

## AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE



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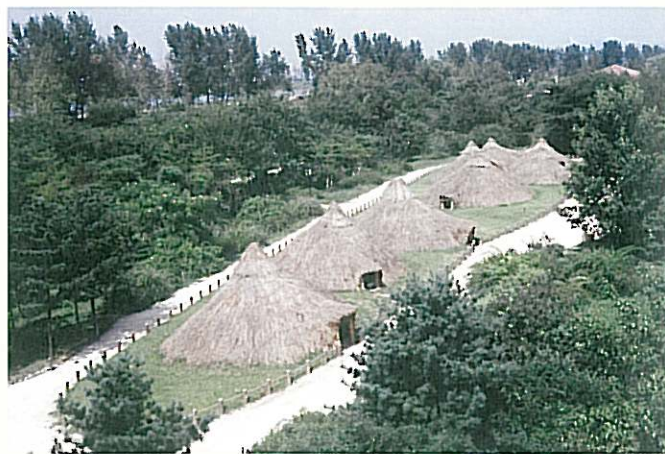


Past of AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE

It is the major waterfront settlement site by the Han River from the Neolithic period and the largest prehistoric settlement ever discovered in Korea. AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE exhibits the prehistoric lifestyle of Korea with various relics. It was designated as Historic Relic #267 in 1979.

Amsa-dong has three cultural strata. The Neolithic period stratum with Comb-pattern pottery Earthenware is observed in all areas of excavation, but there also are Bronze Age stratum with Min-patterned Earthenware, Ijungguyeon Earthenware, Bangchucha, and Bronze Arrowheads and Baekje stratum with early-Baekje Seungseok-patterned Wooden Jar, Adjoined Earthen Coffin Tombs, and Iron Axes.

Although AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE is only a part of the entire settlement site, it is by far the largest settlement from the Neolithic period in Korea.



View of AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE

## Excavations at AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE



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Excavation



Discovery of Relic



Excavation

AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE was first discovered in 1925 when the Han River flooded and swept away the existing relics to expose the earthenware and stoneware underneath the soil. Japanese scholars Yokoyama and Fujita excavated an enormous number of earthenware and stoneware in Amsa-ri at that time.

The site was not thoroughly investigated until 1957 when Kyunghee University initiated a brief excavation. In 1967, associated college excavation team conducted an excavation. Seoul National University College of Education performed an official excavation in 1968 and the National Museum of Korea did four consecutive excavations from 1971 to 1975.

As a result of the excavations, researchers found that AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE was inhabited from the early to the late Neolithic period. The years were from 6,400 years ago to 3,500 years ago by carbon dating.

## Relics at AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE



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Grinding Stones



Acorn



Comb-pattern pottery



Fishing Net Weight

The excavations unveiled about 30 house sites and annexes, and stone mounds. The house sites were built on holes dug up from sandy soil and had furnaces built with rocks in the center. Most homes had exits facing the south. Each house had several holes for columns because there were multiple supporting columns sharing the burden with the main column and new holes were dug up to replace old columns. Outdoor lots, storage pits, and shell mounds have the scar of firing. Shell mounds particularly had many pieces of charcoal along with burnt soil and mold. As tens of pieces of Bitsal-patterned Earthenwares have been found in shell mounds, they are assumed to be kilns for earthenware or common furnaces.

Most pieces of earthenware have sharp bottoms, are made of base soil mixed with talc or asbestos, are patterned. Stoneware were also found such as stone axes and fishing net weights. Most stone goods were chipped, but there also were ground stone goods, such as chisel, spear, arrowheads, grinding stones, hoe, plow, and sickle. Other relics include bird bones and acorns.



Stone Sickle



Miscellaneous Stone Tools



## Exhibitions at AMSA-PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE



AMSA - PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT SITE



View of Exhibition Center



Fire-starting Experience



1st Exhibition Hall

Prehistoric Settlement Site Exhibition Center consists of two halls. The exhibitions are not only about the relics of Amsa-dong, but also about the prehistoric lifestyle of the Korean Peninsula.

Exhibition Hall 1 encloses the area of 4th Excavation implemented in 1975. It was opened in August 1988 after showcases were set up and relics were hardened. It includes eight hut sites and one storage pit, and exhibits panels, borrowed relics, and replicated relics along the boundaries.

Exhibition Hall 2 is the space for learning about the prehistoric culture of Amsa-dong. It consists of models, video rooms, and an information search center.

## Experience Hall



Hunting Experience



Fishing Experience

The 23,208m<sup>2</sup> Experience Hall includes various experience facilities where visitors can experience prehistoric methods of hunting, fishing, etc.

► Themes: Road of Time, Waterway of Memory, Huts, Hunting/Excavation Experience Sites, Experience Garden, etc

► Programs

- Ongoing : Hunting, Gathering, Excavation, Everyday Tools
    - Hunting - Making hunting tools, hunting
    - Gathering - Gathering acorns, making food with acorns
    - Excavation - Excavating Bitsal-patterned Earthenware and farming tools
    - Everyday Tools - Starting fire, building huts, making ground stone tools/ Bitsal-patterned Earthenware
  - Seasonal : Fishing (Making fishing tools, fishing)
  - Vacations : Two-day trip (summer vacation)
- (Schedules are subject to change.)