

### Lumbini : UNESCO World Heritage Site

Lumbini is the birthplace of the Gautama Buddha. It's highly debated when exactly he was born, with estimates ranging from the 11th to the 6th century BC. One of the four holiest locations in Buddhism is the town of Lumbini, which is also the location of the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, first lecture, and death. These all happened outside, in the wild. Lumbini, UNESCO listed falls under one of the most visited site by tourist in our country Nepal.

### Overview on Lumbini UNESCO Listed

Several stupas at the Kudan archaeological site were constructed to remember significant occasions that happened here with Buddha. The most important was meeting with his father, King Suddhodhana, seven years after attaining enlightenment. Rahula, his son, was ordained there when he was eight.

Additionally, a significant amount of archaeological work has been done in Devadaha, an ancient city located approximately 57 kilometers (35 miles) from Lumbini. Queen Mayadevi, the mother of Buddha, was on her way to her village when she decided to halt and give birth. Several monuments have been built in her honor, and many have since been found here.

Prince Siddhartha, who would later become Buddha, had only just begun his long journey in 623 BC. The religion that would bear his name had also only just begun. Therefore, it should be no surprise that Lumbini has become one of the most treasured locations for Buddhists worldwide.

For tourists, Lumbini is a very spiritual location, and the Sacred Garden that encircles the main [Mayadevi Temple](#) is where the peace of the site is most palpable. The garden's trees are reflected in a sizable water feature that is supposed to be the same pond where Prince Siddhartha received his cleansing bath. Worshipers sit below in profound meditation as prayer flags dangle from the branches and gently wave in the breeze.

### History of Lumbini UNESCO Listed

For centuries, the place was ignored. It was first rediscovered in 1895 by a German archaeologist. It is thought that a temple and a swimming pool date back to Buddha's birth. According to an inscription on a pillar built by the Mauryan Emperor Asoka in 249 BC, the Lord Buddha was born there in the sacred region of Lumbini in the Terai plains of southern Nepal in 623 BC.

The remnants of Lumbini, one of the holiest sites of one of the world's great faiths, provide significant information regarding the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centres dating back to the third century BC.



The Shakya Tank, the brick constructions in the cross-wall system of the Maya Devi Temple, dating from the third century BC to the present, and the sandstone Ashoka pillar with its Pali inscription in Brahmi writing are all part of the complex of buildings inside the archaeological conservation area.

In addition, there exist the remains of Buddhist stupas (memorial shrines) that date from the third century BC to the fifteenth century AD, as well as the remains of Buddhist viharas (monasteries) that date from the third century BC to the fifth century AD. Archaeological relics connected to the birth of the Lord Buddha are a key component of the site's development as a Buddhist pilgrimage centre.

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**Criterion (iii):** As the site of the Lord Buddha's birth, as attested by the inscription on the Asoka pillar, Lumbini's sacred region is one of the most revered and important locations for one of the major global religions.

**Criterion (vi):** The archaeological remains of Buddhist monasteries and memorial shrines from the third century BC to the fifteenth century AD provide significant information regarding the character of Buddhist pilgrimage centres from a very early time.

### Integrity of Lumbini



Lumbini's integrity has been preserved by protecting the archaeological relics inside the property border, which give this site its Outstanding Universal Value. The property's key features and characteristics have been preserved. The buffer zone further protects the property.



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The integrity of the property places a high priority on further excavations of potential archaeological sites and proper protection of the archaeological remains. However, not all archaeological sites are within the property line; certain portions are located in the buffer zone.

There is no risk of development or neglect because the Lumbini Development Trust manages the entire property, including the buffer zone, which is held by the Government of Nepal. However, it has been determined that the property's integrity is threatened by the effects of industrial growth in the area.

### **A Journey of Spirit**

Pilgrims are often drawn to Lumbini because it is one of the most sacred cities. Buddha purportedly urged his disciples and adherents to visit one of the four holy places. People travel worldwide throughout the year to realise their desire, whether they are wealthy or poor, well or ill.



It is easier to perceive the physical in this place by also considering the spiritual, as everything is inextricably related to the life and teachings of the Buddha. Growing up in this area significantly influenced his teachings, and his interactions with followers here after attaining enlightenment also affected his legacy.

Many visitors agree that Lumbini's ambiance fosters a unique spiritual energy and tranquillity regardless of their religion. Millions of people have travelled there to reflect on the meaning of the Buddha's teachings throughout history, making it more than merely a location from where they were impacted. Pilgrims and monks will sit and meditate as part of their inner journeys under trees, along ponds, or in designated centres.

### **History of Greater Lumbini: Importance**

Beyond its religious significance, Lumbini is regarded as having enormous historical value. This



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region was inhabited at the time of Buddha's birth by some minor kingdoms, all of which were interconnected and, ultimately, all of which had some relationship to Buddha.

It would be best if you explored the archaeological sites near Lumbini and the surrounding areas to gain a deeper understanding of Buddha's life and the world in which he lived. Because of restoration efforts, you may now visit these locations and view the events relevant to his tale that took place there.



About 30 kilometres (18.5 miles) from Lumbini, one of the significant archaeological investigations has revealed the Ancient City of Kapilavastu. Prince Siddhartha was raised there and resided there till he was 29 years old. It was a prosperous capital city. You can see how he lived in luxury until he decided to give up his material belongings to pursue something more fulfilling here.



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### FAQ On Lumbini UNESCO

#### **Q: What is the renown of Lumbini?**

The Lord Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, was born in Lumbini's well-known gardens in 623 B.C., quickly becoming a popular destination for pilgrims. It was one of the pilgrims who built the memorial pillar in memory of the Indian king Ashoka.

#### **Q: Why do tourists visit Lumbini?**

Explore the area where Buddha spent his early years as Prince Siddhartha and follow in his footsteps. A holy place on earth, Lumbini marks the exact place where Buddha was born.

#### **Q: Did Lumbini belong to India?**

The Lord Buddha was born there at Lumbini, a sacred area in the Terai plains of southern Nepal, in 623 BC, according to an inscription on a pillar constructed by the Mauryan Emperor Asoka in 249 BC.

#### **Q: What is the ideal time for visiting Lumbini?**

The finest months to visit Lumbini are April and May, when the Buddha Jayanthi, or the birthday of Lord Buddha, is grandly celebrated. For this event, Buddhists from all over the world, particularly those from India and Nepal, come together.

#### **Q: Is a trip to Lumbini UNESCO site worthwhile?**

Each year, thousands of pilgrims come to this location to worship, reflect, and study. The temple complex has expanded over time from a single temple to honour the birthplace to a large monastery complex with stunning Buddhist temples that have been donated from all over the world!

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