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# Pilgrimage to Buddhist holy sites in India October 14 – 31, 2025

The trip starts in Sarnath (Varanasi) on the evening October the 14th, and ends in Bodhgaya on the morning October the 31st.

# **1.ITINERY**

## 1.SARNATH (Site of the Buddha's First Sermon)

**14th Oct** Arrival. Check in at a Tibetan or Thai Monastery. 18:30 Chanting of the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta (first sermon of the Buddha) and meditation.

**15th Oct** Morning meditation. We visit Sarnath (the site of the Buddha's first sermon). Meditation at the Deer Park; visit to Mūlagandhakutī Vihara and the archaeological museum.. Big Buddha statue.

In the evening, boat trip on the Ganges and free time in Varanasi.

**16th Oct** Mahabodhi Temple with Buddha relics, meditation. Breakfast (or take breakfast and drive for the sunrise in Varanasi). Free time in Varanasi. Lunch and rest. 18:00 Chanting of the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta and meditation.

## Stay 3Night In Sarnath, 14,15,16

## 2.SHRAVASTI (This is where the Buddha spent most of his life and gave most of his teachings)

17th Oct Morning departure from Sarnath, arriving in the evening. We meditate, rest.18th Oct We visit the monasteries of Jetavana and the ancient stupas of Angulimala and Anathapindika.

Stay 2night In Shravasti, 17,18

## 3.LUMBINI, NEPAL (birthplace of Buddha)

**19th Oct** After breakfast head for Lumbini. On the way we visit the Piprahwa Stupa, where Buddha's relics were found and are kept in the Delhi Museum.

**20th Oct** Morning Mayadevi Temple (where Buddha was born). In the afternoon visit Kapilavastu (where the Buddha grew up). Kudan Where Rahul ordain. Gotiwah and Niglawah Where Previous Buddha Kanakmuni and Konagaman Born

21st Oct Enjoy Lumbini Garden - visit various monasteries and meditation centres.

## Stay 3Nights In Lumbini, 19,20,21st

## 4.KUSHINAGAR (site of Buddha's death and cremation)

22nd Oct After breakfast head for Kushinagar.

23rd Oct Mahāparinibbāna temple and Ramabhar stupa. Thai temple, Relics Distribution Place

## Stay 2night :- 22,23rd In Kushinagar, Tibet Temple

#### 5. VAISHALI (the Mahāparinibbāna Sutta is set here, where the Licchavis lived)

24th Oct after Breakfast drive to Vaishali, visit Kesariya stupa on the way, arrive in the evening.25th Oct Ashoka stupa. We visit the park, the archaeological museum, the Shanti stupa meditation centre, the Vietnamese monastery.

## Stay 2Night :- 24,25th in Vaishali Vietnamese Temple

6.NALANDA - RAJGIR (Here the Buddha spent time both in solitude and in several monasteries donated to him)

26th Oct Morning departure for Rajgir. Visit the ruins of Nalanda University.27th Oct Vulture Peak, Jīvaka Mango Grove, ruins of King Bimbisara Prison, Bamboo Grove.

## Stay 2 night 26,27th Oct, Veerayatan Jain Nunnery

#### 7.BODHGAYA (Buddha's place of enlightenment)

28th Oct 5:00 a.m. Hike to Saptarni Cave (site of the first recitation of the Tipitaka).

Breakfast at 8am. After Breakfast Visit Veluvan.

After Lunch departure for Bodhgaya, enjoying the Mahabodhi Temple and meditation under the Bodhi tree.29th Oct Morning meditation under the Bodhi tree. After breakfast at Dungeshwari cave, Sujata Stupa.Museum.

**30th Oct**, :- After Breakfast Brahmayoni Mountain (where the Buddha gave his third teaching). After Lunch Visit, 80feet Buddha statue, Different Monasteries. Evening Meditation Under Body Tree and Final Metta. End Of the Pilgrimage

Stay 3 Night:- 28,29,30th Oct

## 31st Oct

Option for Trekking to Maha Kassapa Mountain also know as Gurupa. Its 30-45min drive from bodhagaya. Details about this mountain is here <u>https://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/pilgrim/pg\_07.htm</u> Treking is Difficult Level. Those who has heart or Asthma condition, not recommended.