

# KUMBH EXPERIENCES

**We customize packages for our clients according to their interests & requirements, a few samples tours are as follows:**



1

## **Kumbh Mela Experience Tour - 4hrs**

**Cost of Experience : INR 4000** over 4pax

This tour aims at providing an introduction to the KumbhMela, where you can learn and experience what 'Kumbh' stands for. Our experienced and english speaking guides would take you through the History of Kumbh and explain the role of the Kumbh played in the life of ascetics during different eras ranging as far as 643 C.E., while also giving an orientation of the entire Festival. We will be exploring the mela & important touch points within and around the mela.

The tour is available by Car or by traditional Boat



2

**Akhara Experiences - 2 hrs 30 mins**

Cost of Experience : **INR 5000** over 4pax

We visit the dense neighborhood of the Akharas to converse with the ascetics or simply take their blessings.

We take you on a walking tour through the Akharas and tell you their story through our experienced guides, including their histories.

What characterizes the KumbhMela is not only its vast size but also the massive presence of the orders of the sadhus. These orders are referred to as the Akharas and there are thirteen represented at the KumbhMela. Among these, today, three are considered major akhara (Juna, Niranjani and Mahanirvani) and three minor akharas (Avahan affiliated with Juna. Ananda affiliated with Niranjani and Atal affiliated with Mahanirvani). The 7th, small Brahmachari (celibate) akhara named Agni is also affiliated with Juna Akhara. Pilgrims are drawn by the prospect of darshan (sacred sight) of the saints, which is the power of simply beholding them and receiving their blessings.



3

**Naga Experiences - 2 hrs 30 mins**

**Cost of Experience : INR 5000** over 4pax

We go to the Naga Akharas with our experienced guides while giving the interesting and detailed insight into their rituals, beliefs and history, of the Naga Sadhus. The Guides would provide a walking tour to the various Naga Akharas camped in the area while also help in facilitating interactions of the willing participants in a safe environment.

Naga Sadhus are a particular group of Shaivite saints who reside in the Himalayan Caves and come to visit the civilization only during the KumbhMela. This is the only event when these ascetic saints can be seen amongst the general Indian population. The Naga Sadhus have unique characteristic features drawing inspiration from the famous Hindu god Shiva. They hold tridents crowned with human skulls. Their bodies are smeared in thick ash and they wear heavy coils of matted hair on the head. These saints remain completely naked even when its biting cold. They smoke Marijuana through a pipe called a Chillum or Shiv Muli. They use it as a tool to avoid the worldly distraction yet have self-control even in the intoxicated state. But as they advance in spiritual life they renounce intoxication too. The Naga Sadhus renounce the materialistic world and practice celibacy to escape from the cycle of birth and death and to attend salvation.

Among the many sadhus and pilgrims who attend KumbhMelas, the most famous are the Naga sadhus.



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## Aghori Curated Experiences - 2 hrs 30 mins

Cost of Experience : **INR 5000** over 4pax

The experienced guides would explain the practices, beliefs and history of the Aghoris in this once in a life, walking tour. We will see their practices and rituals which are otherwise shrouded in secrecy.

The Aghori (Sanskrit aghora) are a small group of ascetic Shiva sadhus. From snow-clad mountains to hot deserts to tiger-infested jungles, Aghoris are known to live in places where no other human being is known to survive. Their practices are contradictory to orthodox Hinduism. They engage in post-mortem rituals. They often dwell in charnel grounds, smear cremation ashes on their bodies and use bones from human corpses for crafting kapalas (skull cups which Shiva and other Hindu deities are often iconically depicted holding or using) and jewelry. Aghoris claim that they have the medicine for the deadliest of the diseases that we have today, even AIDS and cancer.





