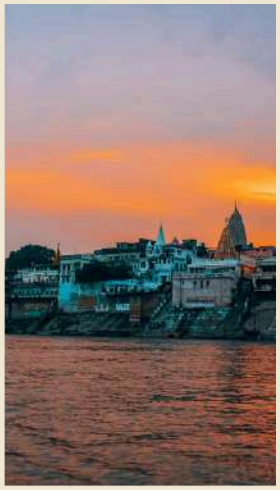
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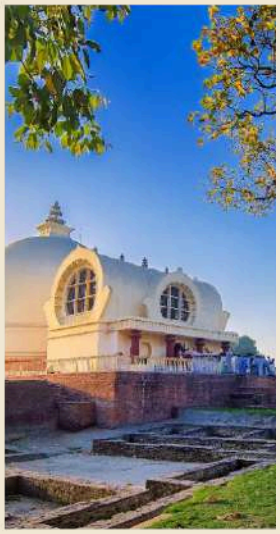
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BUDDHA











Itinerary at a glance





Day 1-2: Delhi

- Arrival at Delhi International Airport, and hotel transfer
- Old Delhi + Rickshaw Ride: vibrant markets, chaotic charm
- Central Vista: India Gate, Presidential Palace & more
- Gurudwara Bangla Sahib: Sikh shrine & community kitchen
- Humayun's Tomb: Inspiration for the Taj Mahal





Day 3-4: Varanasi

- Fly from Delhi to Varanasi (AI 406 10:40 - 12:10)
- Walk: through markets & lanes of oldest living city
- Ganges Aarti: sacred evening rituals on the river's ghats
- Ganges sunrise boat-ride: witness the city's timeless traditions
- Chaukhandi Stupa: Where Buddha met his first disciples
- Dhamek Stupa: where Buddha gave his first sermon
- Mulagandha Kuti Vihara: serene temple with vibrant frescoes
- Sarnath Museum: India's Emblem, ancient Buddhist treasures
- Kathak Performance at the Legendary Banaras Gharana



Day 5-6: Bodhgaya

- Drive from Varanasi to Bodhgaya (~250 kms, ~05 hrs)
- Mahabodhi Temple: UNESCO Site & Enlightenment Spot
- Bodhi Tree: Descendant of Buddha's Enlightenment Tree
- Intl Monasteries: Global Buddhist Culture in One Place
- Great Buddha Statue: 25m Icon of Peace & Meditation
- Sujata Stupa: Tribute to the Woman Who Nourished Buddha



Day 7: Rajgir

- Drive from Bodhgaya to Rajgir (~69 kms, ~02 hrs)
- Vulture's Peak: Hilltop of Buddha's Mahayana sermons

- Venu Vana: Buddha's serene bamboo retreat
- Vishwa Shanti Stupa: stupa for global harmony





Day 8: Nalanda & Patna

- Drive from Rajgir to Nalanda (~111 kms, ~2.5 hrs)
- Nalanda: ruins of the world's oldest residential university
- Archaeological Museum: Relics from the ancient Buddhist University
- Drive from Nalanda to Patna (~90 kms, ~2 hrs)





Day 9-10: Vaishali & Kushinagar

- Drive from Patna to Vaishali (~40 kms, ~1.5 hrs)
- Vishwa Shanti Stupa: White Pagoda of Peace
- Relic Stupa I & II: Early Shrine with Buddha's Ashes
- Ashokan Pillar: commemorates site of Buddha's Last Sermon
- Ananda Stupa: tribute to Buddha's close disciple
- Drive from Vaishali to Kushinagar (220km, ~5 hrs)
- Mahaparinirvana Temple: Buddha's Final Resting Place
- Ramabhar Stupa: Buddha's Cremation Site Memorial
- Japanese Temple: Asian Unity in Buddhist Architecture





Day 11-12: Lumbini

- Drive from Kushinagar to Lumbini (~155 kms, ~06 Hrs)
- Maya Devi Temple: Buddha's Birthplace in Lumbini
- Bodhi Tree: Sacred site beside Maya Devi Temple
- Ashokan Pillar: Ancient Inscription of Birthplace
- Pushkarini: Buddha's Sacred Birth Pond
- Monastic Zone: Global Buddhist Monasteries
- World Peace Pagoda: Symbol of Non-Violence



Day 13-14: Shravasti

- Drive from Lumbini to Shravasti (~139 kms, ~5.5 hrs)
- Jetavana: Buddha's Monastery of Teachings & Ruins
- Ananda Bodhi Tree: Sacred Descendant of Original Bodhi Tree
- Gandhakuti/Kosambkuti: Sacred Residences of Buddha at Jetavana
- Sahet-Mahet: Ancient Monastic City of the Buddha



