
4.1 Prehistory

The history of Jeju began during the Paleolithic Age, 70,000–80,000 years ago. Jeju people from the prehistoric age mostly lived in caves. In Billemotgul (cave) there are Paleolithic artifacts, including chipped stone tools and bones of reindeer and bear which are today found to inhabit only Siberia or Alaska. Prehistoric remains in Gosan-ri, Hangyeong-myeon are the oldest remains from the Neolithic Age in Korea, dated 8,000–12,000 years ago. Hunting tools such as arrowheads, spearheads and various earthenware types excavated from the site show the methods and practices of those surviving by hunting and food-gathering within a group.

4.2 Tamna State

The ancient name of Jeju, Tamna, first appeared in a written document during the 6th century. This indicates that Jeju practiced a settled ruling system and was able to unite the society as a maritime island nation unique from neighboring areas. Such a political and social system is said to have initially appeared in Jeju in the time of the third to second centuries BC. The tale of the three family names also originated from that period, telling the story of three demi-gods who rose from Moheunghyeol, or Samseonghyeol, married three princesses from the fictional state of Byeokrang and began planting crops and raising animals. Archaeological research discovered Samyang-dong remains in Jeju revealing large and small dugout huts, a storehouse, a stone embankment, and a drainage system with more than 240 dwelling structures. They are the largest ancient village remnants in South Korea and are from the period between 200 BC and 200 AD. It shows that there was a large-scale village already prospering during the formative period of the Tamna State. From the Three Kingdoms period, the Tamna State (officially named as Takra, or Tamna) started trading with Baekje, Goguryeo and Silla on the Korean Peninsula. After Baekje was destroyed by Silla-Tang allied forces in 660 AD, the Tamna

State began diplomatic relationships with Japan and the Tang Dynasty in China.

4.3 Goryeo Dynasty

Once the Goryeo Dynasty was established on the Korean Peninsula, the Tamna Crown Prince would be sent to the Goryeo Court. Around the twelfth century the Tamna State was annexed to the Goryeo central government, officially named Jeju, and was organized into administrative units termed gun, hyeon, mok and so on. When Mongolia attacked Goryeo in the thirteenth century, Jeju became the last base of the Sambyeolcho Army which earned a reputation as never surrendering to the Mongols. After defeating the Sambyeolcho Army, Mongolia set up Tamna Chonggwanbu and directly ruled Jeju for 20 years. Intense horse-breeding began in Jeju at that time with the introduction of 160 head of horses from Mongolia. Although Jeju was returned to Goryeo rule in 1294, the settled Mongolian community exercised their influence until 1374 when General Choi Yeong suppressed an uprising by Mokho, the Mongolian shepherds.

4.4 Joseon Dynasty

In the early Joseon Dynasty period, following the Goryeo Dynasty, Jeju established the one-mok and two-hyeon system. This included Jeju-mok, Daejeong-hyeon and Jeongue-hyeon and maintained a fast-growing population increasing from ten thousand in the Goryeo Dynasty, to over sixty thousand by the time government offices and its castle were built. During the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, however, many years of famine caused a population decline prompting the Joseon Court to enact a law forbidding the Jeju people leaving the island. In addition, due to its unique location as a lone island in a distant sea, Jeju was the locale where more than two hundred people lived in exile during the 500-year long Joseon Dynasty. Social positions of exiles varied including a dethroned king, Gwanghaegun, a royal family, a



Fig. 4.1 Various stone statues of old men of the Hallim Park, a potential geosite.



Fig. 4.3 A traditional wedding at the Jejumok government offices, the hub of politics, administration and culture of Jeju Island during the Joseon Dynasty



Fig. 4.2 Daejeong Hyanggyo, a local educational institution in the Joseon Dynasty

politician, a scholar, a monk, a eunuch and a thief. While some of them were given the death penalty by poison or were transferred to other regions, some exiles settled down in Jeju after being pardoned with each becoming the originator of their clans (Figs. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4).

4.5 Modern and Present Age

Under Japanese rule (1910–1945), the “gun” regional system replaced the “do” regional system of Jeju in 1915. The circular road along the coasts was opened in 1917. Anti-Japanese movements lasted from 1918 until 1932. In particular, the Haenyo (women divers), on the eastern area of the island, raised the largest anti-Japanese movement by woman in Ko-



Fig. 4.4 Jeju Harbour in 1890

rea, with 17,000 participants. When the United States Army intensified its attack, the Japanese Army built up more than 90 positions on major oreums and coastal areas through the mobilization of Jeju laborers. After the liberation of Korea from Japanese rule, Jeju had its own local government independent from Jeollanam Province. In 1948 the April 3rd Massacre occurred in which tens of thousands of citizens were killed by an ideological conflict between the leftwing and rightwing political factions. In 2000, Jeju was designated as an ‘Island of World Peace’ owing to the wishes of its people that peace and humanity will overcome the tragedy of the April 3rd Massacre. In 2006 the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, including two administrative cities, seven eups, five myeons, and thirty-one donges, was launched in order to develop Jeju into a competitive free international city (Figs. 4.4 and 4.5).

Fig. 4.5 Haenyeo, traditional women divers of Jeju Island, and the Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone behind



Jeju has an ancient tradition involving stone.

Jeju – island of Samda and Sammu

From ancient times Jeju-do has been called Samda-do. *Samda* means three plentys. That is, *plenty of stones, of wind, and of women*. *Plenty of stones* originated from the volcanic activities of Hallasan back in olden times. Jeju people have improved their lives by going through a lengthy process of reclaiming wasteland comprised of stones and constructing a port with barriers at the seashore. *Plenty of wind* also represents unusually harsh lives in Jeju. People had to fight against the rough sea with typhoons constantly passing through. Along with *plenty of stones, plenty of wind* had a broad effect on people's lives: Jeju people built their houses with a stone fence placed low to the ground, made thatched roofs and fastened ropes across over the top. Another example of note is the farmlands with field fences made of stones. *Plenty of women* is based on the fact that men died at sea while fishing. More importantly, however, in order to compensate, Jeju women have a long history of assuming the duties of men in order to survive the harshness of life there. Although *plenty of women* demonstrates the actual ratio of woman to men in Jeju, it is based more as a metaphor reflecting the character of the hardworking Jeju women. Haenyeo, the Jeju woman diver, is the symbol of the island; all women work in the sea, fighting against the rough waves.

Sammu stands for three *absences*. That is, *absence of thieves, of beggars, and of gates*. Jeju people have had to live modestly, applying a philosophy of resilience and persistence while being aware of others and offering support in order to survive the harshness of nature. Within the rough, natural lifestyle they also kept aware and offered mutual assistance in order to avoid the existence of the deprived and of thieves. From this, Jeju is absent of gated houses. Moreover, Jeju people

rarely participated in questionable, shameless or poor behavior. It must be noted how this lifestyle grew from not only trying hard to maintain dignity and the respect of their proud ancestors but it was also born out of the fact that Jeju is a very small island and everyone knew on another. The Jeju people's independent life of self-reliance and high esteem did not demand gates to bar entry. An owner of a house only had to place wooden bar at the entrance: this wooden bar is the 'Jeongnang' of Jeju.