

## FAMOUS BUDDHIST SITES OF INDIA

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Buddhism is one of the world's largest religions which originated 2500 years ago from India. It is a religion of philosophical tradition based on original tradition of Gautama Buddha. Some of the buddhist sites in India are mentioned below



Vulture Peak (in Sanskrit: Gridhakuta Parvat) in Rajgir, Bihar, India was the favourite place of Lord Buddha and his disciples for training and retreat. As per Buddhist texts, Lord Buddha gave certain sermons/sutras such as Lotus Sutras, Heart Sutra.



Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya, India is where Buddha attained enlightenment under a Bodhi Tree. It is a pilgrimage since two thousand years. In 2002, it got the status of UNESCO World Heritage site. Its replica is built in Thailand, Myanmar, China.



Dhamek Stupa of Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, India is called "Dharma Chakra Stupa" as per an inscription of 1026 AD. Some stories mention that Buddha gave a sermon to his first five Brahmin disciples or preached his last sermon. The National Emblem of India "Ashoka Pillar" stands near this site.



Sanchi is a Buddhist Complex in Madhya Pradesh, India which is a UNESCO World Heritage site commissioned by Mauryan Emperor **Ashoka** the Great.



Parinirvana Stupa, Kushinagar, India is the place where Lord Buddha breathed his last, and also he ordained his last disciple here. The proximity of the place of birth (Lumbini, Nepal) and death of Buddha is very close. A context to the world that we end up at the same point where we start.