Day 15: Lucknow

- Drive from Shravasti to Lucknow (~144 kms, ~3.5 Hrs)
- Bada Imambara: Hall of Nawabs & intricate labyrinth
- Chota Imambara: gilded Palace of Lights



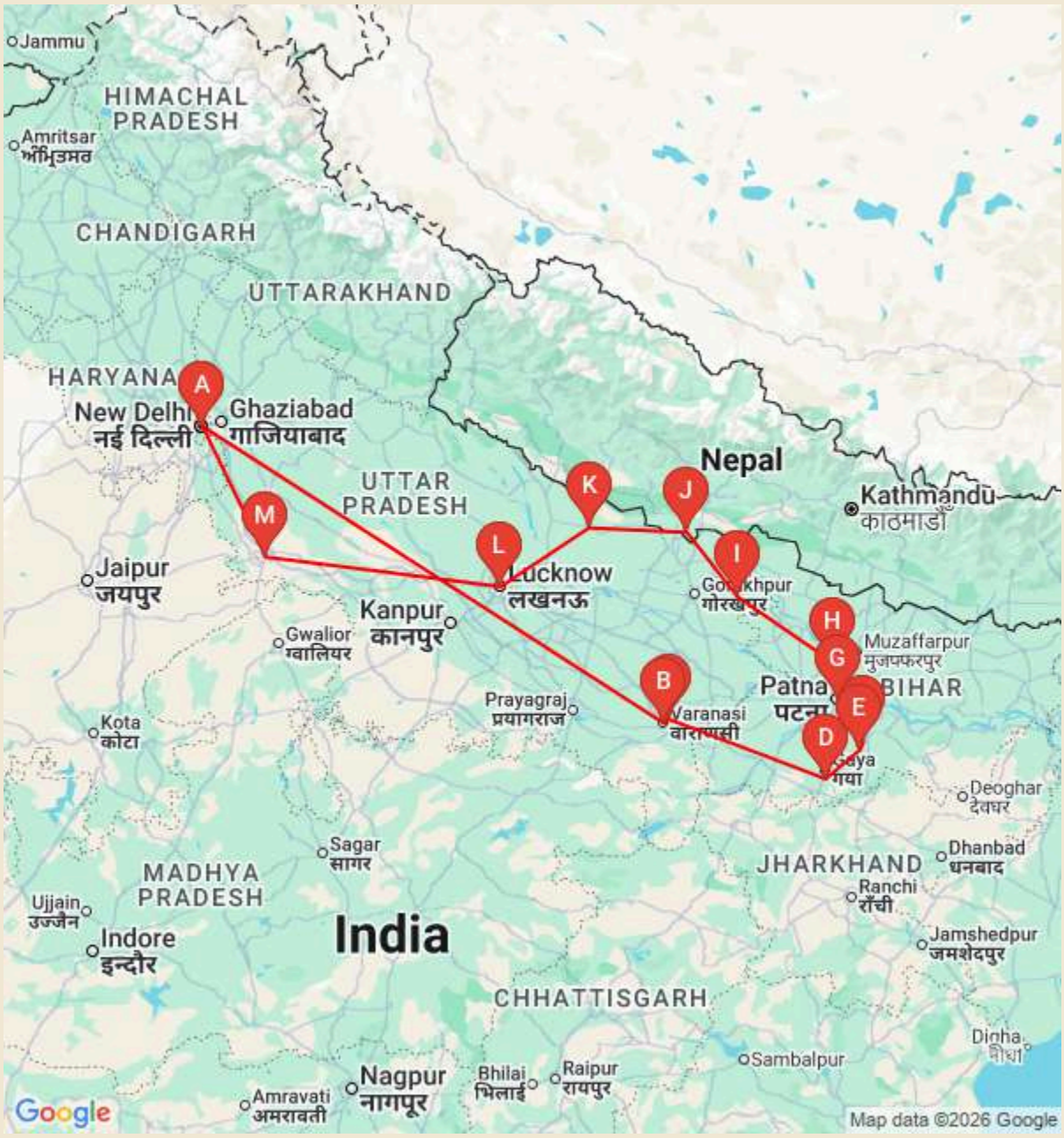
Day 16-17: Agra

- Drive from Lucknow to Agra (~333 kms, ~5.5 Hrs)
- Taj Mahal at sunrise: among the seven wonders of the world
- Agra Fort: UNESCO site; symbol of Mughal power & royalty



Day 18-19: Delhi

- Drive from Agra to Delhi (~220 kms, ~04 Hrs)
- Departure from Delhi International Airport


