

Pilgrimages

Christians

- Christians can choose whether or not to be pilgrims. It is not expected in their faith. They may go on a pilgrimage to develop spiritually and bring them closer to God.
- Christians may visit the Holy Land on pilgrimage and share their faith with many different Christian denominations.
- The Holy Land comprises lots of different Christian pilgrimage sites e.g. Bethlehem and Nazareth, as well as pilgrimage sites important in Judaism, Christianity and Islam eg Jerusalem.
- In Bethlehem, pilgrims focus on the birth of Christ – the incarnation, when God became flesh in the form of Jesus.
- Christians visit the places where Jesus was born,
- lived and preached and died.
- Pilgrims may walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem to retrace the steps of Joseph and Mary.

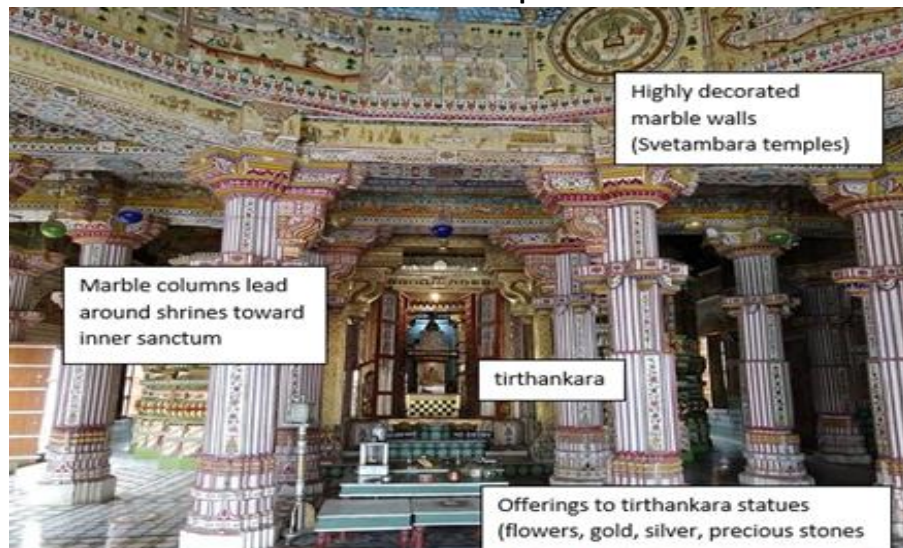


Jains

- Only some Jain sects (those that worship images and have temples) go on pilgrimage.
- Jains believe pilgrimage helps them attain spiritual liberation. It also strengthens faith and binds Jains together in physical hardship.
- Jain pilgrims will follow the lifestyle and attitudes of a Jain ascetic. These have no worldly possessions or family and rely on the charity of others to live. They spend their days in meditation and prayer.
- Shatrunjaya is one of 5 holy mountains and contains over 800 temples.
- Different sects decorate their temples differently. Digambra – plain, Svetambra – highly decorated.
- Jains give offerings (puja) and pray to tirthankaras for inspiration from them, not to worship them as gods.
- Jainism is about action, not devotion (how you live is important, not worship).



Inside a Jain temple



Highly decorated marble walls (Svetambra temples)

Marble columns lead around shrines toward inner sanctum

tirthankara

Offerings to tirthankara statues (flowers, gold, silver, precious stones)

Key Vocabulary

Derasir/Mandir	Jain temple – depends where located in India
ascetic	Jain monk or nun
Digambra	A Jainism sect; name means “sky-clad” or naked.
Svetambra	A Jainism sect; name means “white-clad”
tirtha	Jain place of pilgrimage; name means “ford”
tirthankara	Jain who has been on pilgrimage. Images of tirthankaras are prayed to for inspiration.
Rishabhanatha / Adinath	The 1 st tirthankara, who went on pilgrimage 99 times
Lord Mahavira/ Vardhamana	Founder of Jainism
incarnation	Christian belief that God was born as a human, in the form of Jesus.