



MARASA
SAROVAR PREMIERE

bodhgaya

A SAROVAR HOTEL





*In the city of Gaya,
Sitting beneath the Bodhi tree,
I realized the most proper enlightenment
And turned the supreme Dharma-wheel.
Only then did I teach and transform them,
Causing them first to bring forth the resolve for the Way.
Now they all dwell in irreversibility,
And shall all become Buddhas.
I now speak the truth;
You should believe it with a single mind.
For endless eons,
I have taught and transformed these multitudes.*



'Gaya' is the ancient name for Bodhgaya



Bodhgaya is a spiritual site, a place of holy pilgrimage by the banks of the river Falgu and is associated with The Maha Bodhi Temple in Gaya district, the state of Bihar, India. The Maha Bodhi Temple built by king Ashoka is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Bodhgaya is where Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment or Nirvana. He sat under the Bhodi tree (commonly known as Peepal tree) for forty-nine days without moving thus obtaining enlightenment - the highest level of consciousness of mind and soul. The term Buddha actually means "Enlightened One" Bhodhgaya is thus one of the holiest and most important Buddhist sites in the world.

Every year Buddha Jayanti or Budh Purnima - the Day of the Full Moon is celebrated to mark Buddha's Birthday. The day of enlightenment is celebrated as Bodhi Day.

Since antiquity Bodhgaya has remained the foremost site of pilgrimage and veneration for both Hindus and Buddhists across the world.





Marasa Sarovar Premiere, Bodhgaya is the first and only thematic hotel in the heart of holy Bodhgaya. Located on the banks of the river Falgu, the architectural style of the entire hotel draws inspiration from the historical references of Buddhist structures in the area - The Mahabodhi Temple, the Buddhist Monasteries and the Stupas.

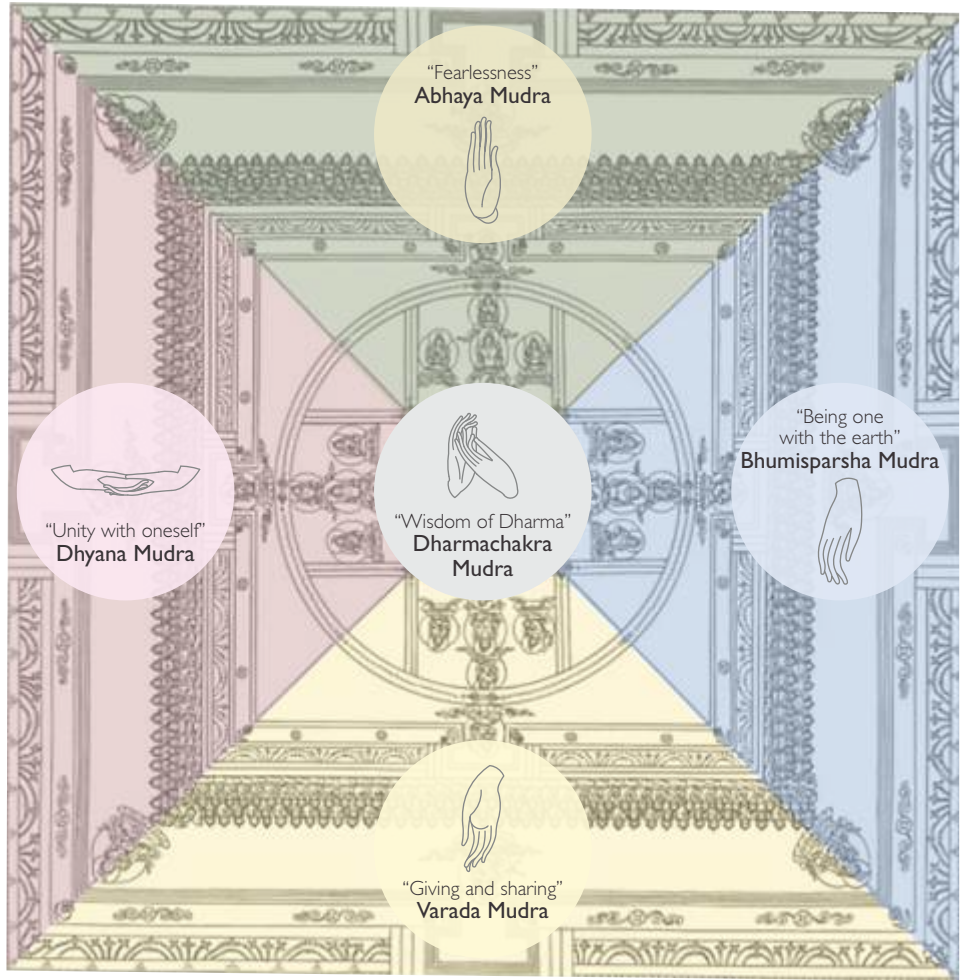
There are two distinct and unique architectural themes at play in the hotel design. The first is of Memory - where one tunes into the historical roots of Buddhist architecture rich with brick details such as vaults, corbelled arches and stepped jambs, which are all developed in a contemporary visual style to represent the present.

