



# BUDDHISTS AROUND THE WORLD



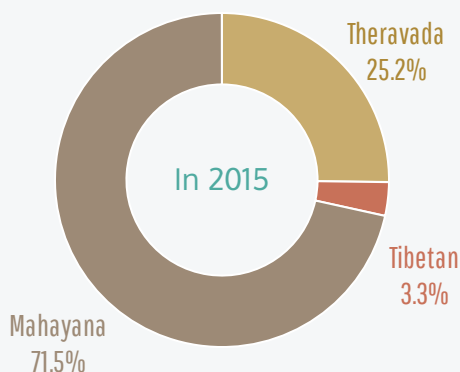
CENTER FOR THE STUDY  
OF Global Christianity  
AT GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## 2015



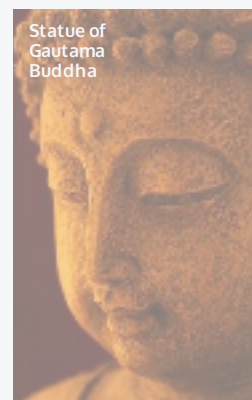
Infographic: Center for the Study of Global Christianity

Source: Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds. *World Religion Database*. Leiden/Boston: Brill; accessed January 2016.



## Major Traditions in Buddhism

The major traditions of Buddhism are Mahayana, Theravada, and Tibetan. Mahayana Buddhism encompasses many diversified sub-traditions of the faith such as Zen, and thus adherents of the tradition can be found worldwide. Adherents of Theravada Buddhism are found largely in South-eastern Asia. Tibetan Buddhism is concentrated in Tibet, Mongolia, and parts of Russia.



Statue of  
Gautama  
Buddha

The global fame of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, has helped to flame Western interest in the tradition, including its growth in the USA

### Largest Population of Buddhists in 2015

1	China	218,088,000
2	Japan	70,593,000
3	Thailand	59,271,000
4	Viet Nam	45,981,000
5	Myanmar	40,088,000
6	Sri Lanka	14,257,000
7	Cambodia	13,455,000
8	South Korea	12,477,000
9	India	9,309,000
10	Taiwan	6,189,000

### Highest Percentage of Buddhists in 2015

[in countries > 100,000 in population]

1	Thailand	87.2%
2	Cambodia	86.4%
3	Bhutan	84.0%
4	Myanmar	74.4%
5	Sri Lanka	68.8%
6	Japan	55.8%
7	Mongolia	55.7%
8	Laos	52.4%
9	Viet Nam	49.2%
10	Taiwan	26.5%

### Fastest Growth of Buddhists, 2000-2015\*

[in countries > 100,000 in population]

1	Qatar	9.2%
2	Mozambique	7.4%
3	United Arab Emirates	7.3%
4	Iran	6.0%
5	Cameroon	5.4%
6	Chad	5.1%
7	Uganda	5.0%
8	Bahrain	4.7%
9	Oman	4.7%
10	Kenya	4.7%

\*Average annual growth rate

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