

Travel with The Met

October 27–November 10, 2017

In the Footsteps of the Buddha
with John Guy, Florence and Herbert Irving Curator
of South and Southeast Asian Art



THE
MET

In the Footsteps of the Buddha

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Please join me in late October for a privileged exploration of India and her spiritual traditions, with a special emphasis on Buddhism. Tour impressive museums and archaeological wonders, witness age-old celebrations on the Ganges River, and see the sacred tree under which Prince Siddhartha achieved enlightenment. This unique itinerary will take us from Kolkata, the country's second-largest city; to Varanasi, Hinduism's holiest place of worship; to Aurangabad, home to cave sanctuaries carved by Buddhists, Hindus, and Jains.

In Kolkata, see the remains of Bharhut, an ancient Buddhist stupa now at the Indian Museum; and stroll in the Kumartuli area, to watch craftsmen sculpting clay deities and demons for Hindu festivals. In Bodhgaya, witness a morning ceremony at the Mahabodhi Temple, erected on the site where the Buddha attained nirvana more than two-and-a-half millennia ago; and in Varanasi, experience Dev Diwali, the famous Hindu festival of lights, celebrated on the Ganges. After stops at magnificent Buddhist stupas in Sarnath and Sanchi, we conclude in Aurangabad, to devote two days to its famous cave temple complexes of Ajanta, Pitalkhora, and Ellora.

As an art historian, I believe that it is essential to experience art in *situ*—to visit the places that nurtured the great artistic traditions of the world, even if what one sees today preserves mere traces of what made the site so significant a thousand years ago. My mantra is that I will not speak about a place that I have not personally visited. Because I specialize in Hindu and Buddhist art, this has necessitated extensive travel, including to many of the sites on this itinerary. I am delighted to be able to return to these holy places with you, so that you too can experience their resonant power.

Sincerely,
John Guy

*Florence and Herbert Irving Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



