

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

First Entry: 9.30 a.m.

Last Entry: 6.30 p.m.

The following services will be available daily: **Murti Darshan (Free)**, **Exhibitions (Fees apply)**, **Musical Fountain Show (Fees apply)**, **Premvati Food Court (Fees apply)**, **Parking (Fees apply)**.

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 dress
- 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 the peace, dignity and divinity of the complex.

The Management reserves all rights to entry.



SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM

Akshardham Setu, N.H. 24

New Delhi - 110092

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Fax: (011) 4344 2323

www.akshardham.com

www.baps.org



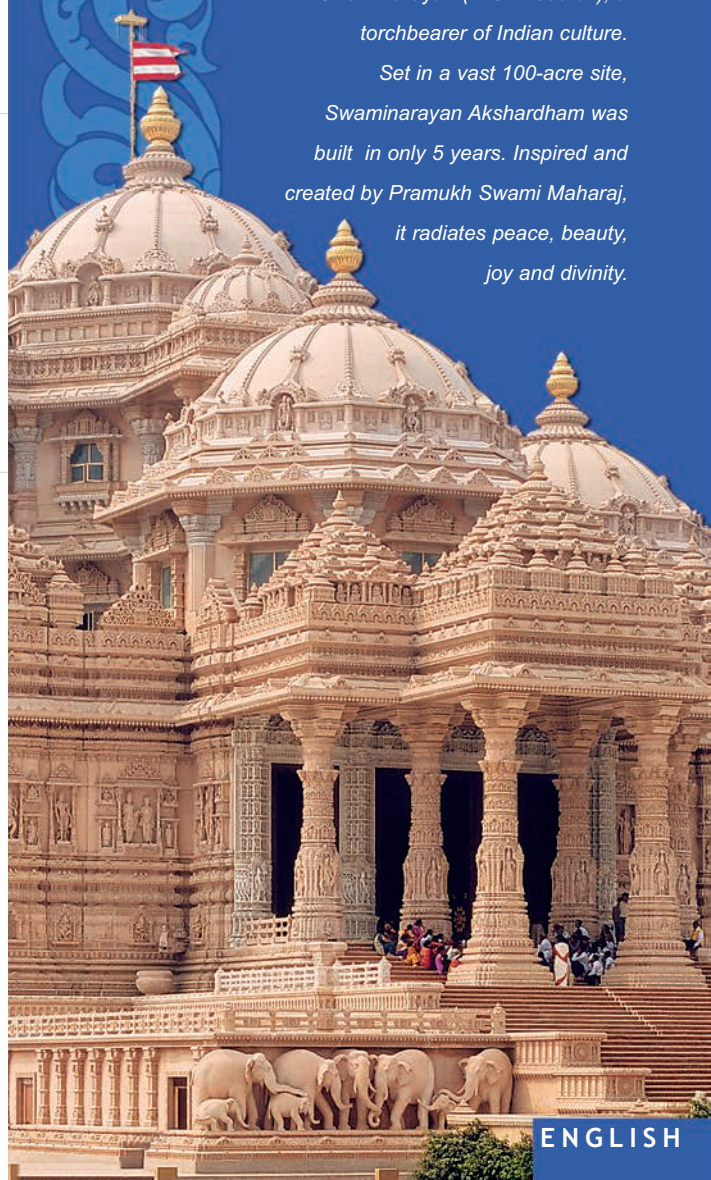
Rs. 5/-

G U I D E

SWAMINARAYAN Akshardham

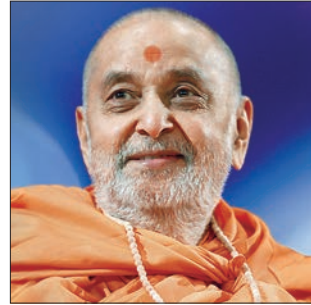
*Welcome to Swaminarayan Akshardham,
a unique complex of Indian culture in
India's capital, New Delhi. It beautifully
showcases Indian art, wisdom, heritage
and values as a tribute to Bhagwan
Swaminarayan (1781-1830 CE), a
torchbearer of Indian culture.*

*Set in a vast 100-acre site,
Swaminarayan Akshardham was
built in only 5 years. Inspired and
created by Pramukh Swami Maharaj,
it radiates peace, beauty,
joy and divinity.*



E N T R A N C E

INSPIRER & CREATOR

**PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ**

In 1968, HDH Yogiji Maharaj blessed, "On the banks of the Yamuna a grand mandir will be built."

