



Tour Name : Four Sacred Sites Associated with Lord Buddha Life

Duration ; 08 Nights / 09 Days

About the tour:

Four sacred sites associated with Lord Buddha Life, that a pious person should visit and look upon with feelings of reverence. LUMBINI 'Here the Tathagata [the one who has gone beyond all transitory phenomena] was born.' BODHGAYA 'Here the Tathagata became fully enlightened.' SARNATH 'Here the Tathagata set in motion the wheel of the dhamma.' KUSHINAGAR 'Here the Tathagata passed away into the state of nirvana in which no element of clinging remains!' And the monk, the nun, the layman or laywoman who has faith should visit these places. And whoever, should die on such a pilgrimage with his heart established in faith, at the breaking up of the body after death will be reborn in a realm of heavenly happiness.

Outline Itinerary

Day 01; Arrive Bodhgaya (Flight)

On arrival at Gaya airport assistance and transfer to hotel. Later sightseeing, overnight at hotel. Bodhgaya, the most important Buddhist pilgrimage site, is where Siddhartha Gautama attained full enlightenment after sitting and meditating under the Bodhi tree (ficus religiosa) for 49 days. The primary points of homage here are the Bodhi tree (the current tree is a descendant of the original tree); the Vajrasana, or “diamond seat,” under the tree; and the Mahabodhi Temple, whose 52-meter spire rises up to the skies. The diamond seat, the oldest monument at Bodhgaya, is believed to have been erected by Ashoka to mark the spot where the Buddha gained ultimate liberation. The Mahabodhi Temple Compound includes a number of other shrines where the Buddha spent seven weeks immediately following his experience of nirvana. Bodhgaya, now a World Heritage Site and a thriving tourist center, draws devotees from all over the world, who meditate, chant, offer flowers and incense, do prostrations, and engage in their respective rituals with great devotion and concentration. For many, sitting in meditation under the Bodhi tree, where the Buddha himself sat, is a profound spiritual experience.

Day 02; Bodhgaya - Rajgir - Nalanda - Patna (180km/ 4hr approx)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning to visit Mahabodhi Temple. Afternoon drive to Patna via visiting Rajgir 400m high Vishwa Shanti Stupa & Nalanda a hot seat of knowledge and learning established in the 5th century. Rajgir - was the largest city in Majjhimadesa during the Buddha's time. Among the many notable places in the area are the tranquil Vulture's Peak (Gijjhakuta), where the Buddha meditated, and the Sattapanni Cave, where the First Council was organized after the Buddha's passing.

Nalanda - the Buddha spent time in Nalanda, and his two chief disciples, Sariputta and Moggallana, also came from its vicinity. Later, the acclaimed Buddhist monastic university thrived here until its destruction by invaders at the end of the 12th century. Today there is a new Nava Nalanda university as well as a beautiful memorial honoring the 7th-century Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang (Hsüan-tsang), whose work was indispensable for preserving India's Buddhist heritage.

After sightseeing continue drive to Patna check in at hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 03; Patna - Vaishali - Kesariya - Kushinagar (260kms/ 6 - 7hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, drive to Kushinagar enroute visit Vaishali a city of great importance in Buddhist history. Among other significant events, the Buddha admitted women into the monastic order at the Kutagarasala Vihara and delivered the famous Jewel Discourse (Ratana Sutta) to purge the city when faced with a devastating drought, famine, and plague.

Continue driver and visit **Kesariya Stupa** - Initially constructed as a mud stupa, it gained its present structure in the Maurya, Sunga and Kushana period. The stupa dates between 200 AD and 750 AD and may have been associated with the 4th-century ruler, Raja Chakravarti. Kesariya Stupa is 104 feet high. Huien Tsang mentions having seen the grand Stupa in Kia-shi-po-lo (Kesariya) but it was deserted and overgrown. The Kesariya stupa was discovered in 1958 during an excavation.

On arrival check in at hotel. Rest time free and easy to relax and visit the Mahapari-nirvaana Temple.

