

Hindu, Sikh, Jain & Buddhist Funeral Guide for DFW

Antyesti, gurdwara services, ahimsa protocols, Buddhist traditions.

This guide is for South Asian families in the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex. It covers Hindu antyesti, Sikh and Jain traditions, Buddhist variations (Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana), Texas legal framework, partner temples, and a multi-language glossary.

I. The four main traditions

- Hindu — cremation with antyesti; 10–13 day post-cremation pind daan and shraddha; asthi-visarjan in flowing water. Regional variations substantial.
- Sikh — cremation following ardas at the gurdwara; sehaj path (continuous Guru Granth Sahib reading) concluded by bhog at 10–11 days.
- Jain — cremation with strict ahimsa protocols; navkar mantra recitation; simple observance.
- Buddhist — Theravada: monks chant, cremation 3–7 days. Mahayana: 49-day observance. Vajrayana: bardo practices.

II. Texas legal framework for cremation

- Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 716 — crematories
- Texas Health & Safety Code § 716.051 — 48-hour waiting period between death and cremation (shifts Hindu cremation to day 3)
- 16 CFR 453 — FTC Funeral Rule (federal)

Family-witnessed cremation is permitted at licensed crematories. Our partner facility in Richardson has a dedicated viewing room for mukhagni and presence throughout.

Scattering of cremated remains is permitted in Texas on uninhabited public land, private property with owner permission, and in state waters at reasonable distance from shore. No permit required.

III. The Hindu antyesti sequence

- Stage 1: At-home initial rites (body placed head-north, diya lit, tulsī water on lips)
- Stage 2: Transfer, bathing (snana), dressing in white
- Stage 3: Viewing and darshan at home or facility
- Stage 4: Procession to crematory (body carried feet-first)
- Stage 5: Pandit-led prayers; mukhagni; family-witnessed cremation (day 3 per Texas law)
- Stage 6: Asthi-sanchayan — collection of cremated remains day 4
- Stage 7: Pind daan and shraddha — days 1–13; key days 1, 10, 11, 13
- Stage 8: Asthi-visarjan — final immersion in flowing water (Ganges or local)

IV. Sikh funeral sequence

- Ishnaan (bathing) and dressing; 5 Ks maintained for baptized (Khalsa) Sikhs
- Ardas at the gurdwara (Guru Nanak Sikh Society Plano, Sikh Gurudwara Sahib Richardson)
- Cremation day 2 or 3
- Asthi immersion in flowing water (traditionally Kiratpur Sahib, Punjab)
- Sehaj path (continuous Guru Granth Sahib reading, 10–11 days) at gurdwara or home
- Bhog — final prayers and langar community meal

V. Jain funeral sequence

Ahimsa (non-violence) shapes every step. No embalming. Simple white clothing. Plain wooden casket. Navkar mantra recitation by family and priest. Cremation day 2 or 3. Memorial gathering (samvatsari) at the Jain Society of North Texas temple 10–13 days later, with vegetarian langar.

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VI. Buddhist traditions in DFW

- Theravada (Sri Lankan, Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Laotian): Home vigil 3–7 days; monks chant; cremation day 3 or 7. Partner: Wat Dallas, Wat Phrathatplanoi.
- Mahayana (Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean): 49-day observance period; monks visit every 7 days. Partner: Chua Huong Dao, Chua Phat Quang Tu Minh Dang Quang.
- Vajrayana (Tibetan): Body undisturbed 3 days; lama reads Bardo Thodol; 49-day bardo prayers. Partner: Kadampa Meditation Center Texas.

VII. Partner DFW temples and centers

- DFW Hindu Temple — Irving
- Ekta Mandir — Irving (Gujarati)
- Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple — Frisco
- BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir — Irving
- Guru Nanak Sikh Society — Plano
- Sikh Gurudwara Sahib — Richardson (and other DFW locations)
- Jain Society of North Texas — Richardson
- Wat Dallas, Wat Phrathatplanoi — Buddhist
- Kadampa Meditation Center Texas — Tibetan Buddhist

VIII. Family-witnessed cremation in Texas

Our partner crematory has a dedicated family viewing room with glass window overlooking the retort. The family sees the casket placed and the retort doors close; the fire itself is enclosed. The pandit leads pre-cremation prayers (Gayatri mantra, Mahamrityunjaya mantra, Bhagavad Gita). The eldest son or designated family member performs mukhagni — the button that starts the retort represents the symbolic first offering in the adapted Texas practice. Family can remain throughout (2–3 hours).

No additional charge for family-witnessed cremation. Included in our \$895 direct cremation and \$2,495 memorial cremation packages.

IX. Asthi-visarjan: Ganges or local Texas waters

Traditional: Ganges at Varanasi, Haridwar, or Prayagraj (Sangam). Sikh tradition: Kiratpur Sahib. Other sacred rivers: Yamuna, Godavari, Narmada, Krishna, Kaveri, Brahmaputra.

Local Texas alternatives: Lake Lewisville (boat), Lake Ray Hubbard (boat), Trinity River (bank), Gulf of Mexico. All religiously acceptable per most contemporary pandit guidance.

Hybrid: divide asthi between Ganges trip, local waters, and home shrine. Traditional and spiritually accepted.

Timeline: no urgency. We hold the urn securely at our facility at no charge for as long as the family needs — months or years is common.

X. Repatriation of asthi to India

Cremated remains are allowed in carry-on luggage on all major airlines DFW–India with proper documentation. We provide: travel-compliant urn, certified death certificate, cremation certificate, and letter on our letterhead. At the destination ghat, local pandits guide the ceremony (fees \$50–\$300). Total India trip typically \$1,700–\$4,200 per person including airfare, lodging, and local expenses.

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XI. Pricing

- Direct cremation: \$895 (all-inclusive; family-witnessed option)
- Memorial cremation with service: \$2,495 (all-inclusive)
- Pandit / priest / monk honoraria: paid directly to religious professional (\$200–\$1,500 depending on scope and tradition)
- Urn upgrades available but not required
- Catering for community langar: paid directly by family to caterer

XII. Glossary (abbreviated)

Antyesti ■ Hindu last rites; 16th samskara.

Ardas ■ Sikh community prayer.

Asthi ■ Cremated remains.

Asthi-visarjan ■ Final immersion of cremated remains.

Ahimsa ■ Non-violence; Jain core principle.

Bhog ■ Sikh conclusion of sehaj path.

Darshan ■ Viewing; seeing.

Gurdwara ■ Sikh place of worship.

Kesh ■ Uncut hair (one of the 5 Ks).

Langar ■ Sikh community meal.

Mukhagni ■ Symbolic first offering to cremation fire.

Navkar mantra ■ Core Jain prayer.

Om Shanti ■ Peace; Hindu condolence phrase.

Pandit ■ Hindu priest.

Pind daan ■ Offering of rice balls to ancestors.

Sehaj path ■ Sikh Guru Granth Sahib reading (10–11 days).

Shraddha ■ Hindu memorial ritual.

Stupa ■ Buddhist reliquary.

Terahvin ■ 13th-day Hindu memorial.

Waheguru ■ Sikh name for God.

XIII. Contact us

Vargas-Cabrera Funeral Home And Cremation Services. 24/7 line: (214) 738-4276. Email: care@vargascabrerafuneralhome.com. Full HTML guide and updates: www.vargascabrerafuneralhome.com/resources/south-asian-funeral-guide.html