

EXPLORE MUSEUMS IN KATHMANDU, GORKHA AND KAPILVASTU



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
Department of Archaeology

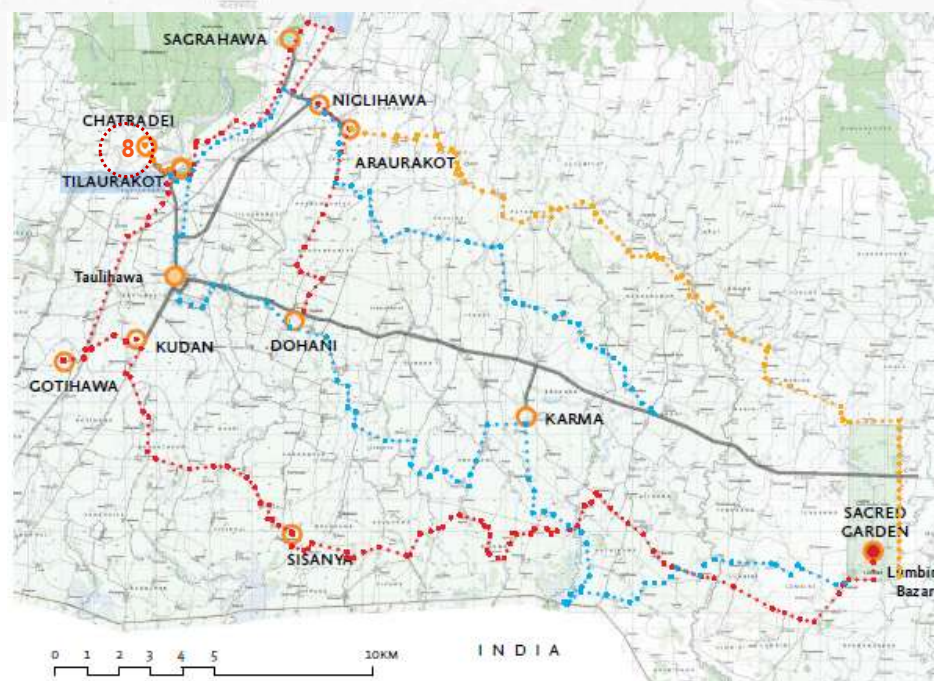
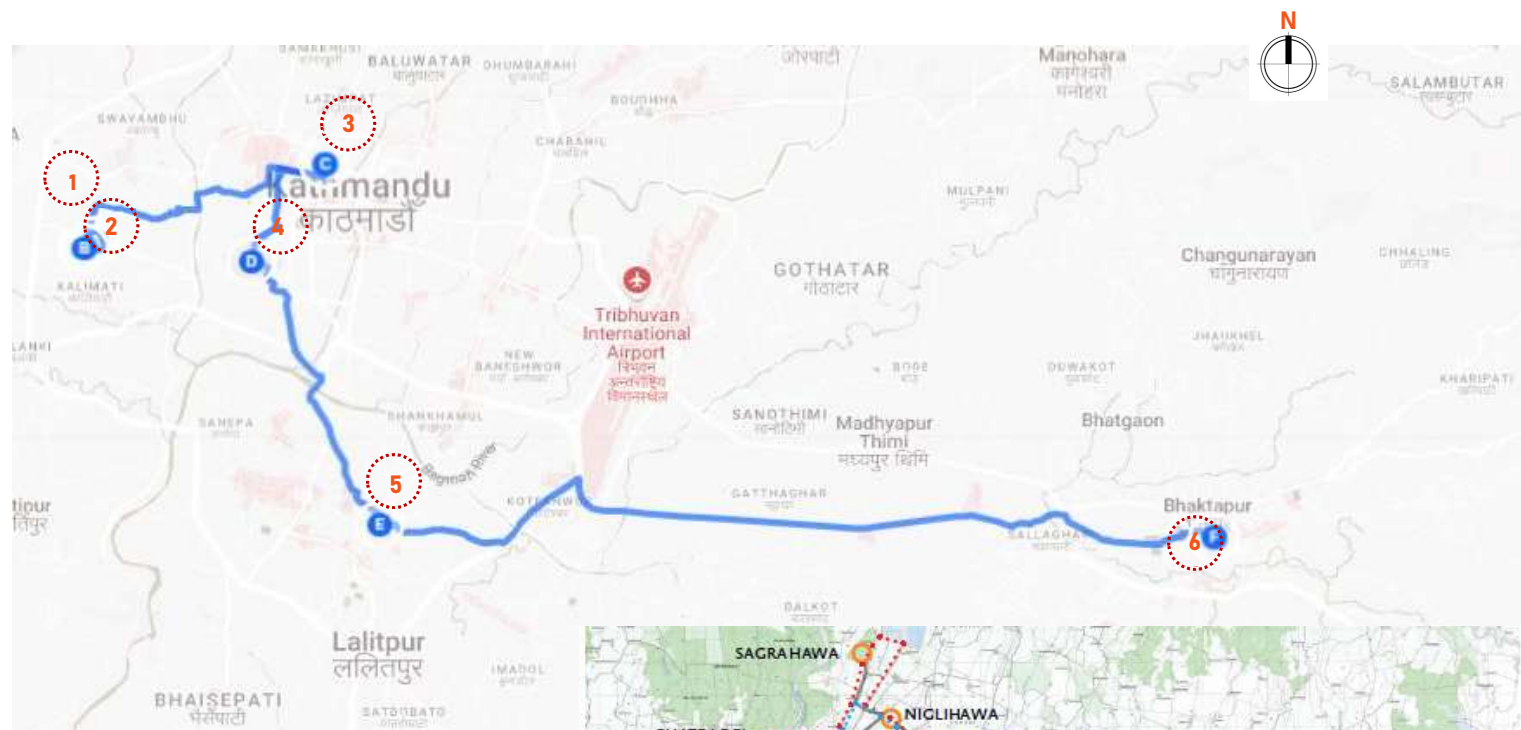
Message from the Department of Archaeology,
Government of Nepal: International Museum Day
2025

