

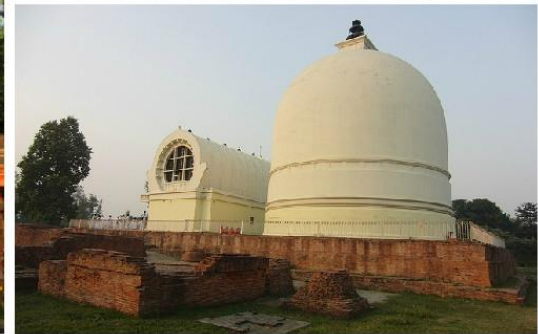
The Land of Buddha

09 Nights / 10 Days

1N Delhi – 1N Varanasi – 2N Bodhgaya – 1N Patna – 1N
Kushinagar – 1N Lumbini
– 1N Sravasti – 1 N Agra

PACKAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Varanasi – Excursion of Sarnath Temple followed by evening Aarti visit on the Ghats
- Varanasi – Ganges and Ghats in Varanasi & Sarnath city, Boat ride on river Ganges
- Bodhgaya – Mahabodhi Temple Complex – UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bodhgaya Archaeological Museum (Small collection of Buddhist sculpture from the 1st century B.C, to the 11th century A.D) and Sujata House (Temple dedicated to an Uruvela tribeswoman)
- Rajgir & Nalanda – Ancient Buddhist University, Vishwa Shanti Stupa (Marble structure with niches bearing golden images of the Buddha), Griddhakuta, Venuvana Vihara
- Enroute visit Vaishali (Emperor Ashoka, in the third century B.C. erected one of his famous lion pillars here)
- Kushinagar – Rambhar Stupa (Marks Buddha's cremation ground), Mukutabandha Vihara (Funeral pyre) & Mahaparinirvana Temple
- Lumbini – Lumbini Grove, The Rummendei pillar and The Mayadevi Temple
- Saravasti – Miracle Stupa, Sravasti Stupas, Maheth, Sobhanath Temple and Angulimala's Stupa
- Agra – Visit Taj Mahal & Agra Fort.
- Assistance at airport and sightseeing tours by private air-conditioned vehicle
- Start in Varanasi and End in New Delhi



ITINERARY:

Day 01 Arrival in Delhi

Meet our representative upon arrival in Delhi and check-in at the hotel. India's capital & a major gateway to the country, Delhi is contemporary and a bustling metropolis which

successfully combines in its fold the ancient & the modern. Its strategic location was one of the prime reasons why successive dynasties chose it as their seat of power. New Delhi also reflects the legacy the British left behind. Overnight in Delhi.

Day 02 Delhi – Varanasi (By Flight)

After breakfast transfer to Airport to connect flight to Varanasi. Arrival at Varanasi Airport and transfer to hotel at Varanasi. Varanasi is called as spiritual capital of India, the city draws pilgrims who bathe in the River Ganges' sacred waters and perform funeral rites. Along its winding streets are some 2,000 Temples, including Kashi Vishwanath, the "Golden Temple," dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Check-in at the hotel upon arrival. Later, witness the evening Aarti or prayer ceremony on the banks of the Ganga... it is truly a sublime experience, Evening return back to hotel. Overnight in Varanasi.

Day 03 Sightseeing and Drive from Varanasi – Bodhgaya (260 Kms/6 Hours).

