# BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir



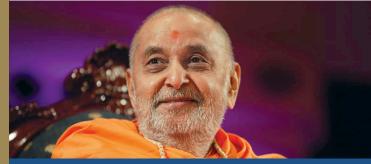
A London Landmark
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# Welcome to Europe's first traditional Hindu Temple

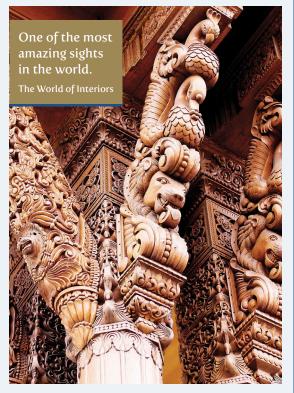
BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir – popularly known as the Neasden Temple – is a masterpiece of traditional Hindu design and exquisite Indian workmanship in the heart of London. Using 5,000 tonnes of Italian and Indian marble and the finest Bulgarian limestone, it was hand-carved in India before being assembled in London in just 2½ years.

Since its opening in 1995, this renowned place of worship attracts over half a million visitors every year. Come and marvel at the intricate carvings, experience a traditional Hindu prayer ceremony, or learn about the world's oldest living faith. Enjoy hours of beauty, peace and discovery all year round.



The Inspirer: His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj Pramukh Swami Maharaj is the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, the Hindu deity to whom the Mandir is dedicated. He is also the present spiritual leader of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), and whose vision, inspiration and hard work made the Mandir possible.





### Grand Haveli Foyer

The Mandir is entered through the richly carved portico of the adjoining Haveli (cultural complex), welcoming you into a majestic wooden courtyard with soaring teak columns and oak panels. Elegant peacocks, delicate lotus flowers and royal elephants beckon in greeting, with the carpet uniquely designed to complement the motifs.

Wood for the Haveli was sourced from sustainable forests, and for each tree felled, ten saplings were planted.

#### Exhibition

Appreciated by both children and adults, the 'Understanding Hinduism' exhibition on the lower floor guides you through a journey of discovery into the beliefs, values and wisdom of the world's oldest living faith. It also includes an 11-minute video presentation explaining how and why the Mandir was built.



#### **Inner Sanctum**

The heart of the Mandir is the inner sanctum on the upper floor, where seven ornate shrines house murtis (sacred images) of the Deities. Marvel at the exquisite carvings of the pillars, ceilings and central dome. Or pause for a moment

to pray, reflect, or absorb the peaceful ambience.

#### What is a Mandir

A mandir is a Hindu place of worship. In the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit, 'mandir' literally means a place where the mind becomes still and the soul floats freely to seek the source of life, bliss and meaning. It is a place where people can unite to serve God and society.



# Haveli Prayer Hall

The pillar-less assembly hall measures 2,750 square metres and seats over 2,500 worshippers. It incorporates environment-friendly features such as light wells, energy-saving lighting, and a heat exchanger which reuses thermal energy dissipated by the congregation to heat other parts of the complex. It is the venue for weekly assemblies and regular festivals.





### What is a Murti

A murti is a sacred image ritually infused with the presence of God. Hindus worship murtis to express and enhance their loving relationship with the Divine. They are the soul of the Mandir, making it a sacred place of worship wherein God resides — the home of God.



## Souvenir Shop

The Souvenir Shop is filled with a wide selection of books, postcards, CDs, DVDs, herbal health products, and gifts for all ages, tastes and budgets. They can serve as a great memento of your visit or make wonderful presents. Be sure to visit before you leave.

# Shayona Restaurant & Shop

Why not complete your visit with a meal at this delightful vegetarian restaurant? With traditional Indian décor and mouth-watering food, it is the perfect way to experience some authentic tastes of India. Indian delicacies, groceries and snacks can also be purchased from the adjoining shop.



# BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Neasden, London

The Mandir is open to all visitors and entry is free

#### Visitor Information

- Dress Code: Respectable clothing; shorts and skirts to be below knee-length. It is customary to remove footwear upon entering the Mandir Complex.
- Smoking: Not allowed on the premises.
- Video & Photography: May only be taken for personal use, from ground level outside the Mandir and Haveli.
- Mobile Phone: Must be switched off whilst inside.
- P Parking: Free
- School & Group Visits: Advance booking required and welcomed.

  Please contact booking@londonmandir.baps.org.
- Food & Drink: No food, drink or chewing gum allowed on the premises.
   Exhibition & Video: Adults £2.00. OAP & children (6-16) £1.50.
   Special rates for schools and group visits.
   Please contact booking@londonmandir.baps.org.
- Other Services: Audio-guided tours, lifts and wheelchair access, and baby changing facilities.
- Info: Entry, timings and services are subject to change.
   Please visit londonmandir.baps.org for full details and latest updates.
- Visiting Times: 9am to 6pm daily Viewing Sacred Deities: 9am to 12.15pm and 4pm to 6pm daily Midday Arti Ritual (Service): 11.45am daily Allow at least 2 hours for an enjoyable visit.

#### How To Find Us

- \* Only 30 minutes from West End. Signposted as 'Neasden Temple' on A406.
- \* Overground/Bakerloo line to Stonebridge Park and catch Bus 112 to the Mandir.
- \* Overground/Bakerloo line to Harlesden and catch Bus 206 or 224 to the Mandir.
- \* Metropolitan/Jubilee line to Wembley Park and catch Bus 206 to the Mandir.
- ♯ Jubilee Line to Neasden. The Mandir is then a 20-minute walk.
- Bus 18 from Baker Street.
- Bus 112 from Brent Cross and Ealing Broadway.



