PROJECT

108

108 Jangchub Chortens, each 15 metres tall,
completed together in a single coordinated day.

108	15 m	108 m	1.62 km
CHORTENS	HEIGHT	SPACING	STACKED HEIGHT

THE PROJECT

In a world troubled by conflict, Bhutan offers a sacred gesture of peace.

Project 108 is a Royal initiative to complete 108 Jangchub Chortens in one coordinated day in Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan. Each chorten will stand 15 metres tall. The full line will be positioned 108 metres apart, in a single file along the Mau chhu River. Not a cluster of monuments, but a procession.

It is, by any measure, extraordinary. But it is not merely an engineering feat. In the Buddhist tradition, building a chorten is one of the most meritorious acts a person can undertake, a gift of spiritual benefit not just to those who build it, but to everyone who encounters it. Project 108 is a collective offering to the world.

> *"We must do it to prove to ourselves that, as we face the challenges ahead, there is no limit to what we can achieve when we stand together."*
>
> His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan, 21 February 2026

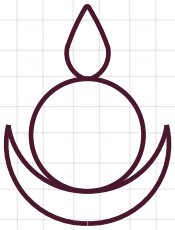
What exactly is being built?

If you've travelled in Asia, you've almost certainly seen a stupa: a domed or tiered monument, sometimes white, sometimes gold, found on temple grounds, on mountain passes, and at crossroads. They are among the oldest architectural forms in the world.

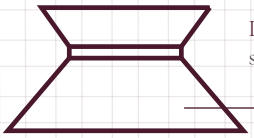
A chorten is not a building in the conventional sense. No one lives in it. No one worships inside it. It is a sealed sacred structure, filled with prayers, blessings, and spiritual texts, that radiates merit to all who come near it. Think of it as a physical form of prayer, made permanent in stone and earth.

The tradition is over 2,500 years old. The earliest stupas were built to enshrine relics of the Buddha after his passing. Over the centuries, they evolved into monuments commemorating key events in the Buddha's life, and into structures that communities build as offerings: for the wellbeing of the living, in memory of the departed, and for the benefit of all sentient beings.

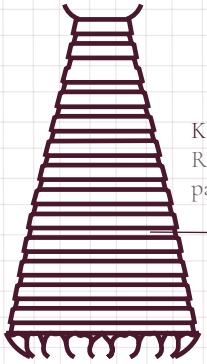
ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION: JANGCHUB CHORTEN (STUPA OF ENLIGHTENMENT)



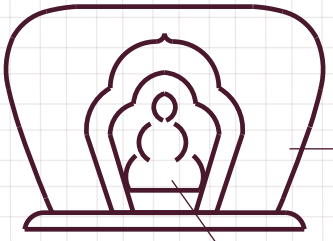
NYIM-DA : Moon, Sun, and Flame
Compassion, Wisdom, and their Union



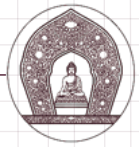
DHUG : The parasol (canopy). Positioned to offer spiritual protection from all negative influences.



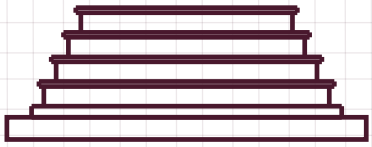
KHORLO : The 13 rings of the spire.
Represents the 13 stages a practitioner must pass through to reach Buddhahood.



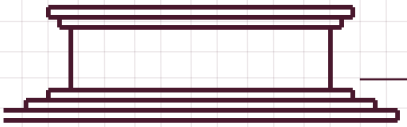
BUM-PA : The main rounded dome (vase). It symbolizes the Pure Body of the Buddha and serves as the vessel for sacred relics.



