



**BUDDHA-MUSEUM**  
**TRABEN-TRARBACH**



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**Opening Hours:**

Tuesday – Sunday  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m (Monday: Closed)



**Ground floor: First exhibition hall**

The majority of the Buddhas in this room are from Burma (Myanmar) and Cambodia.

The centre of the hall is occupied by a group of Mandalay Buddhas from Burma.

On the windowsills you will see what appear to be sleeping Buddhas. In fact these are Buddhas entering the "Parinirvana", which means the definite Nirvana. In other words, they are dying or dead. Nirvana is difficult to explain, but certainly it is the end of Samsara or "continuous flow"; the Buddha will not be born again.

We would like to draw your attention to the glass case on the left side. There you will find many Buddhas from Cambodia made up of bronze from 7th Century and four Gandhara Buddhas. Gandhara, now called Taxila, was situated in the border region between what is today Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is the place where Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) was forced by his troops, who were unwilling to continue the conquest of Asia, to return to Macedonia. It was here where artisans created statues of Buddhas in the form of human beings for the first time in history. In previous years Buddha was represented by the wheel of the law, for instance or by



a leaf of the Bodhi tree, under which the Buddha attained his enlightenment, or by his footprint, etc.

These four Buddhas from Gandhara show Greek-Roman influence in their faces, their hairstyles and their robes, while their gestures (Mudra), the way they sit and on what they sit (lotus flowers) show Indian-Buddhist influence. In other words, the form is from the West, and the content is from India.

There are Buddhas known as "village-Buddhas" because it is not known either by whom or where and when these Buddhas were made. All we know is that they are from Burma, most likely from the Shan States in the northern part of the country. Persons who hoped for a better Karma financed the manufacture of these Buddhas or created them on their own. A Buddha does not sit, stand or lie on the naked floor but always on a pedestal. This pedestal might be a lotus flower or some animal such as an elephant or a mystical beast. Or the stand might be Mount Meru (Sumeru), the axis of the universe and the homestead of the Indian gods. On the right hand side you will see two non-Buddhist Indian gods: Ganesha with an elephant's head, and Krishna, playing the flute, being an avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu.

