

## Things to do in Kudan

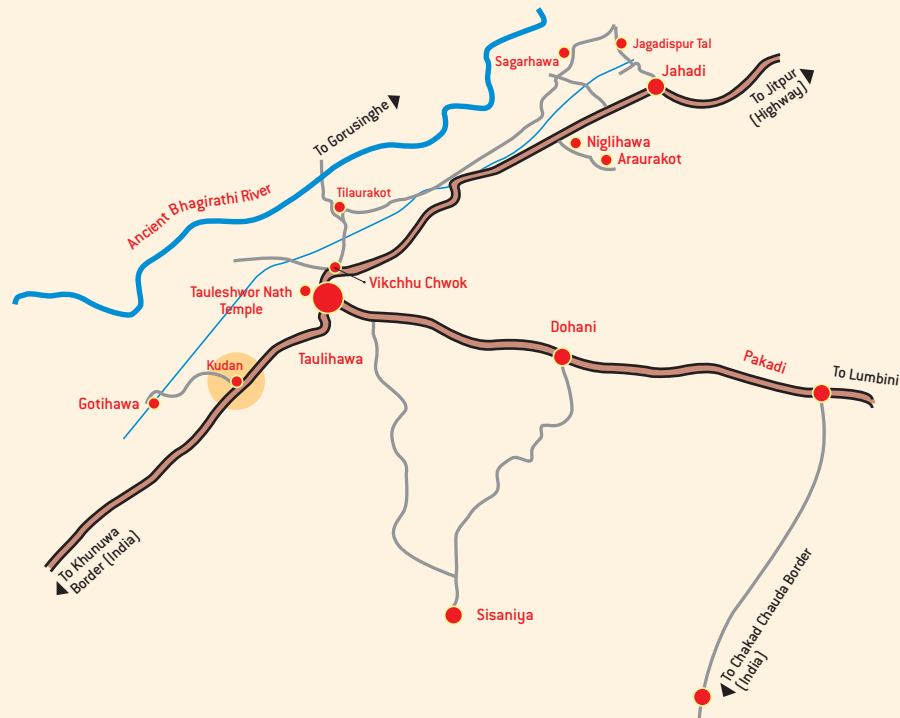
Kudan is one of the important Buddhist shrines to visit in the Ancient Kapilavastu. Following activities can be performed while at Kudan by the visitors.

- Visiting and paying homage to the sacred shrines including 3 ancient Stupas.
- Taking holy bath at the Nyigrodharama Pond.
- Observing the artistically carved ornate brick structures of Gupta period (added later) on the Stupa 2 built during the Sakya era to commemorate Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and Siddhodana's first meeting (after enlightenment).
- Meditating in the mango orchard garden in the manner that about 300 Vikchhus had done during the first visit of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.
- Visiting the nearby village and enjoying the rural lifestyle.
- Visiting the Thai Monastery and involving in the evening chanting and meditation.

## कुदान (प्राचिन निग्रोधारामा)

प्राचिन निग्रोधारामाको नामले चिनिने यस कुदानमा शाक्यमुनि बुद्धले बुद्धत्व प्राप्त गरिसकेपछि पहिलो पटक प्राचिन कपिलवस्तु राज्यका राजा एवम् बुद्धका बुवा राजा शुद्धोधन, रानी प्रजापती गौतमी, श्रीमती तथा राजकुमारी यशोधरा तथा छोरा राहुललाई पहिलो पटक भेट गरेको स्थल हो ।

पुरातात्विक एवम् धार्मिक महत्वको यस स्थलमा हाल ३ वटा स्तुपहरू, १ वटा पोखरी र १ इनार रहेका छन् । स्तुप नं. १ बुद्धका छोरा राहुलले बुद्धका प्रमुख शिष्य सारी पुत्रबाट भिक्षु भएको सम्भ्रनामा बनाइएको हो । स्तुप नं. २ राजा शुद्धोधनले शाक्यमुनि बुद्धलाई बुद्धत्व प्राप्त गरे पश्चात् पहिलो पटक निग्रोधा विहारमा भेट गरेको क्षणलाई सम्मान गरी बनाइएको हो । स्तुप नं ३ मा बुद्धका कान्छी आमा तथा महारानी प्रजापति गौतमीले बुद्धलाई काषाय वस्त्र दान गरेकी थिइन । बुद्धसँगै आएर करीब ४० दिनको वर्षावास वताएका करीब ३०० भिक्षुहरूले यस वगैचामा रहेको पोखरीमा नुहाएको मानिन्छ । केही विद्वानहरूले यस स्थललाई ककुछन्द बुद्धको शहरको रूपमा पनि परिचय दिएका छन् ।



## 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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# KUDAN

The Ancient Nyigrodharama Where King Siddhodhana Met Lord Sakyamuni Buddha The First Time After Enlightenment.