Early morning, enjoy a sublime boat ride on the Ganges River. Almost midway in its journey from Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, the Ganges flows by Varanasi. According to Hindu belief, Varanasi is the cosmic center of the Universe. Visit the numerous Ghats along the bank of the Ganges, presenting a varied scene from dawn to dusk. There are five important Ghats in Varanasi where pilgrims flock to take a bath—the Assi, Dasawamedha, Barnasangam, Panchganga, and Manikarnika. Visit the Benaras Hindu University, the largest residential university in Asia, a center of Sanskrit, Indian art, culture, and music. Proceed for the excursion to Sarnath. Sarnath is famous as the place where the Buddha first preached his message after attaining nirvana. Visit the Dhamek Stupa – the largest in the region, and marks the spot where the Buddha proclaimed his faith in front of his first five followers. The main excavation site in Sarnath is a vast expanse of low-lying structures, showing various facets of Buddhist history. The earliest and most important relic is found here is the Ashoka pillar, erected in 250 BC. Four lions representing the spirit of India sit back to back with a wheel between them. This symbol has been adopted as the national emblem of modern India. Later drive to Bodhgaya. Check-in at hotel. Overnight stay in Bodhgaya.

Day 04 Sightseeing of Bodhgaya

After breakfast, proceed to explore this ancient city, covering Mahabodhi Temple Complex– The Temple stands in the east to the Bodhi Tree. Inside the Temple, in the main sanctum, there is a colossal image of the Buddha in sitting posture touching the earth by his right hand. Temple also showcases the various aspects of Buddha's life and his journey to attain enlightenment. This place is also popularly listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Later visit, Bodhgaya Archaeological Museum which houses a small

collection of Buddhist sculpture from the 1st century B.C, to the 11th century A.D. And, Sujata House – Temple dedicated to an Uruvela tribeswoman, who offered food to the starving Siddhartha. Overnight in Bodhgaya.

Day 05 Drive from Bodhgaya – Rajgir – Nalanda – Patna (220 kms / approx. 5 hours)

After breakfast, drive to Rajgir and enroute visit Nalanda, the ancient Buddhist university, one of the world's oldest university founded in the 5th century. Also visit monasteries and Temples with impressive Buddhist & Hindu images. The Institute for research in Buddhism and Pali literature which houses rare manuscripts is also worth visiting for the enthusiasts. After Nalanda, drive further to Rajgir. During the lifetime of the Buddha, Rajgir was the capital of the powerful Magadh kingdom, ruled by the virtuous king Bimbisara. Visit the Vishwa Shanti Stupa. It is a marble structure with niches bearing golden images of the Buddha, built by the Nipponza Myohoji sect of Japan. Also, cover Griddhakuta – a rock protrusion resembling a vulture's beak, probably gave the hill its name. In the rock cut caves here the Buddha spent many rainy seasons, meditating and preaching. Venuvana Vihara– Site of the monastery Venuvana Vihar built by king Bimbisara for Lord Buddha to reside. This was the king's first offering to Lord Buddha. Jivakameavan Gardens: Seat of the Royal Physician's dispensary where Lord Buddha was once brought to have wound dressed by Jivaka, the royal physician during the reign of Ajatshatru and Bimbisara. Continue your drive and arrive in Patna. Check-in at the hotel. Overnight stay in Patna.

Day 06 Drive from Patna – Vaishali – Kesaria – Kushinagar (300 kms / approx. 7 hours)

After breakfast, visiting Vaishali and Kesaria en route to Kushinagar. Vaishali is an important site for Buddhists and Jains alike; it was a flourishing city during the rule of the Maurya dynasty in the 3rd to 1st centuries BC and later during the Gupta dynasty (AD 320–550). It was the capital of the Licchavi republic, one of several tribal republics that once flourished in northern India. Such republics operated as some of the first formal democratic societies in the world, with representatives of the tribe meeting in a large assembly hall, presided over by a nonhereditary chief or raja, and debating and resolving issues through consensus or, if needed, by voting. A large mound excavated at Vaishali is believed to be an example of one of these ancient meeting places. The Kesaria Stupa is huge at nearly 30 metres in height. Remarkably it was largely unknown in modern times and only fully excavated by Archaeological Survey of India in 1998. It is believed to date back to somewhere around 200 AD and 750 AD has a circumference of almost 1400 ft. This amazing stupa serves as a splendid example of Buddhist architecture and archaeological preservation. Arrive and check-in at your hotel. Overnight in Kushinagar.