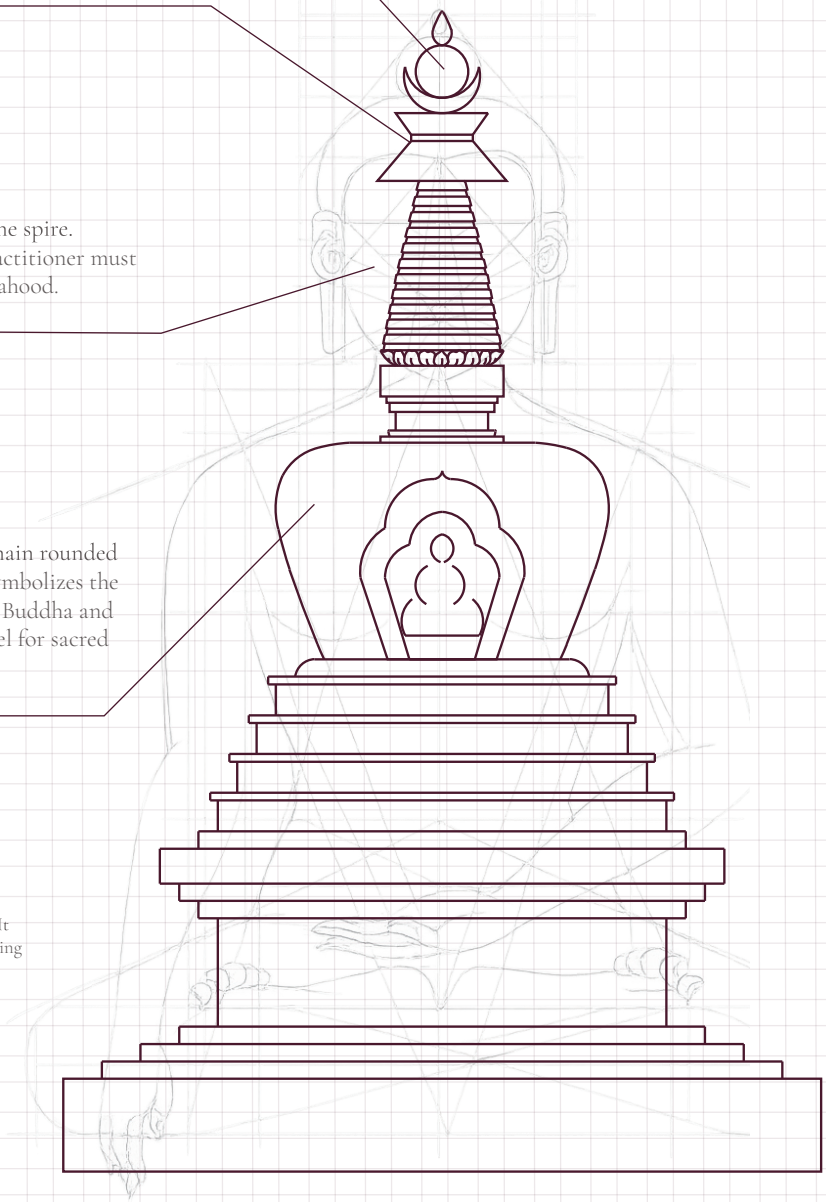
LHAKHANG : The niche or window. It holds the image of a Buddha, representing the Presence of the Enlightened Mind.



BANGRIM : The tiered steps. These represent the Four Noble Truths and the progressive path to liberation.



THRI : The square base/pedestal. Symbolizes the Earth Element and serves as the solid foundation for all existence.



15,000 mm (15 m)

Stupa

(stoo-pah, Sanskrit)

The universal term for a Buddhist sacred monument, found across all Buddhist cultures from Sri Lanka to Japan. The word means "to heap," referring to the original earthen mounds built over sacred relics.

Chorten

(chor-ten, Bhutanese)

The Himalayan word for stupa, used in Bhutan, Tibet, and Nepal. Literally "basis of offering." A familiar part of the Bhutanese landscape, found on mountain passes, at village entrances, and along pilgrimage routes.

Jangchub Chorten

(jang-chub chor-ten)

The "Stupa of Enlightenment," the most significant of the eight classical types. It commemorates the moment the Buddha attained enlightenment. This is the form being built for Project 108.