Jammu
HIMACHAL PRADESH
Amritsar
CHANDIGARH
UTTARAKHAND
HARYANA
New Delhi
नई दिल्ली
Ghaziabad
गाजियाबाद
UTTAR PRADESH
Nepal
Kathmandu
काठमांडौ
Jaipur
जयपुर
Lucknow
लखनऊ
Kanpur
कानपुर
Gwalior
ग्वालियर
Gorakhpur
गोरखपुर
Muzaffarpur
मुजफ्फरपुर
Patna
पटना
BIHAR
Prayagraj
प्रयागराज
Varanasi
वाराणसी
Kota
कोटा
Deoghar
देवघर
Dhanbad
धनबाद
JHARKHAND
Ranchi
राँची
Sagar
सागर
MADHYA PRADESH
Ujjain
उज्जैन
Indore
इन्दौर
India
Jamshedpur
जमशेदपुर
CHHATTISGARH
Sambalpur
Nagpur
नागपुर
Bhilai
भिलाई
Raipur
रायपुर
Amravati
अमरावती
Google
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Day 1 - Delhi

Arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL), Delhi. After baggage collection, you will be met by our representative at the arrival gate and transferred to the hotel.

Delhi, India's capital, is a city of contrasts and conquests, where ancient forts, Mughal tombs, and colonial landmarks coexist with a vibrant modern skyline. From the bustling streets of Old Delhi to the grandeur of Lutyens' Delhi, it has remained the heart of India's culture and power for over a thousand years.





Upon arrival, check in and relax at the hotel. Overnight stay is at the hotel.

You will be staying at The Imperial New Delhi.

Experience classic luxury at one of Delhi's most iconic hotels. With elegant rooms, lush gardens, and warm service. The Imperial offers a peaceful and refined stay in the heart of the city.





Day 2 - Delhi

After breakfast, step into Old Delhi's sensory overload—marvel at the Mughal-era **Jama Masjid,** one of India's largest mosques, then weave through tangled lanes on a **rickshaw ride**. The bustling markets brim with spices, street food, textiles, and jewellery, offering an unforgettable glimpse into the city's history, chaos, and charm.





Arrive at the **Central Vista**, symbolising Delhi's modern power as the capital of

the world's largest democracy. Drive past iconic landmarks like **India Gate, Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's House)** and the **Parliament House,** collectively representing the heart of India's governance.

Followed by a visit to the **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib**: learn about Sikhism, a religion that was born in 1469 and flourished in India. Its golden dome, sacred pool, and communal kitchen, Langar, serving free meals to thousands daily, radiates serenity and selfless service amidst Delhi's hustle.





Also visit - A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Delhi's most exquisite Mughal monuments, **Humayun's Tomb** blends Persian and Indian craftsmanship in perfect symmetry. Built in 1570 by the emperor's wife, it inspired the Taj Mahal's design, with its grand red sandstone façade, serene gardens, and intricate marble inlay work offering a timeless glimpse into the Mughal royal legacy.

In the evening, return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 3 - Delhi / Varanasi

After breakfast, transfer in time for your flight from Delhi to Varanasi by 6E 5025 (Delhi 10:25 Hrs - 11:50 Hrs Varanasi). Upon arrival, you will meet our Airport representative & driver, and be transferred to your destination (22 kms; ~40 minutes drive).

Among the world's oldest living cities, Varanasi—also known as Kashi—is India's spiritual heart. Set along the sacred Ganges, it's a timeless centre of Hindu philosophy, rituals, and devotion. With millennia of continuous worship, it embodies the soul of India. As Mark Twain said, "Benares is older than history, even older than legend..."



Upon arrival, check in to the hotel.

Late afternoon, embark on a guided walk through Varanasi's timeless lanes—from sacred ghats and centuries-old temples to bustling bazaars and hidden alleys. Each turn reveals layers of spiritual depth, artisanal legacy, and vibrant street life, offering an intimate window into the city's living traditions.

End your evening with one-of-a-kind experience of witnessing the **Ganga Aarti ceremony (Prayer) at Dashashwamedh Ghat**—a spiritual spectacle of lights, chants, and the shimmering Ganges. This creates a powerful spiritual spectacle that connects you to India's ancient rituals and devotion.





After witnessing the Aarti ceremony, return to your hotel for an overnight stay.

You will be staying at Brijrama Palace or a similar hotel.

Perched directly above Darbhanga Ghat, BrijRama Palace is one of Varanasi's oldest riverfront palaces, blending regal heritage with refined luxury. Reached by boat and overlooking the sacred Ganges, the hotel offers ornate interiors, Banarasi-inspired décor, classical performances, and unforgettable sunrise and Ganga Aarti views from its terraces.
(*P.S. Brijrama Palace is a Vegetarian Hotel.*)





Day 4 - Varanasi

Early morning, enjoy a **boat ride** on the holy **Ganges River**. As the sun rises, experience a spiritual symphony of light and calmness. Golden rays reflect on the river's surface, temple bells ring in the distance, and mist gently rises around the ancient ghats. The soft movement of the boat, along with the awakening of Varanasi, creates a truly magical and soulful experience, where time seems to stand still, and the spirit connects deeply with the divine.





