

HANUMANDHOKA DURBAR MUSEUM



HERITAGE  
**E-PASSPORT**

## HERITAGE PLEDGE

This heritage e-passport has been launched by the Hanumandhoka Durbar Museum Development Committee to enable young minds to explore the built, natural and cultural heritage of the Hanumandhoka Palace and museum complex as a way to understand Nepal. Welcome to Hanumandhoka and enjoy your tour. Let us all pledge to make sure we do not damage this globally unique UNESCO World Heritage Site for our future generation.

I, .....  
Hereby pledge to do my best to conserve and protect Nepal's globally unique natural, cultural and built heritage so that me and all future generations can enjoy, learn from and take pride in them.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BEARER

Photo of the  
Bearer

Name: .....

Address: .....

Place of birth: .....

Profession: .....

Organization: .....

## AT THE ENTRANCE OF HANUMANDHOKA DURBAR MUSEUM

Once you buy the ticket to enter the Hanumandhoka Durbar Museum, you will see the orange colored **Hanuman** statue at the entrance gate. During the early Malla dynasty the palace complex was known as *Gunapo*, but after the establishment of Hanuman statue, by King Pratap Malla in 1672 AD, it became known as Hanumandhoka.

The entrance gate (*dhoka*) is made out of gold gilded copper sheets which was commissioned by Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa to replace the short wooden gate, which you can see to your left once you enter the golden gate.

## NASAL CHOWK

The first statue you will notice to your left is the black stone icon of **Narasimha**. The rulers of Nepal were inspired by the Narasimha - half lion, half man incarnation of Lord Vishnu where he has to destroy the enemy who cannot be killed by a man or animal, during the day or at night, not indoors nor outside.

Beyond the image of **Narasimha**, there is an audience chamber of the Malla Kings known as **Sisa Baithak**. There still lies a **Malla throne** with spacious seat covered with white cloth and cushion where Bajracharya priests of 18 main bahal (monasteries) of Kathmandu offer *kisali (offering betel nut with coin on top of rice in a ceramic dish)* during priesthood of their sons. Mask dancers also offer *kisali* during their 12 yearly festival as a major event to this Malla King's throne. On the wall are pictures of Shah Kings of Nepal with Crown Prince Trailokya who passed away before ascending the throne.

At the east wing of Nasal chowk inside the glass panel lies icon of **Mahavishnu** moved from temple outside Hanumandhoka palace during 1934 earthquake for safekeeping.

Next we see palanquins displayed inside the glass panel. **Royal Palanquin** is the large gold gilded silver palanquin with two panels decorated with lattice window design. It was used during the wedding ceremony of Late Queen Aishwarya Shah and Princess Shruti Shah. It has also been used to carry young royalties during their rice feeding ceremony.

The next **Myana** is shaped in the Mughal style which was used to carry the dead body of Late King Tribhuvan Shah and Late Queen Aishwarya to perform their last rites.

Next there is a small shrine to the Dancing Shiva (**Natyeshwor**) from which the courtyards get its name. During the Malla period, Nasalchowk courtyard served as a royal theatre with masked dance performance practiced and presented here.

Adjoined with Natyeshwor shrine lies **Nishan Ghar** where Sardul Jung Company performs rituals for the "*nishan*" and plant *jamara* during Dashain festival.

**Shardul Jung Company** is a dedicated section of the Nepali army commissioned directly by King Prithvi Narayan Shah for the protection of the palace premises from 1768 AD.

Their barrack is situated inside the palace area. Major city festivals start and end with the procession of Shardul Jung Company. Their duties range from protecting treasury of the old palace area to providing security in major festivals associated with Hanumandhoka Durbar Palace Complex such as the chariot festivals of White Machhindra Nath and the living goddess Kumari.

Next to Nishan ghar at the eastern side of Nasalchowk courtyard **Royal thrones** used by Shah Kings crown prince and princess are on display inside the glass panels.

At **Nasalchowk Dabali** nine Kings of the Shah dynasty had their coronation from 1775 to 1975 AD starting from King Pratap Singh Shah to King Birendra. It is the largest courtyard out of ten existing courtyards of the Palace. Major rituals and festivals such as Phulpati and Basanta Srawan are conducted here to this day.

There is a **sun dial** carved on one of the stone pieces of the courtyard. Can you find it and explain how this ancient technology works to track the time?

On the northwest corner of rooftop of Nasal chowk there rise a small temple known as **Agam chen**. It is the traditional

family shrine of former Malla kings which is restricted to the public.

Directly across the rooftop from Agam Chen on the northeast is another temple with round and five tier unique architectural structure of **Panch Mukhi Hanuman**- Hanuman with five faces. The idol is offered puja daily with secret rites.

