

Things to do in Niglihawa

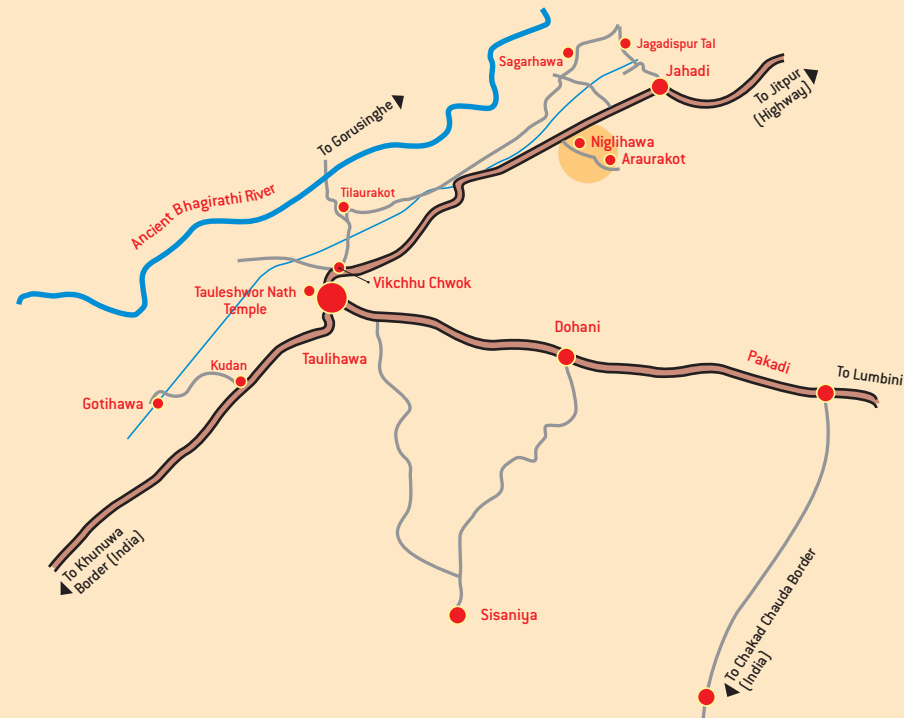
Niglihawa is one of the most important pilgrimage and archaeological sites in the Ancient Kapilavastu. The following activities are recommended for visitors in Niglihawa.

- Observing the ancient Asoka Pillar erected by Emperor Asoka.
- Paying homage to the stone image of Kanakamuni Buddha.
- Taking holy bath in the Nigali Sagar.
- Visiting nearby typical Tharu villages including Jagadishpur Tharu village, Nigali village and Jahadi village etc.
- Visiting the archaeological ruins at the Araurakot.
- Meditating on the open field at Araurakot.
- Visiting the ancient well and ancient water tank located in the northern and southern directions of the Stupa.
- Visiting other archaeological sites.
- Watching birds at Nigali Sagar and paddy fields.

निग्लिहवा (कनकमुनि बुद्धको जन्म स्थल)

कनकमुनि बुद्धको जन्मथलोको रूपमा परिचित यस स्थलमा सम्राट अशोक ई.पू. २४९ मा आफै आइ यो शिलास्तम्भ खडा गरेको उल्लेख शिलालेखमा कुँदिएको छ। हाल अशोका स्तम्भ दुई टुक्रामा विभक्त भएको अवस्थामा रहेको छ। विभक्त अशोका स्तम्भको १४ फिट ९ इन्च लामो माथिल्लो टुक्रालाई जमिनमा गाडिएर रहेको अभिलेख सहितको पहिलो टुक्रा भएको स्थानमा छानासहितको ओत मुनि राखी संरक्षण गरिएको छ। अशोका स्तम्भमा राजा रिपु मल्लद्वारा लिखित अभिलेख समेत रहेको छ।

अशोका स्तम्भमा स्तुपलाई दोस्रो पटक ठूलो बनाउन लगाइएको अभिलेख भएको र प्रसिद्ध चिनियाँ यात्रीहरू फासियन र ह्युएन शाङले समेत आफ्नो यात्रावर्णनमा कनकमुनि बुद्धको स्तुपमा भ्रमण गरेको उल्लेख गरेका छन्। पुरातत्वविद् डा. फुररले आफ्नो २ पटकको खोज भ्रमण (ई.सं. १८९६ र १८९७) पश्चात् तयार गरेको प्रतिवेदनमा यो स्थलमा बुद्ध कनकमुनिको ठूलो स्तुप रहेको र उक्त स्तुप सम्भवतः भारतमा विद्यमान स्तुपहरू मध्ये पुरानो हुन सक्ने दाबी गरेका छन्। यद्यपी सो स्तुप यहाँ अभ्रसम्म भेटिएको छैन। पूर्वी भागमा रहेको पोखरी निर्माणको क्रममा सो स्तुप क्षति भएको हुन सक्ने अनुमान गरिएको छ।



Travel Distance

Lumbini → Tilaurakot	29 km	Tilaurakot → Sisaniya.....	18.0km
Tilaurakot → Kudan	6.0km	Kudan → Sisaniya.....	10.km
Kudan → Gotihawa.....	3.0km	Taulihawa Bus Park → Kudan.....	1.5km
Gotihawa → ChoubisHajari.....	7.5km	Taulihawa Bus Park → Tilaurakot	3.0km
Tilaurakot → Sagarhawa	8.0km	Jitpur → Tilaurakot	23.3km
Sagarhawa → Jagadishpur	0.8km	Taulihawa → Gorusinghe.....	14.0km
Jagadishpur → Niglihawa	8.5km	CDO Chowk → Dohani	4.7km
Sagarhawa → Niglihawa.....	3.7km	Dohani → Sisaniya.....	8.2km
Tilaurakot → Niglihawa.....	9.0km	Dohani → Lumbini	17.4km
Niglihawa → Araurakot	1.4km		

