

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Mandir is a sacred Hindu place of worship. In the Mandir Complex, all visitors are required to respect with the code of conduct according to the BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu faith. A complete list of guidelines is available at <http://toronto.baps.org>.



Conduct
Please refrain from touching or leaning against the delicate carvings. Please respect all security procedures. **Please observe silence in the Mandir.**



Dress Code
All clothing must cover shoulders and knees (sarong provided). Footwear must be removed upon entering the Mandir or the Haveli. Shoe racks are provided in the entrance of the Haveli.



Pets and animals
Not allowed inside the complex.



Food & Drink
Food and drink are not allowed except in designated areas. Please discard any chewing gum in the bin prior to entering.



Smoking and Alcohol
Smoking, alcohol, drugs and tobacco products are strictly prohibited anywhere in or around the complex.



Photo-videography
Photography and videography inside any part of the building are strictly prohibited. Commercial use, event use or publication of images or video of the premises are strictly prohibited.



Cell Phones
Cell phones must be switched off while inside the Mandir.



Group Visits
For school or group reservations, please email: tours.toronto@canada.baps.org



Facilities are wheelchair accessible. Please park strollers in the Haveli. Restrooms are located in the entrance area of the Haveli. There is ample parking on site. Do not park in the fire-zones or in front of any of the buildings. The management does not assume any responsibility for vehicles parked on the premises.



Management reserves the right to cancel or alter any visit or close the premises, in whole or part, without prior notice. The Management is not responsible or liable for any loss or damage of any personal belongings of the visitors, during their visit. The Management reserves the right to refuse admission to those who do not wish to follow the code of conducts. All visitors aged 17 or under must be accompanied by an adult at all times, otherwise entry may be refused.



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Registered Charity No. 88573 1018 RR0002

VISITING HOURS



Entry to the Mandir and Haveli is free. Enter through the Haveli (wooden) front doors. Please take extra care when walking on the marble/granite floor and stairways.

Visiting Hours (daily): 9:00 am - 6:30 pm

Murti Darshan open:
(inner sanctum) 9:00 am - 10:30 am
11:15 am - 12:30 pm
4:00 pm - 5:40 pm

Please allow at least 45 minutes for a spiritually enlightening visit.



Donations

Visitors wishing to make donations towards the maintenance of the Complex or to the charity work undertaken by BAPS in fields as diverse as education, environment, social relief, health and preserving heritage are requested to contact the Reception Counter. Tax receipt will be issued.

DAILY RITUALS

Arti

Arti is one of the most important ceremonies of the Hindu faith. It is a form of prayer offered in greeting and thanksgiving to God where devotees are reminded of his glorious presence and providence. The tradition dates back thousands of years to the ancient temples of India.

Shangar Arti: 7:30 am
Rajbhog Arti: 11:15 am
Sandhya Arti: 6:30 pm
Shayan Arti: 8:00 pm

Visitors are requested to adhere to separate sitting arrangements for men and women during rituals.

Abhishek

Abhishek is an ancient Vedic ritual where water is ceremoniously poured over the murti of God amidst the chanting of holy mantras to honour God and to seek blessings.

Monday to Friday
9:00 am - 12 noon
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday
9:00 am - 7:00 pm



Thal

The Thal ritual is the offering of food items to God and the deities. During the ritual the shrine doors are closed for approximately 45 mins.

6:15am | 10:30am | 3:30pm | 5:40pm

WELCOME



Canada's first traditionally hand-carved
Hindu Place of Worship

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Toronto

A place of timeless traditions...



Welcome to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

Mandir

The Mandir is Canada's first traditional Hindu place of worship. It is built in a Vedic tradition that dates back many millennia. More than 95,000 cu. ft. of hand-carved marble, limestone and sandstone have been assembled without steel reinforcement in the foundation or structure. Stone structures built in such tradition are known to last for hundreds of years. The divine images and rituals of worship in the Mandir form an important aspect in elevating the soul to the pinnacle of spirituality.



24,000 pieces of stone - assembled in 18 months
1,500 craftsmen - hand carved with devotion
400 volunteers - 1 million hours of service
inaugurated in 2007 - built to last over 1,000 years

Murtis - Divine Images

The Murtis enshrined in the inner sanctums of Mandir are ritually infused with divinity, and are the focus of worship in Vedic tradition.

Haveli

The Haveli, built using intricately hand carved teak wood reflects the traditional courtyard craftsmanship of India.

Musicians and dancers carved in wood welcome visitors to a richly ornamented foyer leading into a magnificent courtyard. Dancing peacocks, royal elephants and delicate lotus flowers beckon in warm greetings.

Unique to Canada, the Haveli is vibrant with festivals and activities for children, youth and adults.



Abhishek Mandapam

This part of the Mandir welcomes one to express their devotion by participating in the vedic Abhishek ritual.

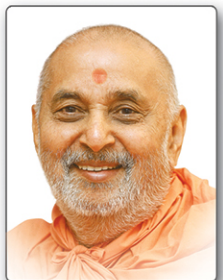
Heritage Exhibition

A visit to the Exhibition is a journey of discovery into India's over 10,000 year old heritage. Uniquely crafted exhibits and artefacts educate visitors about India's contributions in art, architecture, science, education, pluralism and spiritual values.



The Inspirer

His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj is Bhagwan Swaminarayan's fifth spiritual successor and the current leader of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. His humility, faith in Bhagwan Swaminarayan and compassion have inspired millions of devotees to live their lives based on moral and spiritual values. He promotes practical spirituality, interfaith harmony, social and humanitarian services and universal peace. His is the simple life of a celibate, ignoring fame and recognition.



Born: Dec. 7, 1921

About BAPS

Established in India in 1907, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is a global socio-spiritual organization dedicated to improving individuals within society by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service. It is recognized as an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Since 1970, BAPS and its humanitarian services wing have been serving in Canada in the areas of spirituality, children and youth development, family unity, promoting heritage and humanitarian activities.



www.baps.org