To the north of the Nasal chowk lies **Mohan chowk** built in 1649 AD by King Pratap Malla as their residential area. When the hill states rulers visited Kathmandu, they were entertained as guests at this courtyard. At the center, lies *sundhara* the golden water spout sculptured with birds and animals as if crowded together for a splash of water. It is said that King Rajendra was imprisoned in this part of Hanumandhoka after the Kot massacre, in 1847 AD.

Beyond this chowk to the north lies **Sundar chowk** which has a private bath for the queens of the Malla dynasty. There lies a beautiful stone sculpture of Kaliyadaman. Similar to Mohan chowk, it also has golden water spout that used to fill the water tank- Jaldroni outside the wall of Hanumandhoka palace. Malla rulers collect sacred water from this water spout to perform rituals for their dieties.



At present both these chowks are prohibited to the public due to undergoing renovation taking place after 2015 earthquake which will be open in the near future.

## **EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY**

The Hanumandhoka Palace complex is undergoing recovery and reconstruction after the 2015 earthquake with support from Nepal government and development partners. While visiting Hanumandhoka please make sure that you are polite and take some time to thank the museum staff, craftsmen, technicians, and the managers for their contribution in protecting this critical piece of Nepali history. The palace and monuments were also damaged and recovered after major earthquakes in 1934 and 1833 AD.

## VASANTAPUR CHOWK

At the southwest corner of Nasal chowk lies an exit which passes into Vasantapur chowk, is also commonly known as **Lohan chowk** after the large single stone block you can see in the middle. This courtyard was built during the reign of King Prithvi Narayan Shah as the residential quarters of the Shah rulers. The nine storey Durbar also known as Vasantapur Kailash (Vasantapur tower) along with Vilas mandir. This is the pagoda styled residential tallest palace of Nepal.

King Pratap Singh Shah added two more towers making it four towers built on the top corners of this chowk in 1769 AD. To the north east corner of the courtyard, you can see a stone staircase where Prime minister Mathbar Singh Thapa was assassinated by Jung Bahadur Rana in May 17th, 1845 AD ending the influence of the Thapa family in Nepal at that time.

Currently Vasantapur Durbar is undergoing renovation. After the restoration work is completed there will be galleries opened dedicated to Shah rulers of Nepal. From the upper terrace of Vasantapur chowk, one can observe the restricted chowk of Hanumandhoka palace complex like

Mul chowk, Trishul chowk, Daakh chowk, Masan chowk and Vayu chowk (Lamo chowk).

**Mul chowk** is the restricted courtyard which lies east of Nasal chowk built along with Taleju temple in 1564AD. It is open to public once a year in Nawami during Dashain. Accession to the throne of Malla Kings used to take place in this courtyard including their social and religious functions.

**Dashain chowk** is situated at the eastern side of Mul chowk with a storehouse named as **Dashain ghar** to plant *jamara* for the Nepal government. There also lies huge well built to offer pure water for Taleju diety. Near this well, a stone seat is allocated to keep the vases of Changu Narayan for worship during its festival twice a year.

To the northern side of this chowk like **Trishul chowk** with Taleju temple and three stone columns built during Malla dynasty. Trishul chowk got its name from the presence of huge stone trident icon located in this courtyard. There is an **Agnishala** and a **Dabali** constructed during that period. To the east side of this chowk is a **stable** where Taleju's horse is still kept. Adjoining to it lies army compound of Sardul Jung company where a huge stone icon of **Jalasakan Narayan**. There are stone icons of Garuda, Vamsa Gopal and megalithic stone located around this pond.

## NAG POKHARI

To the east side of Dashain ghar , you will see a pond with the Naga (serpent hood) on top of the tall wooden column. It is said to have been taken by King Pratap Malla from *Tagwo pukhu* (large pond) in Bhaktapur and placed here in 1663 AD. Around this pond, there are beautiful stone sculptures of elephants, Parvati and Chatrachandreshwor icons and shiva temple.

