Sravasti
Lord Buddha's Monsoon retreat
Sravasti

The one time capital of ancient kingdom of Kosala, where Lord Buddha, after attaining enlightenment, made this his annual rainy season retreat. The town played host to Lord Buddha for 27 years. Believed to be founded by the mythological King Shravast (hence named after him), the site holds ruins of many ancient Stupas, Majestic Monastries and beautiful temples. This place also has an Anand Bodhi tree, an off spring of the original Bodha tree, planted by Buddha's main disciple Anand.
Sahet (Jetavana)

It is one of the most important sites of Sravasti, spread over 32 acres of land a little distance of Mahet. Ruins of Sahet, which are supposed to represent Jetavana, are spread within an irregular enclosure. Archaeological excavations conducted at regular intervals since 1863, have brought to light plinths and foundations of numerous Buddhist structures including Stupas, Monasteries and Temples among which Gandha- Kuti, Kosamba Kuti and recently exposed Stupa-cum-Tank complex in the north-western side are most significant. Most of the earliest structures, at the site date from 1st cent, A.D. i.e. Kushan period, many of them rebuilt or renovated in later times. Of the Temples, the largest, Temple-2, is believed to stand on the site of the original Gandha-Kuti erected by Anathapindika, though its lowest exposed part belongs only to the Gupta period. Located within an oblong exclusive-wall, 34.50m long and 26.70m wide, it consists of a Sanctum and Mandapa.

Devotees offering prayers
Another structure around Temple-3 (built on the spot of an earlier Temple), it is said to have been built on the site of the original Kosamba-Kuti. The Temple is now completely ruined, only the shells of the shrine and Mandapa having survived. In front of the Temple are two solid brick terraces, supposed to mark the site of Buddha's promenade.

Temple-1, situated within the courtyard of a large Monastery of about the tenth century A.D., has the same plan of the Sanctum and Mandapa. Temple-11 and 12 have the unusual plan of three rooms in a row with a narrow verandah in front and a Pradakshina Patha around the central chamber. Temple-12, with several projections, however, has a porch.
Mahet (The Sravasti City)

Located on the back of the river Archiravati (Rapti), the city of Sravasti had a high earthen rampart with a brick wall running along a circuit of 5.23 Km. and pierced by several gates distinguished by high bastions. Four main gates are known as Imli Darwaza, Rajgarh Darwaza, Naushahra Darwaza & Kand Bhari Darwaza situated respectively at the south-west, north-west, north-east and south-east corners of Kachchi kuti.
Pakki Kuti & Kachchi Kuti

Pakki-Kuti is one of the two largest mounds inside the city area. Kachchi Kuti, Situated a few meters south-east of Pakki Kuti, is the most imposing monument in the area.

About 1.52m below the top of Stupa-18 was a relic-chamber with an earthen bowl bearing a short dedicatory inscription in Kushan characters and containing fragments of bone, a large number of beads of gold and semi precious stones and large pearls. Stupa-5 appears to be originally a Stupa built on a terrace which was converted into a shrine and was finally made into a Stupa again. Similarly, Stupa-H was reconstructed several times. Stupa-8 had two periods of construction, Inside the later Stupa was found the lower portion of an image of Bodhisattva which had a Kushan inscription.
Orajhar, Penahiajhar & Kharahuwanjhar

Orajhar is situated on the left bank of Khajua, a tributary of Rapti, in District Balrampur. It may be identified with the celebrated 'Purvarama' or Eastern Monastery, built by Vishakha as seen by Fa-hien. Here, excavation has revealed a three-fold cultural sequence, starting from Kushan period (1st cent, AD) followed by Gupta and medieval periods.
World Peace Bell

The huge World Peace Bell is another attraction which was established with the help of the Japanese. The motive was to convey the message of humanity of Lord Buddha through the bell's Toll.
Meditation Centre
Daen Mahamongkol Chai

Set up as a centre of learning by Maha Upasika Sithipol Bongkol of Thailand, this Thai meditation centre is a unique experience for visitors to Sravasti. The entire area is converted into a natural forest surrounded by a fresh water reservoir, houses six large halls of approx. 3000 capacity each for meditation, several solitary meditation huts, large dinning halls and a state of art reverse osmosis purification plant. About 200 women from various countries committed to service of mankind promote non-formal education and other charitable activities from the centre. The eco-friendly dwelling management and lifestyle of the settlement inculcates the visitor with a sense of protection of biodiversity and compassion for all beings.
Other Places of interest:
Swarna Gandh Kutl, Anandbodhi Tree, Angulimal Cave, Thai-Shrilankan-
Myanmarese-Chinese-Korean Temples and Shobhnath Temple.

Tourist Information

Accommodation:
Hotel Lotus Nikko, Tel. 05252-265291-93, Rahi Tourist Bungalow (U.P.S.T.D.C.), Katra, Sravasti, Tel: 05252-265302,
E-mail : rahtbshravasti@up-tourism.com; Rahi Tourist Bungalow (U.P.S.T.D.C.), Balrampur, Tel: 05263-232456; Buddha
Resort (40 km.: Sravasti-Lucknow Road), Bahraich, Tel: 05252-231531

Other Accommodation:
Inspection Bangalow, PWD
Burmese Temple, Rest house.
Chinese Temple Rest House.
Jain Darmashala.

Nearest Tourist Information Centre:
Tourist Bungalow Campus, Balrampur, Tel: 05263-232456

Nearby Buddhist Places:
Lumbini (165 Km.-Nepal), Kapilvastu (198Km.)

How to Reach:
The convenient rail/air terminal is at Lucknow (176/186 Km.) Rail travel is possible upto Balrampur (17 Km.) from where
one can reach Sravasti by bus or taxi. Some important road distances are: Baharaich-48 Km., Lumbini-165 Km.,
Gorakhpur- 196 Km. Kapilvastu- 198 Km., Varanasi- 306 Km., Sarnath- 315 Km.
Buddhist Circuit
Uttar Pradesh
INDIA

Uttar Pradesh in the north of India, and its close environs, deserve to be called the “Cradle of Buddhism” more than any other region in the world. For, it was here that the Buddha was born, at Lumbini in Nepal, grew to manhood and underwent the Great Renunciation at Kapilvastu. Preached his first sermon at Sarnath, and finally passed into Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar. Come to Uttar Pradesh and discover the glorious legacy and walk along the foot-steps of Buddha.

Paryatan Bhawan C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA
Tel.: 91-522-2307037, 2307028, Fax: 91-522-2308937
E-mail: upstdc@up-tourism.com & yatrup@bsnl.in
www.up-tourism.com