

Chapter 1 : Backpacking travel & Outdoor adventure: - Buddhist Pilgrimage to India (Day 11, 12)

A Pilgrimage to the India of Yogananda In the Footsteps of the Autobiography of a Yogi. The blessings of pilgrimage, and power of being in places blessed by saints, will change and deepen you, lasting a lifetime.

Buddhist Pilgrimage to India, with Will James Buddhist Pilgrimage to India Led by Will James October This Buddhist pilgrimage to India is open to all, and is a chance to visit the sacred sites pertaining to the remarkable life of the Buddha, as well as an opportunity to explore his teachings and practices and how they apply to our own lives. This combination of travel, meditation and exploration invites us to deepen our understanding and open our hearts. We have the opportunity on this pilgrimage to not only visit the most sacred and holy sites of Buddhism but to also combine this with teachings on meditation, Buddhist philosophy and mindfulness practices at the very locations where the Buddha introduced these radical teachings to the world. Teachings and practices that people have found relevant and liberating for over 2, years. About the group leader: Will James has been studying the teachings and practices of the Buddha for over 30 years, and teaching since in what is known in the west as the Insight or Vipassana Tradition. He is the resident teacher at Tallowood Sangha in Bellingen, Australia, and regularly leads retreats on the east coast of Australia, teaches annually in Bali, Indonesia, and has taught in India. At the completion of the tour there will be the opportunity to give anonymously to Will for his instructions and guidance. Scroll down for the full itinerary. For guests joining from Australia we recommend Air India from Sydney We will meet you on arrival at Delhi airport and transfer you to the hotel Ahuja Residency. At Patna we will transfer to check into the Hotel Maurya Patna, and then head out to explore. We will also have use of the hotel meeting room for meditation and discussions. The total drive today is 90km in about 3 hours. The tree that stands there today is believed to have grown from the original tree under which the Buddha meditated. We will spend today exploring the area with time for meditation. Overnight in Palace on Ganges, Varanasi. The rest of the day we will explore the temples and winding alleyways of the old city, and experience the evening aarti prayer rituals on the banks of the Ganges. Spend the afternoon exploring the town at your own leisure. Overnight in Serkong House, Dharamsala. Check out of the hotel in the morning and transfer to the airport to board Air India flight AI, departing Dharamsala at Here in Delhi again we will stay at the Red Fox Hotel, for convenient access to the airport for your international departure. Meals on Half Board basis Breakfast and dinner. Lunch in Rajgir Accommodation as per itinerary in a sharing twin or double room or single room with en-suite facilities Check-in is hrs and checkout 12 noon. Early check-in late checkouts are subject to availability. Services of a local English-speaking representative for all arrival and departure transfers to assist you at the airports and railway station. Services of English speaking guide during sightseeing as specified in the itinerary. Entrance fees to all monuments during sightseeing as specified in your itinerary. Mineral water while traveling Escort guide from Patna to Varanasi days 3 to 11 with local assistance while in Delhi and Dharamsala. The cost does not include: You can now apply for visa on arrival in India- please click here for more information. Camera fees at monuments and other places of interest. It is essential to have adequate travel insurance in place before your departure. This should be appropriate for your age, health and destination you are visiting. Balance payments will be due 8 weeks before departure. You can make the deposit payment by debit or credit card or electronic transfers to our bank. Our Bank details are on the booking form.

Chapter 2 : Book Hindu Pilgrimage Tour Packages in India Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage India Travel and tour packages include a trip to see famous South Indian Temple architecture in Rameshrawam and Meenakshi Temple in South India and the Chardham Yatras on the holy Himalayas of North India and lot more.

