



Glory of Bharath » Bharath Darshan

Dear Sai brothers and sisters, prepare yourselves for a journey to the most important places in our country. We begin our Bharath Darshan with Ashtavinayak Yatra to see Lord Ganesha. The Ashtavinayak pilgrimage covers the eight ancient holy temples of Ganesha which are situated around Pune, Maharashtra. Each of these temples has its own individual legend and history.

1. Ballaleshvara - Pali



Among the Ashtavinayakas, Ballaleshvara at Pali is the only Ganesha who is famous by the name of his devotee and who is dressed up as a Brahmin. Village Pali is situated in the Sudhagad taluka in the district of Raigad in Maharashtra. This place is nestled between the fort Sarasgad and River Amba. The nearest railway station is Karjat, which is 30Kms away.

2. Chintamani - Theur



At Theyoor in the Haveli Taluka of Pune district in Maharashtra is the temple dedicated to Chintamani Vinayak. The village is along the river Mulamutha. Ganesh as Chintamani is god who brings peace of mind and drives away all perplexities of the mind. It is believed that Brahma the creator once felt tharva that is restive. To still his mind he called upon Lord Ganesh. The place where Brahma achieved the quietude he was looking for is known as the Sthavar region or as Theur.

3. Girijatmaj - Lenyadri



Lenyadri is to the North of Pune, along the Kukdi river. The Ganesh Puran calls this place as Jirnapur or Lekhan Parbat. Girijatmaj Vinayak refers to the Ganesh as the son of Parvati. Girija is another name for Parvati and Atamaj means son. This is the only temple of the Ashtavinayak which is on a mountain and is set in a Buddhist cave-temple

4. Mahaganpati - Ranjangaon



The Maha Ganpati is the most powerful representation of Lord Ganesh. Maha Ganpati is depicted as having eight, ten or twelve arms. It is after invoking this form of Ganpati that Shiva vanquished the demon Tripurasur and so he is also known as Tripurarivade Mahaganpati.

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5. Moreshwar - Morgaon



The Mayureshwar or Moreshwar temple is along the Karha river in the Morgaon village. A temple that looks like a tiny fort from a distance, is situated in the Baramati Taluka of Pune district in Maharashtra. This region is also known as the Bhuswananda. Shaped as a peacock, this region has in the past seen an abundance of peacocks and is therefore known as Morgaon (Mor - peacock).

6. Siddhivinayak - Siddhtek



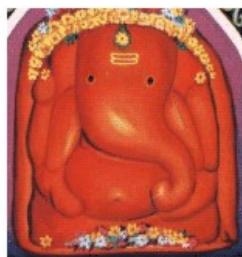
Siddhtek is a remote little village along the river Bhima in the Ahmednagar district and Karjat tehsil in Maharashtra. The Siddhivinayak at Siddhtek is considered an especially powerful deity. It is believed that it was here on the Siddhtek Mountain, that Vishnu acquired Siddhi.

7. Varad Vinayak - Mahad



Mahad is a pretty village set in the hilly region of Konkan in the Raigarh district and the Khalapur Taluka of Maharashtra. Ganesh as Varad Vinayak fulfills all desires and grants all boons. This region was known as Bhadrak or Madhak in ancient times. A nandadeep has been lit in this temple which has been continuously lit since the 1892

8. Vighneshwar - Ozhar



On the banks of the Kukdeswar river, Ozhar is where Lord Vighneshwar resides. Lord Ganesh is known as Vigneshwara or the remover of all obstacles, this he achieved by vanquishing the demon Vighnasura.

Wait for next month to travel more.



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