

# Egyptian Gallery

One of the major attractions of the Indian Museum is the Egyptian Mummy exhibited along with a mummified hand in the first-floor gallery. It arrived in Calcutta in 1882 and was mentioned in the listing of the attractions of the museum, published the next year. The mummified hand was gifted to the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1844. The gallery presents an exceptional collection of Egyptian antiquities.



The Egyptian Gallery at the Indian Museum in Kolkata is one of the museum's most popular and intriguing sections, dedicated to showcasing ancient Egyptian artifacts. Here's a detailed overview:

## Overview

The Egyptian Gallery is a significant part of the Archaeological Section of the Indian Museum, which is one of the oldest and largest museums in India, established in 1814. The gallery is known for its rich collection of artifacts that date back to ancient Egypt, providing insights into the civilization's art, culture, and burial practices.

## Key Exhibits

### 1. Mummy of Petosiris:

- **Age:** Approximately 4000 years old.
- **Description:** The mummy is believed to be of a priest named Petosiris and is the centerpiece of the gallery. It is displayed in a glass case, allowing visitors to observe the intricate details of mummification. The mummy still retains its wrappings, and the sarcophagus, though simple, is historically significant.
- **Significance:** The mummy provides a glimpse into the burial customs of ancient Egypt, where preservation of the body was crucial for the afterlife.

### Wooden Coffin:

- **Description:** Alongside the mummy, there is a wooden coffin that dates back to the Ptolemaic period. The coffin is adorned with hieroglyphs and figures of gods and goddesses, which were believed to protect the deceased in the afterlife.

### Funerary Items:

- **Description:** The gallery also showcases various funerary items such as amulets, ushabtis (funerary figurines), and canopic jars used to store the internal organs of the deceased. These items were essential in ancient Egyptian burial practices, ensuring the deceased's protection and sustenance in the afterlife.

### Stone and Bronze Statues:

- **Description:** The gallery includes a collection of small statues made of stone and bronze, depicting various Egyptian gods like Anubis, the god of mummification, and Osiris, the god of the afterlife. These statues represent the religious beliefs and artistic achievements of ancient Egypt.

## Papyrus Manuscripts:

- **Description:** Some papyrus manuscripts with hieroglyphic texts are also part of the collection. These manuscripts provide valuable insights into the language, religion, and daily life of ancient Egyptians.

## Historical Significance

The Egyptian Gallery at the Indian Museum is one of the few places in India where you can find authentic Egyptian artifacts. The collection was acquired during the British colonial period and has been preserved and displayed for educational and research purposes.

## Visiting Information

- **Location:** Indian Museum, 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Park Street, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- **Timings:** The museum is typically open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday to Sunday. It remains closed on Mondays and certain public holidays.
- **Entry Fee:** The entry fee varies for Indian and foreign visitors. Special discounts are often available for students and groups.

## Conclusion

- The Egyptian Gallery in the Indian Museum, Kolkata, offers a fascinating glimpse into one of the world's most ancient and revered civilizations. Whether you're interested in history, archaeology, or just curious about mummies, this gallery is a must-visit for anyone exploring the museum.
- If you're planning a visit, it's advisable to check the museum's official website or contact them for the latest updates on timings and ticket prices.

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