





The **Great Buddha Statue** in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, is a significant landmark and an important pilgrimage site for Buddhists worldwide. Here are the key details about this iconic statue:

## Overview

- **Location:** The Great Buddha Statue is situated in Bodh Gaya, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is renowned as the place where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.
- **Inauguration:** The statue was inaugurated on **November 18, 1989**, during a ceremony attended by the **14th Dalai Lama**, marking it as one of the largest Buddha statues in India at that time.

## Design and Dimensions

- **Height:** The statue stands at approximately **20 meters (66 feet)** tall, while the total height including the lotus pedestal is about **25 meters (82 feet)**.
- **Material:** Constructed from a mix of sandstone blocks and red granite, the statue represents Buddha seated in a meditation pose (dhyana mudra) on a lotus flower.
- **Interior Features:** Inside the statue, there is a spiral staircase that leads up to the chest area, where visitors can view **16,300 small bronze images of Buddha** displayed on shelves along the walls.

## Historical Context

- **Construction:** The project took about seven years to complete and involved around **120,000 masons**. It was initiated by the **Daijokyo Buddhist Temple**, which aimed to promote Buddhism and peace globally.
- **Cultural Significance:** The Great Buddha Statue serves as a symbol of peace and enlightenment, attracting pilgrims from around the world who come to pay their respects and seek spiritual solace.

## Surrounding Area

The statue is located within a landscaped garden that includes smaller sculptures of Buddha's ten principal disciples, enhancing the spiritual ambiance of the site. It is adjacent to other important Buddhist sites, including the **Mahabodhi Temple**, further enriching its cultural significance.

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## Visiting Information

- **Accessibility:** The Great Buddha Statue is easily accessible from major transport hubs in Bodh Gaya. Visitors can explore the surrounding area and other historical sites related to Buddhism.
- **Visiting Hours:** The site is open to visitors throughout the day, allowing ample opportunity for worship and exploration.

## Conclusion

The Great Buddha Statue in Bodh Gaya stands as a monumental representation of Buddhist heritage and philosophy. Its grandeur and spiritual significance make it a must-visit destination for anyone interested in Buddhism or seeking a deeper understanding of this ancient tradition. The statue not only commemorates Buddha's teachings but also serves as a beacon of hope and peace for millions around the world.

