

## Kwangbop Temple, Historical Site in Pyongyang

Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is not only a modern and beautiful city but also a time-honoured city with a history spanning thousands of years.

It has many historical sites dating back to different periods. One of them is the Kwangbop Temple, a Buddhist temple built in 392 in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) which existed as a powerful state in the East.

It was destroyed by the bombings of the US planes during the Korean war (1950–1953).

President Kim Il Sung (1912–1994) saw to it that it was restored to its original state.



A bird's eye view of Kwangbop Temple



Taeung Hall, an octagonal five-storey pagoda, and monasteries on the east and west



Buddhist statues in Taeung Hall



Sculptures of heavenly Kings are inside Chonwang Gate.



Sculptures of Bodhisattvas are inside Haethal Gate.



Part of *tanchong* (gorgeous red and blue painting)