The second architectural theme is Emotion - inspired by the Buddhist ethos of simplicity, compassion and serenity. These emotions are reflected by the structure and choice of material. The architecture unfolds enchantingly through a series of layers creating gentle transitions from outside to inside through verandas and framed openings. The Peepal tree (symbolically Bodhi) - the ultimate symbol of the power of Buddha - is viewed from the entrance through several frames and a serene courtyard that forms the emotional and physical heart of the hotel.

The five wisdoms of the Buddha - Abhaya, Dharmachakra, Varada, Dhyana and Bhumisparsha are expressed in the public spaces - fearlessness, the wisdom of dharma, giving and sharing, unity with oneself and oneness with the earth. These wisdoms guide the spiritual journey from self to divinity and here they are expressed through symbolism and material in each space.

The architecture of the hotel combines the design of the interior spaces and the landscaping of the exterior spaces. Lotus water bodies, gentle and soothing colour palettes, refined aesthetics and the mindful use of the five wisdoms of the Buddhist aspect of the Vajradhatu Mandala come together creating a holistic symphony to compliment and resonate the simple, serene and tranquil essence of Buddhist philosophy and values.

*The hotel is located approximately 15 kms from the airport,
11 kms from Gaya railway station and 2.7 kms away from the Mahabodhi temple.*



WISDOM	MUDRA	DIRECTION	SEASON	SYMBOL	ELEMENTS	VEHICLE	COLOUR
ABHAYA <i>fearlessness</i>		NORTH	 Monsoon	 Visvavajra	 Air	 Eagle	 Green
DHARMACHAKRA <i>wisdom of dharma</i>		CENTRE	 Autumn	 Dharmachakra	 Space	 Lion	 White
VARADA <i>giving and sharing</i>		SOUTH	 Spring	 Jewel	 Earth	 Horse	 Gold
DHYANA <i>unity with oneself</i>		WEST	 Summer	 Lotus	 Fire	 Peacock	 Red
BHUMISPARSHA <i>being one with the earth</i>		EAST	 Winter	 Vajra	 Water	 Elephant	 Blue

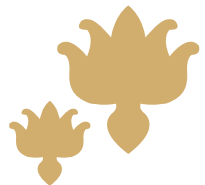
The thematic architectural style of the property follows the unique framework of "The Vajradhatu (Diamond Realm) Mandala" - a symbolic representation of a palace which houses five Dhyani Buddhas. The Mandala of the five Dhyani Buddhas is at once a cosmic diagram of the world and of Buddha himself. They represent five wisdoms of the enlightened consciousness of the mind and soul of Buddha. Each Dhyani Buddha depicts the defining qualities of five mudras co-relating to the five wisdoms which further connects them to life - colours, seasons, directions, elements and symbols which are represented through various design elements in individual designated spaces within the property.



