

Bihar

It's a new way of experiencing life

The name Bihar is derived from the Sanskrit word Vihara meaning "abode". Bihar or ancient Magadha, has been the cradle of Indian civilization. From Magadha arose India's first greatest empire, the Maurya Empire, one of the world's greatest pacifist religions, Buddhism and Jainism. It was in Bihar that the great ancient universities of India, Nalanda and Vikramshila were built.

PATNA

Capital city carries footprints from ancient days. Today's multicultural Patna city thrives on a vibrant continuum of the urbane and the rustic and the traditional and the avant-grade.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Golghar : Looks like a gigantic conch shell, its stands 29m tall.

Takht Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib : This glorious shrine is the birth place of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th guru that bears testimony to a great faith - Sikhism.

Buddha Smriti Park : It has been developed by the Bihar Govt. to commemorate the 2554th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha.

Patna Museum : Enthralling collection of relics, sculptures, souvenirs and a 16 mt. long fossilized tree.

Agam Kuan : The unfathomable well has references to The Great Samrat Ashoka.

Manersharif : 32 km. west from Patna, Manersharif is the most significant centre of sufis in the state. Tombs of many sufi saints, including that of Shah Daulat, are situated here.

Maner Sharif, Maner



Guru ka bagh



Gol Ghar, Patna



Patna Museum



VAISHALI

One of Buddha's favourite places, and the birthplace of Lord Vardhman Mahavira, last & 24th Tirthankar of Jainism. Here Lord Buddha gave his last preaching and announced his Mahaprayan.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Ashoka Pillar : Several Ashoka Pillars mark the Buddhist map of India. Six of them are found in Bihar. The Lion Pillar at Kolhua in Vaishali was built by Emperor Ashok.

Vaishali Museum : It houses archaeological remains discovered at various sites in and around Vaishali.

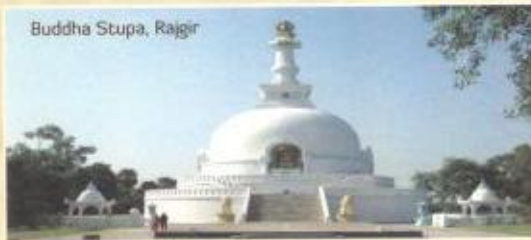
Coronation Tank : Also known as the Abhishek Pushkarni of the Lichchhavi Dynasty.

Buddha Stupa I : It is one of the 8th stupas where the sacred ashes of the Buddha were enshrined in a stone casket.

Buddha Stupa II : In 1958, a fresh excavation led to the discovery of another casket containing ashes of the Lord Buddha.

Bosokund – Kundgram : Bosokund–Kundgram is one of the sites considered as the possible birthplace of Lord Mahavira. There is a temple as well as a dharamshala for pilgrims at the site.

Buddha Stupa, Rajgir



Swarnabhandar



RAJGIR

The name means, 'Residence of the royal nobles'. It was once a great city and echoes of a rich history reverberate.

Rajgir is 10 km south to Nalanda and sacred to the memory of the founders of two great religions - Buddhism and Jainism.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Griddhakuta or Vulture's Peak & World Peace Pagoda : Lord Buddha set in motion his second wheel of Law from here.

Venuvana Vihar : This monastery was a residence for Lord Buddha and built by King Bimbisara as his first offering.

Ajatshatru's Fort : Dates back to 6th century B.C. it belongs to a famous king of Magadha dynasty.

Bimbisara's Prison : King Bimbisara the captive king chose this site for his incarceration.

The Cyclopean Wall : 40 km long, the wall was built of massive undressed stone.

Swarnabhandar : Two rather strangely shaped caves hollowed out of a single massive rock form the Swarnabhandar or the 'The Gold Store house'.

Jal Mandir, Pawapuri : Jal Mandir, Pawapuri is located 38 km from Rajgir in Nalanda district. Lord Mahavira, the last of the 24th Tirthankaras and one of the founders of Jainism, breathed his last here.

Ghora Katora Lake : The Lake is one of the most picturesque and popular picnic spots in Rajgir. The name of this lake suggests a horses manger. The site of this lake is believed to be the place where the stable of King of Magadh Empire (Jarasandha) once stood.

Gaya

This ancient city is a great place of pilgrimage for Hindus from across the world. They come here to worship their ancestors. Pitripaksha : It is a fortnight-long "festival of souls", a world event staged in Gaya every year. 48 Vedis or altars are spread over different areas of the town.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Vishnupada Temple : Considered to be one of the most sacred of all the Vaishnava temples in India.

Pretshila Hill, Ramshila Hill and Brahmayoni Hill, Dungeshwari

Ashoka Pillar, Kolhua



Jalmandir, Pawapuri



Vulture Peak, Rajgir



BODHGAYA

PLACES OF INTEREST

Maha Bodhi Temple : Maha Bodhi temple is 15 metres square and rises to a height of 52 metres.

