

GREATER LUMBINI BUDDHIST CIRCUIT

Following the Birthplace and Foot-Steps of
Lord Sakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini, Nepal



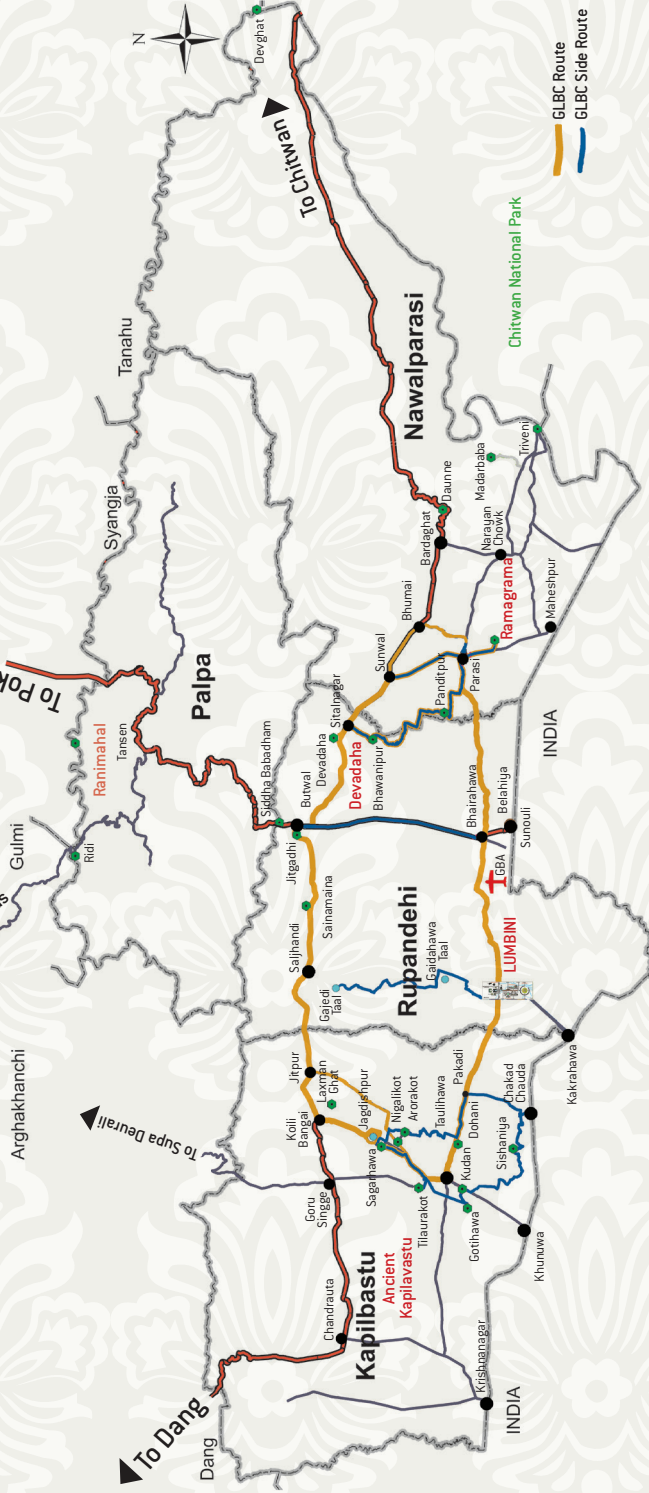
“ After I am no more, O Ananda!
Men of belief will visit the place with faith,
Curiosity and devotion...
Lumbini, the place where I was born.
The path to ultimate peace is spiritual discipline. ”
- The Lord Sakyamuni Buddha



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation
Lumbini Development Trust
Sacred Garden, Lumbini, Nepal | www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np



Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit



Distances between sites in Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit

Airport → Mayadevi temple	17.4km
Bhairahawa → Mayadevi temple	21.1km
Mayadevi temple → Kudan	29.42km
Kudan → Gothaha	4.33km
Gothaha → Tlaurakot	7.32km

Tlaurakot → Niglihawa	8.85km
Niglihawa → Aurarakot	1.25km
Aurarakot → Sagarhawa	5.21km
Sagarhawa → Devdaha	65.3km
Devdaha → Ramgram	25.19km

Ramgram → Bhairahawa	28.56km
Bhawanipur → Butwal	17.0km
Ramagrama → Triveni	23.0km



Lumbini: the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha;

Ancient Kapilavastu: the hometown of Prince Siddhartha. The birthplace of two earlier Buddhas: Krakuchhanda Buddha and Kanakamuni Buddha;

Devadaha: the maternal hometown of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's mother Queen Mayadevi, step mother Prajapati Gautami and wife Yashodhara;

Ramagrama: the only stupa in the world still containing the corporal relics of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.

Introduction

Lumbini in Nepal is the adobe of peace and the ultimate pilgrimage for every Buddhist in the world. Lord Sakyamuni Buddha was born here in 623 BC and preached the universal message of peace and compassion; therefore, it is regarded one of the most sacred places for people who believe in Buddhism. Buddhist pilgrims, peace lovers and general visitors from around the world visit Lumbini to pay homage to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and observe the sanctity and shrines that are related to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha, Buddhism and peace.

In recent years, Government of Nepal has started work to develop and promote Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit (GLBC) as one of the holiest pilgrimage and spiritual circuits by connecting the four major sites in Lumbini region of Nepal. These holy sites relevant to the birth and life history of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini region include the followings:

Greatly revered by the Buddhists, sites included in the GLBC have already been visited by many international Buddhist scholars, spiritual leaders and pilgrims including great Indian Emperor Asoka (3rd century BC) and famous Chinese pilgrims – Tseng Tsai (4th century AD), Fa-Hsien (5th century AD) and Hiuen-Tsang (7th century AD). Now, every year, thousands of visitors travel to Lumbini and associated sites to pay homage to these holy sites of great pilgrimage and spiritual value.



LUMBINI

The Birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha



Situated in the southern plains of Rupandehi district, Nepal, Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha is one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the world. Archaeological evidences, historical references, travel accounts of the well-known pilgrims and travelers including the eminent Chinese pilgrims and the holy Buddhist scriptures testify Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The Asoka Pillar, erected by Emperor Asoka in 249 BC with inscriptions on it, is the most reliable attestation that Lord Sakyamuni Buddha was born here in Lumbini.

According to the Buddhist scriptures, Maya Devi, the queen of Sakya king Siddhodhana of Kapilavastu, was passing through the Lumbini Garden on her way to the maternal hometown of Devadaha (ancient Koliya kingdom). The queen took bath in the Puskarni (Sacred Pond) and after taking 25 paces to the north she felt labor pain, supported herself grasping a branch of a tree and gave birth to the holy prince on Baisakha Purnima (Full Moon of the first month according to Nepali calendar) of 623 BC. Buddhist scriptures and early literature state that the newly born Prince Siddhartha took seven

steps and uttered an epoch making message to the suffering humanity in the Lumbini Garden.

King Ripu Malla (1312 AD) of Karnali, mid-west Nepal, visited Lumbini and left the mark of his visit on the top of the Asoka pillar. After his visit Lumbini was forgotten, neglected and shrouded in a thick bushes and forest. The association of Lumbini with Lord Sakymuni Buddha faded slowly into oblivion (for almost 600 years). In 1896 AD, General Khadga Shamsher Jung Bahadur Rana, the governor of Palpa and Dr. Alois Fuhrer, an eminent archaeological surveyor in British India, discovered the Asoka pillar re-establishing Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Sakymuni Buddha.

