

Europe's Tallest Buddha Statue Unveiled in Russia

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Sandzhi Ubushiyev / TASS

Russia is now home to the tallest Buddha statue in Europe.

The 30-ton golden monument to the Maitreya — a bodhisattva who will appear in the future — was [unveiled](#) in Russia's Buddhist stronghold of Kalmykia on Sunday.

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Самую большую в Европе статую Будды Майтреи открыли в Калмыкии. Ее высота 12,5 метров, вес — 30 тонн. Майтрея — Будда грядущего времени, который дарует учение, избавляющее от страданий: <https://t.co/afzb8x4f8k>
[pic.twitter.com/1EXyjTEq99](https://t.co/afzb8x4f8k)

— TACC (@tass_agency) [September 23, 2019](#)

Sitting at 12.5 meters tall, the Russian Buddha in the Kalmyk city of Lagan overtakes the 10-meter Buddha [tucked away](#) in the Pagode de Vincennes of Paris.

Kalmykia had [housed](#) Europe's previous tallest Buddhist sculpture in late 2005.

Buddhism is one of five religions considered to be traditional to Russia.

An estimated 1 million Buddhists live in Russia, mainly in the republics of Kalmykia, Tuva and Buryatia where the religion is traditionally practiced.

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