

BUDDHAGAYA

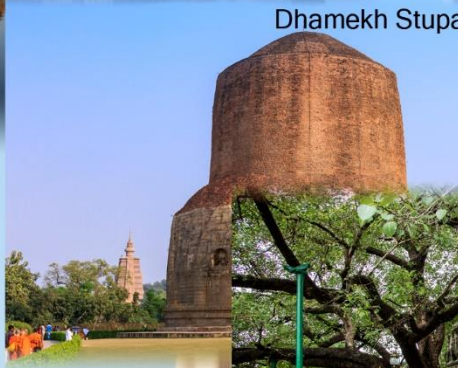
Lumbini temple complex



Ruins of stupa at Vaishali



Dhamekh Stupa, Sarnath



Mahabodhi Tree



Mahabodhi Temple



A charming & spiritually uplifting experience of a lifetime

Monks at Bodhgaya



Shanti Stupa, Pokhara



Suren Balasuriya

Mayadevi Temple grounds



Parinirvana Stupa, Kushinagar



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iDestiny Travel

Day 1

Arrive at New Delhi and spend the day at leisure.



New Delhi skyline in the afternoon sunlight

Day 2

Transfer to Varanasi. In the afternoon visit Sarnath (historically referred to as the Deer Park in Isipatana), the place where the Buddha preached his first sermon, the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, after he had attained Enlightenment at Buddhagaya.



The Sarnath Stupa and the ruins in the stupa grounds

Visit the Sarnath Museum. In the evening, attend the Sarnath Temple to partake in religious activities.

Day 3

Transfer to Buddhagaya and visit the Mahabodhi Temple grounds in the afternoon. It is one of the four holy sites related to the life of Lord Buddha, with particular significance to the attainment of Enlightenment. The property encompasses the most significant remains from the 5th-6th century A.D. in the Indian sub-continent.

Day 3 (cont.)

The present Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Buddhagaya comprises the 50-metre-high grand Temple, the Vajrasana, sacred Bodhi Tree and six other sacred sites associated with the Buddha's Enlightenment, surrounded by numerous ancient votive stupas, well maintained and protected by inner, middle and outer circular boundaries.



Mahabodhi Temple complex at Buddhagaya

A seventh sacred place, the Lotus Pond, is located outside the enclosure to the south.

Day 4

Visit the sacred Bodhi Tree at the Mahabodhi Temple where Lord Buddha gained Enlightenment, venerate at the Great Buddha Statue and visit other nearby temples. This will be a time for your own religious activities and to set upon a path to achieve peace and tranquility of mind amidst these sacred surroundings.



The sacred Bodhi Tree at the Mahabodhi Temple

Day 5

Travel to Rajgir and visit the World Peace Stupa by Cable Car (from here one can see a glimpse of Vulture Peak Mountain), Bimbisara Jail where King Bimbisara was held captive by his own son and the Sonbhandar Caves.



Shanti Stupa, Pokhara, Nepal

Visit Nalanda and explore ruins of the world's oldest University containing the ruins of numerous Buddhist stupas and monasteries.



Ruins at the Nalanda University

Day 6

Transfer to Kushinagar (historically known as Kusinara). Enroute, visit Vaishali, the first city to which Prince Siddhartha Gautama came after renouncing the princely life to receive his initial spiritual training from Uddaka Ramaputra and Alara Kalama. After his Enlightenment, the Buddha frequently visited Vaishali. It was here that the Buddha established the Bhikshuni Sangha, initiating his maternal Aunt Maha Prajapati Gautami into the order.

Day 6 (cont.)

Visit the Mahaparinirvana Temple and Ramabhar Stupa, the cremation site of Lord Buddha.



Mahaparinirvana Stupa at Vaishali

Day 7

Drive to Lumbini in Nepal, the birth place of Lord Buddha, for a formal religious ceremony with time set aside for personal religious activities as per individual requirements.



The temple complex at Lumbini

Day 8

Visit Kapilvastu, historically known as Kapilavastu, the birthplace and the place of residence of Prince Siddhartha Gautama for 29 years prior to his renunciation of a worldly life to set upon his quest to obtain Buddhahood.

Continue the journey to Sravasti in present day Uttar Pradesh. Sravasti was one of the largest cities in the region at the time of the Buddha

Day 8 (cont.)

The ancient walls of the city remain visible. Inside the walls, visit Angulimala and Anathapindika Stupas, as well as the ruins of ancient stupas and buildings.

Visit the ancient Jetavana Monastery site located just outside the old city of Savatthi, where to this day, the last remains of Lord Buddha's hut (or Gandhakuti) can be seen. This is the monastery where the Buddha gave the majority of his discourses and teachings, having spent 19 of the 45 rains retreats (or Vassas) in this sacred monastery.

Venerate and self-reflect at the Anandabodhi Tree located in front of the gateway to the ancient monastery. This is the Bodhi-tree planted by Anāthapindika himself.



Ruins of the Jetavana Monastery

Day 9

Enjoy the air-conditioned comfort of a train journey to Agra and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 10

Visit the world-famous Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays), built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains.

Visit and marvel at the colossal Agra Fort, built by Mughal Emperor Akbar over the period 1565-1573 A.D. The complex was subsequently expanded by his son Shah Jahan.

Day 10 (cont.)



The world-famous Taj Mahal

The prominent edifices inside the Agra Fort include the Jahangiri Mahal, the principal residence of the royal women, Khas Mahal, a private palace built by the Emperor Shah Jahan for his daughters, Anguri Bagh, the vineyard and gardens with intricate geometric patterns, the ornamental bath Shish Mahal and Musamman Burj where Shah Jahan died as a captive of his own son Aurangzeb, spending his last days gazing at the Taj Mahal he had built.

Day 11

Morning tour of Old and New Delhi. Drive past India Gate (war memorial) and the embassy region (diplomatic enclave), historic government buildings dating back to 1921 - 1930, President House and Parliament House.



Historic government building in New Delhi

Depart for home with life-changing memories of the most sacred of sites associated with the life of Gautama Buddha.

Package Inclusions:

Price includes the following:

- All transfers, tours and intercity transport in air-conditioned vehicles as per the itinerary.
- 10 nights' accommodation based on Double/Twin sharing at hotels listed above or similar.
- Meals as shown in the tour itinerary.
- English speaking local guide provided at Buddhagaya, Nalanda/Rajgir, Varanasi and Agra up to a group size of 9 travellers. Accompanying English speaking guide provided from Varanasi to Lucknow. Local English speaking guide in Agra/Delhi during city tours.
- Train fare for sector Lucknow-Agra in air-conditioned carriage.
- Current available airfares including taxes for sector Delhi-Varanasi (airfares are subject to change).
- Entry / Admission Fees at the places to be visited as per the itinerary.

Package Exclusions:

Price excludes the following:

- International airfares and taxes.
- Visas and associated fees.
- Travel insurance.
- Beverage purchases.
- Expenses of a personal nature (e.g., phone calls, mini-bar purchases).
- Camera fees.
- Tips and portage.
- Any other items not specified above.

Have questions? Call us on 1300 200 100 or email us at sales@idestinytravel.com.au

