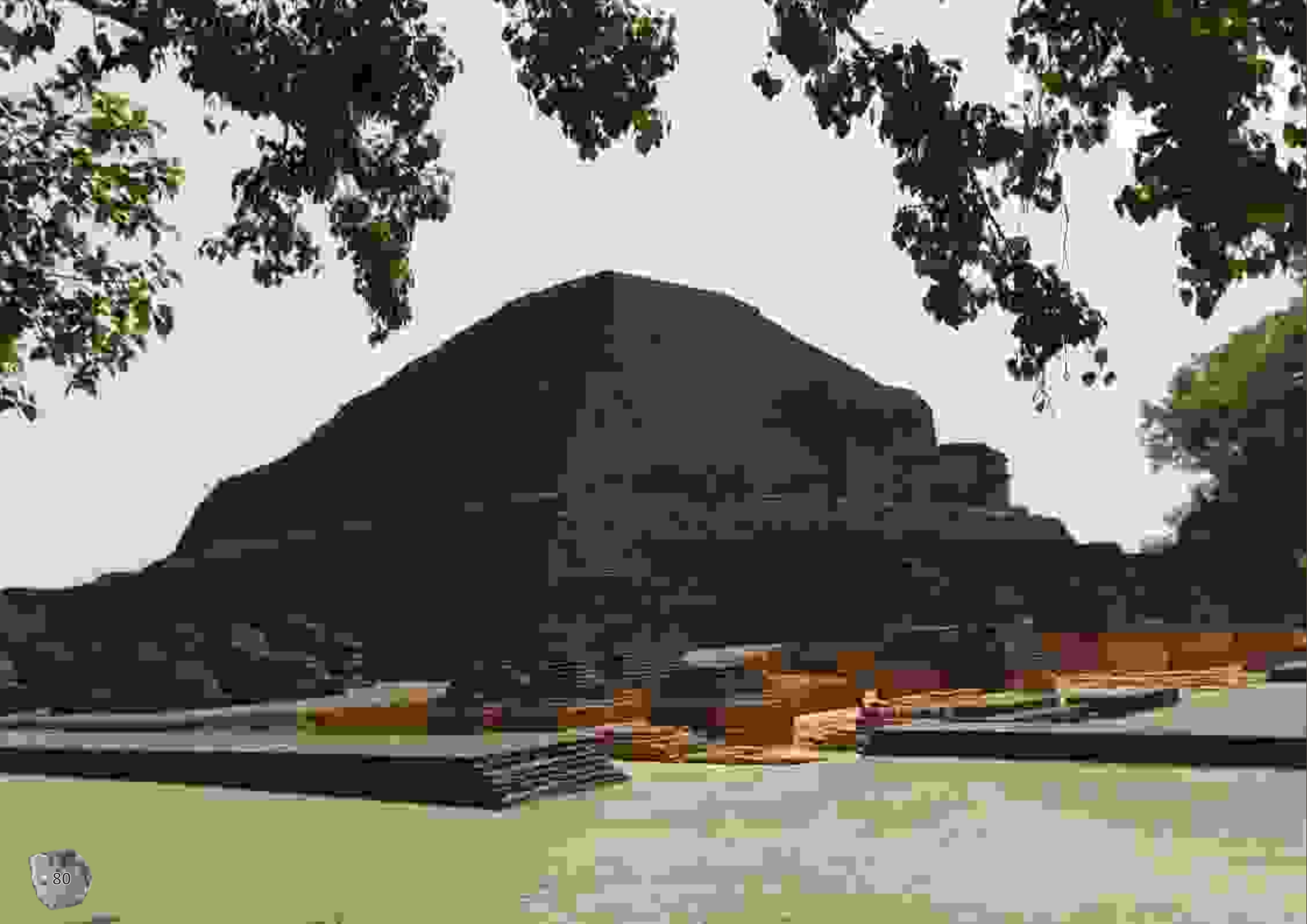




NEARBY ATTRACTIONS



Ruins of Nalanda University Complex

The Pilgrimage of Grand Knowledge

This was the great University of Nalanda which drew scholars from far off countries like Tibet, China, Persia and Greece from 5th century CE till 13th century CE. The vast ruinous structure spread across 14 acres of land stand today as the mute reminder of the magnitude of importance of learning at that era. The university was patronised by the Kings of Gupta and Pala period, irrespective of the religion of the royal dynasty. Although primarily a centre for Buddhist philosophy, other subjects like astronomy, logic, grammar and medicine were also taught here. The account of the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang, who lived and learned here, gives a picturesque description of this place as "An azure pool winds around the monasteries, adorned with the full-blown cups of the blue lotus; the dazzling red flowers of the lovely kanaka hang here and there, and outside groves of mango trees offer the inhabitants their dense and protective shade."

