

Korean Museum of Straw and Life

Straw and wild plants or *jipul*, the oldest and most common materials to humans, were widely used in food, clothing and shelter until mechanical civilization developed. The *jipul* culture that has been established for thousands of years suddenly disappeared from our lives in the 1970s due to the *Saemaeul* Movement* and industrialization policy.

In 1993, the Korean Museum of Straw and Life was founded in order to preserve the *jipul* culture, the great cultural heritage of Korea, and to study how it can be utilized as well as to convey the culture to descendants. Currently, it has about 9,000 relics, such as household appliances, farm equipment, and folklore materials.

* *Saemaeul* Movement : Also known as New Community Movement, it was a political initiative launched in 1970 to modernize the rural South Korean economy.



Exhibition Hall 1



Exhibition Hall 2

Exhibition Halls

Permanent Exhibition Hall

The two exhibition halls show traditional household items made of straw and wild plants. You can see what *jipul*-related artifacts looked like and how they were used. You can also watch video clips of how to make household items along with various *jipul* materials.

Special Exhibition Hall

Space S is an exhibition hall holding a special exhibition, introducing the museum's collection(venue rental available). You can also see colorful and various tops from around the world.



Space S



Top Collection



Education Center



Education Center (Traditional Korean House)

In the educational room built as a traditional Korean house *Hanok*, the folk artifacts closely related to the everyday life of the past Koreans are exhibited, together with the *jipul* artifacts. In the *Hanok* courtyard, you can experience the past life history of Korea by touching and wearing the household goods made with *jipul*.

Docent Tour

We operate English commentary for foreign visitors, in which you can learn Korean traditional *jipul* culture and artifacts in detail. It is available twice on weekends, and you can contact us via email for reservations.

- **Weekend / 10am - 2pm** (It takes 20 - 30 min.)

**Weekday tours are also available after booking, no walk-ins.*

**The tour schedule can be changed by the museum circumstances.*

Jipul Art Programs

The Korean Museum of Straw and Life runs *jipul* art programs using various *jipul* materials (barley straw, rice straw, cattail, etc.). You can enjoy classes operated twice on weekends selectively depending on the materials, usage and seasonal customs. The programs and the schedule can be checked on the museum homepage. The classes are by reservation only, so please contact us by email for a reservation.

- **Weekend / 10:30am - 2:30pm** (It takes 40 - 50min.)

**Classes on weekdays are also available after booking.*



Taboo Rope



Barley Straw Coaster



Straw Snake



Grasshopper Cage



Egg Package



Cattail Fortune Strainer



Broom



Dreamcatcher



Meaning of the Art Programs

Taboo Rope : It is a rice straw rope that is hung on a gate to prevent access of the uncleanness when the baby was born. It was decorated with charcoal, Korean traditional paper, and red peppers or pine needles were additionally hung according to the gender of the baby. Red peppers mean a boy while pine needles mean a girl. It is a culture still being seen in Korea.

Straw Snake : Snakes can often be considered creepy, but in Korea, they have long been regarded as sacred animal that brings wealth and good luck.

Cattail Fortune Strainer : *Jori* is originally the rice strainer. On the Lunar New Year's Day, people hung the strainers on the wall of kitchen, bedroom or living room to pray for a lucky year. Those strainers were called *bokjori*, the strainer of good fortune.



Making of a Grasshopper Cage



Making of a
Indoor Broom



Making of a
Barley Straw Coaster

Visit Information

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5:30pm (Last Admission 4:30pm)

CLOSING DAYS

Monday, Korean Thanksgiving Day, 1st January,
Lunar New Year's Day

**You can go to the museum homepage to check information on
admission fees and discounts, art program fees, etc.*

TRANSPORTATION

Subway 5 min. walk from Hyehwa Stn. Line-4(Exit 4)

Bus

- Get off at the Dongsung Middle & High School
(Former Prime Minister, Johan. M. Chang's House),
- Get off at the Hyehwa-dong Rotary
- Get off at the Myeongnyun-dong 2-ga
Sungkyunkwan Univ. Entrance

Car Public transportation is highly recommended, as
there are no parking spaces.

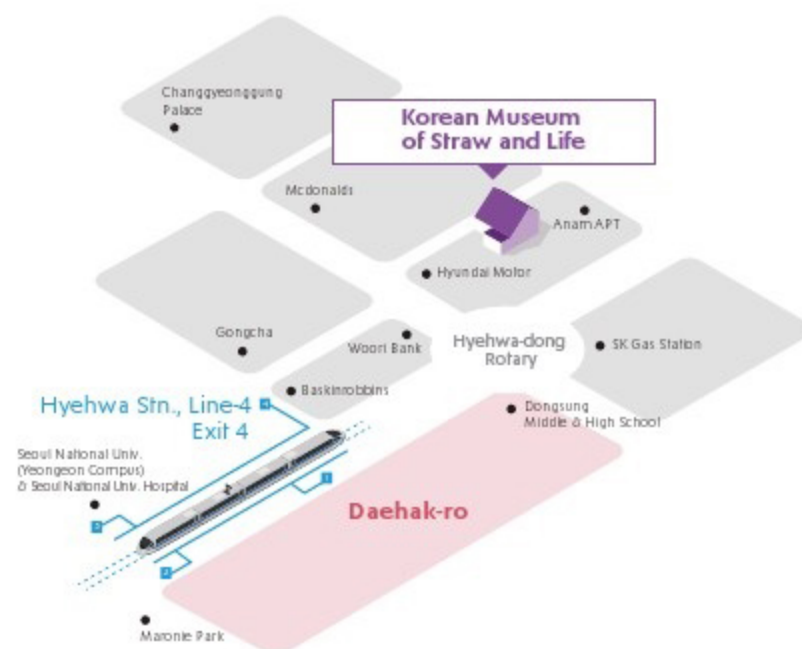
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LET'S PLAY

Jipul Matching!!

In the past, Koreans used to call a mesh bag as *mangtae* or *mangtaegi*. They used materials that can be easily found around such as rice straw, hemp and arrowroot to make bags. They named the bags according to the objects to carry: draw lines to find out what kind of items they would contain.



Shoetree
Bag



Shoetree



Coin Bag



Seeds



Bag used for
Sowing Seeds



Coins



Egg Bag



Eggs