



INSPIRATION

WALK FOR WORLD PEACE



INNER PEACE IS THE KEY FOR WORLD PEACE



Welcome to an enthralling story about a monk whose deep devotion to the teachings of Buddhism drives him to embark on a transformative journey. He believes that stepping out into the world and committing to self-discipline is the path to liberation from suffering. More than that, he sees himself as a messenger of these profound teachings, dedicated to sharing them with the world. How thrilling this story unfolds will depend on our exploration together. Let's dive in and discover the excitement that awaits!

WFWP Admin





จรล กุขเว จาริก พุทธนิตาย พุทธนุสขาย โลกานุกมฺพายาติ.

ภิกขุทั้งหลาย เธอจงจาริไป เพื่อประโยชน์สุขแก่ชนจำนวนมาก
เพื่อเกื้อการุณย์แก่ชาวโลกนั้นเถิด ดังนี้.

ตามพุทธภาษิตนี้ พระผู้มีพระภาคเจ้า ทรงส่งพระสาวกออกไปประกาศพระศาสนาแทนพระองค์ “ผู้นำสงฆ์แห่งธรรม” หรือ “ผู้ถือสงฆ์สงฆ์ชาวธรรม”, “ทูตของธรรม” หรือ “ผู้นำธรรมไปสื่อสาร”, “ผู้สื่อสารแห่งธรรม”, พระภิกษุผู้ได้รับมอบหมาย หรือแต่งตั้งให้เดินทางไปเผยแผ่ประกาศธรรมในต่างถิ่นต่างแดน; ในช่วงต้นพุทธกาล เมื่อพระพุทธเจ้าทรงประกาศธรรม ผู้มีศรัทธาและรู้แจ้งธรรมเพิ่มขึ้น ๆ อย่างรวดเร็ว ในไม่ช้าพระอรหันตสาวกก็มีจำนวนถึง ๖๐ รูป ครั้งนั้น ประมาณ ๕ เดือนหลังตรัสรู้ พระพุทธเจ้าได้ทรงส่งพระสาวก ๖๐ รูปแรกออกไปประกาศพระศาสนา นับเป็นก้าวแรกในการส่งพระสาวก ประกาศพระศาสนา

ขออนุโมทนากับคณะเดินจาริกธรรม เพื่อส่งเสริมสันติภาพโลก โดยมีพระสุธรรม จิตตมโม ประธานโครงการผู้มีความเพียร วิริยะ อุตสาหะด้วยขันติธรรมเป็นที่สุด ในการเดินประกาศธรรม เพื่อเผยแผ่พระพุทธศาสนาไปให้ชนหมู่มาก ได้รู้จัก “พระสงฆ์” จากประเทศไทย

บัดนี้ การเดินจาริกธรรมเผยแผ่ “สันติสุข” ได้สำเร็จเสร็จตามวัตถุประสงค์แล้ว จึงขออนุโมทนาบุญกับทุกท่าน ขอให้ทุกท่านจงเจริญอกงามในพระพุทธศาสนา และเจริญในธรรมวินัยของพระสัมมาสัมพุทธเจ้า ตลอดกาลนานเทอญ

สมเด็จพระพุทธพจนวชิรมณี

กรรมการมหาเถรสมาคม
เจ้าอาวาสวัดเคลือวัลย์ วรวิหาร





จรด กุขเว จาริกํ พุทฺชนหิตาย พุทฺชนสุขาย โลกานุกมฺปายาติ.

Monks, Go Forth for the Benefit and Welfare of Many,
and to Foster Compassion for the World



According to this Buddhist saying, the Buddha sent his disciples to proclaim his teachings on his behalf. They were referred to as "messengers of the Dharma," "bearers of the Dharma's message," "envoys of the Dharma," or "communicators of the Dharma." These monks, assigned or appointed to travel and spread the teachings in foreign lands, played a crucial role in the early days of Buddhism. As the Buddha's teachings rapidly gained followers, the number of Arahants quickly reached sixty. About five months after his enlightenment, the Buddha sent these first sixty Arahant disciples to propagate his teachings, marking the initial step in sending disciples to spread the Dharma.

I express my gratitude to the group undertaking this pilgrimage to promote world peace, led by Venerable Phra Sutham Titadhammo, the project chairman, whose diligent effort and perseverance in propagating the Dharma have introduced the teachings of Buddhism to many and familiarized them with monks from Thailand.

Now that the pilgrimage for spreading peace has successfully achieved its objectives, I extend my congratulations to everyone involved. May you all continue to flourish in the teachings of Buddhism and advance in the Dharma and Vinaya of the Blessed One for all time.

Somdet Phra Buddha Potjanawachiramunee

Member of the Supreme Patriarch Council

The Abbot of Kluaywan Warawihan Temple

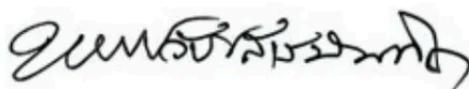
สนุติเมว โส สิกุเขย

ฟังศีกษาสันติเกิด

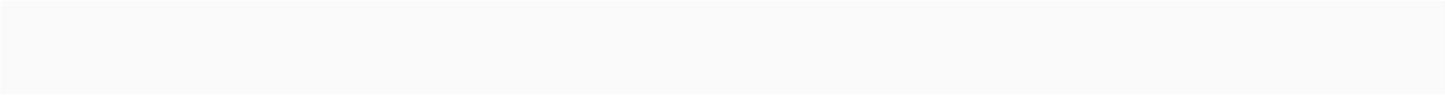
ขอแสดงความนับถือ ท่านอาจารย์พระสุธรรม ฐิตธมฺโม ประธานสงฆ์วัดอุษาพุทธนิเวศน์ นิวยอร์ก ประธานโครงการเดินเพื่อสันติภาพโลก ผู้มีความวิริยะอุตสาหะบำเพ็ญขันติบารมี ในการประพาศธรรมจาริก คือ การท่องเที่ยวไปเพื่อประกาศธรรม เผยแผ่ พระศาสดาพระสัมมาสัมพุทธเจ้าให้แผ่ไพศาลไปสู่มหาชน ซึ่งท่านอาจารย์ได้ บำเพ็ญบารมีได้ตามพุทธดำรัสที่ประทานแก่พระสาวกว่า “จรธ ภิกขเว จาริกัม พุชฺชนหิตาย พุชฺชนสุขาย โลกานุกมฺปาย” แปลว่า ภิกษุทั้งหลาย พวกเธอจงจาริกไป เพื่อประโยชน์และความสุขของชนจำนวนมาก เพื่อเกื้อการุณย์แก่ชาวโลก

การเดินธรรมจาริกในครั้งนี้ ย่อมเป็นไปเพื่อประโยชน์ ยังศรัทธาปสาทะให้เกิดมีขึ้นแก่ พุทธศาสนิกชนทั่วโลก และผู้ที่ได้พบเห็น สมดังความปรารถนาของท่านอาจารย์สุธรรมที่ได้ตั้งใจว่าเป็นการเดินทางเพื่อสันติภาพ ก่อให้เกิดความสงบ ความสุขแก่บุคคลผู้อยู่ร่วมกัน และเป็นทิฏฐานุคติแก่อนุชนได้เรียนรู้ ซึ่งการเดินทางเพื่อสันติภาพนี้ สอดคล้องกับพุทธดำรัสที่พระพุทธองค์ได้ตรัสไว้ว่า “สนุติเมว โส สิกุเขย” แปลว่า ฟังศีกษาสันติเกิด กระผมขออนุโมทนาในกุศลกรรมต่อการเดินธรรมจาริกเผยแผ่พระพุทธานุศาสนตามเจตนาของท่าน อาจารย์พระสุธรรม ฐิตธมฺโม ในครั้งนี้

ขออำนาจคุณพระศรีรัตนตรัย กุศลจริยาสัมมาปฏิบัติที่ท่านได้บำเพ็ญให้เป็นไป จงมาเป็น ตบะ เป็นเดชะ เป็นพลวปัจจย เสริมส่งให้ท่านทั้งหลาย มีสุขภาพพลานามัยสมบูรณ์แข็งแรง ปราศจากอุปัทวันตรายทั้งปวง เจริญในร่มธรรมขององค์สมเด็จพระสัมมาสัมพุทธเจ้า ทำหน้าที่พระภิกษุที่รักษาพระพุทธานุศาสน สมเจตนาปรารถนทุกประการ และจงถึงความสวัสดิในที่ทุกสถานในกาลทุกเมื่อ เทอญ



พระราชวัชรสารบัณฑิต, รศ.ดร.
รองอธิการบดีฝ่ายวางแผนและพัฒนา



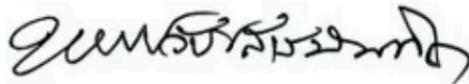
Santi Meva So Sikkheyya

May One Study Peace

Respectfully presented to Venerable Phra Sutham Titadhammo, the Abbot of USA Buddhayaram Temple in New York and Chairman of the World Peace Walk Project, who has diligently practiced patience and the perfections of the path in his mission to spread the teachings of the Buddha. Through his efforts in traveling to proclaim and disseminate the teachings of the Enlightened One to the masses, he has fulfilled the Buddha's directive to monks: "Go forth, O monks, for the benefit and happiness of many, out of compassion for the world."

The purpose of this religious pilgrimage is to benefit and inspire faith among Buddhists worldwide. It aligns with Venerable Phra Sutham Titadhammo's intention of walking for peace, bringing tranquility and happiness to those who coexist together. It also serves as a guide for future generations to learn from. This Peace Walk is consistent with the Buddha's teaching that "One should study peace" (Santi meva so sikkheyya). I express my heartfelt appreciation for the virtuous deed of this pilgrimage, which aims to spread the teachings of Buddhism according to the intention of Venerable Phra Sutham Titadhammo.

May the power of the Triple Gem, and the merit and right conduct that you have diligently practiced, become a source of strength and support for you. May it enhance your health, ensuring you are free from all dangers and obstacles. May you prosper under the teachings of the Blessed One, fulfill your role as monks who uphold the Buddha's teachings according to your intentions, and may you always find well-being in all places and.



Phra Ratchawacharasarabidhit, Associate Professor, Ph.D.
Vice President for Planning and Development

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Who is our primary audience, and what are the distances involved in each stage of the journey? ✨

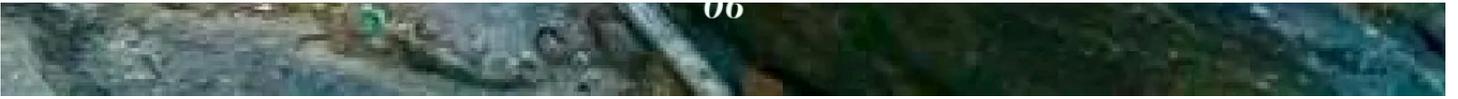
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Inner Peace





Inspiration

The inspiration for Phra Sutham's journey for world peace stems from the Buddha's teaching, which advises monks to wander for the benefit and happiness of many, to show compassion to the world. Additionally, his inspiration was fueled by his previous pilgrimages to places where the Buddha himself traveled across the Indian subcontinent.



Inspiration

Moreover, reading about the journey of Xuanzang, who, according to legend, was found floating on the water as a baby and was rescued by a monk.

Raised with deep devotion to the Dharma from a young age, he eventually ordained as a monk and gained renown for his moral conduct, meditation, and wisdom. Tang Seng attracted the patronage of Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty, a devout Buddhist who considered him a spiritual younger brother and bestowed upon him the name "Tang Seng."

He was then assigned the monumental task of traveling to the distant Indian subcontinent to retrieve the sacred Buddhist scriptures.



his story led Phra Sutham to vow to follow in the footsteps of the Buddha and revered teachers, spreading Dharma and delivering peace to people of all nations and religions around the world.