Day 07 Sightseeing and Drive from Kushinagar – Lumbini (170 kms / approx. 4.5 hours)

After breakfast Explore Kushinagar – the place that the Buddha chose for his Mahaparinirvana or final exit from this earth. There are several new monasteries and Temples. Visit the Rambhar Stupa that marks Buddha’s cremation ground. Mahakashyapa lit the funeral pyre at Mukutabandha Vihara (Rambhar Stupa) in Kushinagar. Today not much remains of this stupa expect a large brick mound rising to a height of almost 15 meters set within a well-kept park. Also Visit Mahaparinirvana Temple. Later, drive to Lumbini. Arrive and check-in at your hotel. Overnight in Lumbini.

Day 08 Sightseeing and Drive from Lumbini – Sravasti (220 kms / approx. 6 hours)

After breakfast visit to Lumbini Grove, The Rummendei pillar and The Mayadevi Temple. Later in day drive to Sravasti en-route visiting Kapilvastu. Arrive and check-in at your hotel. Overnight in Sravasti.

Day 09 Sightseeing and Drive from Sravasti – Lucknow (200 kms / approx. 5 hours)

Lucknow/Agra Train (15:55/21:55 Hrs)

After breakfast visit to Miracle Stupa, Sravasti Stupas, Maheth, Sobhanath Temple and Angulimala's Stupa. Later drive to Lucknow Railway station to connect train to Agra. Arrive Agra and transfer to your hotel. Overnight stay in Agra.

Day 10 Sightseeing and Drive from Agra – New Delhi (200 kms / approx. 4 hours)

After breakfast visit the Red Fort, which was commissioned in 1565 by Akbar. The beautiful yet forbidding structure is a handsome example of Mughal architecture. Later, visit the Taj Mahal ... a mausoleum built as a symbol of Emperor Shah Jehan’s devotion to his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. Considered an architectural marvel, its construction took thousands of workers over 21 years to complete. Later proceed to New Delhi Airport to connect onward flight.

End of services.

HOTELS OFFERED:

City	Nights	Category A	Category B
Delhi	1	Park Inn By Radisson	Surya International
Varanasi	1	Amayaa	City Inn
Bodhgaya	2	Nikko Lotus	Delta

Patna	1	Patliputra Exotica	Gargee Grand
Kushinagar	1	Nikko Lotus	Adelphi Grand
Lumbini	1	Redsun	Nansce
Sravasti	1	Nikko Lotus	Mahamaya
Agra	1	Four Points By Sheraton	Taj Vilas

PACKAGE COST IN US\$	Category A	Category B
Cost Per Person when 2 Pax Travelling	1285	1165
Cost Per Person when 3 Pax Travelling	1130	990
Cost Per Person when 4 Pax Travelling	1045	915

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- 9 night accommodation in well-appointed rooms as mentioned below hotels or equivalent
- Assistance at the airport in Varanasi & New Delhi
- All meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
- Train Ticket for the sector Lucknow/Agra travelling in AC Chair Car.
- Entrance Fees during City Tour.
- Services of English Speaking Escort/Guide.
- Common Boat Ride in river Ganges – Varanasi.
- Sightseeing as per itinerary by private tourist vehicle
- Driver's allowances, toll taxes and Govt. Service Tax

PACAKAGE EXCLUSIONS:

- ✓ Air tickets and airport taxes
- ✓ Nepal Visa Fees @ USD 25 Nett per person which guest has to pay directly in Lumbini Border.
- ✓ Items of personal nature like laundry, phone calls, tips to guides / drivers etc.
- ✓ Camera/Video camera fees applicable at monuments

NOTE:

Monuments closed on
Bodhgaya – Museum will closed on Friday
Varanasi – Sarnath Museum will closed on Friday
Hotel Check in 1400hrs and check out 1200hrs
Package is valid from October'16 till March'17
Not Valid from 15 Dec'16 to 15 Jan'17

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

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