PC Mukherji conducted an excavation in 1899 AD and identified the Nativity Sculpture as well as some structural remains in and around Lumbini. In 1930s, General Keshar Shumsher carried out large-scale excavation at the holy complex of Lumbini; exposed ruins of some ancient stupas and monasteries, restored the Sacred Pond and reconstructed Mayadevi Temple (the previous one).

The excavations carried out by Lumbini Development Trust (LDT), Department of Archaeology (DoA) and Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF) between 1992-1995 in the Maya Devi temple complex have recovered the Marker Stone, important archaeological remains, shrines and ruins of ancient Mayadevi Temple. These archaeological findings have further reinforced Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha as already testified by the inscription on the Asoka pillar.

Appreciating its Outstanding

Universal Value (OUV) for the greater benefit of the humanity and its archaeological, religious and spiritual significance, **UNESCO** enlisted Lumbini as a **World Heritage Property** in 1997.

The Lumbini Master Plan

The then United Nations Secretary General, U. Thant's pilgrimage to Lumbini in 1967 became a milestone in the recent history of the development of Lumbini. Accordingly, the Lumbini Development Master Plan designed by renowned architect Prof. Kenzo Tange of Japan was approved by Nepal Government in 1978. The Lumbini Master Plan, an area of 1×3 square mile, oriented along the north-south axis, encompasses three zones (i) the Sacred Garden, (ii) the Monastic Zone, and (iii) the New Lumbini Village, based on the notion of the path to enlightenment. Each of the zones extends over an area of one square mile.

The Sacred Garden, the epicenter of the Master Plan, represents the southern part of the Master Plan and comprises the sacred birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. Historical



THE LUMBINI MASTER PLAN

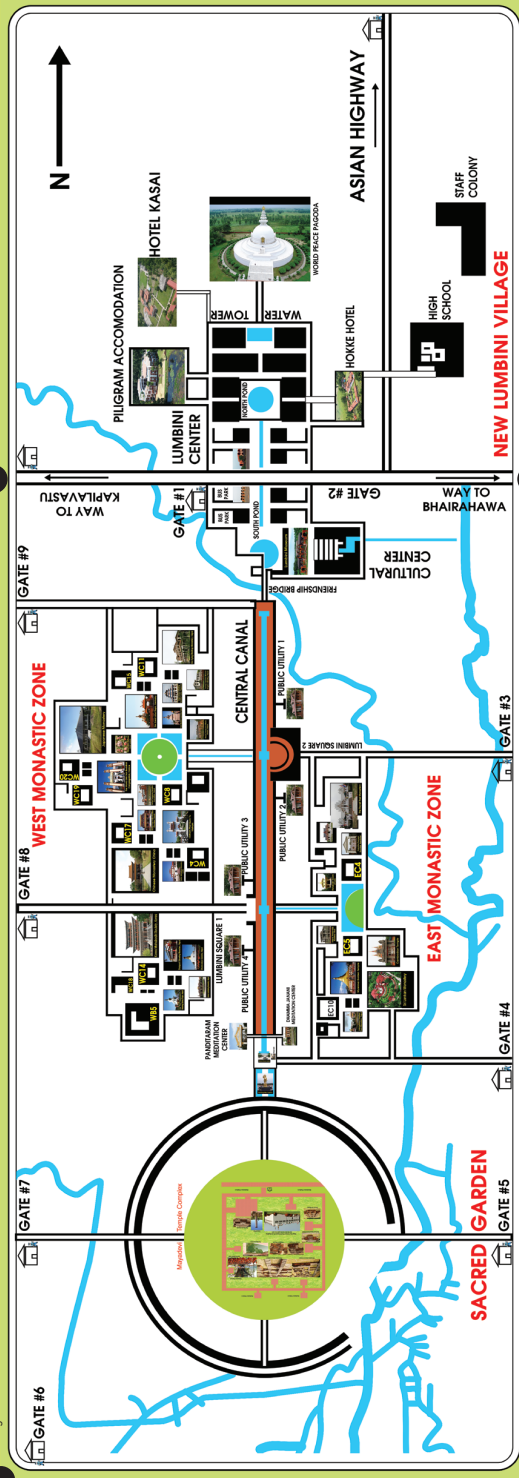
लुम्बिनी गुरु योजना

TENUHAWA

◀ To Kakrahawa
Padariya Chowk

▶ To Kapilavastu
Lokhadiga

HARNAMPUR



Mahilwar Bazar

Parisa Chowk

▶ To Bhairahawa

▶ To East West Highway

TENHAWA VILLAGE

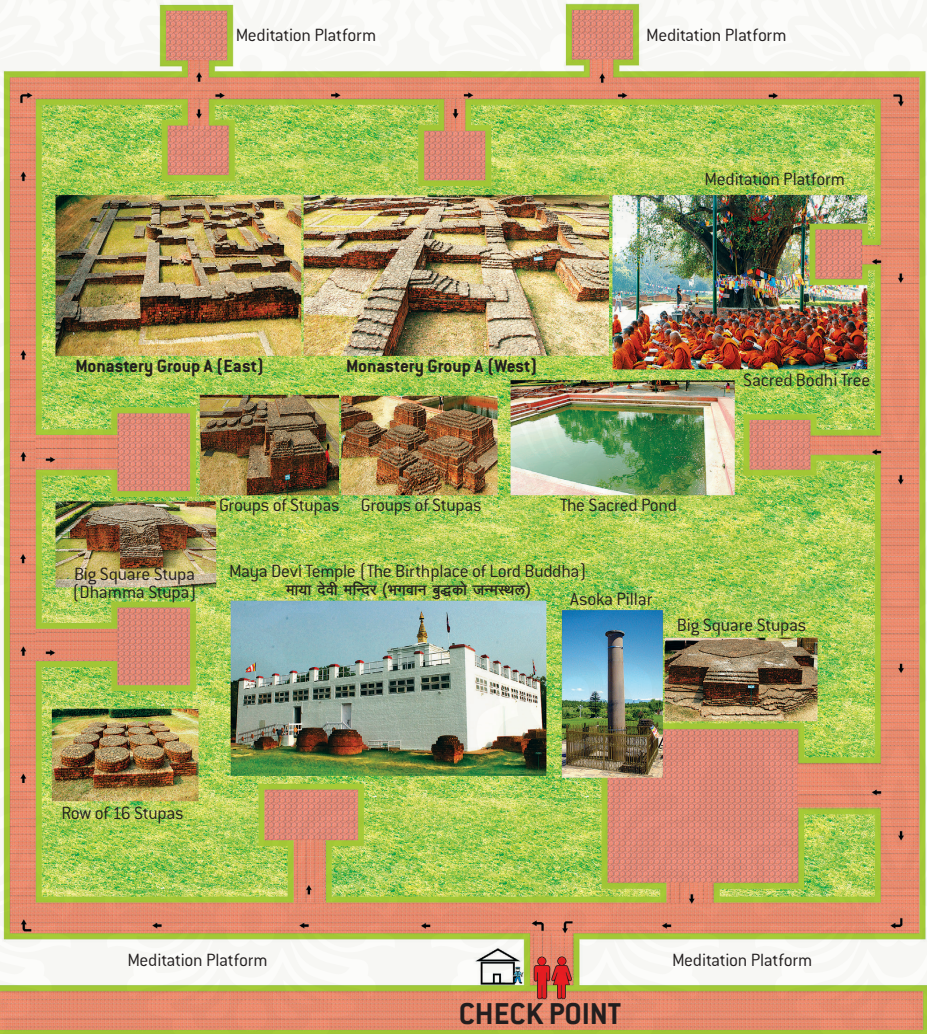
MADHUBANI VILLAGE

MAHILWAR VILLAGE

LUMBINI ADARSHA

EKALA VILLAGE

Sacred Garden Complex



monuments and objects of high archaeological, religious and spiritual value located in this zone include the Maya Devi Temple, the Asoka Pillar, the Marker Stone, the Nativity Sculpture, Sacred Pond (Puskarini), and many structural ruins including Buddhist Viharas & Stupas. The Sacred Garden landscape is encircled by a Circular Pond and a Circular

Levee, which symbolise the purity and simplicity of the mandala, a mystic symbol of the universe.

