

Stonehendge



The Golden Temple



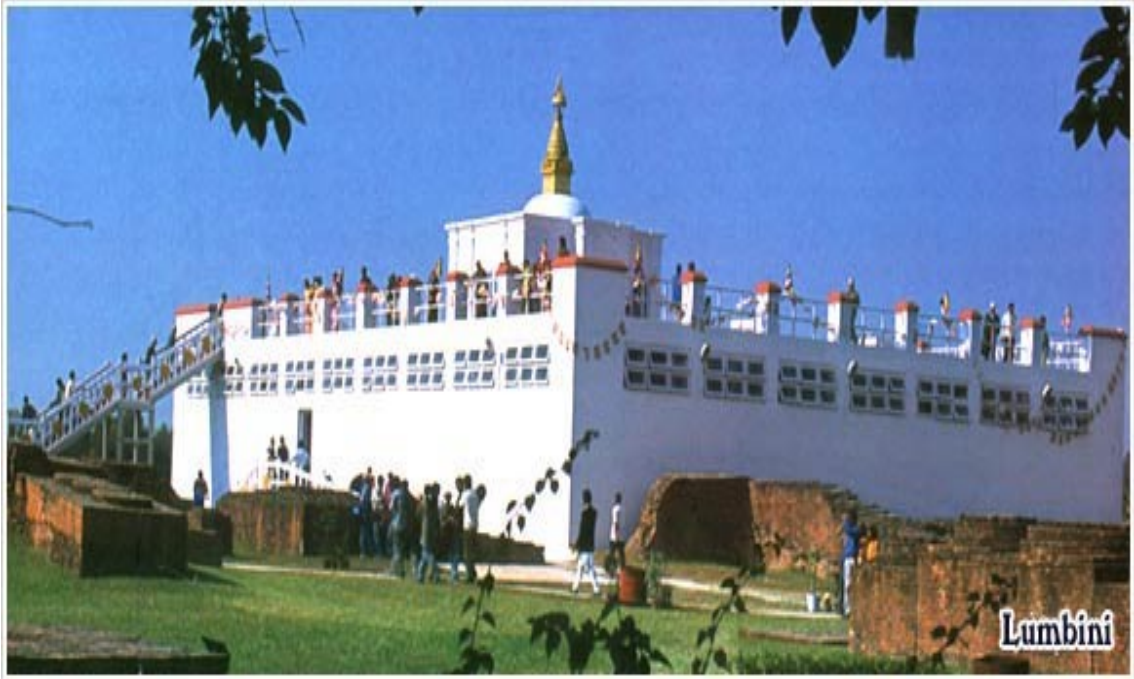
The wailing wall



Mecca



Lumbini- Nepal



The River Ganges



Bethlehem



STONEHENGE WILTSHIRE—ENGLAND

A special place for a group of people called pagans, people who worship the earth and nature. Also a place of interest to all.

Pagans spend the whole night here during the summer solstice (the longest day of the year).

- Stonehenge was built between 3100 - 1100 BCE.

The circle was aligned with the midsummer sunrise, the midwinter sunset, and the most southerly rising and northerly setting of the moon.

Stonehenge is one of the most ancient monuments in the world which reflects the culture of the prehistoric times

THE GOLDEN TEMPLE -India Sikhs

The **Harmandir Sahib** (or Hari Mandir) in Amritsar, Punjab, is the holiest shrine in Sikhism. Previously (and still more commonly) known as the **Golden Temple**, it was officially renamed **Harmandir Sahib** in March 2005. The temple (or *gurdwara*) is a major pilgrimage destination for Sikhs from all over the world, as well as an increasingly popular tourist attraction.

- The golden temple also known as Harmandir Sahib ("God's Temple") was completed in 1604.
- It is the most famous Sikh temple in the world. It is a very sacred place.
- It symbolizes the magnificence and strength of Sikhs all over the world.

Sikhs pay their respect and worship for the [Guru Granth Sahib](#) ([the Sikh holy book](#))

BETHLEHEM-Israel Christians

Bethlehem is the birth place of Jesus.

Many Christians try to visit Bethlehem and try to visit a special church called the church of the Nativity, believed to have been built on the birth place of Jesus.

Many Christians will pray and light candles while there.

MAKKAH in Saudi Arabia Muslims

Once a year, Muslims of every ethnic group, colour, social status, and culture gather together in Mecca and stand before the Kaaba praising Allah together.

It is a ritual that is designed to promote the bonds of Islamic brotherhood and sisterhood by showing that everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah.

The Hajj makes Muslims feel real importance of life here on earth, and the afterlife, by stripping away all markers of social status, wealth, and pride. In the Hajj all are truly equal.

The Hajjis or pilgrims wear simple white clothes called Ihram. During the Hajj the Pilgrims perform acts of worship and they renew their sense of purpose in the world.

Mecca is a place that is holy to all Muslims. It is so holy that no non-Muslim is allowed to enter.

For Muslims, the Hajj is the fifth and final [pillar of Islam](#). It occurs in the month of Dhul Hijjah which is the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is the journey that every sane adult Muslim must undertake at least once in their lives if they can afford it and are physically able.

THE RIVER GANGES—India Hindus

The river Ganges is the holiest river for Hindus.

Hindus from all walks of life gather there for ritual bathing, believing that their sins will be washed away.

The bathing is followed by spiritual purification and a ceremony which secures the blessings of the deity.

Pilgrimage is an important aspect of Hinduism.

It's an undertaking to see and be seen by the deity.



Indian women worshipping Shiva on the Ganges

Popular pilgrimage places are rivers, but temples, mountains, and other sacred sites in India are also destinations for pilgrimages, as sites where the gods may have appeared or become manifest in the world.

THE WESTERN WALL IN JERUSALEM

The Western wall is what remains of the original holy building of Judaism, the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jews go here to pray to God and to celebrate special events such as Bar Mitzvah's (a coming of age ceremony)

THE TOWN OF LUMBINI IN NORTHERN INDIA

Four main centres of pilgrimage sprung up within the first couple of hundred years after Buddha's death which marked key locations in the Buddha's life.

The purpose of pilgrimage is to foster a spiritual discipline, to fulfil a vow or simply to travel. It is an important Buddhist practice.

Pilgrimage also helps to express feelings of devotion and creates a relationship with the historical figures associated with the pilgrimage site.

One of the main places that Buddhists want to visit is the birth place of the founder of Buddhism, here at Lumbini in Northern India.