

Milwaukee Jain Temple



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Namokar Mahamantra

णमो अरिहंताणं (Namo Arihantânam)

णमो सिद्धाणं (Namo Siddhânam)

णमो आयरियाणं (Namo Âyariyânam)

णमो उवज्झायाणं (Namo Uvajjhâyanam)

णमो लोए सव्व साहूणं (Namo Loe Savva Sahûnam)

एसो पंच णमोक्कारो, सव्व पावप्पणासणो

(Eso Panch Namokkaro, Savva Pâvappanâsano)

मंगलाणं च सव्वेसिं, पढमं हवई मंगलं

(Mangalanam Cha Savvesim, Padhamam Havai Mangalam)

The Navkar Mantra is the most important mantra in Jainism and can be recited at any time. While reciting the Navkar Mantra, we are bowing down with respect to Arihantas (souls who have reached the state of non-attachment towards worldly possessions), Siddhas (liberated souls), Âchâryâs (heads of sadhus and sadhvis), Upâdhyâyas (those who teach scriptures to sadhus and sadhvis), Sâdhus (monks, who have voluntarily given up social, economical and family relationships) and Sâdhvis (nuns, who have voluntarily given up social, economical and family relationships). Collectively, they are called Panch Parmesthi (five supreme spiritual people). In this mantra we worship their virtues rather than worshipping any one particular person.

Introduction to Jainism

[Jainism](#) is an ancient religion and philosophy. Its emphasis on personal and societal nonviolence in thoughts, speech and actions has significantly influenced the world peace. Followers of Jainism share the world's primary gospel of unconditional love with a commitment to respect all forms of life. Its wisdom has inspired many peaceful revolutionaries including Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. According to historians and archeological evidence, the Jain tradition has flourished within the Indian sub-continent for over 3500 years. Followers of Jainism point to evidence of it being much older.

The word "Jain" is derived from Jina, which means "spiritual conqueror". Followers of Jina are called Jains. Jinas are individuals who have overcome or conquered their own inner enemies, the flaws and weaknesses, attachments and aversions that stop one from realizing one's own infinite spiritual potential, and have realized their inherent supreme knowledge. Jains revere twenty-four Jinas called Tirthankars who taught the Jain message to the human race during various periods of antiquity. The last two Tirthankars were Lord Parshvanath (877-777 BC) and Lord Mahavir (599-527 BC).

[Jain philosophy](#) is based on the view that body and soul are different, and the souls and the physical universe are eternal. All souls have the same spiritual characteristics of infinite perception, potential and bliss. Since eternity, our souls have been cycling through various forms of life. The ultimate objective is to break free from the eternal cycle of birth, death and rebirth - a cycle in which living beings tend to suffer pain and misery - and achieve the permanent blissful state known as liberation, or Moksha. This goal can be achieved only during human life, wherein a soul has the capability to understand and take necessary steps to achieve it.

[The doctrine of karma](#) is central to Jain philosophy. As individual souls, our karmas govern the successions of our lives. The actions of our body, mind, and speech bind us in the form of karma, which is a subtle form of physical energy that associates with the soul as a result of its conscious states and actions. Karma blocks us from our experience of the infinite knowledge, perception and potential which is our souls' true nature. The highest aim of our spiritual existence is to gradually purify our souls by getting rid of all karmas. A soul attains the ultimate freedom by simultaneously following the Patth of *right perception*, *right knowledge* and *right conduct*. Right conduct includes nonviolence, self-purification, penance, austerity and meditation. Right knowledge and right perception mean having a clear understanding and belief of the reality based on seven fundamental truths (the Tatvas), and six universal substances (the Dravyas).

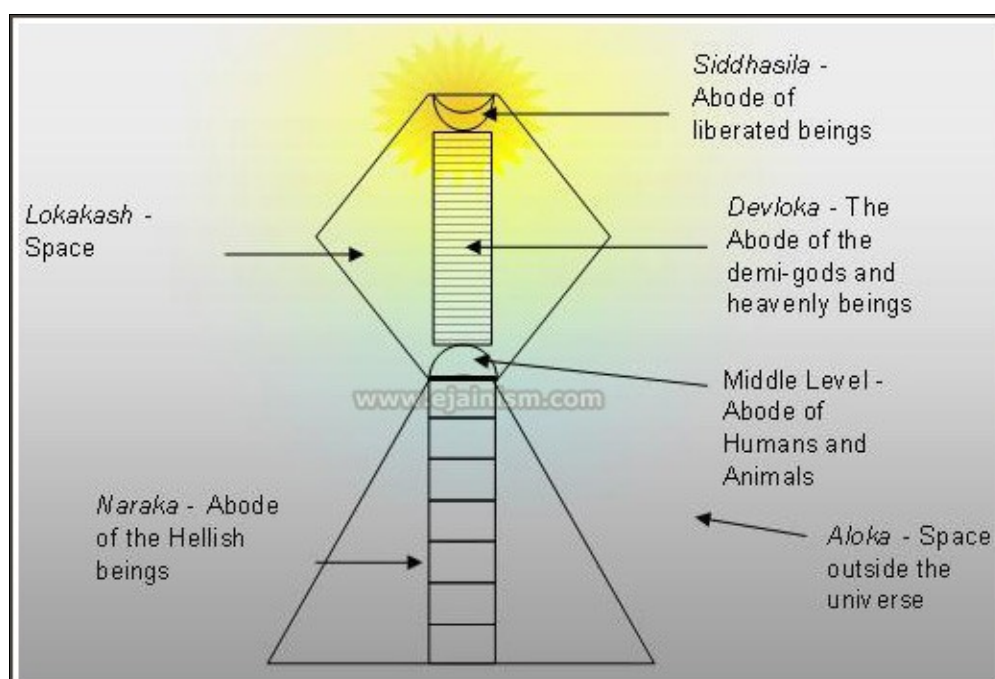
[The foremost principle](#) of Jainism is *Ahimsa* (non-violence and non-harming). Ahimsa refers not only to refraining from visible physical acts of violence but also from thoughts of hurting any living being and from speech intended to harm or upset others. Because of their belief in Ahimsa, Jains are strict vegetarians. Their compassion for all living beings leads Jains to a long tradition of running sanctuaries dedicated to protecting and nurturing injured and starving animals. Community service of providing free shelter,

food, clothing, and health care to the under privileged is a well-known hallmark of Jains around the globe.

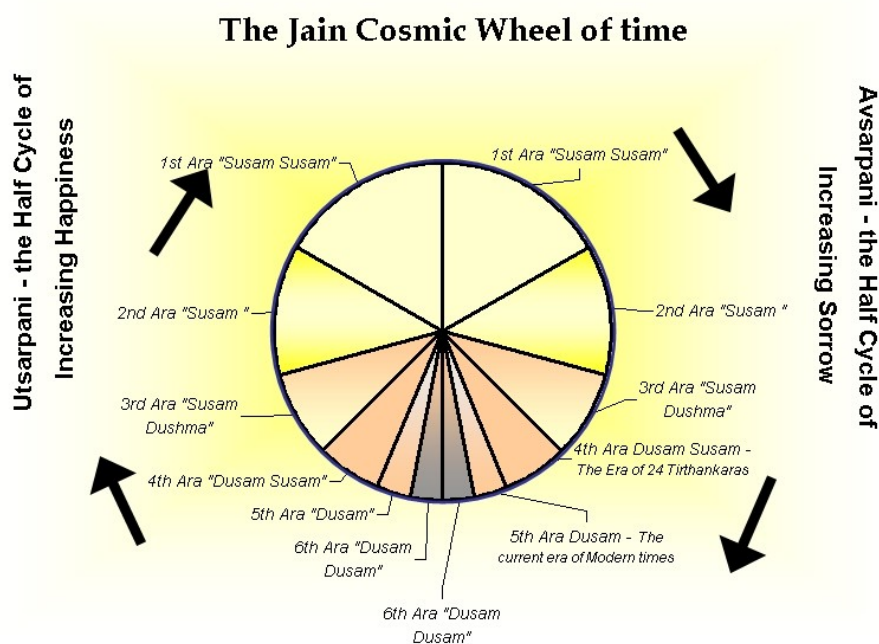
The most [important teaching of Jainism](#) is the reverence for all forms of life. Jainism promote the following five vows: *Nonviolence, Truthfulness, Non-stealing, Chastity and Non-Passiveness*. Monks and nuns follow these vows strictly and totally. The common people follow these vows as far as their worldly obligations will permit. Jainism emphasized that accumulation of possessions should be curbed and consumption levels be kept within reasonable limits. Using any resources beyond one's needs and misuse of any part of nature is considered unethical. Another important teaching of Jainism is the theory of knowledge known as *Anekantavada*; the doctrine of multiplicity. It means that reality is multi-faceted and its perception changes depending on the time, place, nature and state of the viewer. What is true from one point of view can be open to question from another. Absolute truth cannot be grasped from any particular viewpoint alone, because absolute truth is the sum total of all different viewpoints. Such an approach encourages Jains to think in the most critical ways possible, to seek truth from different perspectives and to truly respect all belief systems.

