

# 11D BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE



## **DAY 01: SINGAPOR ✈️ DELHI 🚗 AGRA**

**(BLD)**

Arrive in Delhi by International flight. Meet and assist on arrival and After Dinner at city restaurant then take coach to Agra.

## **DAY 2: AGRA 🚗 SANKASHYA 🚗 LUCKNOW**

**(BLD)**

Take breakfast at hotel, after breakfast then to visit Taji Maha, Taj Mahal stands in the city of Agra, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, on the banks of the Yamuna River. It was built in the memory of the beautiful Arjumand Bano Begum, who won the heart of a Mughal prince. She was married at 21 to Emperor Jahangir's third son Prince Khurram and stayed loyally by his side through good times and bad: in the luxurious royal palaces of Agra as well as the transient tents of war camps. Work on the mausoleum began in 1633 and 20,000 workers labored for 17 years to build it. The most skilled architects, inlay craftsmen, calligraphers, stone-carvers and masons came from all across Indian and lands as distant as Persia and Turkey. The master mason was from Baghdab, an expert in building the double dome from Persia, and an inlay specialist from Delhi. Yemen sent agates; the corals came from Arabia, the garnets from Bundelkhand, onyx and amethyst from Persia. Mumtaz Mahal's final resting-place was ornamented like a queen's jewel-box. After in Taji Mahal, Taken luch in Agra, after lunch then take bus go Lucknow. On the way visit Sankashya.

Lord Buddha descended from Tushita Heaven. The most westward and perhaps most obscure of the eight places of pilgrimage is Sankashya, whose name may derive from a stupa built there by Kashyapa Buddha's father and dedicated to his son. This is the last of the four places common to the Buddha's of this world. Some say that during his forty-first year Shakyamuni went up from Shravasti to the Tushita Heaven and passed the rainy season retreat teaching Abhidharma to his mother, Queen Mayadevi, who had died seven days after Buddha's birth and been reborn as a male god in Tushita. After visit Sankashya continues the join to Lucknow.

## **DAY 3 LUCKNOW 🚗 SRAVASTI**

**(BLD)**

After breakfast take surface to Sravasti (170km 04 hours) and up arrived transfer to your hotel. After lunch at hotel, visit to Sravasiti Garden, 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 Utter 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.

**DAY 4 SRAVASTI 🚌 KAPILAVASTU 🚌 LUMBINI (210km 05/06hrs)**

**(BLD)**

After breakfast at hotel, depart by surface for lumbini, by en- route visiting Kapilavastu. The little village of Piprahwa, 93 Kms. from Lumbini via Sonauli, is identified as Kapilavastu. It has been revealed by the excavations were conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India between 1971 and 1977 that this was the capital of the Sakyas, where the Lord Buddha spent the first thirty years of his life. 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, Mahindra Mahavihara, in the vicinity of the ruins. Take lunch at the hotel and take rest at pm to visit lumbini garden the birthplace of Lord Buddha. On this drive you will pas through the India-Nepal border and will have to undergo through immigration and security checks. Please note this will be carried on both side of the border and thus we should envisage at least one hour for facilitation here. Upon arrival in Lumbini, check-in at your hotel. After lunch at Hotel, proceed with visit to the Pangeran, place where Buddha lord, was born.

**DAY 05: LUMBINI 🚌 KUSHINAGAR (175km 04hrs)**

**(BLD)**

After early at Hotel, depart by surface for Kushinagar Arrive in Kushinagar and check-in at your Hotel. After lunch 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.

**DAY 06: KUSHINAGA 🚌 VASHALI 🚌 RAJGIR (350km 08hrs)**

**(BLD)**

After breakfast at the hotel .Drive to Rajgir Enrout visit Vaishali, the famous for Buddha Stupa and Ashoka Pillar. Take Lunch at midway. Evening arrive Rajgir.

**DAY 07: RAJGIR 🚌 NALANDA 🚌 BODHGAYA (80 km 03hrs)**

**(BLD)**

Morning after breakfast at hotel, proceed with the sightseeing tour of Rajgir. Rajgir was the capital of Magadh Empire until Ajatshatru moved to Pataliputra (Patna) in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. Apart from this as Lord Buddha spent 12 years in Rajgir; it has become an important Buddhist pilgrimage site. The first Buddhist council after the Buddha attained Nirvana was too held here. Places to visit in Rajgir are the ruins of the Ajatshatru Fort, Venuvana, Swarna Bhandar and the Cyclopean wall. Apart from this take the ropeway cable car to visit the Peace Pagoda atop the hillen-route visiting Nalanda (13 Kms). Arrive in Nalanda and visit the ruins of the erstwhile Buddhist University complex founded in 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. This beautiful sprawling complex was a full-fledged university till 12<sup>th</sup> century and was then plundered and destroyed by the Afghans invaders from northwest. Visit the remains of the brick built Great Stupa, the Archeological museum. Evening go to Boddhgaya.

**DAY 08: BODHGAYA****(BLD)**

After breakfast 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 Peppal tree under which lord Buddha meditated. After lunch at hotel, 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. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**DAY 9: BODHGAYA 🚌 VARANASI (270km 07hrs)****(BLD)**

After breakfast at hotel, depart by surface for Varanasi. After lunch at the hotel and to visiting Sarnath. Sarnath is the place, 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. After the visit drive into Varanasi and check in at your Hotel

**DAY 10: VARANASI ✈️ DELHI****(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. Later, visit the Vishwanath temple, also called the golden temple because of the gold plating on its roof. After breakfast at hotel proceed with the sightseeing tour of city situated on the banks of the Ganges, the city of Learning and Burning (because of the almost continuous cremations of the dead) from time immemorial has been the religious centre of Hindus. All Hindus want to be here at least once in their lifetime. After breakfast at the hotel go to airport to Delhi, Arrive Delhi then transfer to hotel. **Delhi**, one of India's fastest growing cities, has spread far beyond the "seven cities" created between the 13th and the 17th centuries. It has sprawled over the west bank of the Yamuna and now straddles the river. Remnants of the past survive cheek -by-jowl with skyscrapers, residential colonies and bustling commercial complexes. Delhi has some of the finest museums in the country. Its boutiques and shopping arcades offer access to a wealth of traditional and contemporary crafts from all over the country. It has specialty restaurants to please the gourmet, open parks and gardens ablaze with flowers, and in the winter months particularly, a variety of cultural events. Its many-layered existence is tantalizing and can entice the curious traveler into a fascinating journey of discovery.

**DAY 11: DELHI ✈️ SINGAPORE**

Early morning transfer to airport for your flight back to Singapore.

**End of service.**

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

1. Accommodation on Twin sharing basis
2. All meals as per the itinerary
3. All transfer, sightseeing and excursion by air-con Vehicle
4. Monument entrance fee
5. English speaking guide service
6. One bottle of mineral water per person per day
7. Airfare for Singapore/Delhi//Varanasi/Delhi/Singapore AI
8. Accommodation 4/5 star hotel

**PACKAGE EXCLUDES:**

1. All the airport taxes (International and Domestic)
2. Expenses of personal nature like table drink, telephone call, laundry charges, and tips to guide Porters and Restaurants in hotels, etc.
3. Any services or expenses not mentioned above
4. Visa for Indian and Nepal
5. Tips to guide, hotels, driver and assistance

*Remarks: Sarnath museum is closed on Fridays.*

**C&E HOLIDAYS PTE LTD**

CALL US FOR BOOKINGS @ 6295 6034 / 6491 1027