Swaminarayan Akshardham is the fulfillment of his vision by his successor, HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, who inaugurated it on 6 November 2005. Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the fifth guru in Bhagwan Swaminarayan's succession of God-realized Sadhus, is a world-renowned spiritual leader. Regardless of caste, creed or status, he selflessly serves society for the moral, cultural and spiritual uplift of mankind. He is the guiding force behind the vast range of BAPS socio-spiritual activities.

In his presence doubts dissolve, confusions clear, hurts heal and the mind finds peace. His striking humility, simplicity and realization of God is the essence of his success and divine lustre.

**ORGANIZER:
BAPS SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA**

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is the organizer of Swaminarayan Akshardham. It is a worldwide socio-spiritual NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with over 3,700 centres and 15,700 Satsang assemblies, 850 sadhus, 55,000 youth volunteers and 1 million devotees. Established in 1907, it serves society through a variety of social, educational, health, environmental, cultural, spiritual and other philanthropic activities.

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A T T R A C T I O N S

19

19 **BHARAT UPVAN****CULTURAL GARDEN**

Opposite the Mandir lies Bharat Upvan. It comprises 22 acres of beautifully cultivated and artistically designed lawns, trees, plants and shrubs. The garden displays 65 bronze statues of India's great men, women and children, whose lives inspire all to nobler heights. The view of the Akshardham Mandir from here is majestic.

• Refreshments at entry

DON'T MISS

- The Sun Chariot ■ The Moon Chariot with its 16 deers ■ Child Heroes of India ■ Patriots of India
- Great Men of India ■ Great Women of India

1 **TEN GATES**

Representing the ten principal directions described in Indian culture, the Ten Gates reflect the Vedic sentiment of inviting goodness from everywhere to all visitors.

2 **BHAKTI DWAR**

The Gate of Devotion celebrates the Vedic tradition of dual worship. Offering devotion to God and his choicest Devotee is the genuine form of worship. Honouring this custom, 208 sculpted dual forms of God and His devotee decorate this splendid gate.

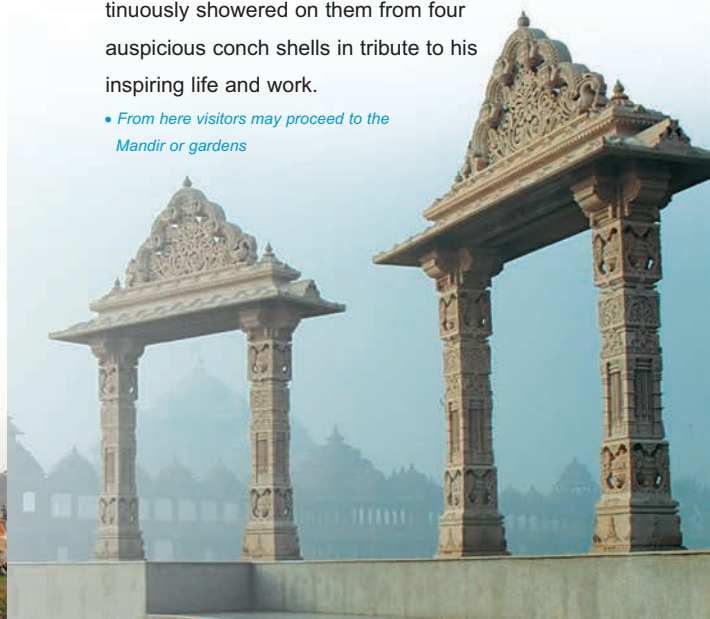
3 **MAYUR DWAR**

The peacock is a symbol of beauty and purity. It is also the national bird of India. The two Mayur Dwars (Peacock Gates) pay tribute to the joy and colour peacocks add to life. A total of 869 sculpted peacocks adorn each of the beautiful gates.