Day 04; Kushinagar - Lumbini (160kms/ 4hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel morning to visit Mahapari-nirvaana Temple. The Buddha passed away at the age of 80 in Kushinagar. The important sites in Kushinagar are the Mahapari-nirvaana Temple, home to a superb 1,500-year-old red sandstone statue of the reclining Buddha, and the imposing Mahaparinirvana Stupa, which was built over the spot where the Buddha is said to have passed away under twin sal trees. The Buddha's last words at Kushinagar were these: "All compounded things are subject to decay: strive with diligence" (Vaya dhamma sankhara; appamadena sampadetha). Pilgrims to Kushinagar walk in silence around the massive reclining statue of the Buddha to pay homage to the truth of anicca (impermanence) and cultivate a deep sense of gratitude for the Buddha and his teaching. After sightseeing drive to Lumbini check in at hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 05; Lumbini

Breakfast at hotel full day to explore Lumbini.

Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born in Lumbini, in present-day southern Nepal. What is considered the exact location of the birth is identified by a stone slab in the inner sanctum of the Maya Devi

Temple, named after Siddhartha's mother. Above the stone slab is a damaged sculpture of Queen Maya Devi holding the branch of a sala tree after giving birth to Prince Siddhartha, who stands erect on a lotus pedestal. The oldest monument at Lumbini is the Ashoka Pillar, which marks it as the birthplace of the Buddha. A little south of the pillar is the spring-fed rectangular Puskarni pond, where Maya Devi is believed to have bathed before giving birth. The Sacred Garden, developed in recent years, lies beyond the Maya Devi compound and hosts some 40 monasteries from Asian Buddhist nations. At the end of a beautiful canal- and tree-lined avenue is the majestic World Peace Pagoda (Vishwa Shanti Stupa), built by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order. Today, the Lumbini Sacred Garden is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of world peace.

Kapilavastu - in Nepal where Prince Siddhartha spent the first 29 years of his life. However, some archaeologists believe that Piprahwa, in India's Uttar Pradesh, ten miles south of the Nepali border, is the true location of Kapilavastu.

Day 06; Lumbini - Shravasti (160kms/ 3hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel drive to Sravasti check in at hotel. Afternoon sightseeing, overnight at hotel.

Shravasti - The Buddha spent 25 rain retreats at Shravasti (Pali, Savatthi). Three-fourths of the Buddha's discourses, including the well-known Lovingkindness Discourse (Karaniya Metta Sutta), were given at Jetavana Vihara here, donated by the Buddha's great lay disciple Anathapindika.

The ruins at Saheth and Maheth are believed to be the site of ancient Shravasti. Maheth was the city-proper while the Jetavana monastery was at Saheth. Of the ancient Shravasti, the city walls are still standing. Within these, the remains of 3 ancient buildings can be visited: Angulimala's stupa, Anathapindika's stupa, and an old temple dedicated to a Jain Tirthankara. Outside of Shravasti is located the stupa where the Twin Miracle (Pali:Yamaka-pātihāriya) took place. The site of Jetavana monastery is the main pilgrim destination, with meditation and chanting mainly done at the Gandhakuti (Buddha's hut) and the Anandabodhi tree. Buddhist monasteries from the following countries have been constructed at Shravasti: Thailand, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Tibet, and China.

Day 07; Shravasti – Varanasi (315kms/ 6hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, drive to Varanasi check in at hotel. Evening walking tour of Ghats's temples & mosque on ghats. Also attend Holy Ganga Aarti, a magical aarti performed at Dasashwamedh Ghat at sunset. Halt your boat right at the steps for the best view. Overnight at hotel.

Day 08; Varanasi

Breakfast at hotels full day to explore Sarnath & Varanasi.