The patio displaying the locally made clay tiled roof and corbelled arches with cornices opening into the courtyard gives you a multi-tiered welcome experience. The unique feature of the patio is that one can look through the lobby, through the veranda, the courtyard, all the way to the Peepal tree (symbolically Bodhi) and then on to the main lotus water body.

A very important and integral element in the architectural theme is the unfolding of layers through various frames - viewing from one area to the other. Like viewing life through a frame, graduating from one phase to another thus evoking the feeling of passage and continuity and finally enlightenment, which is symbolized by the Peepal tree (symbolically Bodhi).

- 78 PREMIUM GUEST ROOMS AND SUITES
- VARADA - THE CAFÉ • TEA BAR
- BANQUET & CONFERENCING FACILITIES FOR UP TO 500
- SWIMMING POOL • GYM • SPA • WI-FI
- MEDITATION AND YOGA DECK





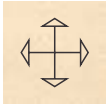
abhaya
fearlessness



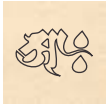
ABHAYA
(mudra)



MONSOON
(season)



VISVAVAJRA
(symbol)



AH
(syllable)



AIR
(element)



EAGLE
(vehicle)



GREEN
(colour)

LOBBY AND RECEPTION

The lobby and the reception area celebrate the Buddhist wisdom of Abhaya meaning 'fearlessness' and protection, which are represented by a mudra, a season, a direction, a colour and an element. These are reflected symbolically in the choice of colour, material, lighting and art objects in the architecture and design elements of the space.

The main lobby is purposefully created with a large terracotta vaulted ceiling and a grand gong in the centre which exudes warmth and makes it inviting and welcoming. The gong is rung to herald and welcome each new guest.

The cream palette of the reception walls, beige stone flooring, green colour furnishing, abstract rain mural on one of the walls and two way brass lighting, all resonate and evoke the Buddhist wisdom and emotion of fearlessness.











dharmachakra


wisdom of dharma


- 


DHARMACHAKRA
(mudra)
- 

AUTUMN
(season)
- 

DHARMACHAKRA
(symbol)
- 

OM
(syllable)
- 

SPACE
(element)
- 

LION
(vehicle)
- 

WHITE
(colour)

THE LOUNGE

The lounge is the central space in the hotel representing the central wisdom of Buddhism - 'The eightfold path of Buddha' also known as the Dharmachakra. The lounge symbolizes and exemplifies the essence of Dharmachakra through the use of the chakra, the colour white and the season of autumn in the furnishings.

The lounge is made up of two spaces - the Lounge and the Meeting Room. The lounge is designed as a comfortable, plush intimate space with a library of books on Buddhism and other subjects. It exhibits a very interesting and circular shaped chandelier, which gives a distinct character.

The meeting room with a long twelve seater table in a simplistic design overlooks the scenic swimming pool, the refreshing green area and enjoys beautiful sunlight filtering through the long picture windows, rendering the entire space with the emotions of warmth and serenity.





COURTYARD

The long central courtyard is the heart of the hotel's architectural framework. It is open to the sky and is marked with corbelled arches on both sides with up lighting from the floor. It leads you to the residential area looking towards the Peepal tree (symbolically Bodhi) in the centre and the gentle lotus water body.

The courtyard in its simplicity evokes feelings of beauty, joy and compassion. As one stands in the courtyard one feels very held together... in a sense of completeness.

There is a magical interplay of the natural light of the outdoors combining with the indoor lighting, which is spectacular at dawn and dusk.





ROOMS AND SUITES

The hotel houses five residential blocks overlooking five spectacular lotus water bodies, symbolising serenity and tranquillity. Each block is named after a different colour lotus and has eight rooms at ground level and eight at the upper level facing North and South with beautiful views. The North facing rooms overlook the tranquil lotus water bodies and the South facing the lush rice fields.

