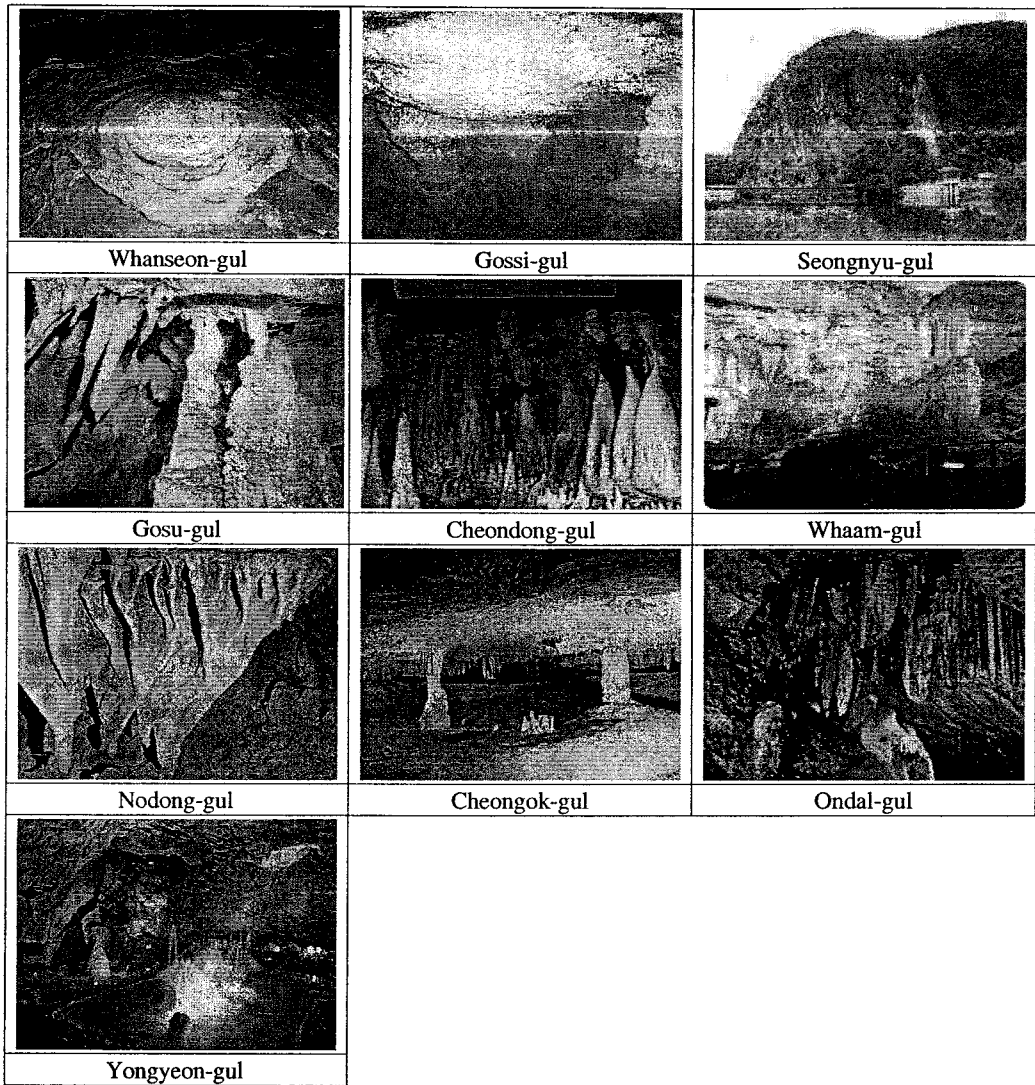
- Use of cave environment

The limestone cave is widely found in limestone areas. It is known that there are approximately one thousand limestone caves in Korea, but this report has not been scientifically proved. The limestone cave is formed by the water (which is absorbed into ground) that dissolves limestone. The limestone stalactites, stalagmites and other stone pillars present numerous different shapes and figures in the underground realm.

Especially, the caves that are located in Danyang and Yeongwol areas have generated high tourism relevant profits with their great advantage in location along with its high accessibility from metropolitan areas. The Hwanseon Cave in Samcheok

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City has seen a great success. Samcheok City actively implemented tourism-inclined projects by utilizing cave resources and also by hosting the World Cave Expo.

Tab 1. Major Tour Limestone Caves in Korea

region	type	개	(%)
Chungcheongbuk-do	L(4)	4	20.0
Gyeongsangbuk-do	L(1)	1	5.0
Gyeongsangnam-do	S(4)	4	20.0
Jeollanam-do	S(1)	1	5.0
Gangwon-do	L(5), S(1), J(1)	7	35.0
total		20	100.0