

Where and How to Observe this Song?

- Traditionally, locals in Lumbini region sing and dance Biraha during the major rituals and events organized at the villages.
- For few decades, Buddha Biraha Cultural Group, Lumbini has been singing Biraha on the life and history of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and Mayadevi. The group performs Biraha song and dance during the major celebrations, festivals and fairs in the region.
- Recently, Hotels in Lumbini have initiated Biraha Cultural Shows for tourists at community center of Mahilwar village.
- Interested visitors can contact their hotel, travel agency or a guide or directly contact to the Cultural Group to arrange the Biraha Cultural Show at the community center, Mahilwar.
- The group also performs other classical dances following the Biraha show.

Other Things To Do in The Village

- Visiting and buying the locally made handicraft in Mahilwar village.
- Observing traditional farming practices.
- Experiencing rural village life.
- Cycling through the village.



Local Handicraft

Please Contact for Further Details

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BUDDHA BIRAHA CULTURAL GROUP

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Lumbini Based Hotels and Travel/Tour Agencies

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EXPERIENCING BIRAHA CULTURAL DANCE

At the Birthplace of
Lord Sakyamuni Buddha



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation

Lumbini Development Trust

Sacred Garden, Lumbini, Nepal | www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np

History of Biraha Culture

Biraha is one of the popular folk songs in Lumbini region for more than three centuries. This folk song is mood based and basic theme revolves around the sorrow caused by separation of family members, especially the lover and his beloved. Biraha folk song and dance is widely popular in the northern India (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar States) and Lumbini region of Nepal.

The literal meaning of Biraha in Hindi/Bhojpuri language is "sadness caused by separation". The history of this song is not very old and the earliest reference goes back to 17th century. The possible origination of this folk genre is credited to the incidents where mostly men from small villages used to migrate to cities in search of livelihood. Often they had to leave their newly-weds behind in the village only. Such tragedy commonly experienced by the majority (in the villages and the cities) might have instigated Biraha culture that involves heartbreak songs and dances in folk music. The Biraha performance is beneficial for catharsis of the pain in the heart of departed pals.

Biraha Cultural Dance in Lumbini

Major cultural village worth visiting in the peripheral rural areas of Lumbini Sacred Garden include Madhubani, Mahilawari, Mahialwar, Laximpur etc. in the east; Lankapur, Punnihawa, Majahana, Kewataliya, Bhagawanpur, Khungai, Padaria, Khambe, Amari, Shivalawa etc. in the south; Manauri, Sujandih, Jayanagara, Muhasad, Tenuhawa, Lokhadiya, Muglaha, Mahadeva etc. in the west and Shivagadiya, Harnampur, Tarkullaha, Mashina, Bhaisaiya, Ekla, Bharwaliya,



Chainpurwa, Khudabagar etc. in the north.

While the southern and eastern villages are dominated by Hindu communities, the western and northern areas are thickly populated by the Muslims. Mahilawar village is particularly famous for age old Biraha culture. Other attractions in the Hindu villages worth visiting to observe are temples, traditional rituals, farming practices, festivals and fairs. Mosques, beautiful art and murals on Mosque and house walls, various rituals and festivals are the major attractions in the Muslim villages. Hindu and Muslim communities cherish the social harmony and uphold the Buddhist heritage sites. Therefore, Lumbini is the perfect embodiment of inter-faith tolerance.



The locals in Lumbini have connected Biraha culture with the birth and life history of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The artists sing the tragedy songs on the death of Queen Mayadevi just 7 days after giving birth to Prince Siddhartha, separation of Princess Yasodhara with her husband Prince Siddhartha and King Suddhodhana with his beloved son upon Siddhartha's renunciation for search of salvation.

The song goes as following.

Vishaw me prasida baate Buddha ji ke namawa,

Jhukawe le na unke charanan me sirwa jhukawe le na...

Khasai lumbini me vaile Buddha ke janamwa, desh bidesh jaane sab unke namawa,

Mahamaya devi ji se vaile unke janamawa, shaat deen baad vaile mata ji ke dhehanawa,

Bhaile aakele mayadevi ke lalanawa, jhukawe le na.....

