



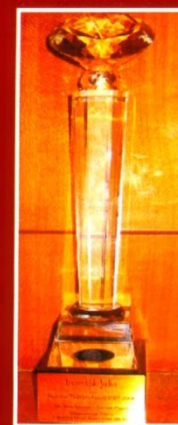
In the Footsteps of Lord Buddha Mahaparinirvan Express (Odisha Special)

ISO 9001 - 2008 Certified



IRCTC in collaboration with Odisha Tourism presents Mahaparinirvan Express (Odisha Special) for two trips. Departing Delhi on 20th December, 2012 and 20th January, 2013 respectively. It is an attempt to include important Buddhist sites in the state of Odisha along with traditional Buddhist locations already being covered by Mahaparinirvan Express for last 5 years.

This is an all inclusive package tour by an exclusive Air Conditioned train which includes all meals, road transfers, sight seeing, visits to the religious places. Special care is taken to maintain high level of security and extend a high standard of service both on the train and off the train.



Winner of National Tourism Award of Excellence by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India

TOUR ITINERARY - Departure from Delhi

(08N/09D) - Departing on 20th December, 2012

- Day-1 Depart Delhi (Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station) for Gaya.
- Day-2 Visit Bodhgaya temples.
- Day-3 Visit **Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri.**
- Day-4 Visit **Konark Sun Temple, Dhauligiri** and Bhubaneswar.
- Day-5 Visit Rajgir and Nalanda.
- Day-6 Visit Sarnath, Visit the Ganges for the evening Aarti in Varanasi.
- Day-7 Visit Kushinagar.
- Day-8 Visit Lumbini.
- Day-9 Visit Taj Mahal. Return to Delhi.

(07N/08D) - Departing on 20th January, 2013

- Day-1 Depart Delhi (Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station) for Gaya.
- Day-2 Visit Bodhgaya temples.
- Day-3 Visit **Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri.**
- Day-4 Visit Rajgir & Nalanda. Lunch.
- Day-5 Visit Sarnath, Visit the Ganges for the evening Aarti in Varanasi.
- Day-6 Visit Kushinagar.
- Day-7 Visit Lumbini.
- Day-8 Visit Taj Mahal. Return to Delhi.

• **Classes of Rail Travel - AC 1st class, AC 2nd class & AC 3 Tier.**

AT YOUR SERVICE

Namaste :
India is known worldwide for its hospitality and colourful traditions.



On-Board Hygienic Kitchen :
Guests are offered a variety of cuisines to suit their palates.



**Atithi Devo Bhawan
"Guest is like God":**
A traditional Indian welcome warms the hearts of the guests.



While on the Train :
Comfortable and personalised service by our eager-to-please staff.



Efficient Check-in :
The Mahaparinirvan Express is an exclusive train and does not take passengers other than those booked for the tour by IRCTC.



Hotels :
Stay in comfortable hotels, as per the itinerary.



On Train Shower Cubicle.



Security :
The guard in each coach ensures safety of the passengers and their luggage.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



BODHGAYA considered the most important Buddhist pilgrimage destination in the world, is the place where the Buddha attained enlightenment.



LALITGIRI a famous 1st century Buddhist complex with some of the best sculptures of that age.



RATNAGIRI has rich Buddhist sculptures, two large monasteries, a big stupa, Buddhist shrines and a large number of stupas.



UDAYAGIRI has a sprawling monastery complex.



DHAULIGIRI, is situated on the bank of the Daya river. Lord Buddha used to preach here.



KONARK, a World Heritage site, Sun Temple at Konark is the culmination of Orissan temple architecture & one of the most stunning monuments of religious architecture in the world. The entire temple was designed in the shape of a colossal chariot with seven horses and twenty four wheels, carrying the sun god, Surya, across the heavens.



NALANDA, literally means "The Giver of Knowledge". It was the most renowned and the oldest university in the world. Many international scholars and travelers from far away places like Java/Sumatra/ Korea/Japan & China were attracted to this university.



RAJGIR: Rajgir (Rajgirah), literally means 'The Abode of Kings'. It is surrounded by meandering river Banganga and five hills. Rajgir is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site as the Buddha spent twelve years here, and the first Buddhist council was hosted here at the Saptaparni caves.



VARANASI: The oldest living city in the world.
"Varanasi is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend ..."
-Mark Twain



SARNATH: It was in the Deer Park at Sarnath that the Buddha gave his first sermon now termed as Dharmachakra Pravartan or turning of the wheel of law.



LUMBINI: The Birthplace of Gautam Buddha, Lumbini is an important destination for every Buddhist and is one of the four holiest places of Buddhism.



KUSHINAGAR: Kushinagar (Kushinara) is a place where Tathagata, "the reciter of truth", attained Nirvana. The huge statue of the reclining Buddha at the Mahaparinirvan temple, was excavated in 1876.



AGRA: Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, is the mausoleum of Mumtaz Mahal, Emperor Shah Jahan's beloved wife.