



Nashik

SIMHASTHA KUMBH MELA

2 AUGUST – 12 SEPTEMBER, 2027



State Express



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There is no better occasion to visit India than during the Kumbh Mela, the greatest of Indian festivals, and the largest gathering of people anywhere on earth.

The Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha is one of the four principal Kumbh Melas held in India. Millions of devotees assemble on the banks of the holy Godavari, revered across the south as the Ganga of the Deccan, to gain redemption by washing away their sins.

The name Simhastha refers to the alignment of Jupiter, Brihaspati, with Simha Rashi, the zodiac sign of the Lion, which occurs approximately once in twelve years. The Mela unfolds across two sacred locations: **Ramkund** in Nashik city and **Kushavarta Kund** at Trimbakeshwar.

The Simhastha opens on 31 October 2026 and concludes on 24 July 2028.

According to Hindu mythology, during the Samudra Manthan, the churning of the ocean, drops of divine nectar, **amrit**, fell at four sacred places: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nashik. A dip in these waters at the time of the Mela is believed to attain moksha from the cycle of birth and rebirth.

The festival is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for every visitor curious about Hindu religion and philosophy. The atmosphere is bursting with sounding bells and the chanting of Vedic hymns, and with the processions of the Naga Sadhus and the akharas on camels and elephants, in gold and silver chariots drawn by their own devotees.

For those looking for spirituality it is a place which is divine, with the spiritual gurus of India around you. For the photographer it offers moods, attires and faith found nowhere else.



NASHIK TRAVEL INFORMATION

Nashik is a city of great religious and historical significance, and the ground on which the Simhastha Kumbh Mela is held.

It is believed to be the place where Lakshmana, the brother of Lord Rama, severed the nose of the demoness Surpanakha, and from **nasika**, the Sanskrit word for nose, the city takes its name.

◆ THE TWO PRINCIPAL SNAN LOCATIONS ◆

RAMKUND · NASHIK

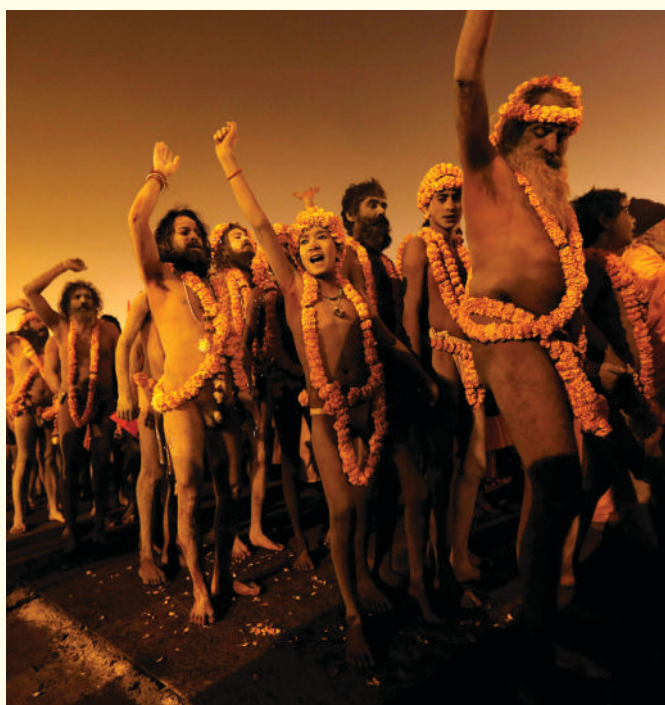
An ancient bathing ghat on the Godavari in Panchavati (a Sanskrit word meaning 'five banyan trees'), traditionally associated with Lord Rama's bath during his fourteen-year exile. It is the principal bathing location for the Vaishnava akharas, and Rama is believed to have performed the last rites of his father here. Its waters are known as Asthi Vilay Tirth.

KUSHAVARTA KUND · TRIMBAKESHWAR

A sacred kund regarded as the symbolic origin and re-emergence of the Godavari, beside the Trimbakeshwar temple at the foot of Brahmagiri hill. It is the principal bathing location for the Shaiva akharas.