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### Kalpvasis Experiences:

Cost of Experience : **INR 5000** over 4pax

A walking tour where one can spend as much time as one wants interacting with the Kalpvasis and understanding their beliefs and their way of lives. The Kalpvasis are spiritual aspirants who vow to spend the entire month of Magh at the Kumbh Mela devoting themselves to prayer, meditation, and satsang (devotional group singing.) They temporarily leave their families, stay in fragile tents with no heating, follow the oath of self-denial, abstain from enjoying worldly pleasures, eat non-spicy vegetarian food once a day, and try to live a strict life of renunciation and devotion. They immerse themselves twice daily—morning and evening—in the waters of the confluence, listen to spiritual discourses, and participate in religious rituals. They also help in the daily operations of the camp. Why do an estimated 2.5 million kalpvasis and tens of millions of pilgrims willingly sacrifice personal comforts and endure hardships at the Kumbh Mela? What do they receive in return? Many respond to attain moksha (liberation)" or "to live a successful, prosperous life. All this and more shall be answered in this walking tour.



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## Cruising the Ganges:

Cost of Experience : **INR 5000** over 4pax

This cruise which has been launched under the water transportation scheme will ply from Sujawanghat near Ghurpur till Quilaghat near Sangam, covering an approximate distance of 20 kilometres along the holy River Ganges.

The main Ganges is connected with 6 headstreams, among which Bhagirathi River is considered to be the source stream of the river Ganges. Arising at the foot of the Gangotri Glacier, named Gaumukh at a height of 12769 feet, the river Ganges moves through the holy city of Hardwar, then Kanpur, then Allahabad, where it is joined (Sangam) by Yamuna, another river in India

The legend associated with Ganges is that, this river originally existed in the Heavens. Bhagiratha, a famous king, in seeking salvation for his ancestors who were cursed by an oracle, performed penance and meditated compelling the goddess Ganga to come down to Earth. Then Ganges came down to the Earth through a lock (Jata) of hair of Lord Shiva, making the earth fertile, pure and free of all human sins.





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### Snan (Holy Dip):

Cost of Experience : **INR 1000** per person

We will also embark in our customized boat, through the Ganges either early morning, where one can witness pilgrims at their daily ablutions as the rising sun illuminates the skies, or later in the afternoon, when one can bask in the winter sun, while taking their auspicious snan, on our own exclusive ghat, with private changing facility.

While navigating through Ganges in boat during the day, you will come across beautiful pulsating Ghats, migratory birds, an enthusiastic holy throngs taking dip in the Ganges, ancient temples, baskets full of colorful flowers floating away into the legendry Ganges river.



8

**Yoga, Pranayam & Meditation Session - 55 mins**

Cost of Experience : **INR 1250**

While yoga in the west focuses almost exclusively on the physical postures and sequences (asana), in India, particularly in traditional ashrams, asana is only one aspect of a wider whole. In this case one can expect a greater emphasis on meditation, breathing and cleansing techniques, along with devotional practices such as mantra chanting, tuition in philosophy, and karma yoga (community service). Experience an in-depth yoga or wellness retreat in a tranquil and nurturing environment. Whether you are a beginner or advanced student, you will enjoy this opportunity to take your practice to a new level.

Our Yoga Gurus have been practicing this art for more than a decade and have not only taught many students but have brought a positive difference in their lives .







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## Photography tour - 3.30 hrs

Cost of Experience : **INR 8000**

An ordinary human relates the most to an image much more than sounds, smell, touch and taste. Capturing a moment and giving it eternal life in the form of a still image is an art that is spiritual and gives the beholder, a certain space for imagination and interpretation.

Travelling is all about seeing new places and storing them in your memories to cherish forever after. And since photography plays such a major role in our travels today, there is no better way to enjoy a memorable trip than by heading out on one of the extraordinary photography tours at kumbh.

The best part about the photography tour is that they allow you to experience the best sights and sounds around the region you are visiting, and commit them to memory. Since you are accompanied by a guide on these trips, you have the chance to explore the best places and interact in a smoother fashion with the locals, thereby getting the most out of your trip. The guide will also make sure that you are well acquainted with basic photography skills at the time of tour with an essence of storytelling so as to make your final clicks look more appealing and attractive.