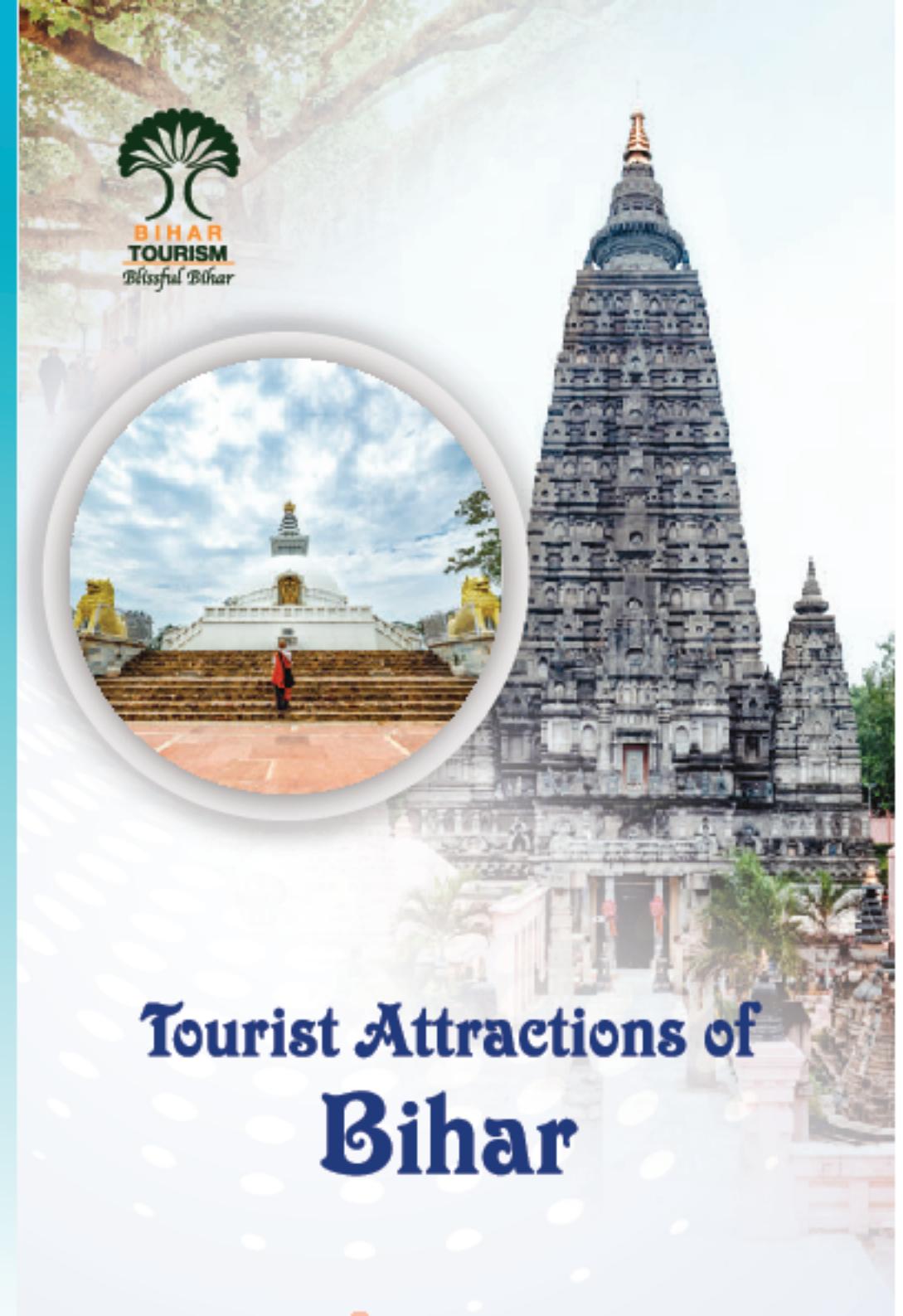


Directorate of Tourism, Government of Bihar
Website: www.bihartourism.gov.in



Tourist Attractions of Bihar



Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya

This is a UNESCO world heritage site, built by Emperor Ashoka to commemorate the enlightenment of Lord Buddha under the Mahabodhi tree located in this temple. The Present tree, which is the 4th generation offspring of the original one, is the most important historical and religious spot for the tourists in the temple complex. This is one of the earliest Buddhist Temples built entirely of bricks. Mahabodhi temple complex at Bodhgaya comprises the 50m. high grand temple, sacred Bodhi tree and other six sacred sites of Buddha's enlightenment, surrounded by numerous ancient votive stupas, well maintained and protected by inner, middle and outer circular boundaries.



