



LUXE INDIA
TOURS AND TRAVELS PVT. LTD.

Buddhist Saga with Historical Places of India

MUMBAI – AURANGABAD – AJANTA – ELLORA – BHOPAL – SANCHI – AGRA – JAIPUR – DELHI
VARANASI – SARNATH – BODHGAYA – RAJGIR – NALANDA – PATNA – KUSHINAGAR
LUMBINI – GORAKHPUR – DELHI

15 days trip starting from \$2055 per person

An amazing fable often heard of a wealthy prince, who left all the luxuries of life in search of the ultimate truth; he returned as an enlightened one and his preaching became the fastest widespread religions of the world. Lord Buddha's life inspired many an artist who left behind an artistic heritage of immense beauty all over India. From the Stupa of Sanchi to the ruins of Nalanda and the ultimate caves of Ellora and Ajanta; Buddha's preaching reached all over in India through the art form. Many travellers rave about Ajanta, saying it is the best thing they have seen in India.

DAY 01: MUMBAI

Arrive at Mumbai International Airport and after meeting & greeting with our local representative, transfer to hotel. Check-in at the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 02: MUMBAI

Breakfast at the hotel and time at leisure.

Afternoon, half day city tour visiting the Gateway of India – an 85-foot-high arch whose design reflects India's Muslim and Hindu traditions. Visit the Prince of Wales Museum housing collection of Indo Saracenic architecture, Flora Fountain, Victoria Terminus, St. Thomas Cathedral, Crawford Market, Malabar Hill, Hanging Gardens and Mani Bhawan – a museum dedicated to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 03: MUMBAI – AURANGABAD (BY AIR)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and transfer to domestic airport for flight to Aurangabad. Upon arrival at Aurangabad Airport, transfer to hotel and check-in at the hotel. Time to relax. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 04: AURANGABAD – ELLORA CAVES (35 KMS / 01 HR DRIVE) – AURANGABAD (35 KMS / 01 HR DRIVE)

After breakfast, drive down to visit Ellora caves. Ellora is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is one of the largest rock-cut Hindu temple cave complexes in the world, featuring Buddhist and Jain monuments. There are over 100 caves at the site, all excavated from the basalt cliffs in the Charanandri Hills, 34 of which are open to public. Cave 16 features the largest single monolithic rock excavation in the world, the Kailash temple, a chariot-shaped monument dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Back to Aurangabad and visit Bibi ka Maqbara, the Taj of Deccan. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 05: AURANGABAD – AJANTA CAVES (105 KMS / 03 HRS DRIVE) – JALGAON (60 KMS / 1½ HRS DRIVE) – BHOAPL (BY TRAIN)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Ajanta caves.

Ajanta Caves are 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments dating from the 2nd century BC, where paintings recount the life of Lord Buddha and the tales of this prince's earthly experiences. Late afternoon, depart for Jalgaon Railway Station to depart for Bhopal by evening train. Overnight at train.

DAY 06: BHOPAL – SANCHI – BHOPAL

Morning, arrive at Bhopal Railway Station and transfer to hotel. Afternoon, excursion of Sanchi Stupa. Sanchi is located near the ancient city of Bhopal in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is the city of the great Stupa, a dome shaped monument covering relics of Buddha, and the remains of a Buddhist monastery. Sanchi is a place of Buddhist Pilgrimage. Back to Bhopal and overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 07: BHOPAL – AGRA (BY TRAIN)

Afternoon, check out from the hotel and transfer to Bhopal Railway Station for train to Agra. Arrive at Agra Railway Station and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 08: AGRA

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and Agra Sightseeing –

The world-famous Taj Mahal built by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1630 in memory of his beloved wife, Queen Mumtaz Mahal, to enshrine her Mortal remains. Agra Fort built by the Emperor Akbar reflecting the skills of the ancient Indian Architects. Visit Tomb of Itmad-ud-daullah, built by Empress Noorjehan in memory of her father. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 09: AGRA – FATEHPUR SIKRI – JAIPUR (242 KMS – 4½ HRS)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Jaipur by surface, enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri – the deserted city of Emperor Akbar, once capital of Mughal Empire which is still in a state of perfection. Upon arrival at Jaipur, check-in at the hotel. Afternoon, Jaipur city tour by visiting City Palace, Museum, Hawa Mahal and drive past the pink Rose Residential and Business areas of Jaipur. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 10: JAIPUR

After Breakfast, Morning tour of Amber Fort - the ancient capital of the state, remarkable for the majestic grandeur of its surroundings as for its sturdy battlements and beautiful palaces. Climb up to the fort on the back of an Elephant or by Jeep. Explore the colorful bazaars of Jaipur famous for Gemstone Jewelry, Paintings, block prints, textiles, carpets, brassware, blue pottery etc. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 11: JAIPUR – DELHI – VARANASI (BY AIR)

After early breakfast, check out from the hotel and transfer to airport for flight to Varanasi via Delhi.