Return to the hotel for breakfast. Followed by a visit to the **Birla Temple at Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**, which draws architectural inspiration from the original Kashi Vishwanath Temple. Open to people of all faiths, it features inscriptions from the Bhagavad Gita, symbolising the confluence of knowledge and spirituality.

Later, proceed for a sightseeing tour of **Sarnath**—one of the most revered Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

Begin your visit at the **ruins of the ancient university**, which reflect Sarnath's status as a great centre of learning until it was destroyed during invasions. Check out the **Ashoka Pillar**, a powerful symbol of Emperor Ashoka's devotion to spreading the message of Buddhism. Continue to the **Dhamek Stupa**, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his five disciples. Finally, visit the **Mulagandha Kuti Vihara,** a Sri Lankan temple known for its serene atmosphere and beautiful wall paintings that depict the life of Buddha.





After the visit, drive back to Varanasi. Later in the Afternoon, Witness Kathak Performance at Banaras Gharana:

Visit to Banaras Gharana – The Soul of Kathak in Varanasi

Experience the grace and rhythm of Banaras Gharana, one of the oldest Kathak traditions founded by Pt. Janaki Prasad. Known for its devotional essence and refined abhinaya (expressions), this gharana blends powerful footwork, rhythmic precision, and storytelling rooted in mythology. Unlike the Lucknow or Jaipur styles, Banaras Gharana emphasises purity of emotion (sattvik bhava), graceful floor movements, and intricate bols unique to this school. Guests can witness or participate in a live Kathak session at an authentic dance studio where disciples of the legendary Gopi Krishna and Sitara Devi continue this legacy. The visit offers an intimate glimpse into the rhythmic taal, graceful spins, and expressive gestures that make Banaras Gharana timeless. End the session with interactive conversations over tea, understanding how this art form continues to breathe through the lanes of Varanasi.





Return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 5 - Varanasi / Bodhgaya

After breakfast, check out and depart for Bodhgaya (250 Kms away; ~05 hrs drive).

Bodhgaya is the single most sacred site for Buddhists across the world — it's here that Prince Siddhartha Gautama attained Enlightenment and became the Buddha over 2,500 years ago. This transformation under the Bodhi Tree laid the foundation of Buddhism, one of the world's major religions.



Upon arrival, check in to your hotel.

You will be staying at Marasa Sarovar Premiere or similar.

A serene retreat inspired by Buddhist philosophy, set along the Falgu River. The hotel's monastery-style architecture, lotus water bodies, and open courtyards create a calm, meditative atmosphere, with spaces thoughtfully designed around the symbolism and simplicity of Buddhist traditions.





Overnight stay is at the hotel.

Day 6 - Bodhgaya

After breakfast, visit A UNESCO World Heritage Site, **the Mahabodhi Temple**, which marks the exact spot of Buddha's Enlightenment. Its 50m pyramidal spire, 2nd–5th century origins, and sacred Bodhi Tree make it one of the most revered and architecturally significant Buddhist monuments in the world. The sanctum is a magnet for global pilgrims and monks.

Located within the Mahabodhi Temple complex, this peepal tree is a direct descendant of the original **Bodhi Tree** under which Siddhartha attained Enlightenment. Its presence creates a powerful spiritual atmosphere, drawing monks and seekers from across the world who meditate, chant, and offer prayers beneath its sacred shade.

Encircling the Mahabodhi complex are monasteries built by Buddhist nations—Thailand, Japan, Bhutan, Tibet, Vietnam, and more—each reflecting its homeland's art, prayer styles, and architecture. A walking tour here reveals

the global embrace of Bodhgaya and the diversity within Buddhism's living traditions.





Also visit the towering 25 metres high, **the Great Buddha Statue** of Bodhgaya, which is the first and largest of its kind in India. Inaugurated by the Dalai Lama in 1989, this meditative stone sculpture, seated in dhyana mudra, is flanked by ten smaller disciples. A striking Indo-Japanese collaboration, it's a landmark of peaceful symbolism and global reverence.

In the afternoon, depending upon the pacing and time, an optional visit across the Phalgu River stands the **Sujata Stupa**, built to honour Sujata—the village woman who offered milk-rice to the starving Siddhartha, enabling his Enlightenment. The serene, lesser-visited site marks a pivotal turning point in Buddha's life and features a peaceful stupa amidst rural landscapes and banyan trees.