[Tirthankara](#): In Jainism, a Tirthaṅkara (Sanskrit: तीर्थंकर "ford-Maker") is a human being who in addition to achieving liberation and enlightenment as an "Arihant" by destroying all of their soul constraining (ghati) karmas, became a role-model and leader for those seeking spiritual guidance. Tirthankaras revitalize Jain Society by organization of fourfold Jain Order consisting of monks, nuns, laymen and laywomen. Not all Arihants can become Tirthaṅkaras. There are 24 Tirthaṅkaras in this time era and each of them revitalized the Jain Order.

[Jain cosmology](#): The early Jains contemplated the nature of the earth and universe and developed a detailed hypothesis on the various aspects of astronomy and cosmology. According to the Jain texts, the universe is divided into 3 parts: *Urdhva Loka* – the realms of the gods or heavens; *Madhya Loka* – the realms of the humans, animals and plants; *Adho Loka* – the realms of the hellish beings or the infernal regions.



Time cycle: According to Jainism, time is beginningless and eternal. The *Kālachakra*, the cosmic wheel of time, rotates ceaselessly. The wheel of time is divided into two half-rotations, *Utsarpiṇī* or ascending time cycle and *Avasarpiṇī*, the descending time cycle, occurring continuously after each other. *Utsarpiṇī* is a period of progressive prosperity and happiness where the time spans and ages are at an increasing scale, while *Avsarpiṇī* is a period of increasing sorrow and immorality with decline in timespans of the epochs. Each of this half time cycle consisting of innumerable period of time (measured in Sagaropama and Palyopama years) is further sub-divided into six *aras* or epochs of unequal periods. Currently, the time cycle is in *avasarpiṇī* or descending phase.



Jain Prayer and practices: The sacred Jain prayer, called the Namokar Mantra (on page 1), reveres the five types of great souls: Arihant (enlightened souls), Siddha (liberated souls), Acharya (heads of congregation), Upadhyaya (ascetic teachers), Sadhu (ascetics). Many Jains symbolically or ritually worship the Tirthankars. Such reverence is never geared for worldly favors or grace, but is rather a personal inspiration to actually follow the very same path shown by those spiritual exemplars.

Daily spiritual practices of Jains also include Samayik (meditation), Pratikrarnan (confessing past sins, bad thoughts and deeds; and seeking forgiveness), Svadhyaya (reading of Jain scriptures), and Pratyakhyan (taking vows renouncing certain activities to discipline oneself). Other practices include fasting, holding religious discourses, reciting sacred texts, alms giving, and singing prayer hymns.

Jain Scriptures: Lord Mahavir's teachings were orally compiled and passed on through the generations. Later, these teachings called Agam Sutras were recorded on leafs. Additional scriptures followed by Jains are: Shatkhand-Agam, Kasaya-Pahud, and Anuyogas.

Jainism worldwide: Jains are a distinguished minority in India. Jains also live in many countries around the world, with larger communities in North America, eastern Africa and UK. Over 100,000 followers of Jainism live in the USA and Canada. As of 2010, North America has been home to 67 Jain temples and centers. *Jainism's spiritual teachings and philosophy have always attracted people from all walks of life. Jainism proclaimed that in their potential for spiritual advancement, all human beings are equal whether male or female, rich or poor.*

More Information: Details on Jainism and its principles can be obtained from the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) web site: <http://www.jaina.org/>

History of Milwaukee Jain Temple

Building a temple requires an amalgamation of strong faith, blessings, determination, fate, support from the communities and a cohesiveness of the congregation. None of this happens without tribulations and doubts. At times human weaknesses take over and the task appears too immense to tackle. This is where blessings become a source of energy, faith takes over and determination results. Fate and support arrive and projects are completed. Our responsibility is to maintain the cohesiveness of the congregation in order that we see our vision become a reality. This has been our experience in building a Jain temple in Wisconsin within a very small community. We hope that our story becomes an inspiration for others all across the globe.

Faith:

The largest gathering of Jains in Milwaukee was under very adverse conditions. An eight-year-old boy in our community died in a garage door accident. Samniji Smit Pragnaji and Mudit Pragnaji who had visited us a week earlier were requested to come back to bless the dying boy. The leadership and philosophical discourse by the Samniji during their second visit lit a spiritual spark in the Jain community in Wisconsin. Since then several spiritual leaders have provided their guidance and encouragement to this community to strengthen our faith. Among the renowned scholars who have visited us are Dr. Hukamchand Bharill, Bhattarakji, Pandit Dhirjlal Mehta, Shubhamji and Samaniji and Samanji. This faith has become the foundation of our temple.

Blessings:

Self-doubts mar even strong faith from time to time. When true expenses for the construction of the temple multiplied many folds from the initial estimates, it seemed impossible for less than 30 families to take on the burden. Yet with these doubts we decided to go ahead with the Bhumi-pujan and invited Shri Shubhamji for her blessings. Her statement "ficure mut karo Arhant Bhagwanke ashirwad se sub thik ho jaye ga" minimized our deepest concerns. The project moved forward with new vigor.

Determination:

Armed with Faith and Blessings, members of this community have taken this challenge to see the project to its completion. Relentless efforts, and viewing obstacles as opportunities have made this project a reality. The temple has become a second home for Anil Mehta who has paid attention to the minute details of all aspects of the construction. When our original plans for obtaining Pratimaji's failed, Hemant Jain took up the task. He visited India and sought Mr. Nirmal Doshi's assistance. This was the most critical task and it was completed to our satisfaction and ahead of schedule. Mr. Dinesh Sanghavi has used his business skills and contacts to meet our ever rising need for funds. Ever ready young members of the Jain community, Neil Mehta, Sachin Chheda, Deepali Jain, Sonia Jain, Roshni Jain, Chirag Shah, Chintan Shah and Neil Sanghavi have assisted in the project without any reservation. The determination of these members is the structure of this temple.

Fate:

A temple cannot be a temple without guidance from a spiritual leader. We were in dire need of someone who could not only help us in our effort to secure the Pratimajis according to religious guidelines, but also to help us through the process of the Pratishtha. With our great fortune Mr. Nirmalbhai Doshi entered into our lives.

He has an in-depth knowledge of Jainism, has performed several Pratishthas all over India, has an open mind about all sects of Jain religion and was willing to take the necessary time to take on the responsibility. He supervised the project from the mining of the Makarana marble to examining the various stages of the carvings of the statues and also assisted in the final shipment. His commitment included several personal visits to Jaipur, constant communication with us during the process and he is now here to perform the Pratishtha.

Community Support:

Progressive members of the Hindu Temple of Wisconsin board invited the Jain group to become the part of their project. They adopted Jain temple into their 22-acre land.

The Jain temple could not have been built without the support and diligent efforts of the Hindu group. These steps have brought both the Hindu and Jain communities closer together than ever before.

Jain organizations from all over the country have provided their moral and financial support to this temple. The Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago has encouraged us with open arms and has guided us through every aspect of temple building. Jain centers from as far away as California, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania have sent contributions and best wishes. Best of all we have received votes of confidence from Jains all over the world. Their words of encouragement and support have made this project worthwhile.

Cohesive congregation:

The Jain community in Wisconsin decided to focus on the fundamental principals of Jainism while respecting Jain rituals. With advice from the senior members of the community and input from the young members, the fundamental framework for the operation of the temple was developed. Temple members are all who follow Jain Principles. All religious events are celebrated together regardless of sects. Only Tirthankar idols and names are placed in the temple and rituals are performed by all, regardless of financial contribution or social status. The temple will serve as a spiritual center.

The temple that we have built here is made up of faith, blessings, fate, determination, community support and a cohesive congregation. It has been a rewarding and challenging task for a small community. On behalf of us all, I hope that our next generations will cherish the rich legacy of religion we leave for them in the USA as our ancestors have done for us in India.

Completion and Pratishtha:

The temple construction was completed with no outstanding loan on the temple. We celebrated pratishtha Mahotsav from May 26-May 28, 2001 with about 500 devotees from all over the world joining the celebration. The rituals were jointly performed by Pandit Nirmal Doshi of Mumbai and Shri Devendrakeerty Bhattarakji of Hombuja Jain Math India. Sadhavi Shri Shubhamji of Veerayatan, India, Saman Shrutpragyaji of Ladnun, India and Saman Sthitpragyaji of Ladnun India graced the occasion and delivered religious discourses. Mrs. Kalpana Doshi helped with all rituals.

Completion of Shikhar:

After eleven years the community with many more new young members decided to build a Shikhar on the temple, add two Patts of Palitana and Sammet Shikharji and install pictures of twenty four Tirthankars from famous temples of India. We will be celebrating Shikhar Pratishtha on June 16-17, 2012.

Introduction to Our Temple

The temple was built in 2001 next to the Hindu Temple of Wisconsin on a 20 acre land. The temple share parking and all the infrastructure with Hindu temple but is housed in a separate building. There are about 40 Jain families in Wisconsin.



