

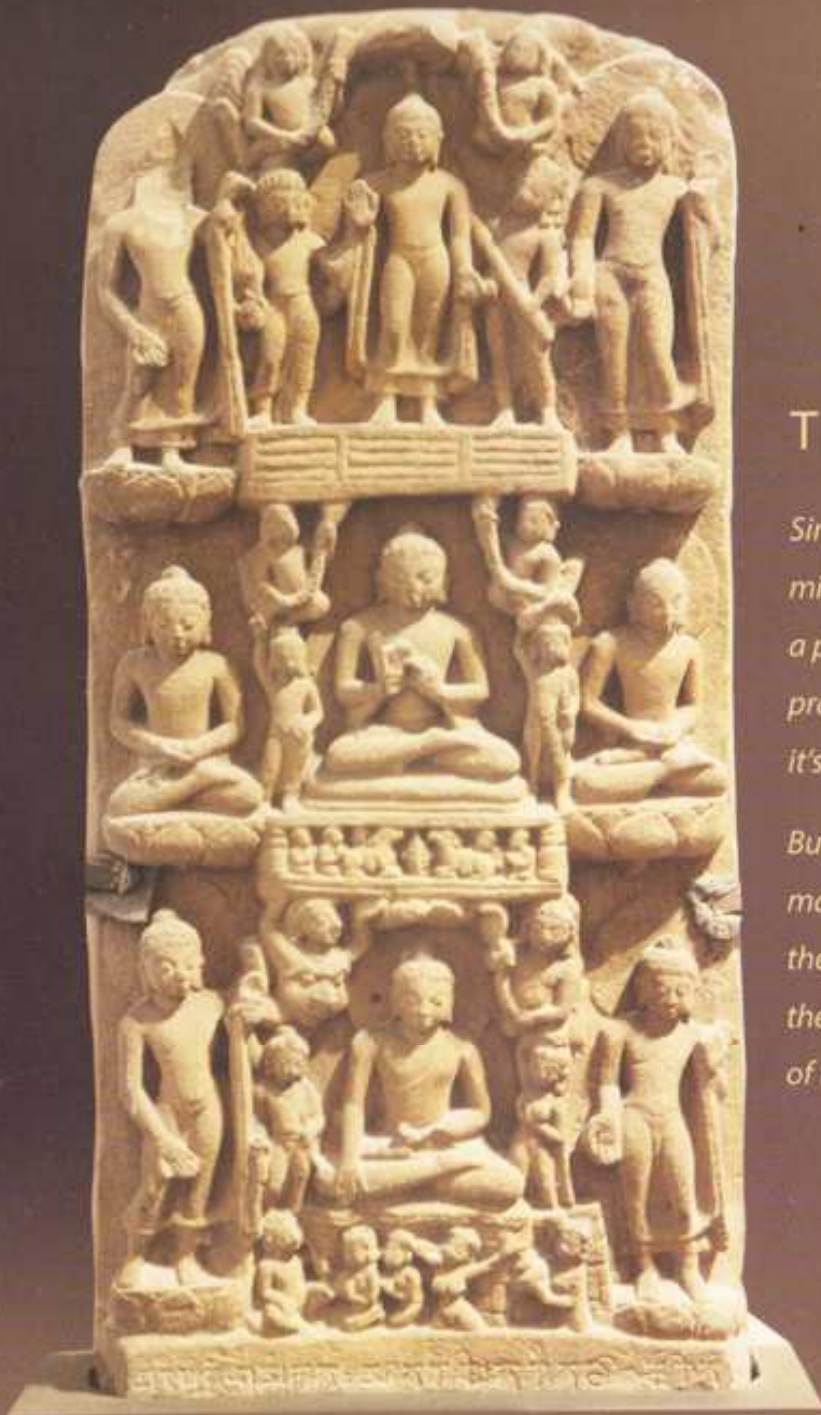
THE JOURNEY OF *insights*

Buddhist Tourist Destinations
of West Bengal

*"We are shaped by our thoughts; we become
what we think. When the mind is pure,
joy follows like a shadow that never leaves."*

Lord Buddha





THE JOURNEY OF *insights*

Since its inception two and a half centuries back, over 300 million people all over the world believe and follow Buddhism, a practice that leads to spiritual enlightenment through practicing self awareness, kindness and wisdom. For many, it's beyond religion; it's a philosophical practice.

Buddhism in West Bengal is spread all over the state and make for an impressive share of the population. Hence, from the hilly districts through the heart of the metro city down to the southern part of the state, Buddhist pilgrimages and sites of tourist attractions are in plenty.

KOLKATA

Mahabodhi Society

The Venerable Anagarika Dharmapala founded Mahabodhi Society in 1891 to resurrect Buddhism after a centuries-long decline. Their office in Kolkata has a Shrine Room for pilgrims and visitors. Decorated with frescos and artefacts, it has an impressive statue of the Buddha. The serenity of the place is sure to touch your soul.