Objective

01

Dissemination of
Buddhist Teachings

02

Fostering Internal
Peace as a Foundation
for Global Harmony



03

Personal
Perseverance Practice



Objective

The primary objectives of the journey for walk for world peace include:

1. Dissemination of Buddhist Teachings

The primary goal was to introduce and expand the understanding of Buddhist principles among a diverse audience, emphasizing how these teachings can contribute to personal and societal peace. By making Buddhist philosophy accessible, the initiative aimed to inspire individuals to integrate these principles into their lives and communities.

2. Fostering Internal Peace as a Foundation for Global Harmony

To establish global peace, it is imperative to start with the cultivation of inner peace within individuals. By nurturing qualities like love, compassion, and generosity internally, individuals create a positive energy that extends outward. This energy can influence and inspire those around us, gradually expanding to affect larger communities and nations. When inner tranquility is achieved, it paves the way for broader societal and global peace, underscoring the importance of personal inner peace as the bedrock of universal harmony.

3. Personal Perseverance Practice

The goal was to inspire individuals to develop resilience and perseverance, recognizing these qualities as essential for personal growth and achieving long-term peace and success.

The overarching aim is to set an exemplary standard for others, illustrating that peace begins with individual effort and can be expanded outward. By demonstrating this principle, the project aspires to inspire individuals to cultivate peace within themselves, thereby contributing to a more harmonious community and ultimately advancing global peace.



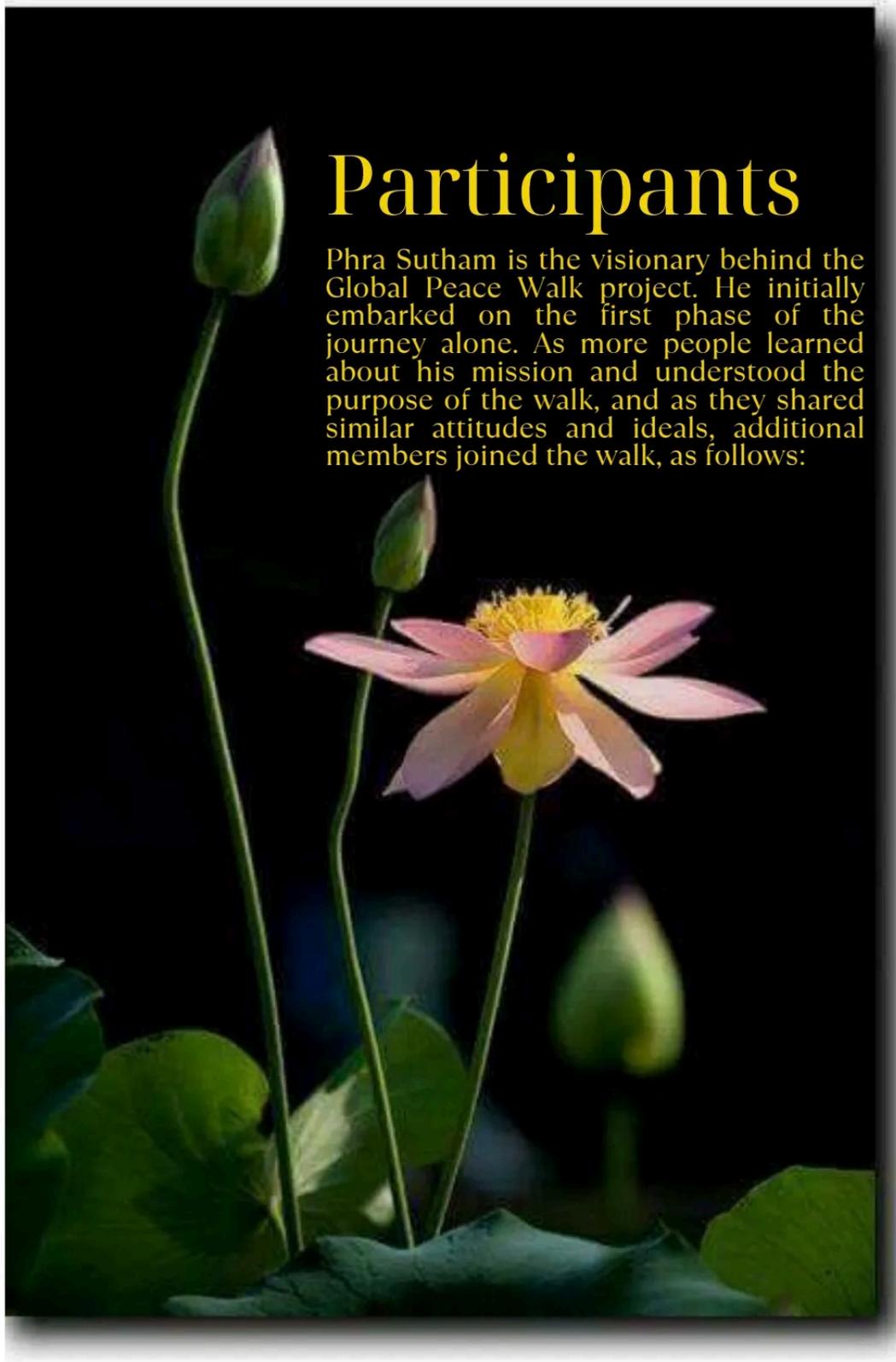
Targets

Our target audience includes students of all ages and the general public who are keen on fostering peace and promoting peaceful coexistence.

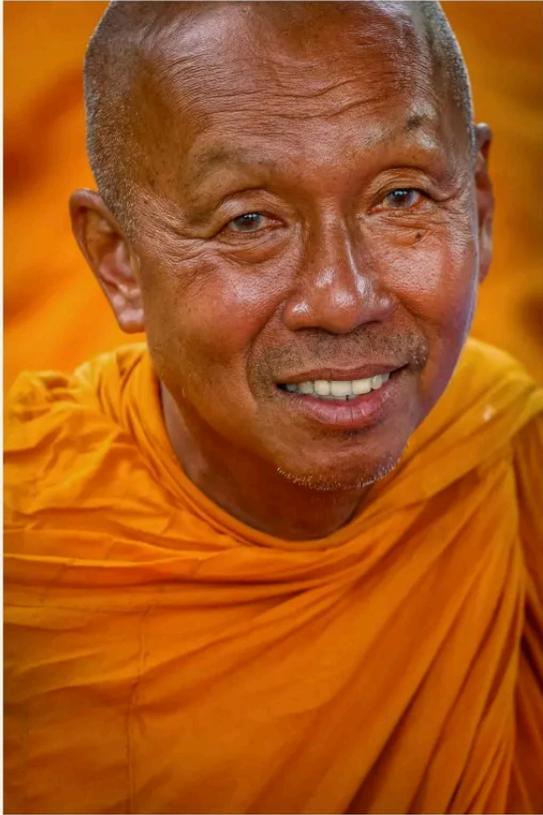


"These individuals are those who aspire to achieve peaceful coexistence, acknowledging the detrimental effects of war and violence. They understand the advantages of a harmonious society where mutual support and cooperation prevail, believing that such a society contributes to making the world a more livable and harmonious place."





Phra Sutham Titadhammo (Nateetong)



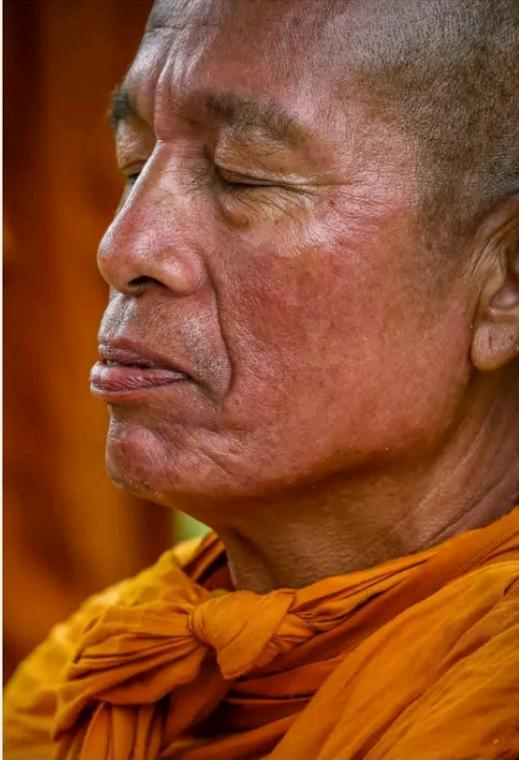
Sutham Nateetong, born on May 11, 1960, in Chumphon Province, Thailand, is the son of Siamtai and Jud. He began his academic journey at Thammasat University, earning a bachelor's degree in law, and furthered his studies with a master's degree in public administration from Chulalongkorn University. This educational background laid the foundation for a distinguished career characterized by a strong commitment to both legal and administrative excellence.

He has had a career across various sectors in Thailand. He started as a lawyer and legal advisor, then served on the Bangkok Metropolitan Council and as an advisor to the Governor of Bangkok on urban development. He also advised the Minister of Transport on transportation policies, worked as a research scholar for the opposition leader in the House of Representatives, and served as Secretary to the Minister of Education. Additionally, he was the spokesperson for the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. Through these roles, he has shown a strong commitment to public service and policy development.

In October 2014, Sutham began a transformative spiritual journey by ordaining as a monk at Wat Thannam Lai in Surat Thani Province, adopting the name "**Titadhammo**," meaning 'one who adheres firmly to the principles of Dhamma.' This marked a shift from his distinguished career in law and administration to a dedicated monastic life. He spent two years at Wat Buddha Damma Meditation Center in Chicago, followed by a year at Wat Mahathat Kingsbury in the UK, and then four more years back at Wat Buddha Damma. He later spent five years at Wat Pa Buddha Gaya in India, where he connected with notable monks involved in the Walk for World Peace.



Phramaha Damrong Narisaro (Angkha)



Damrong Angkha, born on November 3, 1962, in Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand, was the sixth of eight children. His parents, Mr. Wan Angkha and Mrs. Bua Angkha, provided a nurturing environment that supported his early educational and spiritual growth. He completed his secondary education up to Grade 9 at Nakhon Watthana School, which was pivotal in shaping his future pursuits and deepening his cultural and spiritual connection.

Damrong Angkha's career spans diverse industries. He started as a welder and garment technician, then moved into construction as a construction assistant and foreman, contributing to major dam projects. He later broadened his expertise as an assistant engineer with Siam City Corporation, enhancing his technical and managerial skills. His varied career reflects adaptability, continuous learning, and impactful contributions across multiple fields. In May 2012, at age 50, Damrong Angkha ordained as a monk at Wat Kiriwan in Nakhon Nayok Province, guided by Phra Khru Udomkitjanukul. He received the name "Narisaro," symbolizing liberation from attachment. Dedicated to spiritual growth, he achieved the "Nak Tham" level and earned a Pali degree equivalent to three levels of Pali studies. He spent five years at Wat Hub Mae and a year at Wat Paknam Bodhgaya in India. He currently resides at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, where he continues his monastic duties and promotes Buddhist principles.



Phra Withee Dhammakuno (Sangdawruang)



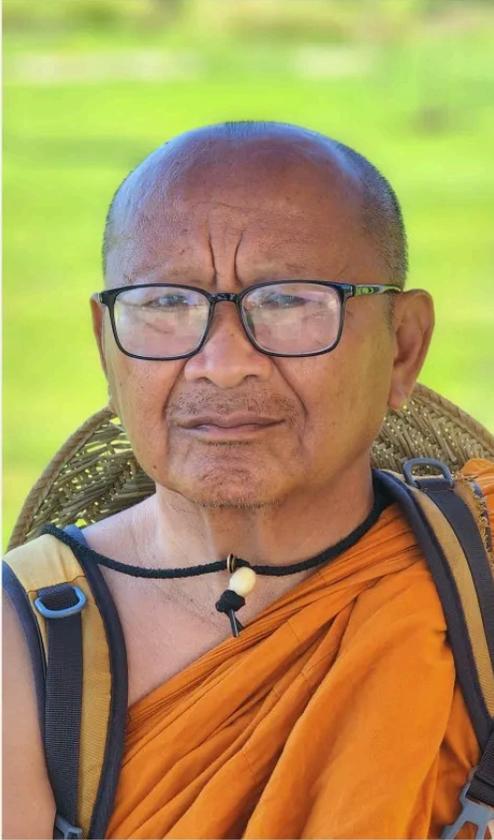
Withee Sangdawruang, born on November 28, 1959, in Saraburi Province, Thailand, is the third of seven siblings. His parents, Mr. Mua and Mrs. Lua Sangdawruang, instilled values of perseverance and dedication in him. He completed his secondary education through a non-formal program in Lopburi Province, which provided a strong foundation and developed his adaptability and resourcefulness for future challenges and achievements.

