‘MY MISSION IS TO OPEN THE HEARTS OF MAN’
PARAMAHAMSA VISHWANANDA

Paramahamsa Sri Swami Vishwananda is an enlightened spiritual Master and founder of Bhakti Marga: the path of devotion.

His life and work are dedicated to inspiring everyone to open their hearts to the Divine. His teachings centre around Love. Just Love. Everything He does is done with the intention to help people to recognise the universal Love that lies within each human being, and to awaken their innate ability to express that Love in their daily lives.

Founded in 2005, the Bhakti Marga Mission is a growing spiritual movement inspired by Paramahamsa Vishwananda’s Love and teachings. The Bhakti Marga family spans 77 countries on 6 continents and gathers regularly for events, prayers and sadhana (spiritual practice). Guests of all faiths are welcome to join in.

PARAMAHAMSA VISHWANANDA

Paramahamsa Vishwananda travels the world spreading His message of Divine Love through Darshan (personal blessings), Satsangs (spiritual talks), devotional music, discourses on Hindu scriptures, and leading pilgrimages to holy sites.

He has a unique way of making ancient spiritual truths accessible, easy to understand and relevant to living in today’s world. His ‘Insights from the Master’ YouTube series features hundreds of short (usually less than 10 minute) videos, each one answering a single question.

His timeless wisdom has been published in 12 books. He has given discourses on the most revered scriptures of Hinduism including the Shreemad Bhagavad Gita, Shreemad Bhagavatam, and the Sri Guru Gita, among others. His masterful commentaries appeal to everyone whether they have been on a spiritual path for a long time or have just begun. His ‘Just Love’ series of six books answers spiritual questions posed in His Satsangs.

Bhakti Marga Spiritual Order

As the founder of the Bhakti Marga Spiritual Order, an initiated Sri Vaishnava Acharya (revered teacher and lineage holder) and Mahamandaleshwar (leader of many centres), Paramahamsa Vishwananda leads a global family that spans six continents.

- 30 Swamis & Swaminis
- 2 Rishis
- 150+ Brahmacharis (monks) & Brahmacharinis (nuns)
- 1000+ Initiated Devotees
- 300,000+ Followers
- 30 Temples in 16 countries
- 4 operational ashrams in 4 countries, 3 more are under construction in 2 additional countries

bhaktimarga.org/bhakti-marga
Paramahamsa Vishwananda’s full title is:

Mahamandaleshwar 1008 Paramahamsa Sri Vedavyasa Rangaraj Bhattar Sri Swami Vishwananda

BHAKTI MARGA

Founded in 2005, the Bhakti Marga Mission serves to forward Paramahamsa Vishwananda’s personal mission and support global communities in 77 countries on 6 continents. All the mission’s efforts are dedicated to helping people realise the Divine within and serve the Divine in others. Bhakti Marga offers several ways to support this objective:

Sadhana (spiritual practices) helps quiet the mind so you can drop into the silence of the heart where you can experience the presence of the Divine. Bhakti Marga offers five different meditative and yogic practices to meet a variety of needs and lifestyles. sadhana.bhaktimarga.org

Worship rituals and singing praises to the Divine redirects attention away from the problems of the world and towards the true source of all possibilities: the Divine. Daily community prayers are held regularly in Bhakti Marga temples around the world and welcome all visitors. You can also take classes in how to conduct traditional worship rituals on your own. bhaktimarga.org/worship

Knowledge based on ancient wisdom and made relevant to living in today’s world helps everyone live a spiritually uplifting life. To inspire those on the path, the Bhakti Marga Academy offers education on Hinduism, scriptures, Bhakti (devotion), and spiritual living. bhaktimarga.org/academy

Music awakens the Love inside everyone’s hearts and connects us all with something greater than ourselves. Bhakti Marga Music can be enjoyed during daily prayers, festivities, events, and is available in courses, CDs and YouTube videos. bhaktimarga.org/music

Beauty draws the senses toward the Divine and Bhakti Marga Art offers courses which turn art into a meditation, including the ever-popular Sri Yantra drawing and painting meditation courses. bhaktimarga.org/art

Wisdom truly is timeless and something to return to again and again. Bhakti Marga Publishing has over 25 titles and translates into more than 20 languages. bhaktimarga.org/publications

Serving the Divine in others is done through seva (selfless service). There are many ways to serve in Bhakti Marga whether it be helping to support the daily function and events at The Ashram, or teaching classes and sharing Paramahamsa Vishwananda’s message of Love out in the world. theashram.bhaktimarga.org/seva
Sadhana

Mahavatar Babaji is the Father of all Kriya lineages and the Guru of Paramahamsa Vishwananda. Paramahamsa Vishwananda is a Kriya Yoga Master and together, with His Guru, they chose Atma Kriya Yoga as the primary meditation practice for Bhakti Marga.