Also visit the Reclining or Sleeping Buddha statue in Bodh Gaya, which depicts Lord Buddha in the Mahaparinirvana pose, symbolising his final liberation from the cycle of rebirth. Set within a peaceful monastic setting, the statue invites quiet reflection and offers a lesser-known yet deeply moving spiritual experience beyond Bodhgaya's main pilgrimage sites.



In the evening, return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 7 - Bodhgaya / Rajgir

After breakfast, check out and depart for Rajgir (69 Kms away; ~02 hrs drive).

Rajgir, the ancient capital of Magadha, is a pivotal site in Buddhist history. Surrounded by hills and hot springs, it houses Griddhakuta Peak, where Buddha delivered key sermons. A blend of political legacy and spiritual depth, Rajgir reflects the rich cultural and philosophical currents of ancient India.



Upon arrival, visit **Griddhakuta** - **Vulture's Peak**: Perched atop rugged hills, Vulture's Peak is where Buddha gave many key Mahayana teachings, including the Heart Sutra. The hill offers sweeping views and a spiritually charged silence that once echoed with ancient sermons.

Later visit, **Venu Vana**, meaning "Bamboo Grove," was a monastery gifted to the Buddha by King Bimbisara, making it one of the earliest Buddhist retreats. This tranquil grove near Rajgir's hills is believed to be where the Buddha meditated and rested during his visits. Its serene pond and shaded paths preserve the contemplative spirit of early Buddhism.




Also visit **Vishwa Shanti Stupa** - built in 1969 by Nipponzan Myohoji, this brilliant white stupa crowns Ratnagiri Hill. Four golden Buddha statues depict key life stages—birth, enlightenment, the first sermon, and Mahaparinirvana. A symbol of global harmony, it embodies Japan's postwar peace movement in sacred Buddhist soil.

In the evening, check into your hotel for an overnight stay.

You will be staying at Indo Hokke, Rajgir or a similar hotel.
A tranquil stay reflecting Indo-Japanese design, marked by its stupa-style entrance and red-brick architecture. Set amid quiet gardens, it features a prayer hall and meditation spaces, creating a calm, spiritual atmosphere aligned with Rajgir's Buddhist heritage.





Day 8 - Rajgir / Nalanda / Patna

After breakfast, check out and depart for Patna (111 Kms away; ~2.5 hrs drive), stopping en route to visit Nalanda (12 Kms away; ~20 minute drive).

Nalanda, founded in the 5th century CE, was the world's first residential international university and a beacon of ancient Indian scholarship. Its sprawling ruins reflect a golden age of learning that drew scholars from across Asia. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Nalanda stands as a symbol of India's deep-rooted intellectual and cultural legacy.

You will be visiting: **Ruins of Nalanda Mahavihara** - Founded in the 5th century CE, Nalanda was the world's first residential university and a renowned Buddhist Mahavihara. Its sprawling brick ruins reflect advanced learning in philosophy, medicine, arts, and more. Revered across Asia, it remains a key pilgrimage site symbolising centuries of Buddhist wisdom and scholarship.





Founded in 1917, the Nalanda Archaeological Museum houses treasures unearthed from the ancient Nalanda University site. Its galleries display exquisite Buddhist sculptures, bronze icons, seals, and terracotta artefacts from the 5th to 12th centuries. The museum offers cultural insight into Nalanda's role as a beacon of Buddhist learning and monastic life.

Xuanzang Memorial: Built in memory of the 7th-century Chinese monk Xuanzang, this serene memorial hall near Nalanda honours his deep contribution to Buddhist scholarship. It houses manuscripts, murals, and relics tracing his travels across India and teachings at Nalanda. The site reflects enduring Indo-Chinese cultural ties and Xuanzang's pivotal role in preserving Buddhist heritage.



After the visit, drive to Patna (96 Kms away; ~1.5 hrs drive).

One of India's oldest cities, Patna sits along the Ganges with a legacy spanning from ancient Pataliputra to the Mughal-era Azimabad. A cradle of empires and faiths, it's home to Buddhist relics, a revered Sikh takht, colonial-era monuments, and the iconic Mahatma Gandhi Bridge. Today, it bridges centuries of history with modern civic landmarks and academic institutions.



Upon arrival, check in to your hotel. Overnight stay is at the hotel.

You will be staying at Taj City Centre, Patna.

A centrally located hotel reflecting Patna's historic legacy through contemporary design and local art. Spacious rooms, a rooftop pool, and refined dining create a polished, comfortable stay, with easy access to the city's key cultural and business districts.





Day 9 - Patna / Vaishali / Kushinagar

After breakfast, check out and depart for an excursion to Vaishali on the way to Kushinagar (43 Kms away; ~1.5 hrs drive).