Dhyana is the founder of Stanton Street Yoga in New York city and offers teacher trainings, retreats and immersions around the world. Together they offer an eclectic blend of the Eastern arts to assist in deepening spiritual connections and unveiling the unique potential within each one of us. We are super excited about this trip and the opportunity to serve and share India with you through our eyes and the eyes of our teachers and of course, through the lens of what we love: The Govardhan Eco Village is situated on 50 acres of pristine farmland and aims to demonstrate the principles of self-sufficiency and localized economy to the world. We will stay in eco-friendly guest rooms in the naturally charming village, eat local dishes made from organic grains and vegetables grown on the land, and tour the facilities to see how a group of bhakti-yogis are making a difference towards a greener world. We will practice yoga daily, hear from renowned teacher Radhanath Swami, attend a variety of life changing workshops, swim in the inviting bio pool and spend personal time falling in love with the cows and other farm animals. Thousands and thousands of colorful flower petals showering the deities and the entire temple room! We will then head to Rishikesh; a small town situated on the banks of the sacred Ganges River in the foothills of the Himalayas. Here we will practice Yoga and Meditation each morning, hike through the Himalayan foothills, visit the local markets, and honor the sacred Ganges River. Here we will visit temples and holy sites, hear stories from sadhus, do lots of kirtan! Look into getting your visa today! The sooner the better. We will give you specific flight details. You are able to stay at an internationally recognized and highly awarded Eco-Village that is peace on earth. You meet Mother Ganga up close and personal in Rishikesh and offer your own pooja to her holy waters. You get to taste, smell, hear, see, and touch India through the bus ride in the country side of India arriving in Vrindavan to experience another wonderful quiet place within the hustle and bustle of a city in India. You are cared for mind, body and soul by these two wonderful souls as well as their close friends and swami for just over two weeks. There is nothing that compares to this trip. I have already done it twice. I never really understood bhakti or devotion as a means for doing that. I remember reading the part of the Bhagavad Gita a long time ago where Krishna tells Arjuna about the 3 different yogas, and bhakti was always the one I felt I understood the least. I thought I would get closest to peace or happiness through meditation or selfless action rather than devotion. But practicing bhakti in India got me closer to those things than I have been in a very long time, and I really feel like the connection with God that is the source of all real happiness is now always available to me through the practices.

Chapter 3 : Spiritual Travel- Pilgrimages to India, Ayurvedic Retreats in India, Spain, and Vacations

In Hindu religion and spirituality, the pilgrimage has great significance. Members of the faith participate in the following types of pilgrimage. The pilgrimage to.

Varanasi to Bangkok by TG We then visited the museum with a remarkable statue of the Buddha setting the wheel at law Dhammacakka in motion. Visited Mulagandhakuti temple in the Deer Park. Sarnath is a city located 13 kilometres north-east of Varanasi near the confluence of the Ganges and the Gomati rivers in Uttar Pradesh, India. The deer park in Sarnath is where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma, and where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence through the enlightenment of Kondanna. Sarnath is one amongst the four holy places associated with the life of Lord Buddha. This is the place where Buddha, after attaining enlightenment at Bodhgaya, preached his first sermon to his five erstwhile companions. After lunch at hotel, transfer to Varanasi airport for our flight to Bangkok. Most of the ancient buildings and structures at Sarnath were damaged or destroyed by the Muslim Turks. Dharmarajika Stupa was built by Ashoka to enshrine the relics of Lord Buddha in view of the redistribution of the relic and to enshrine them. In a number of stupas at different places, it is referred, that king Ashoka opened seven original relic stupas but for Ramgram stupa guarded by the Nagas and collected relics to erect thousands of stupas and Dharmarajika stupa is one of them. Dharmarajika Stupa - As concluded by the excavations, originally it was a small stupa of D in order to exploit building materials. In this tragic event a relic casket of green marble inside a stone box was discovered. The box is preserved in the Indian Museum Calcutta, whereas the casket was thrown into River Ganges, Later on during archaeological excavation two outstanding images viz the colossal Bodhisattva of Kusana period in Red sand stone and an image of seated Buddha in Dharmachakra pravartana mudra of Gupta period were also recovered from the periphery of this stupa. The Dharmarajika Stupa is one of the few pre-Ashokan stupas remaining although only the foundations remain. The rest of the Dharmarajika Stupa was removed to Varanasi to be used as building materials in the 18th century. At that time, also relics were found in the Dharmarajika Stupa. These relics were subsequently thrown in the Ganges River. The ruins of the Mulagandhakuti Vihara mark the place where the Buddha spent his first rainy season. May Soong This monolithic railing made of Chunar Sandstone, which bears the typical Mauryan polish, was discovered by Mr Oertel during excavation in the year Each side of this square railing measures 2. It bears two inscriptions of about 3rd century B. C which refer to the teachers of Sarvastivadin sect. The Ashoka Pillar erected here, originally surmounted by the "Lion Capital of Asoka" presently on display at the Sarnath Museum, and was broken during Turk invasions but the base still stands at the original location. Annie Watt and Bro. Leong Yew Joo These are the fragment of a These bear the typical Mauryan polish. The cylindrical shaft is slightly tapering with a diameter of 0. It was once surmounted by the famous four adored example of Mauryan art Now the National Emblem of Govt of India and displayed in the site museum. The pillar bears three inscriptions. The earliest one is an edict of Ashoka. In the Mauryan Brahmi script in which the king warns the monks and nuns against creating schism in the sangha. Next mention the 40th year of the Kushana king Asvaghosha of Kaushambi and the third is in early Gupta Brahmi script refers to the teachers of the sammitiya sect and the Vastiputrak School. Group of Votive Stupas. In the area around the Moolgandha Kuti, there are many ruins of small stupas, Buddha Vihars and a small temple. These small stupas are known as votive stupas. These are basically built to commemorate visits of various acknowledged Buddhist masters or dignitaries. Archeological site at Sarnath Dhamekh stupa is visible in the background. Dhamekh Stupa - According to an inscription dated A. D recovered from the site, its old name was Dharma Chakra Stupa. It is perhaps commemorating the spot where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon. Dhamekh Stupa - In search of the relic casket Alexander Cunningham bored a vertical shaft through its center down to the foundation level and at a depth of Written in Brahmi Script of 6th-7th century A. Further below he traced out a stupa made of Mauryan bricks. Dhamekh Stupa - However, the present diameter of this solid cylindrical tower is Its total height is The structure consists of a circular stone drum up to the height of Below them runs as broad course of beautifully carved stones having geometric designs, swastika, leaf and floral patterns combined with birds and human figures. Buddhist commentaries by Prof. The