The Turk invader Bakhtiyar Khilji attacked the place in the year 1193 and not only the books and scripture but also innocent monks were charred to death





Nalanda Museum

Located at the compound of Nalanda ruins it houses the collection of artifacts found in this site as well as from other sites of the surrounding locations. The Bronze and other metal sculpture, pots and antiquities are displayed here.



Pawapuri Jal Mandir

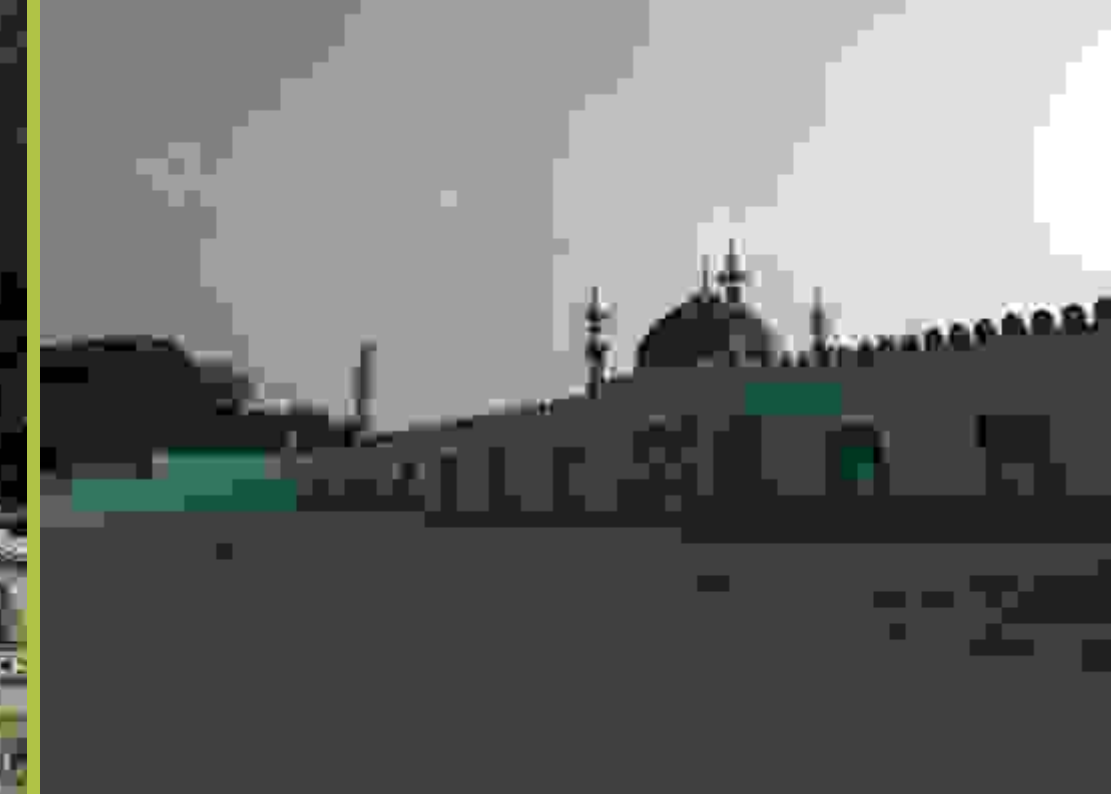
A great pilgrimage center for the Jain devotees as it is believed that Lord Mahavira, the last of the 24th Tirthankara had attained Nirvana at this place around 500 BCE. The place is revered as Apapuri which means 'No sin place'. Even a passing traveler will feel the extraordinary calming effect while visiting this quaint white temple glimmering in the middle of a large tank filled with blooming lotus flowers.

