Durbar square

Friday, December 6, 2024

1:03 PM

Overview :

The Durbar Square is Bhaktapur’s monumental gem. The seat of Malla royalty till 1769 AD, the complex includes palaces, pagoda and shikhara style temples, as well as Buddhist monasteries. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its stunning Newari architecture, rich cultural heritage, and historical significance.

Description

It features iconic structures like the 55-Window Palace, an exquisite example of traditional woodwork, and the Nyatapola Temple, a five-story pagoda dedicated to Goddess Siddhi Laxmi. The Golden Gate, a finely detailed entrance to the Taleju Bhawani Temple, and the Vatsala Temple with its bell and stone craftsmanship, add to its grandeur. The square's courtyards, statues, and water spouts offer a rich glimpse into Nepal's historical and spiritual heritage. Once a royal palace complex, it serves as a vibrant hub showcasing Bhaktapur’s ancient art and traditions.

Statue of king bhupatindra malla

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:45 PM

Overview

When you get out of the golden gate, you’ll face the statue of [King Bhupatindra Malla](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/statue-of-king-bhupatindra-malla/) facing toward Taleju temple. This statue shows respect toward Taleju rather than a king’s self-image.

Also, it depicts the king as a devotee since he is facing north, toward the temple.

Description

King Bhupatindra Malla was born in 1675, in October. He regulated Bhaktapur from the date 1696 to 1722 AD. He was the most dynamic king of the Malla era. Being the son of King Jitmatra Malla and queen Lalmati, he continued to fulfill the ambitious dream of his father.

Yes, he continued to work on the construction of different monuments as per his capacity. Some of his wonderful creations include the 55 windowed palaces, the statues of Ugrachandi, Narshima, Hanuman.  Also, he cemented the char Dham temples of Bhaktapur durbar square.

The giant nyatapola temple, 99 courtyards, and ponds around the city are the result of his devotion to creating a better town.

 Char Dham

Friday, December 6, 2024

11:35 AM

Overview

Char Dham located in the western section of the square, these four shrines embody the four greatest Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. The temples include the Badrinath temple, Jagannath temple, kedarnath temple and rameshwor temple.

Description

According to Anjan Sharma, the priest of Char Dham temples of Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the temples were then made to facilitate the common people because the actual Char Dham temples are farther from them. Thus, King Bhupatindra Malla insist to make these temples within the arena of Bhaktapur Palace.

Changu narayan temple

Friday, December 6, 2024

11:36 AM

Overview

Changu Narayan Temple, located in the Kathmandu Valley, is one of the oldest Hindu temples in Nepal, dating back to the 4th century. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple features exquisite wood and stone carvings, and its pagoda-style architecture is an example of ancient craftsmanship.

Description

This famous shrine is located at the peak of Bhaktapur, a northern hill station. In terms of distance, it is around 7 miles from Kathmandu. The inscriptions and sculptures discovered in this temple are considered to be the oldest, dating back to 464 C.E. Thus, it is assumed to be established by King Manadeva, one of the greatest monarchs of the lichhavi kingdom.

Myth of Changunarayan temple

According to the legend, once a brahmin named Sudarshan traded out his cow to a cow herder (gwala). When the gwala bought her, he started to graze her in the champak forest because of the good availability of green grasses and plants over there.

A brahmin named Sudarshan traded his cow to a herder, who grazed it in a champak forest, expecting good milk. But the milk was always little.

When they followed the cow, they found a black boy drinking its milk, emerging from a champak tree. After trying to cut down the tree, it bled. Lord Vishnu explained that he was cursed when he accidentally murdered the Sudarshan’s father during his hunt. He was tugged over there since then. And, forthwith was freed from all his sins, because of them.

Subsequently, hearing all these things, they finally got some relief on their faces. Afterwards, they established a small temple in that arena and worshipped it as the Changu Narayan temple. Where the descendants of Sudarshan brahmin continues to become priest and descendants of the gwala continues to be guthiyars.

Nyatapola Temple

Friday, December 6, 2024

11:36 AM

Overview

Nyatapole Temple, located in Bhaktapur, Nepal, is the tallest pagoda-style temple in the country. It features a five-story structure with intricate wood carvings and sculptures. Built in the 18th century, it is a symbol of architectural brilliance and religious significance. The temple stands at a height of 30 meters and is supported by massive stone sculptures of deities and animals, guarding the temple and adding to its majestic presence.

