



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
Department of Archaeology

Introduction

The Department of Archaeology (DoA), established in 2009 BS (1952 AD) under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Nepal, serves as the prime organization for archaeological research and the safeguarding of the nation's cultural heritage.

DoA upholds the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct in all its endeavors.

As the principal governmental authority entrusted with the preservation and protection of Nepal's vast cultural heritage, the Department upholds the highest standards of stewardship, drawing its authority from the 'Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013' (1956 AD) under the provision of which the Department operates. This legal framework empowers the Department to:

- protect structures of archaeological, historical, artistic, and aesthetic value;
- govern its actions for the safeguarding of individual monuments, groups of monuments, sites, and even vernacular edifices, whether privately or publicly owned;
- regulate all archaeological activities



Vision

The Department of Archaeology (DoA) envisions a future where the rich tapestry of Nepalese history, culture, and archaeology is not only preserved but celebrated, fostering a profound connection between the past and present. Heritage Sites, and ensuring the responsible stewardship of our cultural legacy.

Our commitment lies in safeguarding monuments and archaeological sites, managing and enhancing World Cultural Heritage Sites, and ensuring the responsible stewardship of our cultural legacy.

Our Mission

Mission Statement



7-storey Nuwakot Durbar

Our mission is multifaceted and driven by a dedication to the cultural heritage of Nepal. We strive to conduct thorough archaeological exploration and excavation, publishing comprehensive reports to contribute to the global understanding of our shared history. Through meticulous research on Nepalese history, culture, and archaeology, we aim to deepen global knowledge and appreciation.

We are dedicated to collecting, researching, and publishing archival materials, developing and elevating museums, and preparing inventories of our cultural heritage. By actively combating the illicit trade of movable cultural property, we endeavor to protect our invaluable artifacts from exploitation.

Our Commitments



Petroglyphs at Mustang

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to preserving Nepal's historical treasures and cultural heritage. Our responsibilities extend to managing museums and archaeological objects, thereby contributing to the scholarly understanding and appreciation of the nation's cultural legacy.



Engaging with Communities

We are committed to providing technical assistance in documenting and protecting heritage at risks, including those in the remote areas, in close coordination with local and provincial levels and involvement of the communities concerned.



Ram Mandir, Dhanusha, Janakpur

Additionally, we are also committed to providing technical and financial assistance to local communities and agencies for monument conservation. Through these efforts, we aim to empower and involve communities in the preservation of their cultural heritage.

Our Scope of Work

Sections and Units

1. Planning and Administrative Section: Planning Unit | Finance Unit | Administrative Unit | Photography Unit | Legal Unit
2. Engineering Section
3. Heritage Conservation Section
4. Archaeological and Curio Check-pass Section
5. Chemical Conservation Section

Core Functions

1. Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage
 - a. Preservation of archaeological sites, monuments and objects of historical, artistic and aesthetic value
 - b. Maintenance of ancient monuments and significant cultural sites
2. Regulation and Compliance
 - a. Enforcement of Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013 (1956AD) for safeguarding of archaeological and cultural assets
 - b. Development of regulatory frameworks to govern archaeological activities, both private and public
3. Archaeological Exploration and Research
 - a. Conducting extensive archaeological explorations, surveys and excavations
 - b. Publication of findings and research reports to contribute to global historical and archaeological knowledge
4. Museum Management and Development
 - a. Managing museums to showcase and preserve historical, cultural and archaeological objects
 - b. Enhancing museum exhibits and improving accessibility for educational and cultural engagement
5. Cultural Heritage Inventory and Documentation
 - a. Creating and maintaining detailed inventories of Nepal's archaeological, historical and cultural assets
 - b. Researching and archiving Nepalese historical documents, artifacts and cultural materials



*Sawa Vakku - Halchowk
Bhairav Naach, Indra Jatra*



*Archaeological research of a tiered temple
foundation at Jaisidewal, Kathmandu*

6. Combating Illicit Trade of Cultural Property
 - a. Implementing measures to prevent and combat the illegal trade and trafficking of Nepalese cultural and archaeological artifacts
 - b. Collaborating with national and international agencies to recover and protect cultural property
7. Community Engagement and Education
 - a. Raising awareness about cultural heritage preservation through public campaigns, community programs and educational outreach
 - b. Providing financial and technical assistance to local communities for heritage conservation
8. World Heritage Site Management
 - a. Responsible stewardship and preservation of Nepal's Cultural World Heritage Sites
 - b. Promoting sustainable tourism and responsible management of heritage sites to balance cultural preservation with visitor engagement
9. Chemical Conservation
 - a. Through the use of appropriate chemicals, conserving both the newly discovered and old materials during excavations and restorations
 - b. Investigating the causes of deterioration in elements of historical, archaeological, religious and cultural importance, analyzing samples and maintaining scientific records of conservation works
 - c. Conducting chemical conservation on excavated objects, historically significant structures- temples, palaces, monasteries, etc. and World Heritage monuments with on-site inspection, study and research as deem necessary
10. Academic Contribution and Publication
 - a. Publishing Ancient Nepal, the journal of the Department of Archaeology, to foster scholarship and promote archaeological research
 - b. Publishing the inventory of Nepal's cultural heritage
 - d. Providing support and resources for academic studies on Nepalese culture and archaeology
11. Promotion of Cultural Identity and Legacy
 - a. Celebrating Nepal's rich historical and cultural tapestry by fostering a connection between the past and present
 - b. Promoting national pride and global recognition of Nepal's cultural legacy through exhibitions, research and cultural programs



