

## Golden Temple

### **Location: India**

The Golden Temple, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, is a prominent Sikh temple located in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India. The temple was founded by the fourth Sikh Guru, Guru Ram Das, in 1577, and the construction was completed by his successor, Guru Arjan Dev. The temple complex is built around a man-made pool called the Amrit Sarovar, which is considered to be holy by Sikhs. The temple's main building is covered in gold, which gives it its name, and it is decorated with intricate carvings and precious stones. The temple is considered to be one of the most important spiritual sites for Sikhs around the world, and it attracts millions of visitors each year. The temple has a rich history and has been a site of conflict and violence. In 1984, the Indian government launched a military operation called Operation Blue Star, aimed at removing Sikh separatists who had taken refuge in the temple complex. The operation resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people, including civilians, and caused widespread outrage among Sikhs. Despite these events, the Golden Temple remains a symbol of Sikhism's resilience and perseverance. The temple is a center of Sikh culture, and it offers free

meals to all visitors regardless of their religious affiliation. The temple's langar, or communal kitchen, serves up to 100,000 people each day, making it one of the largest free kitchens in the world. The Golden Temple has also played a role in promoting peace and unity among different religions. In 1997, the temple hosted the first World Religious Conference, which brought together leaders from various religions to discuss ways to promote global peace and harmony. Today, the Golden Temple continues to be a beacon of hope and spirituality for people from all walks of life.

