



Footsteps of Mahāpajāpati Gautami

HONORING WOMEN IN DHAMMA

Commemorating the Renunciation Trail of Mahāpajāpati and 500 Sakyan

AN INDIA-NEPAL SHARED HERITAGE!

18th - 25th December, 2025





Footsteps of Mahāprajāpatī Gotamī Yatra : Honouring Women In Dhamma

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An India-Nepal Shared Heritage

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This sacred journey retraces the courageous footsteps of **Mahāprajāpatī Gotamī**, the first woman to request and receive ordination from the Buddha, and the 500 Śākyan women who followed her trail of renunciation. Together, they blazed a path for generations of women seeking spiritual awakening, compassion, and freedom within the Dhamma.

At a time when women's voices were seldom heard, Mahāprajāpatī's steadfast devotion and courage challenged societal boundaries, establishing the **Bhikkhunī Sangha** — a transformative community that honors equality, wisdom, and compassion. This yatra is not only a pilgrimage through the sacred lands of India and Nepal but also a profound celebration of women's spiritual heritage, strength, and contributions to Buddhism's living tradition.

As we walk these ancient paths, we connect deeply with the timeless teachings of the Buddha — teachings that transcend gender and time, inviting all beings toward liberation. This shared heritage reminds us that the journey of awakening is inclusive, collective, and ever-relevant.

May this yatra inspire all participants to embody the fearless compassion and unwavering resolve of Mahāprajāpatī Gotamī and the Śākyan women, renewing our commitment to uphold dignity, wisdom, and harmony in the Dhamma community and beyond.

Together, we honor the past, awaken the present, and illuminate the future — in the footsteps of those who dared to renounce for the sake of awakening.

Organised by:

Light of Buddhadharmā Foundation International – India

International Tipitaka Chanting Council

Nav Nalanda Mahavihara

COST OVERVIEW

Duration: 10 Days

Dates: 15th–25th December 2025

Group Size: 50 Participants

1. Core Inclusions

Sl.	Items	Amount (INR)	USD (\$)
01	Accommodation + Meals + Refreshments (10 Days)	₹20,00,000.00	\$23529
02	Transportation (4 Urbania Vans + 1 Innova Crysta)	₹5,60,000.00	\$6588
03	Ceremonial Expenses (Offerings, Setup, Rituals)	₹2,50,000.00	\$2941
04	Pilgrimage Escort (Guide / Facilitator)	₹50,000.00	\$588
05	Volunteer Tokens of Appreciation	₹1,80,000.00	\$2118

2. Additional Expenses

Sl.	Items	Amount (INR)	USD (\$)
01	Nepal Visa (2,040 x 50 participants)	₹1,02,000.00	\$1200
02	Souvenirs / Pilgrimage Kits	₹1,00,000.00	\$1176
03	Monument Entry Fees	₹25,000.00	\$294
04	Drivers & Helper Token of Appreciation	₹50000.00	\$588

3. Taxes

Sl.	Items	Amount (INR)	USD (\$)
01	GST (on Accommodation + Transportation)	₹2,47,200.00	\$2908

Grand Total: ₹35,64,200.00 USD (\$41932)

Per Person Cost (Approximate): ₹71,284.00 USD (\$839)

Note: Final cost per person may slightly vary depending on currency exchange, optional activities, or individual arrangements.

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Day 1: 15th December – Bodhgaya / Rajgir → Vaishali

Morning:

- **Depart from Bodhgaya or Rajgir** early morning
(Recommended departure: 6:00–7:00 AM to allow time for stops and exploration)
- Scenic drive through the plains of Bihar, passing villages and historical sites
- **En route stops** (optional): Refreshment break, stretch, or short visit at notable points if time allows

Afternoon:

- **Arrive in Vaishali** (approx. 4–6 hours drive)
- **Check in** at accommodation
(Vietnam Temple or Thai Temple guest facilities)
- Light lunch and time to **rest and refresh** after travel

Late Afternoon (Optional Activities):

- Visit the **Relic Stupa of Vaishali**, one of the original eight relic sites of the Buddha
- Pay respects at the **Ashokan Pillar**, commemorating the Buddha's last sermon in Vaishali
- Quiet walk through **ancient monastic ruins**, reflecting on early Buddhist community life

Evening (Optional):

- **Silent or guided reflection** on Mahāprajāpatī Gautamī's historic ordination, which took place in Vaishali — a turning point for women in Buddhism
- **Group sharing or meditation** in the temple garden
- Light evening meal and rest