The center idol is of Lord Mahavir the twenty fourth and the last Tirthankar (omniscient). The idol on the right is of Lord Parshvanath the twenty third Tirthankar. The idol on the left is of Lord Rishabhdev or Adinath. Rishabhdev was the first Tirthankar of the present age therefore he had the name Adinath—the original lord. According to Jain beliefs, Rishabhdev existed before civilization developed. He taught people agriculture, tending of animals, cooking and more.

On left and right side of the Gabhara are Patts depicting Palitana and Sammet Shikharji tirth described later in this book. On left and right of these Patts are Navakar Mantra. For each of the tirthankars we obtained the mulnayak (main) idol from important temples in India dedicated to them. The history of these temples and stories behind mulnayak (main) idol is described next.

Palitana Patt



The Palitana Patt is a representation of Palitana tirth and temples on Mount Satrunjaya, The Patt is hand painted on canvas.

Palitana is considered one of the holiest of all pilgrimage places since Bhagwan Adishwar visited this mountain 7.056 quintillion times. Additionally, Bhagwan Adishwar's main disciple along with numerous soles attained Nirvana from here. There are 863 temples exquisitely carved in marble located on the hills. This temple-city has been built as an abode for the divine; hence, no one is allowed to stay overnight, including the priests. The main temple, on top of the hill is dedicated to the first Tirthankara, Rishabha. It is believed that this place has been around since the beginning of time and will be around throughout the whole time cycle. People believe following encounters.

- The moolnayak murti-Lord Adinath's idol breathed 7 times, when it was first placed over there.
- There is one and only one tree in the entire Temple Campus below which it is believed to hide the jewels, pearls, relics and other ornaments of time before humans.
- The holy city is so pure and sacred that even if a pinch of soil is brought home, it is considered very lucky

Palitana was the capital of a princely state of the Gohil Rajput clan. Every year millions of people come to visit these temples.

Sammet Shikharji Patt



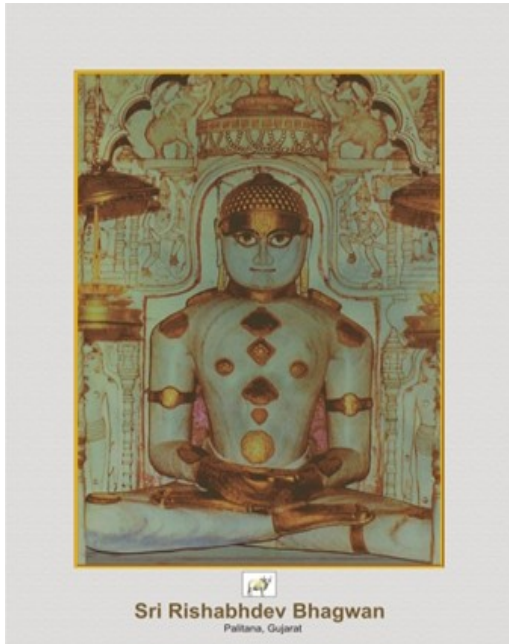
Shikharji or **Śrī Śikharjī** (श्री शिखरजी), also known as the Parasnath Hill, located in Giridih district in Jharkhand, India, is the most sacred place for Jains in the world. According to Jain belief, twenty of the twenty-four Tirthankaras (teachers of the Jains) attained Moksha (Nirvana) from this place. Parasnath Hill with a height of 1,350 meters (4,430 ft)) make up the highest mountain in the state of Jharkhand.

The oldest reference to the hills as a holy place is found in the Jñātr̥dhārmakātha, one of the twelve texts constituting the canonical core of Jain literature. There the hills are described as the place where Mallinātha, the nineteenth Jina, attained samadhi or meditative concentration. This led to the name Sammet Śikhar, the 'peak of concentration', more commonly and simply Śikharji, 'the venerable peak'.

Starting from the base of the hills, the yatara (trek) to Śikharjī and back, including all peaks is approximately 27 km. The yatri (trekkers) usually start between 3am-4am early in the morning. Shri Shikharji attracts pilgrims from across India.

The number of Tirthankars who attained nirvana at Shri Sammet Shikharji is 20. For each of them there is a mandarin (shrine) on the hill. Archaeologists believe some of the existing temple edifices on Parasnath Hill date from 1765 A.D. although the place is of greater antiquity. It is certain that the present edifices replace older edifices, which were demolished.

Each tirtha (pilgrimage site) represents centuries of devotion, which found expression in temple-building, and to this day are at the center of pilgrimages and festivals at frequent intervals.



First Tirthankar

Sri Rishabhdev Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{224} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 592.7 Quintillion

Birth Place: Ayodhya

Parents: King Nabhiraja and Marudevi

Symbol: Ox (Bull) *Height:* 1500 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Ashtapad (Mt. Kailash)

TEMPLE: Mount Shatrunjaya (Palitana, Gujarat)

HISTORY: This tirth is known as the eternal tirth. In this avasarpinikala (the descending half of the wheel of time), the temple complex was renovated 16 times. Shri Rishabhdev Bhagavan visited this sacred place 7.056 quintillion times. All the twenty three Tirthankars, except Shri Neminath Bhagwan, delivered the auspicious sermons of Jain dharma to all humanity.

The Shatrunjaya hills are the most sacred pilgrimage place (teerth) for the Jain community and form the world's largest Jain temple complex with 3,507 temples and 27,001 idols, exquisitely carved in marble. The main temple is dedicated to the first tirthankar, Lord Rishabhdev also known as Adinath Bhagwan (the first). It is believed that the idol breathed 7 times when it was first placed in the temple, the city is considered so pure and sacred that a pinch of soil is even brought back home to be worshipped.

The elegant construction of the temple features a series of domes and high summits with 1245 kalash (ritual pit chers) and 21 (sudkhnath) lions. The statues of four yoginis (goddesses) ten digpals (gods), 72 dev kulikas (alcoves), 32 dolls and 32 torarchs are other unique elements seen throughout the temple.

It is said that the heart of the worshiper dances with joy upon seeing the main idol of Bhagwan Rishabhdev (also known as Adinath bhagwan), as he respectfully bows his head down to the feet of the Lord who gave the gift of civilization to all mankind.

The 3,800 steps to the top were shaped out of the rock in the 13th century C.E. during the time of Minister Vastupal. The artistry and perfection of these temples are truly a wonder of the ancient world and continue to astonish today's architects and engineers. No one is allowed to sleep overnight including the priest since the temple city has been built as an abode for the Gods. The descent must begin before it is evening.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The main idol of Bhagwan Adinath is 216 cm high, white in color with a serene expression and sitting in Padmasana (lotus) posture.





Second Tirthankar

Sri Ajitnath Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{223} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 508.0 Quintillion

Birth Place: Ayodhya

Parents: King Jita Satru and Vijayadevi

Symbol: Elephant *Height:* 1350 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Banediaji (Madhya Pradesh)

HISTORY

Shri Banediaji Atishaya Kshetra is about eight hundred years old. It is situated on the bank of a huge pond. One end of the pond touches Depal Pur. It is guessed that in the past there would have been a big town stretching from Depal Pur to Banedia. According to a myth, this temple was being transported somewhere through aerial route by an ascetic saint (Tapasvi Muniraj), however due to some reason he had to land this temple here and thus this temple was established here. This temple is called the one which has reached here flying. To support the popular myth about this temple, is the fact that there is no foundation of this temple and still it has been standing here for hundreds of years. This is the only Atishaya Kshetra without foundation in India. The main idol of Bhagwan Ajitanath was installed in this temple in 1548 C.E. The temple also houses many other ancient tirthankar statues. People of all faiths come to worship this idol as it is known to give them inspiration to do good and fulfill their wishes.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The main temple is round in shape and the main idol of Bhagwan Ajitnath is 115 cm high, white in color and sitting Padmasana (lotus) posture. On the occasion of annual fair (Chaitra Shukla 13 to 15) thousands of men & women assemble here showing great religious fervor and devotion.



Third Tirthankar

Sri Sambhavanath Bhagwan



Sri Sambhavanath Bhagwan
Kojra, Rajasthan

Birth: 10^{223} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 423.4 Quintillion

Birth Place: Sravasti

Parents: King Jitari and Senadevi

Symbol: Horse *Height:* 1200 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Kojra, Rajasthan

HISTORY:

Lord Sambhavanath was born in Shravasti, on fourteenth day of the bright half of the month of Margshrish. After long span of life time, he took Diksha on the fifteenth day of the bright half of the month of Margshrish along with 1000 other men.

After 14 years of Diksha and leaving worldly life, Lord Sambhavanath attained Kevalgyan, salvation on 5th day of the dark half of the month of Kartik and constellation of Margshrish.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL:

In this temple on one of the pillars in the inner sanctum hall there was an inscription which stated that a pillar was constructed by Rana Ravasi in the temple of Lord Parshvanath in A.C 1224. In recent renovation, this pillar was missing therefore this temple is thought to be established before twelfth century. On the idol of present mulnayak there is no inscription. It is believed that lord Parshvanath was main idol earlier. At some time during several renovations the present idol of shri Sambhavanath Bhagwan must have been installed.