Distance between Nashik and Trimbakeshwar:

approximately 28–30 km by road, accessible by car, auto-rickshaw and state bus.



◆ HOW TO REACH NASHIK ◆

BY AIR

Nashik's Ozar domestic airport connects the city to Mumbai and other major Indian cities, and is being expanded ahead of the Simhastha. Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, approximately 170 km away, offers wider international connectivity.

BY RAIL

Nashik Road railway station is the main railhead, with regular connections to Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad and other cities.

BY ROAD

Nashik is well connected by road to Mumbai, Pune and other major cities, by the NH-60 Mumbai–Agra highway and the Samruddhi Mahamarg expressway.

◆ CLIMATE & CLOTHING ◆

MONSOON · JUNE TO SEPTEMBER

Nashik stands above 600 metres and is far milder than the plains of northern India. Through the Mela the city is cool and green: maximum 25°C to 27°C, minimum 21°C to 22°C, with August and September the wettest months.

The subcontinent is conservative in dress. Women should wear long trousers or ankle-length skirts, Punjabi outfits or saris, and must bathe fully clothed. Carry lightweight clothes that launder easily, and for these months a light raincoat, an umbrella and footwear with a good grip for the wet ghats.

◆ DISTANCES FROM NASHIK ◆

Trimbakeshwar	30 km	Aurangabad	200 km
Shirdi	90 km	Pune	210 km
Mumbai	170 km	Ajanta	300 km
Ozar airport	20 km	Nashik Road station	10 km

KEY DATES AND THE AMRIT SNAN

The central ritual of the Kumbh is the royal bath: the Shahi Snan, known at Nashik as the **Amrit Snan**.

Akhara heads and saints lead the processions to the designated bathing ghats at dawn, followed by the general pilgrims. Hindus believe that to submerge themselves in these waters on the appointed days absolves them and their ancestors of sin, and ends the cycle of rebirth.

The akharas enter the water first; only when the last of them has left the river do the millions waiting on the ghats go down to it.



The Amrit Snan dates are set by planetary alignment, above all the positions of Jupiter and the Sun. The full Mela period runs from **31 October 2026 to 24 July 2028**, and the principal ceremonial baths fall in August and September 2027.

MAJOR AMRIT SNAN DATES

DATE	OCCASION	LOCATION	AKHARA TRADITION
2 August 2027	First Amrit Snan Ashadh Somvati Amavasya	Ramkund, Nashik & Kushavarta Kund, Trimbakeshwar	Vaishnava akharas at Ramkund; Shaiva akharas at Kushavarta Kund
31 August 2027	Second Amrit Snan Shravan Amavasya	Ramkund, Nashik & Kushavarta Kund, Trimbakeshwar	Major Shaiva and Vaishnava participation across both sites
11 September 2027	Third Amrit Snan Bhadrapada Shuddha Ekadashi	Ramkund, Nashik	Vaishnava akharas
12 September 2027	Third Amrit Snan Bhadrapada Shuddha Ekadashi	Kushavarta Kund, Trimbakeshwar	Shaiva akharas



ASTRONOMICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Nashik Kumbh is known as the Simhashta because of the alignment of Jupiter, Brihaspati, with Leo, Simha Rashi. This alignment occurs approximately once every twelve years and forms an important part of the spiritual significance of the Nashik Kumbh.

After 2027, the next Simhashta at Nashik-
Trimbakeshwar falls in 2039.



THE AKHARAS ORDERS OF THE MELA

The akharas are the monastic orders of Hindu India, ascetic brotherhoods, some of them nine centuries old, who lead the Kumbh Mela.

The Simhashta is kept at two separate places about thirty kilometres apart. At **Ramkund**, the ancient ghat on the Godavari in Nashik city, the Vaishnava akharas bathe. At **Kushavarta Kund**, beside the Trimbakeshwar temple where the Godavari rises, the Shaiva akharas bathe. Both are principal Kumbh sites, and most travellers see each in turn.



