



WANTED - TOUR GUIDE AT THE GREAT STUPA

As the largest stupa in the Western world, the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is a major tourist attraction and pilgrimage destination in regional Victoria. We are seeking the services of a tour guide to join our team to work daily inside the stupa. The position would suit a sangha member or lay person with a solid Buddhist background. A tour guide at the stupa needs to be people-friendly, and a good communicator who is able to relate to people from highly varied backgrounds.

Following advice received from His Holiness the Dalia Lama, Lama Yeshe, and Lama Zopa, the Great Stupa aims to inspire all to visit us to follow a more peaceful and spiritual path. This position presents a rare and valuable opportunity to explain Buddhist values in a non-dogmatic, non-sectarian and non-proselytizing manner to a mass audience.

The Great Stupa is also a centre of interfaith harmony where all major faiths and Buddhist traditions are acknowledged. We are blessed with wonderful dharma teachers from Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, Machig Labdron Nunnery and Atisha Centre in the Bendigo region. Limited and quite basic accommodation may be available on site and relatively inexpensive rental accommodation is available nearby.

The Tour Guide duties are wide ranging, and include welcoming visitors, providing tours of the Great Stupa, leading meditations for visiting groups, tending to alters, offerings and displays, general cleaning inside the stupa, and assisting in the hosting for large group visits, ceremonies and events.

Additional shifts may be available for those who are happy to work within the Visitor Centre. The duties in the Visitor Centre include the initial welcoming of visitors, arranging our introductory DVD for viewing, providing details to visitors on the site prior to their tour within the stupa, tour guiding through the Peace Park for large groups, sales within the gift shop, assisting the Retail Manager with stock displays, assisting the café where needed, and general cleaning within the Visitor Centre.

The position is casual but regular work is offered on a weekly basis. Remuneration is per the Amusement, Events and Recreation Award – Grade 2, with superannuation of 10% (or as directed by Federal Government legislation). This position is to commence as soon as possible.

Please forward your cover letter and resume to the General Manager: Bridget Netley - bridget@stupa.org.au

A quote from Venerable Jampa about his experience as a tour guide at the Great Stupa:

I was a little apprehensive when I was asked if I would be interested in working at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion as a tour guide.

Firstly, the idea of working for a wage was something my precious teachers had said wasn't suitable for a fully ordained monk, and I also wasn't sure if it was a worthwhile use of my time.

I went to Geshe Thubten Rabten to seek advice regarding the work, he was very supportive and practical stating that it didn't go against my vows and was a very worthwhile Dharma activity.

I have now been working as a tour guide at the Great Stupa for over half a year and it has been an amazing experience, firstly having the chance to help fulfill the wishes of H.H the Dalai Lama, Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa is a very rare and precious thing.

To be able to meet and interact with the public and have the opportunity to talk about the wonderful vision for the stupa, the stupa itself and the many holy objects is also very rewarding.

But to be honest the biggest impact for myself has being able to see the impact that the stupa project is having on the many visitors, it's quite moving to see people react so positively to this holy project.

I can really recommend Sangha becoming involved in the project, it's very fulfilling.

Warm regards, Jampa.