

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
*Inspired by His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj,
Spiritual Head of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha®.*

Discover - Experience – Enjoy

*“This awe-inspiring work of architectural brilliance will serve as a source of pride for not just Indo-Canadians,
but indeed all Canadians.”*

*Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
(at inauguration ceremony July 22, 2007)*

Namaste & Welcome

The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Haveli is the creation of Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha®). Established in India, in 1907, BAPS is a worldwide civic and religious organization dedicated to the spirituality of the individual while promoting harmony between individuals, within families and within diverse communities. Since 1970, under the leadership of His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS has been serving in Canada in the areas of: Spirituality, Children and Youth Development, Family Unity, Indian Heritage and Humanitarian Services. The BAPS Swaminarayan Complex stands as a testimony of selfless dedication by hundreds of volunteers be it in kind of their time, monetary donation or intellectual skills. BAPS is a federally registered charity in Canada.

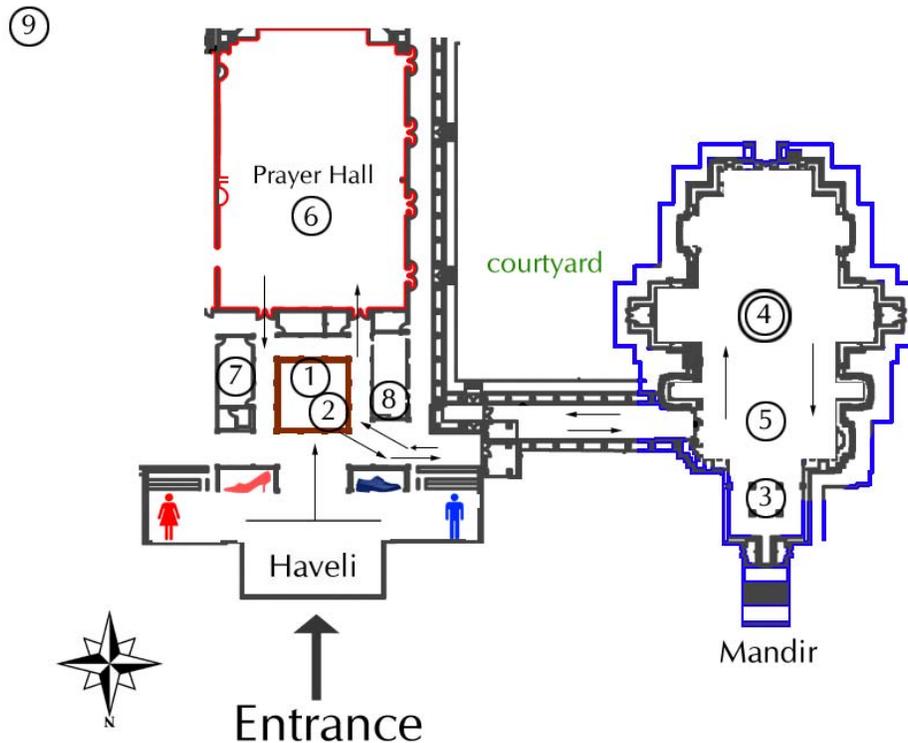


BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

61 Claireville Drive, Toronto, ON M9W 5Z7 CANADA

Tel: 416-798-2277 • Fax: 416-798-4498 • <http://toronto.baps.org> • E-mail: info@canada.baps.org

Things to Discover, Experience and Enjoy at BAPS Swaminarayan Complex:



Open to Public: Daily from 9:00am – 8:00pm.

Murti Darshan (viewing of the sacred deities) closed: 10:30am-11:30am, 12noon-4pm, 6pm-7pm

Entrance: Please enter through the Haveli (wooden building) doors only. Please take **extra care** when walking on the marble/granite flooring and stairways.

- 1. Video Presentation** - In the Haveli foyer, visitors are welcome to watch an on-going multi-media presentation on the creation of the Mandir, glimpses of the opening ceremony and also learn about the spiritual heritage and traditions of India. Then, while making their way to the Mandir, visitors can pause along the way to see inspirational panels and posters.
- 2. Haveli** – Intricately hand-carved in Burmese teak, the Haveli reflects the traditional wooden courtyard craftsmanship of India. The word Haveli refers to a majestic mansion (often royal courts), which was popular in India during the 17th century. The Haveli's beautiful architecture begins with hundreds of figures of musicians, poets and dancers carved into the portico, welcoming all visitors in traditional Indian manner. The entrance lobby features a richly hand-carved wooden foyer that opens into a magnificent courtyard with soaring wooden columns and panels. Hundreds of dancing peacocks, delicate lotus flowers and royal elephants beckon in greeting. The carpets are uniquely designed to compliment the carvings. The building serves as a place of worship for the Hindu community and a place of inspiration for all visitors. The Haveli is an architectural masterpiece with breathtaking intricacy not previously seen in Canada.
- 3. Neelkanth Mandapam** (ground floor of Mandir) – This sacred part of the Mandir welcomes ALL visitors to participate in the 'Abhishek' ritual. By participating in the 'Abhishek' ritual with true devotion and faith, ones personal prayers and inner wishes are fulfilled whether they be for oneself or for loved ones; good health, happiness, prosperity, peace, spiritual blessing or success in life and will experience peace. **Closed for rituals:** Daily 11:00am – 11:30am, 6:00pm – 6:45pm and Mon-Fri 12noon – 4pm.

