

Buddhist Films & Documentaries Freely Available Online in English:

1) Doing Time, Doing Vipassana (1997)

<http://vimeo.com/33065759>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0367665>

Goenka style vipassana taught in an Indian jail

2) Changing from Inside (1998)

<https://archive.org/details/ChangingFromInside>

Goenka style vipassana taught in an American jail to female inmates

3) The Dhamma Brothers (2008)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PCXeHNL3s8>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1212007>

Goenka style vipassana taught in an American prison

4) Act Normal (2006)

<http://vimeo.com/27590176>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0799914>

Bhikkhu Dhammanando bio

5) Amongst White Clouds (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FumyvVOVbaY>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1270080>

A journey exploring the practices of Chinese hermits

6) Biography of Ajahn Chah

<http://www.ajahnchah.org/videos.htm>

Related by Ajahn Jayasaro

7) Meditate and Destroy (2007)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clJHOB3vrUU>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1370873/>

About American teacher Noah Levine

8) The Buddha (2010)

<http://www.pbs.org/thebuddha/>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1478841>

9) The Life of The Buddha BBC Documentary (2007)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsEksMEE2Eg>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1039902>

10) Zen (2009)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8s5Uz8XSc-Y>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1156470>

Life of Zen Master Dogen

11) Zen - The Best Of Alan Watts (1994)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QSeJkvaWg>

12) Zen – Principles and Practices

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfR_ZkRQz3Q

13) Zen Buddhism In Search of Self

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDsK2YV7klc>

A 3 month retreat filmed at Baek Hung Temple Korea

14) Man on Cloud Mountain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL49M0WkcLc>

About Harada Roshi visiting America in 1991

15) The Monk Bodhidharma, The First Patriarch of Zen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThWUwIRXa60#t=150>

16) Why Has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?: A Zen Fable (1989)

<http://www.veoh.com/watch/v6094217MRPSENSQ>

<http://www.veoh.com/watch/v6094213DHa7TmwH>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097195>

17) Wake Up! On the Road with a Zen Master (1992) (playlist)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj5UitJLC-Y&list=PLgif92fw3PEzMhfs-EIChb39FVwNMgtVf>

About Zen Master Seung Sahn

18) The Tripitaka Koreana, A Thousand Years of Wisdom

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGxlqx_zFBA

19) Old Plum Mountain: The Berkeley Zen Center (2012)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1979292>

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/13212/Old-Plum-Mountain--The-Berkeley-Zen-Center--Life-Inside-the-Gate>

20) The Zen Mind (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq4I0vADTco>

21) The Long Search BBC Doc. (1977) episodes 3 & 9
Buddhism: Footprint of the Buddha (Sri Lanka)
Buddhism: The Land of Disappearing Buddha (Japan)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3r202etWLE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM4sQrheAqM>

22) Seven Wonders of The Buddhist World BBC Documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7ZIpVKZaI4>
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2004343>

23) Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring (2003) (playlist)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_T6U_GrXRk&list=PL6E3262FC8C5EC4D9
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0374546>

24) Yogis Of Tibet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DctQTDm-HdU>
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1429400>

25) Remains of Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK8VuLYnzYA>

26) Refuge and Talking with the Dali Lama (2006)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dpX8CHiYYw>

27) Buddha's Lost Children (2006)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJcn8SRQNoM>
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0829118>

28) Wheel of Time (2003)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRjSi9ELD9I>
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0331080/>

29) The Burmese Harp (1956)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpsZicyHMtQ>
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0049012>

30) Kundun (1997)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC0jChlBwHE>
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119485>

31) Tibetan Book of the Dead History Channel Doc. (2007)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ermcc6iDqQA>

32) The Tibetan Book of the Dead: A Way of Life & The Great Liberation (1994)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0227652>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0227651>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfdFoINVdoQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEX5mBqa554>

33) Mother Sela

<http://vimeo.com/45785171>

The life journey of Seta Manoukian, an artist who becomes a Buddhist nun

34) The Cross and The Bodhi Tree

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/2490/The-Cross-and-the-Bodhi-Tree>

Two ordained Christians reflect on their experiences with Buddhism

35) Gnosis, The Spirit of Tibet - A Journey to Enlightenment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQPmnGTUHYU>

About Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche

36) Webu Sayadaw: Anthology of a Noble One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaECIM4VaAw>

37) Angulimala (2003)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCofgMsDW7w>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0417431>

A film about the life of a serial killer who is converted by the Buddha

38) Path to Enlightenment parts 1-4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgTl6w-TynE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1hwK6HEOcU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20DYr5TSdwc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTptjHNm0_s

This Vietnamese four-episode series features the journey of the Buddha

39) Indian Roots of Tibetan Buddhism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqkFOK7OFos>

40) Mystic Tibet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rEWwlUj7Oo>

About a pilgrimage to Tibet by Lama Zopa Rinpoche and his students

41) Land of Buddha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zuXg8SEIKU>

42) In The Footsteps of a Yogi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duz3qQCTvYw>

H.E. Nubpa Rinpoche and devotees go on a pilgrimage to Lapchi

43) Bones Of The Buddha - Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn3lk6xTF24>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2825842>

44) Tibet's Stolen Child

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34XYItT9dYA>

45) Shangri-La, Lost Treasures of Tibet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajuJEtq7v6Y>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0662637>

46) Life of The Buddha by Martin Meissonnier (2003)

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/8060/Life-of-Buddha>

47) The Lion's Roar – A Portrait of the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa (playlist)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL476972066AD7644C&v=XV8p7c1w5A8)

[list=PL476972066AD7644C&v=XV8p7c1w5A8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL476972066AD7644C&v=XV8p7c1w5A8)

48) Karmapa, The Lion Begins To Roar

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZv-ov9Y9Kc>

49) His Holiness the 17th Karmapa's Return To Tsurphu Monastery

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BM4NT6e1Ym0>

50) Marathon Monks of Mt Hiei (1992)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emE-dxCyRz4>

51) On the Path of the Buddha: Buddhist Pilgrimage in North India

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJf4ivzOcS4>

52) H.E. Chogye Trichen Rinpoche's Succinct Biography and Funeral (playlist)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWZMIgv8n8o&list=PLdwCuEoZ_6l7sIaoJXpirz9BrifFLY4o7)

[v=TWZMIgv8n8o&list=PLdwCuEoZ_6l7sIaoJXpirz9BrifFLY4o7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWZMIgv8n8o&list=PLdwCuEoZ_6l7sIaoJXpirz9BrifFLY4o7)

53) Tenzin Palmo – Cave in the Snow

<http://vimeo.com/45500914>

54) Tibetan Buddhism in China

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY0v3QejaWU>

55) Samsara (2001)

<https://archive.org/details/Samsara-PanNalin>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0196069>

56) The Thai Buddhist Forest Tradition, Thudong: Forest Monks and Hermits

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCJi3u_KmQQ

57) The Science of the Mind – National Geographic (2007)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weLwDSS2LwA>

58) Dharma Master Cheng Yen – Discovery Channel Doc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHsDjv5JqbU>

59) Animals and the Buddha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0MWAAYkFuc>

60) Buddhist Women Speak On Ordination (1999)

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/8768/Buddhist-Women-Speak-On-Ordination>

61) Buddhist Women on Motherhood (1999)

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/8161/Buddhist-Women-On-Motherhood>

62) Sunrise Sunset Dali Lama 14th

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1437238/>

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/8467/Sunrise-Sunset--Dalai-Lama-14th>

63) Once Dumb, Twice Crazy, Third Time Wise: A Tale of Buddhist Pilgrimage

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50227/Once-Dumb--Twice-Crazy--Third-Time-Wise--A-Tale-of-Buddhist-Pilgrimage>

64) Yangsi

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2260060/>

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50333/Yangsi>

65) Sky Dancer

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1557875/>

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50486/Sky-Dancer>

66) Touch And Go: Chogyam Trungpa's Epic Journey to the West (2011)
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/8105/Touch-And-Go--Chogyam-Trungpa-s-Epic-Journey-to-the-West>

67) Lighthouse on the Sea of Darkness (2006)
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50637/Lighthouse-on-the-Sea-of-Darkness>

68) Bodhisattva
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50334/Bodhisattva>
About Ogyen Trinley Dorje, the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa

69) Matthieu Ricard, On the Path to Compassion
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50711/Matthieu-Ricard--On-the-Path-to-Compassion>

