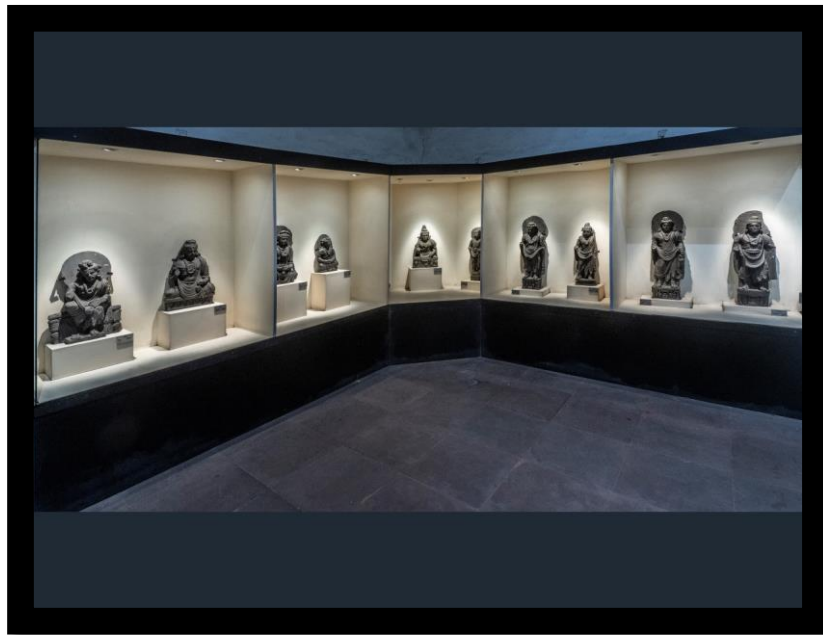


Gandhara Gallery

This gallery moves forward in time from C. 1st Century BCE to C. 4th century CE and depicts the Gandhara School, a classical art form which flourished in the north-western corner of the Indo-Pak subcontinent and Eastern Afghanistan. The gallery showcases the sculptures that encompass the significant events of Lord Buddha's life along with his images, representing the influence of the Greco-Roman Culture on indigenous art form tradition.



The Gandhara Gallery in the Indian Museum, Kolkata, is one of the most important sections dedicated to showcasing the ancient art and culture of the Gandhara region. Here are the full details:

Overview

- **Location:** The Gandhara Gallery is located within the Indian Museum, which is situated at 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

- **Gallery Focus:** The gallery exhibits art from the Gandhara region, an ancient cultural area that spanned parts of present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan. This region was a significant center of Buddhist culture, and the art of Gandhara is known for its unique blend of Greco-Roman and Indian artistic styles.

Significance of Gandhara Art

- **Historical Context:** The Gandhara region was a major crossroads of trade and culture, and it was heavily influenced by Greek, Persian, Indian, and Central Asian cultures, especially during the reign of the Kushan Empire (1st to 5th centuries CE).
- **Buddhist Influence:** The art primarily represents Buddhist themes, including various forms of the Buddha, Bodhisattvas, and scenes from the Jataka tales (stories of the previous lives of the Buddha).
- **Artistic Style:** Gandhara art is distinctive for its realistic representations, detailed carvings, and the fusion of classical Greek and Roman art techniques with Indian iconography. Sculptures from this period often feature the Buddha with Hellenistic facial features and draped in Greco-Roman style robes.

Key Exhibits

- **Buddha Statues:** The gallery houses numerous statues of the Buddha, each showcasing the different stages of his life and his various mudras (symbolic hand gestures).
- **Reliefs and Panels:** Various relief panels depict scenes from the life of the Buddha, including the birth, enlightenment, and various sermons. These panels are rich in detail and demonstrate the storytelling aspect of Gandhara art.

- **Bodhisattva Figures:** Statues and carvings of Bodhisattvas, enlightened beings who delay their own nirvana to help others, are also a key highlight of the gallery.

Visit Information

- **Opening Hours:** The Indian Museum is generally open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Tuesday to Sunday. It remains closed on Mondays and public holidays.
- **Ticket Information:** Entry fees vary depending on nationality (Indians or foreigners) and also whether one wishes to take photographs or use video equipment.
- **Guided Tours:** The museum offers guided tours which can provide deeper insights into the exhibits, including the Gandhara Gallery.

Additional Features

- **Educational Programs:** The museum often conducts educational programs, workshops, and lectures that delve into the historical and cultural significance of Gandhara art.
- **Catalogues and Publications:** The museum also offers catalogues and publications for visitors interested in studying the collection in greater detail.

Visitor Tips

- **Plan Sufficient Time:** To fully appreciate the intricate details of the Gandhara sculptures and the rich history they represent, allocate at least an hour for this gallery.
- **Photography:** Photography is generally allowed, but it's recommended to check specific guidelines, as there might be restrictions on using flash or professional equipment.

The Gandhara Gallery is a must-visit for anyone interested in ancient art, Buddhist history, or the cultural exchanges that shaped early Indian civilization.

-----XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-----