



PRESS RELEASE

Maitreya Project Heart Shrine Relic Tour

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"The very name 'Maitreya' means loving-kindness – in today's world, we really need loving-kindness... This Project is really wonderful and is the result of great courage and determination, and from the depths of my heart I appreciate and applaud this wonderful project."

– His Holiness the Dalai Lama

RARE BUDDHIST RELICS on PUBLIC DISPLAY

There is **Free Entrance** to all Maitreya Project Heart Shrine Relic Tour events. For locations, dates, and venue details, please visit the **Relic Tour Calendar** on the website.

A precious collection of sacred relics of the Buddha and many other Buddhist masters is currently touring the world.

This is a rare opportunity to view these relics, which were found among the cremation ashes of Buddhist masters. They resemble beautiful pearl-like crystals. Buddhists believe the relics embody the master's spiritual qualities of compassion and wisdom and have been deliberately produced by the master so that all may share in their blessing.

Visitors often report experiences of inspiration and healing when in the presence of the relics. While some are inspired to pray for world peace and to develop their inner wisdom, others are overcome by emotion as the powerful effects of the relics open their hearts to compassion and loving-kindness.

The relics are clearly visible inside display cases that encircle a life-size, golden statue of the Maitreya Buddha. Throughout the events there are opportunities for visitors to participate in Blessing Ceremonies, during which the relics of the Buddha are gently placed on the crown of the visitor's head as a special blessing.

According to Buddhist scriptures Maitreya will be the next Buddha to teach the path of loving-kindness to the world. At the conclusion of the *Maitreya Project Heart Shrine Relic Tour*, the relics will be enshrined in a 500-ft/152-m bronze statue of Maitreya Buddha which is being built in Kushinagar, northern India.

Maitreya Project's activities include:

- building the 500ft/152m Maitreya Buddha statue – a magnificent monument to loving-kindness intended to awaken global awareness and inspire people everywhere to think and act with kindness, thereby bringing peace to individuals, communities and the world.
- providing, free of charge, spiritual, education and healthcare facilities in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, one of the poorest areas in northern India.
- providing immediate and long-term employment.

- helping to develop the area's infrastructure.
- serving as a focus and influence for sustainable, positive development in this emerging part of India. Maitreya Project's vision combines charitable education and medical facilities along with the enduring spiritual focus of the Maitreya Buddha statue, to directly and indirectly foster whole-community economic and civic development, both now and for generations to come.

For more information, a press pack and downloadable images, including images of the relics, please visit www.maitreyaproject.org

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