

Join us for a remarkable journey

# "ON THE TRAIL OF THE BUDDHA TREE"

by Edward Parker (with support from Lifeworlds Learning)

**Follow in the footsteps** of one of the most extraordinary women in history - the 25 year old daughter of King Ashoka.

2,300 years ago, the 25 year-old Sangamitta set out on an incredible journey across India carrying a cutting from the very tree under which Buddha had gained enlightenment. The tree was a gift for the King of Sri Lanka to mark the arrival of Buddhism on the island. Remarkably, the tree - the Bo Tree - is still alive today and is the oldest known broadleaf tree in the world. It is a tree of great importance attracting thousands of pilgrims to gather under its spreading branches every year.



Imagine what it must have been like for Sangamitta to leave the comforts of the golden palace and head into the unknown, following the sacred Ganges river to the dense, wild forests of the delta, full of tigers, leopards and bandits, before heading south along India's entire eastern coast. Imagine the responsibility of taking a gift touched by Buddha which is today, one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the world.

In 2014 the award winning photographer and writer, Edward Parker, will retrace Sangamitta's route to highlight the environmental, cultural and economic importance of trees in India, Sri Lanka and the wider world. Interviews, stories and stunning images will bring the Trail of the Buddha Tree alive, through new educational resources, photographic documentaries and real-time posts from the trail.

## More than a journey...

This is much more than just a journey, and with support from *Lifeworlds Learning*, the **educational aspects** of the trail will be explored and shared for teachers, learners and organisations supporting schools:

- Connect the Trail of the Buddha Tree to **core curriculum areas** and **key issues** including global learning, sustainability, and SMSC;
- Make it a **topic focus** and follow the journey in your own classroom or school;
- Pre-book a **school visit** to bring the journey into your own setting with stunning images and personal stories from the Trail.

**Find out more** about the learning opportunities and educational support that will accompany this journey by visiting the **learning pages** at [www.lifeworldslearning.co.uk/buddhatree.html](http://www.lifeworldslearning.co.uk/buddhatree.html)





## How to get involved:

In order to bring this remarkable journey to life we are inviting schools, community groups, environmental, development and cultural organisations, and individuals to **plant a pledge**.

A pledge of just **£150** will allow your school, community group or organisation to ...

- ... have priority access to regular trail updates to watch the journey unfold;
- ... pre-book an illustrated trail talk or workshop in your own setting; \*
- ... receive a complimentary copy of the finished educational resources;
- ... be named as a supporter on accompanying materials.

\* additional costs involved.

An individual pledge of at least **£25** will enable you to ...

- ... have priority access to regular trail updates to watch the journey unfold;
- ... receive a complimentary copy of the finished resources;
- ... be named as a supporter on accompanying materials.

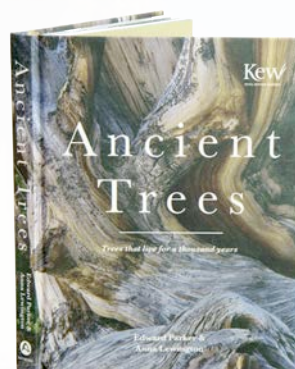
## Help us take the next step

We hope that a shared interest and curiosity in this incredible story, as well as a common concern for trees, people and planet, will enable us together to set out "On the Trail of the Buddha Tree." You can help us take the next step in bringing this remarkable journey to a new generation by planting a pledge of just £150 (for schools, community groups, and organisations) or £25 (for individuals).

Pledges can be made directly to a dedicated project account by bank transfer, by cheque, or you can request an invoice. Further information on pledging and how the money will be used as well as details of the journey and its current supporters can be found on the **project website** at:

[www.buddhatree.lifeworldslearning.co.uk](http://www.buddhatree.lifeworldslearning.co.uk)

**Edward Parker** has written and photographed more than 30 books for secondary schools on development and environmental issues. He is also the co-author (with Anna Lewington) and photographer of the internationally renowned book "*Ancient Trees – Trees that Live for a Thousand Years*" (in association with Kew Gardens) which celebrates the wealth of ancient trees around the world from Korea to Lebanon and the Amazon to Germany. He is particularly well-known for his photographic documentaries of trees and forests and his sensitive portrayal of people who interface with wild environments. He regularly gives talks to schools and garden clubs and has lectured at organisations such as the Royal Horticultural Society, Kew Gardens and the Hay on Wye Literary Festival.



**Lifeworlds Learning** is a community interest company (CIC) that works directly with schools, authorities and organisations and uses its profits to support learning communities in England. Lifeworlds' projects, resources, workshops and courses inspire critical learning and strategic creativity for learners of all ages with a particular emphasis on development, social and environmental issues, both locally and globally. They have worked with many leading organisations including Oxfam, British Red Cross, Think Global, Practical Action, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), National Literacy Trust, Schools Linking Network and the Fairtrade Foundation.