



ITINERARY OF ROOT INSTITUTE FUNDRAISING PILGRIMAGE TO BUDDHA'S SITES TO CELEBRATE THEIR 30TH YEAR 13 days, 12 nights

Tour Dates:

1 – 14 January 2018

Tour Route:

Delhi - Sarnath - Sravasti - Kushinagar - Vashali - Rajgir - Bodhgaya, INDIA

* See Pilgrimage route map on page 5

Tour Highlights:

- Wonders of Delhi
- Sarnath
- Kesariya Buddha Stupa
- Nalanda
- Bodhgaya - The most important Buddhist site
- Varanasi - Spiritual gateway of India
- Kushinagar
- Vaishali
- Rajgir

1 Jan 2018

Day 01:

Arrive in Delhi. Transfer from the International Airport to hotel in Delhi.
Overnight Delhi.

2 Jan 2018

Day 02:

After breakfast at the hotel, meet with Root Institute representative who will accompany you on your Pilgrimage. We spend the day in the sights and sounds of Delhi, including the National Museum which houses the Sacred Relics of Buddha (5th-4th century BC) which were discovered in Uttar Pradesh (a state of India). The relics are outstanding specimens of Buddhist Art and are illustrated through exhibits in a variety of materials and forms from the three principal Buddhist forms - Hinayana, Mahayana & Vajrayana.

If time permitting, visit other Delhi monuments including India Gate, Rajpath and Secretariat Buildings.
Overnight Delhi.

3 Jan 2018

Day 03:

Morning flight to Varanasi, considered the spiritual gateway of India and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Arrive in Varanasi late morning and check into your hotel. Sightseeing trip in Main Ghat area and Vishwanath Temple.

Varanasi is the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism and Jainism and played an important role in the development of Buddhism. This evening, participate in the breathtaking evening puja which accompanies sunset.

Overnight Varanasi.

4 Jan 2018

Day 04:

Leave after breakfast for Sarnath, one of the four main Buddhist pilgrimage sites in North India. On arrival in Sarnath, visit the Deer Park where the Buddha taught The Four Noble Truths (his first teachings) after attaining enlightenment.

Afterwards, we visit Dhamekh Stupa and other Buddhist ruins including Chaukhandi Stupa and Mulganda Kuti Vihar. The Dharmek Stupa is said to mark the exact spot of the Buddha's first teaching of the Four Noble Truths. Return to Varanasi late afternoon. The evening is free to explore or rest at your leisure.

Overnight Varanasi

5 Jan 2018

Day 05:

After a very early breakfast, we drive to Sravasti (approximately 8 hours) stopping for breaks along the way.

Overnight Sravasti

Sravasti is where the Buddha spent many rainy seasons teaching to his disciples and spent the greater part of his monastic life.

6 Jan 2018

Day 06:

Spend the day around the ruins of Sravasti which are believed to be the originals of ancient Sravasti.

Overnight Sravasti

7 Jan 2018

Day 07:

This morning we leave for Kushinagar (approximately 6 hours drive). Kushinagar is an important Pilgrimage site where the Buddha attained paranirvana after his death and where the long statue of reclining Buddha is housed. The image was unearthed during the excavations of 1876. Carved from sandstone, the statue represents the dying Buddha reclining on his right side. The group can also visit the site of the Maitreya Statue Project. Overnight Kushinagar

8 Jan 2018

Day 08:

Our first stop after breakfast is Mahaparinirvana temple – the site of the reclining Buddha. After we visit the Rambhar Stupa - which marks Lord Buddha's cremation ground.

Overnight Kushinagar

9 Jan 2018

Day 09:

After breakfast leave for Vaishali an important pilgrimage place as it is where 500 women were ordained by the Buddha.

On the way we visit Kesariya Stupa which was the venue where the Buddha delivered his Kalama Sutta. The Stupa has 5 large terraces which vary in shape and house a life like statue of Lord Buddha.
Overnight Vaishali

10 Jan 2018

Day 10:

Depart for Nalanda Monastery (4 hours drive). Afternoon visit to Nalanda which was the most renowned university in ancient India and the home to the great Buddhist scholars). Established in the 5th century B.C. it remained the center of learning till the 12th century A.D.

Afternoon, we leave for Rajgir.

Overnight Rajgir.

Rajgir was the lifetime of the Buddha and was the capital of the powerful Magadhan kingdom, ruled by the virtuous King Bimbisara.

11 Jan 2018

Day 11:

After breakfast, take the chairlift to visit Vultures Peak and the Japanese Stupa.

Vulture Peak Mountain is one of several sites frequented by the Buddha and his community of disciples for both training and retreat is the place where the Buddha gave sermons including the Heart Sutra.

Late afternoon drive to Bodhgaya.

Overnight Root Institute, Bodhgaya

12 Jan 2018

Day 12:

After breakfast pilgrimage to Mahabodhi Stupa.