In Buddhist understanding, building a chorten generates merit, or spiritual benefit, not only for the builder but for everyone who sees it, touches it, or passes by it. A chorten is a gift that keeps giving, across generations.

A line of prayer across the land

The 108 chortens will stand in a single file along the Mau chhu, spaced 108 metres apart, centre to centre. The result is a procession: ordered, disciplined, legible, and monumental.

FORMATION
SINGLE FILE ALONG THE MAU CHHU, 108 M CENTRE-TO-CENTRE

The spacing is part of the poetry of the project: 108 chortens, 108 metres apart, in a single procession along the river.

How tall is 15 metres?

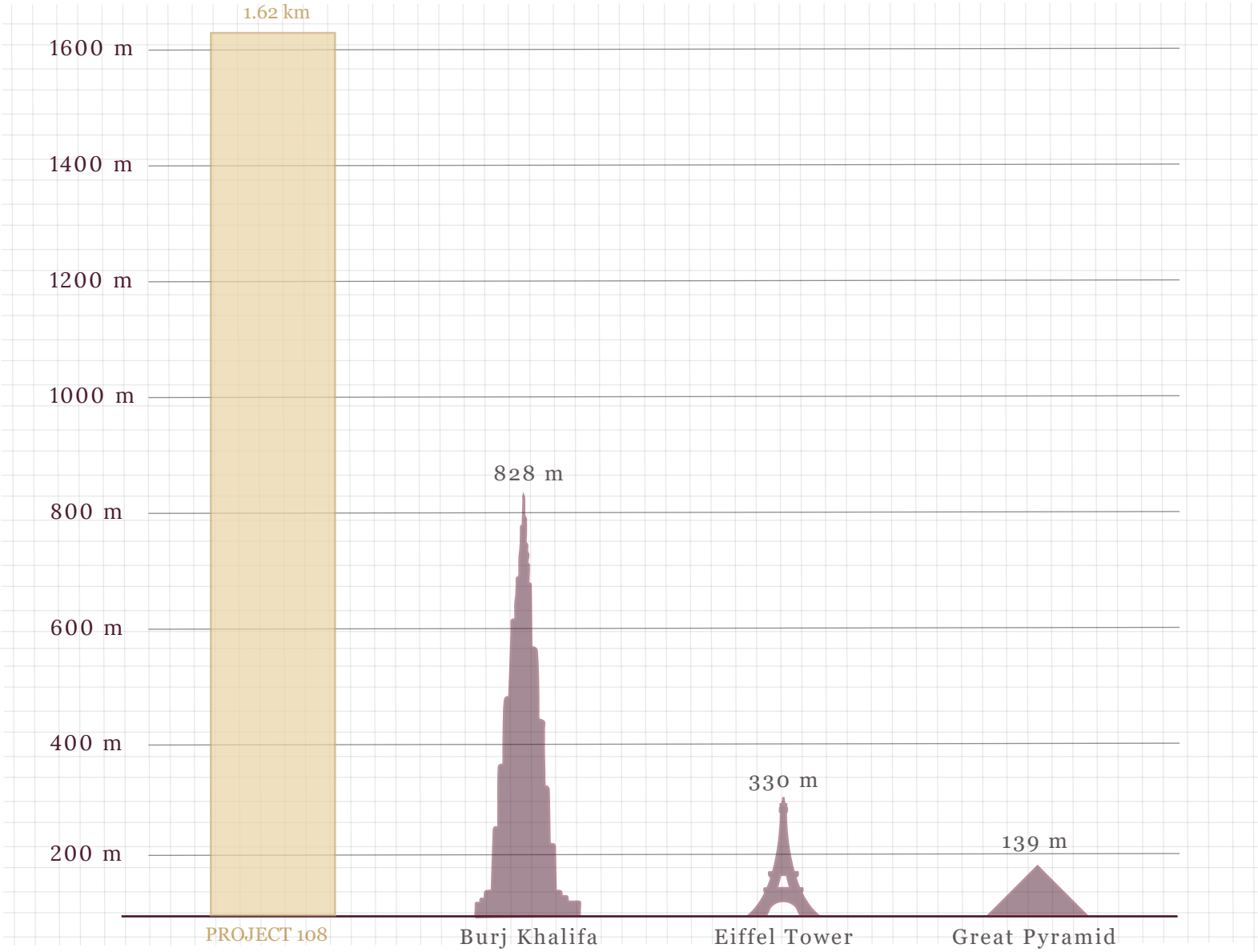
A COMPARATIVE SCALE: ONE JANGCHUB CHORTEN