The saying goes as the Jain devotees kept collecting the soil from this holy place, a huge crater was created. That crater was finally converted into this wonderful lotus tank that stands for the name Jal Mandir meaning Temple in the water.



Samosaran Jain Temple

Lord Mahavira delivered the first and also the last of his sermons. In the middle of the white marble yard a wide flight of stairs carries one to the shrine mounted on the top of the conical mount.



Chhoti Dargah Bihar Sharif

The long walled lane leads to this revered Dargah where a splendid mosque had been built in recent time. The domed structure at the central place where the tomb of the saint and the family is buried has an intricate glass patterned interior. There is a large prayer hall beside the tomb. This mosque is known as the Choti Dargah of Baba Makhdum Shah who resided in Rajgir forests in pursuit of spirituality.



Tomb of Ibrahim Baya

An army general revered by people for his spirituality is quite an unusual phenomenon. Malik Ibrahim Baya was appointed the Governor of the district of Bihar by the ruling Sultan, Mohammad Tughlaq. The planned simplicity of this tomb of Malik Baya who is revered as a saint stands as a testimony of his philanthropy and spirituality. Built about 600 years ago this tomb of Ibrahim Baya is located atop the PirPahari hill. An unexcavated ancient ruin of a brick structure is scattered on this PirPahari Hill.

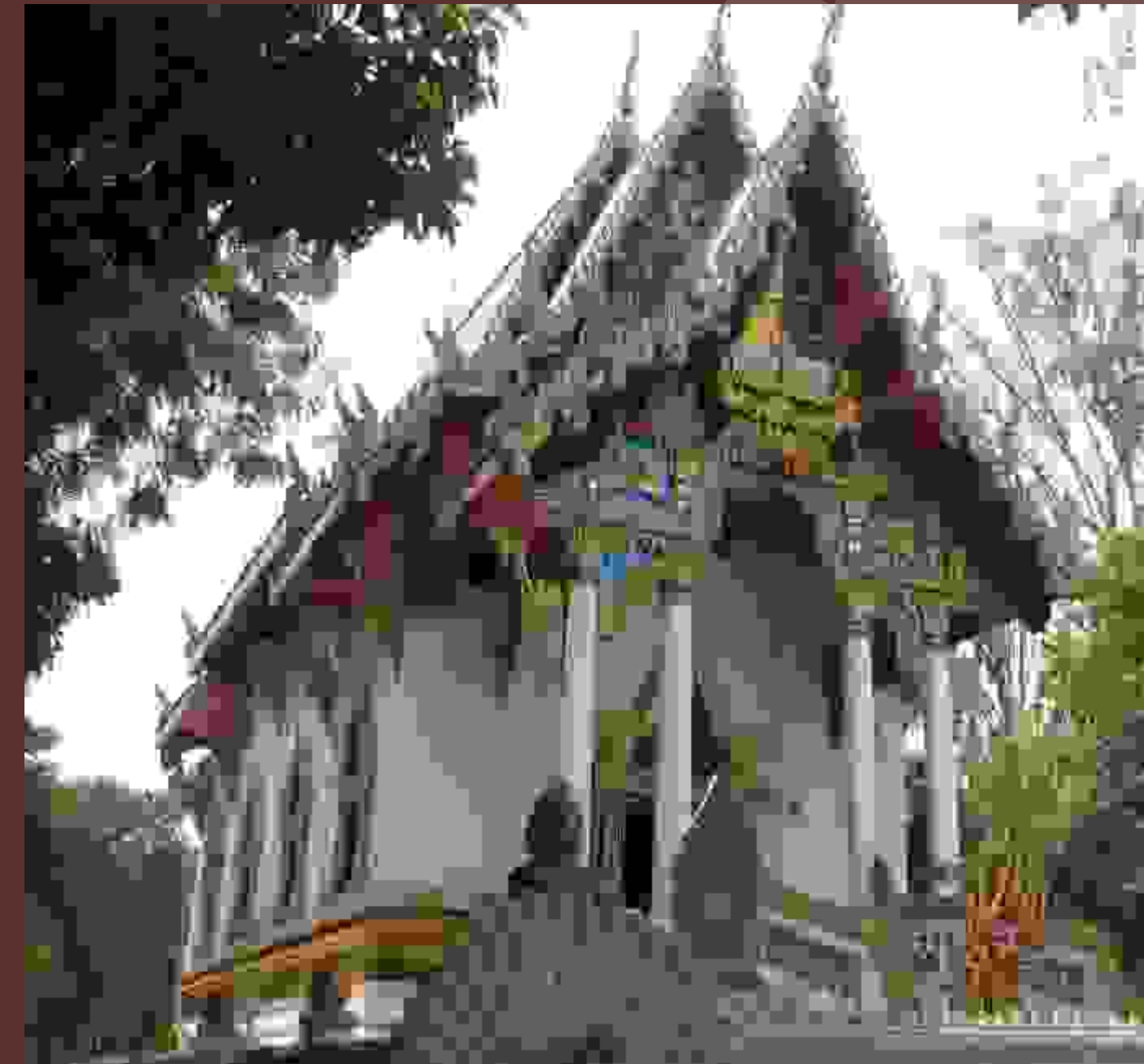
There is a well maintained concretized pathway to climb atop from where one can enjoy the view of the town and the span of green land beneath. One may also enjoy the animated green mosaic created by the flocks of wild parrots on the dome to spread the song of life.

