

# KALACHAKRA PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2017

Duration: 22 Days Tour (From 30<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2017 – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2017)



**Organized by**

Social Action Movement Charitable trust

## **BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM**

The idea of Pilgrimage Kalachakra tour 2017 was initially conceived from the class of 90's, the high school class mates from Central school for Tibetan Bylakuppe and idea came to shape when these class mates voluntarily expressed their initiatives by accepting to raise fund in their respective places.

The tour to Kalachakra Initiation is everyone's dream as specially initiation at Bodhgaya, the most sacred and holiest pilgrimage site. For Tibetan, attending Kalachakra is the biggest religious ceremony and in fact it is the largest gathering of Tibetan in exile. This initiation generally takes 12 days of ritual and dharma teaching. Like Hajj, its lifetime dream tour of every Tibetan, where every followers make sure to visit once in their lifetime to holy sacred place. According Kalachakra initiation, the most important part of the initial procedures is to take refuge by accepting bodhisattva and tantric vows. Without all three, we cannot actually receive empowerment, although we may witness it and derive great benefit. After initiation the people are allowed to see the completed sand mandala. The ceremony ends when the monks release the positive energy of the mandala into the everyday world through a final ritual.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM**

1. To give opportunity for old aged people to witness live ceremony of Kalachakra initiation at Bodh Gaya, the holiest and most sacred place of Buddhist.
2. To express our gratitude to old aged who fled from Tibet.
3. To provide opportunity to visit some of holy places for old aged people in order to make accessible for them through this pilgrimage tour 2016.
4. To make the dream come into reality.

## **WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM**

The beneficiaries of the program will be beneficiaries of DAAP program that stands for Distance Age-old Adoption Program initiated by Social Action Movement in the year 2012 and it's mainly financed by the member of class of 90's.

DAAP: 'Distance Aged-old Adoption Program' the program is for aged old people who is alone and single aged old who needs help, it's not just financial support but sponsor takes them as adopted parents who has nobody to call his or her child, where the sponsors keep personnel touch about their day to day life.

## THE MAIN PLACES OF PILGRIMAGES

### **Bodh Gaya**

Bodh Gaya is famously known as the place where the Buddha received his enlightenment. It is in the Gaya district in Bihar, India and is home to the Mahabodhi Temple, the Diamond Throne and the Bodhi Tree. The Bodhi tree was the tree under which the Buddha meditated and realized nirvana. Emperor Ashoka is said to have laid the foundations of the temple around 250 years after the enlightenment of the Buddha. The city was forgotten and buried under ruins until it was excavated in the 19th century AD by the British.

### **Nalanda**

Nalanda, a center of ancient learning is located 50 kms from Bodhgaya. It was from Nalanda that Buddhism spread to other South-East Asian and Far-east countries. Rajgir where Buddha had spent a major part of his life is famous for its rock cut temples, forts and Buddhist ruins.

### **The Prestshila Hills**

The Prestshila Hills, Gaya encloses a region in Bihar which has got the famous places like that located at around 3 kilometers from the center of the town of Gaya and which has got the Bodhi tree. This is the place where Lord Buddha was blessed with enlightenment. Gaya is noted for many holy shrines of which special mention should be made of the Vishnupad Temple. On the south of it you will find the Bodh Gaya.

### **Sarnath**

Sarnath is the place where the Buddha delivered his first sermon. The Sarnath village is around 15 kms from the Hindu holy city of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, India.

After attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya the Buddha went to Sarnath; and it was here that he preached his first discourse in the deer park to set in motion the 'Wheel of the Dharma'. It is one of the most holy sites as in this place the stream of the Buddha's teaching first flowed.

### **Rajgir**

Rajgir is associated with Lord Buddha and Buddhism. Buddha not only spent many years in Rajgir but also delivered sermons here and proselytized emperor Bimbisara at the Griddhakoota hill. It is said that it was at Rajgir that physician treated Buddha, Jivaka after he was injured by his cousin Devdatta. The teaching of Buddha was penned down at Rajgir and it was also the venue for the first Buddhist Council. The added attraction of Rajgir is the Ropeway which takes you uphill to the Shanti Stupa and Monasteries built by the Japanese Devotees on top of the Ratnagiri hills.



