



# What is a Nagar Kirtan?



Sikhs around the world celebrate Vaisakhi by holding public processions and sharing their joy with other communities.

**NAGAR** - town

**KIRTAN** - singing of Gurbani

'Nagar Kirtan' stems from 'Parbhaat Pheri' in Punjab when Sikhs would wake up before dawn and join groups to sing the Creator's praises on the way to the Gurdwara.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nagar Kirtans are led by a float upon which Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji is enthroned, which represents the spiritual authority of the Guru, and Five Khalsa (Panj Pyare) representing the Guru's temporal authority.

## WHY SING KIRTAN?

All of Guru Granth Sahib ji is written in poetic measure. Singing these sacred songs of love and longing to unite with the Creator, helps to see through Guru's enlightened eyes. We sing in groups as this is the fastest way to experience and connect with Vaheguru. Deep down, our soul loves and thirsts for this union. Temporarily, the world might distract us from this thirst but, without this divine experience, we remain unfulfilled.

## WHY ALL THE FREE FOOD (LANGAR)?


This is a form of selfless service (seva) that was instituted by Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji the first Guru. All Gurdwaras must serve free langar to all visitors regardless of race, religion or social status. It has three main reasons:

**1) Equality & Inclusion   2) Teaching Compassion   3) Shared Responsibility**





# What is the #SikhVaisakhi



Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi to mark the Creation of the Khalsa. It's not the Sikh new year or a harvest festival.

## WHAT IS THE KHALSA?

The Khalsa is a collective of initiated Sikhs (both male and female) who are the defenders of the Sikh Way. Long before the rise of DEI and CSR, the Khalsa was mandated to uphold basic needs (food, clothing, health and shelter) for all people - irrespective of race, religion, social status or any protected characteristic. This sacred responsibility extends beyond modern nation-state borders, to reach all those in need.

## HOW WAS THE KHALSA CREATED?

In April 1699, Guru Gobind Singh ji issued a profound call to moral courage and conviction. Five individuals stepped forward, demonstrating extraordinary faith and trust. They were named the 'Panj Pyare' (the Five Beloved Ones), in a moment which established not only a spiritual order but a disciplined, values-led collective defined by courage, equality, and accountability to defend the Sikh worldview.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The names of the Panj Pyare articulate the virtues of the Khalsa. Daya (compassion) establishes the moral authority to uphold Dharam (righteousness), while Himmat (courage) empowers resistance and Mokham (resolve) sustains this commitment through adversity, culminating in the realisation of Sahib (sovereignty) - the state in which the Khalsa stands self-governing, dignified, and accountable only to the Divine.

## WHY LOOK DIFFERENT?

The Khalsa has a clear and distinct identity, positioning the collective as visible, accountable leaders. The Kirpan (sword) symbolises a constant readiness to stand up for what is right, reflecting responsibility and ethical action. The names Singh and Kaur reinforce a shared sense of dignity, equality, and leadership, while the Dastar (turban) represents integrity and a commitment to principled self-governance.

