

# The Ten Sikh Gurus

Embark on a journey through the inspiring lives and profound teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus, who laid the foundation of Sikhism. Discover their contributions and family legacies in this interactive ebook.



## Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Lifespan: 1469 - 1539

### Biography

The revered founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. Guru Nanak Dev Ji embarked on extensive spiritual journeys, known as 'Udasis,' to spread his profound message of one universal God (Ik Onkar) and the fundamental principles of equality, selfless service, and universal brotherhood. He challenged the prevailing social norms, including the caste system, and emphasized truthful living, honest work, and sharing with others.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Mehta Kalu and Mata Tripta

Spouse(s): Mata Sulakhani

Children: Sri Chand and Lakhmi Das

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Founded Sikhism, a monotheistic religion.
- Authored 'Japji Sahib,' the morning prayer and foundational scripture of Sikhism.
- Emphasized the oneness of God (Ik Onkar) and the importance of meditation on the Divine Name (Naam Simran).
- Promoted equality and denounced the caste system, advocating for a society based on justice and compassion.
- Introduced the concepts of 'Kirt Karo, Naam Japo, Vand Chhako' (Work honestly, Meditate on God's Name, Share earnings).



## Guru Angad Dev Ji

Lifespan: 1504 - 1552

### Biography

The second Sikh Guru, chosen by Guru Nanak Dev Ji for his unwavering devotion and selfless service. Guru Angad Dev Ji continued Guru Nanak's mission, strengthening the nascent Sikh community. He played a crucial role in standardizing and popularizing the Gurmukhi script, making the teachings of the Gurus accessible to a wider audience. He also established centers for Sikh learning and promoted physical fitness alongside spiritual development.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Baba Pheru Mal and Mata Sabhrai

Spouse(s): Mata Khivi

Children: Dasu, Datu, Amro, Anokhi

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Standardized and refined the Gurmukhi script, making it the official script for Sikh scriptures.
- Compiled and preserved the teachings and hymns of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- Established 'Mal Akhara,' centers for physical and spiritual training, promoting a healthy body and mind.
- Continued the tradition of 'Langar' (community kitchen), emphasizing equality and selfless service.
- Wrote 63 Sloks (stanzas) that were later incorporated into the Guru Granth Sahib.



## Guru Amar Das Ji

Lifespan: 1479 - 1574

### Biography

The third Sikh Guru, who ascended to the Guruship at the age of 73, after years of dedicated service to Guru Angad Dev Ji. Guru Amar Das Ji significantly organized and expanded the Sikh community. He established the 'Manji System,' dividing the Sikh world into administrative units to facilitate the spread of Sikh teachings. He strongly advocated for social reforms, notably abolishing the practice of Sati (widow immolation) and promoting the equality of women.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Tej Bhan Bhalla and Mata Lachmi

Spouse(s): Mata Mansa Devi

Children: Mohan, Mohri, Dani, Bhani

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Organized the Sikh community into 22 'Manjis' (dioceses) for effective dissemination of Sikh teachings.
- Abolished the practice of Sati and promoted widow remarriage, advocating for women's rights and equality.
- Introduced 'Anand Karaj,' the distinct Sikh marriage ceremony.
- Authored 'Anand Sahib,' a collection of hymns emphasizing joy and spiritual bliss.
- Established 'Goindval Baoli,' a well with 84 steps, promoting pilgrimage and unity.



## Guru Ram Das Ji

Lifespan: 1534 - 1581

### Biography

The fourth Sikh Guru, known for his humility, devotion, and poetic compositions. Guru Ram Das Ji founded the city of Ramdaspur, which later became known as Amritsar (Pool of Nectar), and initiated the construction of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple). He composed many beautiful hymns, including the 'Laavan' (marriage hymns), which are central to the Sikh marriage ceremony. He emphasized selfless service and devotion to the Guru's teachings.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Hari Das and Mata Anup Devi

Spouse(s): Mata Bhani (daughter of Guru Amar Das Ji)

Children: Prithi Chand, Mahadev, Arjan Dev

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Founded the city of Ramdaspur, now known as Amritsar, the spiritual capital of Sikhism.
- Initiated the excavation of the 'Amrit Sarovar' (Pool of Nectar) and the construction of Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).
- Composed the 'Laavan,' the four hymns recited during the Sikh marriage ceremony (Anand Karaj).
- Emphasized the importance of 'Sewa' (selfless service) and 'Simran' (remembrance of God).
- Strengthened the 'Masand' system for collecting offerings and spreading the message.



## Guru Arjan Dev Ji

Lifespan: 1563 - 1606

### Biography

The fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr. Guru Arjan Dev Ji's most monumental contribution was the compilation of the Adi Granth, the holy scripture of Sikhism, which later became the Guru Granth Sahib. He completed the construction of Harmandir Sahib, making it a central place of worship for Sikhs worldwide. His martyrdom, ordered by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir, solidified the Sikh faith and its commitment to justice and truth.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Guru Ram Das Ji and Mata Bhani

Spouse(s): Mata Ganga

Children: Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Compiled and installed the 'Adi Granth' (the first rendition of the Guru Granth Sahib) in 1604.
- Completed the construction of Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar.
- Authored 'Sukhmani Sahib,' the 'Psalm of Peace,' a highly revered composition.
- Martyred by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir, becoming the first Sikh martyr, for refusing to convert to Islam and for his growing influence.
- Established Tarn Taran Sahib and Kartarpur (Pakistan).



## Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji

Lifespan: 1595 - 1644

### Biography

The sixth Sikh Guru, known as the 'Soldier Saint.' Following his father's martyrdom, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji introduced the concept of 'Miri-Piri' – wearing two swords symbolizing temporal (Miri) and spiritual (Piri) authority. He militarized the Sikh community, building an army to defend their faith and rights against oppression. He also constructed the Akal Takht (Throne of the Timeless One) in front of the Golden Temple, a symbol of Sikh political sovereignty.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Guru Arjan Dev Ji and Mata Ganga

Spouse(s): Mata Damodari, Mata Nankee, Mata Mahadevi

Children: Baba Gurditta, Suraj Mal, Ani Rai, Atal Rai, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, Bibi Veero

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Introduced the concept of 'Miri-Piri,' symbolizing temporal and spiritual power.
- Militarized the Sikh community, transforming them into a warrior force for self-defense.
- Built the 'Akal Takht' (Throne of the Timeless One) in Amritsar.
- Fought several battles against Mughal forces, defending the Sikh faith and its followers.
- Wore two swords, representing his dual role as a spiritual guide and a temporal leader.



## Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji

Lifespan: 1630 - 1661

### Biography

The seventh Sikh Guru, known for his compassion and healing abilities. Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji continued the martial traditions of his grandfather, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, by maintaining a strong Sikh army, but he focused more on missionary work and spreading peace. He established a hospital and a research center for herbal medicine, demonstrating his deep concern for human well-being and the environment. He also traveled extensively to spread the Sikh message.

### Family Hierarchy

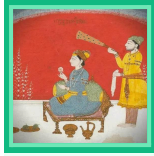
Parents: Baba Gurditta (son of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji) and Mata Nihal Kaur

Spouse(s): Mata Kishan Kaur (also known as Mata Sulakhni)

Children: Ram Rai, Guru Har Krishan Sahib Ji

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Maintained the Sikh army but emphasized peace and spiritual growth.
- Established hospitals and dispensaries, focusing on healing and medicine.
- Continued the missionary work of spreading Sikhism, sending disciples to various regions.
- Known for his deep love for nature and animals, maintaining a zoo and herbal garden.
- Emphasized the importance of compassion and service to humanity.



## Guru Har Krishan Sahib Ji

Lifespan: 1656 - 1664

### Biography

The eighth Sikh Guru, who became Guru at the tender age of five. Despite his young age, Guru Har Krishan Sahib Ji displayed immense wisdom and spiritual insight. His short life was dedicated to serving the sick and suffering, particularly during a smallpox epidemic in Delhi. He selflessly tended to the afflicted, providing comfort and healing, and ultimately succumbed to the disease himself. He is affectionately known as 'Bal Guru' (Child Guru).

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji and Mata Kishan Kaur

Spouse(s): N/A (died young)

Children: N/A

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Became Guru at the age of five, demonstrating profound spiritual wisdom beyond his years.
- Selflessly served the sick and suffering during a smallpox epidemic in Delhi, earning the title 'Bala Pritam' (Child Lover of the Afflicted).
- Emphasized humility and compassion through his actions.
- Prophesied the next Guru would be found in 'Baba Bakala,' guiding the community to Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji.
- His life exemplified selfless service and devotion to humanity.





## Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji

Lifespan: 1621 - 1675

### Biography

The ninth Sikh Guru and the second Sikh martyr. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji is revered for his supreme sacrifice to protect religious freedom and human rights. He stood up against the forced conversions of Kashmiri Pandits by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, offering his own life to defend their right to practice their faith. His martyrdom in Delhi is a powerful testament to his unwavering commitment to universal religious freedom and justice.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji and Mata Nankee

Spouse(s): Mata Gujri

Children: Guru Gobind Singh Ji

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Martyred for defending religious freedom and human rights, particularly for the Kashmiri Pandits.
- Authored many hymns and Sloks that are part of the Guru Granth Sahib, emphasizing detachment and spiritual liberation.
- Traveled extensively across India, spreading the message of Sikhism and establishing new centers.
- Known as 'Hind Di Chadar' (Shield of India) for his sacrifice to protect other faiths.
- His martyrdom set a powerful example of standing up against tyranny and injustice.



## Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Lifespan: 1666 - 1708

### Biography

The tenth and final human Sikh Guru. Guru Gobind Singh Ji transformed the Sikh community into the Khalsa (the collective body of initiated Sikhs), a saint-soldier order committed to righteousness and defending the weak. He established the Five Ks (Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kirpan, Kachera) as symbols of Khalsa identity. Before his passing, he declared the Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal and living Guru of the Sikhs, ending the lineage of human Gurus.

### Family Hierarchy

Parents: Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji and Mata Gujri

Spouse(s): Mata Jito, Mata Sundari, Mata Sahib Kaur

Children: Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh, Sahibzada Fateh Singh (all martyred)

### Key Contributions & Teachings

- Founded the 'Khalsa Panth' (the collective body of initiated Sikhs) in 1699.
- Established the 'Five Ks' (Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kirpan, Kachera) as essential articles of faith for Khalsa Sikhs.
- Declared the 'Guru Granth Sahib' as the eternal and living Guru of the Sikhs, ending the lineage of human Gurus.
- Authored the 'Dasam Granth,' a collection of his own compositions.
- Fought numerous battles against Mughal oppression, championing justice and righteousness.
- His four sons, the 'Chaar Sahibzade,' were martyred, setting an unparalleled example of sacrifice.