

# SUNDAY

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## Gandhi Jayanti: Best Places to visit in India to pay tribute to The Father of the Nation

**M**ahatma Gandhi is revered around the world for bringing the principles of non-violence to the fore and the significance of his contribution to India's struggle for independence. He is an inseparable part of India's cultural and philosophical fabric. 2nd October, the Mahatma's birth anniversary, is celebrated as a national holiday! Many memorials, and museums have been established throughout India to honour his memory. Many Gandhi museums in India depict his life and teachings, and visiting them can be an enlightening experience. They are also a great way to ensure that future generations are exposed to Gandhi's ideology, teachings, and personal effects. India has many places to visit and celebrate Gandhi Jayanti if you're intrigued by Gandhi and his principles, a few of which are listed below.

**Kirti Mandir and Museum, Porbandar, Gujarat**

Porbandar, the city where Mahatma Gandhi was born, is a beautiful port on the Arabian Sea and marks the very end of the state of Saurashtra (Gujarat). A 79-foot-tall monument has been erected in the alley where Bapu was born in 1869 to honour his birthplace. The Kirti Mandir is the main draw for visitors. A swastika marks the spot on the third floor of Gandhi's family home, which is believed to be where his mother Putlibai gave birth to him. The top floor, including Gandhi's reading area, is accessible by a steep, wooden staircase.

Gandhi's wife Kasturba was born at Navi Khadi, which is located behind Kirti Mandir. A Gandhian library, a prayer hall, a nursery, and a steeple decked up with scenes from Gandhi's life can all be found in the new structure that resides next to Kirti Mandir.

**Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad is on the banks of the namesake river, which was his home for about 12 years. This place was the birthplace of two pivotal social movements: the Dandi March and the Salt Satyagraha.

Along with all the Gandhi museums in India, the Sabarmati Museum and ashram in India continues to be a beacon of hope and wisdom, a memorial to Gandhi's life work, and a testament to others who have battled for similar causes. Visiting this Mahatma Gandhi ashram in India and reading up on him at the library gives tourists a glimpse of pre-independence India.

**Aga Khan Palace, Pune, Maharashtra**

Home to some significant events in Indian history, the Aga Khan Palace was a place where Mahatma Gandhi and his wife, Kasturba Gandhi, were imprisoned. It is situated on sprawling premises, with multiple lawns and spacious halls. There are traces of Italian architecture seen in the intricate details of its elegant and magnificent structure. The Aga Khan Palace houses the room where Gandhi taught science lessons to his granddaughter. You also get to view the room where Kasturba Gandhi and the Mahatma had their meals.

It was at this Palace that Kasturba spent the last of her days. It is also believed that Gandhi's secretary Mahadev Desai breathed his last here. Their samadhis rest on the Palace premises. Several festivals take place throughout the year at the Palace, many of them commemorating the Mahatma's teachings and lifestyle, thereby offering many insights into his life. If you visit the Aga Khan Palace at Pune on Gandhi Jayanti, you will be privy to one of such festivals.

**Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum, Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Famously known as Mahatma Gandhi's home in Mumbai, Mani Bhavan is located on greener Gamdevi streets. The simple two-storied home belonging to a known diamond merchant, Raveshankar Jagjeevan Jhaveri, who was a supporter of the Indian National Congress back in the day, still embodies a retro-style charm. Mani Bhavan witnessed the Mahatma's political legacy for seventeen long crucial years of his life.

Not only did he initiate several important political movements from this location, but he also learnt to use the spinning wheel here. In the rooms and corridors of Mani Bhavan, you will see several important documents including, scriptures and court orders. There is a library on the ground floor with over 50,000 books by and on Mahatma Gandhi. In short, Mani Bhavan is a treasure trove of stories belonging to a significant era in Indian history.