Withee's career is marked by an impressive 25-year tenure in the military, where he excelled as the Deputy Commander of the Intelligence Operations Unit.

In this pivotal role, he was at the forefront of orchestrating complex intelligence operations, playing a crucial role in safeguarding national security. His extensive experience in this high-stakes environment refined his strategic thinking and leadership skills, underscoring his ability to navigate and manage critical situations with precision and expertise. This distinguished service not only highlights his dedication to his country but also reflects his profound capacity for disciplined and impactful leadership. At age 53, Withee Sangdawruang was ordained as a monk on April 8, 2012, at Wat Amphakiriwong in Nakhon Nayok Province, with Phrakru Kunasarasophon as his preceptor. He was given the name "Dhammakuno," meaning "one skilled in the Dhamma," reflecting his dedication to Buddhist principles. He spent five years at Wat Phra Dhammakaya, achieving the advanced "Nak Tham" level and studying the Pātimokkha. Currently, he resides at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, where he continues to uphold and practice Buddhism, demonstrating a deep commitment to spiritual growth and the teachings of the Buddha.



Phra Mesa Tejavaro (Sangaroon)



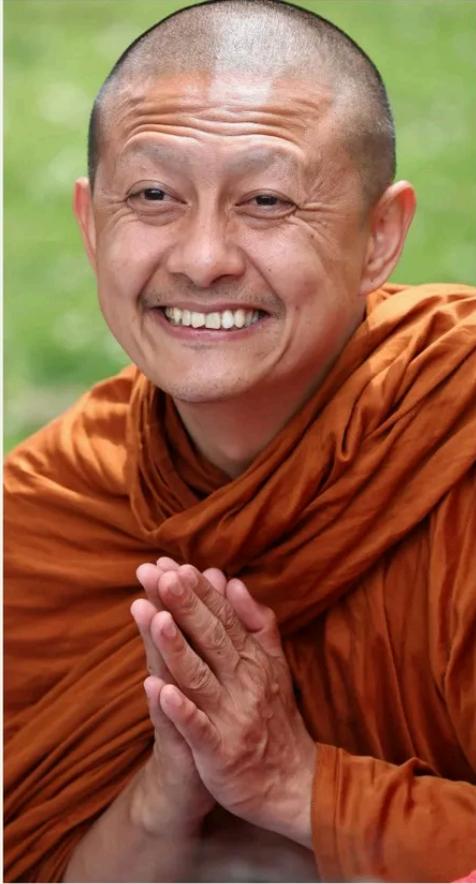
Mesa Sangaroon, born on April 11, 1964, in Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand, is the fourth of six siblings. Raised by his parents, Mr. Khak and Mrs. Khan Sangaroon, he earned an undergraduate degree in Economics from Ramkhamhaeng University. His studies provided a strong foundation in economic principles and deepened his understanding of economic systems and their societal impact.

Mesa Sangaroon has had a distinguished career in finance. He is currently a Senior Economist at Krung Thai Bank, where he conducts advanced economic analysis and strategic planning. Previously, at The Budgeting Credit Securities Company Limited, he was a Senior Officer in Planning and Budgeting, shaping financial strategy and overseeing budgeting processes. As Head of Planning and Budgeting at Ocean Capital Company Limited, he led financial planning to support the company's strategic goals. He also served as a Senior Marketing Officer in the Auto Lease Division at Kiatnakin Bank, focusing on marketing strategies for the auto leasing market. Additionally, Mesa offers freelance financial planning, investment management, and consulting services.

On January 6, 2014, Mesa Sangaroon ordained as a monk at Wat Phang Thiam, under the guidance of Phra Kru Udommekkhun. He received the name "Tejavaro," meaning "one who possesses power," reflecting his deep spiritual commitment and exceptional qualities. This name marks the beginning of his profound journey in monastic life, symbolizing spiritual strength and dedicated service.



Phra Suppachai Supajaro (Phonkraipetch)

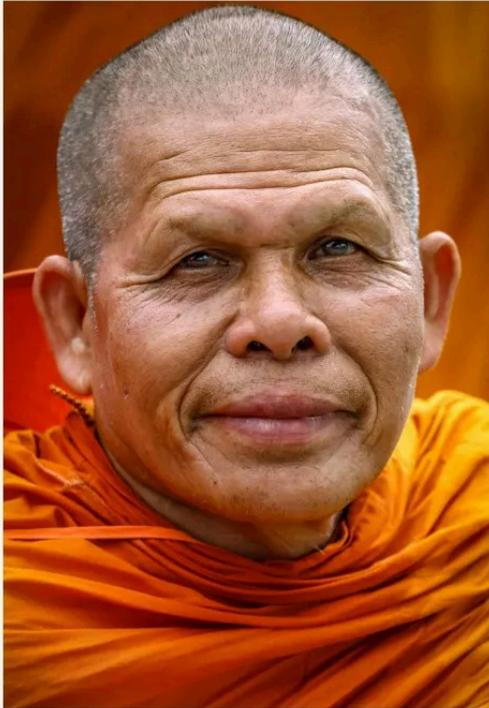


Suppachai Phonkraipetch, born on October 16, 1981, in Prachinburi Province, Thailand, is the eldest of three siblings. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication arts from Sripatum University, Chonburi Campus. He then specialized in Criminal Investigation through a program at the Chonburi Provincial Police Bureau, gaining advanced skills in law enforcement and criminal justice.

He began his career with an internship at Matichon Newspaper, gaining insights into media and journalism. He then worked in criminal investigation at Saen Suk Police Station and the Chonburi Provincial Police Bureau. Later, he joined the Advertising Review Committee under the Public Relations Department, Prime Minister's Office, overseeing advertising practices. He further advanced as Assistant Secretary to the Minister of Transport, supporting administrative and policy functions within the Ministry. On July 6, 2014, he ordained as a monk at Wat Khao Paeng Ma in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. Guided by Phra Khru Prachotisangkik, he received the name "Supajaro," meaning "one who practices virtuous conduct." During his first five years, he completed the highest level of Buddhist studies, Nak Tham. He then spent a year at Wat Phrachetawan in Los Angeles, a year at Tapotawan Monastery in Surat Thani, and a year at Wat Mongkol Wararam in the UK. Following two years at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, he currently resides at Wat Piyadhammaram, King Chulalongkorn Vipassana Center, in Sweden.



Phra Wijitdhammapani (Sunan Tanananto)



Sunan Kruekaew, born on August 3, 1957, in Songkhla Province, Thailand, is the third of seven siblings. Raised by his parents, Mr. Phum and Mrs. Om Kruekaew, he completed his secondary education at Sittathamwittaya School in Bangkok, gaining both academic knowledge and cultural experience that shaped his future aspirations. In July 1973, Sunan Kruekaew ordained as a novice monk at Wat Kaset Chonlathi under Phra Khru Suwatthanaprasat, adopting the name "Tanananto," meaning "one who is steadfast."

After four years, he moved to Wat Sommanat Rajaworawihan, where he was fully ordained in July 1978 and spent 15 years in monastic practice. In 1993, he became a missionary monk at Wat Florida Dhammaram in the United States and was appointed abbot in 1994. He was later given the name Phra Wijitdhammapani, meaning "one who presents the Dhamma with clarity and elegance," reflecting his skill in teaching. Under his leadership, the temple has thrived, and his contributions to the Buddhist community and his academic achievements in Dhamma studies highlight his commitment to spiritual growth and service. Phra Wijitdhammapani has dedicated over 30 years to Buddhist education and community service. At Wat Sommanat Rajaworawihan, he taught Buddhist studies and Sunday classes for 15 years. At Wat Florida Dhammaram, he established summer and Sunday programs to prepare students for Dhamma exams, serving both Thai and international participants. He also offers weekly meditation sessions and organizes intensive retreats twice a year. Additionally, he has lectured at various institutions and engaged in fundraising for children with special needs, collaborating with Florida state officials. His work reflects a deep commitment to both spiritual education and social welfare.



Phrakru Sangkharak Kamron Bhattako (Yaemyuen)



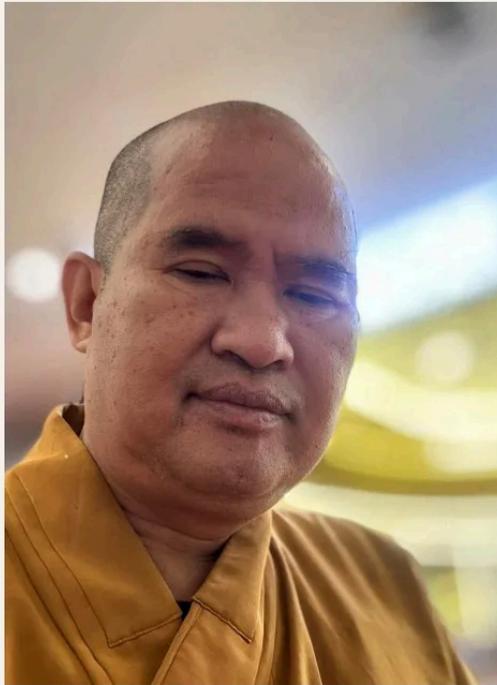
Khamron Yaemyuen, born on January 23, 1964, in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand, is the third of nine siblings. His parents, Mr. Khiya and Mrs. Amnuay Yaemyuen, were influential in his upbringing. He earned an MBA from Ban Somdej Chaopraya Rajabhat University, showcasing his dedication to academic and professional growth. He began his monastic journey on July 23, 1984, ordained by Phra Kru Wiboon Thammarat at Wat Sri Mahasit in Nakhon Si Thammarat.

He was given the name “Bhattako,” meaning “owner” or “ruler” in Pali. He spent his early years at Wat Srimaprasit and later at Wat Ratchathiwat in Bangkok. In 2019, he moved to Wat Padhammachart in California and subsequently to Wat Florida Dhammaram, where he currently resides. Phra Kamron has achieved the Nak Tham Ek and 3 Pali Khemka levels, reflecting his deep commitment to Buddhist studies and his ongoing contributions to the temple community.

Phra Kamron's journey into walking meditation began with his encounter with **The Blooming Lotus**, which inspired him with its portrayal of wandering monks. This led him to seek guidance from Ajahn Menghu Sumetho, igniting his profound spiritual quest. Phra Kamron's dedication to walking meditation has become a journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth. His pilgrimages reflect his commitment to mindfulness and peace, turning walking into a deep spiritual practice. His meticulous planning and execution of these journeys underscore his mission to spread the values of peace and mindfulness.



Phra Kru Thanom Teepangaro



Phra Kru Thanom Teepangaro, a distinguished Thai monk ordained in the Mahayana tradition in Taiwan, played an indispensable role in the recent peace walk

His extensive knowledge and expertise in traditional Chinese acupressure techniques proved invaluable. As an accomplished practitioner of these ancient healing methods, he provided crucial support to the other monks, who, after enduring long stretches of walking, faced significant physical discomfort. His skillful application of acupressure alleviated their pain and enabled them to continue their arduous journey. Phra Kru Thanom's contributions were not only pivotal in addressing the physical challenges faced by the monks but also in ensuring the overall success of this monumental peace pilgrimage. His dedication and expertise were key in bringing this transformative project to fruition, highlighting his vital role in its achievement.





Phases

The campaign route for peace is divided into four stages, as follows:"

Phase One: Begin in Thailand, traverse through Laos, and conclude at the Pacific Ocean in Vietnam. This stage covers a distance of 1,013 kilometers and requires 29 days of walking

Phase Two: Fly across the Pacific Ocean to California, USA. Commence the journey from Santa Monica, CA, and proceed to New York, ending at the Atlantic Ocean. This stage involves a distance of 5,013 kilometers and takes 121 days to complete.

Phase Three: Start from Thailand, moving through Myanmar, India, Pakistan, and Iran, with the journey concluding in Turkey. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a necessary return to Thailand for a break.

Phase Four: After the COVID-19 situation resolved, resume the journey from Turkey, traversing Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, and Switzerland, ultimately concluding in Brest City, France.



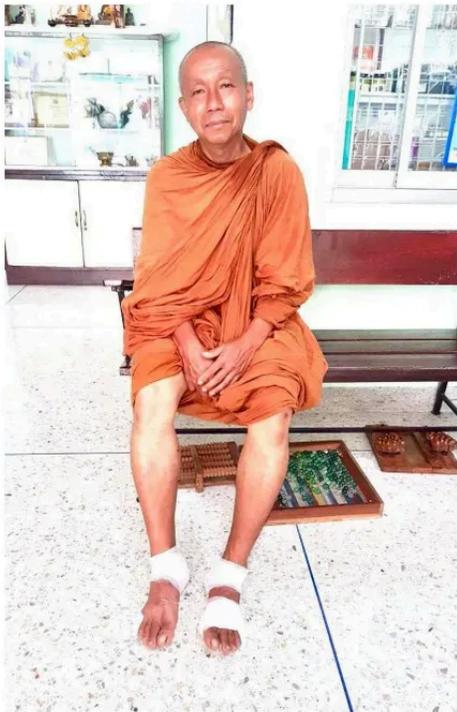
Phase One: Begin in Thailand, traverse through Laos, and conclude at the Pacific Ocean in Vietnam. This stage covers a distance of 1,013 kilometers and requires 29 days of walking.



THE JOURNEY'S STORIES

Phase 1

The journey commenced with unwavering determination. Phra Sutham embarked on this epic quest alone, without any backing from organizations or external support. Driven solely by his deep faith and resolute commitment, he harnessed these qualities as his core inspiration. With steadfast resolve, he ventured forth from Thailand, traversed through Laos, and ultimately arrived at the dramatic shores of the Pacific Ocean in Danang, Vietnam. Each step of this remarkable journey was fueled by his inner strength and relentless dedication, making it a profound testament to his personal conviction and the transformative power of faith.



In the early stages of his journey, Phra Sutham encountered a significant and daunting challenge: intense physical pain. Upon reaching Saraburi Province, he found his feet covered in numerous painful blisters. Seeking relief, he sought out medical care. The doctor treated his wounds and advised him to rest to facilitate healing. Despite the doctor's recommendation, Phra Sutham chose to continue his journey.



His decision was driven by a deeper purpose: to practice mindfulness and to test the Buddhist teachings on the separation between body and mind. As he persisted in walking, he faced an important lesson. The more he focused on his physical pain, the more it seemed to amplify, transforming what started as minor discomfort into an overwhelming sensation.

The pain felt as if it was magnified a hundredfold, becoming almost unbearable.

Yet, through this experience, Phra Sutham gained a profound insight. He discovered that by redirecting his focus from the pain to the act of walking or by concentrating on a mantra, the physical discomfort lost its power over his mind. This shift in focus allowed him to transcend the pain, illustrating a powerful spiritual lesson: the mind has the capacity to overcome and transform physical suffering.

This experience not only reinforced his commitment to his journey but also highlighted the profound impact of mental discipline in achieving inner peace and resilience. His journey served as a vivid proof of the transformative power of spiritual practice and its ability to help the mind surpass profound physical experiences.

Throughout the journey, Phra Sutham made his way by staying at temples he passed along the route or by receiving generous assistance from supporters who provided him with accommodations. Each morning, when staying at a temple, he took part in the traditional alms round with the local monks. This practice not only allowed him to adhere to the monastic tradition but also offered him a profound sense of connection with the communities he encountered.



Participating in the alms round was more than just a routine; it was a deeply meaningful ritual that reinforced his commitment to the monastic life and offered him an opportunity to practice humility and gratitude. By engaging in this time-honored tradition, Phra Sutham embraced the essence of monastic discipline and forged a strong bond with the people and places he visited. This experience enriched his journey, transforming it into a series of profound interactions and spiritual growth, and highlighted the importance of communal support and religious practice in his quest for world peace.

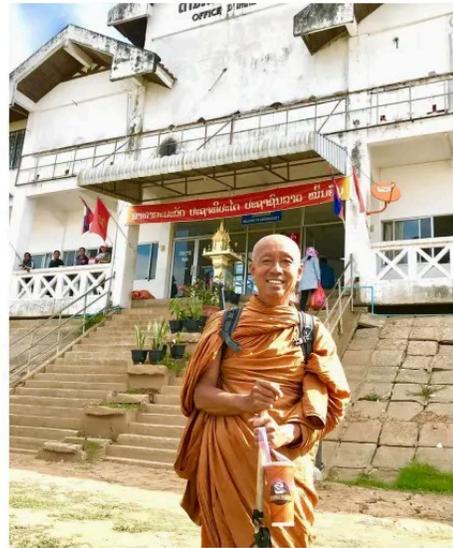


LAOS

Upon entering Laos, Phra Sutham was struck by the stark contrast in development, noting that the country seemed to be about 50 years behind Thailand. Despite this, he was deeply moved by the warmth and generosity of the Laotian people. Their hospitality was remarkable; they came together to offer massages to ease his muscle pain and provided him with food along his entire journey.

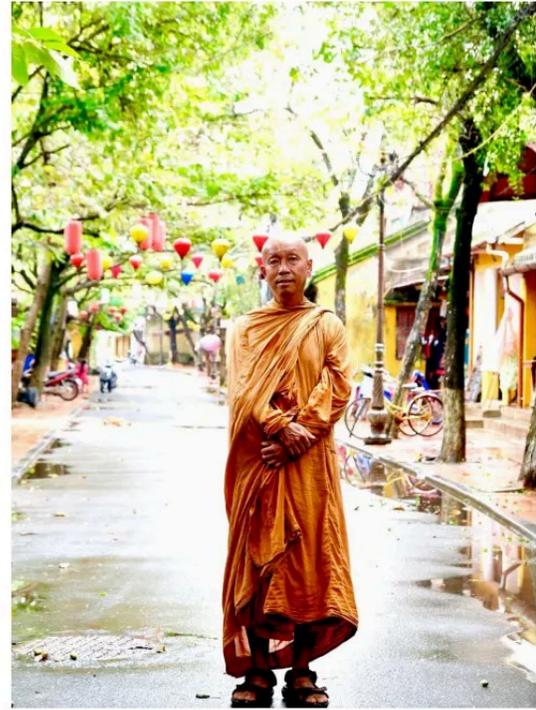
As he traveled through Laos, Phra Sutham seized the opportunity to deliver teachings and share the Dharma. His presence allowed him to engage with the local communities, offering sermons that illuminated the principles of Buddhism.

This interaction not only deepened his own spiritual journey but also helped the people of Laos gain a richer understanding of the Dharma, demonstrating the profound impact of compassionate outreach and spiritual exchange.



VIETNAM

Upon arriving in Ho Chi Minh City, Phra Sutham discovered that navigating the bustling city streets, teeming with motorcycles darting left and right, was even more challenging than hiking through dense forests. Crossing the street felt like a daring adventure! However, there's a bright side: despite the urban chaos, the city proudly preserves its majestic trees, showcasing the Vietnamese people's impressive dedication to environmental conservation.



Atlantic Ocean



At long last, on December 12, 2018, Phra Sutham triumphantly arrived in Da Nang, a breathtaking coastal city marking the farthest point of his journey along the Atlantic Ocean's edge. This milestone was not just a geographical endpoint but a powerful symbol of the successful completion of the first phase of his epic pilgrimage for peace. Over the course of 29 exhilarating days, He had traversed approximately 630 miles, navigating through diverse landscapes and overcoming numerous challenges. Each step of the way brought its own set of trials and triumphs, culminating in this significant achievement. The journey had been a test of endurance, determination, and spirit, and arriving in Da Nang was both a celebration of his accomplishments and a poignant reminder of the peace and perseverance he sought to promote through his remarkable expedition.

Phase Two: Fly across the Pacific Ocean to California, USA. Commence the journey from Santa Monica, CA, and proceed to New York, ending at the Atlantic Ocean. This stage involves a distance of 5,013 kilometers and takes 121 days to complete.



Phra Sutham selected Route 66 due to its historical significance as a major road running through the heart of the United States, making it one of the oldest routes. In practice, U.S. highways like Route 66 don't have a single starting or ending point; rather, they have two "termini" that serve as both beginning and end. For Route 66, these termini were Chicago to the east and Santa Monica to the west.



CALIFORNIA

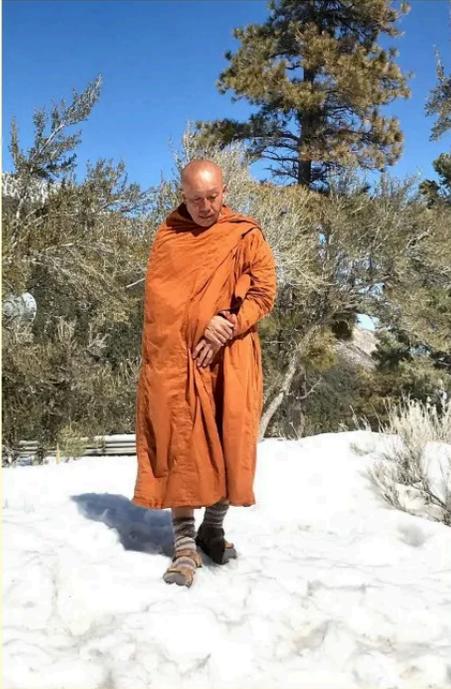


They selflessly devoted themselves to planning, coordinating, and managing every aspect of this ambitious transcontinental pilgrimage across America. Their commitment ensured that Phra Sutham's journey was conducted smoothly and successfully, reflecting their unwavering dedication and meticulous preparation. He began his walk from Santa Monica Pier, following Route 66 as the primary route for his journey.

In March 2019, Phra Sutham embarked on his journey from Santa Monica Pier. A dedicated group of Thai supporters came together to provide essential support, offering their time, resources, and financial contributions.

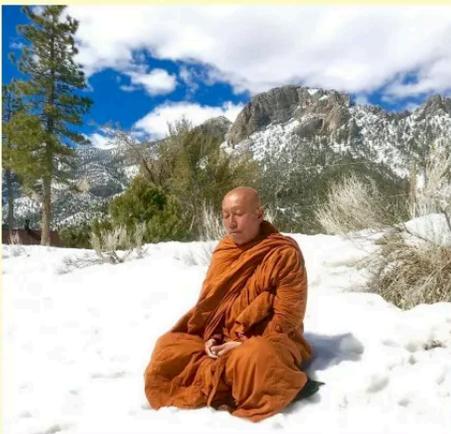






The sun's intense rays darkened his face, yet they could not deter his spirit. Nature's harshness became his teacher, exposing him to suffering but not allowing him to be consumed by it. His mind remained vibrant and joyous, unwavering in its focus. With each step, he embodied his commitment to practicing Dhamma, persevering diligently, spreading the teachings of Buddhism, and advocating for peace.