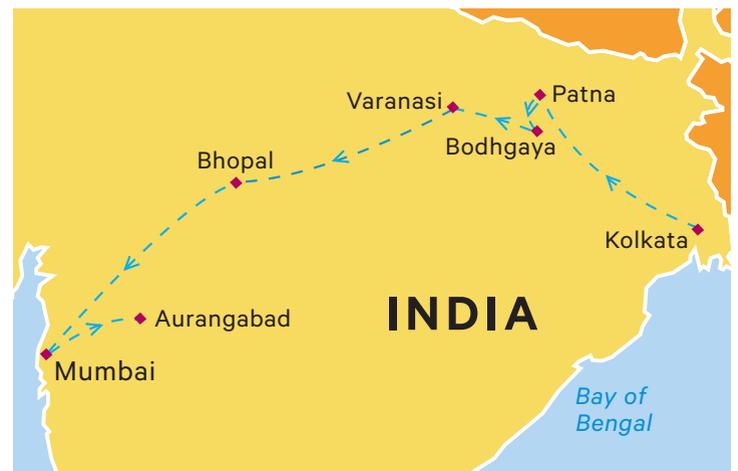
Traveling with you

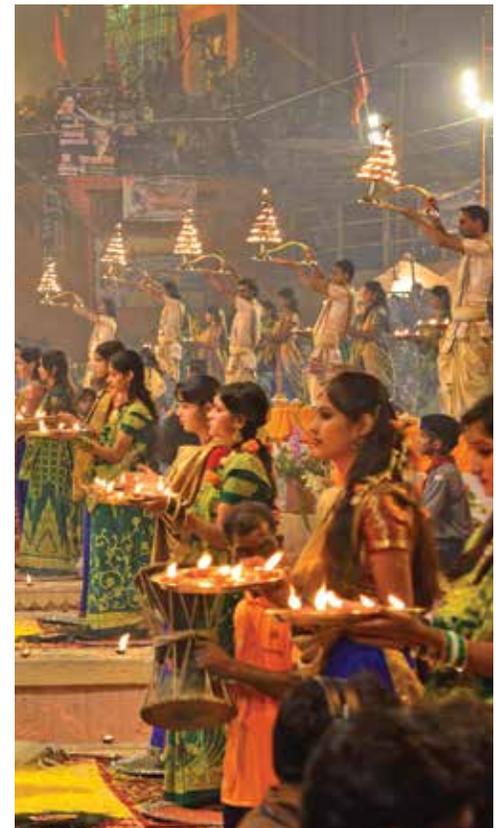
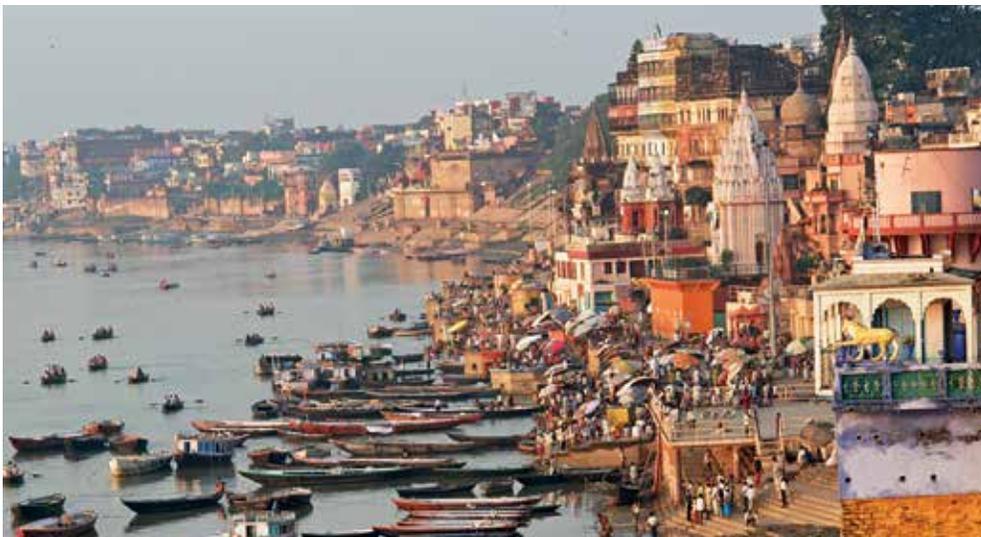
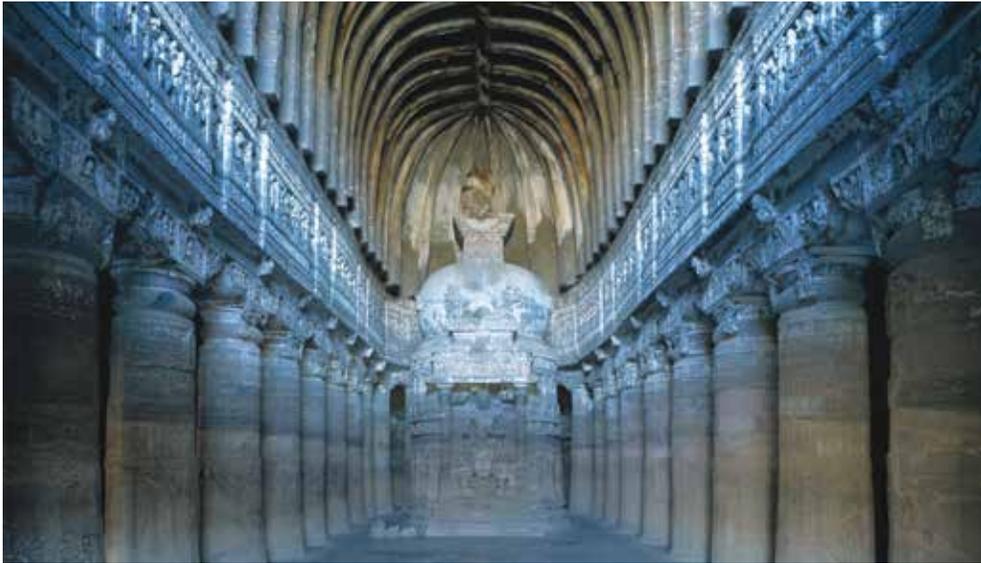
John Guy

John Guy is the Florence and Herbert Irving Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. For 22 years he was Senior Curator of Indian Art at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, and is an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. John has served as an advisor to UNESCO on historical sites in southern Asia and has worked on a number of archaeological excavations, including maritime sites. Most recently, he organized the groundbreaking international loan exhibition *Lost Kingdoms: Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia* (2014), and the special exhibition *Encountering Vishnu* (2016). His major books include *Indian Temple Sculpture* (V&A 2007), *Wonder of The Age: Master Painters of India 1100-1900* (Metropolitan Museum, 2011), and *Lost Kingdoms. Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia* (Metropolitan Museum, 2014).

Trip Highlights

- Immerse yourself in India's spiritual traditions and religious art with an expert in Hindu and Buddhist art and architecture
- Visit the key sites associated with the Buddha, including Bodhgaya, where he attained enlightenment; Sarnath, where he preached his first sermon; and the great monastic centers that spread his teachings after his death
- In Varanasi, witness the Dev Diwali Festival of Lights along the sacred Ganges
- Go inside magnificent rock-cut monasteries and sanctuaries, carved by Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains





Photos clockwise from top right: Kumartuli, Kolkata, photo by Sudip Roy; Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya; Dev Diwali festival, Varanasi; Varanasi on the Ganges; Victoria Memorial, Kolkata, photo by Atimit Kundu; Ajanta, Cave 26, Aurangabad. Front cover: *Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara Expounding the Dharma to a Devotee: Folio from a Ashtasahasrika Prajnaparamita Manuscript*, early 12th century. Mahavihara Master. Bengal, eastern India or Bangladesh. Opaque watercolor on palm leaf. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, Lila Acheson Wallace Gift, 2001 [2001.445f]. Back cover: *Preaching Buddha*, 8th century. India (Jammu & Kashmir, ancient kingdom of Kashmir) or Pakistan. Bronze with silver inlay. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Samuel Eilenberg Collection. Ex Coll.: Columbia University, Purchase, Lita Annenberg Hazen Charitable Trust Gift, 1987 [1987.218.3] (top). Nalanda University, photo by Wolfgan Fellenz (bottom).

In the Footsteps of the Buddha

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Bodhi tree, Bodhgaya, photo by profas vln

U.S. Departure

Friday, October 27

Depart on an overnight flight to Kolkata, India.

Kolkata, India

Saturday, October 28

Arrive in Kolkata late tonight and transfer to the Oberoi Grand Hotel.

Kolkata

Sunday, October 29

Begin the day with a visit to the Indian Museum, founded in 1814. We hope to be greeted by the director for a tour of the ruins of Bharhut, a Buddhist stupa from the 2nd century B.C. After lunch, view the architectural highlights of the Victoria Memorial and walk in the Kumartuli area, where potters handcraft idols for religious festivals. Gather for our welcome dinner tonight. B, L, D

Kolkata / Patna

Monday, October 30

Admire colonial architecture around the former Dalhousie Square, including the former East India Company headquarters, and see the grand tombs of 18th-century British rulers in Park Cemetery. Stop at the Mahabodhi Society, which helped to renew interest in Buddhism in India, then continue to the State Archaeological Museum whose vast collection ranges from Early Stone Age tools to later textiles and manuscripts. Following lunch, visit the Asiatic Society before our evening flight to Patna. B, L

Patna / Bodhgaya

Tuesday, October 31

This morning explore the Patna Museum and Oriental Library, with its important painting collection. En route to Nalanda, stop at Jajdeshpur to admire its famed sculpture of the Buddha. At Nalanda, discover the ruins of its monastic university, which thrived from the 7th to 12th centuries, and the Archaeological Museum. We will also meet faculty at the new Nalanda University. Continue to Bodhgaya for evening check in at The Royal Residency. B, L, D

Bodhgaya

Wednesday, November 1

Drive to the Barabar Caves, the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India. Dating from the reign of Ashoka, they feature decorative arches and inscriptions. Following lunch at a local restaurant, return to Bodhgaya to visit the Archaeological Museum. The balance of the day is at leisure. B, L

Bodhgaya / Varanasi

Thursday, November 2

Rise early to witness a ceremony at the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is one of the holiest places in Buddhism. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Spend the morning visiting the local monasteries, temples, and the sacred Bodhi tree under which Prince Siddhartha achieved enlightenment. After lunch, fly to Varanasi, India's spiritual capital, and check in at the Gateway Hotel Ganges. B, L

