



# UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

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**UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE**



# ANNUAL PEACE TRAINING CAMP

## Theme: Ubuntu Bulamu

**A transformative journey of 200 younger boys and girls**

This ethical camp is aimed at impacting both African and Buddhist core values of ethical conduct and compassion to the young boys and girls so that they bring peace to their family, community and Ugandan society.

- ✓ Generosity
- ✓ Sense of Community
- ✓ Obedient and Humility
- ✓ Excellent Communication Skills



**For More Information**

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**Date: December 9th – 14th, 2024**



I Love UBC.

## ANNUAL PEACE TRAINING CAMP SET FOR HISTORIC TURNOUT AS UBC PREPARES FOR 2025 EDITION

The Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) is preparing to host its largest Annual Peace Training Camp since the program first began, with a remarkable 270 children registered for the 2025 edition. The camp, themed “Ubuntu Bulamu – A Transformative Journey for Young Boys and Girls,” continues to grow as one of UBC’s signature initiatives in nurturing ethical conduct, compassion, and community values among young people.

What makes this year especially significant is not just the high enrolment but the extraordinary journey that brought the camp to this moment.

The Annual Peace Training Camp started years ago with only three children, driven

by a vision to instil African and Buddhist values of peace, discipline, empathy, and communal responsibility in young minds. However, the early stages were met with challenges.

Accommodation was extremely limited, with space for only two children and yet we had received three children. One child had to be reluctantly sent back home due to lack of sleeping space. But in a powerful sign of dedication and longing for peace training, the little boy refused to leave only to be discovered hiding because he desperately wanted to stay.

This touching moment revealed both the deep need and the tremendous potential of the camp. Still, with inadequate facilities, the program was paused.



The camp was revived only after UBC expanded its facilities, finally creating enough space for children to live, learn, and grow in a safe and nurturing environment. Improved accommodation opened the doors once again and slowly; participation began to rise year after year.

Fast-forward to today, the camp has blossomed into a transformative ethical training experience that attracts hundreds of children from various communities. The 2025 edition of the camp marks a historic moment with 270 children registered, the highest number ever in the program's history. This overwhelming interest reflects the community's trust in UBC's mission and the growing appreciation of values like:

### **Generosity**

### **Obedience and humility**

### **Sense of community**

### **Excellent communication skills**

The camp offers more than just training it provides a safe space for personal growth, meditation, storytelling, ethical guidance, and cultural connection. Through African Ubuntu values and Buddhist ethical teachings, children are guided on how to cultivate peace within themselves, their families, and wider Ugandan society.

The Annual Peace Training Camp stands today not only as an educational program but as a beacon of hope showing what is possible when compassion, vision, and perseverance come together. From a humble beginning with three children and no beds, the camp has grown into a life-shaping experience for hundreds of young Ugandans. As UBC prepares to welcome the 270 participants for this transformative journey, the message is clear: peace grows when seeds are planted in the hearts of children.





## THE EXPANSION OF AFRICAN BUDDHIST HIGH SCHOOL

The expansion of African Buddhist High School is more than a construction project; it is the continuation of a vision born from compassion and deep concern for the well-being of children in the community.

Years ago, as Bhante Buddharakkhita walked the dusty roads near the Uganda Buddhist Centre, he witnessed young learners traveling long distances to school, covered in dust, tired, and often discouraged. At that time, schools were very far from the village, and many children struggled daily just to access education.

From this experience, a powerful vision was born to bring education closer to the community, so that learning would not be a burden, but a blessing.

This vision gave rise to three institutions:

- Buddhist Peace Nursery School
- Buddhist Peace Primary School
- African Buddhist High School

A unique commitment defines these schools:

All learners across the three schools receive a 60% scholarship, ensuring that education is accessible to families who would otherwise be unable to afford quality schooling. This is a living example of education guided by compassion, generosity, and service.

Today, African Buddhist High School is growing. The foundation works shown in the photos represent the first step in building new classrooms and learning spaces. These foundations symbolize strong roots foundations laid not only in the soil, but in the future of hundreds of learners.

Looking ahead, Buddhist Peace Nursery School will begin construction of its permanent buildings next year, strengthening the pathway of education from early childhood through secondary level.





## UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE FEATURES IN GLOBAL INDIGENOUS COMMONS CONVERSATION

The Uganda Buddhist Centre was honored to be highlighted in the first session of an inspiring global dialogue led by Indigenous Commons. The conversation featured Dr. Bhante Buddharakkhita in an interview with Indigenous Commons Elder Kinmaker and Matricultural Visionary, Skeena Rathor. The session left many feeling deeply moved, with heartfelt reflections on Bhante's life, his founding of the Uganda Buddhist Centre, and the spiritual significance of protecting the sacred shores of Nalubaale (Lake Victoria), where the Centre now stands.

Skeena offered a powerful tribute to Bhante's work, saying:

"It is quite breathtaking to think that you are now there, tending to the healing quality, tending to the repair, tending to the rematriation, tending to the nervous system of the world where it all began. In Nalubaale."

The conversation explored Bhante's personal journey, his vision for Buddhist practice in Africa, and the global responsibility of safeguarding spaces dedicated to healing, peace, and mindful living. It also highlighted what is at stake as the Centre continues to grow as a sanctuary for compassion and spiritual development.