Maner Sharif, Patna

Maner sharif has a rich religious history associated with the birth of Sufism in India, and derives its name from the great Sufi saint Hazrat Makhdoom Shah Yahya Maneri, the proponent of Sufism. It is the most important and oldest center of Sufism in Bihar, which attracts followers from across the world.

Maner Sharif houses two famous tombs of Shah Daulat and Sheikh Yahia Maneri. The magnificent mausoleum of Shah Daulat, by far the finest monuments of the Mughals in Eastern India, is an exemplary display of the grand style of Afghan and Mughal architecture. The walls of the building are adorned with exceptional carvings of great delicacy and the inscriptions from Quran are carved on the ceiling.

80 feet Buddha statue, Bodhgaya

The Giant Buddha Statue is one of the many stops in the Buddhist pilgrimage and tourist routes in Bodhgaya. The Statue is 80ft. high in meditation pose or dhyan mudra seated on a lotus in open air. It is a mix of sandstone blocks and red granite. Undoubtedly, this is one of the largest statues in India, standing as a symbol of peace and spirituality of Buddhism.

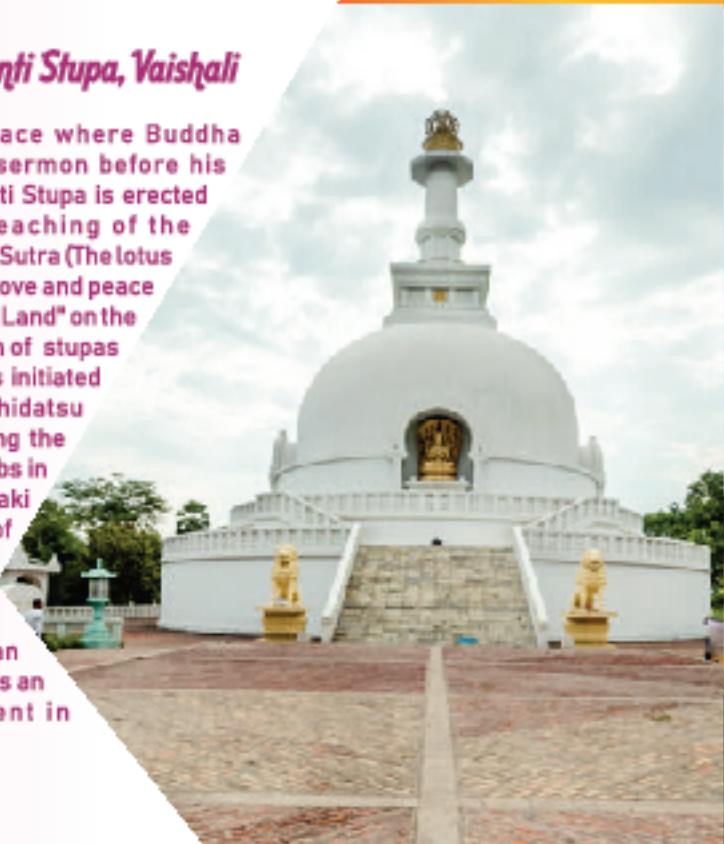


Kesaria, East Champaran

Kesaria has a loft brick mound capped by a large solid brick tower. This is considered to be the highest of the Buddhist Stupas. The mound is a ruin with a diameter of 68 feet at its base and a total height of 104 feet. It is believed to have been built sometime between 200-700 AD.

