

## NEPAL

Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property was inscribed in 1979 as seven Monument Zones. These monument zones include the Durbar squares, or urban centres, with their palaces, temples and public spaces of the three cities of Kathmandu (Hanuman Dhoka), Patan and Bhaktapur; and the two Hindu centres of Pashupatinath and Changu Narayan and the two Buddhist centres of Swayambunath and Boudhanath.



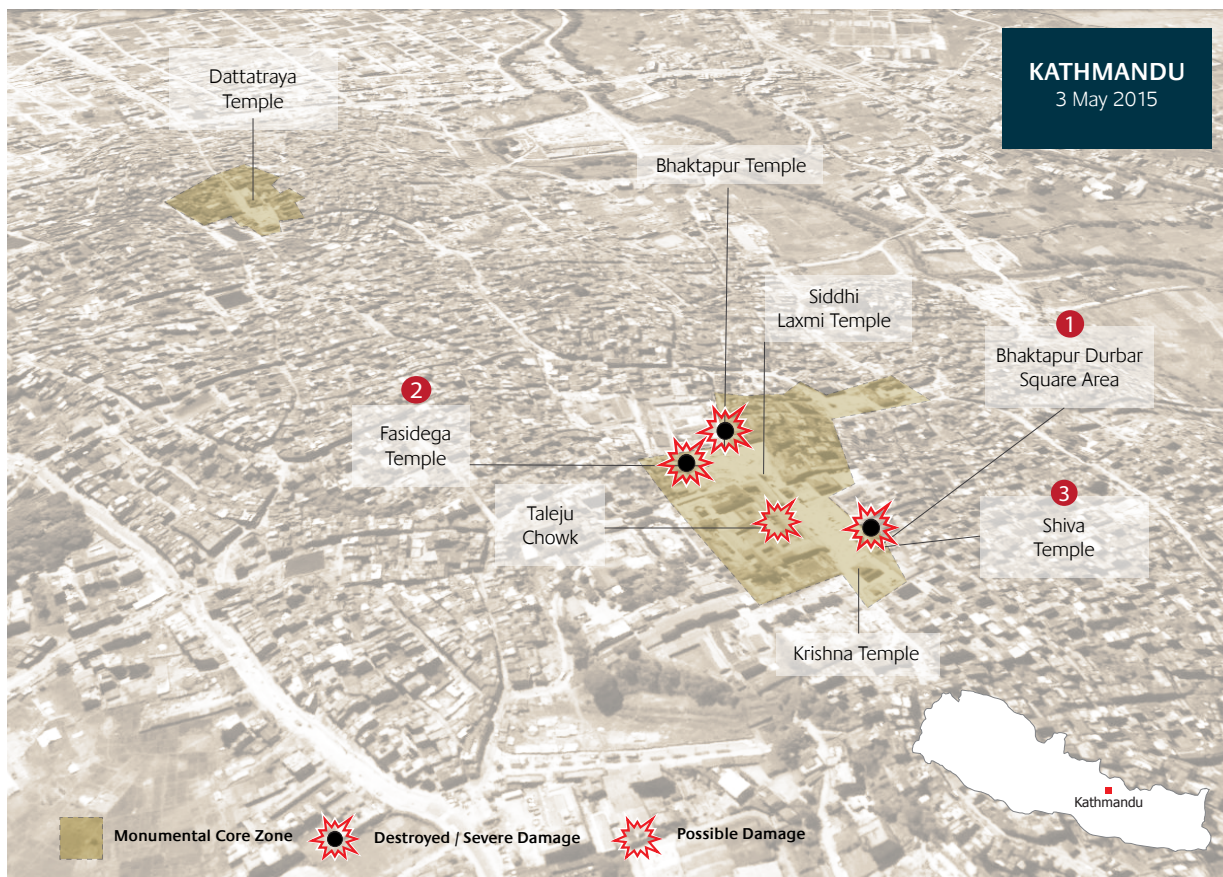
The religious ensemble of **Swayambhu** includes the oldest Buddhist monument (a stupa) in the Valley; Boudhanath includes the largest stupa in Nepal; Pashupati has an extensive Hindu temple precinct, and Changu Narayan comprises a traditional Newari settlement, and a Hindu temple complex with one of the earliest inscriptions in the **Kathmandu Valley** dating from the 5th century AD. The unique tiered temples are mostly made of fired brick with mud mortar and timber structures. The roofs are covered with small overlapping terracotta tiles, with gilded brass ornamentation. The windows, doorways and roof struts have rich decorative carvings. The stupas have simple but powerful forms with massive, whitewashed hemispheres supporting gilded cubes with the all-seeing eternal Buddha eyes. As Buddhism and Hinduism developed and changed over the centuries throughout Asia, both religions prospered in Nepal and produced a powerful artistic and architectural fusion beginning as early as the 5th century AD, but truly coming into its own in the 300-year period between 1,500 and 1,800 AD. These monuments were defined by the outstanding cultural traditions of the Newars, manifested in their unique urban settlements, buildings and structures with intricate ornamentation displaying outstanding craftsmanship in brick, stone, timber and bronze, which are some of the most highly developed in the world.