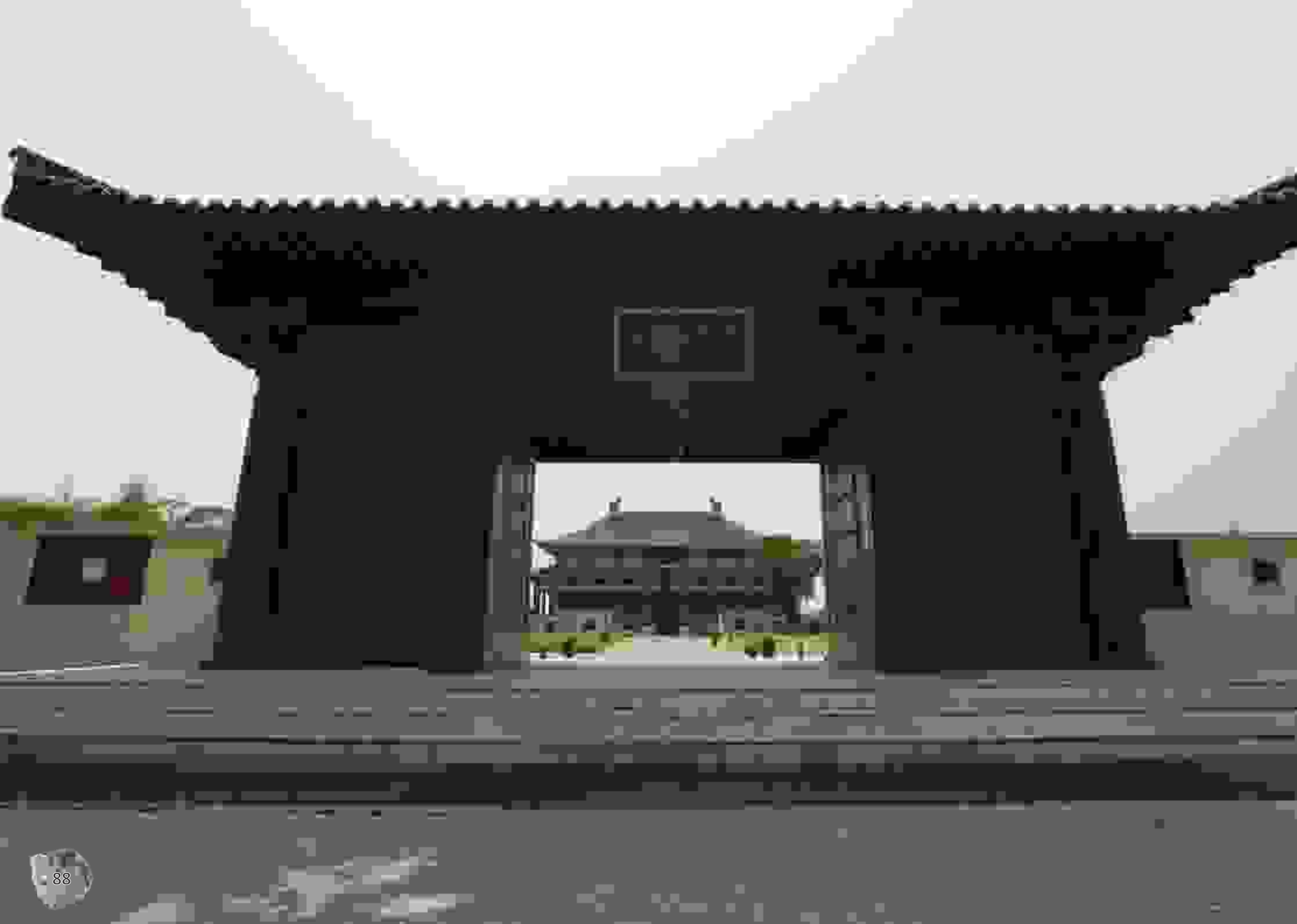
Wat Thai Temple

The Jewel of Nalanda

Wat Thai Temple at Nalanda is one of the most beautiful Monastery in Bihar with its great interior and outer architectural brilliance. This temple situated near by Ancient Nalanda University Ruins.

The main objective of this monastery is to be a home for monks who learn philosophy, monastic discipline and retreats. Alongside the monks, other visitors who is keen to learn Buddhism can also study and stay at this Thai Monastery.





Xuanzang Memorial Hall

The Incredible Traveller and Monk

This is the tribute to the great scholar whose detailed narratives has opened up a treasure of the period he came from China and lived in India for sixteen years during fifth century CE. His Holiness Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama of Tibet requested Govt. of India to build a memorial hall for Xuanzang in 1957. A stone piece with the carving impression of Buddha's feet that used to be worshipped by Xuanzang himself is kept on the pedestal.

The mural art work depicting the life journey of Xuanzang and the ceiling paintings are truly magnificent and makes the visit a worthwhile one.



Badgaon is a village in Nalanda District of Bihar state. It is 2 kilometers from Nalanda Railway station toward North-West direction. It is famous for its unique Chhath Puja celebrations. There is a big pond in the village where Chhath Puja is performed by the villagers and visitors from all over the State, mainly from North Bihar. There is a big ancient temple of God Surya (Sun temple). People pray God Surya mainly at the time of Chhath Puja. Chhath Puja is celebrated twice in the year in the months of Chaitya (March–April) and Karthik (October–November). After the completion of the great Chhath Puja people distribute prasad of Chhath Puja. Special pujas to God Surya is performed by the villagers every Sunday.

Badgaon Sun Temple

Kundalpur Jain Temple

The Digambar Sect of Jain devotees believes that here is the birth place of the great 24th Tirthankar, Mahavir. As the place is situated in the vicinity of the ancient capital city of Rajgir, it is assumed that once this place was one of the popular destinations of pilgrims as well as travelers. The present temple, however, is a very recently built. The images of the 72 Jinas are displayed for offerings in a separate building.

The Temple also has good accommodation facilities for the devotees.