



Earthbound Expeditions

Buddhist Circuit Golden Tour

14 days, from US\$1,867 per person

Duration

14 days

Group size

15 People

Country

India

A pilgrimage tour of Buddhist holy places, Taj Mahal, India, and Nepal Himalaya

Day by day

Day 1

Arrival in Delhi

Our representative will meet you at the International Airport in Delhi India and then you will be transferred to your hotel.

Altitude: 215 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Delhi Meals: Dinner

Day 2

New Delhi city tour and drive to Jaipur

Our day starts by exploring the numerous landmarks that are present in New Delhi. Our trip begins by visiting the India Gate, which is a war memorial that is dedicated to the 70000 soldiers of the British Indian Army who lost their lives from 1914 to 1921 in the First World War. We stop at Humayun's tomb which is the resting place of the Mughal Emperor Humayun. The monument was constructed by in 1569 and was made by Persian architects. Next is the enigmatic Rashtrapati Bhavan which is home to the President of the world's largest democracy. Sir Lutyens first conceptualized the structure, and it took the efforts of thousands of laborers to make his vision a reality. The Sansad Bhavan was designed by the British architect Edwin Lutyens, and it took six years to complete. Extensive gardens surround the building. Often called as the business hub of Delhi, this place proudly displays its Georgian-style buildings along with the global chain stores, old cinemas, and Indian restaurants. After New Delhi, we head towards the city of forts, 'Jaipur.'

Altitude: 430 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, Jaipur Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3

Jaipur sightseeing

Enjoy your delicious breakfast, and then we head towards the Amber Fort. Sit on the back of an elephant and enjoy the bumpy ride. Travel further to the interior of the Jaipur city and do some sightseeing of the prominent monuments. Our tour will display you the eccentric Hawa Mahal which was built in 1799 AD. Travelers are left spellbound by the fact that it comprises of 953 walls, and it closely resembles the crown of Krishna. Admire the beauty of the Chandra Mahal and pay attention to its unique mixture of Mughal and Rajasthani architecture that is second to none. Feast your eyes on the Shri Gobind Deo Temple and the City Palace Museum. Acquire the knowledge regarding rugs and gems, as you visit the rug and gem factory, and learn from the workers about the intricate details of the job. Make your way towards the Jantar Mantar Observatory and observe the world's biggest stone sundial and don't forget to buy some souvenirs in the Johari market.

Altitude: 430 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Jaipur Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4

Jaipur to Fatehpur Sikri to Agra

From Jaipur, we head towards Agra, and en route we make a stop at Fatehpur Sikri which is a small city in northern India. The town is mostly regarded for its cluster of red sandstone buildings in its center. After that, we head towards Agra.

Altitude: 170 m On foot: None, 5–6 hr drive Night: Hotel, Agra Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5

Agra to Delhi and flight to Varanasi

The most impressive landmark of Agra is the iconic Taj Mahal. This monument serves as a memento of love for lovers all around the world. Built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his third wife Mumtaz Mahal, this lavish mausoleum proudly flaunts its white marble architecture. This landmark took about 20 years to complete, and the process included thousands of artisans and architects. After exploring Agra, drive towards Delhi, and from there catch a flight to Varanasi. Our representative will pick you at the Varanasi airport, and then you'll be transferred to the hotel. In the evening, you can observe the evening ceremony on Dashashwamedh Ghat and return to the hotel.

Altitude: 80 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Varanasi Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6

Varanasi

The mystic city of Varanasi has got a certain religious appeal to it that attracts thousands of pilgrims on a daily basis. Our day begins by heading towards the Ghats for a calm morning boat cruise on the Ganges river. After the boating trip, we return towards the hotel for a delicious breakfast. During the day, we visit the Deer Park in Sarnath to play with the deer's, and it is this place where Lord Buddha had given his first sermon. You can still see the ruins of the site of Dharmarajika and Dhamek stupa.