On 25 April 2015, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.8 hit the region. The monuments and sites of six of the seven Monuments Zones within the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property suffered extensive damage, as well as most of the other cultural and natural heritage sites located in the affected area.

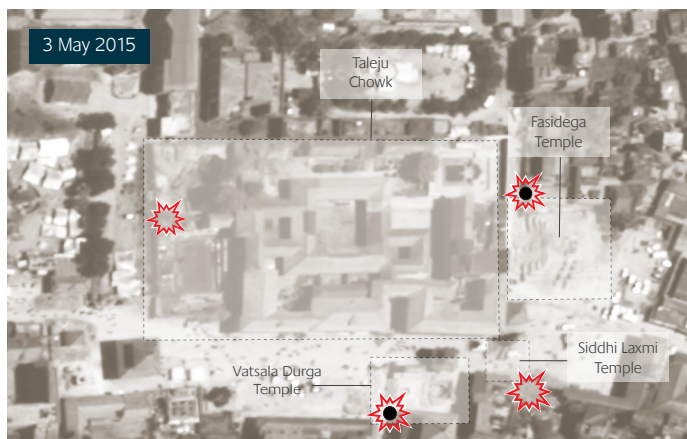
Boudhanath was the only monument zone which did not suffer visible damage that could be observed in satellite imagery. Regarding the other six monumental zones, a total of 175 structures (monuments and buildings) located in the core and buffer zones were affected: 43 structures have been destroyed, 53 structures show severe damage and 79 have been moderately damaged. Satellite image analysis of Bhaktapur Durbar Square Monumental Zone from 3 May 2015 shows severe damage to Fasidaga Temple and Vatsala Durga Temple and moderate damage to Taleju Chowk and Siddhi Lazmi Temple as seen in the UN-ASIGN\* pictures on page 8. Inside the perimeter of the monumental zone, a total of 45 structures were identified in satellite imagery as affected by the earthquake.



\*Free mobile phone app for taking geo-located pictures and sending these automatically to UNOSAT server at CERN.  
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Source: Digital Globe WorldView 2 ©2016, 3 May 2015. Satellite imagery analysis by UNITAR-UNOSAT.



Bhaktapur Durbar Square Monument Zone shows severely damage to the Fasidega Temple and Vatsala Durga Temple and moderate damage to the Taleju Chowk and Siddhi Lazmi Temples. Inside the perimeter of the monument zone a total of 45 structures were affected by the earthquake.

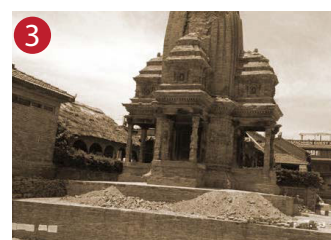
Source: Digital Globe WorldView 2 ©2016, 3 May 2015. Satellite imagery analysis by UNITAR-UNOSAT.



Bhaktapur Durbar Square, 5 May 2015. Photo: UNOSAT UN-ASIGN ©2015.



Fasidega Temple, 5 May 2015. Photo: UNOSAT UN-ASIGN ©2015.



Shiva Temple, 5 May 2015. Photo: UNOSAT UN-ASIGN ©2015.