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*SHIRAYAN VAJRAMUTTHI MARTIAL ART ACADEMY*

*ORIENTALISZTIKA*

*INDIA — KÉPTÁR/1*



Bodh Gaya / Bihar / India

Mahabodhi Mahavihara

Mahabodhi Temple





Mahabodhi Temple



Stupa in Mahabodhi Mahavihara



The Bodhi Tree



Mahabodhi Mahavihara — Stupas



Mahabodhi Mahavihara — Meditation Garden



Mahabodhi Mahavihara — Cloister Walk



Lotus Lake



Working Elephant in India

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE

IN THE 6TH CENTURY B.C. PRINCE SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA ATTAINED THE SUPREME ENLIGHTENMENT AT THIS HOLY PLACE AND BECAME THE BUDDHA. IN COMMEMORATION THEREOF EMPEROR ASHOKA SET UP THE VAJRASANA (DIAMOND THRONE) OF POLISHED SANDSTONE REPRESENTING THE SEAT OF ENLIGHTENMENT. IN THE 3RD CENTURY B.C. DURING THE SUNGA PERIOD (2ND CENTURY B.C.) A SANDSTONE RAILING WAS ERECTED AROUND IT. THE PRESENT MAHABODHI TEMPLE WAS CONSTRUCTED IN THE 6TH CENTURY A.D. THE TEMPLE UNDERWENT SEVERAL RESTORATIONS, RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS IN SUBSEQUENT PERIODS IN WHICH THE BURMESE GREATLY CONTRIBUTED IN 1883, A VERY THOROUGH AND SCIENTIFIC RENOVATION OF THE TEMPLE WAS DONE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGISTS SIR A. CUNNINGHAM AND J.D.M. BEGLAR AND THE INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGIST DR. RAJENDRA LAL MITRA. AGAIN, IN 1956, ON THE OCCASION OF 2500TH BUDDHA JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DID SOME REPAIR WORKS AND ENLARGED THE PREMISES OF THE MAHABODHI TEMPLE. THIS IS THE MOST SACRED PLACE OF BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE.