

## Buddhist Pilgrimages

**A pilgrimage is a special type of journey.**

It is a journey, usually a long one for many people, to a special place that is important for religious reasons. These special places are considered sacred (connected with God or a god). They are different to places of worship (such as churches or temples) as they are considered to be important by everyone in the religion. Some, or all, people belonging to the religion would want to make the journey to that special place at some point in their lives.

Pilgrimages are very important in Buddhism. Altogether, the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites are known as the '**Eight Great Places**'.



A map showing the 'Eight Great Places'

## The Eight Great Places

1. Lumbini – place of Buddha's birth.



2. Kusinara – place where Buddha died.





**3. Bodh Gaya** - place where Buddha gained enlightenment.



**4. Sarnath** - place where Buddha delivered his first teaching.





5. **Sankassa** - place where Buddha came down to earth from heaven.



6. **Vaishali** - place where Buddha was given a bowl of honey by a band of monkeys.





**7. Shravasti** - Major city where Buddha spent a great deal of time. He performed the 2 miracles where flames came from his upper body and streams of water from his lower body.



**8. Rajgir** - place where Buddha subdued an angry elephant through friendliness.



## Task

Create a fact file about one Buddhist pilgrimage site. Try to do some of your own internet research to find out more facts about your chosen site.

Here's one useful link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist\\_pilgrimage\\_sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_pilgrimage_sites)

Here's an example of how you might lay out your fact file in your jotter:

**Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites**

Place:

Draw a picture of your chosen location:

Mark the location on the map.

Facts and information:

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