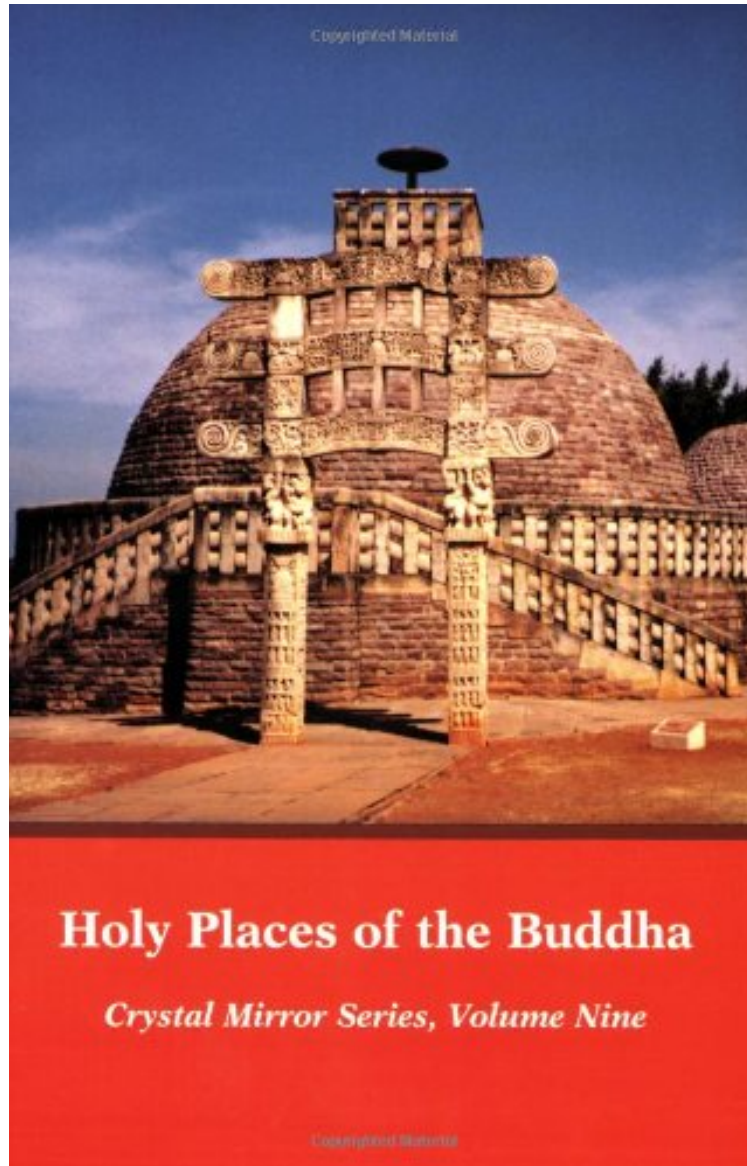


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## Holy Places of the Buddha Crystal Mirror 9 (Crystal Mirror Series)

*Elizabeth Cook*

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This book published in 1994 is somewhat outdated, but still contains very useful information for the Buddhist pilgrim planning a trip to India. [...]7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The most detailed guide available  
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This is probably the most detailed and thorough guide available to the sacred sites of Buddhism in South Asia, where it first developed. Today this land includes not only the various regions of India, but also Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and "Holy Places of the Buddha" includes all of them. Each site is given a full description, including its place in Buddhist history and its condition today, and much of the text is accompanied by helpful maps and photographs. It would take a very long review just to list the many sites that are covered. The real value of this book is in providing a background understanding of the Buddhist holy places, but separate guidebooks (such as the Lonely Planet guides) will be required for instructions on how to get to each place. For anyone interested in Buddhism or South Asian history, and especially for anyone interested in making a pilgrimage to any of the sacred and historic places of Buddhism, I can't recommend this book highly enough.

An illustrated guide to the eight holy places of the Buddha - Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagara, Shravasti, Samkashya, and Vaishali - and the six Dharma regions of the South Asian subcontinent.

From Library Journal  
Cook begins with a review of the shrines in eight Indian locations important in the life of the historical Buddha, including his birthplace and the place of his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. Citing relevant Mahayana texts, he explains why these places are important for Buddhism. Cook reviews each shrine's physical makeup, the types of pilgrimage and veneration associated with it through the centuries, the results of archaeological investigation, various modern pilgrimages to the shrine, and what may currently be seen there. He reviews six major Dharma (teaching) regions of India, then takes a geographical approach and surveys the various shrines and temples in various regions of India and also in Afghanistan. What makes the book especially useful is Cook's placement of the information about each shrine in the larger context of events in Buddhist history associated with that location. Recommended for informed lay readers.  
David Bourquin, California State Univ., San Bernardino  
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