

Sacred Spaces: A Journey Through Places of Worship

Explore, Reflect, and Respect: Discover the Heart of Global Communities!

- A church often features a stained-glass window; these intricate designs were historically used to teach stories from sacred texts to people who could not yet read.
- Inside a mosque, you will often find a 'mihrab', a niche in the wall that indicates the direction of Mecca, helping the congregation face the correct way during their prayers.
- In a synagogue, the 'Aron Kodesh' (Holy Ark) serves as the most sacred area, housing the Torah scrolls, which are treated with the utmost care and reverence.
- A Hindu Mandir is often filled with murtis (sacred images or statues), which are considered physical representations of the divine, providing a focal point for devotion.
- Gurdwara translates to 'the doorway to the Guru'; a central feature here is the Langar, a communal kitchen where free meals are served to anyone, regardless of background.
- Places of worship act as hubs for the local community, offering spaces for celebration, mourning, education, and charitable work throughout the week.

Did you know? Did you know? Many places of worship are designed to draw the eye upwards towards the sky or ceiling. This is often intended to symbolise a connection between the earthly world and the divine, reminding visitors to reflect on things beyond their daily lives.

Key vocabulary: Sanctuary · Congregation · Liturgical · Architecture · Reverence · Symbolism · Community · Sacred