

SHIVA'S SACRED SHRINES

Jyotirlinga pilgrimage
in Maharashtra





Jyotirlinga are twelve of the holiest shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are three in Maharashtra - Bhimashankar, Trimbakeshwar and Ghreshneshwar. The remaining nine are located across India and include Somnath Temple (Veraval, Gujarat), Mallikarjuna (Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh), Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh), Omkareshwar (Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh), Kedarnath (Kedarnath, Uttarakhand), Vishwanath (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh), Vaidyanath (Deoghar, Jharkhand), Nageshwar (Dwarka, Gujarat), Rameshwar (Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu).

Regarded as Lord Shiva's authentic or Swayambhu form, the word Jyotirlinga is derived from jyoti (light) and linga (mark or sign) and means the 'radiant sign of Lord Shiva'. Devotees visiting the three Jyotirlinga in Maharashtra often pray at Aundha Naganath and Shri Vajinath Mandir Parli temples too.



TRIMBAKESHWAR TEMPLE (NASHIK DISTRICT)

One of the most sacred sites in Hindu mythology, the Shiva Linga at the temple has three faces, representing the three supreme deities - Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara. The Godavari River originates at Trimbakeshwar and it is believed that anybody who visits the temple will attain salvation.

How to reach

✈ By Air: Nashik (42 kms), Mumbai (118 kms)

🚆 By Rail: Nashik (40 kms)

🚌 By Road: Nashik Road (30 kms)

Attractions in and around

Brahmagiri Hill | Shri Navshya Ganpati |
Sita Gufa | Kalaram Temple | Dugarwadi
Waterfalls | Ramkund | Pandavleni Caves |
Saptashrungi Temple | Panchvati | Harihar Fort



BHIMASHANKAR TEMPLE

(PUNE DISTRICT)

Lord Shiva is worshipped in the Ardhanareeshwara form. Devotees who come here also take a dip in the Bhima River. The legends claim that the river originated from Lord Shiva's perspiration as he sweated after his battle with the demon, Tripurasura. Bathing in its waters is said to wash away one's sins.

How to Reach

✈ By Air: Pune (119 kms)

🚆 By Rail: Pune (124 kms)

🚌 By Road: Pune (124 kms)

Attractions in and around

Datta Mandir | Ram Mandir | Hanuman Lake |

Ahupe Waterfalls | Bhimashankar Trek



GHRISHNESHWAR TEMPLE

(CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR DISTRICT)

This is considered to be the last of the 12 sacred Shiva shrines, and is the final stop of the Jyotirlinga Yatra for devotees. However, the belief is that pilgrims who visit only Ghrishneshwar are as blessed as those who offer prayers at every Jyotirlinga. This holy place is close to Ellora Caves.

How to reach

✈ By Air: Aurangabad (36 kms)

🚆 By Rail: Aurangabad (29 kms)

🚌 By Road: Aurangabad (31 kms)

Attractions in and around

Ellora Caves | Ajanta Caves |

Bhadra Maruti Temple | Bibi Ka Maqbara |

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Caves | Devgiri Fort



OTHER PROMINENT SHIVA TEMPLES

AUNDHA NAGNATH TEMPLE (HINGOLI DISTRICT)

According to the myths surrounding this temple, it was constructed by Yudhishtira, the eldest Pandava while he was in exile with his brothers. The temple has exquisite carvings and is spread across an area of 60,000 square feet. It is a shining example of the Hemadpanthi style of architecture.

How to reach

✈ By Air: Nanded Airport (65 kms), Aurangabad (196 kms)

🚆 By Rail: Hingoli (26 kms), Parbhani (52 kms)

🚗 By Road: Hingoli (24 kms), Parbhani (56 kms),
Nanded (70 kms), Aurangabad (200 kms)

Attractions in and around

Tulaja Devi Sansthan Temple | Siddheshwar Dam |
Mallinath Digambar Jain Temple



SHRI VAIJNATH TEMPLE PARLI (BEED DISTRICT)

This ancient temple is surrounded by mountains and dense forests full of medicinal and healing plants. The deity here is said to have healing powers, which is why he is called Vajjnath. Devotees offer prayers and touch the Shiva Linga as they believe that it can cure and protect them from illnesses.

How to reach

✈ By Air: Aurangabad (225 kms)

🚆 By Rail: Parli (3 kms)

🚌 By Road: Aundha Nagnath (120 kms)

Attractions in and around

Dakshin Mukhi Ganesh Temple | Shri Someshwar Mahadev Temple | Shri Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple | Harihar Pilgrimage





For More Information

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