The Monastic Zone, an area of 1 sq. mile in the middle of the master plan has been divided into two zones by a 1.6km long pedestrian walkways and a canal in the middle. The West Monastic Zone comprises 29 plots of



land, each allotted for construction of Mahayana monastery and the East Monastic Zone represents the Theravada (Hinayana) school of Buddhism where 13 plots are allotted for construction of Viharas. Currently there are three meditation centers in operation in this zone. The Statue of Baby Buddha, Central Canal and its boating facility, the Eternal Peace Flame, the Peace Bell etc. in the monastic zone are of great interest for the visitors.

The Cultural Center and New Lumbini Village represent “worldly” activities and provide information, accommodation and utility facilities for pilgrims/visitors. Hotels, Visitor Information Center, Lumbini Museum, Lumbini International Research Institute

(LIRI), Administration Complex etc. are located here. Other important sites of visitors’ interest in New Lumbini Village include the World Peace Pagoda of Japan and the Lumbini Crane Sanctuary (LCS).

Significant Monuments in the Sacred Garden

The Mayadevi Temple: The Maya Devi Temple is the heart of all monuments at this holy site. It houses the Marker Stone, the Nativity Sculpture and the structural ruins, all relevant to the birth of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The Marker Stone pinpoints the exact birth spot and the Nativity Sculpture depicts the birth scene of the Prince Siddhartha.

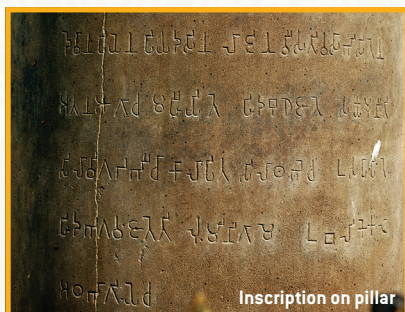
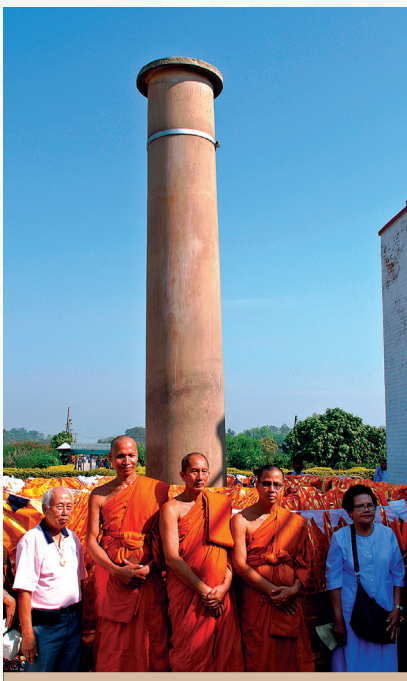
Archaeological excavations have revealed different phases of temple construction and restorations over the past centuries. General Khadga Shamsher excavated the mound of early Mayadevi temple and reconstructed it in 1939. The present day Mayadevi Temple was restored and reopened in 2003 by Lumbini Development Trust.

The structural ruins inside Mayadevi



Temple belong to 6th century BC to 5th century AD. It consists of 15 box chambers arranged in 5 rows in east-west and 3 rows in north-south direction as well as a circumambulatory path surrounded by an outer wall. The archaeological excavation undertaken by Department of Archaeology, Lumbini Development Trust and Durham University (UK) during 2010-2013 AD uncovered a timber shrine dating back to the 6th century BC. Excavation has also uncovered a pre-Mauryan brick structure, each brick measuring $49 \times 36 \times 7$ cm in size and 20kg in weight from underneath the present visible layers of ruins.

The Asoka Pillar: The Asoka Pillar was erected here in Lumbini by the Emperor Asoka in 249 BC to mark the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha



and to commemorate the Emperor's visit to Lumbini. The Asoka Pillar bears the first epigraphic evidence with reference to the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The Asoka inscription engraved in Brahmi script and Pali language attests Lumbini to be the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.

The text written in Brahmi script and Pali language is translated as follows:

"King Piyadasi (Asoka) the beloved of the Gods, in the twentieth year of his reign, himself made a royal visit. Sakyamuni Buddha was born here, therefore the (birth spot) marker stone was worshipped and a stone pillar was erected. The lord having been born here, the tax of the Lumbini village reduced to the eight part (only)".

In 1312 AD, Ripu Malla, the king of the western Nepal paid homage to Lumbini and engraved the following words: **Om Mani Padme Hum Ripu Malla Chiran Jayatu** on the eastern side of the upper part of the pillar. The pillar lost in the bush after the visit of Ripu Malla was rediscovered by General Khadga Shumsher JBR and Dr. A. A. Fuhrer during the excavation on December 1, 1896.

The Sacred Pond (Puskarini):

Located 25 paces south-west from the Marker Stone is the Sacred Pond, popularly known as Puskarini where Maya Devi is believed to have



bathed just before giving birth to Prince Siddhartha. The infant prince is believed to have given the first purification bath here. The pond was remodeled in shape and size, with an embankment of bricks, during 1933-1939 AD excavations by Keshar Shumsher JBR. While cleaning the pond in 1996, two wells were found in the northeast and southwest corners of the pond.

The Marker Stone: The Marker Stone pinpoints the exact birth spot



of the Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The meticulous excavation of the Mayadevi Temple (1992-1996) discovered the Marker Stone on the top of a platform

consisting of seven layers of bricks from the 3rd century BC. Chinese traveler Hsuan Tsang (636 AD) describes about the existence of the

Marker Stone 25 steps to the north of the sacred pond. It is a sandstone based conglomerate measuring 70 cm × 40 cm × 10 cm in size.

The Nativity Sculpture: The Nativity Sculpture depicts the birth



scene of the Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. Maya Devi is depicted holding a branch of a tree (possibly the sal tree) as Prajapati Gautami supports Maya Devi during the delivery. The newly born baby is shown below standing on a lotus pedestal. Two celestial figures (Brahma and Indra), are receiving the newly born Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The red sandstone sculpture was carved by the Mathura School of Art in the 4th century. The scientific excavation by P. C. Mukherji in 1899 AD discovered the main part of the Nativity Sculpture.

The Stupas: The Mayadevi Shrine is surrounded by groups of stupas. So



Rows of 16 Stupas

far, 31 stupas representing 3 different categories have been excavated at the Sacred Garden of Lumbini. Of them, 29 are Votive Stupas, 1 Relic Stupa and 1 Dhamma Stupa. The large number of ancient stupas in the vicinity signifies the importance of Lumbini as one of the holiest sites of pilgrimage after the Mahaparinirvana of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. The stupas were constructed here from 3rd century BC until 8th or 9th century AD through the Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana and Gupta periods.

The Monastery Complex (Viharas):

Two groups of monasteries have been excavated so far at the southern and south-eastern part of the Mayadevi Temple in the Sacred Garden. Construction of these monasteries started in the 3rd century BC and continued until 9th century AD through the Mauryan, Kushana and Gupta periods. Other important

ruins excavated in the sacred garden include Meeting Hall and Temple Basement.