## DHUKUTI GHAR

Once we come out of the eastern entrance of the Vasantapur chowk, we enter a garden, and then Bhandarkhal .This is the location of *Dhukuti Ghar*. During the renovation of the building between Nhucchen Chowk and Faras Khana at Hanumandhoka Durbar on 13th Asadh 2068 BS (June 27, 2011 AD), materials of historical, archeological and cultural importance were found buried in an iron safe. Some of these materials have been selected and put on public display to create this Dhukuti Ghar. A special committee was formed in 2070 BS in order to keep a scientific record of the important materials found inside the main vault located at

the eastern part of Hanumandhoka Durbar. Of the materials listed at that time, photos of 28 are exhibited in this exhibition hall. Make sure you closely observe the gold plate that King Prithvi Narayan Shah used for his meals as well as jewelry the Queens had offered to Vayu and Akash devata before they had to jump into the funeral pyres known as the Sati. This custom was banned by Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher in 1920AD (Asar 25, 1977 BS)

## **BHANDARKHAL**

Bhandarkhal was once a royal garden east of Hanumandhoka palace which was later converted to New Road (Juddha Sadak) by Prime Minister Juddha Shamsher Rana after 1934 AD earthquake.

There were two political massacres related with Bhandarkhal in Nepal's history. In April 25th, 1806 AD, King Rana Bahadur Shah was assassinated by his step brother in this Bhandarkhal area now known as **Ranmukteshwor**. Bhimsen Thapa became a powerful prime minister after this incident.

A month after the Kot massacre of October 31st, 1846 AD, with aide of trusted Basnyat courtiers, Queen Rajya Laxmi organized a feast at Bhandarkhal garden to murder Jung Bahadur but the attempt became unsuccessful. He eliminated all his opposition and exiled the Queen along with King Rajendra. This event passed on the political power to Rana Prime Ministers for 104 years .

## NHULACHEN CHOWK

King Prithvi Narayan Shah entered Hanumandhokha palace on the day of Indraajatra in 1768 AD through this chowk. This ended the rule of Mallas and began the rule of Shah dynasty. The southern wing of this chowk was created by Prime Minister Jung Bahadur in neo classical building style, Lal Baithak which was then turned into the **Gaddhi Baithak** or the throne room by Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher in 1908 AD. This was the hall where all Kings received credentials from foreign ambassadors and visiting dignitaries. The balcony is used to view the annual chariot festival of Kumari, the living goddess. The ground floor is open now as a new gallery depicting political changes of Nepal from the time of Prithvi Narayan Shah to the establishment of the Republic in 2015 AD.



## LIST OF NAMES AS SHOWN IN THE MAP

1. Sinha sattal
2. Kabindrapur
3. Kasthamandap (Maru sattal)
4. Maru Ganesh temple
5. Laxmi Narayan sattal
6. Trailokya Mohan temple
7. Kumari bahal
8. Maju Dewal temple
9. Vishnu temple
10. Nava Jogini house (Shiva Parvati)
11. Big Bell
- 11a. Layaku bahi
12. Bishnu temple
13. Sarswati temple
14. Krishna temple
15. Pratap Malla's column
16. Hanuman
17. Jagannath temple
18. Kaal Bhairab
19. Indrapur
20. Bishnu temple
21. Kageshwar temple
22. Kotilingeshwar temple
23. Mahavishnu temple
24. Kot square
25. Mahendreshwar temple
26. Tana devi temple
27. Taleju temple
28. Pratap dhwaja
29. Sinha dhwaja
30. Parthivendra's column
31. Narayan pokhari
32. Dhukuti
33. Nag pokhari
34. Dashain ghar
35. Sundar chowk
36. Mohan chowk
37. Mohan chowk burja
38. Panchamukhi Hanuman
39. Agam chen
40. Mul chowk
41. Nasal chowk
42. Vasantapur chowk (Lohan chowk)
43. Laxmivilas mandir (Bhaktapur tower)
44. Bungalow (Kirtipur tower)
45. Vilasmandir (Lalitpur tower)
46. Vasantapur Kailas tower (Vasantapur tower)
47. Lamo chowk (Vayu chowk)
48. Daakh chowk
49. Degu Tale temple
50. Kanhel chowk (Masan chowk)
51. Bhagawati temple
52. Nhulacheen chowk
53. Gaddhi Baithak



**Lamo chowk** is a long rectangular chowk on the west side of Nasalchowk which is adjoined with Gaddhi Baithak. Also known as Vayu Chowk, There is a separate room with a toilet pan used as lavatory build by King Pratap Malla which is first of its kind in Nepali history.

**Dakh chowk** lies on the westside of Nasalchowk adjoined to Lamo chowk was build for Prince Trailokya by Jung Bahadur Rana. **Masan chowk** or *Kanhel chowk* is separated from Dakh chowk by just a wall structure which house Degu Talle temple and Bhagwati temple.

## OUTSIDE HANUMANDHOKA PALACE MUSEUM

Once you exit the Hanumandhoka Palace Complex, make a right turn and you will see the **Water spout (Jaldroni)** placed in the west facing wall of Hanumandhoka palace with inscriptions in fifteen scripts that King Pratap Malla installed in 1653 AD.