Phra Sutham faced the formidable challenge of crossing the Rocky Mountains, where the icy cold left snow clinging to the peaks. Despite the bone-chilling temperatures, the steep, rugged terrain, and the blistering sun and fierce winds of the Mojave Desert, Phra Sutham Nateetong remained resolute.





ARIZONA

Before reaching Flagstaff, Arizona, Phra Sutham encountered a challenging stretch of desert with no accommodation available. As night fell, the only guidance was the beam of his flashlight amidst the vast emptiness. Faced with this solitude, he set up a tent and spent the night in the desert with no electricity, no water, and no cell phone signal. This isolation left him with only his own efforts for solace, as he practiced meditation to maintain mental focus and avoid distraction.

The desert was intensely hot during the day, but the temperature dropped significantly at night. Despite the cold, Phra Sutham's unwavering mind remained undisturbed. He woke to find his surroundings covered in frost, yet his health remained robust, enabling him to continue his journey with strength and determination.



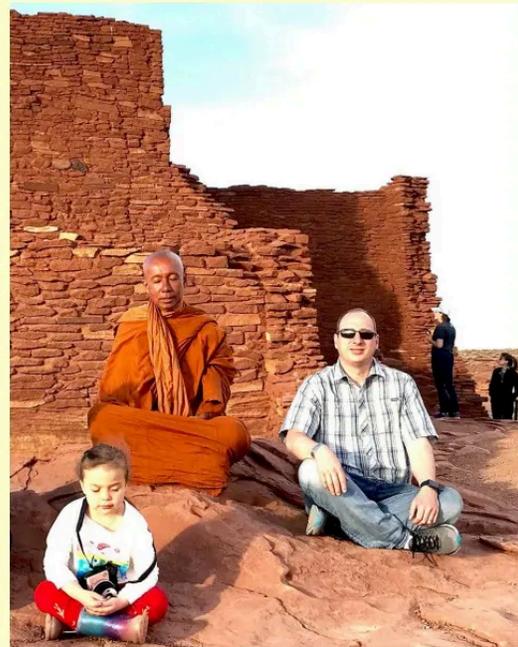




Malee not only excelled in meditation, demonstrating both serenity and endurance, but also loved accompanying the monk on his pilgrimage.

Dr. Tim expressed that if time permits, he would love to bring Malee back to practice meditation and walk with Phra Sutham again. This gesture reflects the profound impact Phra Sutham's teachings had on the Buschmann family and their eagerness to continue this inspiring journey of spiritual growth and mindfulness.

In addition to his primary walking activities, Phra Sutham dedicated any spare time he had to teaching meditation to those interested. One enthusiastic student was young Malee Kate Buschmann, who had a deep passion for meditation. Her father, Dr. Tim Buschmann, holds dual Ph.D. degrees in engineering and psychology, and her mother is a successful businesswoman.





TEXAS

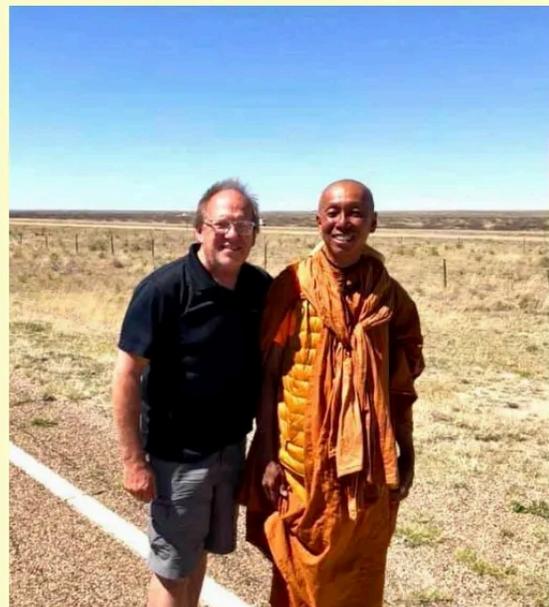


Dr. Nicholas Gerlich, Ph.D., a distinguished professor at West Texas A&M University and President of the Texas Route 66 Association, extended an extraordinary welcome to Phra Sutham at the New Mexico-Texas border.

With unwavering dedication, Dr. Gerlich rearranged his entire schedule to focus on supporting the monk's monumental journey. He undertook daily drives covering dozens of miles to deliver meals, meticulously arranged hotel accommodations, and ensured that every detail of Phra Sutham's stay was handled with care. He also took on the role of documenting this remarkable pilgrimage, capturing photos and writing engaging news updates.

He worked tirelessly to coordinate with various organizations and facilitate smooth interactions, ensuring that Phra Sutham could continue his peace walk without interruption. His commitment was evident in every aspect of the support he provided, reflecting a deep personal dedication to the success of this noble mission.

Dr. Gerlich's exceptional generosity and meticulous efforts were instrumental in the seamless execution of the peace walk. His heartfelt involvement and tireless contributions were pivotal in making this journey not only possible but also profoundly impactful. We are deeply grateful for his remarkable support, which has played a significant role in the success of this inspiring mission for peace.

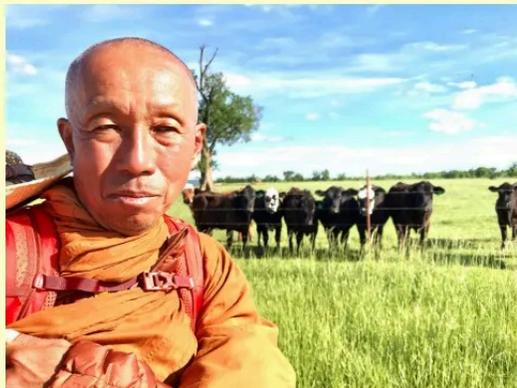




OKLAHOMA



One day, Phra Sutham's adventure took an unexpected turn due to a glitch with Google Maps. Guided by the app, he accidentally wandered into a correction department. There were no fences, no warning signs –just open fields and grazing cows and horses. As he walked further, four cars suddenly surrounded him from all sides.



The first driver got out with a stern expression and asked to search for his belongings. The second one recognized Phra Sutham from TV and offered words of encouragement. The third one eagerly shook his hand, expressing gratitude for his walk for peace and for everyone. The fourth one, with a warm embrace, insisted on giving him money for food. Phra Sutham politely declined, but the driver explained he didn't have time to bring food and asked him to accept the money instead.

The first one was bewildered by the encounter and decided not to search Phra Sutham further, allowing him to continue his journey. However, he had to navigate around the prison, which extended his route and added to the excitement of the day. Despite the initial shock of almost being detained, the unexpected detour turned into a memorable adventure, illustrating the unpredictability and excitement of his journey.





As Phra Sutham ventured into Oklahoma, news outlets sounded alarms about an approaching tornado. The American community rallied to warn him of the storm, but he pressed on with unwavering determination. While he didn't face a devastating tornado, he battled through relentless rain and fierce winds all day. Armed with only his tightly wrapped robe, a raincoat, and an additional plastic layer, he braved the elements, though his robes and shoes became drenched. Despite the ferocious weather, the American supporters' spirits remained undaunted. They courageously ventured out in the storm to deliver meals, water, and heartfelt encouragement. This experience vividly demonstrated that in the midst of adversity, we discover our true allies—those who stand by us with genuine care and support when the going gets tough.





MISSOURI

On May 22, 2019, Phra Sutham had an exhilarating experience as he visited Zitzman Elementary School. There, he was met with an outpouring of support and encouragement from a large group of enthusiastic students. The vibrant energy and eagerness of the children left a profound impression on him.



Phra Sutham recognized the immense potential these young students hold for the future of the nation. He was deeply moved by the realization that if these children could understand and embrace the concept of inner peace, they would be equipped to become exceptional individuals. By fostering a sense of peace within themselves, they would grow up to be valuable contributors to society, embodying the principles of mindfulness and harmony that he advocates.

The visit underscored Phra Sutham's belief in the transformative power of education and the importance of nurturing these young minds. His interaction with the students highlighted his commitment to spreading the message of inner peace, knowing that such foundational values could shape their futures and, in turn, positively impact the world around them.





ILLINOIS



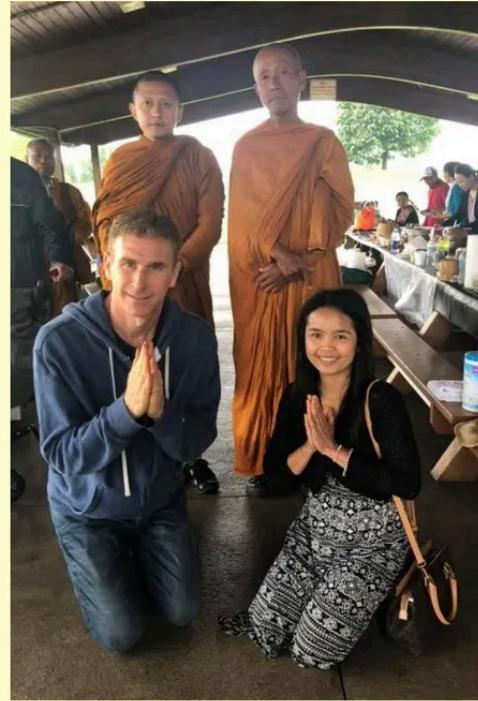
As Phra Sutham crossed into Illinois, he was greeted with an outpouring of warmth from the local community. Among those eager to show their support were Mr. Christian Kobel and his fiancée, Carissa Gunty. Driven by a heartfelt desire to contribute to Phra Sutham's journey, Christian and Carissa set out to find the wandering monk. Their dedication was evident as they located him and offered a generous lunch. But their kindness didn't stop there.

They welcomed Phra Sutham into their home, ensuring he had a comfortable place to rest. Christian went above and beyond, volunteering to wash Phra Sutham's feet and massage his weary legs after the long trek. This gesture of compassion was followed by a profound moment of spiritual exchange, as Phra Sutham taught Christian the art of meditation. The experience touched Christian deeply, and he was moved to tears as he expressed his gratitude, his emotions evident as tears soaked his face.

The next morning, before dawn broke at 5 a.m., Christian and Carissa once again displayed their generosity. Despite their unfamiliarity with Phra Sutham, they prepared a heartfelt breakfast to offer him. Their efforts were a testament to the transformative power of Phra Sutham's journey and the profound impact it had on those he met along the way.







When Phra Sutham arrived at the end of Route 66 in Chicago, it was a significant milestone that welcomed the participation of another monk in the peace walk. Though he had been invited many times, circumstances had prevented him from joining earlier. However, in 2019, after attending a meaningful meeting of monks in Texas, Phra Suppachai Phonkraipetch—affectionately known as Phra Mon—saw the moment as a serendipitous opportunity. Inspired by the occasion, he eagerly embraced the chance to join the peace walk, marking the beginning of his commitment to this profound journey from then on.





OHIO



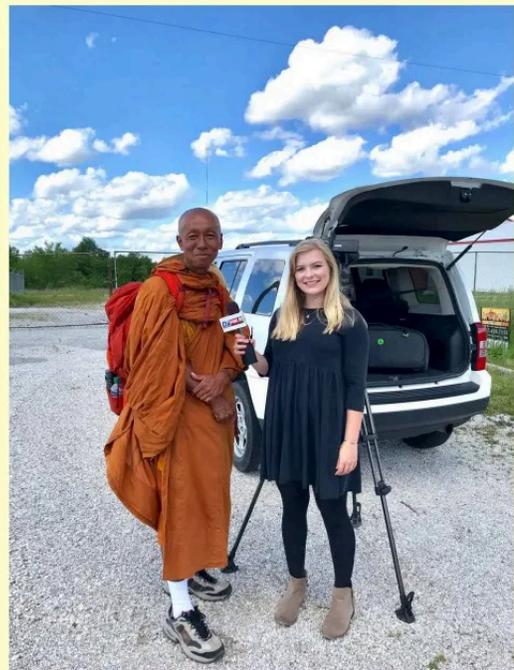
While walking through Lexington, OH, Phra Sutham heard the excited sounds of a child running toward him. The little one carried two bottles of water and eagerly handed them over. Phra Sutham bent down to receive the offering, expressing his gratitude with heartfelt appreciation. The child explained that their father had heard about the monk's peace walk and happened to see him passing through the neighborhood. Curious about how they could help, the father had asked his child to offer assistance. Fearing that the monk might pass by before they had a chance to help, the child dashed out of the house with the water, hoping to catch up and make a difference.







