

Siddhachal Chha Gau Yatra Fagan Sud Teras



One of the most auspicious days to undertake pilgrimage (yatra) of Shatrunjaya is on the thirteenth day of the bright half of the month of Fagan (February – March). Every year on this day, thousands of pilgrims perform the Chha Gau Yatra. Pilgrims are of the belief that performing this yatra will free the devotee from all sins.

Chha in Gujarati means six and Gau is equivalent to two miles, so in total the distance covered is about twelve miles (15 Km). The route is the longest and most arduous, some over hilly terrain, taking pilgrims to many lesser known but very auspicious sites on the Shatrunjaya Hills. The dress code is white clothes and the yatra takes four to five hours to complete.

The yatra starts after exiting the Ram Pol Gate, where there is a paved route on the right side of the road. The auspicious sites the pilgrims visit enroute include:-

- **Deri of Devaki's 6 Sons**
- **Ulkajal** – the site where it is believed water used at Shree Adinath Bhagwan abhishek gets collected.
- **Ajitnath & Shantinath Shrines** – How "Ajit Shanti Stotra" was composed by Muni Nandishen
- **Chandan (Chillan) Talavadi** - named after Chillan Muni, who with his Labdhi – special powers created a pond of clean water for thirsty pilgrims.
- **Siddhshila** – site where it is believed the highest number of souls have attained liberation than any other place on Giriraj
- **Bhaadva Hill** – site where Pradhyumna and Shamba attained liberation along with 8.5 crore monks on the auspicious day of Fagan Sud Teras. Chha Gau Yatra is performed in memory of this auspicious event.
- **Siddhavad** - a large banyan tree called Siddhavad.

Siddhavad comes on the border of Adhipur village, named after Shree Adinath Bhagwan.

To attain "Bhavya" status (be eligible to attain Moksha), Jains endeavour to undertake a pilgrimage to Shatrunjaya (Palitana) at least once in their lifetime.

As Jains, I am sure many of us have undertaken a pilgrimage to Shatrunjaya. Let us pray that someday we can do the Chha Gau Yatra.

Also, Jains all over the world, on this very auspicious day perform Siddhachal Chha Gau Bhav Yatra