

10 Days Buddhist Pilgrimage

Delhi-Lucknow-Sravasti-Kushinagar-Vaishali-Patna-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi-Agra
(Dep: Daily) – Min 8pax – IC

DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI (MOB)

Depart KLIA on Indian Airlines via Bangkok. Met upon arrival from your international flight and transfer to your Hotel. Overnight at Hotel.

DAY 02: DELHI-LUCKNOW-SRAVASTI (BLD)

Early morning in time transfer to station to board Shatabdi Express departing at 0615 Hours for Lucknow (air-con chair car seating). Breakfast served on board the train by railway authorities. Arrive into Lucknow by 1230 hours. Met upon arrival and proceed with lunch at local restaurant. After lunch, depart by surface for Sravasti, 175 Kms/4 Hours drive. Arrive in Sravasti and check-in at your Hotel. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.

DAY 03: SRAVASTI-KUSHINAGAR (BLD)

After breakfast at hotel, check-out and visit Proceed with the **Jetavana monastery** at Sravasti, the capital of the Kosala kingdom, was the scene of many a sermon of Buddha and has been identified with the twin sites of **Saheth-Meheth**, located in Gonda and Bahraich Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Excavations conducted between 1907 and 1911 have revealed at Saheth, representing ancient Jetavana, a number of shrines, monasteries and stupas, the earliest of which, probably of the Mauryan age, yielded a sandstone casket containing bone-relics together with a gold leaf and a silver punch-marked coin. Maheth, representing Sravasti, is a fortified town with ruins of residential houses as well as brick stupas and shrines, one of which exhumed more than three hundred terracotta panels, depicting scenes from the Ramayana in the Gupta style. After visit depart by surface for Lumbini with packed lunch. En route visiting Kapilavastu. The little village of Piprahwa is identified as Kapilavastu, the capital of the Sakyas, where the Lord Buddha spent the first thirty years of his life. Excavations were conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India between 1971 and 1977. In a Stupa that was excavated, referred to as the Eastern Stupa, by archaeologists, an inscription was found dating back to the Kushan period. Its text read Om Devaputra Vihare Kapilavastu bhikku sanghasa (This is the Devaputra Vihara of the Kapilavastu bhikshu sangha). One and a half kilometers from the site there are two excavated mounds. The larger one is a thick walled structure, which according to local belief, was Suddhodana's palace. There is a small Sri Lankan monastery and temple, Mahinda Mahavihara, in the vicinity of the ruins. Arrive in Kushinagar and check-in at your Hotel. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.

DAY 04: KUSHINAGAR-VAISHALI-PATNA (BLD)

After breakfast at hotel, proceed with the sightseeing tour of Kushinagar, Buddha's last journey led him to Kushinagar. Here at the age of 80 Buddha passed into Mahaparinirvana. Buddha was finally freed from the eternal cycle of re-birth leaving with us all the wisdom and knowledge of his remarkable life. The famous sites are Mahaparinirvana temple and Ramabhar Stupa where Buddha was cremated. Also visits the Muktabandhana Stupa built by Malla Dynasty to house Buddha's relics after the cremation.

After visit, depart by surface for Patna, en route visiting Vaishali with packed lunch. Vaishali holds an important place in



the life of Lord Buddha. He visited Vaishali on three occasions. It was here that he announced his approaching Nirvana to his disciples. The famous lion pillar erected by the Emperor Ashoka to mark this portentous event still stands today. During the second great Buddhist council held at Vaishali about 100 years after Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana, a Stupa was erected to house one eighth of the enlightened urn's funeral visited Vaishali in the 5th & 7th centuries respectively. At Vaishali Museum, you will see figures, old coins and photographs of the excavations. After visit depart by surface for Patna. Arrive in Patna and check-in at your hotel. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.

DAY 05: PATNA-NALANDA-RAJGIR-BODHGAYA (BLD)



After breakfast depart by surface for Nalanda. Nalanda founded in 5th century BC, was one of the world's great universities and the Afghans attacked an important

Buddhist center until it in the 12th century. Visit the remains of the brick built Great Stupa, the Archeological museum. Arrive in Rajgir and check-in at your hotel. After lunch at hotel, proceed with the Rajgir was the capital of Magadh Empire until Ajatshatru moved to Pataliputra (Patna) in the 5th century BC. Rajgir is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site since Buddha spent 12 years here, and the first Buddhist council after the Buddha attained Nirvana was held here. Visit Ajatshatru's fort, Venuvana, Swarna Bhandar, the Cyclopean wall. Visit the Peace Pagoda on chair lift. Arrive Bodhgaya and check-in at hotel. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.

DAY 06: BODHGAYA-VARANASI (BLD)

After breakfast at hotel, proceed with the sightseeing tour of the religious town revered both by the Buddhists and Hindus alike. Visit the Mahabodhi Temple, known for its Bodhi tree, Gautama attained supreme knowledge to become Buddha. The tree stands today is believed have grown from the original Peal tree under which lord Buddha meditated. After tour return to your hotel and check-in. Afternoon visit the various monasteries like Thai, Korean, Japanese and the Sri Lankan. Also visit the Tibetan Monastery built in the style of Tibet with slopping tiled roofs.

After lunch depart by surface for Varanasi. Depart by coach for Varanasi. Arrive in Varanasi and check-in at your hotel.

