



THE BUDDHIST CIRCUIT - 14 DAYS

Overview:

Buddhism explains a purpose to life through deep understanding of human mind, body and soul; it signifies peace & harmony. The Buddhist Circuit is a pilgrimage trip to Nepal and India. It is a journey to sacred Buddhist sites, where major milestones of Buddha's life took place. His birth in Lumbini to his enlightenment at Bodhgaya, this trip is of great importance not only to Buddhists but also for Hindu and Jain devotees. This journey helps discover the historic importance and culture that was once practiced by Buddha and is still followed throughout the world.

Trip Facts:

Destination: Nepal, India

Theme: Spiritual

Activity: Tour

Difficulty: Easy

Max Altitude: 1,750 m/ 5,740 ft

Best Season: September - April

Highlights:

- At Lumbini the birthplace of Lord Buddha, visit the numerous international monuments constructed in devotion to the Buddha.
- Throughout the journey, visit many significant sites where Lord Buddha lived and attained unsurpassed, supreme Enlightenment.
- Visit the holy place of Sarnath where the Buddha preached his first discourse to set in motion the 'Wheel of the Dharma'.



Itinerary at glance:

Day	Program	Accommodation
1	Arrive in Kathmandu	Hotel
2	In Kathmandu	Hotel
3	Visit Namobuddha via Bhaktapur	Hotel
4	Drive to Lumbini	Hotel
5	In Lumbini	Hotel
6	Lumbini – Kushinagar	Hotel
7	Kushinagar – Vaishali – Patna	Hotel
8	Patna - Nalanda – Rajgir	Hotel
9	Rajgir – Bodhgaya	Hotel
10	Bodhgaya	Hotel
11	Bodhgaya	Hotel
12	Bodhgaya – Varanasi	Hotel
13	Varanasi – Sarnath – Varanasi	Hotel
14	Departure	

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Kathmandu

Upon arrival in Kathmandu, you will be met by our airport representative and transferred to the hotel. Rest of the day will be at leisure.

Overnight at Hotel [-/-/-]

Day 2: In Kathmandu

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to **Kopan Monastery**. A Tibetan Buddhist Monastery and a popular center for courses on Buddhism and other Tibetan related subjects, this monastery was once the home of the astrologer to the King of Nepal.



Boudhanath Stupa: The stupa's massive mandala makes it one of the largest spherical stupas in Nepal. The ancient stupa is one of the largest in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Swayambhunath Stupa is a UNESCO WORLD Heritage Site. This ancient stupa is the most sacred Buddhist shrines of Nepal.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 3: Visit Namobuddha via Bhaktapur

After breakfast drive to Namobuddha, one of the holiest Buddhist Sites. It is located on a slightly elevated land, glistened with distant snow-capped mountains, and adorned with fluttering prayer flags.

After the sightseeing, drive to Bhaktapur and visit the ancient city.

Bhaktapur or Bhadgaon translates as the 'City of Devotees'. Still untouched by rapid urbanization, Bhaktapur retains its charm by its brick paved roads, red brick houses and a way of life that goes back to medieval times.

Drive back to Kathmandu and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 4: Drive to Lumbini

Distance: 300kms/ 186 miles

Drive Time: 7-8 hours approx.

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Lumbini.



Lumbini in the Terai plains of Nepal is the birthplace of Lord Buddha and one of the greatest pilgrimage sites for Buddhists. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Culture) and holds immense archeological and religious importance.

Upon reaching Lumbini, you will be transferred to the hotel. You can relax for some time and later visit World Peace Pagoda & Lumbini Crane Sanctuary.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 5: In Lumbini

After breakfast visit the archaeological sites scattered around Lumbini, all bearing significance to the life and enlightenment of the Buddha. The Myanmar Temple (LokamaniCula Pagoda), The China Temple, built by the Buddhist Association of China, is a complex of pagodas, prayer rooms and meditation cells. Across the road is the Dae Sung Suk GaSa Korean Temple and The Japan Peace Stupa, built by Nippon Jon Kyohoji of Japan.

