

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### TIMINGS FROM TUESDAY TO SUNDAY (CLOSED EVERY MONDAY)

**Mandir Darshan:** 10.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. (Free)

• Darshan • Swaminarayan Darshan • Prasadi Mandapam

**Mandir-Arti:** 10.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

**Exhibitions:** Entry from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Fees Apply)

**Nilkanth Abhishek Mandapam:** 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**Nilkanth Vatika:** 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. (Free)

**Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show:** After sunset (Fees Apply)

**Premvati Food Court:** 10.00 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. (Fees Apply)

Timings are subject to change without prior notice under exceptional circumstances.

### STRICTLY PROHIBITED

• Photography, videography • Mobile phones, cameras, radios and other electronic items • Food and drink from outside • Bags and other luggage • Smoking, alcohol, tobacco and addictive substances • Improper, disrespectful attire • Abusive language • Pets  
**We apologize for any inconvenience.**

### HUMBLE REQUEST

Your visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham is a pilgrimage to a sacred centre of India's cultural traditions and values. We request your support to maintain peace, dignity and divinity of the complex.

**The Management reserves all rights to entry.**



#### SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM

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E-mails: gujarat@akshardham.com

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## NILKANTH ABHISHEK MANDAPAM

### SENTIMENTS OF ABHISHEK

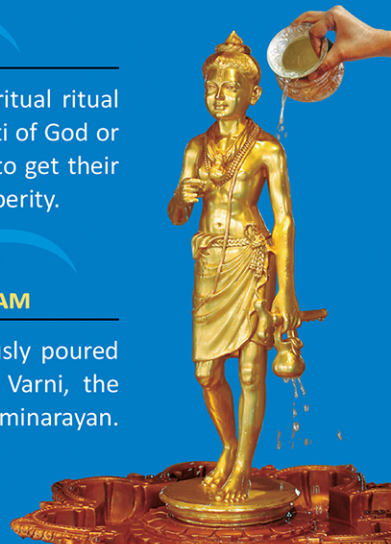
Abhishek is an ancient Indian spiritual ritual of pouring holy water upon a murti of God or holy people to honour them and to get their blessings for inner peace and prosperity.

### ABHISHEK MANDAPAM AT SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM

Here, sacred water is ceremoniously poured upon the murti of Shri Nilkanth Varni, the teenage-yogi form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

### ABHISHEK PRAYERS

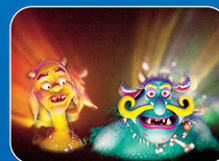
May this ritual fill our lives with his divine virtues of faith, fearlessness, humility, self-control, love and peace as well as fulfil our innermost prayers and wishes.



firefountainslasersmantrasprojections

**We Wonder What Happens...**

when **fire flows** like **water** and **water flames** like **fire**  
when **sounds** paint **pictures** and **colours** sing **songs**  
when **clouds** come **down** and **rains** go **up** when  
**lasers** begin to **crawl** and **rocks** begin to **melt** when the  
**light** from the **past** illuminates the **stars** of our **future**  
when **science** and **spirituality** hold hands  
**time** stops...the **mind** opens...and the **heart** prays...  
amidst a mist of mysticism, the great **Upanishads** come  
alive and the ancient secret is **revealed**.



**Duration:** 45 Minutes

**Timings:** Every Evening after Sunset (except Mondays)



## INSPIRER & CREATOR



HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj was born on 7 December 1921, in Gujarat. He was the fifth spiritual successor in the spiritual tradition of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and head of BAPS. He embodied the universal Hindu ideals of faith, love, compassion and service to God and mankind. He inspired and consecrated over 1,200 mandirs in India and abroad and grand cultural complexes like Swaminarayan Akshardham in Gandhinagar and New Delhi. His social, educational and health services are hallmarks of selfless service to society. He initiated 1,000 sadhus in the service of God and society.