Each Jangchub Chorten will stand roughly 50% taller than a three-storey building, and over eight times the height of a person.

SCALE: ALL 108 TOGETHER

If stacked vertically

108 chortens at 15 metres each would rise 1.62 kilometres into the sky. Nearly twice the height of the Burj Khalifa. Roughly five Eiffel Towers. More than eleven Great Pyramids.



The Project 108 bar is segmented into 108 divisions. Each line represents one chorten. Together, they form a sacred presence nearly twice the height of the world's tallest building.

THE NUMBER

108

Why 108?

The number 108 appears with striking consistency across the world's spiritual and scientific traditions. Across cultures and centuries, it has been recognised as a number of completeness, a point where the cosmic and the personal converge.

For those encountering it for the first time, the sheer frequency of 108 across unrelated traditions is remarkable:

ASTRONOMY

The distance between the Earth and the Sun is approximately 108 times the Sun's diameter. The distance between the Earth and the Moon is approximately 108 times the Moon's diameter. These are measurable, scientific facts, not metaphors.

BUDDHISM

The complete teachings of the Buddha, known as the Kangyur, are preserved in exactly 108 volumes. Practitioners count 108 beads on a prayer mala, circumambulate sacred sites 108 times, and ring temple bells 108 times. There are said to be 108 afflictive emotions that obscure clarity and compassion.

HINDUISM

There are 108 Upanishads (sacred philosophical texts). Many Hindu deities have 108 names. In yoga, the sun salutation is traditionally performed in cycles of 108.

MATHEMATICS

108 is the product of $1^1 \times 2^2 \times 3^3$. A number that has fascinated mathematicians for its elegant internal structure and its recurrence in natural geometry.

In Project 108, the number is not decorative. It defines the scale of a total sacred gesture: 108 chortens, 108 metres apart, embodying 108 as an invocation of wholeness.

40,000 volunteers. One coordinated day.

Project 108 does not mean that the undertaking begins on the morning of 1 November 2026. It means that the 15-metre external structures of all 108 chortens will be completed together on that day, following extensive advance preparation.

Foundations will be prepared in advance. Engineering, sourcing of materials, and vendor discussions are already underway. Eminent Buddhist masters are already involved in the project. The one-day completion is not spectacle. It is the culmination of planning, logistics, craftsmanship, volunteer energy, and aligned intention.

In Vajrayana Buddhism, the tradition practised in Bhutan, there is a teaching that when intention, action, and awareness are perfectly aligned, transformation can occur within a single moment. The coordinated act is the spiritual point: physical labour becomes practice, united effort becomes shared merit.

A nation already at work

Since His Majesty's announcement on 21 February 2026, people have been volunteering in the thousands at the chorten sites along the Mau chhu. Carrying sickles and spades, arriving with eagerness and intention, they are clearing land, preparing ground, and beautifying the sites. The work has begun.

Zhābto. 1st November, 2026.

The sacred Bhutanese tradition of *zhabto*, voluntary communal work offered freely as a form of spiritual practice, has escalated to proportions no one anticipated. Every group of volunteers represents an entire cross-section of society: school children and retirees, monks and nuns emerging from retreat and technology professionals, farmers and diplomats, doctors and musicians, professional strongmen and people with disabilities. A planeload of Bhutanese diaspora on a chartered flight from Australia was possibly just the beginning.