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4. **Mandir** – The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir is Canada's first traditionally hand carved stone and marble Mandir built according to the principles of ancient Indian Shilpshastras, in an extraordinary tradition that dates back many millennia. All the masonry of a Hindu Mandir is in itself load bearing, with no reinforcement from ferrous material such as steel, even in the foundations! Thousands of tonnes of fine marble and limestone have been hand-carved by skilled craftsmen.

The five ornate shrines, which are the focal point of the Mandir, houses the **Murti (Sacred Deities)**, replete with beautiful thrones. The Mandir is a **Meditation Zone**, thus all visitors are required to maintain utmost silence. Visitors can witness the **Aarti rituals** (devotional prayer offered to God) that take place at 11:30am and 7:00pm daily. During these times visitors are required to be seated in designated areas.

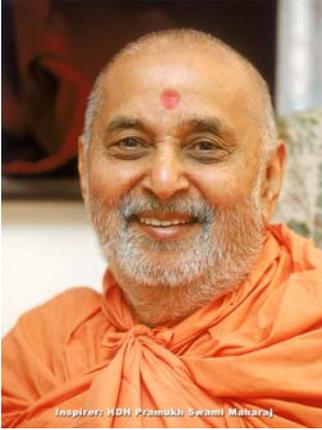
Toronto's BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, by the numbers:

- **1,800** craftsmen involved at **26** different sites in India
- **305** containers shipped with carved stone modules from India to Toronto
- **400** volunteers gave more than a million hours of services
- **18** months to complete stone work (jig-zaw puzzle) in Canada
- **132** archways,
- **84** decorative ceilings, **340** pillars
- **24,151** hand carved pieces
- **5.6** tonnes, heaviest stone vs **50** grams, lightest stone
- **10,000** tonnes of Italian marble, Turkish limestone, Indian sandstone and granite
- **95,000** cubic feet of stone carved in India and shipped to Toronto
- Built to last over **1,000** years.

5. **Museum** (ground floor of Mandir) - The *Canadian Museum of Cultural Heritage of Indo-Canadians* is Canada's premier museum dedicated to showcasing and promoting the understanding of the history, civilization, diversity and cultural heritage of Canadians whose ancestry originates from India. The Museum is uniquely designed to inspire visitors to appreciate how the rich heritage of Indo-Canadians has contributed to the fields of art, architecture, science, democracy, education, culture, pluralism and spiritual values. Offering a unique experience of Indian Heritage.
6. **Prayer Hall** (back in Haveli) - Visitors can also see the uniquely designed prayer hall constructed entirely without pillars, signifying a Beautiful Borderless World welcoming all visitors.
7. **Book/Gift Shop** (in the Haveli) - Indian instrumental music for meditation and relaxation, books about Indian heritage and Hindu modes of worship and other unique items are available for sale in the bookshop. Interior photographs of the Mandir and Haveli are also available.
8. **Opinion** - Express your feelings on to paper at the reception.
9. **Sayona Foods** - Treat yourself to a pure freshly made vegetarian meal/snack or refreshments at Sayona. Located opposite the Mandir at 46 Claireville Drive. Take away and eat in facilities available.

ENJOY your visit

About Pramukh Swami Maharaj – The Inspirer and Creator of the BAPS Swaminarayan Complex (Born 1921)



Enshrining the eternal Vedic philosophy, this Mandir has been built through the vision and inspiration of Pramukh Swami Maharaj with the global voluntary efforts of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj is the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and the present leader of BAPS. He lives an austere life of lifetime celibacy without personal wealth. His compassion for humanity and caring nature have touched and inspired countless people.

His inspiring motto, "In the good of others lies our own..." reflects the spirit of his life and work. Since last 70 years, Pramukh Swami Maharaj has been travelling from large cities to remote villages to foster love, peace, harmony, purity and faith within a variety of individuals - irrespective of race, class, creed or colour. His unique combination of spiritual qualities and administrative skills has helped him serve as an inspiration for hundreds of thousands of devotees around the world.