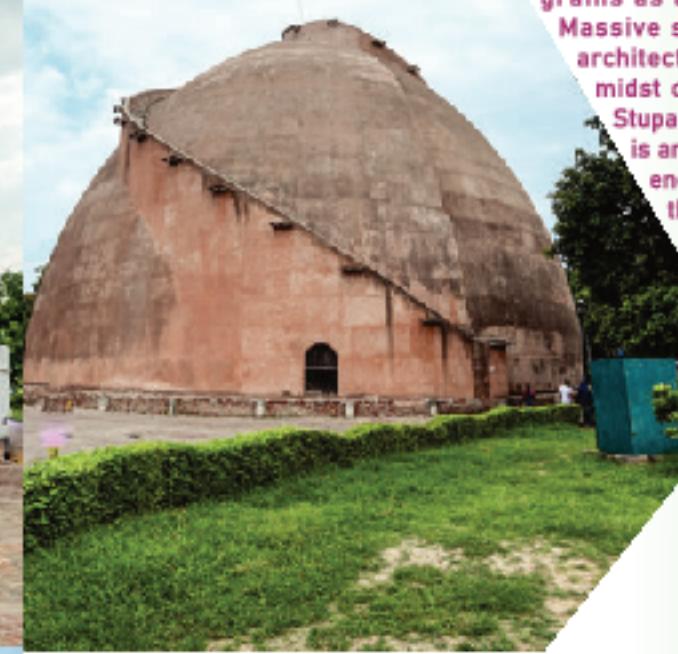
Vaishali Shanti Stupa, Vaishali

Vaishali is the place where Buddha preached his last sermon before his Nirvana. Vishwa Shanti Stupa is erected according to the teaching of the Saodharma Pundarika Sutra (The lotus Sutra) to disseminate love and peace and to create "The pure Land" on the earth. The construction of stupas all over the world was initiated by the most Ven. Nichidatsu Fuji Guruji, after seeing the tragedy of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan, at the end of the World war II. Vishwa Shanti Stupa (world peace Pagoda) built by the Nipponzan Myohoji sect of Japan is an important monument in Vaishali.



Golghar, Patna

Golghar is an outstanding creation of architecture. Built in the year 1786 to store grains as an emergency stock. The Massive structure is built in Stupa architectural style. Rising from the midst of a lush green garden, the Stupa shaped structure of Golghar is an inviting sight to behold. It is encircled by a flight of 145 stairs that take tourists all the way up to the top, from where one can see a bird's eye view of the entire city of Patna and holy river Ganga. For the entertainment of the visitor a sound and light show has been running here in the evenings.



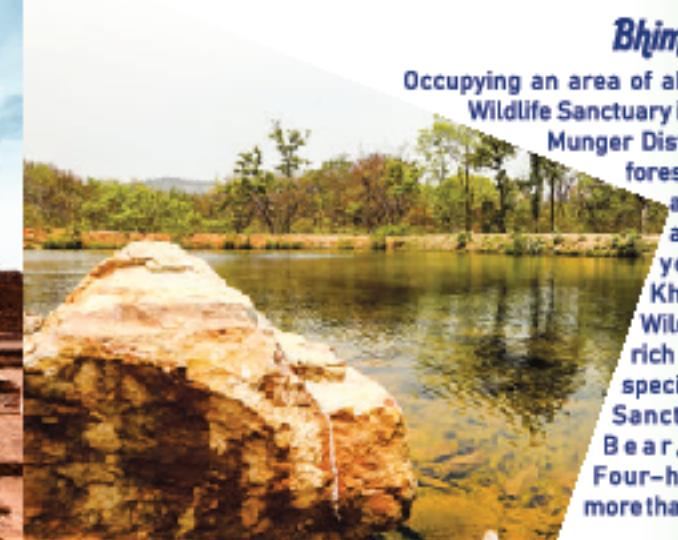
Sujata Kutir, Bodhgaya

This is the place where Lord Buddha was offered kheer by the girl, Sujata, after he had realized the extreme asceticism. The stupa built here is a large circular brick structure in the memory of the divine incident. The stupa was an integral part of the original landscape at Bodhgaya, and it was reinforced and enlarged several times over the centuries.



Bhimbandh, Munger

Occupying an area of about 682 sq. km, Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the south-west of Munger District of Bihar. It covers dense forests and hot water springs with an average temperature of about 52°c to 65°c round the year. A part of the famous Kharagpur range, Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary boasts of a very rich and varied fauna. The animal species found at Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary are Wild Boars, Sloth Bear, Sambar Deer, Chital, Four-horned Antelope, Nilgai and more than 100 species of resident birds.



