

Tiwari Tours & Travel



Land of Buddha Tour – 8 days

India is the birthplace of Buddhism. The Land of Buddha tour follows the footsteps of Buddha as far back as 2500BC. The destinations cover world-renowned holy Buddhist sites, right from his birth, to the rise of Buddhism around the world. The tour offers the best of the Buddhist circuit in India and is a true cultural and religious journey....

The main travel on this magnificent Buddhist sector tour will be in the comfort and security of our private Toyota 4WD vehicles. Any longer travel will be on comfortable air con overnight trains. We stay in traditional clean and comfortable guest houses that have character in line with the culture of the tour.

So get ready to walk on the footprints of Lord Buddha!

Places Visited

Delhi - Varanasi – Sarnath – Bodhgaya – Rajgir – Nalanda – Patna – Vaishali – Kushinagar – Sravasti – Lucknow - Delhi

Day 1 – Delhi

Welcome to Delhi, the capital of India. You will arrive the night before and will be greeted by our tour leader and driver who will transfer to the your hotel. After breakfast the next day will be full day of sightseeing. We will visit Connaught Circus with its great shopping and restaurants, Old Delhi Spice markets, India Gate, the Monument of Jama Masjid and Mahatma Gandhi's Tomb. Our hotel is based in the trendy market area of Karol Bagh, which is fantastic for wondering around on your own and doing your last minute shopping. Delhi is a true cultural wonder! In the evening we shall catch the overnight sleeper train to Varanasi.

Day 2 – Varanasi

Arrive early morning to the “Holy Hindu city of Varanasi”. Known as the oldest city in the world. Varanasi, is a highlight on all our trips. You will witness the infamous ‘burning ghats’ on the Ganges River. The cremation site for Hindu's. We will also visit the Old City laneways for great market shopping, and take a romantic sunrise boat trip on the Ganges River. You will also visit Sarnath, the place where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon in 590BC and also venture over to the magnificent Ramnagar Fort (with great views of the whole of Varanasi!) where the Maharaja is still in residence! Evenings will be spent listening to some traditional Indian classical music. Stay 1 night

Day 3 - Bodhgaya

Sunrise boat ride on the Ganges, back to hotel for breakfast and prepare to depart for a scenic rural drive to Bodhgaya (approx 6hrs). The most engaging of all holy sites associated with the life of Buddha. It is here that in 2500 BC, Gautama attained enlightenment and become Buddha under the Bodhi tree at Satabodhi Temple. Buddhists from all over the world flock to Bodhgaya! Stay 1 night



Day 4 - Bodhgaya – Rajgir – Nalanda - Patna

After breakfast next day early morning departure for Patna (6-7 hrs) enroute Rajgir & Nalanda. Rajgir was capital of the 6th century Magadha Empire and was a revered site of Buddha's discourses. Buddha spent many years here. Nalanda is the worlds oldest university founded in the 5th century and true wonder. Overnight in Patna, capital city of the state of Bihar

Day 5 - Patna – Vaishali – Kushinagar

Morning leave Patna for Kushinagar enroute Vaishali, which holds special significance for Buddhist devotees. Kushinagar is the place where Buddha passed into Maha-Parinrivana. Afternoon visit the various magnificent stupas and temples. Overnight at hotel

Day 6 – Kushinagar - Sravasti

Morning drive to Sravasti – the capital of the ancient kingdom of Kosala. Sravasti has the honor for sheltering Buddha for 24 rainy seasons in the Jetvana Vihar and has the famous Anand Bodhi tree, age old stupas, majestic monasteries and several temples. Buddha is said to have performed some miracles here. Stay overnight in Sravasti

Day 7 – Sravasti – Lucknow - Delhi

Morning scenic drive to Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Lucknow rose to prominence as the centre of the Nawabs of Avadh in the 16th century. Most of the interesting monuments date from this period and shall spend a day visiting the highlights. Overnight sleeper train from Lucknow back to Delhi.

Day 8 - Delhi

Arrive early morning in Delhi. Free time to relax, last minute shopping and prepare for departure back home. On our last day in Delhi we shall dine at a special North Indian Restaurant.



Tour Dates

This Yoga tour runs monthly all year.

Airport Pickup....The Tiwari Tour Leader will meet and greet all passengers on your arrival at Delhi international airport. Airline confirmations can also be arranged.

Accommodation... All hotels are 3/4 star and based on twin share basis, with attached bathrooms and a/c. Please let us know if you request a single room. (extra \$650 per person for 14nights) Hotels are generally 12noon checkout. In cases of late check out Tiwari will hold 1 or 2 rooms for group to share. If you require late check-out in your own room, you will need to pay additional night accommodation.

Transport... Private Toyota Qualis 4WD tourist vehicles, a/c sleeper trains, local taxis, minivans, cycle & auto 3 wheeler rickshaws.

Physical Fitness and Cultural Shock...

On this tour, you will require basic fitness, enough for the tolerance of daily walking, hot weather and some long hours of travel in cars and overnight trains. At times you will need to use the great outdoors for toilet stops, or Indian squat loos. You need to let go of your western ways and let things happen as they do in India! Occasionally we may experience power cuts, no hot water and flat tyres! But all in all, it will be eye opener for all! Please advise us in advance if you have any health issues or are taking any form of medication. All is confidential.