From the stone-inscriptions it is found that Rao Rana had invincible faith and devotion in Jain religion. The style of architecture of this temple is a special one and the Shri Sambhavanath Bhagwan's idol is white in color, seated in lotus posture, 75 cms in height is very beautiful and dignified. Renovations are currently underway.

www.Jainteerth.com, 'Tirth-Darshan'





Fourth Tirthankar

Sri Abhinandan Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{223} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 352.8 Quintillion

Birth Place: Ayodhya

Parents: King Samvara and Siddharthadevi

Symbol: Monkey *Height:* 1050 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

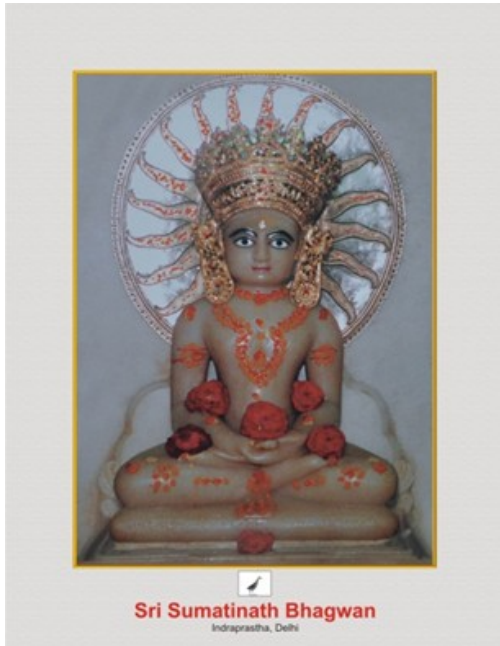
Shri Abhinandannath Digambar Jain Mandir (Gudar Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh)

HISTORY

The main idol of Bhagwan Abhinandannath dates back to the 12th century C.E. The other idols in the temple are also from around the same time. During the time of Aurangzeb, the idols were hidden for safekeeping. The temple was rebuilt in the 16th century and the idols were reinstated to their original locations. Manastambha (Column of Dignity) and other idols are also quite old.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The temple is 50 kms from Basai between Jhansi and Lalitpur. There are facilities available to stay over-night.



Fifth Tirthankar

Sri Sumatinath Bhagwan

Birth: 10²²² yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:*282.2 Quintillion

Birth Place: Ayodhya

Parents: King Meghprabha and Sumangaladevi

Symbol: Red Goose *Height:* 900 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Indraprastha Tirth Sumatinath Jain Swetamber Temple (Delhi)

HISTORY

The ancient city of Indraprastha is now well known as Delhi, the capital city of India. It is stated that during the period of Sri Neminath Bhagwan, Sri Pandavas had established their capital over here and built a fort as well. It is believed that the temple of Sumatinath Bhagwan is at least 1,500 years old. Many Shwetambar and Digambar Acharyas (teachers) spent the chaturmas (4 months of monsoons) here. According to reference found many temples were built here and many Tirthmalas were composed here. It is stated that a lot of pilgrimage tours to Mount Shatrunjay and Girnar were taken from here. But at present there are only two temples, Sumatinath bhagwan and Lal mandir of Parshvanath bhagwan.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Looking inside the silver doors of the shrine to Sumatinatha you will see some incredible original painting finished with gold leaf. A lot of students and tourists from abroad visit this unique temple. The well-preserved ancient art and handmade paintings in gold prove the antiquity of this temple. The walls, arches and ceilings of the temple are covered with finely rendered murals and decorations. Reflecting the building's surroundings, some of the artwork shows Moghul influence.

The main idol of Bhagwan Sumatinath is 38 cm high, white in color and sitting in Padmasan (lotus) posture.





Sixth Tirthankar

Sri Padmaprabhu Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{221} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 211.7 Quintillion

Birth Place: Kausambhi

Parents: King Dharana and Susimadevi

Symbol: Red Lotus *Height:* 750 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Shri Digambar Jain Atishaya Kshetra (Padampura, Rajasthan)

HISTORY

Padampura is 33 km outside of Jaipur, Rajasthan. It is a Atishaya Kshetra (Miraculous Place) famous for its beautiful statue of Bhagwan Padamprabhu. The temple is constructed of pure marble in a unique circular layout. The spire is 85 feet high.

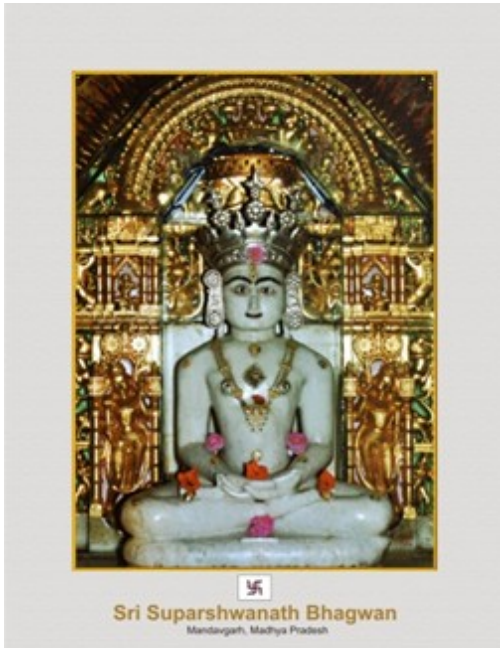
The idol of Padamprabhu Bhagwan is seated in a high shrine in the center of the temple, surrounded by 10 other shrines with idols of Lord Bahubali, Lord Mahavir, and Lord Adinath, among others. The idol was found while digging the foundation of a house by Moola Jat. The day when this idol appeared was Vaishakh Shukla 5 V.S. 2001.

In an open field in front of the main temple stands a beautiful 27 feet high standing statue of Bhagwan Padamprabhu.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Bara Padampura is about 33 km from Jaipur and is Atishaya Kshetra, famous in North India for its very beautiful idol of Bhagwan Padamprabhu in Padmasan (lotus) posture, 71cms in height made of white stone. About 245 Rooms & 15 Halls with modern facilities are available for the comfort of the pilgrims with the facility of meals.





Seventh Tirthankar

Sri Suparshwanath Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{220} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 141.1 Quintillion

Birth Place: Kasi (Banaras)

Parents: King Suprathistha and Prithvidevi

Symbol: Swastika *Height:* 600 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE: Mandavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)

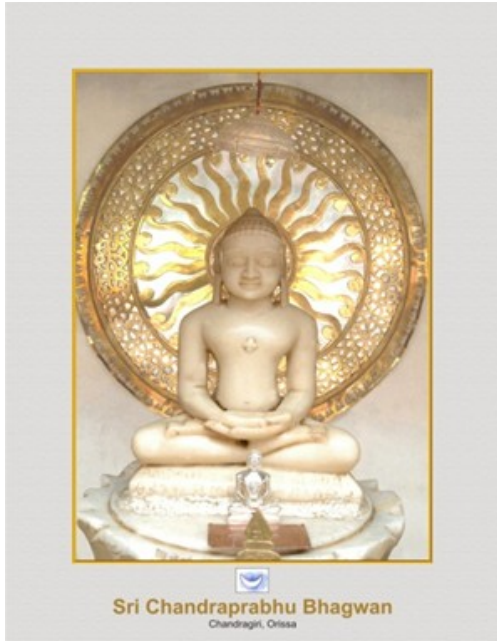
HISTORY: According to the scriptures this teerth (shrine) may have been consecrated in the Vikram year 1472. During the period between 13th and 17th centuries, many brave Jain ministers and householders lived in this area. They built many Jain temples, took many congregations on different pilgrimages and performed many other deeds in glorification of Jain religion with their inexhaustible wealth. In the history of Jainism their services have been incomparable. It is stated that once there were 700 Jain temples, numerous Poshadshala's (place for the sadhus) and about six lakhs Jain households. This was a large city of great prosperity and affluence, so much so, each family gifted a gold coin and a brick to a new Jain resident. Mandavgadh is well known ancient city of India, even today innumerable relics of ancient times can be seen there.

The closest city Indore is 97 kms away. There is a large dharmashala (boarding facilities) and also a bhojanalaya (mess halls). They also have a Upashray (large hall for sermons and residence for Sadhus)

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The main idol of Bhagwan Suparshvanath is 91 cm high, white in color and sitting Padmasan (lotus) posture in a temple within a large walled area of Mandavgadh (known as Mandu) on one of the high peaks of Vindhyaachal Mountain.





