

Tilorien iSangha Pilgrimage to Buddhist holy sites in India

October 14 – 31, 2025

The trip starts in Sarnath (Varanasi) on the evening October the 14th, and ends in Bodhgaya on the morning October the 31st.

PROGRAMME

SARNATH (*Site of the Buddha's First Sermon*)

Day 1 Arrival. Check in at a Tibetan or Sri Lankan monastery. 18:30 Chanting of the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta (first sermon of the Buddha) and meditation.

Day 2 Morning meditation. We visit Sarnath (the site of the Buddha's first sermon). Meditation at the Deer Park; visit to Mūlagandhakūtī Vihara and the archaeological museum.. Big Buddha statue. In the evening, boat trip on the Ganges and free time in Varanasi.

Day 3 Mahabodhi Temple with Buddha relics, meditation. Breakfast (or take breakfast and drive for the sunrise in Varanasi). Free time in Varanasi. Lunch and rest. 18:00 Chanting of the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta and meditation.

SHRAVASTI (*This is where the Buddha spent most of his life and gave most of his teachings*)

Day 4 Morning departure from Sarnath, arriving in the evening. We meditate, rest.

Day 5 We visit the monasteries of Jetavana and the ancient stupas of Angulimala and Anathapindika.

LUMBINI, NEPAL (birthplace of Buddha)

Day 6 After breakfast head for Lumbini. On the way we visit the Piprahwa Stupa, where Buddha's relics were found and are kept in the Delhi Museum.

Day 7 Morning Mayadevi Temple (where Buddha was born). In the afternoon visit Kapilavastu (where the Buddha grew up). Kudan Where Rahul ordain. Gotiwah and Niglawah Where Previous Buddha Kanakmuni and Konagaman Born

Day 8 Enjoy Lumbini Garden - visit various monasteries and meditation centres.

KUSHINAGAR (site of Buddha's death and cremation)

Day 9 After breakfast head for Kushinagar. Mahāparinibbāna temple and Ramabhar stupa.

Day 10 Thai temple, afternoon drive to Vaishali, visit Kesariya stupa on the way, arrive in the evening.

VAISHALI (the Mahāparinibbāna Sutta is set here, where the Licchavis lived)

Day 11 Ashoka stupa. We visit the park, the archaeological museum, the Shanti stupa meditation centre, the Vietnamese monastery.

NALANDA - RAJGIR (Here the Buddha spent time both in solitude and in several monasteries donated to him)

Day 12 Morning departure for Rajgir. Vulture Peak, Jīvaka Mango Grove, ruins of King Bimbisara Prison, Bamboo Grove.

Day 13 5:00 a.m. Hike to Saptarni Cave (site of the first recitation of the Tipitaka). Visit the ruins of Nalanda University.

BODHGAYA (Buddha's place of enlightenment)

Day 14 Morning departure for Bodhgaya, afternoon-evening-(night?) enjoying the Mahabodhi Temple and meditation under the Bodhi tree.

Day 15 Morning meditation under the Bodhi tree. Brahmayoni Mountain (where the Buddha gave his third teaching). Museum, Sujata stupa, monasteries.

Day 16 After breakfast at DUNGESHWARI cave, free time, 6pm last meditation together.

Day 17 End of the trip

Option for Trekking to Maha Kassapa Mountain also known as Gurupa. Its 30-45min drive from bodhgaya. Details about this mountain is here

https://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/pilgrim/pg_07.htm

ARRIVAL-DEPARTURE

The trip starts in Sarnath. The nearest train station and airport are in Varanasi, also called Banaras. The journey will end in Bodhgaya. The nearest train station and airport is GAYA.

The journey ends at Bodhgaya to allow those who wish staying there longer. It is an incredibly strong place for meditation, and once you arrive there you don't want to leave. So if you are meditating and can afford to stay at least a few days longer, plan your flights accordingly.

PRICE 950 Euro

Price includes accommodation, transport, meals, tickets to temples and museums. Accommodation is in monasteries (2,3, people per room, men and women separately) or, if the monasteries are overcrowded, in guesthouses.

The price does NOT include flights, visas, and health insurance.

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

You will need a 30-day tourist visa with 2 or multiple entries.

You will also need a visa when crossing the border with Nepal. This is done at the border at a cost of 30 USD.

USD should be new note after 2005 if in smaller bill. If \$100 bill then it must be Bluish colour new bill. Bill must be neat and clean.

What to bring:

In India you can find stores and pharmacies to buy things such as soaps and deodorants, however if you required a special medicine bring it from home.

- Sleeping bag
- Personal toiletries
- Jacket for cold weather (Check updated temp of that month)
- Clothes that cover shoulders and knees

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Details regarding registration and payment will follow closer to the time.