

Maha Kumbh

PACKAGE TOUR-I

Explore **MAHA KUMBH-2025**
In **PRAYAGRAJ**



KUMBH MELA

The Kumbh Mela, is one of the largest and most significant religious gatherings in the world held in India, it is a Hindu pilgrimage that draws millions of devotees from across the globe to bathe in the sacred rivers. The term "Kumbh" refers to the pot of nectar that was said to have emerged from the churning of the ocean in ancient Hindu mythology.

The origins of Kumbh Mela can be traced back to Hindu mythology. According to classic literature, Gods and Demons fought over a pot of nectar (amrit) that would grant them immortality. During the battle, drops of this nectar fell at four different locations in India—Allahabad (Prayagraj), Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. These sites became the places where the Kumbh Mela is celebrated. The Maha Kumbh Mela, which occurs every 12 years, is the grandest of all, held in Prayagraj, at the confluence of three sacred rivers—the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati. This event holds the most significant spiritual power, as it is believed that bathing in these waters during the Kumbh Mela can cleanse one of all sins and lead to salvation.



Explore Akharas in Prayagraj

The concept of Akharas is deeply rooted in the history and spirituality of Hinduism. Akharas are essentially groups or monastic organizations of sadhus. What makes Akharas unique is their combination of spiritual discipline with martial training, making them both centres of religious learning and strongholds of physical defence. The formation of Akharas is attributed to a time when anti-religious forces were perceived to be on the rise, threatening the spiritual fabric of society. During this period, many saints and religious leaders recognized the need for physical strength alongside spiritual power to protect the Dharma. One of the key figures in the establishment of Akharas was Adi Shankaracharya, a revered Hindu philosopher and theologian who is credited with consolidating the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. Shankaracharya established these Akharas as a means to organize sadhus into disciplined groups that could not only engage in spiritual practices but also defend their faith if necessary.

1-SHRI PANCHDASHNAAM JUNA AKHARA



Shri Panchdashnaam Juna Akhara, one of the most prominent and ancient Akharas in India, holds a significant place in the Hindu monastic order. Known for its deep-rooted history, the Juna Akhara is not only the largest of the Shaiva Sanyasi Akharas but also one of the most influential, with a lineage that stretches back to several centuries.

The Juna Akhara was originally known as Bhairav Akhara, named after its presiding deity at the time, Bhairav, a fierce form of Lord Shiva. Bhairav symbolizes the protective and destructive aspect of Shiva, reflecting the martial ethos of the Akhara. Over time, the

Akhara's presiding deity shifted to Lord Dattatreya, who is considered a Rudra avatar, or a form of Shiva that embodies the aspects of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (Shiva).

The Juna Akhara is a well-organized society, functioning with a systematic hierarchy and governance. The Akhara is composed of approximately 5 lakh Naga Sadhus and Mahamandaleswar Sanyasis, making it the largest among the seven Shaiva Sanyasi Akharas. The majority of these sadhus are Naga Sadhus, known for their austere lifestyle, including living without clothing and practicing severe penances. These sadhus are also trained in weaponry and martial arts, maintaining the tradition of physical strength alongside spiritual prowess.

The governance of the Akhara is handled by a committee formed by senior members from 52 families of sadhus within the Akhara. This committee is responsible for electing the president of the Akhara, a position that once elected is held for life. These elections are typically conducted during the Kumbh Mela, the grand religious festival where Akharas play a central role. The Akhara is divided into four Madhis, which are administrative and spiritual divisions, each managed by appointed Mahants, Ashtakoushal Mahants, and Kotwals, ensuring a well-structured

2-SHRI PANCHAYATI AKHARA NIRANJANI

Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani is one of the most influential Akharas in India, belonging to the Shaiva sect of Hinduism. Located in Daraganj in Prayagraj it is renowned not only for its spiritual significance but also for the high literacy rate among its monks. After Juna Akhara, Niranjani Akhara is considered one of the most powerful and respected among the 13 major Akharas in the country.

The history of Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani dates back over a millennium. It was

established in the year 904 AD (Vikram Samvat 960 Kartik Krishna Paksha) at a place called Mandvi in Gujarat. The Akhara has since grown to become a significant spiritual institution, deeply rooted in the Shaiva tradition, which venerates Lord Shiva as the supreme deity.