Arrive at Varanasi airport and transfer to hotel. Check in at the hotel.

Afternoon, visit to Sarnath – the holy shrine of the Buddhist where LORD BUDHA preached his first sermon after he had gained Enlightenment. The Ashoka Pillar remains are also here. Visit the Sarnath Museum to see the lion capital which is the National Emblem of India. Also, visit several monasteries from other Buddhist nation. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 12: VARANASI – BODHGAYA (260 KMS / 06 HRS DIVE)

Early morning, visit to the Ganges Ghat tour with boat ride in the River Ganges. After early lunch, check out from the hotel and leave for Bodhgaya. Upon arrival at Bodhgaya, check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 13: BODHGAYA

After breakfast, full day sightseeing of Bodhgaya. Here under the Bodhi tree (Tree of Awakening). Shakyamuni Gautama attained supreme knowledge to become Buddha, the "Enlightened One", the propounder of one of the great religions of the world. The tree that stands today is believed to have grown from the original Peepal tree under which Lord Buddha meditated. River Niranjana in which the Buddha bathed after attaining enlightenment flows quietly outside the tiny hamlet where the story of Prince Siddhartha ended, and the saga of the Buddha began ! Visit Sujata Stupa , across the Phalgu river in the village of Bakraur. The stupa was dedicated to the milkmaid Sujata, who is said to have fed Gautama Buddha milk and rice as he was sitting under a Banyan tree, ending his seven years of fasting and asceticism, and allowing him to attain illumination through the Middle Way. The stupa was built in the 2nd century BCE as confirmed by finds of black polished wares and punch-marked coins in the attending monastery.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 14: BODHGAYA – RAJGIR – NALANDA – PATNA (170 KMS / 05 HRS DRIVE)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Patna. Enroute lunch in Rajgir via Nalanda University ruins. Rajgir is 12 kms south of Nalanda on the road to Bodhgaya and is located in a verdant valley surrounded by rocky hills. It is sacred to the memory of founders of both Buddhism and Jainism. Lord Buddha spent many months at his favourite retreat during the rainy season here and used to meditate and preach on the Griddhankuta, the hill of the Vultures . An aerial ropeway provides the link with a hilltop stupa built by the Japanese. On one of the hills, there is a cave of Saptarni, the first Buddhist Council was held after his death . The Saptarni cave is also the source of the Rajgir hot water springs that have curative properties and are sacred to Hindus. Nalanda is famous as an ancient seat of learning and has the ruins of one of the world's most ancient university. Founded in the 5th Century AD, this great seat of learning flourished until the 12th Century. Both the founders of the two religions Buddhism and Jainism, the Buddha and Parsvanatha Mahavir, visited Nalanda. The Chinese chronicler Huiyen Tsang

spent many years here, both as a student and as a teacher. Arrive Patna and check-in at the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 15: PATNA – KUSHINAGAR (215 KMS – 5½ HRS DRIVE)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Kushinagar. Arrive at Kushinagar and check in at the hotel. Another major pilgrimage site, Kushinagar is the place where the Buddha attained Parinirvana (nirvana after death). The Buddha breathed his last here. The site is mainly visited not by regular tourists but devout Buddhist followers and monks. The Parinirvana Stupa has the reclining statue of 'dying Buddha', Ramabhar Stupa which is the cremation site of the Buddha and Matha Kuar Shrine which has a giant statue of the Buddha. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 16: KUSHINAGAR – LUMBINI (160 KMS – 04 HRS DRIVE)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Lumbini. Arrive at Lumbini, Nepal (Tourists to keep their passport and Visa ready). Check - in at the hotel. After lunch, sightseeing of Lumbini.

Although technically located in Nepal, Lumbini forms the fourth important pilgrimage places in Buddhism, it can be easily reached from India. This is where the Buddha was born. It is also a world heritage site.

There are several temples, monasteries and monuments you can visit here. Places to see are the Ashoka Pillar, 2nd century BCE Buddhist temples, the Lumbini Museum and the Japanese Peace Stupa. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 17: LUMBINI – GORAKHPUR (100 KMS / 03 HRS DRIVE) – DELHI (BY AIR)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Gorakhpur airport for flight to Delhi. Upon arrival at Delhi, transfer to the hotel. Check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 18: DELHI

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and morning half day city tour of Old Delhi visiting Raj Ghat - The Mausoleum of Mahatma Gandhi. Jama Masjid - the biggest Mosque in India and drive past Red Fort and tricycle tour of Chandini Chowk. Rest of the day at leisure.

Afternoon, half day city tour of New Delhi. Drive past President House, Parliament House (House of Representatives) and India Gate - War Memorial (stop for photography), Qutab Minar - 72.55 meters, high Victory Tower, Humayun's Tomb - built of red sandstone and is a first substantial example of the Mughal architecture. If time permits visit Bahai Temple (lotus temple).

Evening, transfer to hotel near to airport for dinner and then transfer to international airport to fly back home / onward destination.



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