

The Sacred Land of Guru Ram Das Puri

An ancient spiritual gathering place, Guru Ram Das Puri is surrounded for miles by pristine wilderness of extraordinary natural beauty. To step upon this land is to breathe the spirit of ancient Native American traditions, to deeply connect with Mother Earth, and to celebrate Yogi Bhajan's vision for a healthy, happy, and holy humanity.

An Ancient Native American Tradition

At the first 3HO® Summer Solstice in New Mexico in 1970, a delegation of Hopi elders met with Yogi Bhajan. The elders explained that, for a hundred thousand years, huge spiritual gatherings took place over a vast territory stretching from what is now New Mexico, south to Mexico, and east to Missouri. Tribal and religious leaders, wise women and warriors traveled from as far away as South America and across the Bering Strait from Asia to attend the gatherings. They all shared the belief that the spark of Spirit lives in everyone, and that by coming together, the Unified Supreme Spirit could be made to manifest more clearly.

The Hopi elders told Yogi Bhajan that the spiritual gatherings took place once every 108 years, so that the people who came to each meeting had heard about it first-hand from someone who had actually experienced the last one. However, the last such meeting had occurred more than 2,000 years ago, when a shift took place: it was determined that the forces of darkness – in the form of violence, disharmony, and disrespect for nature – were gaining power at such a tremendous rate that the Unified Supreme Spirit needed to be protected. The Hopi people were chosen to be the keepers of the Unified Supreme Spirit. Because of this, Hopis became a very mystical, spiritual limb of the Great Tree, as they called it.

The Hopi elders went on to tell Yogi Bhajan that it had been foreseen that just before the forces of darkness reached their full power, a white-clad warrior from the East would arrive and create a white-clad army to protect the Unified Supreme Spirit. At this precise moment in time, a final battle between good and evil would be waged. The Hopis said they had determined that Yogi Bhajan was the white-clad warrior whose coming had been predicted, and therefore they were entrusting him with the duty of keeping and protecting the Unified Supreme Spirit. This was a solemn trust that Yogi Bhajan took very seriously.

How Summer Solstice Came to Guru Ram Das Puri

The earliest Summer Solstice celebrations moved from year to year, and Yogi Bhajan wanted to find a permanent location for the event. In the mid-1970s, a group of Hopis took Yogi Bhajan into the Jemez Mountains of Northern New Mexico near the town of Española and gestured toward the vast wilderness that stretched out for miles. The Hopis said that these were the lands where tribes had met and millions of people had gathered. They then pointed to a specific parcel of nearly 200 acres that was special because it was where the holy men of all the tribes had met to experience the Light of the Unified Supreme Spirit and then spread this Light to all the people of the world. The Hopis told Yogi Bhajan that in order to give the planet and humanity hope of survival, it was his

duty to prepare this parcel of land so that the Unified Supreme Spirit might once again be experienced by the great tribes and conveyed from them to people all over the world.

When 3HO Foundation began research into acquiring land in the vicinity indicated by the Hopis, it turned out that the special parcel they had pointed out was the only land available for purchase for miles in every direction – all the other surrounding land was either Indian reservation or owned by the Bureau of Land Management. In 1976, 3HO Foundation bought the parcel of land, and Yogi Bhanan named it Ram Das Puri that came to be known as Guru Ram Das Puri.

In 1986, in conjunction with a United Nations resolution proclaiming it the International Year of Peace, Yogi Bhanan established the first annual International Peace Prayer Day. He called upon spiritual leaders and all people of faith and hope to meet at Ram Das Puri during the Summer Solstice to celebrate peace together and spread to the world the uplifting spirit of love and light.

More than 20 years later, we continue to honor the vision of the Hopi elders and of Yogi Bhanan by gathering each summer at Guru Ram Das Puri as a joyful, loving community to meditate, pray, and develop the consciousness to help turn the destiny of all the people of the world away from darkness and toward harmony.

Travel light, live light, spread the light, be the light.
~ Yogi Bhanan

Note: This account draws from a letter written by Gurujot Singh in 1986 during preparations for the first annual International Peace Prayer Day on June 22. Gurujot Singh was present at both meetings with the Hopis.