Day 2: 16th December – Vaishali → Kushinagar

Stay: Kushinagar – Chinese Temple / Myanmar Temple

Morning: Vaishali Sightseeing

- **Vaishali Stupa (Ananda Stupa):**
Honoring Ananda, the Buddha's faithful attendant – a place of quiet devotion
- **Ashokan Pillar:**
Marks the site of the Buddha's **last sermon**; an important symbol of the Dhamma's spread
- **Relic Stupa:**
One of the original eight stupas enshrining the **Buddha's relics**
- Optional reflection: *"The roots of the Bhikkhunī Sangha – Mahāprajāpatī Gautamī's legacy in Vaishali"*

Midday:

- Return to accommodation
- Lunch and brief rest

Afternoon:

- **Depart from Vaishali to Kushinagar**
(Recommended departure: around 1:00–2:00 PM)
 - Drive through scenic rural Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
 - Approximate travel time: **6–8 hours**, with rest stops

Evening:

- **Arrive in Kushinagar**
- Check in at **Chinese Temple / Myanmar Temple**
- Light dinner and rest

Optional (if time/energy allows):

- Brief night visit or silent walk at **Mahaparinirvana Temple**

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Day 3: 17th December – Arrival in Lumbini, Nepal

Activities:

- Arrive in Lumbini and check in at your accommodation (Thai Monastery / Nunnery / Hotel).
- Rest and recover from travel.
- Optional:
 - Visit the Sacred Garden for quiet meditation
 - Evening walk to nearby monasteries
 - Meet fellow pilgrims
- Optional evening reflection on the life and courage of Mahāprajāpatī Gautamī

Day 4: 18th December – Arrival in Lumbini, Nepal

Activities:

- Visit the Sacred Garden for quiet meditation
- Evening walk to nearby monasteries
- Meet fellow pilgrims
- Optional evening reflection on the life and courage of Mahāprajāpatī Gautamī

Day 5: 19th December – Tilaurakot & Lumbini

Morning at Tilaurakot (Ancient Kapilavastu):

- 8:00–8:30 AM: Opening Ceremony at the Shakya Palace site, Tilaurakot
- Bhikkhunis' Head Shaving Ceremony – symbolizing their renunciation
- Ceremonial walk in the ancient city
- Lay people offer robes to Bhikkhunis
- Community lunch with all pilgrims

Evening in Lumbini:

- Cultural Event: “*The Great Renunciation of Mahaprajapati*” – music, drama, and storytelling

Overnight Stay: Thai Monastery / Nunnery / Hotel, Lumbini

Day 6: 20th December – Lumbini to Ramagrama

Morning in Lumbini:

- Group prayer and mindful walk at Mayadevi Temple, led by senior Bhikkhunis

Afternoon Travel to Ramagrama

Evening at Ramagrama Stupa:

- Prayer and circumambulation at the stupa with Buddha's relics
- Dhamma talks by senior Bhikkhunis and teachers

Accommodation:

- Senior Bhikkhunis: Thai Temple, Ramagrama
- Others: Korean Temple or Hotels in Parasi

Day 7: 21st December – ThariGhat (Anoma River) to Valmiki Nagar

Morning – ThariGhat:

- Bhikkhunis take a ceremonial boat ride, representing the crossing of the Anoma River, just as Mahaprajapati did

Afternoon:

- Cross the border into India (carry ID/passport)
- Travel to Valmiki Nagar/ Bagha

Evening:

- Settle into the peaceful Forest Guest House for rest and reflection

Day 8: 22nd December – Daruabari

Morning:

- Bhikkhunis gather to recite the **Patimokkha** – the monastic code
- Lay guests are welcome to attend silently

Afternoon:

- Return to Valmiki Nagar for rest or quiet discussions

Accommodation: Forest Guest House

Day 9: 23rd December – Nandangarh, Areraj, Kesariya to Vaishali

Visits to Three Sites:

- **Nandangarh Stupa** – Walking meditation and offering
- **Areraj** – Reflections on the roles of women in early Buddhism
- **Kesariya Stupa** – Largest stupa in India; Dhamma talk: *“Letting Go and Leading the Way”*

Evening Travel to Vaishali:

- Check-in at hotel or monastery for rest

Day 10: 24th December – Bakhra and Birpurin Vaishali

Morning – Bakhra:

- Puja and silent walk at the place of Mahaprajapati Gautami's ordination
- Led by Bhikkhunis and supported by lay followers

Midday – Visit Ashokan Pillar:

- Explore the ancient Ashokan Pillar
- Dhamma reflection on equality, legacy, and awakening

Post-Lunch:

- **Valedictory Ceremony** (Birpur)
 - Closing reflections
 - Blessings from the Sangha
 - Group sharing
 - Certificates or tokens of participation (if planned)

Evening: Departure or overnight stay (as arranged)



The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

THANK *you*

CONTACT US

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