About BAPS

Based in the Greater Toronto Area, BAPS Canada also has active centres in communities across the country including Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary. Thousands of people of Indian diasporas also attend major festivals and large events at the Toronto centre throughout the year from as far away as Ottawa, Montreal, London, Detroit, Cleveland and New York State.

BAPS Canada is also associated with BAPS Charities. Among social service charities, BAPS Charities is a respected and trusted name. It has amassed over 50 years of firsthand experience in initiating, managing and sustaining over 160 humanitarian activities throughout the world in such diverse fields as: Medical Services, Educational Services, Environmental Services, Community Services, Tribal Services and Disaster Relief Services. The universal work, selfless motives, and spirit of service of BAPS Charities have made it the recipient of international awards and applause - including membership of its parent organization on the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations.

BAPS with a worldwide voluntary force of over 55,000 youths and the inspiration force of Pramukh Swami Maharaj has dedicated themselves to serve the society selflessly and to make it a better place for generations to come. 400 voluntary gave their services

Visit: <http://toronto.baps.org> and www.bapscharities.org for more details.

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES:

Open to Public: Daily from 9:00am – 8:00pm.

The Mandir is a house of God. Being a very sacred place, all visitors are required to abide by the following rules and regulations applicable to all areas including the Mandir, Museum and Haveli:

1. **Conduct:** Please do not touch any of the carvings within the Mandir, Museum or Haveli. To maintain the spiritual atmosphere **observe silence** inside the Mandir and the Museum. Please take **extra care** when walking on the marble stairs and flooring.
2. **Dress Code:** As this is a place of worship, visitors are requested to abide by the following dress code: All clothing must cover shoulders and knees. Wraps will be provided for visitors wearing shorts, short skirts, or sleeveless shirts. Footwear must be removed at the shoe-racks upon entering.
3. **Restrooms** are located inside the Haveli near the shoe-coat racks.
4. **Photo-Videography:** Photography and videography inside the building is strictly prohibited. No commercial photo-videography.
5. **Cell Phones:** Please switch off all cell phones prior to entering the Mandir. Cell phones with cameras must not be used to take photographs inside the Mandir, Museum and Haveli.
6. **Food & Drink:** No food or drinks are allowed inside the Mandir, Museum and Haveli. Please discard any chewing gum in the bin provided before entering.
7. **Smoking and Alcohol:** Smoking, alcohol, drugs or tobacco products are prohibited anywhere in the complex.
8. **Parking:** Free parking available. Do not park in the fire-zones and in front of any of the building. The management does not assume any responsibility for vehicles parked on the premises.
9. **Other facilities include:** Wheelchair access, elevator.
10. **Entrance:** Entrance to the Mandir and Haveli is free.
Museum: Adult - \$5.00, Senior/child (6-16) - \$3.00.
11. **Guide:** Guides are available for schools / groups. (Advance notice required and subject to availability. Write to tours.toronto@canada.baps.org).
12. **Security:** For the safety of all visitors, all activities on this Complex are monitored and recorded by video surveillance. Soliciting is strictly prohibited.
13. **Pets** are not allowed inside the complex.
14. **Getting there:** TTC (nearest station): Finch Station, Kipling Station. Bus: Finch 36B West, Wilson 96

From West (Detroit)	From East (Ottawa)	From South (Niagara Falls)	From North (Barrie)
Hwy 401 East Hwy 427 North Exit on Finch Ave Turn Right on Finch Ave. Left on Humberline Dr. Left on Claireville Dr.	HWY 401 West HWY 409 towards Airport HWY 427 North Exit on Finch Ave Turn Right on Finch Ave. Left on Humberline Dr. Left on Claireville Dr.	HWY QEW HWY 401 East/HWY 427 N HWY 427 N Exit on Finch Ave Turn Right on Finch Ave. Left on Humberline Dr. Left on Claireville Dr.	HWY 400 South HWY 401 West HWY 409 towards Airport HWY 427 North Exit on Finch Ave Turn Right on Finch Ave. Left on Humberline Dr. Left on Claireville Dr.

15. **Donations:** Visitors wishing to make donations towards the maintenance of the Complex or to the charity work undertaken by BAPS in fields as diverse as education, environment, social relief, medicine, preserving heritage and spiritual upliftment are requested to utilize the donation boxes or contact the Reception Counter in the Haveli Lobby. Cheques can be made payable to 'BAPS Inc.' Tax receipt will be issued for amounts over \$15.00.

The Management reserves the right to refuse admission to those who are not following the guidelines. The Management also reserves the right to cancel or alter any visit or close the Museum or part of the premises without prior notice. Every effort will be made to avoid any inconvenience.

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