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MEDIA RELEASE



The Asian Civilisations Museum Bids Farewell To Rare Buddhist Art With Overnight Opening

This weekend will be the last chance for visitors to view Buddhist treasures and the holy relics of Buddha on display at its On The Nalanda Trail exhibition

[20 March 2008, SINGAPORE] Visitors who don't have time to visit museums during the day will have no excuse this weekend. To mark the closing weekend of *On The Nalanda Trail: Buddhism in India, China and Southeast Asia*, the Asian Civilisations Museum will be hosting **24hrs@ACM**, an all-night event from 22 – 23 March 2008. **The museum will be open all through Saturday (22 March) night and admission is free on both days.**

The event is only the second time any museum in Singapore has stayed open through the night. The ACM was also the first to do so when it closed its *Journey of Faith: Art and History from the Vatican Collections* exhibition in 2005. The event saw more than 13,000 visitors thronging the museum over two days, with queues forming even past midnight.

The weekend event is also the last chance for visitors to catch the *On The Nalanda Trail* exhibition, which features the bone relics of Buddha and some of the best and most important Buddhist art in Asia. The exhibition traces the spread of Buddhism from its birthplace in India to China and Southeast Asia. Highlights include the bone relics of Buddha, stunning early Buddhist sculptures and rare silk paintings from the Dunhuang grottoes along the Silk Road.

Apart from free admission to the museum, visitors can also enjoy a host of activities including a midnight docu-marathon, 'live' music performances, chanting sessions by Buddhist monks from local temples, guided tours and children's craft for families.

24hrs@ACM begins at 9am, 22 March, Saturday, and ends at 7pm, 23 March, Sunday. Admission to the museum is free and special programmes will run throughout the night and day. The event also brings ACM's On The Nalanda Trail: Buddhism in India, China and Southeast Asia exhibition to a close. More details on the programme are available at www.acm.org.sg.

About the Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum's mission is to explore and present the cultures and civilisations of Asia, so as to promote awareness and appreciation of the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans and their links to Southeast Asia and the world. The Asian Civilisations Museum first began its operations at Armenian Street in 1997, moving to the historic Empress Place Building in 2003. The Armenian Street premises which will re-open as the new Peranakan Museum on 26 April 2008 will showcase the world's most comprehensive collection of Peranakan artefacts.



For more information and pictures, please contact:

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Opening Hours

Mondays : 1pm – 7pm
Tuesdays – Sundays : 9am – 7pm (to 9pm on Fridays)