

Mandala

"Circle"; a diagram used in meditation, representing the Buddhist cosmos of the mystic sphere of a Buddha or Bodhisattva.

Nirvana

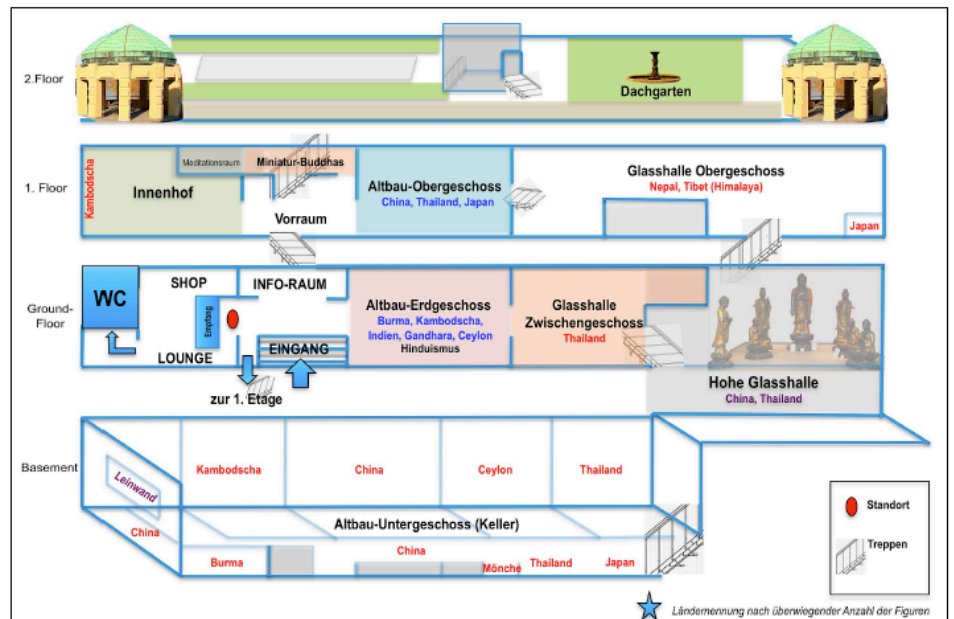
It is the state of being free from suffering. The word literally means "blowing out", referring in the Buddhist context to the blowing out of the fires of greed, hatred, and delusion. Parinirvana is the final Nirvana, which occurs upon the death of the body of someone who has attained complete awakening (Bodhi).

Ushnisha

Protuberance on the Buddha's head. Sign of enlightenment.



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The Unfolding of Buddhism around 250 B.C.

Hinayana (lesser vehicle) / Theravada
 (one of the 18 schools of early Buddhism)
 Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Laos
Around the birth of Christ: Mahayana
 (great vehicle to enlightenment)
 China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam
Vajrayana (Thunderbolt / Diamond Vehicle)
 (around 500 A.D.)
 Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Ladakh, Sikkim, Mongolia,
 part of Russia, Japan (under the name of Shingon)

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