Deer park is a huge enclosure made for the deer to roam around freely. Dharma Chakra Jina Vihar - According to an inscribed stone slab found during excavation at the site, this imposing monastery was donated by Kumari Devi the Buddhist queen of Govinda Chandra, a Gahadwala king of Kannauj A. The area excavated so far measures meter east to west having two gateways towards the east which are Dharma Chakra Jina Vihar - The basement of the monastery is raised to the height of 2. At the Western proximity of the complex is a covered passage or tunnel is In height the entire complex was constructed over the ruins of several earlier monasteries. Mulagandha Kutya Vihara 4: It was inaugurated in and enshrined the sacred relics of Sakyamuni Buddha. It is located in the Isipatana Deer Park at the eastern side from that place where Buddha preached first sermon. The exposition of the sacred relics for the public and its annual procession around Sarnath falls on Kartik Purnima, full moon day in the month of November. Our lunch at Hotel Rivitas, Varanasi, India. I am going to miss all the chapati and curry which I have been eating for the past ten days. Saying goodbye to India at Varanasi Airport. All saying goodbye to India at Varanasi Airport. At Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok. It is our pleasure to provide herewith some feedback from fellow participants of our Buddhist Pilgrimage trip to India and Nepal, which turned out to be just as wonderful, memorable and adventurous too. Ching Neng Bin saidâ€ Dear Prof. Victor Wee, I just wanted to tell you that I had a wonderful pilgrimage with you as our spiritual guide. The trip was fantastic in both a spiritual and historical perspective, bringing the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha alive in a way I could never have imagined! Words cannot describe what it meant to me! This was my first pilgrimage. You have been so personable and informative that we all felt you made the trip so much better than we could have imagined. We cannot emphasize enough how much we enjoyed on our pilgrimage, and we can only make sure that we will follow you on future tours. It was very meaningful to visit all the holy sites and to have Buddhist chanting and meditation at all these different holy places. I must say that Voon Seong our Malaysian tour guide was great! He was so friendly, kind and patient. His chanting was fantastic and I love to hear him chanting. The spirituality of the pilgrimage grew as we traveled from Bodhgaya to Rajgir, Vaishali, Kushinagar, Lumbini, Sravasti then to Varanasi. My only regret is that I would have loved to stay a day or two longer in Varanasi to visit the Ganges River. As for our Indian guide, Mr. Sharad, I wish to express my comment on a job well done. He was also very knowledgeable. We enjoyed his good humor and he has demonstrated a lot of patience working with Voon Seong. He was punctual, courteous and well mannered. It was great that he pointed out the important locations at each site. The accommodations were just fine and the North Indian food were excellent. The bus driver did a good job driving the bus and we always felt safe. It was especially nice to have such a group as we all bonded together. It was a trip of a lifetime for me and especially special to do it with my sister Ching Bee Geok and also to celebrate her birthday on 25th November by all participants. Victor Wee, Congratulations on your professorship! With your knowledge and experience, you are already like a professor of Buddhist studies to me, as I really enjoyed your enthusiastic recounting of the history and stories relating to each site we visited in India! Thanks to your contacts too, we were fortunate to see a different side of the pilgrimage trail with Dr. The memorable moments of this trip will linger long in my memories. Thank you so much!! Hope you are keeping well. Baby Cheah saidâ€ I would sincerely like to thank Prof. Victor Wee, Elaine and the organising committee for a very successful pilgrimage to India. I would also like to thank Voon Seong for being very caring, helping and making our 12 day journey so much comfortable. Ching, the blog writer and all the brothers and sisters in the Dharma for making this pilgrimage a memorable one.