Inside the Mahabodhi Society



Mahabodhi Society, Entrance

Location: North Kolkata, near Calcutta University & College Square, 4 Bankim Chatterjee Street, Kolkata 700 073



KOLKATA

Myanmar Buddhist Temple

The Myanmar Buddhist Temple, located at Eden Hospital Road, is a slice of Burma in Kolkata.

The temple was founded by U San Min in 1928. The gorgeous status of Buddha in a golden attire is seated on a golden throne. Golden leaves on either side of Buddha's face, a golden crown and an umbrella above create a mesmerizing look. The first floor serves as a guesthouse or dharmasala for the Burmese monks visiting the city.

Location: North Kolkata, near Calcutta Medical College Hospital,
10A Eden Hospital Road, Kolkata 700 073



Myanmer Buddhist Temple



KOLKATA

Bauddha Dharmankur Sabha

The Bauddha Dharmankur Sabha had revived Theravada in Buddhism. The sage Karmayogi Kripasaran Mahathera established the Bauddha Dharmankur Sabha in 1892, the premier Buddhist organization in the sub-continent. The huge premises house an enormous prayer hall with a magnificent statue of the Buddha along with a small replica, a library, etc.

Location: Central Kolkata, near Bow Barrack & Boubazar Police Station,
1 Buddhist Temple Road, Kolkata 700 012



Bauddha Dharmankur Sabha



KOLKATA

Hiuen Tsang Monastery

The Hiuen Tsang Monastery at Paschim Chowbaga of Tiljala resembles the Rumtek, Hemis and Tawang monasteries. The China Mandir, as named by the locals, houses four huge Buddha statues painted in bright golden colour. The frescos on the wall, ceiling and pillars depict stories from the life of the Buddha. Visit to explore more of history and the religion.



Inside the Hsuan Tsang Monastery

Location: East Kolkata, Paschim Chowbaga, Tiljala



Hsuan Tsang Monastery

KOLKATA

Buddha Mandir

Buddha Mandir at Dhakuria is located in the heart of the city, yet far from the madding crowd. It was founded way back in 1935 by the most venerable late Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji under Nippon Myohoji. The temple follows Nichiren Buddhism of Japan that preaches to pray not for personal gain, but for the benefit of all living beings in the universe, cultivate love and passion and practise purity.



Buddha Mandir, Dhakuria

Location: South Kolkata, near Rabindra Sarovar,
Kolkata 700 029



*Calcutta Karma Gon Buddhist Monastery,
Padmapukur*

Calcutta Karma Gon Buddhist Monastery

Under the original monastery of Tibetan Buddhism, this monastery at Padmapukur area in Kolkata reiterates the discourses of Lord Buddha that preaches the importance of truthfulness, peace and cognising the reality.

Location: South Kolkata, near Netaji Bhavan Metro Station,
7 Chakrabaria Road, Ballygunge, Kolkata 700 019



KOLKATA

Indian Museum

The Indian Museum situated in Kolkata houses an awe-inspiring collection of Buddhist relics and artefacts. A dedicated huge hall is home to collections of tremendous archeological importance that narrate the history of Lord Buddha's life, his Enlightenment and the influence of the religion.

Location: Central Kolkata, near Park Street Metro Station,
27 Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 016



KOLKATA

Indian Museum

Indian Museum:
Buddhist relics and artefacts.



KOLKATA

Indian Museum

Indian Museum:
Buddhist relics and artefacts.



DARJEELING

Ghoom Monastery

The Ghoom Monastery is one of the most popular monasteries in the hill station. It is also known as Yiga Choling Gumpa which means "serene peace resting in the hilly retreat". Located at 8 km from Darjeeling, built in 1875, it houses a 15-foot high statue of "Maitreya Buddha" (Coming Buddha). Its other attractions are the statue of future Buddha, wonderful old murals and rare collection of Buddhist manuscripts.



Samten Choling Ghoom Monastery



Yiga Choling Ghoom old Monastery

Location: 10-12 minutes walking distance from Ghoom Railway Station



Inside the Samten Choling Ghoom Monastery

Pic courtesy, Google

DARJEELING

Bhutia Bustee Monastery

The Bhutia Bustee Monastery or Karmaa Dorjee Chyoling Monastery in Darjeeling is dedicated to the Red Sect of Buddhist Lamas. Destroyed twice – once by Gorkha invasion and the second time by a deadly earthquake, the monastery had to shift base and finally found its present location. It has a collection of old Buddhist scripts. One of the original pieces of the "Book of Dead" is its prized possession.



inside the Bhutia Busty Monastery

Location: About 1.5 km downhill from Darjeeling Mall by C R Das Road. Bhutia Busty Road, Upper Bhutia Busty, Darjeeling 734 101



Bhutia Busty Monastery



DARJEELING

Durpin Monastery

Atop the Durpin hill near Kalimpong there is the Zang Dhok Palri Monastery which was consecrated by the Dalai Lama in 1976. The monastery holds in its reliquary 108 volumes of the Kangyur, as well as other holy books and scrolls that were moved out of Tibet after the Chinese invasion.