Those who missed the live session are encouraged to watch the full discussion and experience this thoughtful exchange for themselves:

□ Watch the full interview here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpmfx-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpmfx-CrxI5k&list=PLDz1Us2tjM9-zfVp-8VW0AwnBDxDhIDIQ&index=4)

[CrxI5k&list=PLDz1Us2tjM9-zfVp-8VW0AwnBDxDhIDIQ&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpmfx-CrxI5k&list=PLDz1Us2tjM9-zfVp-8VW0AwnBDxDhIDIQ&index=4)



## **WALK IN THE BUDDHA'S FOOTSTEPS: SECURE YOUR SPOT FOR THE 2026 INDIA & NEPAL PILGRIMAGE.**

India & Nepal March 2026 In a rare and transformative opportunity for spiritual seekers around the world, RetreatTours, in collaboration with Tricycle: The Buddhist Review, has announced the return of its acclaimed pilgrimage, Walk with the Buddha. The 2026 edition will be led by Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita, founder of the Uganda Buddhist Centre and one of Africa's pioneering voices in engaged Buddhism.

Running from March 8 to 21, 2026, this immersive journey invites participants to trace the footsteps of the Buddha himself from his birthplace in Lumbini to his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, to his first teaching in Sarnath, and finally, to his peaceful passing in Kushinagar.

For those seeking an extended spiritual experience, an optional post-tour extension in Kathmandu, Nepal, will run through March 24, offering time for reflection, exploration, and community connection.

This is more than a pilgrimage; it is a profound return to the roots of the Dhamma, says Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita. It's an invitation to connect deeply with the teachings in the very places where they were first shared.



## A Spiritual Journey Grounded in Ethics and Sustainability

The pilgrimage is intentionally designed to honor Buddhist values, not only in practice but in logistics. The tour is carbon-negative, thanks to RetreaTours' partnership with Carbonfund.org, and prioritizes cultural sensitivity, mindful travel, and ecological responsibility. Participants will benefit from:

Daily meditations and teachings with Bhante Buddharakkhita

Guided visits to the Four Holy Sites and surrounding communities

An intimate group setting to foster deep spiritual reflection

Thoughtfully arranged accommodation, meals, and transportation for a seamless and nourishing journey

He was born in Uganda as Steven Kaboggoza to a Christian family in 1966 in Kampala, Uganda, East Africa, Africa. He first encountered Buddhism in 1990 while studying in India. He was fully ordained as a Buddhist monk by the late Most Venerable U Silananda in 2002 at the Tathagata Meditation Center in San Jose, California. He then spent eight years under the guidance of Bhante Henepola Gunaratana at the Bhavana Society in West Virginia.

He is the Founder/Abbot of the Uganda Buddhist Centre in Uganda. Bhante is also the founder of the Buddhist Peace School (Pre-Primary), Buddhist Peace Primary School, and African Buddhist High School in Entebbe Garuga, Uganda.

He is a long-time member of Global Buddhist Relief's advisory council in New Jersey. Bhante has been teaching mindfulness meditation in Africa, the U.S., Singapore, and worldwide since 2005, and he is a much-loved teacher in many countries.

Global Interest Already Building

With limited availability and international interest growing, early registration is highly encouraged.

To learn more and reserve your place, visit:

[www.retreatours.com/Buddha2026](http://www.retreatours.com/Buddha2026)

The Buddha's teachings are timeless. This pilgrimage is a reminder that the path he walked is still alive today within us, and across the world, Bhante Buddharakkhita.

Walk in the footsteps of the Buddha with Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita and Tricycle on a pilgrimage through India and Nepal, March 8–21, 2026.

Optional extension to Kathmandu.

Reserve your place today

<http://www.retreatours.com/Buddha2026>

Registration Link below

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQF-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQF-FUGq1D9ag-Z0L7Eif1PCv7NfvWRZPvLmF0yLVjeDWXqg/viewform)

[FUGq1D9ag-Z0L7Eif1PCv7NfvWRZPvLmF0yLVjeDWXqg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQF-FUGq1D9ag-Z0L7Eif1PCv7NfvWRZPvLmF0yLVjeDWXqg/viewform)



## **GRATITUDE MESSAGE FROM THE ABBOT: VEN. BHANTE BUDDHARAKKHITA**

I am eternally grateful to all our supporters around the world who have supported the Uganda Buddhist Center projects, like Compassion Care Center, to provide education, food and accommodation for the orphans. And the Buddhist Peace Schools, preschool, primary school, and African Buddhist High School to help us educate children from our community, who are underprivileged, and do not have access to holistic education. Through your support, women in our com-

munity have acquired skills that have enabled them to earn income, sustain their families and take their children to school.

We are grateful for all your continued support. And also, I would like to welcome more support so that we can continue to help people in Uganda.

Thank you very much. This is my blessing to you all. May you have long healthy life, May you be happy, May you be peaceful, May you have spiritual strength, May you be free from suffering and its causes.

Sadhu, sadhu, sadhu.

## SUPPORTING UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huong Tu Lovingkindness Foundation USA, Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, and all our beloved donors from around the world.

### UBC still needs your support:

To maintain resident teachers/monastics

To maintain the Temple

To build monks accommodation facilities

To construct and operation of Buddhist Secondary School

### How to Donate

1. For donors in the USA
2. Please write out the Check/Cheque to: Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities
3. Please Write in the Memo of the Check: Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante Buddharakkhita
4. Please take a photocopy of the check and send it via email: [ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com](mailto:ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com)
5. Please Mail the check to the physical address below: Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities C/O Hung Pham 10222 Larson Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92843

### Donate Online

Please follow the links below to make a secure donation online:

<https://www.every.org/uganda-buddhist-centre-ug>

Please note that this payment gateway accepts 3D secure transactions only. This means that only cards that are Verified by Visa, and Mastercard secure code will be accepted. If your donation doesn't go through, kindly contact your bank to ensure you are secured.

Use Wise or Xoom.

Thank you!

## **HOW TO DONATE. wire transfer**

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

Bank Name : I & M Bank

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

Bank Address: Orient Plaza, 6/6A, Kampala Road.