There are other beautiful monuments and temples that have been built by Vietnam, Thailand, Mongolia, France, Germany, and Sri Lanka.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 6: Lumbini –Kushinagar

Today we drive from Lumbini to Kushinagar, India. Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site; this is where Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]



Day 7: Kushinagar – Vaishali– Patna

Overland to visit Vaishali, during one of his visits here, the Buddha was offered a bowl of honey by a monkey. This incident is mentioned as one of the eight great events in his life.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 8: Patna - Nalanda–Rajgir

Overland to Rajgir, where Lord Buddha gave important teachings on transcendental wisdom, on the way visit the ruins of the famous Nalanda monastic university.

Further, drive to Rajgir. Rajgir has been closely related to Buddhism because it has played host to Lord Buddha and has many archeological sites related to Buddhism.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 9: Rajgir – Bodhgaya

Today you will be transferred to Bodhgaya. Bodhgaya is one of the most important places in the history of Buddhism, where Lord Buddha awakened to the ways to end all suffering. This is where the Buddha attained unsurpassed, supreme Enlightenment.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 10: Bodhgaya

Explore Bodhgaya. For Buddhists, Bodh Gaya is the most important of the main four pilgrimage sites related to the life of Gautama Buddha, the other three being Kushinagar,



Lumbini, and Sarnath. In 2002, Mahabodhi Temple, located in Bodhgaya, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 11: In Bodhgaya

Stay in Bodhgaya exploring the town.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 12: Bodhgaya – Varanasi

Drive to Varanasi, the heart of India.

Varanasi also known as Benares, Banaras, or Kashi, is a city on the banks of the Ganges (Ganga) in Uttar Pradesh. The city is sacred to Hindus and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 13: Varanasi –Sarnath– Varanasi

After attaining enlightenment at Bodhgaya, the Buddha went to Sarnath, and it was here that he preached his first discourse in the deer park to set in motion the 'Wheel of the Dharma'. It is one of the most holy sites as in this place the stream of the Buddha's teaching first flowed.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]



Day 14: Final Departure

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your onward journey. [B]

Trip Ends

Note: All information in this itinerary is accurate to the best of our knowledge but please note that changes to our trips can and do occur. This may be due to our effort to improve our program or logistical reasons such as changes in flight schedules, traffic conditions, weather conditions, or government policies. Dharma Adventures will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes but cannot be held liable for any alterations made to the published itinerary.

[B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner]

Trip Includes:

Nepal Portion

- Arrival and departure transfers.
- Assistance at the airport and transfer to the hotel.
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation in Kathmandu in twin sharing room on bed and breakfast basis.
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Lumbini in twin sharing room on bed and breakfast basis.
- Surface transfer from Kathmandu – Lumbini.
- All sightseeing in Kathmandu and Lumbini by private vehicle with local English-speaking guide.
- Entrance fee of monuments as per the above itinerary.



India Portion

- 1 night accommodation at hotel in Khusinagar in twin sharing room on full board basis.
- 1 night accommodation at hotel in Patna on in twin sharing room on full board basis.
- 1 night accommodation at hotel in Rajgir in twin sharing room on full board basis.
- 3 nights' accommodation at hotel in Bodhgaya in twin sharing room on full board basis.
- 2 nights' accommodation at hotel in Varanasi in twin sharing room on full board basis.
- All sightseeing by private vehicle with local English-speaking guide.
- Entrance fee of monuments as per the above itinerary.

Trip Extras:

- Nepal visa fee.
- India visa fee.
- International airfare and airport tax.
- Items of personal nature such as bar bills, alcoholic beverages, laundry, telephone calls, extra mileage, personal gratuities as tips to guide, porters, drivers etc.
- Personal insurance policy – suggested a comprehensive travel insurance covering tour and flight cancellations, loss of valuables, thefts, illness, accidents and hospitalization; and most of all Emergency Helicopter Evacuation.
- Expenses incurred by re-routing, inclement weather, floods, famine, political disruptions, strikes, riots and other disturbances.
- Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary.