





3rd INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, COLOMBO

THE YOGA ROAD SHOW
SRI LANKA 2017

In association with





EVENT 1	MAY 2017	9.00AM - 10.00AM	SIGIRIYA Sigiriya Park
EVENT 2	MAY 2017	3.30PM - 4.30PM	POLONNARUWA Polonnaruwa Vatadage
EVENT 3	MAY 2017	7.00AM - 8.00AM	TRINCOMALEE Inner Beach Dockyard Road
EVENT 4	MAY 2017	4.30PM - 5.30PM	BATTICALOA Rajadurai Auditorium - Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies
EVENT 5	MAY 2017	7.00AM - 8.00AM	KATARAGAMA Kiri Vehera Raja Maha Viharaya
EVENT 6	MAY 2017	4.30PM - 5.30PM	GALLE Samanala Grounds
EVENT 7	MAY 2017	9.00AM - 4.00PM	JAFFNA Siddha Medicine Unit, University of Jaffna
EVENT 8	MAY 2017	4.30PM - 5.30PM	COLOMBO Bank of Ceylon Auditorium

Please Join us at the main event of International Day of Yoga-2017 on 17th June at 6.00am at Independence Square, Colombo 07
Contact: 0112 684698 | iccrcolombo@gmail.com | [facebook.com/IndianCulturalCentre](https://www.facebook.com/IndianCulturalCentre)



Cultural Calendar - May 2017

8
Monday
9.30 am

Tagore Jayanti Celebrations
Garlanding of Tagore bust
Organized in collaboration with CCIS, University of Colombo
Venue: Main Library, University of Colombo

Photographic Exhibition
on Buddhist Heritage of India
Organized by Sambodhi Maha Viharaya
Venue: India Stall, R.G.Senanayake Mv.,
Colombo 07

9 - 12
Tuesday - Friday
10.00 am onwards

12 - 14
Friday - Sunday
10.00 am - 5.00 pm

International Vesak day
Celebrations
Display of Sand Sculpture on Buddhism
by Padmashri Sudarsan Pattnaik
Organized by Government of Sri Lanka
Venue: Diwannawa Zone, Battaramulla
(Near Parliament).

International Vesak day Celebrations
Nirthyanjali on Life of Buddha
by ICC Students
Organized by Government of Sri Lanka
Venue: Nelum Pokuna

13
Saturday
6.00pm

25 - 28
Thursday - Sunday
10.00 am - 7.00 pm

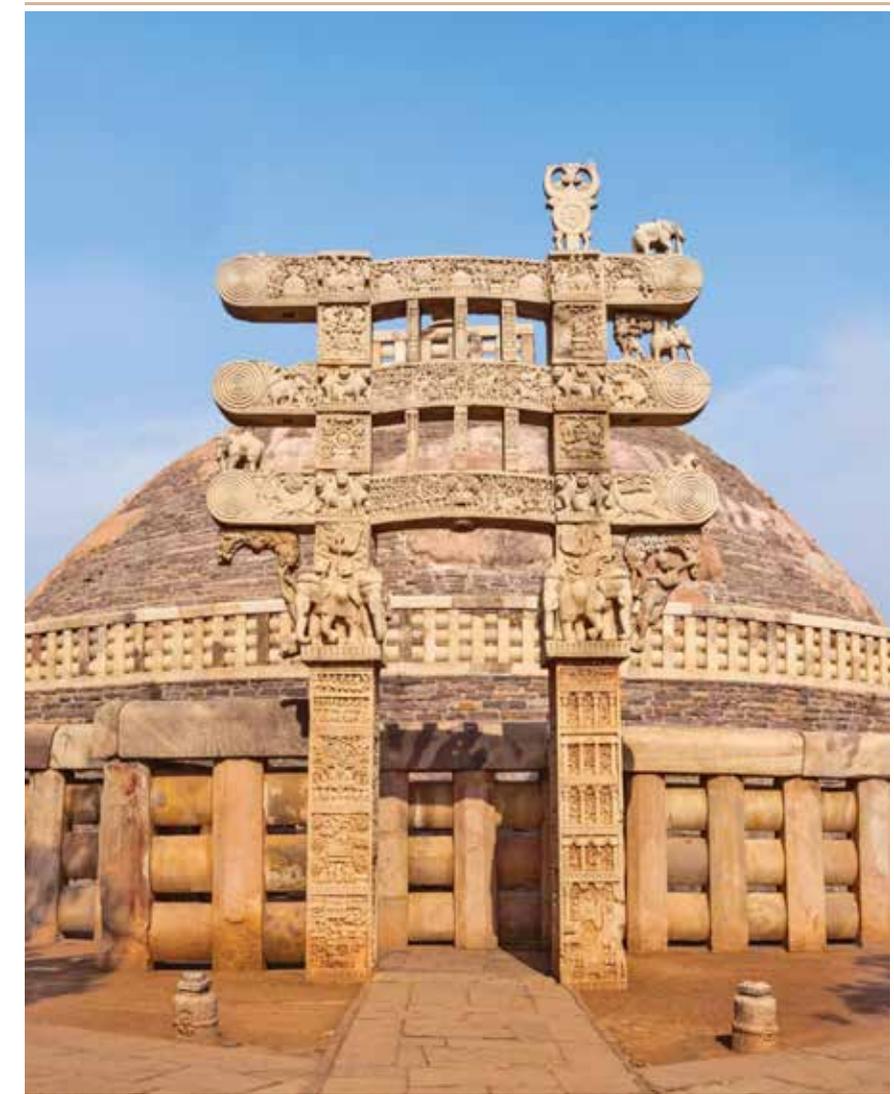
Shilpa Kala
Exhibition of
Traditional Handicrafts & Textiles of
India & Sri Lanka
Organized by
High Commission of India, Colombo
Venue: Mihilaka Medura, BMICH,
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Programmes subject to change
Admission to all programmes are on first come first serve basis.
All are cordially invited



Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo May 2017



UNIE ARTS, 2330195

Cultural Tapestry

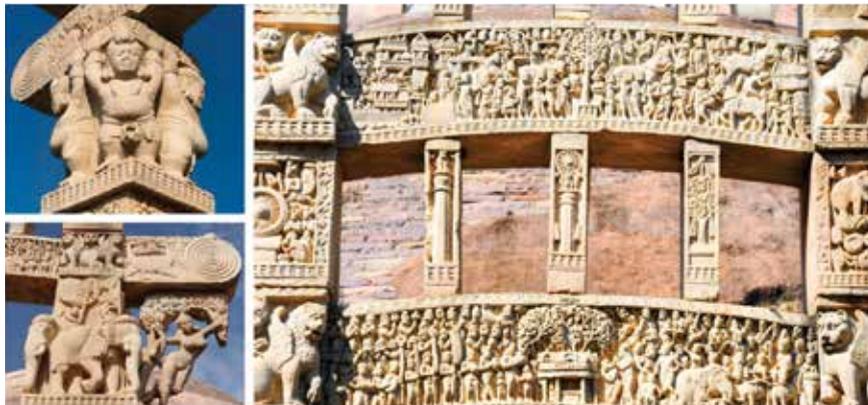
THE BUDDHIST HERITAGE OF SANCHI

Stupas, Monasteries and temples at Sanchi Chronicle the genius and flourishing of Buddhist art and architecture

The hill of Sanchi holds one of the finest, best preserved and most extensive of all Buddhist sites. The walled enclosure dominated by the Great Stupa and four exquisite toranas (ornamental gateways) owes its origins to Emperor Ashoka whose wife was from Vidisha a city near Sanchi in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Sanchi grew and prospered under successive dynasties and the patronage of merchants till the 14th century. Thus, the Great Stupa, ruined temples and monasteries together provide insight into the development of Buddhist art and architecture.

Stretching for 1000 years from Ashoka's reign in the third Century BC to the 14th Century. The site was re-discovered by General Taylor in 1818 and notified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, the Great Stupa at Sanchi is one of India's earliest surviving religious structures.

The highlight of Sanchi is the four stone toranas, built in the first Century BC with sculptures so exquisite that they are reminiscent of ivory and woodcarving rather than stone. Some archaeologists believe the carvings to have been the work of ivory craftsmen. The structure of each torana comprises two posts joined by three crossbars or architraves. Hardly any area of the posts and curving crossbars of each torana is free of delicate figures. Some of the relief panels portray stories of Buddha, Emperor Ashoka's role in spreading the word of Buddha to distant lands and episodes from the Jataka Tales. Dramatically rich sculptures depict the birth of Buddha. The carvings are considered valuable as a record of customs, lifestyles and buildings of those times. Follow the circumambulatory paths with carved balustrades, which look like wooden railings, starting with the southern torana located near the stump of Ashoka's original stone pillar suggest it was the main entrance. One of the



VISITING THE BUDDHIST TOWN

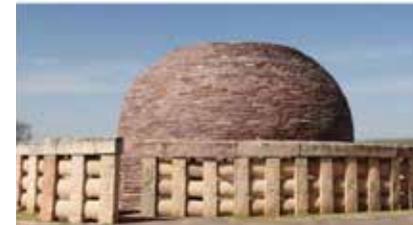
Sanchi, in Madhya Pradesh, is around 49 km from Bhopal.

How to reach

- By air:** Raja Bhoj airport in Bhopal is the nearest airport. Regular flights connect Mumbai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Indore, Chennai and Raipur to Bhopal. Taxis are available for further journey.
- By train:** Vidisha and Bhopal are the closest railheads and connected with all important cities.
- By road:** Sanchi, on Bhopal-Sagar state highway, is well-connected by road from all important cities of Madhya Pradesh.

Highlights of the southern torana is a relief showing the Wheel of Law as a symbol of Buddha being worshipped by followers. The Wheel represents endless cycles of death and rebirth which can be escaped by Buddha's teachings.

In other toranas too Buddha is depicted through symbols like a Bodhi tree or footprints which was the practice before Buddha images were made. The restored western torana has lively scenes from the Jataka tales like an animated troop of monkeys crossing a bridge over River Ganges, made by the bodhisattva (a person committed to the attainment of enlightenment for the sake of others) to help them escape a gang of soldiers from the life of the Buddha. The temptation of Mara features here in a famous incident where Mara - the lord of misfortune, sin and destruction in Buddhism - tried to dissuade Buddha from the righteous path by sending



his daughters to seduce Buddha. The west gate depicts the incarnations of Lord Buddha. The north torana is capped by a fragmented Wheel of Law and two trident symbols representing the Buddhist trinity. This is perhaps the most elaborate of the four toranas. Scenes carved onto its two vertical posts show miracles associated with the Buddha like an aerial promenade to impress a group of heretics. The eastern torana has Sanchi's most iconic piece of sculpture, the sensuous Salabhanjika, or wood-nymph, under a mango tree. The Great Stupa was built in brick during Ashoka's time but much of its present structure is in stone, dating from the 2nd Century AD. The stupa stands on a platform and is capped by a three-layer stone umbrella - a symbol of heaven's three tiers.

The splendidly restored stupa 3 lies

northeast of the Great Stupa (stupa 1). In 1851, fine caskets here were found to contain relics belonging to two of Buddha's closest disciples. Stupa 2 on a terrace down the slope of Sanchi Hill also contained important relics.

Among the best preserved monasteries, Vihara 45 has the layout of a tower-like room that serves as a central courtyard tower. The river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna are among the many fine sculptures on the exterior, while inside Buddha reigns on a lotus bloom in Bhumi Sparsh position - his right hand touching the ground to call upon the earth goddess to witness the moment of his enlightenment. Vihara 51 is more orderly than the other six with various rooms around a courtyard with the monastic cells in a row separated by a corridor.

Temple 17th the most important of the temples, built in the fifth century - one of the earliest structural temples in India. This Gupta period temple is built of stone slabs with a flat roof and an open-sided.

Porch held up by four finely carved pillars with lion capitals. It is a precursor of the classical Hindu design developed later in Odisha and Khajuraho. The site museum has fragments of sculpture, jewellery, pottery, weapons and tools recovered during successive excavations. One of the key exhibits is the lion-capital that once crowned the Ashoka Pillar near the south Gate of the Great Stupa - Ashoka built such pillars to mark pilgrim trails and holy places. Other noteworthy exhibits are damaged

Salabhanjikas from the Great Stupa gateways and the Mathuran red sandstone Buddhas.

A visit to Sanchi can be combined with other Buddhist sites like Satdhara, Besnagar, Sonari and Andher. The Buddhist complex at Satdhara, situated on the banks of River Beas, houses 14 monasteries and 34 stupas from the Mauryan period. Sonari Stupas, 10 km from Sanchi, leave tourists mesmerised with eight majestic stupas. Vidisha, earlier known as Besnagar, was ruled by Ashoka during the third Century BC. Vidisha Museum is a window to the ancient world with artifacts from the Mauryan period to the Paramara period. Andher, 8 km from Sanchi, has three small well-preserved stupas. The Well-Known Buddhist Complex of Sanchi is one of India's most preserved Buddhist sites. The spread of the Mauryan empire led to the establishment of Buddhism, which was the first religious tradition in India that transcended its regional origins.

by Anil Mulchandani

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