70) Steps of Mindfulness – a Journey with Thich Nhat Hanh
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/13241/Steps-of-Mindfulness---a-Journey-with-Thich-Nhat-Hanh>

71) Buddha in Suburbia (2011)
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2390040/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh34amY6Vdc>

72) The Legend of Buddha - Buddhist Animation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnvzKrd9qh0>

73) The Lost World of Tibet BBC
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GuBZ2BoXCg>

Shorts (less than feature length):

1) The Mindful Way BBC Doc. (1979) – 24 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Anf1yhX9VQo>
A documentary about Ajahn Chah and Wat Pah Pong

2) The Buddha Comes to Sussex BBC Doc. (1979) – 35 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5-Fzob9MZc>
A documentary with Ajahn Chah in England

3) The Life Story of Ajahn Pannavaddho – 26 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgyd_Zjjiok

- 4) Life & Work of Buddhadasa Bhikkhu – 25 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UwmoSuAgV0>

- 5) Hill of Dhamma (1995) – 17 min.
<http://www.vridhamma.org/Flv/Hill-of-Dhamma-English.flv>
Describing a meditation center established by S.N. Goenka

- 6) Chithurst Buddhist Monastery with Ajahn Sumedho (1985) – 15 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbHJCjPspP8>

- 7) My Brother, Buddhist Monk – 28 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HahlMHboOMw>
Santeri (26) decides to leave Finland and become a monk in Thailand

- 8) The Boy With Divine Powers Discovery Channel Doc. (2006) – 39 min.
<https://archive.org/details/TheBoyWithDivinePowers>

- 9) Ajahn Brahm & Dhammasara Nun's Monastery Doc. (2011) – 30 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5JRw97wHsk>

- 10) The Buddhist Nun of Emei Mountain (1995) – 30 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p8SKEsGTbw>

- 11) The Buddha's Forgotten Nuns – 33 min.
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50345/The-Buddha-s-Forgotten-Nuns>
About the re-establishment of the Bhikkhuni order in the Theravada Tradition

- 12) Secret Tribes: Bhikkhunis in Thailand – 23 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf_o66zwN6g

- 13) A New Beginning, Bhikkhunis in America – 15 min.
<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50243/A-New-Beginning>

- 14) Unusual Choices: Ani Chudrun – 7 min.
<http://vimeo.com/37114392>
A short film about Ani and her journey to becoming a Tibetan Buddhist nun

- 15) Ancient Buddhist Sites in Sri Lanka (playlist) – 30 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knQ_Hkjizag&index=1&list=PLwYV3Lm__GNU5vQPESZ_wS-002tmSSn8G

16) The Life of Gautama Buddha in Animation (playlist) – 30 min.
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
list=PLdwCuEoZ_6l5fSseemsVkACpbA_dLiNBt&v=B5TmpQwzxOc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLdwCuEoZ_6l5fSseemsVkACpbA_dLiNBt&v=B5TmpQwzxOc)

17) Nanavaira Hamuduru (playlist) – 23 min.
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=3RRq05xmj6A&list=PL0C1FD1A4FCB56DBC&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RRq05xmj6A&list=PL0C1FD1A4FCB56DBC&index=1)
About English monk Nanavira Thera

18) Ocean of Wisdom – The Life of The Dalai Lama – 37 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFSQKVm-et8>

19) Zen Buddhism – 23 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MqZ1vBHVDU>
About Jewish-American Soto Zen Teacher Norman Fischer

20) The Dalai Lama's Succession Strategy (2008) – 15 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC46L5kBsIs>

21) The Voice of the Buddha – 28 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za0Df22bTL0>
A documentary on the revival of Tipitaka chanting in modern times

22) Tigers' Hearts – 30 min.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co0erGncrnI>
A journey exploring Thai Buddhism and nature

23) Heaven On Earth: Buddhism (2004) – 25 min.
[http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-
online/play/8465/Heaven-On-Earth--Buddhism](http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/8465/Heaven-On-Earth--Buddhism)

24) I Am A Monk (1973) – 31 min.
[http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50128/I-
Am-a-Monk](http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/50128/I-Am-a-Monk)

Last updated December 2014

Further Resources (since the above list is incomplete):

www.buddhistfilmfoundation.org

www.dharma-documentaries.net