Location: About 5 km from Kalimpong Bus Stand,
East Main Road, Chandraloke, Kalimpong 734 301



Zang Dhok Palri Monastery

DARJEELING

Japanese Peace Pagoda

With the focus on World Peace, Japanese Peace Pagoda in Darjeeling is one of the 70 pagodas built by the world wide Japanese Buddhist organisation Nipponzan Myohoji under the guidance of its founder Nichidatsu Fujii.



Location: Near Jalapahar hill, about 10 minutes by car from Darjeeling town.



Japanese Peace Pagoda



MALDA

Jagjibanpur

The Nandadirghika-Udranga Mahavihara at Jagjibanpur Excavated in Malda District, is one of the major Buddhist tourist spots in the state. This archaeological site is located at a distance of 41 km east of English Bazar town. A copper plate inscription of Mahendrapaladeva of Pala dynasty, is one of the most significant findings from this excavated site, which is the structural remains of the 9th-century Nandadirghika-Udranga Mahavihara, comprising of a number of mounds. Most impressive of them is the 5 m high Tulabhita or Salaidanga amongst others like Akhridanga, Nimdanga, Rajar Mayer Dhupi and Nandagarh. Another attraction here is a large tank, Nandadighi (Nandadirghika of Mahendrapala's inscription) which still covers a large area. The Tulabhita mound covers an area of 9432 square meters. There are in total 262 trenches (6 m x 6 m), of which 78 have been excavated so far.

Location: About 41 kilometers from English Bazar Town.
PIN Code: Malda 732 122



WEST MEDINIPUR

Mogalmari

Mogalmari, a sleepy picturesque hamlet in Danton in West Medinipur is gradually evolving as a new travel destination in the tourist map of West Bengal. About 5.2 kilometers away from Danton town and 46 kms south of Kharagpur Railway Station on National Highway 60, this tiny village is a slice of history amidst the idyllic surrounding of rural Bengal.

Location: Near Danton Police Station and 2 kilometers south of Nekurseni Station. It was located on the left bank of Subarnarekha River.



Mogalmari Monastic complex

WEST MEDINIPUR

Mogalmari

Relics have been excavated at Mogalmari which are believed to be among the largest Buddhist monastic complexes in West Bengal resembling the ancient Nalanda University of fifth Century A.D at Patna in Bihar. The ruins of the Buddhist Monastic complex dates back to the 6th and 7th Century A.D. It is believed that the famous Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang had also visited the place during his expedition to India.



Buddhist relics and artefacts.



WEST MEDINIPUR

Mogalmari

Archeologists are of the opinion that the structural components recovered from the site are parts of a gateway complex of the Buddhist monastery. The chanting effect of hymns - Buddham Sharanam Gachchhami, still resonate in the air of Moghalmari enlivening an era gone by. Mogalmari holds the key to understanding the dimensions and facets of the spread of Buddhism in Southwest Bengal.



Buddhist relics and artefacts.



HOW TO REACH

KOLKATA: One can reach Kolkata by road, by train or by air. Major railway stations—Howrah & Sealdah, Airport— Netaji Subhas International Airport.

Mahabodhi Society: North Kolkata, near Calcutta University & College Square

Myanmar Buddhist Temple: North Kolkata, near Calcutta Medical College Hospital

Bauddha Dharmankur Sabha: Central Kolkata, near Bow Barrack & Boubazar Police Station

Hiuen Tsang Monastery: East Kolkata, Paschim Chowbaga, Tiljala

Buddha Mandir: South Kolkata, near Rabindra Sarovar

Calcutta Karma Gon Buddhist Monastery : South Kolkata, near Netaji Bhawan Metro Station

Indian Museum: Central Kolkata, near Park Street Metro Station

DARJEELING: From Kolkata by road, by train or by air. Nearest railway station is New Jalpaiguri and nearest airport is Bagdogra. Nearest town Siliguri

Distance by road : Kolkata to Siliguri-585 Kms. and Siliguri to Darjeeling-80 Kms.

Ghoom Monastery: Darjeeling, 10-12 minutes walking distance from Ghoom Railway Station.

Bhutia Bustee Monastery: Darjeeling, about 1.5 km downhill from Darjeeling Mall by C R Das Road

Durpin Monastery: Darjeeling, about 5 km from Kalimpong Bus Stand

Japanese Peace Pagoda: Darjeeling, near Jalapahar hill, about 10 minutes by car from Darjeeling town

MALDA: From Kolkata by road or by train. It is about 300 kms from Kolkata via NH 34. Connecting railway station is Maldah Town where North Bengal bound trains halt.

Jagjibanpur: Malda, about 41 kms east from English Bazar Town.

WEST MEDINIPUR: From Kolkata by road or by train. About 5.2 kms away from Danton town and 46 kms south of Kharagpur Railway Station on National Highway 60. Connecting railway station is Medinipur Junction.

Mogalmari: West Medinipur, near Danton Police Station and 2 kms south of Nekurseni Station.

It is located on the left bank of Subarnarekha River.





For reservation & more information please contact:

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SILIGURI


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 West Bengal Tourism App: Bengal Tourism

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