India Nepal Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour

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India Nepal Buddhist pilgrimage circle tour provides a great opportunity to visit all four sacred places of Buddhism. Lumbini is the birthplace of Buddha. It is the most majestic site to visit now with temples, several monasteries, monuments and archeological sites.
You will visit Kushinagar where Buddha got nirvana. Bodh Gaya where Buddha enlightened and Sarnath where he first preached to his disciples.
In a single pilgrimage holiday you will visit Nepal the peaceful country and India an amazing one with hustle and bustle. We include Agra in this tour because of its importance with the world famous monument Taj Mahal, a living symbol of love.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Kathmandu and transfer to a Hotel.

Arrival Kathmandu. You will be picked up at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Kathmandu.

Day 02: Sightseeing Boudhanath & Kopan

After breakfast you will head off to Boudhanath. Boudhanath is a massive Stupa which lies in the outskirts of Kathmandu about 11 km away from the city centre. It is believed that this stupa was built by the Lichchhavis but many historians disagree on this fact. This dome-shaped Stupa represents the mind of the Buddha and is today one of the most significant pilgrimage destinations for Buddhists.
After visiting Boudhanath, we shall visit the Kopan Monastery. The Kopan Monastery was established by Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rimpoche in 1970 as a center of Buddhist Teachings. In the evening we will return back to Hotel.

Day 03: Drive to Namobuddha

Today you will visit Namobuddha. This monastery lies about 45 km away to the east of Kathmandu. It takes a two-hour drive to reach there. It is widely believed that the Lord Buddha, during his 7th reincarnation, offered his body to a hungry Tigress and its cubs at this place. This is considered a great act of mercy and kindness and has ever since attracted millions of people to this spot. You will return back to the hotel in the evening.

Day 04: Drive to Pharping

After breakfast, you will head for Pharping monastery. This monastery is situated at the

south of Kathmandu valley. It is believed that this is the spot where Guru Rimpoche (Saint Padmasambhava) attained level of a Mahamudra Vidyadhara. Some Buddhists also believe that this is the spot where Milarepa (the deity of hard work) took shelter in a cave one night. Pharping has numerous monasteries and temples including an important Vajrayogini temple and the Palyul Retreat Centre, which is the residence of Khenpo Namdrol Rinpoche and home to the Rigpa Shedra. You will return back to our hotel in the evening.

Day 05: Swayambhunath & Patan

After Breakfast proceeds for sightseeing. Swayambhunath is one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in Nepal. People have been praying at this place for more than two thousand years. This great temple lies atop a hillock within the valley. Many believe that the Lichchhavis constructed the stupa but no one is really sure. Its establishment and construction is shrouded in the mists of time. The Swayambhunath complex consists of a giant Stupa, a large ensemble of shrines and temples, and also includes a Tibetan monastery, a museum and a library. This site has two access points: from the east there is a long stairway, claimed to have 365 steps, leading directly to the main platform of the temple, and a car road around the hill from the south leading to the southwest entrance. Patan City is an enchanting melange of palace buildings, artistic courtyard and former palace complex. One remarkable monument here is a 16th century temple dedicated to the Hindu God Lord Krishna, built entirely of stone. The evening will be free for leisure activities.

Day 06: Drive to Lumbini (321 km 8 hrs).

After Breakfast drive to Lumbini (321 km / 8 hrs) from Kathmandu. The Birthplace of Lord Buddha. Overnight in a Hotel.

Day 07: Lumbini Tour

The UNESCO World heritage site of Lumbini is developed under master plan in the area of 6 Km X 2 km. We will start our tour from the ‘New Tourist village and visit the World peace pagoda and museum. This is also the pilgrimage concept of the master plan to introduce Buddhism and purify the mind through monastic zones. Monasteries of Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism are spread across the cannon. Finally visit the Mayadevi temple protecting the ‘Marker Stone’, Statue of nativity scene and ruins of old temple walls dating from 3rd BC to 12 AD. Asoka pillar still displays the inscriptions explaining his visit to the birth place of Buddha.

