



# Places

## Gathering Places/Places of Practice

### *Mandirs/Temples*

Not only is a Hindu temple considered a sacred space where humans and god commune, it is also the home of *Brahman* and the other Hindu deities. Within the sacred space of the temple, Hindu *pandits*, *pundits*, or *pujaris* conduct *puja* rites wherein offerings of flowers, water, incense, lights, food, and other gifts are given to honour the gods and invoke their presence and blessings.

Hindu temples can be found throughout India and in many cities across the world.

The enormous Swaminarayan Temple, located in Delhi, is considered the single largest Hindu temple in the world.

### *Shrines*

In Hinduism, a shrine is usually a place where a god or goddess is worshipped. Shrines are traditionally located inside a temple known as a *mandir*. However, many families will have small devotional shrines within their houses.

### *Ashrams*

Traditionally, in various Indian religions, an *ashram* (or *ashramam*) was a spiritual hermitage or a monastery. Today, the term *ashram* often denotes a centre of Indian cultural/religious activity such as *yoga*, music study, or religious instruction, similar to a *yeshiva*, an *ī'tikāf*, or a *dojo*. *Ashrams*, or religious communities/congregations, often develop around the figure of a *guru*.

## World

*Sapta Puri* are seven of the most ancient sacred cities in Hinduism: Ayodhya, Dwarka, Haridwar, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Ujjain, and Varanasi.

- **Ayodhya** is one of the most ancient cities of India, also known as Saket and the birthplace of Lord Rama. The city is located on the bank of the Sarayu river in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Dwarka** is located in the Jamnagar of Gujarat. The Holy City of Dwarka is part of the Char Dham Yatra along with Badrinath, Puri, and Rameswaram.
- **Haridwar** is one of four sites that hosts *Kumbha Mela*, and is situated on the bank of the holy river Ganga. Haridwar is an important pilgrimage city, famous for its temples: Mansa Devi Mandir, Chandi Devi Mandir, Maya Devi Mandir, and Bharat Mata Mandir.
- **Kanchi, or Kanchipuram**, is located on the banks of the Vegavathy river in Tamil Nadu. Kanchipuram is famous among the *Shaivites* and *Vaishnavites* for its temples such as Ekambareswarar, Kamakshi Amman, Kailasanathar, and Vaikunta Perumal.
- **Mathura** is located near the towns of Vrindavan and Govardhan in Uttar Pradesh. The city of Mathura is the birthplace of Lord Krishna and there are many historic and religious sites in Mathura and its neighbouring towns.
- **Ujjain**, also known as Ujjayini or Avantika, is situated on the bank of the Kshipra river and is one of the four sites that host the *Kumbh Mela*. The Holy City of Ujjain is home to the *Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga*, one of the 12 *Jyotirlinga* of the god Lord Shiva.



Figure 29: Ayodhya



Figure 30: Temple Steeple Dwarka

- **Varanasi**, or Kashi, is one of India's oldest living cities situated on the banks of the Ganga river. Varanasi is the spiritual capital of India, famous for its *ghats*, temples, and music. *Chota Char Dham* is a circuit that consists of four sites of pilgrimage covering each of the directions: *Badrinath* (north), *Dwarka* (west), *Puri* (east), and *Rameswaram* (south).



Figure 31: Varanasi

The *Chota Char Dham* is an important Hindu pilgrimage circuit in the Indian Himalayas. The pilgrimage sites are Yamnotri Temple (dedicated to the goddess Yamuna), Gangotri Temple (dedicated to goddess Ganga), Kedarnath Temple (dedicated to Shiva), and Badrinath Temple (dedicated to Vishnu).

For *Shakti* worshippers, there are 52 (for some 108) special *Shakti Peetha* (major and minor shrines and pilgrimage sites) across the Indian subcontinent. Most are in India, but a few are in Nepal and Bangladesh. There is also one in each of the following countries: Tibet (Mansarovar), Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

For *Shaivaites* there are 12 *barah jyotirling temples (lingam)* across India that are important in pilgrimages honouring Lord Shiva.

The **Ganga (Ganges) River** holds special symbolic and historical importance for Hindus. As a regular source of water and protection, it is usually referred to as Ma Ganga.

## Gathering Places in Manitoba

There are several temples and resource centres for Manitoba Hindus:

- **Hindu Society of Manitoba** operates two temples in Winnipeg.  
[www.hindusocietyofmanitoba.org](http://www.hindusocietyofmanitoba.org)
  - Dr. Raj Pandey Hindu Centre  
Location: 999 St. Anne's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba
  - Ellice Avenue Temple  
Location: 854 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Tamil Hindu Group also operates out of the temple on St. Anne's Road. The group sponsors *Karthik* and *Tamil* festival activities of the temple and seeks to preserve traditional values of *Karthik* devotion and *Tamil* Hindu festivals, and to promote mutual respect and understanding of different values, traditions, and beliefs of the diversified *Tamil* community.  
[www.winnipegmurugan.com/](http://www.winnipegmurugan.com/)



Figure 32: Hindu Wedding at Hindu Temple and Raj Pandey Cultural Centre

- **Durga Devi Mandir:** This temple honours Durga, also known as *Devi Shakti*, and by numerous other names. It is a principal and popular form of the Hindu goddess. She is a central deity in the *Shaktism* tradition of Hinduism.  
Location: 499 Jamison Ave, Winnipeg, MB  
[www.durgadevimandir.com/](http://www.durgadevimandir.com/)



Figure 33: Hindu Temple

- **Hindu Prarthana Samaj**  
Location: Thompson, Manitoba  
<https://www.facebook.com/HPSthompson/>

- ISKCON Winnipeg Temple:** The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is the spiritual home of Sri Baladeva Subhadra (Deities Jagannath or Lord Krishna, his elder brother Baladeva/Balarama, and younger sister Subhadra). ISKCON was established in New York by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. ISKCON temples are found in at least 9 cities from coast to coast. ISKCON Manitoba provides devotees and seekers a place to find each other and to perform spiritual activities. It also offers a program of educational activities to systematically train aspiring devotees. The temple is dedicated to fostering consciousness of Krishna as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.



Figure 34: Making an Offering: Hindu Temple, Winnipeg

Location: 108 Chestnut Street, MB

Phone: 204-633-1487

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IskconManitoba/>  
[www.krishnakrishna.ca/](http://www.krishnakrishna.ca/)

- Manitoba Arya Samaj:** Arya Samaj was founded in the pre-independence era of India. The purpose was to move the Hindu *Dharma* back to the teachings of *Vedas*. This temple was founded primarily by Guyanese Manitobans.

Location: 485 Maryland Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 1M4
- Manitoba Hindu Dharmik Sabha, Temple and Cultural Centre Inc.:** This temple is also one with a strong Guyanese presence.

Location: 240 Manitoba Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Manitoba-Hindu-Dharmik-Sabha-Temple-and-Cultural-Centre-Inc-149037805165451/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Manitoba-Hindu-Dharmik-Sabha-Temple-and-Cultural-Centre-Inc-149037805165451/?ref=page_internal)
- Ramakrishna Mandir and Cultural Centre:** A *mandir* that is dedicated to the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna who believed in the harmony of religions. To Sri Ramakrishna, all religions are in their own way revelations of god whose diverse aspects satisfy the many demands of human minds.

Location: 903 Winnipeg Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3E 0S1

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rama-Krishna-Mandir-Cultural-Centre-705019699617449/>



# Notes