

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage

Chapter 8: How the Land Becomes Sacred · Topic 1

Key Concept

Hindu pilgrimage sites include Varanasi (on the Ganga), the Char Dham (four sacred sites), and various temples dedicated to different deities across India.

Other religions have their own sacred sites too - Bodh Gaya for Buddhists (where Buddha attained enlightenment), Amritsar's Golden Temple for Sikhs, and Ajmer Sharif for Muslims.

Pilgrimage often involves travel, rituals, and personal or communal reflection, playing an important role in many people's spiritual and cultural lives.

These sacred sites also contribute to India's tourism and local economies, as millions of pilgrims and tourists visit these places each year, supporting local communities.

Quick Revision Notes

- Varanasi is a major Hindu pilgrimage site.
- The Char Dham are four sacred Hindu sites.
- Bodh Gaya is sacred to Buddhists.
- The Golden Temple in Amritsar is sacred to Sikhs.
- Ajmer Sharif is sacred to Muslims.
- Pilgrimage involves travel, rituals and reflection.
- Pilgrimage plays a role in spiritual and cultural life.
- Sacred sites support tourism and local economies.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research one sacred site mentioned in this lesson.
- 2 Discuss why pilgrimage is important to many people.
- 3 Find a sacred site near your region.
- 4 Explain how sacred sites support local economies.
- 5 Compare two sacred sites from different religions.
- 6 Discuss a pilgrimage tradition you know about.