**Gandhi Smriti, Raj Ghat, Delhi**

One of the most important sights to visit when travelling along the Gandhi trail across India is where Gandhi spent his last days before his assassination. At Gandhi Smriti, there is a museum built to commemorate the great man, and a Martyr's Column stands to mark the place where he was shot. A short distance from there is the Raj Ghat, the site of his cremation. A platform made from black marble has the words 'He Ram' inscribed on them, and an eternal flame burns to signify that the imprints he left on our nation will live forever. If you are interested in learning more about the life and times of the legendary Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, then travelling to the places listed above is a great option for you. It is also the perfect way to honour his memory and earn valuable insights into the nation's struggle for independence on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. National Gandhi Museum in New Delhi, Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya in Barrackpore, and Magan Sangrahalaya in Wardha, Maharashtra are some of the other places to visit and celebrate Gandhi Jayanti.



Kirti Mandir and Museum, Porbandar



Gandhi Smriti, Raj Ghat, Delhi

## Gandhi Jayanti: 7 Activities for Children to help them learn more about Mahatma Gandhi

**C**hildren these days do not know much about Gandhi. Gandhi Jayanti commemorates the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, and it might be the perfect time to talk more about the Father of the Nation to children. Involve your children in activities that will help them better understand Gandhi's message of peace, non-violence, and his unflinching regard for truth. Create fun games, have a blast dressing up, or recreate some significant moments from Gandhi's life. Here are some activities that you can do with your child:

**Dress up like Gandhi**

Gandhi's most enduring characteristic was his simplicity, which was reflected in his look and attire. So, give your children the opportunity to dress up like the Mahatma. Younger children can wear ready-made dhotis, while older kids can learn how to tie a dhoti. Wrap a long, white cloth around the upper body, the way Gandhi used to. To get the bald look, the easiest way is to simply use a skin-colored swimming cap. Alternatively, you can tie a flesh-colored cloth snugly around the head so that the hair is completely covered. Accessorize with a long walking stick (without the curved end) and round spectacles. You can either buy one or make a frame at home using copper wire.

**Visit a museum**

A museum is a great place for children to see, read and understand our struggle for freedom. Most museums in India that showcase incidents from the independence struggle will also have a special section on Gandhi and his life. Find out if the museum has an interactive section or films and videos about India's freedom movement. This will help children understand the role played by Gandhi and the sacrifices he made unstintingly for the country. Once you get back home, conduct a quiz or have a discussion about your visit, and find out what your children learned.

**Introduce them to the charkha**

Kids these days want to sport the latest fashion trends, and so, might not be aware of khadi or the charkha (spinning wheel). Introduce them to the charkha and explain how it is used to spin fiber into yarn. Talk about how Gandhi used it to bring about a sense of self-reliance among the people, and how it helped play a significant role in the freedom movement. Describe how weaving clothes using the charkha was a major source of livelihood in the villages. Also, urge them to try the khadi fabric, which is not only eco-friendly but also comes in beautiful hues nowadays.

**Play a game about truth**

Gandhi was a firm believer in truth, and no wonder he gave his autobiography the title, The Story of My Experiments with Truth. Use the opportunity to play a game about honesty with children. To make the game more interesting, you could even offer simple candies or chocolates as treats when the kids give honest replies.

**Talk about the 'Three Wise Monkeys'**

The three monkeys stand for 'SEE no evil, HEAR no evil, and SPEAK no evil'. It is believed that Gandhi owned a statue of the Three Wise Monkeys, a visual metaphor for his message of peace and tolerance. Use this theme in a game, which can be enjoyed by children of all age groups.

**Indulge in art and crafts**

Ask children to come up with creative ideas to depict Gandhi's life through art and crafts. It can be a painting of Gandhi, a model of the spinning wheel, a motif of the three wise monkeys, and so on.

**Take a lesson on cleanliness**

Gandhi has said that cleanliness is next to godliness. Use the occasion to make your children more responsible by getting them to clean their room. Tell them that Gandhi made cleanliness and sanitation an integral part of his philosophy. Explain how cleanliness is essential for their physical well-being and for a healthy environment.

After all the activities are done, watch movies that deal with the themes that played a vital role in Gandhi's life. Here are some suggestions: Gandhi, Lage Raho Munnabhai, Swades. Gandhi played a significant role in India's freedom struggle. He also inspired millions of Indians during his lifetime. Even today, his life, values, and his expansive literary output have made a huge influence on people in our country and also around the world. Use the day as an opportunity to make Gandhi come alive for your children.