What sets Niranjani Akhara apart from many other Akharas is the high level of education among its members. It is reported that approximately 70% of the saints and sages in Niranjani Akhara have received higher



education. This is a unique feature, as the Akhara includes doctors, lawyers, professors, Sanskrit scholars, and acharyas among its ranks. This emphasis on education alongside spiritual practice gives the Akhara a distinct identity, blending traditional religious life with modern intellectual pursuits.

The monks of Niranjani Akhara are not only spiritual leaders but also learned individuals who contribute to society in various ways. Their education allows them to engage with contemporary issues while upholding the values and teachings of their spiritual tradition.

3- SHRI PANCH ATAL AKHARA

Shri Panch Atal Akhara has a history that spans nearly 1,400 years. As one of the seven Akharas under the Dashnami Sanyas tradition, Atal Akhara holds a special place in the spiritual and cultural landscape of India. Its deep connection with the Mahanirvani Akhara and its integral role in the preservation and promotion of Sanatan Vedic Dharma make it a significant institution within the Hindu faith.

Shri Panch Atal Akhara was founded by Jagatguru Shri Adi Shankaracharya, one of the most influential figures in Hindu philosophy. Adi Shankaracharya was instrumental in revitalizing and sustaining the Sanatan Vedic Dharma at that time when it faced numerous challenges. His efforts led to the establishment

of the Dashnami Sanyas tradition, a monastic order aimed at preserving the teachings of the Vedas and spreading the principles of Advaita Vedanta—a non-dualistic school of Hindu philosophy that emphasizes the unity of the soul and the supreme being (Brahman).

To ensure the revival and sustenance of Vedic traditions, Adi Shankaracharya also established four Mathas (monasteries) in the four corners of India—Sringeri in the South, Dwarka in the West, Puri in the East, and Jyotirmath (Joshimath) in the North. These Mathas served as spiritual centers for the dissemination of Vedic knowledge and the Dashnami Sanyas Sampradaya, which includes the Atal Akhara.

4- SHRI PANCHAYTI MAHANIRVANI AKHARA

Shri Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara is one of the 13 major Akharas in India and part of the Dashnami Sanyas tradition; Mahanirvani Akhara holds a significant place in the spiritual hierarchy of Hinduism. Known for its deep-rooted traditions, spiritual discipline, and strong presence in religious festivals like the Kumbh Mela, the Mahanirvani Akhara continues to be a beacon of Sanatan Vedic Dharma.

Shri Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara was established around the 8th century AD, during a period of great religious revival led by Jagatguru Shri Adi Shankaracharya. The exact

date of its foundation is debated, but it is generally accepted that the Akhara has existed for over a thousand years. It was established as part of Adi Shankaracharya's efforts to consolidate and organize the various ascetic communities under the umbrella of the Dashnami Sanyas tradition. The Mahanirvani Akhara was created to preserve and propagate the teachings of the Vedas and Upanishads, emphasizing the non-dualistic (Advaita) philosophy that Adi Shankaracharya championed.

The name "Mahanirvani" reflects the Akhara's deep spiritual roots. "Maha" means great, and



"Nirvana" refers to the ultimate state of liberation or freedom from the cycle of birth and death (samsara). The name signifies the Akhara's mission to guide its members and followers toward achieving Nirvana through rigorous spiritual practice, discipline, and renunciation.

Shri Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara shares a special bond with Shri Panch Atal Akhara, another prominent Akhara in the Dashnami tradition. This close association is especially evident during the Kumbh Mela, where the two Akharas join the Shahi Snan (royal bath) procession together. This collaboration symbolizes their shared spiritual goals and mutual respect within the broader monastic community.

5- SHRI TAPONIDHI ANAND AKHARA PANCHAYATI

Among the seven main Akharas of the Shaiva sect, the Shri Taponidhi Anand Akhara Panchayati stands out with its unique structure and significant traditions. The Shri Taponidhi Anand Akhara Panchayati, as one of the prominent Shaiva Akharas, is distinguished by its leadership structure, historical origins, and devotion to the Sun God. Its unique position within the Shaiva sect underscores its importance and the distinctive nature of its practices and organizational hierarchy.

