**Wardha**

“Ruled by several kings and

sultanates, Wardha boasts of a rich

and colourful past. A potpourri of

several religions, this virtually

unexplored city can be a goldmine

for the history enthusiasts.”

Wardha got it's name from the ancient

Wardha river which still runs through it.

From being a part of the mighty Mauryan

empire, to being home to the Gandhi

Sevashram where Mahatma Gandhi spent

his last days, this small city has many

fascinating stories to tell. The Gitai Temple

in Gopuri for instance, does not have a deity

or a roof, but is just walls arranged into the

shape of a cow with 'Shlokas' from the

Bhagavad Geeta inscribed on them. So, if

you like 'off the beaten track' destinations

with a good serving of history mixed into it,

Wardha is the place to go!

1. **Sevagram Ashram**

Sevagram is a small village near Wardha town (8 km). Mahatma Gandhi reached the village on the 30th April,1936 early in the morning at about 5 a.m. He remained here for about five to six days. He called the villagers and the purpose of his visit and sought their permission to settle down here. He had no intention to keep anybody with him except his wife Kasturba.

However slowly pressure of work necessitated permission to more colleagues till Sevagram Ashram also became a full-fledged institution.

He was 67 years when he came to Sevagram. In those days the village was surrounded by forest on all sides. Snakes and scorpions were a common feature. There was only one footpath or cart track to Wardha. No post-office or telegraph office existed. There letters used to be brought from Wardha. There is another village in this region named Shegaon, made famous by the residence of Saint Gajanan Maharaj. Hence Gandhiji’s letters used to get misdirected. Therefore, it was decided in 1940 to name this village as SEVAGRAM or the village of service.

1. **Gitai Mandir**

The Gitai Mandir is a beautiful temple located in the village of Gopuri, near Vishwa Shanti Stupa. An extremely renowned attraction in the city of [Wardha](https://www.nativeplanet.com/wardha/" \o "Wardha), it was inaugurated in 1980 by Acharya Vinoba Bhave. The temple has been built using stones and is unique in its architecture. The stones are etched with the eighteen sections of Bhagwad Gita and are arranged vertically in the shape of a cow.

The most bewitching thing about this temple, however, is that it does not house any deity’s idol, nor does it have a roof. In the temple’s vicinity, a beautiful little park can be seen. In the Shanti Kuti, an exhibition is organized depicting the life of Jamnalal Bajaj, Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Mahatma Gandhi.

1. **Vishwa Shanti Stupa**

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