

Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Culture
Mawlai, Shillong, India



DON BOSCO MUSEUM

(North East India Under One Roof)

INAUGURATED BY SMT. SONIA GANDHI

(Friday, 5th March, 2010)

DON BOSCO MUSEUM at Mawlai, Shillong, a **well-known tourist destination today** showcases the entire North East of India under one roof. The seven storey Museum building rises into Shillong's skyline as a unique and landmark centre. The newly added **skywalk** provides the visitors a 360° view of the beautiful Queen City of the North East, namely, the historic Shillong. Equally attractive is the 28 feet by 25 feet relief map of the North East in fibreglass. Soon to be added are a ten feet by six feet fiberglass Map of Meghalaya [a gift from the Director Tourism, Meghalaya] and an equally large presentation of Shillong, both indicating the places of tourist attraction. All the galleries in the Don Bosco Museum are provided with Multimedia Presentations. Using state of the art technology, the Museum opens the wide door of knowledge to its visitors. The seven-storey Museum offers the visitor an unforgettable experience of the North East by means of over 14 aesthetically pleasing and informative galleries. It has an amazing collection of attire, accoutrements, weapons, ornamentation and rare photographs. This is also the largest cultural museum in the whole Asia as far as indigenous cultures of the North East are concerned.

Apart from its amazing galleries, Don Bosco Museum welcomes its visitors to have a breathtaking view of Shillong City from the Museum's **skywalk**.

Here is some information on each of the galleries:

1. Pre-History Gallery

The Prehistory gallery explains the history of Man's gradual evolution as expounded by a Physical Anthropologist.

2. Basketry Gallery

The village set-up so realistic of this gallery takes the visitor to the remotest corners of the Northeast.

3. Land and Peoples Gallery

This gallery provides a beautiful overview of the places and peoples of the Northeast: 32 large size photographs in colour, 26 in black and white and 18 lifesize fiberglass figures and 60 busts are an exciting presentation.

4. Musical Instruments Gallery

Here the eyes can feast on traditional musical instruments. When some of them come alive, they will mesmerize every visitor with their melodious music.

5. Fishing, Hunting and Gathering Gallery

The varieties of baskets used in fishing and the implements used in hunting and the types of containers used during harvesting are indeed astonishing.

6. Weapons Gallery

Weapons too are part of culture. Traditional weapons may not be used now-a days. But the gallery preserves them to recall the past and to remind us of how people struggled to protect themselves and their dear ones.

7. Agricultural Gallery

This gallery illustrates various agricultural practices by means of three beautiful dioramas. A 255 year-old mighty tree in the middle of this gallery is indeed a treasure.

8. Traditional Technology Gallery

The dioramas displaying pottery, wine-making, basket-making, blacksmithy, goldsmithy, weaving, wood-carving, leather works and cane-making provide a quick tour of the North East with appropriate explanations.

9. Costumes and Ornaments Gallery

This is another feast to the eyes. The display of traditional ornaments, shawls and colourful tribal costumes literally take the visitor to the farthest areas of the North East.

10. Housing Pattern Gallery

This gallery provides a glimpse of the socio-economic situation of the people of the North East.

11. Art Gallery

The Art Gallery displays all the eight States by means of their ancient artifacts and paintings.

12. Photo Gallery

The Photo Gallery houses a large number of rare photos from the North East depicting the cultural life of the people many decades ago.

13. Religion and Culture Gallery

Here twelve large panels guide the visitor through the major religious beliefs and cultures of the world.

14. Media and Culture Gallery

In this gallery one can sit back and enjoy some of the excellent dances of the North East. It is like going to all the States of the North East relaxing at the Don Bosco Museum!

From the DBCIC Visitors' Book

“I have travelled and been to museums in different parts of the world, but I have never visited such a detailed and spectacular collection of tribal art and culture. I am truly impressed and I offer my compliments to all those who have worked to set up this museum”

Smt. Sonia Gandhi

“A fascinating and informative collection of cultural and historical treasure of North-East India. I think this is the richest such treasure-house of this type anywhere in the world, exclusively displaying the heritage of the North-East of India...”

R. S. Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya

“Don Bosco Museum ... is the best of the Congregation... Congratulations”

(Fr. [Dr.] Pascual Chavez, Rector Major, International Society of Don Bosco)

“...I admired it exceptionally, I wish all the best because, Don Bosco Museum, is the pride of Meghalaya, North East and the Nation as a whole.”

(Dr. D.D. Lapang, Chief Minister, Meghalaya)

“A visit to the DBCIC is a truly wonderful and enriching experience. One learns of lesser known facts about the culture and tradition of the tribes of the North East. Coming here is like revisiting our roots. I am particularly fascinated by the section on musical instruments of the North East...”

Rebecca Suchiang, Commissioner & Secretary Tourism, Govt. of Meghalaya

“...I am leaving this museum with its special place in my heart. I am touched by its quality and perfect use of technology...”

(Anish Gandhi, Advisor to CM, Meghalaya)

The Museum is open Monday to Sunday

Summer : 09:30-17:30 Hrs (Sunday : 13:30-17:30 Hrs) Winter : 09:30-16:30 Hrs (Sunday ; 13:30-16:30 Hrs)

Contact Us

Director, DBCIC, Mawlai, Shillong, 793 008, Meghalaya, India
(0091) 0364 - 2550260 - 2550261 (Tel & Fax) + 91-9436118732, +91-9862179369 + 91-98631 48562 (DBCIC Bus)

Website : www.dbcic.org

Blog : www.dbcic.blogspot.com

e-mail : jputhen@gmail.com

dbcicshillong@gmail.com