

Country	Renowned Places of Interest	Brief Description	Rating
CHINA	Temple of Heaven, Beijing.	Masterpiece of 15th century architecture.	B
	White Horse Temple, Luoyang	Known as No. 1 ancient temple (25-220)	A
	Yungang Grottoes, Datong	Famous Buddhist statute 14 meters high.	B
	North Temple, Suzhou.	Tallest pagoda in China, built in the 17th century.	B
EGYPT	Temple of Isis, Nile, Island of Philae.	Rising from the waters of the Nile.	B
GREECE	Temple of Apollo, Delphi.	Where for 14 centuries the Oracle spoke.	B
	Temple of Poseidon, Cape Sounion.	Spectacular view of ancient temple.	A
HONG KONG	Temple of 10,000 Buddhas, Sha Tin.	One big Buddha image surrounded by life-size Buddha images.	B
INDIA	Bhairon Nath Temple, Purana Qila, Delhi.	One of the most historic temples in Delhi.	B
	Jain Temple, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.	Impressive temple built in 1526 AD.	B
	Laxmi Narayan Temple, Delhi.	Orissa style temple, fountains, artificial caves.	B
	Tamil Nadu, Madurai.	Colourful sculptures of Hindu Temple.	A
INDONESIA	Borobudur Temple, Yogyakarta.	8th century Borobudur Buddhist Temple.	A
	The Prambanan, Jakarta.	9th century Hindu temple.	B
	Besakih Temple, Mount Agung, Bali.	Major Hindu Centre with 30 temples.	A
JAPAN	Todayji Temple, Nara.	Colourful Kasuga Shrine, Buddha, 3000 lanterns.	B
MALAYSIA	Temple of the Azure Cloud, Penang.	Home to poisonous wagler's pit vipers.	A
	Thean Hou Temples, Kuala Lumpur.	Modern local temple on hilltop within city.	B
	Tong & Sam Poh Tong Temple, Perak.	Built in 1926 by China priest, 40-Buddha statues inside hilltop caves.	B
MYANMAR	Thatbyinnyu Temple, Bagan.	Tallest religious monument in Bagan.	B
	Mahabodhi, Bagan.	Large in niches.	B
	Mahazedi Pagoda.	Reclining Buddha at Shwethalyaung.	B
	Shwedagon Pagoda.	World's largest Buddhists' temple.	A
NEPAL	Pashupatinath Hindu Temple, Bagmati River.	Sacred temple with solid silver doors.	B
SINGAPORE	Sri Mariamman Temple, Bridge Road.	Built 1827, oldest Hindu religious monument.	B
	Thian Hock Keng Temple, within city.	Built 1841 national monument, religious centre.	B
SOUTH KOREA	Chondungsa Temple, Kanghwado Island.	Major Buddhist temple, built 4th century.	B
TAIWAN	Lungshan Temple, Taipei.	City's oldest and most famous temple.	B

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TAIWAN	Buddhist Institute, Fokuangshan.	A Buddhist university located on mountain.	B
	Fo Guang Shan Monastery.	36.6m Buddha - statue with 480 smaller statues.	A
	Wen-Wu Temple, Sun Moon Lake.	Dedicated to Confucius & Marshal Huan-Ti.	A
THAILAND	Suan Mok, Chiaya, Surat Thani.	120-acre forest temple, ideal meditation place.	B
	Phra Pathon Chedi, Nakhon Pathom, Bangkok.	Built 6th century AD, largest religious structure, 127 meters tall.	A
	Wat Phra Kaeo, Bangkok.	Unique architectural grandeur.	A
	Phra Prang Wat Arun, Bangkok.	Temple of Dawn, a unique Thai landmark.	A
	VIETNAM	Thien Han Pagoda, China Town, Ho Chi Minh City.	Old Confucian Chinese temple.

### **EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON TEMPLES:**

*Temples are places of worship by Confucian, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. The worldwide statistics compiled by Professor Dr. Hans Kung, Konrad Foundation are as follows :-*

<u>Religion</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Principal Countries</u>
<i>Confucian</i>	<i>500BC to 200 AC</i>	<i>1.3 billions</i>	<i>China</i>
<i>Buddhism</i>	<i>500 BC to 400 AC</i>	<i>300 millions</i>	<i>Thailand, Cambodia, China, Japan</i>
<i>Hinduism</i>	<i>1000BC to 600BC</i>	<i>800 millions</i>	<i>India</i>
<i>Sikhism</i>	<i>1600 AC</i>	<i>23 millions</i>	<i>India</i>
<i>Judaism</i>	<i>1000BC to 100BC</i>	<i>14 millions</i>	<i>Israel</i>

*In view of space constraint, the author has combined both Buddhism and Hinduism temples as well as ancient temples under this section. Buddhists' temples generally refer to places of worship to Lord Buddha unless otherwise stated whereas Hindu temples subscribe to Hindu religion and worship of shrines and gods according to the belief of the community in India and elsewhere.*

*In ancient times, most places of worship are generally referred to as temples. Nowadays, temples specially imply either Buddhists or Hindu temples whereas the names of ancient temples still remained intact, even though these places have since been used as museums or tourists' spots and are no longer belong to places of worship.*

*Not all buddhists celebrate their New Year on the same days. Chinese buddhists celebrate based on the 1st day of Chinese calendar whereas Thai buddhists have it on "songkarn" or water festival. Indians of Hindu faith celebrate during Deepavali day.*

*The author has rated temples in accordance with their historical background, unique building structures and above all, the significant number of prominent temples within the Country Profile. Such rating is rather subjective as it is onerous to reach a consensus of opinions on temples.*













































































































