



Sarnath



Sankisa



Kushinagar



Kapilvastu



Kaushambi

Uttar Pradesh in the north of India, and its close environs, deserve to be called the "Cradle of Buddhism" more than any other region in the world. For, it was here that the Buddha was born, at Lumbini in Nepal, grew to manhood and underwent the Great Renunciation at Kapilvastu. Preached his first sermon at Sarnath, and finally passed into Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar. Come to Uttar Pradesh and discover the glorious legacy and walk along the foot-steps of Buddha.

Buddhist Circuit Uttar Pradesh INDIA



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Online Booking Portal - www.uttarpradesh.gov.in

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Sravasti

L O R D B U D D H A ' S M O N S O O N R E T R E A T



Golden Buddha installed at Daen Mahamongkol Chai

Sravasti

Sravasti (ancient Savatthi), the capital of Kosala Mahajanapada, was the biggest town in the Gangetic plains during the Buddha's lifetime. Sravasti was host to the Master for 24 years during the annual vassava (rain retreat) when the Sangha congregated at one place.



And the rulers and citizens of many countries vied with one another in making offerings at Jetavana Vihara, hanging silk pennants and canopies, scattering flowers and lighting lamps, which burnt day and night without ever being extinguished.

Fa Hien
5th century AD



A sandstone panel from Bharhut in central India, showing the purchase of the Jetavana Vihara in Sravasti.



Devotees offering prayers at Swarna Gandh Kuti

Situated in modern Sravasti district in eastern Uttar Pradesh today, Sravasti was also called as Sahet-Mahet.

During the time of Sakyamuni, Sudatta a rich and pious merchant, lived in Sravasti. While on a visit to Rajgir, he heard the Buddha's sermon and decided to become the Lord's disciple. But he was caught in a dilemma and asked the Lord whether he could become a follower without forsaking worldly life. To his query, the Master replied that it was enough that he followed his vocation in a righteous manner.



Seated Buddha, Kushana Period





Jetavana mahavihar

Sahet (Jetavana)

Sudatta invited the Lord to Sravasti and began to look for a suitable place to build a vihara. A beautiful park at the southern edge of Sravasti attracted his attention. The park belonged to Jeta, son of the king of Sravasti, Prasenjit. Jeta demanded that Sudatta cover the entire park with gold coins. Sudatta painstakingly paved every inch of the land with gold. Then Jeta said that since the trees were left uncovered they belonged to him. But finally, he had a change of heart and donated valuable wood to build the vihara. The garden came to be known as Jetavana Vihara after Prince Jeta's donation to the Sangha.

One of the most beautiful spots in Jetavana is under the Anandabodhi tree. An eternal witness to the vicissitudes of history, this sacred tree was brought as cutting from the Bodhi tree in Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka, which itself grew from a sapling of the original Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya.





Tourist flow in huge numbers to offer obeisance to Lord Buddha

Sudatta came to be known as Anathapindika (the incomparable alms giver). He built a magnificent, seven-storied vihara whose grandeur was commented upon by Chinese travellers several centuries later. Jetavana continues to attract pilgrims from all over the world who come here to pray and meditate in its serene atmosphere.

The ruins of Anandakuti and Gandhakuti exude an aura of sacredness because it was here that the Lord stayed during his many visits to Jetavana Vihara. In Sravasti, the Master expounded a major part of the Tripitakas.

It was also in Sravasti that the Lord performed the only miracle of his life in response to a challenge from six non-believers. The Lord levitated on a thousand petalled lotus, causing fire and water to leap out of his body and multiplied his person in the air.





Shobhnath Temple

Mahet

Located in the back of the river Archiravati (Rapti), the city of Sravasti had a high earthen rampart with a brick wall running along a circuit of 5.23 km and pierced by several gates distinguished by high bastions. Four main gates are known as Imli Darwaza, Rajgarh Darwaza, Naushahra Darwaza and Kand bhari Darwaza situated respectively at the south-west, north-west, north-east and south-east corners. The remains within the city area include Buddhist, Brahmanical and Jain structures and a few medieval tombs. The most significant structure among them are the Temple of Shobhnath, Pakki Kuti and Kachchi Kuti. The temple is located just near the entrance from western side, represents the remains of a Jain temple, the domed edifice on the top being a superimposition in medieval period. The spot is hallowed as the birth place of Sambhavnath, the third Jain Tirthankara. Excavation in the nearby area has exposed remains of three temple complexes. The scientific clearance of the place has yielded a few sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras in standing and seated posture datable to 10th-11th century besides exposing the lower portions of the Jain temple.





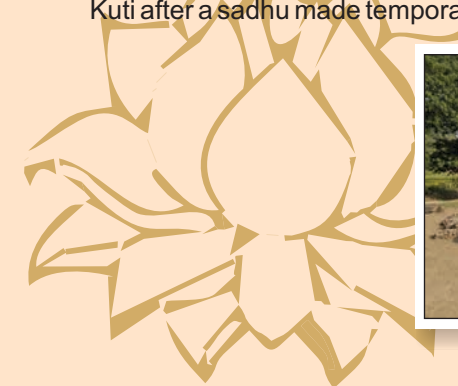
Pakki Kuti

Pakki Kuti and Kachchi Kuti

Pakki Kuti is said to be Angulimala's Stupa. Angulimala (literally, necklace of fingers) was a dreaded dacoit who wore a necklace of fingers that were chopped from his victims. One day in a fit of brutal rage he tried to kill his own mother. It was at this moment that the Lord met Angulimala and Sakyamuni's enlightening words had a calming effect on his stone heart. Angulimala decided to give up his evil ways and follow the path of the Lord.