The colour palette of the entire hotel - white, beige, terracotta and gold are played out in the design and decor elements of the rooms. The rooms have picture windows from floor to ceiling looking outside and reflecting the emotions of nature inside. On the ground level the rooms exude warmth and rustic emotion through the use of exposed brick walls behind the beds. On the upper level the rooms evoke feelings of serenity, spaciousness and warmth through the terracotta - vaulted ceiling.

Each room is furnished with a plush divan and soft bolsters offering sheer comfort to relax or curl up and read a book. Just above the divan there is a little surprise window resembling a wooden show window with an aldrop. This is specifically designed to feel like a gong and as one opens this window a shaft of light is released to represent divine illumination.





the wisdom of giving and sharing



VARADA
(mudra)



SPRING
(season)



JEWEL
(symbol)



TRAM
(syllable)



EARTH
(element)



HORSE
(vehicle)



GOLD
(colour)

THE CAFE

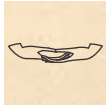
The café is associated with the Buddhist wisdom of Varada meaning 'giving and sharing'.

The look and feel of the café is very earthy. There are the characteristic terracotta vaults, exposed brick walls on one side with niches adorned with the Bodhi leaf motif and large brass lights hung from the ceiling resembling Buddhist prayer wheels. The wooden furniture exudes old world charm and feeling, yet is very contemporary in style and construct. The collective effect resonates the rustic simplicity and earthiness of the Buddhist philosophy.

Architecturally the café is a beautiful long space with a large volume that connects to the outdoors on three sides offering scenic views through the large picture windows from floor to ceiling. On one side the café looks to the courtyard through the veranda, on the other side it opens into its own courtyard with outdoor seating and a white flowering frangipani tree in the centre. On the remaining side it overlooks the serene lotus water bodies.

Inside the picturesque and inspired ambience of the café one can enjoy the delicious international buffet or the à-la-carte menu featuring popular dishes from across the world accompanied with revitalizing beverages.





DHYANA
(mudra)



SUMMER
(season)



LOTUS
(symbol)



HRIH
(syllable)



FIRE
(element)



PEACOCK
(vehicle)



RED
(colour)

THE BANQUET

The banquet and conferencing area celebrate the Buddhist wisdom of Dhyana meaning 'unity with oneself'. This is reflected symbolically through the use of lotus and peacock motifs in the interior design elements.

The banquet hall is embellished with a lotus inspired brass chandelier, a terracotta colour carpet and a gold peacock design mural on one wall. The colour palette is cream and white on the other walls combined with the terracotta vaulted ceiling. The entire design vocabulary complements the symbolic association with Dhyana Mudra - the season of summer, the element of fire and the colour red.

The banquet and conferencing space measures an approximate area of 2100 sq. ft. and opens into a veranda. The veranda is a space that creates shade and transition from the outside to the inside and represents the journey of the outer self to the inner self - darkness into light. It looks into the large lawn area with bamboo trees and white flowering bougainvillea creepers making it a beautiful place to hold outdoor gatherings and celebrations for all occasions.





bhumisparsha

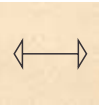
being one with the earth



BHUMISPARSHA
(mudra)



WINTER
(season)



VAJRA
(symbol)



HUM
(syllable)



WATER
(element)



ELEPHANT
(vehicle)



BLUE
(colour)

POOL, SPA & GYM

The area covering the pool, spa and gym are associated with the Buddhist wisdom of Bhumisparsha meaning 'being one with the earth'. It signifies Dharma and nature being in tune with one another. It is also symbolic of the earth aspect of Buddha's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.

The Spa located by the poolside follows the theme of winter with its colour palette on the walls and the symbol of Vajra - the element, graphically represented on the wallpaper. There is an enigmatic aroma of therapeutic oils and fragrant candles combined with the muted colours. The entire experience of refreshing holistic massages and therapies welcome you to celebrate your soul in absolute peace at the serene spa.

