

Faxian

Faxian	
Faxian at the ruins of Ashoka 's palace	
Personal	
Born	337 <div>Pingyang Wuyang (), in modern Linfen City, Shanxi^[1]</div>
Died	ca. 422 (aged 85)
Religion	Buddhism
Parents	Tsang Hi (father)
Notable work(s)	<i>Foguoji (A Record of Buddhistic Kingdoms)</i>
Faxian	
Chinese name	
Traditional Chinese	
Simplified Chinese	
Transcriptions	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Fǎxiǎn
Wade-Giles	Fa ³ -hsien ³
Hakka	
Romanization	Fap ⁵ -hien ³
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale Romanization	Fat ³ -hin ²
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Huat-hién
Middle Chinese	
Middle Chinese	Pjop-xén
Japanese name	
Kanji	
Kana	
Transcriptions	
Romanization	Hokken
Sanskrit name	
Sanskrit	

Faxian (337 – c. 422) was a Chinese [Buddhist monk](#). He is also translator. He traveled by foot from [China](#) to [India](#), visiting sacred Buddhist sites in [Central](#) , [South](#) and [Southeast Asia](#) between 399–412 to acquire [Buddhist texts](#). He described his journey his travelogue, *A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms (Foguo Ji*).

Other transliterations of his name include **Fa-Hien** and **Fa-hsien**.

Biography

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

In 399, Faxian set out with nine others to locate sacred [Buddhist](#) texts.^[2] He visited India in the early fifth century. He is said to have walked all the way from China across the icy desert and rugged mountain passes. He entered India from the northwest and reached [Pataliputra](#). He took back with him Buddhist texts and images sacred to Buddhism. He saw the ruins of the city when he reached Pataliputra.

Faxian's visit to India occurred during the reign of [Chandragupta II](#). He is also renowned for his pilgrimage to [Lumbini](#), the birthplace of [Gautama Buddha](#) (modern [Nepal](#)). However, he mentioned nothing about Guptas. Faxian claimed that demons and dragons were the original inhabitants of [Sri Lanka](#).^[3]

After two years stay on [Ceylon](#), Faxian was coming back to China. Suddenly a violent storm drove his ship onto an island, probably [Java](#).^[4] After five months there, Faxian took another ship for southern China. But, again, it was [blown off course](#) and he ended up landing at [Mount Lao](#) in what is now [Shandong](#) in northern China, 30 kilometres (19 mi) east of the city of [Qingdao](#).

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. [↑] Li, Xican (2016). "[Faxian's Biography and His Contributions to Asian Buddhist Culture: Latest Textual Analysis](#)". *Asian Culture and History*. **8** (1): 38. doi:10.5539/ach.v8n1p38 . Retrieved 16 August 2017.
2. [↑] [Jaroslav Průšek](#) and Zbigniew Ślupski, eds., Dictionary of Oriental Literatures: East Asia (Charles Tuttle, 1978): 35.
3. [↑] *The Medical times and gazette, Volume 1*. LONDON: John Churchill. 1867. p. 506. Retrieved February 19, 2011.(Original from the University of Michigan)
4. [↑] Buswell, Robert E., Lopez, Donald S. Jr. (2014). [The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism](#), Princeton: Princeton University Press, p. 297

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