4 **FOOTPRINTS**

Between the two Mayur Dwars are the holy footprints of Bhagwan Swaminarayan 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.

• From here visitors may proceed to the Mandir or gardens



M A N D I R

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SWAMINARAYAN
AkshardhamYOGIHRIDAY KAMAL
LOTUS GARDEN

Like a lotus flower, untouched by the waters of the material world, the heart of Yogiji Maharaj was pure and gentle. His prayer: "O Lord! Do good of all," carried the essence of faith:

FAITH IN GOD AND FAITH IN MAN

which can elevate our life, our existence, our civilization. It is echoed in the words and wisdom of the great people of our world, displayed in each petal of the garden below.

16 YOGIHRIDAY KAMAL

Situated amid beautifully manicured lawns, this 8-petal lotus-shaped creation inspires Faith in God and Faith in Man through the wisdom of the scriptures, sages and other great thinkers of the world.

17 PREM VATI FOOD COURT

Designed to give the relaxing and pleasant feel of Ajanta, the spacious Premvati restaurant serves fresh, pure vegetarian food, snacks and drinks.

• [Washrooms outside](#)

18 AKSHARDHAM SOUVENIR SHOP

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



A T T R A C T I O N S

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5 AKSHARDHAM MANDIR

The focal point of the entire complex is the grand Akshardham Mandir, built of pink stone and white marble. Measuring 141 ft high, 316 ft wide and 356 ft long it features 234 intricately carved pillars, 9 magnificent domes, 20 pinnacles and over 20,000 superbly sculpted figures. Built without using steel, it revives India's ancient architectural tradition.

6 MURTI

Seated in the centre of the Mandir is the serene, 11 ft-high, gold-plated *murti* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Also consecrated are the elegant *murtis* of Shri Radha-Krishna, Shri Sita-Ram, Shri Lakshmi-Narayan and Shri Parvati-Shiv.

DON'T MISS**Inside the Mandir**

- 24 Keshav forms of the Divine, based on the Panchratra scriptures.
- Sculpted *murtis* of sadhus and devotees
- *Murtis* of 500 *paramhansas* on the pillar tops.
- Breathtaking carvings of the 65 ft high Lila Mandapam, Bhakta Mandapam, Smruti Mandapam and Paramhansa Mandapam.
- Superb marble sculptures of incidents from the life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan in Ghanshyam Mandapam, Neelkanth Mandapam, Sahajanand Mandapam, Swaminarayan Mandapam.
- Domes and 20 quad-angle pinnacles (*samvarans*) – examples of ancient India's engineering technology.



M A N D I R

SWAMINARAYAN
Akshardham

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12 YAGNAPURUSH KUND & SAHAJ ANAND WATER SHOW

Time: 25 minutes

The large lotus-shaped Yagnapurush Kund is a replica of a traditional *yagna kund*. Every evening it is transformed into the spectacular 'Sahaj Anand Water Show', which creatively blends lasers, lights, fire, fountains, projections and live acting to portray an enthralling spiritual message from the Upanishads. Adjacent to the *kund* is the inspiring 27 ft high metallic *murti* of Neelkanth Varni, the teenage-yogi form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

• Water Show: Every Evening. (Fees Apply)

13 NARAYAN SAROVAR

Narayan Sarovar surrounds the Akshardham Monument on three sides. The holy waters of 151 rivers, lakes and stepwells of India, visited by Bhagwan Swaminarayan, have been ritually added to Narayan Sarovar. Water flows into the Narayan Sarovar through 108 *gaumukhs* on the side and back walls of the Mandir.