Atma Kriya Yoga is unique in that the practice is imbued with devotional elements designed to cultivate Bhakti: love and devotion to the Divine. All other Bhakti Marga Sadhana practices – Simply Meditation, OM Chanting, Babaji Surya Namaskar and Project Mantra – are derived from Atma Kriya Yoga.

Bhakti Marga Sadhana has a presence in all 77 countries on 6 continents. There are 224 Atma Kriya Yoga Teachers worldwide and more than 11,000 Yogis who have received the Shaktipat Initiation since it was introduced in 2007. OM Chanting, a group practice, is the most popular practice with nearly 3000 Organisers, it is available in all Bhakti Marga countries. [sadhana.bhaktimarga.org](sadhana.bhaktimarga.org)

The Ashram - Shree Peetha Nilaya

The Bhakti Marga international headquarters and main ashram, Shree Peetha Nilaya, is located in the rolling hills of the Taunus region of Germany, 45 minutes west of Frankfurt. The name means the ‘Abode of Maha Lakshmi’, the Divine Mother.

Shree Peetha Nilaya is known as the ‘Home of Divine Love’; it is a place for visitors to learn, to serve and to worship. The 52,000 square metre ashram campus serves as the primary residence for Paramahamsa Vishwananda and a full-service spiritual event centre that welcomes thousands of international visitors each year. [theashram.bhaktimarga.org](theashram.bhaktimarga.org)

The Ashram invites guests to participate in a variety of regularly scheduled activities, as well as special events like Darshans, Satsangs, Hindu Festivals, the Just Love Festival, and a variety of courses. [theashram.bhaktimarga.org/regular-activities](theashram.bhaktimarga.org/regular-activities)

Bhutabhrteshwarnath Mandir

Community prayers are fundamental to cultivating a rich spiritual life in Bhakti Marga. The crown jewel of the spiritual centre is the Bhutabhrteshwarnath Mandir, a formal Hindu temple inaugurated in June 2018. The name ‘Bhutabhrteshwarnath’ means ‘the Lord who nourishes the whole universe’.

The Bhutabhrteshwarnath Mandir is a one-of-a-kind work of art; it is a living testament to the Bhakti spiritual path. On its walls, more than 100 crystal-studded, vibrantly-coloured original paintings depict the life and stories of Lord Krishna and Vaishnava Hindu saints throughout the ages. Giant sculpted reliefs and ornate teak wood carvings beautifully complement the 500-square-meter space.

Visitors of all faiths are welcome to attend daily morning and evening prayers as well as come to see the artwork and experience the sacredness of the space during regular open hours.

Paramahamsa Vishwananda speaks about the art and deities of the temple. The videos can be found on Paramahamsa Vishwananda’s Facebook page. [theashram.bhaktimarga.org/temple](theashram.bhaktimarga.org/temple)

*The murals of the Bhutabhrteshwarnath explained*
*The deities of Bhutabhrteshwarnath explained*
*The blessing of Lord Narashima*
*The meaning of Prana Pratishta*
Just Love Festival

Shree Peetha Nilaya is home to the 3-day Just Love Festival. Drawing world-renowned musicians and guests from all around the globe. In just three years the festival has quickly grown to be Europe’s largest spiritual music festival.

What makes the Just Love Festival unique is its focus on devotion and the true meaning of yoga: union with God. In an interview, Paramahamsa Vishwananda speaks about the spirituality of the Just Love Festival.