6- SHRI PANCHADASHNAM AVAHAN AKHARA

The Shri Panchadashnam Avahan Akhara, established by Adi Shankaracharya in the 6th century, continues to be a bastion of religious protection and instruction. Located at Dashashwamedh Ghat in Kashi, this historic Akhara has a long-standing tradition of safeguarding and teaching the principles of Sanatan Dharma. The Akhara remains vigilant in addressing and countering heresay, with its Naga Sadhus ever-ready to safeguard the sanctity of religion. The Akhara's dedication to its original mission underscores its importance as a spiritual and religious institution in contemporary times.

7- SHRI PANCHDASHANAM AGNI AKHARA

The Shri Shambhu Panch Agni Akhara stands out distinctively within the Shaiva sect, diverging significantly from the practices of other Shaiva Akharas such as Juna and Aavahan. Unlike the traditional Naga Sanyasis known for their distinctive and austere lifestyle, the Agni Akhara follows a unique set of customs and practices.

8-SHRI DIGAMBAR ANI AKHARA

Shri Digambar Ani Akhara stands as one of the three major Akharas within the Bairagi Vaishnav sect, with the largest and most prominent status among them. Shri Digambar Ani Akhara, with its rich traditions and distinct practices, continues to be a pivotal institution within the Bairagi Vaishnav sect. Its unique identity, symbolized by tilak and flags, and its extensive network across India underscore its significant role in the spiritual and cultural landscape of the Vaishnav community.

9- SHRI NIRVANI ANI AKHARA

The Nirvani Ani Akhara, established by the revered saint Abhayramdas Ji, stands as one of the most influential Akharas in Ayodhya. Since its inception, it has held authority over the sacred site of Hanumangarhi. Many years ago, at the Nashik Kumbh, a prince from the Jaipur royal family made a significant donation and received initiation from Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Maharaj. This prince, later known as Swami Bala Anand, was instrumental in founding several major Akharas, including the Shri Pancharamanandi Nirvani Ani, Nirmohi, and Digambar Akharas.

10- SHRI PANCH NIRMOHI ANI AKHARA

The Nirmohi Akhara, founded by saint Ramananda, is a significant Hindu sect known for its commitment to a life of austerity, celibacy, and devotion to Lord Ram. With a network of temples and mathas across India, the Akhara maintains its traditional practices while also engaging in contemporary issues, such as the Ayodhya dispute. The sect's historical training in martial arts and its current involvement in high-profile legal cases highlight its enduring influence and relevance in Indian society. The Akhara owns and manages numerous temples and mathas (monastic centers) across several Indian states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Bihar. These centers serve as the hubs of spiritual and community activities.

11- SHRI PANCHAYATI AKHARA BADA UDASIN

Shri Panchayati Akhara Bada Udasin, established in 1825 in Haridwar, is a key institution within the Udaasin sect, dedicated to the propagation of Sanatan Dharma and extensive social welfare. Founded by Nirvana Baba Pritam Das Maharaj with significant contributions from Shiv Swaroop Udasin Acharya Jagatguru Chandra Dev Maharaj, the Akhara continues to operate educational and medical facilities across India. Its efforts to promote Indian culture, connect sages and saints, and provide free services reflect its ongoing commitment to public service and spiritual education.

12- SHRI PANCHAYATI AKHARA NAYA UDASIN

The Udaasin Akhara, also known as the Udasin Panchayati Naya Akhara, is a significant institution within the Udaasin sect of Sikhism. It was formally registered on June 6, 1913. It emerged from internal differences among the Udaasin Sadhus in 1902, leading to the creation of a new organizational entity. The formation of this Akhara was influenced by Mahatma Surdas Ji, a prominent figure in the Udaasin tradition, who played a key role in its establishment.

The main center of the Udaasin Akhara is located in Kankhal, Haridwar, a significant spiritual and pilgrimage site in India. This location serves as the primary hub for the Akhara's activities and administrative functions.

The Akhara exclusively includes saints who follow the tradition of Shri Sangat Dev Ji of Chhathi Bakshish. This affiliation marks it as distinct from other Udaasin institutions.