Bodhi Tree : It was here that the Sakya prince (then known as Gautama) first saw "light" under the Bodhi tree and became the "Buddha", the enlightened one.



Ratnagarh : The Budhha spent one week here, where it is believed that five colors came out of his body.

Animesh Lochan Chaitya : It is believed that the Budhha spent one week here looking towards the great Bodhi tree out of gratitude, without twinkling his eyes.

Chankamana and Surya Kund, Sujata Garh.

NALANDA

Nalanda is considered a centre of learning from the 5th century.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Kundalpur : Kundalpur is one of the holy sites of Jainism as it is believed to be the place where three of Lord Mahavira's 11 disciples were born.

Nalanda University : The university at Nalanda was founded in the 5th century CE, and it is flourished for the next 700 years. It was a great centre of Buddhist learning in ancient times.

NAWADA

Nawada has been a place of historical eminence since long King Brihadratha founded the Magadh Empire in the region and the area was dominated by many dynasties like Brihadratha, Kanah and the Gupta that ruled over many states of middle and North India.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Kakolat Waterfalls

The fall is a major point of attraction for tourists and visitors. Lying about 33 km from Nawada, it is more than 150 ft high. The pond at the foot of the waterfall is well maintained.

BANKA

The district of Banka is situated in far south-east of the state of Bihar. The river Chanan is the largest river of the hill streams in the district.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Baba Jyeshthgour Nath : One of the Religious tourist place in Banka is Baba Jyeshthgour Nath Temple. This is a Bhagwan Shiv Temple.

Dakshineswar Kali : It is situated about 250 mtrs. distance and on the height of 200 mtrs. from Lord Shiva's Temple.

Mandar Parvat (Hill) (Banka) : Is a small hillock about 700 ft. tall and about 45 km. south of Bhagalpur city. The hillock is famous as Mandar Hill. On top of the hill there are two temples, side by side.



Vikramshila University, Bhagalpur

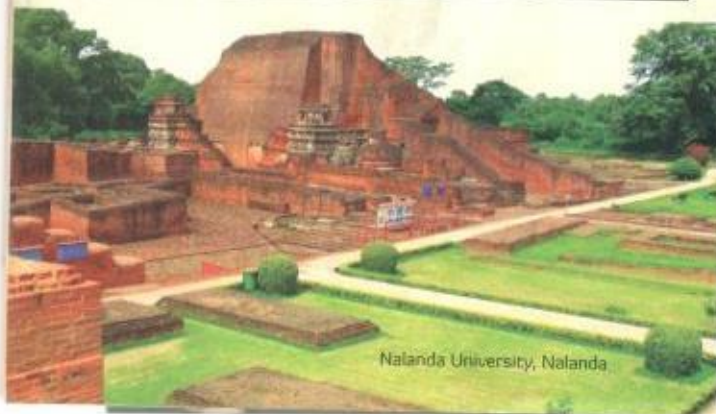
BHAGALPUR

Bhagalpur is one of the largest towns in Bihar and is considered the most prominent city, behind the state capital, Patna.

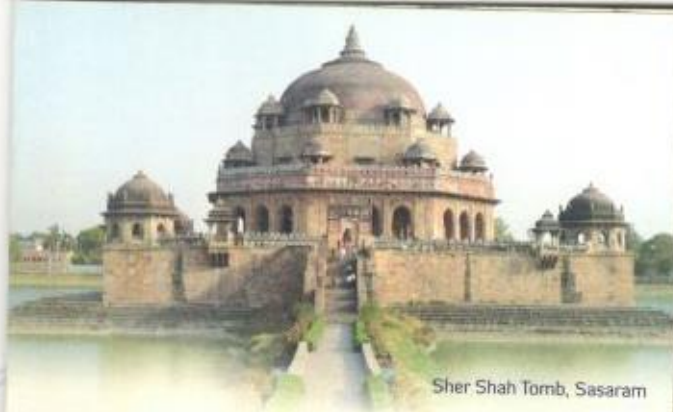
PLACES OF INTEREST

Vikramshila University : Vikramshila was one of the most important centres of Buddhist learning, along with the Universities of Nalanda and Odantpuri. Founded in the late 8th or early 9th century CE by the pala king Dharmapala.

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary : The Gangetic Dolphin, as it is commonly known, is one of the four freshwater species of Dolphins in the world. In an effort to conserve the species, the 50-km. stretch of the river from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon was designated as a Dolphin Sanctuary in 1991.



Nalanda University, Nalanda



Sher Shah Tomb, Sasaram

MUNGER

Munger Fort : The fort is built on a rocky hillock. The fort has two prominent high-points, called the Karnachaura or Karanchaura, and the other a built up rectangular mound probably the location of a citadel of the fort with historical links.