Behind this water spout lies Sundar chowk which has a golden water spout constructed which acted as water tank filled with water before the tap system was introduced within the Kathmandu city.

**Taleju Mandir** is the 36.6 meter-high temple which is built on twelve plinths. Built by King Mahindra Malla in 1564 AD, it was once the tallest vantage point in the city from where the kings made sure that smoke from each kitchen was seen before having their own meal. During his rule, the first silver coins were minted in Kathmandu valley worth one tola each called Mahindra Malli which was used to facilitate the trade with Lhasa.

Taleju mandir lies in Trishul chowk which is open to public on Nawami during Dashain festival.

## **KOT**

Jung Bahadur Kunwar (Rana) came to power after the infamous massacre that took place at the Kot which is located at the north western side of Hanumandhoka Palace.

**Kot** is the historical place where nearly forty high ranking members of the ruling elite were massacred on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1846 AD. Immediately after the killing of Gagan Singh, a close ally of then Queen Rajya Laxmi Devi, everyone was told to assemble at the Kot where Jung Bahadur and his men carried out the massacre which then subsequently led to Rana rule of 104 years till 1950 AD.

**Kaal Bhairab** is the single stone sculpture believed to be from the 6th century. It was discovered while digging a water canal to bring water into the Hanumandhoka Palace complex from the northern side of the Kathmandu valley. King Pratap Malla installed this twelve feet tall black stone image of the Kaal Bhairab in 1663 AD. Everyone who held a public position in the government in those days had to swear that they would not undertake any corruption or face a horrible death.

**Big bell** was commissioned by King Rana Bahadur Shah in 1797 AD. This bell is used during the puja at Degu Talle temple nearby, it is believed that the sound of the bell will drive away evil spirits from the ancient palace.

**Sweta Bhairab** is a twelve feet tall repousse face mask of Bhairab, installed by King Rana Bahadur Shah in 1795 AD. The mask which is hidden inside the lattice window is open to the public during the week-long Indra Jatra festival. Behind the mask there is a large vat from where alcohol flows on to the crowds during the festival. There is an ivory cast window at the corner above the Sweta Bhairab structure from where Malla rulers used to observe Gai jatra and other festival.

**Pratap Malla's column** is a stone pillar, carved from a single rock which is forty feet tall. It lies in front of Degu Taleju temple. On top of the platform we can see King Pratap Malla with his family.

**Layaku Bahi** is the Buddhist monastery which you can walk into on the right side of Kaal Bhairab just below the Big Bell. It has a unique Torana depicting the Buddha's visit to Kudan, west of Lumbini the birthplace of the Buddha, to meet his parents and childhood friends.

**Kumari Bahal** is the home of the royal Kumari. This three storied building was built during the reign of King Jaya Prakash Malla in 1757 AD. The annual chariot festival of the Kumari is held during the autumn season after the monsoon.

**Kasthamandap** is the large wooden structure known locally as Maru Satta which lends its name to Kathmandu city and the valley. It serves as a resting place for traders who travelled to Tibet to the north and the Gangetic plains to the south. It was this trade that made the valley prosperous and paid for its monuments and cultural heritage. The oldest known record makes this structure almost thirteen hundred years old.

**The Bhimsen temple** on the way to Bishnumati river is dedicated to one of the characters of the Hindu epic, Mahabharat. Local businessmen worship the Bhimsen, for his contribution in opening up the trade route to Lhasa. It was built in 1540 AD.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **KATHMANDU CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY**

Kathmandu is unique because it celebrates its birthday during the full moon each year after the monsoon season. This day is celebrated by the local people as 'Yen Nyagu Punhi' with a large feast inviting many guests. On this day masked cultural dances and teams of musicians take to the streets in joy. How many cities do you know that have been celebrating their birthdays for over 1200 years?

Kathmandu was historically a walled city with 32 gates leading to 32 neighborhoods with the Hanumandhoka Palace complex at its center. The northern part of the city was referred to as Thane (uptown) and the southern part Kwone (downtown) just like many modern cities around the world today. The city is home to over 100 Buddhist monasteries, over 1800 stupas and chaityas, numerous water spouts, wells, ponds, open spaces, sacred forests, streams and rivers. All around the built city were

lush green agriculture land that produced a surplus of food for the people. Since the 1950s, unplanned urbanization and migration of people into the valley from all over Nepal have put a huge pressure on this unique natural, built and cultural heritage. Hanumandhoka was inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1979 AD.





**DRAW YOUR VERSION OF  
FUTURISTIC DURBAR SQUARE IN  
2050 AD**















Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation

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