Chapter 4 : A Pilgrimage to the India of Yogananda

Visions of a Better World: Howard Thurman's Pilgrimage to India and the Origins of African American Nonviolence Aug 30, by Quinton Dixie and Peter Eisenstadt.

Our itinerary has been designed to engage with different religious communities in their own places of worship: At nearby Fatehpur Sikri we visit the deserted capital where debates took place between Jesuits, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims in the 16th century under emperor Akbar the Great. This pilgrimage tour is open to people of all faiths or none from all around the world, and is a unique opportunity to explore, engage and communicate. Our pilgrimage leader, Ian Jamison, has been in love with India for a long time! Here is a quick message from him: I have been lucky enough to explore its traditions through both academic study and through direct experience. I look forward to joining you as we journey together on an exciting exploration of the vibrant and fascinating religious traditions of India. Friday 15th September Saturday 16th September In the afternoon we go to explore the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in Asia, and the Sufi shrine at Nizamuddin Dargah. Overnight in Royal Plaza, Delhi Day 3: Sunday 17th September Overnight in Royal Plaza, Delhi Day 4: Monday 18th September Tuesday 19th September Wednesday 20th September After a leisurely morning in Vrindavan, we drive 40 miles to Agra and check into the hotel for the night. Overnight in Agra Day 7: Thursday 21st September Overnight train to Amritsar Get up early in the morning for a sunrise view of the Taj Mahal and a visit to the nearby Agra Fort. In the afternoon we transfer to Agra Cantt Railway Station for our first experience of Indian rail travel, with an overnight journey to Amritsar in a First Class sleeper train: Chattisgarh Express departing Agra at Overnight on train Day 8: Friday 22nd September Amritsar and the Golden Temple In the morning we transfer from Amritsar railway station to the holiest site of Sikhism, the Golden Temple, and check into guest house pilgrim accommodation inside the temple complex. Overnight in Golden Temple at Amritsar Day 9: Saturday 23rd September Drive Amritsar to Dharamshala Today we leave the Indian plains for the cooler climes of the hills with a mile drive to Dharamshala in the foothills of the Himalayas. It is about a 6 hour journey in our own private coach with beautiful scenery and a chance to watch rural Indian life go by. Our destination Dharamshala is the home of the Tibetan exiled community in India, and their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. The hill station town is dotted with Buddhist temples, monasteries and Tibetan shops. There is also an old British church at St. Overnight in Dharamshala Day Sunday 24th September Monday 25th September Day at leisure in Dharamshala After a busy traveling schedule we have a couple of days to wind down in the peace and mountain air at Dharamshala. Tuesday 26th September Day at leisure in Dharamshala Final day at leisure in Dharamshala and a good time for some last minute shopping. Fly Dharamshala to Delhi. Morning transfer to airport to board Air India flight at Transfer to hotel Ibis near the airport. Overnight in Delhi Day Thursday 28th September Return flight to the UK. Again, travelers outside the UK please get in touch End of services The cost per person sharing a twin or double room:

Chapter 5 : Pilgrimage places in India - Wikipedia

This Buddhist pilgrimage to India is open to all, and is a chance to visit the sacred sites pertaining to the remarkable life of the Buddha, as well as an opportunity to explore his teachings and practices and how they apply to our own lives.