*Wooden decorative strut
recovered from debris during
the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake*

Protected Monument Zone

As per the Section (3) of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013 (1956 AD), the Department of Archaeology can declare an area where ancient monument/s are situated and which are to be preserved as a 'Protected Monument Zone (PMZ)' by delineating the boundaries demarcation, in close cooperation with the local authorities concerned.

'Prior Approval of the Department of Archaeology is required within the Protected Monument Zone.'

The Department of Archaeology (DoA) is subsequently responsible for the protection of the site, including the prescription of building bylaws, approving requests for building permits and for any other construction activities within the zone. The DoA is given the authority to stop inappropriate and/or illegal building activities and to request for the demolition of unauthorized constructions.



The Janaki Temple Complex at Janakpur - A site on the Tentative List of World Heritage

Regulatory Frameworks

Acts and Laws

- [The Ancient Monument Protection Act 1956](#)
- [Ancient Monuments Preservation Rules 1989](#)

Guidance and Directives

- Heritage Impact Assessment Procedure, 2022
- Integrated Management Framework for the World Heritage Properties: Kathmandu Valley, 2007 & 2025; Lumbini, 2022
- Conservation and Reconstruction Guidelines for the Earthquake-damaged Heritage Structures, 2015, and its Manual, 2016
- Bylaws for the Conservation, Renovation and Preservation of the Private and Public Buildings within the PMZ, 2007 (2064 BS)

International Instruments

UNESCO Culture Conventions ratified by Nepal:

- [Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970](#)
- [Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972](#)
- [Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003](#)

Office under the Department of Archaeology

1. National Museum, Chhauni, Kathmandu

The National Museum is Nepal's premier museum showcasing a vast collection of artifacts that reflect the nation's rich cultural heritage. It includes exhibits of art, history and archaeology, offering visitors insight into Nepal's historical and artistic evolution.

2. National Numismatics Museum, Chhauni, Kathmandu

This museum specializes in the history of Nepalese coinage housing rare and ancient coins. The museum offers valuable insights into Nepal's economic history and the evolution of currency across different historical periods.

These offices collectively work to preserve Nepal's historical monuments, palaces, museums and artifacts, ensuring that the country's cultural heritage is protected and accessible for future generations.

3. National Art Museum, Bhaktapur

The museum houses an extensive collection of traditional Nepalese art, including paintings, sculptures and other forms of fine art, reflecting the artistic heritage of the region.

4. National Metalcraft Art Museum, Patan

This museum is dedicated to the art of metalcraft showcasing traditional and historical metal artifacts, including sculptures and tools. It celebrates Nepal's metalworking traditions and craftsmanship.

5. Hanumandhoka Durbar Herchaha Adda, Kathmandu

Situated in the historic Hanumandhoka Durbar Square PMZ, this office is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of the historic royal palace and surrounding monuments. It plays a vital role in protecting Kathmandu's cultural and architectural heritage.

6. Smarak Samraksyan tatha Durbar Herchah Adda, Patan

This office focuses on preserving and maintaining historic monuments and palatial structures, ensuring the longevity and authenticity of the culturally rich heritage of the Patan Durbar Square PMZ.



The Mediaeval Earthen Walled City of Lomanthang: A site on the Tentative List of World Heritage

7. Smarak Samraksyan tatha Durbar Herchah Adda, Bhaktapur

This office is responsible for the conservation and maintenance of monuments and palaces in Bhaktapur Durbar Square PMZ, one of the most historically significant cities in Nepal. It ensures the preservation of traditional Newar art and architecture.

8. Smarak Samraksyan tatha Durbar Herchah Adda, Nuwakot

This office is dedicated to the conservation and maintenance of monuments and the historic palace in Nuwakot, a site of cultural and historical significance that represents traditional Nepalese architecture and heritage.

9. Gorkha Durbar Museum, Gorkha

Located in the historic Gorkha Durbar, this museum features exhibits on the history and legacy of the Shah dynasty, including King Prithvi Narayan Shah, who unified Nepal. It highlights the historical importance of Gorkha in Nepal's nationhood.

10. Gorkha Durbar Herchaha Adda, Gorkha

This office manages the preservation and maintenance of the Gorkha Durbar PMZ, an important historical site that represents Nepal's unification history. It oversees maintenance and conservation efforts to protect this heritage site.

