

8 Types of Tibetan Stupas



(1) STUPA OF HEAPED LOTUSES

Commemorates the Buddha's birth at Lumbini, where he took seven steps in each of the four directions, from which lotuses sprang.



(2) STUPA OF ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE CONQUEST OF MARA

Commemorates the Buddha's defeat of Mara, and his Enlightenment under the bodhi tree at Bodhgaya.



(3) STUPA OF MANY DOORS OR GATES

Commemorates the Buddha's first turning of the Wheel of Dharma in the Deer Park at Sarnath near Varanasi.



(4) STUPA OF MIRACLES

Commemorates the Buddha's miraculous defeat of the non-Buddhists (*tirthika*) in the Jetvana Grove at Shravasti.



(5) STUPA OF DESCENT FROM THE GOD REALM

Commemorates the summer retreat that the Buddha spent teaching the reincarnation of his mother in the heavenly realm of Tushita, and his descent from this realm at the city of Sankasya.



(6) STUPA OF RECONCILIATION

Commemorates the Buddha's reconciliation of the disputing factions within the Sangha at Veluvana bamboo grove at Rajagriha.



(7) STUPA OF COMPLETE VICTORY

Commemorates the Buddha's prolonging of his life by three months at the city of Vaisali, when he was 80 years of age.



(8) STUPA OF PARINIRVANA

Commemorates the Buddha's passing away beyond sorrow between two sal trees at the city of Kushinigara.

Stupa text and images are from Robert Beer's Images of Enlightenment and The Handbook of Tibetan Buddhist Symbols.