



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program weaves together the diverse resources of Bodh Gaya into a fall semester of study emphasizing a comparative approach to both theory and practice. At the heart of the Buddhist Studies in India program is the desire to allow students to explore this subject from as many different points of view as possible. Western academic models are systematically used in the core courses, while Buddhist philosophies are tested in the Meditation Traditions course. Director Robert Pryor (pg. 3) leads a diverse and highly qualified faculty with a variety of intellectual and cultural viewpoints, creating a stimulating milieu in which genuine inquiry can occur. Participants are encouraged to examine their own cultural and intellectual assumptions as they pursue these studies in a challenging and supportive environment. During the final month of the program, students have the opportunity to travel to a Buddhist community of their choice in India in order to complete an Independent Study Project.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging and vegetarian meals will be provided at the guest house within the compound of the Burmese Vihar (monastery). Living within a Buddhist monastery, following a rigorous daily schedule and the five basic Buddhist ethical precepts, creates a nourishing environment for study and practice.

Study and meditate while living in a monastery near the site of Buddha Shakyamuni's Enlightenment

Bodh Gaya, India



5:30 AM	Meditation
6:30 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM	Language Classes
8:30 AM	Class Period
10:00 AM	Tea
10:30 AM	Class Period
12:00 PM	Language Practice
1:00 PM	Lunch
4:00 PM	Tea
5:00 PM	Meditation
6:30 PM	Dinner

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Buddhism in Bodh Gaya – center of the Buddhist world.
- Receive meditation instruction from masters in three Buddhist traditions: Vipassana, Zen, and Vajrayana.
- Engage in rigorous academic classes with highly qualified instructors.
- Live with fellow students in a Buddhist community.

"I have developed more intellectually/spiritually over the course of this semester than any other three month period of my life."

- Timothy Martin, *DePauw University*

LOCATION

It was here in Bodh Gaya, under the Bodhi tree, that the prince-ascetic Gotama became a fully enlightened Buddha. For two and a half millennia, Bodh Gaya has been a magnet for pilgrims who come to venerate this sacred site, each in a fashion unique to his or her own tradition. Within a two-mile radius, temples have been constructed in the styles of Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Japan, China, Bhutan, and Tibet. Residents at each of these follow the customs of their region, providing an ideal setting for the comparative study of Buddhist theory and practice. As well as being a pilgrimage center for Buddhists, Bodh Gaya is also home to a local population of Hindus and Muslims. In this unusually rich cultural environment ancient and contemporary Buddhism intermingle, and abstract philosophies take on a human dimension.

PREVIOUS INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECTS

- A Nunnery in Dharmasala
- Phenomenology of Vipassana Meditation
- Newari Temple Construction
- Dharma and Development
- Burmese Pilgrimage
- Body/Mind Paradigms in Vajrayana
- Tibetan Medicine
- Buddhist-Christian Dialogue

COURSES

Each course is 4 semester credits. Full course descriptions online.

No prior foreign language experienced needed.

CORE COURSES

APHIL 318 - Buddhist Philosophy

This course provides a thorough introduction to the principle concepts and theories of Theravada and Mahayana philosophy.

AANTH 330 - Contemporary Buddhist Culture

This course emphasizes an anthropological approach to the study of Buddhism.

AHIST 320 - History of South Asian Buddhism

In this course we examine the origins and historical developments of the Buddhist tradition, viewed as an integrated complex of changing religious beliefs, practices, and institutions.

ARELS 350 - Buddhist Meditation Traditions

Students will complement their understanding of Buddhist thought and culture through the study and practice of Vipassana, Zen, and Dzogchen. *(Required)*

Students may take a maximum of 4 courses.

LANGUAGE COURSES

ALLC 158F - Beginning Hindi Language

The goal of this course is to provide a solid foundation in basic colloquial Hindi speaking and writing skills for everyday interactions in Northern India. Essential grammar is introduced in morning meetings, and conversational and reading abilities are developed in afternoon practice.

ALLC 158Z - Beginning Tibetan Language

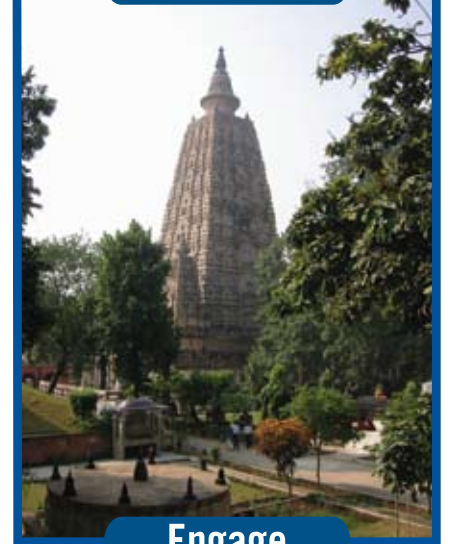
This course will introduce students to the elementary sentence patterns of modern spoken Tibetan and the writing system in which both the modern and the classical language is written.

ABUDD 396 - Independent Study: Selected Topics

After nine weeks of class in Bodh Gaya, students spend a month working on an independent study project. This is the student's opportunity to select a subject of special interest and pursue it in depth. *(Required)*



Experience



Engage



Explore

"It was an incredibly fulfilling, life changing experience."

-Lilly Brown, *University of Hawaii at Hilo*

Buddhist Studies

FALL

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