

Exploring Places of Worship with Ellie the Elephant

Step inside and discover the sacred spaces that bring communities together!

- A church is a place of worship for Christians, often featuring a steeple or a spire, and is a space where a congregation gathers for prayer and community services.
- In a mosque, worshippers remove their shoes as a sign of respect before entering the prayer hall, which often contains a mihrab to indicate the direction of prayer.
- A synagogue is a central place for Jewish prayer and study, containing a special cabinet called the Ark, which houses the sacred Torah scrolls.
- A Mandir is a Hindu temple where the architecture often includes intricate carvings and a central shrine dedicated to a deity, serving as a peaceful home for the divine.
- A Gurdwara is the place of worship for Sikhs, recognised by the Nishan Sahib flag outside and the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib, their holy scripture, inside.

Did you know? Did you know? Many places of worship are designed to reflect the beliefs of their faith. For example, some buildings are oriented to face a specific direction, like towards Makkah for mosques, or feature tall spires designed to draw the eyes and thoughts of the congregation upwards towards the heavens.

Key vocabulary: Sanctuary · Congregation · Altar · Minaret · Synagogue · Mandir · Gurmukhi · Gopuram