

Buddhist India Tour

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14 Days/13 Nights

This journey is designed to explore besides, the Buddhist shrines, Hindu holy town "Varanasi" and have glimpse of Himalayan Kingdom "Nepal". This exotic tour covers Bodhgaya where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, Nalanda to visit ruined monastic university of 5th century, Rajgir the holy place of Jains and Buddhist, Varanasi the ancient Hindu pilgrimage center, Sarnath where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, Kushinagar where Lord Buddha passed away and was cremated, Lumbini the birth place of Lord Buddha, Pokhra the city of lakes and Katmandu the capital of Nepal

ITINERARY - Delhi - Jaipur - Agra - Lucknow - Saravasti - Lumbini - Kushinagar Patna - Bodhgaya - Varanasi - Delhi

Duration - 14 Days

DAY 01. ARRIVE DELHI

Morning arrive Delhi and transfer to hotel. Afternoon combined guided tour of Old and New Delhi includes Jammia Masjid Mosque, Cycle rickshaw ride through Chandni chowk, Red Fort, drive through India Gate and Parliament house, Qutab Minar and Humayuns Tomb.

DAY 02. DELHI - JAIPUR Drive 261 Km.

After breakfast depart and drive to Jaipur, arrive by early noon and check in at hotel. Afternoon visit City Palace, Hawa Mahal and Observatory.

DAY 03. IN JAIPUR

Morning visit Amber Fort, former capital of the intensive Jaipur state until Jai Singh II moved down to the plains. From the base of the hill we will enjoy elephant ride up to the fortress palace built by Maharaja Man Singh (1592 - 1615). Afternoon at leisure for personal exploration.

DAY 04. JAIPUR - AGRA Drive 231 Km.

Morning depart and drive to Agra. En route visit Fatehpur Sikri the abandoned city of Akbar. Arrive Agra and check in at hotel. rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 05. AGRA - LUCKNOW Night Train 5314 Dep. 1730 Arr. 0855

Next day Full day to explore the marble wonder "Taj Mahal", Agra fort built by Emperor Akbar as his citadel over the years 1565 - 73, Akbar's Tomb at Sikandra. Evening transfer to Railway station and board the night train for Lucknow.

DAY 06. ARRIVE LUCKNOW - SARAVASTI Drive 180 Km. 4 ½ hrs. Approx.

Arrive Lucknow at 0855 and drive to Saravasti and check in at hotel. Rest of the day to explore Saravasti, the capital of ancient kingdom of Khosala, has the honor of sheltering Buddha for 24 rainy seasons in the Jetvana Garden. Saravasti has age old Stupas, majestic monasteries and several temples.

DAY 07. SARAVASTI - LUMBINI Drive 205 Km. 4 ½ hrs Approx.

Morning depart and drive to Lumbini, the birth place of Buddha. Lumbini is situated across Indian border, in Nepal. Arrive and check in at hotel. Rest of the day to explore Lumbini.

DAY 08. LUMBINI - KUSHINAGAR Drive 165 Km. 4 hrs Approx.

Morning depart and drive to Kushinagar. Arrive and check in at hotel. Rest of the day to explore this town, here Lord Buddha breathed his last. A temple dedicated to the event the Mahaparinirvana today stand amidst a serene Sal grove. The huge statue of Reclining Buddha, excavated in 1867 at the temple, is one of the most momentous of all sights for the devout. Apart from this temple Mata Kunwar Shrine and Rambhar Stupa are the monuments worth visiting. Rambhar Stupa is the spot where Buddha is supposed to be cremated.

DAY 09. KUSHINAGAR - PATNA Via VAISHALI Drive 280 Km.

After breakfast depart and drive to Patna, en route visit Vaishali, where Lord Buddha delivered his last sermon and announced his impending nirvana. Places worth visiting here are Abhishek Pushkarni, Ashok Pillar, Lotus tank, Chaumukhi mahadeo and Vaishali museum. After exploration of Vaishali continue drive to Patna, arrive and check in at hotel.

DAY 10. PATNA - BODHGAYA Via Nalanda and Rajgir Drive 181 Km.

Early morning depart and drive to Bodhgaya , en route explore Nalanda and Rajgir. In Nalanda, explore the ruined monastic university, which was a center of great learning, it reached its zenith between 5th and 12th Century AD and was blessed by the visits of both Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavir. An international center for Buddhist studies was established here in 1951. Rajgir means the Royal Palace. Gridhakuta Hill here is the seat from where Lord Buddha delivered many of his sermons. It was here that the teachings of Lord Buddha were written for the first time. There is ropeway to reach Shanti Stupa located on the hill. Other tourist attractions are King Ajatshatru's Fort and Saptdhara, a hot water spring. Late evening arrive Bodhgaya and check in at hotel.

DAY 11. IN BODHGAYA

Full day to explore Bodhgaya and surroundings.

Bodhgaya is the most important Buddhist pilgrimage center. This is the place where Lord Buddha entered into meditation. The giant Bodhi tree that we see today is believed to have grown from the original Bodhi tree under which Lord Buddha (prince Siddharth) meditated and attained Nirvana. The magnificent Maha Bodhi temple here is an architectural amalgamation of many cultures. On the walls of temples various aspects of Lord Buddha are carved beautifully.

DAY 12. BODHGAYA - VARANASI Drive 243 Km. 8 hrs Approx.

Morning depart and drive to Varanasi, arrive by afternoon and check in at hotel. Late afternoon explore the temples and town.

DAY 13. VARANASI - DELHI Fly

Early morning boat ride to witness the rituals around the Ghats. After breakfast drive to Sarnath, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartan) after attaining Niravana. The beginning of celebrated mantra Buddham Sharanam Gachhami owes its origin to Sarnath. Other interesting sites are Dhamekh Stupa, Dharmajajika Stupa, Ashoka Pillar and Mulgandhakuti temple. Afternoon transfer to airport for Delhi flight. Arrive and transfer to hotel.

DAY 14. DEPARTURE

Transfer to international airport for homeward flight

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