

# Nepal Buddhist Circuit Tour

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Buddhist influences are evident in the culture of Nepal because Buddha was born in Nepal. Nepal has a strong Buddhist background and has played a role in the spread of Buddhism to Tibet. Nepalese princess Bhrikuti played a significant role in the development of Buddhism in Tibet and the Far East.

Buddha was born in Lumbini (which is now in Nepal). According to Tripitaka, he visited his father's kingdom and converted his family and clan to Buddhism. The Shakya clans later moved to Kathmandu valley and helped establish Buddhism there.

We are providing you complete information about Buddhist Pilgrimage packages, destinations and the life of the Buddha through these tour packages. Besides these you will also be able to know about Buddha's detailed information, his birth place, place of his enlightenment and his teachings.

The main attractions of this tour are swayambhunath, boudhanath and namobuddha in Kathmandu, great Ashoka pillar, sacred pond, Temple of lords, Maya Devi temple remains of Old monastery in Lumbini religious and archeological sites at Devdaha and Ramagram.

## Itinerary

### **Day 01: Arrival in Kathmandu & Transfer to Hotel**

Arrival in Kathmandu. You will be picked up at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Evening tour briefing from our tour Manager. Overnight in Kathmandu.

### **Day 02: Sightseeing Boudhanath & Kopan**

In the morning, 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: Sightseeing in Swayambhunath Stupa & Patan Durbar Square.**

After breakfast proceeds for Sightseeing. Swayambhunath is one of the oldest pilgrimage site 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 at the Hotel.

#### **Day 07: Full day 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 canon. 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: Visit 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: Devdaha - Ramgram - back to Kathmandu**

Drive and visit religious and archaeological sites at Devdaha and Ramagram. Devdaha is the ancient capital of the Koliya kingdom. It is the maternal hometown of Queen Mayadevi (mother), Prajapati Gautami (stepmother), Princess Yasodhara (consort) and where Prince Siddhartha had spent his childhood. Ramgrama is the brick mound on the bank of the Jharahi River. It is a seven meter high brick stupa consisting of relics (one of the eight astha dhatu) of Lord Buddha. The Stupa was built by the king of Ramgrama, who was the eighth king to obtain the Buddha's relics.

#### **Day 10: Warm Departure.**

After Breakfast transfer to the airport for your next destination.