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation  
**Lumbini Development Trust**

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Stupa 2



## Introduction

Situated about 3km. south of Taulihawa, ancient Nyigrodharama, currently known as Kudan or Lori-Ki Kudan, is a historical site, where King Suddhodhana met Lord Sakyamuni Buddha the first time after attaining enlightenment. Some scholars have identified Kudan as the Natal-town of Krakuchhanda Buddha.

Early Chinese travelers Fa-hsien (5th century AD) and Hiuen Tsang (7th century AD) describes in their travel accounts the arrival of Sakyamuni Buddha at the Nyigrodharama, erection of stupas by Emperor Asoka, welcoming of Lord Sakyamuni

Buddha by the King Suddhodhana in his home-town, offering of Kashaya Vastra to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha by the Queen Prajapati and reverence paid by 500 Sakyas.

Buddha visited Kapilavastu several times during his life, Kudan being the first place within the Ancient Kapilavastu visited by Lord Sakyamuni Buddha after his enlightenment. The first nunnery, in the Buddhist history, was also established in Kapilavastu. Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's son Rahula was ordained at the age of 8 here at Kudan. Moreover, Lord Sakyamuni Buddha preached five important suttas (sutras) of Majjhimanikaya including the virtue of politics to the Sakyas at Kudan.



Shivalinga (Phallus)

## Significant Monuments of Kudan

Major monuments of great religious, archaeological and historic values located at Kudan include the followings:

### Stupa 1

Also called as Rahula Stupa, this Stupa in the southeastern corner is believed to have been built to commemorate the spot where the son of Buddha, Rahula, was ordained by Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's chief disciple Sariputra. Some ancient bricks are visible on the slope surface of the stupa mound. The Stupa also bears on its top an octagonal Shiva temple built later by the Hindus.

### Stupa 2

Standing in the middle, this is the biggest Stupa of Kudan. Even in its ruined state, the structure is majestic and richly ornamented. One can distinctly understand its pristine grandeur from the surviving parts of the platform. The upper part forms a new layer of construction, which was added later by the Hindus to erect a



Ornate Brick Structures

temple over the heap of the ruined stupa. A Shivalinga (phallus), enshrined in the temple, can be seen.

It is believed to have been built during the Sakya period to commemorate Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and Suddhodhana's first meeting (after enlightenment), the Buddha's discourse on the five Suttas of the Majjhimanikaya and conversion of Sakyas into Buddhist. The Stupa was renovated and restored over the Mauryan, Sunga, Kusana and Gupta periods.



Stupa 1 (Rahula Stupa)



Stupa 3

### Stupa 3

Located in the northwestern part of the garden, this Stupa is believed to have been built during the Sakya period to commemorate the events and place where Queen Prajapati Gautami offered Lord Sakyamuni Buddha the Kashaya Vastra, and Yasodhara invited the Sakyamuni Buddha and his Sangha for a meal at the Kapilavastu palace.

The Stupa was restored during the Maurya, Sunga or Kushana, and Gupta periods. During the periodic restorations, the Stupa saw its grandeur enhanced. However, it is sad to mention that the magnificent stupa found itself in ruins with the downfall of Buddhism in the region.

**The Ancient Well:** The ancient well is believed to have been built prior to the 3 stupas with the assumption that Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and his Sangha used water from this well during their stay at the Nyigrodharama Garden.



Ancient Well

### The Nyigrodharama Pond:

Nyigrodharama Pond is believed to have been built during the first visit of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and his Sangha to the Garden in the ancient Kapilavastu. The Sakyas might have created a lotus pond in the honor of the Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's imminent arrival in Kapilavastu and make his stay at Nyigrodharama more comfortable.

## Other Sites in and around Kudan

Other important sites worth to visit in Kudan include Thai Monastery located adjacent to Kudan, and nearby rural village. Important Buddhist heritage sites around Kudan 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.
- Niglihawa:** The birthplace of Kanakamuni Buddha.
- Araurakot:** The Natal town of Kanakamuni Buddha.
- Sagarhawa:** The massacre site of the Sakyas.
- Sisaniya:** An important archaeological mound, believed to have had an ancient stupa and a Sangharama built by the Sakyas.

Major religious sites worth to visit around Kudan include Tauleshwor Nath temple, Ramghat temple etc. The Indian border check point Khunuwa is located near Kudan.