

1. Lahore Museum

Lahore Museum's foundation stone was laid by Prince Albert Victor, the grandson of Queen Victoria in 1890 AD and its building architecture was designed by Lockwood Kipling and Bhai Ram Sing. It was opened for the public for first time in 1894 on the silver Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Lahore Museum is located on the Mall road, adjacent to the National College of Arts Lahore. Initially, the Museum was built in Wazir Khan's Baradari in 1855 in the center of a garden of date palms. After the passage of time, it was realized that the space of the Baradari had become inadequate for the ever-increasing exhibits in the Museum. When the Punjab Exhibition of Industrial Arts and Crafts was held in 1864, the collection of the Museum was transferred to the new Exhibition Hall, later called the Tollinton Market and in order to house the growing collection, a building catering to the permanent display of objects art became essential.

The present building was constructed in 1887 from local, provincial and imperial funds for the Punjab Exhibition of natural products, arts and manufactures. On its completion in 1894, the entire museum collection was transferred to present building with its new name as Jubilee Museum. Now the building of Museum is contiguous to the National College of Arts, commonly referred to as the Lahore

house of wonders (Ajaib Ghar). This building is standing there for the last 123 years and still holds a very prominent position in the monumental stock of Lahore.

It is one of the most remarkable museums in Pakistan. The museum compound is a distinct two-storey structure containing an auditorium and a library. This building is built in red brick and is part of the original cluster of Anglo-Mughal buildings. Internally, the museum presents one of the most exciting architectural spaces designed to set off the valuable displays.

The museum has a unique collection which suits to its architectural excellence. The museum displays some fine specimens of Mughal and Sikh doorways and wood-works and has a large collection of paintings dating back to Indo-Pakistan, Mughal, Sikh and British times. The museum is now also renowned for its extensive collection of Buddhist art from the ancient Indo-Greek and Gandhara kingdoms. It also boasts the finest example of the Gandhara sculpture, the masterpiece of Fasting Siddharta Buddha. The collection of musical instruments, ancient jewellery, coins, textile, poetry and armory are also displayed.

The Lahore Museum is now one of Pakistan's most visited and highly regarded museums. The museum, along with the Zamzama Gun located directly in front of the building, gives elegant to the city center of Lahore.

There's also a gallery in the Lahore Museum which is dedicated to tell the tale of the Pakistan Movement. This area of the museum focuses on the historical period between 1757 and 1947. You'll learn everything you need to know about the glories and trials of modern Pakistan through the many historical photographs here.

In addition to the main museum complex, there is a cafeteria, a bookshop. The specialists can gain access to the museum's world-renowned library, which has thousands of rare manuscripts.

Bibliography:

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