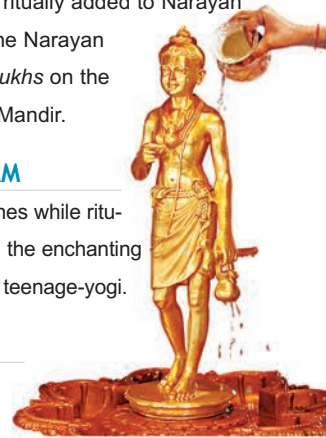
14 ABHISHEK MANDAPAM

Offer prayers and make wishes while ritually pouring Ganga water on the enchanting *murti* of Neelkanth Varni – a teenage-yogi.

15 PARIKRAMA

COLONNADE

An impressive two-tier colonnade in red stone encircles the Mandir. Each tier is 3,000 ft long with 1,152 pillars and 145 viewing windows.

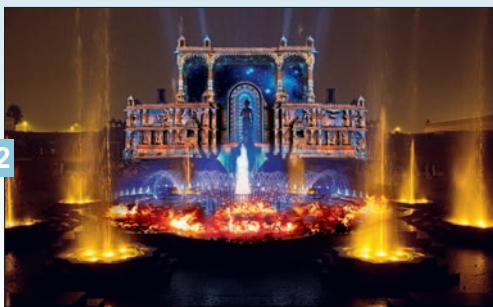


A T T R A C T I O N S

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7 MANDOVAR

The ornate external wall (Mandovar) of the Mandir is 611 ft long and 25 ft high. It comprises 4,287 carved stones and includes 48 *murtis* of Ganeshji, and 200 sculpted figures of India's great rishis, sadhus, devotees, acharyas and divine incarnations.

8 GAJENDRA PEETH

The Akshardham Mandir rests on the unique 1,070 ft long Gajendra Peeth, which comprises 148 sculpted stone elephants, and dozens of other sculptures of people, animals and birds weighing in excess of 3,000 tons. It pays tribute to the glory of elephants and nature in Indian culture.

DON'T MISS**Outside the Mandir**

- 200 sculpted *murtis* of the great avatars, sadhus, devotees and acharyas of Indian culture.
- Intricate carvings on the entrance pillars.
- Excellent sculptures of Sarasvati, Lakshmi, Parvati, other goddesses and avatars.
- 180 ft of beautiful metallic reliefs on Bhagwan Swaminarayan's divine life.

Gajendra Peeth

- The different life-like postures and expressions of each elephant.
- Observe the intricate and fine detailed finishing of each sculpture
- Savour the stories of 'Elephants and Nature', 'Elephants and Man', and 'Elephants and the Divine'.



EXHIBITIONS

9



9 HALL-1: SAHAJANAND DARSHAN

*HALL OF VALUES**Time: 50 minutes*

Universal values for mankind, such as, ahimsa, courage, endeavour, honesty, faith, etc. are presented from the life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan through films, light and sound shows with robotic figures.

• Refreshments & Washrooms at entry and exit

10 HALL-2: NEELKANTH DARSHAN

*GIANT SCREEN THEATRE**Time: 40 minutes*

A large format film vividly portrays the true story of an 11-year-old child-yogi, Neelkanth Varni. Projected on an 85 ft x 65 ft screen, the film was shot 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.

• Refreshments & Washrooms at entry and exit

11 HALL-3: SANSKRUTI VIHAR

*BOAT RIDE**Time: 15 minutes*

A spectacular 14-minute boat ride through 10,000 years of Indian culture, which flourished on the banks of river Sarasvati. Based on authentic research, 800 statues bring India's glorious heritage to life. See the world's oldest Vedic village and bazaar. Sail through Takshashila – the world's first university. Learn about the discoveries and inventions of India's ancient rishi-scientists, and much more...

• Refreshments & Washrooms at entry and exit

• Fees apply for all Exhibitions

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