

## Early Buddhism in South Asia

Mauryan Empire (c. 323–185 BCE)

King Ashoka (ruled c. 269–232 BCE)

Kushan Empire (2nd century BCE to 3rd century CE)

King Kanishka (ruled c. 78–101 CE)

Gupta Period (c. 321–500 CE)

Bharhut (c. 150 BCE)

Bhaja (c. 100 BCE)

Sanchi (c. 50 BCE)

Karle (c. 50 CE)

Amaravati (c. 150 CE)

Ajanta (work begun 462 CE, abandoned ca. 500 CE)

Bactria

Gandhara

Mathura

Sarnath

Prince Siddhartha (dies c. 400 BCE, the historical Buddha)

buddha ("awakened one")

dharma (doctrine)

sangha (monastic order, community)

chakra (wheel of the Dharma)

chakravartin (universal ruler; literal meaning is "wheel-turning king")

bodhi tree ("enlightenment" tree)

nirvana (to break the cycle of samsara; literal meaning is "blow out a flame")

jataka (narratives of past human and animal lives of the Buddha)

bodhisattva (enlightening being; literal meaning is "essence of enlightenment")

lakshana (the 32 distinguishing marks of the Buddha)

stupa (memorial to the Buddha, containing his ashes, or "relics")

vihara (monks' and nuns' living quarters)

chaitya (congregational prayer hall)

Padmapani ("lotus-bearer") [early celestial bodhisattva]

Vajrapani ("thunderbolt-bearer") [early celestial bodhisattva]

yaksha/yakshi (male/female nature spirits)

apsara (female celestial cloud spirit)

ghandarva (male celestial cloud spirit)

kinnara (half bird, half human; celestial musicians)

makara (sea elephant-crocodile)

naga (cobra-serpent)