

## About Nashik

One of the most popular destinations for the pious Hindus, Jains and Buddhists and also known for its association with the epic 'Ramayana', **Nashik** not only has an ethereal and spiritual quality about it but is also a touch point for tourists who wish to explore its interesting forts and a unique centre that offers courses in 'Vipassana'. Located in north-west Maharashtra, 171 kilometers from Mumbai and 210 kilometers from Pune, Nashik is the third-largest city in the state after Mumbai and Pune. It is also a city that has lured people from distant regions for hundreds of years. In fact, the antiquity of the city goes back to prehistoric times and archaeological excavations carried out here on the banks of river Godavari have revealed the evidence of habitation from the Chalcolithic age dating back to approximately 1,400 – 1,300 BC. Above all, it is the link that Nashik provides with the epic Ramayana that makes it so important to both, the faithful and the historians.

## About Aashiyana

**Aashiyana** (started in May 2015) has in a short span attained the most coveted 5-star ranking for hospitality norms, awarded by TripAdvisor. We have redefined Luxury and Comfort..!! With multiple properties placed strategically in Nashik, we are definitely the most preferred hospitality partner of the discerning traveller. We offer luxury as well as budget accommodation and are affiliated to MTDC. Our new property Bamboo Villa - The FarmStay, just on the outskirts of Nashik is our endeavour to provide the best to our guests. The reviews that we have received on TripAdvisor bear testimony to this fact. We are pleased to be the first one to promote package tours for Nashik, and as has been our policy, will strive to ensure that our guests go back with a Big Smile..!!

Please do visit [www.ashiyanainn.com](http://www.ashiyanainn.com) for more details...

## Religious Tour Package

### Trimbakeshwar (Included)



Trimbakeshwar, one of the Jyotirlingas, is just 28 kilometers away from Nashik city and it is here that the sacred river Godavari originates at Brahmagiri. You will find at Trimbakeshwar a huge 'kund' (water tank) called the 'Kushavarta'. It is symbolic of the origin of Godavari and hence considered a sacred bathing place for the Hindus. The temple of Trimbakeshwar is said to have been reconstructed by Peshwa Balaji Bajirao i.e. Nana Saheb Peshwa.

Brahmagiri occupies a prominent place in the history of Trimbakeshwar and since Godavari has its actual origin from the top of this mountain, it is called Ganga Teerth. The water percolates from the rocks into a cave and emerges as a river.

On the Brahmagiri slopes is a cave called Nivruttinath, named after the elder brother of Sant Dnyaneshwar. It is believed that Nivruttinath got spiritual knowledge from his mentor in this particular cave.

### Godavari Ghat (Included)



The 'Ganges' of the south, Ramkund in the sacred river Godavari, draws countless pilgrims every year. The popular belief is that Lord Ram had his bath here, at some stage of his exile. To commemorate that, the devotees frequent here to have a holy dip. In 1696, Chitrarao Khatarkar built a holy tank on the spot where it is believed that Rama and Sita took their bath. Devotees gather here to immerse their beloved's ashes in the strong belief that it will help the dead to get salvation.

### Kapaleshwar Temple (Included)



One of the oldest temples in Nasik, the Kapaleshwar Temple, is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This fabulous shrine is located in the serene ambience of the sacred river Godavari. Absence of Nandi Idol in the temple premises is a mystery. Generally, all Shiva temples have an idol of Nandi Bull, which overlooks its master's sanctum.

An architectural marvel, this Shiva temple is a must see holy spot in Nasik. The atmosphere of this sacred shrine is crowded with devotees on the festive occasions of Shivratri and Shravani Somvar.

#### Kalaram Temple (Included)



The Kalaram temple is an old Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Rama in the Panchavati area of Nashik City in Maharashtra. It is one of the most important Hindu shrines in the city. The temple derives its name from the statue of Lord Rama that is black in colour. The literal translation of Kalaram means black Rama. The sanctum sanctorum also houses the statues of goddess Sita and Lakshman. Thousands of devotees visit it every day. The temple was funded by Sardar Rangarao Odhekar. It was built around 1792. It was said that Sardar Odhekar had a dream that the statue of Rama in black colour is there in the river Godavari. Odhekar took the statues from river and built the temple. The place where statues were found was named as Ramkund. The main entrance of the temple has Lord Hanuman idol which is black.