If you book a shared room and you or your roommate decides to change to private accommodations, BOTH of you will need to pay the single occupancy rate provided another room is available, of course. We need to receive your full payment by Apr 1, , in order to get the Earlybird discount. All ground and air transportation in India, within the itinerary Accommodations in each destination Two meals per day for 11 days, usually breakfast and dinner and 3 meals for 7 days All required tips and taxes Professional local guides, and tour leaders from Ananda Price does not include: Passport You will need a passport that is valid until March If yours expires before March , you must renew it before you request your visa. If you need a new passport, or need to renew one, do so immediately by going to travel. You will find instructions there. Visa The easiest way to obtain a visa is to go to a near by Indian Embassy, or go to the web-site: Krishnadas will be available to assist you in getting the right application form depends where you live filling it out, and sending it. Flights You can fly on your own to Delhi. The airport designation is DEL. We will arrange your pick-up from the airport to the resort. We will be happy to help book your flights and we can travel together to India. We will give you an exact figure at the time you wish to book. Connecting Flights If you will be coming from cities other than San Francisco, please arrive early enough to ensure that you will not miss the international flight to Delhi! If you are coming from California Please arrive at San Francisco by 10pm, the day of the travel. If you are coming from other states It is advisable to arrive a day earlier to San Francisco. Here is a complete schedule of the pilgrimage. The length of the pilgrimage is 21 days, 22 nights. A bus and tour guide will meet the group upon arrival and take everyone to the Vinaya hotel, in Delhi. Talk with Krishnadas for more information on getting from the airport, especially if your plane comes in earlier or on another day. The hotel is reserved for you on this night, Monday, October 23, as the first day of activities will be on Tuesday, October Tuesday, October 24, Day 1 Our first day will have a sensibly late start. You can change dollars for rupees at this time, also. In the afternoon you have the option to visit Dilli Haat, an open-air textile market and food bazaar. Vendors gather from all over India with their indigenous wares, unique from their local region. There is a huge variety of merchandise at very good prices. The ashram will serve as a home base for our pilgrimage. Leaving some of our belongings in Delhi will allow us to travel around India with smaller bags. The Ananda Center in Delhi will also serve as a peaceful place for meditation, rest, and home-cooked meals. Located here is the cave where Lahiri spent a previous incarnation. Babaji gave Lahiri Kriya Yoga initiation on this spot, thus launching its spread around the world. This quiet area of the Kumaon region has a strong spiritual vibration and also offers saints, ashrams, and stunning Himalayan views. Thursday, October 26, Day 3 Today will be a retreat day at our lovely hotel overlooking the Himalayan mountain ranges and Villages below. This will be an opportunity for longer meditations, silent introspection and relaxation time, breathing the rarified air and absorbing the wonderful vibration of these magnificent mountains. Sunday, October 29, Day 6 This will be a free day in Delhi, with an optional outing to Akshardham, an immense Hindu Temple, intricately carved of sandstone and marble. Lunch and dinner will be at Ananda Center. Sri Yukteswar was the guru of Paramhansa Yogananda. The resort offers a sandy beach, a pool, and private terraces. Totapuri initiated Sri Ramakrishna in the higher technique of Nirvikalpa Samadhi. Our time in Puri will be fulfilling and inspiring, but not demanding. Our seaside location is very relaxing and recharging. Kolkata, Serampore and Dakshineswar Immeasurable blessings emanate from the places where Paramhansa Yogananda and Sri Yukteswar lived and meditated. That power is as alive today as always. Thursday, November 2, Day 10 A morning flight brings us north to the teeming city of Kolkata Calcutta. Somnath, his wife, and two daughters lovingly maintain the home and share it as a shrine. They will welcome us as one of the family, sharing stories, family relics, and photos. Many rare and original photos and paintings exist here that will inspire and delight you. Here, in this tiny out-of-the-way home filled with high vibrations, have gathered spiritual giants, who came for fellowship, chanting, and God-communion. Hassi will greet us, be with us, and serve us lunch.