Bhimbandh : It is situated 150 km. from Patna. While during Mahabharata period, after being defeated by Kauravas in chaupad/chess the Pandavas had to live in unknown places and in disguise at several places in jungle. Bhimbandh is also famous for Wild Life Sanctuary. It is located in the south-west of Munger district.

Bihar school of Yoga : Founded in 1964 by Swami Satyanand Saraswati, the Bihar School of yoga is one the leading yoga schools in the country. The institution, located near the Eastern gate of the fort, has developed yogic techniques through a synthesis of traditional yogic, vedantic and tantric practices and contemporary health science.

Other places to see : The Tomb of Pir Shah Nufa, Palace of Shah Suja, Tomb of Mulla Muhammad Said, the Kashtaharini Ghat on the Ganges River, Chandisthana and 18th century British Cemetery.

ROHTAS

Rohtasgarh Fort

Rohtas Fort is one of the most ancient forts of India. This castle was built by the Solar Dynasty and named after his son Rohitasva.

Tomb of Sher Shah Suri (Sasaram)

Tomb of Sher Shah is an example of great art. The main tomb is built on an octagonal plan, topped by a dome, 22-metre in span and surrounded by ornamental domed kiosks which were once covered in coloured glazed tile work.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Hathiya Pol or Elephant Gate, the Aina (Mirror) Mahal, Jama Masjid, Habsi Khan's Mausoleum, Ganesh Temple, The Hanging House, Rohtasan temple and Devi Temple.

AURANGABAD

Aurangabad is located on the Grand Trunk Road in the western part of the Bihar.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Deo - Surya Mandir : One of the few existing ancient sun temples, Deo, faces west which is a unique feature for any sun temple as the usual tradition of sun temple is to face east, towards the rising sun.

Umga Temple : An ancient goddess temple built with locally available stone blocks situated on top of a hillock.

BETTIAH (West Champaran)

PLACES OF INTEREST

Rampurva : Two Ashoka Pillars were excavated from the area of River Harbora. Earlier known as Anoma, one of them has six edicts etched on it.

Lauria Nandangarh : Lying about 1 km east of Nandangarh and more than 2300 years old, the elephant pillar is perfectly polished and in wonderful condition.

Valmiki Nagar : Valmiki Nagar Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the West Champaran district of Bihar. Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) is one of the natural virgin recesses in Eastern India.

Valmiki Tiger Reserve



Munger Fort

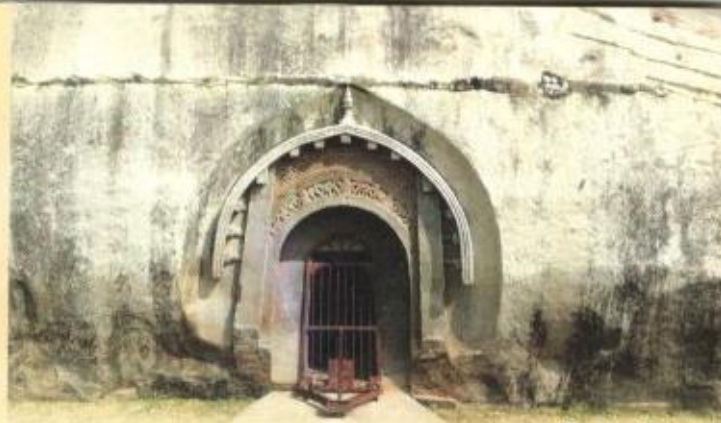


JEHANABAD

In the 17th century Aurangzeb established a relief centre for the famine affected people here and named it as 'Jahanora'. His sister, Jahanora supervised the construction of the merch herself and remained for a few years. Later, the place came to be known as Jehanabad.



Mandar Hill, Banka



Barabar Caves

PLACES OF INTEREST

Barabar Caves : Barabar caves were carved out in the 3rd century BC and are exquisite examples of the Mauryan times. The caves have been chiselled cut from solid rocks and bear details of the Buddha's life.

Other Caves : Sudama Cave, Lomesh Rishi Cave, Vishwamitra Cave (Visva-Zapari Cave), Nagarjuna Cave (Gopika, Vapi and Vedathika), etc.

Hazrat Bibi Kamal ka Maqbara : It is believed that she was a first lady Sufi saint in India.