Sarnath - here the Buddha delivered his first discourse, the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta (Setting the Wheel of Dhamma in Motion), which explains the four noble truths and the noble eightfold path. It was also in Sarnath that the Buddha appointed his first group of disciples (sangha) to propagate his new teaching. Among the most notable monuments at Sarnath are the Dhamek Stupa, originally built by Ashoka, and the Ashoka Pillar, whose inscription points out the necessity of unity within the sangha. The ruins of various stupas and monasteries at Sarnath bear witness to of the monastic tradition that flourished here for over 1,500 years; among the new temples is the Mulaghandhakuti Vihara, built in 1922 by Anagarika Dharmapala. Today, hundreds of pilgrims visit the Vihara every evening to chant the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta, acknowledging with their voices the wisdom and compassion that began to emanate from Sarnath with the Buddha's first sermon.

City tour of Varanasi visit World famous Benaras Hindu University, The Ramnagar Fort Palace & Many Temples. Overnight at hotel.

Day 09; Varanasi – Departure (Flight)

Early morning boat ride and Ghat visit along the Ganges and catch the scene of devotees bathing and praying in the sacred water. Breakfast at hotel.

As per flight schedule transfer to airport to board flight for onward destination.

Price details:

Price using 3 star hotels valid from 1st October 2019 till 31st March 2020									
Particular	Per person price staying in SINGLE occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing DOUBLE/ TWIN occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing TRIPLE occupancy rooms (double room with extra bed)		
Currency	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD
1 person	₹169,074	€ 2,254	\$2,601	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 person	₹114,735	€ 1,530	\$1,765	₹93,044	€ 1,241	\$1,431	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 person	₹101,402	€ 1,352	\$1,560	₹99,638	€ 1,329	\$1,533	₹78,069	€ 1,041	\$1,201
4 person	₹99,790	€ 1,331	\$1,535	₹97,624	€ 1,302	\$1,502	₹76,457	€ 1,019	\$1,176
5 person	₹91,912	€ 1,225	\$1,414	₹87,776	€ 1,170	\$1,350	₹68,578	€ 914	\$1,055
6 person	₹84,331	€ 1,124	\$1,297	₹78,300	€ 1,044	\$1,205	₹60,998	€ 813	\$938
7 person	₹80,912	€ 1,079	\$1,245	₹74,026	€ 987	\$1,139	₹57,578	€ 768	\$886
8 person	₹78,347	€ 1,045	\$1,205	₹70,820	€ 944	\$1,090	₹55,014	€ 734	\$846
Child 5-11yrs	₹23,706			€ 316			\$365		
Child below 5yrs	Free								
H B supplement	₹9,191			€ 123			\$141		
Additional night in Bodhgaya	₹5,147	€ 69	\$79	₹2,941	€ 39	\$45	₹2,892	€ 39	\$44

Price using 4 star hotels valid from 1st October 2019 till 31st March 2020									
Particular	Per person price staying in SINGLE occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing DOUBLE/ TWIN occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing TRIPLE occupancy rooms (double room with extra bed)		
Currency	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD
1 person	₹196,132	€ 2,615	\$3,017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 person	₹127,566	€ 1,701	\$1,963	₹93,044	€ 1,241	\$1,431	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 person	₹114,233	€ 1,523	\$1,757	₹99,638	€ 1,329	\$1,533	₹88,485	€ 1,180	\$1,361
4 person	₹112,621	€ 1,502	\$1,733	₹97,624	€ 1,302	\$1,502	₹86,874	€ 1,158	\$1,337
5 person	₹104,743	€ 1,397	\$1,611	₹87,776	€ 1,170	\$1,350	₹78,995	€ 1,053	\$1,215
6 person	₹97,162	€ 1,295	\$1,495	₹78,300	€ 1,044	\$1,205	₹71,414	€ 952	\$1,099
7 person	₹93,743	€ 1,250	\$1,442	₹74,026	€ 987	\$1,139	₹67,995	€ 907	\$1,046
8 person	₹91,178	€ 1,216	\$1,403	₹70,820	€ 944	\$1,090	₹65,431	€ 872	\$1,007
Child 5-11yrs	₹26,500			€ 353			\$408		
Child below 5yrs	Free								
H B supplement	₹10,221			€ 136			\$157		
Additional night in Bodhgaya	₹8,088	€ 108	\$124	₹4,412	€ 59	\$68	₹3,873	€ 52	\$60

