

# SHATRUNJAYA TIRTH

## 493rd Salagiri Dhwaja

### Vaishakh Vad Chhath



The summit is situated at an elevation of 7,288 feet (2,221 m). Reaching it involves climbing over 3,750 stone steps and takes approximately two hours to make the 3.5 kilometres (2.2 mi) climb. The climb is no doubt a tough one with stone steps and a steep rise of the hill, but as all Jains who have ascended these steps knows that one gains the unique experience of living more than 900 years of the Jain Faith in a day. These ivory stoned marble temples with ornate carvings shine bright during the sunlight and appear equally magnificent as the moon rises over them.



# GREATNESS OF SHATRUNJAYA

Shatrunjaya is an embodiment of sacredness and is often referred to as “Tirtha -raja” or “Tirthadhiraj” - “King of pilgrimage places” or “Giri Raj” - “King of mountains”

Shatrunjaya is “Shashvat” - meaning it is eternal and indestructible. It will exist as a Tirth for ever

It expands and contracts in accordance with the ascending and descending never ending cycles of time. So in the First ara of Avasarpini, the holy hill had a height of 80 yojans (approx. 640 miles). In this current 5th Ara , we have to climb some 3500 steps to the top and in the 6th Ara it will be just 7 hand high from sea level. It is thought that present day Girnar Hills and Shatrunjaya hills were once connected.

Only eternal place accessible to human beings in Bharat Kshetra in this dark age - “Kali Yuga”.

There are many Tirthas in the 15 Karmabhoomis in Adhi-dweep, but none are like Shatrunjaya.



Apart from Neminath Bhagwan, all other 23 Tirthankaras graced this place giving discourses. It is said the all the next 24 Tirthankaras will grace this place

Adinatha Bhagwan - the 1st Jina is responsible for initiating pilgrimage to the eternal mountain Shatrunjaya, which is now considered the most popular pilgrimage place for the worship of Adinatha Bhagwan,

Shatrunjaya means “conquering enemies” - which is a metaphor to conquer our inner enemies - kashayas namely Kodha, Mana, Maya and lobha.

Yatra to Shatrunjaya is thought to bring hundred times more spiritual merit than yatra to any other holy sites.

It is said that anyone who puts one step towards Shatrunjaya with “Pure Heart” can be free from all pap of present and previous life.

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Human beings living in Mahavideh Kshetra crave to touch and pay their obeisance to Shatrunjaya.

Infinite souls have attained liberation and infinite souls will attain liberation in the future.



BY KISHOR B SHAH