Day 08: Religious and archaeological sites of Kapilavastu

Drive and visit religious and archaeological sites of Tilaurakot, Gotihawa, Kudan, Niglihara and Sagarhawa. Tilaurakot is the ancient Kapilavastu – the capital of Shakyas, where Buddha spent his first 29 years. Kudan was where Buddha was received by his father after

his access to enlightenment. King Suddhodana specially built the Kudan (Nigrodharma Park) for the accommodation of the Buddha and his followers. Gotihawa is the birth place of Krakuchanda Buddha. Niglihawa is where Kanakmuni Buddha was born. Sagarhawa is the archaeological findings as “place of the massacre of the Shakyas”. Overnight in Lumbini

Day 09: Drive Lumbini - Saravasti

Morning drive to Saravasti. Upon arrival at Sravasti transfer to the hotel and proceed for lunch. After lunch, visit Jetavanarama and Angulimal Caves. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 10: Drive Saravasti – Kushinagar

Breakfast at the hotel then drive to Kushinagar. After Arriving at Kushinagar, We will proceed for lunch in the hotel, Afternoon proceed to visit Mahaparinirvana temple and Ramabha Stupa (Cremation centre). Check-in hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 11: Kushinagar – Vaishali – Patna

After Breakfast at the hotel then drive to Patna (280 kms, 07 hrs) with pack lunch, enroute visit Vaishali. Arrival Patna, check-in hotel, dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 12: Patna – Rajgir – Nalanda – Bodhgaya

After Breakfast at the hotel then drive to Nalanda (85 kms), visit ruins of ancient university. Lunch will be served at Nalanda tourist cafeteria. After lunch, drive to Rajgir (15 kms), visit Griddhakuta Peak, Venuvanam and Bimbisara Jail. Drive To Bodhgaya. Arrival Bodhgaya (65 kms), transfer to hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in a hotel at Bodhgaya.

Day 13: Sightseeing around Bodhgaya

Full day sightseeings at Bodhgaya, visiting places like Mahabodhi temple, Sujata Village, Niranjana River. All meals and overnight stay at hotel.

Day 14: Drive Bodhgaya – Varanasi

After Breakfast at the hotel then drive to Varanasi (250 kms). On arrival check in to the hotel and then proceed to Sarnath (14 kms), Visit Dhamekha Stupa and Deer park. Back to Varanasi. Check-in hotel, Dinner and overnight stay in a hotel at Varanasi.

Day 15: Drive Varanasi - Agra

Early morning boat ride on the holy river Ganges. Then back to the hotel for breakfast. After that proceed to visit Varanasi city, temple, shopping in Varanasi for silk stuff. Late afternoon, we will transfer to Varanasi Railway Station to catch a train for Agra with a packed dinner. Overnight on the Train.

Day 16: Arrival in Agra & Transfer to Hotel.

Arrive Agra early in the morning. Met and transfer to the hotel. After wash n change and breakfast proceed for sightseeing of Agra visit one of the world's most popular monuments – Taj Mahal (it is closed on every Friday) built by Mughal Emperor Shah- Jehan for his Empress Mumtaj Mahal. The construction is believed to have taken 22 years to complete with over 20,000 craftsmen working round the clock. Back hotel for Lunch. Now proceed for a sightseeing tour of magnificent Agra Fort- built at the bank of Yamuna river, is situated in the center of the town. Various styles of the architecture are evident within the fort & demonstrate the love of Mughal Emperors towards building beautiful monuments. Evening free for shopping. Back to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 17: Drive Agra - Delhi Departure

Breakfast at the hotel then drive to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi, transfer to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch city tour of Delhi, visiting places like India Gate, drive past Parliament building, President House. Evening proceeds for dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner, transfer to IGI airport to catch a flight for onward journey.