



9th Asia Conference on Earthquake Engineering (9ACEE)

Field Excursion Information Bhaktapur Durbar Square May 06, 2026



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Government of Nepal
Ministry of Home Affairs
**National Disaster Risk Reduction and
Management Authority (NDRRMA)**
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu



**Asia
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Earthquake Engineering



NSET
Disaster Resilient Communities in Nepal





General information

- Please carry your Passport to get pass and ticket for the entrance in heritage area.
- The entrance fee for foreigners is Rs 1800 (USD \$18), which helps fund ongoing repairs following the 2015 earthquake
- Visitors from SAARC member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and China pay NPR 500.

Background

- Bhaktapur is also locally known as Khwopa and Bhadguan. It is the smallest city of Nepal in terms of area.
- It was founded in the 12th century by King Ananda Deva
- It served as the capital of Nepal during the first half of Malla Dynasty until the kingdom split into three (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) in the 15th century.
- The Malla era was a golden one for Bhaktapur as it was during their reign that art and architecture flourished.
- The city is well known for its Newar tradition, cuisine, art and architecture, pottery.



Reconstruction scenario in Bhaktapur after 2015 earthquake

- The devastating 2015 Gorkha earthquake hit Bhaktapur hard killing 333 people and damaging more than 30,000 private houses.
- A total of 116 historical and cultural monuments were damaged.
- Bhaktapur Municipality opted for their own designs to revive Malla-period architecture as part of their cultural identity.
- Reconstruction in Bhaktapur Durbar Square is largely complete.

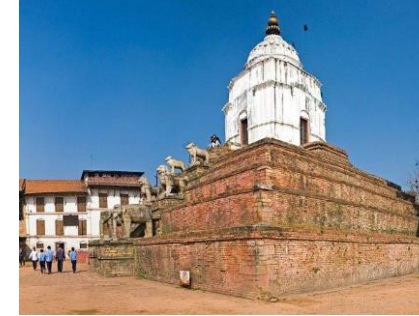
Tentative observation stations

1. Bhaktapur Durbar square

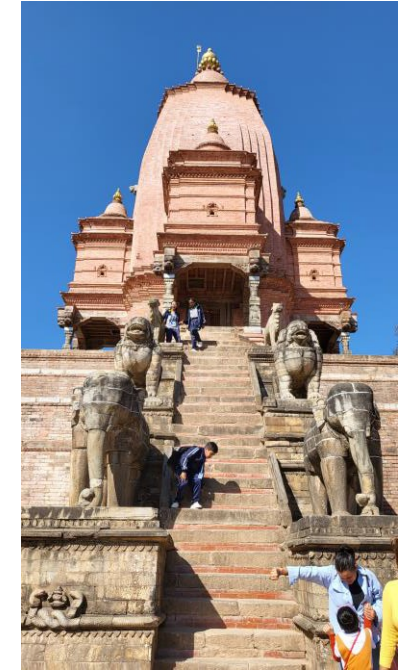
It is the most visited tourist attraction in Bhaktapur and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

1a. Fasi dega/Shilu Mahadev

- Shilu Mahadev was founded around 9th century.
- After 2015 earthquake, Bhaktapur Municipality reconstructed the temple into its original architectural style.



Before



After

1b. L shaped pati

- L shaped two storied structure in which lower storey is used as pati
- Used as rest houses for travelers, community gatherings or meetings, or prayer area.

1c. Siddhi Lakshmi temple

- Sikhara style temple dedicated to the tantric Goddess Siddhi Lakshmi which was built in the 17th century.
- Guard by a male and female attendant, a dog, horses, rhinoceros, camels and others.



Siddhi Lakshmi temple

1d. Chyasalin mandap

- Octagonal shape so that the eight sides would deflect the forces emanating from the Pashupatinath Temple from hitting the palace.
- Now used as a meeting place and a platform to watch plays and other events.

1e. 55 window palace

- The palace was built in 15th century AD with architectural details from the Malla period.
- Seated on a huge column top in a position of prayer to God is King Bhupatindra Malla.
- The main entrance to the palace is golden gate with detailed craftsmanship.



55 window palace



Chyasalin mandap



1f. Taleju Bahwani and Taleju bell

- Dedicated to a secret entity, personal guardian of Malla kings.
- Only Hindus are allowed inside the Taleju Temple.
- On the deathbed a Malla King would pass on the Mantra of Goddess Taleju to his heir.
- The Taleju Bell is used to mark the morning and evening prayers at Taleju Temple. PS: Photography is strictly not allowed inside the temple.



Nag Pokhari

1g. Nag pokhari or Royal Bath

- The royal bath to the palace was built in 1678 A.D. by Jitamitra Malla from a natural spring..
- The entire bath is encircled by huge snake structures.



Vatsala temple

1h. Vatsala Temple

- Shikhara style temple dedicated to Vatsala devi, is completely constructed in sandstone and is built upon a three-stage plinth.
- The temple was originally built by King Jitamitra Malla in 1696 A.D.
- Reconstructed by Municipality after 2015 earthquake

1i. Pashupatinath temple

- A replica of the original Pashupatinath Temple at Kathmandu, also known as Yakheswar Mahadev temple
- Built by King Yaksha Malla in the late fifteenth century.



Pashupatinath temple

1j. Chardham and Krishna mandir

- Replica of the Chardham of India was commissioned by Yaksha Malla in the 15th century with the intention of giving privilege to all.



Bhaktapur Durbar square



*Kedarnath temple (left), Badrinath Temple (right)
Gopinath Krishna Temple (middle)*

2. Pottery square; Bolacha tole

- Contains a genuinely authentic Newari clay pottery kilns, open drying areas.
- Along side the pottery square we can see The Jeth ganesh temple which was built in 1646 when a wealthy potter donated it to the square.



Pottery square

3. Taumadhi square

- Houses several temples, Bhairav temple, Sattal, water conduits, Maths (the Agam Chhen) and Dabus/Dabalis (platforms).
- This square treasures the wooden crafts used in Biska Jatra and the chariot is also assembled in this place.



Taumadhi square

3a. Nyatapola Temple

- Nyatapola in Newari language means five stories - the symbolic of five basic elements with five layers from the base.
- The highest pagoda of Nepal built with such architectural artistic beauty and dates back 1702 AD and dedicated to Shiddhalaxmi .
- It is said that it took three generations to complete that temple.
- Has survived all major earthquakes of Nepal.

3b. Bhairavnath temple and Dabali

- This rectangular shaped three storied pagoda is dedicated to Bhairava.
- Was razed to the grounds by the 1934 earthquake, and its renovation was undertaken by the Bhaktapur Municipality in 1995 and later after 2015 earthquake.

4. Dattatraye Square

- The oldest square among the four squares of Bhaktapur.
- Named after the Dattatraye temple , and we can see Bhimsen temple, Laxmi Narsing temple, Dabali, Peacock window alley, Pujari Math in the square.



Dattatraye square

4a. Dattatraye temple

- Was built during the reign of King Yaksha Malla and opened to public around 1486 A.D.
- Dedicated to Dattatraye, a personification of the Trimurti of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

4b. Bhimsen temple and dabali

- A two-tiered rectangular pagoda temple
- Was renovated lately in year 2018 by Bhaktapur Municipality.

4c. Pujari Math

- Was built as a residence-cum-office for the priest, or Mahanta of the Dattatrey temple.
- Four-storey Math, with height of eleven meters is arranged around three courtyards.
- All the courtyards are decorated with richly carved windows, pillars etc.
- It was the first Nepalese German restoration campaign by four expert German architects on 1975 AD.



Bhimsen Temple and dabali



Pujari Math