



FAITHS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

‘It is the duty of every cultured man or woman to read sympathetically the scriptures of the world. If we are to respect others’ religions as we would have them respect our own, a friendly study of the world’s religions is a sacred duty.’

Mohandas K Gandhi

Religion	Belief in	Follower	Holy Writings	Guiding principles	Place of Worship	Major Festivals	Religious leader	Pilgrimage	Rites of Passage	Main countries of worship
Christianity	God, Jesus	Christian	Bible	Ten Commandments	Church	Easter, Christmas	Priest	The Holy Land (Middle East), Rome (Italy), Lourdes (France), Istanbul (Turkey)	Naming ceremony (Baptism) on joining the Church, Marriage, Death	Worldwide – mainly Europe, North America, South America
Islam	God (Allah), Muhammad	Muslim	Koran (Qur'an)	Five Pillars	Mosque	Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha	Imam	Mecca (Saudi Arabia)	Naming ceremony (Aqiqah), Marriage, Death	Worldwide – mainly Middle East, North Africa, Asia
Hinduism	Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva and many other gods	Hindu	Vedas, Upanishads	Dharma	Mandir	Diwali, Holi	No main leadership structure, Brahmins are priests who assist with worship.	Many Hindus undertake a number of pilgrimages over their lifetime, eg to Varanasi (India)	Initiation to Hinduism (Sacred Thread Ceremony), Marriage, Death	Worldwide - mainly India
Buddhism	Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama)	Buddhist	The Dharma/Tripitaka	Four Noble Truths, Noble Eightfold path, Five Precepts	Temple (Stupa)	Dharma Day, Losar, Wesak	Dalai Lama, monks	Bodh Gaya (Northern India)	Birth, Marriage, Death	Worldwide – mainly South East Asia
Sikhism	God (Vahiguru); Ten gurus, eg Guru Nanak, Guru Gobind Singh	Sikh	Guru Granth Sahib, Dasam Granth	Rehat Maryada (Sikh Code of Conduct)	Gurdwara	Divali, Gurburbs	No main leadership structure. Granthis or Bhajjis assist at gurdwaras	The Golden Temple, Amritsar (India)	Naming ceremony (Amrit Sanskar), Marriage, Death	Worldwide – mainly India
Judaism	God (Yahweh), Abraham, Moses	Jew	Torah	Ten Commandments	Synagogue	Rosh Hashannah, Yom Kippur, Pesach	Rabbi	Western Wall, Jerusalem	Naming ceremony (Zevad Habat, Brit Milah), Marriage, Death	Israel, USA, Europe