Price using 5 star hotels valid from 1st October 2019 till 31st March 2020									
Particular	Per person price staying in SINGLE occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing DOUBLE/ TWIN occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing TRIPLE occupancy rooms (double room with extra bed)		
Currency	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD
1 person	₹211,721	€ 2,823	\$3,257	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 person	₹143,228	€ 1,910	\$2,204	₹100,213	€ 1,336	\$1,542	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 person	₹122,725	€ 1,636	\$1,888	₹99,638	€ 1,329	\$1,533	₹93,951	€ 1,253	\$1,445
4 person	₹121,114	€ 1,615	\$1,863	₹97,624	€ 1,302	\$1,502	₹92,339	€ 1,231	\$1,421
5 person	₹113,235	€ 1,510	\$1,742	₹87,776	€ 1,170	\$1,350	₹84,461	€ 1,126	\$1,299
6 person	₹105,654	€ 1,409	\$1,625	₹78,300	€ 1,044	\$1,205	₹76,880	€ 1,025	\$1,183
7 person	₹102,235	€ 1,363	\$1,573	₹74,026	€ 987	\$1,139	₹73,461	€ 979	\$1,130
8 person	₹99,671	€ 1,329	\$1,533	₹70,820	€ 944	\$1,090	₹70,896	€ 945	\$1,091
Child 5-11yrs	₹28,706			€ 383			\$442		
Child below 5yrs	Free								
H B supplement	₹12,647			€ 169			\$195		
Additional night in Bodhgaya	₹8,088	€ 108	\$124	₹4,412	€ 59	\$68	₹3,873	€ 52	\$60

Note: Euro & USD prices are subject to change in case of any fluctuation in currency exchange rate. Please check the currency exchange rate of the day for exact price in your currency. In any case our INR price will remain unchanged and shall be treated as final price.

Included in price:

- Garland welcome and assistance on arrival at airport
- 8-nights / 9-days accommodation in offered hotels or similar (standard room)
- Daily breakfast at hotel in each package price
- Deluxe Air-conditioned chauffeur driven private vehicle as per tour program.
- 1 Time Monuments entrances of sightseeing places mentioned in the itinerary (almost all places of tourist interest are included in our itinerary)
- Cycle rickshaw ride in Varanasi
- Bottled drinking water in vehicle
- Sunrise and sunset Boat ride on holy River Ganges in Varanasi
- Government licensed English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city).
- Applicable GST (government taxes).

Not Included in price:

- Any flight ticket
- Main Meals, Lunch or dinner unless mentioned
- Camera charges at monuments
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Or anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar in above price

Day	City	3* Hotels	4* Hotels	5* Hotels
1	Bodhgaya	Hotel Taj Darbar/ Hotel Mahamaya	The Royal Residency/ Lotus Nikko Hotel	The Royal Residency/ Lotus Nikko Hotel
2	Patna	Hotel Patliputra Ashok/ Patliputra Exotica	Lemon Tree Premier/ Hotel Gargee Grand	Maurya Hotel/ The Panache
3	Kushinagar	Hotel The Ideal/ Hotel Adelphi Grande	The Royal Residency/ Lotus Nikko Hotel	The Royal Residency/ Lotus Nikko Hotel
4	Lumbini	Hotel Nirvana/ Lumbini Bamboo Resort	Buddha Maya Hotel/ Lumbini Hokke Hotel	Buddha Maya Hotel/ Lumbini Hokke Hotel