Thousands of daily visitors come to celebrate the Divine, take part in a Holi Colour toss and enjoy devotional music, homemade vegetarian and vegan food, and international shopping. The festival offers something for everyone in a drug-and-alcohol-free, family-friendly environment including classes in meditation, yoga, specialty cooking, and Satsangs on spiritual living from some of the Bhakti Marga Swamis and Swaminis.

justlovefestival.org
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paramahamsa Vishwananda</th>
<th>Bhakti Marga</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born into a Hindu family on the island of Mauritius</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<td>Settled in Europe</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>Began world tours giving Darshans and Satsangs</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Introduced Sadhana: Atma Kriya Yoga</td>
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<td>Initiated as a Vaishnava Acharya First Swamis initiated in the Order</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>First Swaminis initiated (Historical first in Sri Vaishnavism)</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>Installed as Mahamandaleshwar during the 2015 Maha Khumb Mela, becoming the first Europe-based spiritual leader to hold this title</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Presented with a Peace Pole in recognition of His work to bring about inner change and world peace</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Received Bharat Gaurav Lifetime Achievement Award for noteworthy achievements, it was awarded in London at the House of Parliament</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Bhakti Marga’s 10-Year Anniversary Festival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presented with a Peace Pole in recognition of His work to bring about inner change and world peace</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>First annual Just Love Festival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Inauguration: Shirdi Sai Baba temple</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>Inauguration: Bhutabhrteshwarnath Mandir at Shree Peetha Nilaya</td>
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MEDIA COVERAGE

Press


Os gurus da seleção. A eles também devemos um obrigado. [The selection of gurus. We also owe them a thank you]. (2016, 12 July). Jornali.


Swami Vishwananda becomes the first Mahamandeswara from outside the country (2015, 18 September). Vrindavan Today.

Interviews

Paramahamsa Vishwananda is interviewed by Olivia Sinet (2017, 7 December). (French).

Interview with Paramahamsa Vishwananda about the Bhakti Marga Path & Philosophy (2016, November).

Paramahamsa Vishwananda is interviewed by Latvian Kepa Uz Sirds TV (2015, 11 July).

Documentaries

‘Wunder der Lebenskraft’: Paramahamsa Vishwananda featured in this award-winning documentary about life force energies (Shakti and Prana), with interviews from spiritual masters, teachers and practitioners around the world. (2015, April).

Wunder der Lebenskraft

‘Kumbh Mela: The greatest show on Earth’: Documentary produced by the BBC which features Paramahamsa Vishwananda’s historic pilgrimage to the 2013 Maha Kumbh Mela with a group of predominantly white westerners. (2013, 30 July). BBC Documentary
SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Paramahamsa Vishwananda and the Bhakti Marga Mission
- Why do you want to ‘open the hearts of man’?
- How can we open our hearts, and keep them open?
- What is Bhakti Marga?

Guru/Spiritual Master
- What is a Guru in the Hindu tradition?
- There are so many gurus around, what makes you different?
- What is the value of having a Guru/spiritual Master?
- How does one find a Guru/spiritual Master?
- What should one look for in a Guru/spiritual Master?
- How does one know they have met their Guru/spiritual Master?
- Does a student choose the Guru, or does the Guru choose the student?
- Do you accept everyone as your devotees?

Spiritual Path
- What makes the spiritual path different from ordinary life?
- What is the greatest challenge, or obstacle, on the spiritual path?
- What is most misunderstood about yoga?
- What role does the mind have on the spiritual path?
- Why is being vegetarian important on the spiritual path?
- How does one build a relationship with the Divine?

Philosophy
- What is the Soul?
- What is Karma?
- What's the purpose of life and what are we here for?
- What does it mean to be Enlightened?
- Is there a spiritual purpose to life?
- How can we believe in God when there is so much suffering in the world?
- How can we stay in the present moment?
- What is lacking in western culture that can be found in Eastern philosophy?
- Why are there so many Gods in Hinduism?
- What is the Hindu perspective on death?
- What do you think about atheists?

World Views
- How do you see the world in ten years?
- Do you think we will ever attain the goal of world peace?
- You tell lots of saint stories. How are they relevant to those on the spiritual path?
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Paramahamsa Vishwananda Photos & Videos

YouTube Insights from the Master, Kirtan with the Master, Satsangs
Facebook Personal wisdom posts, news, travels, events
Twitter Personal wisdom Tweets
Instagram

Bhakti Marga Photos & Videos

Facebook
Bhakti Marga Flickr
Bhakti Marga promotional video
Just Love Festival promotional video
Bhakti Marga YouTube
Bhakti Marga Instagram
Bhakti Marga Facebook
Bhakti Marga Twitter

Websites
paramahamsavishwananda.com
bhaktimarga.org
theashram.bhaktimarga.org
justlovefestival.org

CONTACT
For more detailed information, or to schedule an interview, please contact:
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Include in the subject line: Media Inquiry

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