Money/Budget... Allow approx. \$200 AUD miscellaneous expenses for 8 days. If you intend to shop till you drop bring more! Tiwari Travel can arrange your cash/travellers cheques to be changed at the hotel on your arrival. ATM's are also available in main cities for visa cash advances. Check with your bank for international transaction fees!

Meals...Continental breakfasts included (1 cup tea/coffee, omelette, toast with jam, corn flakes & milk) One main meal per day. (either lunch or dinner dependant on travel) Passengers will be required to pay any additional food items themselves. Mineral water, drinks, deserts/sweets, extra tea/coffee etc are not included.

Keep in Mind.....Tiwari Tour groups travel in a way that fully appreciates cultures and lifestyles very different to our own. While striving to provide the very best holiday possible, we don't shield you from the cultural differences, inefficiencies and frustrations that are a part of traveling in India. Indeed the emphasis is on getting out there amongst the chaos, vibrancy that is India and experiencing all the country has to offer, warts and all! Please be patient with us and remember to just "let things flow" We expect the group to follow the guiding and advice of the tour leader for safety issues and to accommodate all people on the tour.

Tipping in India...Its is customary to tip on all services in India, including hotels, restaurants, transport, porters, room service etc. We ask that everyone contributes generously by either forming a group tip kitty or paying themselves as we go along. We can advise anytime on correct amounts to be given. Tipping is not included in price of tour.

Weather.....September through to March is a great time of year to travel in Northern India. It will be warm & dry. Apox. 28 day and 15 night.

What to bring...

Please travel as light as possible, everything you will need is available in India. The requirement is one backpack/suitcase per person, plus a day pack.

Bring light comfortable clothing for walking and travel in cars. Hat/cap, thongs, trekking shoes/sandshoes, shawl, scarf, beanie for early mornings! Long cotton pants, t-shirts, long sleeved shirt, light pullover, jacket, trackey dacks, mossy repellent, a torch for night. Remember India is conservative, no short shorts or short skirts. All leg wear must be below the knee and shoulders covered!



What the Tour includes;

Tour itinerary preparation and advice.

International airport transfers

All 3 / 4 star hotels/guesthouses

Meals - all continental breakfasts - generally cereal, toast jam, egg/omelet tea or coffee 1 x main meal per day – generally vegetarian North Indian food, Filtered water is provided at meals.

Transport – Private Toyota Commercial vehicles, with English speaking drivers

Vehicle taxes & insurance, road tolls, 1 x Tour Leader,

2 x overnight air con sleeper trains

1 x yoga class – Varanasi

1 music concert in Varanasi

Local taxis in Delhi only

All sightseeing and entrance fees

sunrise and sunset boat trips in Varanasi

Local Tour Guides

Fee free Foreign currency exchange in Tiwari shop – Varanasi

What the Tour Does Not include...

Bottled Mineral water, extra food/meals outside two meals provided per day.

Drinks, tea/coffees, desserts/sweets, any personal items.

Local 3 wheeler auto and cycle rickshaws, (very cheap!)

Any domestic flights, travel insurance,

Tipping

Extra night accommodation night before tour starts. (this can be arranged on pax behalf)

Luggage porters at train stations

Laundry

Any individual sightseeing entrance fees etc outside organized itinerary with group

Trip Extensions...The is tour is also available in over 15days

Please advise if you are interested in receiving the 15day tour itinerary.

Tiwari Tours is able to advise and organise any further travel for you before or at the end of the tour.

**Fully inclusive Tour Cost \$1295 AUD per person
(plus 10% service tax)**

There are no other costs except your airfare to India.



Booking Terms & Conditions

Validity

Price is based on the costs and exchange rates current at date of quote

Responsibility

You acknowledge that travel in India requires a degree of flexibility and understand that hotels, accommodation, etc are subject to change. All changes will be notified to the passengers

Payments

20% deposit to confirm booking required to Meredith Wilks (Tiwari Travel Sydney office) via either Direct bank deposit, cheque or cash. Final payment due 1 month prior to departure.

Cancellations by Passenger

Deposits not refunded at any cost. Final Payment refunded with 1 month notice.

Cancellation by Tiwari Tours & Travel

Please see website for Terms and Conditions.

Disclaimer

It is a pre-requisite of acceptance of travelling/booking with Tiwari Tours & Travel, that all passengers remove any form of responsibility from Tiwari Tours & Travel and its staff in the event of personal accident or injury or any personal loss due to travel to India. This requires each person signing a "Participation Consent Form" before departure. It is also a pre-requisite that all passengers have fully comprehensive travel insurance.

Guarantee

Tiwari Travel guarantees, once payment has been made, to provide you the passenger with the travel services indicated in the itinerary. Please take the time to read our website for further details on health & safety, travel insurance, visas etc.

Tour Changes

Due to nature of India and things running to "Indian time" the itinerary is subject to minor changes. We shall notify all customers at our earliest opportunity.

Namaste!!

Incredible India