

LDS Temples in the World's 50 Largest Cities

Below is a list of the 50 largest metropolitan agglomerations in the world. (Agglomerations are effectively "cities", in the sense of being single urban centers, but are not necessarily bound by the political boundaries of a single city).

Rank	City/Agglomeration	Population	Temple?
1	Tokyo, Japan	29,971,000	Yes
2	Mexico City, Mexico	27,872,000	Yes
3	Sao Paulo, Brazil	25,354,000	Yes
4	Seoul, South Korea	21,976,000	Yes
5	Bombay, India	15,357,000	No
6	New York, USA	14,648,000	Yes
7	Osaka, Japan	14,287,000	No
8	Tehran, Iran	14,251,000	No
9	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	14,169,000	No
10	Calcutta, India	14,088,000	No
11	Buenos Aires, Argentina	12,911,000	Yes
12	Manila, Philippines	12,846,000	Yes
13	Jakarta, Indonesia	12,804,000	No
14	Lagos, Nigeria	12,528,000	No
15	Cairo, Egypt	12,512,000	No
16	Delhi, India	11,849,000	No
17	Karachi, Pakistan	11,299,000	No
18	Moscow, Russia	11,121,000	No
19	Los Angeles, USA	10,714,000	Yes
20	Lima, Peru	9,241,000	Yes
21	Istanbul, Turkey	8,875,000	No
22	Paris, France	8,803,000	Yes
23	London, United Kingdom	8,574,000	Yes
24	Taipei, Taiwan	8,516,000	Yes
25	Bogota, Colombia	7,935,000	Yes.
26	Bangkok, Thailand	7,587,000	Planned
27	Shanghai, China	7,540,000	No
28	Madras, India	7,384,000	No
29	Essen, Germany	7,239,000	No
30	Bangalore, India	6,764,000	No
31	Pusan, South Korea	6,700,000	No
32	Chicago, USA	6,568,000	Yes

33	Dhaka, Bangladesh	6,492,000	No
34	Santiago, Chile	6,294,000	Yes
35	Beijing, China	5,993,000	No
36	Hong Kong, China	5,956,000	Yes
37	Lahore, Pakistan	5,864,000	No
38	Kinshasa, Dem. Rep of Congo	5,646,000	Announced
39	Nagoya, Japan	5,303,000	No
40	Tianjin, China	5,298,000	No
41	Baghdad, Iraq	5,239,000	No
42	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	5,125,000	No
43	Madrid, Spain	5,104,000	Yes
44	Milan, Italy	4,839,000	No
45	Barcelona, Spain	4,834,000	No
46	St. Petersburg, Russia	4,738,000	No
47	Shenyang, China	4,684,000	No
48	San Francisco, USA (Oakland)	4,214,000	Yes
49	Philadelphia, USA	3,979,000	Yes
50	Manchester, United Kingdom	3,827,000	No

Source: City & population figures: Global Statistics web site; Section: "Charts"; web page: "Cities I: largest agglomerations of the world" [Original source: US Bureau of the Census; US Dept. of Commerce]; Temple information: LDS Church and various sources.

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Comments:

Of the 28 of the world's 50 largest cities which do not have an LDS temple: 8 of the cities are in Muslim nations: Tehran, Iran; Jakarta, Indonesia; Cairo, Egypt; Karachi, Pakistan; Istanbul, Turkey; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Lahore, Pakistan; Baghdad, Iraq. (There are expatriate Latter-day Saints living and working in these cities, but there is only a significant indigenous LDS population in Jakarta.)

Five of the cities are in India, where the Church has only recently become established: Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore.

Four of the cities are in China: Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang. Until recently the officially atheist Communist government in China has severely limited all religious activity; proselytizing by foreign religious organizations is still not allowed.

Eight of the cities are in nations which already have at least one temple and large, well-established Latter-day Saint populations: Osaka, Japan; Nagoya, Japan; Essen, Germany; Pusan, South Korea; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Barcelona, Spain; Manchester, UK.

Four of the cities are in nations which have small Latter-day Saint communities, and no temple in the country: Lagos, Nigeria; Moscow, Russia; Milan, Italy; St. Petersburg, Russia.

Although there are LDS communities in Manchester (U.K.), Essen (Germany) and Barcelona (Spain), these cities seem unlikely places for temples in the near future because of the relative ease with which members there can travel to other temples already located in England (Preston, London), Germany (Frankfurt, Friburg) or Spain (Madrid), and because the growth of the Church is relatively slower in Europe than in other parts of the world. Although there are many members in Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte in Brazil, these cities are relatively close to the Sao Paulo and Campinas temples compared to many other large Brazilian cities without a temple nearby. So, although future temples in Brazil seem likely, they may not be in cities on this "50 Largest Cities in the World" list. A temple in Osaka, Japan, a city half-way between two cities with temples (Tokyo and Fukuoka) may not be out of the question at some point. Osaka is a city of over 14 million people, the world's 7th largest city. Osaka has many stakes, but it is still fairly accessible to Tokyo, and the Church isn't growing very quickly in Japan. A more likely candidate for a future third temple in Japan might be Sapporo, the largest city on the more remote northern island of Japan (Hokkaido), from where members make regular temple trips by air to Tokyo. Two stakes are based in Sapporo and a third is on the same island in another city. Nagoya, roughly half way between Osaka and Tokyo, with 5.3 million residents, is an even less likely candidate for a temple than Osaka.

Given the size and growth and the Church in places other than the world's 50 largest cities, it is probable that the next temples announced will be in places other than the cities on this list. Many temples currently under construction are in cities which are among the largest in the U.S., but not the world. Counting the temples currently under construction and one or two for which ground has yet to be broken, there are temples in over half of the 50 largest cities in the U.S .

Taking into account the size of and growth of the Church in various areas, proximity to other temples, and relative ease and cost of transportation, the cities on this list which seem most likely to be sites of LDS temples in the near future are: Lagos, Nigeria; and Pusan, South Korea; It should be noted, however, that Lagos and Pusan each have only one stake currently.

Source: http://www.adherents.com/largecom/templ_cities.html; 28 May 1999. Updated to 2017

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