As Phra Sutham journeyed along the historic Route 66, he drew remarkable attention from the American public. Everywhere he went, people were intrigued by his unique mission. In various locations, media outlets eagerly lined up for scheduled interviews, while others camped out along the route just to catch a glimpse and inquire about his remarkable journey. They were fascinated by his solitary walk on one of America's most iconic highways and wanted to know more about his purpose and the inspiration behind his pilgrimage.



66: Sutham Nateetong in Waynesville, MO ©Pics



To catch all the exciting news and interviews about his incredible adventure:
[Buddhist Monk is walking across America on Route 66 for world peace \(youtube.com\)](#).

[A journey towards peace: Traveling monk journeys through Rogers County | Community | claremoreprogress.com](#)

[Buddhist monk stops in Flagstaff on 3,000-mile walk across the country | Local News | azdailysun.com](#)

[Buddhist Monk walking across America on Route 66 aims to spread message of peace \(newschannel10.com\)](#).

[Watch Now | fox23.com](#)

[สื่อยักษ์ใหญ่อเมริกา เสนอข่าว"พระไทย" เดินรุดงศ์สร้างสันติรอบโลก \(thairath.co.th\)](#)

[มะกันอื้อฮา 'หลวงพี่หมี' เบื่อการเมือง เดินรุดงศ์รอบโลก \(one31.net\)](#)

[คนไทยใน USA แห่ต้อนรับหลวงพี่หมี เดินรุดงศ์ผ่านทะเลทราย ไม่มีน้ำจิบ \(คลิป\) \(thairath.co.th\)](#)

[พระสุธรรม ฐิตธัมโม อดีตเลขารวม.ศึกษาธิการ "เดินรุดงศ์เพื่อสันติภาพ" ข้ามอเมริกา \(sanook.com\)](#)

[Walking for peace on Rt. 66 - Yukon Progress \(yukonprogressnews.com\)](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugdb-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugdb-5HkaI4&fbclid=IwY2xjawE8W5pleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQYGXVzdof-iXH5hTp_EwjzFdYEnyDWOxtEEGSLcK0DKndcGi416rwxew_aem_hWxRXwCr_3PxwCd3S2H7xQ)

[5HkaI4&fbclid=IwY2xjawE8W5pleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQYGXVzdof-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugdb-5HkaI4&fbclid=IwY2xjawE8W5pleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQYGXVzdof-iXH5hTp_EwjzFdYEnyDWOxtEEGSLcK0DKndcGi416rwxew_aem_hWxRXwCr_3PxwCd3S2H7xQ)

[iXH5hTp_EwjzFdYEnyDWOxtEEGSLcK0DKndcGi416rwxew_aem_hWxRXwCr_3PxwCd3S2H7xQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ugdb-5HkaI4&fbclid=IwY2xjawE8W5pleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQYGXVzdof-iXH5hTp_EwjzFdYEnyDWOxtEEGSLcK0DKndcGi416rwxew_aem_hWxRXwCr_3PxwCd3S2H7xQ)





NEW JERSEY

Kennedy Belvedere, the esteemed Mayor of Warren County, New Jersey, graciously welcomed Phra Sutham Nateetong to the city with great honor and enthusiasm. In a notable display of civic pride, Mayor Belvedere acknowledged Phra Sutham's remarkable journey and dedication, offering both a heartfelt reception and full support for his ongoing mission.





NEW YORK

Pacific Ocean

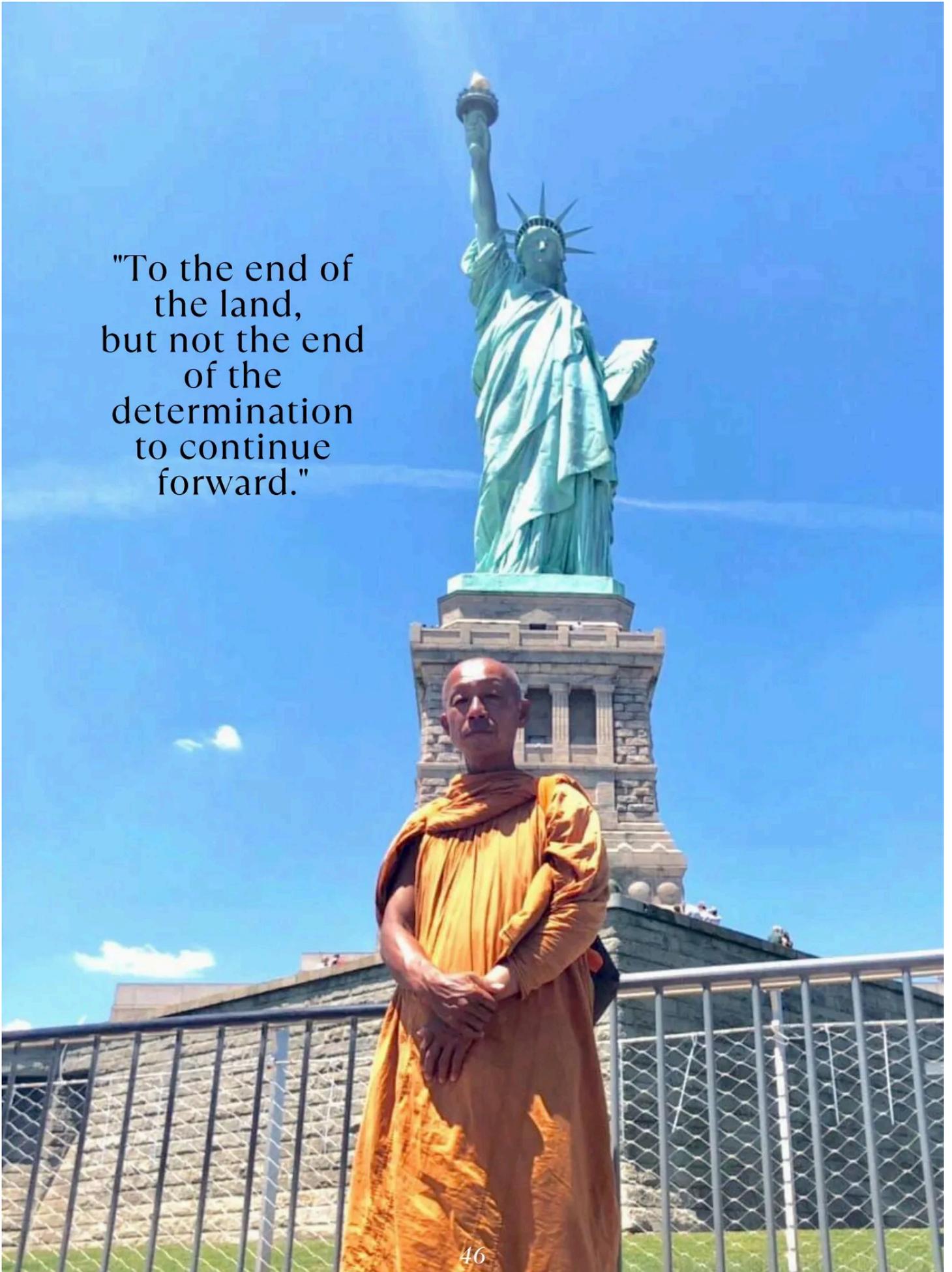
On Sunday, June 30, at 5:09 PM, Phra Sutham reached the final point of his journey at the edge of New York. This monumental achievement spanned from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean, fueled by the power of peace and the collective spirit of diverse nations. From Santa Monica to New York, his journey traversed 3,133 miles over 121 days, from March 2 to June 30, guided by the unwavering strength of Dharma.

Through dedication and perseverance, Phra Sutham arrived safely at his destination, welcomed by both Thai and international friends. The arrival was marked by heartfelt celebrations and mutual rejoicing, honoring the profound spiritual effort and shared commitment that made this extraordinary pilgrimage possible.





"To the end of
the land,
but not the end
of the
determination
to continue
forward."





Phase Three: Start from Thailand, moving through Myanmar, India, Pakistan, and Iran, with the journey concluding in Turkey. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a necessary return to Thailand for a break.





MYANMAR



His silent protest proved powerful, and in a surprising resolution, he was released without facing any charges or prosecution. This dramatic encounter highlights his unshakable dedication to his cause, even against overwhelming odds.

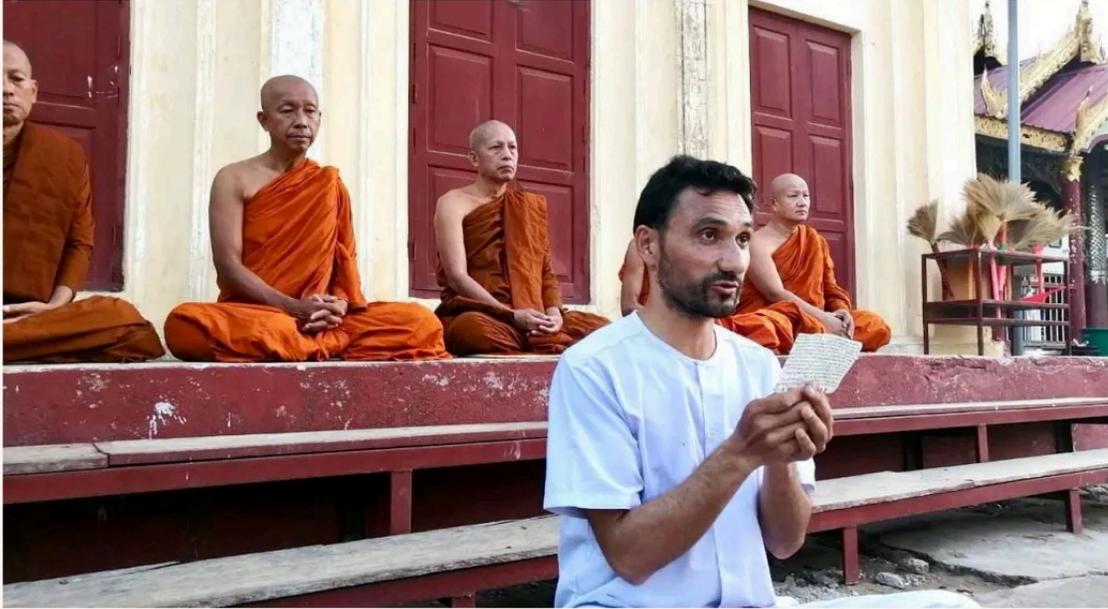
Phra Sutham's journey marked a historic moment as it was the very first pilgrimage group to traverse the northeastern regions of India. His presence sparked immense curiosity and admiration.

In an extraordinary episode of perseverance, Phra Sutham was detained by Myanmar authorities for an astonishing seven days, mirroring the home detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. The cause of his detention? The seemingly innocuous phrase “Walk for Peace.” Intent on halting his mission, the government mobilized a force of commandos to eject him from the area and return him to his starting point.

But Phra Sutham was unyielding. With unbreakable resolve, he chose to meditate continuously for three days, an act of serene defiance that showcased his commitment to peace.