13- SHRI NIRMAL PANCHAITI AKHARA

The Nirmal Panchaati Akhara represents an important institution within the Nirmala sect of Sikhism, and its history reflects the development and consolidation of Sikh monastic traditions in the 19th century. The Nirmal Panchaati Akhara was established in 1862 in Patiala, Punjab, by Maharaja Narinder Singh of Patiala, Raja Bharpur Singh of Nabha, and Raja Sarup Singh of Jind. The initiative to create a centralized seminary for the Nirmala sect began as early as 1807, but it took several decades to come to fruition.

NAGA SADHUS

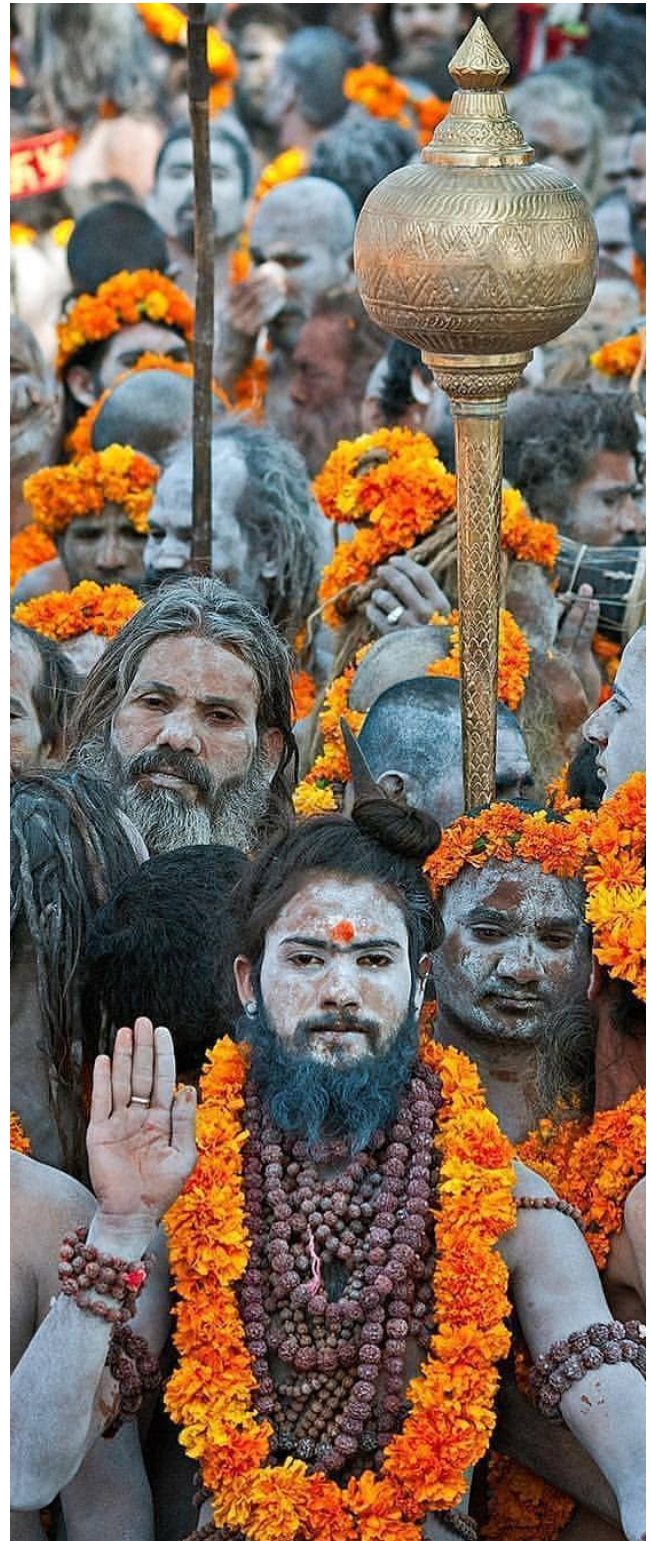
Naga Sadhus are a distinct and fascinating group within Hinduism, known for their unique practices and disciplined lifestyle. Here's a closer look at their traditions, practices, and the role they play in Hindu religious life:

The tradition of Naga Sadhus is often traced back to Adi Shankaracharya, a revered philosopher and theologian who founded various monastic orders in Hinduism. Shankaracharya established the Akharas, which are traditional Hindu military orders or sects, to preserve and promote the teachings of Hindu philosophy and to protect the Dharma (righteousness).

