



Prior Knowledge

What do Sikhs believe about God?

Sikhs believe that there is only one God, who created everything. They believe that Waheguru must remain in the mind at all times. **Sikhism** is a way of life, and so Sikhs' beliefs reflect their actions on a daily basis and bring them closer to **Waheguru**.

Where do Sikhs go to worship?

A **gurdwara** is a building in which Sikhs gather for congregational worship. However, wherever the **Guru Granth Sahib** is installed is a sacred place for Sikhs, whether this is a room in a private house or a gurdwara.

What is the inspirational writing that Sikhs follow?

The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the sacred text of the **Sikh** community and the embodiment of the **Guru**. It is central to the lives of devout Sikhs, both in the sense of being physically present in the **gurdwara** and as Sikhs' ultimate spiritual authority.



New Knowledge

What is the significance of the Naam Karan ceremony?

This is generally a happy ritual, in which the family comes together to celebrate the birth of a child now that the tensions of childbirth have passed. **Naam karan** is also called 'Palanarohan' in some traditions, which refers to putting a child into the cradle (Sanskrit 'palana' = cradle; 'arohan' = onboard).

Why do some Sikhs choose to become part of the Khalsa?

The word '**khalsa**' means 'pure'. Joining the **Khalsa** is a sign of commitment in Sikhism. Today, Sikhs who wish to become members of the **Khalsa** show their commitment and dedication by taking part in the **Amrit Sanskar** ceremony .

What is the symbolism of the 5Ks worn by some Sikhs?

The 5 Ks date from the creation of the **Khalsa Panth** by **Guru Gobind Singh** in 1699. The 5 Ks taken together symbolise that the Sikh who wears them has dedicated themselves to a life of devotion and submission to the Guru. The 5 Ks are 5 physical symbols worn by Sikhs who have been initiated into the Khalsa.



What is the significance of the turban which is worn by some Sikhs?

In South Asian culture, wearing a turban typically indicated one's social status – kings and rulers once wore turbans. The **Sikh gurus** adopted the turban, in part, to remind Sikhs that all humans are sovereign, royal and ultimately equal.

What is the importance of prayer to the Sikh community?

Sikhs regard prayer as a way of spending time in company with God. For prayer to be really effective a person tries to empty themselves of everything of this world so that they can perceive God. **Guru Arjan** wrote of the importance of prayer. The praising of His Name is the highest of all practices.