Once the capital of the ancient Licchavi republic, ***Vaishali*** *is where Buddha delivered his last sermon and announced his impending Mahaparinirvana. It hosted the Second Buddhist Council and saw the early rise of democratic governance, making it a site of both spiritual and historical resonance.*



Upon arrival, visit the **Ashokan Pillar at Kolhua**, Vaishali, which marks the site of Buddha's final sermon before his Mahaparinirvana. It enshrines relics of Ananda, his closest disciple. Nearby stands Ashoka's Lion Pillar—carved from a single block of polished red sandstone, crowned with a majestic lion—symbolising imperial patronage of Buddhism. With its single lion capital still intact, it stands as one of the finest surviving Ashokan pillars and a UNESCO-listed symbol of Buddhist legacy.

Buddha Relic Stupa - Among the earliest stupas in India, this site is believed to enshrine a portion of the Buddha's ashes. Its age and simplicity evoke the solemnity of early Buddhist devotion and the immense reverence for the Buddha after his passing.





Abhishek Pushkarini in Vaishali is the ancient ceremonial tank where elected

rulers of the Licchavi republic were ritually anointed before assuming office. Closely linked to one of the world's earliest republics and revered in Buddhist history, the serene water tank reflects Vaishali's remarkable legacy of governance, ritual, and spiritual heritage.

To conclude the sightseeing visit, **Vishwa Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda)**, a gleaming white monument in Vaishali, was built by the Japanese Buddhist community to promote peace and non-violence. Set beside a tranquil lake, the stupa enshrines Buddhist relics and offers a serene atmosphere for reflection, prayer, and panoramic views of this sacred historic landscape.



Later, continue driving onward to *Kushinagar* (215 Kms away; ~5 hrs drive).

***Kushinagar**, where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana, marks his final resting place and spiritual liberation. A revered Buddhist pilgrimage site, it features ancient stupas, monasteries, and archaeological ruins that reflect deep teachings on life, death, and transcendence in the Buddhist tradition.*

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel for an overnight stay.

You will be staying at The Imperial Kushinagar or a similar hotel.

The Imperial Kushinagar is set close to key Buddhist sites, within walking distance of the Mahaparinirvana Temple. Featuring spacious rooms, garden surroundings, and views towards nearby monasteries, it offers a calm and convenient base aligned with the spiritual character of Kushinagar.





Day 10 - Kushinagar

After breakfast, set out for a full day exploration of sacred Kushinagar, visiting:

The **Mahaparinirvana Temple** in Kushinagar marks the sacred site where Lord Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana around 483 BCE. Revered by Buddhists worldwide, the temple houses a serene 6.1-metre reclining Buddha statue from the Gupta period and stands as one of the most significant pilgrimage sites in the Buddhist world.

Inside lies a 6.1m-long **reclining Buddha statue**, unearthed in 1876 and dating to the 5th century CE. The temple radiates calm reverence and remains central to global Buddhist pilgrimage and remembrance.





Standing beside the Mahaparinirvana Temple in Kushinagar, **the Parinirvana Stupa** commemorates the place associated with Lord Buddha's Mahaparinirvana. Dating to ancient times and later restored, this revered brick stupa forms part of Kushinagar's sacred Buddhist complex, drawing pilgrims seeking reflection at the site of Buddha's final liberation.

Later visit **Ramabhar Stupa** - Believed to be the Buddha's cremation site, this massive brick stupa rises solemnly amidst quiet fields. Dating back to the 5th–6th century CE, it holds immense symbolic value in the Buddhist world—marking the transition from physical death to spiritual liberation.





Matha Kuar Shrine houses a striking black stone statue of Lord Buddha in the bhumisparsha mudra, or earth-touching gesture. Believed to date to the 10th–11th century, the shrine is associated with Buddha's final days and offers a quiet, contemplative stop within Kushinagar's sacred Buddhist landscape.

If time permits, also visit the **monasteries** built by the Japanese and Sri Lankan Buddhist communities. This serene temple features traditional Japanese architecture and a beautiful meditation garden. It reflects pan-Asian reverence for Kushinagar and the global continuity of Buddhist devotion and cultural exchange.





In the evening, return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 11 - Kushinagar / Lumbini

After breakfast, check out and depart for Lumbini via Sonauli / Belahiya Border crossing (180 Kms away; ~6 Hrs drive), including Border and immigration formalities.

Lumbini, part of the ancient Shakya kingdom, is where Queen Maya gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama over 2,600 years ago. Mentioned in early Buddhist texts and royal edicts, the city has drawn pilgrims since Emperor Ashoka's time, and remains a living centre of Buddhist history and devotion.



Upon arrival, check in to your hotel. The rest of the day is at Leisure.

Overnight stay is at the hotel.

You will be staying at Hokke Hotel Lumbini or a similar hotel.

