

Religious statues:

Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer is 30-meters high and weighs 635 tons. With rods on its arms, head and hands, the statue is hit by lightning on average 12 times per summer. Over 1,800,000 people visit Christ the Redeemer. It is found in Rio, Brazil. It was built as a symbol of Brazilian Christianity. In 1850, the idea of building a religious monument was first suggested by a Catholic Priest.



Atop a hill in Thimphu, the capital and largest city of Bhutan, is a massive, golden Buddha sitting atop a gilded meditation hall. Many people viewing the statue aren't actually looking at one Buddha, they're looking at 125,000 of them. It is 51.5 metres tall. The statue is made of bronze and is gilded in gold. (Buddha is important - refer to Siddhartha Gautama who found the path to Enlightenment.)



Bolivia's Cristo de la Concordia is 33 meters tall (one meter for every year of Christ's life). On Sundays, visitors can climb to the observation decks in his arms for breathtaking views across Cochabamba. You can also go up by cable car. It is bigger than the Brazilian statue.

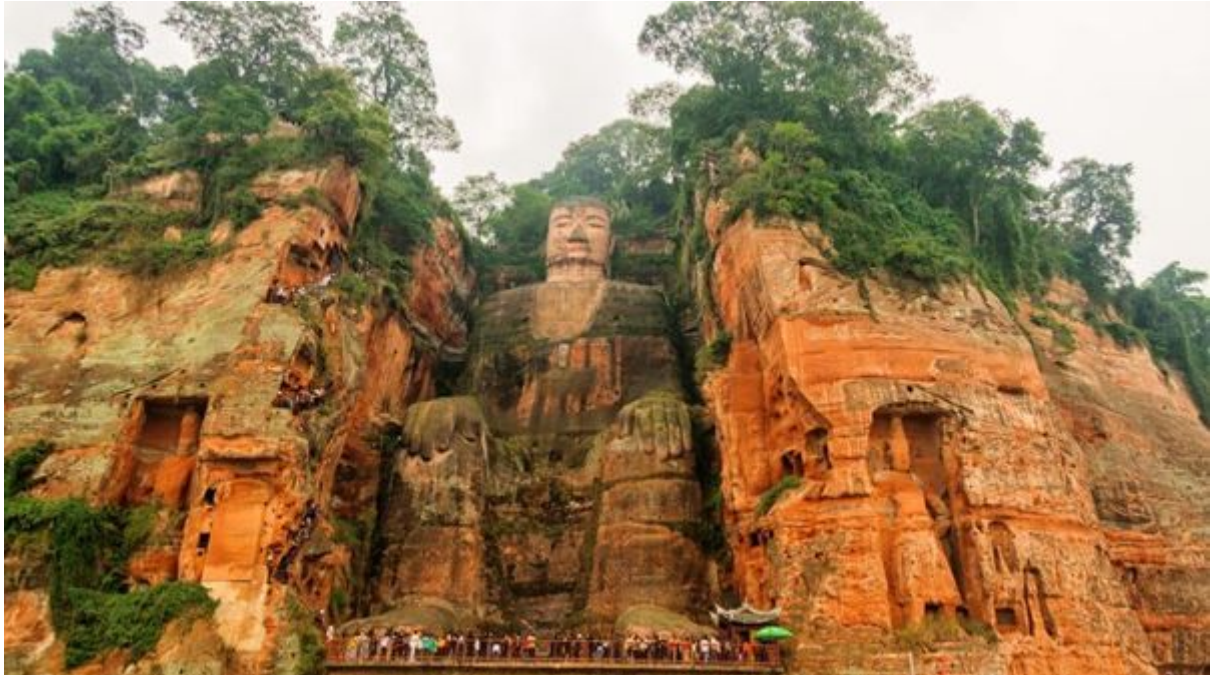


India has a wide range of religious forms from season to culture. Every year hundreds of festivals are celebrated in India. During the Maha Shivratri Day and the month of Shravan, devotees from all across the country visit Shiva temples and show their respect and offer prayers to the mighty God. Shiva is part of the holy trinity - Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu.





The Leshan Giant Buddha in Mount Emei is part of a UNESCO world heritage site in China's Sichuan province. The 71-metre-high sitting Buddha was carved out of a hillside around 1,200 years ago. From 2005-2007, it had around 2.3 to 2.8 million visitors per year! (Buddha is important - refer to Siddhartha Gautama who found the path to Enlightenment.)



On Lantau Island, Hong Kong's Tian Tan Buddha is said to contain the remains of Shakyamuni, the sage whose teachings Buddhism is based on. Over a million people visit each year. This is the most popular tourist attraction in Hong Kong. (Buddha is important - refer to Siddhartha Gautama who found the path to Enlightenment.)



Located in Bangkok (Thailand) Wat Pho temple complex, this reclining Buddha measures 15 meters high and 43 meters long. More than 10 000 people visit per day. It houses a school of Thai medicine, and is also known as the birthplace of traditional Thai massage. (Buddha is important - refer to Siddhartha Gautama who found the path to Enlightenment.)



The 100-meter-tall Japanese Bodhisattva (any person who is on the path towards Buddhahood) statue in Sendai, Japan, has an elevator that takes visitors to its higher sections. The interior is divided into 12 layers. You can view the 108 Buddha statues enshrined inside. If you get lost, you can simply follow the statue's gaze to the town center. (Buddha is important - refer to Siddhartha Gautama who found the path to Enlightenment.)

