

Museum der
Kulturen Basel

5 September 2025
– 26 April 2026

The path to



the beyond

mkb.ch

The path to the beyond

What happens after death? The deceased, or rather their soul, set out on a journey to the beyond. The exhibition shows how societies imagine this transition from one world to the next.

The journey begins in this world with mortuary and funerary rites to make sure that the deceased embark on the right path. Usually, they are not alone on their journey. Instead, they are provided company or given things to take with them. In Bali, they have to undergo a complex soul purification process.

According to the Tibetan Book of the Dead 'Bardo Thodol', the soul remains in a transitional state for 49 days during which it encounters both pleasant and unpleasant apparitions.

After arriving in the afterworld, the deceased are by no means forgotten. Their descendants back home keep their memory alive, and as ancestors they have the power to influence what goes on in this world significantly.

For further information, guided tours, events, and offers for schools, please visit our website mkb.ch.



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Opening hours
Tue – Sun 10.00 – 17.00
First Wednesday of the month
10.00 – 20.00

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