◆ KUSHAVARTA KUND · TRIMBAKESHWAR ◆

SHAIVA AKHARAS

- ◆ Juna Akhara
- ◆ Niranjani Akhara
- ◆ Mahanirvani Akhara
- ◆ Atal Akhara
- ◆ Agni Akhara
- ◆ Avahan Akhara
- ◆ Anand Akhara

◆ RAMKUND · NASHIK ◆

VAISHNAVA & ASSOCIATED AKHARAS

- ◆ Nirvani Ani Akhara
- ◆ Digambar Ani Akhara
- ◆ Nirmohi Ani Akhara
- ◆ Bada Udasin Akhara
- ◆ Naya Udasin Akhara
- ◆ Nirmal Akhara

The exact procession order, bathing order and site allocation of individual akharas may be finalised by the Kumbh authorities and akhara representatives closer to the event.

◆ RITUALS & EXPERIENCES ◆

AMRIT SNAN

Also known as the Shahi Snan or Royal Bath, this is the centrepiece of the Kumbh. Akhara heads and saints lead processions to the designated bathing ghats, followed by the general pilgrims.

AKHARA PROCESSIONS

Grand processions of the traditional monastic orders towards the bathing ghats, representing centuries-old religious traditions.

KALPAVAS

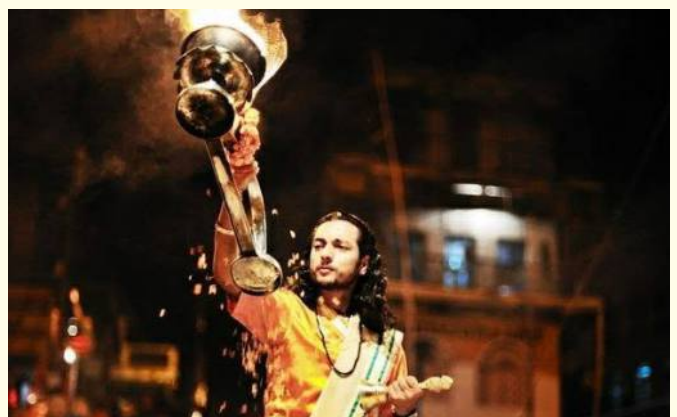
A month-long spiritual practice involving meditation, fasting, prayer, austerity and dawn bathing in the sacred river.

PIND DAAN & ANCESTRAL RITES

Nashik is an important destination for ancestral rituals. Pilgrims may combine their Kumbh visit with Pind Daan ceremonies guided by priests at the ghats.

GODAVARI AARTI

Evening aarti at Ramkund, generally between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm, depending on the time of sunset.



KUMBH MELA TOUR

08 DAYS / 07 NIGHTS

MUMBAI · NASHIK · AURANGABAD · MUMBAI
PRIVATE & SMALL GROUP

DAY 01

ARRIVAL MUMBAI

Arrive at Mumbai airport, where our representative meets you and transfers you to your hotel. India's largest city and its financial capital, once a cluster of seven islands joined into one in the mid-18th century, Mumbai is the home of Bollywood, the most prolific film industry in the world. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 02

MUMBAI – NASHIK · 190 KM, 4 HRS

Morning city tour. The **Gateway of India**, a 26-metre basalt arch in the Indo-Saracenic style, raised to honour the visit of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. The **Hanging Gardens** on Malabar Hill, terraced and manicured, with splendid views of the sunset over the Arabian Sea. The **Prince of Wales Museum**, holding rare antiquities of Indian history in a building that draws on Mughal, Maratha and Jain architecture.

In the afternoon transfer to Nashik and check in at the camp. Evening exploring the Kumbh city, its colourful camps and spiritual gatherings. Overnight at the camp.

DAY 03

NASHIK · TEMPLES AND PANCHAVATI

After breakfast, a full day of sightseeing. The sacred **Trimbakeshwar Temple**, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, followed by **Panchavati**, the religious quarter associated with the Ramayana. Continue to **Saptashrungi Devi Temple** and other attractions of Nashik as time allows. Return to the camp for dinner and overnight.

