

Cambodia delegation in UP to explore Buddhist Circuit

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Uttar Pradesh, globally renowned for its Buddhist sites and rich cultural heritage, attracts a large number of Buddhist pilgrims each year who come to explore landmarks associated with Lord Buddha. For followers of Buddhism, Uttar Pradesh is considered a spiritual haven.

A 15-member delegation from Cambodia has arrived in the state to tour the Buddhist Circuit from October 14 to 19. The delegation includes Buddhist monks, tour operators, and bloggers-influencers, with the aim of exploring India's Buddhist heritage and promoting these sacred sites in Cambodia.

They arrived in Delhi on October 13 before proceeding to Agra for sightseeing. The group will be visiting key sites such as Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Kushinagar, and Sarnath in Varanasi.

"Uttar Pradesh holds immense historical and spiritual significance. In recent years, the state has ranked first in domestic tourism and developed 12 tourism circuits, with the Buddhist Circuit being particularly important. This circuit connects major sites linked to the life of Lord Buddha, who spent a significant portion of his life in this region," a senior tourism official said.

Key locations in the Uttar Pradesh Buddhist Circuit include Kapilvastu (where Buddha spent his childhood), Sarnath (where he delivered his first sermon), Shravasti (where he spent 25 rainy seasons), Sankisa (where he descended after teaching in heaven), Kaushambi (a regular retreat), and Kushinagar (where he attained Mahaparinirvana). Additionally, Devdah and Ramgram in Maharajganj, as well as Atranjikhera in Etah, are important spiritual heritage sites in the state. "The influx of foreign visitors not only fosters cultural exchange but also boosts the economy. With approximately 93% of Cambodia's population adhering to Buddhism, Uttar Pradesh is a significant pilgrimage destination for them," the official added.

"Uttar Pradesh is rich in religious, cultural, and historical significance. We warmly welcome the Cambodian delegation, who will experience the uniqueness and depth of our Buddhist sites during this fam trip. Our goal is to attract tourists from around the world to the unparalleled destinations in Uttar Pradesh. This visit presents an important opportunity for us to showcase our cultural heritage on a global platform, further strengthening the bonds between UP and Cambodia," Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said.