

SACRED SPOTS

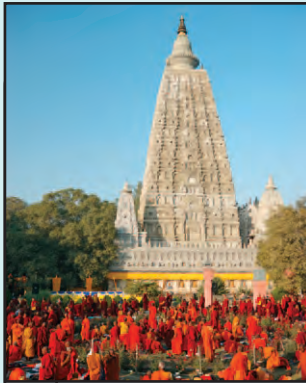
What is it like to walk where a Messenger of God walked? Or to stand in a spot that's sacred to millions? You can have these experiences at some holy sites, such as temples, churches, or mosques.

Centers of worship and meditation are often designed with special symbolism. For example, Bahá'í temples have nine sides, since nine represents unity. Jewish synagogues

face Jerusalem, Israel, an important city in Judaism. Symbols and art, such as Christian crosses and Islamic mosaics, add beauty and meaning to sacred buildings.

People show reverence in different ways at holy places. Some remove their hats or shoes. Some wear head coverings. Some bow low to the ground to show humility. How would you approach these sacred spots?

Imagine visiting the six sacred sites below. Then match each photograph to its description.



1 Mahabodhi Temple
Bodhi Gaya, India



2 The Kaaba
Mecca, Saudi Arabia



3 Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh
Bahjí, Israel



4 Western Wall
Jerusalem, Israel



5 Prambanan Temple Compounds
Yogyakarta, Indonesia



6 Church of the Holy Sepulchre
Jerusalem, Israel

A

Located near the city of 'Akká, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith was buried here in 1892. For Bahá'ís, it is the holiest place on Earth, and they turn toward it for prayer.

B

This church was built over the site where it's believed Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose from death. At Easter, thousands of people visit to remember Him.

C

In 630 CE, Muhammad entered this stone shrine and dedicated it to God. Since that time, it has been the focus of pilgrimage for Muslims and the spot toward which they face in daily prayer.

At this place, Buddha sat by a tree and attained enlightenment through meditation around 528 BCE. The brickwork shows scenes from His life.

D

This large complex includes temples dedicated to the Hindu deities Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma. Built in the 900s CE, the stonework features scenes from Hindu stories, including some related to Krishna.

E

This wall is part of a temple built around 20 BCE. The temple has been mostly destroyed, but what remains is one of the most sacred sites in Judaism. Papers with prayers are left between the stones.

F