For the final act on 1 November, when all 108 external structures will be raised simultaneously, the project will need at least 40,000 trained volunteers working in coordinated teams across all 108 sites.

A workforce to rival history's greatest builds

To understand what 40,000 people building together in a single day means, consider the workforces behind history's most celebrated construction projects:

PROJECT	WORKFORCE	DURATION	NATURE OF LABOUR
GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA	20,000 -30,000	~20 Years	Built through organised labour and seasonal civic duty.
TAJ MAHAL	20,000 artisans and labourers.	~22 Years	Assembled by imperial commission from across the Mughal Empire.
GREAT WALL OF CHINA	Hundreds of thousands across dynasties.	Centuries	Built through successive waves of state-directed labour.
PROJECT 108	40,000	1 DAY	VOLUNTARY

Project 108 will mobilise a workforce comparable to the Great Pyramid and the Taj Mahal in a single coordinated day. But there is one distinction that separates it from every entry in that list: every person is there for a purpose. A greater calling.

The world has heard, and is coming to Gelephu.

READINESS

This is already in motion

Ambitious sacred projects require both devotion and rigour. Project 108 is being shaped by both.

CONFIRMED

SITE

The site stretches over 12 km along the Mau chhu.

LOCKED

DESIGN

The project is proceeding with the Jangchub Chorten design.

UNDERWAY

ENGINEERING

Technical planning and foundation preparation are already active.

IN PROGRESS

MATERIALS AND VENDORS

Sourcing and vendor discussions are in full swing.

ACTIVE

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Eminent Buddhist masters are already involved in the project.

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

The project welcomes dialogue with supporters from around the world.

A tradition of sacred buildings

In Himalayan Buddhist tradition, King Songtsen Gampo is said to have established a network of 108 temples across the region, including the Kyichu and Jambay Lhakhangs which still stand in Bhutan today, each at a precise geographical point to anchor the Buddhist teachings.

Project 108 continues this tradition. It is, at its heart, the same impulse: to build something sacred, together, as an offering of peace to a world that needs it.

Two ways to take part

Project 108 is shaped by two forces: those who sponsor the chortens and those who build them. Both are acts of merit. Both are needed.

SPONSOR A CHORTEN

Starting from USD 200,000

Per Chorten, flexible by conversation

Each of the 108 Jangchub Chortens may be sponsored by an individual, a family, a community, or an institution. Sponsorship covers construction, sacred materials, and consecration by Buddhist masters.

Each chorten may be dedicated in honour of a sponsor, a loved one, a family, a community, or all sentient beings. A plaque will provide permanent recognition.

For some, the invitation will be spiritual. For others, cultural, civilisational, or deeply personal. For all, it is a chance to take part in something designed to endure across generations.

JOIN THE BUILD

40,000

Volunteers needed

Tens of thousands of volunteers are already at work along the Mau chhu, clearing land and preparing the 108 sites. For the final act on 1 November 2026, when all 108 external structures will be raised together, at least 40,000 volunteers will be needed across all sites simultaneously.

Volunteers will be trained in advance so that on the day itself, every team knows exactly what to do. No specialist skills are required. What matters is willingness, discipline, and shared purpose.

The sacred Bhutanese tradition of Zhābto has already drawn tens of thousands to GMC. The world is welcome to join.

Structure

Jangchub Chorten (Stupa of Enlightenment), 15 metres in height.

Formation

Single file along the Mau chhu, 108 metres apart, centre to centre.

Participation

Open globally to individuals, families, communities, and institutions.

Date

1 November 2026

CONTACT US

Begin the Conversation

Whether you wish to sponsor a chorten or volunteer for the build, we warmly invite you to reach out at your earliest convenience. Preparations are already underway.

Gelephu Mindfulness City Authority

This act of collective prayer and spiritual practice comes in a period that Buddhist masters have described as degenerate times. For all peoples, it is a reminder of the need for peace and spiritual protection in a world dealing with endless turmoil.

We welcome all to this collective act of merit.

Email: 108@gmc.bt

Phone: +975-17525480