On International Museum Day on May 18, the Department of Archaeology (DoA) extends warmest greetings and profound appreciation to all museum professionals, heritage enthusiasts, researchers, and the public. The 2025 theme, 'The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities', resonates deeply with Nepal's efforts to ensure museums remain vital, adaptive spaces for learning, innovation, and community connection.

Nepal values pivotal role of museums not just as repositories of artifacts of its age-old history but as evolving institutions that protect cultural heritage amid change. The Department is focused on strengthening infrastructure, enriching collections, and enhancing public engagement. Post-2015 Gorkha earthquake, significant efforts have gone into restoring damaged museum buildings and collaborating with affected communities to create exhibitions that reflect resilience and evolving societal narratives.

The DoA emphasizes collaboration with communities and global partners to keep museums impactful. It reaffirms commitments to enhancing accessibility, fostering education and research, promoting community engagement, embracing technology, and ensuring sustainable conservation. The public is invited to visit museums, recognizing them as cultural hubs vital to shaping the future while honoring the past.

© Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal
2025



1

National Museum, Chhauni, Kathmandu

Museum Marga, Kathmandu District
www.nationalmuseum.gov.np

Entry Fee*

Open Wed to Sun, 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM &
 Mon, 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Winter 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Closed on Tuesday & Public Holidays



The National Museum of Nepal, the country's first museum, is located near Swayambhu in the Kathmandu Valley. It showcase a vast collection of artefacts that reflect the nation's rich cultural heritage. It includes exhibits of art, history and archaeology, offering visitors insight into Nepal's historical and artistic evolution.

Originally built as an arsenal house in 1824 AD by Prime Minister Bhim Sen Thapa, it served as the Chhauni Shilkhana, a military storehouse for weapons used in various wars.

2

National Numismatics Museum, Chhauni, Kathmandu

Museum Marga, Kathmandu District
www.numismaticsmuseum.gov.np

Entry Fee*

Open Wed to Sun, 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM &
 Mon, 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Winter 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Closed on Tuesday & Public Holidays



This Museum specializes in the history of Nepalese coinage, housing rare and ancient currencies displayed in

historical order to showcase the evolution of Nepal's numismatic heritage. While Nepal's recorded history begins with the Lichchavi period and King Jayaverma from the 2nd century AD is the earliest dated ruler, the first authenticated coins date back to the 5th century during King Manadev's reign.

The museum offers valuable insights social, political and economic history of Nepal through currency issued across different historical periods.

3

Narayanhity Palace Museum, Kathmandu

Durbar Marga, Kathmandu District
www.narayanhitipalacemuseum.com

Entry Fee*

Open Thu to Mon, 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM &
 Tue, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Closed on Wednesday & Public Holidays



The Narayanhity Palace Museum is established on the backdrop of beginning of the major political shift in the country that converted the Narayanhity Royal Palace into a public museum with its official opening on 26 February 2009.

The museum showcases a vast collection of objects related to the lifestyle of the Shah dynasty and their contribution in Nepal's history, culture, and political regime.