Lumbini International Monasteries

Many Buddhist and non-Buddhist countries have been building Buddhist monasteries in the Monastic Zone for more than 30 years. Presently, there are 32 Buddhist monasteries in Lumbini Master Plan Area, of them; one is situated at New Lumbini Village, 29 at the Monastic Zone and two at the Sacred Garden.



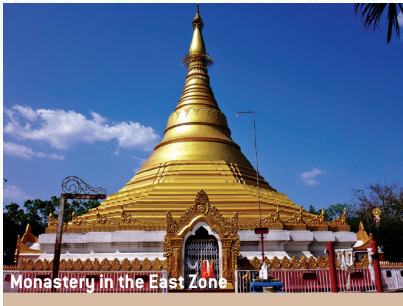
The World Peace Stupa

World Peace Pagoda of Japan is situated in the New Lumbini Village and Rajkiya Buddha Vihara, Nepal and Dharmaswami Maharaja Buddha Vihara, Nepal are in the Sacred Garden of Master Plan area.

There are eight Theravada Buddhist Monasteries and one Vipassana meditation center in the East Monastic Zone. They are: The Royal Thai Monastery, Thailand; Bodhi Institute Monastery, Nepal (under construction); Mahabodhi Society Temple of India; Nepal Theravada Buddha Vihar (under construction); Cambodian Temple, Cambodia (under



Monastery Complex (East)



construction); Myanmar Golden Temple, Myanmar; International Gautami Nuns Temple, Nepal; Sri Lankan Monastery, Sri Lanka and Dhamma Janani Vipassana Center, Nepal.

Two meditation centers and 18 Mahayana monasteries have been established in the West Monastic Zone, they are: Ka-Nying Shedrup Monastery (Seto Gumba), Nepal (under construction); Zarong Tgupten Mendol Dogna Chholing, Nepal (under construction); Urgen Dorjee Chholing Buddhist Center, Singapore; Nepal Vajrayana Maha Vihara, Nepal (under construction); French Buddhist Association, France; the Great Lotus Stupa, Germany; Drigung Kagyud Meditation Center, Laddakh; the World Linh Son Buddhist Congregation, France; United Tungaram Buddhist Foundation, Nepal; Japanese Monastery (under construction); Thrangu Vajra Vidhya



Buddhist Association, Canada; Chinese Monastery, China; Geden International Monastery, Austria; Vietnam Phat Quoc Tu, Vietnam; Dae Sung Shakya Temple, South Korea (under construction); Karma Samtenling Monastery, Nepal; Manang Samaj Stupa, Nepal; Swayambhu Mahavihara (new), Nepal; Drubgyud Chhoeling Monastery (Nepal Mahayana Temple) and Pandirarama Lumbini International Meditation Center, Myanmar.

Every monastery in Lumbini has its own unique cultural traditions and ascetical as well as aesthetical features that enhance the sacred ambience of Lumbini and entice the wide range of visitors towards this site of holy pilgrimage. These Buddhist establishments in Lumbini have religious and spiritual programs throughout the year where events are organized on daily, occasional or annual basis.

Important Cultural and Natural Attractions in and around Lumbini

In addition to promoting contemplative value and spirituality Lumbini offers a plethora of opportunities for those who are interested to explore the cultural treasure troves and natural splendors.

Major cultural villages worth visiting in the eastern part of Lumbini Master Plan Area include Madhubani, Mahilawari Mahialwar, Laximpur etc. Likewise cultural villages located in the southern part of Mayadevi Temple include Lankapur, Punnihawa,



Majahana, Kewataliya, Bhagawanpur, Khungai, Padaria, Khambe, Amari, Shivalaya etc. Villages located in the western part include Manauri, Sujandih, Jayanagara, Muhasad, Tenuhawa, Lokhadiya, Muglaha, Mahadeva etc. Cultural village worth to visit in the northern part includes Shivagadiya, Harnampur, Tarkullaha, Mashina, Bhaisaiya, Ekla, Bharwaliya, Chainpurwa, Khudabagar etc.

Visiting the weekly Hat Bazaar is another opportunity in Lumbini for the visitors to observe the real tradeoffs and life style of the rural people. Visitors can also buy some locally produced organic products including fruits.



Viraha Dance

Lumbini Crane Sanctuary (LCS) along with the associated farmlands have been identified as an International Bird Area (IBA) due to its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems with hundreds of cranes, 27 species of mammals, 44 types of fishes and herds of blue bulls. There are more than 250 bird species in the area including the world's tallest flying bird Sarus Crane. Similarly threatened animals like blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), python, Bengal fox, wild cat, wild boars etc. are also found in and around Lumbini. The Telar and Dano floodplains are recognized as important habitats for birds.



Visiting Weekly Hat Bazaar

Day	Location of Local Hat Bazaar
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Sun →	Jhulanipul, Gobarouli,
Mon →	Padariya
Tue →	Parsa Chowk, Ahirauli, Jogada
Wed →	Mahilwar Bazaar, Suryapura
Thu →	Mahajidiya
Fri →	Hatibazaar (Bishnupura)
Sat →	Mahilwar, Karmahawa, Ahirauli, Muglaha

Recommended Tour Itineraries in Lumbini

- i. Day Tour to Lumbini
(suitable for locals only)**
- ii. 1 Night and 2 days Tour to
Lumbini**

DAY 01:

- Arrival in Lumbini and visit the Mayadevi Temple, one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in the world and observe the eternal purification.
- Briefing from the experienced Lumbini tour guide about the birth history, life and the teachings of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.
- Observation of the birth testimonies of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha by visiting the monuments in and outside the Mayadevi Temple.
- Exploring other significant archaeological monuments in the sacred garden including sacred Stupas and Monasteries.
- Offering of lights to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha at the birthplace in the evening. Or, attending evening lighting and chanting ceremonies organized by the monks/nuns and other pilgrims particularly during the full moon.



- Participation at one of meditation sessions in the spiritual ambience of the birth place of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.

DAY 02:

Half-day guided tour by rickshaw and explore the Lumbini Master Plan Area.

- Visit Lumbini Visitor Information Center, Lumbini Museum, Lumbini Information Resource Institute (LIRI) and World Peace Stupa in the New Lumbini Village.
- Explore the Monastic Zone: World Peace Flame, World Peace Bell, Central Canal, the East Monastic Zone consisting of the monasteries of Theravada sect of Buddhism practiced in Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka etc.
- Visit the West Monastic Zone consisting of the monasteries of Mahayana and Bajrayana Sects of Buddhism including Chinese, Korean, German etc.
- Explore the monasteries located in the Sacred Garden that includes Rajkiya Buddha Vihara and Dharmaswami Maharaja Buddha Vihara (the oldest monasteries built after the re-discovery of Lumbini).



- Depart to the desired destination (Ancient Kapilavastu/ Devadaha/ Ramagram etc.)

iii. 2 Nights and 3 days tour to Lumbini

DAY 01: *Programs as suggested above.*

DAY 02:

- Full-day visit-explore the Lumbini Master Plan Area.



DAY 03:

- Again visit the sacred Mayadevi Temple early in the morning.
- Village tour and sightseeing to the nearby villages.
- Depart to the desired destination (Ancient Kapilavastu/ Devadaha/ Ramagram etc.) after having lunch at Lumbini

iv. 3 Nights and 4 days tour to Lumbini

DAY 01: *Programs as suggested above.*

DAY 02: *Programs as suggested above.*

DAY 03:

- **Full day village tour,**

sightseeing and/or bird-watching around Lumbini:

Walking, cycling or jeep driving to all possible rural villages and some of the most beautiful natural landscapes and bird sanctuaries in the vicinity of Lumbini Master Plan area.

