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S H A N G R I L A

SHANGRI LA FACT SHEET

Mission. In her will, American heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912 – 1993) created the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) to manage her estate known as Shangri La and to *“promote the study and understanding of Middle Eastern art and culture; make this property available to scholars, students and others interested in the furtherance and preservation of Islamic art; and make the premises open to the public.”*

Description. Located on five acres of waterfront property with spectacular views of the ocean and Diamond Head, Shangri La was built between 1936 – 1938 as Doris Duke’s Honolulu home and Islamic-style retreat. Under Duke’s supervision, architect Marion Sims Wyeth designed an estate that features architectural elements from the Islamic world. The main house, approximately 14,000 square feet, is built around a central patio that is open to the sky. It is furnished with art, furniture and built-in architectural elements from Iran, Morocco, Turkey, Spain, Syria, Egypt and India. The Playhouse, a reduced-scale version of the 17th-century Chihul Sutun, a royal pavilion in Isfahan, Iran, houses a central recreational room and two guestrooms. The main house and Playhouse are separated by a 75-foot swimming pool, water terraces and steps of white marble. The landscape blends an Indian Mughal garden and water features with tropical gardens and vistas of the Pacific Ocean.

Collections. Shangri La houses more than 3,500 objects from the Islamic world, including painted ceilings, doors, marble screens, tile panels, ceramics, textiles, carpets and paintings.

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Owned and supported by the
Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art

An avid and knowledgeable collector, Doris Duke first began collecting Islamic art during her honeymoon travels through the Middle East and India in 1935. She continued to build her collections and incorporate them into Shangri La until the end of her life – a sustained effort of nearly 60 years. Overall, Shangri La is both a significant and diverse collection of Islamic art and a reflection of Duke’s unique and personal sense of aesthetics.

Preserving Shangri La. The public rooms of the main house at Shangri La have been preserved and rehabilitated to reflect their use and appearance during Doris Duke’s life. In addition to repairs, maintenance and conservation of artwork, upgrades have been made to accommodate public use and wheelchair access. Future restoration projects will include preservation of the private bedroom wing, kitchen and pantry, the Damascus Room (an 18th-century interior from Syria), the Playhouse and caretaker’s cottage, and implementation of an historical landscaping plan. As preservation work is completed, the restored rooms will be added to the public tours.

Reservations and Tickets. Shangri La has been open to the public for small group tours since November 6, 2002. Admission is by guided tour only and advance reservations are required. Tickets may need to be reserved several months in advance. Group reservations and school tours are not available at this time. All tours start at the Honolulu Academy of Arts (900 South Beretania Street, between Victoria Street and Ward Avenue). Groups of 12 are transported to Shangri La by minivan. Tickets are \$25, which includes van transportation from the Academy to Shangri La, as well as admission to the Academy’s permanent exhibitions. Discounted tickets are available for \$20 to Hawaii residents with proof of local residency. All tickets are nonrefundable.

New Local Number for Shangri La Ticket Reservations. Tours for Shangri La can now be booked locally by calling the Shangri La Information Line at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. The new local number for reservations is 532-DUKE (532-3853). The toll free number, 1-866-DUKE-TIX (1-866-385-3849), is still available for out-of-state calls.

The Shangri La Information Line is operated Wednesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (2 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time). Anyone calling after hours can leave a message on the Shangri La Information Line with their name, phone number and time zone and a ticket agent will return the call. Payment must be made at the time of reservation using a major credit card. Inquiries should be directed to shangrilatickets@honoluluacademy.org.

Tickets are issued for a specific date and time of entry and are non-refundable.

Tickets are sent to purchasers via U.S. mail. For visitors who have purchased tickets within seven days prior to their tour date, tickets will be processed and held for pickup at the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

Guided Tours. Small group tours begin at the Honolulu Academy of Arts with a viewing of the *Arts of the Islamic World* exhibition and a short video introducing Shangri La. Groups of 12 then board a minivan for a 15-minute drive to Shangri La. Guided tours of the estate feature the public rooms of the main residence and portions of the grounds, including the entry courtyard, foyer, living room, *mihrab*, dining room, lanai (covered patio), the upper lawn with views of the Playhouse, pool and water terraces, the Turkish room and the Mughal Garden. After approximately 1½ hours at Shangri La, minivans return visitors to the Honolulu Academy of Arts, where they may tour exhibitions, have lunch and visit the Academy Shop, depending upon the time of day.

Days and Hours of Operation. Beginning on November 6, 2002, Shangri La tours will be offered Wednesday through Saturday, with the first tour beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the last tour beginning at 1:30 p.m. All tours start at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. Shangri La is closed to the public throughout the month of September and on New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Wheelchair Accessibility. People in wheelchairs can access all rooms currently on the guided tour. Shangri La is equipped with one accessible restroom, a wheelchair lift, ramps and one ADA-compliant parking stall. Because the vans that transport guests to Shangri La are not wheelchair-accessible, people in wheelchairs should call the Shangri La Visitor Services Coordinator at (808) 532-3853 to make arrangements for transportation and parking at least one week in advance of their scheduled tour time.

Other Ways to See Shangri La. People who cannot visit Shangri La in person are encouraged to take advantage of the following resources:

Video – An introductory video on Shangri La is available in the Academy’s *Arts of the Islamic World* gallery exhibition and can be viewed any time during normal Academy hours. Closed captioning is provided for the hearing impaired.

Web site –Extensive information is available on the Shangri La Web site at www.shangrilahawaii.org. A room-by-room virtual tour, highlights of the collections, information about Doris Duke including historical photographs and a timeline, and updates on programs, conservation and historic preservation are included.

Book – A fully illustrated book entitled *Doris Duke’s Shangri La* is available for purchase in the Academy Shop or may be ordered from their Website at www.honoluluacademy.org. The book is also available on PDF format on the Shangri La Web site at www.shangrilahawaii.org. The 72-page book includes 63 photographs and offers readers a glimpse inside the walls of Duke’s famous retreat. Authors Carol Bier, research associate at The Textile Museum in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Sharon Littlefield, curator at Shangri La, discuss the history and evolution of Shangri La, Duke’s attraction to Islamic art and Hawaii, and her role as a collector.

Educational Programs. As part of its partnership with the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the DDFIA also supports a wide range of educational programs on Islamic art and culture at the Academy, including temporary exhibitions, films, performances, festivals, lectures and workshops. For information on events and exhibitions, visit the Academy's Web site at www.honoluluacademy.org or call (808) 532-8700.

Operating Permit. Shangri La's permit from the City and County of Honolulu allows for limited field studies, educational programs and accommodation of scholars working in areas of interest to DDFIA. The permit limits public access to four days per week, and up to 96 people per day. Because parking is not permitted at Shangri La or in the surrounding neighborhood, all tours start at the Honolulu Academy of Arts with transportation to Shangri La by minivan.

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