5	Lumbini	Hotel Nirvana/ Lumbini Bamboo Resort	Buddha Maya Hotel/ Lumbini Hokke Hotel	Buddha Maya Hotel/ Lumbini Hokke Hotel
6	Sravasti	Hotel Pawan Palace/ the sravasti residency	Lotus Nikko Hotel/ Hotel Platinum	Lotus Nikko Hotel/ Hotel Platinum
7	Varanasi	Meraden Grand/ Amaya Hotel	Rivatas by Ideal/ Palace On Ganges	Ramada JHV/ Radisson Hotel
8	Varanasi	Meraden Grand/ Amaya Hotel	Rivatas by Ideal/ Palace On Ganges	Ramada JHV/ Radisson Hotel
9	Departure			

Payment Policy:

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 7 days prior to arrival date

Cancellation policy:

Note: Written cancellation will accept on all working days, except Sunday, Any cancellation sent on Sunday's will be considered on next working day (Monday).

For the X-mas and New Year period from 20 Dec to 05 Jan the payment is non-refundable.

In case you cancel the trip after commencement, refund would be restricted to a limited amount only which too would depend on the amount that we would be able to recover from the hoteliers/ contractors we patronize. For unused hotel accommodation, chartered transportation & missed meals etc. we do not bear any responsibility to refund.

- Cancellation before 30 days – no cancellation fees only bank charges.
- Cancellation before 29 -15 days – 25% of the invoice plus bank charges.
- Cancellation before 14 –7 days - 50% of the invoice plus bank charges.
- Cancellation before 6 – 3 days - 75% of the invoice plus bank charges.
- Cancellation before 2 days – Now show 90% of the invoice.

Our Liabilities & Limitations:

Please note that after the finalization of the Tour/ service Cost, if there are any Hike in entrance fees of monuments / museums, Taxes, fuel cost or guide charges – by Govt of India, the same would be charged as extra.

Agora Voyages act only in the capacity of agent for the hotels, airlines, transporters, railways & contractors providing other services & all exchange orders, receipts, contracts & tickets issued by us are issued subject to terms & conditions under which these services are provided by them.

All itineraries are sample itineraries, intended to give you a general idea of the likely trip schedule. Numerous factors such as weather, road conditions, the physical ability of the participants etc. may dictate itinerary changes either before the tour or while on the trail. We reserve the right to change any schedule in the interest of the trip participants' safety, comfort & general well being.

Our rates are based on the prevailing rates as negotiated by us with the hotels, airlines etc. Hotels and Airlines retain the right to modify the rates without notice. In case of such changes the rates quoted before the modification, can be changed by us according to the modifications by hotels or airlines. All hotel bookings are based on usual check in and check out time of the hotels until unless indicated in the itinerary.

We shall not be responsible for any delays & alterations in the program or expenses incurred – directly or indirectly – due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accident, breakdown of machinery or equipment's, breakdown of transport, weather, sickness, landslides, political closures or any untoward incidents.

We shall not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage to person, property, or otherwise in connection with any accommodation, transportation or other services, resulting – directly or indirectly – from any act of GOD, dangers, fire, accident, breakdown in machinery or equipment, breakdown of transport, wars, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferages, epidemics, medical or custom department regulations, defaults, or any other causes beyond our control.

We do not have any insurance policy covering the expenses for accident, sickness, loss due to theft, or any other reasons. Visitors are advised to seek such insurance arrangements in their home country. All baggage's & personal property/s at all times are at the client's risk.

We will not be responsible for any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances like landslides, road blocks, bad weather, etc.

Tipping

Tipping is not included in our price. Tipping is optional, and at times expected in travel trade. Obviously there is no limit to how much you can tip and some guests who enjoy and appreciate the services of Guides, driver and other crew will and have tipped much more than our average tipping guideline of about \$10-15 per day.

Trip Comments

When you return from your trip, please share your experience with us. Any photos, suggestions will be appreciated. Although we try our best, Tourism is a trade, which cannot be perfect and there will always remain a room for improvement. Your comments (both criticism and compliments) are invaluable to us and we look forward to hearing from you, upon your return.