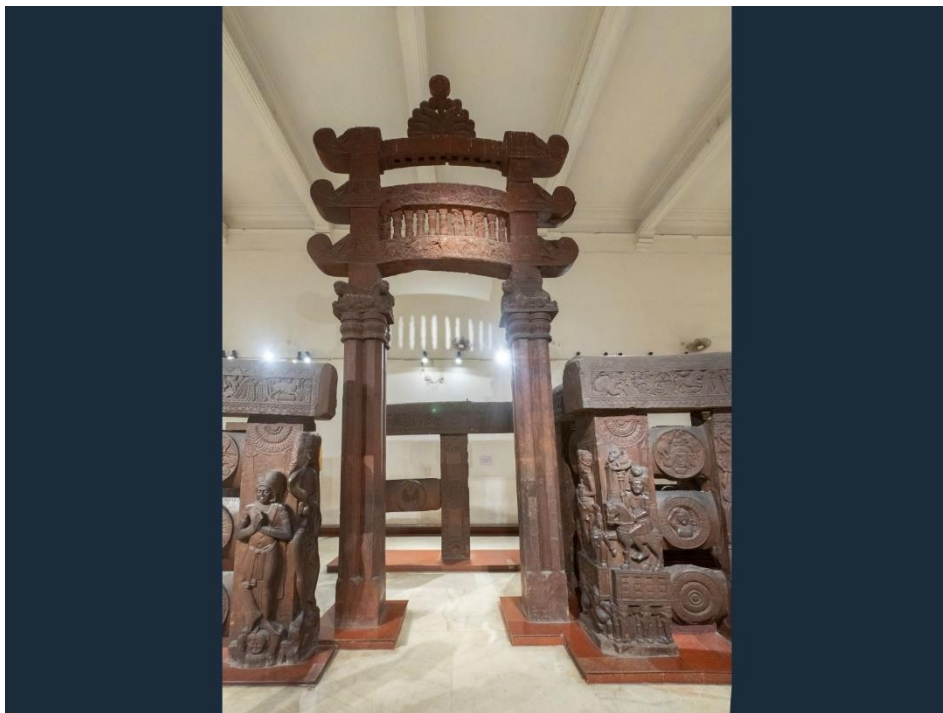


Bharhut Gallery

The red sandstone remnants of the Bharhut Stupa were created all the way to their current location and re-created there by Alexander Cunningham, who excavated the site in 1873. The gallery shows the architectural remains – railings and the only surviving Eastern Gateway or 'Torana'. Jataka tales, stories of Lord Buddha's life, numerous animal and geometric motifs, and several demigods – Yaksha and Yakshi figurines are depicted in the gallery. Next to the Bharhut remains, there are fragments of railings (some original pieces with cast replicas) from the site of Bodhgaya exhibited.



Here is the summarized information about the Bharhut Gallery at the Indian Museum:

Location

- **Indian Museum, Kolkata:** The Bharhut Gallery is located within the Indian Museum in Kolkata, West Bengal, India, positioned centrally in the city, making it easily accessible to visitors and tourists exploring Kolkata's rich cultural heritage.

Exhibits and Collection

- **Railings and the Eastern Gateway:** These architectural fragments are intricately carved, depicting scenes from the Jataka tales, which illustrate the previous lives of the Buddha.
- **Sculptures:** Detailed carvings of demigods, Yakshis, and narratives from the life of the Buddha.
- **Bodhgaya Fragments:** The gallery also displays additional fragments from Bodhgaya, further enriching the collection.

Historical Significance

- The Bharhut Gallery's historical significance lies in its collection of artifacts from the 2nd-1st century BCE, showcasing early Buddhist art, including intricate carvings and reliefs from the Bharhut Stupa.

Research and Conservation

- The Bharhut Gallery is involved in ongoing research and conservation efforts to preserve and study its ancient Buddhist artifacts, ensuring their historical and cultural legacy endures for future generations.

Visitor Information

- **Hours of Operation:** The museum is generally open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, but it is recommended to check the official website or contact the museum for the latest timings.
- **Admission Fees:** Entry to the museum may require a ticket, with different rates for Indian citizens, foreign tourists, students, and children. Special discounts may apply on certain days or for group visits.
- **Guided Tours:** The museum offers guided tours, providing in-depth explanations of the exhibits, including the Bharhut Gallery. These tours can be an excellent way to gain a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the artifacts.

Additional Features

- **Bodhgaya Fragments:** The gallery also displays significant fragments from Bodhgaya, enriching its collection of early Buddhist artifacts.
- **Interactive Displays:** Enhanced visitor experience with interactive elements and detailed descriptions that provide deeper insights into the historical context of the exhibits.

The Bharhut Gallery at the Indian Museum offers an invaluable glimpse into early Buddhist art and history. Through its well-preserved collection and ongoing conservation efforts, the gallery ensures the enduring legacy of these ancient artifacts.