4

Hanumandhoka Palace Museum

Hanumandhoka, Kathmandu District
www.hanumandhokamuseum.gov.np

Entry Fee*

Open Everyday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Hanumandhoka Durbar Square, at the heart of Kathmandu Valley featuring royal palaces, temples, and monuments from the Malla and Shah dynasties, serves as a vibrant open-air museum showcasing centuries of Nepalese heritage. Built from the 15th to 20th centuries, the palace complex reflects contributions from monarchs like Mahendra Malla, Pratap Malla, and Prithivi Narayan Shah - who added temples, monuments, and the iconic Basantapur Nine-Storey Palace.

Named after the Hanuman statue installed by Pratap Malla in 1672, Hanumandhoka was once a royal residence and administrative hub.

* Please check the website for updates on the fee and opening/closing schedule at <https://ntb.gov.np/plan-your-trip/before-you-come/heritage-site-entry-fees> and respective museums' website

Initially accessible only to the Rana elite and their guests, it was opened to the public on 12 February 1939 by Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher Rana and named the Nepal Museum. Entry fees were 8 paisa for adults and 4 paisa for children. During King Mahendra's reign, it was renamed the National Museum under the "Gau Farka Rastriya Abhiyaan" (Return to Village National Campaign).

Initially, the museum buildings were not designed for the proper storage, conservation, or display purpose. As the museum's collection expanded, proper facilities were needed. In response, Juddha Shumsher established the Juddha Jatiya Kala Bhawan in 1943 AD. Later, in 1997 AD (2054 BS), a Buddhist art section was added with Japanese support.



Garudaasan Vishnu stolen from Jaisidewal, currently at the National Museum after it was repatriated from the United States of America on 10 September 1999 AD

The museum was originally established by King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on 16 December 1962 AD at the Hanumandhoka Palace to educate the public about prehistoric Nepal and its currencies. In 1993 AD, the museum was relocated to the newly built National Museum in Chhauni and later its southern section building 'Pulghar' was officially designated for the National Numismatic Museum.

A silver coin of 10.49gm issued for the first time in Kathmandu Valley by King Mahendra Malla, hence the coin is named as 'Mahendra Malli Mudra'



A silver coin issued for the first time in Nepal's history in Nepal Era 666 (1545AD) by Indra Singh Dev from Dolakha, 138 km east of Kathmandu, and the coin is named as 'Dolakha Mudra' with standard weight of 11.6 gm (one tole) The coin has the legend "Dolakhadhipati Sri Jayendra Singh Devasya" on the obverse and "Patta Mahadeya Sri Vijaya Laxmi



It houses rare objects such as the Royal Crown 'Sripech', a symbol of power & unity used by the monarchs for hundreds of years made up diamonds & pearls.

Similarly a Gold State Coach gifted by British Queen Elizabeth II to King Mahendra Shah during her first state visit to Nepal in 1961 -was used for the first time during King Birendra Shah's coronation on 24 February 1975.



After Nepal became a federal republic, it was transformed into a public museum showcasing monarchical history and culture. It now functions as a dynamic space where history, art and daily life converge.



Now home to over ten courtyards, with four open to the public and three memorial galleries, Hanumandhoka invites locals and tourists alike to engage with Nepal's living heritage. This open museum model transforms the site into a space of learning, reflection, and shared experience. Newly opened galleries in Gaddi Baithak highlight post-Prithvi Narayan Shah events, while Dhukuti Baithak features historical paintings and exhibits on practices like 'sati pratha'.

The Museum is operated and managed by the Hanumandhoka Museum Development Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.



The life-size statue of King Jayaverma discovered in 1992 AD when digging the foundation of a house in Maligaon, one of the oldest historic sites in the Kathmandu Valley. It is considered as one of the oldest inscribed sculpture dated Saka Samvat 107 (185AD) and also regarded to be the earliest pre-Lichchavi sculpture having inscription on its pedestal in Brahmi script and in Sanskrit language.

Mahadevaya" on the reverse.



Ancient Coins



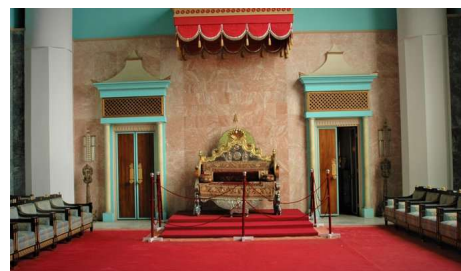
Punch-marked Coins



Pashupati Coins



The Kaski Baithak



The Gorkha Baithak



The Gold State Coach



Wood and gold coated Coronation throne with serpent, deity, and mythological carvings in which the last four Shah kings were crowned



A Coffin for King Tribhuvan made of European Oak at Tribhuvan Memorial Gallery



Used by Prithvi Narayan Shah in the unification wars, this 19th century 182cm gun symbolizes leadership, warfare, and the forging of modern Nepal.



