#### 1]Bhimashankar Temple





Bhimashankar Temple is a <u>Jyotirlinga</u> shrine located 50 km <u>Khed taluka</u> (alias Rajgurunagar), near <u>Pune</u>, in <u>Maharashtra, India</u>. It is located 127 km from Shivajinagar (in Pune) in the <u>Ghat region</u> of the <u>Sahyadri Mountains</u>. Bhīmāshankar is also the source of the <u>river Bhima</u>, which flows southeast and merges with the <u>Krishna river</u> near <u>Raichur</u>. The other Jyotirlinga shrines in Maharashtra are <u>Trimbakeshwar</u> near <u>Nashik</u> and <u>Grishneshwar</u>.

As per the Shiv Mahapuran, once Brahma (the Hindu God for creation) and Vishnu (the Hindu God for protection) had an argument about creation. To test them, Shiva pierced the three worlds as a huge endless pillar of light, the jyotirlinga. Vishnu and Brahma split their ways to search downwards and upwards respectively to find the end of the light in either direction. Brahma lied that he found out where it ends, while Vishnu accepted defeat. Shiva appeared as the second pillar of light and cursed Brahma that He would have no place in ceremonies while Vishnu would be worshipped till the end of eternity.

The <i>jyotirlinga</i> is the supreme partless reality, out of which Shiva partly appears. The <i>jyotirlinga</i> shrines, thus are places where Shiva appeared as a fiery						
column of light.						
ancient Vishwaka century by Nana I	temple is a composite of ma sculptors. It is a mode hadnavis. The <u>shikhara</u> was tis temple to facilitate wo	est yet graceful temple as built by <u>Nana Phadn</u>	and it dates back to that avis. The great Marat	he 13th century while t ha ruler <u>Chattrapati Sh</u>	he <i>sabhamandap</i> was <u>vaji Maharaj</u> is said to	built in the 18th

### 2]Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapati Temple



The **Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapati temple** is a <u>Hindu Temple</u> located in <u>Pune</u> and is dedicated to the Hindu god <u>Ganesh</u>. The temple is visited by over hundred thousand pilgrims every year. Devotees of the temple include celebrities and <u>chief ministers of Maharashtra</u> who visit during the annual tenday *Ganeshotsav* festival. The main Ganesh idol is insured for sum of ₹10 million (US\$130,000). The Temple is 130 years old. It celebrated 125 years of its Ganapati in 2017.

The main entrance of Lord Vittala's Temple is facing towards the Chandrabhaga or Bhima river. <u>Samadhi</u> of Namadev and Chokamela is at the entrance. Pilgrims will first pray to the Devotees and then enter the temple. A small <u>Ganesh</u> Shrine is present inside the temple as first Shrine. Then, a small hall where bhajans are performed.

A small Shrine for <u>Garuda</u> and <u>Hanuman</u>. Then, after climbing a few steps, we can see the face of Lord Vittala. We can have this Mukha Darshan any time without standing in Queue. For, Padha Darshan (To touch the Lotus Feet of Lord), there is an entrance which leads to the queue complex outside the

temple. It will lead to many small shrines of Bhaktas, then towards the Lord Panduranga. We can touch the feet of Lord. We feel best when we touch the Lord's Lotus feet. There are Shrines for <u>Rukmini</u> Devi, <u>Satyabhama</u> Devi, <u>Radhika</u> Devi (<u>Rahi</u>), Lord <u>Narasimha</u>, Lord <u>Venkateshwara</u>, Goddess <u>Mahalakshmi</u>, <u>Nagaraj</u>, Ganesha, <u>Annapoorna Devi</u>. There is another mandap where all devotees play like Krishna had played with <u>Gopikas</u>. It is a great experience.

The saga of Pundalik is one of the most important *Mahima* legends about Vithoba. How Vithoba came to Pandharpur is a story in which Pundalik is vital. Pundalik is a devoted son to his parents Janudev and Satyavati, who lived in a forest called Dandirvan. But after his wedding, Pundalik begins ill-treating his parents. Tired with their son's misbehavior and ill treatment, the elderly couple decide to leave for Kashi. Legend holds that people who die in the city of <u>Kashi</u> attain salvation and emancipation from the cycle of birth and death; so, many pious Hindus in the bygone era would relocate to Kashi as their end drew near.

# 3]Tulja Bhavani Temple



**Tulja Bhavani Temple** is a <u>Hindu temple</u> dedicated to the goddess <u>Parvati</u>. It is located in <u>Tuljapur</u> in <u>Osmanabad district</u> of <u>Maharashtra</u>, India, and is considered one of the 51 <u>Shakti Pithas</u>. It is situated 45 km from <u>Solapur</u>. The temple was built in 12th century CE by Maratha Mahamandaleshwara Māradadeva <u>Kadamb</u>. The management and priestly rights of the temple are held by the Kadamb Bhope clan, the descendants of Māradadeva. Goddess Tulja Bhavani is known by the names Tulaja, Turaja, Tvarita, durga, parvati, Ambā and Jagadambā in different regions.

