



TOURISM TOWARDS PILGRIMAGE

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An Introduction to Tourism:

Today, tourism is an important part of human activities. It becomes an extremely popular, need, inseparable, interesting and the global activity. Tourism is much vital and profitable for many countries and many people to provide work and business. The 21st century is the real age of an international mass travel with the growth of air travel. There are many books to provide the detail data of travel and tourism by the worthy authors. It is a huge income modern industry with both public and private sectors. Man is a mobile animal who is always curious and serious to take travel for many purposes. rich and wealthy people have always traveling to distant places of the world to see great buildings, monuments, works of art, styles, skills, plans, to learn new languages, manners, new cultures of people and nations.

History about Pilgrimage:

Pilgrimage is a term mainly used in religion, karma, spirituality of a long journey or a search of great moral and cultural significance. Each man is a pilgrimage of his life journey towards final destination moksh or salvation of soul from tireless journey from one to another life without any rest. Common men and women who are traditional simple, religious and truthfulness have deep unshaken faith in the temples and gods to give blessing or curse to them. In the life of ignorance common people have taken journey to sacred places or shrines of importance that his beliefs and faith .from long past Indian people associated with so many pilgrimages in India. Many people visited to Banaras to bath in the sacred river Ganga to wash their sins and crimes and to pray Lord Vishveshwaraya as his ultimate desire and aim in life. People have firm faith that Kashi and Varanasi as the holy cities and they must visit once in life time before death to make their live holy or sacred.

Lord Buddha and Jesus Christ; Pioneers of Spiritual pilgrimages:

Goutam Buddha sacrificed his prince hood and kingdom as the physical or material journey which ruined mans aim in journey of life. He

accepted the spiritual and sacred journey of soul means man's destination or duty in the journey of life. Buddhism offers four sites of pilgrimage. The Buddhism offers four sites of pilgrimage . the buddha's birth place. At Kapilvastu, the site where he first preached at gaya, where the highest insight dawned on him at Banares and where he achieved Nirvana at Kusinagara.

Jesus Christ in the Christian religion considered as the Lord or head of all humanity. He is a great ocean of pity and sympathy, endurance and love. He tried to take all humanity towards tour at heaven means to god. According to him god is one and truth is religion . he preached to all people to become priceless pilirimage towards God. The Joumy of soul to its perfection mens to one with God, to the power which is ultimate and immortal in the world . God is great and everywhere, every time and in every soul forever. In the modern era only few people have supreme sense of spiritual bliss and eternity of human soul. Gautam Buddha spoke sincerely and eagerly to the welfare of people, society, nation, religion and the spiritual glory. We can see the four sites which are most worthy of pilgrimage to visit.

- **Lumbini**; birth place (in Nepal)
- **Bodh Gaya** : place of Enlightenment.
- **Sarnath**: where he delivered his first teaching.
- **Kusinara: (now Kusinagar)** where he died its gives much spiritual pleasure, an insight enlightenment, the meaning of human birth, the duties and responsibilities he has been completed in his journey of life. We are also eager to take spiritual tour in other pilgrimage places related to the life of Gautam Buddha are: Savatthi, Pataliputra, Nalanda, Gaya, vesali, Kapilvastu, Kosambi, Rajagaha, Varanasi.
- There are also other pilgrimage places for Buddhist in various countries
- **India**: Sanchi, Ellora, Ajanta.
- **Thailand**: Sukhothai, Ayutthaya, Suthep
- **Tibet**: Mount Kailash, Lake Nam-tso

- **Shri Lanka:** Temple of the tooth, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa.
- **Myanmar:** Bagan, Sagaing Hill.
- **China:** Youg-Kang, Lung-Men caves.

When you think about Christianity we are curious to connect with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. We meet such surviving descriptions of the Christian pilgrimages to the holy land date from the 4th century. Pilgrimages also began to be made to Rome and other sites associated with saints and Christian martyrs, as well as to places where there have been apparitions of the Virgin Mary. The Major pilgrimages are to:

- **Jerusalem;** Site of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
- **Rome:** site of the deaths of saint Peter, saint Paul, and other early martyrs, Headquarters of the Catholic Church.
- **Santiago de Compostela** in Spain on the way of saint James is still popular today.
- **Canterbury** associated with Thomas Becket.
- **Bethlehem** in Israel, Birthplace of Jesus and King David.
- **Cathedral** of Chartres, France.
- **Fatima**, Portugal. Apparition of the Virgin Mary.
- **Mount Sinai**, Egypt, holy mountain to the ancient Hebrews.
- **Hill of crosses**, Lithuania.
- **Goa**, India, St. Francis Xavier.

When we think about holiness of pilgrimages of Hindu people. It is believed that traveling to these places leads to moksha, the release from samsara (cycle of rebirths). We see that

Vrindavan is the most popular and important place of pilgrimage for every Vaishnava, especially for the devotees of Gaudiya Vaishnavism who regard Krishna as the original personality of Godhead (God). Here, one can attain love of God (Prēma) some of these popular pilgrimages of Hinduism.

- Kedamath
- Gangotri
- Yamunotri
- Haridwar
- Rishikesh
- Banāres
- Vrindavan
- Mayapur

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