Naga Sadhus are renowned for their ascetic lifestyle, which includes remaining naked, except for the sacred ashes smeared on their bodies. This practice symbolizes their renunciation of worldly possessions and attachment.

They live in remote ashrams or hermitages, often located in pilgrimage sites like Haridwar. Their lifestyle is governed by strict discipline, including dietary restrictions and rigorous spiritual practices.

Uniquely, Naga Sadhus are also known for their martial skills. They undergo training in warfare and are adept in the use of weapons like tridents (trishuls), swords, conchs, and pipes. This aspect of their practice reflects their role as protectors of dharma and their readiness to defend against threats. Naga Sadhus are prominent participants in the Kumbh Mela, a major Hindu pilgrimage and festival held every 12 years. They are especially noticeable during the royal bath, a key ritual of the festival.



AGHORI

The Aghori sect, often known for their intimidating appearance, embodies a complex and age old spiritual tradition. The Aghori's are traditionally believed to have been followers of Lord Shiva. Lord Dattatreya, an incarnation of the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva, is regarded as a key figure and teacher of Aghor practices.

While the outward appearance of Aghoris may seem fearsome—with matted hair, ashes smeared on their bodies, and garlands of skulls—the term “Aghori” itself means someone who is simple and non-discriminatory. The essence of Aghor practice is to transcend conventional fears and societal norms.

Aghoris perform specific meditative practices in cremation grounds, which are believed to be spiritually potent spaces. Devotional practices directed towards Lord Shiva. Controversial and misunderstood practices that involve ritual offerings and meditations in the presence of dead bodies. This involves meditation with a focus on the interplay between life and death, symbolized by the offering of ritual items like meat and liquor, reflecting a profound acceptance of all aspects of existence. The practice symbolizes the cosmic unity and the transcendence of dualities.



KALPVASI

Kalpvas is an ancient practice in Hindu tradition, observed for a month from Paush Purnima to Maghi Purnima, primarily at the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers in Tirtharaj Prayag. This ritual signifies a period of intense spiritual discipline and self-purification.

The practice of Kalpvas has been a part of Prayag's spiritual heritage for centuries. The tradition is mentioned in various Vedic texts, including the Vedas, Mahabharata, and Ramcharitmanas, highlighting its deep-rooted significance in Hindu spirituality. A month of Kalpvas is believed to equal one Kalpa, a day of Brahma, symbolizing immense spiritual merit. Observing Kalpvas is thought to bestow virtue and divine blessings.

Kalpvas is a period dedicated to self-discipline, self-control, and spiritual purification. It serves as a time for introspection and devotion. According to Indian tradition, the four Ashrams (stages of life) are Brahmacharya (student), Grihastha (householder), Vanaprastha (hermit), and Sannyasa (renunciant). Kalpvas is traditionally observed by those in the Vanaprastha stage, typically after the age of 50, who are transitioning from a householder's duties to a more ascetic life.

Kalpvas shares similarities with the Kumbh Mela, a major Hindu pilgrimage held every 12 years, which also involves extended periods of ritual observance and devotion. The Kumbh Mela lasts around 45 days, during which participants engage in continuous worship and rituals.



Starting Point : Tent Colony at Parade Ground
Duration : 5 hours (7am-12 noon everyday)
Tour Type : Walking Tour

Package Includes:

- Walk Expert
- Printed Hand out with Mela Map
- Eco-Friendly Carry Bag
- Mineral Water Bottle

Please note:

- All tours – experiences shall be operated only with minimum 05 Pax.
- The mentioned tours – experiences are not applicable on bathing dates.
- In case of unforeseen weather conditions, local factors or government restrictions sightseeing activities – boat ride may be Avoided/Cancelled and in such cases the operator will try his best to provide an alternate feasible activity. However no refund will be provided for the same.
- All actions and services of the company are subject to 'Force Majeure' conditions claiming no responsibility.