Yogananda visited this temple with his sister Roma and her husband. Sri Ramakrishna, one of the best-known masters of modern India, lived at this temple many years along with Sarada Devi, his spiritual companion. Taj Mahal in Agra Monday, November 6, Day 14 This will be a travel day, flying into the Delhi Airport, continuing by bus to the ancient city of Agra, arriving at our hotel in time for dinner. Rishikesh The scenic setting of Rishikesh, along the beautiful river Ganges, is rich in variety and has a lively vibration. Many saints have visited and founded ashrams in Rishikesh. Dinner will be at our hotel. In Haridwar also, is the ashram and tomb of Anandamoyee Ma, to whom Paramhansa Yogananda dedicated a chapter in his autobiography. Mornings will start with Energization and Meditation on the banks of the Ganges, and breakfast at our hotel. Evening kirtans, at sunset on the beach are very special and uplifting. Walking along the Ganges in the morning is a blissful and unforgettable experience. On our last day in Rishikesh an evening train will take us back to Delhi, to arrive late in the evening. Monday, Nov 13, Day 21 Our last day is a free day in Delhi. Time to get everything repacked and refresh yourself for the trip back home. Since many pilgrims have late night flights, your hotel room is reserved for this night. This also gives you the option of leaving on November 14th, but with morning check out.

Chapter 6 : Sacred Journeys

The pilgrimage includes kirtan (group singing of traditional Sanskrit mantras) as well as japa (individual chanting of mantras on meditation beads). Travel in India can involve some austerity, but our teachers are all seasoned veterans of many pilgrimages.

What is a Pilgrimage? For as long as humans have walked, they have walked to get closer to their gods. The Greeks made these quests, as did the Israelites, the Mayans, and the Chinese. Jesus hailed these journeys, along with the Buddha and the Prophet Mohammad. These wanderings have been around forever. Pilgrims made them in the eons before writing was invented. Believers made them in the millennia during which the great civilizations were built. Seekers follow them today. Six stages characterize every pilgrimage: The opening clarion of any spiritual journey. Often in the form of a feeling or some vague yearning, that summons expresses a fundamental human desire: Sameness is the enemy of spirituality. Pilgrimage, by its very nature, undoes certainty. It rejects the safe and familiar. It asserts that one is freer when one frees oneself from daily obligations of family, work, and community, but also the obligations of science, reason, and technology. The backbone of a sacred journey is the pain of the journey itself. In India, pilgrims approach the holy sites barefoot. In Iraq, they flagellate themselves. In Tibet, the more difficult the trip the most merit the pilgrim acquires. In almost every place, the travelers develop blisters, hunger, and diarrhea. This personal sacrifice enhances the experience; it also elevates the sense of community one develops along the way. Some pilgrimages go the direct route, right to the center of the holy of holies, directly to the heart of the matter. Others take a more indirect route, circling around the outside of the sacred place, transforming the physical journey into a spiritual path of contemplation. After all the toil and trouble, after all the sunburn and swelling, after all the anticipation and expectation comes the approach, the sighting. The encounter is the climax of the journey, the moment when the traveler attempts to slide through a thin membrane in the universe and return to the Garden of Origin, where humans lived in concert with the Creator. The Completion and Return: Learn more More from PBS.

Chapter 7 : Top 10 Indian Pilgrimages You Have to Take | MakeMyTrip Blog

Pilgrimage To India. likes 1 talking about this 3 were here. Finding a suitable accommodation as per your budget is no tough task in Nasik. Being.

Chapter 8 : Pilgrimage India Tour,Religious Pilgrimage India Packages- Pilgrimage India

India is a vast land and inhabited by people of various religious faiths. Being a religious land, India is home to innumerable temples, mosques, churches, gurdwaras and other religious structures that are included in pilgrimage tours to India.

Chapter 9 : Hindu pilgrimage sites in India - Wikipedia

Pilgrimage Tour Packages The aroma of Hawan Yajna among the pure, serene and tranquil setting, the chanting of hallowed prayers can be experienced on a pilgrimage tour to India. There are oodles of places of worship for every devotee, be it Hindu, Sikh, Muslim or Christian.