After the earthly departure of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj in August 2016, HH Mahant Swami Maharaj succeeded him as the sixth spiritual guru and head of BAPS. He was born on 13 September 1933, in the city of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Mahant Swami Maharaj earned the grace and blessings of his gurus Yogiji Maharaj and Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Out of his compassion for humanity, Mahant Swami Maharaj travels extensively to towns and cities in India and abroad. He guides the global socio-spiritual activities of BAPS, and inspires faith and character in devotees, children and youths.

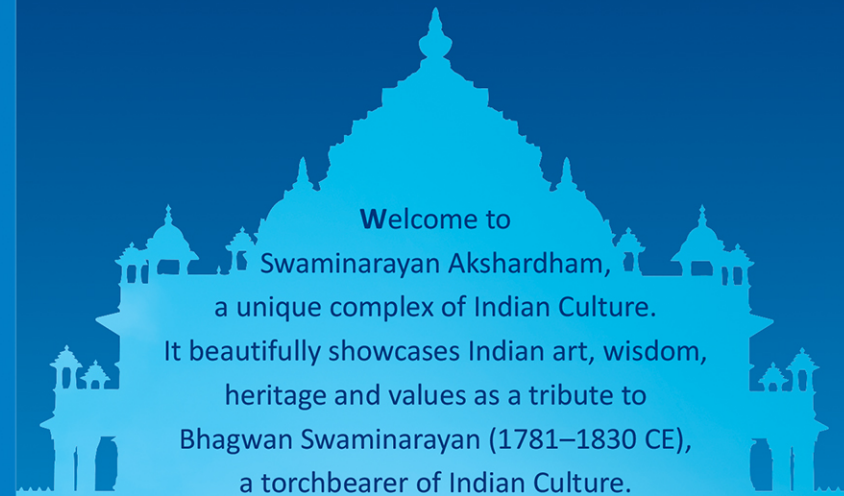
Above all, his profound experience and realization of God is the essence of his divine lustre and inner joy.

### BAPS SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA

BAPS is a global socio-spiritual organization committed to the moral and spiritual uplift of mankind. It was established in 1907 CE by Brahmaswarup Shastriji Maharaj in consonance with the Vedic teachings propagated by Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781-1830 CE). The Sanstha's global network of over 1,800 mandirs, 5,000 Satsang centres and 20,000 weekly satsang assemblies (for children, youths and devotees) are perennial sources of moral, social, cultural and spiritual activities. The energies of the BAPS volunteer corps of 100,000 youths and over 1,200 sadhus are channelled towards a variety of philanthropic activities.

## SWAMINARAYAN Akshardham

GUJARAT, INDIA



Welcome to  
Swaminarayan Akshardham,  
a unique complex of Indian Culture.  
It beautifully showcases Indian art, wisdom,  
heritage and values as a tribute to  
Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781–1830 CE),  
a torchbearer of Indian Culture.

Set in a 23-acre site, Swaminarayan Akshardham was  
inaugurated on 30 October 1992. Inspired and  
created by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, it radiates peace,  
beauty, joy and divinity.





## DARSHAN

### FOOTPRINTS



The holy footprints of Bhagwan Swaminarayan are installed at the entrance in memory of his incarnation on earth. They are carved out of white marble and bear the 16 sacred signs of God. Water is continuously showered on them from four auspicious conch shells in tribute to his inspiring life and work.

### AKSHARDHAM MANDIR



The focal point of the entire complex is the grand Akshardham Mandir, built of pink sandstone. Measuring 108 ft high, 131 ft wide and 240 ft long it features 97 intricately carved pillars, 17 magnificent domes, 8 ornate balconies and over 264 superbly sculpted figures. Built without using steel, it revives India's ancient architectural tradition. The Mandir is surrounded by beautiful lawns and the 514m-long parikrama garlands the Mandir.

