

Sikkim:

Nathu La Pass

Located at an altitude of 14,140 feet and 52kms from Gangtok, Nathula Pass was the place through which the famous Silk Route used to operate until 1962. This used to be a trade route between India and Tibet. Lines of mules used to carry silk, gold and many other items from Tibet to India and take daily essentials back to Tibet. The route in Tibet goes down the Chumbi Valley to Yathung, a place about 30kms away which used to be once a major trading township (no longer so). The fenced Indo-China border is also few meters away and you can see both Indian and Chinese soldiers guarding the border.



Vaishali Buddha Stupa, Bihar



Stupa of Rajgir



Sravasti Buddha statue



Nathula Pass, Sikkim



Prayer ceremony at Jetvana Monastery, Sravasti



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The Silk Road or Silk Route is an ancient network of trade and cultural transmission routes that were central to cultural interaction through regions of the Asian continent connecting the West and East by merchants, pilgrims, monks, soldiers, nomads, and urban dwellers from China and India to the Mediterranean Sea during various periods of time. The term "Silk Road" was coined by Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen, a German geographer.

The Silk Road was not one road, but a series of roads, some which passed through the oasis towns of Central Asia, and others which traversed the Karakoram mountain range into India. Silk Road sites in India are sites that were important for trade on the ancient Silk Road and have been identified by UNESCO. The spread have been identified across eight states in India (Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu).

Jammu and Kashmir:

Khhardung La, Nubra Valley

Located at an altitude of 18,379 ft, Khhardung La (means Pass in Tibetan) is the world's highest motorable road and provides an access to Shyok and Nubra valleys of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. It serves the tourists with clean air, amazing sites and natural vistas of the valley along with the roads meandering with the mountain.



Khhardung La Pass



Nubra Valley

Harwan:

Located at a distance of 21 km from Srinagar, Harwan provides a spectacular view of archaeology remains amidst the mountains of Srinagar District in Jammu and Kashmir. This historic place has many remarkable remains of the age old adorned tile pavements that belong to Buddhist era. The archeology depicts the outfits of the people of Buddhist era, like as close fitting turbans, loose trousers and large ear-rings thus representing the cultural influence of central Asian countries.



The site of the Fourth Buddhist Council at Harwan near Srinagar



A statue of the Buddha, recovered from Harwan

Parihaspora:

: Located in the Baramula district of Kashmir, this Buddhist sites was developed by King Lalitadita (695-731 AD). During his reign this place was declared as capital of Kashmir. At present, it is known as Kane Shahr which means 'city of stones'.



view of Govardanadhara temple ruins of staircases and plinth



Remains of magnificent stupas and temples of Parihaspora

Ambaran, Jammu

This 2,000 years old archaeological sites is estimated to have evolved during the reign of Ashoka. Majjhantika on his way to Kashmir came to this place and introduced Buddhism which was once known to Kalhana as Madradesh (present Jammu), the area between Ravi and Chenab



Delhi:

Old Fort:

Name of Delhi province has been called for its contribution to the Silk Route in literature by the name of Indraprastha (Old Fort/Purana Quila). Arcaheological survey of India has found its inscriptions ad excavations in the premises of Purana Quila/ Old Fort.



Sarnath

U.P and Bihar:

Archaeology Survey of India has identified the Buddhist circuit as a part of Silk Route. The Buddhist Circuits are the Places of all High Significance Holy Sites of Buddhism; where Lord Buddha was born, attained Enlightenment, preached first Sermon and reached Nirvana. Lumbini, Bodhgaya, Sarnath and Kushinagar are the primary pilgrimage places of Buddhist Circuits associated with the life and teachings of the Lord Buddha. There are numerous other sites where the Buddha and the saints that followed traveled during his life after his transformation, which are held in deep veneration. Visitors can travel through this Buddhist Circuit today, to savor the splendid beauty and great appeal of Buddhism.

The greatest impetus to Buddha's teachings came from the Indian King Ashoka who went on a great pilgrimage visiting the important sites that are directly associated with his life, in the Footsteps of Lord Buddha. Primary amongst these holy places are Lumbini in Nepal, and Bodhgaya, Sarnath and Kushinagar in India. There are other places of lesser significance on the Footsteps of Lord Buddha visitor circuit associated closely with Buddha's life. Amongst these are Buddha's monsoon retreats of Vaishali, Rajgir and Sravasti



Buddha statue at Bodh gaya



Kushinagar