

## ABOUT

*The world at your feet*

**The Bata Shoe Museum** is the life project of a determined individual with a keen eye for footwear. This passionate collector has been scouring the globe for unusual shoes for decades, resulting in a spectacularly diverse collection found nowhere else in the world.

**The shoebox-shaped building**, located in the heart of downtown Toronto, welcomes you with its distinctive contemporary architecture, spacious and light-filled.

**Three changing exhibitions and one semi-permanent exhibition** mean there is always something new to explore, while lectures, performances, special events and family programs provide further insight.

**Stepping into one of the Museum's enchanting galleries** is like entering another world, one where the craftsmanship and creativity of the footwear is complemented and put into context by a specially created environment.

**The objects in the Museum span thousands of years**, six continents and many walks of life. Footwear is presented as a key to understanding cultures. Revealing attitudes to childhood, marriage, work, leisure, beliefs, social life and so much more, a visit to the Museum will enhance your appreciation of human ingenuity and captivate your imagination.

## VISITING

*Hours and holidays*

Monday to Saturday	10 am-5 pm
Thursday	10 am-8 pm
Sunday	12 pm-5 pm

Allow 1.5 to 2 hours to visit  
Open every day except December 25 and Good Friday  
Wheelchair accessible

## ADMISSIONS

*Tax included*

Adults	\$12
Seniors	\$10
Students (with ID)	\$6
Children 5 - 17 (under 5 free)	\$4
Family Pass 1	\$18
(1 adult and up to 4 children under 18)	
Family Pass 2	\$30
(2 adults and up to 4 children under 18)	
Different prices during March Break	
Group tour bookings: call 416.979.7799 x242	

## DIRECTIONS

*In the heart of downtown*

### By subway

From the St. George subway station, walk to the southwest corner of Bloor Street West and St. George

### Parking possibilities

Holiday Inn (on Bloor Street, across from the Museum)  
9 Bedford Rd (north of Bloor St., east of St. George)  
465 Huron St (north of Bloor St., west of St. George)

# BATA SHOE MUSEUM



Fish-shaped wooden patlika with inlaid brass wire featuring stylised scales and tail fins. As creatures of boundless liberty, fish appear as saviours in Indian myth, and as avatars, incarnations of the deities Vishnu and Varuna. South Bengal. Photo: John Bigelow Taylor

**Bata Shoe Museum**  
327 Bloor Street West (at St. George)  
Toronto ON M5S 1W7  
416.979.7799  
[www.batashoemuseum.ca](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca)  
[www.allaboutshoes.ca](http://www.allaboutshoes.ca)



for the curious



# EXHIBITIONS



## All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages

A fascinating look at the many facets of footwear ~ Its evolution and symbolism through the ages ~ The methods and materials of its manufacture ~ Its place in our lives and imaginations ~ Also on view are celebrity shoes of the 20th century.

*A qabqab such as this would have been worn by Syrian women in bathhouses. This 19th-century example is decorated with inlaid mother-of-pearl.*



## On Pointe: The Rise of the Ballet Shoe

The evolution of the ballet shoe is the focus of this exhibition which partners the Bata Shoe Museum with Canada's National Ballet School ~ Juxtaposing the brute athleticism of the discipline with the illusion of effortless grace created through performance, *On Pointe* explores how the pointe shoe has been pivotal to pushing the boundaries of ballet.

*One of Canada's most famous ballerinas, Karen Kain began studying ballet at Canada's National Ballet School at the age of eleven and by 1971 was the principal dancer for the National Ballet of Canada. Today she is the company's Artistic Director. This well-worn Freed pointe shoe is one from a pair donated by Ms. Kain to the Museum in 1993.*



## Chronicles of Riches: Treasures from the Bata Shoe Museum

Traditional Somali sandals with soles carefully made from 13 layers of rawhide ~ Silver stilt shoes which were a bride's wedding present in Istanbul 100 years ago ~ Even Napoleon's socks, worn when he languished in exile ~ Imagine yourself stepping behind the scenes into the Museum's private storage area, and experience the most treasured shoes from a world-renowned collection.

*Mojari of the Nizam of Hyderabad, India, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, early 1800s. This mojari is embellished with gold metal thread and embroidery, as well as rubies, diamonds and emeralds set in enamelled gold.*



## Beauty, Identity, Pride: Native North American Footwear

Skillfully crafted shoes, boots and moccasins created by North America's indigenous peoples, up close and in context ~ Outstanding designs, meticulous methods of creation, and beautiful original patterns including intricate beading and quillwork.

*Moccasin, Sioux, c.1880-90. Shoes and leggings decorated with elaborate quillwork in strong geometric designs were worn by both Sioux men and women. Quills could be dyed any number of vibrant colours, but the Sioux tended to favour bright red and yellow for their footwear.*