A peaceful retreat set within the Lumbini sacred zone, blending Japanese simplicity with a garden-style layout. Featuring tatami-style rooms, meditation-friendly spaces, and a calm, open setting, it offers a quiet and culturally immersive stay close to the birthplace of Buddha.





Day 12 - Lumbini

After breakfast, visit the sacred sites of Lumbini:

Set at the exact birthplace of Lord Buddha, the **Maya Devi Temple** and **Sacred Garden** form the spiritual heart of Lumbini, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tradition holds that Queen Māyādevī gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama here in the 6th century BCE while holding a sal tree. The sacred complex preserves an Ashokan-era marker stone, ancient shrine ruins, the Ashokan Pillar, and serene monastic landscapes that draw pilgrims from across the world.

Ashokan Pillar installed by Emperor Ashoka in 249 BCE, this polished sandstone pillar stands beside the Maya Devi Temple, marking Lumbini as the Buddha's birthplace. Its inscription is the earliest epigraphic evidence linking

the site to Buddha's life. The pillar remains a timeless symbol of Ashoka's devotion and the spread of Buddhism.





Pushakarini Pond - Believed to be where Queen Maya bathed before giving birth and where the infant Buddha was ritually cleansed, this lotus-filled pond evokes deep serenity and sacred symbolism within the temple complex.



Lumbini's **Monastic Zone** is a tranquil sanctuary where nations have built monasteries in tribute to the Buddha. Divided into Theravada (East) and Mahayana–Vajrayana (West) zones, it reflects the spiritual and architectural diversity of global Buddhism—each complex a living expression of devotion near the Buddha's birthplace.





World Peace Pagoda, built by Japanese Buddhists, this dazzling white stupa stands as a beacon of non-violence and harmony. Its elevated location offers panoramic views of the Lumbini complex, embodying the Buddha's message of peace.



Day 13 - Lumbini / Shravasti

After breakfast, check out and depart for Shravasti via Sonauli / Belahiya Borders(205 Kms away; ~7 hrs drive -including border & immigration formalities).

Once the flourishing capital of the ancient Kosala kingdom, ***Shravasti*** *was a major centre of political, cultural, and spiritual life in 6th-century BCE India. It gained lasting fame as the city where Buddha spent 24 rainy seasons, delivering key teachings that shaped the foundations of early Buddhist thought.*



Upon arrival, check in to your hotel. The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

You will be staying at Tulip Inn, Shravasti or a similar hotel.

Nestled in the plains of Shravasti, this contemporary retreat pairs open green spaces with clean, modern design. Spacious rooms, relaxed dining, and an easy-going atmosphere create a refreshing pause, just minutes from the sacred grounds of Jetavana.





Overnight stay is at the hotel.

Day 14 - Shravasti

Breakfast is in the hotel. Later depart to see the sacred sites of Shravasti:

One of Buddhism's earliest and most venerated monastic complexes, **Jetavana** was gifted to the Buddha by merchant Anathapindika. He spent 24 rainy seasons here and delivered hundreds of discourses. The site preserves meditation halls, brick shrines, and the sacred Anandabodhi tree still revered by pilgrims.

Located within the sacred Jetavana complex in Shravasti, **the Ananda Bodhi Tree** is traditionally believed to have been planted by Ananda, Lord Buddha's devoted disciple, from a sapling linked to the Bodh Gaya Bodhi Tree. Revered by pilgrims, it became a symbolic place of worship and meditation during Buddha's lifetime.





Within the Jetavana Monastery complex in Shravasti, **Gandhakuti and Kosambakuti** mark sites traditionally associated with Lord Buddha's residence and assembly spaces. Gandhakuti, or the "Perfumed Chamber," is believed to have been Buddha's dwelling, while Kosambakuti formed part of the sacred monastic complex where teachings and spiritual gatherings took place.



Sahet–Mahet in Shravasti preserves the remains of ancient Shravasti, one of the most important cities of Buddha's era. Sahet contains the sacred Jetavana Monastery, while Mahet marks the ancient city settlement enclosed

by historic ramparts. Together, they reveal Shravasti's role as a major centre of Buddhism, trade, and early urban life.



The rest of the day is at leisure. The overnight stay is at the hotel.

Day 15 - Shravasti / Lucknow

After breakfast, check out and depart for Lucknow (144 Kms away; ~3.5 Hrs drive).

Once the seat of the Nawabs of Awadh, Lucknow is known for its poetic charm, Mughal-era architecture, and courtly grace. From grand Imambaras and intricately carved gateways to its famed chikankari embroidery and kebab traditions, the city balances refinement and warmth—where history, hospitality, and 'tehzeeb' are part of daily life.



Upon arrival, check in to your hotel.