- **Madhuwani village tour:**

Experience the typical rural lifestyle in Madhuwani village, age-old Biraha dance in Mahilwar village and Bat habitat in Lakhimpur. Visit Hathihawa lake, Tharunia lake, Balrampur lake and Telar river areas, some of the best sites to observe flocks of Sarus crane.

- **Ekala village tour**

(Bhaishaiya, Ekala, Bhagatpurwa, Shivgadha etc.): Experience the harmonious mixture of cultures of Hindu and Muslim communities including Yadav, Harijan, Chamar, Gupta and Muslim etc. Visit the agriculture farms, Shiva Temple, Kalimaisthan, Masjid (mosque), Karbola lake etc.

- **Tenuhawa village tour (Harnampur, Mashina, Tenuhawa etc.):**

Observe the unique Muslim cultures and people living to safeguard the Buddhist heritage sites and visit mosques and madarsas.

- **Khudabagar village tour (Chainpurwa, Sonvarsha, Belvariya etc.):**

Visit to Tharu museum, Tharu cultures and Tharu women weaving traditional Dhakiya. Other important sites of the tour include Monkey tree, Punnihawa lake etc.

- **Lumbini Adarsha village tour:** Visit the ancient villages of Padaria, Manauri, Khungai, with communities of Yadav, Mallah, Shreevastav, Kohar, Marau, Goshami and Muslims.
- Visit to historic and archaeological sites located in Ama village that includes Paushiya, Manauri and Ajma and Sainamaina sanctuary
- Sightseeing tour to Gaidahawa lake and Vulture Restaurant in Bishnupura to observe the vultures and Gajedi lake to observe one of the most beautiful systems of lakes with the blooming lotus.



DAY 04:

- Again pay a visit to the sacred Mayadevi Temple early in the morning.
- Depart to Ancient Kapilavastu/ Devadaha/ Ramahgrama etc.
- v. **4 days or longer tours to Lumbini (up to several days, weeks and months focusing on meditation)**

DAY 01 TO 03: *Programs as suggested above.*

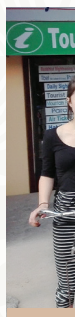
DAY 04:

Observation of meditation courses offered by the international monasteries or in the following meditation centers in Lumbini.

- Dhamma Janani Vipassana Center, Nepal (Located in the East Monastic Zone in Lumbini):
- Pandirarama Lumbini International Meditation Center, Myanmar (Located in the West Monastic Zone in Lumbini)
- Drigung Kagyud Meditation Center, Laddakh (Located in Lumbini)
- Osho Jetvan Village, Madhubani, Lumbini

How to Get There

- Visitor can fly to Gautam Buddha Airport, Bhairahawa by a 30 minute domestic flight from Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Kathmandu or travel by road to Lumbini via Chitwan. Currently the Government of Nepal is constructing Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA) near Lumbini which is expected to complete by the end of 2018. Lumbini is located only 18km away from Gautam Buddha Airport, Bhairahawa. Taxi and car can be hired from the airport.
- Visitors can also enter into Nepal overland from India through Kakadbhitta, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Sunauli, Nepalgunj, Dhangadhi and Banbasa entry points (with immigration office) located along Nepal-India border and travel by road to Lumbini.





- Similarly, visitors can enter into Nepal by road from China/ Tibet Autonomous Region through Rasuwagadhi entry point located along Nepal-China border and travel to Lumbini via Trisuli, Galchhi/Muglin and Narayangadh.
- Belahiya at Sunauli, Bhairahawa is the nearest immigration point from Lumbini. Lumbini is at the distance of 122 km from Gorakhpur, 181 km from Kushinagar, 312 km from Varanasi, 308 km from Lucknow and 240 km from Sravasti of India. Gorakhpur in India is the nearest train station from Lumbini.
- Currently there are direct regular day and night bus services from Kathmandu and day bus services from Pokhara and Chitwan/ Hetauda to Lumbini.

Where to Stay and Eat

- Ranges of accommodation facilities are available in Lumbini area. Classified tourist standard hotels are available in the New Lumbini Village within the Master Plan area, Mahilawar and Parsachowk. Tourist standard

hotels established at Sunauli, Bhairahawa, Butwal and along the Bhairahawa-Lumbini road corridor also serve visitors' varied accommodation needs.

- Several monasteries also offer informal pilgrimage accommodation facilities within the Lumbini Master Plan area. Besides the standard lodging facilities, these hotels/lodges also offer typical Nepali as well as Indian, Chinese and continental foods to the visitors.

Other Facilities and Services

- There are about 70 environmental friendly E- rickshaws and 120 manual rickshaws for getting around in the major sites within the Master Plan areas as well as the surrounding cultural villages and natural sites in Lumbini. Bicycle can be hired from Mahilawar and Parsa Chowk in Lumbini.
- Village tour and cycling tour are offered by some hotels and travel/tour agencies in Lumbini. Trained and experienced heritage tour guides are available at Lumbini Bus Park and Mahilwar. Free tourist information is provided by big hotels and travel/tour agencies in Lumbini. Visitors' Information Center (VIC) of Lumbini Development Trust located at the Lumbini Cultural Zone officially provides information to the visitors through brochures and official website www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np.

ANCIENT KAPILAVASTU

The Capital of the Ancient Sakya Kingdom

Introduction

The Ancient Kapilavastu or the present day Kapilavastu district of Nepal is identified with the kingdom as well as the capital city of Sakya dynasty where Siddhartha spent his 29 years of palatial life as a Prince. Ancient Kapilavastu is also the birthplaces of two earlier Buddhas (Krakuchhanda Buddha and Kanakamuni Buddha) before Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. After witnessing Chatur Nimitta Darshan (four causative sights), Siddhartha renounced the worldly life and left the palace through the Eastern Gate (also called as Mahabhiniskramana Dwara) in a quest for enlightenment. Pilgrimage to the Ancient Kapilavastu by the great Emperor Asoka in 3rd century BC, early Chinese travelers Fa-hsien and Hiuen Tsang (during

5th and 7th century AD respectively), and King Ripu Malla of Western Nepal during 14th century AD signify the importance of this place as a center of pilgrimage from the ancient times till the medieval period.

Major Monuments and Sites in the Ancient Kapilavastu

The Ancient Kapilavastu is an open museum as it alone houses more than 130 important archaeological sites. Significant Buddhist monuments and sites include Tilaurakot, Kudan, Gotihawa, Niglihawa, Sagarhawa, Araurakot, Sisaniya etc.

Tilaurakot: The Capital City of the Ancient Sakya Kingdom

Archaeological excavations carried out by various archaeologists and



scholars including P.C. Mukherji (who rediscovered Tilaurakot in 1899), D. Mitra, T.N. Mishra and B.K. Rijal have recognized the present day Tilaurakot as the ancient capital city of the Sakyas, Kapilavastu. It is situated 27km west of Lumbini, 3km north-west of Taulihawa.

Important archaeological and religious monuments uncovered so far from Tilaurakot include: (i) Fortification Wall, (ii) Western Gate, (iii) The Central Structural Complex, (iv) The Central Walled Complex, (v) The Central Pond, (vi) The Samai Mai Temple, (vii) The Eastern Gate (Mahabhiniskramana Dwara), (viii) The Northern Twin Stupa (Dhamnihawa Stupa), (x) Eastern Stupa and Monastery (Hastigarta), and (x) The Southern Industrial Mound (Lohasaudiya).

