



10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Mid-Conference Excursion Information

1. General Information

Complimentary excursions will be offered to the participants of Ramsar COP10 on **Sunday, 2nd November 2008**. Eight excursions are offered to various wetlands, including Korea's famous Ramsar sites, which will also provide a good opportunity to experience other aspects of Korea's natural environment and its unique culture.

Those who want to participate in one of the excursions should complete an online application at the Korean Ramsar COP10 website (www.ramsar2008.go.kr). To do this you will need to have already pre-registered for the COP on the Ramsar web site and have received an acceptance e-mail with a password to access the online registration for excursions. The application form can also be downloaded from the above site and submitted by e-mail or fax. The applications should be submitted by **28 September 2008**.

Places on each excursion will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. If the designated limit is exceeded for any excursion, the second or third choice may be assigned. Please note that any excursion with fewer than 20 participants may be cancelled.

Along with the complimentary excursion, a variety of tour programmes will be also available before and after COP10, and early-morning birdwatching excursions will be available during the COP as well. For more detailed information, please refer to the Korean Ramsar COP10 website (www.ramsar2008.go.kr) or contact Mr. Won Bang KIM, Convention & Exhibition Management Company, EZpmp, Tel: +82-55-212-1500; Fax: +82-55-212-1501; E-mail: tour@ezpmp.co.kr.

2. Excursion information

	Destinations	Estimated time	Maximum number of places	Departure time
1)	Upo Wetland, Suncheon Bay	10hr	150	Depart at 08.00 h.
2)	Junam Wetlands Park, King Suro's Royal Tomb, Hanok Experience Center	7hr	150	
3)	Nakdong River Estuary, Energy Environment Science Park, Dot Island Amusement Park (Gagopa Chrysanthemum Festival)	8hr	100	

4)	Danghangpo Resort(Dinosaur World Expo), Bongam Tideland, Junam Wetlands Park	8hr	100	
5)	Haeinsa Temple, Upo Wetland	9hr	150	
6)	Daewon Temple, Wangdeungjae Wetland, Oegok Wetland	9hr	60	
7)	Upo Wetland	5hr	150	Depart at 08.00 h.
8)	Junam Wetlands Park, Representative Korea-style house in Changwon	5hr	140	Depart at 13.00 h

Upo Wetland is Korea's largest pristine natural wetland, with fossil dinosaur traces formed 140 million years ago. The wetland was put on the Ramsar List in March 1998. At Upo Wetland, there are about 180 kinds of wetland plants, including Prickly Water Lily, along with around 180 kinds of internationally-protected rare migrant birds such as White Spoonbill, Whooper Swan, and 1% of the world's observed Falcated Teal population. In addition, there are 28 species of fish such as Crusian Carp and Common Carp as well as various insects. As such, the wetland is truly Nature's treasure house. In the eco-observatory, located near Upo Wetland, visitors can see 3D movies of flora and fauna in the area throughout the year.

Suncheon Bay is a coastal wetland which has been preserved as closely as possible to the original ecosystem of a coastal estuary. It was put on the Ramsar List in January 2006. 1% of the world's Hooded Crane and Saunder's Gull populations can be observed, as well as 18% of the Common Shelduck and 7% of the Dunlin global populations. The bay is also home to internationally-protected rare migrant birds. There is a 5.4 km walking route along a field of reeds. The S-shape view of Suncheon Bay's waterway seen from the observatory is very beautiful. At Suncheon Bay Eco-Observatory, visitors can learn about the wetland ecosystem and birds inhabiting the Suncheon Bay area. Also, visitors can observe the Bay's representative Hooded Crane statue and other birds through CCTV.

Junam Wetlands Park is a famous wetland along with Upo Wetland in Gyeongsangnam-do with 180 bird species observed in an average year. As a natural habitat for migrant birds, the park is an important habitat for rare birds such as White-naped Crane, Baikal Teal, Eurasian Spoonbill, and Tundra Bean Goose. In particular, in the case of Baikal Teal, Falcated Teal, White-naped Crane and Hooded Crane, more than 1% of the respective global bird populations can be viewed here. In the winter time, including during the COP, around 20,000 of more than 100 bird species fly to the Park. With luck, visitors can see a throng of Baikal Teal.