Please Contact for Further Details

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NIGLIHAWA

The Birthplace of Kanakamuni Buddha



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Nigali Sagar



Asoka Pillar

Introduction

Niglihawa is identified as the holy place where Kanakamuni Buddha was born. It is a significant archeological site situated about 7 km northeast of Taulihawa, where, close to a large pond lie the remains of a broken Asoka Pillar. Emperor Asoka visited the site in 249 BC and erected the stone pillar with an inscription to attest the birthplace of the Kanakamuni Buddha.

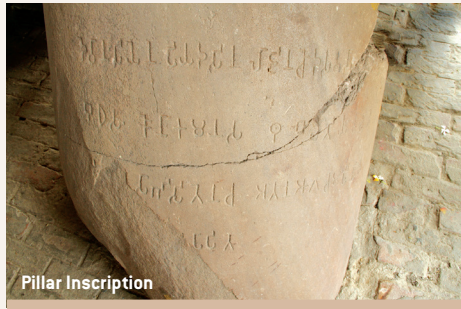
The Asoka inscription engraved on the pillar in Brahmi script and Pali language attests the fact that Emperor Asoka

enlarged the Kanakamuni Buddha's stupa and worshiped it and erected a stone pillar to mark the birthplace of Kanakamuni Buddha on the occasion of the twentieth year of his coronation.

Dr. Alois Fuhrer discovered this pillar in 1895. The Pillar is now in a broken state and two pieces of the pillar have now been sheltered to protect them from the weather and human or animal interference. The lower part of the pillar with an edict measures 10 feet, 6 inches (3.20 m). The upper half of the Pillar is 14 feet 9 inches in length with 2 feet diameter at its uppermost and 2 feet 6 inches at its lower end.

The pillar also bears an inscription of the year 1234 (Saka Era corresponding to 1312 AD). This inscription belonged to King Ripu Malla of the Western Nepal. The inscription written on the upper piece contains the words: *Om mani padme hum and Sri Ripu Malla Chiram Jayatu 1234*. Chinese pilgrims, Fa-Hsien and Hiuen-Tsang, describes the Kanakamuni Stupa and Asoka Pillar in their travel accounts.

Unfortunately, both the basement and the capital of the pillar together with the lion atop of which Hiuen Tsang spoke are still missing.



Pillar Inscription

Roman version of the inscription on the pillar written in the Brahmi script and Pali language is as below:

Devanam piyena piyadasin lajina-chodasavasa bhisitena

Budhasa Konakamanasa thube-dutyam vadhite

Visativa sabhisitena –cha atana-agacha-mahiyite

silathabe-cha usa papite

The English translation of the inscription (by Smith 1969) is:

“His Majesty King Priyadarsina in the 14th year of his reign enlarged for the second time the stupa of the Buddha Kanakamuni and in the 20th year of his reign, having come in person, did reverence and set up a stone pillar”.

अभिलेखको नेपाली अनुवाद:

“देवताहरूको प्रिय प्रियदर्शी राजा (अशोक) राज्यभिषेकको चौधौं वर्षमा बुद्ध कनकमुनीको स्तुप दोस्रो चोटी बढाउन लगाए र बिसौं वर्षमा आफैं सो स्थानमा आई पूजा गरे र यो स्तम्भ खडा गरे ।”

A new temple with the image of Kanakamuni Buddha has been established recently.

Other Significant Monuments, Sites and Attractions in and around Niglihawa

Araurakot: The Natal Town of Kanakamuni Buddha

Located 1.4km east of Niglihawa and about 10km northeast of Taulihawa Araurakot is identified with the Natal town of Kanakamuni Buddha where he lived, grew up, and spent his married life. It used to be a walled forest in ancient times. It is a large rectangular fortified area with the remains of ancient moat and brick fortifications.

A massive fortification wall has enclosed a large rectangular piece of ruined area. The wall seems to have been built in the ancient times as bricks and antiquities dating to historical times are seen scattered on the surface. Very little has been done to excavate and preserved the details of this site.



Araurakot



East Gate, Tilaurakot

A UNESCO led joint geophysical survey of LDT, DoA, and Durham University, UK under JaFIT project in 2015 unveiled many huge structural ruins underneath the citadel.

A Nepalese-Italian joint archaeological team (1996-1997) has identified nine archaeological sites including Niglihawa and Araurakot in this area. Other important sites include Thumwa, Semari, Thagi Baba Ki Dadi, Derwa, Gobari, Shivapura, and Banduli.

Important Buddhist heritage sites to visit in the Ancient Kapilavastu include the followings:

- Tilaurakot:** The capital city of the Ancient Kapilavastu and hometown of Prince Siddhartha.
- Gotihawa:** The birthplace of Krakuchhanda Buddha.
- Kudan:** Where King Suddhodhana met Lord Sakyamuni Buddha the first time after attaining enlightenment.
- Sagarhawa:** The massacre site of the Sakyas.
- Sisaniya:** An important archaeological mound, believed to



Sarus Crane



West Gate, Tilaurakot

have had an ancient stupa and a Sangharama built by the Sakyas.

Major religious sites worth to visit around Niglihawa include Tauleshwor Nath temple, Ramghat temple, Laxmanghat temple, Kapiladham etc.

