



SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE

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SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL
COOPERATION (SAARC)

ANNEXURE 1

BUDDHIST CULTURAL TRAILS

There are many routes which are a part of Cultural Trails linking South Asia internally and externally. There are routes of the pilgrims who visited the important Buddhist sites associated with Sakyamuni Buddha, monks who went in search of Buddhist texts and information, construction of Buddhist temples due to the prosperity of trade routes, etc. Some of these routes are based on information provided by Dr. Roland Silva in his Keynote address at the SAARC International Conference on “*Archaeology of Buddhism Recent Discoveries in South Asia*” held from 22nd to 24th August 2012.

There are many Buddhist Cultural Trails within Member State yet to be identified and the well-known BCTs include the following:

1. The paths of the Buddha – Lumbini (Nepal), Bodh Gaya, Saranath and Kusinara (India).
2. Sites of Relics of Buddha – Ramagrama (Nepal), Rajagriha, Vaishali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Vethadipaka, Pava, Kusinara and Pipphalavana (India).
3. The way of Arahat Mahinda – Pataliputra, Sanchi (India), Mihintale and Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka).
4. The path of Theri Sanghamitta – Pataliputra, Bodh Gaya, Tamralipti (India), Dambakolapatuna, Tivakka Bamunu Grama, Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka).
5. The Fa Xian (Fa Hsien) Route – Chang’an, Dunhuang, Karashar, Khotan (Xinjiang Province, P.R. of China), Udyana, Peshawar (Pakistan), Nagarahara (Afghanistan), Punjab, Mathura, Sankissa, Sravasti, Kapilavastu, Vaisali, Magadh, Rajagriha, Bodh Gaya, Varanasi, Pataliputra, Tamralipti (India), Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka), Jiaozhou, Nanjing, Chang’an (China).
6. The Xuanzang (Hsuan Tsang) Route – Chang’an, Kuche (P.R. of China), Kapisa, Balkh, Bamiyan, Nagarahara (Afghanistan), Maniyakkala, Udyana, Taxila (Pakistan), Jalandhar, Kanyakubja, Ayodhya, Sravasti, Kapilavastu, Kusinara, Varanasi, Vaisali, Pataliputra, Bodh Gaya, Rajagriha, Nalanda (India), Samatata, Karnasuvarna (Bangladesh), Tamralipti, Kanchipuram, Konkan, Maharashtra, Malwa (India), frontiers of Persia and Nalanda. Journey back via Taxila, Udyana (Afghanistan), Kapisa (Afghanistan), Kashgar (P.R. of China), Bukhara (Uzbekistan), Luoyang and Chang’an (P.R. of China).
7. The Cave Caravan Routes of the Western Ghats – Kanheri, Karla, Bhaja, Nasik, Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad (India).
8. The pilgrimage route of King Nissankamalla to Sri Pada (Sacred Footprint) –

- Polonnaruwa, Giritale, Mahelanagara, Ulpona, Valigampola, Ambagamuwa, Kehelgamuwa, Sri Pada (Sri Lanka).
9. Sixteen sacred places of Sri Lanka – Mahiyanganaya, Nagadeepa, Kelaniya, Sri Pada, Diva Guhava, Dighavapi, Mutiyanghanaya, Tissamarama, Sri Maha Bodhiya, Mirisawetiya, Ruwanweliseya, Thuparamaya, Abhayagiriya, Jethavanaya, Sela Stupa, Kataragama (Sri Lanka).
 10. Footsteps of Guru Rimpoche - Tiger's Nest (Taktsang), Baylandra, Jambay Lhakhang, etc. (Other sites to be identified) (Bhutan).
 11. Buddhist Cultural Trails in Maldives – Havitta site on Foh Mulah Atoll (Fuah Mulaku) (also known as Gnaviyani Atoll), Haddunmati Atoll, Gamu Island, South Miladunmadulu Atoll, Landu Island, Miladu Island, Suvadiva (Huyadu) and Addu Atolls, Ari Atoll, Toddu (Thoddo) Island, Kolumadulu Atoll in Kibidu (Kinbidhoo or Thaa Atoll) Island (Timarafusi Island), Ariadu (Ariadhoo also known as Alifu Atoll) Island in Ari Atoll, Vadu Island, Nilandhoo (Faafu Atoll), Kaashidhoo Kuruhinna Tharaagandu in Kaashidhoo Island (Kaafu Atoll), Alifu Atoll, Dhaalu Atoll, Laamu Atoll, Gaafu Alifu and Gaafu Dhaalu Atolls. (Research should be carried out to identify the ancient cultural trails in Maldives, being an island nation would have been a part of maritime trade and cultural exchange. The BCT suggested here are for modern trail to be utilized in tourism and for research.)
 12. Buddhist Cultural Trails in Bangladesh – Mahastangarh, Paharpur, Bikrampur, Mainamati and Chittagong (This is for a modern trail).
 13. Traditional Centres of learning – Taxila (Pakistan), Nalanda, Kashmir, Tharpa Choling Monastery, Zang Dhok Palri Phodang, Bhutia Busty monastery, Ghum monastery, Ging Gompa, Mag-Dhog Yolmowa Monastery, Salugara Monastery, Gaden Tharpa Choling Monastery, Zang Dhok Palri Phodang Monastery (India), Abhayagiriya, Mahavihara (Sri Lanka).
 14. New Buddhist Cultural Trails for Tourism promotion and pilgrims – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
 15. Buddhist Manuscript Trails – Gilgit (Pakistan), Bamiyan, Hadda, Najjigram, Shahr-I Zuhak, Shiwaki, Nandara, Passani, Kotpur, Chakhil-I Ghundi, Tapa Shutur, (Afghanistan), Kuche, Khotan, Turfan, Dunhuang, etc. (P.R. of China),