Eighth Tirthankar

Sri Chandraprabhu Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{219} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 70.56 Quintillion

Birth Place: Chandragiri

Parents: King Mahasena and Lakshmana

Symbol: Moon

Height: 450 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Chandragiri (Rajasthan)

HISTORY

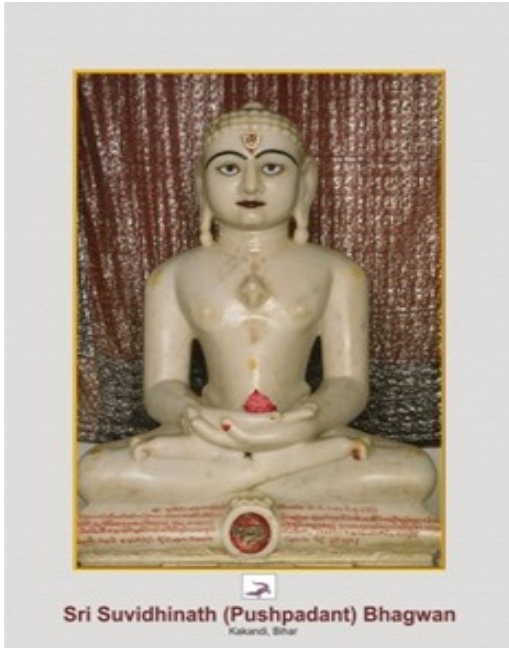
In his birth as king Padma of Mangalavati town of Dhatkikhand, the being that was to become Bhagavan Chandraprabh earned Tirthankar-nam-and-gotra-karma. Spending a lifetime as a god in Anuttar Vijay dimension he descended into the womb of queen Lakshmana, wife of king Mahasen of Chandranana town.

Chandraprabh was apathetic towards the mundane pleasures and princely grandeur. After he ascended the throne his reign was short lived. He became an ascetic in the prime of his youth and just after three months of acute spiritual practices he became an omniscient. For a considerably long period he continued to enlighten the people and propagate the true religion. When his end approached he went to Sammet Shikhar and after a month of long fast and meditation attained Nirvana.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The idol of Chandraprabhu in this temple is worshipped as it is very ancient and revered.

The town is 15 kms from Jaipur and is easily accessible.



Nineth Tirthankar

Sri Suvidhinath Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{218} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 14.11 Quintillion

Birth Place: Kakandi

Parents: King Sugriva and Prithvidevi

Symbol: Crocodile

Height: 300 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

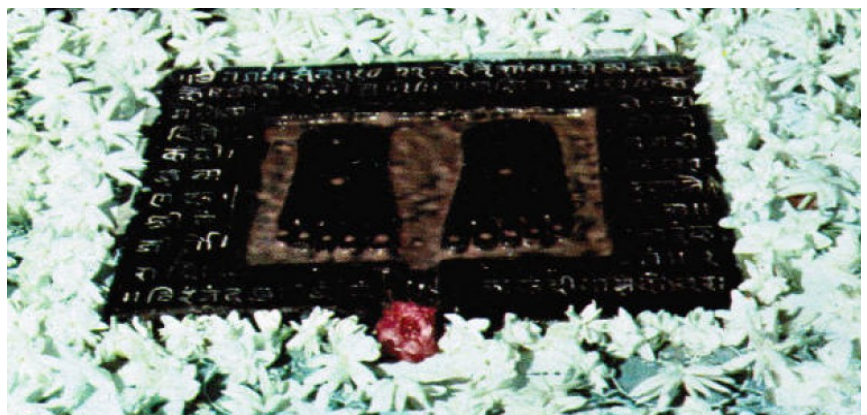
Kakandi Tirth, (Bihar)

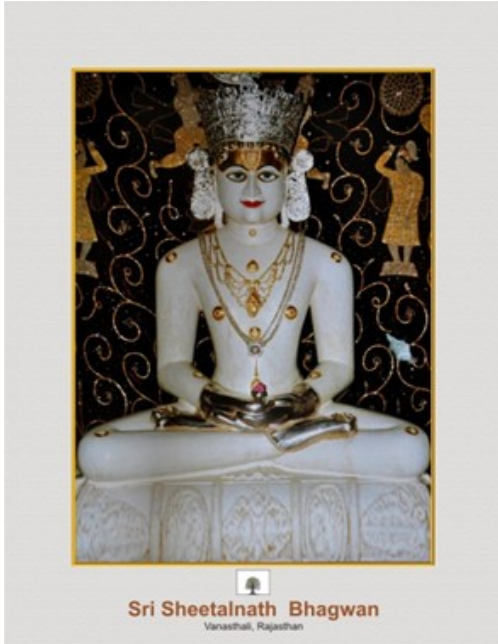
HISTORY

Lord Suvidhinath (Pushpdanta) accepted asceticism and became Muni here, his first precept was also delivered here after attaining Kevalgyan. Both his 'Diksha' and 'Gyan Kalyanka's' were celebrated in this forest and this place also became a Tirth. Sri Suvidhinath is also named as Pushpadanta, according to the story the mother-to-be had developed a craving for flowers during her pregnancy, therefore he was named Pusphadanta (flowers). This place commands obeisance because four Kalyanaks (phases of life) were occurred here. Even to-day the particles of dust of the area and the vibrations surcharged with a spiritual force transform the pilgrims and elevate them to al love of consciousness never experienced by them before. All those who visit this tirth feel grateful and fortunate for such an spiritual up-liftment.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The idol of Bhagwan Pushpdanta is 18 cm high, white in color and sitting Padmasan (lotus) posture. Near the temple on a hillock, under an umbrella foot images of Lord Suvidhinath are placed.





Tenth Tirthankar

Sri Sheetalnath Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{217} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 7.056 Quintillion

Birth Place: Bhadrikapuri

Parents: King Dridharatha and Sunandadevi

Symbol: Kalpavriksh *Height:* 270 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

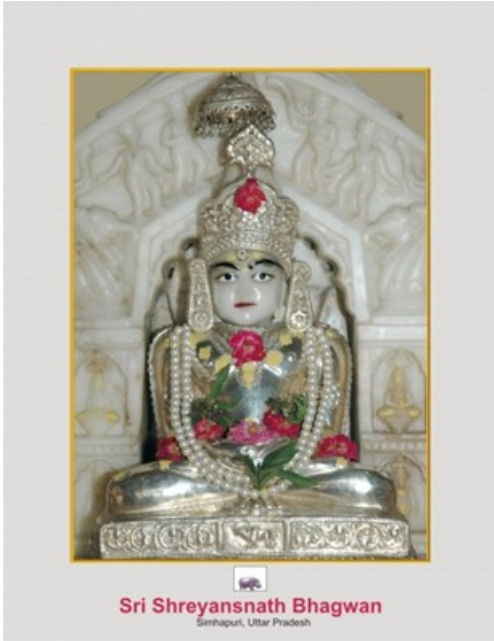
This temple is located in Vanthali village, also known as Devsthal or Vmsthal. From the ancient remains and ruins here, one can assume that this place must have been a huge and prosperous city.

HISTORY

The ancient and vast main idol of Shitalnath Bhagwan is miraculous and beautiful. This temple was built and consecrated under King Samprati. It has been renovated and re-consecrated in the Vikram era year 1971. This idol is about 102 years old. It was found while constructing a well during this king's reign. This town is close to Junaghad, in Gujarat.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Sri Shitalnath Bhagwan is 150 cm tall, white in color and seated in the Padmasan (lotus) posture



Eleventh Tirthankar

Sri Shreyansnath Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{212} yrs. ago *Yrs.Lived:* 8,400.000

Birth Place: Sinhapuri

Parents: King Vishnu and Vishnudridevi

Symbol: Hippopotamus *Height:* 240 Mtr.

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Sinhapuri, Uttar Pradesh

HISTORY

Sinhapuri is an ancient place widely known for 4 Kalyanak of shri Shreyansnath. A huge ashtakon stoop (octagonal pillar) of 103 feet height is still present showing its historical establishment. It is considered to be 2200 years old. The artistic work on it is unmatched. At present, one Shwetambar Jain temple, a Digambar Jain temple, and one pillar exist there.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Shwetambar temple is located 8 kilometers from the station situated in Hiravanpur Village. The Digambar temple is located 7 kms from Varanasi Chhavani station situated at Sarnath crossing. The Nearby Chandravati teerth is only 15 kilometers away. The white colored idols of Shri Shreyanshnath Bhagwan in Padmasan 30 centimeters in height (Shwetambar) and a blue colored idol 75 cms of Shri Shreyanshnath Bhagwan in Padmasan (Digambar) are located in the temples. The Sarnath Buddha temple also exists here.