### HARI MANDAPAM



The central hall of the Mandir is known as Hari Mandapam. Installed in the centre of the Hari Mandapam is the serene, 7 ft-high, gold-leafed murti of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

### SWAMINARAYAN DARSHAN



The first floor of the Mandir is known as SWAMINARAYAN DARSHAN. From 1781 to 1830 CE Bhagwan Swaminarayan blessed this earth by his divine presence. SWAMINARAYAN DARSHAN relives his divine life through Exclusive Paintings.

### PRASADI MANDAPAM



The Mandir basement is known as Prasadi Mandapam. The exhibition of the sacred relics of Bhagwan Swaminarayan in the Mandapam will forever remain a testimony to God's incarnation on earth.

## EXHIBITIONS

### HALL 1 & HALL 2: NILKANTH & SAHAJANAND

45 Minutes



#### HALLS OF VALUES

An enlightening exhibition depicts Bhagwan Swaminarayan's life, work and message through audio-visual presentations, life-size dioramas and photographic displays.

### HALL 3: MYSTIC INDIA

45 Minutes



#### GIANT SCREEN THEATRE

An interesting film vividly portrays the true story of an 11-year-old child-yogi, Nilkanth Varni. It was filmed in 108 locations in India and features a cast of over 45,000 people. The film takes the viewers on an exciting pilgrimage through the majestic Himalayas and India's sacred places, festivals, traditions and values.

### HALL 4: PREMANAND

45 Minutes



#### HALL OF SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

The elevating eternal truths of Indian Culture are presented through elaborate settings and dioramas of scenes from the Upanishads, Ramayan and Mahabharat scriptures.



#### HALL OF HARMONY

Panels reveal the symbols, scriptures, pilgrim places, moral codes, and prayers of the major world religions. The Hall of Harmony inspires understanding and promotes peaceful coexistence.



#### SAINTLY POETS

This area honours some of the great saint-poets of India.

### HALL 5: SANT PARAM HITKARI

15 Minutes

A superb audio-animatronics show brings to life the atmosphere, characters and events from over 200 years ago to reveal the key to eternal happiness.



## NILKANTH VATIKA

### Welcome!

The 49-foot-tall metal murti of Shri Nilkanth Varni (Bhagwan Swaminarayan) stands as a tribute to his extraordinary journey and rigorous austerity as a teen-age yogi.

At the tender age of 11, on 29 June 1792, he renounced his home and worldly life, and adopted the name 'Nilkanth Varni'. He embarked on a remarkable 7-year pilgrimage, spanning 12,000 kilometres across India, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. He travelled barefoot, bare-bodied without money or resources.

During his travels, Nilkanth Varni engaged in profound conversations with people from diverse regions and backgrounds, teaching them fundamental lessons of life and spirituality, and guiding them on the eternal path of moksha.

Throughout this journey, Nilkanth Varni performed intense austerities at sacred places like Mansarovar and Jagannath Puri, often going without food and even without water for days and months. One of the most remarkable examples of his deep discipline, steadfast resolve, and severe austerities occurred at Muktinath in Nepal, where he stood in deep meditation for over two months, balanced on one leg with arms raised skyward—an unparalleled feat of endurance and devotion, memorialized by this magnificent *murti*.

This 'Nilkanth Vatika,' dedicated to Shri Nilkanth Varni, serves as a source of inspiration, encouraging guests to cultivate determination, strengthen their faith, and practice self-discipline. May this sacred space guide each guest on their life's journey, leading them toward harmony, fulfilment, and inner peace.



## ATTRACTIONS

### AKSHAR HAAT



#### SOUVENIR SHOP

Available here are inspiring, enlightening and informative books, audio and video publications, mementos, gift items, worship items, Amrut Herbal Care medicines and other products.

### PREMVATI FOOD COURT



#### SWEET AND SAVOURY DELIGHTS

Premvati Food Court serves pure vegetarian delicacies and snacks. The restaurant has a cultural decor, serving north and south Indian favourites, and savory Gujarati items.

### SAHAJANAND VUN

There are over 57,000 trees, plants and shrubs planted in the gardens of Akshardham. Experience the magnificent and reflective corners of fifteen acres of landscape beauty.