## NO. OF BENEFICIARIES AND TOUR TEAM MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM

No.	Name/Position	No. of Persons	Responsible/Beneficiaries
1	Old Aged	14	Beneficiaries
2	Chief Coordinator	1	Chief coordinator cum cashier.
3	Caretaking Coordinator (Nurse)	1	Arranging all accommodation during the tour and coordinating with caretakers.
4	Transportation and accommodation Coordinator	1	Arranging all transportation and ticketing during the tour
5	Care Takers cum housekeeping	2	Responsible of taking care of old aged and maintaining housekeeping works.
6	Cook	1	To prepare food during the whole trip.
<b>Total</b>		<b>20 persons</b>	

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE OF PILGRIMAGE 2016

No.	Date	Activity
1	Dec 30- Jan 2, 2017	Depart from Bylakuppe to Gaya via Bangalore and Balasore.
2	January 3, 2017	A day rest for seniors
3	January 4 to 5, 2017	Attend rituals performed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama along with the monks of Namgyal Monastery and senior lamas. These include chanting of prayers, creation of the sand mandala and other rituals.
4	January 6 to 8, 2017	Morning - Attend preliminary Kalachakra teachings in the mornings. Afternoon - Rest
5	January 9, 2017	Attend the Kalachakra Ritual Dance performed by the monks of Namgyal Monastery.
6	January 10 to 13, 2017	Attend the Kalachakra Initiation confer by His Holiness.
7	January 14, 2017	Attend a long life empowerment (Tse-wang) and a ceremony offering prayers for the Long Life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be performed in the morning.
8	January 14, 2017	Rest in the afternoon.
9	January 15, 2017	Blessing of sand mandala.
10	January 16, 2017	Visit to Rajgir and Nalanda
11	January 17, 2017	Rest and shopping in Gaya
11	January 18, 2017	Morning - Depart to Sarnath, Varanasi
12	January 19, 2017	Visit holy sites in Sarnath.
13	January 20, 2017	Return journey to Bangalore.

## ESTIMATE BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM

No.	Particulars	Class	Qty/per	Cost/amount	Total	
1	Bylakuppe to Bangalore	Mini bus	1	8000	8000	
2	Train from Bangalore to Itarsi JN – Senior citizens quota	3AC	14 seniors	1680	23520	
3	Train from Bangalore to Itarsi JN - General quota	3AC	6 persons	1705	10,230	
4	Train from Itarsi JN to Gaya JN – Senior citizens quota	3AC	14 seniors	1135	15,890	
5	Train from Itarsi JN to Gaya JN - General quota	3AC	6 persons	1790	10,740	
6	Rent for 10 days	Apt	1	3,50000	3,50000	
7	Food per person @ 150 per day		22 days x 20 Persons	150	66,000	
8	Vehicle from Gaya to Sarnath	Mini Van	2	8000	16,000	
9	Cook Fees	Tibetan	10 days	1200	12,000	
10	Salary for caretakers	Tibetan	2 persons	8000	16,000	
11	Local tour and visit pilgrimage nearby	Mini Van	2 days	5000	10,000	
12	Salary for coordinators		3 Persons	10000	30,000	
13	Train from Varanasi to Bangalore	2 AC	10 seniors	1910	26,740	
14	Train from Varanasi to Bangalore	2 AC	6 Adults	2175	13,050	
15	Bangalore to Bylakuppe	Mini bus	1	8000	8000	
16	First Aids and Medicine Expenses			5000	5000	
17	Apollo Travel Insurance for seniors: Gross Premium		14	3500	49,000	
18	Two nights stay in Varanasi		20 (10 rooms)	1200	12,000	
19	Miscellaneous				3000	
20.	Total Expenditure					685,170
<p>In words: <b>six hundred eighty-five thousand, one hundred seventy only</b> * Indian Rupee</p>						

### SUPPORT AND FACILITIES

- Travel insurance for seniors.
- Package tour with boarding and lodging.
- Integrate disabled people to society.
- Private vehicles transportation to/from Airport and railway station.
- Provide wheelchairs service with caretakers.
- Arrangement of accommodation to group needs.

- Assign wheelchair attendants.
- Food made food suitable for old aged prepared by specialized Tibetan cook.
- Wheel chairs for those who can't walk properly.
- Provide local Tonga and horse ride at terrain hillside.

## CONCLUSION

According to Buddhist literature, the pilgrim are those who are 'wanderer' and being free of worldly attachments by becoming a member of the Buddhist Sangha or order, such practice of pilgrimage contributes for flourishing of Buddhism.

Kalachakra Pilgrimage Tour 2017 may not achieve the real meaning of pilgrim but it will sure that attending Kalachakra initiation is dream come true for most Tibetan and particularly for old aged Tibetan who are accustomed to Buddhist tradition. As per Tibetan believes, visiting to sacred places will gain religious merits, sense of spiritual satisfaction and psychological wellness.

Without donor, we can't make this tour into reality, In Sanskrit, Dana that means giving (*dana*) is one of the essential preliminary steps of Buddhist practice which accumulates good karma. And those who are well-established on the path to emancipation continue to practice giving as it is conducive to wealth, beauty and pleasure in their remaining lifetimes.