Overnight Bodhgaya

13 Jan 2018

Day 13:

Rest day. *Night at Root Institute sponsored*

14 Jan 2018

Day 14:

30 years of Root Institute Celebration. *Breakfast at Root Institute sponsored*

Includes

- Fully accompanied by representative of Root Institute
- Met on arrival at Delhi International Airport
- Accommodation with breakfast
- Flight from Delhi to Varanasi
- Private transport for all transfers and sightseeing as mentioned below
 1. Delhi airport pickup and drop off
 2. Sightseeing in Delhi

3. Pickup Varanasi airport to hotel, sightseeing to Sarnath
 4. Car/Mini Bus from Varanasi – Sravasti – Kushinagar – Kesariya – Vaishali – Nalanda – Rajgir - Bodhgaya
- All attractions and entrance fees as per itinerary
 - Boat Ride in Varanasi
 - Local guides in Delhi, Varanasi, Sarnath, Nalanda and Rajgir
 - Accompanied by local English speaking guide from Delhi to Bodhgaya

Excludes

- Airfares to and from India
- Indian visas
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Lunch and dinner
- Occasional optional items not identified in itinerary description
- Tipping and personal expenses
- Donations
- Bottled water and other beverages not included with meals

Land cost only from Delhi to Bodhgaya

US\$2650 per person twin share based including US\$550 per person donation for Root Institute

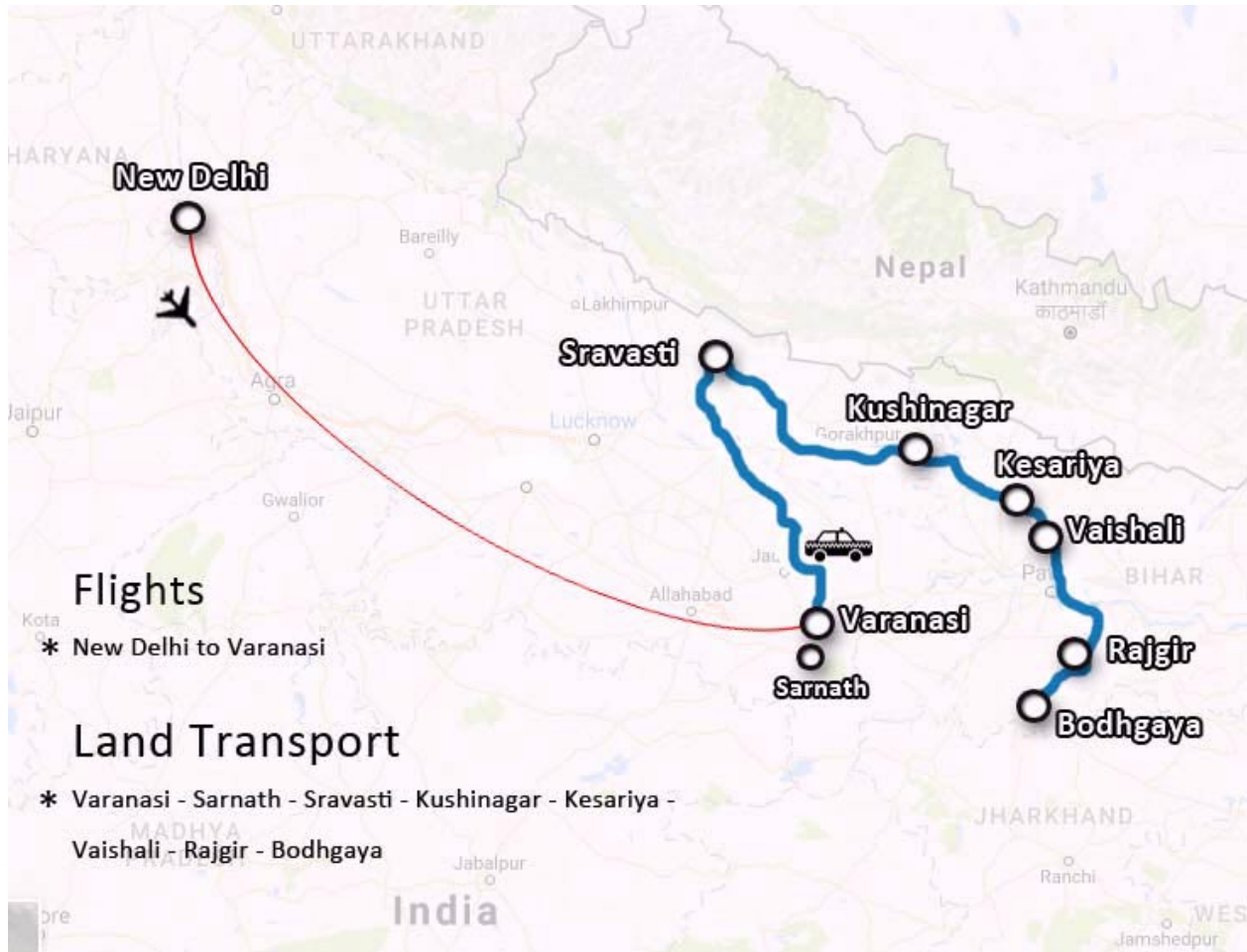
US\$500 single supplement

ACCOMMODATION

Place	Name of Hotel/ Guest House or similar	Nights
Delhi	Hans Plaza	2
Varanasi	Buddha Castle	2
Sravasti	Lotus Nikko Hotel	2
Kushinagar	Hotel Adelphi Grande	2
Vaishali	Vaishali Residency	1
Rajgir	Rajgir Residency	1
Bodhgaya	Root Institute	2

Updated on 2 May 2017

Pilgrimage Map



We thank you for this opportunity to quote for your Pilgrimage to our Incredible India.