

If you make a pilgrimage to a holy place, you visit somewhere for a special religious reason.

Christianity

Pilgrimage is not compulsory for Christians.

Christians visit a number of pilgrimage sites across the world that hold spiritual importance to Jesus or God. The Nativity story / journey is one of the most common act of worship and ritual acknowledged in the Christian faith.



Hinduism

Pilgrimage is not compulsory for Hindus but they are 'expected' to go on a pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

Hindus visit religious sites across India to show their respect. The most common location is the river Ganges in North India.

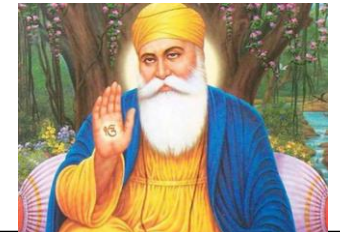


Sikhism

Pilgrimage is not compulsory for Sikhs.

Sikhs visit sites of religious significance and temples located in the Punjab – a region of northern India.

The visit this site as this is where the very first scripture of the Sikh faith is kept and can be listened to or read during a worship ritual.



Judaism

Pilgrimage is not compulsory for Jews.

Jews travel to Jerusalem to visit the 'Wailing Wall' to show their respect to God - they believe that this is the closest place to the presence of God. They also visit this site to show their respect for the Maccabee family – for saving Judea.



Buddhism

Pilgrimage is an important Buddhist practice. It is part of their quest for enlightenment – but not compulsory.

Buddhists visit Bodh Gaya (Northern India) they believe that Siddhartha Gautama their founder, achieved enlightenment here.



The Buddhist Religion

Buddhists believe Siddhartha Gautama was the first person to truly find enlightenment.

Therefore, he is known as the first Buddha and worshipped by all Buddhist people.

Buddhists follow his Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path in search of enlightenment themselves.

By visiting spiritual sites in Bodh Gaya, Buddhists believe they will become close to Buddha and reach enlightenment more easily.

Vocabulary	Definition / Meaning
pilgrimage	If you make a pilgrimage to a holy place, you visit somewhere for a special religious reason.
spiritual	Spiritual means objects, people or locations relating to people's religious beliefs.
devotion	Devotion is religious worship or strong religious feeling.
reincarnation	The belief that on the death of the body the soul transfers to or is born again in another body.
resurrection	A supposed act or instance of a dead person coming back to life.
ritual	A religious service or other ceremony which involves a series of actions performed in a fixed order.
shrine	A shrine is a place of worship which is associated with a particular holy person or object.
enlightenment	A final spiritual state in which everything is understood and there is no more suffering or desire.
Siddhartha Gautama	The very first man to be named Buddha and starting the Buddhist faith.
Nirvana	Buddhists believe this is a place of peace and happiness – like Heaven.
meditation	The act of remaining in a silent and calm state for a period of time, preparing the mind for future actions.
malas	Prayer beads worn by Buddhist during worship.
bodhi tree	Buddhists believe that this a descendent of the tree under which the Buddha gained enlightenment.
Guru Granth Sahib	The Guru Granth Sahib is the central religious scripture or text of Sikhism.
Maccabees	Jewish warriors and soldiers who defeated the Greek armies to save Judea (the home of Judaism).
Kumbh Mela	A Hindu bathing ritual that takes place every 12 years – and is the most attended Hindu pilgrimage event.
Moksha	The Hindu equivalent to Heaven in Christianity.