Kudan: The Ancient Nyigrodharama



Situated about 3km south of Taulihawa, is the ancient and historical site of Nyigrodharama, currently known as Kudan or Lori-Ki Kudan. Lord Sakyamuni Buddha met king Siddhodhana here for the first time after returning from enlightenment. Some scholars have



also identified Kudan as the natal-town of Krakuchhanda Buddha. Major structural ruins excavated and conserved, so far, in Kudan include 3 stupas, ancient well and Nyigrodharama pond.

Stupa 1 (Rahula Stupa) is believed to have been built to commemorate the event and spot where Rahula, was ordained by the Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's chief disciple Sariputra.

Stupa 2 is believed to have been built to commemorate the first meeting of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and king Siddhodana (after enlightenment).

Stupa 3 is believed to have been built to commemorate the events and place where Queen Prajapati Gautami offered Lord Sakyamuni Buddha the Kashaya Vastra, and Yasodhara invited him and his Sangha for a meal at the palace.

Gotihawa: The Birthplace of Krakuchhanda Buddha

Located about 5km southwest of Taulihawa, Gotihawa is identified with the holy place where Krakuchhanda Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and met his father after enlightenment. Emperor Asoka visited the site in 249 BC, erected the Pillar and built a big stupa, dedicating to the Krakuchhanda Buddha. At the center



of the present village there is an ancient well, and in the south there lies an ancient water tank.

Niglihawa: The Birthplace of Kanakamuni Buddha

Situated about 7km northeast of Taulihawa, Niglihawa is identified with the holy place where Kanakamuni Buddha was born. Emperor Asoka visited the site in 249 BC and erected the stone pillar with the inscription on it. 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, worshiped it and erected a stone pillar to mark the birthplace of Kanakamuni Buddha on the occasion of the twentieth year of his coronation. The pillar also bears an inscription, "*Om mani padme hum and Sri Ripu Malla Chiram Jayatu 1234*" of King Ripu Malla written in the year 1234 (Saka Era



corresponding to 1312 AD). Dr. Alois Fuhrer discovered this pillar in 1895 AD.

Araurakot: The Natal Town of Kanakamuni Buddha



Located 1.4km east of Niglihawa, and about 9km northeast of Taulihawa, Araurakot is identified with the natal town of Kanakamuni Buddha where he lived, grew up, and spent his married life.

Sagarahawa: The Massacre Site of The Sakyas

Located about 12km north of Taulihawa Sagarhawa (Lumbu Sagar) is identified with the place where the Sakyas were massacred by the King



Virudhaka, the son of Prasenajita Raja of Kosala out of revenge. Later, in the memory of the noble Sakyas, hundreds of stupas were built there by their descendants. The ancient ruins, primarily the stupas and monasteries, are situated on the west and south banks of the pond.

Sisaniya: The Ancient City of Sakyas

Sisaniya is an important archaeological mound. The site is believed to have had an ancient stupa and a Sangharama built by the Sakyas.



Other major tourist sites worth to visit in Ancient Kapilavastu are: Jagadishpur reservoir (inscribed in the list of Wetlands of International Importance, known as RAMSAR site in 2003), cultural villages including Jagadishpur Tharu Home-stay village and religious sites including Touleshwor Nath temple, Ram Ghat, Laxman Ghat-Bolbom Dham etc.

Tour Highlights to Ancient Kapilavastu

- Visit Tilaurakot, the Prince Siddhartha's hometown and the ancient capital city of Sakya Kingdom.



- Visit Kudan, the ancient Nyigrodharama.
- Visit the birth places of two early Buddhas, Krakuchhanda at Gotihawa and Kanakamuni at Niglihawa.
- Visit Sagarhawa to pay homage to noble Sakyas who were massacred here.
- Visit Araurakot, Sisaniya, Bikulikot etc.
- Bird watching and leisure visit to Jagadishpur Tal, the largest manmade reservoir in Nepal.
- Enjoy the indigenous Tharu cultures at Jagadishpur Tharu home-stay.
- Village/cultural tours in the rural villages to experience the exceptional cultural beauties, rural livelihood and traditions.
- Visit other pilgrimage and historic sites such as Tauleshwor Nath temple, Ramghat, Lakhman Ghat, Shivagadhi, Kapiladham, Shringi Ashram, Madhubani Dham etc.

How to Get There

- Taulihawa is linked by local road networks to Lumbini, Krishnanagar, Jitpur/Butwal, Bangai, and Gorusinghe.



- Public bus services are available in Bhairahawa-Lumbini-Taulihawa, Jitpur-Jahadi-Taulihawa and Krishnapur-Taulihawa routes.
- E-rickshaw can be hired at Taulihawa to visit major sites in the Ancient Kapilavastu.

established Tharu home-stay at Jagadishpur village also offers basic home stay accommodation and food facilities. But several local hotels are available in Taulihawa and Goringhe. Ranges of accommodation facilities are available in Lumbini, Bhairahawa and Butwal, the nearby cities from the Ancient Kapilavastu.

Where to Stay

Only a few tourist hotels with very limited bed capacity are currently available in Taulihawa. A newly



DEVADAHA

The Maternal Hometown of Queen Mayadevi,
Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's Mother



Introduction

Devadaha, the ancient capital of the Koliya Kingdom, located 57km east of Lumbini, is identified as the maternal hometown of Queen Mayadevi, Prajapati Gautami and Princess Yasodhara, the mother, step-mother and consort of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha respectively. It is believed that Prince Siddhartha had spent some years of his childhood with his step-mother/aunt Prajapati

Gautami in Devadaha. After seven years of his enlightenment, Lord Sakyamuni Buddha had visited Devadaha and had ordained the follower of Jain Sadhu Nirgrantha Nathputra. Present day Devadaha area has been identified as ancient Koliya Kingdom with the reference of distance and direction from Lumbini and other Buddhist sites provided by various early Buddhist scriptures and archaeological excavations.

Significant archaeological, historical and religious sites in Devadaha include Bhawanipur/Devidamar, Khayardanda, Devadaha, Kanyamai, Bairimai, Rohini river, Kumarbarti, Kotimai, Ancient wells, Mathagadhi, Pakadi Tree etc.

Also known as Devidamar, **Bhawanipur** is believed to have been the ancient Devadaha, the capital of the Koliya. The site consists of a temple dedicated to Queen Mayadevi and several archaeological icons and objects including a long stone, stone image of Sun God, ancient brick well etc.

Khayardada: Khayardada is believed to have been the main city of the ancient Koliya Kingdom. Three mounds can be distinctly observed here, and there are pieces of burnt bricks, potteries and various icons scattered everywhere within a radius of two kilometers.

Devadaha: Situated about half kilometer north of Ghodaha, Devadaha is a religious and historical



pond where the gods and goddesses and saints are believed to have bathed. Prince Siddhartha himself is believed to have bathed here during his visit to Devadaha.

Kanyamai Temple is believed to be built in the memory of Queen



Prajapati Gautami, the step-mother of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. **Bairimai Temple** is believed to be built to pay homage to Mayadevi, mother of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. Known as the holiest and most revered rivers in Buddhist scriptures, the **Rohini River** served as the border between ancient Kapilavastu and Devadaha.

Major cultural/ethnic villages worth to visit in Devadaha include Sispur and Bhawanipur Tharu villages, Sarantandi Magar village, and Khairahani Gurung village. Other sites of tourist interest include Mayadevi Park, Dharmodaya Vihara (Sitalnagar), Lokeshwore Temple (Khairahani), Kalika Temple (Sitalnagar), Durga temple (Sitalnagar) etc.