6th - 7th century stone inscription from Lichchavi period

5

Patan Museum, Lalitpur

Patan Durbar Square Monument
Zone, Kathmandu Valley World
Heritage Site, Lalitpur District
www.patanmuseum.gov.np

Entry Fee*

FREE Entry on World Tourism Day,
25 September

Open Everyday, 8:00 AM - 6:30 PM;
Winter (2 Nov-30 Jan) 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Closed on Holy Purnima & Krishnastami



The Museum is housed around the courtyard of Keshav Narayan Chowk in the first and second floors, an old residential court of Patan Darbar, one of the royal palaces of the Malla Kings of the Kathmandu Valley. The Patan Museum displays the traditional sacred art of Nepal and covers a wide range of Nepalese cultural history including some rare objects such as 'Malla Throne' and magnificent cast bronze and repousse work in copper.

The museum is developed during an International Campaign for

6

National Art Museum, Bhaktapur

Bhaktapur Durbar Square Monument
Zone, Kathmandu Valley World
Heritage Site, Bhaktapur District
www.nationalartmuseum.gov.np

Entry Fee*

Open Wed to Sun, 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM &
Mon, 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Winter 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Closed on Tuesday & Public Holidays



Established in 1960 AD, the Museum is housed in the historic Singha Dhwaka (Lion Gate) Palace in Bhaktapur Durbar built in 1697 AD by King Bhupatindra Malla, the renowned patron of arts and culture.

The museum is unique in providing public access to an extensive collection of rare original paintings, wood carvings, stone sculptures and metal craft work, reflecting the artistic heritage of the region.

The museum has four sections. The Stone Art Section includes stone

7

Gorkha Durbar Museum, Gorkha

Gorkha Bazaar, Gorkha District
www.gdm.gov.np

Entry Fee*

Open Everyday, 10:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Closed only on Dashain & Tihar Holidays



The Museum is housed in the 18th century courtyard building commissioned as a residence by the King Rajendra Bikram Shah according to historical documents. It is about 13 minutes walk uphill from the Gorkha Bazaar and about 39 minutes walk downhill the historic Gorkha Palace which is located strategically on a hillock overseeing the district headquarter. The museum was opened to public only in 2008 and is operated under the Department of Archaeology.

The Gorkha museum has 12 rooms which house historical documents and artefacts such as the weapons used during Nepal's unification process, utensils and mannequins with clothes

8

Kapilvastu Site Museum, Tilaarakot

Tlaarakot, Kapilvastu District
Website

Entry Fee*

Open Wed to Mon, 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM &
Mon, 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Winter 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Closed on Tuesday & Public Holidays



The Museum displays archaeological findings that are discovered in Tilaurāko-Kapilvastu, the ancient city of the Shakyas, where Gautam Buddha spent the first 29 years of his life. It includes a variety of exhibits, including pottery, sculptures, and inscriptions that narrates the stories of the ancient civilization of the village people and the Shakya Kingdom flourished long ago.

The museum also houses remains of ancient art and artefacts discovered from at least 136 significant archaeological sites of present Kapilvastu district such as Chatradei, Sagrahawa, Niglihawa, Araurakot,

* Please check the website for updates on the fee and opening/closing schedule at <https://ntb.gov.np/plan-your-trip/before-you-come/heritage-site-entry-fees> and respective museums' website

safeguarding the monuments of Kathmandu Valley that transformed the Keshav Narayan Chowk to an interactive space for dissemination and interpretation of knowledge related to the sacred art, culture and iconography of Buddhism and Hinduism prevailed in the historic city of Patan - a centre excellence in Art and Architecture.

This museum also houses National Bronze (Metal-craft) Museum, dedicated to the art of metal-craft showcasing traditional and historical metal artefacts, including sculptures and tools. It celebrates Nepal's metalworking traditions and craftsmanship.

The Patan Museum is the first public museum in Nepal created as an autonomous institution, managed by its own Board of Directors under the chairmanship of Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

The museum has been acclaimed, by the visitors, as one of the finest museums in South Asia.



inscriptions of Lichhavi King Shivadeva, and Malla Kings, Yaksha Malla and Jagat Prakash Malla, and various stone idols showcasing medieval stone art.

The Painting Section includes the remarkable paintings of the various time periods including the 13th century book cover reflecting the worshipping Shiva by the devotees and *Thyasafu* (folded book) on pilgrimage of King Pratap Malla.