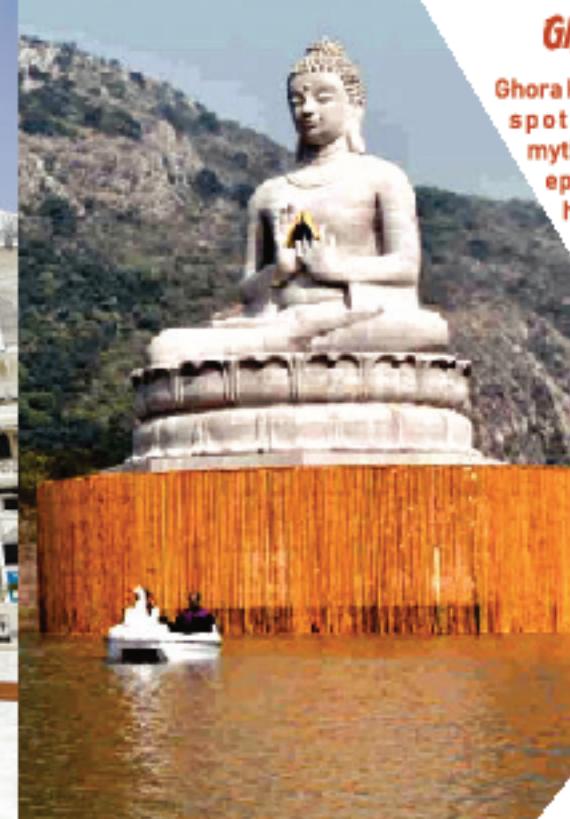
Takhat Sri Harmandir ji, Patna Sahib

The magnificent Gurudwara at Patna City, built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh to commemorate the birth place of the 10th Guru of Sikhs, Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji. Maharaj is one of the five Takhats or Holy Seats of the Authority of the Sikhs. Several relics of Guru Govind Singh ji, who was born on 22nd December 1666, are preserved here. There is a Public kitchen or Langar, which serves food to all visitors round the year. The shrine has a very beautiful look and one can feel the power of people's faith the moment you enter it.



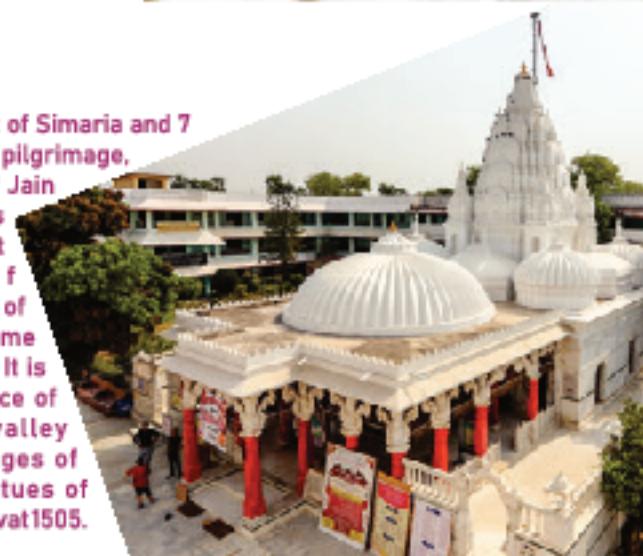
Ghora Katora Lake, Rajgir

Ghora Katora Lake is a beautiful and serene spot in Rajgir. According to Hindu mythology, king Jarasandha from Indian epic Mahabharata, had his stable here, hence the name Ghora Katora. It is located near World Peace Pagoda. The lake offers boating as a merriment to the visitors. The valley with the lake spread around is absolutely a breathtaking spectacle from the hill top. There is a glorious sandstone Statue of Buddha in the middle of the lake on a lotus pedestal.



Lachhuar, Jamui

Situated at about 8 km west of Simaria and 7 km south of Sikandra, this pilgrimage site has a large number of Jain temples and dharanashalas built in 1874 by Rai Dhanpat Singh Bahadur of Murshidabad, for the benefit of Jain pilgrims, who visit some places in the adjacent hills. It is believed to be the birthplace of Mahavir Swami. In the valley between two parallel ranges of hills, there are small statues of Mahavira dating back to Samvat 1505.



Ashokan Pillar, Kolhua Vaishali

Kolhua is a famous Buddhist excavation site situated approximately 65 km North-West of Patna. The excavations have revealed the famous Ashokan Pillar having a statue of lion on the top. Excavations also revealed many other articles related to Buddhism.