Twelveth Tirthankar

Sri Vasupujya Bhagwan



Sri Vasupujya Bhagwan
Champapur, Bihar

Birth: 4×10^{211} yrs. ago *Yrs. Lived:* 7,200.000

Birth Place: Champapur

Parents: King Vasupujya and Vijayadevi

Symbol: Male Buffalo *Height:* 210 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Champapur (Bihar)

TEMPLE

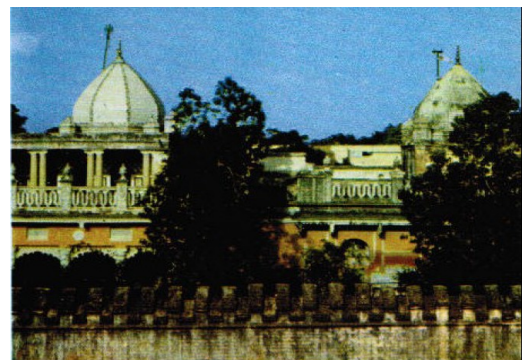
Shri Champapur Digambar Jain Siddha Kshetra Bada Mandir (Champapurji, Bihar)

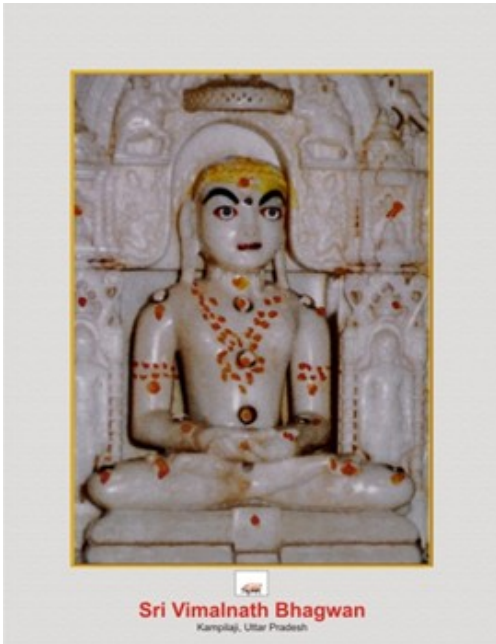
HISTORY

Champapur is the only Tirth Kshetra which is adorned with all five 'Kalyanaka' of Tirthankar Lord Vasupujya Swami. Champapur was the capital of 'Anga Janpada'. The Anga Janpada was one of the 52 Janpadas established by Adi Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev. Champapur is known for various historical events which took place such as "The three chaturmasa (four months of monsoon) period of Lord Mahavir swami, Aahardan (breaking fast after 12 years of fasting) to Lord Mahavir swami by Sati Chandan Bala. Champapur has gained attention due to its implicit history of arrival of 'Samavsharan' of all 24 Tirthankar. This place is Siddha Kshetra (land of salvation), as well as land of miracles. Seth Shri Sudarshan, Emperor Shripal, Sati Chandan Bala, Danveer Karn of Mahabharata, Dadhivahan, King Mudrak and many more deities had their roots from this place.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The main temple was originally built around 2500 years ago and later various structural changes took place. This temple being symbolic of 'Panch Kalyanaka' is adorned with five altars, magnificent spire and two columns of fame. It is said that there were four columns of fame (keerti stambha) which existed in four corners of the temple complex. Later two of these four were destroyed in the earthquake of year 1934 and jirnnoddhar (repair work) of other two columns was done in 1938. The Reddish diamond colored Padmasana idol of Lord Vasupujya Swami present in the center of the main altar is divine and miraculous. The color of idol is comparable to the actual complexion of Lord Vasupujya. Another idol of Lord Vasupujya is made of 'Ashtadhatu' (Alloy of eight metals) and the ancient foot images of Lord Vasupujya are also placed in this altar.





Thirteenth Tirthankar

Sri Vimalnath Bhagwan

Birth: 1.6×10^{211} yrs. ago *Yrs. Lived:* 6,000.000

Birth Place: Kampilya

Parents: King Kirtvarman and Suramyadevi

Symbol: Pig *Height:* 180 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Shri Kampilaji Teerth is a Jain temple situated at Kampilpur in the Farrukhabad District of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated at a distance of 10 kilometers from Kayamganj. In the North-West part of Kampil City in the middle of town, there is an ancient temple of Vikram Samvat 492 which is constructed on a 10 feet high platform, and is about 1500 years old.

HISTORY

Previously called by the names Kampilya and Makandi, the history of Kampilaji dates back to the times of Bhagwan Vimalanatha. The four Kalyanas of Bhagwan Vimalanatha, chayavan (conceptions), birth, diksha (renunciation) and omniscience have taken place here. It is also the birthplace of king Harisen of the Ikshvaku dynasty. It was the capital of King Drupad who ruled this place during the period of Bhagwan Neminatha. Many remains found during the excavation work indicate that there were many Jain temples at this location. But now this place is being transformed into a small village. This is also the birthplace of Sati Draupadi among the 16 sati. The idols at this place are said to belong to the Gupta period.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The 45 centimeter high, white colored idol of Bhagwan Vimalanatha in the Padmasana posture is magnificent and attractive.



Fourteenth Tirthankar

Sri Anantnath Bhagwan



Sri Anantnath Bhagwan
Surat, Gujarat

Birth: 7×10^{210} yrs. ago *Yrs. Lived:* 3,000.000

Birth Place: Ayodhya

Parents: King Simhasena and Sarvavasadevi

Symbol: Hawk *Height:* 150 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

It is a beautiful temple in Gopipura area of Surat. This temple is near the Nemubhai vadi upasahray.

HISTORY

There are 9 other idols in the temple and a couple of Dev and Devi (gods and goddesses) statues. The main temple hall has all inlaid glass work. In the courtyard of the temple there is a beautiful replica of Shatrunjay Mountain (Palitana) covered in a glass case.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Sri Anantnath Bhagwan idol is white in color and it about 130 years old. It is the main idol in this 125 years old temple.



Fifteenth Tirthankar

Sri Dharmanath Bhagwan

Birth: 3×10^{210} yrs. ago *Yrs. Lived:* 2,500.000

Birth Place: Hastinapur

Parents: King Bhanu and Suvrata

Symbol: Thunderbolt *Height:* 135 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Ratnapuri (UP). It is the birthplace of the Jain Tirthankara Dharmanath and is a temple town in Uttar Pradesh. It is located on the Ayodhya-Lucknow national highway 24 km west of Ayodhya near Ronahi.

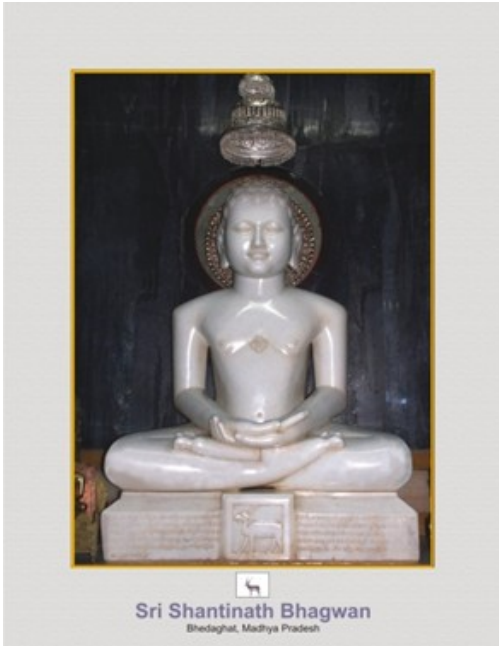
HISTORY

The history of this ancient tirth belongs to the times of Bhagwan Dharmanath. This is the Holy Land of the four Kalyanakas of Bhagwan Dharmnath namely, chayavan, birth, diksha and attainment of omniscience so it is called a Kalyanak Kshetra. The Rohani village of today was once a large city named Ratanpur. Since this was a land of Kalyanakas, many ancient temples were no doubt here and in course of time, the tirth witnessed many ups and downs. This tirth is described in the 'Vividh Teerth Kalp' written in the 14th century of Vikram Samvat by Acharya Shri Jinprabhusurishwarji. People of this town know Bhagwan by the name Dharmaraj. Worshippers faithfully come to the temple to fulfill their wishes.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

There are Shwetambar and Digambar temples. The footprints of Bhagwan Shri Dharmanath in blue color are found in Shwetambar temples. The idol of Bhagwan Shri Dharmanath in padmasan (lotus) posture is found in the Digambar Jain temple. It is white in color and 90 centimeters in height. Every atom and molecule of this holy land of Kalyanakas, is pious. Since this temple was renovated many times, specimens of distinct ancient art are not found here now.





Sixteenth Tirthankar

Sri Shantinath Bhagwan

Birth: 10^{194} years ago *Years Lived:* 100,000

Birth Place: Hastinapur

Parents: King Visvasena and Aciradevi

Symbol: Deer *Height:* 120 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Bhedaghat (Madhya Pradesh). The main idol in this temple is of Shantinath Bhagwan and is about 1500 to 2000 years old. This ancient temple is going through a complete renovation at the present time. The temple has idols of all 24 Tirthankars. There is also an Agam hall which houses information about the holy scriptures. At present there are only four Jain families in the area.

HISTORY

It is believed that devas and devis (gods and goddesses) came from heaven everyday between 12am and 4am to worship at this temple. The temple doors would open automatically for them to enter the temple. They would perform rituals like puja and arati at this time.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Bhedaghat is in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is situated on the banks of the Narmada River and is approximately 20 km from Jabalpur city. Its most famous sights are the Dhuandhar Falls, marble rocks and the Chausath (64) yogini temple. The city has a beautiful landscape and many Bollywood movie songs are shot here.