DAY 04

NASHIK · THE ROYAL BATHING CEREMONY

Early morning proceed to the Godavari to take part in the sacred **Shahi Snan**, the holy dip, and the most important spiritual experience of the Kumbh Mela. Later explore the Mela grounds and visit the akharas and spiritual camps. In the evening witness the traditional akhara rituals and religious ceremonies, and the unique spiritual ambience of the Mela. Dinner and overnight at the camp.



DAY 05

NASHIK – AURANGABAD · 189 KM, 4 HRS

Morning departure for Aurangabad, named for the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and the gateway to the World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora. Stop en route at the **Ellora Caves**: twelve Buddhist, seventeen Hindu and five Jain rock-cut temples and monasteries of the seventh century. The finest is the Kailash temple, carved over a hundred years from a single piece of rock, guarded by two columns and two elephants and ringed by pillared corridors whose walls carry Shiva in every mood, from slaying demons to deep meditation. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 06

AURANGABAD – AJANTA – AURANGABAD · 240 KM

After breakfast, visit the **Ajanta Caves**: twenty-nine Buddhist prayer halls and viharas cut from the rock in the second century BC, a testament to the age when Buddhism was at its height. Ceilings and walls carry scenes from the life of the Buddha, and the caves are home to the famous reclining Buddha. They are kept dimly lit to protect the paintings from artificial light. Return to Aurangabad for the night.

DAY 07

AURANGABAD – MUMBAI · 345 KM, 6 HRS

Morning drive to Mumbai, a metropolis of contrasts, first founded by the Portuguese, grown from a small village into the commercial trading centre of India, and known the world over for its glittering nightlife and for the film industry that brings fashion, glamour and cinema together. Arrive and transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 08

DEPARTURE

In time, transfer to the airport to catch your flight for the onward journey. Our representative assists with check-in and departure formalities.



TAILOR-MADE ITINERARIES



This is a suggested programme. Every journey we prepare is built to order: the route, the hotels, the nights at the Mela and the days on either side. Tariff on application.



WHY US?



State Express has specialised in festival tours across India, Nepal and Bhutan for the past forty years, and the Kumbh Mela has been at the heart of our programme throughout.

Accommodation at the Mela



THE CAMP AT THE SIMHASTHA

At every Kumbh Mela our guests stay in carefully selected tented camps close to the ghats, so that visitors from across the world are accommodated in comfort, with hygienic food. Tents are equipped with modern amenities, an attached bathroom with hot and cold running water, quality linen and daily housekeeping. Transfers to the ghats are timed to the processions rather than to the traffic, and guest services run around the clock through the Snan nights.

CAMP FACILITIES

- ◆ Attached toilet facility with amenities
- ◆ Accommodation with quality linen
- ◆ Running hot and cold water with toiletries
- ◆ Multi-cuisine dining hall
- ◆ Lounge, verandah and outdoor seating
- ◆ Guest services, 24 hours

TENT CATEGORIES

LUXURY



Generous twin or double tent with a sitting area, attached washroom and separate shower area.

PREMIUM



Comfortable twin or double-bedded tent with an attached washroom, writing desk and seating.

DELUXE



Well-appointed twin-bedded tent with an attached washroom and running hot water, the practical choice for larger groups.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

VISITOR PREFERENCE	RECOMMENDED APPROACH
Peak spiritual experience	Arrive at least two days before an Amrit Snan date and stay for at least two nights
Brahma Muhurta bathing	On non-Snan days, arrive at the ghats before sunrise for a quieter experience
Smaller crowds	Consider auspicious Parva Snan days outside the main Amrit Snan dates
Visiting both sacred centres	Plan time for both Ramkund in Nashik and Kushavarta Kund in Trimbakeshwar



"It is wonderful, the power of a faith, that can make multitudes of the old and weak and the young and frail enter without hesitation or complaint upon such incredible journeys and endure the resultant miseries without repining. It is done in love, or it is done in fear; I do not know which it is. No matter what the impulse is, the act born of it is beyond imagination, marvelous to our kind of people, the cold whites"

- Mark Twain

a famous American writer after visiting Kumbh Mela in 1895



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(Approved by Department of Tourism, Government of India)

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