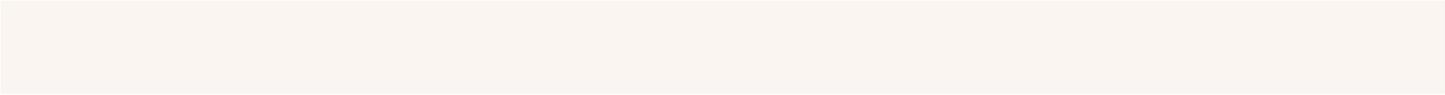


Phra Sutham's arrival at the Shwezigon Pagoda, also known as Shwezigon Paya, was a momentous occasion. This revered Buddhist stupa, nestled in Nyaung-U, Myanmar, stands as a beacon of spiritual heritage despite having weathered centuries of earthquakes and natural calamities, resulting in numerous renovations over the years.

As Phra Sutham approached this sacred site, a group of devoted Chileans, moved by their Buddhist faith, gathered to seek his blessings. With heartfelt fervor, they expressed their deep hopes for their homeland: "Deseamos que Chile pueda construir una paz basada en la verdad, la justicia, la libertad, el bienestar y la igualdad." (We hope that Chile can build peace based on truth, justice, freedom, well-being, and equality.)

Their plea came at a time of profound crisis in Chile, where the nation was grappling with severe turmoil: 29 lives had been tragically lost, nearly 2,500 people were injured, and 2,840 individuals had been arrested. The Chileans' urgent call for peace and justice was a poignant reminder of the widespread suffering and the urgent need for reconciliation and healing.

Phra Sutham's presence and the solemnity of the moment underscored the deep connection between his mission and the quest for global peace and harmony.



INDIA



The locals, captivated by the mission's noble purpose, eagerly invited him to deliver Dharma talks, eager to learn from his experiences and insights. The reception was nothing short of extraordinary, reflecting a profound appreciation for his dedication to spreading the message of peace across the world.

Phra Sutham was greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm and warmth upon his arrival in India. The local people, thrilled by the sight of Buddhist monks championing peace on a global scale, expressed their deep excitement and joy. For many, it was their first encounter with Thai monks, adding an extra layer of wonder to the occasion.



Phra Sutham's journey marked a historic moment as it was the very first pilgrimage group to traverse the northeastern regions of India. His presence sparked immense curiosity and admiration.





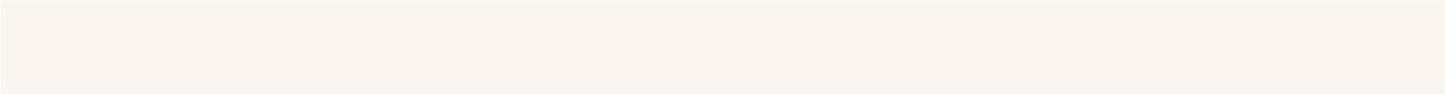


Phra Sutham encountered a dramatic and challenging situation in India when the government passed a controversial law granting Indian citizenship to immigrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan who had lived in India for over four years. The legislation sparked widespread outrage, leading to massive protests across the country. The demonstrations turned violent, resulting in numerous casualties.

In response to the unrest, the government-imposed roadblocks and shut down the Internet, leaving Phra Sutham isolated and unable to communicate with the outside world. Despite these obstacles, Phra Sutham's situation was met with remarkable resilience and support. Protesters and government officials alike extended their aid, showing solidarity amidst the chaos.

In a dramatic turn of events, a compassionate doctor intervened, offering Phra Sutham refuge at a hospital. As the unrest continued, the city's governor took extraordinary measures to ensure Phra Sutham's safety. At around 4:00 am the following morning, the governor personally visited the hospital to guarantee that Phra Sutham would have a secure and uninterrupted journey. This act of dedication and support highlighted the profound respect and care extended to Phra Sutham, even during a national crisis.

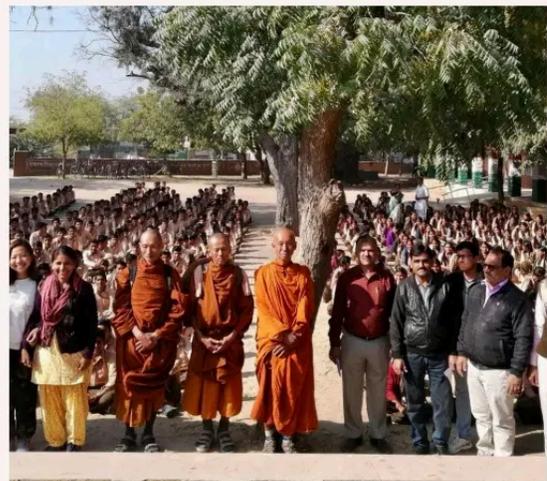






As Phra Sutham's health began to recover, the doctor advised him to rest. In response, he adapted his itinerary to focus on teaching meditation. Schools across the region eagerly invited him to deliver Dharma talks and impart his wisdom to students, turning his journey into a valuable opportunity for spiritual education.

While trekking in India, Phra Sutham suffered from severe diarrhea, which required him to be hospitalized. After receiving over ten bags of intravenous fluids, his condition began to improve. Dr. Amit Choudhary of Avneesh Hospital Degana provided free medical care and continuously monitored his condition, never leaving his side. Dr. Choudhary also brought his wife and children to visit Phra Sutham every day without fail.





PAKISTAN



Upon entering Pakistan, the monks were immediately met with a turbulent scene of widespread protests and unrest. The streets were heavily patrolled by armed soldiers and police, and the monks faced frequent scrutiny about their mission, heightening concerns for their safety. To ensure their protection, a dedicated patrol team was assigned to accompany them and secure their journey according to the planned schedule.

Pakistan, meaning "Land of the Pure," is a country where Urdu is spoken, and it shares borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China. The people here are exceptionally warm and friendly, often greeting the monks enthusiastically and requesting to take photos. Pakistan is also known for its beautifully painted trucks, each one adorned with intricate and colorful designs. Despite being a desert country, the warmth and hospitality of its people are truly remarkable.



The officials went above and beyond, personally guiding the monks on reconnaissance missions to assess the next day's route. They strongly advised against venturing into Afghanistan and Iran due to the intense conflicts raging within and across those borders. Faced with these challenges, the monks had to swiftly adapt their plans.



Rather than continuing their walk, they shifted focus to teaching meditation and conducting spiritual workshops at various locations across Pakistan. This pivot proved fruitful, as the local population showed a keen interest in deepening their spiritual understanding. In a final gesture of support, the officials escorted the monks to the airport, ensuring their safe boarding on a flight to Turkey, where they would continue their remaining mission.







TURKEY

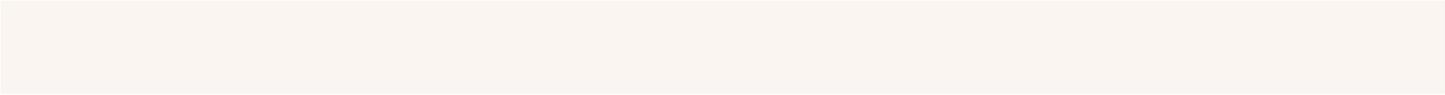
The peace walk surged forward with unyielding determination despite the intense challenges posed by international conflicts in Afghanistan and Iran. Faced with these obstacles, the monks were compelled to fly from Pakistan to Turkey, then drive to the Iran-Turkey border to resume their journey on foot. In Turkey, the monks were greeted with a warm and heartfelt reception from the locals. However, March's icy grip still held the region in its clutches, with snow blanketing the mountains.



The monks braved the biting cold and a fierce snowstorm that made their path nearly impassable.

Amidst their journey, the relentless spread of the COVID-19 pandemic loomed large, adding another layer of difficulty. Yet, the team of monks pressed on, their resolve unshaken, until they reached Ankara. As the situation became increasingly untenable, they faced the hard decision to pause their mission and return to Thailand.







Their journey back was marked by rigorous health checks at Istanbul Airport, Moscow Airport, and finally Suvarnabhumi Airport, ensuring their safe return home despite the odds.



Prior to their departure, the monks underwent thorough health screenings at Ankara University Hospital to ensure their safety. All were confirmed to be in excellent health and free from the coronavirus.





Phase Four: After the COVID-19 situation resolved, resume the journey from Turkey, traversing Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, and Switzerland, ultimately concluding in Brest City, France.



TURKEY

The peace walk team returned to Turkey and was once again met with the same warm hospitality from the locals. Even though it was the holy month of Ramadan, everyone enthusiastically supported the peace walk project with friendly smiles. Police patrolling the area would even stop their vehicles to greet the monks and take photos with them. Despite facing towering obstacles ahead, the monks pressed on with unwavering determination.



The weather was notably cold, with occasional rainstorms, but the kindness of the Turkish people shone brightly. Generous individuals would offer shelter by their fires and provide fruits to the monks during the rain. Whenever the rain subsided, the team continued their journey, deeply moved by the constant warmth and generosity of the Turkish people. This kindness was a powerful symbol of compassion, love, and mutual support that they encountered every step of the way.



GREECE



The World Peace Pilgrimage has reached the end of its journey at the Turkish-Greek border and has now crossed into Greece. The monks have faced significant physical challenges and harsh weather conditions, including cold temperatures and occasional rain. Despite these difficulties, their journey continues, and the road ahead remains long.



Along the way, they have encountered people who have shown great interest and kindness. Many have stopped to greet the monks, offering them water and food. Various groups have warmly welcomed them, spreading the word about their mission. This outreach has caught the attention of local journalists, who have conducted interviews and featured their story in local newspapers.

As a result, more people are becoming aware of the monks from Thailand and their noble mission. Through these stories, the message of peace and the purpose of their pilgrimage are reaching a broader audience, inspiring others to reflect on the values of compassion and global harmony.



ALBANIA



Many locals, upon seeing the monks, quickly came forward to offer water and invite them in, bringing their families along for photos. Students who had never seen monks before came out in droves to say hello, their faces lighting up with smiles and friendly waves. The welcome extended to the monks was heartwarming and genuine, transcending national, linguistic, and religious differences to embrace the universal spirit of friendship and goodwill.

Welcome to Albania, a country often considered poor but rich in generosity and spirit.

The World Peace Pilgrimage has been met with extraordinary warmth and hospitality from the very moment they arrived in Albania. Immigration officials greeted them promptly, guiding them through the passport stamping process and even requesting photos with the monks. As they entered the city, young people, local residents, and enthusiastic crowds were eager to greet them and take pictures throughout the journey



MONTENEGRO



Montenegro, a small country on the Balkan Peninsula with a history as long as Thailand's Dvaravati Kingdom, gained its independence relatively recently in June 2006. The majority of its population practices the Orthodox Christian faith. During their visit, the World Peace Pilgrimage met with a diverse range of people, engaging in discussions and exchanging views on global peace. They also took commemorative photographs to remember these meaningful interactions.

CROATIA

After crossing the border from Bosnia and Herzegovina into Croatia, the pilgrims entered a country that stands at the vibrant crossroads of Central and Southeastern Europe. Croatia, renowned for its development and high income as ranked by the World Bank, holds a distinguished 40th place on the Human Development Index. This stunning country is a magnet for tourists, offering a captivating mix of ancient historical landmarks and expansive, breathtaking coastlines. The Croatian people, with their warmth and generosity, embody a spirit of hospitality that enhances the country's allure and makes every visit memorable.



MILAN



The monks arrived in Milan, a city renowned for its stunning architecture and rich history. As a major tourist destination, Milan attracts countless visitors each year, making it a perfect place for the monks to embark on their alms-giving.

In addition to this, they seized the opportunity to meditate at the heart of the city, immersing themselves in its vibrant atmosphere. This experience allowed them to blend their spiritual practice with the bustling energy of Milan, creating a memorable and impactful chapter in their journey.



VATICAN



On June 22, 2023, at 9:30 AM local time, the World Peace Pilgrimage team, led by Phra Bodhinantmuni (Luang Por Jiw), Phra Wijitdhammapani (Sunan Tanananto), and Phra Sutham Titadhammo, arrived in the heart of Vatican City. This historic visit brought together monks, nuns, and religious representatives from across the globe, including Thailand, the United States, France, Italy, Switzerland, England, and India.