Altitude: 80 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Varanasi Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7

Varanasi to Bodhgaya

After a hearty breakfast, drive to Bodhgaya which takes approximately 5 hours, and we'll visit the Mahabodhi temple.

Altitude: 110 m On foot: None, 5 hr drive Night: Hotel, Bodhgaya Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8

Bodhgaya to Rajgir to Nalanda to Bodhgaya

Bodhgaya is the place where the founder of Buddhism Prince Siddhartha attained enlightenment beneath a Bodhi tree. This tiny town is often labeled as the Mecca for Buddhists, and many pilgrims gather here annually for prayer, study, and meditation. The attractions of this place include the Mahabodhi temple, Bodhi tree, and the Great Buddha Statue. Head to Rajgir and click pictures of the Buddhist statues and the nearby hot springs. From Rajgir, head towards Nalanda, which was once a large Buddhist monastery and many believe that it was once an old monastery. After visiting it, head back to Bodhgaya.

Altitude: 110 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Bodhgaya Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9

Bodhgaya to Kushinagar

After breakfast, we head towards Kushinagar, and on the route, we visit Vaishali.

Altitude: 80 m On foot: None, 8–9 hr drive Night: Hotel, Kushinagar Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10

Kushinagar to Lumbini, Nepal drop

Our morning starts by having a delicious breakfast, and then we visit the Mahaparinirvana Temple. Many believe that this is the place where Gautam Buddha had breathed his last breath. You can observe the 6-meter-long reclining statue of Lord Buddha. We visit the Rambhar stupa as well and then make our way towards Lumbini, Nepal.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: None, 4–5 hr drive Night: Hotel, Lumbini Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 11

Lumbini exploration

Prepare yourself as you explore the land that Gautam Buddha walked on and witness the same sceneries that Buddha saw but with a twist of modernization. Head towards the Mayadevi temple and pay regards to the mother of Buddha. Lumbini is home to many excavation sites. Travelers are bound to be amazed by the ancient ruins, artifacts, and temples located in this area. Ruins of the once magnificent city remain there. Other notable landmarks include the Myanmar Golden Temple, World Peace Pagoda, various monasteries and the ancient Ashoka Pillar with inscriptions validating the fact that Lumbini is the birthplace of Lord Buddha.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Lumbini Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 12

Kathmandu exploration- Nagarkot

After breakfast, we leave for a full day of sightseeing in the Kathmandu valley which comprises of the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Pashupatinath, Swoyambhunath, and Boudhanath. After exploring these sites, we head towards the romantic Hill station of Nagarkot.

Altitude: 2,175 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Nagarkot Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13

Nagarkot- Kathmandu

We head towards the hill station of Nagarkot early in the morning to witness the beautiful sunrise. Breathe the crisp air straight from the abode of nature as the lush green hills of the tranquil hill station of Nagarkot enthralls anyone that roams in its environment. This hill station is the perfect hub to escape the urban hustle. People are shocked by its serene ambiance, emerald hills as far the eye can see with a backdrop of the majestic crystal peaks including the Annapurna range and the Jugal range. We return to Kathmandu, via Bhaktapur. You'll spend the night in Kathmandu where you'll enjoy the cultural show and dinner.

Altitude: 1,400 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Kathmandu Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 14

Departure day: To Delhi or Home

We will transfer you to the Kathmandu airport for your final departure to home. OR the trip can be extended. You can visit Pokhara or Chitwan National Park or Bhutan or even to Tibet.

Altitude: 1,400 m On foot: None, departure day Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- Three star level accommodation on twin sharing
- Daily Breakfast and Dinner
- AC private mini coach for entire tour
- Accompanying English speaking guide
- Boat Ride in Varanasi
- Elephant Ride at Amber Fort, Jaipur
- All Entrance fee
- Lumbini to Kathmandu flight fare
- Kathmandu valley world heritage sites tour
- All taxes

Not included

- International air fare and travel insurance
- Any other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any other tourist activities
- Any other item not mentioned in included section