The pool, spa and gym area is landscaped with frangipani trees bearing white flowers, green bamboo trees and ferns which compliment the colour theme of blue, white and green in turn echoing the emotions and essence of serenity and tranquillity - the nature of Buddha's philosophy





YOGA COURT AND LOTUS WATER BODIES

AN EARTH FRIENDLY HOTEL



handmade bricks



clay tiles



rain water harvesting



water recycling



waste recycling



solar insulation



LED lights

The entire hotel is conceptualized and built by embracing and utilising all available environmentally friendly materials and processes to reduce carbon footprint:

- Use of locally handmade rustic red bricks and country tiles, thus engaging the local work force, encouraging employment and supporting livelihood
- Rain water harvesting through the rain water collection wells and tanks
- Water recycling through the sewage treatment plant thus conserving precious water resource
- Use of optimal LED lights instead of halogen lights to reduce power consumption
- Clever planning of natural ventilation to reduce dependency on mechanical ventilation and power consumption
- Solar insulation through double glazing on the facade and east facing rooms thus cutting out heat and maintaining a cooler temperature inside



PLACES OF INTEREST

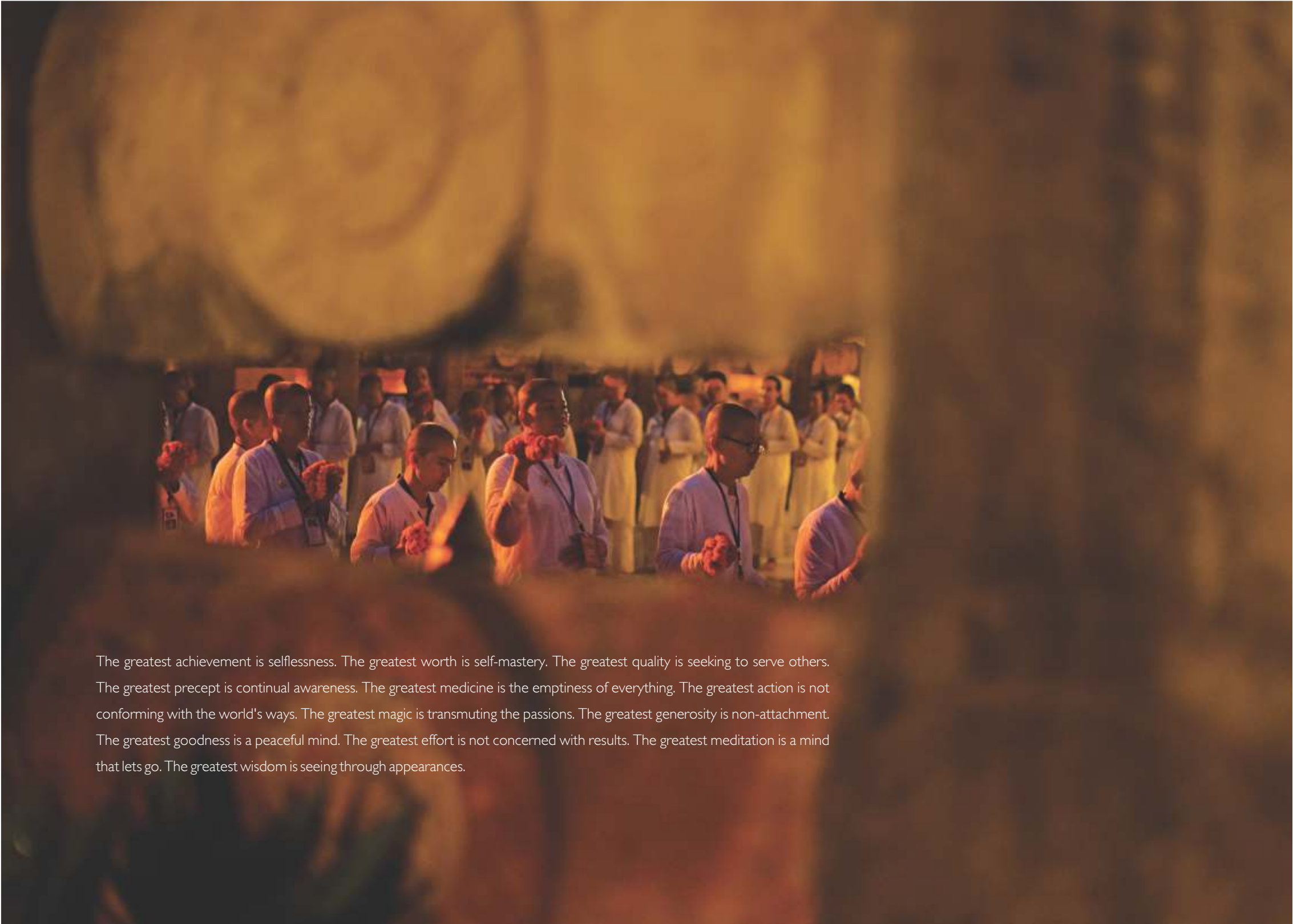
Mahabodhi Temple: One of India's prime spiritual places is not just a temple but also rather the site of Buddha's actual enlightenment. Such is the calmness that surrounds this meticulously built temple that it attracts people of all age groups and many faiths to visit it at least once in a lifetime.