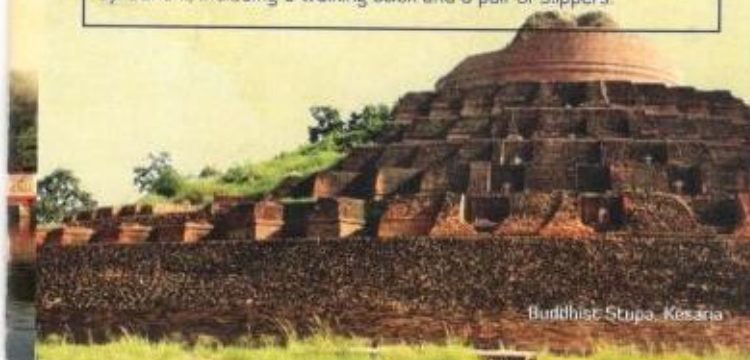
MOTIHARI (East Champaran)

Motihari was the first laboratory of Gandhian experiment in Satyagraha and probably it will not be very incorrect to say that it has been the spring board for Indian Independence.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Buddhist Stupa, Kesaria : Located in East Champaran district, 110 km from Patna, Kesaria holds the largest Buddhist Stupa in the world. Discovered in 1938, the stupa is believed to date back to somewhere between 200 AD and 750 AD.

Gandhi Sangrahalaya : The Gandhi Sangrahalaya is a museum built to commemorate the Champaran Satyagraha, which Gandhi spear headed in the region. It has some photos of and items used by Gandhi, including a walking stick and a pair of slippers.



Buddhist Stupa, Kesaria

JAMUI

The district of Jamui was carved out of Munger in 1991, with vast swath of land covered by dense forests and hills, the district is quite scenic.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Simultala : With vast fields, hillocks and forests, Simultala is a great place for trekking and exploring on foot. As a biodiversity-rich region, it is a treat for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts.

Jain Temple : Jain Temple, Lachuar built in 1874, the Jain temple and Dharamshala at Lachuar is reserved by Jains as it served as a gateway to chatriya kundgram.



Aurangabad Fort



Punaura Dham Mandir



Haleshwar Sthan

SITAMARHI

Sitamarhi is considered a sacred place due to its importance in Hindu mythology and a history that is purported to go all the way back to the Treta Yuga.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Janaki Sthan : Sitamarhi's signature monument is Janaki Sthan. Legend says that Raja Janak excavated a tank at the place where Sita had emerged, and after her marriage, set up the stone figures of Ram, Sita and Lakshman to mark the site.

Haleshwar Sthan : The temple of Lord Shiva, about 3 km from Sitamarhi, is another monument rooted in mythology. As the story goes, the king of Videha had founded the Haleshwarnath Temple of Lord Shiva on the occasion of Putra Yeshti Yajna.

Punaura Dham Mandir : Sitamarhi is believed to be the birth place of Maa Sita. The place was the "Karmabhoomi" for Maharishi Pundarik as well.

DARBHANGA

Lying in Mithilanchal area of north Bihar, its history goes back to a few millennia. The region is very rich culturally, ie. Folk-art, literature, music, etc.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Kali Mandir : The temple houses a beautiful statue of goddess Kali. It is thronged by devotees throughout the year.

Darbhanga Fort : During the era of Darbhanga Raj, different palaces, eg. Nargauna Palace (presently L N Mithila University), Lakshmi Vilas Palace (KSD Sanskrit University), Ram Bagh Palace, Bela Palace and many such buildings were architecturally marvellous.

Bela Palace



Dev Temple

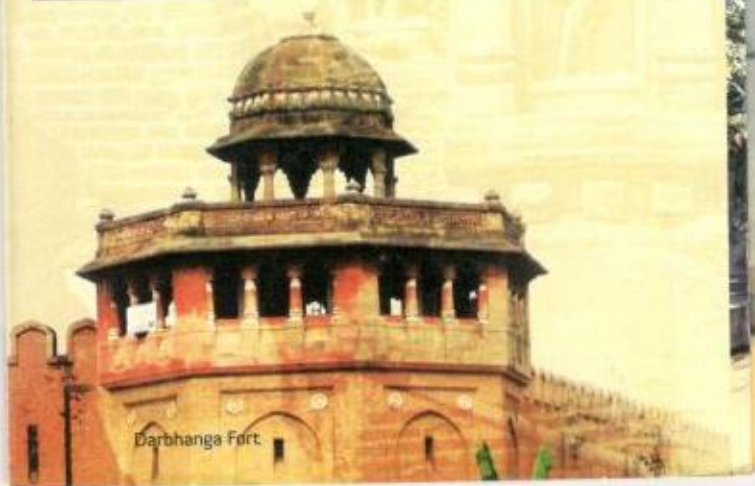


MADHUBANI

Madhubani became a district in 1972 when it was split from Darbhanga. Madhubani is famous for its painting. The "madhubani" style of painting derives its name from this region as the style originated there, in the early 17th century.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Rajnagar is famous for its Kali Mandir, Durga temple, Temple of Hanuman and a very large Shiv temple. The Shiv temple has a very big bell and Nandi in front of it. These were built by Maharaja of Darbhanga.



Darbhanga Fort