Description

The tallest temple in the Kathmandu Valley, Nyataponla (five storied structure) is simply the finest specimen of traditional Nepalese architecture. Its symmetrical roofs are supported by 108 struts, all adorned with figures of different Hindu gods and goddess. The temple houses an elegant image of Siddhi Laxmi, the goddess representing the most powerful female force. The staircase leading up to the main door is flanked by pairs of legendary wrestlers, elephants, lions, griffins, and a tigress and a lioness. The temple was built in 1702 AD.

Interesting facts about it

The temple is not associated with any Jatras or the Guthi. That sounds quite unusual cause almost all of the important temples are associated with the jatras as well as with the Guthis and Bhajans. Especially in Bhaktapur.

Because of its five stories, it is locally denominated as a Panch Tale Mandir. Where, those five stories indicate the earth, water, fire, air, and the sky from down to up respectively.

Similarly, Nyatapola the name itself means the five-stroyed, where Nyata means five, and Pola means the tiers in Newa bhasa.

Also, this grand temple stands as the tallest Nepalese roofing-styled temple of Bhaktapur. As well as Nepal with a height of 33meters.

The whole structure of Nyatapola was raised within 214 days. During that era, meanwhile, there was no advanced construction equipment at all.

It is said that the wind bells hanged around the tiers of Nyatapola were in several 529. But placing them in the numbers 48, 80, 104, 128, and 168, from top to bottom respectively, outlasts a wind bell. That was then, considered as the unfortunate one wind bell. And, the fact is that till today no one knows about it, whether where it was placed. Or, what did happen to it?

Taumadhi square

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:27 PM

Overview

Taumadhi Square, located in Bhaktapur, has a rich history dating back to the 15th century. It became an important center for the Newar community and a key hub for religious and cultural activities. The square's layout and prominent buildings, including the Nyatapole Temple, reflect the architectural advancements and socio-cultural importance of the time. Historically, it served as a meeting place for rituals and festivals, contributing to its status as a cultural landmark within the Kathmandu Valley.

Description

It is one of the busiest squares of Bhaktapur which lies on the eastern elevation of [Bhaktapur durbar square](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/bhaktapur-durbar-square-an-open-museum/). A narrow street (on the south of Bhaktapur Durbar Square) filled with souvenir shops ultimately leads you toward the Taumadhi square.

Taumadhi Square, which houses the tallest pagoda styled temple of Nepal ([Nyatapola Temple](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/nyatapola/)), also houses several temples, Sattal, water conduits, Maths (the Agam Chhen) and Dabus/Dabalis (platforms). However, most people know this place only for Nyatapola Temple.

 This square also treasures the wooden crafts used in Biska Jatra ([Bisket jatra](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/bisket-jatra/)) and the chariot is also assembled in this place.

Dattatraya Temple

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:31 PM

Overview

[Dattatraya temple](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/dattatraya-temple/) is a circular styled (mandala-styled) temple that holds the prestige of being the only shrine, devoted to Dattatreya in Nepal. Though there is no such image of Dattatraya in the temple as normally, common people perceive (the image of Datttraya with three heads in one body- a combined form of Lord Shiva, Vishnu, and Bramha).

Instead, there lies the three images of Lord Dattatraya- Som, Durbasha, and Dutt accordingly on the left, middle, and right of the temple.

This is the temple of Dattatreya yet, the symbols like garuda, conch, and chakra in front of the standing pillars of the temple show the priority of Lord Vishnu over there. In spite of that, the festivals and celebrations related to Lord Shiva seem to attract more devotees over here.

Description

King Yaksha Malla, who ruled over the entire Nepalmandal from 1428 A.D. to 1482 A.D. is supposed to be the erector of this temple. As per the book, Illustrated Biography of Lord Duttatreya And His 24 Mentors, this temple was built in Nepal Sambat 590 (1470 A.D.) and was only single-storeyed then.

However, it is mentioned that the temple was opened to the public onward 1486 A.D, only after the demise of King Yakshya Malla, of course, before the reconstruction made by King Raya Malla (the son of King Yakshya Malla). He made it more attractive by adding stories to it in Nepal Sambat 615 (1495 A.D).

Furthermore, the name of King Visva Malla also took its place when we talk about the overhanging balcony of the temple that was set up by him in 1548 AD.

