Temple stay at the Hwagyesa Temple in Seoul, Korea.





We dressed in simple clothes, ate several communal vegetarian meals, and spent the night at the temple.





In addition to the temple buildings, it is typical to have a large stone statue of the Buddha on the hillside above the buildings.



The week we arrived in Korea coincided with Buddha's birthday.

Colorful lanterns were everywhere on the temple grounds.





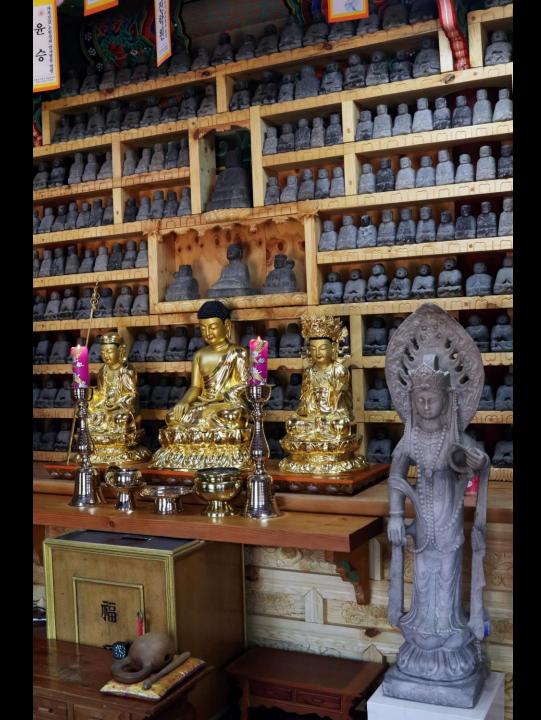
We were welcome to explore the grounds and the various temples.



Each temple was different, but each had a main alter with a central Buddha statue and a place to leave offerings.



The meditation temple had shelves with hundreds of stone statues.





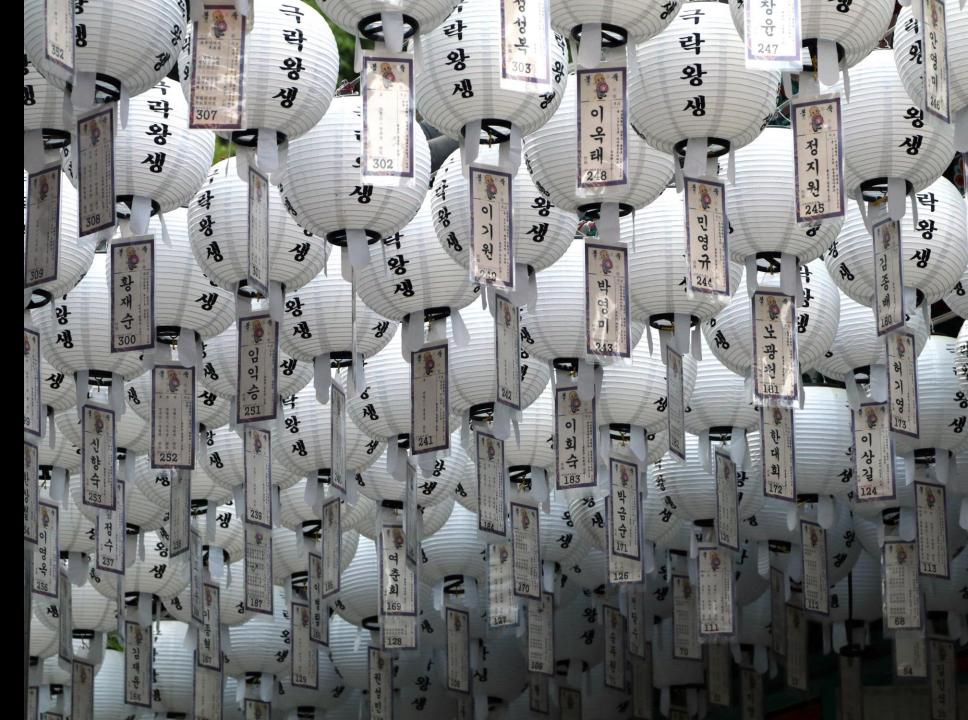
The main courtyard was completely hung with colored lanterns.







The white lanterns were in remembrance of deceased relatives.





The main temple hall had multiple levels.

The lowest level was used to serve food for the communal meals.

The upper level was the main prayer room and where the monks chanted.







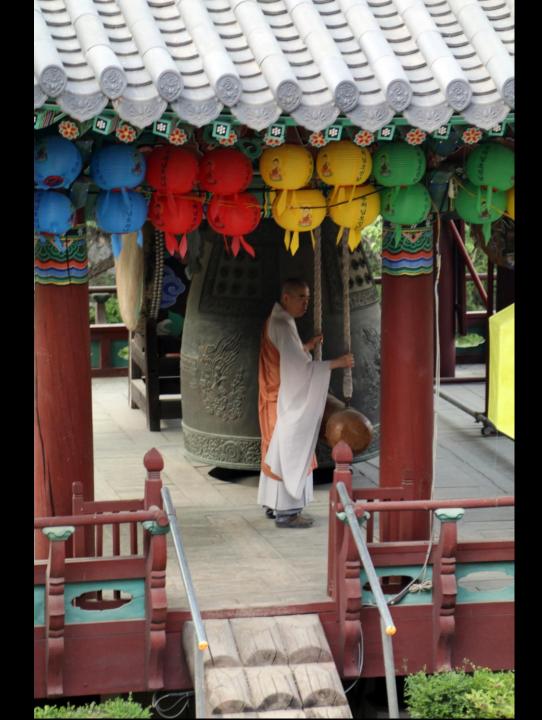






The bell was rung to announce morning and evening services.

Evening chanting was at 6 PM and morning chanting was at 4:30 AM.



Evening services was a chance to perform the 108 prostrations while the monk chanted.



The temple grounds became awash with light as the lanterns were lit prior to the 9 PM bed time curfew.















Before we left, we had the opportunity to have morning tea with one of the monks.