King Suro's Royal Tomb is the tomb of King Kim Suro, the founder of Gaya, one of the ancient kingdoms in Korea. The kingdom was located in Gyeongsangnam-do in A.D. 42. Its wooden chamber tomb is 5m high and has been turned into a royal tomb park with a place for an ancestral tablet and a stone building.

Hanok Experience Center is composed of seven Hanok buildings with the beauty of Korea's traditional houses. Visitors can experience Korea's traditional culture.

Nakdong River Estuary is a city wetland located near Busan, the second largest city in Korea. In the area, there is the Nakdong River Eco Centre, a place for eco-education and exhibitions. Also, visitors can observe Tundra Swan, a representative migrant bird. This place is the most

important winter habitat for Whooper Swan and Tundra Swan in Korea and the largest breeding place for Kentish Plover and Little Tern in the country as well, with over 1% of the world population of these birds. At nearby Amisan, visitors can see the changing coastal bar of the Nakdong River estuary caused by the ebb and flow of the tide.

Energy Environment Science Park was created as a place for people to take a rest by a site where a sewage treatment facility is located. This park utilizes clean, renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind energy as well as incineration heat, to supply electricity and hot water to welfare establishments for the disabled, etc. It also runs an energy exhibition hall to promote alternative energy and energy conservation.

Dot Island Amusement Park (Gagopa Chrysanthemum Festival) is a thematic park created on an island close to the city. A chrysanthemum festival is held every year, which exhibits chrysanthemums while providing various performances and experiences.

Danghangpo Resort (Dinosaur World Expo) is the Theme Pavilion (Dinopia Pavilion) of Gyeongnam Goseong World Dinosaur Expo, which is held once every three years. Through a variety of interesting experiences and observations, it helps visitors to understand the ecology of the dinosaurs that thrived in Korea about 100 million years ago.

Bongam Tideland is a coastal wetland close to Changwon, the venue for the COP. The wetland has a rare and precious natural ecosystem near an industrial site and the populated city. It also has facilities to enable ecology learning, such as an observatory and a visitor center. This is a habitat for about 110 species such as halophytes, migratory birds, crabs, and lugworm.

Haeinsa Temple is a sacred site of Korean Buddhism. About 70 relics remain in the temple, including both national treasures and other treasures, as well as the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Tripitaka Koreana. Located in Mt. Gayasan, the temple is noted for its harmony with the surrounding environment.

Daewon Temple is one of the greatest temples for Korea's Zen Buddhist nuns. Inside the temple are treasures of the early Joseon period such as a multi-story pagoda, Daewoong-jeon (the main building of the temple), Sari (relic) pagoda, and a bell tower. Also, the valley leading to the temple is known for its beautiful fall foliage, with rare and unique alpine plants, bizarre rocks, and mineral water.

Wangdeungjae Wetland is an alpine wetland, 967m above the sea level, in the Mt. Jiri National Park, with a 0.5-1.5 m layer of peat deposits. This wetland is Korea's only alkaline alpine wetland where little dragonfly and *Pisidium (Neopisidium) coreanum* can be found. Aquatic plants such as *Molinia japonica*, *Carex dispalata*, and *Acorus calamus* naturally grow here against a beautiful backdrop. **Oegok Wetland**, 813m above the sea level, is mostly filled with reeds. In the fall, visitors are able to see a silver wave of reeds. Visiting **Wangdeungjae Wetland and Oegok Wetland** requires a **two and a half hour climb up** the steep mountain, so mountain-climbing boots and clothing are required.

Representative Korea-style house in Changwon is a traditional Korean house, located in Changwon, the host city of the COP. It allows visitors to see traditional farming tools and how people lived in the past. Also, you can experience Korea's traditional culture such as wearing Hanbok, Korea's traditional clothing.