11. Kapilvastu Museum, Kapilvastu

This museum is situated near the birthplace of Buddha and features artifacts from the ancient Shakya Kingdom. It holds relics, sculptures and archaeological findings that reflect the cultural history of Kapilvastu.

World Heritage

Nepal has four sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, two in each of the 'Cultural' and 'Natural' categories. Nepal does not have sites under the 'Mixed' category.

Cultural World Heritage Sites

Kathmandu Valley (1979): The site with seven groups of monuments and buildings reflects the historic and cultural richness of Nepalese art and architecture, showcasing highly developed Newar craftsmanship in brick, stone, timber and bronze. The site includes following seven monument zones:



Seven monument zones, Kathmandu Valley

Pashupati | Swayambhu | Bauddhanath | Hanumandhoka Durbar Square | Patan Durbar Square | Bhaktapur Durbar Square | Changu Narayan

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (1997):

Located in the Rupandehi district, Lumbini is the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama. This site includes the Mayadevi Temple complex, including remains of various monastic ensembles symbolizing the origin of Buddhism. It holds immense spiritual significance and attracts pilgrims and visitors from around the world.



Archaeological remains at Lumbini

Natural World Heritage Sites

This includes following two sites managed and protected by Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation:

Sagarmatha National Park (1979)

Chitwan National Park (1984)

World Heritage Tentative List

This is an inventory of potential sites that a country considers suitable for World Heritage nomination. A site should be on the Tentative List (TL) at least one year prior to the submission of any nomination. A broad and balanced participation of various stakeholders/right-holders needs to be ensured in preparing the TL.



Nepal has 15 sites on the Tentative List. This should be periodically reviewed and an updated List should be submitted to UNESCO every ten years. Please find more information about Nepal's TL on the QR code.

Our Services

Verification to Prohibit and Prevent Illegal Transfer of Antiquities: Curio Clearance Certificate



Repatriated Saraswati of Pharping

As per the Section (13) of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013 (1965), the DoA through its Curio Check Pass Certificate controls the illicit transfer, transaction, export and collection of ancient monuments and archaeological objects, while promotes the export of handicrafts.

Recommendation for House Construction within the PMZ



Houses in the core of Bhaktapur

The DoA through its committee gives advice to the house owners as to the style or standard of the house or building to be constructed in the private open land within the PMZ; and to make necessary provisions with regard to conserving the historical, cultural, archaeological and religious values of the ancient monuments which have been regarded important from historical and artistic point of view.

Technical Assistance



Chorten at Tsharang, Mustang

The DoA provides the technical assistance to local communities and agencies for monument conservation. It also acts as a focal agency for the evaluation of the Heritage Impact Assessment for any activities in and around the PMZ, heritage/ archaeological sites or monument/s that may have a negative effect on the heritage structures and their values.

Our Publication



प्राचीन नेपाल
ANCIENT NEPAL

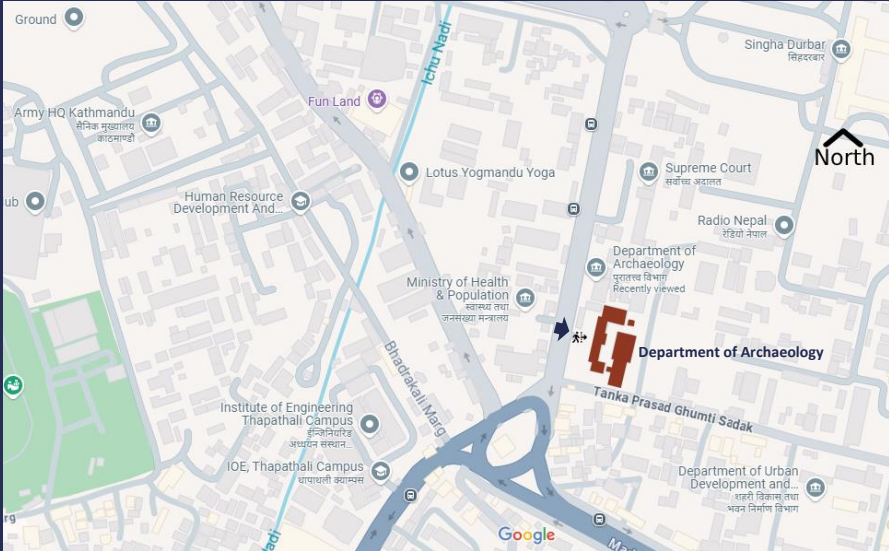
The DoA is not just an organization, but an advocate for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage. Through awareness campaigns and the publication of '[Ancient Nepal](#)', the journal of the Department of Archaeology, we seek to inspire a sense of responsibility and pride in safeguarding our shared legacy.

For more publication, [Click here](#) 



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Location Map



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Sunday - Thursday 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. | Friday 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Summer (Magh 16 to Kartik 15)

Sunday – Thursday 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. | Friday 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

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