Seventeenth Tirthankar

Sri Kunthunath Bhagwan

Birth: 10¹⁹⁴ years ago *Years Lived:* 95,000

Birth Place: Hastinapur

Parents: King Surya and Sridevi

Symbol: Goat *Height:* 105 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Jodhpur (Rajasthan). The Kesar (Saffron) and Chandan (sandalwood) that is continuously created here from lamps is one of the reasons why this temple is named Kesariya Kunthunath.

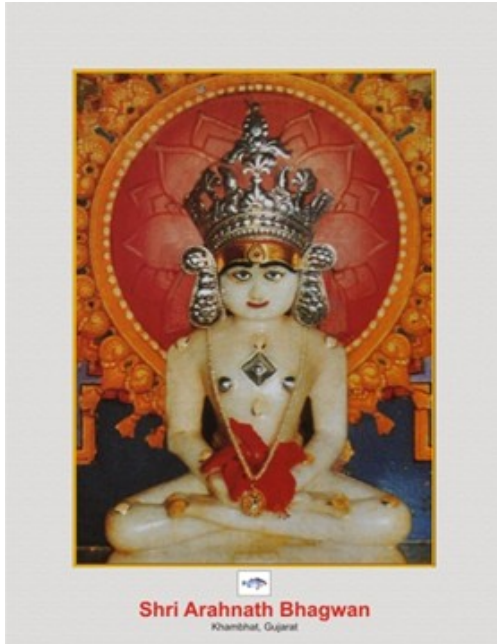
HISTORY

At this temple Maa Chakreshwari foretold “This temple would be a teerth (pilgrimage) as big as Palitana”. Here 28 lamps (27 from Pure Ghee and 1 from ground nut oil) remain illuminated 24 hours a day. From 1998 to 2004, divine powers provided inspirations and symbols to renovate and expand this small place into a traditionally built stone shikarbaddh temple. Also it is indicated that the designs for this temple were provided by this divine power and hence, the layout of this temple is unique from that of any other temple.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

This unique Jain Temple is the only one to have 24 Tirthankars enlightened with 24 immortal lamps. Also, a lamp is lit for Maa Chakreshwari, Mata Padmavati, Nakoda Bhairavji and Bhakta Mohanlal Daftari Mehta. The uniqueness of these 28 lamps is that it develops saffron and white chandan every moment on which lies the existence of Saffron Tilak (the red mark on the forehead). On one of these lamps, a coin shaped white chandan is generated.





Eighteenth Tirthankar

Sri Arahnath Bhagwan

Birth: 16,584,980 BC *Years Lived:* 84,000

Birth Place: Hastinapur

Parents: King Sudarsana and Mitra (Devi)

Symbol: Fish *Height:* 90 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Khambath, Gujarat. This temple is in Jeeralapada area,

HISTORY

This temple is the only temple in India which has idol of Arahnath bhagwan as the mulnayak (main idol).

There are 5 other idols in the main temple. Everyday about 25 people perform puja in this temple because there are about 100 other Jain temples in this area.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The idol is white in color and about 1500 years old. It is only 9" tall .



Nineteenth Tirthankar

Sri Mallinath Bhagwan

Birth: 6,584,980 BC *Years Lived:* 55,000

Birth Place: Mithilapurai (Mathura)

Parents: King Kumbha and Rakshitadevi

Symbol: Kalash *Height:* 75 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE: Shri Mallinath Digamber Jain Atishaya Kshetra Shirad Shahapur. This is the only Atishaya Kshetra of Bhagwan Mallinath present in India. It is about 210 km from Aurangabad and 55 km from Nanded, Maharashtra.

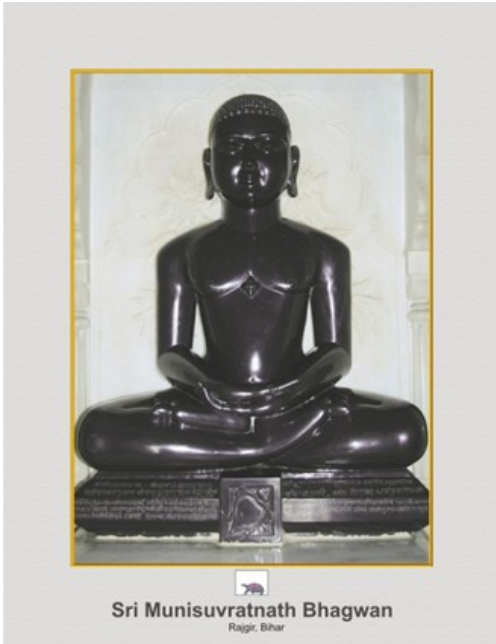
HISTORY

In ancient times this temple was famous for the miraculous idol of Bhagwan Shantinath referenced in 'Shak-Samvat 1535'. The idol of Bhagwan Mallinath was revered by Surendrakirti – the Bhattaraka of Moolsangh Balatkargana. It is said that this idol of Bhagwan Mallinath was previously placed among other broken and unbroken Jain idols at Ardhapur village in Nanded District. Once when Bhattarakji was going to Bheekar village he saw the idol of Bhagwan Mallinath in Ardhapur village while he stopped there for a rest. He requested permission to take the idol with him to Karanja, but the head of Panchayat and other members of the village refused his request. Then Bhattarakji in his Myana (palanquin) went directly to the Nizam of Hyderabad. He asked the carriers of palanquin to leave when he entered in the Nizam's Court. At this time a very astonishing thing happened, that the palanquin floated in the air without any support. The Nizam was quite surprised and pleased to see this miracle. The Bhattarakji then received permission to take the idol with him. On his way to Karanja, he had a dream to install the idol in Shirad-Shahapur. The next morning, the devotees were unable to pull the chariot and therefore, according to the dream, the idol was installed in Shirad Shahapur.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Shri Mallinath Digamber Jain Atishaya Kshetra Shirad Shahapur is surrounded by hills and greenery from all sides. The River Asna flows outside the village. The magnificent temple of Bhagwan Mallinath is present near the Shantinath temple. The four foot high black colored Ardha-Padmasana idol of the principal deity is majestic and beautiful. The magnificent artistic column of dignity, made of white marble was constructed in front of this temple. Bhagwan Shantinath Jinalaya has spires around it. Marble is used in entire temple. There are magnificent depictions of ancient stories through attractive pictures on the walls of this temple.





Twentieth Tirthankar

Sri Munisuvratnath Bhagwan

Birth: 1,184,980 BC *Years Lived:* 30,000

Birth Place: Rajagrih (Bihar)

Parents: King Sumitra and Padmavatidevi

Symbol: Tortoise *Height:* 60 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Rajgir, Bihar. The grandeur of this tirth is sung with praise in many books and scriptures. After attaining omniscience, Bhagwan Mahavir is believed to have given his first sermons here. There are five hills Vipulachal, Ratnagiri,, Udaygiri, Swarnagiri and Vaibhargiri in Rajgir on which there are many temples and footprints of many thirthankars.

HISTORY

This tirth is from the times of Bhagwan Munisuvrat Swami, the twentieth Tirthankara. This is the Holy Land of four Kalyanakas of Munisuvrat Swami namely, chyavan (conception), janma (birth), diksha (renounce the world) and Keyvalgyan (attainment of omniscience). This is the place of the parna (first breakfast after long fast) following the severe penance of Vasupujya Swami, the twelfth Tirthankara. Mahavir Swami, the twenty-fourth Tirthankara, spent fourteen monsoon sojourns here. Nine of his gandharas (disciples) attained salvation before his nirvana and Gautam Swami and Sudhaarma Swamiji attained salvation after his nirvan. This was the capital of Maharaja Shrenik; the Shravak (follower) most devoted to Mahavir Bhagwan.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

At the foothills in the Rajgiri village there are Shwetamber and Digambar temples and the ancient idols in all the temples are artistic and worth visiting. Besides Jains, many Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists congregate in Rajgir. This was also an auspicious location for Bhagwan Buddha. The first Buddhist Sangiti (conference) was held here in the cave Sapta Prani and therefore many international tourists visit Rajgir to worship at the Buddhist stupa.





Twenty First Tirthankar

Sri Naminath Bhagwan

Birth: 584,979 BC *Years Lived:* 10,000

Birth Place: Mithilapuri (Mathura)

Parents: King Vijaya and Vipranidevi

Symbol: Blue Lotus *Height:* 45 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

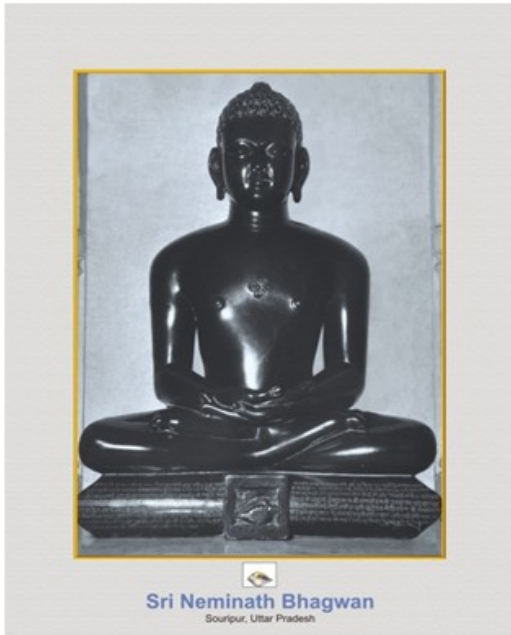
Ahemdabad, Gujarat. It is managed by Khanpura Jain Murtipujak sangh.