DAY 07: VARANASI-AGRA BY TRAIN (BLD)

Early morning proceed with boat cruise on river Ganges. The western banks of Ganges has a string of Ghats - the chain of stone steps, all built with pavilions, palaces and terraces, most of which are mainly used as Dharamsalas where the pilgrims stay during their visit to the holy city. At dawn, the Ghats are buzz with activity of the devotees performing their ablutions in the river or offering prayers to the rising sun and performing other religious rituals. A boat ride along the Ghats gives you vantage views of this activity. The sunrise on the Ganges is a soul-lifting experience.

Return to hotel for Breakfast. Later drive through the largest Residential University of Asia - Banaras Hindu University founded by Pundit Madan Mohan Malviya. Visit the New Vishwanath temple in the University Campus, (Option: one can also visit Bharat Kala Bhavan which houses some of the finest Miniatures)

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After lunch , proceed with tour of Sarnath. it is here that Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. At the deer park he disclosed the truth to his first five disciples. Dhamek Stupa marks the spot of the Buddha's first sermon. Here one can see chankrama where Buddha walked in meditation. The ruins date back to the time of Emperor Ashoka, as does the lion headed

pillar nearby. At the Sarnath Museum, there is a remarkable statue of Buddha setting the wheel of law in motion. The Tibetan Buddhist vihara enshrines sacred relics and is decorated with frescoes by the Japanese artist Kosetsu-Nosu.

In time transfer to railway station with packed Dinner to board overnight train for Agra. Overnight on board train's 2nd aircon sleeper berths.

DAY 08: ARRIVE AGRA (BLD)

Arrive in Agra and after assistance at the station transfer to your Hotel. After lunch at hotel, proceed with the sightseeing tour of Agra, with visit to Taj Mahal and Fort. Visit the world famous Taj Mahal built by Shah Jahan in 1560 in memory of his



queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains. This architectural marvel is a perfectly proportioned masterpiece fashioned from white marble that stands testimony to the skill of 20,000 craftsmen brought together from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy and who took 17 years to complete this 'Love Poem in Marble'. (Friday closed). Dinner & overnight at hotel.

DAY 09: AGRA-DELHI & DEPART (BLD)

After breakfast at hotel, depart by surface for Delhi. Arrive into Delhi and proceed with lunch at local restaurant. After lunch proceed with sightseeing tour of New Delhi. Drive past India Gate (memorial to the Indian army soldiers who died in the World War I) the Rashtrapati Bhavan (formerly the viceroy's residence) and the Parliament House. Continue After lunch visit the 12th century Qutab Minar, gracefully hand-carved for its entire height of 234ft, and the iron pillar, which has withstood the ravages of time and not rusted even after 1500 years. After dinner in time transfer to airport to board flight for onward destination.

DAY 10: DELHI-KUALA LUMPUR (MOB)

Depart on Indian Airlines flight. Arrive Kuala Lumpur with wonderful and spiritual feeling on your pilgrimage tour.

*****END OF TOUR*****

Cost of package:

Valid until MARCH' 09

	Twin Share(min 4)	Sgl Supp
Standard (3star)	RM 4,999.00	RM 880.00
First Class (4star)	RM 5,488.00	RM1088.00

- A) If below 8pax, surcharge RM 200 per person
- B) Child (2-12yrs) sharing with 02 adults in same room with no extra bed, 70% OF ADULT cost
- C) Child (2-12yrs) sharing with 02 adults in same room with Extra bed, 80% OF ADULT cost

ABOVE COST INCLUDES:

1. Return economy class air ticket on Indian Airlines + ALL airport taxes
2. Accommodation twin sharing inclusive of all present applicable taxes.
3. Transportation using an air-conditioned vehicle .
4. Services of our representative for arrival & departure transfers.
5. Services of an English speaking local guide upto 9 pax and accompanied escort cum guide from 10 pax onwards .
6. AC Chair car seating on train from Delhi to Lucknow.
7. 2nd AC Sleeper berths on train from Varanasi to Agra.
8. Boat ride on river Ganges in Varanasi.
9. Meals as indicated in the porgramme above.
10. Visa Fees for India – RM 160 per person
11. Entrance fees to places mentioned in the itinerary.
12. Tipping o drivers and guides

ABOVE COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

1. Items of personal nature such as table drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc.

HOTEL RECOMMENDED

City	4 Star Hotel	3 Star Hotel
Delhi	Avalon Courtyard	Florence Inn
Sarawasti	Lotus Nikko	Mahamaya
Kushinagar	Lotus Nikko	Imperial
Patna	Patliputr Ashok	Patliputar Ashok
Bodhgaya	Lotus Nikko	Sujata
Varanasi	Radisson	Siddharthal
Agra	Howard Park Plaza	Pushp Villa

Recommended Flight details: Indian Airlines

KUL/DEL	Dep: 1135	Arr 1615
DEL/KUL	Dep: 0050	Arr 1025

Note :-

* Deposit of booking fee is RM1000 and non refundable. 50% of tour cost must be paid 2 weeks after 1st deposit. Balance payment 21 days before departure date.

* Validity of package price is till 31st Mar' 09.

* Tour package rate subject to increase of air fare & taxes without perior notice.

* Senior Citizen age 55 & above are entitle for discount RM100 p/p