Built by king Ashoka in the third century and restored by the British in the year 1880, the temple was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2002. The grandeur of the temple is mesmerizing. From the wide grounds to the main shrine of the deity (painted in gold), from the Bodhi tree to the pond adjoining the temple and from the meditation place in the inner courtyard to the meditation garden adorned by fountains and bells. Followers seek divine bliss under one roof, at one place.

Great Buddha Statue: Measuring 25 meters in height, it is the tallest, largest and the first Buddha statue to be ever built in India. Located right next to the Mahabodhi Temple, this statue was unveiled in the year 1989 by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Bordered by ten smaller sculptures of Buddha's disciples in the passageway leading to the Great Buddha Statue, the entire visual is breath-taking.

Thai Monastery: The only Thai temple in India, the Thai Monastery of Bodhgaya was built by a Monarch of Thailand in 1956. The then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru requested for the construction of the temple at this site to strengthen relations between the two countries and spread the teachings of Buddha in India. The sloping and curved roof of the edifice, which is covered with golden tiles, is an insignia of Thai architecture.

Other attractions: Muchalinda Lake, Royal Bhutan Monastery, Chinese Temple, Cankamana



The greatest achievement is selflessness. The greatest worth is self-mastery. The greatest quality is seeking to serve others. The greatest precept is continual awareness. The greatest medicine is the emptiness of everything. The greatest action is not conforming with the world's ways. The greatest magic is transmuting the passions. The greatest generosity is non-attachment. The greatest goodness is a peaceful mind. The greatest effort is not concerned with results. The greatest meditation is a mind that lets go. The greatest wisdom is seeing through appearances.

The Noble Eightfold Path

Right understanding (Samma ditthi)

Right thought (Samma sankappa)

Right speech (Samma vaca)

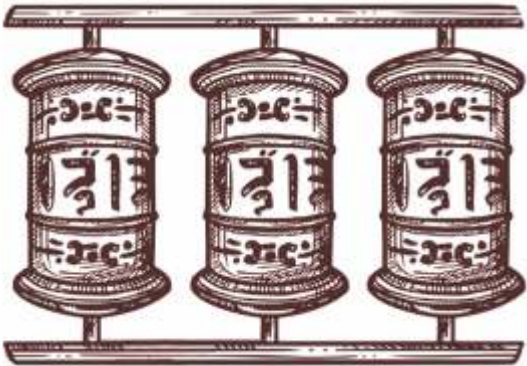
Right action (Samma kammanta)

Right livelihood (Samma ajjiva)

Right effort (Samma vayama)

Right mindfulness (Samma sati)

Right concentration (Samma samadhi)



LOCATION MAP



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