Along with temples of Renuka at Mahur, Mahalaxmi at Kolhapur, and Saptashringi at Vani, the temple of Bhavani at Tuljapur forms the four great Shaktipitha in Maharashtra. Many legends are associated with the temple. One legend involves a demon, Madhu-Kaitabh, who was wreaking havoc upon both the gods and humans. Unable to find any solution, they turned to Lord Brahma for help, who advised them to turn to the Goddess Shakti. She took up the form of a destroyer, and powered by the other (Sapta) Mata Varaahi, Brahmi, Vaishnavi, Kaumaari Indraani, and Saambhavi, vanquished the demon and restored peace. Legend also states that Bhavani finished another demon that had taken up the disguise of a buffalo (Mahisha), and took shelter on the Yamunachala Hill which is part of Balaghat mountain range. The Tuljabhawani temple is located on this hill. Another legend mentions the story of a sage known as "Kardam" After his death his wife "Anubuti" had performed a penance at the banks of river "mandakini" for Bhavani mata to look after her infant child. While performing the penance the demon known "Kukur" tried to disturb her penance during which the Goddess came to the aid of "Anubuti" and killed the demon "Kukur". From that day onwards the Goddess Bhavani came to be known as Tulja Bhavani.

Tulja Bhavani is a form of goddess Parvati who is worshiped in Maharashtra, and also by people of Telangana, Northern Karnataka and Nepal<sup>[2]</sup> Bhavani translates to "giver of life", meaning the power of nature or the source of creative energy. She is considered to be a mother who provides to her devotees and also plays the role of dispensing justice by killing Asuras

## 4]Vithoba Temple



The **Vithoba Temple**, officially known as **Shri Vitthal-Rukmini Mandir**, is a <u>Hindu temple</u> in <u>Pandharpur</u>, in the <u>Indian state</u> of <u>Maharashtra</u>. It is the main centre of worship for <u>Vithoba</u>, a form of the god <u>Vishnu</u> or <u>Krishna</u>, and his consort <u>Rakhumai</u>. The temple was built by King <u>Vishnuvardhana</u> of <u>Hoysala</u> Empire between 1108–1152 CE upon being convinced by the historical figure Pundalik. Also, there is an inscription in the temple, of a Hoysala King <u>Vira Someshwara</u> dating back to 1237 CE, which grants the temple a village for its upkeep. [2] It is the most visited temple in <u>Maharashtra</u>.

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## 5]Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mumbai



Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mumbai (Marathi: श्री स्वामीनारायण मंदिर, मुंबई) is a <u>Hindu temple</u> (Mandir) and a part of the <u>Swaminarayan Sampraday</u>.

This <u>Swaminarayan Temple</u> is located in the <u>Bhuleshwar</u> area of <u>Mumbai</u> and is the oldest <u>Swaminarayan Mandir</u> in Mumbai, being over a hundred years old. [1][2]

The present Mandir has a tri - spire structure and the Murtis installed are that of <u>Laxminarayan</u> Dev with <u>Ghanshyam Maharaj</u>, and <u>Radha Krishna</u> Dev with Hari Krishna Maharaj. In this temple, Radha Krishna are worshipped in the form of <u>Radha Golokvihari</u> as they are the residents of <u>Goloka</u>. It is a <u>Shikharband Mandir</u> and comes under the <u>Laxminarayan Dev Gadi</u> (<u>Vadtal</u>). This temple is one of many in the Bhuleshwar area that led to the birth of *Phool Galli* (or flower market) in Bhuleshwar due to the high demand of flowers in these temples.

On Vaishakh Shukla <u>Ekadashi</u>, 1868, Ranchhoddas Pranjeevandas built the first ever Shree Swaminarayan temple in Mumbai by breaking and rebuilding his own residence. The deities of Hari Krishna Maharaj, <u>Gaulokvihari</u> and Radhika were instated by Acharya Maharaj Bhagwatprasadji Maharaj.

The present tri-spire temple structure was built and the deities of Ghanshyam Maharaj and <u>Lakshminarayan Dev</u> instated on the occasion of Vaishakh Shukla Dwadashi, 1903 by Acharya Maharaj Lakshmiprasadji Maharaj. [5]

Swaminarayan's devotee, <u>Rao Bahadur Sheth Curumsey Damjee</u> contributed towards this temple's reinstatement with all material, physical and intellectual resources. His close associate and friend Shree Mathurdas Vaishnav too donated Rs. 25,000/- towards this work.**6]Shirdi Temple** 



It is dedicated to the Indian saint Sai Baba of Shirdi. The temple was built in **1952** by one Narasimhaswami, a Salem and Sai Baba devotee, out of money donated by a Chettiar merchant. This is considered the most trusted temple in India. The temple is the headquarters of the All India Sai Samaj.

The Shri Saibaba Temple is Biggest Sai Baba Temples In India. This temple is visited by both Hindu and Muslim devotees every year. This place is **full of positive energy and devotees are said to experience inner peace when they spend quality time.** 

It is believed that Sai Baba gave one rupee to **Dada Madye ji** with which he built the temple in Kudal. Today, the Sai Baba Temple in Shirdi is visited by an average of 25,000 pilgrims a day and during religious festivals, this number can reach up to 100,000.

Originally Built For Lord Krishana.

The beautiful Shirdi temple was originally constructed **to be a Murlidhar (Krishna) temple**. Built by Nagpur's millionaire Gopalrao Booty, the place was intended to be a wada with a small temple devoted to Lord Krishna.

Thursday is considered to be the best day for worshiping Sai Baba. Therefore, on Thursday, the devotees of Sai Baba observe a fast and dedicate it to him. It is believed that all the wishes of those who follow this fast get fulfilled. This fast can be performed by any man, woman or child