Varanasi

Friday, November 3

Enjoy a guided tour of Varanasi, one of the oldest cities in the world, where Hindu

pilgrims bathe in the Ganges River. We will also visit the famous Bharat Kala Bhavan Museum at Banaras Hindu University. Lunch is at leisure before a tour and reception at the nonprofit Jnana Pravaha, which supports research of Indian art and culture. In the evening experience Dev Diwali, the famous Hindu festival of lights celebrated along the river. We will witness a special *aarti* ceremony, during which *deepas* (oil lamps) are offered to God on the Ganges. B, D

Varanasi / Bhopal

Saturday, November 4

On a morning tour of the Archaeological Museum in Sarnath, see the sandstone sculpture collection, including the famous Ashoka Lion. We will also walk around the Dhamek Stupa in its forest setting. After lunch, drive to the airport for a flight to Bhopal via Delhi, with a light dinner served en route. Check in at the Jehan Numa Retreat. B, L, D

Bhopal

Sunday, November 5

Today visit the Bhopal Museum, with its spectacular early Yaksha sculptures. Drive to Sanchi for lunch before seeing the Archaeological Museum and the Sanchi Hill monastic complex, including the Great Stupa, whose lavishly sculpted gates with scenes of Buddha's life are among the earliest of Indian masterpieces. Return to the hotel for dinner. B, L, D

Bhopal / Mumbai

Monday, November 6

Explore the Udayagiri Caves this morning and enjoy a picnic lunch. Transfer to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Mumbai. Check in at the Taj Santacruz, where dinner is at leisure. B, L

More Travels with The Met

Waterways of the Tsars: Moscow to St. Petersburg Aboard *Volga Dream* June 8–17, 2017

The Majestic Rhine: Amsterdam to Basel Aboard *AmaKristina* June 9–17, 2017

Sailing the Baltic's Amber Coast Aboard *Sea Cloud II* July 19–30, 2017

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Mumbai / Aurangabad

Tuesday, November 7

Depart on an early morning flight to Aurangabad. Following breakfast, continue with a box lunch to the Ajanta Caves, famous for their magnificent tempera wall paintings. Carved out of a horseshoe-shaped cliff by Buddhist monks from about 200 B.C. to 650 A.D., the caves contain amazingly vivid and well-preserved artwork. Check in at the Vivanta by Taj Aurangabad; dinner is at the hotel. B, L, D

Aurangabad

Wednesday, November 8

Spend the day exploring the caves of Pitalkhora and Ellora. Created out of solid rock by Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain monks between the 7th and 12th centuries, the two sites feature wonders of ancient sculptural art with ornate carved pillars and figures. This evening gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel. B, L, D

Aurangabad / Mumbai / U.S. Return

Thursday, November 9–Friday, November 10

The morning is at leisure. For those who wish, an optional visit to the Buddhist Caves of Aurangabad will be offered. Following lunch, admire Bibi ka Maqbara, modeled after the Taj Mahal. Continue to the airport for the flight to Mumbai, and connect to return flights home. Dayrooms will be provided at the Taj Santacruz. Arrive back in the U.S. on Friday, November 10. B, L

Accommodations

Oberoi Grand, Kolkata

A landmark property in central Kolkata

Maurya Patna

A centrally located oasis in the city of Patna

The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

A comfortable retreat near Mahabodhi Temple

Gateway Hotel Ganges, Varanasi

An elegant hotel surrounded by lush gardens

Jehan Numa Retreat, Bhopal

A distinctive spa and resort on the outskirts of Bhopal

Taj Santacruz

A lavish property close to Mumbai's international airport

Vivanta by Taj Aurangabad

An impressive palace-style hotel set amidst gardens



Oberoi Grand (top), Taj Santacruz (above)

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Program Rate

\$9,995 per person, double occupancy
\$1,695 single supplement

Rate Includes

- Thirteen nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Internal economy class flights
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service charges, and portage

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport and visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other ems not specifically mentioned as included.

What to Expect

Participants must be in good health and able to keep pace with an active group. They must be able to walk on uneven terrain for long distances, to stand for up to two hours at a time, climb stairs at monuments (some without handrails) and other locations not handicapped accessible, and climb in and out of various conveyances. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. Participants are advised to bring "broken-in" walking shoes or boots, a sun hat, and comfortable walking attire.

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To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single (at a supplement of \$1,695)

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

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The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

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New York, NY 10028

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