HISTORY

The temple is about 35 years old There are 9 other idols in the temple. About 700 Jain families live in the area and 500 to 550 Jain people perform puja everyday.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The idol is white and in Padmasan (lotus) posture.



Twenty Second Tirthankar

Sri Neminath Bhagwan

Birth: 3228 BC

Years Lived: 1000

Birth Place: Sauripura (Dvaraka)

Parents: King Samudravijaya and Sivadevi

Symbol: Conch

Height: 30 Meters

Place of Nirvan: Mount Girnar (Bihar)

TEMPLE

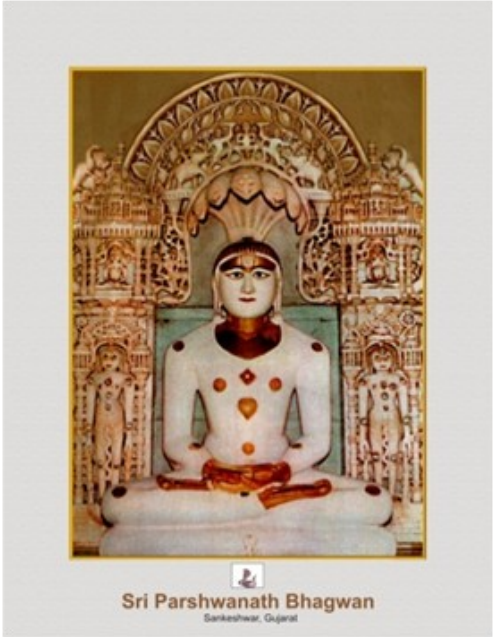
Souripur (UP). This temple is located in Souripur, on a ghat (steep) road about 1.5 kms from Vateshwar situated on the banks of the Yamuna River.

HISTORY

King Samudrayvijaya ruled in Souripur and his queen Sivadevi had dreams indicative of the birth of a Tirthankar. At that time the soul of Shankh, after completing his eight previous incarnations, entered the womb of Sivadevi. This auspicious event of Chyavan Kalyanak was celebrated by devas and devis and led by their chief Indra with great joy. After the pregnancy period was over, Sivadevi gave birth to a son whose color was black and had the symbol of a conchshell. This place thus became holy on account of chyavan (conception) and janm (birth) kalyanak of a Tirthankar. According to scriptures from the 14th century there are references to an idol of Neminath Bhagwan having existed here. This location is important because many saints attained Kevalgyan (ultimate knowledge) and Moksha (salvation) here. Some scriptures have said that this temple was touched by the feet of Lord Rishabdev, Lord Parshvanath and Lord Mahavir.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

The main idol is of Sri Neminath Bhagwan in black color seated in a lotus posture, 105 cm tall. Many old relics from ancient ruins have been found here. Sir Cunningham has indicated the possibility of many stupas, temples, etc. lying buried here in the hills. Many inscriptions, idols and copper coins were moved to Agra in 1870.



Twenty Third Tirthankar

Sri Parshwanath Bhagwan

Birth: 877 BC

Years Lived: 100

Birth Place: Varanasi

Parents: King Asvasen and Vamadevi

Symbol: Snake

Height: 7.71Feet

Place of Nirvan: Sammet Shikharji (Bihar)

TEMPLE

Shankheshwar, Gujarat. This is an important tirth (place of pilgrimage) of Jainism. It is situated in the Patan district in Gujarat. According to Mughal history, the Shankheshwar village was on a lease granted by Emperor Shah Jahan to Shantidas, a former nagarsheth (prominent business man) of Ahmedabad. A fair is held here on the full moon days of the Hindu calendar months Chaitra, corresponding to March or April, Kartik, corresponding to October or November, and the tenth day of the second half of Maghashirsha, corresponding to December or January. The temple ranks high as those on Mount Shatrunjaya in Palitana, (Gujarat) in terms of importance to a follower of Jainism.

HISTORY

In ancient inscriptions, this Jain *tirth* is referred as Shankhapur. It is said that a Shravaka by the name of Ashadhi was gripped by doubts and miseries about his existence in the material world, asking "When shall I attain nirvana? When shall I be free from the bondage of the material world? When shall I be liberated?" Answering all these questions, Damodar Swami, the ninth Jain Tirthankara, said: "Parshvanath will be the twenty-third Jain Tirthankara in the avasarpini kal. You will be his Ganadhar (prime disciple) named Aryaghosha and attain salvation there." Ashadhi then became fully engrossed in his devotion to Parshwanath. A formal history of the precursor to this tirth was written by Jain monk and eminent scholar Hemachandra Suri in the reign of the Solanki king Siddharaj Jayasinh of Anhilwara (Patan). In the year 1155 of the Vikram era (1099 CE), Sajjan Shah built the Shankheshwar temple on the banks of the Rupen river. Over time the temple was renovated a few times and rebuilt after being completely destroyed by the Muslim invaders in the 16th century of the Vikram era. In the year 1760 of the Vikram era (1704 CE), the Jain Sangha built the new temple and reinstalled the presiding deity.

MAIN TEMPLE AND IDOL

Apart from the original sanctum-sanctorum, this temple has an open square, a decorated square, a vast square and two assembly halls. Numerous miracles are associated with this temple and the presiding deity of Lord Parshwanath is represented by a six feet high statue in the padmasana (lotus) position.





Sri Mahavir Bhagwan
Mahaveerji, Rajasthan

Twenty Fourth Tirthankar Sri Mahavir Bhagwan

Birth: 599 BC

Years Lived: 72

Birth Place: Kundalpur (Vaishali, Bihar)

Parents: King Siddhartha and Trishaladevi

Symbol: Lion

Height: 7 feet

Place of Nirvan: Pavapuri, Bihar

Temple: Shri Mahavirji, Rajasthan

Digambar Jain Atishaya Kshetra Shri Mahavirji is one of the miraculous pilgrimages of Jains. It is about 175 km away from [Jaipur](#) and lies on the banks of Gambhir river. The Mulnayak pratima (main statue) of the pilgrimage temple is about one thousand years old, nearly 78 cm. high, and is a Coral-Colored idol of Lord Mahavir in Padmasana (sitting) Posture.

History: The idol was found some four hundred years ago during an excavation. Some 'Kaamduhadhenu' (self milking cow) used to pour out its milk everyday upon a mound near Chandanpur village. To the surprise of the villagers and the owner of the cow on excavating the dirt mound they were overwhelmed with emotion on witnessing the emergence of the idol of Lord Mahavir. The news of the appearance of the idol spread everywhere and the masses surged to have a glimpse. A magnificent temple was built, between 17th and 19th centuries, by Shri Amar Chand Bilala of Baswa (Jaipur) to ceremoniously install this uniquely miraculous idol of Lord Mahavir.

Temple and its importance: The three milky white Shikhar (Domes and Towers) of this massive temple are surmounted by the golden "Kalash" (pennants) and fly the flags of Jainism, symbolic of Samyak Darshan (true faith), Samyak Gyan (true knowledge) and Samyak Charitra (true conduct). This temple had been occasionally renovated. In respect of art, the magnificence of this temple is, on the whole, praiseworthy, but in view of its auspiciousness, Mahavirji is a pilgrimage without a peer. Millions of devotees visit this temple every year for pilgrimage. The architecture of the temple is interesting and magnificent. The scenic beauty of the cluster of spires of the temple wins the heart at a single glance. Drenched in the full moonlight, Shri Mahavirji pilgrimage conveys the message of purity and peace to the humanity at large.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shri_Mahavirji

<http://shrimahaveerji.com/>





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JAINA

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

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4 June 2012

Mr. Kamal Shah, President
Jain Religion Center of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Dear Friends:

Jai Jinendra. Thank you for inviting me to Shikhar Pratishtha ceremony. Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate Shikhar Pratishtha Ceremony at Jain Religion Center of Wisconsin. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the fine work of your organizations.

The Shikhar at your beautiful temple will stand as evidence of the faith and vision of your community. That enduring faith binds members of a congregation together in a fellowship and prayer, and will help to lead all of you through the struggles and joys of life.

The Jains in Milwaukee will provide extraordinary spiritual guidance, moral leadership and service to community. This gathering is a valuable opportunity to share ideas and to build the personal and spiritual connections essential for social and religious life.

On behalf of Jains of North America, I extend best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Sushil Jain

Dr. Sushil K. Jain
President



