

Hindu Pilgrim centers in India:

Rameshwaram:

Rameshwaram Temple is one of the most famous Shiva shrines in India. According to the legend, Rameswaram is the place from where Lord Rama, built a bridge across the sea to rescue his consort Sita from Ravana. This is also the place where Rama worshipped Lord Shiva to cleanse away the sin of killing Ravana. **Rameswaram** along with **Dwarka, Puri and Badrinath** form the four Char Dhams.

Haridwar:

It is situated on the banks of the River Ganges, Haridwar, literally translated as Gateway to God, is one of the important holiest places for Hindus. It is the place where the river Ganga descends to the plains. It serves as a gateway to the Char Dham destinations of Uttarakhand which are **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri**. **Har-ki-Pauri** is one of the most important places to visit in Haridwar where thousands of people take a dip in the holy waters of the Ganges. **Chandi Devi Temple, Mansa Devi Temple, Vaishno Devi Temple, Bharat Mata Temple, Bhimgoda, Shanti Kunj, Sapt Sarovar, Triveni Ghat, Kanva Rishi Ashram, Chila Wildlife Sanctuary** are the most-visit places in Haridwar.

Varanasi:

At a distance of 6 km from Varanasi Junction, **Dasashwamedh Ghat** is situated on the banks of River Ganga in the holy town of Varanasi. It is located close to **Vishwanath Temple**. Dasashwamedh Ghat is one of the oldest Ghats in Varanasi and also one of the popular places to visit in Varanasi. It is one of the most important religious sites in Varanasi and is considered as the main Ghat. It is believed that Lord Brahma performed his Victorious Dasa.

Madurai:

It is one of the biggest and most popular temples in India. The historic Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple also called **Meenakshi Amman Temple**, is a sacred Hindu temple located in Madurai. It is dedicated to **Goddess Parvati and Lord Siva**, the temple is considered an architectural marvel. The temple is an architectural wonder with an estimated 33,000 sculptures in the temple. There are several corridors, halls, and shrines inside the temple. The corridors and pillars are adorned with wonderful artwork.

Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari

Vivekananda Rock Memorial is a memorial located on a small island in Kanyakumari. It is one of the picturesque Kanyakumari places to visit. Vivekananda Rock Memorial was built in 1970 in honor of Swami Vivekananda. This is the site where Vivekananda attained enlightenment. The memorial consists of two main structures, the **Vivekananda Mandapam** and the **Shripada Mandapam**. The Shripada Mandapam has a study hall and a museum. There is a '**Dhyana Mandapam**' located beside to memorial, which serves as the **meditation hall** for the visitors to meditate.

Tirupati:

Tirumala, located in the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, is one of the most famous pilgrimage centers in India. **Tirumala** is commonly referred as Tirupati by devotees, The Tirumala shrine is a Dravidian architecture. Tirumala, adobe of **Sri Venkateswara** (also known as **Lord Vishnu temple**) is one of the most celebrated pilgrimage centers in India and it attracts millions of devotees every year. The Tirumala Temple is situated a top of the Tirumala Hills which consists of seven peaks known as Sapthagiri at an altitude of 3,200 feet.

Kedarnath Temple:

Kedarnath Temple is one of the holiest Hindu shrines located in Kedarnath Town of Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand. This holy site is perched at an altitude of 3,584 m in the Garhwal region of Himalayas. The Temple is built of large sized rocks on a rectangular platform. The Kedarnath Temple remains open only for six months a year, from the end of April to the beginning of November. The temple is still intact after the floods of 2013 as the town surrounding the temple has been washed away.

Badrinath Temple:

It is situated on the right bank of the holy River Alakananda. Badrinath along with Yamunotri, Gangotri and Kedarnath form the Char Dham, one of the important pilgrimages for Hindus in Uttarakhand. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, who is worshipped in this temple. According to legends, the Badrinath temple dates back to the Vedic age.

Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri:

Jagannath Temple is a sacred temple situated in the heart of Puri town in Orissa. The temple is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Lord Vishnu and is one of the major Hindu Temples in India. The temple structure is full of excellent carvings and is a fine specimen of Kalinga style of architecture. The shikara of the Jagannath temple towers to a height of 192 feet. There is a wheel called Nila Chakra on top of the Jagannath Temple made of an alloy of eight metals. Structurally the temple has four chambers and they are Bhogmandir, Nata-mandir, the Jagamohana and the last is the sanctum or the Deul enshrining the deities. The main deities worshipped in the temple are Lord Jagannath, Lord Balaram and Devi Subhadra.

Dwarkadhish Temple

Dwarkadhish Temple is an ancient Hindu temple situated in the holy town of Dwarka, Gujarat. Also known as Jagat Mandir or Trilok Sunder Temple, it is one of the revered temples in Gujarat. Situated on the banks of the Gomti River, Dwarkadhish Temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna, who is worshiped here as Dwarkadhish or 'King of Dwarka'. It is also part of the famed Char Dham, the four sacred temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu while the other three are Rameswaram, Badrinath, and Puri. Dwarkadhish Temple reflects the Chalukyan style of architecture. There are two main entrances to the temple. The main entrance (north entrance) is called Moksha Dwar (Door to Salvation) and the south entrance is called Swarga Dwar (Gate to Heaven).

Kamakshi Temple, Kanchipuram :

Kamakshi Amman Temple is an ancient Hindu temple located in the town of Kanchipuram. It is one of the popular temples in South India. The Kamakshi Temple is dedicated to Kamakshi, who is believed to be an incarnation of Parvati, the Hindu goddess of love, fertility, and strength. The Temple was most probably built by the Pallava kings, whose capital was Kanchipuram.