The Wood Carving Section is housed in the Pujari Math to the south of Dattatreya Temple in Tachapal Tole, which was originally built in 17th century as living quarters for the priest and demonstrates an excellence in woodcraft with its famous peacock window on its eastern wing. It houses a unique wall painting in wood reflecting the religious and social events of the Malla period and depicting religious scriptures of Hindu epics - Ramayana and Mahabharata. Its third floor exhibits marvelous pieces of wooden sculptures of Maravijaya, Puja Devi, Bishworupa, Aryatar, Kuber, etc.

The Metal Craft Section is housed in the Chikan Pha Math, north of Pujari Math in Tachapal Tole that displays wide collection of metal art works, mainly the objects and utensils use in religious, cultural and everyday life by the Newars of the Kathmandu Valley. The museum is operated under the

related to various indigenous people, oil paintings and musical instruments, including portraits of Shah Dynasty from Drabya Shah, Prithvi Narayan to the last king of Nepal Gyanendra Shah.

It is the most visited and main attraction in Gorkha.



The Royal Throne of King Prithvi Narayan Shah made of wood embellished with gold gilded plates studded with gems and covered with cotton fabrics for seat, and nine headed serpents' hood towards the head portion



A copy of the Vedic Horoscope (birth-chart) of King Prithvi Narayan Shah; its original copy is at National Archives of Nepal

Dohani, Sisahaniyakot, Kudan, Gotihawa, etc. and other regions of Nepal including terracotta human figurines, animal figurines, birds, seal and sealing, beads, bangles, dabber, flesh rubber, coins, musical instruments, and Chalcolithic objects of Mustang Chhokhopani cave. Copper rings, weapons, painted grey ware pieces, conch and bone balls, teeth of hair, shoulder bone, finger bone, and leg bone are also displayed here.

The museum is operated under the Department of Archaeology of the Nepal Government. This museum was established in 1962 AD initially at Taulihawa, and moved to Tilaruakot on the right bank of the Banaganga River and the western site of Tilaurāko mound.in 1985 AD.



Monumental terracotta pinnacle, Tilaurakot-Kapilvastu

Red

vessel
Kushan
Lumbini
recorded at



ware multiple
spouted
in the
well in
Nursery, similar
Rajgir

Dipankara, the Buddha of 'fixed light Nepal, 17th-18th century bronze, gault paint, semi-precious stones, size 71 cm



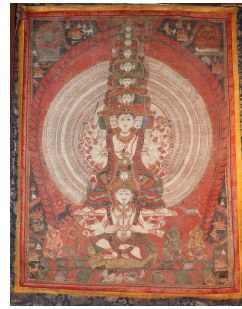
A stone relief of Uma Mahesvara repatriated in 2000 AD which was stolen from a shrine in Dhulikhel in 1982 AD and said to be sold in 1985 by a German art dealer to the Museum Fur Indische Kunst in Berlin



Shiva and Parvati Nepal, 13th-14th century Bronze, traces of gault, semiprecious stones, an excellent example of Nepal metal-craft, size 19.5 cm

Department of Archaeology of the Nepal Government.

17th century AD Puja Devi, a female deity worshipping with full devotion



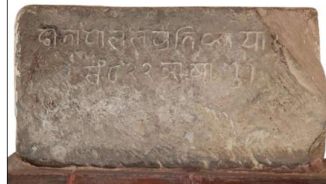
painting)



11th century ten incarnation of Vishnu



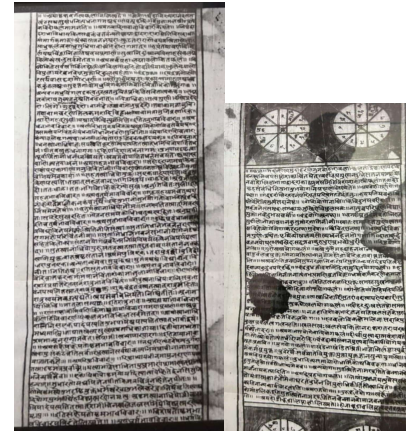
Two human idols busy in worshipping the double layer Shivalingam



Stone Slab inscription dated NS 822 (1702 AD), the only epigraphic record mentioning that the Nyatapoli Temple was built by King Bhupatindra Malla in 1702 AD



17th century Laxmi Dibyaswori scroll painting (pauva painting)



A copy of the Vedic Horoscope (birth-chart) of King Prithvi Narayan Shah; its original copy is at National Archives of Nepal



Moulded terracotta plaque of Laxmi in a Sunga style, Tilaurakot-Kapilvastu



Large sculptural head, Ramagrama