Besides these dates of erections, there are other dates that enrol the history related to the Dattatraya temple. It is presumed that in 1769 A.D. when King Prithivi Narayan Shah conquered both Kathamndu and Patan before Bhaktapur, the king of those kingdoms, King Jaya Prakash Malla and Narsimha Malla respectively took shelter in this temple.

However, there is no documentation found about this statement that particularly mentions whether they hide in the Dattatraya temple or in the Bhaktapur Palace Complex. But, yes, they were given shelter in Bhaktapur.

Pottery Square

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:35 PM

Overview

its actual name is Kumha tole/ Talakwoh.  [Pottery square](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/pottery-square-of-bhaktapur/) as its name means is a square full of  [pottery](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/pottery-square-of-bhaktapur/) works. You can reach there within a few minutes’ walk from Bhaktapur durbar square. This square is not as big as Durbar square but is a hub to do the shopping for Nepalese handicrafts.

The centre of this square always gets filled with clay wares and local grains to give them an ace finishing.

Description

Siddha Pokhari

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:36 PM

Overview

[Siddhapokhari](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/siddhapokhari/) is one of the busiest ponds of Bhaktapur.

Siddhapokhari is also called ‘Ta Pukhu’ which literally means the bigger pond. The term Ta and Pukhu are the Newari words which mean big and pond respectively.This waterhole has a length of 171 m, 73m of width, and 3m of depth. It’s an awesome place to go in and feel the utmost freshness. The shreds of evidence say that this glorious, as well as chronicle man-made pond, was fabricated by King Indrajit. That is why it is also called Indra Daha.

Description

There is another quest too, regarding the name of this pond being called Indra Daha.

Every year, during the Yenya Punhi (Indra Jatra), the idol of Indrayani is brought over here and is left bare for a whole night. Likewise, that day the pond is decorated with oil lamps. It looks like there is no such place in Bhaktapur more beautiful than the Siddhapokhari during that night.

People used to take bathe in Siddhapokhari before worshipping the idol of Indrayani. Consequently, all of these rituals are related to the god of gods, Indra. It shows some sort of relation of Siddhapokhari to the name Indra Daha.

Golden gate

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:46 PM

Overview

An unrivaled specimen of repousse art, the gate dates to 1754 AD. It was built by King Ranajit Malla, the last of Bhaktapur’s Malla rulers. The gilded gate serves as an entrance to many historic courtyards, as well as to the Taleju temple.

The paragon dated back to 1757 AD, which artistically shows how different symbols, representations of deities, animals as well as ancient styles of architecture could perfectly be blended into one whittle.

Description

The gate was a purpose to dedicate to the Taleju Bhawani temple. The temple is placed inside the historical palace of Bhaktapur. Appreancely, artists then made this gate in pagoda roofing style. The concoction of bricks, mud mortar, stone, wood, and gold gilded copper gave shape to this gate. It is more like a complete package.

Flawlessly, made by mixing all the arts and the adulate of newa architecture.

55 window palace

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:46 PM

Overview

Entering the golden gate leads you to another master of works of woodcarvings,  [55 Window Palace](https://www.bhaktapur.com/discover/55-window-palace/). The palace is best known for its fifty-five beautifully engraved windows.

Inspiring which the palace was named Pachpane Jhyale Durbar by the Shah ruler who already was in name Nye Nyeppa Jhya Layaku.

Today, the palace offers us the great wall paintings of the Malla era along with the most immeasurable wood carving of Bhaktapur Durbar Square.

Description

The 55-Window Palace in Bhaktapur was built by King Yaksha Malla during the 15th century. It was later expanded and renovated by his successors. This palace is known for its intricate woodwork and its 55 windows, making it an architectural marvel of the Malla period. It served as the royal residence and administrative center and remains a significant symbol of Nepal's medieval architectural heritage.

Did you know that this 55 Window Palace once was used as the post office of the city?

Taleju Bhawani

Friday, December 6, 2024

12:45 PM

Overview

The Taleju Bhawani Temple in Bhaktapur Durbar Square is a sacred structure dedicated to the goddess Taleju Bhawani, considered a royal deity. Built in the 16th century by King Mahendra Malla, it features intricate carvings and an elevated three-tiered design, symbolizing its religious significance. The temple's entry is restricted to Hindus, and it is prominently visited during festivals like Dashain, where special rituals are performed.

The temple is believed to house the goddess's spirit, and the king is said to have received divine guidance from her.