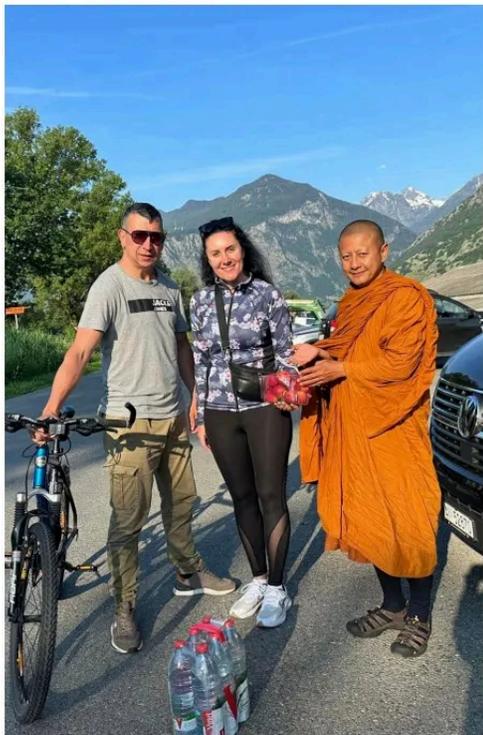
Their mission was to offer prayers and meditative blessings for the swift recovery of Pope Francis. Although the Pope was unable to attend personally, he had entrusted Cardinal Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, to receive and honor the delegation



Cardinal Ayuso Guixot warmly welcomed the team, praising their remarkable journey across Europe to champion the cause of peace. He lauded their dedication to fostering interfaith dialogue and cooperation, emphasizing the crucial role of such efforts in achieving global harmony. The meeting culminated in the presentation of a commemorative gift and a heartfelt group photo with Cardinal Ayuso Guixot, capturing a powerful moment of unity and shared commitment to peace.



SWITZERLAND



While walking through Switzerland on a pleasantly crisp day, the peace walk team encountered locals out for their morning exercise and bike rides. A Ukrainian refugee, who had fled her war-torn homeland, was electrified to encounter a group of Thai Buddhist monks on their pilgrimage through Switzerland. Having only seen monks in documentaries, she was astonished to meet them in person.

When she learned that the monks were walking across various regions to promote world peace, her excitement soared. She shared that many Ukrainians were desperately trying to escape the war zones, with some tragically succumbing to the freezing conditions in the mountains. She lives in Switzerland, where she worked as a translator for Ukrainian refugees.

Overwhelmed by the monks' mission, she offered them fruit and water, and in return, they bestowed upon her their blessings for true happiness and peace. This heartfelt exchange was a profound reminder of the shared quest for peace and the deep connections formed amidst the journey.



PARIS, FRANCE



Another inspiring highlight is the initiative led by Phra Kru Pairoj Phawanawej, the esteemed abbot of Wat Mahaputtharam in Paris, to promote Buddhism and foster world peace.

In a historic first, an almsgiving ceremony was held in front of the iconic Eiffel Tower, a symbol of France. This unique event drew both Thai nationals and international guests, who eagerly participated in the alms-giving. The ceremony featured cultural performances that illustrated the spirit of collaboration, compassion, and unity among the monastic community. Surrounded by a diverse array of people and tourists, the event sparked engaging conversations about world peace and highlighted a global commitment to harmony and understanding.







BREST, FRANCE



The epic journey of the World Peace Pilgrimage, spanning across seas, mountains, and vast landscapes, reached its historic culmination on June 29, 2023. This landmark moment echoes a significant event from 334 years ago, on June 18, 1689, when a Siamese diplomatic mission from Ayutthaya first set foot at the end of Rue St. Pierre in Brest, France. Their mission, carrying a royal letter and gifts from King Narai the Great to King Louis XIV at the Palace of Versailles, marked a pivotal moment in history.

In a remarkable parallel, the World Peace Pilgrimage concluded at the same location, symbolizing a profound link between past and present. The occasion was graced by Deputy Mayor of Brest, Mr. Fortune Pelicano, who honored the pilgrims with a heartfelt welcome. He reflected on his own memorable visit to Thailand, where he was received with great respect and collected a statue of Chao Phraya Kosathibodi (Pan) from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, later installed on Rue de Siam amidst Brest's scenic beauty. This convergence of historical milestones underscored a powerful continuity of cultural and diplomatic ties between the two nations. For more information about the statue of Chao Phraya Kosathibodi (Pan), please visit [การกลับมา ณ ถนนสยาม ในฝรั่งเศสของ โทษาปาน หลังเคยเทียบท่า 334 ปีก่อน - The Cloud \(readthecloud.co\)](https://www.readthecloud.co/334-pikoon).







At this event, many people gathered to celebrate the remarkable achievement of the World Peace Pilgrimage team, which had successfully completed their mission as planned.

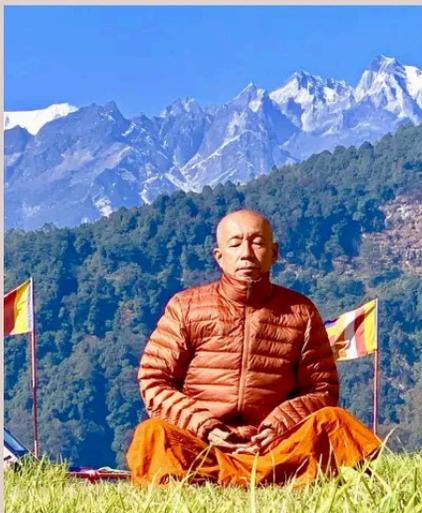
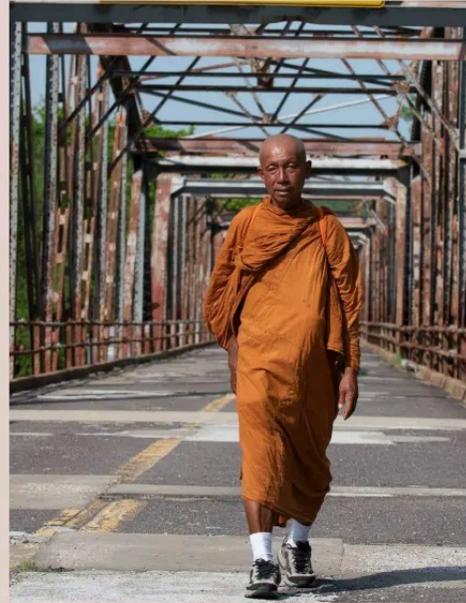
Although the project has concluded, the commitment to self-discipline, the dissemination of Buddhist teachings, and the message of peace continues unabated. If there is conflict in the world, the pursuit of peace remains an ongoing and vital endeavor for everyone.





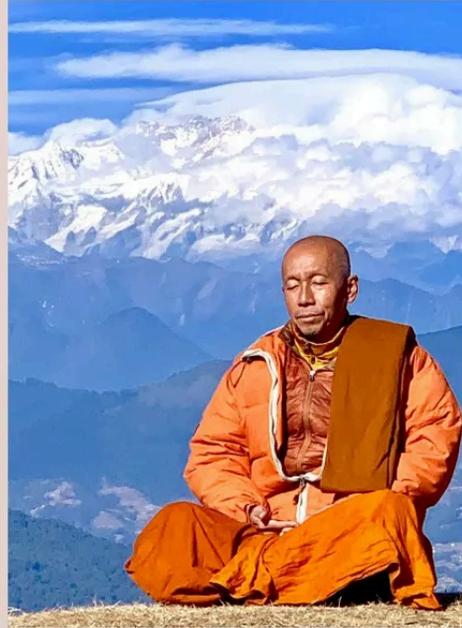
SUMMARY

The Peace Pilgrimage Project began as a journey fueled by profound faith and inspiration, rooted deeply in the teachings of the Buddha. When the Buddha sent his first 60 disciples to spread his wisdom far and wide, he envisioned a world where his teachings could touch and uplift the lives of countless individuals. Phra Sutham, moved by this vision, recognized the profound impact these teachings could have when applied to everyday life. During his monastic training, Phra Sutham dedicated himself to studying the Buddhist scriptures and engaging in meditation practice.



Through this immersive experience, he developed an unwavering belief in the path he had chosen. His confidence was further bolstered by the story of Xuanzang, the renowned Tang Dynasty monk who undertook an extraordinary journey from China to India. Xuanzang's mission was to retrieve the sacred Buddhist texts and bring them back to China, a quest marked by incredible perseverance and dedication. Phra Sutham was deeply inspired by Xuanzang's relentless commitment and saw a parallel in his own journey.

In 2018, Phra Sutham embarked on his own pilgrimage, setting out with a clear and heartfelt mission. His journey, which began as a solitary endeavor, was driven by three core objectives. Each day, he practiced and cultivated diligence, mindfulness, and concentration while walking. He shared the Buddha's teachings with everyone he met along the way and spread a message of peace: that world peace is not the duty of a single individual but a collective responsibility. True peace, he emphasized, must start from within each person.



The success of this project cannot be measured solely in conventional terms. While the qualitative impacts are deeply personal and subjective, the quantitative results speak volumes. What began with Phra Sutham walking alone, without external support, has blossomed into a movement that has captivated and inspired thousands. Today, over 20,000 people follow his journey on Facebook, and local communities have rallied around him with incredible support. They have offered symbols of solidarity, as well as practical assistance including food, drink, accommodation, and transportation.

The support has been overwhelming, with contributions spanning from flight costs to local transportation, such as buses and ferries. This remarkable network of support underscores a powerful truth: when one person's vision for peace resonates with others, it can spark a movement that transcends boundaries.



Although the pilgrimage officially concluded in Bress, France, the spirit and mission of the project continue to resonate and inspire. The journey of Phra Sutham serves as a living testament to the impact of dedication and the collective power of people coming together with a shared vision. It reminds us that the quest for peace is a continuous journey, one that starts within each of us and has the potential to transform the world around us.



Bussakorn Pongorapin is a dedicated and accomplished individual with a diverse academic background and a distinguished career. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in Geology from Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Science, and a Ph.D. in Law from Pacific Coast University School of Law in Long Beach, California. Currently, she serves as an Immigration Services Official with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where she applies her expertise to crucial national security matters.

Her journey with the Peace Pilgrimage Group began in 2021, during a pivotal break in their Phase 3 journey. At that time, she was assisting Phra Wijitdhammapani, the abbot of Wat Florida Dhammaram, in spreading the teachings of Buddhism and organizing various activities, including the Peace Pilgrimage event held in Florida. The presence of the pilgrimage group at this event sparked her deep connection to their mission. Since then, she has been an unwavering supporter of the Peace Pilgrimage. Whenever her professional commitments allowed, she joined the pilgrimage, immersing herself in the shared goal of promoting peace. Her dedication grew, leading her to take on significant administrative responsibilities within the project. Though she joined the initiative at a later stage, her contributions have been invaluable, particularly in managing behind-the-scenes tasks and facilitating coordination efforts.



Author's Biography

Bussakorn's commitment extends beyond mere participation; it embodies a profound dedication to fostering peace and understanding. She expresses her deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported and contributed to the success of this transformative project. While global conflicts remain unresolved, the inner conflicts within us are gradually finding resolution through the practices of mindfulness, concentration, and wisdom cultivated daily. Her journey serves as an inspiring testament to the power of dedication and the impact of collective effort. It reminds us that every act of support, no matter how small, contributes to a larger vision of global harmony and personal peace.



Thank you!

The journey of the 'Walk for World Peace' project has been marked by an extraordinary level of support from many dedicated individuals. This success is a direct result of the collective effort and unwavering commitment from everyone involved. From logistical assistance and moral support to financial contributions and volunteer work, each form of support played a crucial role in ensuring the project's success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have been a part of this journey, as your generosity and dedication were fundamental to achieving our mission of fostering global peace.





WALK FOR WORLD PEACE