#### Someshwar Temple (Included)



Someshwar temple is on the way to Gangapur dam, at a distance of 8 kms from Central Bus Stand. This is a temple of Lord Shiva and Lord Hanuman on the banks of river Godavari. The area is covered with greenery, with a pleasant climate. Tourists can take pleasure of swimming and boating in the river. Someshwar has been a favourite location for many a film-shootings. On the way to Someshwar, there is a village named Anandwalli. It is so named because the Peshwas – Anandibai and Raghobadada, lived there for some time.

#### Navshya Ganapati (Included)



The Navshya Ganapati Temple at Anandvalli is situated on the banks of the Godavari and has a history of around 300-400 years. The temple was built at the time of Peshwas. The Ganapati Idol is famous amongst its followers as 'Navashya' because it is said that he grants all wishes of anyone who comes to him, Ganapati answers to the offerings in prayers ('navas') and thousands of devotees have experienced this act of God.

#### **Jain Temple (Included)**



A huge newly built temple complex dedicated to Jain saints, Jain Mandir is located at Vilhouli, Nasik. This three-storied shrine presents a different architectural grandeur than that of the other temples. Shree Dharmachakra Prabhav Tirth, which is popularly called as Jain Mandir is constructed with white marble and pink sand.

The ground floor of this magnificent building houses a Pravachan Hall, where sermons and meditations take place. "Choumukhji" is placed on the first floor and the third floor is reserved for "Ashtapadji". One among the deities of this Mandir is the 24th Thirthankara of the Jains. This amazing deity weighs 12 ton and it is made up of Panchdhatu. Situated in a serene ambience, all the idols enshrined in this temple adorn a serious outlook.

#### **Shri Baalaji Temple (Included)**



Situated off Gangapur Road, this newly built temple is a lovely edifice and is dedicated to Lord Balaji. In a short duration, this temple has found a place in the devotees' hearts and is regularly thronged by them.

#### **Saptashrungi Temple (Optional- Additional Day)**



Saptashrungi Temple is located in Nanduri village, Kalwan taluka, 60 kilometers from Nashik and is a part of the mountain range that starts from Hatgad in Nashik district and ends at the great Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district. Goddess Saptrashrungi Mata resides on one such mountain. It is also said that there are seven peaks where the goddess dwells, and that is how she gets the name Saptrashrungi. The reference of this place as a *shaktipeetha*' can be seen in the Devi Bhagavata Purana.

The temple, dedicated to Durga, is two-storied and you have to climb around 500 steps to reach it. Interestingly, the steps were built way back in 1710 and you can see the figures of Ram, Hanuman, Radha, Krishna, Dattatreya and a tortoise carved out besides the rock-cut steps. The 'devi' here is said to be 'swayambhu' (self-manifested). There are many mythological stories of Mahisharumardini, Shiva and Sati associated with this place. One version states that the *shaktipeethas*' were formed due to the falling of body parts of the corpse of Sati Devi when Lord Shiva carried it and wandered around the world in deep sorrow.

#### **Shirdi Sai Baba (Optional- Additional Day)**



Shirdi is located about 90 kms from Nashik. It is called the Land of Sai. Long time ago, at the beginning of eighteenth century a young bearded man ( Shirdi Sai Baba) with sparkling eyes took shelter in a mosque, in Shirdi Village. Nobody knew from where this stranger had come who hardly spoke a word and stayed there.

Gradually the curious villagers started offering food to the man, but he never asked anything from them. Sometimes he shared his food with the animals. Soon the young fakir, as he was started to be addressed, started expressing his view points with few elderly villagers. His simple language of expression and his special power of solving the problems of poor needy and destitute soon made this less known fakir, known as Shri Sai Baba. People also realised that this "Baba" was no ordinary person but a person with extraordinary powers, not observed in normal human beings. Baba preached his principle of love and faith in humanity to all his disciples.

Sai baba strongly believed in uniformity of religion and he never distinguished anyone on the basis of caste, creed or religion.