Tour Highlights to Devadaha

(Day tour or 1 night 2 days tour combining Ramagrama)

- Visit Bhawanipur, Kanyamai and Bairimai temple in Devadaha
- Visit Khayardada (considered to be the capital city of Ancient Koliya Kingdom), Mathagadhi (ancient fort), and ancient Bangala well etc.
- Take holy bath in the sacred Rohini river and Devadaha.

- Visit the Pakadi Tree.
- Observe meditation in the spiritual vibes at Bhawanipur and Simsar (wetland) site in Ghodaha.
- Visit cultural villages such as Sisipur Tharu village, Sarantandi Magar village and Khairahani Gurung village.
- Observe birds and wild animals in the Ghodaha area and Churia forest.
- Stay at one of the hotels in Sitalnagar, Khairahani or Sunwal and proceed to Ramagrama the next day.



to visit major sites in Devadaha. Taxi and car can be hired from Butwal and Bhairahawa as well.

Where to Stay

Three hotels with very limited bed capacity are currently available at Sitalnagar, Khairahani and Sunwal. But several local hotels are available at Sunwal, Bhumahi and Parasi Bazaar. Ranges of accommodation facilities are available at Sunauli, Bhairahawa, and Butwal, the nearby cities from Devadaha.



RAMAGRAMA STUPA

The Only Stupa with the Sacred Corporal Relic of
Lord Sakyamuni Buddha



Introduction

Enlisted as UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Property in 1996, Ramagrama Stupa is one amongst the eight original relic stupas where the corporeal remains of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha were enshrined. The 7m high brick mound (stupa) is located on the bank of Jharahi river near Parasi Bazaar in Nawalparasi district. Ramagrama is a site of great archaeological and pilgrimage

importance as the stupa is believed to have contained the only body relics of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and not interfered by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century BC.

Subsequent to the Mahaparinirvana, the body of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha was cremated by the Mallas of Kushinagar and the body remains were distributed among eight claimants, including the Koliyas of Ramagrama. The Koliya King, having

enshrined the body relics of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha, erected the stupa with great devotion and reverence. Emperor Asoka visited Ramagrama and wished to open the stupa in order to re-distribute the relics among 84,000 small stupas throughout his vast empire in 249 BC. According to the legends, Emperor Asoka was astonished to behold a dragon king guarding it and a herd of wild elephants worshipping the shrine by offering flowers and sprinkling water.

The mound structure was first discovered in 1899 by Dr. W. Hoey, a historian from the Asiatic Society of Bengal before it was confirmed to be a stupa by S. B. Deo later in 1964. The Department of Archaeology (DoA) of Nepal carried out an excavation of the mound in 1997. The stupa had four distinct phases (Mauryan, Sunga, Kusan and Gupta period) of construction, which proves that it is a monument of religious and archaeological significance.

Important sites and monuments worth to visit in the periphery of Ramagrama Stupa include Panditpur, Triveni Dham, Madarbaba Ashram, Daunne Hill and Gandak Irrigation Canal etc. Major ethnic villages include Panditpur Tharu village and Barahi Mahuwa Tharu village near Ramagrama.



Triveni Dham



Monastery at Daunne Hill

Tour Highlights to Ramagrama

(Day tour or 1 night 2 days tour combining Devadaha)

- Visit Ramagrama Stupa, the only stupa in the world where the sacred relics of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha are still interred.
- Visit the nearby Japanese temple with the standing image of Buddha.
- Take a spiritual and religious bath at the holy Jharahi river
- Participate at meditation sessions with spiritual vibes at Ramagrama Stupa.
- Visit other religious, cultural and natural sites such as Triveni Dham, Madarbaba Ashram, Daunne Hill, Gandak Irrigation Canal etc.
- Visit the nearby Tharu and mixed culture villages.
- Stay at one of the hotels in Parasi Bazaar, Sunwal or Khairahani and proceed to Devadaha the next day.



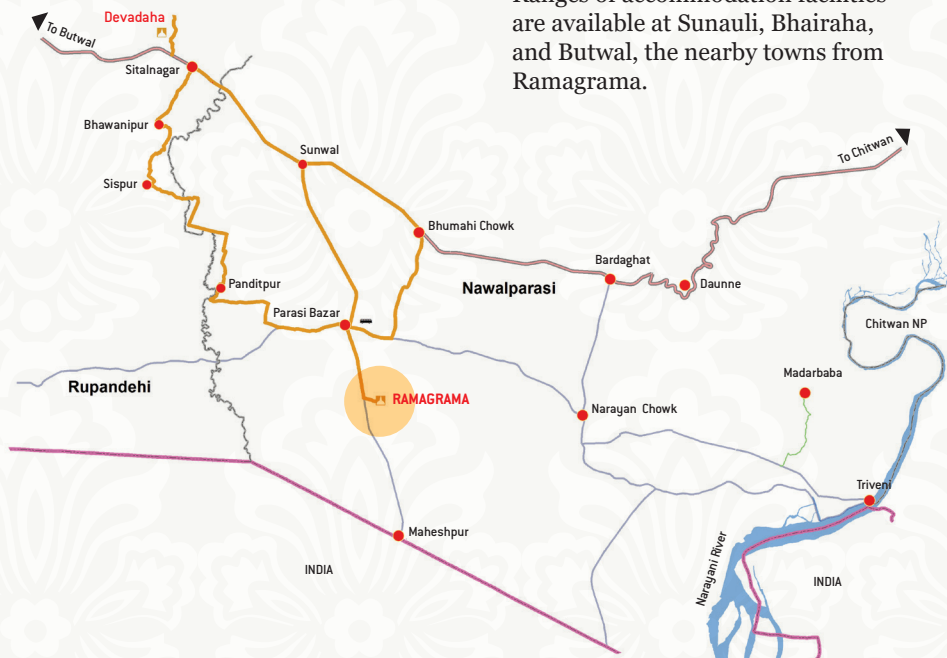
How to Get There

Ramagrama is linked by road networks with Bhairahawa (28.5km), Sunwal (13.5m), Bhumahi (11km), and Triveni (23km). Public bus services are available in Bhairahawa-Parasi Bazaar, Sunwal-Parasi Bazaar and Bhumahi-Parasi Bazaar routes. E-rickshaw can be hired at Parasi Bazaar, Bhumahi or Sunwal to visit

major sites in Ramagrama Stupa. Taxi and car can be hired from Bhairahawa or Butwal.

Where to Stay

Only a few tourist hotels with very limited bed capacity are currently available at Sunwal, Khairahani and Sittalnagar. Several local hotels are also available at Parasi Bazaar, Bhumahi, Sunwal and Khairahani. Ranges of accommodation facilities are available at Sunauli, Bhairaha, and Butwal, the nearby towns from Ramagrama.



SITES AROUND LUMBINI



Sites worth visiting around Lumbini include the followings.

a. Bhairahawa and Surroundings: Visiting the shopping malls, enjoying casino at the star hotels, visiting the Ostrich farm (Gangolia), and enjoying fishing at Chhapiya, and other fish farms.

b. Butwal and surroundings: Visiting the historic Jit Gadhi Fort, visiting Mani Mukunda Sen Botanical Park and Hill Park, visiting the Nuwakot Darbar and Bhairavsthan temple, visiting Siddhababa temple and Ramapithecus park, experiencing

home-stay village at Dobhaanghat etc.

c. Tansen, Ranimahal and surroundings: Enjoying the pleasant climate at Tansen/Srinagar Hill, experiencing the traditional Newari settlements, food and traditional arts (metal, textile), visiting temples, monasteries and ruins such as Bhairavasthan temple, Purankot Durbar, Srinagar Durbar (fort), the Bansha Gopal, the Mukundeshwar Mahadeva, Amar Narayan temples, the Ran-Ujjeshwari Bhagawati temple and the Tansen Durbar. Sightseeing to Rani Mahal. Visiting Bougha Gumha home-stay.



d. Chitwan National Park:

Visiting the country's first national park and very popular wild-life safari destination. The park is famous for its great one-horned rhinoceros, the Royal Bengal tiger, Asiatic and wild elephant, Gangetic dolphin, gharial and magar crocodile etc.

e. Ridi, Rura Chhetra, Resunga and Tamghas.

f. Supa Deurali, Narapani Hill station and surroundings.

g. Sworgadwari and surroundings.