The structure has undergone a number of subsequent alterations and additions. It appears to be a terraced stupa built on rectangular plan. The supports and drains were provided to the structure as a preventive measure during the time of excavation.

Kachchi Kuti is situated few meters ahead and in south-east direction of Pakki Kuti. Inscriptions, found on the lower portion of an image of Bodhistava excavated from this site, reveal that this structure dates back to Kushana Period. The site is associated with stupa of Sudatta (Anathpindika). It started being known as Kachchi Kuti after a sadhu made temporary shrine of unbaked bricks on the top of this structure.



Eight Stupas



Angulimal Cave



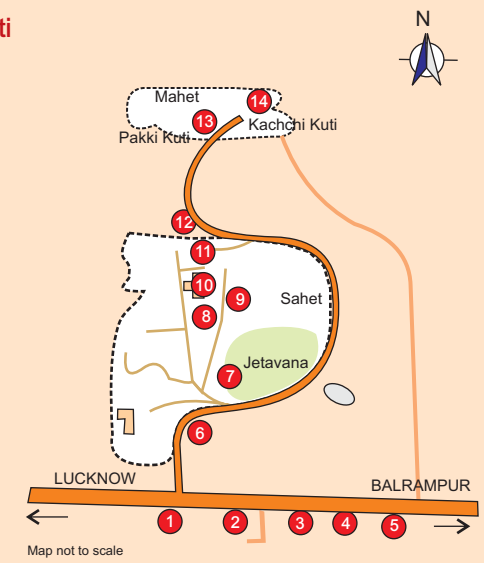
World Peace Bell

World Peace Bell

Close to Jetavana are the Sri Lankan, Chinese, Myanmarese (Burmese) and Thai monasteries and temples. Also worth seeing is the park with a large bell donated by Japanese pilgrims.

Location Map of places to see at Sravasti

1. Thai Temple/Monastery
2. Sri Lankan guest house
3. Jain Temple
4. UP Tourist Bungalow
5. Japanese Bell Temple
6. Sri Lankan Temple
7. Anandabodhi Temple
8. Anandakuti
9. Ancient Wall
10. Gandhakuti
11. Ticket Office

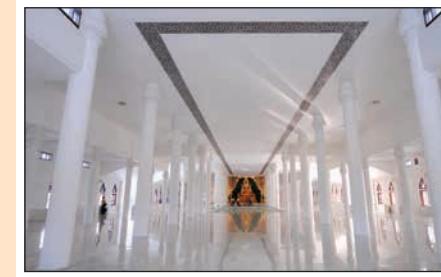




Meditation Centre at Daen Mahamongkol Chai

Daen Mahamongkol Chai

Set up as a centre of learning by Maha Upasika Sitthipol Bongkot of Thailand, this Thai meditation centre is a unique experience for visitors to Sravasti. The entire area is converted into a natural forest surrounded by a fresh water reservoir, which houses six large halls of approximately 3000 capacity each for meditation, several solitary meditation huts, large dining halls and a state of art reserve osmosis purification plant. About 200 women from various countries committed to service of mankind promote non formal education and other charitable activities from the centre. The eco friendly dwelling, management and lifestyle of the settlement inculcate within the visitor a sense of protection of biodiversity and compassion for all beings.





Meditation Centre

Other Places of interest:

Thai-Shrilankan-Myanmarese-Chinese-Korean Temples and Shobhnath Temple.

Tourist Information

Accommodation:

Hotel Lotus Nikko, Tel. 05252-265291-93, Rahi Tourist Bungalow (U.P.S.T.D.C.), Katra, Sravasti, Tel. ; 05252-265302 e mail: rahitbshravasti@up-tourism.com; Rahi Tourist Bungalow (U.P.S.T.D.C.), Balrampur Tel: 05263-232456, Hotel Pawan Palace, Tel.: 9451744076, Buddha Resort (40 km.: Sravasti-Lucknow Road), Bahraich, Tel: 05252-231531, Sravasti Residency, Sravasti : Tel. : 7234914233

Other Accommodation:

Inspection Bangalow, PWD
Burmese Temple, Rest house.
Chinese Temple Rest House.
Jain Darmashala.

Nearest Tourist Information Centre:

Tourist Bungalow Campus, Balrampur, Tel: 05263-232456

Near by Buddhist Places:

Lumbini (165 km.-Nepal), Kapilvastu (198km.)

How to Reach:

The convenient rail/air terminal is at Lucknow (176/186 km.) Rail travel is possible upto Balrampur (17 km.) from where one can reach Sravasti by bus or taxi. Some important road distances are: Bahraich-48 km., Lumbini-165 km., Gorakhpur- 196 km., Kushinagar - 247 km., Kapilvastu- 198 km., Varanasi- 306 km., Sarnath- 315 km.