After settling in the hotel, depart for sightseeing of Lucknow city, visiting **Rumi Darwaza**, an icon of Lucknow, which is a towering 18th-century gateway built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784. Inspired by a portal in ancient Constantinople, it blends Mughal grace with Ottoman flair. Standing 60 feet tall, this architectural marvel once marked the entrance to the royal city and today symbolises Lucknow's rich Nawabi heritage.





Visit the **Chota Imambara**, also known as Hussainabad Imambara, in Lucknow, which is a splendid 19th-century monument built by Nawab Muhammad Ali Shah. Renowned for its ornate interiors, Belgian chandeliers, calligraphy, and gilded decoration, it serves as both a congregation hall and a mausoleum, reflecting the refined artistry and cultural grandeur of Awadh.

Also visit **Bara Imambara**, Lucknow's architectural crown jewel—built without a single beam. Its cavernous central hall and the famed Bhool Bhulaiya (maze) captivate visitors with mystery and scale. Commissioned during a famine to provide employment, this 18th-century marvel reflects the Nawabs' blend of charity, faith, and grand design.

If time permits, walk past colonial-era icons like the Residency, then savour galawati kebabs at the legendary *Tunday Kababi*. In Lucknow, royal recipes and Raj-era relics come together in a city steeped in grace and flavour.

After the Lucknow city tour, return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

You will be staying at the Taj Mahal Lucknow or a similar hotel.

Caped gardens in the heart of the city, this elegant hotel blends classic architecture with contemporary comfort. Spacious rooms, refined dining, and a calm, well-appointed setting offer a polished stay with easy access to Lucknow's cultural landmarks.





Overnight stay is at the hotel.

Day 16 - Lucknow / Agra

After breakfast, check out and depart for Agra (333 Kms away; ~5.5 Hrs drive).

Home to the iconic Taj Mahal, Agra was once the flourishing capital of the Mughal Empire. Its grandeur lives on through majestic forts, elegant tombs, and centuries-old gardens. Just as enduring is its living tradition of marble inlay, leatherwork, and street cuisine—making Agra as much a city of makers as of monuments.



Upon arrival, check in to your hotel. The rest of the evening is at leisure. Overnight stay is at the hotel.

You will be staying at The Oberoi's Amarvilas or a similar hotel.

Enjoy an unforgettable stay at this iconic luxury hotel, offering stunning views of the Taj Mahal, elegant rooms, and exceptional service, an experience defined by comfort, beauty, and quiet luxury.





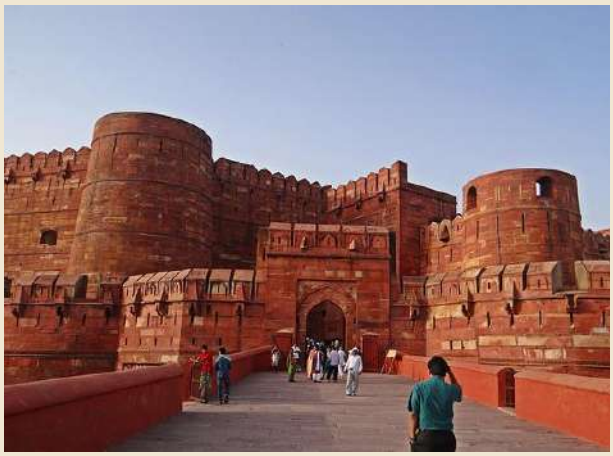
Day 17 - Agra

Early in the morning, witness the Taj Mahal at sunrise, when the white marble monument glows in soft hues of pink and gold. Commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century, this UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World embodies eternal love and is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture.
(*P.S. Taj Mahal remains closed for visitors every Friday*)

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, witness the grandeur of Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a remarkable symbol of Mughal architecture and power. Built in the 16th century and once home to the Mughal dynasty, this majestic fort in Agra boasts imposing red sandstone walls, intricate carvings, and a rich history.





Later, visit a marble-inlay artisan demonstration to discover the intricate

craftsmanship that inspired the Taj Mahal's design. If interested, shop for marble-inlay souvenirs.



Overnight stay is at the hotel.

Day 18 - Agra / Delhi

Breakfast is in the hotel. Morning is at leisure. Later in the day, check out and depart for Delhi (220 Kms away; ~04 Hrs drive).

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel. The evening is free for last-minute shopping.

Overnight stay is at the hotel.

You will be staying at The Imperial New Delhi.

Experience classic luxury at one of Delhi's most iconic hotels. With elegant

rooms, lush gardens, and warm service. The Imperial offers a peaceful and refined stay in the heart of the city.





Day 19 - Delhi

Breakfast is in the hotel. Later, in time, transfer to the Indira Gandhi International Airport to board your flight for your onward journey / back home.

Thank you

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