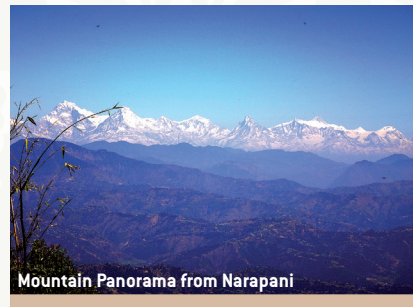
Recommended Tour Itinerary for Sites Around Lumbini

Day 01: Visit touristic sites in and around Butwal/Bhairahawa. These include Ostrich Farm at Gangolia village, Mani Mukundasen Botanical Garden, Jit Gadhi and Nuwakot Darbar in Butwal. Stay at Butwal or



travel to Siddhababa Temple, then to Tansen and stay at a home-stay or a hotel.

Day 02: Visit Srinagar hill, Ranimahal, Ridi-Rudrabeni, Reshunga, Mathura Gopeshwor Pith, Parashurameshwor Balkot Pouwa, Argha Kot and stay at a hotel/lodge in Narapani Hill Station near Supa Deurali.



Day 03: Enjoy the morning view of mountain panorama from Narapani, visit the historic Khanchi Kot, Mashina Lekh and Supa Deurali. Travel to Sworgadwari (Pyuthan) via Gorusinghe and Bhalubang (Dang). Observe evening prayer and Arati at Sworgadwari and spend a night at a guesthouse or Dharmashala in Sworgadwari.

Day 04: Observe scenic mountain panorama from Sworgadwari and travel back to Bhairahawa/ Chitwan/ Pokhara/ Kathmandu on the same day or travel to Banke National Park and Bardia National Park and fly back to Kathmandu from Nepalgunj Airport, the next day.

VISITORS IN LUMBINI ARE REQUESTED TO

- Follow Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's Panchasil (Five Precepts).
- Not to pluck flowers and leaves
- Follow the foot trails and walk on the designated paths.
- Not to disturb the wildlives, birds and their habitat.
- Use rubbish bins. Not to litter garbage, plastics and paper etc. Not to spit on the monument sites and walking trails.
- Not to smoke and play games when you are in the monument sites.
- Use designated roads and entry points.
- Not to walk over the archaeological ruins/monuments.
- Not to take away anything from the monument sites such as bricks, soils or any physical object.
- Obtain necessary permission from Lumbini Development Trust to take photographs and filming. Please do not use camera in the prohibited areas.
- Not to ride vehicle/motorcycle/ scooter/bicycle and not to use pressure horn in the prohibited areas.
- Not to use loud speakers in the areas designated for meditation/worship/teaching.
- Use the meditation platform for meditation.
- Take off shoes/sandals/slippers while entering into temples, monasteries, sacred sites and shrines.
- Honor local traditions, cultures, social harmony and rituals.
- Not to offer milk, water etc. to the sacred archaeological monuments such as Asoka pillars and the Nativity Sculpture.
- Avoid wearing revealing clothes and display of physical affection.
- Buy local products, seek out indigenous artisans and their crafts.
- Respect privacy of other people. Ask them before taking their photographs.
- Not to encourage begging, rather use donation box to donate for good cause.

Contact Address of Relevant Tourism Associations

Local Tour Guide Association, Lumbini Bus Park, Lumbini
Email: lumbiniocalguide@gmail.com, Mobile no. 9847549761 (one of the members of association)

Siddhartha Association of Tour and Travel Agents (SATT), Bhairahawa
Tel.: +977-71-522156; satalumbini@gmail.com

Siddhartha Hotel Association of Nepal (SHAN), Bhairahawa
Tel.: +977-71-525947 (Bhairahawa), 580432 (Lumbini); shanlumbini@gmail.com;

Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN), Kathmandu
Tel.: +977-1-4410522, 4412705; www.hotelassociationnepal.org.np

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA), Kathmandu
Tel.: +977-1-4419409; info@natta.org.np; www.natta.org.np,

Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN), Kathmandu
Tel.: +977-1-4427473, 4440290; info@taan.org.np; www.taan.org.np

Village Tourism Promotion Forum Nepal (VITOF), Kathmandu
Tel.: +977-1-4700575; info@vitofnepal.org; www.vitofnepal.org

Society of Travel and Tour Operators Nepal (SOTTO Nepal), Kathmandu
Tel.: +977-1-4442748; info@sottonepal.org; www.sottonepal.org

Home Stay Association of Nepal (HOSAN), Kathmandu

Tourist Guide Association of Nepal (TURGAN), Kathmandu
Tel.: +977-1-4225102; turgan22@gmail.com; www.tourguidenepal.org



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Recommended Tour Itinerary for Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit (GLBC)

A standard tour itinerary recommended for the GLBC includes the followings.

Day 01: Arrival in Lumbini and pay a visit to the Mayadevi Temple located in the Sacred Garden. Observe spirituality, religiosity, and ancient monuments; worship, pray, meditate in the spiritual vibes of the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. Feel eternal peace, blessings, compassion and contemplate the Buddha's teachings in the serene atmosphere and tranquility of Mayadevi Temple complex.

Day 02: Visit the World Peace Stupa, Lumbini Crane Sanctuary, Lumbini Visitor Information Center, Lumbini Museum, the West and East Monastic Zones, Lumbini Sacred Garden and again the Mayadevi Temple.

Day 03: Travel to Ancient Kapilavastu. Visit Tilaurakot, Gotihawa, Kudan, Sisaniya, Sagarhawa, Jagadishpur reservoir and stay at the Jagadishpur Tharu home-stay or at a hotel in Tilaurakot.

Day 04: Visit Niglihawa and Araurakot and travel to Devadaha via Sainamaina and Jitpur Fort (Butwal). Visit Devadaha (at Ghodaha), Khayardanda, Kanyamai, Bairimai, Bhawanipur and Pakadi Tree at Devadaha. Stay in a hotel at Sitalnagar, Khairahani, Sunwal or Parasi Bazar.

Day 05: Visit Ramagrama Stupa, Jharahi river and nearby Buddha temple. Visit Triveni Dham, Gajendramokchha Dham, Balmiki Ashram. Travel back to Bhairahawa via Ramagrama or drive to Chitwan National Park via Bardaghat/Daunne Hill.

Please Contact for Further Details

LUMBINI DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Head Office: Sacred Garden, Lumbini, Nepal | Tel: 977-71-404040, 404052, 404047 | Fax: 977-71-404042

Email: info@lumbinidevtrust.gov.np | Website: www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np

LDT Site Office: Tilaurakot

LDT Liaison Office: GPO Box: 4702, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4268285, 4268494; Fax: +977-1- 4268286

Email: liaisonoffice@lumbinidevtrust.gov.np

NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

Tourist Information Center, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4256909, 4256229, 4226359; Fax: +977-1- 4256910

Email: info@ntb.org.np; Website: www.welcomenepal.com